

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

– Jon Naylor,

A LOT HAS HAPPENED IN THE LAST YEAR.

I am so thankful that we live in a single family home in Varsity View. During the lockdown, I was able to swap my commute to work for a little pre-zoom gardening. The sun and the birds sure helped keep us sane. Although our seed supplier ran out long before we could place an order, we were lucky enough to have enough left-over seed. We avoided trips to the grocery, the increased expense of veggies, and uncertainty about supply. I know that to varying degrees, many of you share these feelings and are thankful for our neighborhood and the support we give each other.

On a similar note, the pandemic has reinforced how lucky we are to have an active community association. I watch the people enjoying our rink from before dawn to well after dusk. I hear from skiers enjoying the trails we laid around President Murray and Grosvenor Parks. We all look forward to the return of zoom programming to give us more activities and interests.

One of the big changes facing our community association is what it is going to look like going forward. At the AGM no one stood for the position as President. Since then, Holly Ann has graciously taken over the role of running meetings. On the activities side, Barb is still in place as indoor co-ordinator (thanks Barb) which means that this will continue. We are experimenting with zoom classes in the New Year to give residents some outlets in these lockdown times. I encourage you to check out the offerings elsewhere in this newsletter. The rink is injected with new co-ordinators and new enthusiasm. Thanks



to a city micro-grant and Angela Jones' efforts, we received enough money that we could install new energy efficient rink lights. A major rebuild is planned and fundraising is needed to support this.

The big hole in our activities is civics; who is going to champion this and what will the efforts look like? For the past 4 years, the community association took a big interest in the various rezoning projects. Except for stopping 4-plexes on corner lots, these efforts have been mostly unrewarded. In my opinion, development decisions are made well in advance of any public hearing or council meeting. What the city wants from community consultation is fine tuning and acceptance. It is also clear from my door knocking experience that there is support for increased density within our neighborhood. A suggestion is that the association focus more on crime and other quality of living issues rather than development. What actually happens, will depend a lot on the person who decides to champion this position, please let me know if you have thoughts.

On the question of development, at our last community meeting, our councillor presented council's plans for more density along our major streets. While this has been



on the cards for some time, the scope of this is only now becoming clear. Our councillor indicated that a half kilometer strip around BRT routes will be rezoned for medium density. Think 3 to 5 story apartment blocks from the East side of Bate Crescent to Weir Crescent or from College Drive to Elliott Street. She sent us a map showing what this will look like around 8th St. This is a 60's inspired, transit centered, view of city planning. It comes at a time when pandemics are reshaping our views of what a healthy city looks like. It also coincides with corporations using modern communications rather than physically moving people to their workplace. Whatever happens, some clarity about the plan will allow us all to make informed decisions about where we want to live and what we want to spend improving our homes.

Photos by Angela Jones.



Continued on page 2

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Sheena Beatty,
Holly Ann Knott,
Lucy Schindler, Allan Woo**Past President's Report continued**

A New Year is upon us, COVID will retreat in the face of effective vaccines, remote working and other innovations fostered by the pandemic will continue and we will be better for this. Once more we will be able to enjoy each others company without restriction. Happy New Year.w

Jonathan (jon) naylor,
Past your president, vvca



Map below by City of Saskatoon

**BOARD MEMBER OPEN POSITIONS:**

President and social coordinator

Email info@vvcasaskatoon.com for more information.

**Jennifer
Bowes**
People First



Your NDP MLA for Saskatoon University
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INDOOR COORDINATOR'S NEWS



Photo by Emma Matthews (Unsplash)

HELLO EVERYONE! Welcome Back!

This sure has been a year we will never forget! A year filled with uncertainty, hardship, and challenges! What better way to make you feel better than to try an online program! Yes we are offering a few programs for you to enjoy! Keep in mind this is a learning curve for everyone and patience is a virtue! Mark January 18-22, 2021 on your calendars!

Lets try to make something positive with all the negativity out there! Stay Safe! Stay Healthy!!!

- Barb

Note: The Saskatoon Public School Board and Greater Catholic Schools have cancelled ALL school bookings until April 30, 2021. As an alternative we are now offering some programs online, via ZOOM!

Registration will take place online (vvcasaskatoon.com/programs/program-registration/) or email (programs@vvcasaskatoon.com) from January 18-22, 2021. No payment will be required at registration. If registration numbers allow the class to proceed, you will be contacted by the VVCA for payment prior to the class.

A membership fee of \$10/individual or \$20/family, per year is required to participate in programs and must be presented at the time of registration. Varsity View Community Association honours other community association memberships.

