

# Coyote Conditioning

A new project at the University of Alberta seeks to scare coyotes - for their sakes and ours

By: Michael Ganley

A lone coyote emerges from the river valley and slinks along the quiet street, pausing twice to survey and sniff. It heads into Ramsay Park, moving past the soccer nets, along the base of the tobogganing hill and down to the skateboard park. It circles left and jogs parallel to Riverbend Road, occasionally circling back and retracing its steps. After 20 minutes, having apparently not found what it was looking for, the coyote darts back down the street and returns to the valley.

Most people in Edmonton will be familiar with this scene, or with the one where a dog barks and makes brave gestures at a passing coyote, or, for an unfortunate few, the one where a coyote and a dog have a run-in that ends in a large vet bill, or worse.

Coyotes are adapting well to Canadian cities, says Colleen St. Clair, a professor in the faculty of biological sciences at the University of Alberta. They see cities as vast buffets, serving up everything from rodents and rabbits to, on occasion, a perfectly cooked medium rare steak. "It ranges right down from that to plastic food wrappers, leather gloves, pieces of tarp and other things not good for the digestive tract," she says.

St. Clair and a group of her students, with help from the City of Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan's Animal Damage Control, have been studying Edmonton's coyotes since 2009.

For a time, the Edmonton Urban Coyote Project captured and collared coyotes, allowing the researchers to gather detail about where they went and what they did. The team stopped that practice in 2014 because the collars are heavy and invasive. "I wasn't sure they weren't changing the coyotes' behaviour," says St. Clair.

Since then, the team has focussed on motion-activated cameras, carcasses and scat to conduct research. They have also asked people to report interactions with coyotes to their website ([edmontonurbancoyotes.ca](http://edmontonurbancoyotes.ca)), where a heat map tracks the frequency and distribution of human-coyote contact.



Photo: Michael Ganley

Coyotes see big dogs as competitors for territory or predators of their young, particularly during denning season in April. One tactic they use is to lure a dog with a play invitation and then kill it or disable it by biting it on the hamstring. "Hamstringing is a well-known canid behaviour," says Professor Colleen St. Clair. "Wild dogs, hyenas, wolves and coyotes will bite their adversaries or prey on the back of the leg to disable them."

In a trend seen in cities across North America, the number of reported interactions with coyotes in Edmonton is increasing. St. Clair says that doesn't mean the number of coyotes in the city is going up. Some of the increase is likely due to people tuning in and reporting more and some because coyotes are becoming bolder and more visible. She says research does suggest, however, that the density of coyotes in cities is exceeding their density in surrounding rural areas. "That could be because animal home range size is related to resources," she says. "Coyotes have ranges that vary immensely, depending on how much food there is, how hard it is to get and how easy it is to defend." Cities, with their wealth of garbage, might be harbouring marginal individuals who would not survive in rural areas, where coyotes

are more likely to be treated as vermin and shot.

This year, the Edmonton Urban Coyote Project launched an "aversive conditioning" project that will see citizen patrols scaring coyotes back into the wild by approaching them aggressively, waving hockey sticks and throwing tennis balls at them. "The goal is to increase the ratio of negative to positive interactions between coyotes and people," says St. Clair. There will also be a control group, where volunteers will walk quietly up to within 40 metres of coyotes and record their behaviour, particularly the point at which they run away. "It's the basic experimental design," she says. "Control and treatment. Without it, we can't say, 'This approach works and this one doesn't.'" The expectation is that coyotes will remain more visible in the control neighbourhood

continued...

## 50/50 raffle!

Support the Brookside rinks! The Riverbend Community League is running a 50/50 draw to support the ongoing operations of the two rinks in Brookside. Get your tickets at [rafflebox.ca/raffle/riverbendcom](http://rafflebox.ca/raffle/riverbendcom)



# WIN!

...continued



Photo: Colleen St. Clair

Coyotes are remarkably lean machines. They average around 30 pounds, with most of their bulk consisting of fur.

because, under aversive conditioning, they will learn to run when a human approaches. The university has put COVID-19 protocols in place that forbid such research for the time being, but the project is still taking names of interested volunteers at [coyotes@ualberta.ca](mailto:coyotes@ualberta.ca) and it will be launched as soon as allowed.

The research done by the Edmonton Urban Coyote Project also has implications for public health. It has long been known that coyotes can carry a tapeworm parasite that can make the leap to human populations. "It tends to be symptomless for years," St. Clair says, "but when the symptoms develop, that means it's pretty well established as a series of cysts in the liver." The team is analysing coyote carcasses and scat to determine the prevalence of the parasite and trying to determine whether there's a relationship between infection and the coyotes' diet.

And as for the ultimate question - whether coyote is pronounced with two syllables or three - St. Clair says the research is still out on that one, too. It's a Spanish word, so likely had three syllables to start, but she's from Edmonton, so just uses two. "It's a bit of a prairies thing," she says. "There are no logically consistent reasons."

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# In Praise of Democracy

We the people are democracy's crucial ingredient

By: Michael Ganley

Reading and watching the news out of Washington, D.C. over the last couple of months has caused many of us to reflect nervously on what democracy means, how it is exercised and how it can potentially be subverted.

I hesitate to draw too many conclusions when comparing the situation in the United States with that in Canada, but the divisiveness and acrimony of the public square in that country should at least act as a warning sign to people who believe in democracy and want to see it work.

We in Canada have lived under a stable, peaceful democracy for so long that it's easy to understand why we might take it for granted.

We vote, the votes are counted, a winner is declared and there is either a continuation of government or a peaceful transition of power. To use a football metaphor, our political parties generally play within the hash marks, with policy proposals that differ by degree and not by their very nature. In the United States, the politicians often seem to not be on the same field at all.

What we've seen in the U.S. is a reminder that democracy is not a state of being, but a continuous act, one that requires informed and engaged citizens to do their part, to pay attention to the issues that affect their lives, learn about the policy options and go to the voting booth with an opinion. If your choice loses, you get back on your horse and try to convince more people to see things your way, and you listen to them when they tell you how they see it.

Democracy can be difficult and tedious, with endless talking and hashing out of positions and the need for compromise - just ask anyone on



Edmonton City Council about the annual budget debate. But as Sir Winston Churchill said in 1947, "many forms of government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed it has been

Democracy is not a state of being but a continuous act, one that requires informed and engaged citizens to do their part.

said that democracy is the worst form of government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time." With that in mind, the next municipal election

is this coming October.

Of course democracy does not just happen at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. We see it also at the grassroots whenever people come together to collectively address an issue that affects them. We see a great example of that democratic energy in action in this issue of the Ragg-Times, on page 6, where Deann Stein Hasinoff describes the process that led to the Brander Gardens Development Vision. There was widespread concern about large property developments that might occur on a number of properties along the river valley. People came together, talked, found common ground and developed a document that expresses their interests. The 15-page document that resulted - a testament to democracy in action - can be found at [riverbendonline.ca](http://riverbendonline.ca).

## Election Season is Upon Us

Nominations opened in January for the October municipal election

The nomination process for the October 18 municipal election runs until September 20. Mayoral candidates must submit a \$500 deposit and a form with 100 signatures of support. Councillor candidates need 25 signatures and must pay a \$100 fee.

Ward 9 (Pihêsiwin) Councillor Tim Cartmell is running again, but not for mayor. Councillors Ben Henderson and Michael Walters have announced they are not running for re-election, as has Mayor Don Iveson. "He is one of the smartest people I've met," Cartmell says. "We didn't agree on everything but he has served his community well. It's thankless a lot of the time, particularly when you're in the mayor's chair, but he should be thanked for his contributions."

