

Woodcroft Community League
Established in 1957
Celebrating 50 years of community spirit!

www.woodcroftcl.com

13915-115 Ave. Edmonton, AB T5M 4B6

Phone: 451- 8312

2007- 2008 Board, Executive and Special Contacts:

	Name	Address	Home
President	Patricia Grell	11568-139 St., T5M 1R7	454-8680
Vice President	TBA		
Past-President	Duane Sharp	11521-140 St.	453- 2050
Secretary	Robyn Friesen	13936-115 Ave.	758-2240
Treasurer	Patrick Hallonquist	11520-141 St.	481-4420
Member at Large	Eden Tourangeau	13519-116 B Ave.	482 - 4424
Member at Large	Neil Lakhan	13419-118 Ave.	328-6231
Member at Large	Wendy Smith	11556-139 St.	455-3348
Member at Large	Renee Dunger	11668-136 St.	453-7975
Member at Large	Gail Taylor		220-3337
Neighborhood Watch	Zenon Martynkiw	11616 139 Street	453-1090
Playground Committee	Arlene Huhn	11520-141 St.	481-4420
Membership Coordinator	Nina Pronchuk	13608-115 Ave.	455 0045
Walking Club	Perry Rydman	11619-141 St.	455-7947
Rink	Gerry Morse	13908-115 A Ave.	453-2863
Woodcroft Sign	Linda Thiessen		
Soccer	Kim Cordeiro	13007-126 St., T5L 0Y6	452-2500
Web Site Manager	Stefan Martynkiw	11616 139 Street	453-1090
Traffic Concerns Committee	Carol and Bob Watson	13516 Woodcroft Ave. (115 A Ave)	454-7662

Cards/Welcoming Committee	Marlo Miles	11576-140 St.	454-0947
Snow Shovelling	Murray		720-3733
Community Constable	Trish Gagne		426-8043, ext 2
Alberta St. George Society Liaison	David Meffen		438-7344
Playschool Liaison	Roxanne Wilson	Sherbrooke	451-8665
Community Recreation Coordinator	Una Bryce	110, 11410-149 St. T5T 6G5	496-1911
Community Social Worker	Rosemary Solomon		496-2811
ETS Manager	Charlie Stolte		496-5796

President's Message

Patricia Grell, President WCL, patnlarry@ocii.com, 454-8680

Welcome to our new newsletter format! This format allows our community to work with Calder Publications and Canada Post to bring our newsletter to each of the 1,601 households in Woodcroft. Previous to this, we were unable to reach our apartment and condo dwellers because of inaccessibility to their buildings. Now that our newsletter is mailed it will! **Calder Publications will bring our newsletter to each of our homes every 2 months – so you can expect the next newsletter in February, 2008.** I would like to take this opportunity to thank Amy Roy Gratton on behalf of our league and our community, for all her hard work in bringing us our monthly newsletter in the 2006-2007 league year. We wish her well in her new endeavours. She has assured me that that we can count on her helping out in the community in other ways.

A new Woodcroft Community League Board was elected at our October AGM.

Many thanks to the past executive that worked so diligently to make improvements in our community. At our AGM, several people let their names stand for a variety of positions which we delegated at our November meeting. Many thanks to all of you for assisting our community in growing into the best community in Edmonton! **We still have room for more volunteers if you would like to join this vibrant and creative team!** We are in need of someone who will care for the maintenance concerns of the hall; someone who will look after rentals by our community members; volunteers to work a shift at the rink once a week; and someone to fill out grant applications and help us get charitable status so we can offer tax deductible receipts for donations and receive funds from organizations that give to charities.

Our league is currently piloting a **possible long-term partnership with the Alberta St. George Society of England Society.** Because our community has not been very active in recent years, our hall has been standing empty and yet the bills continue to need to be paid (phone, utilities etc.) Last year our executive rented our hall to a variety

of outside groups to offset our costs. This brought in the needed revenue however it also brought with it much damage to the hall. Over the summer we discussed the possibility of inviting the Alberta St. George Society to be our main renter since they would be out of a home as of Oct. 1, 2007 due to the renovations required at the Prince of Wales Armouries.

