

The Riverbend Ragg-Times

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A School Year Like No Other

Students at Lillian Osborne High School, like those across the city, have had to adapt rapidly to changing norms

By Ragg-Times Staff

It has been more than a year since schools in the province closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, students and teachers have switched to online learning, been called back to in-person classes in September, developed a hybrid system where some students are in class and some online, been shut down again in December when COVID cases rose, and returned to the hybrid system.

It's enough to give you multiple cases of whiplash, but Lillian Osborne High School Principal Bryan Radmanovich remains upbeat and optimistic. "The students and staff have been amazingly resilient," Radmanovich says. "Everyone has taken a positive approach to the year and even though it's so challenging, people are knocking it out of the park and student needs are getting met."

Schools, staff and particularly students have followed AHS guidelines. Student cohorts are assigned entrances closest to their classrooms to minimize time in the hallways. Staff and students must be masked and hand sanitizer, masks and cleaning supplies are available at every classroom.

The pandemic also caused school boards in the city to switch to the quarter system, in which students have two classes a day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, each of about 2.5 hours. The long classes were an adjustment for students and teachers as was the pace that course material is



Bryan Radmanovich, principal of Lillian Osborne High School, remains upbeat and optimistic. "The students and staff have been amazingly resilient," he says. Photo: Curtis Ogrodiuk

covered, but Radmanovich says the new system also has its advantages. "It does allow for more one-on-one time with students," he says, "and it has made moving to online easier than if we had the standard four classes per day of the semester system."

"We hope after a few more months of positive pandemic news, maybe we can have a startup closer to the norm in the fall."

Radmanovich says much of the success can be attributed to the collaboration he's witnessed within the Edmonton Public School Board, with teachers and department heads sharing resources and best practices with colleagues across the city and beyond.

Radmanovich says about 40 per cent of students are now studying online, the highest percentage yet. The school division will continue to allow students to study online next year, although Radmanovich is hopeful to see most children back in the school. "The more students we can get back into the school safely, the better," he says. "We hope after a few more months of positive pandemic news, maybe we can have a startup closer to the norm in the fall."

Lillian Osborne has grown from 1,500 to 1,980 students in the last three years as it absorbs students from the growing communities of southwest Edmonton. A new high school, Dr. Anne Anderson High School, will open in Heritage Valley this September and take some of the pressure off Lillian Osborne and other schools in the area.

Hundreds of Paintings – One Mural

Riverbend Community League Celebrates 50th Anniversary with Mural Project

By Sheryl Bowhay

Our community will have the opportunity to help the Riverbend Community League celebrate 50 years of community building by participating in our Anniversary Mural Project. Participants will be invited to paint an image on a 4" by 4" tile - their own personal artwork - for inclusion in the mural.

The mural mosaic medium has the unique ability to include many participants, styles, voices and subject matters that all come together in one unified and cohesive image.

Start thinking about what you love about living in our beautiful and diverse community. What are your favourite Riverbend Community League events or programs and what makes your neighbourhood special or unique?

We will provide the materials and create the opportunity... you will provide the inspiration!

Watch for updated information in the next issue of the Riverbend Ragg-Times and online at riverbendonline.ca.

To learn more about the Mural Mosaic process, go to muralmosaic.com.

Garbage Collection Reimagined

City of Edmonton launches new system to redirect organics from the landfill

The City of Edmonton is changing the way we sort, set out and collect waste. The City has already begun to deliver garbage carts, food scraps carts and food scraps pails to single-unit and some multi-unit homes and all residents in such homes can expect them by August. The idea is to sort waste at home to keep food scraps and yard waste out of the

landfill. "The Edmonton Cart Rollout is an essential step in Edmonton's journey to become more sustainable and environmentally friendly as we grow," said Mayor Don Iveson in a press release. "These carts will allow us to reduce overall waste and accomplish a 90 per cent waste diversion from landfills — all while improving safety conditions for our workers."

Along with the carts, each home will receive an information package which includes a welcome brochure, collection calendar and city map to help residents determine their first cart collection day. Cart delivery is expected to be completed by August, 2021. For more information, visit edmonton.ca.

Budget Shock

The recent provincial budget brings challenges to Edmonton

By Michael Ganley

The Government of Alberta delivered its budget in late February and it came with significant repercussions for the City of Edmonton. On the plus side, funding under the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) - which the City uses to renew, refurbish and maintain infrastructure - will increase this year. The MSI will provide \$1.2 billion to Albertan municipalities in 2021-22. For Edmonton, this will represent a \$43 million increase over previously promised infrastructure funding. Specifically, funding was announced for a new hospital in south Edmonton that is scheduled to open in 2030, and for the LRT extension from Century Park to Heritage Valley.

On the minus side of the column, funding under MIS will go down over the subsequent three years by about 25 per cent from previously promised amounts, to \$485 million for two of those years and \$722 million for the third. This will be a blow to communities across the

province.

MSI funding accounts for about one-third of the City of Edmonton's capital budget. Mayor Don Iveson and most city councillors expressed disappointment over the provincial budget. "I'll be asking city administration to report to Council which Edmonton projects are now at risk as a result of these deep cuts" said Mayor Iveson to the Edmonton Journal, "though it's already clear to me that this cut further injures the City of Edmonton's jobs and fiscal situation."

The budget disproportionately reduced funding to one of the city's intellectual, cultural and economic drivers: the University of Alberta

The budget also significantly and disproportionately reduced funding to one of the city's intellectual, cultural and economic drivers, the University of Alberta. The University had \$60 million cut from its budget, almost half of the total



\$126 million cut to the post-secondary sector in the province. "Twenty-five per cent of Alberta's post-secondary students attend the University of Alberta," wrote President Bill Flanagan in an open letter, "yet the province has required us to bear nearly 50 per cent of the reduction in provincial funding."

There's no doubt this was always going to be a tough budget, with the COVID-19 pandemic and terrible oil prices for much of last year. It predicts an \$18.2 billion deficit and a record debt of \$115.8 billion by the end of the fiscal year.

But the province appears to have saddled Edmontonians with more than their fair share of the burden, and residents will spend years digging out of the hole that is currently being dug.

The Riverbend Ragg-Times

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Artist and Community Builder Featured at Art Gallery of Alberta

Judy Robinson's art contemplates her African heritage, the slave trade, injustice and the Black Lives Matter movement

By Michael Ganley

Brander Gardens' resident Judy Robinson remembers feeling passion for artistic creation early in her life. She drew and painted throughout high school and found solace and strength in her creations. But, growing up in Grenada at a time of political and economic turmoil, her family and teachers did not encourage her interest. "My family thought art was hard to live on," she says with a small laugh that suggests she recognizes both the truth and the irrelevance of that sentiment.