## Lawsuit Filed over Solar Plant

Project opposed by river valley conservationists

The Edmonton River Valley Conservation Coalition has filed a legal challenge against Edmonton City Council's 7-6 decision to allow Epcor to build a solar power plant in the river valley, beside the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant. The coalition argues that the project should have been subject to the river valley bylaw, which states that major public facilities in the valley must be deemed "essential" by council.

Several years ago the City, which owns Epcor, told the utility to find ways to get 10 per cent of its power requirements from renewable sources. Epcor considered various options, but settled on the land beside the treatment plant, which is already zoned industrial in expectation of future growth of the plant. Ward 9 (Pihêsiwin) Councillor Tim Cartmell voted against the motion but says he did that because the utility could have accomplished the same goal at another place more appropriate for a solar development, not because council failed to deem the plan essential. "It was already zoned industrial, so that consideration wasn't necessary," he says.



Epcor has proposed building a solar farm on the open field south of the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant




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# RCL Adapts to the Times

Please support your community league by purchasing a membership. This can be done online at [efcl.org](http://efcl.org)

By: Miep Raedschelders, President, Riverbend Community League

**A**h February... the shortest winter month! We celebrate Valentine's Day and Family Day and I, personally, will reflect on how important my family, both near and far, have been to me this past pandemic year.

Thank you to all our league members and friends who wrote holiday cards for the seniors in our area long-term care homes this Christmas. We sorted and delivered over 1,400 cards and hopefully spread a little bit of joy. Thank you also to our league members who dropped off donations in support of the AMA Food Bank Campaign.

The Riverbend Community League (RCL) has done its utmost to adapt and support family activities in our own backyard this past year. Our fantastic Brookside skating rinks now have rink attendants to help regulate access and remind users of AHS regulations. Thank you to everyone who continues to purchase community league memberships to help us build and maintain these rinks. We are sadly unable to host our Family Skate Fest and pancake breakfast this year but look forward to this celebration of community in the future.



Before Christmas, Riverbend and the other 13 communities of the South West Area Council contributed to the AMA Food Bank Campaign. Thanks to all who donated!

The pandemic has had a severe impact on the RCL's revenues, so the league has decided to run a 50/50 raffle to help support the ongoing expenses of our rinks. You can buy tickets at [rafflebox.ca/raffle/riverbendcom](http://rafflebox.ca/raffle/riverbendcom). Please consider supporting our raffle and with any luck, walk away with half the pot for your own dreams!

Many of our members miss their regular yoga programming, and we have heard you!

We have partnered with The Ridge Community League and are offering an online yoga program that you can participate in from the comfort of your own home at a discounted rate! Please check [riverbendonline.ca](http://riverbendonline.ca) for more details and sign up online! We look forward to

hosting in-person yoga again once restrictions allow for it.

The RCL is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year! We will be inviting our members, businesses, neighbours and friends to decorate a mosaic tile for a beautiful commemorative mural addition to the Rhatigan Ridge Hall and become an artistic contributor to our community for years to come! Stay tuned for more information on that initiative in the next issue of the Riverbend Ragg-Times.

I want to thank our volunteer board for all the work they do to keep our league vibrant and forward thinking. If you are interested in volunteering for the community league, we are looking for committee members for our tennis/pickleball courts renovation project and our events team.

# RCL Holds 50/50 Draw to Support Rink Operations

Annual cost for two rinks at Brookside now about \$30,000

By: Sue Trigg

**T**he Brookside Rinks are a great way to spend a beautiful winter day in the fresh air while getting some exercise with family and friends. For years our rinks have been known around the city to have great ice and skaters come in droves to enjoy this Riverbend Community League (RCL) amenity. This is thanks to



The Brookside Rinks

our wonderful rink maintenance crew, Paul and Monika Glassford and family!

Enter COVID-19 and our world is turned upside down. Due to the pandemic, we now have restrictions from Alberta Health Services posted at the rinks on how we can use our outdoor facilities. These restrictions are in place to keep us safe and healthy during this pandemic. Please respect these new regulations when you are at the rinks, so the experience is enjoyable for everyone.

Get your 50/50 tickets at [rafflebox.ca/raffle/riverbendcom.ca](http://rafflebox.ca/raffle/riverbendcom.ca)

This season, the cost to operate the two rinks at Brookside is about \$30,000. Who pays for this, you ask? The RCL does. Volunteer community members make up the RCL board which oversees the

operation of the rinks, applies for grants and, in non-COVID years, holds events such as The Family Winter Festival and A Taste of Riverbend, with some of the funds used to offset the costs. With all of the new and ever-changing regulations, RCL has hired rink attendants to remind skaters of the rules and sell community league memberships. The purchase of a Community Membership also helps with offsetting costs.

This year, RCL is holding an online 50/50 draw to help with the operating costs. If you have enjoyed skating at the rinks or would just like to help out your Community League, please consider purchasing 50/50 tickets. They are available at [rafflebox.ca/raffle/riverbendcom](http://rafflebox.ca/raffle/riverbendcom).

We can do it! We are all in this together! Nothing lasts forever! Please be respectful, be safe and enjoy!

## Ready for some Yoga!

The Riverbend and Ridge community leagues have come together to offer an all-levels yoga program

"At a time when we have been advised to stay home and keep distance from others, it is so important to still find ways to come together as a community. I look forward to meeting you all."

-Kristal Forrest, instructor



**What?** Gentle flow and deep stretch yoga class. This all-levels class will move through a gentle flow, exploring breathing and foundational postures. It will offer strengthening and stabilizing, as well as deep stretch and release.

**Who?** Kristal Forrest, an instructor with more than eight years of teaching experience.

**When?** Four Monday mornings from 9:30-10:30, beginning February 22.

**Where?** In the comfort of your own home, over Zoom.

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No prior experience necessary. All you need are comfortable clothes, a mat, a folded blanket or towel (or block if you have one), and your curiosity to explore something new!

All who attend must have a current community league membership. This can be purchased at [www.efcl.org](http://www.efcl.org). To register, please go to [www.riverbendonline.ca](http://www.riverbendonline.ca) or [www.theridgeonline.ca](http://www.theridgeonline.ca). Click on the link and you will be forwarded to a sign-in page. Class may be cancelled due to low enrollment. Minimum 10 students.

# Parliament Resumes

Canada Elections Act and Private Members' Bill to extend compassionate care leave to be debated

By: Matt Jeneroux, MP, Edmonton-Riverbend

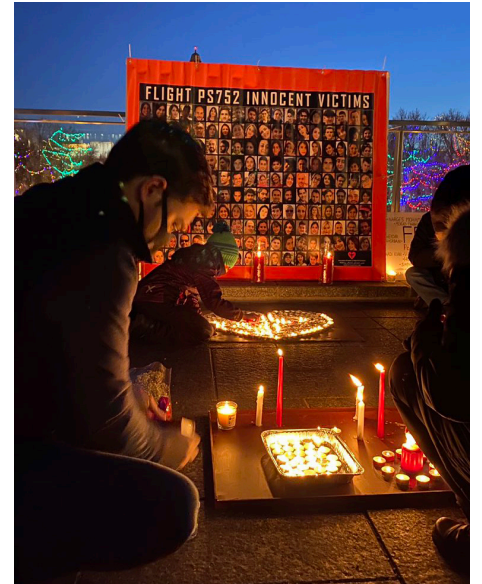
Parliament has resumed after a winter break with some important legislation on the agenda. Changes to the Canada Elections Act to allow for voting in a federal election during the pandemic will be debated over the coming weeks. Proposed changes include allowing mail-in voting and holding the election over a weekend instead of on a Monday, as is the usual practice. Parliament continues to meet in a hybrid format for the time being, with some Members attending in person and the rest virtually.

