

WINDSOR PARK COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter – Spring 2022 Edition

Windsor Park Community League Membership Application	
Membership Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Family <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Student <input type="checkbox"/> Senior <input type="checkbox"/> Associate	
Adult 1: _____	Adult 2: _____
Children/Dependents: _____	Age: _____
_____	Age: _____
_____	Age: _____
Address: _____	
Email: _____	Phone: _____
Interested in receiving WPCL email/e-News updates: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Volunteer interest (optional): Role, Idea: _____	

Types of Membership:

Family (household of any number)	\$25/year
Single	\$15/year
Student (18yrs+)	\$10/year
Senior (65yrs+)	\$0 (or donation, if desired)
Associate Business	\$30/year
Cheques payable to: Windsor Park Community League 11840 87 Ave. NW Edmonton, AB T6G 2S3	
Membership contact: Marilyn Gaa at 780-432-7660 or jamesgaa@telusplanet.net	

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WINDSOR PARK COMMUNITY LEAGUE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

WPCL President Scott Meadows

Higher density residential redevelopment is a reality in Windsor Park. Completed or approved projects include skinny houses, mid- and high-rise towers, small apartment building and townhouse-style multifamily homes. And more development is on the horizon as a developer has now acquired several adjacent single-family homes north of Windsor Terrace and is actively approaching adjacent homeowners to expand its holdings to create a larger footprint.

These projects are the result of a clear direction from City Council, sustained through several election cycles, to increase the density in central Edmonton neighbourhoods. Developers have heard the call. The result is the conversion of single-family homes on large lots (typical of Windsor Park, for example) to towers, skinnies and townhouses. This has gone on despite the vehement objections of current residents whose protests have failed to change the established direction of Council time and time again. The strategy of stopping these redevelopments through City Council action has been a complete failure everywhere that it has been tried.

The WPCL Executive has no official role in blocking or approving new developments. Like anyone, the Executive can express an opinion where Council approvals are required. In these cases, developers prefer to report to Council that residents have been consulted. These consultations are the main route for expressing neighbourhood concerns and affecting project design. For example, the design for Windsor Terrace was changed and the proposed height was reduced as a result of discussion with the developer.

The Executive is acutely aware that WP residents don't want highrises and higher density in the neighbourhood. In almost every case, the Executive has had to choose between pointlessly opposing redevelopment and losing all influence, or engaging with the developer to mitigate the impacts as best we can. Opposition and engagement are mutually exclusive options, and so the different Executives over the years have pragmatically chosen to engage rather than oppose. An exception to this approach was taken concerning the apartment building nearing completion on the southwest corner of 87 Ave and 117 St. The Executive opposed this project, communicated our good reasons, and Council approved the development anyway.

I don't see an alternative to this pragmatic engagement strategy for the community league. Council has set its agenda and developers will do what they do; however, it is conceivable that an economic approach could have better success than a failed political one. Windsor Park is home to many wealthy people who are concerned about the loss of neighbourhood character. It would be possible to capitalise a corporation or partnership that could purchase older housing stock and then set its own agenda for neighbourhood redevelopment. This is not a role for the community league, but the league could be an active supporter and (non-economic) partner. Contact me if you think this idea has legs. It does seem clear that, as it now stands, Windsor Park redevelopment is under the control of outsiders who have little regard for our concerns. And my own imagination is limited, so if there's another approach that you could get behind, let's hear it.

WPCL EXECUTIVE and VOLUNTEER NEEDS

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE #</u>	<u>EMAIL ADDRESS</u>
PAST PRESIDENT	GAIL POWLEY		gail.powley@gmail.com
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SOCCER COORDINATOR	VACANT - SEEKING VOLUNTEERS		
SOCIAL DIRECTOR	VACANT - SEEKING VOLUNTEERS		
FACEBOOK COORDINATOR	SARA KALKE		sara@sarakalke.com
WEBMASTER	MARILYN STEIER		webmaster@windsor-park.ca
UNIVERSITY LIAISON	ROLF MIRUS		
PRESCHOOL PRESIDENT	NICK JOHNSON		
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COORDINATOR	VACANT - SEEKING VOLUNTEERS		
SUSTAINABILITY CHAIR	MARTHA STEENSTRUP		steenie@rcn.com
CASINO DIRECTOR	BONNIE AUSTEN		bonniemausten@gmail.com

Important Community League Information

Police-Non-Emergency: (780) 423-4567

City of Edmonton – Info & Issue Reporting: 311

Windsor Park Community League Hall Address: 11840 87 Avenue NW

Wireless Password: 1184011840

Note: If you are new to the community, or know of any new Windsor Park residents, please contact wpclpresident@gmail.com, so we can extend a community welcome!

