



VVCA on Facebook:
[Facebook.com/VarsityView](https://www.facebook.com/VarsityView)

Website:
vvcasaskatoon.com

VVCA on Twitter:
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As another year rolls to a close, we can reflect on what you and your community association has achieved in the past year as well as on some of the unique features of Varsity View and Grosvenor Park that make our neighbourhoods such great places to live.

First, our achievements: One of the great things VVCA does is organize a wide variety of outdoor and indoor activities. This is mostly due to the dedication of community member Barb Giles, who has seen many VVCA Presidents come and go while she quietly and efficiently organizes programming. The past year's activities include Tae Kwon Do, badminton, conversational Spanish, Jazzercise, yoga, basketball, soccer and several others including our new activity for 'Run, Jump, Throw' (give it a try if you have a 6-12 year old). In addition, Greg and Kenton are once again getting our rink ready for hockey and community skating.

VVCA has been active in supporting playground improvements. We provided a start-up donation for a new playground at Brunskill School and just recently added a final contribution that will hopefully allow the new playground to be completed in the coming months. Thanks Anu, Maya, and the many community members who supported our new school playground. Meanwhile Roger Williamson, who is also our web guy, has been working with the Nutana Community Association to get park improvements at the Albert Rec Unit funded. The City of Saskatoon replaced the play structures at the end of summer (thank you!). We are raising funds for expanded recreational feature adjacent to the children's play area. Lastly, we completed fund raising for Raoul Wallenberg park (greatly helped by the congregation Agudas Israel). Sadly, our dream could not be accomplished within budget when the project was tendered. Fortunately, a local builder, Mark Bobyn, has come to our rescue with a less expensive but equally pleasing (in my humble opinion) plan that should be built this coming Spring.

The big news on the Civics front is that residents with the help of VVCA and enthusiastic residents, succeeded in getting sufficient signatures for the extension of the Residential Parking Zone for the length of 15th St and adjacent connecting streets. I went to City Council and spoke in favor of this extension and council voted to approve the extension. New signs will likely go up in the New Year. Council has also committed to an overall review of parking to come up with a consistent and unified approach. City Council has taken up one of VVCA's suggestions and signed a memorandum with the University to jointly tackle parking. We look forward to this partnership to solve some parking constraints that affect our residents and neighbours.

The other news is the future relocation of Fire Hall 5 from Central Avenue in Sutherland to the College Quarter development, and the ongoing construction of a new fire hall on Clarence Avenue to replace current Fire Hall 3 on Taylor Street and York Avenue. These moves give broader emergency services coverage to a larger part of the city. The plan for the new Fire Hall 5 will double the size of current Hall 5 from 7,000 to 16,000 square feet, so that aerial equipment can be positioned more centrally and backup fire trucks can be bought indoors.

Okay, back to trees. We do not hear much about the features that make a community, and particularly ours, an attractive place to live. I am the first to say that the dedication of residents is paramount. But there are other features too. Why do we like to live in Varsity View or Grosvenor Park? Could one be the trees? Several interesting studies suggest trees are part of the answer. Canadians who live on city blocks with at least 10 trees are healthier. More green space decreases mortality by about 10% compared with residents of less leafy areas. There are also economic benefits to trees. Want to increase the value of your house by 4 to 15%? Make sure it is close to a mature tree. Lastly, trees remove large amounts of moisture from the soil. A study in urban Minneapolis indicates that about 10,000 L of water is removed annually by mature elm and pine trees (yes, the amount varies with species etc.). For some residences in our area about a quarter of the water from rain and snow may be removed by the trees on the lot. The impact could be even higher because trees remove most of the water in summer when our incidence of flooding is highest. Also, Spring runoff often occurs over frozen ground and is dealt with by the sewers and does not add as much soil water. An interesting question is whether the recent illegal removal of trees along Saskatchewan Crescent will contribute to future subsidence issues along the street and whether flooding in some parts of the city is partly due to deforestation in other parts of the city.

Well, let's be thankful for the benefit our trees bring. I hope you have decorated your tree, real or otherwise, and that you have a great festive season according to your custom. To all who have volunteered to help make Varsity View and Grosvenor Park such a great place to live, a special thanks to you, and a prosperous New Year to all.

