

NOV 2022

Next League Meeting:  
Monday December 12, 2022 7pm

# THE MCKERNAN MESSENGER

Since  
1954

A publication of the McKernan Community League

Circulation 1,100

## WELCOME WINTER

Some information and reminders now that winter is upon us.

### New Parking Ban Notification System.

The city of Edmonton has a new system to provide more timely and personalized notifications related to snow clearing. You can receive information eight to 12 hours ahead of a parking ban for snow clearing, and specific information about 24 hours ahead of work on your street. Visit [my.edmonton.ca](http://my.edmonton.ca) to create a new account and subscribe.

**Winter Waste Collection Schedule.** A reminder that the city is now running its winter waste collection schedule



*Snow sculpting in McKernan Park*

**Snow Removal Assistance.** The city has cancelled the Shovelling Super Hero program, which was intended to match people needing assistance with snow removal with volunteers. If you need help with snow removal, consider contacting the Campus Unicef Snow Keepers, who shovel walks in exchange for donations to Unicef Canada. Write [snowkeepers.ualberta@gmail.com](mailto:snowkeepers.ualberta@gmail.com) or phone Sania at 780-995-4575 for more information.



*The mural on the north end of the Rollie Miles Athletic Park bleachers.*

## ROLLIE MILES PUBLIC INFO RECAP

On November 1 the city held its first public information session for the Rollie Miles Rec Centre project. The project team, including Edmonton city planners and consulting architects from MJMA and Group2 Architecture, shared three design options for the centre. A question and answer period followed.

The rec centre is designed to house a pool, a gymnasium, fitness facilities, and multi-use rooms. Plans for the adjacent greenspace include a skating loop, tennis courts, and a multi-sport court that can be flooded in winter for skating.

The three designs differed in the location and orientation of the centre on the site. The designs were compared in their ability to buffer sound from Calgary Trail, optimize winter sunlight, maximize the size of the greenspace, save existing trees, and make efficient use of funds, among other factors.

All three designs aligned with city goals for sustainability, active transport, and the "15 minute communities" at the core of the new City Plan.

The Rollie Miles Rec Centre is intended

to be a vibrant community hub to replace Scona Pool. The planned location for the centre is the current site of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, south of Scona High School. Detailed design and

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construction of this project are currently not funded, but will be discussed by city council over the coming weeks as part of 2023-2026 budget deliberations.

The entire Rollie Miles Rec Centre information session is posted on YouTube.com.

# Community Contacts

|                      |   |              |
|----------------------|---|--------------|
| PRESIDENT            | Phil Kloc                                 | 780-965-0773 |
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| VICE-PRESIDENT       | Jerry Zhang                               |              |
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| PAST PRESIDENT       | Roberta Franchuk                          | 780-431-4924 |
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|                      | housingdevelopments@mckernancommunity.org |              |
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| 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.ascacricicket.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](http://www.mckernancommunity.org).

|             |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| MEMBERSHIPS | Alison Stephens              |
|             | mckernanmembership@gmail.com |

## McKernan Messenger

The McKernan Messenger is published ten times per year. Advertising deadline: 5th of the month.

|                    |                                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
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## www.mckernancommunity.org

|                 |                                 |              |
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## City of Edmonton

|                    |                          |              |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
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| 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:

[greenland101@gmail.com](mailto:greenland101@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](mailto:hallrentalmckernancommunity@gmail.com). More information about the hall and how to rent it is available at [www.mckernancommunity.org](http://www.mckernancommunity.org).

## Capacity & Rates

|  | Main Hall | Meeting Room |
|--|-----------|--------------|
| <b>Capacity</b>                                  | 150       | 60           |
| <b>Hourly Rate</b><br>(GST will be added)        |           |              |
| Weekend<br>(Fri evening, Sat, Sun)               | \$65/hr   | \$55/hr      |
| Weekday<br>(day and evening)                     | \$45/hr   | \$35/hr      |
| Long-Term Rentals<br>(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 Events

## The Poets are Back!

After two years of online readings, The Stroll of Poets Society are meeting and reciting poems in person again. President Janis Dow encourages members of the public to attend these events in which seasoned and published poets often read their works. Members of the public can also read a poem at the Open Mic, which happens after the scheduled readers have presented. Attendees give all readers a "deep and generous listening".

"We're one of the oldest poetry groups in the city. We began, 30 years ago, with poets reading and walking along Whyte Avenue, reciting poems in cafes and other businesses."

Stroll of Poets meetings are scheduled at The Upper Crust Cafe, 10909 86 Ave at 7pm on November 28 and December 12. There is a \$5 admission charge.

