

THE WINDSOR PARK PRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Windsor Park Community



Winter Warm Up at the Hall, Dec 2023

Inside the winter issue:

- Programs & Events - 1
- Community League News - 2
- Civics & Planning Update - 2
- Green & Gold Dirty Hands Diary - 3
- WP Soccer Program - 4
- Letter from the Editor - 4
- Volunteering Opportunities - 5
- The Fun Zone- 6

Farewell Fall & Welcome to Winter, Windsor Park

WPCL is planning a winter-long program of local events and activities for Windsor Park residents. Arts & crafts, music, sports, fascinating talks, multi-cultural events and more.

WHAT'S ON AT THE HALL

ZUMBA GOLD & FITNESS - Wednesdays 1:30PM - 3:00PM. By donation.

YEG Rughooking Guild Outreach Program - 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 7:00PM- 9:00PM. FREE. Drop In.

Fun Toastmasters Club - Bi monthly on Mondays, 7:15PM - 8:45PM. Visit toastmasters.org for more information.

WPCL PRESCHOOL - A non profit, cooperative preschool for 3 & 4 yr olds. See windsorparkpreschool.com for more information. SPACES AVAILABLE.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SENIORS DAY WITH SAGE - help us identify and program for the issues around healthy and active aging that matter most to you.

WINTERFEST - JAN 20th, 1:00-4:00PM at the Hall. More info to follow, Skating, winter walks, hot chocolate, fire pit... and more.

TUESDAY 23rd JANUARY - EDO TALK with WP resident George Pavich: "Criminal Accusation Across the Prairies (circa 1874-1885)", 7:00PM in the hall.

TUESDAY 16th JANUARY - WPCL EXEC MEETING, 7:00PM

SATURDAY 10th FEBRUARY - WPCL LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS. *Volunteers needed.

USE
'SKIP THE
DEPOT' AND
HELP RAISE \$\$
TO SUPPORT
COMMUNITY
LEAGUE
ACTIVITIES



Our ENEWS delivers the latest info about events and programs in the community directly to your inbox. To subscribe: enews@windsor-park.ca.

Submission deadline for Spring Issue of The Press is **Sunday 18th February**.

Community League News

Being part of a community is more than just living there, it's 'being' there.

The mandate of the WP community league is to offer community members events and programs and provide opportunities to engage in civics issues. As one of 152 community leagues in Edmonton, WP community league is one of the smallest, serving a community of approx 555 households and circa 1500 residents (as per 2019 census).

If you have a skill you would like to share, or an idea for an event or program that you and/or your neighbours might enjoy, contact: info@windsor-park.ca

It's EASY to join your community league.

Simply scan the QR code and follow the instructions or come to one of the leagues events and purchase your membership in person.



WPCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023/ 2024

President: Arthur Kloc
president@windsor-park.ca

Vice President: Kyrstie Green
vicepresident@windsor-park.ca

Treasurer: Russ Makar
treasurer@windsor-park.ca

Secretary: Sheela Hota Mitchell
secretary@windsor-park.ca

Past President: Scott Meadows
pastpresident@windsor-park.ca

Membership Director: Marilyn Gaa
membership@windsor-park.ca

Director at Large 1: Elaine Solez
directoratlarge1@windsor-park.ca

Director at Large 2: Jeff Waugh
directoratlarge2@windsor-park.ca

Director at Large 3: Jannine Otto
directoratlarge3@windsor-park.ca

UPDATE FROM WPCL CIVICS & PLANNING DIRECTOR, ELAINE SOLEZ

City Council approved the new Zoning Bylaw following the public hearing that spanned nearly a week in late October. The Bylaw 20001 goes into effect on January 1, 2024. All properties in the city, except for those zoned DC, have been rezoned to the closest equivalent zone in the new Zoning Bylaw. The primary implication for Windsor Park is most residential properties in the neighbourhood will now be zoned RS (small-scale residential). A variety of housing forms will be allowed in the RS zone, from single-family to 3-storey apartment buildings. We are disappointed that none of the specific improvements suggested by Windsor Park Community League were incorporated into the bylaw. It is most unfortunate that the rear setback will be reduced from 40% site depth to 10 metres. This can result in developments that shade and overlook their neighbours'. City Council also approved a number of follow-up motions to look into making amendments to the bylaw in key areas, such as climate resiliency. Reports on potential amendments will be considered over the coming year or so.

