

LAURIER HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022



In This Issue

6 Facilities

7 Soccer

10 Membership
Matters

12 Casino
Fundraiser

LHCL Newsletter

Laurier Heights Community Newsletter is a quarterly publication distributed to all households in the Laurier Heights neighbourhood. The League also communicates through social media, the Nextdoor app and regular e-blasts. Sign up for our digital newsletter: newsletter@lhcl.ca

If you have any stories or photos you would like to share about community happenings, please be sure to send them our way for submission in future newsletters.

For more information on the newsletter or advertising opportunities, contact:
EDITOR:
Christine McCourt-Reid
newsletter@lhcl.ca
ADVERTISING COORDINATOR:
Liz Herbert
advertising@lhcl.ca

Laurier Heights Community League acknowledges that we are on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and travelling route of the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene, and Nakota Sioux. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

The Laurier Heights Community League is dedicated to being respectful, inclusive and supportive of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, both as an organization and as a community. Furthermore the Laurier Heights Community building stands as a safe space for all members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community from harassment, discrimination, and intolerance.

Laurier Heights Community League

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EDITOR'S LETTER



STAY CONNECTED:

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WWW.LHCL.CA



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AT A TIME WHEN THE WORLD FEELS PARTICULARLY HEAVY, A SENSE OF COMMUNITY PREVAILS.

I think we'd all been hoping that by the 2-year anniversary of this pandemic, the world might feel lighter, easier. And yet here we are, with conflict half a world away that feels strangely closer than that for many of us. Whether or not you have Ukrainian ancestry, if you live in Edmonton, chances are you know at least a handful of Ukrainians... you've probably eaten Ukrainian food on more than one occasion, and you might even know a phrase or two of the language. And all that is a result of community building.

The first big wave of Ukrainian immigrants came to Canada over a century ago, lured by the promise of a quarter-section of land (160 acres) for free, save for a \$10 registration fee. What they didn't know is that this great agricultural land in the Prairies would need to be cleared before it would be able to be used. Much of this clearing was done by hand, as they arrived with very little. But Ukrainians are strong – they came and cleared much land in this part of the Prairies without complaint, building better futures for their children and their children's children to come.

Ukrainians have long been the butt of jokes, mostly good-natured ribbing, of course. But my hope is that now others see the resilience of these people – their strength, their determination and their persistence. To protect themselves, their families, their homes. Their communities.

There is, of course, so much more to this story – layered complexities both here in Canada and in Europe that go back thousands of years. There is much hard work still ahead for all of us, but the heart of it all comes down to people wanting to embrace their cultures and share within their communities without fear.

I'm so grateful for the beautiful community we have right here in Laurier Heights. As you'll see in the pages ahead, we have so many friends and neighbours willing to step up and give back to others. Whether it's for those in need, or just wanting to bring a smile to a neighbour's face, there is always community building happening here in Laurier.

Whether in Europe or here at home, communities play such an important role in our lives. And I am so proud to be a part of this one.

CHRISTINE MCCOURT-REID
LHCL Newsletter Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AS HAS BECOME THE TRADITION, THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL AGM MESSAGE IS SHARED IN THE NEW YEAR ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER. THIS YEAR: AN ALPHABET MADE WITH WORDS OF GRATITUDE FOR A YEAR WELL SPENT AND CITIZENS WHO HAVE GIVEN ONE HUNDRED PERCENT!



A is for Amazing Ainsley, for Awesome Assets Attended to, and our Abundant community!

B is for our Brick Boosting Building society, and our Brilliant Block connectors, Bridging Block parties and the Beauty of neighbours Bolstering Belonging, Book clubs, Big Bins and Buy nothing...

C is for the Caring in Covid times, for Conversations, Collaboration, Creativity and Courage—and of Course, Christine our vice and inCredible newsletter editor.

Dotes on Decreasing Disconnection with Dynamic Directors and Daily Dog walking Dialogues! D is for David Despite Difficulties being so Dependable.

E is for the Encouraging Events Experienced and Exceptional Efforts Exerted by Everyone, Even this year.

