

The Riverbend Ragg-Times

A PUBLICATION OF THE RIVERBEND COMMUNITY LEAGUE

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The League with 1,000 Faces

The Riverbend Community League celebrates its 50th birthday this year.

By Ragg-Times Staff

On April 5, 1970, 50 people living in the Riverbend and Brookside neighbourhoods got together to organize a community league. Within weeks, they had elected officers and set up a bank account. By the fall of that year they had approved their first project: the purchase of tables and chairs for a playschool in Brookside School. Total cost: \$150.

Since then, members of the Riverbend Community League (RCL) and other leagues in the area have raised millions of dollars for playschools, buildings, rinks, tennis courts and gardens. They have run programs for the young and old, for newcomers and for passersby. They have spent thousands of hours planning, organizing and executing projects that bring neighbours together and build communities that are safe, friendly and interesting.

The longest-serving member of the RCL Board is Sue Trigg, who moved into the area with her husband, Gary, and son in 1985. She has been on the Board for 28 years, but was involved even before then. "I wanted to get to know people," she says. "I organized a Christmas party with neighbours, then we started having block parties, we organized a babysitting coop and a ladies Christmas luncheon." In the early 1990s, Trigg registered her two boys for softball, but there was nobody to run the program. She and Gary took it on, and soon enough the program had 26 teams.

Community leagues are a unique Edmonton creation. There are about 160 of them, each with a mandate to provide civic advocacy on behalf of its community and to develop social and recreational opportunities and infrastructure. The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL) says they define what grassroots government truly is, and how ground-level leadership positively affects the growth of a neighbourhood and a city.

Over the years, the RCL has organized Art in Our Park, the Winter Festival, A Taste of Riverbend, a plant and compost sale and much



Countless people have given their time and talents over the years to plan, organize and execute projects that bring neighbours together and build communities that are safe, friendly and enviable.

more. It has supported seniors' groups and New Canadians. Volunteers have built and re-built countless playgrounds, often by hand. Twenty years ago, the RCL organized the rebuilding of Ramsay Park. There was a baseball diamond and a couple of soccer fields, but other than that it was just open space. "We put in pathways and playgrounds and resculpted the tobogganing hill so there was both a speedy side and more of a lazy river," Trigg says. "The CL did that, not the City."

The RCL has also supported the development of other community leagues in the area. Those partnerships led to the creation of the Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Committee, which successfully lobbied the City of Edmonton to get the \$90 million Terwillegar Community Recreation Centre built in 2011.

Community leagues ebb and flow. People move in and out of neighbourhoods, kids grow up

and move, the energy of volunteers wanes. There has been tremendous change at the RCL over the decades, but it has also been a remarkably strong community league, with buildings, infrastructure, rinks, long-running programs and partnerships and even a part-time staffer. "And we're very fiscally minded," Trigg says. "I don't know how many community leagues have a reserve fund. It's good to know if something happens we can look after our facilities and carry on."

As the EFCL notes, "Our city's community leagues live up to the mandate of building better, stronger communities through inclusion, social action, by-partisanship, recreational and cultural development, and by providing the united voice of their community in the development of their neighbourhoods." As you'll see while you make your way through this issue of the Riverbend Ragg-Times, no truer words could be said of the RCL.

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+ MORE!

Learning on the Job

What community leagues mean to me

By Michael Ganley

When my family and I first moved to Edmonton 10 years ago, we rented a house in Meadowlark for a year, where we soon learned of the Meadowlark Community League. We bought a membership, took advantage of its outdoor rink and attended its Community League Day events. We rented its hall for a kid's birthday party and attended a New Year's Eve celebration there one year.

I'd lived in a few places before Edmonton, but had never come across such a thing as a "community league," which I now know isn't unusual because they just don't exist anywhere else. I was intrigued: Community league's struck me as a sort of fourth level of government, closer to the people than any of the others and run entirely by volunteers, a unique form of citizen activism combining the best of both individual and social responsibility.

Since then, my understanding of and appreciation for community leagues has only grown. We moved to Riverbend and I started to become familiar with the things The Riverbend Community League (RCL) had done and still does. My kids attended the Green Shack program for a couple of summers. We used the rink. We went to Art in Our Park every year.

Then, a year ago, I became the editor of The Riverbend Ragg-Times and came to know (a bit, since I've only ever met many of them over Zoom) and admire the people who are on the RCL Board, as well as other people who

are heavily involved in the community. I marvel at the time and effort these talented, dedicated people put into their neighbourhoods.

Then we decided to put this 50th anniversary issue together and my education about the RCL, and the area, went into overdrive: Did you know that the RCL essentially made the tobogganing hill in Ramsay Park and that it was instrumental in getting a much needed facility built in the area? Did you know that we have an ancient archaeological site in Riverbend, as well as a major park with a misspelled name?

Well, these and many other facts about the history of the area and

what this League has done for all of us who live in these neighbourhoods - whether we realize it or not - are to be found in this issue of the Ragg-Times. I hope you enjoy making your way through them.

I would like to thank all of the people who contributed to this issue (whose names you can find in the masthead), but particularly RCL Secretary Leslie Leeworthy, who combed through League minutes and other sources to find many of the historical details contained herein (and also built the crossword puzzle!).



Did you know the RCL essentially made the tobogganing hill in Ramsay Park, sculpting both fast and slow runs?

The Riverbend Ragg-Times

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Porch Concerts to Return!

COVID-restrictions permitting, the following acts will perform Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. in the small park beside 4224 Whitemud Road.

May 15 - Bill Bourne & Paul Steffes

May 22 - Kimberley MacGregor & Elliott Thomas

May 29 - Back Porch Swing

June 5 - Kevin Cook & Cam Neufeld

June 26 - Arlo Maverick



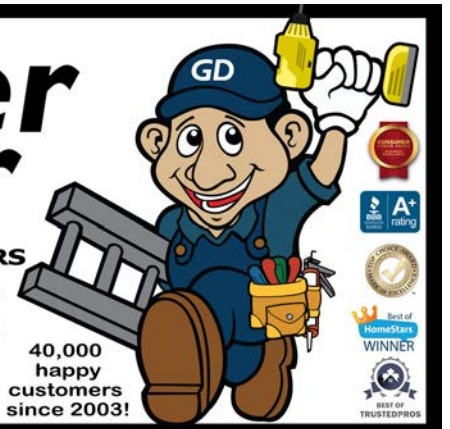
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Deficits, Debts and Debates

Private Members' Bill extending bereavement leave has third reading

By Matt Jeneroux, Member of Parliament, Edmonton Riverbend

With more and more Canadians getting vaccinated, there is a sense of optimism that we're making strides to combat COVID-19. This has been an extremely trying time for all of us, but I'm hopeful we're on the other side of this pandemic.

The Federal Government tabled the budget in the House of Commons on April 19. This budget, the Liberals' first in two years, lays out the spending plan to recover from the pandemic's economic impacts. The budget promises \$101.4 billion in "new stimulus" spending, \$30 billion for a national childcare plan, \$17.6 billion for green investments and \$12 billion to extend aid for businesses hit hard by COVID-19.

With the spending announced in this new budget, the federal debt is set to climb to \$1.4 trillion and the deficit is projected to be \$354.2 billion. Debate about this budget continues in the House of Commons. After debate, the budget must have enough support to pass a vote before being implemented. The budget is a matter of confidence for the Liberal government, and if the budget fails to get enough support to pass the vote, an election will be called.

My Private Members' Bill had its first hour of debate at third reading



in April. I'm pleased that the Bill, which proposes to extend bereavement time off for Canadian employees covered under the Canada Labour Code to 10 days, up from the current five days. It continues to have the support of all parties in the House of Commons. I have more analysis on the Bill on my website at www.mattjeneroux.ca/bill-c220.

There will be a second hour of debate at third reading, and then a final vote on the legislation. As of the time of this submission, I'm currently in negotiations to move it up in the agenda for debate. If the Bill is passed at third reading, it will be sent to the Senate, where it will repeat the same process of three readings and debate. If the Bill is passed in the Senate, it will receive Royal Assent and become Canadian law within three months of its passage. Of note, our Senate sponsor is my colleague Senator Paula Simons.

As always, my office is here to help if you need it. We know it's been difficult for many in our community, and if you have any questions about federal matters and need assistance, please email Matt.Jeneroux.C1@parl.gc.ca or call 780-495-4351.

Summer Starts at EPL! is coming

Starting June 26th, the Edmonton Public Library will have online programming, activities, reading contests and prizes available for our community kids

By Virginia Clevette, Manager, Riverbend Branch

Although library branches are temporarily closed to in-person services, the Riverbend Branch of the Edmonton Public Library continues to serve customers.

Library Takeout Service is EPL's contactless pickup service that allows customers to access collections and information without entering the branch. Library customers can use Personal Picks to tell us what they're looking for and our staff will select items for contactless pickup to match your interests. A great service for all ages.

The Riverbend Branch book return is also open. Borrowed items can be returned using the outside return chutes. Curbside printing, photocopying, scanning and faxing services are also available. Please call us from the curbside and we can help you out.

The expansive EPL digital collections are always available. Riverbend customers can



Takeout service is available at the Riverbend location of the Edmonton Public Library.

explore and check out digital resources using their free EPL library card. We have thousands of TV and movie titles, books to read or listen to and access to countless magazines and newspapers from around the world. We also have

lots of classes and events you can participate in. EPL's popular early literacy classes, English Conversation Circles and other virtual classes and events are also available for free Online.

With summer around the corner, *Summer Starts at EPL!* is coming. Starting June 26th, EPL online programming and activities, reading contests and prizes will be available for our community kids. The Young Reader's Choice Award titles are a great way to enjoy a sunny summer day. These youth-nominated titles are available for hold and checkout at the Riverbend Branch.

It goes without saying that we at the Riverbend Branch miss our customers, but our trusted EPL staff are still here to serve you and the community with a friendly smile. For more information on what's going on at EPL, or to sign up for a free library card, visit epl.ca.










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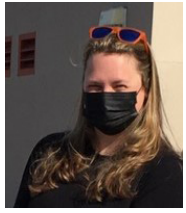


ALLAN DRIVE SW (NEXT TO SENTINEL STORAGE)

Legacy of the League

Every public amenity in Riverbend has been made possible by the hard work and dedication of our neighbours

By Miep Raedschelders, President, Riverbend Community League



Reading through the history of the Riverbend Community League's past 50 years, some of it featured in this issue of the Ragg-Times, has filled me with gratitude. From the skating rinks to community halls and parks, every public amenity in our neighbourhood has been made possible by the hard work and dedication of our neighbours volunteering to make their communities better.

Riverbend Community League celebrates its 50th during a pandemic year, yet our Board of Directors and neighbourhood volunteers have pulled together to keep building community in significant ways: We sent hundreds of cards to isolated seniors. We ensured our skating rinks were available and attended to facilitate safe recreation. We kept our buildings clean and secure so that the preschool and churches could gather as safely as possible. We operated tennis lessons for kids, hosted day camps, and our Board worked to plan a vibrant future!



The plant and compost sale has been an important fundraiser for many years. Here, the before and after photos of the team filling bags.

We redeveloped the Ronning Street Neighbourhood Park to the joy of many. Thank you to the volunteer committee, whose efforts made it all possible. Thanks to the Government of Alberta, MLA Rakhi Pancholi, the City of Edmonton, Councillor Tim Cartmell, The Riverbend Community League and Terwillegar Park Estates Homeowners Associations for their help in realizing this ambitious project.

This spring, commemorating Earth Day, more than 50 neighbours gathered to clean up the park, celebrating the community in a COVID-guidelines friendly way!

Our community garden is growing again and will be selling its sought-after compost as a fundraiser this spring. Volunteers are coming together to learn, connect and grow.

Happy 50th Anniversary,

RCL! It's thanks to membership we have so much to celebrate!

Please consider purchasing a membership to support your league!

Opening of Fort Edmonton Park Delayed

You'll have to wait until Canada Day to witness the \$165 million rebuild

By Ragg-Times Staff

COVID-19 has delayed the opening of the revamped Fort Edmonton Park. The Park, which has undergone \$165 million in renovations, will now open to the public on July 1, AHS regulations permitting.

"The Indigenous Peoples Experience is the new signature exhibit at Fort Edmonton Park. Visitors will gather and explore life through the diversity of First Nations' and Métis peoples' histories, cultures, experiences, and perspectives, local to Indigenous life in the Beaver Hills (Edmonton) region," the Park wrote in a press release. "The stories, music, artwork, and text in this experience comes from local Indigenous perspectives, voices, and sources, gathered through engagement with local Indigenous communities, historical documents, and research."

There is also a new entry plaza, ferris wheel, outdoor maze, Cabinet

of Curios exhibit, funhouse, and expanded game selection.

"We can't wait for Edmonton to see what we've been building," said Fort Edmonton Park President and CEO Darren Dalgleish in the release. "It's going to be a totally new and immersive experience. We're so proud of the new 30,000-square-foot Indigenous Peoples Experience, and the Midway. It will really be a chance for families just to have some old-fashioned fun, which we could all use this summer."



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2021

Riverbend

Community League

You only turn 50 once, so the Riverbend Community League decided to splurge and dedicate a special section of this month's edition of the Riverbend Ragg-Times to the League and the people that have made it - and the community it serves - what they are today.

In these pages, you'll read about and see examples of the generosity, kindness, creativity and hard work of volunteers who have given their time and talent to support their neighbours and neighbourhoods. We have stories of history and politics, of memories and time. We even have a crossword puzzle at the end to test what you've learned!

If you're inspired by what you see here, the RCL asks you to support your League by buying a membership at efcl.org or by reaching out and getting involved.