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). All inquiries are confidential.

The VVCA is taking a cautious and learning approach to programming and is offering a few classes this session that translate well to an online experience. Programs have been modified with COVID 19 restrictions in mind by moving to only online offerings. These COVID-19 restrictions can change rapidly and the safety of our community, participants and instructors remain our priority. Should any programs be cancelled as a result, participants will be notified by email or phone and registration fees (prorated if the program is partially complete) will be refunded.

Email the indoor coordinator with registration or program questions!

Interested in learning more about the happenings in your neighbourhood? Feel like you are missing out? Check out the VVCA website

vvcasaskatoon.com for information on programs, activities, announcements, news and history. The new VVCA Facebook page has items of more timely interest, or send us an email at info@vvcasaskatoon.com and we can put you on our occasional email list to keep you in the loop.

Varsity Dental Group

General Dentistry

Dr. R. Bhargava | Dr. A. Gallagher | Dr. K. Gallagher
Dr. M. Gavelis | Dr. J. Marshall | Dr. K. McCann
Dr. E. Bull | Dr. J. Bourgault

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CITY OF SASKATOON: COUNCILLOR CYNTHIA BLOCK



Photos submitted by Cynthia Block

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO IS DOING THEIR BEST TO CONTAIN THE PANDEMIC, as our city and province grapple with higher transmission rate. Add to that an epic snowstorm, and we are clearly demonstrating the resilience of Saskatoon people. I encourage everyone to reduce their bubble as much as possible during this time, and thank you for your patience as the city continues the cleanup to accommodate greater mobility for all. It was great to have many in-depth conversations with residents during the civic election campaign. These were some of the main topics:

Roads: The Building Better Roads program is helping our neighbourhoods to see strong improvements, and this will continue.

Sidewalks: More money is being directed to improve sidewalks, add infill sidewalks and accessibility curb cuts

Downtown: A new partnership between the City and the Province is designed to better address community safety and well-being. Saskatoon Tribal Council is leading this new approach.

Following conversations with many residents in our ward, a plan is underway for a Virtual Town Hall focused on community safety. In collaboration with Saskatoon Police, I anticipate this event will take place early in this New Year. Also, Virtual Call with Your Councillor will resume this year.

To receive information about these events and other City News, please sign up here: www.cynthiablockward6.com I am honoured to have the privilege to serve the residents of Varsity View and Grosvenor Park for another four years. I look forward to working with you as we continue to build a vibrant, thriving and sustainable city. Wishing all of you a happy and safe holiday season.

Warm Regards,
Cynthia

cynthia.block@saskatoon.ca

Fb: [cynthiablockward6](https://www.facebook.com/cynthiablockward6)
Twitter: [cynthiablocksk](https://twitter.com/cynthiablocksk)



Have you signed up for City News from Cynthia?
To receive e-updates or read previous updates,
go to www.cynthiablockward6.com

Did you know? Wine lovers rejoice!

The Co-op Liquor Store on 8th St. is collecting corks for recycling.

A few neighbours I've mentioned it to have told me that they have collected corks and will be dropping them off.

- Holly Ann Knott

YOUR AD HERE!

Do you offer a service or run a business that is of interest to our community?

This printed newsletter reaches over 2,000 homes in the Varsity View and Grosvenor Park neighbourhoods. These are people who are interested in what happens in their community and are also keen to support neighbourhood businesses.

Email newsletter@vvcasaskatoon.com to submit ads for publication.

3.5" x 2" business card ad | \$75 / issue

VVCA WINTER 2021 PROGRAMS DESCRIPTION



Conversational Italian - It is a beginner class to get you learning a new language. The focus will be learning basic Italian phrases to help you have your first interaction in the language. The course is perfect for anyone that dreams about learning Italian or plans to visit the country one day (yes, we will be able to travel to Italy one day). The course will be hosted on zoom and we will be able to watch Italian movies and other shows to practice the listening part.

Conversational Spanish - I am very eager to share once again my knowledge and experience of over 30 years of teaching Spanish to students of all ages and levels in Saskatoon. **Beginners-** Come learn basic Spanish greetings, alphabet numbers, colors, key question words, days of the week, months of the year, uses of verb to be and everyday useful sentences. You will be introduced to speaking Spanish using both formal and informal ways of addressing people. **Intermediate- Advanced** - If you already know the basics you can get a chance to practice with other students and learn about the most common verbs in the present, past and future forms.

