

Winter Excitement Guide

2017 / 2018



wintercity
 Edmonton

Edmonton

Welcome, Winter

2017/2018!

Nothing matches the excitement children have for the first snowfall! Newcomers to our city often find it magical, too. But for some, we know it heralds a time of year that's more challenging to get out and do things. This winter, take on the national **3 Things for Canada** service challenge by helping a friend or neighbour enjoy winter more.



Share a stroll in the snow, or if that's not possible, have coffee together on a warm winter patio, take them to your local community league winterfest, or create a winterscape they can enjoy from their living room window. Also check out the City's **Hello, How Are You?** initiative at www.edmonton.ca/hello for ideas on how to connect with people in your community.

Let us know how you help others this winter!

[#yegwinter](#) [#3ThingsforCanada](#) [#sayhelloyeg](#)

Visit our website for stories, events and inspiring ideas for how you can help more Edmontonians enjoy winter.

www.wintercityedmonton.ca



 Facebook.com/WinterCityEdmonton

 [@WinterCityYEG](#) / [#wintercityyeg](#)

For more information on the WinterCity Strategy and Edmonton's new Winter Design Guidelines, visit www.edmonton.ca/wintercitystrategy

2 WINTER 2017/18 EVENTS

26 Other Things to Watch For

31 BE ACTIVE

32 Cross-Country Skiing

34 Downhill Skiing, Snowboarding & Tubing

35 Ice Skating

37 Snowshoeing

39 Tobogganing

40 Winter Cycling

41 Equipment Rentals

41 River Valley Map Central

42 River Valley Network

43 River Valley Programs

44 Elk Island National Park

45 BE SOCIAL

46 Community League Winter Festivals

46 Cool Communities

48 Winter Party Locations

49 Winter Patios

50 Winter Picnicking

51 BE CREATIVE

52 Lighting Your Home

53 Winterscapes

54 WINTER CALENDAR



Winter 2017-2018 Events





2

WINTERCITY EDMONTON



Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park

Every Sunday in October

Fort Edmonton Park, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Enjoy brunch at Johnson's Café, then take your daily constitutional through the park. Watch website for tickets and details.
[#fortedmontonpark](#)

International Walk to School Week (iWALK)

Oct 2 – 6, 2017

City-wide, www.shapeab.com

Join millions of walkers around the world and walk to school during this week! iWALK is part of the Active & Safe Routes to School Program. Register online.



Ski Swap & Sale

Oct 14 – 15, 2017

Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

Consign your old equipment Saturday, get 'new to you' equipment Sunday! Proceeds go to Snow Valley Ski Club and Snow Valley Racing Association.

Family Friendly Spooktacular

Saturday, Oct 21, 2017

Fort Edmonton Park, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Frightful fun for the whole family! Bring your ghosts and goblins of all ages to haunt the park. Watch website for tickets and details. #fortedmontonpark

Boo at the Zoo!

Sunday, Oct 22, 2017 / 11am – 4pm

Edmonton Valley Zoo, www.valleyzoo.ca

Get Closer, Be Not Afraid! Science experiments, crafts, extinct animal graveyard, Witch's Den – make Boo at the Zoo your Halloween tradition!

Adult Spooktacular at Fort Edmonton Park

Oct 27 – 28, 2017

Fort Edmonton Park, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Halloween fun for grown-up ghouls and goblins only. How haunted is the Park? Find out – if you dare! Watch website for tickets and details. #fortedmontonpark





WINTERCITY EDMONTON



Headless Halloween

Saturday, Oct 28, 2017 / 7pm

The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse (9351 – 118 Avenue),
www.thecarrot.ca

Trick or treat?! Prizes for best costume. Join us for fire pits, marshmallows, music, games, and more spooky fun!

Edmonton Ski & Snowboard Show

Oct 28 – 29, 2017

Edmonton EXPO Centre, Hall H, www.powderfest.com

Calling all ski and snowboard bums! Come find amazing deals on gear, discover awesome destinations, and get stoked for the return of winter! [#EdmSkiBoardShow](#)

The Winter Sport Equipment Sale at the Edmonton Ski & Snowboard Show

Oct 28 – 29, 2017

Edmonton EXPO Centre, Hall H, www.powderfest.com

Find new-to-you equipment at unbeatable prices – everything from skis and snowboards to helmets and jackets! [#EdmSkiBoardShow](#)



Group Hot Chocolate Wagon Rides

Tuesday evenings in November

Fort Edmonton Park, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Explore the Park at night from a horse-drawn wagon. Warm your fingers around steaming mugs of hot chocolate. Watch website for booking details. #fortedmontonpark

Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park

Every Sunday in November

Fort Edmonton Park, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Enjoy brunch at Johnson's Café, then take your daily constitutional through the park. Watch website for tickets and details. #fortedmontonpark

Chili Cook-Off

Friday, Nov 3, 2017 / 11:30am – 1:30pm

Location TBA, www.edmonton.ca/rodeoweeek

Try some of the best chili prepared by chili masters from local restaurants, hotels and charity groups.





Hibernation Hijinks

Sunday, Nov 5, 2017 / 11am – 3pm

John Janzen Nature Centre, www.edmonton.ca/johnjanzen

Find out what sort of adaptations animals in the river valley use to survive our winter environment. Learn some conservation skills, too!

MEC Snowfest

Sunday, Nov 12, 2017

Mountain Equipment Co-op, Downtown Location
(11904 – 104 Avenue NW), <http://events.mec.ca>

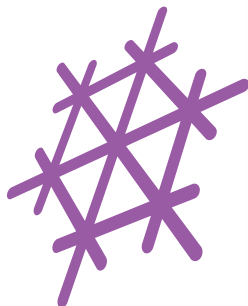
Join us for clinics on ski waxing, cross-country basics and avalanche safety. Check out local exhibitors, win prizes, and drink hot chocolate!

The Carrot Christmas Arts Bazaar

Nov 17 – 18, 2017

The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse
(9351 – 118 Avenue NW), www.thecarrot.ca

Be distinctive, buy original, support local. Find unique, original, one-of-a-kind gifts for those 'hard to shop for' loved ones.



