



**DOVERCOURT
COMMUNITY LEAGUE
2018 ANNUAL REVIEW**



President's Corner

Greetings Neighbours,

I hope you all enjoyed a happy and safe Christmas Season. I think it was nice to have a dusting of snow Christmas Day just to add a bit of wonderment to such a festive day. Walking about the neighbourhood it was very nice to see that many homes decorated, and our little community felt warm and inviting.

As we enter the new year- Happy New Year to everyone! I am sure we are all hopeful that 2019 will provide new opportunities for personal improvement, local and provincial improvement and perhaps a bit more stability worldwide. I am optimistic that whatever happens there are always more good things happening than bad things no matter what the news shows us. Please try to make a small positive difference in someone's life each day and the sum of those efforts will be life changing for you and those around you.

Reflecting upon 2018 it was a year of many great things but also, as most years, a year of great loss. For the families who are "celebrating" the season for the first time with a missing member, my sincerest condolences. Sadly each year brings loss and while these "firsts" are difficult, I hope that the strength of family, fond memories and the support of your personal friendships help you through. I am thankful to have known and called friend some of these people; I miss them too.

On a happier note the Community has made some great progress. Throughout our neighbourhood many people embraced the ACE initiative throwing block parties and getting to know their neighbours, the Visioning Process was well supported and during it many participated in various committees to create new interest groups, there has been a real effort to create a stronger alliance between the schools, churches, clubs outside the "league" (scouts etc.), local businesses and the Community League.

The Community League itself has made strong commitments to trying to create a more inclusive feel to how we interact as a part of the community. I think that 2019 may be one of our greatest years, I hope anyone with an interest in maintaining or improving our community will participate in upcoming events or perhaps even help organize them.

This review will provide brief summaries of the happenings around the Community league as summarized by the director of each area. I hope you take the time to read what interests you, there is quite a lot happening in Dovercourt.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year, please remember that the holiday spirit shouldn't stop New Year's Day. There are always neighbours who would love a visit, a hand shovelling or mowing and always a wave and a smile,

See you (and wave at ya) in the 'hood,

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Community League Reports

Treasurer

2018 was a surplus year because of our casino income. Of course this surplus will be used up in 2019 when we have no casino. We were also fortunate to receive a \$9,500 utility grant from the City.

Most of our programs are self-sufficient. All of our major expenses - hall, rink, insurance and utilities - are paid from casino funds. We are in good financial position due to the financial responsibility of past and present executives.

Finance Director

The finance director is responsible for fundraising events through the AGLC (Alberta Gaming & Liquor Control). As a non-profit organization, Dovercourt is allotted one casino every 2 years. This is our major source of income to cover our operating expenses.



In August 2017, the casino dates were awarded for the first quarter of 2018 and Dovercourt was assigned Feb 10 & 11, 2018 at the Yellowhead Casino. Upon receiving our dates, the licence application was completed and submitted to the AGLC and casino advisors were secured. Advisors are required, independent contractors, licensed by AGLC, hired to oversee and support the volunteers working the casino. The call out for volunteers was done through the newsletter, e-mail and phone calls. 31 dedicated volunteers were found to cover the 2 day event, not a single no show! Volunteers were "paid" \$40 Dovercourt Bucks per shift worked as thanks for their time.

Pay out for casinos is based on a quarterly pool, with the total for the three month period divided between the various non-profit groups that worked them. After paying our advisors and the food budget for the volunteers, the community received just over \$72,000. This is down from previous casino proceeds.

Community Hall Directors

The Dovercourt Hall hosts about seventy events a year ranging from birthdays, weddings, reunions, city programs and memorials. Rentals are for the members of the community and the rates are very reasonable. The hall is also used for meetings, painting, ceramics, cooking, parent's group and seniors drop in. Do you enjoy meeting new people in the neighborhood?

Then the position of Hall Director could be for you. This entails coordinating the renters, working with the Program Director, the Maintenance Director and the Custodian. It is a busy job but you get the satisfaction of having community members enjoy one of Dovercourt's greatest assets. The **Hall Director position will be open in 2019** as Bob and Bonnie will be stepping down.

Membership Directors

We had a successful membership drive in 2018. We are one of the only neighbourhoods that still do a door-to-door campaign. We were very pleasantly surprised to learn what a great way this is to meet your neighbours. We weren't able to cover all the routes last year, we hope that in 2019 we can rally more people to continue to sell memberships. Thanks to everyone for opening your doors, Dovercourt is truly fantastic.

Community League Reports - con't

Social Director

Throughout the entire year Dovercourt residents connected with one another at a variety of social events. Thanks you to the volunteers and leaders who organized inclusive gatherings for everyone from Seniors to Littles, Teens, Musicians, Sports Enthusiasts, Hobbyists and those just wanting to catch up with a Neighbour. Staying 'Social' is part of a healthy lifestyle and we are honoured that Dovercourt Community can contribute to our Resident's wellbeing through these Social Events.