Now, after a story filled with turns and detours, Robinson is a featured artist in an exhibition at The Art Gallery of Alberta called Black Every Day. It features the art of 15 Black artists from the Edmonton area and speaks to the current Black Lives Matter anti-racist movement. Her pieces - five of which are featured - reflect on her African heritage, the slave trade and the enduring symbols of oppression. Her subjects include the Catholic Church, which financed early cross-Atlantic exploration, and Lloyd's of London, which insured slave ships. "It's not about anger," she says. "It's recording history. There was a slave trade and it has had great impact to this day, and not just to people of African heritage."

Judy Robinson grew up in Grenada in the 1970s, a period in which the small Caribbean island gained its independence from Britain, suffered a military coup and endured an invasion by American and Caribbean forces. She was active in politics and protests against the ruling dictator.

Her father, a police chief, was concerned for the family's well-being, so they emigrated to Canada. They first settled in Fort McMurray, which she describes as a welcoming and open community. "We had a lot in common in the sense that it was transient, so people make the best of it," she says. She worked as a payroll clerk for Canadian Bechtel before moving to Edmonton, where she studied at the University of Alberta.

Robinson met her husband, a student from Nigeria, at the University. Together, they started a business importing art from Africa and selling it at trade shows and at a store in West Edmonton Mall

called African Heritage. Judy researched pieces, curated the collection and managed the store while her husband travelled Africa to make purchases. Together, they had three children. The eldest, a son, is a psychiatry resident in Vancouver. One daughter teaches English in South Korea and the youngest is with Robinson in Edmonton.

After divorcing her husband, Robinson worked as an insurance adjuster for several years to support her family. As her children got older and began to pay their own bills, she returned to her first love - creating art. "It is a mental thing," she says. "I find it therapeutic. There is a sense of comfort when you're creating." Her kitchen in her Brander Gardens' townhouse doubles as her studio, where she works in acrylic on canvas. She starts by



Robinson's art reflects on her African heritage, the slave trade and the enduring symbols of oppression. Her subjects include the Catholic Church, which financed early cross-Atlantic exploration, and Lloyd's of London, which insured slave ships

painting the white canvases black, "to get me in the spirit of it and connect with my ancestors," she says. She writes a story to accompany each piece, reflecting on its symbolic representations and the history behind it.

Robinson is a well-known volunteer in the community, having been instrumental in founding the Brander Community Garden and Brander Gardens ROCKS, which features after school programs, a music school, community meals, Mom and Tot programs and adult enrichment programs. She has also served on the board of the Riverbend Community League, volunteered at Art in our Park and mentored immigrant families.

She sees her art as part of the reckoning that is going on in society around racism, one that has a long way to go. "Change is necessary, but I'm a practical person," she says. "I don't like to see empty promises." She wants to see institutional and policy changes. "I need to see people of colour in managerial positions, in politics," she says. "How are we being included? There has been incremental change, but I'd prefer to see bigger changes."

COVID-19 has wreaked havoc with the Art Gallery of Alberta's opening hours and the exhibition's schedule. Please check youraga.ca for updates. Robinson's art can also be seen on her Facebook page, Sancta Cultura.





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The Signs of Spring

With vaccinations happening, we are making plans for events and activities for our members

By Miep Raedschelders, President, RCL



This year, I welcome spring with such gratitude. The snowpack, lighter than last year, is steadily melting away and the endless opportunities are inviting me into the garden already! Your Riverbend Community League has adapted in response to the pandemic over the past year, and we continue to do so in 2021. We have taken the opportunity to improve the lighting and roof at the Brookside Hall and will have a welcoming space available for community-group use. Consider renting our Community Halls for future events and meetings, ongoing lessons and activities, or summer programming.

We want to send a sincere thank you to our rinks team and to the rink attendants who helped keep our skating community healthy this year by reminding participants of health guidelines and

facilitating the purchase of memberships. Thank you to the Glassfords, Sue Trigg and Elizabeth Emslie for making skating possible at Brookside this year. I also want to thank our community for purchasing raffle tickets to support the rinks program. Congratulations to Nancy Clarke, our 50/50 raffle winner!

With the vaccination program in place, we see a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel and are making plans for events and activities for our members! Your Community League is working with neighbouring communities to set up a big bin and shredding event. We are also working on this year's plant and compost sale and the Community Garden is gearing up to get seeds into soil and plants started indoors for another season of growth!

The effects of the virus have been far-reaching. Please consider supporting your local



The RCL improved the lighting and roof at Brookside Hall to have a welcoming space available for community-group use.

small businesses and restaurants whenever you can. We have some wonderful shops and eateries in our own neighbourhood, and they sure appreciate your patronage.

50/50 Prize Goes to Long-time Brookside Family

Nancy Clarke, who has lived with her family in Brookside for many years, is the winner of the Riverbend Community League's 50/50 draw to support the Brookside rinks.

The Clarke family were busy community volunteers as their children grew up. For a number of years in the mid '90s, Nancy's husband Bill, together with their boys Rob and David, were the rink maintenance contractors!

How fitting that a family who put so much sweat equity into our rinks is the recipient of the \$4,580 jackpot. Congratulations Nancy, and thanks to everyone who contributed by purchasing tickets!



(L-R) Rinks Director Sue Trigg, winner Nancy Clarke and RCL President Miep Raedschelders

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Terwillegar Transformation Begins in Earnest in April

Construction will lead to congestion: Please be patient, and don't shortcut

By Councillor Tim Cartmell

Greetings Everyone! I hope that you are able to get outside and take advantage of the warmer temperatures. Just as we have been waiting for spring, another long wait is over! Construction on Terwillegar Drive is finally getting started!

There are three stages to the project:

Stage One, starting in April, will see construction begin between Rabbit Hill Road and Whitemud Drive. Work will include adding two lanes in each direction, improving all the intersections and straightening out 40th Avenue/Bulyea Road. In 2022, construction will start between Anthony Henday Drive and Rabbit Hill Road, continuing through to the summer of 2023. Work includes the addition of two lanes in each direction and improvements at all the intersections.

Stage Two of the project is scheduled for 2023 to 2025. This stage includes rehabilitation and widening of the Rainbow Valley Bridge, improvements to the Whitemud-Terwillegar interchange, construction of a dedicated southbound transit lane from 53rd avenue to Terwillegar Drive and construction of a pedestrian bridge over Whitemud Drive.

