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DEC 2022

**Next League Meeting:
Monday January 9, 2023 7pm**

THE MCKERNAN MESSENGER

A publication of the McKernan Community League

Circulation 1,100



A low winter sun illuminates the murals on the McKernan rink shack.

METRO78 APPROVED

On Dec 6 City Council voted 10-1 in favour of the bylaw changes associated with Metro78, a development proposing two transit-oriented midrise apartments up to 23 meters high (approximately six stories) at the corner of 78 Ave and 114 St.

The motions had originally been brought to council in September 2022. At that time council sent the project back to administration to address the width of the greenspace adjacent to the buildings, as well as some safety concerns regarding waste collection.

After hearing speakers for and against the motions, council asked many questions of city administration. Eventually the motions carried, with only Councillor Janz opposing.

See Page 4 for an opinion piece from the Belmac Group: Neighbours React to Metro78

HAWRELAK PARK CLOSURE, RENEWAL

In spring of 2023 William Hawrelak Park will close in order to begin a vast rehabilitation project addressing utilities, roadways, open spaces, and facility infrastructure. City administration says that full park closure for up to three years is necessary for safe and efficient work to occur.

Detailed design of the rehabilitation was completed this fall, and funding was approved in the recent budget deliberations. While the exact date for the closure has not been announced, it will take place some time after the 2023 Silver Skate Festival, which runs February 10 - 20.

Many of the major events and festivals that are usually held in the park have found temporary alternate homes for 2023 - 2025. In November The Edmonton Journal reported that Heritagefest would be held at the Edmonton Exhibition Lands and Borden Park during Hawrelak's closure.

The river valley trail system around the perimeter of the park will remain open during construction. Occasional detours in

the trail system will likely be required.

The scope of work is vast, and there are few aspects of the park that will not be affected. Areas of work include deep utilities like the storm sewer system and water distribution; facilities like the main pavillion, washrooms, boathouse, and amphitheatre; and open spaces like the playground and paddleboat dock.

During public engagement on the rehabilitation many local residents were surprised and frustrated by a full closure for as long as three years. Administration insisted that full closure was necessary due to the scope and complexity of the work.

Many of the utilities and facilities in the park are from the original park construction in the 1950s and 60s.

Originally called Mayfair Park, the popular public space opened on July 1, 1967. It was renamed in 1982 to commemorate the Edmonton mayor who proposed its development.

THANK YOU!

Michelle Mitchell

For leading and organizing the McKernan Playgroup. Michelle is taking a leave, but we are so grateful for all of her time and effort!

We are currently looking for someone to take over organization of the group. If you are interested please email philipgkloc@gmail.com

-The McKernan Community League

Community Contacts

PRESIDENT	Phil Kloc	780-965-0773
	president@mckernancommunity.org	
VICE-PRESIDENT	Jerry Zhang	
SECRETARY	Ingrid Poulin	
	ingrid2323@gmail.com	
TREASURER	Jen Bodnar	
DIRECTORS	Marilyn Johnson	
	Rekha Shepherd	
	Milap Petigara	
	Rolinda Graham	
PAST PRESIDENT	Roberta Franchuk	780-431-4924
TRANSPORTATION	Ingrid and Tom Poulin	
	ingrid2323@gmail.com	
HOUSING ISSUES	Housing committee	
	housingdevelopments@mckernancommunity.org	
PLAYGROUP	--vacant--	
SCHOOL LIAISON	Michelle Jones	780-436-4134
SOCCER - Adult	Brad Odsen	
	bodsen@telusplanet.net	
SOCCER - Youth	Alykhan Sumar	
	belmac@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
	https://emsasouthwest.com/	
CRICKET	C. Marathalingam	780-438-0460
	www.ascacricket.com	
SKATING RINK	Greg Jones	780-222-2096
SOCIAL CONVENOR	Rekha Shepherd	
HISTORIAN	--vacant--	
POCKET PARK	Michelle Jones	780-289-0635
	4ourpocketpark@gmail.com	
SOUTH CAMPUS LIAISON	Wiggert Hessels	780-432-6379

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 Alison Stephens
mckernanmembership@gmail.com

McKernan Messenger

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NEWSLETTER CONTENT Allan Suddaby
newsletter@mckernancommunity.org

DISTRIBUTION Cherie Hoyles

www.mckernancommunity.org

WEBSITE MANAGER Roberta Franchuk 780-431-4924
webmaster@mckernancommunity.org

City of Edmonton

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES Kate Russell 780-496-5915
kate.russell@edmonton.ca



REMINDER: COMMUNITY GARDEN INITIATIVE

A reminder that Michael Frost is currently looking for McKernan and Belgravia residents who are interested in working to start a community garden in our area.