Nonviolent Communication (NVC) Study and Practice – As Covid19 continues to affect all of our lives, needs for compassion and care are so alive right now. Have you been interested in meaningful communication or longing for some community? Loretta Iris (lorettairis.com) is able to offer this opportunity for learning, practice and support for new satisfying ways to connect during our winter session! These 1.5 hour Online NVC classes are hosted through ZOOM. Celebrating an intergenerational focus - all ages are welcome (those 15 and under require live parental participation).

Gentle Zoom Yoga With Miranda – Yoga has been my saviour throughout these stressful times. Once we get the technical stuff sorted this class is designed to help even the most “Zoom jaded” participant find physical and mental ease, joy, and clarity during the winter days ahead. It will include gently energizing supported and standing poses with minimal props and a strong focus on centring, breathing, and relaxation. I have missed my yoga community and hope to see you soon on Zoom!

Gentle Yoga With Loretta – Are you needing some relief and movement during the ongoing Covid19 restrictions? Stress got you down and out? Loretta (lorettairis.com) is pleased to offer this weekly one hour practice of supported movement and meditation through this winter session! Online yoga are hosted through Zoom. All levels and beginners are welcome. While adult focused, for those wanting their children to join – you are welcome to have your child(ren) accompany your practice with adult supervision.



NEXT ISSUE - TBD

The SPRING 2021 issue will be printed and distributed to the Varsity View and Grosvenor Park neighbourhoods. Do you have news or an event that is of interest to the community? Submit it to newsletter@vvcasaskatoon.com before February 28, 2021. Do you want to advertise in the newsletter and let the neighbourhood know about your business?

Send it to newsletter@vvcasaskatoon.com.
Ad booking deadline is February 28, 2021.

Registration will take place online (vvcasaskatoon.com/programs/program-registration/) or email (programs@vvcasaskatoon.com) from January 18-22, 2021

WINTER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

SKI TRAILS OPEN

The cross country ski trails in President Murray Park and Grosvenor Park were groomed late in November after our large snowfall. We will continue to get the trails groomed as necessary throughout the winter, so get out there and be active! Have fun!

NEW RINK LIGHTS!

Fancy an early morning or late night skate? Now you can with the new rink lights that were installed before Christmas!

The new energy efficient LED lights come on in the morning from 6 AM until 8:30 AM, and in the evening from 5 PM until 11 PM. Be mindful of our neighbours in the early and later hours please.

Thanks for Brady of Schock Electric for getting these done so quickly! Thanks to Luke, one of our committed rink guys, for arranging all this so promptly. And, thanks to the City of Saskatoon and WintercityYXE for the micro-grant to cover part of the cost – it has made a big difference in our community. Thank you!

#wintercityyx



Interested in making your community a little better? The Varsity View Community Association is always looking for volunteers!

VVCA is run by friendly volunteers who organize and attend meetings, provide programs and activities for youth and adults, work with the City regarding development, parking, policing and other issues, keep the rink in good condition, publish a newsletter and website, raise money for community events and projects, and generally try to make the Varsity View and Grosvenor Park neighbourhoods a little nicer to live in.

Sounds fun, right? If something on that short list fills a need in you, or you have other ideas on how to improve your neighbourhood, join us on Zoom at a monthly VVCA board meeting and have your say. We'd love to hear your ideas and would be more than happy to find you a spot on our board if you are interested.

ALBERT RECREATION UNIT!



Photo by Theodora Ofosuhima

The Little Park: Albert Recreation Unit Park – is OPEN

Albert Recreation Unit, the small park on Clarence and 13th Street, is open after a rejuvenation this past summer and fall. The public seemed to like the improvements, with many families and youth making use of the park throughout the fall and into the winter. The Big Plans for a Little Park committee is planning an official grand opening celebration in the spring/summer if pandemic restrictions allow more people to gather. Stay tuned for more details as summer approaches.

Watch the Facebook page here <https://www.facebook.com/BigPlansForaLittlePark/>

Right now, the VVCA is looking for a President – someone to act as a chair for our meetings, prepare agendas, meet with and represent the community, and inspire us all to improve the community and the City. Sounds like a big job, but it's more than worth it and there are lots of other volunteers to help share the load.

Email info@vvcasaskatoon.com for more information, or check our About page or Facebook for information on the dates of our next board meeting. Watch for our AGM coming in April!

BRUNSKILL RINK RENOVATION

Support the VVCA Brunskill Rink Renovation

3 tickets for \$10
1 ticket for \$5

Purchase tickets virtually by e-transferring to
rink@vvcasaskatoon.com.