AN EYE ON CITY HALL

BY ELAINE SOLEZ, WPCL CIVICS DIRECTOR

Partners in Parks

Windsor Park's Partners in Parks group has been active over the winter, planning for the 2022 gardening season. And they've been out and about in the park, too. The group decorated a tree along the path through the park for neighbourhood residents to enjoy over the holiday season. Thanks to Patsy Leake for the beautiful photo, which was entered into the City's Winterscapes contest.

Speaking of decorations, neighbourhood residents of all ages have enjoyed the lights in the trees in front of the hall throughout the winter thanks to the community league. Please see the photo at the bottom of the Table of Contents page (p.2).

Planning Matters

1. RF3 Rezoning southwest corner 89th Ave/116th St

The rezoning application for the purpose of building a corner rowhouse project was debated and approved at City Council's Public Hearing on February 23. The community league decided to support the rezoning at the February executive meeting.

The league took this position to establish our reputation for being reasonable with the new City Council as well as to indicate our preference for infill development that will attract young families and fit in with existing housing in the neighbourhood. The information about the rezoning application published in the Winter newsletter garnered one response from a concerned resident; we're aware there's some opposition to the rezoning in the community.

The corner rowhouse development that is expected to be built now the property has been rezoned will face 89th Ave. It will be similar in size to a 2 or 2.5 storey single-family house--the Mature Neighbourhood Overlay continues to apply. This type of infill is considered "gentle densification." The project will increase housing choices in neighbourhood.

2. Westrich Rezoning/Development plans on 118 St

Westrich Corp owns three contiguous lots on 118th St across from the school. As reported in the Winter newsletter, they informed the community league's Development Committee in December they
Spring 2022

intend to rezone the properties to DC2 for the purpose of building a mid-rise (about 6-storey) apartment project. As of this writing, a rezoning proposal has not yet been circulated to neighbours or the community league for comment, which is required before a rezoning application can be filed with the City. Meantime the league has learned Westrich may be trying to purchase additional properties on 117th and 118th Streets.

Westrich is currently building the University Heights project on University Avenue east of 115th St in McKernan and the West Garneau project on 86th Ave west of 110th St. in Garneau. Both are 6-storey, wood-frame projects.

3. Update on Zoning Bylaw Renewal and District Plans

On February 24, the City and the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues held a joint online information session about the status of the City's District Plans and Zoning Bylaw Renewal projects. Both projects are delayed. Work on the new Zoning Bylaw and preparing the district plans is continuing through the first half of 2022. The new Zoning Bylaw and district plans are now expected to be available for review in draft form in the fall, followed by an extensive period of engagement and revision. City Council approval is targeted for fall 2023.

Windsor Park Pole Walking

You may notice Windsor Park residents walking about using poles. Walking is great exercise but using poles engages more of the upper body. It has been stated that walking with poles uses up to 80% of the body's muscles.

The Windsor Park Pole Walking group is now in its third year. The group has been walking in the warm months, May-September. However, this year with Covid-19 in our midst, the group has kept walking into the winter season.

There have been some adjustments. Rather than walking in the evenings, the group has moved to walking in the afternoons (Monday and Thursdays). With the arrival of ice and snow, attention is paid to footwear and clothing choices. The group is also drifting farther afield. Rather than just walking in Windsor Park, the group is exploring the river valley and other neighbourhoods. Most of the walkers now use masks. Social distancing is encouraged. Recent restrictions of no more than ten in a group outside will have the walkers dividing into smaller groups.

Spending more time out of doors this winter seems to be the norm. It is more Covid friendly but also the benefits of being in the sun have been noted. The Windsor Park Pole Walkers are benefiting by being physically active and also socially engaged.

For more information on the Windsor Park Pole Walking group, contact me.