## 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 is a two-hour online session running Dec 8. Visit [https://www.edmonton.ca/programs\\_services\\_for\\_communities/abundant-community-edmonton](https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services_for_communities/abundant-community-edmonton) for more information and registration links.



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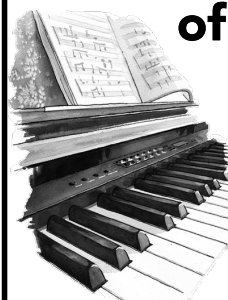
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# A CONVERSATION WITH MCKERNAN SCHOOL PRINCIPAL SCOTT HORTON

by Allan Suddaby

*If you have ever walked by McKernan School during weekday drop-offs, you have likely seen a man in a reflective vest greeting students, parents, and other passers-by. This is Scott Horton, the principal of McKernan School. I sat down with Scott in November and talked COVID, transit, and many other topics related to education and the community. Here's a bit of our conversation.*

**Allan:** *This fall feels a lot different at McKernan School than the last two years. What has been your experience so far this school year?*

**Scott:** Yes, a big change from the last couple years. For teachers it has been a busy and challenging fall because we are discovering what people are comfortable with and what they are not comfortable with, and trying to find a balance.

We had our first junior high dance last week. No student in this school has ever experienced a dance because our grade nines were in grade seven when COVID started. This is their first opportunity to have junior high the way that we think it should be. It's sad, really. I started my speech to our farewell last year by apologizing, by saying "I'm sorry" to the grade nines because they lost their junior high experience.

This year's different for sure. From the start there was a different energy in the staff... an excitement.

**Allan:** *Has anything positive come out of the last two years?*

**Scott:** Definitely. Our division has been focussing on the positives from the past couple of years. One of the best things that came out of the pandemic was flexibility. Teachers being flexible, and kids being flexible. The pandemic benefitted our resiliency in some ways.

**Allan:** *Were there specific changes made during the pandemic that were beneficial and will stick around?*

**Scott:** Yes, some meetings have remained online. For parent teacher meetings we are



McKernan School Principal Scott Horton

using a hybrid model, with one day of online meetings and another where people can come into the building. Our school council has decided to continue meeting online because attendance is better that way. The use of Google Classroom will also remain.

**Allan:** *Are there specific aspects of being in McKernan that affect the school?*

**Scott:** Us being on the LRT line is an interesting piece. I remember a student who lived on 153 Ave, east of 66 St. That's a long time by car to get here. 45 minutes on a good day. But he would get off school at 3:15 and be home by 4 o'clock. Just take the LRT, then hop on a bus. It wasn't a big deal for him to get here. The train helps us, because we have so many programs that pull students from different parts of the city.

**Allan:** *I know about the French Immersion Program. What others are offered here?*

**Scott:** In the elementary school we have French Immersion and English. In the junior high we have English, Academic Enrichment, French Immersion, Late French Immersion, and Spanish Bilingual. There are families from all over the city that choose to send their kids here for these programs. We're a unique school that way.

**Allan:** *What is Late French Immersion?*

**Scott:** Students that did elementary in the regular English can start grade seven with zero French background, and by grade nine

be right on par in language and academics with students that have been taking French from kindergarten. It's quite remarkable that the kids get to that point in only two years. The program is a gem, one of the best programs in the division.

**Allan:** *What's something you're excited about in terms of public education?*

**Scott:** The strategic plan that the board of trustees just came out with, and the vision it has for Edmonton public education is extremely exciting. Our staff is excited. There are three pieces to the plan. The first is enhancing numeracy and literacy. The second is around anti-racism and working towards reconciliation. The third is staff and student well-being. These are priorities and more than ever teachers are saying, "I see myself in this." They see this as being the right thing.

**Allan:** *Anything else you'd like to share with the newsletter?*

**Scott:** Yes, how proud I am to be in the position I am in this school. Proud of my staff and how they've risen to meet the challenges of the last couple years. And proud of our kids. When I walk through this building every day I'm grateful that I get to be a part of these particular kids' lives. We have fantastic kids at McKernan. Really one of our hardest jobs is just getting out of the way and letting them do what they do.

## McKernan School

- Founded 1951
- Motto: We seek. We learn. We lead.
- Principal: Scott Horton
- Vice Principal: Francisco Gaviria
- Current Enrolment: 670
- Programs: French Immersion, Late French Immersion, Spanish Bilingual, Academic Enrichment



# NEIGHBOURS REACT TO METRO 78

OPINION

by Roni Kraut, Ariane Fielding, and Jeff Bisanz, of the Belmac Group

Over the last three years a group of neighbours living near the proposed development, Metro 78, on 78 Ave and 114 St have worked with the McKernan Community League, the Belgravia Community League, city administration, and the developer to find solutions that work for all of us. McKernan, Belgravia, and the City already have an agreement - the Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) - for how to increase density significantly along 114 St. Metro 78 violates that agreement in several important ways.

