

OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

PRINCE RUPERT COMMUNITY

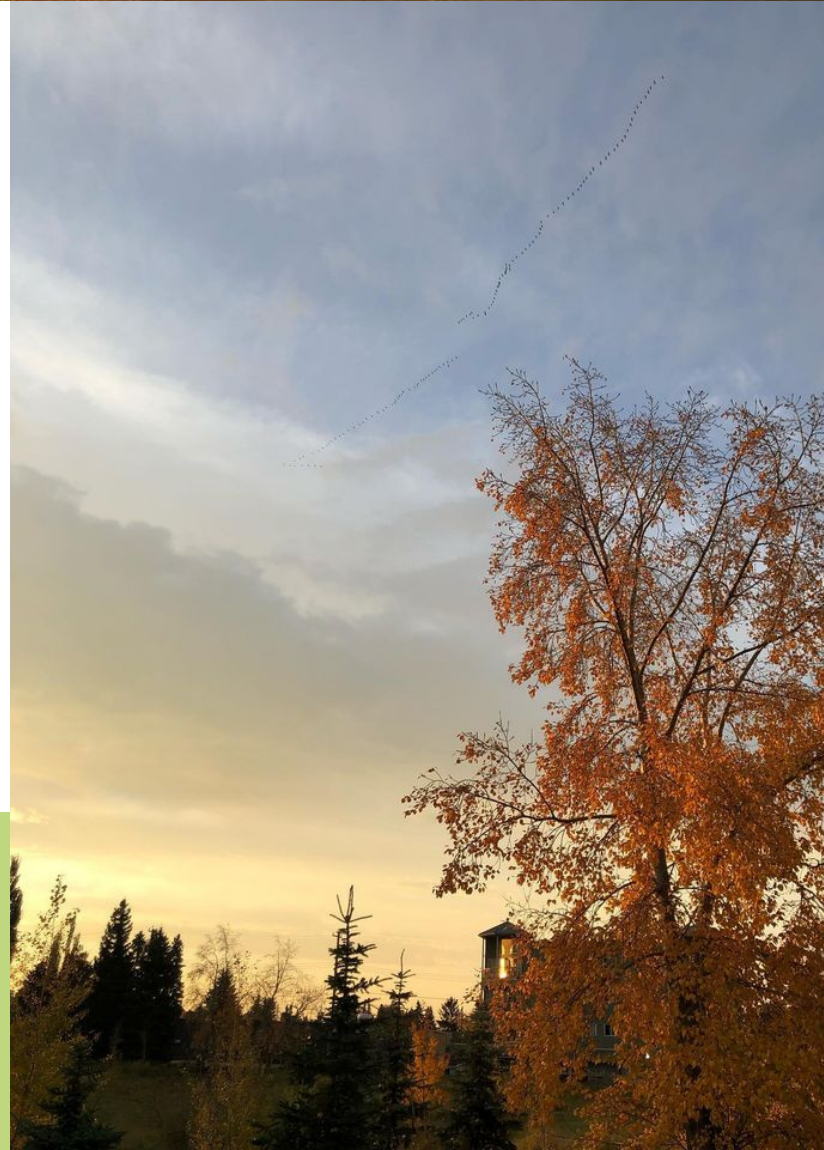


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My dearest neighbours,

I have been grateful for this community since my very first neighbours came snooping around as we were renovating 15 years ago. Luckily, they still snoop around making sure we are safe, and they even water our plants when we go away! The connections I've made have only expanded and deepened since then, and my husband and I continue to raise our kids in the hope that they will feel the same commitment to this place that means so much to us: Prince Rupert Community.

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Website: princerupertcommunity.ca

 Instagram: @princerupertcommunity

 Twitter: @leagueprince

 Facebook: Prince Rupert Community

I have to say that this sentiment is only brightened by the opportunity to lead our community league board--a group of people, hell-bent on ensuring that we live our vision of an inclusive, healthy, and thriving community where residents feel connected to one another and the land on which we live. The seasoned wisdom of Tony, Ralph, Ashley, Katherine, and Denise is propelled forward by our new members, Kathy, Cindy, Stephanie, and Rajah. Together, we are working together to foster more connections, with more people, so that we can take care of one another and ensure we're getting information to everyone who needs it.

Fostering such connections is made only slightly more challenging because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we're not letting it stop us! We're getting creative by having virtual events and meetings, organizing ways for us to connect while giving back to those in need, and using some strategic planning to think outside the box involve more people in this movement. Our community is not about a board, minutes, and treasurer's reports; we are what brings our 1400 residents to life and together.