The second hour of debate on my Private Members' Bill will be on February 4. Bill C-220 proposes to extend the length of compassionate care leave by up to three weeks beyond the death of a loved one to allow a caregiver more time to grieve and take care of practical necessities before returning to work. The first hour of debate was held

in November and I'm pleased to say the bill was supported by all parties. After the second hour of debate, the bill will be sent to a House of Commons committee for more study before coming back to Members of Parliament for a vote. I have more information on the bill on my website at [www.mattjeneroux.ca/compassionate-care](http://www.mattjeneroux.ca/compassionate-care).

The Canada Revenue Agency has started to mail out T4A slips for those who received the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) in 2020. This information will be used when filing taxes. If you have any issues with CERB or other federal benefits, please contact my office.

As always, my office is here to help if you need it. If you have any questions about federal matters, please email [Matt.Jeneroux.C1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Matt.Jeneroux.C1@parl.gc.ca) or call 780-495-4351.



MP Jeneroux at the anniversary vigil held for the victims of the downing of Ukraine International Airlines flight PS752

# Congratulations to Captain Tony Yee

Bulyea Heights resident receives Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers

By: Ragg-Times Staff

Last October, Bulyea Heights resident Captain Tony Yee received the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers from the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta (and Riverbend resident) the Honourable Salma Lakhani.

Captain Yee was recognized for his work with the Canadian Red Cross over the last 45 years. He has promoted life-long learning and taught first aid and small-craft water safety to groups as diverse as church congregations and military units. He has been involved in the delivery of humanitarian aid during disaster relief operations, and says he has now logged more than 50,000 volunteer hours. "It was a great recognition and honour," he says of receiving the Sovereign's Medal.

Captain Yee was born in China's Guangdong province in 1937 and emigrated to Canada with his mother when he was 12 years old. "I didn't even know the alphabet," Captain Yee says of those early days. He and his mother first lived in Vancouver, where he attended elementary school and sold

newspapers to make a little money.

In 1958, after learning English but before completing high school, Captain Yee enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He served at an RCAF base in Marville, France in the 1960s and at Canadian Forces bases in Trenton, Ontario, Cold Lake and Edmonton over his 36 years of military service. He rose through the ranks to become a pilot instructor, teaching instrumentation, radar and communications.

Along the way, Captain Yee earned a series of degrees, including a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Education.

Captain Yee also serves as an official with Athletics Alberta and as a board member with the Edmonton Chinatown Development Foundation. He and his wife, Kazue, an elementary school teacher, moved into Bulyea Heights 17 years ago. There, they raised their two daughters and two sons and continue to enjoy spending time in their garden, walking the nature trails and with their four grandchildren.



Captain Tony Yee after receiving the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers last November

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# Building a Community Vision

How a proposed development brought people together to discuss what they want from their neighbourhood

By: Deann Stein Hasinoff

Four years ago, the owner of a large acreage property at the northern end of Whitemud Road submitted a rezoning proposal. They wanted to convert it from a single home into six four-storey buildings with a total of 46 units. This proposal caused a lot of concern among many residents of Brander Gardens and, while it didn't proceed, it resulted in people coming together to think about what they wanted for their community.

Two years later, Mactaggart Soaring - a beautiful five-acre property owned by the University of Alberta on the same stretch of road - was shuttered and then other large properties along the river came up for sale. Residents recognized

some type of development was likely to come in the area. With the support of Councillor Tim Cartmell and Civics Director Dave Rumbold, the Development Vision Committee came together and, over a series of meetings, hashed out a vision document. The objective was to create a document outlining what residents valued about the community, discuss what new development could look like in the area, and what type of amenity could accompany any proposed medium density development.

A survey was drafted and circulated in the spring of 2019, and the final document was completed in 2020. The committee would like to thank Councillor Cartmell and

Mr. Rumbold for their support and guidance during this process, as well as the Riverbend Community League for providing space for the group to meet. I would also like to thank the residents who committed their time and energy to working on this project, including Ken Mallett, Louise Forest, Bob Dunster, Meghan Franklin, Doug and Maureen Holmes, Michelle Friesen, Rod Ponech and Donnie and Jock McIntosh.

The document, titled Brander Gardens Development Vision, is now available on the Riverbend Community League website (riverbendonline.ca). You'll find it under the "News" tab.



Photo: David Hasinoff

The five-acre Mactaggart property, seen here from the north bank of the river, was donated to the University of Alberta



## RCL Residents Deliver Christmas Cheer

Campaign prepared 1,400 personalized Christmas cards and delivered them to more than 600 residents of long-term care homes

By: Ragg-Times Staff

Before Christmas, knowing of the isolation being endured by people in long-term care homes, Riverbend Community League (RCL) President Miep Raedschelders reached out to the two long-term facilities in Riverbend to ask what the community might do to ease residents' plight. Revera Riverbend and Lifestyle Options responded enthusiastically and Raedschelders decided to organize a campaign of personalised Christmas-card writing.

She reached out to the community, particularly through the Riverbend Swap and Shop and RCL Facebook groups, and people took up the cause. The campaign expanded to include four more long-term care homes in

nearby neighbourhoods and more than 600 residents. "The people of Riverbend came together to write more than 1,400 Christmas cards," Raedschelders says. "Many added socks or lottery tickets or chocolates."

Raedschelders and RCL executive administrator Elizabeth Emslie delivered the cards to the homes, an experience Raedschelders says was both heartwarming and heartbreaking. "All the homes had lots of COVID precautions but it was difficult to see the way people are having to live without contact with their families for such an extended period of time," she says. "I was so grateful to members of our community for stepping up and doing this. It made quite a difference."

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# The Silver Lining

Seniors Connection News for those 55+

By: Colleen Crozier

"Look for the Silver Lining" is a 1919 popular song with music by Jerome Kern and lyrics by B.G. DeSylva. Many singing artists have recorded it over the years, perhaps the most well-known being Judy Garland, back in the 1940s. "That's a little before my time," you may say, but didn't you find the words familiar, and even remember the tune? They remind us that no matter how grim our own circumstances, the sun is shining somewhere, and will shine on us again. They give us a recipe for happiness, one we have to create for ourselves: to look for the silver lining in clouds of life, and to seek the sunny side.

COVID-19 has given us ample opportunity to test these words. As seniors, our age and experience give us an advantage: We know that we have lived through some tough times before, and we can do it again. We know we can find the silver lining in a cloud because we know it exists, waiting to be found. And experience has taught us that seeking the sunny side promotes excellent mental health.

What are some of the silver linings you have found during the past few months? Have you found the time to complete long-term projects during your time staying at home? Or, with fewer outside pressures, have you been able to rest and rejuvenate, or just enjoy a slower pace? Have you learned to use technology to keep in touch? Or have you rediscovered the art of writing notes and letters, or felt the joy of finding one in your own mail? Have you saved on gas money, because you rarely drive these days? Have you found that access to many services has improved, such as being able to make an appointment to access them, rather than being part of a crowd? Your list of silver linings could go on and on.

The dark clouds of COVID have affected South West Edmonton Seniors Association (SWESA), too. As the pandemic has worsened, more and more of our programs had to be temporarily discontinued to meet



Alberta Health Services safety guidelines. We cannot gather in person for any of our activities right now, and gathering is what we love at SWESA: gathering to meet new people, nurture friendships, learn and have fun with other people over 55 in southwest Edmonton. A dark cloud indeed.

