



COMMUNITY CURRENTS

Community Volunteers Honored

December 11, 2008

Minister Gives Awards at Gala Event

Inside this issue:

Executive Director Community Comment New Positions at EFCL	2
Mediation EFCL Roles determined	3
Community Interest * Infrastructure Audit II * Board Leadership * Secondary Suites	4 - 5
Urban Eco Wellness	10
58th Annual Talent Show	11
League Showcase * Leagues to be on TV * Volunteer Event	12 - 15
efcl.org updates	16



Councillor Ron Hayter, Jens Woller, President, Calder Community League, Councillor Kim Krushell and Minister of Culture and Community Spirit, Lindsay Blackett celebrate Jens' 24 years of Volunteer service with Calder Community League. And a hearty thank you to Jens for volunteering with setup and clean up, and yet another giant thank you to Calder Community League for providing the hall at last minute when the original venue was cancelled. You are the best of the best!

The EFCL Volunteer Recognition Gala was a premiere event with over 40 awards given to 56 recipients at Calder Hall on November 24th.

The crowd mingled and networked over wine and hors d'ouvres to the Don Berner jazz combo. When the award ceremony began, the band livened the event as it prompted the winners on stage to receive their due accolades. A slide show comprised of

league submitted photos boasted the achievements with an impressive string of examples of outstanding projects that our valuable volunteers accomplish all over the city.

Councillors Batty, Caterina, Gibbons, Iveson, Krushell, Hayter, Liebovici, Sohi. Thiele were all in attendance and along with the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit, Lindsay Blackett, presented

awards to the outstanding volunteers from each ward.

EFCL thanks the numerous folks who expressed gratitude and appreciation for this exclusive event that gave deserving credit to the people who make community happen. From your feedback, we gather that the event was a success and worthy of repeat.

More in our League Showcase pg 14 - 15

Best of the Season! Cheers!

New Positions at the EFCL

The Edmonton Federation of Community will be hiring additional staff in 2009, thanks to increased funding from the City of Edmonton.

The first position to be filled is that of a community development officer, who will work with partner agencies to develop a number of projects for the EFCL. One example is the cultural integration project the EFCL is putting together with the Edmonton Multicultural Coalition, where recent immigrants from a variety of countries will be encouraged to get involved in community league affairs.

Other projects would be in the area of recreational programming with sports organizations (soccer, hockey, basketball), crime-prevention and working with seniors groups.

"There are a number of initiatives in support of our members that we just haven't been able to start due to a lack of resources," noted David Gibbens, EFCL president. "Now we can start to make a dent in that list."

The second position would be in marketing, to help raise the profile of the EFCL and its member leagues and diversify their revenue base. Projects would include the production of a city-wide community league newsletter each fall, as well as the procurement of ads for EFCL and community league websites and newsletters.

"We can't take for granted that all citizens know what community leagues are all about," Gibbens acknowledged. "We also still need to find other ways to raise dollars, particularly with the economic environment becoming more difficult."

The EFCL hopes to hire the community development officer early in the new year, while the marketing person will be brought on later, probably in March or April.

Meanwhile, interviews are underway to hire a new community planning advisor, following the retirement of Brian Kropf on November 21. The EFCL hopes to have a new person in this position by January 1, 2009.

In other budget news, the City of Edmonton has included a 3.5% inflationary increase in the base budget of most departments and agencies, including the EFCL and its member community leagues. This would result in an average increase of roughly \$400 in the annual operating grant of each of the city's 149 community leagues and \$11,000 to the EFCL

SURF'S UP for our Brian Kropf who is now retired and enjoying his time in Australia.

Sorry to see you go!



Community Comment

Allan Bolstad
Executive Director



EFCL Poised For Growth

We expect to have quite a busy year in 2009, thanks in large measure to some additional funding granted by city council last week.

As detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, we will be hiring a community development officer to work on a variety of partnership projects, such as the cultural integration initiative the federation has been contemplating for some time.

This will see community leagues matched up with various cultural communities, in order to help integrate newcomers into the community league movement and provide them with opportunities to develop their own programs.

Additional city funding will also let the EFCL ramp up its marketing program, to help raise the profile of member leagues and open up new fundraising opportunities. These include the development of sponsorships, bulk purchases from suppliers and the sale of advertising on EFCL and community league web sites and newsletters.

All of these initiatives will be piled on top of the work the EFCL already had underway, which is expected to be considerable during this winter alone.

For example, work has started on a new edition of the community league resource guide, which is a comprehensive document designed to help leagues in virtually every aspect of their operation.

Next week the EFCL will begin to lay the groundwork on development of a new tripartite agreement, which is the document that outlines the type of activities and facilities community leagues are able to develop on the land they have under license with the city.

Shortly after Christmas negotiations will begin on a new City of Edmonton/EFCL Partnership Agreement, which outlines the role and responsibilities of each organization in all the areas where they work together.

The EFCL also hopes to complete work on its 2009-2013 business plan and long-term financial

Who speaks to the government?

EFCL and Leagues Determine Roles

The EFCL has approved a new policy that determines the role of the EFCL and that of its member leagues when it comes to presenting policy positions to various levels of government.

The policy was passed by the EFCL board at its Oct. 9 meeting and the membership at the Regular General Meeting on Oct. 18.

“It was never that clear when the EFCL should take a position and when we should leave the matter to individual community leagues,” noted EFCL president David Gibbens. “It was causing confusion for us, our leagues, members of city council and other groups that we deal with. It was something that had to be sorted out.”