Santa's Parade of Lights

Saturday, Nov 18, 2017 / 5:30pm

New parade route along Jasper Avenue! Check website for details, www.edmontonsantaparade.com

Glisten. Sparkle. Glow. Join us for a magical event where every entry is lit to twinkle in the dark. Free fun for the whole family!

All is Bright on 124

**Saturday, Nov 25, 2017 / 4 – 8pm /
Light Up the Night Ceremony at 5pm**

**124 Street, between Jasper & 102 Avenues,
www.124street.ca/all-is-bright**

Join us to celebrate the coming of the winter season by lighting up 124 Street with illumination, live entertainment, and fun winter activities. @shop124street #AllisBright



The Great Sweater Run

Saturday, Nov 25, 2017

Emily Murphy Park, www.thegreatsweaterrun.ca/edmonton

Dig deep for your Great Sweater: cheery snowmen, bedazzled snowflakes, and strange reindeer. It's not high fashion, but it's perfect for our run!

Group Hot Chocolate Wagon Rides

Tuesday evenings in December

Fort Edmonton Park, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Explore the Park at night from a horse-drawn wagon. Warm your fingers around steaming mugs of hot chocolate. Watch website for booking details. #fortedmontonpark



WINTERCITY EDMONTON

Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park

Every Sunday in December

Fort Edmonton Park, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Enjoy brunch at Johnson's Café, then take your daily constitutional through the park. Watch website for tickets and details.
#fortedmontonpark

Great French Canadian Winter Patio Party

Friday, Dec 1, 2017

La Cité Francophone (8627 Marie-Anne-Gaboury (91) Street), www.cafebicyclette.ca

Embrace winter at Café Bicyclette's Winter Patio Opening Night Party. Introducing a signature winter drink accompanied with some jigs and reels!

Winter Patio Kick-Off Weekend

Dec 1 – 3, 2017

City-wide, www.exploreedmonton.com

Winter patio season begins this weekend and runs 'til March. Wine and dine under our glorious winter sun. And watch for details about a Play Street downtown on the Saturday!

Winterfest at Snow Valley

Dec 1 – 3, 2017

Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

Celebrate the beginning of the season outdoors on the hill and inside the lodge. Games, activities all weekend long.



Luminaria

Dec 1 – 3, 2017

**University of Alberta Botanic Garden, 51227 Hwy 60,
Parkland County (5 km north of Devon on Hwy 60),
<http://luminaria.ualberta.ca/>**

Fire light. Star light. Snow light. And you. Thousands of candles, cider, singers, sprites at the UofA Botanic Garden. Ignite the season at #LuminariaUABG



Zoominescence: A Festival of Light

Dec 1 – 3, 8 – 10, 15 – 17, 22 – 24, & 26 – 31 / 5 – 9 pm

Edmonton Valley Zoo, www.buildingourzoo.com

Stroll the zoo at night to see a winter wonderland of lights!
Light displays, animal talks, entertainment and more! #yegzoo

(Note: This is a fundraiser for the Valley Zoo Development Society in support of the Edmonton Valley Zoo. Passes are not valid for this event. Tickets are \$7.50/adult and \$5/child.)



WINTERCITY EDMONTON

Santa Shuffle Fun Run & Elf Walk

Saturday, Dec 2, 2017

William Hawrelak Park, www.santashuffle.ca

This merry event helps The Salvation Army assist families and individuals during the Christmas season and throughout the year. 5K Shuffle, 1K Walk.

Senior's Candy Cane Tea

Dec 5 – 6, 2017 / 1 – 3pm

Edmonton Valley Zoo, www.valleyzoo.ca

Enjoy tea, hot chocolate and baked goodies at the Zoo! Special performance by local preschool children, and educational animal encounters.

Celebrate the Season at the Alberta Legislature

Dec 7 – 23, 2017

Alberta Legislature Grounds, www.assembly.ab.ca

Thousands of bright lights provide the backdrop for a holiday stroll or skate in the beautiful Legislature Grounds. Daily musical performances.





Candy Cane Lane

Dec 8 – 31, 2017

148 Street, between 92 & 100 Avenues, www.candycanelane.ca

Christmas in Edmonton isn't complete without a visit to Candy Cane Lane! Lights, sleigh rides, decorations. Remember a donation for the Food Bank. @yeg_cclane

Holiday Celebration

Sunday, Dec 10, 2017

Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

Activities on the hill and crafts inside for the Christmas season. Simon the Snow Leopard and other special guests may make an appearance!



Jingle Jammin' Christmas Carolling

Friday, Dec 15, 2017 / 6pm

The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse (9351 – 118 Avenue), www.thecarrot.ca

Get into the holiday spirit and join us for chilli (6pm) and caroling (7pm)! Dress for the weather and bring your own flashlight.





WINTERCITY EDMONTON



Yule Ave: A Merry Christmas

Dec 15 – 17, 2017

Alberta Avenue Community League (9210 – 118 Avenue) and
Nina Haggerty Centre (9225 – 118 Avenue), www.yuleave.com

Free concert and chili. Giving Tree: winter clothing accepted and given. Decoration creation station. Santa's Snow Village. Horse and wagon rides.

Christmas Reflections

Starts Saturday, Dec 16, 2017

Fort Edmonton Park, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Celebrate Christmas the way Edmontonians did over a century ago. Watch website for all dates and times, as well as tickets and details. #fortedmontonpark

New Year's Eve Downtown

Saturday, Dec 31, 2017

Location TBA, www.edmonton.ca/newyeareseve

Celebrate New Year's Eve downtown! Check website for time, location and details.