F Focuses on the Fantastic, Friendly, and often Forbearing Folk Found Frequently working at our Facilities and Fabulous Food Forest....

G is for George Generously Giving, and all the Gifts, Gratitude and Generosity of our Groups!

H Holds Hope, Hospitality and the Helping Happening; Helen's Heart and art society.

Is for Innovation Ignited and our Interdependence, Inclusiveness, and Intentionality.

J is JULIE, a Jewel, a Joy still Jammin' our hearts and our blocks, with Jolts of her Jubilant grace, Jovial passion, and authentic compassion. Julie, we miss you.

K is for secretary Kendra, Kind and Kool (with a K), able to Kindle our minutes and meetings.

L is for Laura our programs Lead, Lending her Learning to youth and Lots of Local activity!

M Multiplies Momentum for Memberships with our Marvelous new coordinator, Jen B!

N Nourishes and Nurtures Neighbourliness with Nextdoor, Nice and Newsy Nuggets, thanks to Natasha in our eblasts and other social media, and our city Navigating NRC, Stuart.

O is for 'Over the top' which this poem may be becoming but Oh, OH, how Outstanding are the Ordinary Overcoming, Out-going Organizers being honoured on this Occasion!

P Points to People Power -- our Potentials, Personhoods and Persistence; Permeating Proximity, Place-based Partnerships producing Positivity and Possibility.

Q is for how Qualitative and occasionally Quirky is our Questing for Quality community.

R is for our Rigorous Rink attendants and our Rentals Coordinator, Shannon, Regularly Radiating the Richness of Residents Relishing our Rooms, and Recleaning, Refreshing our hall's Resources Responsibly.

S is for Suzanne, our new communications team lead, Superiorly Stimulating, Shifting and Supporting our messaging in Social Spaces... and for Sharon, Servicing us by Supervising casino neceSSities.

T is for our Trustworthy Treasurer, Sarah, Taking Tremendous Talent and Time to Tend to our Treasuries with Thoughtfulness and Tranquility.

U is for Unearthing, Unleashing and Unveiling the Unseen, Upstanding Unmistakeable Utility and Unity of US!

V is for the Vigorous Venture of making Visible the Vibrancy of our LH Village, and for the Vital Volunteers Valiantly Visioning and Valuing this Vitality.

W Welcomes, Wishes Well-being for all and Wonders, What if...

X is for the eXcellent LH occupants that eXonerate the everyday, eXtraordinary joining in and eXpanding eXperience of inclusivity and abundance.

Y is for all of YOU and what's YET to be Yeasted...

Z Zooms in with Zeal and Zest and the Zend of this Zany a-Z Zoliloquy! Zank you.

Written by Karen Wilk for LHCL AGM, 2021

JUST A LIKE

It didn't take much. I simply paid attention to a post by a neighbour in our Buy Nothing group. She had said "I am a greeting card maker! Would there be interest if I offered a free paper crafting class over Zoom? I would supply you with everything you need to make a couple of projects."—I 'liked' it and commented that I'd be interested and before I knew it, I had a PM (Personal Message) inviting me with a date, time and zoom link!

We picked up our kits at her front door and were encouraged to set up comfortably at a table with our favourite drink. She even suggested that we could keep our cameras off if we wanted to—we didn't! We all introduced ourselves and inquired about how long we had lived in the neighbourhood, where we were in the 'hood, etc. It was already fun and worthwhile!

In fact, already in those first few minutes, I had met a new neighbour who had moved in only two blocks away, just a few months ago with a newborn. We 'chatted' in the 'chat' and I gave her my email. She emailed the next day, and now she's receiving our eblasts and as a Block Connector, I'm making sure she and her family are included in our block updates and activities as well.



As for the card making, it was so well done, we all went away not only with some new neighbourly connections but knowing more about making cards and, with a few completed projects! I asked our friendly and talented teacher, if she would be interested in doing a similar online event for Valentines with an invitation to the whole neighbourhood—within a few days, we had a number of households already signed up!

"The moral of the story"? It doesn't take much to make connections and get involved in the neighbourhood! There are so many opportunities -- even during covid!

