# ELBOW PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Gazette

WINTER 2022/2023 elbowpark.com



**People in the Neighbourhood** 

Tracey J. Johnson > p. 6

Community Connections to World War II: The Dutch

> p. 10

Christmas Eve Skating Party

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#### Elbow Park Residents Association

800 - 34 Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2T 2A3

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"Thank you to The Glencoe Club for publishing the Elbow Park Gazette!"

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### SKIP THE DEPOT

Download the Skip the Depot App and book a pickup for your bottles, electronics and clothes. After the pickup your account will be credited with the recycle refund or you can donate to a charity of your choice, including EPRA. skipthedepot.com



### President's Message



Winter is upon us which is terrific news for the skating rinks and not such great news for the clubhouse patio upgrade. We're hoping to have the project completed in time for the annual Christmas Eve Skating Party, but we might have to wait until January if the weather doesn't improve.

In other good news, the shed project is nearing completion and will serve as the new home for the hockey boards, rink clearing & flooding equipment, tennis equipment and EPRA items.

Thanks to everybody who attended the Annual General Meeting on November 17. We have several returning board members and are pleased to welcome Marda Dizep, incoming secretary and Marija Foster, incoming volunteer coordinator, who were newly elected to the EPRA board at the AGM. Many thanks to outgoing board members Tara Baker, Aletha Brooks, Amy Norman, Lindie Serrurier and also to Margo Coppus who is retiring as Development Director after ten years of community service in various volunteer roles.

Volunteering is a great way to get involved in the community and to meet new people. We have many exceptional people who contribute to the community in a number of different ways and we are grateful for all these efforts big and small.

We have a casino coming up in May 5 and 6 and will be looking for volunteers to help fill the shifts. Thank you to Joanne Aimee for taking on the important role of Casino Coordinator.

Looking forward to seeing everybody on December 24 at the community centre for our annual Christmas party!

Best wishes.

Lisa Poole EPRA President

#### **ELBOW PARK RINK READY:**

### ICE CREW UPDATE

#### WELCOME TO ANOTHER YEAR OF SKATING!

Incredibly, this year we have already had our first customers...in November! The Elbow Park Ice Crew has been busy getting the rinks ready for a great winter of skating. We were not able to take advantage of the early cold snap in November as we were waiting on final plumbing hook ups. However, in the past few weeks we have been able to complete a lot of preparations and we've taken advantage of the cold weather to flood twice a day. The main tennis court rink is ready for skating and the hockey rinks are oh soooooo close. By the time community members read this they will likely be in full use.

We want to thank all the community members who have supported all the major improvements this year including the construction of the new Ice Shack (our name for the storage building), the improved water system including new hoses, new electrical system, new outdoor heaters, new drainage, and purchase of additional support equipment. We also want to thank the Glencoe Club for their continued support and helping us transition from tennis courts to skating rinks.

Around the rinks it is still an active construction site. We are working on what the appropriate access points will be, so please be patient. Finally, I want to thank our new volunteers for stepping up. We have a great crew of volunteers helping to make the rinks better and better every year!





On behalf of the Elbow Park Ice Crew, Scott, Steve, Gavin, Tim, Rodger, Michael M, Michael S, Spencer, Paul, Joel, Neil, Angus, Reid, Andy, Russ (and to those who helped with board set-up/take-down and to those whose names I might have missed)

PS - We hope to open the brand new Bwintrop Pleasure Rink (back tennis court rink) shortly as well special thanks to lan for all his hard work!



#### BEST OF BRIDGE:

### COCKTAIL CRISPS

#### Submitted by Mary Halpen

Cocktail Crisps have been a forever entertaining favourite, and they are fail-proof! A perfect hostess and Christmas gift. They freeze well, so you can get a head start on your Christmas baking.



#### **COCKTAIL CRISP INGREDIENTS**

- 1 cup butter (250 ml)
- 8 oz package of Maclaren's Imperial Cheese (Sharp Cold Pack Cheddar Cheese) (250g)
- Dash of salt
- ¼ t of cayenne or tabasco (1ml)
- ¼ tsp Worcestershire sauce (1ml)
- 1 and ½ cups of flour (375 ml)
- 4 cups of Rice Krispies (1L)

Cream butter and cheese together. Add seasonings. Beat in flour, then add rice krispies. Mix well. Shape into balls and place on baking tray. Press down on a fork that has been dipped in cold water. Bake at 350°F (180°C) for 15-20 minutes until lightly browned. Makes about 4 dozen.

#### PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD:

### Tracey J. Johnson

Interviewed by Kelly Hewson



Tracey hiking Inca Trail up to Machu Picchu with her family

Although Tracey is a relative newcomer to the neighbourhood (2017), her impact has been significant. A lover and purchaser of "only old houses," she resided in Tuxedo Park; twice in Mount Pleasant; Sunnyside; and twice in Crescent Heights before she, her husband and two sons decided on a century-old house in East Elbow Park to renovate and make their own.

I was curious to get know more about the individual who always has something of historical interest to offer the community. As an example, if you go to elbowpark.com and click on "learn about Elbow Park's rich history," you'll find, thanks to Tracey's investigative talents, an engaging series of segments about Elbow Park, including archival photos, as well as some hair-raising accounts of events past. (Rumours of "the murder house" off Sifton on Elbow had swirled around me for years; Tracey's research lays down the facts of that local tragedy).

For those of you who read the print version of The Gazette (are there any of you out there?), you'll be familiar with Tracey's Local Lore features which illuminate facets of the neighbourhood and its inhabitants' origins; offer glimpses into EPRA meeting minutes from years past; and provide photos of what once was. Tracey has also been the initiator of several popular community-building activities. In 2022 alone, she organized and co-convened workshops on researching and designating heritage homes; launched a walking tour in co-ordination with Jane's Walk and because that tour was so successful, led a second one with Historical Calgary week, including an 'add-on' of a tour of Christ Church's bell tower.

Before meeting her for this interview, I wondered about her background: was she a trained historian? A journalist? Perhaps she was under-employed and channeling her considerable energies into outlets of interests? Answer? None of the preceding.

We have as our EPRA History and Heritage director a woman who joined the army reserves in high school—not as a musician in the band, as her recruitment officer suggested (she played trombone in high school), but in the artillery unit. "I wanted to actually do the army" she answered when I asked her about her choice. She continued in the reserves while studying biology at Western University after which she worked at a homeless shelter in Toronto, commuting two and a half hours a day from her childhood home in Richmond Hill. From there she took her Sergeant's training in Manitoba and worked there for two years in a fulltime recruiting post while also working in a group home. Calgary beckoned and once here, she took on a series of full-time positions over many years: from the Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre; to the Passport Office; to Employment Standards and then in Workforce Strategies for the provincial government.

After 18 years, during which time she was awarded the Canadian Decoration, a medal acknowledging years of good conduct, Tracey released from the reserves and started a family with her husband, Bryan. When she first moved to Calgary Tracey volunteered with the Cub Scouts for two years pre-children. Once her family moved here, she once again became a scout leader for a local troop to which her two boys belong, and this fall she was awarded the Medal for Good Service by Scouts Canada.

As I listened to Tracey talk, with modesty and matter-of-factness, about what to me was a decidedly unique, non-traditional, and full-on work/volunteer life, I realised that asking her how she finds the time to do all the deep digging into our community's history was irrelevant. She does it because it interests her. And how fortunate are we, her neighbours, that her interests not only deepen our sense of community but remind us of its importance.

### FILMING IN ELBOW PARK

#### By Tracey J. Johnson

At the end of October, the fifth season of Fargo was filming in Elbow Park on Riverdale Avenue. You may have noticed a new house pop up overnight, purpose built for shooting, destined to be "burnt" down soon thereafter.

This is just the latest filming to take place in our neighborhood. I've lived here for 5 years now, and I've stumbled across many film crews doing their thing (which

I'm assuming must be a smaller portion than the actual number since I don't walk through the whole neighborhood every day).

The first shoot I noticed was shortly after I moved in. A crew was shooting a Kleenex commercial on 5th Street. Since then I've seen the

FX series, A Teacher, filming out of a house on Park Lane (which I think was actually owned by the studio). Ghostbusters: Afterlife was filmed in East Elbow Park as well as the rest of Calgary. A few months ago, American Girl was filming up in the William Reid School area. Recently, I walked by as Heartland was filming out of the Southern Alberta Pioneers building, though that's across the river so technically not in Elbow Park.

