

JUNE 2023

Next Messenger: Sept 2023

Next League Meeting:

Monday, Sept 11 - 7pm

THE MCKERNAN MESSENGER

Since 1954

A publication of the McKernan Community League

Circulation 1,100

SAVE THE DATES!

Mark these dates for future community social events in your calendar.

Saturday August 19, 2023 there will be a neighbourhood picnic with live music in Gowan Park (11321 - 78 Ave). A flyer with more information will be distributed once details are confirmed. Watch your mailbox!

Sunday September 10, 2023 the annual McKernan Community League BBQ will be held at the community hall.

See Community Events pg. 3 for more summer events.



On Sunday June 4 an event was hosted by the Charles Simmonds Park Renewal Committee to provide some family fun and information about the progress of the renewal.

DONATE TO THE CHARLES SIMMONDS PARK RENEWAL



After sizeable contributions from the City of Edmonton, the Charles Simmonds Park Renewal Committee is within \$29,000 of their fundraising goal.

There are several ways to make a donation.

E-Transfer. Send an e-transfer to : mckernancspfundraiser@gmail.com.

Cheque. Cheques can be made out to City of Edmonton, with Charles Simmonds Park Renewal in the memo line. Cheques can be dropped off or mailed to the McKernan Community League at 11341 - 78 Ave NW, Edmonton AB T6G 0N1.

Please provide the following information along with your donation. For e-transfers, include this info in the notes section.

- Name
- Email address
- Phone number
- Tax Receipt Requested (Yes or No. Only for donations of \$20 or more).
- Public acknowledgement of donation (Yes or No. Donation amount will not be made public).

Tax Receipts. Donations of \$20 or more qualify for a tax receipt. To apply for a tax receipt you must complete the Charles Simmonds Park Donor Information Form, which is available on the McKernan Community League website: www.mckernancommunity.org/charles-simmonds-park.

The signed form can either be emailed, mailed, or delivered to the addresses mentioned above.

If permission is given, donors will receive a note of thanks in a future issue of The Messenger.

Fundraising must be complete by January 2024 for work to begin that year. Work would then be completed in 2025.

Charles Simmonds Park lies on the western edge of McKernan, at 115 Street and 78 Ave. The renewal of its playground is part of the city's former Neighbourhood Park Development Program, which has communities raise money to receive matching funds from the city.

Community Contacts

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POCKET PARK	Michelle Jones 4ourpocketpark@gmail.com	780-289-0635
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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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.



REMINDER: POCKET PARK GARDEN WORK PARTIES

A reminder that Thursday evenings throughout the summer from 6:30pm to 8pm there are garden work parties to maintain the landscaping at the Pocket Park. All are welcome, regardless of experience. These meet-ups are cancelled if it is raining, excessively hot or cold, or if the ground is too wet to work.

4ourPocketPark@gmail.com

Community Events

Green Shack Program at Belgravia Park

The City of Edmonton Green Shack program will be running in Belgravia Park (115470 - 73 Ave) from July 4 to August 24, Monday to Friday 2:30pm to 5:30 pm.

Green Shack is a free city program that sends trained leaders to public parks to engage children in a variety of activities including games, crafts, sports, music, and drama.

Music in the Arts Park v. 2

On Wednesday, August 9, 2023 from 6:30pm to 9pm the Belgravia Community League will host their second Music in the Arts Park concert (115 Street and 74 Ave). Acts include Stevon and Kayla Artis with the Heavenly Band, and Marty Pawlina. Refreshments will be available for a small cost.

Parkallen Folk Music Festival

On Sunday, August 20, 2023 from 2pm to 5pm Edmonton Vocal Arts is presenting live music in the Parkallen Field. Bring your chairs, blankets, and picnic baskets to enjoy the summer breeze and sweet songs. Event will be moved to August 27 in the case of inclement weather.

Summer is a great opportunity to focus on learning in a less high pressure environment

1. Learn jazz scales and chords/progressions/ improvisation, and jazzy piano repertoire OR
2. Learn to play your favourite pop tunes at the piano, chords and improvisation OR
3. Get more great classics under your belt!
<http://www.edmontonpianoteacher.com>



Summer Sizzlin' at Studio6!

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All ages and levels welcome.
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Start Any Time

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Long-Time McKernanite Marilyn Logan

by Angela Espejo

A member of the McKernan Community League put me in touch with Marilyn Logan, who has lived in the same home in McKernan for an incredible 71 years. Walking to visit Marilyn, I passed through the 112 Street Pocket Park, admiring the space and stopping to smell the flowers.

Making my way up Marilyn's walk, it was clear how much she loves her home. The yard is immaculate, a welcoming, bright, and happy space. Entering her home I saw the same nurturing touches throughout.

Though it was a holiday that I visited, Marilyn was quick to inform me that when you're retired, every day is a holiday! I immediately recognized Marilyn as a kindred spirit who cares deeply for McKernan.

Marilyn's family moved to McKernan in 1952, when she was in Grade 11. They had previously rented a home in Garneau, so Marilyn has a strong connection to the south side. "It's a neat feeling crossing the river after visiting the north side. It's like coming home."

Reminiscing on her childhood, "when things were simpler," Marilyn recalled how she and her friends would find their own fun. From improvising equipment for pick-up hockey games, using bits of gravel as chalk, biking Bellamy Hill and Keillor Road, walking the dogs, and even on occasion lighting up the dry leaves in the gutters ("There was no traffic!"), Marilyn's chuckles and smiling eyes gave true testament to a youth thoroughly enjoyed.

After graduating from University High School, then situated in historic Corbett Hall, Marilyn enjoyed a 39-year career at The Edmonton Journal as the secretary for the circulation director. She walked to work every day over the High Level Bridge, and took the streetcar home. The table where we sat for our visit had copies of The Edmonton Journal, Globe & Mail, and McKernan Messenger. A fellow avid reader! Marilyn patted her copy of the Journal and shook her head, saying, "The day when these disappear..."

