# 2014/15 WINTER EXCITEMENT GUIDE



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# WELCOME TO WINTER 2014/2015!

Who knew that so much would be happening this winter?! This Winter Excitement Guide is jam-packed with winter events and festivals. No more excuses to hibernate! It's time to be proud of our Edmonton winters, get out there, and boast about how great they are.

We're all working together, as a community, to think differently, to embrace the beauty of our snowy season, and to make Edmonton a great winter city. Edmonton's community-led, award-winning WinterCity Strategy is our roadmap for getting there. We are truly proud to say that we are on our way to realizing all the great potential our winters have to offer.

Join us on Facebook and Twitter to let us know how you celebrate winter, and to be a part of the conversation on making Edmonton a great place to live, work and play in the wintertime.

Now get out there and have some wintry fun!

www.edmonton.ca/wintercitystrategy

Facebook.com/WinterCityEdmonton

@WinterCityYEG / #wintercityyeg

### Embrace the Cold

### Wednesday, Oct 8, 2014

Campers Village Edmonton South (3235 Calgary Trail) www.campers-village.com

Whether staying in your backyard or heading out into the backcountry, there are many ways for your family to fall in love with winter. From building a snowman to skating or snowshoeing, hear some personal experiences, tips and ideas for enjoying the winter as a family.

### Geocaching

### Thursday, Oct 16, 2014

Campers Village Edmonton West (10951 - 170 Street) www.campers-village.com

Looking for an easy and fun activity for the whole family during winter? Geocaching is a great way to stay active and get outdoors together. Learn some fun tips, suggestions and personal experiences.

### Ski Swap and Sale at Snow Valley

### Saturday & Sunday, Oct 18 & 19, 2014

#### Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

Hundreds of boots, skis and boards for men, women and children. Bring your ski and snowboard equipment down to the Lodge on Saturday and we will sell it on Sunday. Local shops will have some new items available as well. This annual fundraiser supports Snow Valley Ski Club and Snow Valley Racing.

# Insulation and Layering

### Tuesday, Oct 21, 2014

### Campers Village Edmonton South (3235 Calgary Trail) www.campers-village.com

Keep warm this winter with tips from experts on proper layering and insulating. Whether camping, exercising or just enjoying the outdoors, learn appropriate nutrition and hydration, as well as hypothermia prevention and treatment.

### Snowshoeing Expeditions

### Thursday, Oct 23, 2014

#### Campers Village Edmonton South (3235 Calgary Trail) www.campers-village.com

Before strapping on a pair of snowshoes and heading into the great outdoors, step into this Edustation and learn how. Whether just starting out, want tips for the right gear, or looking for destination suggestions, you'll know what you need for your next snowshoeing expedition.

### **Resurrection Rail Jam**

### Saturday, Oct 25, 2014

#### Northlands, Edmonton EXPO Centre, Hall B, www.powderfest.com

The rail jam lives! The Resurrection Rail Jam will go down on Saturday, October 25 at the Expo Centre, Hall B, as part of the Edmonton Ski and Snowboard Show. Get hyped as a select group of amateur and professional snowboarders compete for first place in this year's jam. Think you've got what it takes? Submit a rider résumé! Want to help? Volunteer!

### Edmonton Ski and Snowboard Show

### Saturday & Sunday, Oct 25 & 26, 2014

#### Northlands, Edmonton EXPO Centre, Hall B

Come down and get down with The Edmonton Ski and Snowboard Show as we kick off the snowy season in style! This niche event is a skier/ snowboarder's winter wonderland. With the greatest entertainment, equipment, destinations, resorts, contests, and awesome activities, this is your one-stop shop for the best in snow sports. Visit the Edmonton Ski Club Winter Sport Equipment Sale to find new-to-you equipment at unbeatable prices – everything from skis and snowboards to helmets and jackets!

# Avalanche Safety

### Wednesday, Oct 29, 2014

#### Campers Village Edmonton West (10951 - 170 Street) www.campers-village.com

Activities in an avalanche zone require extra safety precautions. Learn proper preparation and planning, as well as hear some personal experiences and best practices for exploring the outdoors in any terrain.

### **MEC** Snowfest

### Saturday, Nov 1, 2014

#### Mountain Equipment Co-op, Edmonton location, www.mec.ca

Falling flakes make us happy, so we're throwing a party to welcome winter. Come check out the latest snowsports gear, learn something new at a clinic, and find deals at the legendary MEC Snow Swap. Bring your friends and family, and connect with your outdoor community.

### Servus Free Ski Fridays

### Nov 7, 2014 - Mar 6, 2015

#### Edmonton Ski Club, www.edmontonskiclub.com

Join us the first Friday of every month from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. for free skiing, sponsored by Servus Credit Union. Rentals and lessons \$10 each. Dinner specials available. Check our website for full details.