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Thankfully, we also have a new playground committee, working tirelessly to get shovels in the ground by spring. While we cannot guarantee this exact timeline, signs are pointing toward having a new heart in our community by the end of summer 2021! The Community League is thrilled to create a new playground space for everyone to enjoy. We know that our community is young and young at heart, and we want to see everyone there

Finally, I want to thank each community member who contributes to making this a great place to live by volunteering, picking up trash, planting flowers, sharing food and clothes, reporting crime, and checking in on our seniors. We are truly better together. If you see anyone contributing in any way, please consider sending me an email with a little story. Perhaps we highlight it on social media, or we just tuck those stories away to build our narrative. Alternatively, if you are someone who has a service or idea to offer, please reach out. We'd love to connect you with people who might need you! We are always looking for more people to spread goodness to more of our neighbours.

See you soon!
Angela Saxby



FORT RUPERT TRADING POST



On 113 St just in front of the row of evergreen trees right across from the central lions parking lot sits the Prince Rupert Trading Post! Built by the residents Amy and her husband, community members can drop off simple pantry items, toiletries, non-perishable food items and even books and games for residents in our community who may be in vulnerable situations. As the winter turns the trading post is looking for warm winter gear like toques, mittens and scarves.

Amy on the inspiration for the trading post: "We were out walking the dogs and saw another library box and my husband loves making stuff so came up with the idea to make one outside our house. We know there is always a need for food and warm clothing. Right now with the weather changing we'd like to see items that won't freeze so continue to put out toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo and that sort of stuff but also warm clothing like long underwear, old coats and warm clothes you aren't using anymore, socks, gloves and toques. We are both really caring people who like to help others so that's how it came about"

PUMPKIN WEIGH OFF BY RALPH DYER

If you are interested in growing things, you might want to try your hand at growing something really big - like a giant pumpkin similar to those entered into competition at the Great White North Pumpkin Fair and Weigh-Off in Smoky Lake Alberta every October. These pumpkins are really big, often weighing in at over 1,000 pounds. The winning pumpkin grown in the community this year was 119 lbs. Can you do better? We will have an official weigh-off at one of our fall events.. A trophy for the largest pumpkin will be awarded for the grower to retain for the year. Zach O'Lain of our community grew an amazing array of large-sized pumpkins from 8 plants ! If you are interested, let Ralph know at ralphdyer@shaw.ca.





REMEMBER THIS RINK? WELL IT'S GONE!

BY TONY SPENCER

Back in 2005 Prince Rupert Community League built a new replacement ice rink adjacent to its 1960's era Community League building which housed the controls for lights, a water supply and washroom and change facilities. In 2010 a person burned the hall down and the utilities were cut off. Since then the community League has only held May Day celebrations in the rink area. Homeless people have been sleeping in the player boxes and residents have been using the area for a dog run. Over that last 10 years plans for rebuilding a new community hall have been initially proposed on the site. During this time the local school was demolished and the land it was on was set aside for Prince Rupert by the city.

Other people were interested in having a building where the school was so partnerships were established. By the time plans were developed the demographics of the community had changed and the needs of the community people had changed causing the community to vote against the plans. Because we can't have two pieces of land for the Community League the rink had to go.

After a number of years of unsuccessful rink operations, we resolved to sell or donate the rink to other organizations or communities. Caernarvon Community League expressed interest in moving the rink to their community and they had an organization which was able to move it.

To accomplish this, the City required a project proposal from both leagues and there had to be a pre move inspection and a post move inspection by the City. Part of Caernarvon's proposal stated that all support posts will be cut 50mm below finished grade and covered. This was unacceptable to the City staff as they required the footings to be removed. While Prince Rupert is responsible to returning the land to acceptable condition when we leave the land, Caernarvon Community League agreed to cover half the extra cost of the footing removal.

As the land needs to be in a safe state when the rink boards are removed the sodding and seeding needed to be completed before the temporary fence is taken down. The complications of tasks like this are always there and we had a few. The original contractor missed a few footings, so we had to engage someone else to complete the footings removal. Tony Spencer had to water the sod following the installation and fill some holes left behind. Caernarvon removed the boards and other structures such as footings removed, Demetrius Garanis, a long time resident and landscaper in our neighborhood was contracted to complete the final landscaping to meet city requirements.

The final inspection on October 16th by the City staff cleared the site for the fence removal but there was some leveling needed which Demetrius completed that day. Although the rink is gone the Community League will still lease that property until we have cleared the site of the four thirty foot high light poles.