Stage Three includes the construction of a second overpass over Anthony Henday Drive

and widening of Terwillegar Drive south to Windermere Boulevard. This work is scheduled for 2023-2026.

During construction, two lanes will be maintained in each direction on Terwillegar Drive from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Dedicated turning lanes will also be maintained. During morning peak hours, all lanes will be open on Bulyea Road/40th Avenue, Rabbit Hill Road, 23rd Avenue and Haddow Road. Outside of peak hours, there will be times when some lanes on these crossing through roads are closed.

We all expect this construction activity will increase congestion and frustration, and that may lead to more shortcutting: drivers will see the construction along Terwillegar Drive and will be inclined to take Riverbend Road or Bulyea Road instead.

I know this might come across as preachy, but please don't shortcut. We know that Riverbend and Bulyea Roads are already at capacity. These roads won't get you to your destination any faster.

And the equally frustrated residents in those areas will have their day-to-day lives disrupted. During the warmer months, my office already receives many inquiries about speeding and noisy cars along our quiet residential roads. Residents of Brookview, Rhatigan Ridge, Ramsay Heights

and Brander Gardens already have a difficult time getting access onto those roads. More traffic will not help. Those roads were not designed to handle increased volume that shortcutting will bring.

If you can, adjust your daily schedule, stay on Terwillegar, or use 23rd Avenue or Anthony Henday to reduce construction related travel delays.


But regardless of where in pihêsiwin (Ward 9) you are travelling, please remember the houses you are passing are the homes of the children your kids go to school with or the people you see at the hockey rink, the rec centre or local shopping areas. They are your neighbors, and just like you, they prefer the peace, quiet and safety that comes with respectful driving habits.

Let's work together through this construction. And when it's all done, we will have a fantastic new mobility corridor for vehicles, transit, walkers and cyclists alike.

As always, I welcome your input and feedback on any municipal matter at 780-496-8130 or at tim.cartmell@edmonton.ca.



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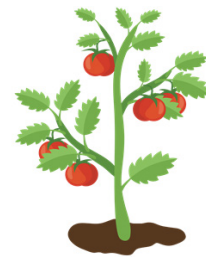
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Get Gardening!



The Brander Garden: Growing Community

Gardening communally means we share in the work and in the harvest. It means we share tools, workspaces and laughs

By Natasha Martin

I was speaking to a coworker today (not the four-legged kind this time!) and we were talking about feeling a stronger sense of hope this spring.

I usually find spring to be a hopeful time. After all, as the days get longer and the weather warmer, it's hard not to get excited about the end of winter and to look forward to the heat and fun of the summer months. But this spring feels even more hopeful and exciting, given that we're also starting to see COVID-19 vaccinations roll out. There is the promise of maybe, just maybe, getting to spend in-person, summer-lovin' time with the people we care most about.

At Brander Community Garden, I think it goes without saying that most of us love to garden. But, our motto is "Growing a Community," and many of us are as passionate about community as we are about gardening.

The past 12 months have highlighted the need for community in our lives. Humans are social creatures. When we're not able to see the people we love, or easily engage in our leisurely pursuits, life gets tough for many of us. Stress levels rise. We don't feel our best, often feeling isolated and lonely.

At BCG, we garden communally. We don't "assign" plots like an allotment system. Gardening communally means we all share in the work and we all share in the harvest. This also means we usually share tools, workspaces and laughs. It's a community! Some of this has changed in response to the COVID-19 outbreak... but not the laughs! We welcome new members at any time, not just in the spring. Even if you know nothing about gardening, but want to learn more and meet others in your community, you are more than welcome to reach out.

As always, please take care of you and yours. We hope to see you this gardening season! Look us up on Facebook by searching "Brander Community Garden." We can be reached by email at brandercommunitygarden@gmail.com. Our main gardening site is in the heart of old Riverbend right next to the Riverbend Junior High School (in the old batting cages!)



The Green and Gold Garden Announces its 13th Growing Season!

All funds raised support economically marginalized women in Rwanda

By Patricia Hartnagel

It has been a very long COVID winter, but the snow is melting and the temperatures are rising. We are anxious to get into the Garden and, as last year, we are once again implementing all necessary Alberta Health Services safety practices and guidelines. The safety of our volunteers and customers is our utmost concern as we return to our beautiful garden on South Campus.

The Green and Gold Garden consists of two acres devoted to growing vegetables, herbs and flowers, with an additional 1/2 acre fruit orchard and 1/2 acre of berry production. All are grown using organic practices. The Garden is volunteer run and all funds raised from the sales of our produce - 100% - goes to the Tubahumurize Association, a non-profit organization in Rwanda that provides vocational training, counselling and health care education for socially and economically marginalized women. This is a wonderful project that invites you to "Think Globally and Act Locally."

Do check out our website at greengoldgarden.com for more information about our Community Garden with a difference! There, you can also sign up for our e-news for updates throughout the growing season and find our sales schedule.



The Zen of Gardening

A daily walk through the garden is a must if we want to create the vision we planned

By Harold Wanke, Owner, South Cooking Lake Greenhouses

In a year unlike any of us have experienced in our lifetimes, I find greater comfort than ever in the coming of spring. Creation seems to care little for the plight of its keepers, and even when it comes under attack from a long list of maladies, it can be amazingly resilient. A poplar stripped clean by caterpillars one summer will spring back into leaf the next year, although it has sacrificed a year of its life.

The annuals we plant in the garden do not have the luxury of a next year and benefit greatly from our help in achieving their full potential. Whether gardening in planters, hanging baskets, flower beds, or vegetable gardens, one of the most important tools we have is the ability to diagnose and treat problems before they get out of control.

In more than 30 years of growing plants in both the garden and greenhouse, I have come to realize that a daily walk through the garden is a must if we want to create the vision we planned all winter. As we walk every day, we not only revel in how incredible it is to see a plant flourish, but also come to recognize those tell-tale signs of a plant in distress.

From the obvious daily wilt on the Supertunia Vista Bubblegum hanging baskets (realizing that these vigorous varieties require frequent watering and fertilization), to the more subtle geranium blossom that does not open fully, check for thrips by taping a flower head into our hand to see if these small, slender pests are scurrying around. Do we cut our losses and replace that waterlogged, stunted, yellowing tomato exhibiting

all the symptoms of a root rot or is it still salvageable by better water management? If the Coleus centerpiece of our shade planter seems to be wilting even though the soil is still wet, did we water this pot too often or too late in the evening? Maybe we transplanted it too deep? The problems may seem endless, but with a little research the most common causes and cures of plant diseases in our area are readily available.