Bonnie M Austen (bonniemausten@gmail.com)

Keep the Ring Houses on Campus

A group of Windsor Park walkers, friends and neighbours were involved in a Media Event in front of The University Club February 11, to raise awareness of the cultural and historic importance that will be lost if “The Ring Houses” are moved off the Campus. Global News, CITY TV, and CTV covered the event.

While a developer, Primavera purchased these houses for \$1 each with the hope of restoring and embedding the Ring Houses as a focal part of an Arts Park to be elsewhere in the city they immediately lose their historic value once they are moved from the site.

Why not develop an “Arts Park” on the NW corner of campus highlighting the many achievements of University researchers, staff, students and alumni and feature our rich history by retaining the Ring Houses on site?

In 1907 River Lot #5 was purchased by the provincial government to be the site of the newly founded University. Higher education, publicly-supported and readily available to all, was considered to be essential to successful development of our new province. Henry Marshall Tory, founding president hired in 1907, set out to hire top quality staff to create an exemplary University. As River Lot #5 was covered by “youngish poplar and scrubby willows”, it was imperative to ensure adequate housing for these new staff coming from Montreal, Boston, New York and Berkley. Originally ten houses were constructed between 1910-14, with only four remaining. These became homes for President Tory, and 4 further U of A presidents, as well as numerous professors whose achievements helped shape our province. (e.g. Maury Van Vliet, renown physical educator; Henry Glyde, artist who was instrumental in creating The Banff School of Fine Arts; Muir Edwards, engineer who found the cause of 1910 typhoid epidemic)

The visionary ideas and dedication of these early staff established the foundation for what became a world recognized university. Many of us have attended and/or worked at The University of Alberta. Why are we so blasé about tearing down our history?

As the first university in Alberta, this built heritage is a tangible representation of Alberta’s cultural heritage and should be retained for everyone to benefit from in the future.

If you are concerned about the removal of the Ring Houses from the U of A Campus, letters and/or emails can be sent to the University of Alberta’s President, Chancellor and Board of Governors Chair. Please share with friends and colleagues in person and on social media.

If you want to find out more about the U of A’s history and The Ring Houses you might want to check out:

Connor J. Thompson and Sarah Carter, “The Rich History and Endangered Future of the University of Alberta’s Ring Houses” *Alberta History* 69, no. 2 (Spring 2021): 2–10 provides fascinating information

“Reimagining the Ring Houses” the results of the creative thinking of Edmonton architects, artists, designers, developers, entrepreneurs, academics, community residents (Windsor Park) and Ring House coalition members, facilitated by architect Shafraaz Kaba of Ask* for a Better World.

“Selling the Ring Houses, A Faustian Bargain (Guest Post by Laurie Adkin, Political Science) posted on 16 October 2021 by Arts Squared

A Century of Campus Maps (University of Alberta) by Ellen Schoeck provides a brief history of the development of the University of Alberta.



Although we are not set up for online ordering, I have been happy to bring items from my store to Windsor Park neighbours. Some people have been happy for me to make selections; others have specific requests. I usually bring the items with a receipt with subsequent payment by e-transfer, but I can also call you from the store for a credit card number which is not retained by the store. Cash works too. It's best to work via email, but phone calls are also fine. Contact me if this service would be helpful to you.

Scott Meadows
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esmeadows@gmail.com



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A Fun Piece of Windsor Park History

For two months in 1953, the “park in the Windsor Park District” was slated to become “Coronation Park” in honour of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

Although Queen Elizabeth II became queen on February 6, 1952, the celebrations accompanying the crowning of the new monarch began over a year later, with her coronation on June 2, 1953.

In February 1953, the province of Alberta called together a Coronation Celebration Committee to organize a grand celebration in Alberta’s Capital City. The Committee issued a public invitation co-signed by “Hon C.E. Gerhart, Provincial Secretary” and “His Worship Mayor Wm. H. Hawrelak, Mayor, City of Edmonton:”

The Government of the Province of Alberta, in conjunction with the City of Edmonton, are making plans for a fitting demonstration of the loyalty and affection in which Her Majesty is held by the people of Alberta and the City of Edmonton . . . The Coronation of a reigning sovereign accords a rare opportunity for outward demonstration of the inward loyalty held by the people of Alberta, and your Committee urges all citizens to join whole-heartedly in the celebrations, so that the Coronation of Her Majesty may be a day long remembered in this province.