After much negotiating and discussion, we have set up a contract with them such that they will rent our hall on a monthly basis for a trial period until March 2008. **We still have access to the hall for our events and meetings.** During this trial period we will see if our 2 societies are compatible and if we wish to extend the partnership after this time. **All the activities that they are hosting at our hall are open to everyone in Woodcroft.** They have assured us that many of their current members are not of English stock but join their society because they like what the Society is about – namely, fun! My husband and I joined them for their 9th Annual Wine Fest and had a great time – high quality entertainment combined with great wine made for a wonderful evening! Some other activities they host are: a choir, a theatre group, a book club, a walking club (but so do we!), ballroom dancing, a sandwich making group that makes food for the Mustard Seed Soup Kitchen – all of which we are very welcome to join. Please see below for the details of their activities.

Our league executive is in the midst of working out the details of how we will work renting our hall to our own members and their members when a special event arises e.g. a 50th wedding anniversary or a family Christmas party. Please know that the hall will be available for our league members for special family occasions--more details to come.

There are a couple of us working with the St. George Society to host a **New Year's Eve Party at our hall.** Some of the funds raised from this event will go towards the building of our new playground. Again, there are more details about this event in this newsletter. The fact that we are welcome to work with the St. George Society to bring some wonderful events to our community attests that this partnership may just work out in the long term.

The Woodcroft Elementary School is currently under a viability review because of lack of student enrolment. There is a special meeting on Thursday, December 13, 7:00 pm at Woodcroft Elementary School in the school gym to discuss all the options for the school (more details regarding this meeting are listed in this newsletter). Your attendance at this meeting and your creative suggestions are very important if you would like to see the school remain open. The Edmonton Public School Board will be meeting on January 15th to discuss whether to begin the process of closure or to explore further the possibility of keeping it open. If they should decide to close the school, the closure will be effective as of June 2008. I attended one of the scenario review meetings at the school recently and found the process very enlightening and even encouraging. Parents and teachers had lots of ideas of how we can attract more students to the school. Some of these ideas include establishing an in house playschool, having a sports related before and after school care program focused on keeping kids active such as Taekwondo or the Westmount Fitness Centre's Sports for Kids, establishing an International Baccalaureate Program, establishing a Sports Alternative Program which would allow students to participate in a variety of sports during school hours including skating, swimming, tennis, baseball, soccer, hockey, track and field and even cricket and lawn bowling. We are well situated to provide this program since we have all the needed

facilities at our front door in Coronation Park. Imagine sending your kids to school and not having to taxi them to extra curricular activities so they will get enough exercise! These were the ideas that the scenario review committee came up with but there is a committee of parents that are continuing to work on several projects. First of all they will be bringing a needs assessment survey to each resident in Woodcroft to get their feedback on what residents would like to see happening at the school. Hard copies of the survey will be distributed in the next couple of weeks. We are hoping to get the survey up on our web site at www.woodcroftcl.org as soon as possible so check the web site as well if you prefer to fill it out on line. If you would like to help with this project, please contact me (Patricia) at 454-8680. I truly believe that the crisis of our elementary school closing could just be the catalyst we need to bring our community together to find ways of making our school an even better, more vibrant school for our children. The Chinese have a saying "a crisis brings danger, but also opportunity".