Sixteen neighbours from McKernan and Belgravia presented concerns about the proposal at City Council hearings on September 13. In the end, Council voted to return the proposal to city administration to review safety concerns and the reduction in the green spine, but felt the 7-storey height was reasonable for this location.

We were disheartened with this meeting; it was not a forum that enabled a comprehensive and thoughtful discussion of whether Metro 78 fits within the framework of existing guidelines and is an appropriate land use. Council never discussed why a 7-storey building is more appropriate than

a 4-storey building for this location, given that both are consistent with the City Plan but 4-storeys is also consistent with the ARP. Administration provided information that was erroneous but, given the process of the hearing, we were unable to respond. In addition, the report administration submitted had multiple inaccuracies including the zoning comparison, the ARP comparison, and the rationale for reducing the green spine.

In talking with people from many other communities, we have realized our situation is unfortunately a symptom of a much wider city issue. Administration and Council are uniformly disregarding existing frameworks and development, including ARPs mature neighborhood infill guidelines, historical designations, and the Carruthers Caveat. Development decisions instead are made on a developer-driven, ad hoc basis. Communities are at a significant disadvantage to address concerns given their limited resources, time, and expertise. Further, the City of Edmonton, unlike some other Canadian cities, does not have lobbying rules to increase transparency and limit corruption by having a lobbyist registry,

mandatory reporting of lobbyist activities, and post-employment prohibition for former city public office holders.

Metro 78 will be discussed again at Council

***"Development decisions... are being made on a developer-driven, ad hoc basis."***

on December 6. Neighbours will again advocate strongly for community concerns, including following the existing ARP, safety concerns, maintaining a 12m green space, a green buffer between the adjacent neighbours and the development, and a building that fits within the existing space.

Please consider following us on Twitter to stay informed (@belmacgroup), providing support by writing a letter to Council, attending the hearing, and of course contacting us or the community leagues if you have any questions.



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## BLACK KNOT PRUNING

A Message from the City of Edmonton Urban Forestry Department

Black knot (*Apiosporina morbosa*) is a fungal disease that causes greenish brown to black swellings in the stems of plum and cherry trees. Black knot deforms branches and reduces the growth of trees. Heavily infected trees often become stunted and may eventually die from the disease. The disease spreads during periods of warm, wet weather with the spores dispersed by splashing water, wind, birds, and insects.

Trees located on boulevards and in maintained parks susceptible to black knot are pruned by City arborists on a four-year pruning cycle. This allows for an annual focus on a specific quadrant of the city. This winter, the southwest quadrants will be the focus for black knot pruning on City Trees.

You can help to maximize the City's black knot pruning efforts by ensuring trees on

private property are pruned for black knot between late fall to early spring.

For additional information on black knot and pruning guidelines, please visit:

[www.edmonton.ca/programs\\_services/pests/black-knot](http://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/pests/black-knot)



# Development Applications

October 15 to November 20

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](https://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](https://www.edmonton.ca/residential_neighbourhoods/neighbourhoods/mckernan-planning-applications.aspx). If you have any questions about a project, contact [housingdevelopments@mckernancommunity.org](mailto:housingdevelopments@mckernancommunity.org).

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 11329 - University Ave | To construct exterior alterations to a multi-unit housing building.                        |
| 11447 - 78 Ave         | To operate a short term rental accommodation business.                                     |
| 11545 - 78 Ave         | To construct a detached garage, 6.7m x 6.4m  |
| 11103 - University Ave | To install a renewable energy device on a house (22 solar photovoltaic panels on the roof) |
| 7719 - 110 St          | To develop a secondary suite.  |
| 7725 - 110 St          | To demolish a single detached house and detached garage.                                   |
| 10989 - 73 Ave         | To demolish a single detached house and accessory building.                                |
| 11534 - 77 Ave         | To construct an accessory building (mutual detached garage).                               |
| 10969 - 76 Ave         | To develop a secondary suite in the basement of a semi-detached house.                     |
| 11543 - 78 Ave         | To construct a detached garage, 6.7m x 6.4m  |
| 7725 - 110 St          | To demolish a single detached house and detached garage.                                   |
| 7719 - 111 St          | To develop a secondary suite.  |

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