

QEXCA

Your Community Association

Queen Elizabeth • Exhibition • Haultain



Your Community Newsletter

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.

Winter 2024

Volume 12, No. 1

Leadership 2023 – 24

President	Lauren Wakelam
Past President	Bob McNaughton
Secretary	Janet Pearce
Treasurer	Dwight Doering

Directors

Ashley Goy	Volunteers
Dustin Harrison	Director-at-Large
Monique Lischka	Theatre in the Park
Josh Remai	Rink Operations
Wesley Wizniuk	Indoor Programs

Coordinators and Liaisons

Tanbir Chahal	Social Media
Karla Combres	School Liaison
Sherry Gore	Church Liaison
Mike Pearce	School Liaison
Justin Smart	Rinks Coordinator
Crystal Touet	Indoor Programs
Lauren Wakelam	School Liaison
Jorden Whitenect	Website

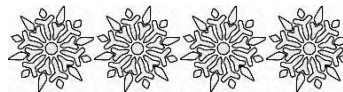
Meet Your New President



Lauren Wakelam joined the Queen Elizabeth Exhibition Haultain Community Association in spring of 2023 as the School Liaison for Queen Elizabeth School. She was elected as President at the AGM in October.

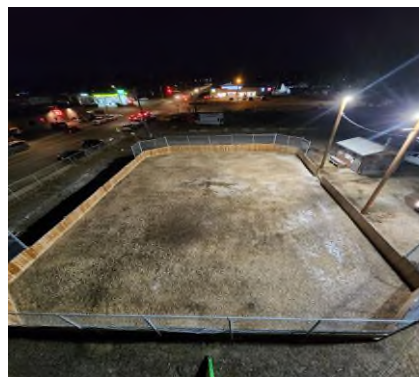
Lauren credits her son as being her main motivation behind joining the Association. He is currently attending grade 8 at Queen Elizabeth School. Her goal is to use her time as President to promote inclusion amongst all community members. She hopes to do this through community-based projects, diverse programming and special community events.

Outside of her role(s) within the Association, Lauren also volunteers for the Saskatchewan Literacy Network. She is a self-proclaimed "Swiftie" and loves to cook.



At the Rinks

In November, a work party prepared the rinks for the skating season. However, the weather has not helped our flooding yet. As of December 25th, there was still grass poking through what ice we had been able to make. The crews are busy ensuring there will be skating, even with a shorter season.



The wooden lighting poles, at the Queen Elizabeth rink, were in need of replacement. With the hard work by our volunteers, the support of the City of Saskatoon, Queen Elizabeth School staff and the generosity of Stealth Contracting, a proposal was developed and the work done in time for this season. Since the new poles are higher, there will be less light pollution to the neighbouring homes.

Your Community Association meets

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

These meetings are open to all residents of Your Community and school families.

[\(qexca.ca/governance/\)](http://qexca.ca/governance/)

The next **Community Meeting**

[\(qexca.ca/community-meeting/\)](http://qexca.ca/community-meeting/) will be Tue. March 5, 2024, at Queen Elizabeth School.

Cross-country Skiing

If there is enough snow, we plan to have a trail groomed around W.W. Ashley Park in January. QEXCA will arrange for the City to groom the trail as needed. We will rely on the trail users to keep us informed of the trail's condition. Please, direct your questions and comments, including photos and stories to XCSki@qexca.ca.

The trail will be available daily for all to enjoy – weather permitting – at no cost.



All activities on and around the trail are at your own risk.



Winter Programs 2024

All programs will be held in the gym at Queen Elizabeth School (1905 Eastlake Ave,)

Winter Program Registration will be Wednesday, January 10, in the Queen Elizabeth School gym, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Classes will begin the following week.

Details on the [website](http://qexca.ca/qexca-programs/) (qexca.ca/qexca-programs/)

Adults 16 yr. +

Drop-in Pickleball	Mon. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Zumba	Tue. 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Yoga	Wed. 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Drop-in Badminton	Wed. 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Strong By Zumba	Thu. 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Youth 14 yr. +

Drop-in Volleyball	Thu. 8:30 – 10:00 p.m.
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Children 5 – 7 yr.