Walking through the garden, sticking fingers into the soil to gauge moisture, trimming, pulling weeds, checking under leaves for the little critters that suck the life out of plants and ever watching for those signs of trouble brewing. That is gardening.

Always remember that when you get discouraged and nothing seems to fix the problems, that unlike the annuals, we do have a next year to improve. The secret is to remember and learn from the failures of years past. We at South Cooking Lake Greenhouses wish you many pleasant hours in the garden this summer.



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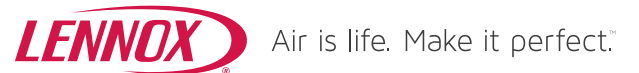
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Portrait of a Leader

Pat MacKenzie is a long-time Riverbender who has made a real difference in the quality of life in Edmonton. As a city councillor and volunteer, her commitment to community has been second to none

By David Rumbold

Pat MacKenzie and her future husband, Barry, met in their hometown of Regina and both moved to Saskatoon to attend the University of Saskatchewan, where their budding romance continued. Pat graduated in education a year after Barry completed his chemical engineering degree. A job offer took Barry to Montreal and Pat followed and began teaching high school. The couple moved to Toronto and other locations in Ontario, including Prescott, where Pat served as a city councillor - or alderman, as they were known at the time - and was active in United Way leadership roles. During the Ontario years, the Mackenzie's welcomed two daughters and a son.

Pat and Barry settled in Edmonton in 1985 and Pat soon decided to run for City Council in Ward 5. She won and served as a councillor for three terms, from 1986 to 1995. She is quick to credit her staff, Gay Young and Alison Edwards, for enabling her to represent her constituents well. Each ward had two councillors in those days, and Pat served with Lillian Staroszik during her terms, and with Mayors Laurence Decore, Terry Cavanaugh, and Jan Reimer. Under Reimer from 1989 to 1992, Pat was part of the only Edmonton City Council that had an equal number of women and men. Our current City Council has just two women along with 10 men.

During her time on City Council, Pat was active on numerous committees and boards and

on the taskforce which recommended selling the Edmonton Telephones Company, then owned by the City, to Telus in 1995. Referendums on the closure of Edmonton City Centre Airport were also a hot topic in the '90s. During this time, Pat served as president of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and on the board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, focussing on housing and the environment. She also led a delegation from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to the Czech Republic in 1995 to advise on local government.

Pat's political success was just the beginning of her involvement in the community. She moved on to leadership roles with Alberta Blue Cross, Habitat for Humanity and Homeward Trust, amongst others. She has served on the Alberta Secretariat for Homelessness, the Law Enforcement Review Board, the Municipal Government Board, the Mayor's Task Force on the Downtown Arena, the Centre for Family Literacy and the Alberta Foundation for Environmental Excellence.

Despite her prominence and influence, Pat has always put others first and conducted herself in a positive and humble way. She has been awarded the Alberta Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, the Alberta School Board Association President's Award and the Alberta Centennial Medal for Education. She was also named one of Alberta's Most Influential people, but you'll never hear that from her!



Pat characterizes herself as fiscally conservative and socially progressive. She emphasizes recreation initiatives and actions to reduce homelessness.

Pat characterizes herself as fiscally conservative and socially progressive. She emphasizes recreation initiatives and actions to reduce homelessness. She remains motivated to make a positive difference in the community she lives in and has certainly demonstrated that over the years. She says she continues to seek the "social good." Despite the fact that Pat has already accomplished the work of several people in her lifetime, she says she isn't planning to slow down anytime soon. Thank you Pat. We appreciate what you've done and look forward to seeing what you have planned next!

ETS Redesigns Bus Network

New system will mean more direct routes and less overlap, but will come with transitional pains

On April 25, Edmonton Transit Service (ETS) will launch a new bus route system, with new routes and numbers. The new network is meant to modernize Edmonton's transit system, with more direct routes and less

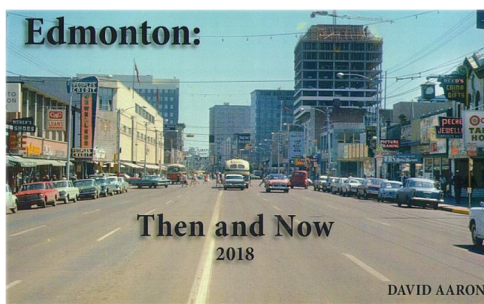
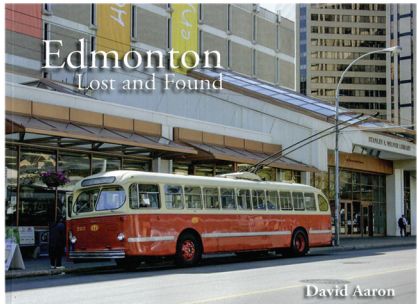
overlap. ETS has loaded a trip-plan generator to help people navigate the new system which can be found at edmonton.ca.

Some areas will lose fixed route service and newer neighborhoods will not get fixed routes.

Instead, ETS will be providing an on-demand pilot project which will allow riders to hail a bus or book a regular pick-up or drop off.

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- 5:50p Ballet 5-7yr
- 6:45p Ballroom/Latin beginner 6-9yr
- 7:40p Ballroom/Latin beginner 9-15yr
- 8:40p Adult social dance

TUESDAYS (Apr 20 – Jun 15)

- 5:00p Hip Hop Outdoor 3-5yr
- 5:45p Hip Hop Outdoor 6-9yr
- 6:40p Hip Hop Outdoor 10-17yr

SATURDAYS (Apr 10 – Jun 26)

- 5:00p Hip Hop 3-5yr

Tentative recital: June 13th



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Help us Celebrate the 50th
anniversary of the Riverbend
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The RCL turns 50 in 2021, and the Ragg-Times
is planning a year-long celebration and a
dedicated issue in May



Riverbend
Community League

Do you have photos to share?
Stories to tell? Know an early Board
member or volunteer?

Please get in touch with Mike Ganley, Editor, at
Raggtimes@riverbendonline.ca.

Thank you!



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The City of Edmonton is taking the next step
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ADVISE

Compassionate Care Leave Bill to Receive Third Reading in May

It would extend length of leave by up to three weeks

By Matt Jeneroux, MP, Edmonton-Riverbend

It finally feels like spring is upon us and hopefully, if all goes well, we will start to see more opportunities to get out and enjoy our amazing community together soon!