Tony Spencer

GARDEN TOUR

BY RYAN LEE

In August a small group of passionate local gardeners got together and brainstormed ideas for a neighbourhood Garden Tour. Thomas Druyan led a great tour through five unique yards. Carly showcased her enormous food garden; Thomas spoke of his work developing his new gardens; Tony & Barb exhibited their large array of established perennials; Ashley and Ryan highlighted their native plants, and Sandra toured us through her new backyard - re-established after the construction of her Garden Suite in 2018. The tour was an excellent way of connecting with like-minded neighbours, who shared their tips and tricks.



Carly's front and back gardens produced 325 lbs of food this year!



Barb & Tony's beautiful garden!

NATURE SPOTLIGHT

BY ASHLEY THORSEN



Dark-eyed Junco by Kelly Colgan Azar is licensed under CC BY-ND 2.0



Dark-eyed Junco by Kelly Colgan Azar is licensed under CC BY-ND 2.0

Have you noticed these tiny birds flitting about the neighbourhood lately? These are Dark-Eyed Juncos. They are migrating through Edmonton on their way south for the winter. But they aren't in too much of a rush, because they don't need to travel very far south (some even spend the winter in southern Alberta).

You will likely see them flying between trees in small groups, or hopping about on the ground looking for seeds. It's tough to get a good look at them as they zip by, but they have very distinct tail feathers - if a tiny bird flies past with flashes of white on its tail, it's probably a Junco! Juncos live all over Canada and the US, but there are distinct regional differences in appearance. In BC, the Dark-Eyed Juncos are black and brown! No matter their feather colours,

Juncos always have adorable, stubby, light pink beaks. Want to help them bulk up before their journey south? Bird seed tossed on the ground, or on a low tray, is a sure-fire way to win their hearts, bonus points if it's in a sheltered spot like under an evergreen.

PARK UPDATE

BY RYAN LEE

The playground was selected as the first project in the park redevelopment plan. The park redevelopment volunteers have shifted gears to become the Playground Committee. The committee has been hard at work with City of Edmonton staff, and all signs point towards starting construction of the new playground in Spring of 2021.

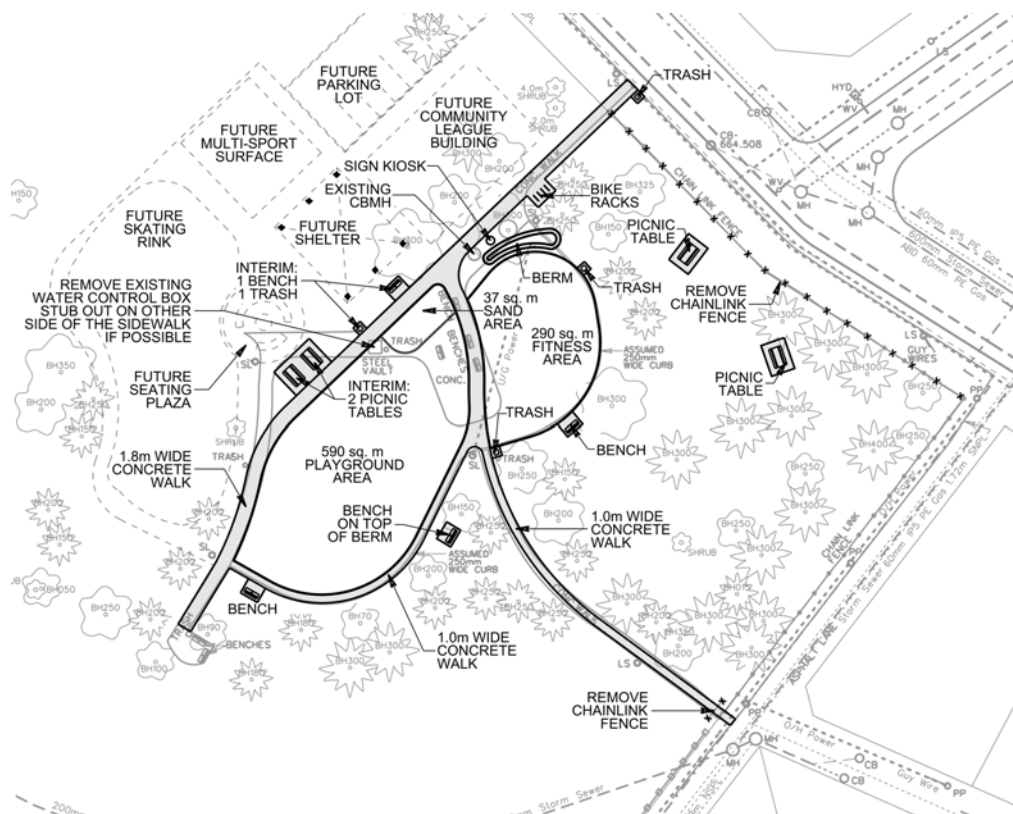
The current Concept Plan attached to this newsletter shows what we are planning. What's changing? All-new sidewalks, with a path added around the south end of the playground. Several new benches (matching the new bench overlooking the dry pond), as well as trash receptacles and bottle baskets. The existing light standards will be reconnected, lighting up the park when it is dark. We've added several picnic tables – two near the playground, and two in the treed area, which should provide everyone a nice quiet and shady spot to gather