In 2021, location scouts for the HBO show The Last of Us came to the area and visited several homes (including mine), looking for the perfect two next-door neighbours for some outdoor scenes, as well as indoor, in a home that did not look newer than the early 2000s (as per the year civilization breaks down in the story). One historic homeowner on 6th Street had scouts come to his home three times before the location scouts ultimately decided to create an interior in studio and to shoot the outdoor scenes in High River.

Elbow Park has not only been used as a film location, but to house movie stars during filming. Apparently Brad Pitt stayed in East Elbow Park while The Assassination of Jesse James was being filmed. And Ewan McGregor rented a house near the community association while filming Fargo Season 3 in 2017. There were

rumoured dalliances with fellow costar Mary Elizabeth Winstead right in that home. Shortly thereafter, both McGregor and Winstead split from their long-term spouses back home (22 years and 7 years respectively). After that inauspicious start, the couple are still together, married now, with a young child. Homewrecking aside, it turned out to be a true love match in the end, that all started in a house in Elbow Park

If there are any filming stories in Elbow Park that you'd like to share, you can send them in to history@ elbowpark.com.



Fargo Prop House, 1219 Riverdale Avenue







This notice is to re-introduce The Residential Traffic Safety Unit (RTSU), a unit created to specifically address residential traffic issues. Our strategy is to utilize citizen feedback to develop our operational response. We focus on playground zones, pedestrian rich areas and other high-risk locations identified through collision data analysis. The RTSU is attached to the Traffic Section of the Calgary Police Service.

We strongly emphasize public awareness and education, facilitating citizen engagement by attending Community Association Board meetings to discuss the Traffic Service Request System (TSR). The TSR is a key tool to help Calgary Police Service monitor and track traffic safety issues. We encourage Communities to offer this link in Newsletters, Community web pages etc. You can submit a TSR by clicking this link: Traffic Service Request

The RTSU also utilizes strong collaborative relationships with City partners on traffic concerns requiring resolutions other than enforcement (sign changes, installation of crosswalks, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons, extension of playground zones etc.)

We can further assist by liaising with established community partnerships. This includes MLA's office, City Councilor offices, and Neighborhood Committee Coordinators as we continue to expand events attended by the RTSU.

As Covid restrictions come to an end and Community Association meetings begin again, the RESIDENTIAL TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT would be happy to attend one of your Board meetings to further discuss keeping our streets safe. Please reach out to me if interested.

Thank you, Ken Smith POL12008 Residential Traffic Safety Unit

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS TO WORLD WAR II:

### THE DUTCH

As told to Tracey J. Johnson

Yolande Hasselo, one of our local Bell Ringers at Christ Church, and her husband, Alfred de Witte, have lived in Elbow Park with their two children since 2014. They originally hail from the Netherlands which, during World War II, was invaded and occupied by Germany. From May 1940, until it was liberated by the Allies in May 1945, most Dutch families, including Yolande's and Alfred's, were directly affected by the occupation.

#### YOLANDE'S STORY

Yolande's mother, Antje (Stuiver) Hasselo, was only 15 when World War II broke out. She lived near the German border in a town called Enschede, with her parents and younger brother. The German soldiers did house-to-house sweeps for every man aged 17 to 40 to go work in German factories. Antje's brother was too young, but her father had to hide to avoid being taken. Every time they heard the soldiers coming, he would go down into a trap door in the middle of their large kitchen to hide in the basement. The family would cover the hatch with a rug and kitchen table. When the Germans asked, "Are there any men in the house?" Antje and her mother would tell them no and let them look around.

Towards the end of the war, when the German occupiers were stealing anything of value, including food, Antje's mother would send her to the countryside to get food for the family. Each time she was sent, she cycled 50 kilometers on a bike with wooden wheels to her parents' friend's farm. She had to avoid any Germans on her route, since if they caught her, they would have taken her food, or worse, her bike.

By this time the British Royal Air Force started heavily bombing the area, mistaking it for Germany. One time a phosphorus bomb landed on their house, but miraculously it was a dud and didn't detonate. They survived the attack and survived the war, thanks to some ingenuity and Antje's cycling skills.

Yolande's father John, who grew up alongside and went to the same school as his future wife, had a different experience during the war. He never spoke about it, but he wasn't as lucky as Antje's family. John was taken, transported to Germany, and forced to work in a munitions factory in Braunschweig, 300 kilometers away. Life in the factories was hard and dangerous. The buildings were regularly bombed by the Allies. Approximately 500,000 Dutchmen were forced into working in these factories.