You will be sent a photo of your tickets.

GRAND PRIZE

- \$1500 CASH

2nd PRIZE

- \$200 CASH & \$225 12 class pass to Crew Rowhouse

3rd PRIZE

- \$200 CASH & \$175 All in the Wild Gift Certificate

4th, 5th, 6th, & 7th PRIZE

- \$50 D'Lish by Tish Gift Card

DRAW DATE WILL BE ON FEBRUARY 23rd, 2021

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING!!

Please support our Varsity View Community Association Rink Renovation Project Raffle!

Our local Varsity View community skating rink brings together adults and children alike for fun with friends and family all winter long with skating and hockey. It feels like old fashioned place where friends and strangers meet, come and go, join an informal game of hockey or skate around and have a chat. From young kids, to college students, to grandparents, all play together and the natural harmony created is infectious.

This community rink is in dire need of a renovation, as the boards and fences are damaged and even dangerous. We are hoping to raise money to re-fence, re-board and regrade the rink, but we must raise money to make this dream a reality!

We created a raffle with the following fabulous prizes:

Grand Prize: \$1500 cash

2nd Prize: \$200 cash plus Crew Rowhouse 12 class pass valued at \$225

3rd Prize: \$200 cash plus \$175 All in the Wild Gallery gift certificate

4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Prize: \$50 D'Lish by Tish gift cards

3 tickets for \$10 or 1 ticket for \$5

Draw date: Feb 23, 2021 (NOTE new date for draw!)

Covid-19 put a damper on our fundraising efforts, and the need for community members to play outside all year-round is greater than ever!

We offer contactless ticket purchase by emailing rink@vvcasaskatoon.com, and using e-transfer to that email. We will send you a picture of the tickets and ticket numbers, and if you desire the original tickets we will mail them to you.

This is a great local cause and every dollar raised is a dollar that goes straight to the renovation!

"See vvcasaskatoon.com/brunskill-rink/ for more details." at the end of the rink article.

A donor board will be placed in a prominent location at the rink for those wishing to donate. All donations over \$250 will be recognized on the board.

Additionally, there will be sponsorship opportunities for our community businesses to advertise on the new boards. Contact rink@vvcasaskatoon.com for more details or see the website.

VVCA Winter 2021 Programs Registration

January 18-22, 2021

PROGRAM	LOCATION	TIME	DAY	START & END DATE	COST
ALL AGES					
Conversational Italian	Zoom	06:30 PM - 07:30 PM	F	Feb. 5 – Apr. 30	\$75
Conversational Spanish	Zoom	06:00 PM - 07:00 PM	T	Feb. 2 – Apr. 20	\$110
ADULT					
Yoga - Gentle	Zoom	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	M	Feb. 1 - Mar. 29	\$90
Yoga - Gentle	Zoom	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	W	Feb. 3 - Mar. 31	\$90
Yoga - gentle, restorative, beginner	Zoom	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Th	Feb. 4 - Mar. 25	\$45
Non violent Communication (NVC) Study and Practice	Zoom	7 PM - 8:30 PM	T	Feb. 2 - Apr. 13	Donation

Remember that vvca is sensitive to the needs of families facing financial hardships, and may partially fund, or fully fund participation fees in various activities. Subsidization is only to cover the cost of programs and will not include membership in vvca. Please contact one of us at registration night. We are more than willing to be of assistance in a very confidential manner. In addition, assistance may be available through kidsport. To inquire, please contact barb giles (email: blgiles@sasktel.net) or inquire with any volunteer on registration night. All inquiries are confidential.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES



As a respiratory illness, the best method to protect yourself against COVID-19 is to practice everyday preventive actions, including:

coughing or sneezing into a tissue or the bend of your arm, not your hand, throw away tissues you have used as soon as possible in a lined waste basket and wash your hands afterwards.

Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and dry them well; if soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Maintaining safe food practices and avoid sharing cups, glasses, dishes or cutlery, and ensure they are thoroughly washed with warm water and soap after each use.

Cleaning high-touch surfaces and objects frequently with regular household cleaners or diluted bleach (one part bleach to nine parts water), such as toys, toilets, phones, electronics, door handles, bedside tables, television remotes

Avoiding close contact with people who are sick. Avoiding unnecessary travel to affected areas. Practicing healthy habits such as eating well, exercising and getting enough rest to help support your immune system.

READ MORE AT <https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/fire-emergency/covid-19/precautionary-measures>