The new policy states that **the role of the EFCL** would be to speak on behalf of all leagues and focus on issues that are either city-wide in nature, affect a majority of the city’s 149 community leagues or affect future community leagues in areas where there are none currently in place to speak for themselves.

Examples of issues that would meet the above criteria would be financial support to community leagues; the joint

use agreement with the city and school boards; crime prevention initiatives; the city’s new land use plan; changes to zoning regulations like secondary suite legislation, the walkable neighborhoods strategy and suburban neighborhood design guidelines.

The EFCL would consult with its members and partner agencies (i.e. minor sports groups, Neighborhood Watch) in preparing a position, which would be ratified and presented by the board to the appropriate level of government. Some items could be taken to the general membership at the AGM or RGM, depending on the need for feedback and the timing of the initiative.



Participants at RGM provide feedback.

Continued on page 4

EFCL/MRJC Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Mediation Service Ready for League Business



The Mediation and Restorative Justice Centre (MRJC) has opened its doors to Edmonton’s 149 community leagues.

The centre is offering mediation services - free of charge – to leagues that find themselves tangled in energy-draining disputes. The service is a key part of a memorandum of agreement struck between the centre and the EFCL last month.

“This is a real breakthrough for our organization,” noted EFCL president David Gibbens. “Some of these disputes have a few of our members tied in knots. They seem to spiral into something larger than they are and if they aren’t resolved, nothing short of a mass resignation of league executive and/or members seems to settle it.”

Gibbens noted that a significant number of leagues have

become entangled in long-standing conflicts. Sometimes it is between board members, in other cases it is between the board and the league’s general membership, while in other instances it is between the league and area residents or another agency of some sort.

One of the most common sources of complaint involves board members who receive funds to provide services to the league. It often starts innocently as a measure to help out the league, but over time leads to a conflict of interest that is eventually challenged by one or more board members.

This often leads to a split on the board with members of the executive taking one side or the other and no one wants to be involved in climate of conflict.

“It can cause no end of hard feelings if the two sides don’t attempt to address it.”

Funded by the City of Edmonton and Province of Alberta (through the FCSS program), the Mediation and Restorative Justice Centre uses volunteer mediators who

Continued on page 8

EFCL & Leagues Determine Roles

Continued from page 3

The role of a community league – as set out in the new policy – is to speak on behalf of its membership and to report on behalf of area residents.

“A key distinction is being made here,” Gibbens noted, “between speaking on behalf of the membership – which is the league’s right – and attempting to report on what the league is hearing from people in the area. We encourage leagues to check with area residents, however it must be made clear that the league’s authority is restricted to what its members are saying and not just the will of the current executive.”

The focus of community leagues, under the new policy, would be on issues that directly impact the

league’s geographical area, such as rezoning applications, traffic plans, parkland operations, individual school closures and bus service.

In addition, the policy allows for leagues to work on issues that are outside their immediate boundary but close enough to impact the league directly or indirectly. This could include items like an LRT line or major roadway, city centre airport operations, oil and gas approvals, river valley and district parks management.

The process used by leagues in taking a stance on an issue would include informing and consulting with their members and community residents, government staff and appropriate partners, such as other leagues, non-profit groups and agencies. It would be up to the board to determine whether the league would take a stance on an issue, what that stance might be and to communicate its position to the appropriate level of government.



Poised for Growth

Continued from page 2

strategy this winter, which will lay out the kind of activities it wants to undertake and how it hopes to pay for them in the long haul.

All in all, it will be a busy time for the people around here – but a good time as well.

It's makes everyone here feel good when we are able to accomplish some things for our community league members. And this year we're poised to do a lot of that.

On behalf of the staff here at the EFCL let me wish all of you a happy and restful Christmas break. We look forward to working together on many fronts in the New Year.

Phase Two Underway

Infrastructure Audits Available

The Edmonton Federation of Community is taking applications for Phase Two of its infrastructure assessment program. Similar to Phase One, the program is designed to review the structural condition and energy efficiency of community league halls.

Each community league is asked to pay 20% of the cost, which is anywhere from \$1,000 and \$2,000, depending on the size of their hall. The EFCL has funds from the city to cover 30% and the league is asked to apply for a Community Initiatives Program (CIP) grant for the remaining 50% of the cost.

Two community leagues – Belmead and North Millbourne - have already signed up for Phase Two of the program, which has space for 12 leagues altogether.

“The only hold up so far has been obtaining the CIP grant money,” noted EFCL executive director Allan

Bolstad. “We’re hoping to get some positive news on that any day now.”

Delays in provincial grant funding prompted eight of the 16 leagues in Phase One of the program to pay the provincial money up front. These leagues have had their assessments completed and are now applying for reimbursement from the province.

One notable change incorporated into Phase Two of the program is the provision of assistance for leagues that need an in-depth review of the condition of their hall’s foundation. The EFCL decided to set aside some funds for this work after it was determined that two of the leagues in Phase One needed to have this work done.

The EFCL will also be holding discussions with the city in the new year about a hall rehabilitation program, to help leagues finance the work identified in the infrastructure assessment review.

Excellent Opportunity For Community League Executives

Board Leadership Conference Planned

Community league board members will want to circle Saturday, March 21, on their calendar, which is when a series of interesting sessions will be held at the downtown campus of Grant MacEwan College. Sponsored in part by the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, the conference will feature 18 sessions in three separate time blocks.

Some of this year's topics are: *Recruitment for Boards; Strategic Planning; Cultural Diversity; Conflict Resolution; Fundraising in Difficult Times; Board Legal Liability and Duties; Technology Tips; Relationship Between Board and Staff; So You Are the Board Chair – Now What? and So You are the Board Treasurer – Now What?* The conference also features a mid-day break called "Conversation Café", where the delegates will be given an opportunity to nominate topics for discussion at each table.