John spent about two years there before escaping. He found his way back to Holland, passing through Nijmegen in the middle of a skirmish during its liberation. He made it home and was welcomed back by his German Pointer dog, Hector, who was beyond elated to see John and wouldn't leave his side. Yolande has commemorated her father's faithful dog by naming her own trusty companion Hector.



Alfred, Yolande and Hector, 2022



Antje and John Hasselo, 1942

#### **ALFRED'S STORY**

During the war, Alfred's grandparents were dairy farmers living in Blauwhuis, located in the north-west of the Netherlands. They had a daughter (Brechtsje) and three sons (Broer, Wiebe, and Alfred's dad Auke).

In the spring of 1943, tensions in the Netherlands were growing. Stalingrad had fallen, Berlin was being bombed by the Allied forces, and the German occupiers' supplies were running low. Germany faced a shortage of labour with German males drafted into the army. Men from occupied countries who did not report themselves to work in the German war industry could count on severe repercussions. The Dutch rebelled by striking on a large scale across the Netherlands.

When Broer (19) and Wiebe (17) heard about an uprising against the Germans in a nearby village, they decided to join the Milk Strike. Instead of taking milk cans to the dairy factory, they helped local milk drivers pour milk onto the streets. Singing the Dutch national anthem on their way home, the boys felt proud to be resisting the occupiers.

The Germans announced severe penalties, including the death penalty for violations such as strikes. The brothers were soon arrested for the milk strike and had to appear before the German Military Court. Broer was sentenced to be executed within days after his arrest, and, although initially also receiving the dead penalty, Wiebe was released by a high-ranking German Military officer.

After the war, the family started looking for Broer as there was no conclusive proof of his execution, and missing persons kept turning up well into the 1950s. Alfred's grandfather never locked the back door in the hope that his son, Broer, would one day return home..

Broer remained missing until 1996, when his niece, Wiebe's daughter, Truus, did extensive research on the family history, including accessing secret war documents. She discovered that Broer had been executed a day after his arrest and, unbeknownst to the family, Broer's remains had previously been recovered in December 1945 from a mass grave 100km from his home. He had been misidentified and reburied under



Cemetery of Marum, War Graves Monument

a different name in Marum (Friesland) with eighteen fifteen other Milk Strike victims of that village. A description of one of the people buried in Marum matched with that of Broer, while the sixteenth victim from Marum had been buried as an unknown person elsewhere. It took over 50 years, but Broer's family finally had some closure. And since October 18, 2008, Broer de Witte has his own memorial stone in Marum, part of the monument of the sixteen other victims of the Milk Strike from that town.



Broer 1942



Wiebe 1942

#### News from the Elbow Park

### Bell Ringers

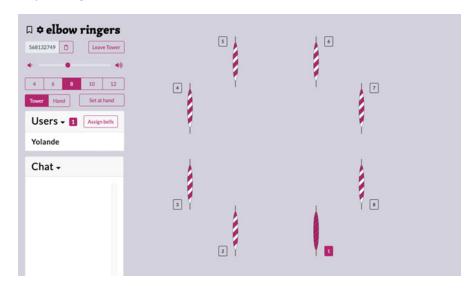
The sound of bells ringing provides a soundtrack to historic moments, a call-out for celebrations and they toll in empathy for grief. The bells in the Elbow Park belfry have been part of this community since 1955. The bells always start ringing down the scale: C-B-A-G-F-E-D-C. When the ringers have found a steady rhythm, the conductor calls the bells into changing sequences.

In November, the Elbow Park bell ringers were gifted with a new sequence composed by Patrick, who is 7 years old and attends Sunday School at Christ Church. On Sunday, November 13, Eric Bumstead, the conductor, called the eight bells into "Patricks" for the first time. On a musical score "Patricks" sounds: C (high)-D-E-G-A-B-F-C (low). Thank you, Patrick, for your enthusiasm and creative composition.

Bell ringing is an activity like no other - a unique mix of physical exercise with mental agility. We are always looking for new learners or experienced ringers alike. Would you like to know more, pull off 450kg of bronze, or just see who make the bells go round and round?

