



SPRING 2023



News for the Varsity View and Grosvenor Park Neighbourhoods

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

—Jon Naylor, President, VVCA  
[President@vvcaskatoon.com](mailto:President@vvcaskatoon.com)

I may be an optimist but I can sense Spring coming. It may help that the first seedlings have pointed their leaves towards the LED array in my basement.

### Events

Your community association has had a very successful winter program with large numbers of members enrolled in our excellent indoor programming events. Special mention goes to the very active Tae Kwon Do and badminton groups. But there are also soccer, a new skating program, arts, exercise, and language programs. If you are struggling financially and want meaningful opportunities for your children or yourself, we have a 'cost as a barrier program' that will cover many things. A big thank you to Barb who has tirelessly run this very active part of our association for decades. Tammy, Andrea and all the instructors all deserve special thanks. It may be worth noting that contact emails for all community coordinators can be found on our website [vvcaskatoon.com](http://vvcaskatoon.com), very ably maintained by Roger (thank you).

### Civics

The new College Corridor plan is just out. Priorities include:

- Sidewalks: Finish missing sidewalks. Separate sidewalks from College with a green buffer zone
- Street crossings: safe crossing points across College
- Cycle paths. Specifically, a cycle only, separated bike lane along College and probably Wiggins

Honourable mentions:

- Possibly extend sidewalks and boulevards onto private land through landscaping requirements.



- Think about anchor sites like the Pres's residence, Stone Barn and College-Cumberland intersection
  - Create public space at College-Wiggins intersection
  - Visually attractive human scale buildings
- Items missing: density recommendation. Read the full report at <http://bit.ly/3ZqdFmH>

### Main&Clarence

Following complaints of lack of opportunity for input, a second public hearing was held on potential improvements for the Main St. & Clarence intersection. Phil Tank wrote an interesting critique in the Star Phoenix if you have not already seen it. A final decision is expected soon.

### Public safety

Thanks to Constable Tomaz of the Saskatoon Police Service. He met with the VVCA in February to discuss crime and public safety in our community. Take home messages included:

- The blitz to improve safety around 8th St is working. Partly through enforcement of loitering bylaws.
- Report EVERYTHING. Policing responds to needs as assessed by crime reports. If we don't report it, they will not respond.
- The tension between the need for more police officers and the ever increasing part of taxes consumed by the police budget.
- VVCA made some suggestions for improving online bike registration (use it if you have not: <https://saskatoonpolice.ca/obr/>) and online crime reporting. I am not sure the Board of Commissioners thought these had any merit.
- Police are not in favor of a neighborhood watch on the grounds it was too dangerous (sad).
- We appreciate the rapid response that often occurs when crimes in progress are reported.

...continued on page 2

**President**

Jon Naylor

**Website**Roger Williamson  
info@vvcasaskatoon.com**President Elect**

Anne Hardy

Equipment  
Quinton Friesen  
Andrea Albert**Secretary**

Holly Ann Knott

Indoor Programs  
Barb Giles  
blgiles@sasktel.net**Treasurer**

Ted Stensrud

**Coordinators**Albert Community  
Centre  
Lisa KirkhamSocial Coordinator  
Ted StensrudBasketball  
Tammy Harkema  
tammyharkema@  
sasktel.netRink  
Kenton Shynkaruk  
Luke Rempel  
Fredy McDougall  
Chris CozacNewsletter Editor  
Theresa Kirkpatrick  
newsletter@vvcasaskatoon.comSoccer  
Farzin Samaee  
soccer@vvcasaskatoon.caCommunity Garden  
James Perkins  
vbmccg@gmail.comCity of Saskatoon  
Liaison  
Kevin Ariss  
Kevin.Ariss@saskatoon.caCivics Committee  
Allan Woo,  
Holly Ann Knott,  
Jon Naylor  
civics@vvcasaskatoon.comMembers at Large  
Kenton Beatty,  
Sheena Beatty,  
Luke Rempel  
Mary Anne Rubin,  
Allan Woo  
Darrell ZakreskiSocial Media  
Roger Williamson**The City**

