

Holyrood Community League

Annual General Meeting – April 27, 2021

Report to the Membership 2021/2022

Holyrood Community League has shown its resilience and come together through another difficult year and proven how there is strength in community. This year we were able to extend some programs and offer more services to our members.

- Megan, our **communications** director, continued her great work with increased focus on social media content and assisting in many of the programs and events in the community.
- Kelly worked diligently to reinvigorate our **programs** and brought new and imaginative ideas.
- Christine, our newest board member, who filled the **Community Engagement** role has been working hard to bring the community together with various initiatives.
- Tyler, our **icemaker**, had a successful ice season which saw the addition of our ice skating path.
- Nor'Ali, our new **membership** director, was able to obtain a number of new members this year.
- Our **garden** committee has been working diligently on a revamp of our community garden.
- The **civics** portfolio and **Holyrood Development Committee** worked with countless developers in the area to ensure that our neighbourhood was consulted and our community was maintained.
- Our **soccer reps** are making sure our league is set up to have a great soccer season.
- Claire, our hard-working **Treasurer**, always kept us on budget.
- Last but definitely not least, Julie our **secretary** kept us all organized and in line throughout the year.

Submitted by: Larissa Zariwny, President

Communications (Megan Wilson)

Our social media accounts are maintaining a consistent level of growth & engagement, with increases in followers across all channels this year. Monthly contributions to the SEV and email newsletter response rates were tracked by the number of participants that were involved in community giveaways/contests, it remains steady.

We collaborated with programs to deliver community building events and programs, like gingerbread house decorating, giveaways (sidewalk chalk, prizes for contests & random prize draws), and the outdoor movie at the Big Bin event for Community League Day (with assistance from Directors at Large and community volunteers). We also held a wildly successful Folk Fest Neighbourhood concert, which boasted the largest turnout for an event of this type in the city, and saw both of our food trucks completely sell out of food. We would eagerly host a similar event in the future, it was a lot of fun for everyone!

Other partnerships with the Holyrood EnWatch group and the Holyrood Cooperative Playschool saw successful online social media campaigns. The EnWatch group provided materials to be crafted into posts about crime prevention and information about emergency contacts. The Playschool has successfully filled their class for September intake - by the end of April.

2022 saw us off to an early start with our first Spring Fling in a few years - thanks to our community partnerships with the First Church of God and support from the Holyrood Garden Committee, we had volunteers aplenty at the egg hunt and the pot painting and planting tables. In the future I would probably push this event into May to ensure better weather (who knows, it could still snow in May, it is Alberta!). Would also love to add some of the fun aspects from our previous spring fling and have a return of the bouncy castles and glitter tattoos, maybe even some live music. Advanced planning would allow us to apply for a larger grant to secure financial support for this event in the future.

Planning for the community league day event in September has begun - we had postponed contracts with a few musicians and a balloon/face painting artist that we will make good on this year for a full day event.

I have really enjoyed my time as the communications director for the league, and I look forward to maybe coming back to this role in the future.

Programs (Kelly McRae-Seifert)

A recap of some of the programs and activities we were able to offer this past year;

Holyrood community league hosted a **Babysitting Courses** at two separate times this year. This course was in conjunction with Spectrum Safety Services / Second Chance CPR & First Aid for any interested prospective **babysitters ages 11 and up. Babysitters/staying at home alone course:**

On July 10 Holyrood community League brought in Spectrum Safety Services to run a babysitters course for kids aged 12-16 in the community at The First Church of God. 8 students were able to participate in the course. Another babysitting course was offered on Saturday November 20, 2021 9:00am - 4:00pm in the fellowship hall at Holyrood Community Church and even more of our community young people became certified babysitters. Remember to check the [Babsitters Registry](#) to find a babysitter or to register your babysitting services.

On July 17 Holyrood community League offered **Fundamentals First Aid (Staying at home alone):** For kids 11 and under through Spectrum Safety Services / Second Chance CPR & First Aid.