Come and find us in the Christ Church belfry on Thursday evenings 5:30-8pm. Prior to your visit, please send our tower captain, Ruth Lund, an email (rmlund@telusplanet.net).

There is also an opportunity to ring with us online in Elbow Park's own virtual tower (see picture). The Elbow Ringers ring their bells, numbered 1 to 8, by just pressing the letter J on their keyboard. It's all about having FUN by making joyful sounds together. No experience needed! Want to know more? Please contact Yolande at 403-612-6334 or yth.cal@icloud.com.



This could be your ad!

\$75 1/4 page

\$150 1/2 page

\$300 full page

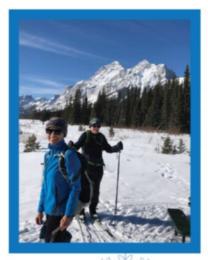
If you would like to advertise in the Elbow Park Gazette, contact gazette elbowpark.com.

#### ELBOW PARK MUSCIANS UNITE!

- Connect with muscian neighbours
- Mentor new muscians
- Play at Pub Night
- Participate in open mic nights

If you are interested, curious, have ideas to add, please contact Chris Robb, Robb4@ shaw.ca or 403-770-7206.





### COME JOIN US!

We are members of the non-profit Seniors Outdoor Club of Calgary who get up early every Tuesday to drive to the Montgomery Community Association parking lot. There, we board a comfortable, coach-style, 55-passenger bus which leaves at 8 a.m. sharp and takes us to various trailheads in the mountains west of Calgary.

We snowshoe/cross-country ski in the winter and hike in the summer. Hikes are curated by a very experienced trailmaster. Participants group according to their fitness levels. Various levels of hikes, from moderate to challenging, are offered and led by experienced member volunteers.







There are many benefits to membership- carefree visiting, snacking and snoozing on your way from/to Calgary on the bus, becoming part of a wonderful social community but, most importantly, scheduling a weekly physically active date with nature which is known to be so mentally restorative!

Check us out at http://calgary-seniors-outdoor-club.ca

### TRAFFIC LIAISON REPORT

Elbow Park Community is fortunate to have two elementary schools within our neighborhood. William Reid welcomes students from many surrounding communities that attend the French Immersion Program and Elbow Park receives most of its students from within the community boundary into the English program.

At both schools, the morning drop-off and afternoon pick up can be challenging, with pedestrian crossing and parking issues. Parents are important role models, teaching children how to safely cross the street and properly exit and enter a vehicle from the street or sidewalk.

#### We want all students to safely arrive at school and to leave for home each day!

Please review the following guidelines for student safety at school entry and dismissal times:



- **Don't be late for school.** If children are rushing from a vehicle or running across the street, you aren't thinking safety!
- **Never park or stop your vehicle at the corner of a block.** The corner section of each block must be kept clear to allow students who are crossing the street to have a clear line of sight. According to provincial transportation laws, cars need to be parked 5 m (16 feet) from an intersection; this also means from a crosswalk and a stop sign.
- **DO NOT Jaywalk.** No crossing mid-block! Go to the corners and cross at the crosswalk. In the City of Calgary, pedestrians may be **fined \$25 to \$60** for jaywalking (based on Schedule A on Page 54 of **Bylaw Number 26M96**, as of July 7, 2021).
- **Driveways and alleys** are to be kept open for access. Do not park in front of either of these locations.
- **Yield to pedestrians** who are waiting to enter the crosswalk or are in the process of crossing.
- Do not speed in School Zones. Be patient, be safe! Make road safety a priority!
- Do not park in a "Kiss and Drop" or "Passenger Loading" Zone. Leave the School Bus Loading area for the yellow school buses.
- **Do not leave your vehicle running while parked.** The streets around the schools are "No idle zones".
- **Consider Carpooling** with neighbours to decrease car volumes in school zones.

### LET'S MAKE 2023 A SAFER YEAR FOR ALL STUDENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

#### DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

#### WHEN A NEIGHBOUR'S DREAM HOME BECOMES YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE...

With many redevelopments occurring in our community, the EPRA Development committee has noticed an increase in new home development causing damage to adjacent homes during the building process. In some cases, there has been extensive damage reported that has resulted in insurance claims to repair damage and lawsuits to recover financial loss.