Rink Director



Though the skating season has just begun, it's already been incredibly busy and well utilized. We're still flooding to get the rink in optimum condition. The warm days have been a great gift but it doesn't fare so well for building the ice surface. Slowly but surely though it's coming along. Here's a brief report regarding progress so far :

The rink opened up officially on Dec 17 and has been steady which is always nice to see. We've been approved for a Learn to Skate program which happily coincides with our family skate nights.

Learn to Skate will run January 9 - February 13, 2019 Wednesdays from 5:00 - 8:00 PM for 6 weeks.

What you can expect :

- Two staff, ready to run a version of the CAN-Skate curriculum that progresses through 6 weeks. Fun, fitness, and participation is our goal.
- Our program is designed for beginners of all ages, children or adults, as well as for those wishing to improve their basic skills.
- Provides participants with a great foundation for figure skating, hockey, speed skating and ringette.
- Staff will arrive 15 min before the start of the program.

It looks like we also have a volunteer to facilitate an early skate on Thursdays for children/parents to take advantage of early dismissal. We're just finalizing a few details and once everything is arranged we'll post it. Speakers were installed on Monday the 17th so that we can enjoy some Christmas music over the holidays and then continue the fun throughout the remainder of the skating season.

I look forward to seeing new faces and new volunteers in the New Year at the AGM. Each person that contributes to our wonderful community is a valuable and much appreciated asset and we all thrive when we come together. Wishing you all the very best over the holiday season, see you in 2019!

Publicity Director

We've been working hard to improve the lines of communication between the board and the community. The website has been revamped at dovercourtcl.ca and we offer an electronic and hard copy newsletter. Our Facebook page is active, and we have a Twitter account.



In 2019, we would like to see a communications plan so we can keep making improvements, and are working on getting community league emails so the contact information will remain consistent no matter who occupies a position. We're considering finding a way for people to opt out of receiving a hard copy newsletter if they don't wish to continue receiving it. New ideas are always welcome!

Program Reports



Art Class

In the past year friends/neighbors have been gathering Wednesday evenings to create art. The group ranges from 3-10 people - no sign up required. Drop-in 6:30 to 8:30.

Some paint, others draw....there was even some femo one evening! (if you were around through the 90s you'll know what that is). Participants are supplied with paint, brushes, easels and drawing supplies. Cost is \$10 per canvas used.

Maybe you have kids who would enjoy a chance to create art. There has been quite a bit of interest in opening up a paint night for children. Depending on the interest, this could be coming in the new year. Of course it would require some volunteer help!

Please email ketenhove@gmail.com for more information, if you are interested in creating art or helping out as a volunteer.

Senior's Tea

We started in October and had a turnout of 15 people. The following month, November, brought out 25 people. Everyone seems to really enjoy the opportunity to get out and visit. Many bring a plate of sweets to share and all enjoy.

Last time we had a visit from Laura Schular a teacher at Dovercourt school talking about a reading program they have there and inviting seniors to spend a half hour a week with a child or two at school reading to them.

All in all I feel it is very successful. Please join our next tea on **Thursday January 17, 1-3 pm.**
Contact Lill at (780) 455-4211



Cooking Club

This is the second year of cooking club. We're a group of 14 residents who meet one Tuesday a month to develop some tasty creations. We take turns finding recipes and shopping, and we share the costs and labour to develop a new dish each month.

It's a very casual and fun evening. We cap the number at 14, but we do accept drop-ins if a registered participant can't attend. If you'd like to try a night, **contact** Yasmine at yabbas@ualberta. Watching the email in August/September when we plan for the upcoming year.

Program Reports - con't

Playgroup

We're a very informal and supportive group of parents and caregivers who meet every Wednesday morning 9:30 - 11ish. Over the past year, we've occasionally organized craft days, birthdays, even a visit from Santa Claus. No registration or costs. Playgroup

resumes **January 9 at 9:30**

Contact Diane at (780) 263-2129



Community Garden

We've been busy over the last year, as we continue to build a community garden - both physically and in spirit. We held a successful second annual Harvest Fair in September, led a community conversation around food security, and held a compost fundraiser in May. We are financially self-supporting.

Here are some of our key activities for 2019:

- Organizing and hosting GATO (a fun take on NATO), where we'll bring other community gardens together to discuss potential shared issues and share solutions.
- Encouraging more participation from residents and neighbouring communities. How can we work together to increase food security and water collection?
- A 2019 Harvest Fair

We welcome your ideas and questions (such as renting a garden plot in 2019) **contact:** dovercourtgardengroup@gmail.com



Dovercourt Community Hall Landscape Refresh 2018

In early spring of 2018, the Dovercourt Community League approved a landscape design created for around the sign at the front of the hall.

A group of dedicated residents worked very hard in the hot weather to put down new mulch and plant some trees, shrubs and perennials. Some cleanup was also done on the other side of the hall doors. Stepping stones were laid for a pathway in front of the sign as well as through the garden.

The location for a new flag pole has been marked and awaits installation by members of the league. The trees may look small now but will grow big to provide shade and beauty for years to come. We hope to add a bench and also provide easier access to water for these new plants in the coming year.



