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NESA Newsletter Christmas 2023

From the President:



2023 started off with significant rebuilding of both membership and programming at NESA, but quickly turned to dealing with unexpected challenges as the City of Edmonton informed us of its intent to start the Northgate Lions Infrastructure Upgrade project in July. While this work is an excellent investment in the future of the facility, it did pose some significant challenges with the Board's decision to continue to provide programming in other facilities.

Highlights from 2023 for me (in no particular order) include:

- The excellent and significant work done by both NESA and Northgate-based City of Edmonton staff in rebuilding NESA programs, events and services and the enthusiasm of NESA members returning to enjoy activities and relationships during the first 6 months of the year.
- The incredible amount of work done by NESA staff in making the relocation of programs occasioned by the Infrastructure Upgrade project possible. The myriad of challenges posed by this work cannot be overstated and the success of summer and fall programs is a witness to the capability, creativity and dedication of our NESA staff.
- The support of neighborhood community groups (McClure United Church, Steele Heights Community League, Kilkenny Community League) and the City of Edmonton (A.C.T. Centre) in providing facilities for the relocation of NESA programs.
- The support of Londonderry Community League in hosting NESA Board meetings.
- The continued work of your NESA Board of Directors and Committees in supporting the staff and ensuring that the Association stayed on an even keel throughout the year.
- The on-going work of the NESA Board Committees and task teams in ensuring that our organization continued to function effectively and plan for the future despite the challenges posed by the Northgate closure.
- The ongoing work of the Social Outreach Unit, assisted with deliveries by the programming staff, in keeping in touch with both members and non-members needing both food and companionship support.



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- The wonderful food and on-going work put in by Dragana and her staff at the Cherrydale Café in the first 6 months of the year.
- The willingness, energy and creativity of our program instructors that enabled us to relocate our programs so quickly and effectively.
- The on-going and wonderful contribution to NESAs success made by the myriad of members who volunteers to help in so many ways.
- The creativity and effort of our fund-raising volunteers and their merry band of helpers in continuing our fund-raising activities (Book Sales, Bottle Drives, Bingos, Pull-Ticket Sales, On-line Lottery, Grocery Card Sales, etc.).
- The quiet, capable and largely behind the scenes work of the Council of Governors in managing the Association's specialty funds, helping with Board recruitment and providing on-going counsel to the Board of Directors.
- The contributions to active living, creativity and the financial health of our Association made by the NESAs Club groups.
- The "at home" volunteer work of the knitters that continues to provide support for our neighborhood.

Despite the challenges we faced in 2023 and those that we will face together in 2024, NESAs is a strong organization with dedicated Board members, experienced and caring staff, wonderful volunteers and a membership that cares.

Wishing you all the merriest possible Christmas and every best wish for 2024!