Sue Huff our new Public School Trustee (Ward C) has introduced a motion to review the school closure process and introduce a **one-year moratorium on all school closures** while the review is being undertaken. She would like to start gathering feedback for her motion. She would like all interested citizens to **post their comments about this motion on her blog**. Please keep in mind your comments are for public viewing and should not include any personal attacks on trustees past or present. Here's the link:

<http://suefortrustee.blogspot.com/2007/11/motion-to-review-school-closure.html>

Her motion will be debated at the public board meeting on January 11, so she has a few weeks to gather input, ideas, resources and members of the public willing to speak to the issue. This will be a very difficult motion to pass, but even if it doesn't pass, she looks forward to the opportunity to debate the issues clearly in a public forum with her fellow trustees. She will be posting more on her rationale, ideas and motivations for this motion over the next couple of weeks... so keep checking her blog:

<http://suefortrustee.blogspot.com>). She can also be reached sue.huff@epsb.ca or suehuff@shaw.ca Phone: 780-709-4036 (cell) Website: www.suehuff.ca

The rink posts from the old rink were taken down and back filled and so a space is now open for a possible younger **children's rink this winter**. Thank you Gerry and Michael Morse and Aaron Preteau for putting in the rink and keeping it maintained this winter. We are in need of adult rink shack attendants for the season -- if you are interested call Gerry at 453-2863. The pay is \$10/hour. We are also renting our ice this season to teams, birthday parties etc. at \$80/hour. Call Gerry for more information.

We now have a **Playground Committee** researching and planning to replace our old community league playground with a brand new one. Watch for a community wide needs assessment survey which will be distributed to your home in the next couple of months. We would appreciate your feedback on what you want to see replace our old playground. A big thank you to Arlene Huhn who accepted to chair this committee and thank you as well to all the current members of the committee. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the **Woodcroft Playschool for offering to donate \$5,000** to this project to begin our fundraising efforts. They are getting us off to a good start! If you would like to assist with this project please call Arlene at 481-4420. Please note that because the smaller children's structure at the playground is in such bad shape and is becoming unsafe, it will be completely removed in the next few months.

There is a very good possibility that the new groomed cross country ski trails in Coronation Park will be ready for this winter. Our league has been working diligently with the City to provide these trails for our use and the use of neighbouring communities and schools. Once the trails are in place, the City will see how much they are being used. If we use them we won't lose them so get out there and enjoy some good skiing!

Our next casino will be held on Thursday, May 22 and Friday, May 23, 2008. Gail Taylor has agreed to be our Casino Coordinator and would like volunteers to call her at 220-3337 to sign up. Our community league depends on this money especially as we are in the midst of building a new playground. Please consider helping out so that we can keep our league operating and so that we can afford a new playground at our hall.

Our **Traffic Concerns Committee** has been working diligently to find ways of making our community safer for residents on foot and bicycle. We are currently in the midst of applying to the Alberta Traffic Safety Fund for money to **conduct a community wide survey** to learn the level of concern that our residents have regarding traffic volumes and speeds. We are seeking this funding for the survey because the traffic survey conducted in October of 2006 by the Transportation Dept. indicated that there were a significant number of vehicles travelling through our community at high speeds. The survey also found that there are 3,750 vehicles/day going by our community league playground on 115 Ave. and 3,225 vehicles/day going by the family oriented high-density Brentwood fourplexes on 114 Ave. The Transportation Dept. saw the problem with speeds and therefore assisted our community to educate drivers to slow down by putting up permanent "slow down" signs at the Woodcroft Elementary School cross walk and temporary signs requesting drivers to "watch your speed" and remind drivers that "you are entering a residential area". As many of you are aware, signs are only so effective in reducing drivers' speeds. We requested that Edmonton Police Service provide us with radar but because of their shortage of personnel and because we did not have enough vehicles going over 65 km/hr to warrant their presence in the community, they were unable to assist us. They must catch drivers going 15 km/hr over the speed limit in order for the ticket to stand up in court. It is for these reasons that we will be asking residents through a community wide survey for feedback on their thoughts on this issue. If there is a significant number of residents concerned about the volume and speed of traffic in our community then we will conduct further community wide meetings to discuss what we should do about it. The traffic survey will most likely be conducted in conjunction with our playground survey to save our volunteers' time and energy.