Program Reports - con't

Abundant Community Edmonton (ACE)

ACE began in Dovercourt in January 2017 and continues to benefit our community. ACE promotes a culture of care and connection and focuses around the strengths and potential of the community residents to take action. We had up to 30 Block Connectors who have reached out to their neighbors, resulting in more social gatherings, connectedness and a sense of belonging. As well, new residents who have recently moved to Dovercourt are feeling welcomed. They are asking their neighbors what their interests are and what skills they have to share. As a result, we are discovering ways to bring residents together and new groups and programs are being formed based on similar interests, such as the Cooking Club, Senior's Social, and Music Jam. Residents are also being encouraged to reach out to existing groups already established in the community, such as Pre-school play group and Garden group. Residents who have a need are being connected with those who have a skill to offer others in their community.

There has been presentations on Neighborhood Safety, Bike Safety, Pet Safety & By-laws, and How to Throw a Neighborhood Block party in order to bring residents together. Many community members have come together to organize events, such as Community Clean-Up, which creates an increased sense of responsibility and ownership in the community. When neighbors are connected at the block level and in the neighborhood, we share resources with one another and create the neighborhood we all want, and the "village" is reinvigorated.

We look forward to continuing our efforts in Dovercourt and to continue forming caring and supportive blocks and a neighborhood where we look out for one another, share our skills and resources with one another and create together the neighborhood we want. For more information on ACE in Dovercourt, go to dovercourtcl.ca/abundant-community.html, and fill out the on-line form.



Do you have ideas?

We've had a few people contact us recently about program ideas. There's some interest in an evening youth drop in, dance lessons, even someone offering the use of their ping pong table.

The league is open to ideas, and will support you to get started. We hope some of these ideas gets off the ground in the upcoming months.

Visioning Report

In 2018, Dovercourt went through a process to create a vision for our community. Together, we developed a shared vision values and a set of five goals to work towards. We are proud to report that we had 180 people participate in:

- A visioning session in June
- A series of 16 conversations about topics that matter to us
- A follow up survey to confirm priorities

Results of the visioning process can be found at dovercourtbl.ca/strategies.html. **Contact** Maggie at maggie.harris2012@gmail.com for more information



Next Steps: Champions Committee

A group of residents have agreed to work together to action the 5 goals that were identified - and is the start of a strategic plan for the community:

Goal 1: Ensure everyone feels they are part of the community

- Promote community events such as the Harvest Festival and Winter Carnival
- Ensure Indigenous inclusion
- Continue Abundant Communities Edmonton
- Support preschool, youth, seniors action the ideas they have for the community

Goal 2: Meeting more of our social, recreational and everyday needs within the neighbourhood

- Find ways to collaborate with our 2 schools, 2 churches, nearby communities
- Increase food security
- Promote health and wellness
- Tell the history of Dovercourt

Goal 3: Actively communicating within and amongst our community members

- Build a communications strategy and improve our opportunities to share ideas

Goal 4: Making volunteering in the community accessible and easy

- Find easy ways to volunteer
- Fund small activities and initiatives in the community

Goal 5: Bringing more clarity to community structures and processes

- Developing clear community league policies (underway), roles & responsibilities
- New bylaws to be implemented at the 2020 AGM
- Formation of a civics committee
- Strengthening planning, setting financial priorities, accessing grants

Emerging Initiatives



Indigenous Strategy

A group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Dovercourt families who have come together to talk about how we can increase awareness, participation and reconciliation. We have ideas such as a planting a traditional medicine garden and providing newsletter updates. We've already posted our acknowledgement of Treaty 6 territory on the website and will provide traditional stew and bannock at the upcoming Winter Carnival. For more information, **contact** dovercourt.publicity@gmail.com

Health & Wellness

We are rolling out a few initiatives to promote health in the community:

- a walking group that meets at the hall every Wednesday at 6:30. Walks range from 30 to 60 minutes and all ages and abilities drop in. There's also potential for adding nordic poling to the mix if there's enough interest. It increases the impact of your workout.
- A monthly health talk at the hall
- monthly articles in the newsletter.

For more information or to share ideas, **contact** Nadine at holisticnutrition4you@gmail.com.



Engagement

Although important, we know it's hard to make time or even know where to start getting involved. We're looking at ways we can make it easy to join in - we've developed a job jar, allowing people to sign up to help neighbours or area organizations. We want to make one hour a month impactful and doable! Your ideas and participation welcome.

Contact ketteringham@shaw.ca for more information

Civics Committee

We had a full house in November when the City and Dovercourt hosted a session on infill. There's a need to work together and advocate as a community, and potentially with surrounding communities. Infill, transportation and traffic flow have real impacts on our community.

Contact E.Klatt@s2architecture.com for more information.



Food Security

A crucial subject to address. There's already actions taking place in the community, including our schools and churches. We hope to build on our efforts, ideally collaborate. Also a topic for discussion at our upcoming GATO session on **Jan 27**, 1-5 at the hall.

Contact maggie.harris2012@gmail.com for more information

Random Awesome 2018