Group Hot Chocolate Wagon Rides



Tuesday evenings in January

Fort Edmonton Park, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Explore the Park at night from a horse-drawn wagon. Warm your fingers around steaming mugs of hot chocolate. Watch website for booking details. #fortedmontonpark

Swing 'n' Skate Sundays at City Hall

Every Sunday in January / 1 – 4pm

City Hall, City Room & Plaza, www.edmontonarts.ca

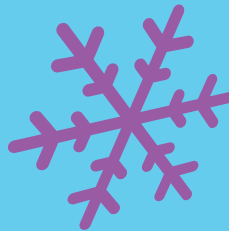
Get jiving at City Hall! Local bands bring live swing, jazz and big band music; Sugar Swing Dance Club brings the moves. Free skate rentals. #swingNskate

Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park

Every Sunday in January

Fort Edmonton Park, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Enjoy brunch at Johnson's Café, then take your daily constitutional through the park. Watch website for tickets and details. #fortedmontonpark





WINTERCITY EDMONTON



Pump Up the Jam Freestyle Competition

Sunday, Jan 7, 2018

Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

A fun freestyle competition in our beginner terrain park for kids 12 and under. All abilities welcome – come and have a blast!

Deep Freeze: A Byzantine Winter Festival

Jan 13 – 14, 2018

118 Avenue, between 90 & 94 Streets, www.deepfreezefest.ca

The Olde New Year returns to Alberta Avenue: skating, curling, snow carving, street hockey, dancing, live music... a free winter wonderland!



Street Hockey Tourney at Deep Freeze

Jan 13 – 14, 2018

118 Avenue, between 90 & 94 Streets, www.deepfreezefest.ca

Game on! Recruit friends & family to make up teams of 4 to 7 players, including goalie. Register your team early – space is limited!

Front Yards in Bloom: Winterscapes

Jan 15 – Feb 25, 2018

Edmonton-wide, www.edmonton.ca/winterscapes

Use your creativity to embrace winter with #FYIBwinterscapes! Brighten your neighbourhood with a wintry wonderland made with lights, plants, snow and ice.

FIS World Snow Day & Snow Valley Masters Race

Sunday, Jan 21, 2018

Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

International Ski Federation's 'bring children to the snow' day! Obstacle course for all, and a fun Masters Race for the 'old' kids.

Boardwalk Ice on Whyte Festival

Jan 25 – Feb 4, 2018

Old Strathcona, www.iceonwhyte.ca

Check our website for locations and times, as well as exciting festival details!





Chinese New Year at the Muttart Conservatory

Saturday, Jan 27, 2018 / 4 – 8pm

Muttart Conservatory, www.edmonton.ca/muttart

Celebrate the Year of the Dog! Family activities, displays, jade planting, and performances by students from Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association.

South West Ski Fest

Saturday, Jan 27, 2018

Ermineskin Community League (10709 – 32A Avenue NW), www.facebook.com/ski2LRT

Have a go at cross-country skiing. Explore neighbourhood ski trails. Free equipment for all ages. Helpful tips! SWYEG chili cook-off and hot coaco. #SWSkiFest #Ski2LRT #SWAC #SkiLocal #ChiliCookOff



Winterfest in Castle Downs

Saturday, Jan 27, 2018 / noon – 3pm

Castle Downs District Park (153 Avenue NW and Castle Downs Road, east of the Castle Downs recreation centre), www.castledowns.ca

Free community fun! Sleigh rides, refreshments, music, pallet races. Sponsored by the Castle Downs Recreation Society.

Group Hot Chocolate Wagon Rides

Saturday and Sunday afternoons in February

Fort Edmonton Park, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Spend a sunny afternoon in the Park! Wagon ride. Steaming hot chocolate. Wintry fun. Watch website for group booking details. #fortedmontonpark



Swing 'n' Skate Sundays at City Hall

Every Sunday in February / 1 – 4pm

City Hall, City Room & Plaza, www.edmontonarts.ca

Get jiving at City Hall! Local bands bring live swing, jazz and big band music; Sugar Swing Dance Club brings the moves. Free skate rentals. #swingNskate

Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park

Every Sunday in February

Fort Edmonton Park, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Enjoy brunch at Johnson's Café, then take your daily constitutional through the park. Watch website for tickets and details. #fortedmontonpark





WINTERCITY EDMONTON



Front Yards in Bloom: Winterscapes

Feb 1 – Feb 25, 2018

Edmonton-wide, www.edmonton.ca/winterscapes

Use your creativity to embrace winter with #FYIBwinterscapes! Brighten your neighbourhood with a wintry wonderland made with lights, plants, snow and ice.

YEG Hot Chocolate Fest

Feb 1 – 28, 2018

**Check website for locations across the city,
www.YEGHotChocolate.com**

Step outside this winter and sample some of Edmonton's finest hot chocolate! In support of Easter Seals, sponsored by Century 21. #yeghotchocfest



Flying Canoë Volant

Feb 2 – 3, 2018

La Cité Francophone (8627-Marie Anne Gaboury (91) Street)
& the Millcreek Ravine, www.flyingcanoevolant.ca

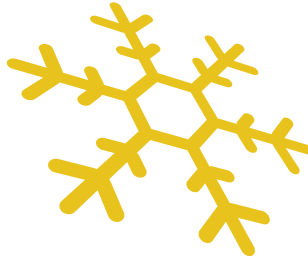
Celebrate your inner voyageur with The Flying Canoë Volant!
An interactive cultural celebration of our French, First Nations
and Métis history.

Hypothermic Half Marathon 1

Sunday, Feb 4, 2018

Highlands Golf Club (6603 Ada Boulevard),
www.hypothermichalf.com

Participants will receive a Running Room
backpack and reversible neck warmer.



Toque Tuesday

Tuesday, Feb 6, 2018

Various locations downtown, including LRT stations,
www.homewardtrust.ca, www.raisingtheroof.org

Help Homeward Trust Edmonton and Raising the Roof keep
YEG's homeless youth safe and warm. Buy a toque for \$10-20
from volunteers downtown.

Winter Walk Day

Wednesday, Feb 7, 2018

**Walks held at City Hall, Provincial Legislature, many schools &
other venues around Edmonton, www.shapeab.com**

Join fellow Albertans to celebrate winter and walking! Schools,
work places, seniors' centres, individuals and families can register.