District Planning News

As reported in the Fall newsletter and worth repeating, a small piece of Windsor Park along 87th Ave between 116th St and 118th St is now included in the University-Garneau Major Node in the August 2023 draft of the Scona District Plan. Mid- and high-rise buildings are allowed in major nodes. The 2023 draft District Policy no longer includes a statement that mid-rise developments beside small-scale developments need to employ design elements to reduce massing. This may affect Windsor Park since rezoning for a 6-storey development has already been approved outside the major node beside a single-family house and another is pending. The approved rezoning includes design elements such as increased setbacks, stepbacks and a courtyard. The pending rezoning application does not include any such treatments. The City held online and in-person engagement sessions on the August 2023 drafts of the District Policy and district plans from mid-October to early December. The feedback deadline was December 1. These documents are expected to be considered by City Council at a public hearing in spring 2024. The final versions of the District Policy and Scona District Plan will be available for review a few weeks in advance of the public hearing.

Green & Gold Hands Dirty Hands Diary

Closing Time

Where has the time gone? It is hard to believe that we are at the end of another successful season at the Green & Gold Community Garden. A few weeks ago, I was harvesting the last of the leeks with a small but mighty team in one of our newest plots on high ground in the southwest corner of the garden. Interestingly, our team includes four different generations (Baby Boomer, Gen X, Millennials, Gen Y) and this is what I love about volunteering in this community.

While pulling the leeks (ever so carefully digging around the roots so as minimize soil disruption), I mentioned that I had grown leeks in my own raised bed at home this year for the first time. As the four of us chatted about gardening and the deliciousness of cooking with leeks, I casually mentioned that I consider myself a “passive” gardener. One of the women was curious about this – what did I mean by that? I said it was fairly simple – I plant seeds (and seedlings) and just add water and sunshine – let nature do the rest. Upon reflection, I realize that this characterization isn’t entirely accurate. Everything we do at the Green & Gold Garden is grounded in intention – most of the effort comes in the beginning with bed preparation and early weed management and then we simply sit back and watch the plants grow! This realization came to me as I listened to our field manager (Dion Bews) talk about how we garden at the GGG at an event hosted by the Edmonton Social Planning Council. One important principle I have been practicing now for a couple of seasons is leaving the root systems of plants in the soil once they are at the end of their productive life. Typically, I have pulled my plants up by the roots at the end of the season. Now I simply cut off the plant just above or at soil level, leaving the roots intact to continue their microscopic magic below the surface. Dion likened pulling up plants by the roots to building a house in the spring and then burning it to the ground in the fall. That really hit home for me. Who would do that? The root systems of all plants are a complex mix of organic material that can be left to decompose, replenish the soil, support the mycorrhizal network underground where nutrients are shared among plants, and to preserve homes for worms, beetles, and other microbial life forms. The air pockets in the soil surrounding the root systems are an additional structure that supports communication and the transport of water and nutrients both up and down and across the soil foundation. In larger scale gardens like the GGG, we flail and leave the plant tops on the land, replenishing the soil that supported the growth of these plants above ground all season. The mantra, ‘leave it on or in the ground’ is a principle I have learned as a volunteer at the GGG. The Green & Gold Garden swarms with life above ground too. Just as there is a mycorrhizal network supporting plants at the root level, the connections we have with one another as we work the land and reap its bounty are interlocking building blocks of the community we have built that supports its infrastructure. As we prepare the garden for the winter months, we spend time taking down trellises and other supporting structures supporting our vegetables and flowers, prepare the beds and plant garlic for the upcoming season, and continue to harvest beets, carrots and potatoes for bulk sales well into the fall and winter months.