SWESA has, however, found silver linings! With Zoom Coffee & Chat we learned that seniors love to get together over coffee, even if they have to make their own coffee at home, take it to where their computers or devices are, and enjoy it with others over Zoom. The friendly phone call program can make a world of difference to a shut-in, COVID or no.

Our website features access to interesting online courses and information sessions, and Seniors Home Support Program Coordinator Barb Newell is a phone call away to help you find services like home repair, snow removal and more. Check our website for more information on any of these programs.

Our new program coordinator, Ruth Gill, has been able to use this time to research, plan and prepare more virtual programs now, and get ready for when it is safe to resume in-person programming.

Visit the SWESA website and get to know us. You can see how we operate, learn what programming we have done in the past and intend to offer in the future, and visit our photo gallery. SWESA welcomes your questions and suggestions.

Let SWESA be a silver lining in your life!

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# Remembering Riverbend Community Pioneers

Aleta and Stan Clarke settled in the Riverbend area in 1951,  
when the City of Edmonton was a speck on the horizon

By: Dave Rumbold

**L**ong-time Riverbend resident Aleta Clarke passed away recently at 97 after a long, happy and adventurous life. She and her husband Stan were pioneers in our community, originally settling on raw land in 1951 that later became part of the Brander Gardens neighborhood. Their story is a fascinating glimpse into another era!

Stanley Clarke was born in Manitoba in 1925, and came to Edmonton with his family as a young child, just in time for the depression. His father passed away when he was young. After years of struggle, his mother relocated her family of six children to London, England in 1939, to be with extended family there. Not long after World War II broke out, Stan and his older brother Sidney signed up for the British Army, lying about their ages because they were under 18.

Aleta was born in a log cabin by Lake Eden in 1923 and raised in the Lake Mir and Blueberry districts in northeastern Alberta. At the age of 19, during the war, she and her younger sister moved to Edmonton to work in the cafeteria of the American army base.

Sidney died during the Italian campaign, causing their mother to pull Stan out of the army as he was still underage. After starting a brief apprenticeship as a pattern maker with Austin Motors, Stan rejoined the war effort in 1943 as a dispatch rider with the Canadian Army Service Corps, running orders to the front lines during the Juno Beach landings in France. This was a critical but dangerous role and Stan later credited his dancing skills to his experience dodging bullets! After demobilizing in October 1945 at the young age of 21, Stan came to Edmonton to rejoin his family who had returned here. He began training as a carpenter.

Aleta and Stan met in Edmonton in late 1945 and married in October 1947. With the assistance of the Veteran's Land Act, they bought five acres on Whitemud Road in 1951. Their land was between present day Whitemud Road and Riverbend Road, between 53rd and 56th Avenues. They had hoped for land closer to the core but those properties went to couples who already had children.

The surrounding country roads weren't great and could be hard to navigate, especially when things got wet. The Clarke's property initially had no gas, phone, water or power. Stan built their house on weekends. When it was completed in 1952 they had power but still had to dash across the snow in winter to get to the outhouse! Within a few years the house got the rest of the services and expanded to accommodate their growing family.

The Clarkes had four children in the 1950s and raised them at their home in the country. They kept Arabian horses and every summer family members from the city would come out to enjoy time in nature. Trail rides were a popular pastime, all over the present day Riverbend-Terwillegar neighbourhoods, into the old gravel pits (present day Terwillegar Park) and all the way down to Devon. Aleta was well known for her pancake breakfasts

and cookouts. Her pork and beans recipe was famous and remained a well-kept secret! The Clarke daughters, Colleen and Maureen, did show-jumping and babysat for neighbouring families like the Mactaggarts. Son Ross was active on the rodeo circuit and used his skills breaking horses to help neighbours. Keith, the youngest child, remembers being towed on his skis behind his father's horse all the way down to Snow Valley Ski Area to meet his friends. His dad would come back to the top of the hill at the end of the afternoon on his horse to pull him back home! Keith also had the chore of breaking up the ice on the horse troughs before school on winter days. Other families that were in the area at the time were the Naylor's, Jenner's, Allard's, O'Brien's, McLaws, Oemings and Ritchies.

In those days, to get to Edmonton from the southwest, you would take Whitemud Road. It followed its current north-south orientation then went down to the river's edge where 58th Avenue now runs to the Fort Edmonton footbridge. It then followed the river eastbound past present day Fort Edmonton, Fox Farm and the equine centre to Keillor road, then up to Belgravia.

The only other way to town was south to 45th Avenue, then east through Whitemud Ravine over the old bridge further east, then north into town. There was no mail delivery in the area at the time, so residents had to make the long trip to 76th Avenue in Edmonton for their mail.

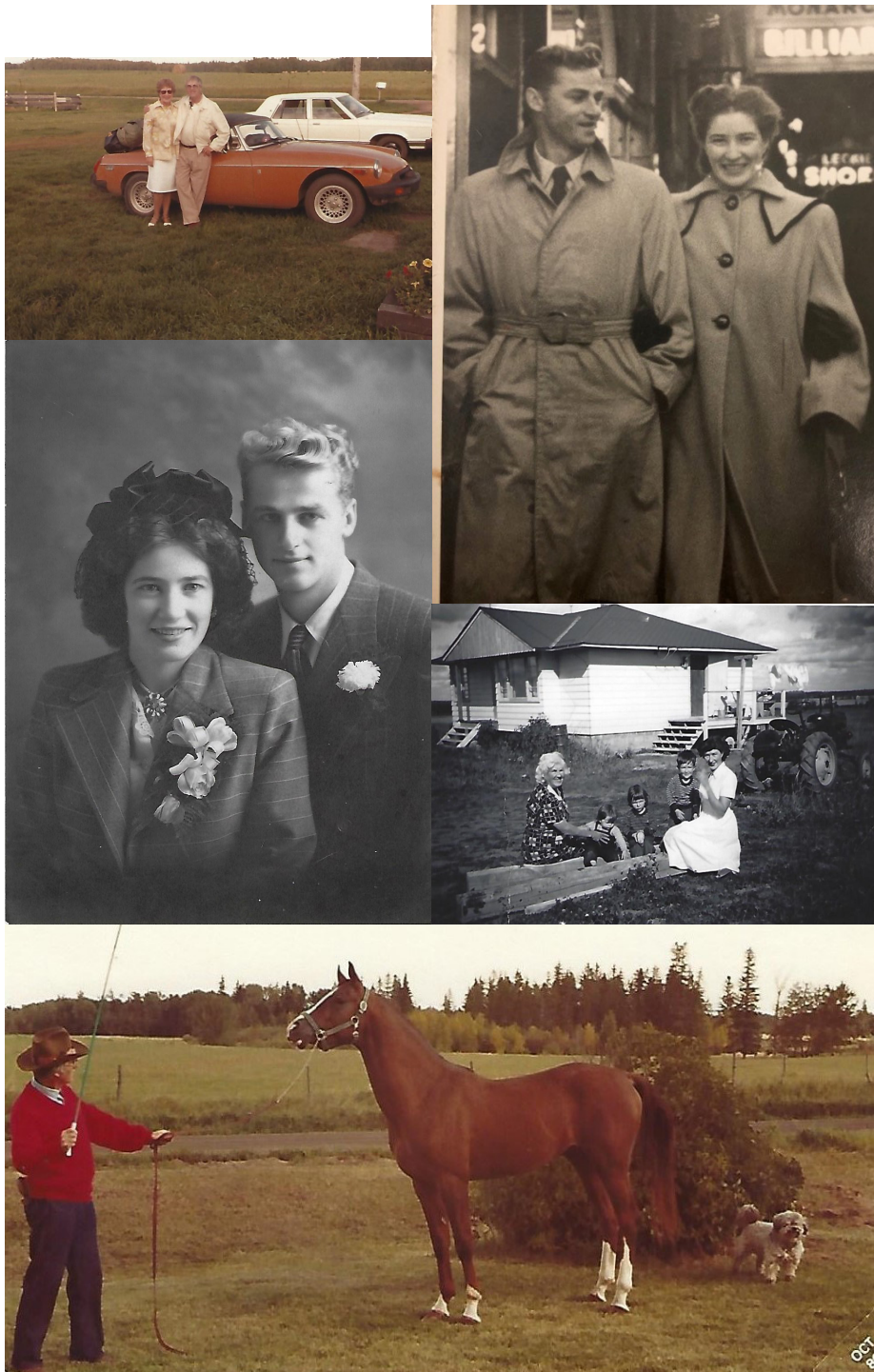
Stan's career with AV Carlson Construction flourished. He managed the construction of many well-known buildings in Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Yellowknife and Inuvik. As he was out of town much of the time, Aleta managed everything on the home front by herself.