The RCL would like to thank the South West Area Council, which represents our community league and those to our east, for its generous support of this issue.

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For as Long as the River has Flowed

Indigenous Peoples have taken advantage of Riverbend's unique geography for millenia, as evidence from an archaeological site in Mary Lobay Park shows

From Edmonton Maps Heritage, an initiative of the Edmonton Heritage Council. You can find more stories at edmontonmapsheritage.ca.

If you walk to the top of the kame* in the Riverbend area, just off Riverbend Road and Rabbit Hill Road, the view is spectacular and you can see other kames nearby. If you look south, there is another high hill approximately one kilometre away. Prehistoric people used these high places to watch the surrounding countryside for game. The kame's upper sediments do not contain many rocks and thus, unlike the river valley edges, people did not visit them to gather raw materials for making stone tools.

The Riverbend kame also contained a very large archaeological site – the Prosser Site, reported to the Alberta Government by amateur archaeologist, Ted Prosser. From limited excavations, archaeologists recovered approximately 1,700 prehistoric artifacts deposited in approximately 40 centimetres of soil. Here, Indigenous people resharpened their stone tools which were made from quartzite, chert, petrified wood and mudstone. Unlike the deposits in the river valley, there were no clear layers or stratigraphy at the Prosser site. Artifacts made and used by people thousands of years apart were often mixed together, because there was less soil deposition, the site had been plowed and there were numerous rodent burrows. Compare this stratigraphic profile of the Prosser site to the one exposed near the LRT bridge in the North Saskatchewan River valley.

Despite the poor stratigraphic separation of artifacts from different time periods, the archaeological evidence from the Prosser site is still very valuable. We can conclude from the evidence that Indigenous people camped intermittently on the hill for nearly 5,000 years.

Indigenous people camped elsewhere in Riverbend, near these hills. There are many other archaeological sites in the surrounding area. While the Prosser site is large and was used for over a long span of prehistory, the surrounding smaller sites were used less often for different purposes. Some archaeologists think that Prosser was a lookout point and temporary camp



Michael Ganley

Mary Lobay Park sits on a high point of land, providing good visibility of the surrounding countryside and, now, downtown Edmonton.

used by hunters to watch the movements of animals in the valley. This is based on two major points: 1) Prosser's unique geographic location; and, 2) the types of tools and flakes found at the site. The site is located at the beginning of a narrow funnel into Riverbend where, because of geographical constraints, herd animals such as bison were more concentrated and, thus, more easily hunted. There was a greater abundance of tool finishing and sharpening flakes and broken projectile points at the Prosser site than at other sites such as the Strathcona archaeological site.

**A short ridge, hill, or mound of typically stratified drift deposited by glacial meltwater.*

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**Congratulations Riverbend Community League
on 50 years of community building, advocating and ensuring
Riverbend is a great place to live, work and play. Happy anniversary!**

A Political Walk through 50 Years

Riverbend has been fortunate to have had hard-working, dedicated community builders elected to represent our neighbourhoods

By Dave Rumbold

Our Riverbend neighbourhoods have interesting political histories. Many illustrious names have represented us over the years, including two Premiers. Since 1971, we've had six different Members of Parliament from five political parties, 10 provincial MLAs from three parties, eight mayors and 16 councillors (previously known as aldermen).

On the Federal scene, Riverbend was initially part of the Edmonton Strathcona riding, which Hu Harries of the Liberal Party won in the 1968 "Trudeaumania" election. In the 1972 election, Doug Roche with the Progressive Conservative Party was victorious, holding office for four terms until stepping down in 1984. Due to the growth in our area, Edmonton Strathcona was split in 1979 to create Edmonton South, which was changed again in 1988 to become Edmonton Southwest, which included all of Riverbend.



Rob Agostinis

Several area politicians and community leaders attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Terwillegar Community Recreation Centre in 2008, including (L to R) Carl Benito, Fred Horne, MLA Dave Hancock, TRAC President Rob Agostinis, Mayor Stephen Mandel, Councillor Don Iveson and Councillor Bryan Anderson.

Roche was followed by Jim Edwards with the PC Party in the 1984 and 1988 elections. Ian McClelland with the Reform Party won Edmonton Southwest in 1993 and 1997, and when the Reform Party merged with the PC Party and became the Canadian Alliance Party, James Rajotte stepped in and won here in 2000. Rajotte was re-elected in 2004, 2006, 2008 and

The southwest communities (bounded by the river, Whitemud Creek and the City limits) have always shared representation, with great results.

2011 as a representative of the new Federal Conservative Party, which was a merger of the PC and Canadian Alliance Parties.

Edmonton Southwest Riding became Edmonton Leduc in 2004, and then became Edmonton Riverbend in 2015, when Matt Jeneroux of the Conservatives was elected,

repeating in 2019.

Provincially, things are easier to follow, as our Edmonton Whitemud riding was created in 1971 (from the western portion of Strathcona West) and the name has never changed. The boundaries have moved around a few times, but our Riverbend-Terwillegar communities have always been included. Don Getty was part of the "Original Six" group of PC MLAs elected in 1967, moving from Strathcona West to be the first MLA elected in Edmonton Whitemud in 1971.

That election marked the first provincewide victory for the PC Party, who replaced the Social Credit Party after their 36 years in power.

Getty was appointed Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, and was re-elected in 1975. He then served as Energy Minister, retiring from public life in 1979. Peter Knaak and Keith Alexander, both with the PC Party, won here in 1979 and 1982, respectively. Getty re-entered public life in 1985, winning the PC leadership contest and then returning to Edmonton Whitemud in a by-election, becoming Premier of Alberta in the process. He won again here in the 1986 provincial election but lost to Percy Wickman of the Liberal Party in the 1989 election. Mike Percy with the Liberals subsequently won the 1993 election. Dave Hancock then ran and won for the PCs in the 1997 election, winning again in 2001, 2004, 2008 and 2012. Always in cabinet, he served in nine portfolios, finishing as Premier in 2014.

Former Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel ran and won for the PCs in the 2014 by-election. Bob Turner of the New Democratic Party won in 2015 as the NDP replaced the PCs after 44 years in power. Our current MLA, Rakhi Pancholi, won for the NDP in 2019.

On the municipal side, things have changed considerably over the years. Up until 1971, there were no wards, and the 12 candidates who received the most votes city-wide became aldermen. This would sometimes leave neighborhoods without a local representative. Media coverage from the era focused on how many aldermen came from the respective sides of the river compared to the percentage of the population on each side. A new system of four north-south wards with three aldermen each began in 1971, with the new Riverbend neighborhoods of Brookside and Brander Gardens becoming part of Ward One. Dudley Menzies, Ken Newman, Chas Tanner,



Rob Agostinis

Dave Hancock ran and won for the PCs in the 1997 election, winning again in 2001, 2004, 2008 and 2012. Always in cabinet, he served in nine portfolios, finishing as Premier in 2014. He also ran a victory lap at the 8th annual TRAC 10K Run & Walk in May, 2013.

Bob Matheson, Lois Campbell and Paul Norris all served in the period up to 1980, when things changed to six regional wards, each with two councillors.

Riverbend became Ward 5 and voted in Lois Campbell, Percy Wickman, Lillian Staroszik, Pat McKenzie, Larry Langley, Brent Maitson, Bryan Anderson, Mike Nickel and Don Iveson prior to 2010. We then became Ward 9, when the current 12-ward, single-councillor system was set up, with representation by Bryan Anderson up to 2017, followed by Tim Cartmell.

We've been fortunate to have had hard working, dedicated community builders elected to represent our neighborhoods. Many are still residents and continue to work at making our city a better place. Over the years, The Riverbend Community League has had the opportunity to



Courtesy Matt Jeneroux

Matt Jeneroux was elected to represent the Conservatives in the new Edmonton Riverbend riding in 2015. He was reelected in 2019. Here he's seen on Parliament Hill filming a video to update constituents.

provide feedback to City, Provincial and Federal governments on proposed ward and riding boundary changes, and we've always advocated that the southwest communities (bounded by the river, Whitemud Creek and the City limits) share representation. By and large, this advocacy has been successful and has provided us with a unified community voice, leading to great results such as the Terwillegar Community Recreation Centre!

A New Church in Riverbend

The seed that became Riverbend United Church was planted in 1980

By Patti Hunter and Kay Quon

With its myriad of windows, steep arch design and prominent front door, Riverbend United Church has an open, inviting presence. A unique history is associated with its distinctive architecture.

In early 1980, St. Paul's United Church, in Belgravia, explored the possibility of forming a new church in the suburbia emerging to the south. The response was positive. A small nucleus, comprised of members of St. Paul's and early residents of the Riverbend area, began planning sessions that March. By October, the first Sunday morning worship service was held in the music room of Brander Gardens Elementary School. This church continued to be an offshoot of St. Paul's, sharing their ministry.

A full-time minister was hired the following year and the small congregation moved to the spacious gym of Riverbend Junior High. Set-up for Sunday morning services meant assembling chairs, a lectern and other liturgical "props." Tiring of this and the sterility of a gym setting, the congregation envisioned building a church of their own. Lengthy discussions were held over the next few years. An "if we build it, they will come" philosophy began to take hold. The 18 families who formed the core of this congregation took a leap of faith and embarked on a church building project. Financially, it didn't seem feasible, but the founding members each pledged their time, talents and resources to bring this project to fruition.

Countless bake sales later, the present site at 45th Avenue and Riverbend Road was purchased. Our congregation was unified in its aspirations for the new church design. The sanctuary would be the main focus. It would be filled with natural light, with soaring ceilings that uplifted one's spirits and traditional pews that spoke of permanence. We eagerly opened our doors in March 1989. New parishioners did come. Many adopted our church as their spiritual home.

As the years passed, our church began to look outward. We participated in numerous drives for the larger community: collections of clothes and needed items; meals for homeless centres; and supports for newly-



Audrey Skinner

arrived immigrant families and inner city group homes. We also engaged in activities with our local community such as booths at park festivals, neighborhood meals and low cost food distributions. Increased church and weeklong activities drove the need for expansion. A building addition was completed in 2014. It included a chapel, meeting and youth classrooms and community spaces. The parking lot was also enlarged at this time.

In 2018, we became an affirming congregation of the United Church of Canada. What this means is that we will welcome anyone who walks through our doors.

From a struggling congregation of a few steadfast members, we have evolved into a well-established church. We strive to value each of our congregants and provide a caring, supportive community of faith.

Because of COVID restrictions, Sunday services are now held online. To obtain information about worship times and other weekly activities, please contact us at riverbendunited.org

In for The Long Haul

Hundreds of people have given countless thousands of hours to build the Riverbend Community League over the years, but this lot deserves special recognition. We give you the longest-serving RCL Board Members

25+ Years

Sue Trigg

20+ Years

Don Lore

15+ Years

Sheryl Bowhay

Carol Kaiser

Leslie Leeworthy

Karin Shott

10+ Years

Jane Calvert

Tim Cartmell

Bill Clarke

Angus Max

Dicky Sum

Nancy Wendt

Felix Yuen

5+ Years

Elaine Brown-Crawford

Carol Chang

Pat Clanachan

Pat Coe

Marilyn Dabrowski

Kim Falkenberg

Iryna Grytsiv

Barry Hawkeswood

Dennis Huss

Ginny Mace

Bill Mahon

Brent Maitson

Jean Mucha

Priya Nelson

Carol Peters

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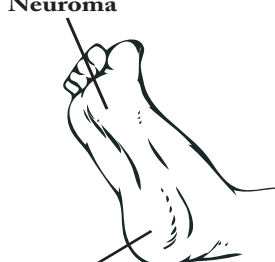
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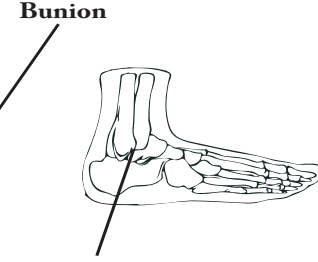
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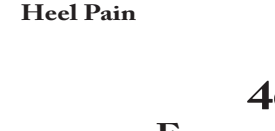
Neuroma




Hammertoes



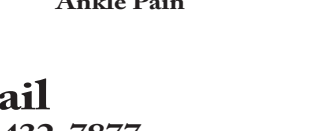
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Right in our Backyard

A historical look at the Riverbend area

By Sherri Henderson

Riverbend is located in Treaty 6 territory. For more than 5,000 years, Indigenous people set up camps in the Riverbend area to watch the movement of animals in the valley and surrounding plain. Archaeological evidence found at construction sites on traditional Indigenous land such as the Terwillegar Footbridge and the Prosser archeological site (in Mary Loblaw Park) - as well as oral history - establish that. The area is most associated with the Papaschase Cree, who are descended from Chief Papaschase's Band of the 19th century. Chief Papaschase and his family and community originally lived around Fort Edmonton, Fort Assiniboine and Slave Lake and often traded furs with the Hudson's Bay Company. In the 1850s, the Papaschase relocated to the south side of the North Saskatchewan River and then, in 1880, were allocated a reserve far from the riverbanks in Southeast Edmonton, now Mill Woods.

Once settlers moved into the area beginning in the mid-1800s, the Riverbend area shifted to agricultural use. Riverbend was annexed as part of Riverbend-Terwillegar Heights Outline Plan in the 1960s. The Plan was one of the first to apply to a large-scale residential area in Edmonton. With a predicted population of 95,000 people, residential housing started emerging in Brookside and Brander Gardens in the 1960s and Ramsay Heights in the 1970s. In May of 1979, the Riverbend Area Structure Plan added another 545 hectares (1,347 acres) to Riverbend. That included Rhatigan Ridge and communities south of Rabbit Hill Road. Residential homes started emerging in the Rhatigan Ridge community

in the 1980s. The developers at the time included Carma, Genstar, Block Brothers and the City of Edmonton. Ace and Cal Lange were two of the primary home builders from the 1980s through to the 2000s.

