

MARCH 2025

Next League Meeting:
WEDNESDAY April 2
7 pm at the hall

THE MCKERNAN MESSENGER

Since
1954

A publication of the McKernan Community League

Circulation 1,100

Magical Easter Adventure

Saturday, April 19

12 - 1:30 pm at McKernan Hall

Hoppy Holidays! Join us for an egg-citing Easter celebration filled with magic and fun! Get ready for:

- A dazzling magic show with mind-blowing illusions and hilarious comedy for all ages. Show starts at noon in Weichman (large) room in the hall.
- An Easter egg hunt with hundreds of colorful eggs, some in the open for young kids, and some hidden around the grounds for older ones.
- Meet and greet with the Easter Bunny himself!

BYOB: bring your own basket.

Bookkeeper needed

The McKernan Community League is looking for a part-time bookkeeper to manage accounts using Simply Accounting by Sage.

The ideal candidate will be in McKernan or a nearby community, and able to work in the office in McKernan Hall for 10 to 15 hours per month (flexible hours). The position is supervised by the league treasurer and the president.

Send your resume, outlining your availability and experience with Simply Accounting or other accounting programs, to Alison Stephens, president@mckernancommunity.org.



Winterfest 25 on March 2 brought McKernanites out for bannock-making, horse-drawn sleigh rides, and maple candy! More photos on page 3.

Annual General Meeting coming up in April

The McKernan Community League Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Wednesday April 23, 2025 at the Community Hall, and followed by the traditional wine and cheese mixer.

Are you interested in getting more involved with our community? We will be looking for some new board members and executives at this AGM. General board responsibilities include:

- attending a monthly board meeting (usually held the first Wednesday of the month)
- helping oversee the current activities and responsibilities of the league (hall operation, budget, events, et c)
- taking on projects based on your own interests and what needs to be done (ideas we would love to pursue include increasing student involvement, community garden, artwork in the community, sustainability initiatives - or perhaps you have a great idea of your own!)

Positions up for election in April are: president and vice-president (2-year term), and 2 directors-at-large (2-year terms).

Not quite ready for a board position? There are still lots of places you can help out.

If you are interested and want to know more, contact president Alison Stephens at president@mckernancommunity.org.

Some minor administrative changes are also proposed for the league bylaws. Final proposed text will be posted on the website (mckernancommunity.org) later in March and published in April edition of the Messenger, prior to being voted on at the AGM.

Community Contacts

PRESIDENT	Alison Stephens	president@mckernancommunity.org
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Ross	vicepresident@mckernancommunity.org
SECRETARY	Ingrid Poulin	secretary@mckernancommunity.org
TREASURER	Rita Bakshi	treasurer@mckernancommunity.org
DIRECTORS	Rolinda Graham	director1@mckernancommunity.org
	Milap Petigara	director2@mckernancommunity.org
	BJ Serink	director3@mckernancommunity.org
	Roberta Franchuk	director4@mckernancommunity.org
PAST PRESIDENT	Phil Kloc	pastpresident@mckernancommunity.org
TRANSPORTATION	Ingrid and Tom Poulin	
HOUSING ISSUES	Housing committee	development@mckernancommunity.org
PLAYGROUP	---vacant---	
SCHOOL LIAISON	---vacant---	
SOCCER - Adult	Brad Odsen	bodsen@telusplanet.net
SOCCER - Youth	Mike Blennerhassett	belmac@belgraviaedmonton.ca
	emsasouthwest.com	
CRICKET	C. Marathalingam	780-438-0460 www.ascacricket.com
SKATING RINK	---vacant---	
CASINO CHAIR	---vacant---	
HISTORIAN	Nancy Corrigan	nancycorrigan96@gmail.com
POCKET PARK	Laura Querengesser	pocketpark@mckernancommunity.org
SOUTH CAMPUS	Wiggert Hessels	

League Memberships

Memberships in your community league support programs, socials, hall activities, newsletters, and more; PLUS the League is looking out for your interests in housing, transportation, services and more. See the membership form at www.mckernancommunity.org.

MEMBERSHIPS Rob Hamilton memberships@mckernancommunity.org

McKernan Messenger

The McKernan Messenger is published ten times per year.

Advertising deadline: 1st of the month.

NEWSLETTER Roberta Franchuk
CONTENT messenger@mckernancommunity.org
DISTRIBUTION Cherie Hoyles

www.mckernancommunity.org

WEB MANAGER Roberta Franchuk info@mckernancommunity.org

City of Edmonton

CITY COUNCILLOR Michael Janz 780-496-8146
(Ward papastew) michael.janz@edmonton.ca
COMMUNITY SERVICES

See the latest news at

www.mckernancommunity.org,

or follow us on Facebook or Instagram!



RENT THE MCKERNAN COMMUNITY CENTRE!

The community centre, located at 11341-78 Avenue, is open again! Our facility includes smaller meeting spaces along with a main hall complete with danceable wooden floor and air conditioning. More information about the hall and how to rent it is available at www.mckernancommunity.org. For bookings, contact the manager at hall@mckernancommunity.org.

	Main Hall	Meeting Room
Capacity	150	60
Hourly Rate (GST will be added)		
Weekend (Fri evening, Sat, Sun)	\$65/hr	\$55/hr
Weekday (day and evening)	\$45/hr	\$35/hr
Long-Term Rentals (multi-week, with contract)	\$40/hr	\$30/hr

Residents of McKernan who are members of the community league receive a 15% discount on one-time hall rentals. GST will also be charged on rentals. Damage deposit will also be required, and renters must obtain their own event insurance.

Community event calendar

Presented by the McKernan Community League and/or other community partners.