The EPRA Development committee receives complaints from homeowners regarding the removal of hedges, trees, and fences along property lines during construction. It is ironic that we hear from those who wish to build in Elbow Park that they are drawn to the area due to the mature trees and then choose to remove all vegetation from the property during the construction of their home.

When a home is slated for removal the first things the neighbours are confronted with are the large construction fences that are placed on the property line, or in some cases on the side yards of their property. When the home is demolished or moved from the site, it is common practice by builders to excavate up to the property line and spray "shotcrete", a concrete layer sprayed on the sides of the excavation, to shore up and act as a supporting wall to stabilize the excavation. The footings and basement foundation are then poured, the building framed and the site backfilled. Hopefully, all within a timely manner without damage or inconvenience to the neighbouring properties.

Currently, the excavation of a new home in our community, caused the collapse of the entire side yard (walkway and lawn) and has exposed the foundation of the adjacent home, causing extensive damage. (See photos) The homeowner's efforts to obtain assistance from the City Inspectors, through 311 has been futile and their slow response was explained as "due to understaffing and busy schedules". Costs incurred by the homeowner include hiring structural engineers to consult on the damage and repairs to his property and initiating an insurance claim to repair the property damage that has occurred.

We welcome redevelopment to our community that is conducted in a manner that does not endanger residents or destroy property and on behalf of the EPRA we are monitoring and documenting the building practices of developers working in our area. If you need assistance concerning this matter, please email us at development@elbowpark.com



### VALENTINE

#### Building community since 1946





JAGUAR ROYAL OAK

7755 110 Avenue NW, Calgary jaguarroyaloak.com







LAND ROVER ROYAL OAK

7755 110 Avenue NW, Calgary landroverroyaloak.com







VALENTINE VOLVO

11 Richard Way SW, Calgary, AB valentinevolvo.com







VOLVO CARS ROYAL OAK

7015 112 Avenue NW, Calgary, AB volvocarsroyaloak.com



www.valentinegroup.ca



#### EPRA Membership

Many residents believe they are members of Elbow Park Residents Association; however, when they check the database it turns out they are not. Please go online to elbowpark.com for online registration OR use this membership form below and mail or drop it off to 800 34 Aveneu SW T2T 2A3, make cheques payable to EPRA.

#### **MEMBER BENEFITS**

- Block Captains Direct link to Police Constable Maintenance of Clubhouse and EPRA Park
- Kennel Club Loyalty Program Good Neighbour Program Monitoring of Development
- Clubhouse Rental Discount Park Enhancement Project Voting Privileges at AGM
- Digital Newsletters & Gazette New Residents First Year Free

MEMBERSHIPS		
Name(s)		
(Please include full names of both partners if applicable.)		
Address		Postal Code
Phone E-mail:		
Children's Names and ages:		
EPRA MEMBERSHIP (check applicable):		
Household Membership 1 Year \$40 2 Year \$80 3	Year \$120	\$
Additional Donation \$ (tax receipt will be sent)		\$
Do you want to be recognized for the Donation?	lo	
Name to be used for recognition:		
Г	Total Enclosed:	\$

#### **NEW TO ELBOW PARK? FIRST YEAR IS FREE**

Welcome to our neighbourhood. Contact Don at membership@elbowpark.com to activate your free membership.

### ChristyPilates

"maintaining mobility as we age"

#### **WINTER 2023**

#### Pilates & Yoga classes at the Elbow Park Clubhouse

- Pilates with Props
- Yoga & Pilates FUSED
- All Levels Mat Pilates
- Workshops and more...



### Register @www.ChristyPilates.ca



### Preschool Playgroup

AGES 0-4

### WEDNESDAYS 10:30 AM - 12 PM at The Clubhouse

Come have some fun and meet some new friends!
For more information, please contact Lindie Serrurier at lindieserrurier@gmail.com



## Christman Cve

### SKATING PARTY DECEMBER 24 | 2-4:30 PM

Elbow Park Rinks: 800 - 34 Avenue SW

- Elbow Park Residents Association Members and Guests!
- Bring Your Skates, Hockey Sticks, or Just Your Good Cheer
  - Cash Donations for the Food Bank Welcome
    - Warm Yourself by the Fire
    - Drink Hot Chocolate or Wine and more . . .

Hosted by

#### ELBOW PARK

**RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION** 

to Celebrate Our Wonderful Neighbours