In September we held a joint **Community League Open House and Active Edmonton Event**. Active Edmonton is a department funded by the City of Edmonton to encourage Edmontonians to get up and get active. The event was well attended by 200 people from Woodcroft and surrounding communities. As a follow up to this event, Active Edmonton has offered to work with our community to conduct a Community Self Assessment Tool to see how we can encourage our residents to become more active. A group of residents will be meeting with Active Edmonton in the new year (probably February) so if you would like to be a part of these sessions then contact me (Patricia) at 454-8680.

Very shortly we will have our very own **Woodcroft Walkable Map which is part of the "Communities on Foot Series"**. We were fortunate enough to be the pilot of this project because of our work with Walkable Edmonton. The current printing will be paid

for by the City but future ones will be paid for by the league. The Walkable Map is a project found in other major cities to encourage residents to become more physically active. Our map will feature some of the special Woodcroft points of interest – especially those found in Coronation Park -- as well as walking, running and cycling routes of various lengths throughout our community. Look for the map at the library and other public venues.

Speaking of Coronation Park, our executive held a meeting in September with the Telus World of Science, the Royal Astronomical Society and the City of Edmonton to discuss the developments in the park. **The Telus World of Science will be beginning a large renovation that will increase their square footage by 150,000 to 175,00 feet.** The plan is to eliminate surface parking and take it under the facility. In this way they will be converting the current parking lots into green space. The new multi faceted complex will include Science Galleries, Digital Visualization Theatre, Creative Kids Museum, Arctic Science Centre and the IMAX. They will also be using as many environmentally sustainable systems as possible to create a green facility. Solar panels, a rain recovery system as well as a geothermal heating system will be installed as part of their renovations.

The City is hoping to build a **brand new multi-plex recreational facility in place of the Coronation Arena and Tennis Courts.** The plan so far is to move the current tennis courts to the playing field behind the ETS Transfer Station and demolish Coronation Arena. Twin arenas along with a gymnasium, meeting rooms and party rooms will be built to replace the old facilities. Our league made a strong statement that our green spaces in the park must be preserved as much as possible. The latest news from the City is that parking for the new facility may go under the facility so that less grass is converted into pavement. With the ETS Transfer Station so handy to this recreational facility Edmontonians can be encouraged to take transit instead of their car to access these amenities and preserve our park.

As you can see, a lot is going on in Woodcroft these days! Please consider getting involved as this is a wonderful way to meet others in the community. **When we get to know our neighbours, we feel more at home and we put in some roots. Our league Board is very welcoming and appreciates new ideas.** Call me if you wish to get involved! Don't forget to come out to the Woodcroft Elementary School Information Night, Dec. 13th, our New Year's Eve Celebration, Dec. 31st, our Second Annual Winter Fest, January 4th, the 12th Night Celebration, Jan. 6th and the theatre production of Red Riding Hood from Jan. 10-13 all held at our hall. See more details in this newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Woodcroft School Parent and Community Information Meeting

Thurs. Dec. 13, 7:00 pm, Woodcroft Elementary School Gym

The purpose of this meeting will be to share the scenarios reviewed by the school's Scenario Review Team and identify any additional opportunities and challenges these scenarios may offer to the school.

The District will present outcomes and recommendations resulting from the Sustainability Reviews to the Board of Trustees on January 15, 2008.

The meeting will also allow us the opportunity to gather important feedback from parents and community members.

The potential future outcomes we will be sharing include:

- closing the school;
- closing or changing one of the school's programs;
- combining individual schools to create multi-campus schools;
- renovations; or
- leaving things as they are (status quo).

To assist the District in preparing for the December 13 meeting, please RSVP by calling **429-8380** or e-mailing tenyear.plan@epsb.ca.

We hope you plan to attend. Your voice is important, and needs to be heard.

New Year's Eve Party

Mon. Dec. 31, 2007

Enjoy a fun filled evening with neighbours and friends on the last night of the year at the Woodcroft Hall.

