



## Your Community Newsletter

Volume 9 | Issue 2 | Spring 2021

### QEXCA

*is an active community association dedicated to promoting community spirit and enriching the quality of life in our neighbourhoods; Exhibition, Queen Elizabeth and West Haultain.*

Your Community Association meets quarterly, at 7:00 p.m., usually on the first Tuesday of September, December, March and June.

Unless otherwise indicated, the meetings will be open to all residents of Your Community.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m. The AGM will be held on October 5 at 7:00.

If this meeting is to be held online and you wish to attend, please, send an email to [info@gexca.ca](mailto:info@gexca.ca) indicating your interest and the email address to which you want the invitation sent.

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... and more!

### **From the March 2 Community Association Meeting...**

SUM Theatre representative, Judith Schultz, explained the theatre's plans for 2021. The new show will be announced on May 1. She is looking for ideas for community engagement and a volunteer to be the contact person with the Theatre. Ward 7 Councillor, Mairin Loewen, noted that speed limits in residential areas are being reviewed. She asked that the [survey](#) be shared with the community to complete. Plans are moving forward for the new St. Frances Cree Bilingual School. The Project Architect has been selected. We are happy that they will have a "state of the art" facility but saddened that the school will be leaving the Exhibition neighbourhood. Your Community Association approved its Communication Policy. All the policies approved to date are available on the website.

### Qexca Programming Survey

Dear readers, thank you for taking the time to fill out our QEXCA (Queen Elizabeth, Exhibition and Haultain Community Association) Programming Survey.

We are interested in knowing your preferences so that we might serve you better for future programming purposes.

Please, complete this [survey](#) by Friday, 30 April 2021.

If you provide your email address at the end of the survey, you will be entered into a lucky draw for a free Tim Hortons gift card and a 2021 Fall program of your choice.

If you have questions or comments, please, contact your Programming Team at

[programs@gexca.ca](mailto:programs@gexca.ca).



### **Board of Directors 2020 – 2021**

**President-** Bob McNaughton (Communication)  
**Vice President-** Looking for a volunteer!  
**Secretary-** Lynn Adamson  
**Treasurer-** Ileana Delgado  
**Rinks-** Josh Remail

**Volunteers-** Ashley Goy  
**Social Media-** Kelsey Olson  
**Indoor Programs-** Crystal Touet  
**Director-at-Large-** Shawn Volk

## Your Community at Work

### General:

During the first few months of 2021 the QEXCA Board has been communicating electronically, including the March 2nd Community Association meeting, to prepare for the rest of the year.

### Programs::

For the Winter session, the virtual classes offered included Fortnite Dance, Zumba and STRONG by Zumba. So far classes have gone well. We did receive a youth grant which will cover the majority of the cost of the instructor for the Fortnite Dance class. We have not heard back about the Program Rental Support Grant that was applied for to cover the cost of the Zoom account. The Programs Team launched its Programming Survey to discover how we might serve you better for future programming purposes. Submit your responses by April 30.

### Rinks:

Rink shacks remained closed for the season due to covid 19. The rinks were busy with no major problems reported. New benches were built with the help of a bursary from the City. The new snow blower was delivered to the QE rink shack and worked well. Lights are still burnt out. We will need money to fix them for next season. We recruited several new volunteers, who are doing a great job. One of the volunteers replaced the netting for the nets at Achs rink with chain link. Nordic fencing donated the materials.

### Ski Trail:

The new trail, in Weaver Park, was well used. It had been groomed twice each month, thanks to a City of Saskatoon WintercityYXE grant. Later in the season, the trail was extended south of the building and double-tracked.

### Volunteers:

The Volunteer of the Month for March is Rhett Sangster, a hard-working member of the Queen Elizabeth rink crew. We have 35 active volunteers on our list. We always have jobs for more!

### Schools:

#### Aden Bowman

Enrolment in March was 760 students. The number does not include those learning online. Collegiate Open House has moved online this year ABCI has been pleased to welcome prospective students and families into the school virtually. Through a student's efforts, money was raised to purchase a wheelchair lift for the school. The school is looking forward to some upgrades, including a new kitchen for the Home Ec. Room.

