



It's IMPORTANT TO PURCHASE A MEMBERSHIP!

Contributing to the well being of your community comes in many forms, but one of the key ways to contribute is to show your support and purchase a membership.



November 2015

ASPEN news

Making the neighbourhood you want to live in!



Laurel Deedrick-Mayne, Resident since 1997 and – the Author next door.

Sometimes as we go through life things strike a chord with us and we are jolted out of

our everyday routines to recognize that we are missing something about our existence, our present, our past. I had that moment of clarity as I was walking down the spaghetti aisle in Safeway on Remembrance Day. At the 11th hour an announcement came over the intercom to request that everyone stop what they were doing for two minutes of silence to remember those lost to war.

It was at that moment that I realized there must be a better way to mark the day. Lives should be recognized in a more substantial manner than in a mere two minutes once a year as we go about our daily routines. So began a ten-year journey to bring the novel **A Wake For The Dreamland** to readers across the country. What began as a tribute to a departing generation became much more as I travelled to the battlefields of

Sicily and Italy, collected hours of audio interviews from Veterans and spent months researching at the Canadian War Museum and Archives and the Loyal Edmonton Regiment Museum. All to bring to life a remarkable historic love story that reminds all of us what we owe these brave men and women.

Synopsis

It is the Canadian summer of 1939. Friends William, Robert and Annie are on the cusp of adulthood. The world is on the brink of war. Robert and Annie's love has blossomed, even as the inevitability of the boys joining up means separation and the first of many losses. Fearing he might not return and oblivious to William's true nature, Robert makes him promise to take care of Annie. Every arena of their lives is infiltrated by the war, from the home front to the underground of 'queer' London, to the bloody battlefields of Italy. Even in the aftermath, in the shadow of the real and metaphorical 'Dreamland', these friends fight their own inner battles: to have

faith in their right to love and be loved, to honour their promises, and ultimately find their way 'home.'

A Wake For The Dreamland was launched in April 2015 to rave reviews and continues to place on the Edmonton Best-sellers list, now for over 14 weeks. The book is resonating with Seniors, Baby Boomers and their children and gaining audiences who want to read a universal story about love lost, love reunited and the love that dare not speak its name.

The novel was released in April and is available at **Audreys** on Jasper Ave, **The Edmonton Bookstore** on Whyte, **Chapters, Amazon**, through my website <http://awakeforthedreamland.com>

Have your copy brought right to your door. Call me (780) 984-6470 or email me at ldmayne@shaw.ca and **I'll deliver.** I've been speaking, reading and selling at many book clubs here in Alberta, Vancouver and beyond. I'd be delighted to be part of yours.

A Message from Councillor Walters

Few people know how important it is to keep up an active investment in drainage infrastructure more than Aspen Gardens residents. The sanitary sewer upgrades in Royal Gardens, Greenfield, and Aspen Gardens begun last year and will continue into 2016. These upgrades will address the issues we've had with flooding basements and sewer backups. The funding for those projects will come through Drainage Service's collection of utility fees.

The City's 2016-2018 Utilities Budget was released online on October 20, laying out the expected costs for drainage services and waste management over the next three years. The budget is heavy reading, but well worth the slog. We need to have a strong investment in the areas of waste management and drainage to support all that we hope to accomplish as a City.

Both drainage and waste management have asked for modest fee increases over the 2016-2018 period. Drainage proposed an increase of \$1.00 per month for the typical residential customer, which works out to around \$33.03 dollars a month in 2016, and goes up a dollar from there each subsequent year.

Waste management's proposed increase is slightly higher, around \$2.31 extra on your bill per month in 2016, which means the average customer will be paying around \$43 per month. The proposed rate increases for 2017 and 2018 are similar.

The proposed changes correlate to the anticipated increases in costs to provide these services over the 3-year period, including the cost of staffing, machinery, and infrastructure renewal.

At time of writing these increases have not yet been approved. But these represent a small bump to cover services that are critical to our city's well-being. Rate increases may sting a little in the short term, but the medicine is well worth the cure when we consider the effects that old drainage infrastructure have had on Aspen Gardens.

If you have any questions about your utility rates or any other issue, you can feel free to contact me at michael.walters@edmonton.ca, or at (780) 496-8132.

SAVE THE DATE!



Support Aspen Gardens Annual Helping Hampers!!!

This holiday season Aspen & Westbrook and GEOMEER are once again collecting food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and gifts to create substantial "Helping Hampers" for families in need in our area. Also accepted are Gift Cards for food - a wonderful idea.