"It will be a very good opportunity to pick up some new ideas," noted EFCL executive director Allan Bolstad. "Some excellent speakers are lined up and it there will be ample opportunity to share ideas with other delegates."

The conference is open to board and staff members of non-profit organizations. The cost of registration is \$55, which includes lunch. Advertising and conference registrations will begin early in the new year.

EFCL's concerns struck a chord

Secondary Suite Issue Postponed

Edmonton City Council has postponed a decision on the relaxation of rules governing secondary suites, partially in response to concerns raised by the EFCL.

At a meeting on Nov. 18, council set the matter over until January 19 and asked the city administration to review the possibility of making secondary suites a discretionary use in owner-occupied buildings, as opposed to a permitted use in any residential home.

Both of these issues were raised as concerns by the EFCL.

"This is a major change the city is contemplating," noted EFCL executive director Allan Bolstad. "We were hoping they would take a slightly more cautious approach."

Council also asked the administration to review the rules around parking and density of development, along with the height of suites built on top of a detached garage.

Meanwhile, Nov. 13 city council decided to postpone further consideration of The Way We Grow – its long-term land use plan – and The Way We Move – its long-term transportation plan, to its April 23, 2009, meeting.

The EFCL is concerned about the lack of targets and meaningful ways to implement policies identified in the plan, such as the greater use of transit and a move toward higher density development throughout the city.

Secondary Suites Survey ▾

 Before now, I already knew all about the City's NEW proposal to permit rental suites in all single family houses, or in back yards and in garages?

- Strongly agree
- Agree somewhat
- Don't know/Not sure
- Disagree somewhat
- Strongly disagree

There is still time to participate in the survey which will be presented to the City of Edmonton. If you would like to participate send an to email communications@efcl.org. Related news articles are online and in past newsletters.

2008 - 2009 EFCL District Representatives & Members of the Board

Welcome To Alla Ternikova, our latest addition to the EFCL Board & elected representative from District D.

A - Donna Woodford	H - Harold Hornig
B - David Dodge	I - Edo Nyland
D - Alla Ternikova	J - Bryan Kapitza
E - David Gibbens	K - Tarek el-Bialy
F - Laura Thygesen	L - Jim Sherstabetoff
G - Christine Bremner	

C - Vacant
Nominate someone from your community!



RGM participants provide valuable feedback for how EFCL can serve the needs of the Community Leagues better. See Business Plan Feedback article on right.

C Bannerman Community League
C Edmonton Evergreen Community Association
C Fraser Community League
C Hairsine Community League
C Homesteader Community League
C Horse Hill Community League
C South Clareview Community League

Call for Nominations

EFCL Representative Required for District C.
Forward the resume of the nominated individual from these districts to EFCL by March 26 to be considered for election at our AGM or hold an election in your own district. This is an opportunity to have your finger on the pulse of the city wide needs of the communities. Step up and have fun with us!



SAVE THIS DATE : APRIL 27TH, 2009
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**KING SIZE
FAMILY FUN**

Getting in More Games this Hockey Season

Oil Kings Give Great Prizes at RGM

The Oil Kings were great sports when they came to our RGM to promote hockey and give an autographed jersey to lucky recipient Hilda Sucre, from Oliver Community League, and an autographed hockey stick to Don Kuchelyma, from Jasper Park.

For those of you who like good competitive hockey and would like to enjoy a memorable night out at Rexall Place this hockey season, the Oil Kings provide a number of options available to have some affordable family fun. Three Oil Kings dates have been put aside for a special Community League Discount. Present your Membership card and receive a \$15 ticket (a saving of \$10 or more) to:

Saturday, January 31
vs Regina @ 7 pm
with a Spiderman appearance

Sunday, March 8th
vs Lethbridge @ 5 pm
with a kids carnival.

Call Oil King contact John Sutherland at 780-409-2474 or email him jsutherland@oilkings.ca to get the special code to purchase seats at the group rate online.

There are also special Ticket packages that include an Oilers ticket, or Oil King Jerseys, or center ice seats so check online at www.oilkings.ca or with John for your season of fun. We have posted some information in our resources online.

**GET IN THE GAME
ALL WINTER!**

Business Plan Feedback from RGM

Eskimo Event and Ad Sales Supported

Most community leagues would like to see another promotion with the Edmonton Eskimos and a strong majority support the inclusion of paid advertising on the EFCL's website and newsletter, according to feedback received from representatives attending the Oct. Regular General Meeting.

League representatives were also open to the idea of the EFCL making money on the sale of membership supplies, which is currently done on a break-even basis.

"I think there's a recognition that we need to explore new ways of raising money," noted EFCL executive director Allan Bolstad. "We all know that we need to get imaginative when the economy softens and this is in line with that kind of thinking."

A total of 26 league representatives responded to the survey questions posed by the EFCL at the meeting.

The city provided six staff members to help collect the responses and associated comments from the delegates.

Two thirds of the respondents said the Oct. 4 promotion with the Edmonton Eskimos was worthwhile, although they would like to see the EFCL to get some better seats for sale to community league members.

Eighteen people said the EFCL should sell advertising on its website and newsletter and a majority want the federation to broker ads that would run on community league websites and newsletters as well.

In terms of EFCL services, communications and planning services were the top two priorities cited by the respondents.

The EFCL intends to use this information in the development of its 2009-2013 business plan, which it hopes to complete by the April 27 Annual General Meeting.