#### Riverside Christian School

The staff is working hard to keep students safe and COVID-19 free. The students' Bottle Drive raised \$167.35. In February, the school hosted its Annual Science Fair virtually. It included experiments with marble racers and with magnets. Each day for a week, in March, a class showcased a special healthy treat with the school family.

*Continued on page 4...*

## Weaver Park in Winter

By Aditi Garg

My husband and I moved to Haultain in mid-December 2020. Moving in the middle of a pandemic had pros and cons. There was nothing better to do than unpack! However, I couldn't welcome friends into our home. This meant we had to find creative ways to visit outdoors. Skiing proved to be a good way to meet up since we each had to stay a ski-length apart but could chat whenever we took a break. Being new to the neighbourhood, I was keen to explore nearby. After consulting the City of Saskatoon website, I was pleasantly surprised to see a small trail a 2-minute drive away in nearby Queen Elizabeth. Plus, it was relatively flat and adequately sheltered by trees on all sides so the wind was never a major issue. Even when multiple groups were out, you always felt like you had a part of the trail to yourself. The groomed trail was always in great condition and everyone seemed to be respectful of keeping it that way. I'm still working from home and I often lack motivation to get out of the house. I stayed prepared by keeping my gear in my car (locked in the garage) so that I was always ready to go. This was a great way to get fresh air and stay mentally and physically healthy in this isolating winter. Thank you to the community organizers for advocating for this trail – a great reminder that we can all benefit from green spaces year round!



*Watch for Fall Programs!*

Community  
Advertisement

## Queen Elizabeth Cooperative Preschool

1905 Eastlake Ave

Located upstairs in Queen  
Elizabeth SchoolMon/Wed/Fri session: 4-5 years old  
Tues/Thurs session: 3-4 years oldWe use play-based learning!  
Lots of movement, lots of  
hands-on learning and  
LOTS OF FUN!Fall Registration is now OPEN!  
Please email  
[qepreschool@gmail.com](mailto:qepreschool@gmail.com) for more  
details!

## YOUR CITY COUNCILLORS

## Ward 6



Mairin Loewen

## Ward 7



Cynthia Block

Learn what's happening at City Hall  
and how it affects your neighbourhood at  
[cynthiablockward6.com](http://cynthiablockward6.com) and  
[mairinloewen.ca/](http://mairinloewen.ca/)

## A Day At Queen Elizabeth School

By: Anna Bryant

I got the opportunity to interview someone who has worked at QE for over 25 years. my grandpa, Dennis Gulka. Out of everyone at the school he has the most knowledge about Queen Elizabeth School and community. He has lived in this area since 1990. I really enjoyed this experience to interview someone with so much knowledge about this amazing school.

1. When he first started there were over 300 kids opposed to when he left (March 2018) there were 140 kids.
  2. Favourite part of working at the school: His favourite part of working at the school was seeing all the kids, his daughter, his son and granddaughters.
  3. How many years did you work at the school? He worked at Queen Elizabeth for 28 years and he worked for the school board for 38 years.
  4. What did you have to do at work? He had to keep the school clean, make sure everything was running right, water the grass, cleans the school yard, make sure sidewalks were shoveled and school was warm in the winter.
  5. What was your favourite classroom? He liked all the classrooms.
  6. What are the positives of the school through the years of you working here? The school was renovated, we got open door society and a new hockey rink was built.
  7. What year was the school built? He thinks the school was built in 1953. And he is right!
  8. Favourite memory. Everyone got together when I retired and had a farewell celebration.
  9. Favourite day of the school year. Boston Pizza hot lunch day.
  10. Most traumatic incident. Saving a kid who got his tongue stuck to a pole.
- My grandpa really enjoyed working at the school along with talking about his experience at the school. Still to this day he lives in the Queen Elizabeth area. In the summer we like to go over and hang out in their backyard and my grandma brings out the small pool and we play in it with their dog, Ollie, for hours.

*Anna Bryant is an 11 year old student in grade 6 at Queen Elizabeth School.*

We're looking for a Website Coordinator to maintain and improve our WordPress website.



Visit [qexca.ca/newsletters](http://qexca.ca/newsletters) to read past issues of the QEXCA newsletter.  
To subscribe to the mailing list or to comment about the newsletter, email [newsletter@qexca.ca](mailto:newsletter@qexca.ca).





