

## NEW CURB APPEAL FOR THE HALL



You may have noticed the recent activity around the grounds of the Queen Mary Park Community Hall and be curious as to what's up. On August 14, 2015, a crew packed up their equipment and water bottles following some VERY hot days, and when the dust settled, left us with a newly-landscaped community hall.

Although it seemed to happen overnight, you may wonder how a change like this happens. When moving to Queen Mary Park about 22 years ago, I noticed the attractive new community hall. The original hall (the one-time Prince Rupert Golf Course clubhouse) was destroyed by fire a few years prior and was re-built, retaining the same footprint and style of the old one.

The hall, which hosts a wide variety of events and activities year-round, really looks great, but I thought additional landscaping might also help. It wasn't until 5 years ago, that I eventually sketched out some ideas, and then another few years before I presented a proposal to the community league board. I knew that any landscaping at a hall like this would require volunteer efforts for the upkeep. So I wanted the design to be as minimal and low maintenance as possible, but still have significant visual impact.

After getting the board's go-ahead, and obtaining community and City of Edmonton approval, things slowly took flight. The surrounding park, dog run, playground, and water park are also popular features and in general, it's a community cornerstone well worth the effort.



Due to traffic flow revisions, there's also confusion as to where the hall's front door is. Part of the design includes a large planting bed along that sidewalk to guide people along, and can potentially incorporate lighting options or other features at a future date.

The Community League Board raises funds for projects like this through volunteer efforts, primarily the **Casino Fundraiser**. So a big thanks to all of you casino organizers and volunteers, as you too had a part in bringing this to fruition! The board is always looking for volunteers, to allow for ongoing activities and improvements, so consider participating when the next call is put out.

I also want to thank the crew that worked on the project. Contracted out were Demetrius Garanis who, along with Jordan, handled the placement of boulders, bricks, gravel, and live plantings. Also contracted were Sid Domingues and George who handled excavation work and delivery of heavy loads.

Once everything was in place, Vivien Dere volunteered to water plants to help establish their (hopefully deep) roots. Thanks also to Heather O'Hearn and Cheryl Deshaises from the City of Edmonton for their guidance in getting forms and paperwork submitted for City approval, and for additional funding through the City's Neighbourhood Revitalization program.

And now . . . the fun part is to simply come out and enjoy the newly spruced-up grounds and be thankful we have such a great hall!

– **Jill Murrin**, *volunteer landscape designer and project coordinator*