Eskimo Game Day a Touchdown for Community Leagues

The rain came on Community League Game Day on October 4th, but not before the fans got to cheer over a lot of touchdowns and Community League Volunteers managed to give away 1000 Community League footballs to young Eskimo fans and to shake hands with a lot of parents from our communities. Community leagues were up in lights for the first time ever on the jumbotron throughout the game.

Calder Community League's Penny Villeneuve & 5 lucky friends and family visit the Community League Booth at Commonwealth Stadium. Part of Penny's prize in addition to the coveted seats and dinner in the VIP Gold & Green Room, was a pre-game locker room tour and drive around at field level. What an awesome prize just for being a member of a community league.



Far left, Steve Hala guides Penny from locker room to VIP seats. Far right, David Dodge, EFCL Director and Evansdale Community League President welcomes them to the booth.

At our RGM we conducted lengthy discussions and had a specific survey question regarding the benefit of repeating the Eskimo Game Day Promotion next year, and it was agreed that it served to raise the community league profile, and some changes should be made to conduct a more effective promotion such as better pricing. For other details of this survey read above.

For the most part, we were pleased with the results and have gathered experience to promote our leagues in a bigger and better way during next fall's campaign.

Thanks to our co sponsors of the game, Realtors Association of Edmonton, Foster Park Baskett Insurance, & the City of Edmonton, and to our volunteers who made this happen: Brendan, Tom, Christine, David, Aaron, Raya, Laura, Jim.

EMHA Supports Community League Membership Thousands of Memberships Sold with Hockey Registration

Hockey Moms & Dads turned hockey registrars have remained loyal to the concept of Community by still requiring a community league membership to participate in EMHA hockey. Joining the bandwagon this year is the Knight of Columbus who procured over \$10,000 in membership sales.

Many of these memberships come from folks who might not normally purchase a community league membership so this is a great service the registrars offer our leagues. It is also a labour of love which requires a great deal of extra administrative work on their part and EFCL's.

The administration at EFCL has been busy tallying submissions, writing cheques, and accounting for this large amount of transactions. What was immediately recognizable is that we needed a system which would release the work load for all parties involved. After meetings and much discussion we decided to move forward with a new way to manage the memberships sold through hockey, **rather than lose this great source of members**. We wanted to improve the turn around of information and accuracy of membership prices and appropriate league. This combined with moving forward into the age of online accessibility, we will offer the following:

- Purchasers of memberships enter their address to find their appropriate league
- They then may contact the league personally or go ahead and select their type of membership, Family, Single, Senior etc. And proceed to order & submit payment.
- An email confirmation is sent to them as a temporary membership with a verifiable number for them to go ahead and register for hockey
- A corresponding email is sent to the community league that provides the new membership information
- The community league is then responsible to issue the new membership card and skate tags, and invite their new member to a meeting or to volunteer.
- EFCL will reduce banking & administrative costs by remitting the funds to the leagues in an organized fashion every month or two on dates arranged ahead of time.

This process will not replace traditional membership campaigns, rather it assists hockey registrars to complete their growing registration tasks more easily, and continues to provide leagues with a new reservoir of funds and volunteers.



**EMHA
THANK YOU for all that
you do to support
Community Leagues.**

More Leagues May Find Opportunities to Take A Dip

The City of Edmonton offers a number of programs that provide Edmonton Community Leagues and their members with a discounted opportunities to access city-operated sports and fitness facilities. To ensure that these programs are meeting your needs the City of Edmonton and the EFCL are undertaking an informal review of the programs offered. Specific objectives include:

- Determining awareness of the programs offered
- Understanding reasons for participating and not participating
- Obtaining suggestions for improvements
- Acquiring feedback on some potential changes

We have worked on having this survey online in the new year, and to participate please register and get your user ID, logon and provide us with your valuable feedback.

Mediation Service Continued from page 3

have all received training and accreditation as community mediators.

Centre staff are available for one-on-one consultation, formal mediations and conflict-resolution workshops.

One such workshop will be featured at the Board Leadership Conference, which the EFCL is helping to sponsor at Grant MacEwan College on March 21. The workshop will include a session on avoiding conflict as well as a session on dealing with conflict, once the organization is already "in the soup."

Leagues looking for assistance in any of these areas are encouraged to contact MRJC executive director Susan Logan at 423-0896. OR **Community Mediation Program at 424-4632** www.mrjc.ca

(Safe) Hockey Nets Available

Looking for a good deal on a great set of hockey nets? If so, the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues is the place to call.

Thanks to some funds raised by the Clareview and District Area Council, the EFCL is able to provide a set of brand new, custom designed, safety nets for half price.

The nets are designed not to tip (which has caused accidents in the past) and are not as heavy as standard rink nets, which make them easier to carry on and off the ice.

Locally constructed by Canadian Arena Products, they retail for approximately \$1,100 a pair. The EFCL has enough funds to cover half of this cost, for the next seven community league customers.

"We've probably sold 30 sets so far," noted CAP owner Rene Hebers. "We could have a set ready in three or four weeks if someone were to call today."

Don't forget to buy your discount Oil Kings Tickets with your community league membership. Details on page 6 or online at efcl.org



Focusing on Safety in our Communities

For residents of South East Edmonton—North of Whitemud

Tuesday January 20th, 2009 at 7:30

Hazeldean Community League Hall

The event will focus on providing *participants with tools and resources that can be used in their community to promote community safety.*

The evening has three sections:

1. An opportunity for the participants to network with other members of their community or neighbourhood to share concerns, issues and strategies for prevention or dealing with such concerns,
2. Brief presentations (7-10 minutes each) from a variety of agencies sharing what they do (safe edmonton, south east central citizens patrol, safe parents/neighbourhood watch, and EPS community policing)
3. Round table—the various organizations will answer participant questions.