### **Call for Lantern Bearers Closes**

Saturday, Nov 15, 2014

#### Apply by Nov 10, 2014, www.uab.ca/winterfest

Be one of 100 lucky lantern bearers and help Light Up the Night at the University of Alberta Green & Glow Festival Opening Ceremony on Friday, January 30, 2015. Apply online.

# Christmas on the Square Light Up

### Saturday, Nov 15, 2014

#### Churchill Square, www.edmontondowntown.com

Come for an afternoon of family activities, food vendors, and live entertainment to welcome the holiday season in Downtown Edmonton. Join Santa and his helpers in a countdown to light the massive Christmas tree and launch a spectacular fireworks display viewable from all corners of Sir Winston Churchill Square.

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# All is Bright on 124

### Saturday, Nov 22, 2014

#### 124th Street, between 102nd & 108th Avenues, www.allisbright124.ca

Join us as we light up the night with a variety of FREE winter activities supported by the incredible businesses of 124 Street and the 124 Street Business Association.

### University Hospital Foundation Festival of Trees

Nov 27 – 30, 2014

#### Shaw Conference Centre, www.universityhospitalfoundation.ab.ca

Join us in kicking off the holiday season! The Festival of Trees is an annual four-day event featuring over 100 decorated trees and seasonal displays, unique holiday shopping in our Gift and Sweet Shops, a variety of children's activities, and great local entertainment.

### Ladies' Friday Ski Day -Advanced Skiers

Friday, Nov 28, 2014

Edmonton Ski Club, www.edmontonskiclub.com

This event is for all ladies over the age of 18 who are looking for a nononsense day of skiing with a casual opportunity to network with other female skiers. Ladies' Friday Ski Days run Fridays only, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### Carrot Christmas Arts Bazaar

### Friday & Saturday, Nov 28 & 29, 2014

### Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse, 9351 – 118 Avenue, www.thecarrot.ca

Come shop for exquisite and unique Christmas gifts created by local Edmonton artisans. Enjoy hot apple cider, direct trade coffee and seasonal music throughout the weekend. Free parking. Experience the Avenue at Christmas! Friday, 7 – 9:30 p.m. & Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Indoors and outdoors, weather permitting.

### Winterfest

### Nov 28 - 30, 2014

#### Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

Join us as we kick-off another season! The fun starts at 3 p.m. with Food Bank Friday. Lift tickets are discounted to \$10 when you bring a nonperishable Food Bank donation. Come down on Saturday for a pancake breakfast and other family fun activities throughout the day. We finish off the weekend with our Winter Safety Carnival on Sunday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### Celebrate the Season at the Alberta Legislature

### **Month-long December annual event**

#### Alberta Legislature Grounds, www.assembly.ab.ca/

Celebrate the Season begins with Light-Up, the annual kick-off to holiday events at the Alberta Legislature. Festivities begin in the Legislature rotunda with a choir performance, followed by the Premier's ceremonial light up of the colourful outdoor lights. Choir performances take place most noon hours and evenings. Complimentary hot chocolate is served during evening choir performances.

### Seniors Candy Cane Tea

### Tuesday, Dec 2, 2014

#### Edmonton Valley Zoo, www.edmonton.ca/zoo

Register through 311 or www.edmonton.ca/ereg (course #525801)

A Christmas celebration just for seniors, the perfect way to relax on a cold December day! Guests can enjoy special performances from the children attending Zoo School, amazing educational animal encounters and talks. To wrap up a perfect afternoon, guests will enjoy complimentary candy cane tea, hot chocolate and festive baked goodies. \$10/person.

### Servus Free Ski Fridays

### Friday, Dec 5, 2014

#### Edmonton Ski Club, www.edmontonskiclub.com

Join us the first Friday of every month from 5 - 9 p.m. for free skiing, sponsored by Servus Credit Union. Rentals and lessons \$10 each. Dinner specials available. Check our website for full details.

### Ladies' Friday Ski Days - December

### Friday, Dec 5, 2014 – New skiers Friday, Dec 12, 2014 – Advanced skiers

#### Edmonton Ski Club, www.edmontonskiclub.com

This event is for all ladies over the age of 18 who are looking for a nononsense day of skiing with a casual opportunity to network with other female skiers. Ladies' Friday Ski Days run Fridays only, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### Festival of Light

### Dec 5 – 14, 2014

#### Edmonton Valley Zoo, www.buildingourzoo.com

Returning Winter of 2014! Light is Energizing, Light is Revitalizing. What better way to celebrate light than after dark at the Edmonton Valley Zoo. Bring the whole family down and stroll through the Entry Plaza and Wander, or the existing exhibits, and experience one artistic display of light after another!