A centerpiece of the Committee’s “Big plans in Edmonton for Coronation Day” was the dedication of an undeveloped park as “Coronation Park,” where a “Coronation Tree” would be “planted by Mayor Hawrelak as part of the festivities.”

The only question was where?

Remarkably, our very own neighbourhood park was proposed! On March 26, 1953, the Edmonton Journal reported, “Coronation Park to be Dedicated:”

Part of the city’s Coronation Day program will be the dedication of a new park and a tree planting ceremony, Mayor Hawrelak announced Thursday. The park will be known as Coronation Park. The Mayor said a park in the Windsor Park District had been suggested. This comprises an area of about four acres and is located north of the new elementary school under construction.

City Hall tasked the City Engineer with preparing a “PLAN OF GRID of CORONATION PARK.” Dated April 16, 1953, you’ll notice that the outline of CORONATION PARK looks very familiar! The undeveloped triangular parkland south of 89th Avenue and bounded by Windsor Road to the east and 119th Street to the west, was poised not only to become the focal point of Alberta’s celebration of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, but to memorialize that day forever for the province and “the people of Alberta,” a “perpetual monument to the occasion.”

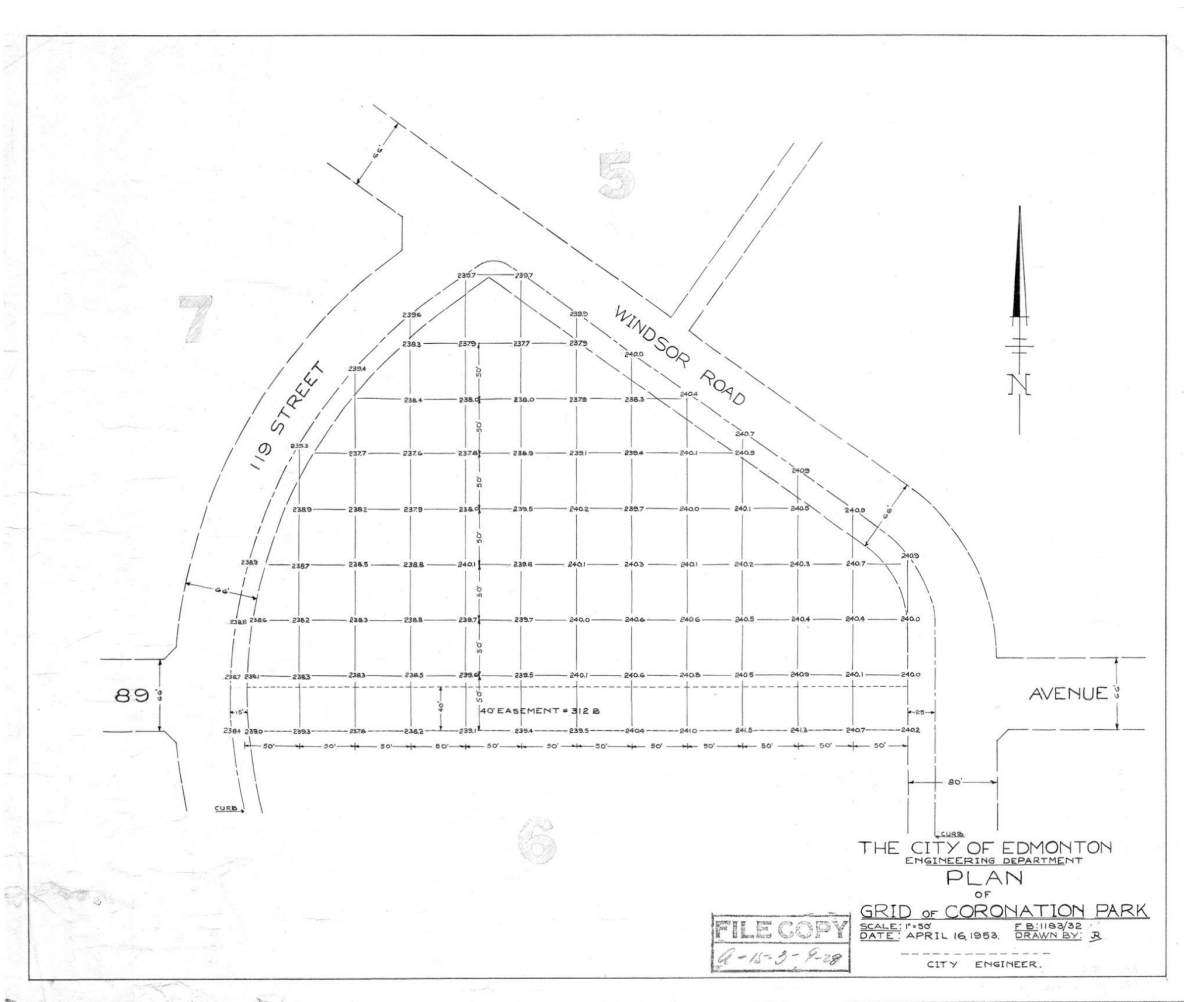
Some internal discussions must have taken place, however, because on May 20, 1953, the Edmonton Journal recorded a change in plans: the “park in the Windsor Park District” had been replaced by “the park in Westmount district” as top choice for dedication as Coronation Park:

City Commissioners will ask city council to authorize naming the park in Westmount district Coronation park, Mayor Hawrelak said Wednesday . . . it is a 110 acre park and is in the process of being developed as a major public recreation area. "It seems appropriate that the park to be named Coronation park be a large one, which the public from all over the city will visit at one time or another," the mayor said.

The rest, as they say, is history. Kicking off the Coronation Day festivities at 10AM on June 2, 1953, Mayor Hawrelak dedicated "the park in Westmount district" as "Coronation Park" and "placed the first few shovels of earth around the roots of the Coronation Tree, a 15-foot elm, already in leaf." The celebration continued throughout the day with "more than over 10,000 Edmontonians of all ages" in attendance.

By the time City Architect Robert Falconer Duke's landscape design for an ornamental park at 8905 Windsor Road was completed for the Edmonton Parks Department in September of 1954, the undeveloped four-acre "park in the Windsor Park district" had become known as *Windsor Park*.

Patsy Leake, March 2022



Is your child ready for Kindergarten?

Starting February 1, 2022, children who are five years of age on or before December 31, 2022, live within the Windsor Park boundaries and are residents of Edmonton Public Schools may **register for Kindergarten**. Please go to windsorpark.epsb.ca where you will find important registration information under the FOR PARENTS tab to get started.



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Concerned about coyotes in the city?

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Emergency Medical Services routinely respond to emergencies involving young children who have sustained burns or scalds. These incidents often occur inside the child's own home. Common causes include a child accidentally tipping hot liquids onto themselves, touching hot surfaces (stove, iron), or making contact with electrical outlets. Fortunately, incidents such as these can be avoided by taking preventative measures.

Degrees of burn

- **1°:** Affects only the top layers of the skin; appears red like a sun burn; discomfort is generally tolerable;
- **2°:** Deeper and much more painful than 1° burns; broken skin or blisters commonly develop;
- **3°:** Severe: the deepest layers of skin and tissue are injured; may appear charred or leathery.

First Aid for burns

- Skin may continue to burn if not cooled. Immediately douse burns with large amounts of cold water.
- Cover the burn with a sterile dressing, or at least clean material to protect infection;
- Over the counter medications may be used for pain. Adhere to directions given on the label;
- Seek further medical attention, as required.

Prevention of burns

- Check the temperature of your hot water tank. Temperatures as high as 60°C / 140°F will scald a child in just seconds;
- Use placemats instead of tablecloths. Tablecloths can be yanked downward causing hot drinks or food to spill on a child;
- Turn pot handles to the back of the stove and ensure cords from kettles, slow cookers, and other electrical appliances cannot be reached;
- Avoid picking up a child while holding any hot liquids;
- Ensure electrical outlets are made secure by installing commercially available safety devices which prohibit access, if not already built in;
- Keep children away from areas where appliances are in use (kettles, irons, hot stoves).

Call for photographs taken in *Windsor Park*, AKA The Flower Park

Our ***Application to Designate Windsor Park as a Municipal Historic Resource*** is underway! If you might be willing to share old (or new) family photographs taken in *Windsor Park* (picnics, birthdays, reunions, graduations, and other scenes that animate the park), or any other historic documents related to the park, please contact Patsy Leake by phone or email: 780-433-8735, particia.leake@gmail.com



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