My senses are full as I walk through the garden in the setting sun on this last day of evening sales. I see deep purple bottles of elderberry syrup reflecting in the sun on our market stand, hear the birds feed on sunflowers bowing over with the weight of seed, the smell of apples in the orchard, the taste of a dripping slice of watermelon grown by the hoophouse volunteers, and the feel of the cool fall air that surrounds me as the sun dips in the horizon. To all the volunteers, customers, tiny tots and garden visitors (both human and non-human), University farm staff, and our gardening partners who donate so much of themselves to the garden, thank you for another year of growth. Your support of Tubahumarize and the women and children in Rwanda is so appreciated.

by Margaret Milner
GGG Volunteer

Windsor Park Community Soccer, 2024

Heads Up! Windsor Park families with kids ages 4-18:

WPCL Soccer Program will run again from the beginning of May to the end of June, 2024.

Please note:

- WPCL Membership (which lasts from Sept to Aug each year) is required to register for soccer.
- Parent volunteers will be needed to coach and for other duties.

To prepare for the 2024 season, please sure your WPCL 'communal' account is up to date please check the following:

1. Login to your communal account using this QR code. If your name is not showing in the top right corner, you are not logged in.
2. Make sure you are subscribed to enews@windsor-park.ca to stay up to date with all the latest community news.



Letter from the Editor

It has been a busy season for events in the Windsor Park Community Hall

Our Community hall is buzzing at the moment thanks to a full calendar of special events put on by our events volunteers.

The lead up to Halloween was the perfect excuse to fill up the hall with laughter, costumes and pumpkin decorating at the **Kids Halloween Party**. Then there was **Pub Night**, and last but not least, WPCL's regular **Halloween Night Warm Up**. In November, WPCL hosted the first of its multicultural celebrations: **Diwali - the celebration of light**, symbolising the triumph of good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. Guests were treated to live music, a UofA Bhangra dance performance, a buffet dinner and a fashion show. The **Multi Cultural Sweets Exchange** continues to be a firm favourite in the annual Windsor Park calendar and was another opportunity to celebrate all of our different 'roots' as a community. Early December saw the hall fill up again, this time at the **Winter Warm Up** event, with a jazz session from local band, The Basement Collective. It was also the first opportunity to use the new community hall chairs. After 35 years, the old heavy blue chairs have finally been retired. Phew!

Our hall is a real community asset. It provides a space for neighbours to gather, learn, play, celebrate, exercise and engage. Right now, the hall is being treated to a mini make-over (it's getting a repaint). Why not come in and see for yourself!

Happy neighbouring!
by KyrstieG



Interested in volunteering? Make a difference - right here in your community!



Your community league is in need of neighbours with a little time/ motivation to fill some key volunteer roles. Helping your community is an opportunity to get involved, to help contribute to a vibrant and active neighbourhood, and a great way to meet new people.

If you are interested in any of the following volunteer roles, or would like more information on events volunteering, please contact: volunteer@windsor-park.ca.

Soccer Co-ordinator - URGENTLY NEEDED

The soccer coordinator is the point of contact between local soccer organisations and families in Windsor Park. Registration begins early 2024 for the Spring soccer season.

- work with soccer organisations to plan the season;
- recruit coaches and other volunteers for Windsor Park teams;
- report to the executive as required.

Programs Co-ordinator

The Programs coordinator puts in place health and wellness, sports and other programs that the community would like to see offered.

- liaise with other organisations to deliver programs;
- prepare a budget for annual programming;
- submit the budget and report to the executive on programming as required.

Fundraising Co-ordinator

The Fundraising Coordinator works as part of the funds development team, which includes the casino coordinator and grant writers.

- identify appropriate fundraising opportunities;
- find and organise volunteers for fundraising;
- maintain records of donations and correspond with donors;
- report to the executive as required.



League activities are only possible through the help of our volunteers. We thank every one of our volunteers for their passion and commitment to making Windsor Park a better place in which to live.

The Fun Zone



Colour me in beautifully, photograph and email to thepress@windsor-park.ca before 11.59PM on 31 Jan 2024. Keep an eye on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) through Jan to see your entries. We respect your privacy and only first names and ages of winners will be shared on social media. No identifying details will be shared. Have fun!