At the time, joint elementary school-and-park sites were proposed to service one or two neighbourhoods. Two junior high schools were included in the Riverbend Area Structure Plan but there was no allowance for a senior high school as planners did not feel there was a "sufficient population base for a separate campus" until Terwillegar was annexed. Once Terwillegar was developed, the high school would be centrally located in Terwillegar to serve the entire area.

The Edmonton Public School Board built Brookside School (1968), Riverbend Junior High (1974), Brander Gardens Elementary (1975) and Earl Buxton (1990). Tempo School moved into the Riverbend area in 1972 and the two Catholic Schools, St. Monica's and St. Mary's, were built in 1971 and 1990 respectively.

Riverbend has always been known for its extraordinary features, location and viewpoints of the river valley, Whitemud Ravine, hilltops and high terrain. The area is home to significant vegetation, wildlife and recreational opportunities. The Riverbend Area Structure Plan said "a community centre shall be ... designed to become a major focal point for the Riverbend area" and parks and open spaces were allocated to link walkways, bikeways, nature



The Riverbend and Terwillegar neighbourhoods gradually stretched south, with residential coming to Brookside and Brander Gardens from the 1960s to the 1980s and to Ramsay Heights and Rhatigan Ridge (right) through the 1980s and 1990s. Major developers included Carma, Genstar, Block Brothers and Ace and Cal Lange.

trails, jogging lanes, parks and open spaces.

Businesses began to arrive in the 1970s as shopping complexes were developed. Riverbend United Church was established in 1980, and held its first service in Brander Gardens Elementary school. The current church was built in 1989. The Edmonton Alberta Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, at the corner of 53 Ave NW and the Whitemud Freeway, was dedicated in 1999. The Edmonton Public Library branch in Riverbend Square opened in 2000.

Today, more than 125,000 people live in Riverbend. As The Riverbend Community League celebrates its 50-year anniversary, and as you move around Riverbend, take time to imagine all of the individuals, young and old, that have lived, worked and played in this great area.



The landslide's location has become a popular lookout over the North Saskatchewan River.

The Oct 23, 1999 Landslide

On October 23, 1999, a landslide on Whitemud Road in the Ramsay Heights neighbourhood destroyed three homes adjacent to the North Saskatchewan River valley. No one was injured in the slide, but the damage resulted in a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against the City

of Edmonton. Approximately 30 homes along Whitemud Road, 44 Avenue, and 154 Street remain "at risk" for another slope failure. Despite the risk, many homes in the area still fetch significant sums on the real estate market.

Hundreds of Paintings - One Mural

An update on the RCL's 50th Anniversary Mural

By Sheryl Bowhay

The Riverbend Community League will be hosting a series of paint workshops outdoors at the Riverbend Community Centre to prepare the tiles for the Riverbend Community League's 50th Anniversary mural. Some workshops will be by invitation only and others will be open to the public. You and your family will have the opportunity to sign up for a specific time on a specific date to come out and paint your tile!

Alternatively, you will be able to sign out a paint kit to take home and an online video will guide you through the creative process. Once

you have painted your tile, return it and the kit or arrange for pick up. We understand that not everyone will be comfortable in a small gathering and want as many people as possible to have access to this opportunity.

The above options will allow us to plan and execute the workshops in accordance with COVID-19 restrictions. Now, we are just waiting for the weather to improve!

Look for more information on our sign at Ramsay Park, the RCL Facebook page, and our website, riverbendonline.ca.

Some Blasts from the Past!

In which local legend Sue Trigg takes an engaging stroll down memory lane

By Sue Trigg. Sue began volunteering with the Riverbend Community League (RCL) in the mid-1980s.

Oh, where to start? From 1949 to 1986, a substantial portion of Riverbend was a gravel pit. Today this gravel pit has been transformed into the bustling area we know as Terwillegar Park. It has also been home to a coal mine, horse stables, fields of gopher holes and even the odd farmhouse.

In the early 1950s, in the Brander Gardens neighbourhood, the Clarkes, Naylor and Owens's built houses on acreages on the west side of Whitemud Rd, between 58 Ave. and 53 Ave. In the early 1960s, the Mactaggart's purchased 4.8 hectares and built their beautiful glass walled, modernist mansion overlooking the North Saskatchewan River. To the north of them, the Jenner family also built a beautiful home overlooking the river.

At the same time, developments started to take shape on the west end of 58 Ave., south of where Fort Edmonton is today. Bob and Helen O'Brien had a little cabin on the river, which was eventually sold to Dagmar and Carsten Carlson in the early 1970s. They built their dream home complete with a tennis court. Their daughter, Britt, and her husband Craig purchased, renovated and still live in this home today. Max and Marg Ritchie bought three acres in 1965 and built a house and a barn for their horses. Additionally, the Long family bought three acres later in the 1960s and built a large family home just to the east. Lastly, Judge Phillip "Cricky" Ketcham and his wife Paddy lived just around the corner, up the hill.

Before Fort Edmonton was built in its current location, there were horse stables on the grounds. A dirt road connected Brander Gardens and 58 Ave., then paralleled the river behind Fort Edmonton, crossed Whitemud Creek and continued up Keillor Rd.



Georges Laraque showed up for a game at the Brookside Rinks in 2003. Here, he's seen with (L to R) Mackenzie Bligh, Joey Zapernick, Jordan Zapernick and Rob Bligh.

These were quieter and simpler times when horseback riding and gopher chasing were common sights. Britt remembers spending her allowance at the Olde Tyme Candy Store at Fort Edmonton and wandering the grounds. Marg Ritchie recalls trying to shoo a cougar out of their horse trough one morning.

A common sentiment from residents was Cecile Mactaggart's generosity and legendary



Rob Agostinis

Brander Gardens ROCKS (Reaching Out To Community Kids), now called Riverbend ROCKS, was and is a growing collaboration of kids and families, neighbours, community organizations and partners committed to building on community capacities and resilience to create a neighborhood where diversity is celebrated, neighbours know one another and kids and families flourish. This photo is from 2011.

parties, especially the one where Sandy Mactaggart swung on a rope from the master bedroom and into the pool with great hoopla.

On the opposite side of the Whitemud Freeway (and before it was constructed), Brookside was taking shape. The south end of 53 Ave. and the top of Snow Valley Ski Hill were the first areas to be developed, in the early 1960s. To the east of Brookside was a beautiful natural area that was shared by Snow Valley, Bert's Saddle Club, a campground and the Whitemud Creek Coal Mine. The mine operated from 1952 to 1970 and had a lease that extended under parts of Brookside and Lansdowne. It was the last coal mine in Edmonton.

It was common to see our neighbours skating at the rinks, riding bikes, playing golf and hanging out in the ravine. Remember, we lived in simpler times back then and kids would run free in the neighbourhood. A group of young fellas - Dave Barr, Kevin Parish, John Sexsmith, and Perry Zaperniuk, just to name a few - used to take their parents lawn mowers over to the grassy park at 51 Ave. and 142 St. and make a par-3, three hole golf course each summer. In the winter, they spent most of their time at the Brookside rinks where

hockey games were only cancelled if it was below minus-30. They played for the Riverbend hockey team and were the first southwest team to win a championship. Dave Barr went on to play and coach in the NHL and, by the time you read this, may have coached Canada's National Men's Under-18 Team to an IIHF World Championship! The same crew would also haul hockey nets and shovels down to Whitemud Creek to play endless

games of shinny.

The Zaperniuk family has a Christmas tradition of playing a rousing game of shinny at the Brookside rinks. This started with Bill and Olga's children Darrell, Rick, Perry and Patty. They all have children of their own now, ranging in age from late-teens to early-30s, who are carrying on this tradition. One Christmas day a few of them even got the opportunity to play with Georges Laraque from the Edmonton Oilers. In the words of then-12-year-old Jordan, "it was the best Christmas ever."

Because of the proximity to Snow Valley, many kids would get geared up at home, ski to the hill, take the last ride up the tow rope and ski home. Fun was also had making skiing and sledding paths down into the Whitemud Creek. If you were lucky enough, a friend or relative would bring a snowmobile to pull you back up.

John Sexsmith remembers heading straight to the rink after school and then delivering the Edmonton Journal to 60 homes, all before dinner, homework and maybe a hockey game or practice. He also used to DJ in the late 1970s and was hired by the Riverbend Community League (RCL) for community parties and dances held in the Brookside Hall.

The Brookside Hall and Rinks have been an integral part of our community since the mid 1970s and continue to be today. In March 1976, the neighborhoods of Brookside and Brander Gardens incorporated to form the RCL. In 1980, the RCL built tennis courts on 53 Ave., which then became a community hub in the summers. Hockey, soccer, basketball, softball, tennis, dance, badminton, pedal pushers and playschool were just a few of the programs run through the RCL. In 1982, Riverbend Hockey amalgamated with other leagues in the southwest area to form the Southwest Zone Hockey Club. About this

same time, Ramsay Heights and Rhatigan Ridge were being developed. By the late 1980s, with all of the new developments, a new community league building was proposed at the Rhatigan site and officially opened in April of 1992.

Cheryl Miller remembers the first time her father came to visit at their home on 45 Ave. and explained how he used to “come over here in the '40s with my buddies to shoot gophers.”

Bill and Nancy Clarke moved into Brookside in 1982 with their three children. Bill remembers being involved in the hockey program as a coach and director. He and Nancy also coached ball in the summer for many years. Bill and his boys, Rob and Dave, looked after the Brookside rink maintenance for most of the 1990s. Bill was also the volunteer in charge of rentals of the Brookside Hall and the Rhatigan Hall until it became too much work for one volunteer.

And who doesn't remember Chi Ping Chan as he ran down Riverbend Road? He ran the same route for 25 years, with the same running attire: running shoes, pants tucked into his socks, headphones tuned into his Walkman and no shirt, regardless of the weather. In the winter months he would add big mitts and a toque. One day in the mid 1990s, Rebecca Milne, who was new to the neighborhood, saw Chi Ping with his distinct tilt and big smile but no shirt in minus-20 weather. She was concerned for his well-being and drove straight home to call the police. She was sure he was going to freeze to death. When her husband and children came home later that day she recounted her story and



Chi Ping Chan ran the same route for 25 years, always with his Walkman and never with his shirt.

they were mortified. Many people knew Chi Ping and had a conversation with him about the English words he was learning on his Walkman. Rebecca still gets teased about this to this day.

Residents of Ramsay Heights in the mid-1980s remember bundling their kids up and loading them into their sleds or toboggans and heading to the Christmas tree lot that occupied the corner where the Riverbend United Church now sits. You could grab a hot chocolate, catch up with neighbours and pick a beautiful Christmas tree to drag home and decorate. Everyone knew their neighbours; the kids were always running between houses playing and block parties were a common festivity. We met at the rinks, on the soccer fields and ball diamonds and in gyms to watch basketball. We gathered as the kids attended Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts. Many people were coaches and leaders for various activities.

As sport teams started to amalgamate and form their own entities, the RCL came up with new ways to gather. A Taste of Riverbend was started in the late 1990s as a fundraiser for many community initiatives. It was a great way to taste the cuisine of local restaurants with great wine, beer and scotch pairings from Vines. Rousing live and silent auctions were fun ways to take part in an evening that finished off with live music and dancing. Around 2002, the RCL started a plant and compost sale, which also prompted the league to get involved with Front Yards in Bloom, where we nominated beautifully landscaped yards to a city-wide contest. In 2004,

we re-established the Family Winter Festival. It was always held the weekend before Valentine's Day. Some years it was balmy with no snow and other years it was minus-30, but we had great volunteers no matter what the weather was and fun was had by young and old. In 2009, a group of volunteers attended a workshop given by Jim Deers on neighborhood engagement. Out of this came Art in Our Park, which celebrated the diversity in our community through the arts. More than 7,000 people attended the final event in 2019. Brander Gardens ROCKS, now called Riverbend ROCKS, was and is a growing collaboration of kids, families, neighbours, community organizations and partners. Committed to building on community capacities and resilience to create a neighborhood where diversity is celebrated, neighbours know one another and kids and families flourish.

Another great memory is all the friendships that were made when neighbours came together to build playgrounds. Back in the day, playgrounds were built with volunteers and many of us have been hands-on for the first, second and even the third build of certain playgrounds in Riverbend.

A common sentiment among residents is that Riverbend was and is a great place to live. A good indicator of this is my own family. My husband lived overlooking the river on the north end from 1975 to 1980. They eventually built another home one block to the east and lived there until 1990. In 1985, my husband and I built our family home in Ramsay Heights and today one of our sons and his wife and son live in Brookside. This is four generations who believe that Riverbend is the best place to live, work and play.

WOW! That was, for me at least, an incredible journey down memory lane.

 **Thank You!**

Teachers & School Staff

We see AND appreciate you!



Congratulations to the Riverbend Community League on its 50th Anniversary!

Councillor Tim Cartmell, Ward 9 (pihêsiwin)
tim.cartmell@edmonton.ca
Tel: 780-496-8130

A Riverbend Timeline

Meander through 50 years of the Riverbend Community League

Oct. 17, 1998
First Taste of Riverbend.



Sommelier William Bincoletto of Vines Wine Merchants as the mad scientist, November 2010.



Lou Rayner, dressed as Cruella de Vil, came to Taste of Riverbend every year with her daughter Liz Murray. She is seen here at the 2012 event.