The neighbourhoods of Brookside and Brander Gardens began to develop in the 1960s and '70s and the city came closer, so the Clarkes purchased a quarter section by Millet and moved their horses there. They eventually sold their house and most of their property in 1980 and moved to the brand new Uplands Condominiums in Ramsay Heights. Their original home remained for a while but newer

housing eventually surrounded and replaced it. Stan and Aleta kept the eastern portion of their land and built a 50-suite apartment building at 5432 Riverbend Road, putting both their names on it by naming it Staleta Manor. This building is known as Riverbend Place today.

## They raised four children - and Arabian horses - on five acres in present day Brander Gardens

Stan was an avid sportsman with a passion for baseball and the Edmonton Football Team. He was heavily involved in the 1978 Edmonton Commonwealth Games. He loved riding and showing the family's Arabian horses. He was a respected leader in the construction and business



Clockwise from top left: Stan and Aleta with their new, two-door MGB sports car circa 1975; Stan and Aleta on Jasper Avenue circa 1947; Aleta with her mother and children in front of the family home, which sat on five acres of land between present day Whitemud Road and Riverbend Road; Stan with one of the family's Arabian show horses in the early 1960s; On their wedding day in October, 1947.



LIVE LOCAL, GET INVOLVED, STAY INVOLVED

communities and advocated for improvements in health and safety in the construction industry. He passed away in 1984. The Clarke's daughters, Colleen and Maureen, both passed away in 2003 and son Ross died in 2017, leaving son Keith.

After Stan's passing, Aleta remained at the Uplands in Riverbend and was an active volunteer at Riverbend United Church until 2019, when she moved to Calgary. She was supported by her son Keith and extended family members there, and passed away quietly on November 6th, 2020. She was a special lady and community pioneer who lived a remarkable life, and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Thank you to Keith Clarke for his assistance with the telling of the Clarke family history and for supplying the pictures. Thank you also to Terry Aihoshi for her article about Aleta in the March 2014 issue of The Riverbend Ragg-Times.



Stan served as a dispatch rider with the Canadian Army Service Corps, running orders to the front lines during the Juno Beach landing.

# City Renames Wards

Ward 9 will be called Pihêsiwin, a Cree word honouring the thunderbird

In December, Edmonton City Council voted to change the names and boundaries of the city's 12 electoral districts. Ward 9, which includes all of Riverbend and Terwillegar, will be known by the Cree word pihêsiwin (pronounced pee-HEY-sa-win), which means Land of the Thunderbirds.

In Cree mythology, the pihêsiw (thunderbird) is a powerful spirit in the shape of a bird. Lightning flashes from its beak and its beating wings represent rolling thunder. When lightning strikes, it re-energizes mother Earth. The pihêsiw is also the keeper of water and is viewed with reverence.

The ward was given the name because it is shaped like a thunderbird when seen from the air.

## Riverbend Retrospective



## Riverbend Community League

The story of Aleta and Stan Clarke is part of Riverbend Retrospective, a year-long celebration of the community in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Riverbend Community League. If you have story ideas or photos, please get in touch at [raggtimes@riverbendonline.ca](mailto:raggtimes@riverbendonline.ca).

## Community Champs

Do you know a person who deserves recognition for their community-building work? Nominate your Community Champion by emailing [raggtimes@riverbendonline.ca](mailto:raggtimes@riverbendonline.ca).

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# Change is Needed, and Now is the Time

We must not miss the opportunity for transformation that has come with this devastating pandemic

By: Tim Cartmell, City Councillor

I know it's a bit late, but I hope you all had the opportunity for some rest and relaxation over the holidays. My family and I enjoyed the opportunity to spend lots of time together while eating too much food and watching too many bad movies.

My maternal grandmother started hosting a Christmas Eve party in 1949. She passed away on Dec 22, 2018. That year, she missed her first Christmas Eve party in 70 consecutive years. Our family is scattered across Canada now, but the party still happens and most of the family gets there.

Our tradition was interrupted this year, like so many of yours were, so we had a fantastic virtual party instead. A remarkable blessing in a challenging year.

This is one of the lessons of COVID. When faced with the urgent need to find another way, we adapt and pivot.

It is a lesson that City Council and Administration learned and applied in 2020. Before COVID, virtual participation in Council meetings was not an option. Today we do it routinely. Instead of a daunting journey of permits and approvals for a restaurant to open a sidewalk patio, it can now be done almost overnight. Instead of waiting weeks for the inspector to show up, building inspections can now be done virtually, usually within a few days.

These are small examples, but it took the urgency of a pandemic to make these changes. It is that ethic of urgency combined with a determination to do things more efficiently that we cannot lose.

The City Auditor released two reports last fall. One clearly stated that the City's financial outlook is not nearly as good as it was 10 years ago, that our operating costs and debt are too high compared to other cities. The other report indicated that the City's workforce is much larger than other Canadian cities. Those audit reports tell us that adjustments are required, that the City is not efficient, and that we need to make better use of taxpayer dollars.

This pandemic will pass eventually, but it will leave permanent changes in its wake. Some people will still work from home. There will be a new balance between the number of commuter cars versus those taking transit, walking or biking to work and school. Some City services will be in greater demand, and some will have diminished demand. But in its wake, the pandemic will leave considerable financial burdens for many of our citizens and business owners.

Those audit reports, among other indicators, tell us change is needed. The pandemic makes those changes urgent.

We as citizens must also be ready to adapt. The systems and services that worked for a city of 666,000 in 2000 will not all work for a city of one

million people in 2021. From waste to public transit, from environmental impact to active transportation, we need to be willing to adapt the way we move, work, play and shop.

The work ahead of Council is not about reducing budgets and property taxes, although that is a significant consideration. It is about determining the size of government that Edmonton can afford to do the work it needs to do. It is about reshaping our municipal government to provide what citizens need, and eliminating what they do not. It is about working collaboratively



with other levels of government to address gaps, overlaps and waste.

I truly believe that we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reshape our city, to become a municipal government that is lean and nimble, a city that will keep bright minds here and attract newcomers to what we all know is a fantastic community. We must not miss the opportunity for transformation that has come with this devastating pandemic. We must not forget the lesson that if we embrace the urgency to change, transformation can be accomplished.

The next municipal election will take place on October 18, 2021. It has been my distinct privilege to serve as your councillor since 2017, and I will be seeking re-election in Ward 9 (Pihêsiwin). I am truly excited by all of the opportunities that the next few years will bring, and I hope to continue to be a part of the evolution of Edmonton.

