

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



December 2015

ASPEN news

Making the neighbourhood you want to live in!

Christmas Lights Thank You Neighbours!

By Sara Flanders-Brown

When you drive past the community league building and feel a bit warmer in your heart, we'd like to recognize that none of us would feel this way without each other. Through donations of time and more than a bit of cash, we have been able to light up another tree at the rink with Christmas lights. If we like it so much, we'll keep the lights up all winter long to welcome us back home. So thank you neighbours for contributing to the idea that our neighbourhood can always benefit from brightness, and thank you Shannon and Jeff Tyson for your electric combination. None of this happens without all of us. Merry Christmas!

Men's Shinny Hockey

Head over to the rink Tuesday nights at 9:00 pm and join in the drop-in shinny hockey. There is also an optional 'Shinny Strategy Meeting' at Brewsters on 111 Street, for those that are able to make it.

For information, contact j.masonwright@shaw.ca or call 780.288.2557.



New Year's Eve Fireworks

Greenfield Community League is again staging the wonderful New Year's Eve fireworks display. Head over to Greenfield for an early celebration at 9pm and then head home to bring in the New Year!



Michael Walters Message

Winter in Edmonton is coming and it's never too early to get prepared. On a personal note, my snowshoes are ready for that first beautiful snowfall. Bring it on!

This year, Roadways is starting two new pilot projects - one for the creation of a publicly available map system for snow removal, and another a GPS tracking system.

The mapping pilot allows residents to monitor snow removal on priority routes, and see where a road sits in the priority chain for clearing. The map will be updated thrice daily, showing how much of any priority route is cleared.

The GPS pilot is being installed on five plows in the Southwest. The system will deliver live data on the snow clearing that the vehicles have completed. The dispatch centre then looks at the routes taken and optimize the routes to reduce costs through less fuel consumption, staff time, and wear on equipment.

A similar system was implemented a few years ago in Colorado. It improved the efficiency of their snow removal teams by 28% - they were able to clear the arterial road system within 8 hours.

We'll need to see what the up-front investment would be to install the trackers on more equipment, but if

the cost isn't prohibitively high, the investment would pay for itself in reduced costs.

We're also aiming to enhance snow removal in school drop off and windrow free zones. Clarifying the windrow policy for school drop off zones will lead to safer winters near our schools, and hopefully less hectic drop offs and pick ups.

If you have concerns about snow removal this winter, your first stop should be 311 - they can pass your concern expeditiously to Roadways. In case of further problems, you can contact me at michael.walters@edmonton.ca or (780)496-8132.

Tired of Trading E-mails with City Hall?

As you are probably aware, several mature neighbourhoods in Edmonton are engaged in ongoing conversations about infill and the subdividing of lots. Ours is no different. The City has already approved one subdivision application in our neighbourhood, with a second awaiting a geo-tech report and there are others waiting in the wings. What are they waiting for... they are waiting for the outcome of a series of actions that a small lobby group is taking to limit the effects of lot splitting on our community.

These actions include the ongoing lawn-sign campaign, a lawsuit specific to 128 Fairway Drive and restrictive covenants (RC). Most of you would have heard about the idea of having each homeowner register RCs to their properties to create a neighbourhood

where lots can't be split. Councillor Michael Walters has suggested RCs are the only way for a neighbourhood to protect itself from subdivision, and when Councillor Andrew Knack was recently interviewed on the radio, he referred to one mature neighbourhood in Calgary that has used RCs to prevent subdivisions. RCs are a commonly used method to protect the character of a neighbourhood. They are simple and effective but only if the vast majority of homeowners in a neighbourhood agree to be part of the RC.

Currently this initiative has been rolled out through Westbrook. So far the overwhelming majority of homeowners canvassed are in favour of the idea. Homeowners were asked to return a form indicating whether or not they support the concept. Over

95 per cent of the forms returned indicate support. We are close to our goal and are encouraging those homeowners in Westbrook who have not yet returned their forms (available at www.edmontonlotsubdivision.com) to do so.

We are simply asking whether or not you are interested in participating, and encouraging you to ask any questions you may have. There is extensive information including questions and answers on the website at www.edmontonlotsubdivision.com. Please go there and join the conversation and help protect your community.

If there is a volunteer in Aspen that is willing to go door to door to promote RC's please let the lobby group know so the information can be passed along



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@aspengardens.ca. There is limited space so posting will be at the discretion of the Communications Director.

Day homes in Aspen

We are looking for a recommended day home in or near Aspen Gardens that has space for a very loving 2-year-old who is looking to get out of the house more often. If you know of any, please contact Jill at 780-996-0661.

Welcome Wagon In Home Baby Programs

provide gifts from local civic minded businesses and valuable information at this special time in your life. A Representative, bringing a friendly smile and a FREE gift package will arrange for a in home visit. Just call Margaret at 780-905-7173, email mmjs.mc@gmail.com or register online at <http://www.welcomewagon.ca/index.php/en/expecting-a-baby>

Free Avon Books, just call, text or email me if you would like one, Margaret 780-905-7173 or mmjs.mc@gmail.com. Or Check out the eBrochure at <http://www.avon.ca/shop/en/avon-ca/brochure-list>

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.mauranuumusic.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

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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.**