The big news on our doorstep is the Arena, in the process of being re-branded as an event center. There was a poorly publicized but highly informative presentation by consulting architects and planners at the Roxy. The historical part of the presentation discussed evolution in arena location. Initially in the downtown area when cities were small, then moving to the burbs in response to the wide availability of car transport, now back to city centers to try to capture the economic benefit of arenas. Our councilor assured us no decision has been made, but flanked this with two very positive statements about the benefit of arenas. Council is clearly struggling with how to pay for the arena with no taxpayer or business group rushing to volunteer their members. The public discussion around the Regina arena had a couple of sobering assessments on the economics. One expert observed that it was difficult to get your money back from an arena/event center. Also, the majority of attendees will come from the city, so event centers move spending within the City rather than bringing in new income. An independent financial report on the economics of a downtown Saskatoon event center would be a really helpful decision making tool.

**The Environment**

We are beginning to embark on the painful phase of mitigating climate change. The carbon tax is beginning to bite and people are noticing. The city faces similar challenges. Change will not be easy and will sometimes be costly. In the midst of this we are going to see well-meaning people adamantly voice widely different views on how best to adapt. Consensus building is held back by a lack of independent data based on the Saskatoon experience. The City trumpets initiatives but

experience suggests benefits are often overstated. We need an independent mechanism to assess the costs and benefits of various options so that we can collectively coalesce around a common plan. I will give you an example. The BRT is touted as the solution to transportation emissions. But there are other options including car pooling and more services available by Zoom. Unfortunately, we have no independent data to reconcile these different opportunities. The same could be said for many other areas. Is densification making our city more efficient by reducing the length of sewer pipes or will we reach a point where digging up pipes to make them bigger will add to costs? What is that density point? We lack even basic stats such as the amount of fuel, electricity and gas our city and its administration use on a per capita basis, as a result we cannot track progress. We would agree more, and make better decisions, if we had Saskatoon based data developed by an independent agency.

**Ending**

I wish everyone best wishes for the rest of the year. I thank all who have helped and encourage us all to do whatever we can in whatever way to keep our community strong and safe. Get involved in your association. Our AGM is April 19th, in person at Brunskill school.

**ident's message***...continued from page 1*

The Albert Community Centre Management Committee has snagged funding grants to repair and restore this great piece of architecture and wonderful resource for our community. (See story page 5). Thank you Lisa and Gary and all who serve on this committee.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER -  
Fall 2023**

The Fall 2023 issue will be distributed to the Varsity View and Grosvenor Park neighbourhoods in August/Sept. To submit news/events or to book an ad, email newsletter@vvcasaskatoon.com. Ad booking deadline is July 31, 2023.

## 2023 Annual Spring Clean Up

Between April and June, community associations across the city hold their annual clean ups. The date for the annual Spring Clean Up for Varsity View and Grosvenor Park has been set for Saturday, May 13th from 8:30 AM to 1 PM. Meeting area will likely be in the parking lot at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Cumberland and 10th St.

Mark the date, bring your junk in person between 8:30 and 11:30 am, or better yet volunteer. Everyone Welcome! Once details are confirmed, we will post information on the VVCA website: [www.vvcasaskatoon.com](http://www.vvcasaskatoon.com)



## 14th Street Parklet Concept Plan Completed

The 14th Street Parklet Concept Plan has been completed by the City of Saskatoon. Details on construction are still to be confirmed but could start as early as this summer. As a reminder, this is the parklet on the corner of Temperance and 14th - where there has been talk about honoring the memory of volunteer and long-time VVCA resident Cathy Watts.



WANT TO MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY BETTER?



WHY NOT ATTEND THE VVCA  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING?

APRIL 19, 2023

7-9 PM AT BRUNSKILL SCHOOL  
EVERYONE WELCOME!

## New to Saskatoon?

Starting a new chapter in life in a new country is never easy. We are here to help!