March Volunteer of the Month:  
Rhett Sangster

March Volunteer of the Month goes to Rhett Sangster! Rhett has lived in the community since 2014 and decided to volunteer a few years after to help with the rinks. He loves helping out with the rinks, and being a part of a team of community volunteers. Through volunteering he has seen that it's possible to pull together a group of neighbours to do things such as ice the rink every year for the community to enjoy. Rhett also loves the community building aspect to it and being able to meet those within the community while providing a service to the residents. Rhett mentions that "there's something strangely meditative about walking two blocks to the rink and enjoying the fresh air and the quiet of the city as you scrape and flood the rink." He also loves to skate, play hockey and watching his kids enjoy the ice. His family (wife Karla, and three children) are able to walk just a few blocks to one of the community rinks. They also enjoy spending time at the local parks and biking along the river. Outside of volunteering he works at the Office of the Treaty Commissioner where he helps to build relationships and partnerships for action toward truth, reconciliation and Treaty implementation. It's about building understanding and common cause for a better future for us all.

QEXCA appreciates the hard work you have done for you community!

## Continued from page 2...Your Community At Work

### Pavillion Monique Rouseau

The ice rink was lit in the evenings, so the community could use it more. The school could not guarantee that the rink would be cleared of snow and thanks the volunteers who did.

COVID-19 security measures put in place in September are still in place. Even though the number of cases is declining, the school maintains its commitment to its actions to keep the school community healthy. March activities are promoting the French language and its cultural expressions. As a fundraiser, beautiful flowers, herbs, fruits and vegetables will be available for delivery in May. The student population increased by 10 students in January: all from out of the city; overall student population is still below 100 however better than expected after 4 students transferred to online learning over the break.

### Queen Elizabeth

Outdoor learning continued, when the weather was above -26 O C, including cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Classes continued to take daily and/or weekly walks weather permitting. Several registrations have been received already for 2021-2022.

### St. Frances Cree Bilingual School

In March, enrolment at the McPherson campus was 329 in school plus 76 online for a total of 405 students. The school finished its winter season of land-based learning units. Staff and students had a great time with activities such as making mitts, moss bags, ice fishing, snaring and preparing rabbits, drum making, preparing hides, dog sledding etc. Classes have been taking advantage of the school division's heated portable classrooms at Blackstrap & Eagle Creek.

### **Churches:**

Our relationship with St. Paul's Lutheran Church remains strong. We really need a volunteer to improve our contact with the other 8 churches.

### **Community Gardens:**

#### Queen Elizabeth

Upgrading of the garden will continue this year while a couple of gardeners grow produce for the school families. The upgrades include installing more plots beside the full length of the rink, repair and rejuvenation of some existing plots and improving water availability.

#### Aden Bowman

The Aden Bowman gardeners received a rather large, new, compost bin donated to us from the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council. When the snow melts, it will replace the oldest and smallest of the 2 compost bins. They will also be offering this year's gardeners a "how to compost well" session, in the spring. They have also been contacted by a group of students, in the U of S School of Environment and Sustainability, who want to see if they can install a rain barrel for the garden. They still need to talk about that and see if it can go ahead. The Environmental Club at Bowman decided to try planting fall garlic for the first time. So, they will see if any of it comes up and, if it does, they will want to sell it as a fundraiser (in a COVID-safe way). Several people have already begun signing up for this year's planting season. They do have a few plots left. Anyone can sign up through the CHEP website at <https://www.chep.org/program/community-gardens/>. There will be some kind of COVID protocol to follow at the garden again this year. They charge \$15.00 /plot.

### **Library:**

The J.S. Wood Branch is still in the same situation with its library services. Patrons can come into the library to browse and borrow, but it is not offering any in-person programming right now. It is open 10-6, Monday to Saturday. All of the programming is being done virtually. Check out the website, Facebook or YouTube for links to the online programming.

Connect with us:



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[gexca\\_yxe](https://www.instagram.com/gexca_yxe)



[gexca.ca](https://www.gexca.ca)

or by postal mail, c/o Queen Elizabeth School, 1905 Eastlake Ave., Saskatoon SK S7J 0W9.

We welcome your questions, suggestions and concerns.  
To subscribe to our newsletter mailing list, contact us at [newsletter@gexca.ca](mailto:newsletter@gexca.ca)