June 29, 2002
Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council (TRAC) is developed.



June 2004
First RCL Website

April 15, 2003
\$123,000 grant received from the province's Community Facility Enhancement Program for Ramsay Park.

Sept. 25, 2000
\$35,000 seed capital was received for Ramsay Park Development.

2000

March 15, 2004
TRAC begins fundraising for a new recreation centre.

Sept. 19, 1996
RCL helps fund multi-purpose gym floor at Riverbend Junior High School.

Sept. 1998
Bridge Club established.

Sept., 1983
The Riverbend newsletter gets a new look and a new name, The Riverbend Ragg-Times.



March 18, 1991
Membership is at 1,118, the highest number ever sold.

April 11, 1992
Grand Opening of the Riverbend Community Centre. Brian Koehli recognized for his work.

April 30, 1984
Mom and Tots group formed, led by Yvonne Yardy.

Oct. 15, 1990
Riverbend Raiders boys soccer team wins under-12 Provincials.

1990

June 8, 1977
Brookside Hall built for \$72,000. Project leads were Al Miller, Barry Hawkswood & Don Albert

August 28, 1970
First Riverbend Newsletter. Delivery by students for one cent per copy!



May 31, 1980
Four tennis courts built for \$78,511. The project lead was Denis Huss.

July 28, 1987
Mother and Child Play (PB&J) founded at the Lutheran Church, led by Nancy Chan & Emily Morren.

Nov 9, 1970
Hockey program started.

Nov. 23, 1971
Skating rink and shack opened at a cost of \$5,900.



The 1973-1974 Riverbend hockey team was the first in Southwest Edmonton to win a Southwest Zone Championship. Back Row, left to right: Dr. Rex Boake (Assistant Coach), Darren Cooper, Darcy Miller, unknown, Ward Thompson, David Boake, Eric Watt, unknown, All Miller (Head Coach), unknown. Front: Kevin Parish, John Sexsmith, Stephen Miller, Rob Cameron, Reg Shipley, Perry Zapernick.

September 3, 1970
Playschool approved in Brookside school and purchase of tables and chairs by Brookside/Riverbend League for \$150.

April 20, 1970
First Executive Meeting and Election of Officers

President: George Bailey
1st V.P.: Bob Gehmlich
2nd V.P.: John Lee
Secretary: Del White
Treasurer: Bill Grace
Membership: Mary Jane Shaw

1970

2005
First Alberta Centennial Awards presented.



Riverbend-Terwillegar's first recipients of the Alberta Centennial Awards were (L to R) Ralph Hagen, MP James Rajotte, Harold Hornig, Sue Trigg, Rob Agostinis, Donna Finucane and MP Rahim Jaffer.

May 24, 2014



The opening of The Sue Trigg Natural Area with (L to R) Dave Rumbold, Sue Trigg, Councillor Bryan Anderson, Mayor Don Iveson, Premier Dave Hancock.

October 21, 2016
Opening day for the Terwillegar Footbridge



Feb. 2017
Last Winter Festival.

Nov., 2017
Grand Opening of Brookside Playground.

Sept. 14, 2010
First Art In Our Park, held on Community League Day

Sept. 2006
City Approves \$90,000,000 Terwillegar Community Recreation Centre (TCRC). Construction of Lillian Osborne High School.

2010

May 16, 2010
First Brander Gardens ROCKS event, a Family Fun Day

Oct. 2014
Last Taste of Riverbend.

Oct., 2015
Lillian Osborne Theatre Group masquerade ball fundraiser.

Sept. 2019
Final (for now) Art in our Park.



2020

Jan. 2011



The very first athletes to take advantage of the TCRC, at around 5:30 am on January 29, 2011.

June 27, 2008

Groundbreaking Ceremony for the TCRC, with (L to R) Carl Benito, Fred Horne, MLA Dave Hancock, TRAC President Rob Agostinis, Mayor Stephen Mandel, Councillor Don Iveson and Councillor Bryan Anderson

May 2006
First TRAC fun run raises \$3,000.

Oct. 2020
Ronning Street Playground and Park completed.



Feb. 9, 2004
Winter Festival re-established.



July 24, 2007

Grand opening of Ramsay Playground. The misspelling of James Ramsey's name is discovered when the commemorative plaque is unveiled.



The Ramsay Park Playground Committee: (L to R) Jennifer Andrew, Kirk Mockford, Carrie Markowski, Wayne Malkin, Carol Kaiser, Sheryl Bowhay, Andrea Smith, Todd Smith, Kathy Malkin. Not shown: Robert Markowski, Nancy Wendt

May, 2011



Cutting the ribbon with garden shears at the Grand Opening of the SouthWest Edmonton Farmer's Market. Corrina Chetley-Irwin (L), Greg Meimar and Cynthia Reckhard (not shown) were the founding members of the market. The first market was held in the parking lot of Lillian Osborne High School.



What's in a Name?

Tracing the history of Riverbend through the names of its parks and streets

James Ramsay Park

The park with the misspelled name has been a community cornerstone for decades

Ramsay Park was named in 1990 for prominent local businessman and politician James Ramsey (1864-1939), who was born in Michigan and grew up in Ontario. He settled in Edmonton in 1911 and established one of the largest department stores in Western Canada. Edmonton's "Merchant Prince" was credited with bringing the penny to Edmonton in 1913, despite opposition from local banks, so he could have 99-cent sales. His store specialized in food, clothing, prescription drugs and stationary. Ramsey remained in business until 1928 when he sold his store and merchandise to the T. Eaton Company. In 1929, Ramsey founded an investment company.

He began his political career by running for alderman in the 1914 Edmonton municipal election, winning and serving a two-year term before seeking election at the provincial level. Ramsey was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in 1917, defeating future Edmonton Mayor Joseph Clarke, among others. Ramsey would become the leader of the Conservative Party after George Hoadley resigned and crossed the floor to the United Farmers of Alberta. Ramsey led the party for a year until 1921, when Albert Ewing took over. He did not run in the 1921 Alberta general election and retired from provincial politics. Ramsey returned to municipal politics with a bid to become mayor of Edmonton in 1923, but was handily defeated by Kenny Blatchford, ending his political aspirations.

Archival research has confirmed that the correct spelling for James' surname is Ramsey. The misspelling of Ramsey's name in the park name has been noted by the City of Edmonton but has not been corrected. To further confuse things, the neighborhood of Ramsay Heights is named after Edmonton's first commercial florist, Walter Ramsay.

- With files from *Naming Edmonton*, University of Alberta Press, 2004



City of Edmonton Archives, EA-160-148

Parked outside the James Ramsey Ltd. Garage and Stables (no date). Ramsey was a businessman and politician, credited with bringing the penny to Edmonton so he could have 99-cent sales.



Provincial Archives of Alberta

George Brander and some children in the Silver Heights Peony Garden, 1925. Brander came to Edmonton from Nova Scotia in 1921.

Brander Gardens

Brander Gardens was named in honour of gardener George Brander (d. 1933). Brander came to Edmonton from Nova Scotia in 1921 and soon established a peony garden in the Bonnie Doon area. George and his son, prominent Edmontonian Dr. James Frederick Brander (1879-1963), founded the Silver Heights Peony Garden in 1923. The garden, located at 93 Avenue and 85 Street in Bonnie Doon, was a major tourist attraction and the source of most of the peonies in Alberta until the 1940s. In 2002, Fort Edmonton Park completed a recreation of the peony garden, including 26 varieties of peonies.

- From *Naming Edmonton*, University of Alberta Press, 2004

Henderson Park

Thomas Henderson (d. 1926) was a pioneer who homesteaded in the Riverbend area in the 1800s. After living in Ontario and British Columbia, Henderson and his family came to the Edmonton area in 1880. The family farmed on several homesteads before finally settling near Rabbit Hill.

In 1888, while travelling in eastern Canada, Henderson shipped Italian bees to his farm. These bees are said to have been the first swarm of honeybees in Edmonton.

After seeing similar structures in Ontario and Florida, Henderson built a round barn in 1898. This barn is one of the few remaining round barns and can be seen at Fort Edmonton Park. This neighbourhood bears Henderson's name because his homestead was located nearby, 1.6 km west of Whitemud Creek on 23 Avenue in the Rabbit Hill area.

- From *Naming Edmonton*, University of Alberta Press, 2004



Mary Lobay Park

Alberta-born Mary Lobay (b. 1924) was a teacher and administrator who worked with many of the province's most influential groups and educational bodies. Among them were the Salvation Army, Edmonton Historical Board, University of Alberta Board of Governors and Senate, Alberta Historical Resources Foundation Board and Edmonton Police Commission. Lobay graduated from the University of Alberta with Bachelor of Education and Master of Education degrees. She received the Order of Canada in 1988 and an honorary doctorate from the University

of Alberta in 1992. - From *Naming Edmonton*, University of Alberta Press, 2004

Mary Lobay Park is also an interesting area as it is one of the highest points in Edmonton and is geologically known as a "kame," created by the deposition of glacial debris and sediment. It includes the Prosser archeological site, where more than 1,700 artifacts were inventoried, highlighting that, for thousands of years, people used this spot to monitor and hunt nearby bison herds.



Michael Ganley



Rhatigan Ridge/Rhatigan Park

Edmonton native Tom Rhatigan, (b. circa 1907) was an award-winning agriculturalist who began farming in the Rabbit Hill area in 1938. Rhatigan was named the World Oat King at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto in 1953, 1996 and 1970. He won numerous ribbons at seed fairs and was instrumental in the testing of numerous varieties of grains. Rhatigan retired from farming in 1972. - From *Naming Edmonton*, University of Alberta Press, 2004

Ramsay Heights

Walter Ramsay (1870-1958) was Edmonton's first florist. Born in Ontario, Ramsay came to Edmonton in 1899 and was a teacher and school principal before establishing a floral business in 1906.

Ramsay's greenhouses were next to his home, at 111 Street and 100 Avenue. A replica of one of his greenhouses was constructed at Fort Edmonton Park and is part of the permanent exhibition. He was chairman of the Edmonton School Board from 1912 to 1914. - From *Naming Edmonton*, University of Alberta Press, 2004



City of Edmonton Archives EA-269-4

Ramsay Flowers staff, no date. A re-creation of one of Ramsay's greenhouses can be found at Fort Edmonton Park.



City of Edmonton Archives, EA-160-1482

CFRN Radio staff G.R.A. Rice (left) and Frank Makepiece, 1933. Rice also founded CFRN-TV, later sold and rebranded as CTV Edmonton.

Rice Road

Rice Road, in Rhatigan Ridge, is named after G.R.A. "Dick" Rice (1900-1992), a pioneer broadcaster who emigrated from England in 1919. Rice broadcast CJCA's first program in 1922, co-founded the CFRN AM radio station in 1934 and introduced an FM station in 1947. His founding of CFRN-TV in 1954 was perhaps his most outstanding accomplishment. The station was a major broadcasting presence in Alberta for half a century until being rebranded as CTV Edmonton in 2005. Rice served on the University of Alberta Senate and was named to the Order of Canada in 1984 and the Alberta Order of Excellence in 1985. - From *Naming Edmonton*, University of Alberta Press, 2004



Michael Ganley

Terwillegar Heights/Terwillegar Park

Dr. Norman L. Terwillegar (1884-1948) was a pioneer surgeon and general practitioner who owned property in this area for a number of years. He practised in Edmonton from 1912 to 1947 and for over 35 years was on staff at the Royal

Alexandra Hospital. Terwillegar served as president of the Edmonton Academy of Medicine and the Alberta Division of the Canadian Medical Association. - From *Naming Edmonton*, University of Alberta Press, 2004

10 Years of Art in Our Park

The annual festival celebrated what makes us unique and inspired people to observe, listen, contemplate and even create

By the Art in Our Park Committee

For 10 years, Art in Our Park filled Ramsay Park with artists, entertainers, musicians and families. The following is an account written by the Art in Our Park Committee after the most recent event, in 2019.

It was a glorious day to help celebrate the arts and community. Over 7,500 participants, volunteers, artists, musicians and presenters came together to celebrate what makes us unique and were inspired to observe, listen, contemplate and even create.

Seventy artist vendors displaying and selling visual art, photography, mosaics, fabric art, jewellery, and sculpture set high standards in the Art Market. The ATB Financial Emerging Artists Stage featured an array of up and coming talent and provided warm up acts to the main stage. Numerous

struck, our local food vendors offered lots of variety and selection. Best of all, live music on the Myshak Main Stage featuring Lyra Brown, 100 Mile House, Fools Tongue, and Arlo Maverick created an energetic and engaging atmosphere throughout the afternoon.

Art in Our Park came to life 10 years ago with a \$2,500 grant and the opportunity to attend a Neighbourhood Engagement Workshop with community builder Jim Diers. We brainstormed the concept of using the arts to celebrate community and diversity and dreamed of an event that was inclusive and expressive that would create opportunity for both emerging and established artists and musicians.