Both playground pods will have brand-new equipment, proper drainage, and a soft mulch surface with rubber under certain elements. The larger western half will be a new playground, with an emphasis on fun and creative play, with a small sandbox, and the eastern half will be a fitness-focused active living space, with equipment to encourage exercise and movement

Our goal is a space that can be used by absolutely everyone in the community, regardless of age or ability. What are the next steps? Picking equipment! Because the City is partially funding the project and will be responsible for ongoing maintenance, they will provide a list of approved vendors, and we can choose elements from their catalogs . We'll keep you up to date through this process.

Lastly, you'll see on the plan a lot of future elements, like a picnic shelter, building, rink, and multisport surface. These will need to be part of separate projects that will be wholly Community led. We'd like to start on these separate projects once we are finished with the playground , and will certainly need help with writing business cases, strategy documents, and grant applications – so if you'd like to serve on that committee, please let us know.

Look forward to seeing everyone enjoying the fruits of our labours next year!





Ryan and Sandra Lee - 1987

Eventually the old boards got pretty worn out, and the Community League replaced them, but when the old hall was destroyed by arson, it killed the rink, as we had no way of flooding the ice. After endless debates about what to do with the old boards, I am happy to see they'll have a new home in Caernarvon, where they will be lovingly used by a new crop of skaters again.

The Activity-Based Needs Assessment survey that we did in 2018 as part of the Park redevelopment identified continued interest for skating within the neighbourhood, so our overall concept plan for the park includes provisions for a large snow-bank rink, so I'm hoping in the near future that we can bring skating back to Prince Rupert. If so, I will see you on the ice – don't forget your thermos!

REQUIEM FOR A RINK BY RYAN LEE

Some of my earliest memories of the neighbourhood revolve around the rink. Growing up in the now-yellow house directly across the street, my parents often brought me over, tied my skates extra tight, and sent me out on a cold dark night with other neighbourhood kids all learning to skate. After our lesson, we would pile inside the warm skate shack, our noses red and dripping, and warm up with a hot chocolate while our parents chatted with their fellow neighbours. As I got older, I would often go by myself to skate in circles, or play pickup hockey with whoever else happened to be there. Thanks to a string of dedicated volunteers, who would spend hours carefully flooding the rink, we had some pretty nice ice. Kids would come up from Queen Mary Park, Central McDougall, or further to come skate in Prince Rupert. My dad, one of a long string of volunteer icemakers, knew everyone by name, and through him I met a variety of kids from different backgrounds and situations, all united for our love of skating – and hot chocolate.



Ryan and John Lee - 1987

COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT

The community movie night was a success! We had over 45+ people in attendance for the first movie and a small crowd for the second one. The location was a hit, and was also great for community advertising since we got a lot of attention from others as they drove/walked by. We pulled off a successful COVID friendly event, with everyone spacing appropriately and bringing their own snacks & drinks. Thank you to the Kallio family for donating their sound speakers and generator as well as their time to our community. Thank you to Sophie Sophie Dang & Zach O'lain & Cody Hopkins for help with setup and take down. I look forward to running more movie nights in the future.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED WITH OUR NEWSLETTER? EMAIL US!

Is there a story about your community you would like to tell? Maybe its a story about when you first came to the community, the friends you've made or your favourite memory or maybe there's some artwork, recipe or poem that you would like to share!

Anything at all. If you would like to participate please email communications@princerupertcommunity.ca

Big thank yous to Ashley Thorsen, Ryan Lee, Ralph Dyer, Tony Spencer, Angela Saxby and Amy Hildebrant for the amazing content your helped put together for this newsletter! Thank you for your commitment to community.