Doors Open: 7:30 pm

Cocktails: 7:30 –8:30 pm

Supper: 8:30 – 9:00 pm

Square Dance 9:00 – 9:30 pm

Party Games and 50's – 60's music the rest of the evening, midnight snack, 50/50 draws, raffles

Cost: \$25.00/person

Proceeds from this event will go to the Alberta St. George Society and the Woodcroft Community League's Playground Fund

Second Annual Free Family Winter Festival

Thursday, January 3, 2008, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Woodcroft Hall

Attention families of all ages! You are invited to our Second Annual Family Winter Festival at Woodcroft Hall and Coronation Park. Enjoy an afternoon at the park with loads of fun winter activities offered. These activities include snow painting, snowshoeing, a sleigh ride, bannock baking, and many more cool winter activities. For more information about this event please call 496-7320. If the WEATHER is -20C or colder with the windchill, the event will be cancelled.

Woodcroft and Alberta St. George of England Society Presents 12th Night Celebration

Sun. Jan. 6, 2008, 7:00 pm at Woodcroft Hall

This is a public community event and admittance is free to one and all. We anticipate several choirs will each sing two seasonal songs of celebration. Following the singing the choirs and congregation can join in an hour or so of good fellowship with coffee and cookies. The benefits of a 12th Night Celebration are self evident at a time in the season when the spirits are affected by the long winter.

Anyone interested in singing in the Woodcroft/ St George choir whether or not a regular member of the Choral can attend rehearsals every Thursday evening at the Woodcroft Community building 7.30 p.m.—9.30 p.m. Call Vince 436-8317 to confirm your attendance.

The Woodcroft Traditional British Pantomime: RED RIDING HOOD

Thurs. Jan 10, Fri. Jan 11, Sat. Jan. 12 at 7.30 p.m. Matinee: Sun. Jan. 13 at 2.00 p.m. at Woodcroft Hall

Tickets: Adult members \$10.00. Non-members \$12.00/Children 12 and under \$6.00
For tickets phone Ann at 467-4122. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

Woodcroft Community League Outdoor Rink News

Once the rink is up and running, it will be open at the following times:

(When the rink is open it will be announced on the community board at 115 Ave. and 139 St)

Monday to Friday 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Saturdays 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Sundays 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

(Please Note: hours subject to change)

All community league members with skate tags may use the facility for free. All others must pay \$2.00 each time. Skaters who wish a community league membership must buy one from their respective leagues. Residents living within the boundaries of Woodcroft who wish a membership are to contact our membership coordinator Nina Pronchuk at 455-0045.

We have a modern, regulation size skating facility available for teams/groups/parties to rent for \$80/hour. Included in the ice rental is access to our heated rink shack complete with bathrooms, change room, and hockey nets. For more information and to book the ice contact Gerry Morse at 453-2863.

The St. George/Woodcroft Walking Clubs

The Woodcroft Walking Club meets every Wednesday at 3:00 pm at the Woodcroft Hall and does a loop through Coronation Park. Everyone is welcome! Call Perry Rydman at 455-7947 to confirm especially in bad weather.

The St. George Walking Group meets every Wednesday at 10am and we walk for approx. 1.5 hours in the river valley. If you are joining us for the first time, please call me at 454-7581 or email at saparr@shaw.ca for the current week's meeting point. Because of winter conditions, we may change at the last minute. We look forward to having you join us!

The Woodcroft St. George Book Club

The book club meets the second Tuesday of every month from 1:30 – 3:30 pm at the Woodcroft Hall. Everyone is welcome but contact the coordinator Jacky Polowy at 459-4600 to confirm each month. Upcoming gatherings and books are:

December 11	Suite Francais by Irene Neminovsky
January 9	Bloodletting and Other Miraculous Cures by Vincent Lam
February 12	My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult
March 11	Freakonomics A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything by Steven D. Levitt and Stephan J. Dubner

April 8

No I Don't Want to Join a Book Club by Virginia Ironside

Free Swim at Grant MacEwan

All current members of the Woodcroft Community League are welcome to join us for our fee league swim at Grant MacEwan pool on Sundays from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Simply show your 2006-2007 membership card.

Welcoming Committee

The Woodcroft Welcoming Committee would like to extend a great big congratulations to Monika and Wayne of our community who welcomed their second child recently.