Art in Our Park is something special and unique because it demonstrates and celebrates the best we have to offer each other. Our goal to create



Robert Bowhay

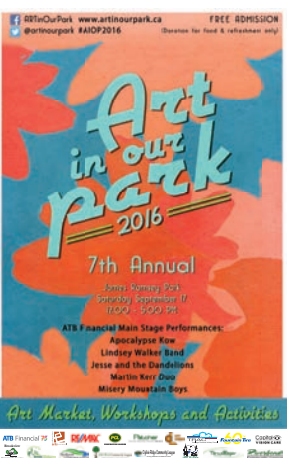
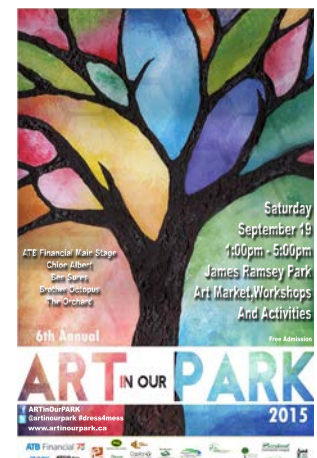
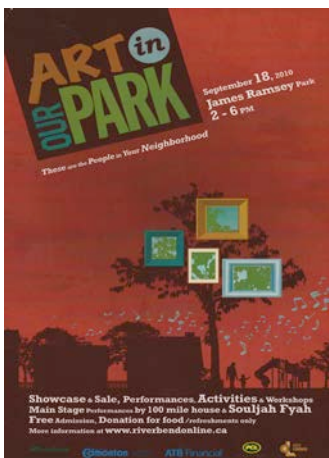
The Art in Our Park Committee, 2010. Standing (L to R): Sherri Henderson, Rosetta Taylor (ATB Financial), Sheryl Bowhay, Mary Wagner, Owen Peterson (Prairie Mill Bread Company), Bronwyn Peterson, Leslie Leeworthy. Kneeling: Sue Trigg, Tracey Mardon. In the Back: Bob Bowhay, Gary Trigg.

interactives, or “arts stations” located throughout the expansive park venue created a hive of activity that engaged young and old alike. In addition to crowd favourites like Step Up Stilts, Paint-o-Rama Kids Canvas, Hoop Dancing, and the Play Challenge, we had several new stations. A brassy and vociferous Instrument Petting Zoo by Long & McQuade Music, Art is for Life by Riverbend Revera and the opportunity to make slime with Paper, Scissors & Paint Art Studio proved to be very popular. When the munchies

opportunity for emerging and established artists and musicians and mentor the next generation has been realized many times. Many musicians started their careers on our main stage and in fact, in 2010, Jeff Ramsey performed on our emerging artists stage as a singer/songwriter and in 2019 he performed on the Myshak Main Stage with his band, Fools Tongue. In 10 years of poster design scholarships and in the Student Art Gallery we created opportunity and promoted young artists. The diverse and expressive nature of our community was seen not only in the exciting performances of Sangea or Running Thunder First Nations Dancers but in the happy faces and animated conversations of the myriad of community members that came together to participate, share their talents, time and energy...and the thousands that just came to play!

We are in awe of the vision of that original committee and the enthusiasm, time and talent that volunteers have shared with us over the past 10 years. The leadership and commitment of our community and corporate partners and sponsors has been remarkable. An event of this magnitude relies on so many to make it happen. However, it is challenging to sustain an event of this nature solely on volunteer hours. The Art in Our Park committee began planning in October and continued the process January through June and then went into overdrive in August and September. We needed to take a break and perhaps by doing so it will allow us all to appreciate what we love about our community and may even inspire the next generation of volunteers and community builders to dream. Ten years is a milestone and the Art in Our Park committee is proud of everything we accomplished together with you – our incredible and expressive community.

And a special thanks from the Art in Our Park Committee to Elizabeth Emslie, Iryna Grytsiv, Sherri Henderson, Tara Joosse, Susan Pointe, Shelly Stevens, Karen Stewart and Sue Trigg.



Art in Our Park featured a poster design competition each year, with a \$500 scholarship for the creator of the winning entry.



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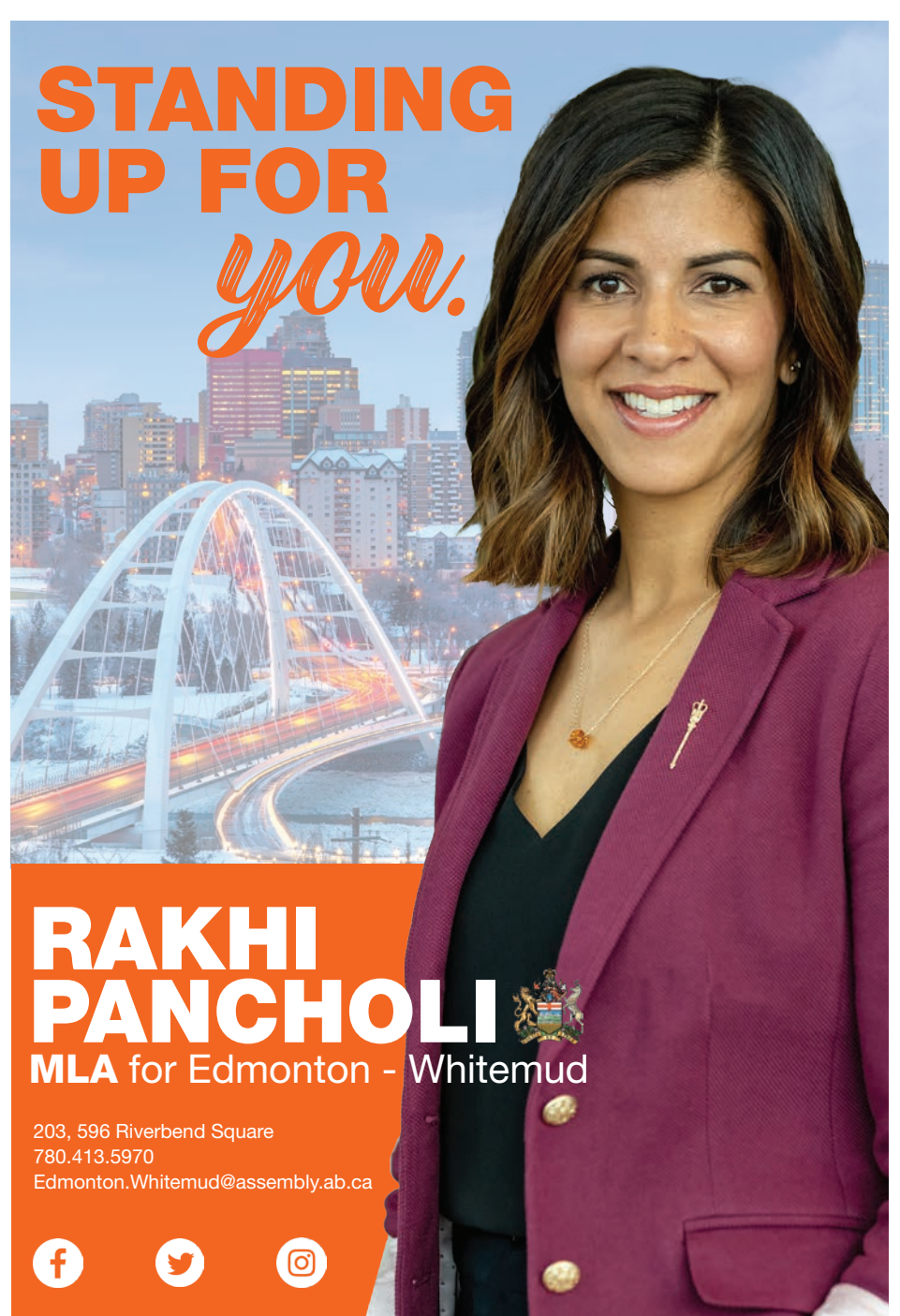
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Edmonton's Last Coal Mine

The Whitemud Creek Coal Mine operated from 1952 to 1970, producing 274,000 tons of coal

By Michael Ganley

Katherine Koller remembers visiting the Whitemud Creek Coal Mine, just downstream from the Snow Valley Ski Hill, when she was a girl. “I watched the horses coming up the dark inside slope to the mine entrance, pulling cars full of coal,” she wrote in a story published by the Edmonton City as Museum project last fall. “I thought the horses were very brave. I asked the miner leading them along if the horses were happy to come up into the air, the light, and the green, and he said, ‘No, they like it underground. They’re used to it.’”

It was the late 1960s and Koller knew that many of her Polish relatives, including her maternal grandfather, Leon Steblecki, had worked in Edmonton-area coal mines. The work was difficult and dangerous but Steblecki, a recent immigrant, was able to make a decent living. “It was kind of like being your own boss,” Koller says. “It was pretty attractive to young men who had lots of energy.”

Koller, a playwright and author, was commissioned to write a full-length play about coal mining by the Town of Drumheller in 2004 and has continued to research and write about coal’s history. She says from the time settlers first arrived in the Edmonton area in the 1850s, people have dug coal from the banks of the North Saskatchewan River. For about 25 years, underground coal mining was the second largest industry in the Edmonton area (after agriculture), employing as many as 1,571 people in 1921. By the time Whitemud Creek closed in 1970, some 160 mines had produced 15 million tons of coal. It was used to heat homes, generate electricity and power blacksmith forges.



Percy Stubbs. City of Edmonton Archives, EA-600-600e.

Small, powerful pit ponies were used to haul ore to the surface right up until the mine closed in 1970. This photo is from Samis Collieries, 1947.

Between 1952 and 1970, Whitemud Creek produced 274,000 tons of coal. It eventually covered 67 acres, stretching under the current neighbourhoods of Brookside and Lansdowne. A slope-stability study in the 1970s found no reason for the homes above to be concerned.

The coal era began to end with the discovery of oil at Leduc in 1947.

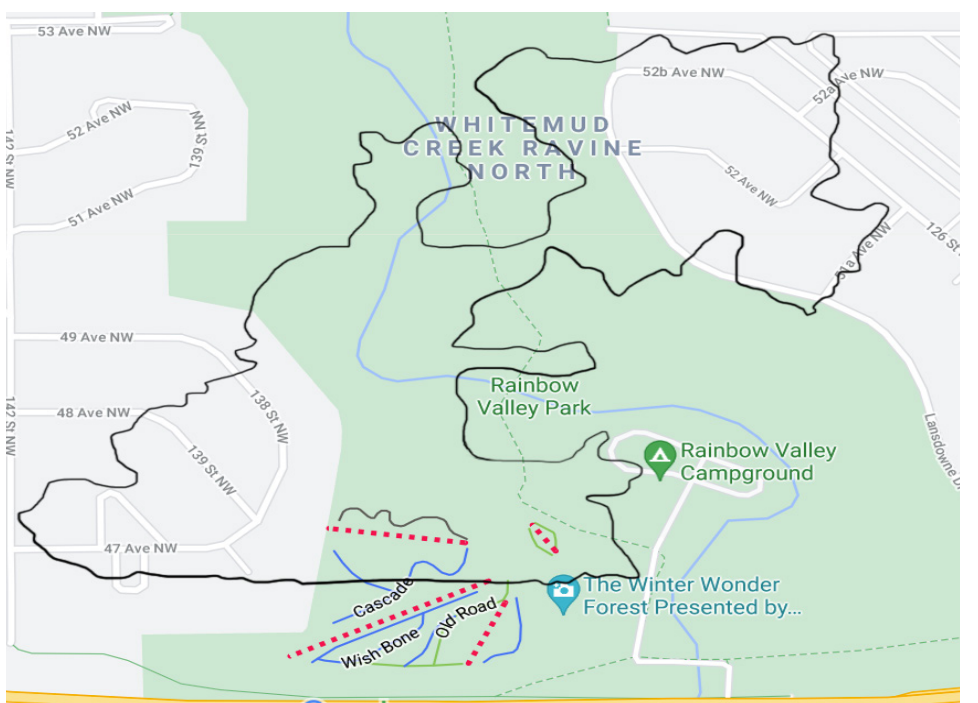


Isabel Hill. City of Edmonton Archives, ET-11-134.

The “tipple,” used to load coal onto trains, at the Whitemud Creek Coal Mine, 1969. It was just downstream from Snow Valley Ski Hill but no evidence of it - or the mine in general - can be seen today.

“Edmonton households gradually converted to gas, streetcars to electricity, and railways to diesel,” Koller wrote in her story. “In addition to readily available gas and diesel in the following decade, the strip-mining operation and coal-powered generator at Lake Wabamun, built in 1953, supplied electricity. The market for sub-bituminous coal, mostly bought by Nisku area farmers, dissipated, and development of communities near the Whitemud Creek mine site grew.”

Most coal mines in the Edmonton area closed in the 1940s and 1950s, and the era of men digging for coal with pick and shovel and getting paid for piece-work ended with the closure of Whitemud Creek. Koller’s story about the mine can be found at citymuseumedmonton.ca.



The mine eventually covered 67 acres, stretching under the Brookside and Lansdowne neighbourhoods (as represented by the solid black line). A slope-stability study in the 1970s found no reason for the homes above to be concerned.

Legacy of a Legend

Lillian Osborne was known as a compassionate, resilient, hard-working teacher

By Macy Yau, Grade 11, Lillian Osborne High School

It may be true that legends never die, but how is that possible? Lillian Mary Osborne was the first female schoolteacher in Edmonton, beginning her teaching career in 1889. She worked hard and paved the road for other female teachers. Despite the odds, she was resilient and remained in the Edmonton Public School Board's employment for more than 30 years, even though her salary was far less than a male teacher with the same qualifications.

Osborne remained on staff until 1908, when she resigned to care for her mother. Due to her own ill health, she took time off until 1915. Osborne died on November 3, 1929. She was a teacher for 40 of her 60 years of life, 29 with Edmonton Public Schools and 11 years with schools outside of EPSB. She was often described as compassionate, resilient, and hard-working.

In her honour, Lillian Osborne High School was named after her when it was established in 2009. Construction to expand the school took place from 2014 to 2017. New additions included a second gymnasium, 14 new classrooms, six new science labs, a Career and Technology Studies (CTS) wing and a theatre. With the addition of new classrooms



Lillian Mary Osborne
(1869-1929)

came the opportunity for more students.