WINTERCITY EDMONTON



2017 Canadian Birkebeiner Ski Festival & Loppet

Feb 9 – 10, 2018

***East of Edmonton, in the areas of Cooking Lake-Blackfoot
Provincial Recreation Area, the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage
Village & Elk Island National Park, www.canadianbirkie.com***

Come have fun, ski and be a part of a community! Enjoy fun and challenging cross-country ski events for people of all ages and abilities. Are you Viking enough?

Silver Skate Festival

Feb 9 – 19, 2018

William Hawrelak Park, www.silverskatefestival.org

A winter extravaganza of free art, culture, recreation and sports programming. Play for the day and stay for a night of magic!
#yegfests #abart

Snowshoe Races at Silverskate

Saturday, Feb 10, 2018

William Hawrelak Park, www.silverskatefestival.org

Canada's fastest growing winter sport! @silverskate partners with @SnowshoeCanada to host 1 km and 5 km races for all ages and abilities.

Dead Cold Run at Silverskate

Sunday, Feb 11, 2018

William Hawrelak Park, www.deadcoldrun.ca

5 km #DeadColdRun in #Hawrelak @silverskate offers both a beautiful winter run and solid training for the zombie apocalypse. #yegfun

Fat Bike Race and Festival at Silverskate

Sunday, Feb 11, 2018

William Hawrelak Park, www.multisportcanada.com

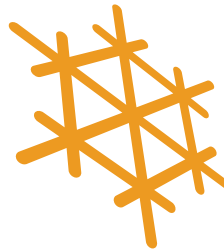
Haven't tried a fat bike yet? Now's your chance! Races, demos, and all round fat bike fun.

Northgate Skate Races at Silverskate

Feb 17 – 18, 2018

William Hawrelak Park, www.silverskatefestival.org

Our 25 km, 10 km and 1 km #skateraces attract local, national and international athletes of all abilities. In partnership with @edspdk8





Family Day Weekend at Snow Valley



Feb 17 – 19, 2018

Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

Activities will include a scavenger hunt each day with prizes and giveaways, and our very popular obstacle course for kids on Old Road.

Kortebaan at Silverskate

Saturday, Feb 18, 2018

William Hawrelak Park, www.silverskatefestival.org

Who is the fastest of them all? Grab your skates, head to #Hawrelak and show us your stuff. Discover your best time for a 140 m skate sprint.



Fatbikes for MS

Sunday, Feb 18, 2018

Edmonton's River Valley,

E-mail social@revolutioncycle.com for more info

A FatFondo through YEG River Valley to raise awareness and funds for MS research. Funds go to MS Society. Riders, sponsors and volunteers needed!

Mammoet Edmonton Winter Triathlon at Silverskate

Sunday, Feb 18, 2018

William Hawrelak Park, www.silverskatefestival.org

Three common winter pursuits – running, skating & cross-country skiing – are hosted in 10 km & 25 km formats. A favourite event of weekend warriors.

Hypothermic Half Marathon 2

Sunday, Feb 18, 2018

**Highlands Golf Club (6603 Ada Boulevard),
www.hypothermichalf.com**

Participants will receive a Running Room backpack and reversible neck warmer.

Family Day Fun at the Zoo!

Monday, Feb 19, 2018 / noon – 4 pm

Edmonton Valley Zoo, www.valleyzoo.ca

Beat the winter blues and “Get Closer” for some Polar Bear Family Day Fun with crafts, a scavenger hunt and a family photo booth! General admission applies. #yegzoo



Coldest Night of the Year

Saturday, Feb 24, 2018

**Start at Hope Mission (9908 – 106 Avenue),
www.coldestnightoftheyear.org**

Fun, family-friendly walk to raise money for the hungry, homeless and hurting in 80+ communities. Local funds go to Edmonton's Hope Mission. #cnoy18

Group Hot Chocolate Wagon Rides

Saturday and Sunday afternoons in March

Fort Edmonton Park, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Spend a sunny afternoon in the Park! Wagon ride. Steaming hot chocolate. Wintry fun. Watch website for group booking details. #fortedmontonpark

Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park

Every Sunday in March

Fort Edmonton Park, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Enjoy brunch at Johnson's Café, then take your daily constitutional through the park. Watch website for tickets and details. #fortedmontonpark

Instagram Park Contest at Snow Valley

March 1 – 12, 2018

Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

For 13 – 17 year olds. Entrants record themselves hitting features and wowing the Instagram world. Park Crew judge and award prizes.



Red Bull Crashed Ice

March 9 - 10, 2018

Louise McKinney Riverfront Park, <http://crashedice.redbull.com>

Red Bull Crashed Ice World Championship returns to Edmonton! Watch as competitors in the world's fastest sport on skates battle for top spot. [#redbullcrashedice](#)

Winter Warrior Challenge

Saturday, Mar 17, 2018

The Ranch Golf and Country Club (52516 Range Road 252, Acheson), www.winterwarriorchallenge.ca

Conquer a uniquely Canadian obstacle course challenge as you crawl, climb and scramble through snow and ice. Live music and beer gardens, too!



Other Things to Watch For

Ice Castles

Winter 2017/18

William Hawrelak Park, www.icecastles.com

Visit a Narnia-like winter wonderland of ice: icicles, tunnels, slides, frozen waterfalls, nighttime lights, and more! Tickets sell fast – book your time slot early.

John Janzen Nature Centre

Winter 2017/18

www.edmonton.ca/johnjanzen or call 311

Take a walk on the wild side with programs, events and interactive nature exhibits in Edmonton's River Valley. Watch for exciting winter adventures!



45NORTH Fatbike Race

Sunday, Dec 3, 2017 / 9am - 1pm

Alfred H. Savage Centre (13909 Fox Drive), www.redbike.ca

The 45NORTH Fat Bike event will scratch your itch for bicycle racing during the winter. Fight off the winter blows - race your fatbike!
#45NORTHFatbikeRace

MEC Nordic Ski Waxing Clinics

Winter 2017/18

Mountain Equipment Co-op, both locations, <http://events.mec.ca/>

These sessions will help you become familiar with all the materials and techniques required to wax Nordic skis.