My suggestions:

- Pay attention and say yes (even if it's something or someone new to you in the neighbourhood)

- Ask some friendly questions, get to know and be known by your neighbours (after all, they're your neighbours), be available and follow-up.

- Join in! and help others to as well. That's what block connecting is all about—connecting! And that's what makes an "Abundant Community" – an abundance of care and connection.

If you would like to know more about how to get involved, please don't hesitate to be in touch! Check out the Board listings in this newsletter and/or email net@lhcl.ca

SUBMITTED BY: KAREN WILK

BLOCK CONNECTORS UPDATE THANK YOU LAURIER



Did you know that Laurier Heights is an Abundant Community? The Abundant Community Initiative engages someone on each neighbourhood block—called a Block Connector—to connect with each home on their block about their neighbours' vision for the neighbourhood, their talents and interests, community and life on the block, and involvement and engagement in the neighbourhood.

The photo above is of everything that we collected via our Block Connectors for donation to the Jasper Place Wellness Center. It is the second year that Laurier Heights has done this collection drive in December.

Interested in learning more about being a Block Connector? Get in touch with Suzanne at connect@lhcl.ca



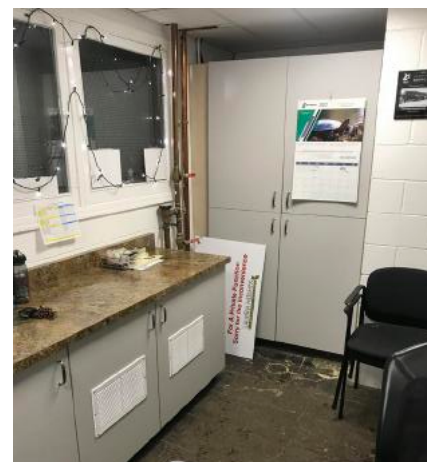
FACILITIES UPDATE

We are happy to have upgraded our old electricity-hogging outdoor rink lights with brighter and more efficient LED fixtures. This will provide a better skating experience while saving the league money on utilities. The rink lighting will be made available year-round for all users of the rink. We look forward to seeing you out on the ice!

We also completed a thorough renovation of our rink office and washrooms to make a cleaner, brighter atmosphere for all community users. The work included brighter, more efficient LED lighting and more efficient plumbing fixtures.



BEFORE



AFTER





The outdoor soccer season is scheduled to begin the week of May 1st, dependent on weather. Our U4, U5 teams play in house and will not be travelling outside of the community. U7 teams will also play in house if we have enough players. U9-U11 teams play in the West Zone. U13-U19 teams play city wide and in surrounding areas. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Janice at soccer@lhcl.ca.

There are no mandatory volunteer deposits this year, but please consider volunteering for the upcoming casino for Laurier Heights Community League on March 28th and 29th casino@lhcl.ca so that we can continue to offer programs like soccer in our community!

Age Division	Birth Year(s)	Game Day(s)	Fee
U4 Mixed	2018	Sun @ 2:00, in house	\$115
U5 Mixed	2017	Sun @ 2:00, in house	\$115
U7 Mixed	2015 / 2016	Mon & Wed @ 6:15, in house if possible	\$140
U9 Boys/Girls	2013 / 2014	Tues & Thurs, (some Sun) West Zone	\$185
U11 Boys/Girls	2011 / 2012	Mon & Wed, (some Fri) City Wide	\$200
U13 Boys/Girls	2009 / 2010	Tues & Thurs, (reschedule Mon) City Wide	\$245
U15 Boys/Girls	2007 / 2008	Mon & Wed, (reschedule Tues) City Wide	\$250
U17 Boys/Girls	2005 / 2006	Sun & Thurs, (reschedule Wed) City Wide	\$250
U19 Boys/Girls	2003 / 2004	Sun & Tues, (reschedule Wed) City Wide	\$250



WE CONTINUE TO HONOUR JULIE ROHR IN LAURIER. SOME OF YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE THAT JULIE WAS A TEAM MANAGER FOR A LAURIER TEAM AND A VERY DEDICATED SOCCER MOM. THE NEWEST JERSEYS PURCHASED BY THE U15B EADIE/ TENNANT TEAM PROUDLY DISPLAY JULIE'S INITIALS ON THEIR SLEEVES.