"The school and staff are good with accommodating student's needs and are supportive of the students both within the school and out of school," said Grade 10 Chinese Bilingual student Megan. "Most of the time students are understanding and kind to each other, often being open with people outside of their friend groups." If she had to use one word to describe the school, it would be compassion.

When asked about how they envisioned the future, Grade 10 student Uhreme Ogbeni answered, "more accepting and more understanding when it comes to accommodating the impact of this pandemic on students." They explained that, "the transition was a bit difficult due to the current situation, it was a bit different but also a bit fun." Both students may have had different experiences yet both believe the school has a compassionate, positive, and



Rob Agostinis

The groundbreaking ceremony for Lillian Osborne High School in the Spring of 2008 with (L to R) EPSB Trustee George P. Nicholson, prospective student Alyssa Agostinis and the Honourable Dave Hancock, MLA for Edmonton Whitemud. Note there is no school or recreational centre in the background.

encouraging environment.

Grade 11 student Eric Ke is a true believer of the motto "no pain, no gain," having participated in volleyball, handball, and cross-country running. "It's tiring and hard work, but there's always someone there cheering you on," he said. "We're all competitive, but it's so rewarding knowing my hard work has paid off. I wouldn't want it any other way."

Grade 11 theatre student Cody Banh recounted that the school encourages students to think outside the box. "I know my dancing and drawing aren't good, like at all," he says. Instead, I did my visual project completely with snapping. The teacher was surprised though and it turned out great." He never once felt restricted to explore other options and would like to encourage other students to do so as well.

Osborne's compassion, resilience and hard work continue to live on through the school and its students. The future of Lillian Osborne seems to be in capable hands.

Sculpture: The Runner and the Racetrack

Running Track was commissioned by the City of Edmonton and opened at the Terwillegar Community Recreation Centre in 2010.

"The intensely coloured sculpture is a monumental hybrid between a runner and a racetrack; it seems abstract and figurative in equal parts. Running Track combines the concrete, graphic aesthetic of sports (the lines of a racetrack, the sole of a sports shoe, the stripes of sports clothing) with the sculptural power of a dynamically curving form.

The slight bend in the sculpture increases the potential of movement and at the same time places it in dialogue with the oval course of the road's drop-off loop. With its vital and moving expression, it refers directly to the activities on the site.

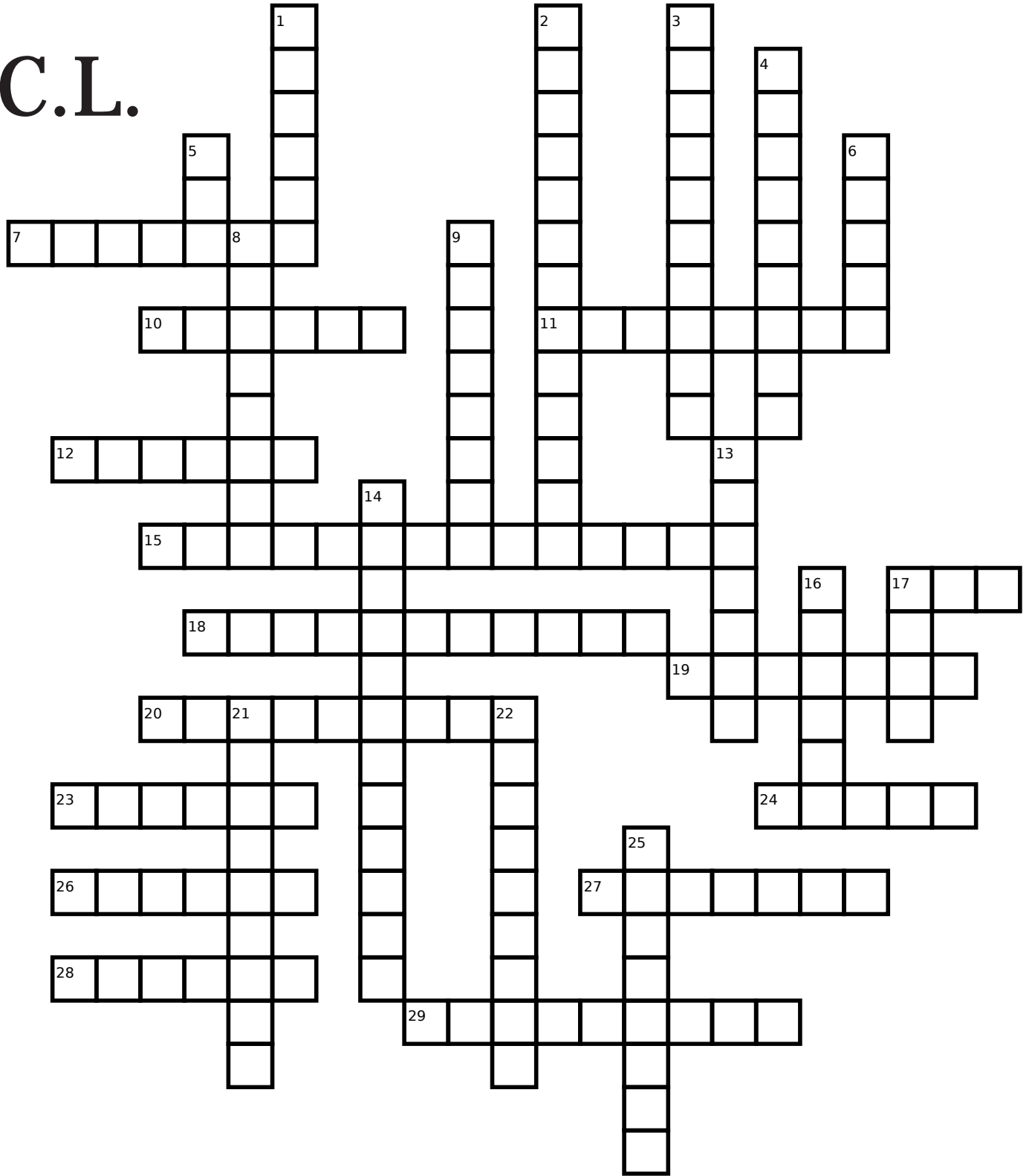
The striking graphic quality of the lines and the exaggerated perspective give the work an explosive dynamic that is reminiscent of an animated cartoon. The laconic self-evidence and monumental size of the sculpture, however, creates a factual reality that cannot be overlooked and that puts an emblematic stamp on the area."

- From *Inges Idee*



Rob Agostinis

Riverbend C.L. History



Down:

- 1. Courts developed in Brander
- 2. RCL's Latest Park Redevelopment (2wds)
- 3. Provider of Essential Park Service(2wds)
- 4. Annual RCL Spring Fundraiser (2wds)
- 5. Longest Serving RCL Board Member
- 6. RCL's 50th Anniversary Project
- 8. Fourth Neighbourhood to join RCL
- 9. Alternative Sport Played in Rink
- 13. A Type of Map Developed for RB
- 14. RCL's Summer Festival (4wds)
- 16. A Big Summer Sport Program
- 17. First RCL Structure
- 21. Newest RCL Winter Event (2wds)
- 22. Another RCL Racket Sport Program
- 25. Perk of RCL Membership (2wds)

Across:

- 7. Boys Under 12 Soccer Provincial Winners
- 10. Mom and Tots Program(abv)
- 11. Another RCL Summer Sport Program
- 12. RCL's Longest Running Seniors' Club
- 15. Former Event in February (2wds)
- 17. Second RCL Hall Name (abv)
- 18. Community Garden Location (2wds)
- 19. Delivery Cost of First RAGG (2wds)
- 20. Food and Beverage Event (3wds+abv)
- 23. RCL's Biggest Park Redevelopment
- 24. Natural Area Namesake
- 26. First RCL President
- 27. Second Neighbourhood join RCL
- 28. First RCL Program
- 29. RCL's Last Park Redevelopment

Answers can be found at riverbendonline.ca and in the next issue of *The Rag-Times*.

Now that we Have your Attention!!!

As you've just witnessed, the Riverbend Community League operates on countless volunteer hours from hundreds of people. But it also operates on cold, hard cash. Please consider supporting the RCL - or the league

for whichever neighbourhood you live in - by filling out the form below and mailing it in or by going to the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues' website (efcl.org) and purchasing a membership. Thanks!

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

Adult #1: _____
 Adult #2: _____
 Address: _____

 Postal Code: _____
 Phone number: _____
 Email: _____
 Child/Children's names(s):

Date: _____
 Membership Type:
 Seniors/Single/Couple/Family (circle one)
 May we send you news by email? Y/N (circle)
 Are you willing to volunteer? Y/N
 Fee (visit Community League website): _____
 Donation: _____
 Total Paid: _____
 Cash: Cheque:
 No. of skate tags required: _____

Mail completed form, along with payment, to the address below:
 "The Community League's Name"
 c/o TRAC at Terwillegar Community
 #5, 2051 Leger Road NW
 Edmonton, Alberta, T6R 0R9
 Forms and payment may also be dropped off at the TRAC office.
 *Cheque Payable to the Applicable Community League

Students at School: Pandemic Edition

Added stress tempered by supports from school and friends

By Aidan Fernandes, Grade 11, Lillian Osborne High School

Dinesh Narain, a Grade 11 student at Lillian Osborne High school, talks about in-person learning being stressful and says it has kept him cautious and aware of everything around him. From keeping an extra facemask in his backpack to holding his breath while in a large crowd of people, Narain has mixed feelings about learning at school during a pandemic. “My experiences are generally bad,” Dinesh says, “but that has not changed my belief that learning in a classroom is the best way to absorb the material.” Narain came back to school wanting to be engaged and focused in his classes, only to be disturbed by what he saw from other students. He explains that “while the school measures have been effective,” some people were not following the rules in the most desirable way. He talks about large crowds in front of school buildings and the lack of respect for social distancing as things that concerned him while at school. “I understand people are happy to see their friends again after being locked at home for more than half a year, but even if we are allowed to go back to school, we should respect the rules that the school has listed out for us,” he says.

Narain explains that despite being concerned about the large groupings of students at school, he is impressed with the way the schools have handled the virus. He said he was happy to see “people cleaning their desks every time they go to class, even helping other classmates out.” The ample supply of hand sanitizer helped with his nervousness.

Emma Wang, a Grade 11 student, talked about how excited she was to get to go back to school, and finally see her friends. She was pleased to have a sense of normalcy once again, even though she had half of her face covered while attending her classes. Meeting up with her friends has allowed her to “keep a healthy mind” and she says the support from teachers during this time has been phenomenal. “They are understanding that time needs to be given at the start and end of class to clean desks,” she says. “Even though there are no tutorials anymore, teachers are more than willing to help with schoolwork after class.”



The memories of attending school during a pandemic that occurs once in a century will stay with students for the rest of their lives.

While the common discussion about attending school during the pandemic has been centered around online learning, Alberta has made the move to open schools during the 2020-2021 school year with few disruptions. There is no question that this year has been tougher than in previous years. Not only have students advanced a grade, but they have had to adapt to a new setting every two months, deal with the risk of being exposed to a virus and still keep up with their schoolwork. While some students found it difficult, others adapted well to the new setting. With the vaccine rollout underway, as well as the end to the pandemic within view, the experiences of students have made for an unforgettable experience, one that some might never see again in their lives. The memories of attending school during a pandemic that occurs once in a century will stay with students for the rest of their lives.

Brookview Community League Work Bees

Do you have a couple of hours a month to donate?

We need a few volunteers for a monthly landscaping work bee around our Brookview Community League building. As a team we will weed, prune and edge the vegetation around the building. Come out, meet your neighbors and help keep this focal point of our community looking great! Please contact social@brookviewcommunityleague.ca if you are interested in helping out!

Brookview Community League Zoom Gentle Yoga Classes

New classes will be beginning in early May. No yoga experience necessary! Please see the Program section at brookviewcommunityleague.ca or go directly to yegtownyoga.ca and look at the Brookview classes. Wednesday mornings 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. and Thursday evenings 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.



Staying close to home for July and August?

This year, we will be offering zoom yoga classes over the summer months, possibly even Yoga in the Park! Check our website in June for more information. Hope to see you there!

The Brookview Tennis and Pickleball courts are open!

A Brookview or Associate Community League membership is required. Please check our website to purchase a membership. See the BCL website for court rules, etiquette, schedules and court booking procedures. We expect the courts to be popular this year. Please practice patience and respect so all can enjoy this neighbourhood facility.



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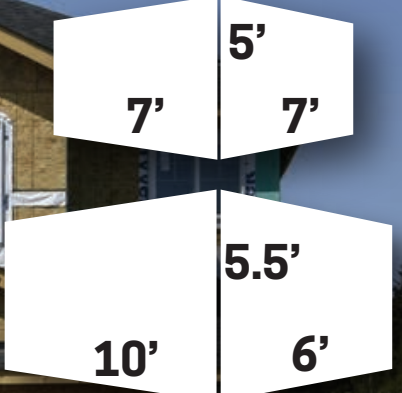
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Get Active for the Community Win!

The TRAC Community Run/Walk/Bike is virtual this year, and there are prizes

By Karin Shott

The Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council had their AGM on April 21st, 2021 via Zoom. Thanks to Councillor Tim Cartmell for joining and providing an update from The City of Edmonton. The Executive has remained the same with Monte Weber as President, Annie Allers as Vice President, Nancy Wendt as Treasurer, Dave Rumbold as Secretary and Sue Trigg as the Community Advocate.

For options on purchasing a community league membership, please contact the TRAC Community Office by email at yegtrac@gmail.com or by leaving a message at 780-439-9394. A reminder that community league memberships always expire August 31st and the fees collected help support your community.