Tiny Tots Soccer	Thu. 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
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In an effort to ensure everyone, who wants to participate in a program, can participate, QEXCA offers **Cost-as-a-Barrier Assistance** to those facing financial hardships. To enquire or apply, please, contact us by email (info@qexca.ca). **All enquiries are kept confidential.**

EVENTS FOR ALL AGES

**Storytimes, Discovery Club,
One-on-One Tech Help, Conversation
Circles (ELL) and much more!**

J.S. Wood Library / 1801 Lansdowne Ave



**SASKATOON
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



**ALL EVENTS ARE
FREE**

Visit qexca.ca/newsletter to read past issues of Your Community Newsletter. Please, send comments about the newsletter to newsletter@qexca.ca.

WinterFest

Watch the [website](http://qexca.ca/winterfest/) (qexca.ca/winterfest/) for details of WinterFest 2024 to be held in late February, weather permitting.



Free Family Fun and Refreshments!

Volunteers

QEXCA would like to thank **Bob McNaughton** for all of his years of volunteering and for leading the community association. We appreciate all that you have done! Bob was VOM in November of 2020 and we would like to recognize him again as a thank you for the work he has done for QEXCA.



Bob has been volunteering with the QEXCA as long as it has been the QEXCA. He began, in 2012 when the two associations amalgamated, by offering to help with the website. With the resignation of the Communication Coordinator, Bob “inherited” that role, which included the newsletter and social media. Looking for more things to do, he contacted the schools, churches and library to open and maintain communication lines with these community organizations. He has helped with most Association events and many other community activities in these past eleven years. At the AGM, in October of 2019, he was elected President. He hopes his two terms have had a positive impact on the three neighbourhoods. For Bob, the best part of working with the Association is seeing the community thrive. He and Bev watch the birds at the feeders in the yard and enjoy Scottish country dancing. QEXCA wishes you all the best Bob!

Thank you for volunteering with QEXCA!

Share Your Skills and Talents

Community Association volunteers make Your Community an even better place to live!

There are many ways you can volunteer – *for even an hour or two:*

- help serve refreshments at an event
- help clean a park or back lane
- help maintain one of our rinks and supervise public skating times
- help develop recreation programs for children or seniors
- help develop partnerships with local businesses
- help to plan and organise our indoor programs (sports, fitness and arts)
- help to maintain our social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter)

Specifically, we are looking for:

Newsletter Coordinator to produce and distribute Your Community Newsletter three times each year

School Liaisons to maintain our relationship with one of our schools. Positions open; Aden Bowman and Riverside
Visit the [website](http://qexca.ca/volunteers/) (qexca.ca/volunteers/) or contact us at volunteers@qexca.ca to find out how you can take action to improve life in Your Community!

Your Community is always looking for photos and stories for its website, newsletter and social media. If you have a story or pictures to share, please, send them our way.



It's Your Community

At the [AGM](#), this month, you elected your **2023-2024 Board of Directors**:

Lauren Wakelam was elected to a two-year term as [President](#).

Dwight Doering, was re-elected for a two-year term as [Treasurer](#).

Janet Pearce will serve the remaining year of the term as [Secretary](#).

Dustin Harrison, Ashley Goy (*Volunteers*) and **Monique Lischka** were re-elected to two-year terms as **Directors**.

Josh Remai (*Rinks*) and **Wesley Wizniuk** (*Indoor Programs*) will continue in the final year of their two-year terms as **Directors**.

Bob McNaughton will continue one year as **Past President**.

Your new Board of Directors is eager to hear your ideas about the future of Your Community.

[Indoor Programs](#)

The schedule is out. Please, see page 2 and visit qexca.ca/qexca-programs/ for the details.

If there are programs you would like included in the Fall 2024 schedule, for preschoolers, children, youth, adults or seniors – fitness, arts, STEM or sports, especially if you can recommend an instructor, please, let the Programs Team know at programs@qexca.ca.