Your Councillor,  
Tim Cartmell

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## Refine concept ideas for a **new pedestrian/cyclist bridge over Whitemud Drive.**

This is the second of a series of engagement activities planned for the 142 Street Pedestrian/Cyclist Bridge project.

We want to hear from you! Your input will be used alongside City plans and policies in the selection of the preferred concept.

**Online Presentation and Live Q&A Session, and Online Engagement Activities**

- Beginning in February 2021
- Confirm the project **vision** and **principles**
- Help us adapt our approach to **concept ideas**

Register in advance at [edmonton.ca/142streetbridge](http://edmonton.ca/142streetbridge)

REFINE

Learn more by going to [edmonton.ca/142streetbridge](http://edmonton.ca/142streetbridge)

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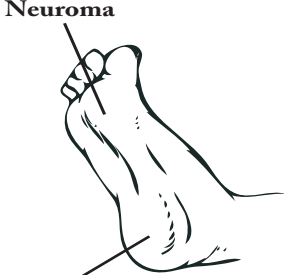


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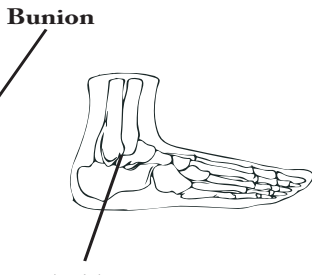
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# The Brookview Community League Update

Holiday lights a bright success, but it's already time to look ahead to spring!

In the last issue of the Ragg-Times, we listed our new Brookview Community League board for 2020/2021, but accidentally left out our wonderful Membership Director, Lauren Storey. Brookview has been lucky to benefit from Lauren's efforts and insightful contributions for the past two seasons!

We also want to recognize and extend our thanks to Peter Farnden (past-president) and Vesna Farnden (past-program director) for the many hours they devoted to BCL and the many committees they sat on. The neighbourhood was a better place because of your involvement. Thank you!

### HOLIDAY LIGHTS WAS A BRIGHT SUCCESS

This year, Brookview residents nominated their favourite decorated houses. Thank you to all those homeowners whose efforts made the neighbourhood welcoming, warm and festive. There were so many beautiful yard and light displays! Congratulations to all the nominees for their hard work and creativity.

The four most nominated houses were 400 Butchart Drive, 429 Buchanan Road, 327 Bulyea Road and 514 Buchanan Road. The Cul-de-Sac Spirit Award went to 712-728 Burley Drive.

Special thanks to Shamez and Ali Jivraj from the Marble Group for promoting holiday cheer with their donation of four Pizza Hut gift certificates!



### IS FITNESS ON YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION LIST? GENTLE HATHA YOGA IS BACK!

BCL has asked instructor Paige Elniski to offer two interactive zoom classes this year, Wednesday mornings at 11:00 and Thursday evenings at 7:00. Both classes allow great flexibility (a little yoga pun) as participants can register month-to-month. For further information and to register, please go to the instructor's website at [yegtownyoga.ca](http://yegtownyoga.ca).



### PUT ON THE BLADES AND EMBRACE WINTER!

The BCL rink is open! Continue to check our website for regularly updated information on hours and regulations. Please follow the posted guidelines to keep the skating experience safe for everyone.

### HELP US MANAGE THE TENNIS COURTS

We want to get the best use out of our excellent courts. BCL needs a few volunteers from the community to join a subcommittee. We would like to form a balanced committee to investigate how to best manage the courts for recreational tennis, pickle ball and lessons. For more information, please contact us at [president@brookviewcommunityleague.ca](mailto:president@brookviewcommunityleague.ca).

### CALLING ALL GREEN THUMBS

Do you love to garden? Are you interested in sustainability? BCL would like to set up a community garden in the neighbourhood. We are looking for volunteers to join a committee to help get this initiative off the ground. In order to be eligible for grants, we need six to 12 regular volunteers who can commit to maintaining the garden for the year. This would be a wonderful addition to Brookview. To get funding for this spring, we need to have volunteer commitments ASAP. To get involved or for more information, please contact us at [programs@brookviewcommunityleague.ca](mailto:programs@brookviewcommunityleague.ca).

# Update from the Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council

We're hopeful the annual TRAC Community Run/Walk will go as planned in May

The Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council had a meeting on January 28th. No update was available at time of print.

For options on purchasing a community league membership or to request skate tags, please contact the TRAC Community Office by email at [ye or by leaving a message at 780-439-9394.](mailto:ye<trac@gmail.com)

Community league memberships are required for access to the community rinks. A reminder to be mindful of any COVID restrictions so that we can all continue to enjoy the rinks!

We are hopeful that the 15th annual TRAC Community Run/Walk will be able to go ahead as planned on Sunday, May 30th. Stay tuned for more information.

If you haven't yet purchased a bottle of the latest community wine, "The Ridge Vines", please stop by Vines Wine Merchants to pick one up.

This wine is a lovely Malbec from Bodega Sottano. Five dollars from each bottle sold goes back to the Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council to support programming and operations of the area council.



# SWEFM Seeks a Market Manager for the 2021 Season

## Also hiring market assistant and curbside staff

By: Christie Anderson

The Southwest Edmonton Farmers' Market (SWEFM) is hiring a market manager for the 2021 season. This is a part-time, seasonal job from February to October. The market will run from May 19th to Oct. 6th and more hours are required from April to September. We are also hiring a market assistant/labourer (approx. six hours a week from May 19 to Oct. 6th) and curbside staff (approximately 3-4 hours a week, from May 19th to Oct. 6th).

Full job descriptions are available at [swefm.ca](http://swefm.ca). If you are interested in any of these

roles, feel free to send a letter of introduction to: [swefm.manager@gmail.com](mailto:swefm.manager@gmail.com) OR send us a full application (cover letter and resume).

We at the SWEFM hope that you are having a wonderful winter. We are just over three months away from opening day of the 2021 market season, and it is time for us to start planning this year's market. While COVID will certainly leave some uncertainty around exactly what the season will look like, we will go ahead with planning as usual, as we will have a market in some shape or form!

If you are a vendor looking to participate



(either full-time or part-time), be sure to apply by March 31st. Our vendor application form is available at [swefm.ca](http://swefm.ca).



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# Neighbourhood Watch Signs Available

By: Barb Scott, Neighbourhood Watch Rep.

In the interests of community safety, we can now petition virtually for more Edmonton Neighbourhood Watch signs for our neighbourhoods.

Please email your first and last names to Barb at [barb.scott@weselledmonton.com](mailto:barb.scott@weselledmonton.com) and include "{your neighbourhood} sign" in the subject line. We need 25 email requests to get one sign.

Thank you neighbours, for making Riverbend a great place to live and for helping to keep it safe!



Thank you for supporting local small business in Edmonton!

We will continue to adapt & transform... And we are excited to embrace the new realities of the restaurant scene in Edmonton. We are proud to be a locally owned and operated business.

Wishing you all the best this Christmas Season!

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# Supporting Small Business Owners During the Pandemic

The NDP encourages support from both individuals and government

By: Rakhi Pancholi, MLA

For months, Albertans have been doing their part to get through the pandemic by following public health guidance and orders to wear masks, stay home and physically distance. I know it has been difficult on all of us. I feel it in my own life and when it gets particularly challenging, my family and I come back to these questions: “Why are we doing this? What is the principle behind what we are doing?” Asking these questions helps us focus on the purpose of the restrictions, which is to take effective measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 so we can protect our health, safety and livelihoods. We must control the virus to have economic recovery.