If you are interested in helping out or learning more, email Michael at:

greanland101@gmail.com

RENT THE MCKERNAN COMMUNITY CENTRE!

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

Capacity & Rates

	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.



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Community Events

Flying Canoë Volant Festival

The Flying Canoë Volant Festival returns to Mill Creek Ravine February 1-4, 2023. This atmospheric event includes live music, storytelling, light displays, and dress actors playing out the Quebecois fable of La Chasse-Galerie.

Silver Skate Festival

Silver Skate, Edmonton's longest-running winter festival, will run in Hawrelak Park February 10 - 20, 2023. The festival includes a snow sculpture garden, a heritage village, sporting events, and a 1 km skating loop. Embrace Edmonton as a winter city and check out this great event!

Creating a Neighbourly Vibe

Are you hoping to get more connected in your neighbourhood? Do you want to know your neighbours and feel a stronger sense of belonging? Abundant Community Edmonton (ACE) is running online workshops to train leaders in building safe, connected, vibrant communities. There are two-hour online sessions running January 12 and 26. Visit https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/for_communities/abundant-community-edmonton for more information and registration links.



MCKERNAN CHILD CARE SOCIETY

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Email: mccs@shaw.ca

Phone: 780-437-1971

Website: <http://www.mckernanchildcare.com/>

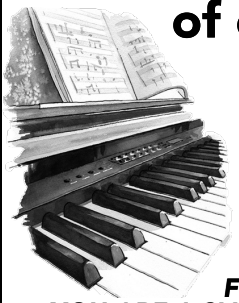
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heather.mcpherson@parl.gc.ca

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NEIGHBOURS REACT TO METRO78

OPINION

by Roni Kraut, of the Belmac Group

Metro78, the proposal for two large apartment buildings at 114 Street and 78 Avenue, was approved by City Council on December 6, 2022. We are disheartened but not surprised by this outcome.

City Council sent Metro78 back to administration in September to address safety concerns and the reduction in the green spine. The revised Metro78 proposal did not adequately address either of these issues. Rather than eliminating the hazard as we proposed, the hazard remained and the community will have to rely on administrative controls, such as parking signs. Although the green spine was increased by 1 m, the front setback was reduced by 1m, which effectively left the total green space between the LRT fence and the buildings unchanged. This will provide a total of 10 m of green space, significantly less than the 15 m recommended by the McKernan/Belgravia Station Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP).

The developer and his team spoke passionately that further delays may compromise building Metro78 and urged City Council to approve the proposal. However, the reason for the delays was not clarified. Community members eloquently presented the unresolved issues surrounding Metro78 and advocated City Council to send Metro78 back to administration.

Councillors spent over an hour asking questions to administration. Unfortunately, administration minimized community concerns, the hearing structure did not allow community members to address the misinformation presented, and Council ultimately approved the proposal.

The process of advocating for community rights and connecting with the community leagues, community members, and other communities across Edmonton has been an eye-opening experience. We feel we have made some strong points regardless of Metro78 being approved.

Further, in the process we have identified ways to reduce the power imbalances communities currently face, including requiring the City to provide community members development information on a regular basis, allowing speakers to challenge administration assertions at the hearing, creating an independent community advocate position within the City, and establishing lobbying guidelines. Communities need the ability to meaningfully advocate so densification will fit within their local context, which in turn will help Edmonton meet the vision of its City Plan.

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SURVEY: HOW DO YOU READ THE MESSENGER?

Help us craft the future of The Messenger

As we try to balance accessibility and sustainability, we want to know how and why you read The Messenger. There are three ways to let us know!

1. Online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BJZSGVX>
2. Email newsletter@mckernancommunity.org answering the questions below.
3. Answer the questions below in writing and leave your responses in the McKernan Community Hall mailbox.

What form of the The McKernan Messenger do you read?

- online or printed copy

Is it important for you to receive a printed copy of The Messenger?

- yes or no

What Messenger content is most important to you?