Settlement | Language | Youth | Culture | Employment

**306-978-1818**  
[saskintercultural.org](http://saskintercultural.org)



BOOK ONLINE

[saskatoondentalhouse.ca](http://saskatoondentalhouse.ca)  
619 8th St East, Unit 210



**306-954-7801**

Dr. Zekria Muradi  
Dr. Ibrahim Muradi



[corey.tochor@parl.gc.ca](mailto:corey.tochor@parl.gc.ca)  
**306-975-6133**





## CITY UPDATE: WARD 6 COUNCILLOR CYNTHIA BLOCK

This is such a wonderful time of year as we get ready for spring. Huge thanks to your community association volunteers for all they do all year long to provide affordable activities and events in beautiful Grosvenor Park and Varsity View.

Construction season is also about to get underway and there are significant infrastructure improvements coming to Ward 6. If your street is on the list, you can sign up for e-updates. [www.saskatoon.ca/construction](http://www.saskatoon.ca/construction) I have been encouraged by the progress being made and will continue to advocate for best standards in maintaining our roads, sidewalks and underground infrastructure.

**Curbside Organics:** The green bin program will roll out this spring, ending the green cart subscription program. Did you know almost 60% of black bin waste is organic? Diverting this material will defer the costly replacement of our landfill and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It will also provide more options for backyard composters. [www.saskatoon.ca/organics](http://www.saskatoon.ca/organics)

There has been a lot of talk about the Downtown Event and Entertainment District, and I appreciate the opportunity to highlight some key facts. For every metre of sidewalk, road and underground pipe added to the network, Saskatoon becomes a more expensive city. Cities that create anchor amenities attract more residents and directing infill growth downtown maximizes efficiencies where infrastructure and services already exist – helping to make us a less expensive city. After many years of research, studying examples in other cities and working with international experts and local stakeholders/residents, here are some key highlights:

- Council is seeking a funding plan with NO impact to property tax.
- Sasktel Centre and TCU are losing business due to size and technical constraints.
- Public amenities attract private investment (residential & commercial).

Saskatoon has an opportunity to create a district to support a more sustainable city – economically and environmentally - revitalizing our downtown and reducing the overall costs of growth. It also has a chance to bring more visitors to our city, adding jobs and strengthening the local economy.

There have been many steps taken over the past 6 years to get where we are today. Every approval in Council was a decision to take the next step. There are still key pieces of information needed to know whether this is a good decision for our city - including the full funding plan and con-



cept plan, which are expected before the end of the year. [www.saskatoon.ca/downtown](http://www.saskatoon.ca/downtown)

A few other notes: A fully re-vamped public and farmers market will return to River Landing this spring, an e-scooter pilot project is in the works for 2023 and a long-awaited downtown grocery store is expected to open in Midtown Plaza.

Happy Spring!

*Sincerely, Cynthia*

*Website: [cynthiablockward6.com](http://cynthiablockward6.com)*

*Contact: [www.saskatoon.ca/ward6](http://www.saskatoon.ca/ward6)*



**Barb  
Beavis**

**FlexAppeal**

[flexappealfit@gmail.com](mailto:flexappealfit@gmail.com)

[flexappeal.ca](http://flexappeal.ca)

[@flexappealfunctionalnutrition](https://www.instagram.com/flexappealfunctionalnutrition)



Functional Nutrition Practitioner

**306.341.0944**

**LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED  
NEW AND EMERGENCY PATIENTS WELCOME**

201 – 1414 8th Street East, Saskatoon, SK  
Corner of 8th St. & Cumberland Ave.

**306-665-2400**

[www.varsitydentalsaskatoon.ca](http://www.varsitydentalsaskatoon.ca)

**Varsity  
DENTAL GROUP**



## ALBERT COMMUNITY CENTRE RECEIVES FUNDING FOR UPGRADES

Government of Canada announces funding for ten community buildings across Saskatchewan

The Albert Community Centre will be receiving federal and civic funding to help offset some needed building upgrades. The City was able to obtain \$8.1 million through civic and federal funding grants to preserve the building's heritage while emending its lifetime usage.

The project manager is waiting for more directional information from the civic administration before starting. Pending tender outcomes, heritage approval and the availability of supply chain materials, it is hoped to start in 2023 and be finished in 2026.

Through the Green and Inclusive Community Building (GICB) program, the Government of Canada is investing over \$68 million towards ten projects in Saskatchewan to support retrofits to existing community buildings as well as



the construction of new community buildings. All projects are intended to make community infrastructure more energy efficient and accessible.