The 15th annual TRAC Community Run/Walk/Bike will be a virtual

event this year! Challenge yourself or others to stay active. Download the free ParticipAction app at participaction.com to track your physical activity minutes. Every minute tracked on the app between June 1 and June 30 supports your community score.

At the conclusion of the challenge, one community will earn the top prize of \$100,000 and title of being Canada's most active. In addition to the national winner, there will also be prizes for the most active communities in each province and territory. You can register at runningroom.com.



Green & Gold Garden Gets Going!

Willing to get your hands dirty? Please get in touch

By Patricia Hartnagel

The volunteer gardeners at the Green & Gold Community Garden, on the University of Alberta's South Campus, are making plans for our 13th gardening season! The garden, an initiative of the University's Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, is totally volunteer run. Virtually all of the seeds, plants and equipment used are donated.

The vegetables, herbs and flowers are "spray-free" (no pesticides or artificial fertilizers are used). Anyone is welcome to purchase vegetables at the garden and all of the money raised – 100% – goes to the Tubahumurize Association, a non-profit organization in Rwanda that provides socially and economically marginalized women with vocational training, counselling, life-skills coaching, health care education and opportunities for sustainable



income generating activities. Most individuals who benefit from Tubahumurize are genocide survivors and many are widows or orphans, HIV infected, and survivors of physical and

sexual violence. To date, the garden has raised more than \$300,000 for the Tubahumurize project.

We are now gearing up for the 2021 gardening season, and are looking for new volunteers to join us. Both novice & experienced gardeners are welcome. For the safety of our customers and volunteers, AHS COVID protocols are strictly observed.

If you aren't interested in gardening, but would like to help in other ways (distributing produce, promoting the garden, donating seeds or garden tools) please contact us at gggarden@ualberta.ca or visit greengoldgarden.com.



Congratulations Graduates (Spring 2021)

Nothing can take away the things you've learned and experienced

By Michael Janz, Trustee Ward F, Edmonton Public School Board

Dear graduates: As you walk across the (virtual) stage, Edmonton is celebrating your success. Given the fact that in-person graduation ceremonies are again cancelled this year due to COVID, I encourage all friends and neighbours in the community to celebrate alongside you (at an appropriate distance) and help mark this important milestone.

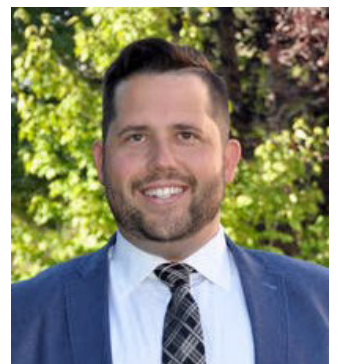
Do not allow 12 months of uncertainty with COVID distract from the 12 years of accomplishment! The education you have received from Edmonton Public Schools has helped prepare you for whatever steps you take or adversity you might face. Your work ethic, character, leadership, perseverance, friendships — all of these are in no way devalued and cannot be taken from you. You made it!

To your families: Thank you. Public education is truly a partnership and I hope that you are able to celebrate this special milestone together in the traditions of your family. As a parent myself, I believe the saying "the days are long but the years are short" could not be more true. All of those lunches and snacks (packed), jackets and boots (zipped), homework and headaches (check!) over the years have culminated in this great achievement. You also made it!

To the graduates: A request. Along the way when times were tough, I'm guessing a special adult — maybe a teacher, coach, custodian, or mentor in your school helped you, sparked a passion in you for a certain subject or gave you that extra push to persevere and pursue excellence. My humble request of you is to find

that person and thank them for making a difference in your life. It will mean the world to them. You may not know it, but they take just as much pride in celebrating your accomplishments as you do and it will re-energize them to keep making a difference in the lives of the next generation. They are proud of you too, and rightly so.

Please celebrate with your family safely and have a wonderful, happy, healthy, physically-distanced-but-socially-connected summer.



Farmers' market opens May 19

The Southwest Edmonton Farmers' Market looks forward to another great season

By Lisa Jodoin, Market Manager



The Southwest Edmonton Farmers' Market (SWEFM) begins its 11th season on Wednesday, May 19th, and we are very excited to see everyone again. We also want to give a big shout out to the Riverbend Community League, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year! Such an amazing accomplishment.

Last year, in collaboration with the Terwillegar Community Recreation Centre, we made the decision to move the location of the market to Parking Lot D. We received an amazing response from our vendors and patrons. As a result, we will continue with the market in Lot D. This means that patrons will continue to park in other parking lots. It also means we have plenty of room for more vendors. As with last year's market, we have worked with Alberta Health Services to ensure our market is safe for everyone during this time of COVID.

Our patrons will see that we have many of our long-standing vendors

returning this season along with a number of new vendors to add to our amazing market. We will also be continuing with our Curbside Program for our patrons to order from our vendors through Local Line and Eventbrite. This will give our patrons the advantage of a touchless pickup of their products. Stay tuned to our social media pages for more information on this as we get closer to opening day.

We look forward to another great season at SWEFM, to reuniting you with your favourite returning vendors as well as many new gems that will be joining us. Not only is the market a great place to shop for a huge variety of almost entirely local products, but it is a wonderful venue to catch up with friends and not-for-profit community organizations. Come out and join us every Wednesday this summer!

The SWEFM runs every Wednesday from May 19th to Oct. 6th, from 4:00-7:30pm at the Terwillegar Rec Center. Visit swefm.ca for more information.



Street Labs

The new approach to neighbourhood traffic concerns

By Deann Stein Hasinoff

The City of Edmonton announced the start of the new Street Labs program. As a part of the Vision Zero initiative, the program aims to engage residents about the traffic problems in their area and provide consultation and support for trial solutions. Possible interventions include signage, temporary speed bumps, curb extensions, painting a crosswalk, converting a block to a shared street and others.

Neighbourhoods or individuals are able to sign up for the program. It is not yet known what the capacity for 2021 will be as this is the first year. If you would like more information go to edmonton.ca and search "street labs."

If you would like to be a part of efforts to participate in this program, please contact the Riverbend Community League office at info@riverbendonline.ca to be put in touch with the


organizers. Identified areas of concern include Whitemud Road; 56th Ave. and Riverbend Road; 57th Ave. and Riverbend Road; 148th St.; 147A St.; 47A Ave. and 147 St. in Ramsay Heights; the 45th Ave. and 48th Ave. intersections with Riverbend Road; and Ramsay Crescent (where the houses fell into the valley).



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Share your feedback for a new pedestrian/cyclist bridge over Whitemud Drive

This is the third 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 to determine a preferred concept for the bridge, active transportation connections and open space improvements.


Online Engagement Activities
Available until May 30

To learn more about the project, how to participate in online engagement activities, and to provide your input, visit: edmonton.ca/142streetbridge

For more information, visit: edmonton.ca/142streetbridge

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SHAPE OUR CITY**

ADVISE





The Ridge Community League

Serving the neighbourhoods of Falconer Heights (Terwillegar Hill Estates), Henderson Estates (River Ridge, Eagle Ridge, Promontory Point) and Hadow (Riverside, College Woods)

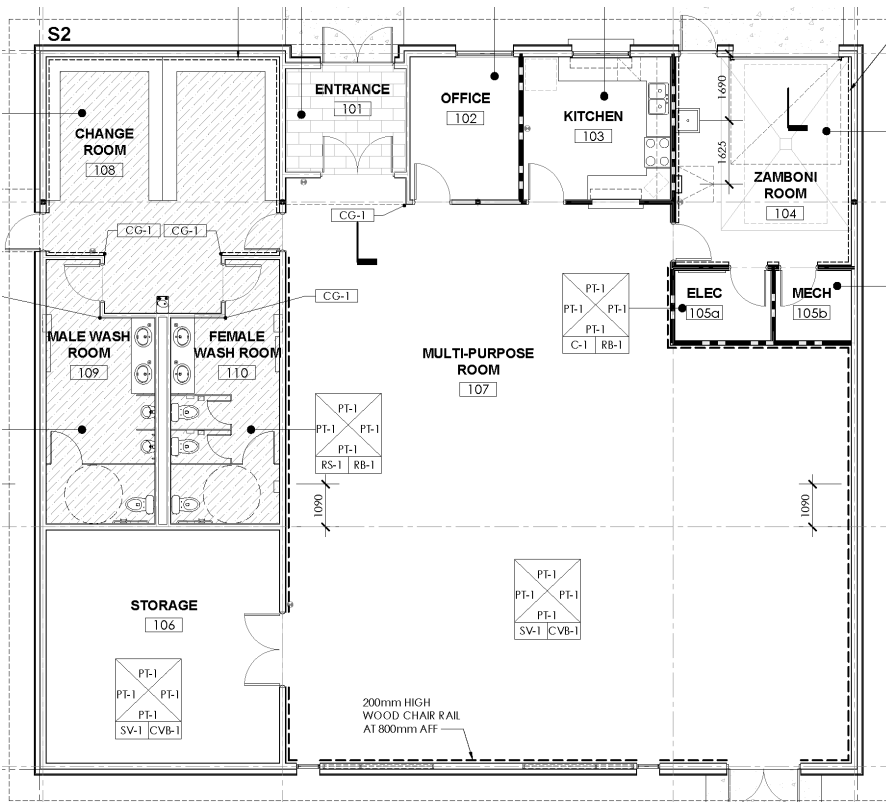
By Jim Bradshaw

Community Hall, Parking Lot, Rink and Courts - Project Status

COVID-19 restrictions will eventually be behind us and we will be able to celebrate a grand opening and let everyone enjoy The Ridge Community League's new home, built for you and the rest of the community! We are in the home stretch for the building and landscaping.

We are making the final determination whether we can afford the \$300,000 concrete slab on the rink that would enable it to be used year-round. This largely depends on our ability to raise the funds necessary to complete the full scope of the project.

The 4,300-square-foot building is rated for up to 150 people under non-COVID standards. A change room and washrooms will support the boarded rink, the snowbank rink and the playground. The large multi-purpose room is 2,056 square feet and is the focal point of the building. A small kitchen is primarily intended for serving food and drinks, with limited food preparation. A small office is next to the kitchen and a large storage room is in the SW corner. There is a Zamboni room in the NE corner for ice maintenance equipment.



The 4,300-square-foot building is rated for up to 150 people under non-COVID standards. A change room and washrooms will support the boarded rink, the snowbank rink and the playground.

Building Rental

The Ridge CL is looking for expressions of interest from groups to offer programs at our new building. Not-for-profit status has historically been a requirement and is still preferred, but there is now leeway for allowing for-profit groups to offer programs. It is limited so The Ridge CL can maintain its tax-exemption and comply with The Tripartite agreement signed with The City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues. We are not currently contemplating opening the building to party rentals.

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flickr.com/groups/1046485@N23/pool/

Courts

Assuming we are able to proceed with the installation of a concrete base in the rink and to raise funds for related enhancements, we will be acid-etching and painting court lines on the concrete rink base. A 200 ft x 85 ft, NHL-sized rink seems huge but there is insufficient room to put two tennis courts within the boards and not have players colliding between courts. We are looking at allowing ice hockey, ball hockey, soccer, basketball and pickleball on the concrete slab. What are we missing? Let us know at info@theridgeonline.ca

Fundraising

The total cost of our new hall, parking lot, landscaping and rink is over \$2.3 million and it took us nine years to raise the funds via grant applications, casinos and judicious management of operating revenues. To get it built, and assuming we are able to proceed with the concrete base, we stripped out anything that could be bolted on or purchased later. If we are unable to complete the concrete base now, while crews and equipment are on site, it may be several years before this can be completed due to the higher costs associated with remobilizing contractors, potential price inflation, tendering, re-permitting and compliance with City requirements. To be able to get full use out of this community project now, provide a high quality winter ice surface and a fully functional multi-season amenity for the community, we face a critical, time-sensitive hurdle to raise the funds necessary to complete the concrete base and install interior and exterior equipment, upgrades and furnishings.

The Ridge has reached this point of development through almost a decade of effort by our dedicated board members without having to seek any donations from the community. We are reaching out to the community now to raise the \$100,000 needed to fully complete this community project. Grants and fundraising to date have given everyone the bowl, ice-cream and sundae toppings. We are reaching out to you for the sprinkles and the cherry on top. We are a not-for-profit society, but unfortunately not a charitable society capable of issuing tax receipts. We are considering whether a plaque or something like named bricks will be used to recognize and thank donors. Reach out to us at info@theridgeonline.ca to donate or inquire.

Looking for a Treasurer

The Ridge will be looking for a treasurer as of the summer. Andrew Martin has done a phenomenal job but will soon be stepping aside. How are you with a balance sheet and income statement? Would you happen to be an accountant that is looking for a few more professional development hours? This is a critical position for us and we would really appreciate a couple of hours of your time every now and then. Contact info@theridgeonline.ca or Jim at 780-231-2266.

Barry Kossowan

On April 24, Barry Kossowan passed away while working in his yard. Barry was a key member of The Ridge Community League Board for many years, and we were all deeply saddened to hear the news. He played an integral part in our new building and rink and was always the first to say "count me in" or "see you there" any time we needed help. We will miss you Barry. Our condolences go out to Dianne, who is also on our board, and to their family and friends.

Failing Grade for Proposed Curriculum

It does not provide children with the critical thinking skills they need to succeed in a modern economy

By Rakhi Pancholi, MLA, Edmonton-Whitemud

As a parent and the MLA for a constituency where two-thirds of households are families with children, I spend a lot of time thinking about how to ensure Albertans have the best possible start in life. It's obvious many of you do too.