winterscapes

EMBRACING WINTER CREATIVELY

LABOUR FOR LOVE THE GAMBLINS

In December we took advantage of the “deep freeze” and started freezing blocks of ice. We froze them on our front steps in batches of 40, using Tupperware containers from the dollar store. It was a family project – the kids loved dropping in the food colouring and then stirring it to see what colour appeared. As we started construction, neighbours walked by and would stop to say hello and talk about our project. One of the comments that came up time and time again was “what a labour of love”. We normally participate in the MS bike ride each year and so Tyler had the idea to start fundraising early using the igloo itself...turning it into

a “labour for love”. 536 ice blocks later and a whole lot of late nights, the igloo was completed mid-January. Thanks to our community of friends and family, the neighbours of Laurier and the people of Edmonton, Tyler raised over \$22,000 for the MS Society of Canada and slept in the igloo for 5 nights. Unfortunately, due to the warm weather, the igloo is no longer standing but the pictures and memories of our labour for love will last a lifetime!

DONATIONS CAN STILL BE MADE TO TYLER'S FUNDRAISING TEAM UNTIL JULY:

<https://bit.ly/3sM3evG>

DRAGON'S LAIR – BRENT & GRAYSON CROUCHER

Grayson and I are grateful for the community's generosity and their appreciation for our dragon. What began as modest dinosaur snow sculptures for my three boys in St. Albert evolved in 2013 into a gigantic snow dragon in my childhood neighbourhood of Laurier Heights. Grayson, the youngest of the Croucher boys, felt dad had gone a little overboard by putting every lighted character I could locate to a scene of the great snowball fight, complete with snow castle. Grayson's sculpting bug was sparked by his neighbours' appreciation. The Dragon Boys have gradually grown the dragon to its current 60 ft length and 7 ft height. Grayson keeps growing the dragon year after year, and now a snow harvesting system has to be built into the design. The Dragon Boys have become a familiar sight in the 145 Street green space. While most people want to clear their snow, we like to build it up to construct the dragon's backbone. Sorry, but we hoped for more snow this year. Thanks to all, we are pleased that our snow creations have inspired others. It is what living in a great community and winter wonderland is all about.



RAINBOW SLIDE ANDREA DANIEL

This is the second generation of the slide in our keyhole crescent park for our two daughters, aged 3 and 5, and their many friends around the block. I had traditionally built dugout snow forts in the park ever since I was a teenager living in the same house. However, motivated by the need to keep the kids entertained during the first Covid winter, but lacking enough snow for a fort, I dreamt up the first ice slide. After experimenting with different containers to freeze the ice for the track, I found the perfect solution in the IKEA trofast tubs that we use to store the kid's toys. Many trips with 5-gallon buckets of water then helped to solidify the structure enough to withstand an army of preschoolers laying siege to its walls. It was a roaring success and thus was reincarnated this winter with the upgrade of a rainbow track.



membership

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Becoming a member of your Community League is one way we can all be better neighbours! A Community League is a group of neighbours who come together to coordinate neighbourhood events, activities, and programs. There are presently 157 Community Leagues in Edmonton. By becoming a member of your Community League, you help your neighbours connect, build, protect, and improve community facilities, thereby increasing your quality of life. Community Leagues do this through the organization of recreational, educational, and sporting events, the construction of amenities such as spray parks, playgrounds, sports courts, community gardens, and league halls, and the advocacy of local causes.

Community Leagues have always been led by local community volunteers — your friends and neighbours. Community leagues are an excellent training ground to cultivate future leaders in a variety of disciplines, including government. Several of our current council members began their careers on community league boards! Volunteering in your community might help you meet new people and develop new skills. We are building a flourishing community that benefits everyone!

2021/22 MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE. GET THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP YEAR BY PURCHASING TODAY!

NEW TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD? IF YOU HAVE MOVED TO LAURIER HEIGHTS IN 2021 AND HAVE NEVER HELD A MEMBERSHIP WITH US, WE WOULD LOVE TO GIFT YOU YOUR FIRST MEMBERSHIP! SIMPLY FILL OUT THE FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE AND SUBMIT IT TO OUR MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR!