But there is light at the end of this tunnel. As I write this in early January, the vaccine roll-out has begun. An effective and efficient vaccine roll-out plan is critical. The provincial government has a great deal of work to do to restore public trust and one important way to do that is to provide full transparency and accountability on the delivery of vaccines to Albertans. On a personal note, I have been heartened by the incredible support the people of Edmonton-Whitemud have shown for small businesses during this difficult time.

Some of the great restaurants in our community include Curry Corner, Saigon Cuisine, and Oliveto in Riverbend Square, Tastebuds and King's Garden Noodle House in Brander Gardens, Towne Pizza and Towne Chef in Terwillegar Towne and The Bend on 40th Ave. These restaurants are doing take-out or curbside service. Another great option for healthy prepared meals to cook at home is Simply Supper, a business that sponsors

the annual Lemonade Stand Day in support of the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation.

If you have a sweet tooth like I do, there are incredible bakeries in our community like Pome Bakery, Blossom Cakery, Tafeli Cookies, and Fuss Cupcakes. And we are so lucky to have Vines Wine Merchants, one of the best wine stores in the city, right around the corner.

Many personal service providers like salons & spas will need your support when they reopen. I know first-hand how hard the owners of dance studios and fitness studios, like Fit on 45th and F45, have worked to offer online classes to their clients to keep them healthy and active.

We should also be proud of the incredible entrepreneurs in our community. One tech business based in Edmonton-Whitemud, Kickbyte, was recently featured as one of the top startups of 2020 in Canadian Business and Maclean's Magazine for their human approach to marketing.

As a member of the Official Opposition, I'm proud to say we have prioritized proposals to the government designed to support small business owners during the pandemic. They include:

1. Increasing the Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant for businesses to receive up to \$25,000 while lowering the qualifying threshold. The government adopted this suggestion in part. We believe the program should also support new businesses that opened after February.
2. Matching the federal Emergency Rent Subsidy Lockdown Support up to 25 per cent for businesses forced to close as a result of COVID-19. Again, this needs to include new businesses who do not currently qualify for federal support.
3. Reinstating the commercial eviction ban that expired on August 31, 2020 to have it run until April 2021.
4. Reinstating the ban on utility shut offs for six months and instituting a deferral of up to six months to April 2021. Forgiveness on utility costs or reduced rates should also be included.
5. Renewing our call for 50 per cent reduction on small business insurance and extending the reduction to June 30, 2021.
6. Providing government-backed low interest lines of credit of up to \$30,000.
7. Introducing a COVID-19 Risk Index that gives business the ability to plan for moving up or down a stage of the relaunch strategy.

I encourage you to visit [AlbertasFuture.ca](http://AlbertasFuture.ca) to see the specific COVID-19 measures and supports we have called for, as well as the work we are doing to develop a comprehensive and diversified economic strategy for Alberta's Future.

As always, I want to hear from you. I can be reached at (780) 413-5970 or by email at [Edmonton.whitemud@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Edmonton.whitemud@assembly.ab.ca).

## Community League Membership Application

To verify your League, or purchase a membership online, please visit the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL) website, [www.efcl.org](http://www.efcl.org)

Adult #1: _____	Date: _____	Mail completed form, along with payment, to the address below:
Adult #2: _____	Membership Type:	
Address: _____	Seniors/Single/Couple/Family (circle one)	"The Community League's Name"
_____	May we send you news by email? Y/N (circle)	c/o TRAC at Terwillegar Community
Postal Code: _____	Are you willing to volunteer? Y/N	#5, 2051 Leger Road NW
Phone number: _____	Fee (visit Community League website): _____	Edmonton, Alberta, T6R 0R9
Email: _____	Donation: _____	Forms and payment may also be dropped off at the TRAC office.
Child/Children's names(s):	Total Paid: _____	
_____	Cash: <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque: <input type="checkbox"/>	*Cheque Payable to the Applicable Community League
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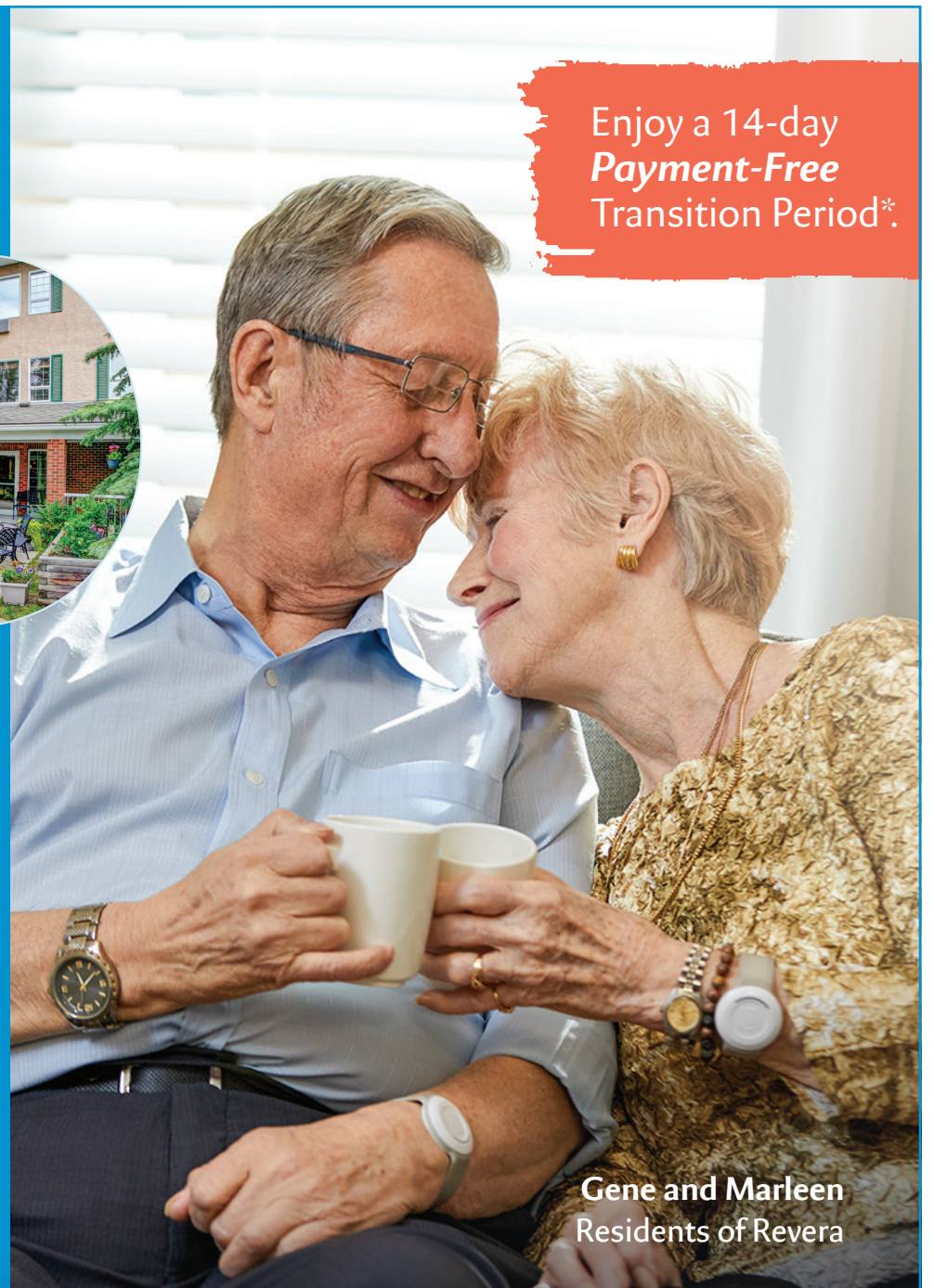
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# Happy New Year!

