



Community Beat

What's Up at the St. Albert Community League?

Spring Dance Sold Out

As in days gone by, the great hardwood floor of St. Albert's "original gathering place" resonated with the sounds of over 300 feet moving to sounds of the jive, foxtrot, waltz and two-step. A rooftop of multi-coloured streamers, floral arrangements, floating candles in bird baths, and glowing trees and garlands set the stage for the "Welcome Spring" Dance on March 19th, 2011.

Beginning with a free foxtrot and jive dance lessons complements of Sabrina's Dance Instruction, at 8:00, the event quickly moved to dancing the night away. The Community League was proud to offer a tasty evening lunch by its in-house caterer, Up-town Catering, door prizes from Sabrina's Dance Instruction and free tickets to our up-coming dances, and an all-round great time.

The resounding comments from many was "we had a great time and we'll be back!". Thanks to all for coming, letting down your hair and having a good time, and making this event such a success.



Next Dance - June Sunburst Dance, June 4th

You asked for another dance as soon as possible, so before the summer holidays, kick up your heels on Saturday June 4th. Look forward to more of your favorite dance music, good food and a fantastic time. There will be great dance music from the 50's through to today, plus your ticket includes a late lunch and reasonable drink prices to boot.

Our Spring dance sold out in advance, and we're giving current members (and their guests) an advance opportunity to buy tickets.

Until May 24th, members and guest can call Sheena @780-460-9205 before tickets are available to all from Lynda@780-418-5659.

Tickets prices:

In advance: members - \$13; non-members - \$15 (includes 2011 membership)

At the door (if available): Members - \$18; non-members - \$20 (includes membership)

Volunteer Opportunities!

There are a wide range of areas where you can help to make Community League alive and relevant.

For Canada Day, the League is providing an inflatable jump castle with slide for the younger kids during the Downtown Family Street Dance on July 1st. We need a few good people who can help supervise for a couple of hours. Shifts needed to fill are from 4 - 6 pm and 6 - 8 pm.

If you can give a couple of hours to help out the community and make this event a success, please contact Paul at 780.907.3399. Any and all help is greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Dates & Events

Mark your calendar!

June 4 - June Sunburst Dance

June TBA - General Membership
Board Meeting

July 1 - Bouncing house for Kids
Downtown During Street Dance

October TBA - Harvest Dance

December 31 - New Year's Dance

After 70 years:

Dedicated to Putting Community Back into St. Albert Community League

St. Albert's Community League was started by volunteers in 1939 and by 1940 the Hall was raised by a volunteer work gang. The League was the "heart" of St. Albert, and over the years sponsored many groups, events, and sports teams. Many wedding receptions, parties and dances helped establish the hall as "the" gathering place for the community.

However, as the city grew, specialized groups formed around activities, and alternate venues became available, the role of the League narrowed. In the 1990's with the advent of electronic media, home computerization and entertainment, more and more families looked within and volunteer-ism waned. By early 2000, the League focused on Hall rental to community groups and individuals.

Approximately three years ago, the League decided to renew its focus on establishing community based events. The events held to date range from Non-governmental Organizations cross-sharing meetings, game days, Christmas Carolling and kids' craft event, a market, and dances.

We're excited about the possibilities as we continue to organize an increasing variety of great community events throughout the year. So, look out for our upcoming events and if you can offer an hour of your time to help decorate or cleanup the hall for a dance, it is greatly appreciated. We'd love to see you involved!

March 26, 2011 AGM - In a Glance

Our 2010 President, Vic Charlton, began with recognition and congratulations to the membership committee in growing our membership to 172 by March 26th 2011! Membership has been steadily expanding over the past 2-3 years from when the Board comprised almost the whole membership.

Vic highlighted the the League's accomplishments in 2010, including the kitchen renovation; attracting an in-house caterer without compromising self catering; completing over 40% of the needed maintenance tasks; re-building the community in Community league through membership and league run events; developing a go-forward mid-range strategic plan for the league. He also stressed the League still has challenges and opportunities ahead such as replacing shingles, finalizing our business plan, and building an active membership.

Mike Clulow spoke to our Financials, indicating that the League was in a good go-forward financial position for 2011. He also noted that we have a need for fund raisers and grant applications for major upcoming projects.

Attendees had an opportunity to chat and better get to know one another over coffee and muffins before and after the meeting. That's building relationships through community!

2011-12 Community League Board Members

Congratulations to our current and new board members for the 2011-2012 year. Our new Community League Board:

President Vic Charlton	Director Sheena Hughes
Vice President Cliff Carter	Director Deane Doucette
Secretary George Valan	Director Lynda Flannery
Treasurer Michael Clulow	Director Randy Hughes
Director Bentley Barr	Director Councillor Cam Mackay
Director Paul Dicaire	Director Val Niblock

Membership Benefits

For only \$5 a year, the St. Albert Community League membership brings tangible benefits that include: advance knowledge and ticket purchase for our events, discounts on our event tickets, and our Newsletter (electronic or optional snail mail!).

We are looking at other ideas to encourage membership and active volunteerism in the SACL, so send us your thoughts, e-mail Lynda at flannie@shaw.ca. We'd be delighted to hear from you!