COMMUNITY LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED FOR COMMUNITY SOCCER REGISTRATION, OTHER YOUTH SPORTS, RINK/COURT USE, AND FOR SELECT PROGRAMS AND OTHER SOCIAL EVENTS.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, THOUGH, YOUR MEMBERSHIP GIVES YOU A PLACE TO BELONG, CONTRIBUTE, SHARE YOUR GIFTS AND PARTICIPATE AS A UNIQUE AND VALUED MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY.

MEMBERSHIP FEES SUPPORT:

MAINTAINED COMMUNITY SPACES

Community Hall, skating rinks, playground, splash deck, tennis and pickleball courts, Gazebo Park, Urban Orchard and Food Forest.

FREE, LOW-COST SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Seasonal community fun days, Green Shack, neighbourhood newsletters, community potlucks, family movies, playgroup, art club, urban food forest, ACE, Sprouts, Scouts and more!

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

FREE skating at the Laurier Heights rinks and at other League rinks in the city; access to the Laurier tennis courts; FREE summer and winter playground leaders (Green Shack); subsidized fitness programs (Community Wellness Network); and discounts at various City of Edmonton recreational facilities through the Community League Wellness Program.

DISCOUNTS

Community League hall rentals, selected programming, and city-wide discounts offered through the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues.

A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Most importantly, your membership gives you a place to belong, contribute, share your gifts and participate as a unique and valued Laurier Heights community member.

2021/22 LHCL MEMBERSHIP FORM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
- MEMBERSHIPS VALID UNTIL AUGUST 31, 2022



Household Info

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone Number: _____

Additional Household Members:

Adult #2 (first + last name): _____

Additional Family Member: _____ Birth Year: _____

Additional Family Member: _____ Birth Year: _____

Additional Family Member: _____ Birth Year: _____

Additional Family Member: _____ Birth Year: _____

☐ YES! Our family would like skate/tennis tags so we can use the community facilities. We require # _____ tags.

Membership Type

☐ FAMILY (\$40)
Primary member must be 18+;
unlimited household members

☐ SINGLE (\$25)
Single member must
be 18+

☐ SENIOR (\$25)
For up to two 65+ adults
in the same household

☐ ASSOCIATE (\$50)
Membership purchase for those
living outside of Laurier Heights

☐ NEW (FREE)
For new Laurier
residents as of 2021

Membership fees may be paid with cash or a cheque made payable to: **LAURIER HEIGHTS COMMUNITY LEAGUE**

Alternately, e-transfer payments can be sent to membership@lhcl.ca

Please submit this completed form & your payment to:
Jen Bann • 14604 84 Ave • T5R 3X2 • membership@lhcl.ca

Volunteer Opportunities

We require assistance from volunteers throughout the year for our annual fundraisers and other special community events. You can volunteer as much or as little as you'd like based on your availability and schedule. We also have vacant Board Member positions available immediately. Please let us know if you are interested in helping us as we work to build a better community for all. Thank you!

☐ BOARD or TEAMS

Yes, I am interested in volunteering in an ongoing capacity. Please contact me with information on current Board positions and/or other long-term volunteer opportunities. Areas of volunteer interest for me include:

☐ OCCASIONAL

Yes, I am interested in volunteering to assist our Community League from time to time. Please include me on the Laurier Heights Volunteer Request email alerts so I can help when I'm available.

☐ SENDING REGRETS

No, I'm sorry that I'm unable to volunteer this year.

☐ OPTIONAL DONATION

Yes, I'd also like to support our community league by offering an additional donation of

\$ _____

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or greater.

To receive your tax receipt, please ensure donations are made payable to :
LAURIER HEIGHTS BUILDING SOCIETY

For your convenience, memberships may also be purchased online at www.efcl.org

CASINO FUNDRAISER

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

• CASINO FUNDRAISER • MARCH 28-29, 2022 YELLOWHEAD CASINO

Our casino fundraiser brings in needed funds to help support our programming and facility maintenance each. Volunteers are needed!!