MEC Alpine Wax Clinic

Winter 2017/18

Mountain Equipment Co-op, both locations, <http://events.mec.ca/>

Learn tips and tricks from our ski technicians to keep your skis and boards fast on the mountain.

MADE – Media Architecture Design Edmonton

Winter 2017/18

www.joinmade.org, @MADEinEdm

Supporting the creative community in Edmonton by hosting events and providing opportunities for local designers. Check our website or Twitter for info on upcoming Winter 2017/18 events!





The DBA Christmas on the Square Holiday Light-Up

November 2017

City Hall Plaza, www.edmontondowntown.com

Kick off the holiday season with choirs and lighting of the Downtown Christmas Tree.

Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides in Old Strathcona

December 2017

Throughout Old Strathcona, www.oldstrathcona.ca

A horse-drawn sleigh will take you on a magical winter experience through Old Strathcona.

Krampusnacht Edmonton

December 2017

Location TBA, www.krampusnachedmonton.com

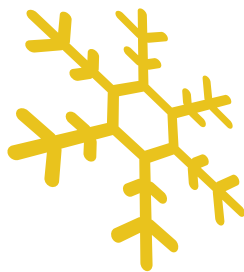
Will you be rewarded by Saint Nikolaus, or punished by Krampus? Join us for an Austro-Bavarian #Krampuslauf Yule Parade on #Krampusnachttyeg.

Winter Tales at Chianti Café & Restaurant

January 2018

Chianti Café & Restaurant (10501 – 82 Ave), www.winter-tales-chianti.com

In partnership with Ice on Whyte, we bring you an evening of tantalizing winter tales! Join us for heart-warming stories and delizioso food.





The Rubaboo Aboriginal Arts Festival

January/February 2018

www.AlbertaAboriginalArts.ca

Local and touring Indigenous artists with new and developed works in theatre, music, dance, visual arts and media. Artist and cultural workshops.

Flying Canoe Races

February 2018

Location TBA, www.flyingcanoevolant.ca

Have you ever imagined racing a canoe downhill on snow? Now you can! Join us for the second Flying Canoe Races. A winter rodeo but with a tuque!



WINTERCITY EDMONTON



Lunar New Year and Chinatown Celebration

February 2018

97 Street, between 105 & 107 Avenues, www.chinatownarea.ca

Usher in the New Year with traditional dragons, lions and firecrackers. Celebrate local Chinese culture with fun hands-on experiences! @ChinatownYEG

Parka Patio

February 2018

Latitude 53 (10242 – 106 Street), www.latitude53.org/parka

Edmonton's original outdoor patio party! Signature cocktails, music, food, art auction, and, of course, a winter patio. 18+ event.

Winter Bike to Work Day

February 2018

City-wide – check website for local celebrations, www.edmonton.ca/bikeedmonton, www.winterbiketoworkday.org

Hop on your bike to celebrate. You may even find breakfast or hot chocolate to enjoy along your route! Commit to ride at winterbiketoworkday.org. @WinterBike2Work #wbtdw #winterbiketoworkday





Be Active

Cross-Country Skiing

www.edmonton.ca/crosscountry

Edmonton's expansive river valley and parks system is a perfect cross-country skiing destination! We've even listed a few good spots outside the city for when you're feeling more adventurous.

Cross-Country Skiing in Edmonton

Groomed trails are located throughout the city, but are found primarily in the beautiful river valley. Trails are groomed by the City and Edmonton Nordic Ski Club, providing a fantastic opportunity to explore on skis. Check the City website to find current conditions and more.

Groomed Cross-Country Ski Trails in Edmonton:

Capilano Park

Kinsmen Park

Gold Bar Park

Riverside Golf Course

Gold Stick Park

Rundle Park

William Hawrelak Park

Victoria Golf Course

Hermitage Park



Park Amenities & Trail Lighting

Each groomed park has an emergency phone. Please also carry a cell phone, especially if you are skiing alone or at night. See the River Valley Network Map for types and locations of building and washroom amenities. The trails at Gold Bar/Gold Stick and Kinsmen Parks are lit at night for evening or night skiing.

Ski2LRT

Have you thought about commuting on your skis? Well now you can! Cross-country ski to the Century Park LRT Station, and lock your skis and poles in a rack before hopping on the train. Make sure to take your own padlock for the rack. Approach routes are found at <https://goo.gl/gRQNEY>. More details are available at www.facebook.com/Ski2LRT

Cross-Country Skiing Close to Edmonton

Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area (60 km east of Edmonton), www.albertaparks.ca/cooking-lake-blackfoot

Elk Island National Park (Amiskwuche and Lakeview trails recommended. 48 km east of Edmonton), www.elk.island@pc.gc.ca

Strathcona Wilderness Centre (16 km east of Edmonton), www.strathcona.ca/wildernesscentre.





Downhill Skiing, Snowboarding & Tubing

The City of Edmonton leases land in the river valley to private downhill ski operators. Conveniently located in the southwest and east parts of the valley, these private recreation areas have downhill skiing, snowboarding and tubing at reasonable prices. Check their websites for pre-season discounts on passes.

Locations

Snow Valley Ski Club (119 Street, off Whitemud Freeway),
www.snowvalley.ca

- Ski and snowboard rentals
- Group, private, women-only and freestyle lessons
- Terrain park

Sunridge Ski Area (17 Street, south of the Yellowhead Trail),
www.sunridgeskiarea.com

- Ski and snowboard rentals
- Group and private lessons
- Terrain and tubing parks

For more adventure, drive 20 minutes southwest of the city to
Rabbit Hill Snow Resort, www.rabbithill.com



Ice Skating

www.edmonton.ca/skating

Ice skate outdoors this winter for fun, free entertainment for the whole family! Outdoor ice maintained by the City will open as soon as maintenance equipment (snow clearing and watering trucks) can safely drive on the ice. Please obey all posted signs.