- community events
- community contacts
- development information
- civics and municipal issues
- ads for local businesses and services
- other (please specify): _____

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A FORAY INTO WINTER CYCLING

LIFESTYLE

by Allan Suddaby



For several years now, depending on weather I have either cycled or taken transit to work. From May to September I have cycled most days, but come fall, once the temperature gets down to 0°C, or there is snow on the ground, I have always stopped cycling and started using transit. In fact I've always considered people who bike in the winter to be a special kind of crazy.

This year with municipal conversations around active transportation, climate action, bike lanes, and embracing Edmonton as a winter city, I decided to try out winter cycling. Here are some of my experiences and recommendations.

It does not require as much specialized gear as I initially thought.

I assumed that to cycle safely in the winter I would need a new bike, one of the “fat tire” bikes that cost up to \$2000. It turns out there is a much more affordable solution in special winter tires with metal studs that fit on my current bike. A new set of these tires cost less than \$200 at United Cycle. They are remarkably effective, which brings me to the next thing I learned.

Ice is not (usually) an issue.

Even on glare ice the studded winter tires are reliable. Of course, just as if you were driving, you might not take the same speeds as you would on bare pavement, or take

turns and stops as quickly. Icy ruts can be problematic, but generally any type of smooth, compacted snow or ice poses no significant handling issues.

Cold is not (usually) an issue.

If you are used to walking or taking transit in Edmonton in the winter, cycling does not pose any more significant challenges in terms of keeping warm. In fact, because of the exertion of cycling, I generally dress much lighter than if I were walking. For temperatures down to -20°C I have been comfortable with a light toque under my helmet, a sweater, windbreaker, long underwear, loose jeans, double socks, and running shoes. A light balaclava to cover your neck and chin would be good on really cold days. Also ski goggles help when it is snowing.

The cold is actually harder on the bike itself than on my body. Below zero my brakes and gear shifters are a little less responsive, so I ride with an abundance of caution. Keeping the bike clean and using wet-weather lubricant on the chain and gears helps.

The biggest single issue for winter cycling is snow removal.

The real issue is accumulated snow or slush. Even with my studded tires, a couple inches of fresh snow or slush has my bike sliding and fishtailing all over the path. The first day or two after a snowfall there are usually sections of my route that have not been cleared, for which I have to dismount and “portage”.

Bike parking is another big issue.

One issue I had not anticipated was with parking my bike. I started locking up my bike at a standard bike rack. However the prospect of coming out to a frozen or snow-covered bike is much more problematic than an icy car windshield. Brakes and gears can become fully seized with ice and snow. Sometimes I had to bring my bike inside to let it thaw out before it could be used.

I am fortunate that my workplace has bike lockers available to rent. These are large, fully-enclosed steel compartments with locking doors. Besides the added security,

they keep my bike free of snow and ice while I'm at work.

This is one major piece of infrastructure that will need to be addressed if the city wants Edmontonians to bike in the winter.

Commute Times

On days when the roads and bike lanes are fully clear of snow, my commute does not take much longer than in the summer months. The first couple days after snowfall my commutes have taken at most 1.5 times as long (45 minutes instead of 30).

Recommendation: Try it

In summer I think of my ride to work as a 30 minute workout with very few interruptions. Riding in the winter my mentality is much different: I need to be more patient and flexible, and adapt to the conditions. I might need to go much slower than I am used to. I might need to dismount and walk. It will likely take longer. I have built this into my schedule, and most days I am able to derive all the same benefits of cycling that I do in the warmer months. If you are a cyclist who has been on the fence about biking in winter, I recommend you give it a go.

Edmonton Bike Plan

- The city has a comprehensive Bike Plan that aims to let people bike “for all reasons in all seasons.”
- This fall Council Approved \$100M for an accelerated build-out of city bike routes
- In the last 10 years, bike trips in Edmonton have nearly doubled

Source: City of Edmonton website

Development Applications

November 15 to December 31

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

11328 - 79 Ave	To operate a minor home based business (administration for computer programming).
7719 - 111 St	To develop a secondary suite to a semi-detached house (existing suite, 7719 only). Basement includes 2 bedrooms, 1 living room, 1 bathroom, 1 laundry room, and 2 mechanical rooms.

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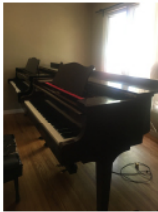

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