Shift times are:

9:00 am - 6:30 pm

6:30 pm - 3:30 am

11:00 pm - 3:45 am

Email casino@lhcl.ca for specific shift information and to sign up!

Our casino is so important to keep our building and recreation facilities up and running. Please consider supporting Laurier Heights by signing up for a shift, and perhaps asking a friend or neighbor to join. It can be a fun little social outing, and meals and snacks are provided for you.

Our fabulous volunteer coordinator has created an electronic sign up with the link below that you can visit and pick a date, time and role: : <https://signup.com/go/saxSbQZ>

If you prefer to send an email to sign up - that's fine too!

If you need any additional information please get in touch with our Casino Coordinator, Sharon Jeske:

casino@lhcl.ca or you can call/text 780.975.3360

Thank you all in advance for your consideration and support for our great community league.

ADVERTISE WITH US

If you'd like to buy advertising space in a future issue, please contact our Advertising Coordinator. Be sure to ask about our advertising opportunities in our community email newsletter!

ADVERTISING COORDINATOR:

Liz Herbert: advertising@lhcl.ca



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OWNER

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Our office can assist you with Citizenship and Immigration, Canada Pension Plan, and various other federal departments and programs.

Congratulatory Messages

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A community is built through giving. Join us!

WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME TEAM... JOIN US IN CREATING A COMMUNITY WHERE NEIGHBOURS SHARE A SENSE OF BELONGING AND OWNERSHIP

Volunteers from Edmonton Community Leagues have given Edmontonians a voice in community development as well as unrivalled recreational and social facilities. You have an impact on daily life, the lives of individuals you volunteer with, and the lives of those who benefit from your efforts when you volunteer. Giving back to your community helps to make it a better place for not only you, but for everyone who lives there.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME AND SKILLS AS A GIFT TO STRENGTHEN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

EVENTS TEAM LEAD

Organizes a group of community people to handle all aspects of League social activities. Keeps the board of directors up to date on developments and works closely with the Volunteer Coordinator and Rental Coordinator to ensure that all aspects of events are taken care of.

TENNIS COORDINATOR

The Tennis Coordinator helps the Program Team Lead partner with organizations to provide lessons, camps and other tennis activities for the community, as well as contributing insights to improve our tennis offerings based on your experiences playing on our courts. Please contact Laura at programs@lhcl.ca if you would like more information, and to chat about this opportunity!

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

We also have opportunities for people to volunteer on any of our teams and sub-committees:

- Communications Team
- Events Team
- Finance Committee
- Programs Team
- Vice-President (term begins December 2022)

For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities, please email: volunteer@lhcl.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

• CASINO FUNDRAISER •

MARCH 28-29, 2022 | YELLOWHEAD CASINO

Our casino fundraiser brings in needed funds to help support our programming and facility maintenance each. Volunteers are needed!! Shift times are 9:00 am-6:30 pm; 6:30 pm-3:30 am ; or 11:00 pm - 3:45 am. Email casino@lhcl.ca for specific shift information and to sign up!

APRIL 1-10

ANNUAL LAURIER HEIGHTS SCAVENGER HUNT!

STAY TUNED TO OUR E-BLAST AND SOCIAL CHANNELS FOR MORE DETAILS.

FRIDAYS, 9-11 AM

PLAYGROUP

PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF TODDLERS AND INFANTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE LAURIER PLAY GROUP WITH YOUR 0-5 YEAR OLDS AT THE LAURIER HEIGHTS COMMUNITY HALL. THIS IS A GREAT ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR CHILDREN TO PLAY SAFELY WITH OTHERS THEIR AGE AND FOR YOU TO SOCIALIZE WITH OTHER CAREGIVERS AND PARENTS FROM THE AREA.

Have an idea for an event you'd like to see in our neighbourhood? Send us an email: net@lhcl.ca

Subscribe to our digital newsletter to get regular updates about everything happening in Laurier: <https://bit.ly/3638qCh>

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Are you receiving our regular email update newsletters? It's full of great information for the neighbourhood. Sign up on our website at www.lhcl.ca