**SALLY  
MUNRO**

780.441.5457  
SallyMunro.com

We all closed the book on 2020, and look forward with clear vision, hope and promise for a brighter future in 2021.

Thank you to my clients, friends and family, for your loyalty, love and support. I share the accolades and accomplishments bestowed to me by Century 21 with you again.

May we all have a happy, healthy and empowering 2021.

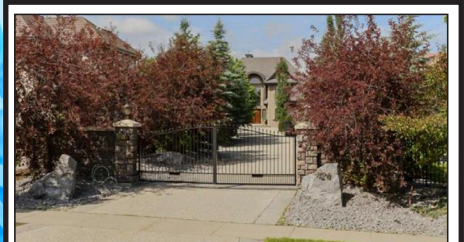
Best Wishes, *Sally*



**Estate Parkland County \$5,700,000**  
Custom built executive estate. 6941 sq ft walkout bungalow on 2.5 acres. Incredible.  
ML# E4149615



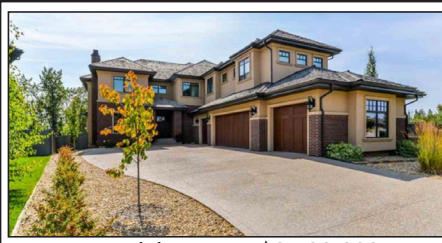
**Windermere Ridge \$3,498,000**  
Modern, marvellous masterpiece! 12000sf. Home theatre, Gourmet kitchen. A must see  
ML# E4218712



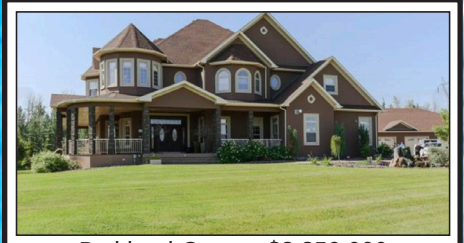
**Brookhollow \$2,998,000**  
Elegance and refined taste. Gated estate on 1/2 acre prime ravine lot. 4725 sq ft.  
ML# E4219162



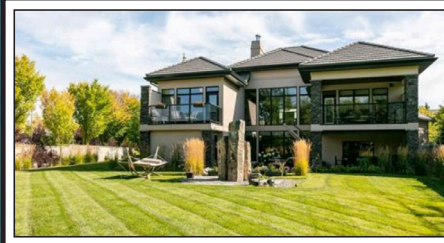
**Development Opportunity \$2,598,000**  
2.3 acres in Edgemont flanked by a treed ravine on 3 sides. 2175 plus sq ft  
ML# E4220163



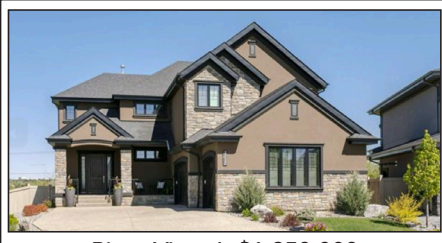
**Donsdale Estate \$2,499,000**  
Luxurious 5707 plus sq ft. Ravine estate home. 5 bed, 7 bath. Gourmet kitchen  
ML# E4196233



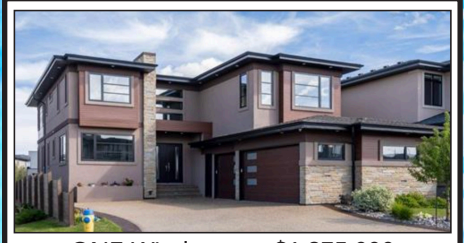
**Parkland County \$2,250,000**  
Custom design on 1 acre in Walker Lake Estates. Over 9272 sq ft finished space.  
ML# E4200549



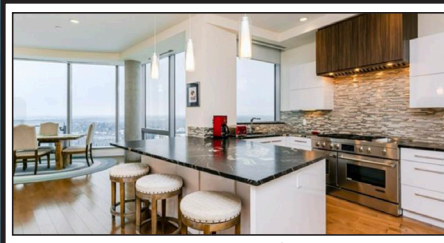
**Cameron Heights \$1,458,000**  
Executive walkout bungalow on ravine. 4800 sq ft. Chef gourmet kitchen, theatre & gym.  
ML# E4194243



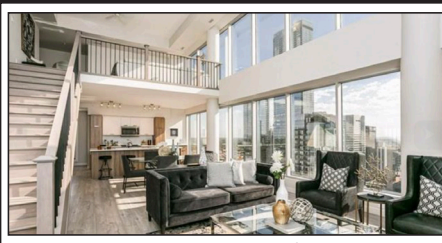
**River Views! \$1,350,000**  
Keswick on the River! 2 storey walk-out estate home, 4390 sq ft. Luxurious finishes.  
ML# E4216390



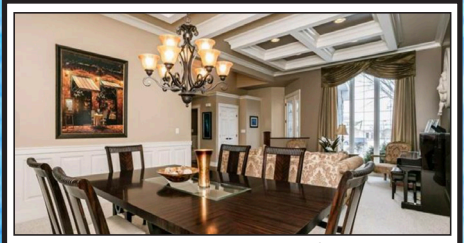
**ONE Windermere \$1,275,000**  
5500 sq ft. of executive luxurious finished space. Walk out basement, gym, theatre.  
ML# E4212744



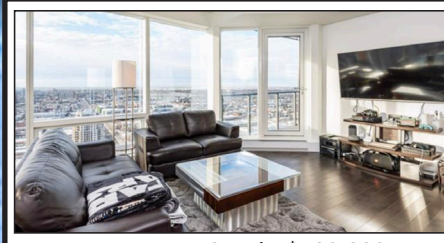
**The Pearl in Oliver \$1,100,000**  
29th floor breathtaking river views. 2 bdrm, 2.5 bath, 1856 sqft Suite. A must see!  
ML# E4220294



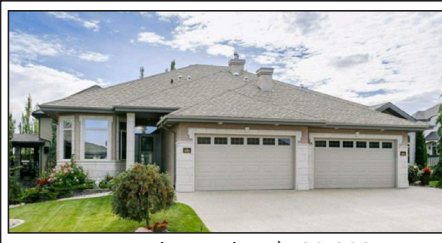
**Downtown Penthouse \$1,009,950**  
32nd floor of FOX TWO 2000 sq ft, 2 storey. 3 bed, 2 bath. Breathtaking views.  
ML# E4209482



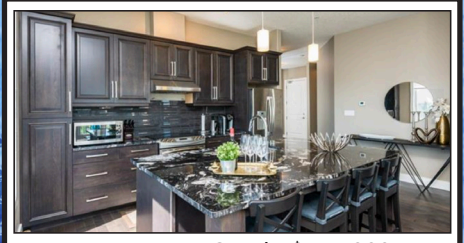
**Lakeside Estates Leduc \$849,000**  
Over 3033 sq ft of luxurious living. Gourmet kitchen, 5 car heated garage. RV parking.  
ML# E4219723



**Downtown Condo \$699,900**  
Legends Private Residences! Posh 900 sq ft 2 bed 2 baths. ICE District. Gym & Spa.  
ML# E4224620

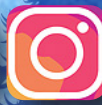


**Magrath Heights \$699,800**  
Executive half-duplex bungalow in The Cascades. 3412 sq. ft. Walk out basement.  
ML# E4213730



**MacTaggart Condo \$575,000**  
Private corner unit penthouse floor. 1357sq ft 2 bed + den. Chef kitchen. Lake view.  
ML# E4209489

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Call Sally today for a confidential consultation 780.441.5457

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**Masters**

**SMARTER. BOLDER. FASTER.<sup>®</sup>**

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