We are also going to be asking a variety of organizations to set up information tables. We are asking folks to register for this event so we have an idea of numbers. They can do so by calling me at 780-496-1470 or their CRC or email susan.dack@edmonton.ca

Snow Angels Help Seniors This Winter

Are you a senior who is fearful of the onset of winter because you don't know how you're going to manage once the snow hits? Keeping walks free from snow is also important to help prevent falls. There are a number of agencies in Edmonton who match seniors with a low-cost snow shoveller to ensure you're not snowbound or risk being fined for not clearing your walks.

Paid Workers

Two of Edmonton's seniors centres match seniors with service providers throughout the city. Contact the **Westend Seniors Activity Centre** at 780-483-1209 (no membership required) or **SAGE** (Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton) at 780-423-5510 (\$20 membership required). If you live south

of the river, you have two additional options. Contact **Lifestyle Helping Hands Seniors Association** at 780-450-2113 (\$10 membership required) or **Seniors Caring About Seniors** at 780-465-0311 (\$10 membership required).

Volunteer Workers

The **Westend Seniors Activity Centre** at 780-483-1209 (no membership required) is the only organization which may be able to help provide volunteer snow shovellers. (Applicants must demonstrate financial need) Check with them to see if they have volunteers in your area.

Neighbourhood Help

Seniors, if you are able to find volunteer snow shoveller on your own, why not let the City of Edmonton help you to thank

them for their kindness and hard work? Nominate your **Snow Angel!** The City of Edmonton will send you a Snow Angel pin and a letter from Mayor Stephen Mandel to present to your volunteer. Phone 780-496-8200 or visit www.edmonton.ca for more details.



Urban Eco Wellness

SCAN Chipping Away at Problem Properties



It's that one house in a neighbourhood that has residents concerned for their safety and the safety of their families.

It's that house where there's traffic at all hours of the night, constant fights or disturbances; problems that cause anxiety and fear in a neighbourhood.

It's that house that exists in communities across Alberta which will get the special attention of a new sheriffs' investigative unit that can help residents reclaim their neighbourhoods.

Since being launched October 1, the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Unit (SCAN) has received more than 150 complaints about problem properties and has successfully resolved 56 of those complaints.

SCAN investigates properties that are breeding grounds for crime - such as drugs, gangs and prostitution - that can devastate neighbourhoods. SCAN works with property owners and landlords to curb illegal and disruptive behaviour and ensure properties are maintained in a condition safe to the community. The units were created as a result of tough, new legislation enacted by the Alberta government.

Investigators first attempt to resolve all complaints informally. The first call after starting an investigation is always to the landlord or property owner. If necessary, SCAN investigators will attend residential-tenancy board hearings and present evidence on the landlord's behalf. Obtaining a court-ordered Community Safety Order to shut the property down for up to 90 days is a last resort.

SCAN investigators focus on the effects that illegal activities have on the health, safety and security of a neighbourhood, rather than arresting individuals. They work in partnership with the police and other key stakeholders including health authorities, residential-tenancy

advocates, other government ministries, municipalities and their agencies. Criminal activity discovered when dealing with these properties is turned over to the police to investigate.

Some of the signs of suspicious or illegal activity may include:

- Frequent visitors at all times of the day and night
- Frequent late-night activity
- Windows blackened or curtains always drawn
- Extensive investment in home security
- Strange odours
- Garbage that contains numerous bottles or containers

If you suspect a property in your neighbourhood is "that one house" being used for illegal activity, never investigate or enter the property yourself. Contact SCAN toll-free at 1-866-960-SCAN (7226) or online at www.scan.alberta.ca. All complaints are confidential.

Project Porchlight has been running an energy efficient campaign in your neighborhoods in the last couple of months. We are in Calgary and Edmonton until January, delivering 300,000 free compact fluorescent bulbs in both cities combined. We have been having positive feedback from residents in your communities and many have helped us deliver in your areas. Many neighbors, or yourselves have even received a bulb!

We would appreciate your help in spreading the message through your community through the use of your newsletter or website, there are outstanding volunteers in your community that we would like to recognize. We are a volunteer powered organization; it is through caring citizens in your communities that we are able to share a powerful message door to door. We are looking for volunteers to deliver CFL bulbs to their neighbors, to share the facts of energy efficiency in the home, climate change, and global warming.

We would appreciate your help and support, we want to educate and encourage change. Please contact frances@onechange.org or call 403-767-9007 for more information. Remember, Simple Actions Matter.

GREEN CHALLENGE

The Green Challenge is still on and the leagues who stepped up to green up are making great progress with simple effective ways as easy as changing light bulbs and upgrading appliances, ways to make our world a better place. Still don't know about the Green Challenge? Go Online to read about how urban wellness spreads easily. Join the forum and share ideas for retrofitting. Enter the challenge and qualify to win prizes totaling \$5000 for your retrofit needs.

CO2RE remains a valuable resource for rebates, government programs, tips, prizes, and help to launch your green program. www.CO2RE.ca

<http://www.ecoaction.gc.ca/>

This link provides tips and grant information at a federal level.

www.ealt.ca The Edmonton Area Land Trust works on natural areas conservation in the Edmonton region, to ensure natural and countryside landscapes are maintained, to benefit regional residents today and in the future.