If you have a neighbour or know of a resident that is new to our community, who has had a new baby or has suffered a recent loss, please contact Marlo Miles at 454-0947 and she will make sure that a card is sent on behalf of our community. If Marlo learns of new residents in Woodcroft, she encloses a complementary community league membership with her welcoming card.

Joint Woodcroft/Westmount Fitness Centre Art Classes

Introductory and project classes start January 14 for ten weeks, \$50.00 fee, plus \$10.00 registration fee. To be held Monday afternoons and evenings depending on enrollment at Westmount Fitness Center, 12840-109 Ave., Call 451-9248 to register.

Lower Priority

Meadowcroft Senior's Residence: Clean, Secure and Friendly

11445 – 135 St., Edmonton, AB

(Just north of Westmount Mall)

Age: 65 +

Units: 308 Bachelor (418 sq.ft)

112 One Bedroom (520 sq. ft.)

Utilities included with rent

Parking, meal option, housekeeping and linen service at additional cost.

No pets permitted.

Services: beauty shop, medical supervision (R.N., regular hours) weekly physician visit, denture clinic, Rx delivery, foot care, massage therapy and Home Care services.

Activities: Exercise class, shuffleboard, cards, pool tables

Features: Restaurant, hair salon, guest room for visitors, security entrance system, balconies, exercise room, laundry, across from Westmount Mall.

See for yourself the difference Meadowcroft will make!

For more information or a personalized tour, please call 454 – 5505

Brentwood Homes

Large 2 and 3 Bedroom

Townhomes

13535 – 115 Ave. Edmonton, AB

Our reasonable rents include heat, water and parking

Parks within community
Excellent bus service
Close to all amenities
On – site professional management
Sorry, no pets

For more information or to view, please call 454 – 8311

A Message From our New Community Constable Trish Gagne:

Here are some TIPS to ensure that the only stranger to drop into your house does so thru the chimney!!

1. Ensure your home exterior is well lit at night.
2. If away from your home, have a neighbour or friend clear your walk and remove excess mail and flyers.
3. If you don't know your neighbours, get to know them. They can be very valuable security for your home!!
4. Consider using a timer for lights, t.v. and radio or intermittently leave lights on in different rooms, even during the day.
5. Do not display all you Christmas gifts in view of large windows.
6. After Christmas, discard your litter accordingly so that bad guys cannot see that you just got a new 46 inch t.v. This may entice them to break in and make it theirs.
7. Record all serial numbers for electronics and perhaps engrave your driver's license number on them for further Identification.
8. Photograph or videotape your valuables for insurance purposes.
9. Notify your alarm company when you will be away and have updated keyholder information.

Wishing you all a very safe and Merry Christmas from Edmonton Police Service!

West Division Community Liaison
Sgt. Duane HUNTER
Cst. Tricia GAGNE
(780) 426-8043

Benefits of Being a Member of the Woodcroft Community League

To become a member, contact Nina Pronchuk at 239-5090

- Free family swim at Grant MacEwan Center for Sport and Wellness (10700-104 Ave) every Sunday from 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- 20% discount off annual passes and 15% discount off multi admission passes to City of Edmonton sports and fitness facilities.
- 10% discount off of Telus World of Science yearly memberships (does not apply to renewals)
- Free skating at all outdoor community rinks in Edmonton (non-members \$2.00)
- Eligibility for community sports programs, playschool registration
- 10% off the adult daily rate @Commonwealth Lawn Bowling Club in Coronation Park

Edmonton Trolley Coalition Survey of New Trolleybuses

The City is presently testing a new low floor trolleybus from Vancouver, and in 2008 City Council will be asked to decide whether to purchase new trolleybuses or use a different type of vehicle for our area. The Edmonton Trolley Coalition, a non-profit volunteer organization, would appreciate your opinions on trolleybus service in our community. To respond to their survey, please visit www.trolleycoalition.org/survey/W2 and follow the instructions.