I wanted to quickly update you on a few things from Parliament. I'm pleased to report that my Private Members' Bill unanimously passed its second reading on February 17. Bill C-220 proposed to extend the length of Compassionate Care Leave by up to three weeks beyond the death of a loved one before returning to work. All Members of Parliament from all parties voted to support this Bill. It's extremely rare to get unanimous support but it's also important because it's an idea that was generated through many discussions with people in our community. So, thank you!

Since that vote, the Bill has been referred to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA Committee). I appeared as a witness

before the Committee on February 25, alongside the Canadian Cancer Society and the Canadian Grief Alliance, to testify on the importance of this Bill. There were a few amendments, but ultimately, we received unanimous consent, again, and the Bill is expected to come back to the House of Commons for its third reading in early May. I have more analysis on these changes available on my website at mattjeneroux.ca/bill-c220.

Debate continues in the House of Commons on a number of other bills, including Bill C-7 (Medical Assistance in Dying), Bill C-12 (net-zero emissions by 2050) and Bill C-19 (changes to the Elections Canada Act to allow for mail-in voting). I've received a lot of feedback from our community about Bill C-7 and have a statement on this Bill on my website.

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.



MP Matt Jeneroux signs congratulatory letters for new Canadians. Edmonton-Riverbend gets at least 200 new citizens each year

Seniors Connection News for those 55+

Meet Kathy Trepanier – Volunteer Extraordinaire

By: Colleen Crozier

“The Value of One, The Power of Many, reflects the awe-inspiring acts of kindness by millions of individuals AND the magic that happens when we work together towards a common purpose.” So states the theme for the 2021 National Volunteer Week, April 18-24.

This could be the lifetime theme song for SWESA's Volunteer, Kathy Trepanier. Throughout her career as a nurse, and now as a super volunteer with the SWESA Board, Kathy's achievements are legion. Strongest among her gifts is her ability to figure out what needs to be done to reach a goal, and who needs to be on the team to do it. While working in the Edmonton area health system, she applied her talents to such lasting projects as the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute and the coordination of disaster planning that included many levels of government and emergency services. Her background gives her a unique perspective on the current COVID-19 pandemic.

“There are so many other volunteers and wonderful people at SWESA that inspire me,” says Kathy, “and I am proud to be part of this wonderful resource for seniors in southwest Edmonton. There are all kinds of interesting volunteer opportunities here to support SWESA even if, like me, you are not yet availing yourself of their programming.”

Kathy firmly believes that having social connections, keeping active,

and lifelong learning are key to a happy and healthy lifestyle as you age. That is why, when she retired, she looked for something worthwhile to do, something enduring she could help build. And that led her to SWESA in 2011, then in its infancy.

She responded to an invitation from a friend to join the fledgling group of like-minded seniors in southwest Edmonton. Since then, she has worked with the Board to identify what needs to be done and who could help. With the contributions of many volunteers, SWESA has become a vibrant organization that helps seniors adapt to the many changes retirement brings, and is a centre for the social connections, activities and learning she holds so dear.

Kathy loves to discover the talents in other volunteers she works with. Therein lies the joy of accomplishment for herself and her team. If you would like to talk to Kathy about volunteering with SWESA, contact her through info@swesa.ca.



SWESA volunteer Kathy Trepanier

Good News!

SWESA will open for select in-person classes on April 6!

Effective March 1, the province lifted some of the restrictions on group fitness classes, allowing for “in-person, low intensity” sessions. Select classes to be offered in person will be:

- Gentle Yoga
- Essentrics for Seniors
- Yoga Stretch and Strengthen
- Sit and Be Fit
- Essentrics Age Reversing
- Barre

All “high intensity” classes, such as Core and All, Zumba Gold, Body Weight and Total Body Bootcamp will be offered virtually until the province lifts restrictions on “high intensity” group fitness.

SWESA continues to offer virtual “Coffee and Chat” Mondays and Thursdays (a great way to meet people and keep in touch) and “Freestyle Art and Chat” Thursdays.

SWESA Spring Program Guide out March 15!

The Spring Program Guide is available for viewing on the SWESA website.

Who Likes Money?

Now that we have your attention, let us tell you about some upcoming SWESA Fundraising. We are raising funds to enhance on-line and in-person programming for seniors in southwest Edmonton. Will you help develop these resources for seniors in our community? You can find the details at swesa.ca.

SWESA 50/50 Mother's Day Raffle

Online tickets are on sale now until May 8th. The draw date is May 8th at 2 pm. Visit swesa.ca to get your tickets.



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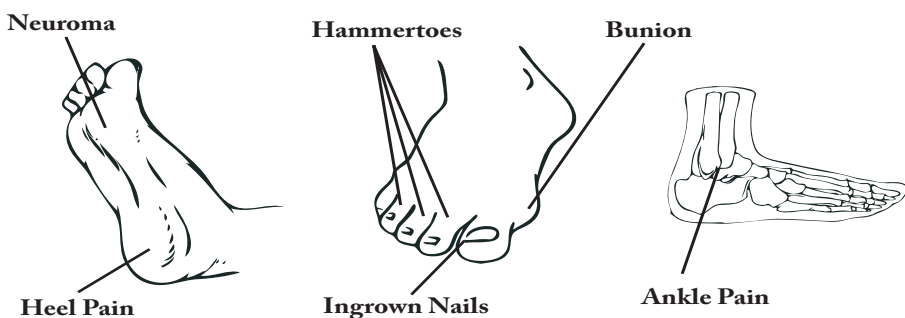
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Brookview Community League Update

Calling all gardening enthusiasts!

By Carol Paul

Thank you to all who have contacted us to volunteer to build the community garden. Once we have enough volunteers, we will form a committee to decide where to build it, determine how much it will cost to build and maintain and then apply for grants to cover those costs.

We hope that the garden will be built in the summer of 2022. Please continue to ask your friends and neighbours if they would like to share their ideas, expertise and time to help keep this project moving forward. It would be a great way to build friendships and get to know your Brookview neighbours while enjoying some tasty carrot sticks!

Thank you to all the skaters this year who got out to enjoy the Brookview rinks. A special thanks to Caylen Cey (Rink Manager) and Lindsay Walker (Facility Manager) for their efforts to keep the ice in good shape and to keep all users safe over this challenging winter.

Spring is in the air, so it's time for all tennis and pickleball enthusiasts to start dusting off those racquets. We are hoping to open the courts April 1, weather permitting. We will be following and enforcing all AHS guidelines regarding openings and court

protocols. With this in mind, we are still trying to decide if tennis and pickleball programming will be offered over the summer. More details will be posted on our website, in the Crier and in the Ragg-Times in the coming weeks. If you would like to receive notifications of program announcements, please email our website.