10 students were able to participate and learn basic first aid and what to do in an emergency while at home alone.

Summer Greenshack:

After a later start date than expected Greenshack programs started on July 12 and ended officially on August 26. Our Greenshack leader Jessica reported that there was a good turn out of community kids ages 6-12 all summer. Many kids participated regularly, making a fun core group of kids that attended and got to know each other, as well as many kids that dropped in or joined in the organized games while at the park.

Holyrood Haul-Away - Community League Day

Holyrood Haul Away was held on September 18, 2021 in conjunction with Community League Day and an outdoor movie in the park. It was a busy day, hauling over 5 tonnes of junk out of the community, selling many memberships and giving a few away to new community members.

Looking Forward

We have applied for a grant from the city for the big bin, so plan for the Holyrood Haul-Away again this year on community league day, September 16, 2022. Stay tuned for announcements on the festivities we will have going on this year.

Play Rangers

Holyrood hosted the Play Rangers Program through the city of Edmonton recreation on November 6, 2021 from 2-4pm.

The event included a community walk and scavenger hunt for community kids ages 6-12. Many of our community children were able to enjoy connecting and socializing together outside safely.

Winter Clothing Drive:

Thank you Holyroodians!!!! Holyrood showed their community spirit and kindness to our wider community at our winter clothing drive. We were able to collect over 50 bags of new and gently used winter clothing items, including toques, mittens, boots, snow pants, sweaters and jackets. The drive was to Hope Mission after a fire in early October wiped out most of Hope Mission winter supplies for the community's most vulnerable population.

Hockey/Skating Programs:

In February Holyrood was able to host Free play for kids, a free Learn-to-Skate and Learn-to-Play (Hockey) program, for kids aged 8 - 13, Wednesdays in February from 6 pm - 9 pm at Holyrood rink.

This program was a success, the first class was held online due to cold weather, which worked great for meeting the coaches and doing drills. The kids were happy to be on the ice for the rest of the month working on skating and hockey skills. Start to Play is a free pilot program for 2022 and may be available as a paid program from 2023 onwards.

A huge thank you to Garth Prinsonsky, everyone from Free Play For Kids, the Edmonton Oilers Foundation and everyone else who brought this program to Holyrood.

We are excited that as things open up we are able to offer more activities to support our community and work together with our neighbors. Here are some of our current community opportunities:

Yoga:

Holyrood Community League is happy to introduce **Yoga with Barb**

Monday, **Gentle Yoga and Movement** from 1:30 to 2:45 pm.

&

Thursday, **Hatha Yoga** from 7:30 to 8:45 pm

Classes will be held from May 16 - June 27

St Luke's Anglican Church

8424 95 Ave NW, Holyrood, Edmonton,

Introductory prices for the spring sessions:

- \$12.00 drop in per adult

The Gūd Box: We are pleased to announce the start of a new Organic food box program. The Gūd Box is a way for the community league to raise funds while providing fresh, affordable, seasonal produce to community members. Leveraging their buying power, the Gūd box sources fresh, affordable, seasonal produce twice a month. They also create a website for the community members to sign up for The Gūd Box online. After members order online The Gūd Boxes will be delivered to our community on Monday afternoons and community members can pick up their orders from the Holyrood delivery location. This is a large box of ever changing fruits and vegetables that are 20-40% saving over the grocery store. Stay tuned for the links to sign up.

Playgroup: Holyrood Community League is excited to announce the return of our Thursday Morning Community Playgroup. We are excited to restart this group and finally continue with this casual gathering of caregivers and kids ages 0-5 for fun, learning, community and support. This group meets from 9am -11am on Thursday Mornings at Holyrood Community Church 9224 82 St NW, Edmonton, AB. Please join us, all are welcome. Please email programs@holyroodcommunity.org, if you have any questions.

The position of playgroup coordinator is open for any interested community members. Kelly at programs@holyroodcommunity.org if you are interested in supporting the community in this way.