Collection Dates:

**Wed Nov 25th 3:00 - 8:00 PM & Sat Nov 28th
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

at the Aspen Gardens Community League

For more information feel free to contact Susan Field at 780-918-2527 or sefield@shaw.ca

The Helping Hampers Campaign

Helping Hampers is driven by the support of hundreds of youth who believe in the power of a helping hand. Every holiday season, GEOMEER partners with schools and businesses across Alberta to create hampers for dozens of local families in need. And by "hamper," we really mean a mountain-sized donation of food, household goods, and Christmas gifts that is often worth over \$2,000. Why? Because not having to worry about buying holiday gifts, cleaning products, toiletries, and food gives families relief from stress for more than a few days.

Please visit www.geomeer.ca to see all the wonderful projects!

All money raised goes to those in need.

Monetary donations over \$10.00 will receive a tax receipt!

Every item helps a family get back on track, so please give generously!

Christmas Bird Count



Edmonton's annual Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday December 20. Hundreds of participants across the City will be counting the birds that visit their backyard feeders. Others will be hiking the local trails, including the Whitemud Creek Ravine trails, in search of winter birds. With this year's abundance of mountain ash berries and spruce cones it should be a very good year for winter birding.

All local bird counts are tabulated for a city-wide count which will be forwarded to the National Audubon Society and Bird Studies Canada. Detailed information about the Christmas Bird Count, including guidelines for counting, photos of common winter birds and registration information can be found at www.edmontonchristmasbirdcount.ca



Community Bulletin Board

Community league members who have a homegrown business, have something to sell, are having a sale, or have a service to offer can post information here. The deadline for submitting information is the 18th of each month, and must be kept to a maximum of 30 words. And, you MUST include your community league membership number to have the posting included in the newsletter.

We will also be including thank you notes and announcements and announcements from all residents. Submissions should be sent to communications@spengardens.ca. There is limited space so posting will be at the discretion of the Communications Director.

Registered Massage Therapist

Gabriella Rozsa B.A., R.M.T. is accepting new patients weekday mornings and weekends. Professional home-based business; 15 years clinical experience; licensed with RMTA. Information and/or to book an appointment call 780.757.3848 or email grozsa@shaw.ca. 12303 – 39 Avenue

Hunter Douglas Window Coverings

If you are building new or updating your home, complete the look with Hunter Douglas window coverings. Call Janice Baskin 780-232-1747 or email janice@camelotinteriors.com

Music Lessons, 2015 - 2016.

Piano lessons in your own home. Beginners a specialty. Evening, afternoon and daytime spots available.

Richard van Oosterom , B.Mus, [M.Mus. (courses)]
piano, theory, harmony, RCM and university exam preparation
(780) 437 2391 (HOME); (780) 292 3489 (CELL)
rjvano@primus.ca or visit www.mauranuiusic.com

Sweater Sale – Open House

Windsor Park Community Hall 11840 - 87 Ave.
Saturday, December 5, 2015 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Hand - knit scarves, hats, vests, sweaters...pima cotton/alpaca: adult & children's sizes (custom orders available) Prices \$25 to \$250. Minkha is a women's knitting cooperative. Volunteers assist the Bolivian knitters by marketing the sweaters on a non-profit basis. Linda Haswell (780) 436-5732 www.minkhasweaters.com



LEAGUE **contacts**

Aspen Gardens Community

Joel Ruff	President	president@aspengardens.ca
Matt Rogerson	Vice President	vicepresident@aspengardens.ca
Meredith Mallett	Treasurer	treasurer@aspengardens.ca
Lisa Labbe	Secretary	secretary@aspengardens.ca
Jan Archbold	Communications Director	communications@aspengardens.ca
Sara Flanders-Brown	Programs Director	programs@aspengardens.ca
Harold Bens	Operations Director	operations@aspengardens.ca
Kim Ruff	Civics Director	civics@aspengardens.ca
Sandra Carry	Memberships	membership@aspengardens.ca
Ellen Sabo	Environmental	environment@aspengardens.ca
Shannon Tyson	Social Director	social@aspengardens.ca
Michael Goth	CRC	Michael.goth@edmonton.ca
Tara Algajer	LAPS Representative	lapsrep@aspengardens.ca
Vacant	Soccer Director	soccer@aspengardens.ca
Krys Holmes	Sign Changer	sign@aspengardens.ca
Tim Nerdahl	Newsletter Distribution	newsletterdistribution@aspengardens.ca

The deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 20th of each month.
Send submissions to Jan Archbold at **communications@aspengardens.ca**.

In the event of a building emergency at our community hall, please
contact **Harold Bens at 780.434.6073**.