Treasurer Training Avail-

The EFCL strives to provide support to leagues in areas that seem to be a constant source of new issues and concerns. Our Treasurer Training Program has been well utilized by dozens of leagues to get their newly elected treasurers, or old accounting messes on track.

Linda Crosby, EFCL's Financial Advisor and Bookkeeper has years of experience in working with league finances and grant applications and is your safe informed place to go for advice and direction. She works closely with CRC's to ensure a smooth transition for treasurers. Many leagues are not aware that this service is available.

Treasurer Training – Information & Advice on

<i>AGLC Licenses</i>	<i>Cash Flow Projections</i>
<i>Financial Reporting</i>	<i>Accounting Software</i>
<i>Grants Applications – CIP & CFEP</i>	<i>GST Returns</i>
<i>Year End Preparation Assistance</i>	<i>Operating Budgets</i>

Coming in spring is a new edition of the Community League Resource Guide. Tools for all aspects of League Management will be improved with reduced content to keep it relevant for community leagues. Treasurer specific changes include information on:

Governments
Cash Management
Internal Controls
Examples of Community League Finance Policies
Community League Grants
~ Criteria, Deadlines, Contact Information
Accounting Basics – included in appendices
Payroll & T4's - City of Edmonton
Fundraising
Tips in completing AGLC Financial Reports
General ledger accounting
Hall rentals activity
Restricted revenue activity

The resource guide will be made available online at www.efcl.org. Visit our site often, check out tools, tips, in the resources pages. We have forums for sharing ideas, or can create one on your suggestion. Treasurer's FAQ coming soon.



District F Meeting on Dec. 8 Hosted Linda's Treasurer Presentation

Front Yards in Bloom Gathers Community Participation

Not even Christmas and we are thinking of flowers and springtime? Just planting the seeds. The CRC's and EFCL have been approached by "Front Yards in Bloom" to approach leagues to be part of a growing opportunity. For several years now the Edmonton Horticultural Society, the City of Edmonton, and Canada Post have played a role in recognizing and celebrating beautiful front yards across Edmonton.

The goals are to:

- Recognize the effort and good work of others
- Raise awareness of front yards and how they contribute to the beauty and image of the community
- Develop a friendly competitive spirit
- Encourage people to evaluate their own effort and make improvements
- Make Edmonton a more beautiful city through community involvement
- Promote awareness of Communities in Bloom

Front Yards in Bloom will be fun; but what does the community want to get out of it? More members. Articles in a newsletter. Or people attending an event. September Membership campaigns will be a wonderful time to announce the winners in your community.

How it works:

Select someone who likes walking, likes gardening, or who walks their dog around the neighborhood to be the Front Yards IN Bloom FYIB Committee.

The league will be provided with nominees addresses in their community, as the various addresses pour in from the public nominations from around the city. (Feel free to nominate yards as well). You will receive packages from FYIB, a sign to put in the yard which attracts community interest, and a letter to give to the gardener. This is an opportunity to meet people and involve them in your league in their area of interest.

By the end of the growing season, your FYIB committee may select the top 2 yards who are then guaranteed a place as finalist in the next year's 2010 competition. You may hold your own award ceremony as you choose the winners, and set this up however works with your own league events and operations.

It is that simple, and creates a great sense of pride and involvement in the community. For more information contact communications@efcl.org. Forms and guidelines will be posted when they become available in January. Get Growing and get your leagues name on the list to participate!!

Already involved for the coming years nominations are the Downtown, Westwood, Oliver, North Glenora, Alberta Avenue, and Riverdale Community Leagues.

58th Annual Talent Show Reaching for the stars again this year

Once again, singers, dancers, dramatists are invited to perform in our famous annual talent show on April 17 & 18 at the Stanley A. Milner Library Theatre. Professional adjudicators will award cash prizes to participants in several categories including, choral, vocal solo, assorted instruments and dance categories. See online on EFCL's talent show page in our news section for more details and downloadable registration form. Call the talent show chair, Judith, and 780-473-2781 or drop your registration at EFCL office at 7103 - 105 Street with fee, application, copy of birth certificate, and community league membership card. Accepting registration until Friday February 6th, 2009 for 5 - 17 year old members of our community leagues.

SHOWCASE - IN THE COMMUNITY

Silverberry Park ~ The Meadows



The Silverberry Park Committee was formed in 2004 to ensure the neighbourhood's children would have a safe and fun place to play. After forming, the committee did the groundwork, created plans and solicited quotes for playground equipment and labour. The committee raised more than \$1 million from various sources and worked on the all the planning with the different stakeholders. This year was the committee's busiest year as they coordinated the building of the playground and over 100 volunteers who helped. The playground finally opened in September, 2008, providing the Meadows community with an outstanding facility that increases the quality of life for all its residents. Each member of the original committee stayed on and worked until the project was completed, Everybody was always ready to drop whatever they were doing and come help out even at short notice. ~ by Harman Grewal, President, The Meadows

Recipients of an Outstanding Project Team at the 2008 EFCL Volunteer Recognition:

Brenda Beier, Karly Higginbotham, Kendra Black, Andrea Twardzik and Catharine Schoendorfer

Bravo!

The pictures provided for our presentation at the award ceremonies will be made available online in a new league photo gallery online in January, 2009.

SHOWCASE - IN THE COMMUNITY

Shaw Cable TV to Host Community League Series Eastwood Overcomes Overwhelming Odds



Sue Evenson, retired Community League President with Shaw film crew
Brad Walker, Producer, and Paul Smyth, Camera

The obstacles that Eastwood Community League faced were numerous and diverse and among the most devastating to confront any community. The facilities had been neglected and vandalized, garbage had piled up inside the hall and out, homeless people were sleeping in the ruins of the rink area, and the playground was used as a home base for trafficking of drugs and sex. Graffiti marred the buildings and criminals hung out where children should have had a place for play and community should have been thriving.