Community Swim:

Community swim is back for the 2022 year. Holyrood will have community swim available to all league members at the following times:

Saturdays 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm, January 8, 2022 - August 27, 2022.

Commonwealth Community Recreation Centre (11000 Stadium road) or Eastglen Pool (11410 68 Street NW).

Sundays: 1:15pm - 2:45pm January 2- June 26, 2022

Commonwealth Community Recreation Centre (11000 Stadium road) or Hardisty Leisure Centre (10535 65 St NW). Hardisty is going into maintenance shutdown from March 14-April 22 and will not have community swim during this time.

Looking ahead to some of the new programs we plan to offer this year

Flag Football: The EFCL has partnered with the Capital District Minor Football Association to run a community flag-football league this fall. We have applied to host flag football games on the grass in the boarded rink area. If enough leagues express interest, this new flag football league will run in September and October. Registrants will have to purchase a membership to their Community League.

Pedal Pushers courses this spring. We are working to hold pedal pushers bike classes for kids ages 5-8 and 9-12 in Holyrood this Spring/Summer. Stay tuned for dates and how to get registered.

Play School (Laurence Leclerc)

The Holyrood Cooperative Playschool will be back at the Strathearn Community League Hall for 2022-2023.

Our amazing teachers, Ms. Christina and Ms. Judith, are excited to welcome the preschoolers for another year of learning through play and outdoor adventures. Our Parent-run committee is strong from the experience acquired throughout the past year, when it successfully navigated a move to a new building and Covid-19.

With 16 enrollments so far, we are hopeful to have a full classroom for the upcoming school year. Spread the word!

Casino

We expect to have our next Casino in 2023.

Community Engagement (Christine Causing)

A new position to the Board, the Community Engagement member was appointed at the end of December, 2021. This role aims to help connect our Holyrood neighbourhood by organizing and hosting fun, engaging events, activities and projects.

This past March, a macrame rainbow workshop was organized in partnership with the Strathearn Community League. The sold out workshop was attended by 30 people at the Strathearn Community League Hall with parents and their kids making a rainbow together taught by Barb from Little House of Macrame. Thank you to Strathearn Community League for hosting this fun workshop with us!



On Easter long weekend, Saturday, April 16 we organized an Easter Egg Hunt event at Holyrood Park. We weren't sure how many families would come but we were thrilled to see so many come out with 140 kids participating in our Easter egg hunt. We also had Jackie O's Street Treats food truck provide mini donuts and beverages at the event. We received lots of positive feedback at the event as well as on our social media who thanked us for organizing the event. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out and to our wonderful community league members who planned the event- Kelly, Nor'Ali, Megan, Janelle and Christine. If we decide to host this event next year, we can better plan for the event and ensure we are better prepared for the number of kids and families attending.





If you have any ideas on interesting events and/or workshops you would like to see happen in our community, please email Christine@holyroodcommunity.org.

Facilities & Grounds

Rink Repairs:

- Separate gas line independent of HCL building set up for rink shack. Gas was connected and turned on.
- Rink shack now has an address independent of HCL building.
- Some minor repairs with the washrooms still required. Since the rink shack was closed due to COVID 19, these were not a priority.
- Control panel trouble alarm repaired by Amptec.

General Rink Maintenance:

- Regular fire extinguisher inspections and fire safety system inspections.

HCL Hall Repairs:

- An inspection of the HCL Hall was conducted in the last year, outlining maintenance issues big and small. We have budgeted for the majority of these repairs to be completed prior to the hall take over.

General Hall Maintenance:

- Regular fire extinguisher inspections and fire safety system inspections.

New Lease Framework with Holyrood After School Care

In 2018, the league made the decision to pursue a new type of lease arrangement with our hall's full-time tenants, the Holyrood After School Care Society (HASC). We continue to work on negotiating and drafting the lease, which will see HASC become the main occupiers, operators and administrators of 9411 Holyrood Road ("the hall"). We hope to have the new agreement in place soon.