EVENT	Location	Date/Time
Easter Egg Hunt	McKernan Community Centre (11341-78 Ave.)	Saturday, April 19, 12 - 1:30 pm
Annual General Meeting	McKernan Community Centre (11341-78 Ave.)	Wednesday, April 23, 7 p.m.
Big Bin Event	McKernan Community Centre (11341-78 Ave.)	Sunday, April 27 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Free Swim	Confederation Pool (membershccip required)	Sundays 4 to 5:30 p.m.



Winterfest 25

The warm temperature was making short work of the snow, but McKernan's winterfest was back with fun for all!

Thanks to all the volunteers and participants.



Community notes

On the stage with Geriactors

GeriActors is a unique theatre programs for ages 55+. Programs are facilitated by local theatre artists ready to share their "theatre know-how." believe in playful theatre and creative aging where theatre games, laughter and fun result in a great deal of learning and wonderful theatre. Spring workshops and classes include:

- Cupful of Theatre: Wake up the senses and grow your drama bug
- Intro to Clowning: Discover your personal clown, and find the things that make you uniquely funny
- Improv: Back to Basics: Learn how to create characters and make up stories on the spot.
- Improv: Expansion: Develop a strong foundation in improvisation, further exploring scene structure, character, and storytelling
- Sketch Writing: Explore a variety of sketch writing methods and get to see your work on stage
- Dance Theatre: Discover how movement and music can transform storytelling

Locations are St. Paul's United Church, Bonnie Doon Community League, and Westend Seniors Activity Centre. Get times and locations or register online at geriactors.ca

Golf for kids

River Valley Junior Golf is a program for kids ages 6-18 yrs to bring more affordable golf to a wider audience of Edmontonian families. Membership benefits include subsidized rounds of golf at City of Edmonton courses (Rundle, Riverside and Victoria), access to bursaries and scholarships, access to tournaments, lessons and events. Membership goes on sale March 10. Limited spots available. See www.rvjg.ca for more information.

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Spring cleaning? The Big Bin is back in April!

The next Big Bin event will be Sunday, April 27, from 10 am to 3 pm in the community hall parking lot (11341-78 Ave.). Community members will be able to bring residential waste including furniture and yard waste (no mattresses or household hazardous items, please).

The League is looking for a few volunteers to help direct traffic and keep the site tidy. Contact director3@mckernancommunity.org if you can help out for a bit.

Stay tuned for more information about this event, including the possibility of creating a "Re-Use Spot"

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Contact Ethan

780-245-3234

Lay of the land

Once I asked a senior citizen where she thought that phrase may have come from. 'The pioneers,' she thought.

Old Strathcona looks back in the mind's eye for over half a century. "A pleasant little body of water nestled in a poplar grove. There were trails—just two or three---down to its reeded edge and in the golden eventide the little lake lay quietly, throwing back to the sky the blues, golds and scarlets of the fading day." In an earlier Journal article of 1914, McKernan's lake was very much in the limelight. That year had been wet, causing the lake to rise, some 12 feet. City engineers had started to install sewers in the area. Ditches were dug to take the runoff which ended up in McKernan Lake. Sewage drained into the lake. Rather than spending oodles of money to drain the lake, Edmonton city council decided to spend three-four thousand dollars to drain off the flooded lots surrounding the lake. The decision to drain the lake was made later.

In March of 2025, some alleys and streets are filled with pools of water because of 'the lay of the land' we live in. Large trucks constructing new homes create larger pools. In 1914, the ghost of McKernan lake referred to rising waters, drainage difficulties that ironically still occur.

Nancy Corrigan,

McKernan Historian, March 5, 2025

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McKernan beats city's tree canopy goal

McKernan has some of the highest tree canopy cover in Edmonton outside of the river valley! We have 33% canopy cover, compared to the city goal of 20%. This is according to Dustin Bajer, a local "educator, master gardener, beekeeper, and nature-inspired designer" who has tracked city tree canopy coverage at his blog dustinbajer.com/edmonton-tree-canopy-coverage-by-neighbourhood. Currently, the Edmonton tree canopy is sitting around 13%, according to Bajer.

Other than river Valley areas such as Laurier and Whitemud Creek, other well-treed areas include Windsor Park (34%), Glenora and Parkallen (both 33%), and Belgravia and Garneau (both 30%).

Unfortunately, urban trees are often stressed by lack of water, pollution, physical damage from things like snow removal, root compaction from construction, or disease. Not to mention the large losses of private trees that are removed during infill construction.

If you have property, consider planting a tree (or large shrub). The city has a list of native trees and shrubs that are hardy and suitable for Edmonton conditions. The list at www.edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/assets/PDF/NaturalYards-NativeShrubs.pdf gives suitable plants with a variety of heights for different sized properties, light and moisture conditions.

If you're looking for a volunteer opportunity, check out Root for Trees, the City of Edmonton's volunteer tree-planting initiative. You can attend a drop-in planting

event or organize a planting program. Find out more at www.edmonton.ca/city-government/initiatives_innovation/root-for-trees

The best time to plant a tree was thirty years ago; the second best time is today – Proverb, unknown origin



Our boulevard elms are a critical part of the quality of life in Edmonton's central neighbourhoods

Development Applications

Feb. 1 to Mar. 8, 2025

The list below covers permits that have been applied for in McKernan. Permits are under review unless otherwise noted. Complete information, including permit number and the name of the applicant, is available at the City of Edmonton mapping website maps.edmonton.ca > Development Applications; or in more detail at the Open Data Portal (data.edmonton.ca and search for Development Permits Map view).

Requested and approved planning applications (i.e. for rezoning, not development) are listed at https://www.edmonton.ca/residential_neighbourhoods/neighbourhoods/planning-applications. If you have any questions about a project, contact development@mckernancommunity.org.

11532-80 Ave.	To demolish a single detached house and detached garage.
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