[Volunteers](#)

We welcomed three new volunteers:

Janet Pearce is our new Secretary. Karla Combres is the Liaison for Pavillion Monique Rousseau and Justin Smart has stepped forward to maintain our messages on the sign at the school.

We're always looking for folks to be available for occasional special events or activities.

To help make Your Community an even better place to live, email volunteers@qexca.ca

[Schools:](#)

[Aden Bowman](#)

Enrolment as of November was 956. The senior boys football team placed second in the provincial finals. The band concert was very well attended as was the drama club's short plays production.

The SCC is working with the administration to bring Saskatchewan Industry Education Council mental health programs to the students and to parents.

[Monique Rousseau](#) (*Karla Combres, School Liaison*)

The elementary school is outgrowing its current location in the old Haultain School and officials are seeking a larger facility. Major repairs are needed to the roof and other areas of the current building. Senior elementary school students are already using space in the high school.

[Queen Elizabeth](#) (*Lauren Wakelam, School Liaison*)

Enrolment is down from last year. Some immigrant families are moving to larger centres and parents are opting for schools with full-day Kindergarten. This lower enrolment has resulted in reduced staff funding.

[Riverside](#)

We trust the new portable classrooms will improve learning environment for the staff and students.

(Continued on Page 4)

Your Representatives on City Council



Cynthia Block, Ward 6

(includes Haultain neighbourhood)

Visit her website cynthiablockward6.com



Mairin Loewen Ward 7

(includes QE and Exhibition neighbourhoods)

Visit her website mairinloewen.ca

Connect with us: (NOTE the links for Facebook and X /Twitter will change early in January to "qexca_yxe")



info@qexca.ca



[qexca](https://www.facebook.com/qexca)



[qexca_yxe/](https://www.instagram.com/qexca_yxe/)



[@qexca](https://twitter.com/qexca)



qexca.ca

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

We welcome your questions and suggestions

To subscribe to our newsletter mailing list, contact us at newsletter@qexca.ca



It's Your Community

(Continued from page 3)

St. Frances (Mike Pearce, School Liaison)

The big news, for this year, was [breaking ground](#) for the new facility. The new school is anticipated to open in the fall of 2025. Enrolment has increased from last year.

Churches: (Sherry Gore, Church Liaison)

Sherry has developed a strategy to contact each of the eleven (11) faith groups in our neighbourhoods to share news and events.

Community Gardens:

We'll check again in the spring.

Library:

The J.S. Wood Branch is offering [Programs](#), including One-on-One Tech, Family Dance Party and Family Storytime, and a new "[Notice Nature](#)" program.

City of Saskatoon:

We learned that the Recommendations of the Exhibition Neighbourhood Local Area Plan and the [Exhibition/Queen Elizabeth Neighbourhood Traffic Study](#) have largely been implemented. The last few are awaiting funding, primarily Federal, in the next year or two.

We will learn more about the Safety aspects of the Traffic Study at the March Community Association Meeting.

Our relationship with our two City Councillors: Cynthia Block, Ward 6 and Mairin Loewen, Ward 7, has remained beneficial, with at least one of them attending Community Association Meetings.

Weaver Park Update

Most of the work on the Weaver Park Dry Storm Pond is complete: the excavation, storm sewer construction and infrastructure upgrades and the asphalt pathway construction. The only landscape construction left is some of the irrigation and sod installation, which will be done in the spring.

Newly sodded areas will remain closed to the public until the fall of 2024 for the sod to fully take root.

For the sidewalk rehabilitation work, the priority is to address all safety concerns, not aesthetics. This means that the City will use a variety of treatments and not all sidewalk panels will be replaced.

Read more on the [website](https://qexca.ca/2nddig/) (<https://qexca.ca/2nddig/>).



Erika RITCHIE
NDP MLA for Saskatoon Nutana

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saskatoonnutana@ndpcacus.sk.ca



KEVIN WAUGH
MP / SASKATOON—GRASSWOOD

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Embrace the beauty of winter and find joy in the little things that make this season special.