

# RIVERSDALE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Winter 2015

## Message from your Riversdale Community Association

### **Welcome to our new RCA newsletter!**

Please send us your comments about items here or anything happening in the community.

An email to [riversdaleca@gmail.com](mailto:riversdaleca@gmail.com) is great, but even better, come out to a Board meeting. They're on the **first Tuesday of each month** at 7:00 PM in Princess Alexandra School (210 Ave H South).

### **Mike's Market Garden**

Would you love to have a big garden in your yard and eat fresh veggies, but don't have the time? I'm looking to add garden space for my market garden this season. If you have at least 1,000 square feet of your yard available that gets decent sun, I'd love to talk with you. I use only organic and sustainable practices. I typically exchange produce for use of the land, but other arrangements can be made.

Thanks!  
Mike  
306-715-9696



### **Your 2015-2016 Committee Members are:**

1. Mack Driscoll (Treasurer)
2. Sandra Youngchief (Indoor Coordinator)
3. Kelly Larmour (Member at Large)
4. Mike Wendzina (Outdoor Coordinator)
5. Sarah Gaudry (Member at Large)
6. Dustin Willms (Member at Large)
7. Jon Koch (Member at Large)
8. Darryl Dozlaw (Member at Large)
9. Kevin Sturgeon (President)
10. Josh Olson (Member at Large)
11. Rod Orr (Comm. Coordinator)
12. Leon Wu (Vice President)
13. Tom Morgan (Member at Large)
14. Lana Lehr (Member at Large)
15. Miriam Müller (Civics Coordinator)
16. Kimberly Krueckl (Member at Large)

*The newsletter is printed in black + white to save costs, but a colour version is on the RCA website and Facebook page.*

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## Free Movie Day!!

Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup>  
at the **Roxy Theatre**  
320 - 20<sup>th</sup> Street West

**1:30 PM:** Arthur Christmas (G)  
**7:15 PM:** Elf (G)  
**9:15 PM:** Scrooged (PG)

*Plus a bonus live event:*

**6:15 PM:** The Wacky Wizard

All movies + the live event  
are **FREE ADMISSION**  
courtesy of your Riversdale  
Community Association.

First-come, first-served.

All children must be  
accompanied by a parent or  
a guardian.



**During this Holiday  
Season, please  
support our  
community and  
BUY LOCAL!**



Our association picks up paper, cardboard, tin cans, milk containers and anything Sarcan takes, including computer parts and household glass. If you have any of these items you would like picked up, please call Tom at 242-1338 and leave a message. Any money raised goes to the community clean-up, programs, and the Princess Alexandra School Grade 8 Graduation. Pick up is the 2nd Saturday of the month.

### Refugees Arriving in Riversdale

The arrival of Syrian refugee families can be expected in Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods. So as a community, how can we prepare and be of assistance?

By way of background, did you know that the highest percentage of immigrants in Saskatchewan live in Saskatoon's west-side neighbourhoods? The 2011 census found that 13.5% of people in the Saskatoon West federal riding -- which includes the west side core neighbourhoods -- identified as immigrants.

While the details of the government's plans are still being worked out, their needs will likely include housing and employment & training. For more information about the refugee situation and their needs, please check:

- #WelcomeRefugees (the Federal Government's website)
- Canadian Council for Refugees
- Refugees Welcome
- Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies

## **A Look at Riversdale Redevelopment**

With all of the revitalization happening in Riversdale, a feature we'll introduce in the Newsletter is a look at the plans and how they might affect our residents. While these articles will be more focussed on community-related projects, we invite your comments about any project in Riversdale.

This month, we'll look at the proposed Core Neighbourhood Rec. Centre.

Intended to serve the **King George, Riversdale and Pleasant Hill neighbourhoods**, the centre is still in the very early planning stages. The **City of Saskatoon, YMCA, and Saskatoon Tribal Council** are working together to see if the project will be feasible. So far...

- City Council identified a recreation facility in one of the core neighbourhoods as a **4-year priority**.
- The Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study for a proposed city centre recreation facility was completed in July. This along with an overview of next steps was presented as information to the City's Planning Committee and to City Council in September.
- The partners met in September to begin discussion on clear decision milestones and financial contributions, both capital and operating, for a new facility.