Outdoor Rinks

Check out the City website for locations, hours, amenities, and ice conditions before you go. Skate rentals are available at William Hawrelak Park Pavilion. Shinny rinks will also be available this winter at Hawrelak and Rundle Parks for those wishing to play informal hockey.

Castle Downs Park

City Hall

Jackie Parker Park

Rundle Park

**The Meadows Community
Recreation Centre**

***Victoria Park Oval**

William Hawrelak Park

*Check website for times when the Oval is closed to public skating for maintenance and speed skating training.

Iceways



Two IceWays for this winter! More creative lights, more romantic skating through the trees. Check the City website for hours. Note that the Victoria IceWay will not be accessible from the Victoria Oval during ice maintenance and the Edmonton Speed Skating Association's reserved skate times.

Victoria Park

Rundle Park

Community League Rinks

www.efcl.org

Did you know that community league volunteers maintain over 100 community skating rinks across the city? Many of the leagues have skate rental programs, too. Why not see how you can get involved?

To find a rink near you, go to the EFCL website and click on **Find a Facility/League** tab. Under **Facility Amenities**, select **Rink**. You will need a community league membership to use most rinks.

Stormwater Lakes

City Drainage Bylaw 16200 prohibits skating on stormwater lakes.

The City has signage posted at all stormwater facilities advising residents to keep off the ice because conditions are unknown. Due to the nature and the function of stormwater lakes, ice conditions can be unpredictable and dangerous. Moving water, temperature changes underwater due to vegetation or drainage, and fluctuating weather conditions can all result in unsafe ice conditions not visible from the surface.



Snowshoeing

www.edmonton.ca/snowshoeing

Explore Edmonton's winter wonderland on snowshoes!

Snowshoeing is a traditional mode of transportation for Canadian Indigenous Peoples, and remains one of the best and most practical ways to travel on deep snow. Snowshoeing provides transportation for exploring and wildlife viewing, and it's just plain old good winter fun.

Most city trails are packed down, but snowshoes perform best in areas that are more open and off the beaten track. Here are a few suggestions for places to snowshoe in and around Edmonton. And if you happen to come across cross-country ski trails in your travels, please be courteous and stay off them.

Good Snowshoeing Locations in Edmonton

John Janzen Nature Centre

Mill Woods Park

Rundle Park



Other Parks That Allow Snowshoeing

Borden Park

Jackie Parker Park

Capilano Park

Terwillegar Park

Coronation Park

Victoria Park

Emily Murphy Park

Whitemud Park

Gold Bar Park

William Hawrelak Park

Hermitage Park

Good Snowshoeing Locations Close to Edmonton

Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area (60 km east of Edmonton), www.albertaparks.ca/cooking-lake-blackfoot

Elk Island National Park (Amiskwuche and Lakeview trails recommended. 48 km east of Edmonton), www.elk.island@pc.gc.ca

Strathcona Wilderness Centre (16 km east of Edmonton), www.strathcona.ca/wildernesscentre



Tobogganing

www.edmonton.ca/toboggan

Our maintained toboggan areas offer different slopes for different folks – gentle, moderate and steep. Spend the afternoon with family and friends enjoying the thrill of tobogganing on a safe, maintained toboggan hill. You'll slide for a mile with a smile!

Tobogganing Hills

Check the City website for conditions and notifications about City-maintained toboggan hills. These hills have safe run-outs, safety signs and reduced hazards. Remember to follow all posted signs and safety rules, and consider wearing a helmet.

Emily Murphy Park

Gallagher Park

Government House Park

Castle Downs Park

Rundle Park – ACT Hill

**Rundle Park –
Walton's Mountain**

Whitemud Park North





Winter Cycling

www.edmonton.ca/cycling

Maybe you've thought about riding a bike in winter. Make it official this year. Tell a friend. And remember, the forecast says: Cleared conditions for riding your bike on the new downtown grid this winter!

For inspiration and practical advice, check out our April 24, 2016 blog *Advice on Winter Biking: Just Do It!*

www.wintercityedmonton.ca/advice-on-winter-biking-just-do-it/

There are lots of winter cycling enthusiasts near and far to help you with tips, too! Be part of the culture shift and extend your cycling habits. Let us know how you're pedaling in the snow.

@wintercityyeg #yegbike

Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society,

www.edmontonbikes.ca, @edmontonbicycle,

www.facebook.com/EdmontonBicycleCommuters

Paths for People, www.pathsforpeople.org, @pathsforpl,

www.facebook.com/pathsforpeople

YEG Coffee Outside, @coffee_outside

Winter Cycling Congress, www.wintercycling.org

Equipment Rentals

No skates? No skis? No snowshoes? No problem!

Want to try something new this winter, but don't want to invest in equipment right away? There are many places around Edmonton that rent winter equipment. We've listed some equipment rental businesses at www.wintercityedmonton.ca Let us know if we've missed any!

Skate rentals are available at William Hawrelak Park Pavilion for use in the park. Some community leagues have skates for community members to use on their rinks, too.

Let us know on Twitter what you tried this winter!
@WinterCityYEG #wintercityyeg



City of Edmonton River Valley Map Central

www.edmonton.ca/rivervalleymaps

New! A winter river valley map of Central Edmonton with trails, paths, cross-country ski routes, bike lanes, toboggan areas, skating rinks, warm-up locations, washrooms, cafés and more. Find a hard copy at City Hall, your local library or recreation centre, or check the website to download a digital copy.

River Valley Network

www.edmonton.ca/winterchalets

From Terwillegar Park to Hermitage Park you'll discover a wide range of family facilities you can really warm up to! Whether you're tobogganing, skating, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or winter picnicking, you'll find a pause as welcome as fresh-fallen snow.