A reminder: a membership in the Brookview Community League is required to use the Brookview tennis courts. They can be purchased at efcl.org.

Brookview Zoom Yoga will continue month-by-month until the end of June. Join us for this final stretch (yoga pun!) and enjoy increased flexibility and fitness! Please see our website (brookviewcommunityleague.ca) for up-to-date information on all programs and facility openings.

Please send us a note if you have questions or suggestions.



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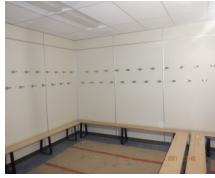
EdmontonAcademy.com



The Ridge Community League

Neighbourhoods of Falconer Heights (Terwillegar Hill Estates),
Henderson Estates (River Ridge, Eagle Ridge, Promontory Point),
Hadow (Riverside, College Woods)

facebook.com/ridgecommunity
info@theridgeonline.ca
www.theridgeonline.ca
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Community Hall, Parking Lot, Rink and Courts - Project Status

Covid-19 restrictions will soon be behind us and we will be able to celebrate a grand opening and let everyone enjoy The Ridge Community League's home built for you and the rest of the community! As of March 18 there are very few things left to do to finish the building and parking lot. This includes EPCOR getting power to the building, installing telephone/fiber optic internet service to the building, installing siding on the roof top screens and some minor tasks inside. When the ground warms up the rubber surface between the building and rink will be installed and the landscaping done.

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

The 4300 ft² (399 m²) building is rated for up to 150 people under non-Covid 19 standards. A change room and washrooms will support the boarded rink and the snowbank rink and playground adjacent to the building. The large multi-purpose room is 2056 ft² (191 m²) 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. A Zamboni room is in the NE corner for ice maintenance equipment.

Building Rental

With our new hall finished and a hoped-for light at the end of the tunnel for Covid-19 restrictions and life getting back to normal, The Ridge CL is looking for expressions of interest from groups to offer programs at our new building. Not-for-profit-groups have historically been a requirement, and are still the preference, but there is now some leeway on for-profit-groups to offer programs. It is limited though in order for The Ridge CL to maintain its tax-exemption and comply with The Tripartite agreement signed with The City and EFCL.

We are not currently contemplating opening up the building to party rentals.

Courts

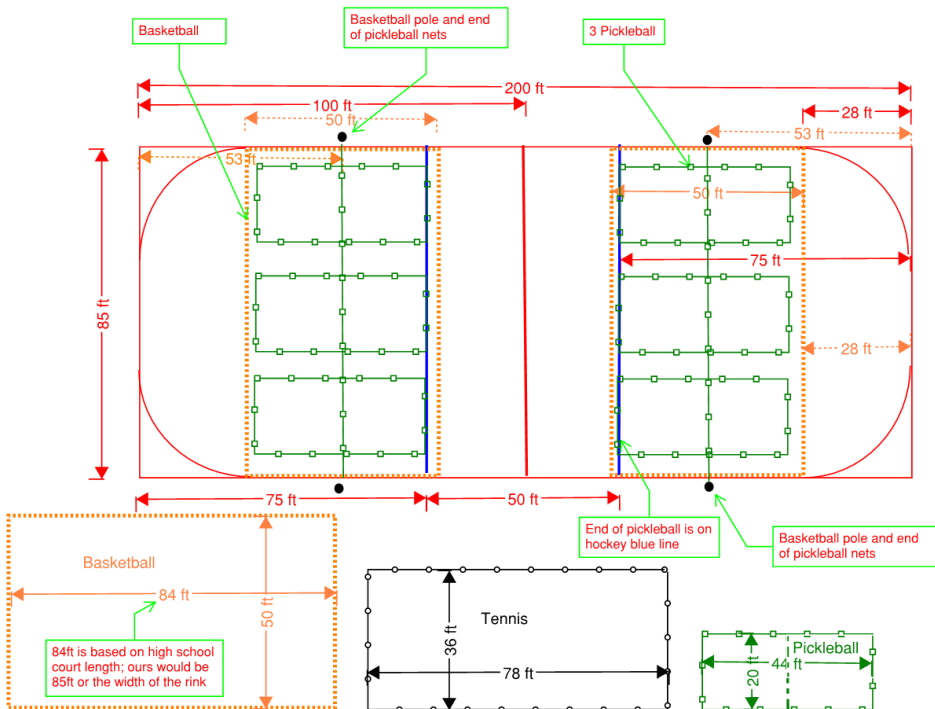
Assuming we are able to proceed with the installation of a concrete base in the rink to make it a year-round asset, and raise the funds for related enhancements, we will be acid-etching and painting court lines on the concrete rink base. A 200 ft x 85 ft NHL size rink seems huge but there is insufficient room to put 2 tennis courts within the boards and not have players colliding between courts. We are currently looking at the following options for the concrete slab.

Ice hockey Ball hockey Soccer Basketball Pickleball

What are we missing as possibilities? Let us know at info@theridgeonline.ca

How do court sports fit within the boards? For a better resolution picture check out Facebook/ridgecommunity

The following shows two basketball courts across the width of the surface. Three pickleball courts are an alternative to a basketball court, with the piles for the basketball poles doubling as anchors for the ends of the pickleball nets.



Fundraising

The total cost of our new hall, parking lot, landscaping and rink is over \$2.3 million and it took us 9 years to raise the funds via countless grant applications, casinos and judicious management of operating revenues. In order to get it built, and assuming we are able to proceed with the concrete base to make it a year-round asset, we have had to strip out anything that could be bolted on or purchased later. If we are unable to complete the concrete base now while crews and equipment remain 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 managed to reach the current 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 fund raising 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 utilized to recognize and thank donors. Details will follow shortly on this idea, but don't wait to contact us at info@theridgeonline.ca to donate or inquire.