During those years, Marilyn loved square



Marilyn Logan in her McKernan yard.

dancing, skiing, and travelling. She and her late brother, Don, square danced at the old rink shack and other clubs around town. Don was on the square dance board, and even went to events at the Banff Fine Arts Centre, where the dancing was so popular that callers were brought in from the United States. On one memorable occasion, he danced so hard he peeled the skin off his feet! Other memorable travels included a nine month visit to Europe in 1961, visiting Churchill Manitoba to see the polar bears, and a 2019 visit to her parents' homeland, Scotland. "Over the years, I've gathered happy memories of all the places I've been, and I'm quite content with my own company."

Though describing herself as shy, Marilyn has made significant contributions to McKernan over the years, most notably with the Pocket Park that I had enjoyed earlier that morning. At one time, under the city's care, the area boasted a bed of petunias. Around the time of Marilyn's retirement, with city cutbacks, the area had become plain lawn. Marilyn and others decided to take action and beautify the space, creating the 112 Street Pocket Park. She remembers up to 35 neighbours coming together on "Plant Days", accompanied by tea and coffee, scones, and juice for the kids. Other community action included petitioning against the original proposed location for the Butterdome, at Braithwaite Park. (Isn't

it hard to imagine the Pavillion being located in a such a spot?) as well as more recent petitions to add brighter lighting to the neighbourhood's back lanes. Some of Marilyn's favourite parts of McKernan are the back lanes, as well as the umbrella of elm foliage we're treated to each year, and of course the people.

Marilyn counts the residents of McKernan as good neighbours who take care of each other. When COVID-19 first hit, Marilyn had health issues that led to hospitalization. She gratefully remembers neighbours lending helping hands.

These days, Marilyn fills her time with house and yard work, reading, gardening, and shopping. She claims she has slowed down, but it's apparent she leads a full life. She typically starts her mornings at 6am with walks around Hawrelak Park (or Emily Murphy Park now that Hawrelak is closed for renovations). Marilyn keeps sharp with crossword puzzles and still takes care of her own banking, bills, and self-care. Never bored, she maintains that she'll stay in the area as long as she can, outsourcing chores as it becomes necessary. A lover of the seasons, especially when spring comes after a long, cold winter, it's clear how enthusiastic Marilyn is to be a member of the McKernan community.

As we wrapped our conversation, she reminded me to knock on her door again soon. If you happen to recognize her while walking through the neighbourhood, I encourage you to say hello and introduce yourself.

We said goodbye with a hearty handshake, warm grins, and a Scottish blessing. Her parting comments? "There's a house and then there's a home. Mine is a home and I welcome anyone to it."

**Do you know someone
that should be profiled by
our**

Community Historian?

Email Angela at angela.s.espejo@gmail.com

Development Applications

May 11 to June 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 > 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.

10943 - University Ave	To construct a Single Detached House.
11414 - 76 Ave	Construction of a new building, Demolition
10903 - University Ave	To demolish a Single Detached House and Detached Garage.
11537 - 80 Ave	To develop a Secondary Suite in the Basement of the Single Detached House.
11255 - 79 Ave	Interior alterations to a Single Detached House (Basement Development, NOT to be used as an additional Dwelling).
10953 - 76 Ave	To demolish a House and Existing Rear Addition.
10974 - 72 Ave	To demolish a Single Detached House and Detached Garage. (Demolition arising from fire or flood.)

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A young entrepreneur sells rhubarb and rhubarb iced tea out of her front yard in early June.

Community Garden Group Survey

The Charles Simmonds Park Community Garden Group (formerly referred to as the McKernan Belgravia Community Garden Group in this newsletter) is currently seeking feedback to determine the interest, viability, and sustainability in developing a community garden.

The proposed community garden would be a plot of land in Charles Simmonds Park that would allow community members in McKernan and Belgravia to grow their own food and flowers. The group believes such a garden would provide several benefits to the community, chiefly giving community members who do not have their own yards

access to gardening space. Demand for greenspace is expected to grow in the coming years with midrise developments along the 114 St corridor.

The group says that the community garden would also act as a social hub and gathering space, provide a location for local organizations like day cares to learn about gardening and food production, build awareness of local food security, help pollinators and related wildlife, and be a boon to neighbourhood beautification.

Access the survey by clicking [this link](#), or by scanning the following QR Code.



Charles Simmonds Park Community Garden Group Survey

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More Public Engagement re: District Planning

The City has announced that public engagement on District Planning will run from August 21 to September 29, 2023. Engagement will be hosted in a primarily digital format, with opportunities to share your feedback on the refined district plans and policies by completing an online survey, attending online information sessions, or requesting one-on-one meetings with a project planner.

Prior to engagement, the updated district plans and District Policy will be released for public review on August 14, 2023.

To help citizens prepare for the upcoming engagement, the city will be posting resources throughout the summer on the project website, edmonton.ca/districtplanning. Resources will include:

- an overview of changes to the district plans
- an updated information document on what the District Policy and district plans are, how they were drafted, and how you can provide input
- An updated “Geographic Plans Proposed to be Retired, Changed and Kept” document and map

You can sign up for the [City Building Newsletter](#) to stay informed on the District Planning Project and other City Plan-related initiatives.

District Planning is a multi-year project to build The City Plan’s “community of communities” - small towns in the bigger city, where people can meet many of their daily needs within 15 minutes from where they live. The Districts are designed to change the way Edmsonton plans and supports development and growth for a more connected, prosperous, healthy, and climate-resilient city.

Have a Safe and Joyful Summer, McKernan!