## New benches for spring at the VVBM Community Gardens



Big thanks to Trent Watts who built six beautiful sturdy benches at no labour charge for the Varsity View Bishop Murray Community Gardens. That will be a nice kick off to the 13th year of operation for the garden, one of the longest-running in the city.

The Gardens will start the annual process of renewing 2023 gardeners in April/May. If there are any available plots for new members, registration for NEW gardeners will occur in early May.

If any gardener is interested in being put on the waiting list for garden space, please contact [vbmcmcg@gmail.com](mailto:vbmcmcg@gmail.com). All plots are given out on a first-come, first served basis.



Landscaping / Paving Stones / Irrigation / Lighting  
Retaining Walls & Stairs / Concrete / Mulch

[citygardens@city-gardens.ca](mailto:citygardens@city-gardens.ca) / 306.280.6609  
[www.city-gardens.ca](http://www.city-gardens.ca)

**Jennifer Bowes**  
**People First**



**Your NDP MLA for Saskatoon University**  
[saskatoonuniversity@ndpcaucus.sk.ca](mailto:saskatoonuniversity@ndpcaucus.sk.ca) | 306-956-0224

## VVCA SPRING 2023 Programs In-Person Registration

7-8:30 PM on Tuesday March 21st at Brunskill School Front Foyer.

Full program descriptions available at [vvcasaskatoon.com](http://vvcasaskatoon.com)

If you cannot make the registration nights, you may contact indoor coordinator Barb Giles at [blgiles@sasktel.net](mailto:blgiles@sasktel.net) and she will do her best to assist.

Varsity View Community Association honours other community association memberships.

Please remember that 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.

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 [blgiles@sasktel.net](mailto:blgiles@sasktel.net) or ask at registration night. All inquiries are confidential.

PROGRAM	AGE	LOCATION	TIME	DAY	START & END DATE	COST
CHILDREN						
Tae Kwon Do - Pre-beginner	3-5	Brunskill Main Gym	6:00-6:30	M	April 3-June 12	\$50
Tae Kwon Do - Pre-beginner	3-5	Brunskill Main Gym	6:00-6:30	W	April 5-May 31	\$50
Tae Kwon Do - Beginner	6+	Brunskill Main Gym	6:30-7:15 PM	M&W	April 3-June 14	\$85
Tae Kwon Do - Intermediate	8+	Brunskill Main Gym	7:15-8:30 PM	M&W	April 3-June 14	\$125
Tae Kwon Do - Advanced	10+	Brunskill Main Gym	7:15-9:15 PM	M&W	April 3-June 14	\$150
Art for Children	5-8	Brunskill Art Room	6:30-7:30 PM	TH	April 6-June 15	\$50
ADULT						
Art for Adults	Adult	Brunskill Art Room	6:30-7:30	W	April 5-June 14	\$75
Badminton (racquet required)	Adult	Brunskill Main Gym	8:00-10:00 PM	TU	April 4-June 13	\$45
Badminton (racquet required)	Adult	Brunskill Main Gym	8:00-10:00 PM	TH	April 6-June 15	\$45
Conversational Spanish - beginner	Adult	Brunskill Library	6:00-7:00 PM	TU	April 4-June 13	\$110
Conversational Spanish - intermediate	Adult	Brunskill Library	7:05-8:05 PM	TU	April 4-June 13	\$110
Yoga multi-level	Adult	Brunskill Small Gym	6:30-8 PM	M	April 3-June 12th	\$90

Programs and startup dates subject to change. Please confirm dates, times and programs at registration night.

Full program descriptions available on the VVCA website programs page - <http://vvcasaskatoon.com/programs/>



### Register online for VVCA Kinder Soccer

Registration is open for the VVCA Kinder Soccer program.

This program is for 3-4 year olds. The season runs May 1st to June 30th. Fee is \$40. Coaches will decide on days and location for program.

Registration is ONLINE ONLY at [vvcasaskatoon.com/programs/](http://vvcasaskatoon.com/programs/) or use the QR code to the right.