The organizers hope to have a working agreement in place by the end of this year. The project would then be designed, and a location would be mapped out. If everything goes well, the project will be built in late 2018, at the earliest — but as mentioned at the RCA Board meeting on November 3 by Councillor Pat Lorje, **it might not be before 2019.**

Regarding the possible location, the report prepared for the partners noted:

**"Community members from the core neighbourhoods want to see the facility located within a core neighbourhood**, outside of the downtown core, to allow for easier access for community members. STC and White Buffalo Youth Lodge staff indicated that a location near or at the existing WBYL location would be ideal as it already is convenient and known to their members who access programs and services there. Likewise, **the YMCA staff and Board suggest a location near the existing YMCA** for the same reasons."

**"There will not be one location that is ideal for all parties and members or users of the facility.** The critical success factors regarding location choice will need to consider:

- Accessibility—vehicle and walking distance from high percentage of the population
- Parking
- Public transportation access
- Corridor/route from downtown (via walking, biking, public transport, personal vehicle)
- Safety of the location
- Best Practices and Lessons Learned
- Willingness + ability of the closest population to purchase memberships or pay for services."

Info sources:

- 2015 Corporate Business Plan Third Quarter Report July 1 to September 30, 2015;
- CBC News Residents brainstorm about core neighbourhood rec centre
- Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study for a Proposed New Joint Use Recreation Facility; Prepared for YMCA of Saskatoon, City of Saskatoon and Saskatoon Tribal Council, by MNP, June 30, 2015.

**So what are your thoughts, hopes, concerns?**

**Please send them to us by email ([riversdaleca@gmail.com](mailto:riversdaleca@gmail.com)) or to the RCA Facebook page.**

Message from the Board continued from page 1...

Thank you, Riversdale for being awesome.



In 2015, several of our volunteer board members stepped down or moved away. Those of us left were pretty worried we wouldn't be able to continue offering programming and activities for the community.

The neighbourhood answered with the most well-attended Annual General Meeting in a long time and 10 new volunteers.

**YIKES!?! . . .**

The new board, thanks especially to the awesome efforts of your new Indoor Programs Coordinator, Sandra, is working on some great new activities for kids and families - all available to you for free.

**YAY!!!**

See below, and we'll post the info on the RCA website and Facebook page. **Come visit us at the program registration night on January 5, 5:00 at Princess Alexandra School** (210 Avenue H South).

Did you know that the Riversdale Community Association maintains the **outdoor rink behind Princess Alexandra School**? If winter ever finally settles in, your community association — led by your Outdoor Coordinator, Mike — will make get to work making some ice for everyone to enjoy.

**The rink is behind Princess Alexandra School near the corner of Avenue G and 21<sup>st</sup> Street.**

**IMPORTANT: Used skates (all sizes) are needed. You can drop them off at the school or call Sandra at Princess A school (306-683-7410 and she will pick them up.**

***And don't miss the free movies night at the Roxy Theatre on December 17<sup>th</sup> — also brought to you by the RCA!!!***

### **Community Activities at Princess Alexandra School — January to March 2016**

1. **Boys Drumming:** 8 weeks Thursdays 6 – 8pm
2. **Adult Basic Sewing:** 8 weeks 6 - 8pm
3. **Family Zumba:** 8 weeks Tuesday 6 - 7pm
4. **Fiddle Lessons:** 10 and up 8 weeks Tuesday 7 - 8pm
5. **Kids Can Craft:** for under 15 yrs 8 weeks Monday 4 - 5pm
6. **Me Ta We Tan Open Gym:** all ages and families welcome 8 weeks 6:30 - 8:30pm

Please check the RCA website or Facebook page for the details.



### **Where to find info and to contact us:**

The RCA website and Facebook page are a bit out of date but we're working on it.

Please send your community service announcements for the newsletter to us at [riversdaleca@gmail.com](mailto:riversdaleca@gmail.com). The next news letter is planned for April.

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/RiversdaleCommunityAssociation>

**Website:** <http://riversdalecommunityassociation.com/>