The list of needs was long, but because one person, Sue Evenson, stumbled unwittingly into the board, a new focus was brought to the Community League. With a view to simply cleaning up the books, and restoring simple honest bookkeeping and accountability, a long process began. It was just a matter of course, that while the books were being dealt with, the other issues the league faced arose, and one by one, movements started happening. The Salvation Army came with volunteer hands, Councillor Gibbens directed

the league to the Rotary Club for funds, the local native association and our good hearted seniors, also rose for the occasion and before it could be stopped the ball was rolling for renovation and rebuild projects. Add more volunteer time, Fine Options graffiti painting, and over the course of the last several years, a playground, a spray park, new skating rink shack and boards, and a renovated hall were all completed.

With the persistence of the hall manager and current President,



Norm Aldi, elected in 2004, crime reports went to the police relentlessly and crime prevention tools such as good lighting were implemented. The result has been an extreme reduction in vandalism and an inflation in cooperative effort from community members wanting to take their neighborhood back. Sue said this is the result of many hands at work, often the poorest and busiest hands, but it was these volunteers' determination to do what was right, and to leave the league a better place that Sue credits with the success. Sue's determination was the driving force, and with the help of a multitude of volunteers, Eastwood Community League has risen from what seemed overwhelming odds to become an inspiration for any volunteer group.

Sue Evenson was the recipient of an Outstanding Project Leader Award at EFCL's Volunteer Recognition Event.

To help the city have insight into the volunteers that make up the richness of growing neighborhoods, Shaw Cable has approached EFCL to interview outstanding volunteers over the course of the next year as a source for a series of community

league highlight spots on their news channel. Eastwood is our first featured league to air with 24 repeats, hourly, on December 16th.

Congratulations on work well done.

Check online at efcl.org for future features.

EFCL Volunteer Recognition Gala Event

AWARD WINNERS

Long Service Awards

- Bellevue Community League
Rick McAdie
- Belvedere Community League
Mel Segin
- Calder Community League
Jens Woller
- Evansdale Community League
Jackie Nahayowski
- Garneau Community League
Anne de Villars
- McLeod Community League
Del Golinowski
- North Glenora Community League
Donna Jackson
- Oliver Community League
Cliff Balog
- Queen Alexandra Community League
Diane Millar
- Ritchie Community League
Leonard Wampler
- Riverbend Community League
Sue Trigg
- The Ridge Community League
Jim Bradshaw
- West Meadowlark Community League
Len Sarnecki

Outstanding Project Leaders

- Belgravia Community League
Project: Director of Planning
Sandy Guilbert
- Eastwood Community League
Project: Eastwood Spray Park,
Playground, Hall Renewal
Sue Evenson
- Forest/Terrace Heights Community League
Project: Terrace Heights Playground
Debbie Kardash
- Highlands Community League
Project: Newsletter Director
Cheryl Mahaffy
- Malmo Community League
Project: Beach Volleyball
Alex Khan
- McKernan Community League
Project: LRT & Transportation Planning
Frank Weichman
- Sherbrooke Community League
Project: Crystal Kids Car Show and Street Dance
Christine Longridge

Special Awards

- Edmonton Examiner Community Award to* Lago Lindo Community League
Project: Lago Lindo Community Child Care Julie Epp & Claudia McCormick
- EFCL Community Partner Award to* Edmonton Examiner
Project: Outstanding Community Media Coverage John Caputo
- EFCL Volunteer of the Year to* Judith Richardson
Project: EFCL Annual Talent Show

Volunteer of the Year Awards

- Caernarvon Community League
Chris Burton
- Elmwood Community League
Ron Vivian
- Lessard Community League
Lorrie Mullen
- Meadowlark Community League
April Kiely
- Montrose Community League
Betty Griffin
- North Millbourne Community League
Karrie Baker
- Riverdale Community League
Raquel Feroe
- Volunteer Team of the Year*
Delton Community League
Sue Nozack
Chris Nozack
- Prince Rupert Community League
Ann Couy
John Couy



Outstanding Project Teams

- Aspen Gardens Community League
Project: Aspen Gardens Green Movement & Hall Retrofit
Aaron Dublenko
Greg Meimar
Michael Walters
- Bonnie Doon Community League
Project: Mill Creek Ravine Clean Up
Astrid Blodgett
Herb Taylor
- Brookview Community League
Project: Riverbend Basketball
Tim Walker
Debbie Walker
- Cumberland/Oxford Community League
Project: Cumberland/Oxford Playground
Jean Deslauriers
Rick Grebenstein
- Dunluce Community League
Project: Dunluce School Playground
Katrina Bone
Rendel Elock
Tanya Fata
Carla Korpessio
Lorna Melnyk
- Holyrood Community League
Project: Holyrood Community Greenspace Project
Kevin Dieterman
Donna Johnson
Justine Leszcynski
John Leszcynski
Carolyn Mathew
Chris Neuman
Suzanne Prefontaine
Shelley Sabo
Sherri Shorten
- Kenilworth Community League
Project: Kenilworth Community Leagues Play ground,
bike trail and spray
Diane Cummins
Hanna Key
Martine Vandyke
- Kensington Community League
Project: Kensington Facility Upgrade -
Park, Playground, & Hall renovation
Bev Esslinger
Laurie Hartley
Connie Kovalenko
Darrell Kovalenko
Edie MacFarlane
Myrne Quaale
Shelley Tupper
- Strathcona Centre Community League
Project: Rink ReBuild Team
Don Spence
Al Wong
- The Meadows Community League
Project: Silverberry Playground
Brenda Beier
Kendra Black
Karly Higginbotham
Catharine Schoendorfer
Andrea Twardzik
- Twin Brooks Community League
Project: 3rd Annual Fall Community BBQ
Marianne Auch
Kirstin Johns-Bell
Shauna Nichols
Janet Yakimchuk