Winter Chalets

Alfred Savage Center Toboggan hill, winter hiking, snowshoeing & winter picnicking

William Hawrelak Park Pavilion Outdoor skating, cross-country skiing & winter picnicking

Victoria Golf Course Café, cross-country skiing & snowshoeing

Victoria Park Pavilion Skating Oval & IceWay, cross-country skiing, winter picnicking & snowshoeing

Riverside Golf Course Cross-country skiing & café

Goldbar Park Pavilion Cross-country skiing & winter picnicking

Rundle Park Family Centre IceWay, cross-country skiing, tobogganing & winter picnicking

Attractions & Rec Centres

John Janzen Nature Centre Snowshoeing

Edmonton Valley Zoo Winter patio & café

Kinsmen Sports Centre Cross-country skiing

Louise McKinney Riverfront Park Café

Muttart Conservatory Winter patio, winter garden & café

ACT Recreation Centre Café

Washroom Shelters

Terwillegar Park (portable toilet)

Whitemud Park (building)

Buena Vista/Laurier Park (portable toilet, building)

William Hawrelak Park Pavilion & Shelter #2 (building)

Government House Park (portable toilet)

Emily Murphy Park (building)

Louise McKinney Riverfront Park (building)

Dawson Park (building)

Capilano Park Pavilion (building)

Rundle Park Tennis Courts (building)

Hermitage Park Maintenance Building (building & portable toilet)

Hermitage Park Off Leash (portable toilet)



City of Edmonton River Valley Programs

www.edmonton.ca/rivervalleyprograms

Discover the river valley in winter with the City of Edmonton's River Valley Programs! For more information, and to register for programs and daycamps, go to the website or call 311.

Registered Programs

December 2017 – March 2018

Try something new this winter! River Valley Programs provides a variety of beginner outdoor activity courses throughout the winter season. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are among the many programs offered, and all programs include the use of equipment.

Daycamps

December 2017 – March 2018

Have a 5- to 14-year-old? Get them outside during school breaks! Campers will get the chance to explore the River Valley while engaging in seasonal activities such as snowshoeing, tobogganing, outdoor cooking, nature walks, crafts and games. Programs offered during Winter Break, Teachers' Convention, and Spring Break.

Elk Island National Park

www.parksCanada.gc.ca/elkisland

Your winter adventure is closer than you think!
Check our website to learn more about Elk Island's
winter offers and upcoming events.

Skate, Explore, Stargaze & Camp

Bring your skates to the Astotin Lake Area and enjoy skating around an island. Skating loop opens in January (*weather dependent*).

Explore Elk Island's many trails this winter! Snowshoes can be rented from the Astotin Lake Theatre (9:30 am – 4:30 pm, 7 days a week).

Learn about the starry night sky and watch for Northern Lights at a Parks Canada interpretive program.

Try out winter camping this year at Astotin Lake campsites. Visit website to book your spot (*fees apply*).

Family Day

February 19, 2018

Spend a wild Family Day at Elk Island National Park!
Check our website for event details.





Be Social



Community League Winter Festivals

Looking for a winter festival? Look no further than your own backyard. Community leagues across Edmonton host 50 – 60 winter festivals, most of them around Family Day. Check with your local league to find out how they're celebrating winter. And if you can't find a winter fest, maybe it's time to start one!

You can register your community league's winter festival on the **EFCL website** by selecting the **Events & Projects** tab and clicking on **Winter Events** in the drop-down menu.

Cool Communities

YEG Coffee Outside

Most Fridays 7 – 9 am

Locations vary, but usually Ezio Farone Park; check Twitter account for details

Ride your bike in the morning? Be a part of the coolest coffee club and connect with others over lively conversation. BYO coffee, tea or hot chocolate – or impress the others and brew it there on a camp stove! @coffee_outside





BE SOCIAL



SkiLocal

www.facebook.com/SkiLocal

This group of cross-country ski enthusiasts hits the trails in and around their neighbourhoods. They work with community leagues and the City to make local groomed trails a possibility. Check them out on Facebook, and watch for their next tracksetters' BrewSki night!

November Project

Mondays: Locations vary, *check social media announcements every Friday afternoon for details: #Destinationdeck*

Wednesdays: Stair running at Commonwealth Stadium, meet at Gate 2

Fridays: Hill running at Walterdale Hill

All workouts start at 6 am sharp!

www.november-project.com, @Nov_ProjectCAN,
www.facebook.com/NovemberProjectCanada,

November Project Canada meets for FREE, fun and challenging workouts. They are also a smile factory that could change your life. Join the tribe!



Winter Green Shacks

**Check the Seasonal Calendar on the website for location,
www.edmonton.ca/greenshacks**

Free drop-in winter recreation program for children! The Winter Green Shacks activities are designed for children aged 6 – 12, but all children accompanied by an adult are welcome to attend. Games, crafts, sports, outdoor cooking, and more!

The Long John Index Service of Canada

**www.longjohnindex.ca, @longjohnindex,
www.facebook.com/longjohnindex,**

Be prepared! Check this fun, non-scientific service before you get dressed. Reports range from Level 1 (long johns not needed) to Level 5 (wear them indoors!).



Winter Party Locations

www.edmonton.ca/facilityrentals

Planning a social gathering, winter wedding, meeting or corporate getaway? Why not include some snowy outdoor activities! Book your next event at a facility that gives you the indoor space you need, but also provides opportunities for embracing the beauty of winter.

Muttart Conservatory

Rundle Family Centre

Alfred H. Savage Centre

Victoria Golf Course Social Room



Winter Patios

@WinterCityYEG, #wintercityyeg, #yegpatio

Edmonton's winter patio culture is growing! Be sure to share your favourite winter patio with us on Twitter. Here are a few we know about – and some of them even have blankets if you need one.

Bistro tables / City Hall Plaza

Café Bicyclette (8627 Rue Marie Anne Gaboury (91) Street NW)

Culina Muttart / Muttart Conservatory

Dogwood Café / Victoria Golf Course

Latitude 53 Parka Party in February (10242 – 106 Street NW)

Little Brick (10004 – 90 Street NW)

The Billiard Club (10505 – 82 Avenue NW)

Urban Green Café (River Valley Adventure Co.) / Louise McKinney Park

Wild Earth Zoo / Valley Zoo

Why not create your own winter patio at home? We get lots of beautiful sunny days in the winter. Find a sheltered spot, dig out your deck chairs, grab your woolly blankets, and enjoy a hot drink while basking in the sunshine. We also have spectacular Northern Lights at night. Enjoy a mulled wine under nature's light show, snuggled up in a blanket by your backyard fire. You could even add some fairy lights to make your winter yard sparkle. Share your #yegpatio with us on Twitter!



