

## Living in Trumpeter: raising a family, growing a community

*By Teresa Marshall*

Trumpeter is where my husband and I decided to build our house and start our family. We've now lived in the Trumpeter neighbourhood for just over five years.

We chose Trumpeter for the beautiful and quiet location — close to Big Lake, but with quick access to the Henday and Yellowhead, making getting around Edmonton and into St. Albert easy. We like to do grocery shopping in St. Albert including attending the St. Albert Farmer's Market in the summertime. We also enjoy family outings to the St. Albert Fountain Park Pool or to West Edmonton Mall, which is only a 15 minute drive from Trumpeter.

Most of our weekends are spent enjoying our backyard and using the walking trails to explore the surrounding nature and neighbourhood. In the summer, our family likes to watch and listen to the birds on the storm ponds and in the trees. Trumpeter and Big Lake are home to many wonderful species of birds. In the winter, we still go on walks or the kids love to make snowmen, snow forts and go tobogganing on nearby toboggan hills. We appreciate that Trumpeter is a low impact development, with a focus on preserving natural beauty in the area and minimizing risk to wild animals.



Walking around Trumpeter, you'll be sure to be greeted by not only families, but also young and old couples, and dog walkers who call our neighbourhood home. Since living in Trumpeter, I've found this great community of people. From welcoming neighbours, to an awesome mom's group, there is an active group of residents who love the area we live in.

Because of this great community, I decided to start our local Community League Steering Committee, so we can establish a Community League for the Big Lake area, including Trumpeter, Starling and Hawks Ridge. We chose to do it for the area, not only because the population of all three current neighbourhoods is important for membership, but because we truly are one big community with shared interests and friendships. Through this process we've held summer BBQs and our first ever winter event in March. The goal of the Big Lake

Community League is to provide recreational and social programs and events to provide the opportunity for residents to connect, be active, and get to know each other. The support from residents has been awesome so far and important to creating safe, fun and connected neighbourhoods.

Our Committee is also very thankful for the support from Anthem United. When we approached them with creating a temporary skating rink this winter, they were excited to help us find a suitable location in Trumpeter. And we couldn't have done it without the help of a local company, Platinum Hydrovac, who provided the water and man-power to flood our rink. Combined with the help of community volunteers, we were able to make a community skating rink a reality. As I mentioned earlier, we decided to host a winter event in March to celebrate, and it was a success! The weather that day was a balmy 3°C, which was perfect after our February cold spell (brrr!). We had almost 100 adults and children attend to enjoy a skate on our temporary ice rink, try out snowshoeing, build a snow fort, make a s'more and sip some hot chocolate and coffee. It was great to mingle with neighbours and give more exposure to our soon-to-be community league.

Here are a few photos from the winter event in Trumpeter







We are currently waiting for approval from the Government of Alberta to officially become a society: Big Lake Community League. Once we get our official documents, we will start planning our first Annual General Meeting (open to the public), where board members will be voted in. Once that is complete, we will start selling memberships for Big Lake residents to join our Big Lake Community League. Becoming a member of your community league allows residents to enjoy our events for free, take part in recreational and social league programs, and more. Membership fees may range from \$15-25/family for a year. Stay tuned to our local Facebook Community page (that I administer) [Community of Trumpeter](#) for updates!