The league will continue to operate our rink building at 9415 Holyrood Road, and that building will become our new base of operations. Work has been done to separate the utility services between the hall and the rink building.

Rink Program

The icemaker, Tyler Cheney, stayed on on-board. His ice making, attention to detail, and commitment to maintaining the rinks was great. We were very excited to not only provide the skating rink and pond this past year, but we also added a "iceway"! Covid Protocols prevented us from running the rink shack and hiring rink attendants. We had a great season with almost 4 months of skating.

Memberships (Nor'Ali McDaniel)

Our league welcomed a new Membership Director in 2021 who has spend the year learning the role and getting a hang of all its bits and pieces. This year, Holyrood Community League had 182 active memberships between May 1, 2021 and April 23, 2022.

Family Memberships	144
Individual Memberships	12
Senior Memberships	26

Most memberships were purchased online through EFCL, but our AGM and Community League Day/Big Bin Event were also big draws for members.

Online	87
AGM	38
Board	1
Home	13
SEESA	1
Servus	5

Folk Fest Pop Up	11
Community League Day	23
Hockey	3
Total	182

COVID has again contributed to lower membership numbers as there were fewer social events and community gatherings, however, this year's years membership number is increasingly closer to pre-pandemic numbers.

The Membership Director has also attended a number of EFCL hosted Membership Director Summits and Community Inclusion Cafes. These summits and cafes are opportunities to learn strategies and approaches for increasing memberships from other community leagues, and to learn ways to increase diversity and inclusion in the community.

For the 2022-2023 year, the Membership Director will look into more active ways to increase our league's membership.

Holyrood Garden Committee (Geordan Patterson)

The Holyrood Community Garden Committee continued in the 2021-2022 season to provide a space for gardening in the heart of the community and to move forward with its vision to make a community garden a permanent fixture. COVID provided many hurdles for the Holyrood Community Garden committee, but we are now back on track to successfully apply to the city to have this project approved.

The second season of our COVID-friendly demonstration garden, though in a limited fashion due to COVID restrictions, was a success. The committee started seeds and planted over 60 square feet of garden alongside the community hall and the hockey shack. We were able to grow tomatoes, beans, basil, peas, potatoes, swiss chard, beets, and kale. Volunteers worked the soil, weeded, and watered throughout the hot summer months, and, we donated over 70 kg of produce to the Edmonton Food Bank! The third season is set to be equally successful.

One of the hurdles that the garden faced was the Southeast Edmonton Seniors Association's inability, because of COVID shutting their doors, to proceed as a partner. This meant that the previous application to the city that the pandemic had paused in 2020 needed to be overhauled and a new site selected. Presently, the committee has, with the support of our Neighborhood Resource Coordinator, Erin Flaherty, started the process anew and have rewritten their Terms of Reference, chosen a new site for the garden, and completed the first step in the new strategic phase. We continue to march through the paperwork. Ground will be broken in this or the next season.

The proposed site has moved to the space in the park between the community hall and the hockey shack, a space that has been approved by the Holyrood Community board. The vision is to have in-ground beds, rain barrels, an irrigation system, and a meeting place. We see this as a space for folks of all ages to gather, to

learn about gardening, and to get their hands dirty. Hopefully COVID restrictions will allow for such activities this summer with a much larger volunteer base.

Once again, the Committee signed up for an associate membership to Sustainable Food Edmonton (SFE) and have received a garden seed package that will be planted. The committee has already started many of these seeds inside their homes in preparation for the season.

If you have any suggestions on the bed design, have any expertise to offer, or if you are just eager to participate, please reach out to us at garden@holyroodcommunity.org and join our Facebook group. We are eager to expand our group after 2 years of COVID!

There is also a short survey that we are conducting to demonstrate support for the garden. We would be very grateful if you were able to fill this out at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PM9HY5M>.