SHOWCASE - IN THE COMMUNITY

EFCL Volunteer Recognition Gala Event



John Caputo, Edmonton Examiner, Julie Epp, Minister Blackett



The Edmonton Examiner was EFCL's major sponsor for the Volunteer Recognition Event and awarded the first ever Examiner Community Spirit Award to Julie Epp and Claudia McCormick for their project Lago Lindo Community Child Care.



The Examiner received the 2008 EFCL Community Partner Award for the outstanding job that they do to promote community in their news and on their website. Part of their recent community promotion includes the launch of UREdmonton.ca where community leagues can submit stories and enter to win cash prizes.

Below, EFCL President, David Gibbens and Minister Blackett present Judith Richardson, EFCL Talent Show Chair, with EFCL's Volunteer of the Year award. Be sure to attend this years 58th Annual Talent show - details page 11

A full house, full of applause with supporters numbering greater than the volunteer award winners themselves.



Thank you Judith! Your efforts are much appreciated.



EFCL's Linda Crosby happy to serve and honor our volunteers.

Calendar

December 16 - SHAW CABLE AIRS FIRST COMMUNITY LEAGUE FEATURE.

Catch it anytime all day on Shaw
Community TV repeating hourly.

District F Meetings

On February 16, 2009, we will update
communications list, and re-evaluate District F
priorities. Contact Laura Thygesen, District Rep
lthygesen@hotmail.com for info.

District L - Millwoods Presidents Council
meets the first Thursday of every month except
July. The next meeting is scheduled January 9th,
hosted at The Meadows. Individuals with District-
wide issues or agencies wishing to make a guest
presentation are encouraged to contact the
current Chair Ken Shapka at
kshapka@telusplanet.net or Past Chair and
EFCL District Rep Jim Sherstabetoff at
jimsherstabetoff@netscape.net. District-wide
concerns or kudos can be expressed at
www.millwoods.org or www.mwpc.org

Update the EFCL online calendar with your
league activities.

Resources

www.UREdmonton.ca to post community articles
and enter to win cash prizes!

www.volunteeredmonton.com
for a variety of great training opportunities

Walkable Edmonton

<http://www.edmonton.ca/walkableedmonton>

Secondary Suites Survey

The EFCL Planner has put together a survey the
results of which will be presented to the City of
Edmonton for information to be utilized in their
decision making process. Register as an online
user and contact EFCL to obtain permissions to
fill out the survey. Articles on the issues are
online in our currents—news stream.

City of Edmonton has a new site! Update the
links on your community league pages.

Need a Community League Email? Ask us.

VISIT THE EFCL WEBSITE FOR OTHER RESOURCES & LINKS

www.efcl.org/resources

May you be blessed
in the new year!



Phone: 780.437.2913
Fax: 780.437.4710

EFCL Upcoming Dates

EFCL Annual General Meeting
April 27, 2009

**Next EFCL Board Meetings -
Members Welcome**

January 8, 2009
February 12, 2009
March 12, 2009

**Keeping
Current**
Valerie
Pachal

communications@efcl.org



efcl.org update

CHECK OUT:

Calendar of Activities -

Notify communications@efcl.org if you would like
your community league activities posted here, or if
you would like to post them yourself. It's as easy as
typing an email once you have registered. Just ask
how.

Currents - News Stream

All the articles in this newsletter in an online format
before this letter even reaches you. In between
newsletter publications, important updates can be found
online as well in the emails sent out to selected
members. Make us a habit.

It has been quite a couple
of busy months at EFCL
with Event Coordinator
responsibilities pushing
the website to the back
burner.

Apologies to leagues
whose events did not get
posted for their events. The
volunteer recognition event
was by far the most
fratifying task in my career
here at EFCL and I am
amazed at the array of

accomplishments and the level of commitment out in our communities.
Back on the website track, some pretty useful functionality will be available
to community leagues and the public over the next couple of months.

MEMBERSHIP SUPPLIES ONLINE ORDER SYSTEM

To make life a little easier for membership supply orders—we have an
online order form. All community leagues will be issued with a user ID and
password to log on to our website. Once logged in, you can update your
email, address, telephone, subscriptions and see privileged areas of the
website such as the "Purchase membership supplies" order form under
Resources. Simply fill out your desired quantities and an email will be sent
to confirm your amounts. You will be invoiced as per prior years and no
online payment is necessary. See online in January and refer to the EMHA article
on page 8 for additional details.

COMMUNITY LEAGUE WEB PAGES

EFCL has been working closely with a handful of leagues to work out
the details for helping leagues have their own web page that is easy to
update. Some leagues are without a skilled volunteer or resources to pay a
developer, or in some cases had a motivated volunteer who developed a
website but then were left without the skills to update it. If you have a need
for such please get in touch with Valerie communications@efcl.org

PUBLIC SEARCH ENGINE

Our dreary long list of leagues and league website is soon coming to a
historical end. A new search feature is almost complete and will help the
public find their league more easily. They will be able to search by address
as well! An update module for leagues to edit their own information is going
to expedite public inquiries. There is more but I have run out of room . . .
Check us out!