Winter Picnicking

www.edmonton.ca/picnic

Many winter days are bright and sunny. And dare we say warm? Well, yes, especially if you're dressed for the weather. Bundle up and head out to a park for a winter picnic!

The City moves snow in some areas to improve access to picnic sites, but you might have to clear snow off the tables or from the BBQ/fire pits. Maybe you'll get lucky and find one already cleared by someone else! City picnic sites can't be booked in the wintertime, so just head out and claim an empty space.

Things You Might Need

- A shovel to clear the snow
- Fire-building materials (newspaper, matches and wood)
- Blankets to cover the benches and your knees
- Winter whimsy
- Hot chocolate

Parks With BBQ Pits

Capilano Park

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park

Coronation Park

Victoria Park

Emily Murphy Park

Whitemud Park

Gold Bar Park

William Hawrelak Park

Hermitage Park

Jackie Parker Park

Rundle Park





Be Creative

Lighting Your Home

Lights on your home aren't just for the holidays! Take down Santa and the reindeer at the end of December, but leave your lights on until March. You'll help to make your community more vibrant and welcoming.

Keep Your Light to Yourself

Edmonton has a Light-Efficient Community Policy that strives to, among other things, minimize light pollution. When installing lights around your home, make sure you 'keep your light to yourself'. Angle your lights down, and pay particular attention to keeping them away from your neighbours' windows. Other than that, be creative!

Laser Light Projectors

Laser light projectors are the hottest new trend in house decorating. They look cool and are easy to put up. But watch where you point them! Transport Canada has issued a warning to remind homeowners that lasers can blind pilots flying overhead. Keep your angle low and keep our pilots safe! For more information, go to www.tc.gc.ca/NotABrightIdea or join the conversation with [#NotABrightIdea](https://twitter.com/NotABrightIdea)



Winterscapes

www.edmonton.ca/winterscapes

A winterscape is a way of decorating your wintry landscape using snow, ice, natural objects and lights. Winterscapes help beautify our Edmonton neighbourhoods. They will get you outside, exercising and enjoying winter. Build one with family, friends and neighbours. Connect with your community. Begin a new Family Day tradition!

Check the City website for photos of winterscapes that other Edmontonians have created, as well as for information about the **Front Yards in Bloom: Winterscapes Contest**.

A Few Ideas

Winterscapes don't require much equipment or many materials. Use what's in your yard, add a few whimsical elements, and let your imagination run wild. Here are some ideas and suggestions to help inspire your own winterscape:

- Use nature's art supplies such as pine cones, branches and berries.
- Get creative with snow and ice to build creatures and forts.
- Use wildlife-friendly features like bird feeders.
- Spray paint on the snow, or add colour to the water before you freeze blocks of ice.
- Leave your winter lights up until March.

Did you know that plants add visual interest, too? Next summer, consider adding trees and shrubs, herbaceous plants, grasses, and vines.





Winter Calendar

October

OCT 1	Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park
OCT 2 – 6	International Walk to School Week (iWALK)
OCT 8	Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park
OCT 14 – 15	Ski Swap & Sale
OCT 15	Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park
OCT 21	Family Friendly Spooktacular
OCT 22	Boo at the Zoo!
OCT 22	Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park
OCT 27 – 28	Adult Spooktacular at Fort Edmonton Park
OCT 28	Headless Halloween
OCT 28 – 29	Edmonton Ski & Snowboard Show
OCT 28 – 29	The Winter Sport Equipment Sale at the Edmonton Ski & Snowboard Show
OCT 29	Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park

November

NOV 3	Chili Cook-Off
NOV 5	Hibernation Hijinks
NOV 5	Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park
NOV 7	Group Hot Chocolate Wagon Rides
NOV 12	MEC Snowfest
NOV 12	Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park
NOV 14	Group Hot Chocolate Wagon Rides
NOV 17 – 18	The Carrot Christmas Arts Bazaar
NOV 18	Santa's Parade of Lights
NOV 19	Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park
NOV 21	Group Hot Chocolate Wagon Rides
NOV 25	All is Bright on 124
NOV 25	The Great Sweater Run
NOV 26	Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park
NOV 28	Group Hot Chocolate Wagon Rides



December

DEC 1	Great French Canadian Winter Patio Party
DEC 1 – 3	Winter Patio Kick-Off Weekend
DEC 1 – 3	Winterfest at Snow Valley
DEC 1 – 3	Luminaria
DEC 1 – 3	Zoominescence: A Festival of Light
DEC 2	Santa Shuffle Fun Run & Elf Walk
DEC 3	45NORTH Fatbike Race
DEC 3	Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park
DEC 5	Group Hot Chocolate Wagon Rides
DEC 5 – 6	Senior's Candy Cane Tea
DEC 7 – 23	Celebrate the Season at the Alberta Legislature
DEC 8 – 10	Zoominescence: A Festival of Light
DEC 8 – 31	Candy Cane Lane
DEC 10	Holiday Celebration
DEC 10	Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park
DEC 12	Group Hot Chocolate Wagon Rides
DEC 15	Jingle Jammin' Christmas Carolling
DEC 15 – 17	Zoominescence: A Festival of Light
DEC 15 – 17	Yule Ave: A Merry Christmas
DEC 16	Christmas Reflections
DEC 17	Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park
DEC 19	Group Hot Chocolate Wagon Rides
DEC 24	Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park
DEC 22 – 24	Zoominescence: A Festival of Light
DEC 26	Group Hot Chocolate Wagon Rides
DEC 26 – 31	Zoominescence: A Festival of Light
DEC 31	Sunday Brunch at Fort Edmonton Park
DEC 31	New Year's Eve Downtown