VVCA President, Jon Naylor

2017-18 VVCA Executive

President
Jon Naylor
president@vvca.ca

President-Elect
Annika Anderson

Secretary
Ted Stensrud

Treasurer
Anne Hardy

Coordinators:

Albert Community Center Lisa Kirkham

Basketball Jason Kovitch

Community Garden James Perkins

Civics
Allan Woo
Holly Ann Knott
Robert Peterson-Wakeman
James Perkins
Jon Naylor—Chair

Equipment Robb Larmer

Indoor Programs
Barb Giles
Maya Wagner

Newsletter Editor Katie Pendleton

Rink
Greg McDonald
Kenton Shynkaruk

Soccer Niran Harrison

Social Ted Stensrud

Social Media Marcus Prebble

Website Roger Williamson

Members at large
Anu Bhargava, Holly Ann Knott,
Kyla Kelly

City of Saskatoon
Liaison Kevin Ariss
kevin.ariss@saskatoon.ca

Message from your City Councillor

Hello Varsity View and Grosvenor Park – It's been a busy time in our city.

The Residential Parking Permit program (RPP) has been expanded in Varsity View to include many more block faces toward 14th Street, and the signage should be up early in 2018. A review of the RPP is underway as we continue to struggle with a parking problem that gets moved rather than resolved.

Transportation has been a big theme as we get closer to making decisions about the future of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), an All Ages and Abilities network (AAA), which includes a cycling network and the anticipated arrival of ride-sharing companies such as Uber. Public engagement has been on-going and decisions are expected in the first half of 2018. An on-line survey for the BRT is available on the City's website until December 15th. <https://www.saskatoon.ca/engage/transit-plan> As well, the Victoria Avenue Corridor from 8th Street to the Traffic Bridge will showcase Saskatoon's first complete multi-modal street, a project that moved forward due to matching money from the federal government. The Traffic Bridge is still scheduled to open in the fall of 2018.

Speaking of bridges, the City will examine an opportunity to expand the pedestrian walkway on the Sid Buckwold Bridge. Thanks to the Ward 6 Civics Committee for their hard work in getting this on the agenda prior to the bridge revitalization work scheduled for 2019.

As always, a huge thank you to all of the volunteers on the community association who continue to go above and beyond to provide great programs and events, while advocating for important issues in your neighbourhoods. It's been an honour to work with all of you over the past year.

Happy Holidays!

Cynthia
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Big Plans for a Little Park Albert Recreation Unit park rejuvenation Winter 2018 update

A big THANK YOU to those who have donated time and money, given feedback and ideas, and most importantly, shown your enthusiastic support for your little park. We are continuing to fundraise to make your little park a big success!

This fall saw a big change in Albert Recreation Unit, with the removal and replacement of all the play equipment in the park. The new play structures, swings and climbing arch were installed in September/October 2017 and immediately attracted children (and adults) to the park. Funding for this work was courtesy of a federal Canada 150 grant in partnership with the City of Saskatoon.

Our Big Plans fundraising continues towards further redevelopment of the park. Through various grants, fundraising events, and donations from residents like you, we have raised well over \$100,000. Thank you to all those who have helped support our neighbourhood project!

The scope of further improvements, primarily on the south half of the park, will be dictated by the total funds raised by early 2018. These further improvements could include many features; more equipment, green landscaping and contouring, a riding/running loop, a tiny toboggan hill, fitness equipment and a 3-on-3 basketball court. The current timeline is to finish fundraising early next year and then submit final plans to the City of Saskatoon for approval.

After the final approval, we aim to complete all phases of construction in the fall of 2018, after the end of the annual splash pool season. Thank you to Jim Siemens (Oxbow Architecture) and Chris Popplewell (Strata Developments) for their professional assistance.

Online donations can be made here: nutana.ca/

Donations can also be made by cheque. **IMPORTANT:** Please make cheques payable to: City of Saskatoon. Mark the cheque with "Albert Rec Unit".

Mail your donation to: Nutana Community Association, c/o École Victoria School, 639 Broadway Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7N 1B2

Now you can donate to the park with your recycling! Next time you take some cans or bottles to any SARCAN depot, use their 'Drop and Go' program to donate it to the Nutana Community Association. At the terminal, follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Enter the email address: donate@nutana.ca
2. Enter the security code: Albert
3. The computer will then print tags for your bags, which you stick on your bags and walk away - it's a Drop and Go system so no waiting in long lines. Easy!

Follow our progress and see our plans on Facebook: facebook.com/BigPlansForaLittlePark/

Thank you for making your little park a BIG success!

2018 Summer Basketball Camps

YAS - Young Athlete Saskatchewan is administered and headed by Saskatchewan professional "A" certified teachers who are highly accomplished basketball coaches.

Next summer's YAS basketball camps in Saskatoon and Regina will start the week of July 2 to 6 and continue until the week of August 20 to 24.

Every youth age 8 to 10, 10 to 12, 12 to 14 and 14 to 16 who would like have fun and make new friends while learning and developing basketball skills is most welcome and invited to YAS camps.

Thank you to the Saskatchewan Community Initiatives Fund, Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, Canadian Tire Jump Start Charity, Hall*Comm Trust, and private citizens for their financial donations to YAS that ensure that every youth can afford to attend YAS.