In recent months, I've heard from many of you concerned about recent cuts to post-secondary education. I share those concerns. Increasingly, well-paying jobs require post-secondary education, and if we are serious about diversifying Alberta's economy, our post-secondary institutions are where we find the ideas, innovation and creativity to do it.

Unfortunately, the provincial government is taking Alberta in the opposite direction. Tuition fees at all post-secondary institutions are increasing, including proposed increases at the University of Alberta of between 17 and 104 per cent. Enrollment has already decreased by three per cent since 2019. At a time when we need talented young people to build their futures here, cutting post-secondary funding will slow our economic recovery.

As the Official Opposition, we have called on the government to reverse these cuts, provide stability for scholarships and grants, and support robust online delivery during the pandemic.

As part of our Alberta's Future initiative, designed to unite Albertans in building a new

economic strategy, the Official Opposition is looking at the role that post-secondary education plays in our province's economic recovery and growth. To learn more, visit AlbertasFuture.ca. I've also been receiving a lot of feedback about the government's proposed K-6 curriculum.

The current curriculum was put into place under previous Conservative governments. When the NDP was in government, we continued the work started in 2014 under the Conservatives of revising the K-12 curriculum. As part of that process, more than 100,000 Albertans were engaged including parents, teachers, students, and subject-matter experts. It was an inclusive process meant to produce a curriculum built on the best available evidence of what helps children to learn and to become productive citizens in a modern, inclusive and democratic society.

This work was suspended by the government in 2019 and a 12-person curriculum review panel – which did not include teachers – was established. The draft K-6 curriculum released in March 2021 has raised significant concerns from parents, teachers, subject-matter experts, indigenous leaders and experts in educational and curriculum development.

The concerns about the draft curriculum are numerous. The content and expectations are age-inappropriate and focus on rote memorization. The dominant narrative of the curriculum is

Eurocentric, casting all other experiences and perspectives as outside this narrative. It ignores Canadian history, including the history of Indigenous people, in favour of American history. It fails to provide children with the critical thinking skills they need to succeed in a modern economy.

While we are relieved that computer science skills, financial literacy, and consent are included in this draft, as they were in the drafts completed under the NDP, there is a great deal about this curriculum that is deeply troubling. At the time of writing, numerous school boards across Alberta, representing more than 50 per cent of Alberta's student population, have indicated they will not be piloting the draft curriculum in the 2021-22 school year. The Official Opposition has committed that, if elected government in 2023, we would reverse the changes proposed by the UCP and launch broad public consultations before introducing a new draft to pilot in Fall 2024.

I encourage you to visit KidsDeserveBetter.ca and offer your feedback. As always, you can also write directly to me at Edmonton.whitemud@assembly.ab.ca.



Seniors Connection News for those 55+

Congratulations RCL! If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, we at SWESA say, "We want to celebrate our 50th one day, just like you!"

By Colleen Crozier

The SouthWest Seniors Association (SWESA) extends sincere congratulations to The Riverbend Community League, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. "Anniversary" means the date on which an event took place in a previous year. The word comes from Middle English and before that from the Latin *anniversarius* (returning yearly). In French, the typical birthday wish is "bon anniversaire," a somewhat more descriptive a term than the English, "happy birthday."

An anniversary can refer to any event, no matter how insignificant. But the 50th anniversary of a community league? That's more like a golden wedding anniversary, celebrated by a couple whose marriage began 50 years previously, but with hundreds of brides and grooms. The number of people in this relationship far exceeds the two in a marriage. The dedication, foresight, hard work, fun, fulfillment, satisfaction, ups and downs, struggles and triumphs have marked the path of RCL. Riverbend residents have come and gone, the League has seen many changes, and it is now stronger than ever. Now, there's a golden anniversary to sit up and take notice of!

RCL and SWESA share many similarities. Both are created by and are possible because of residents in southwest Edmonton who want to be part of something bigger than themselves, to create something beneficial for the people in the area. Both have programming, events, learning opportunities and exercise, with SWESA's being designed specifically to meet the interests and needs of seniors. Both draw people together and create networks of people supporting people.

SWESA is uniquely focused on programs developed to meet the interests of adults 55+. Programs are developed in response to what members want to do and learn. They are customized for the older adult so that participants can continue to enjoy programming even when they experience limitations in physical capacity or are challenged with other adaptations as one gets older. And they include lots of social opportunities to meet people and kindle friendships.

The value of RCL and SWESA has been especially valuable during this year of COVID-19, when we've had to turn to a whole new way of connecting with each other.

SWESA members are grateful to all the great RCL events, such as Art in Our Park, and we thank RCL for the opportunity to write this column regularly in the Ragg-Times, taking our message into almost 10,000 homes in the Greater Riverbend area. It is so very helpful to us in raising awareness about resources and programming for seniors.

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, we at SWESA say, "We want to celebrate our 50th one day, just like you!"

With the return to Stage 1 of the COVID-19 response, all SWESA classes are virtual at this time. Please visit our website (swesa.ca) for a full listing of fitness activities such as yoga, Boot Camp, Core and All, Zumba and Essentrics; for information sessions; and for the popular Coffee and Chat. You can also call the office for details on current programs.

SWESA is also host to Seniors Home Supports in southwest Edmonton. Co-ordinator Barb Newell can help with services for seniors that will help you stay happy and healthy in your home.



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Growing Relationships and Connecting Community

Plant sale cancelled due to COVID, but there's still a compost sale and a lot more

By Natasha Martin

The Riverbend Community League Compost Sale is happening on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at Brookside Hall (5320 143 Street) from 12:00 - 4:00 pm. Given the circumstances with COVID, it will not look the same as it has been the past, but we will have our signature mushroom compost available for your gardening needs. A 50lb bag of compost costs \$20. You can pre-order your compost at info@riverbendonline.ca and pre-pay at payments@riverbendonline.ca. This is a great option as we did sell out of compost early in the afternoon last year!

Due to current restrictions, we are not able to host the bedding plant and perennial sale on site. However, gift certificates to South Cooking Lake Greenhouses will be available as of May 1, 2021. They make an excellent Mother's Day gift! The gift certificates are good for the entire season at South Cooking Lake Greenhouses. The variety and selection available at South Cooking Lake Greenhouses is impressive and the drive makes for a nice change of scenery. Bedding plants and perennials were a hot commodity last season and no doubt this year will be the same!

You can access gift certificates by contacting Sheryl Bowhay at sbowhay@shaw.ca or Sue Trigg at smtrigg@shaw.ca, or by leaving a message on the Brander Community Garden Facebook page. Gift certificates will also be available at the Compost Sale on May 15.



Robert Bowhay

The Brander Community Garden, seen here in 2018, has spread the joy of gardening to community members young and old for years.

Composting in your Community

The City of Edmonton's new waste initiative means that most Riverbend households will be receiving green bins in June. However, there will be some who will not yet qualify for their own just yet (renters, for example) and may want to get into the habit of collecting their compostables.

Bring your compostables to our garden on Saturday mornings between 10 a.m. and noon! Please note that unlike the City's green bins, we cannot accept meat and dairy products or any animal waste, but all are welcome to bring their green (plant) waste to add to our active compost pile. Our main gardening site is in the heart of

old Riverbend right next to Riverbend Junior High School. We have signage, and you can't miss us! It's also a great opportunity to check out the garden and meet some of our members.

All are Welcome on Saturday Mornings

If you're interested in joining our community garden, or simply curious about what we do, feel free to stop by our main gardening site any Saturday morning between 10 a.m. and noon during the peak gardening season (May to September). We've already planted some cold crops this year, and we're itching to get more plants in the

ground. We would be happy to give you a tour and answer any questions you may have!

Before we sign off, we want to send a big thank you to everyone who is involved with or helps out our community garden. We couldn't do it without you! An extra special shout out goes to community member Noel McNaughton for sharing his time and expertise with Brander Community Garden!

Look us up on Facebook by searching "Brander Community Garden." We can be reached by email at brandercommunitygarden@gmail.com.

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Vehicles Present a Crime of Opportunity that can be Prevented

A few simple tips reduce the risk of you becoming a victim

By Cst. Anne Wasylyshen and Cst. Corinne Kline

Most vehicle crime is opportunistic and can be prevented. By following some straightforward advice and working together as a community, this type of crime can be reduced. Here are a few tips on what you can do to prevent these types of crimes.

> Remove ALL valuables and personal items, including loose change and cellphone cords. Never leave anything on display. Remember, if they can see it, they will steal it.

- > Never leave a spare set of keys or a garage door opener in your vehicle.
- > Lock your doors and close all windows each time you leave your vehicle.
- > Consider using a steering lock as an extra measure of security. A vehicle that is well secured has a tendency to deter criminals. A steering wheel lock will also deter theft of your vehicle.
- > Consider installing a security alarm. Alarms can deter thieves not only from stealing items from your vehicle, but also from stealing your vehicle.
- > If you have a garage, park your vehicle in it. When parking at home, always use your garage if you have one, and lock both your vehicle and your garage. If you don't have a garage, try to park in a well-lit, open place.

Other important tips

- > Routinely check your vehicle for your licence plate to ensure that it has not been stolen or swapped for a different plate.
- > Consider installing licence plate lock screws to deter theft. These can be found at your local Police Division or hardware store.

Cst. Anne Wasylyshen and Cst. Corinne Kline are members of the Edmonton Police Service Community Engagement Team, assigned to Southwest Division. They are writing articles to provide useful tips to help people in the community in preventing crime. If you have any ideas or suggestions on crime prevention topics, please email communityengagement@edmontonpolice.ca.



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Terwillegar Drive Expansion Stage One Updates

Construction has started for Stage One – North, between Whitemud Drive and Rabbit Hill Road.

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edmonton.ca/TerwillegarDrive

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City Hall Check-In

Bus routes, waste management and the looming election

By Tim Cartmell, Councillor, Ward 9 (pihêsiwin)

Greetings everyone! I hope you're managing to enjoy this most unusual pandemic spring.

Bus Route Changes

The new bus routes have been in place for about three weeks. If you have specific concerns regarding the new network, I encourage you to visit the Transit App at edmonton.ca/ets/transit.aspx to plan trips, check live schedules, get step-by-step navigation and more.

If you wish, I encourage you to share your feedback directly with City Administration by completing the online form which can be found by going to edmonton.ca and searching "bus feedback." If your concerns are not addressed using those approaches, please let my office know at tim.cartmell@edmonton.ca.

Waste Management Collection Changes

A reminder that Edmonton is changing waste collection. Residents will now be required to sort their waste into four streams: a black garbage cart that will be collected every two weeks; a green food scraps cart that will be collected weekly in spring, summer and fall and every two weeks in the winter; recycling collected weekly in blue bags (no volume limits); and two seasonal yard waste collections in spring and two in the fall (no volume limits).

The Edmonton Cart Rollout will support more effective waste processing, reduce waste collected at the curb, make the way the City processes waste easier and help to achieve the City's goal to divert 90 per cent of residential waste away from landfill.

Ward 9 (pihêsiwin) residents will receive their carts in June and the new collection system starts July 1. More information about our new waste collection system, including how to place the carts and sort your waste, can be found at edmonton.ca/waste.



Virtual Community Meeting, May 19

I will be hosting my last virtual Community Meeting on May 19th, 6:30-8:00pm. Please contact my office at tim.cartmell@edmonton.ca for a Zoom link, or join on my FaceBook Page at facebook.com/TimCartmellWard9. We will be joined by City representatives to take your questions on the waste management changes and I will address any other matters that you would like to discuss.

Election 2021

The next municipal election will take place on October 18. As a Councillor seeking re-election, I am subject to the Council Code of Conduct. This means as of June 1, there are many communication restrictions that I must comply with, generally aimed at preventing sitting Councillors from using their position as Councillor to support their campaign.

I encourage you to continue to contact my office if you require assistance on any municipal matter at 780-496-8130 or at tim.cartmell@edmonton.ca. For campaign related inquiries, I encourage you to seek out the views, positions and policies of all candidates. Links can be found at edmonton.ca/election.



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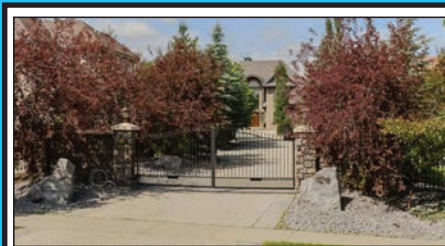
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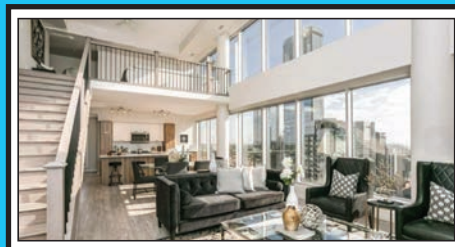
Donsdale \$2,349,900
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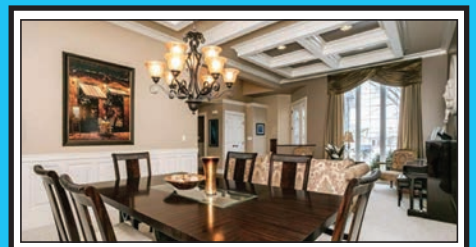
Cameron Heights \$1,398,000
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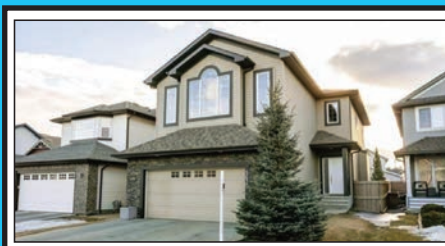
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