Henderson and Hadow Parks School Sites

Henderson Park – In 2009 the former school site in the SW corner of Henderson Park was one of second batch of 20 declared surplus by the school board and it is one of only a couple left undeveloped from that group. On February 1 Councillor Cartmell sent an email to The Ridge CL:

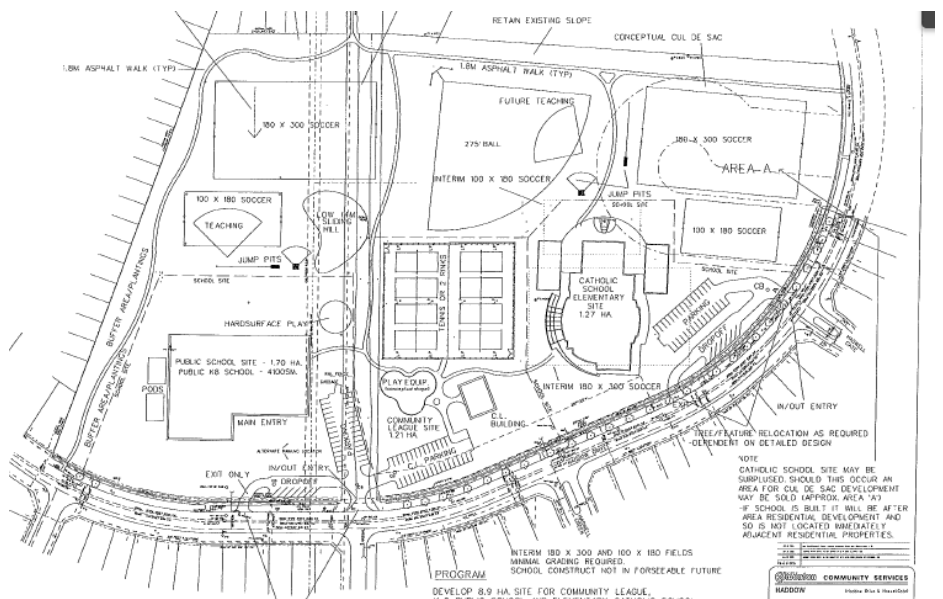
"I made a motion at Executive Committee, which passed unanimously, that City Administration look at building locations along Riverbend Road as an alternative to the surplus school site there. Administration will need at least 6 months to examine technical questions (services, transit, etc.) and bring a report back to Council. That report will likely be presented before any public engagement starts, and public engagement must happen before any moves towards building can be made. Action here is months if not years away. My hope is that we can still get the park off the list, but failing that, we can at least examine a more palatable solution at Riverbend Road."

The Ridge CL will be supporting a grass roots committee to engage the community and enable individuals to look at Henderson Park from many aspects and with open minds. Reach out to us at info@theridgeonline.ca to get involved.

Hadow Park – Hadow Park was originally destined to have two schools; a Catholic elementary school where Hadow Current townhouses were built as part of the First Place program. That site was part of the 20 school sites declared surplus in 2006.

The second location was a public school site for K to 8 occupying 1.7ha in the north west corner of Hadow Park. EPSB recently declared it surplus to its needs as it does not intend to build a school on that location. "The Division will adhere to the provincial Disposition of Property regulations and be offered to the other two school divisions as outlined in the Joint Use Agreement – Land". The City of Edmonton and The Ridge CL were unaware that the board was reviewing the site, and we have been told that The City has no plans for the site.

The following is an original site development map from 2002. It shows the locations of the playground that The Ridge CL built and the licensed land that The Ridge CL has built the rink and hall on. The former Catholic school site is in the bottom right, or southwest corner. The EPSB site is in the northwest corner, or bottom left.



The Crisis in Continuing Care

Seniors built our province and are the heart and soul of our community. They deserve to live with dignity and respect

By Rakhi Pancholi, MLA, Edmonton-Whitemud

The past year has been difficult for all of us. While Albertans of all ages and walks of life have become sick or died as a result of COVID-19, the majority of those who have died have been seniors. We have lost more than 1,000 Albertans residing in continuing care.

Each of those deaths was someone's spouse, sibling, parent, grandparent or friend. Every one of these people still had love to give and wisdom to share. As we look to the months ahead, there are reasons to be hopeful about the future, but we cannot forget the uncomfortable truths that this pandemic has exposed. This is particularly true in the case of how we care for seniors.

My NDP colleagues and I have done our best to provide constructive suggestions to the government throughout the pandemic, including recommendations specific to caring for seniors.

Last spring, we proposed a provincial investment of more than \$170 million to help keep residents and staff in long-term care, designated supportive living facilities and seniors' lodges safe from COVID-19. We proposed funding for enhanced staffing and extra cleaning supplies and to address lost accommodation revenue. We called on the government to assist with the cost of life-saving PPE for residents and workers.

We also called on the government to raise wages for workers and prohibit them from working at multiple facilities, to avoid spreading infection from one continuing care location to another. Sadly, the UCP government put that order on hold and no explanation was provided for their decision to allow workers to move between facilities. The government also waited almost a year to provide support for frontline workers who had put their

lives at risk, months after most other provinces.

Last fall, we called for twice-weekly tests to be administered to residents and to staff at the beginning of each shift. Those testing positive would then be given a standard test. We argued that, if rapid testing was adequate for the NHL playoffs and travellers at airports, then it should be used to protect those most vulnerable to COVID-19.

We cannot afford to let a future pandemic take this kind of toll on seniors living in continuing care. We also need to address problems around the quality of care residents received and the effects of social isolation. We have called on the UCP government to launch a full investigation into the management of the COVID-19 crisis in Alberta's continuing care facilities. As of this writing, the UCP has refused to establish a public inquiry.

We have also called on the government to re-establish an independent Seniors' Advocate with investigative powers who can help seniors navigate a complicated system.

Seniors built our province and are the heart and soul of our community. They deserve to live with dignity and respect.

If you have thoughts on how to improve care for seniors or on other important issues, please reach out to me by e-mail at Edmonton.whitemud@assembly.ab.ca or call my office.



Southwest Edmonton Farmers' Market Update

The 2021 Market Season Opens May 19th

By Christie Anderson

The Southwest Edmonton Farmers' Market begins our 11th season on Wednesday, May 19th, and we cannot wait to see everyone there!

Starting May 19th, you can find us in Parking Lot D at the Terwillegar Rec Centre from 4-7:30pm on Wednesdays. We have 21 market dates this year; the final one is Oct. 6th. This year's market will look similar to last year in terms of the COVID protocols; i.e. lining up to enter the market, expectations around keeping your distance when lining up at the vendors' stalls, etc... All up-to-date information will be posted on our website (swefm.ca) in early May, as well as on all our social media outlets.

We are excited to announce that most of our previous year's vendors will be returning for 2021.

And, as well as the many fantastic returning vendors, we have many new gems joining us. By early May, you will be able to find a full vendor list on our website. We also release a weekly "Fresh Sheet" on Tuesday mornings, which lists all the vendors that will be in attendance that week, along with any seasonal products or specials they may be offering.

Sadly, we are not offering the Sprouts or Community Tent Programs this year. However, we expect to run our Curbside

Pickup Program once again, as this program was such a hit in 2020!