More information at
www.yas.ca



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MESSAGE FROM INDOOR COORDINATORS

Hello VVCA members! Winter is here, and if you are looking for activities to get you out of the house, you have come to the right place!

Come on out and try something different or sign up for the next session of something you started this fall.

Registration nights are January 9 and 11, 2018 at Brunskill School from 7:00-8:30pm.

Self-Defense for Women will be offered this session, however it has been moved to Mondays 8:30-9:30pm. Please note this is different than what is indicated in the leisure guide.

Gentle Yoga on Thursday evenings was not listed in the leisure guide but will still be offered. See you at Brunskill school gym from 6:30pm-8:00pm on Thursdays, Jan 18-Mar 28/18.

Other changes from the leisure guide:

- **Tae Kwon Do pre beginners Wednesday OR Friday (not Wednesday AND Friday)**
- **There is a Thursday night yoga class that was missed; see the schedule on the next page for details.**

Spring Soccer and Basketball registrations will be announced at a later date.

See you at registration!

Barb and Maya

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VVCA Winter 2018 Programs Registration

Tuesday, January 9 and Thursday, January 11, 2018

In person program sign-up will be held on Tuesday, January 9 and Thursday, January 11, 2018 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM at Brunskill School Multipurpose Room, 101 Wiggins Ave N. A non-refundable membership fee of \$10 per individual or \$20 per family per year is required to participate in programs. VVCA honours other community association memberships. Programs may change. Please visit vvcasaskatoon.com for final program details. In an effort to ensure everyone who wants to participate can, cost-as-a-barrier assistance is available for those facing hardships. To inquire, please contact Barb (blgiles@sasktel.net) or inquire with any volunteer on registration night. All inquiries are confidential.

PROGRAM	LOCATION	TIME	DAY	DATES	COST
ALL AGES					
Tae Kwon Do - Beginner (6 years and up)	Brunskill - Gym (W) & MPR (F)	06:30 PM - 07:15 PM	W/F	Jan 17 – Mar 28	\$85
Tae Kwon Do - Intermediate (8 years and up)	Brunskill - Gym (W) & MPR (F)	07:15 PM - 08:00 PM	W/F	Jan 17 – Mar 28	\$125
Tae Kwon Do - Advanced (10 years and up)	Brunskill - Gym (W) & MPR (F)	08:00 PM - 09:00 PM	W/F	Jan 17 – Mar 28	\$150
ADULT					
Badminton (raquet req'd)	Brunskill - Gym	08:30 PM - 10:15 PM	Tu	Jan 16 – Mar 27	\$45
Badminton (raquet req'd)	Brunskill - Gym	08:30 PM - 10:15 PM	Th	Jan 18 – Mar 29	\$45
Conversational Spanish – Beginner	Brunskill - Library	06:00 PM - 07:00 PM	Tu	Jan 16 – Mar 27	\$110
Conversational Spanish – Advanced	Brunskill - Library	07:15 PM - 08:15 PM	Tu	Jan 16 – Mar 27	\$110
Jazzercise	Brunskill - MPR	06:30 PM - 07:30 PM	Tu	Jan 16 – Mar 27	\$75
Learn to Knit & Crochet	TBA	07:00 PM - 09:00 PM	Th	Jan 18 – Mar 29	\$40
Self Defense for Women	Brunskill - MPR	08:30 PM - 09:30 PM	M	Jan 15 – Mar 26	\$75
Yoga - Multi-level	Brunskill - MPR	06:30 PM - 08:00 PM	M	Jan 15 – Mar 26	\$110
Yoga - Multi-level	Brunskill - MPR	06:30 PM - 08:00 PM	W	Jan 17 – Mar 28	\$110
Yoga - gentle	Brunskill - MPR	06:30 PM - 08:00 PM	Th	Jan 18 – Mar 29	\$110
CHILDREN					
Learn to Skate (Age 5-8)	Brunskill - Rink	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Run Jump Throw Wheel (6-12)	Brunskill - Gym	06:00 PM - 07:00 PM	F	Jan 12 – Mar 9	\$50
Tae Kwon Do – Pre-Beginner (Age 3-5)	Brunskill - MPR	06:00 PM - 06:30 PM	W	Jan 17 – Mar 14	\$50
Tae Kwon Do – Pre-Beginner (Age 3-5)	Brunskill - Gym	06:00 PM - 06:30 PM	F	Jan 12 – Mar 9	\$50

We must once again stress the importance of safety before and after programming. It is imperative that parents accompany their children to and from their registered programs. If children arrive early they MUST be accompanied by a parent or guardian until the class begins. Unexpected class cancellations could leave children stranded if they are simply dropped off. Children must be picked up promptly after class. Instructors are responsible for teaching participants DURING class only.