Beginning May 11th, you will be able to shop online from all participating vendors. Once you select your products, you pay online for your products upon checkout, book a pickup time through a link we provide, and voila! All you need to do on market day is pull into one of our designated curbside stalls and a market attendant will bring your order to your vehicle.

Lastly, we will be looking for volunteers to help in our curbside pickup tent. This is a fun role for post-secondary students or adult volunteers in the community who are looking to get out of the house and work with a great community initiative

with a fun, hardworking team. Last year's volunteers had a blast, and many stayed on for the entire season. We are happy to provide employment references/letters for any volunteers who work five shifts or more. Please email swefm.manager@gmail.com if you are interested in this opportunity. See you in six weeks!

We are still accepting vendor applications. Visit swefm.ca for more info. Find us on Facebook (@swefm.ca), Twitter (@SWEFM_YEG) and Instagram (swefm).



TRAC Update: Website, Wine and Walk

The annual run/walk will be a virtual event beginning May 30

By Karin Shott

The Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council (TRAC) has a brand new website!



Please check it out at yegtrac.ca.

At the time of print, the TRAC Community Office, which is located in the Terwillegar Community Recreation Centre, is still closed to the public. We are hopeful the office will be open soon. You can still reach the office at yegTRAC@gmail.com or by leaving a message at 780-439-9394.

During these uncertain times, please remember that your Community League needs your support more than ever! As the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues says, "When you purchase a Community League membership, you help your Community League bring residents together, improve community amenities, and enhance the quality of life for you and your neighbours." Learn more at efcl.org.

"The Ridge Vines" is the third wine in our series celebrating the Community Leagues in Area H. It's a red wine with grape du jour, a dark, brooding, oak-laden version crammed with plums, damson and mulberry fruits. It is only available at Vines Wine Merchants.

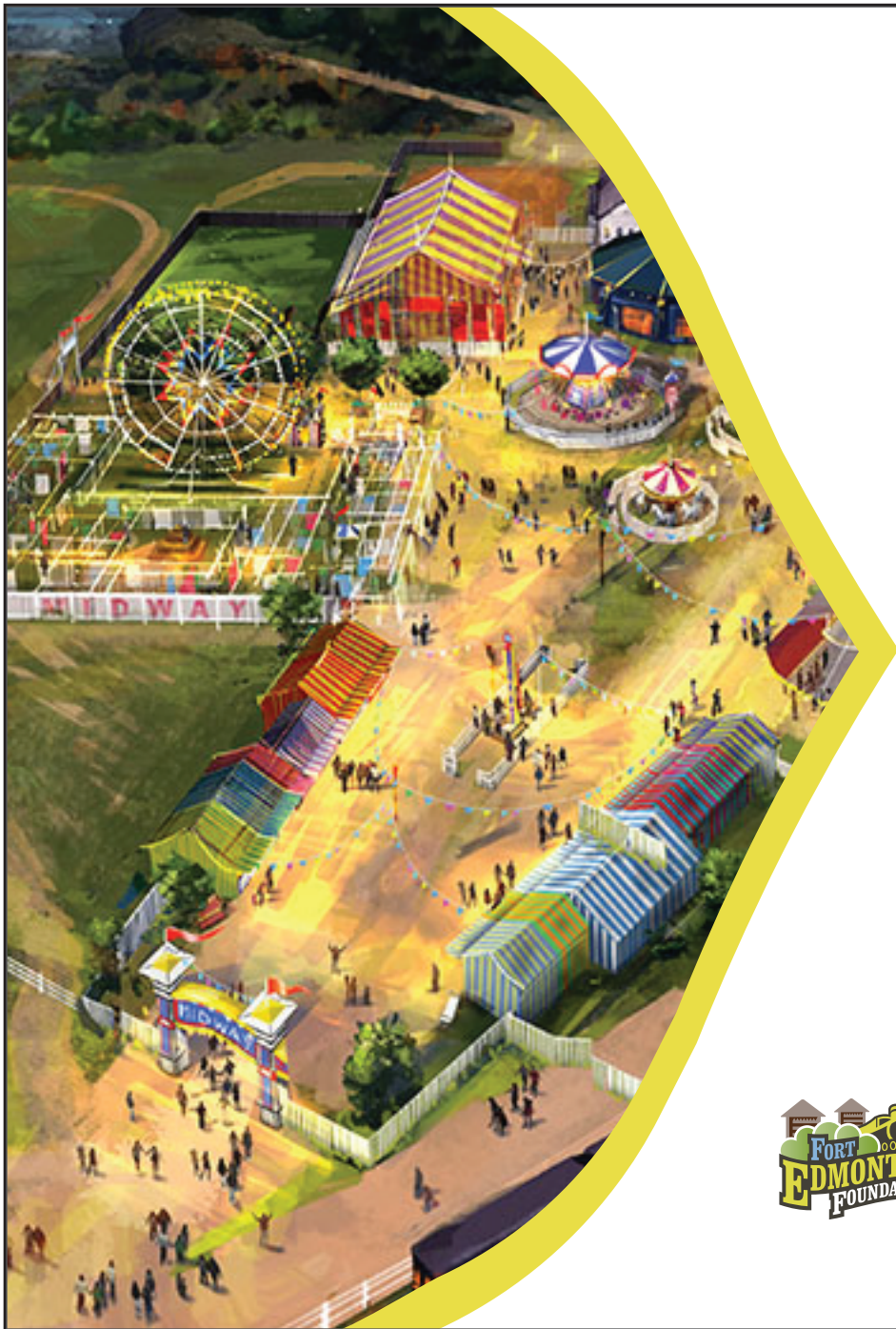
TRAC Community Run/Walk - 2021

We are pleased to announce that this year's TRAC Community Run/Walk will be a virtual event held from May 30th – June 30th, 2021. Added this year will also be an extra component - Bike Yo

ur Community! Register at runningroom.com.

Save the Date for these Upcoming TRAC Events:

- TRAC AGM: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 via Zoom
- Southwest Edmonton Farmers' Market Opening Day: Wed. May 19, 2021
- Virtual TRAC Community Run/Walk: May 30 – June 30, 2021



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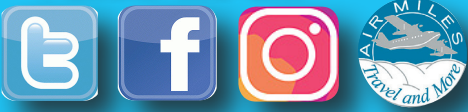
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SOLD HADDOW	SOLD TWIN BROOKS	SOLD SHERWOOD PARK
SOLD MAGRATH HEIGHTS	SOLD MAGRATH HEIGHTS	SOLD MAGRATH HEIGHTS
SOLD WINDERMERE	SOLD KESWICK	SOLD THE PEARL
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