# Festival of Light Family Fun Night!

### Saturday, Dec 6, 2014

#### Edmonton Valley Zoo, www.buildingourzoo.com

A special night at the Zoo Festival of Light! Family Fun Night includes holiday crafts, airbrushed tattoos, and even a visit from Santa! Runs 5 - 9 p.m.

### Santa Shuffle Fun Run and Elf Walk

#### Saturday, Dec 6, 2014

#### William Hawrelak Park, www.santashuffle.ca

This merry event helps The Salvation Army to assist families and individuals in need during the Christmas season and throughout the year. The annual 5K Santa Shuffle Fun Run & 1K Elf Walk brings families and friends together.



### Candy Cane Lane

Dec 12, 2014 - Jan 2, 2015

148th Street, between 92nd & 100th Avenues www.candycanelane.trav-graphics.com

The sights and sounds of Candy Cane Lane instill the spirit of Christmas in all of us. The colourful light displays and unique decorations bring out the magic of the season for young and old alike. Christmas in Edmonton is not complete without a walk down Candy Cane Lane.

### Jingle Jammin' Christmas Caroling

### Friday, Dec 12, 2014

### Meet at the Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse, 9351 – 118 Avenue, www.thecarrot.ca

Chili at 6 p.m., singing at 7 p.m. Come caroling in our 'hood! Wear warm clothing and bring a lantern or flashlight. RSVP to Brendan at carrotassist@gmail.com Sponsored by Avenue Initiative.

### **Christmas Reflections**

### Dec 12, 2014 - Jan 3, 2015

#### Fort Edmonton Park, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Feel the magic of a Christmas past. Step back in time and be part of a heritage Christmas. Gather your friends and family for some quality time in celebration of the season and unwind at the Park's winter wonderland.

### Luminaria

### Saturday & Sunday, Dec 6 & 7, 2014

#### Devonian Botanic Garden, www.devonian.ualberta.ca

Thousands of candles light the paths of the Kurimoto Japanese Garden in a breathtaking display – a quiet oasis of peace and light. In addition to a stroll through the candle-lit pathways, visitors can sip hot apple cider beside the bonfires, enjoy the seasonal sounds of strolling a capella singers and catch a glimpse of the magical "snow sprites" and glittering ice sculptures. A special Memory Lane will be available for visitors who would like to light a candle in memory of a loved one. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own mug for cider, to help reduce waste.

### Frostival in McCauley – Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire

### **Every Saturday & Sunday in December**

#### Italian Grocery Centre (10878 – 95 Street), http://mccauley.info/

Come and try a taste of winter at the Italian Grocery Centre with hot chestnuts roasted on an open fire, from 12 - 2 p.m.





### Saturday, Dec 13, 2014

### Zocalo, 10826 – 95 Street & Italian Grocery Centre, 10878 – 95 Street, http://mccauley.info/

Join us for Christmas songs and carolling from 12 – 3 p.m. Free hot chocolate.

### South East Edmonton Winter Fun Festival

### Saturday, Dec 13, 2014

#### Argyll Community League Hall, 6750-88 Street

Watch your community league newsletter and website for more details, or contact Susan Dack at susan.dack@edmonton.ca or 780-496-1470.

Join us for the 2nd Annual Fun Fest for SE Communities. This event explores the many ways to have fun during the winter months. Try out cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, tobogganing, kicksleds and more. Learn about outdoor clubs and organizations that offer fun all year round. Crafts, demonstrations and activities for all ages.

# Festival of Light Family Fun Night!

### Saturday, Dec 13, 2014

#### Edmonton Valley Zoo, www.buildingourzoo.com

A special night at the Zoo Festival of Light! Family Fun Night includes holiday crafts, airbrushed tattoos, and even a visit from Santa! Runs 5 – 9 p.m.

### **Unsilent Night Edmonton**

#### Sunday, Dec 14, 2014

Meet at Alberta Avenue Community League, 9210-118 Avenue www.unsilentnight.com, www.facebook.com/events/499718216832229/

Get out your CD, tape, or mp3 boombox, bundle up, and join us for Phil Kline's 45-minute interactive surround sound walk through the Alberta Avenue community. This communal experience is described as glittering, mysterious and joyous. Free, and all ages are welcome! Meet around 4:15 p.m., and the walk will begin at 4:30 p.m. Check out the website or Facebook page to download the mp3s and for more info.

### Holiday Celebration

#### Sunday, Dec 14, 2014

Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

Join us for holiday cheer and fun on the slopes at our Annual Holiday Celebration. Have your photo taken with Santa Simon, sing some carols by the fireplace, and enjoy holiday crafts. Proceeds from holiday treats at the Downhill Grill will go to the Christmas Bureau of Edmonton.

### Frostival in McCauley – Spirit of Church Street Christmas Concert

Friday, Dec 19, 2014

St. Stephen Church, 10900 – 96 Street, http://mccauley.info/

Join us from 7 – 10 p.m. for gospel and other seasonal music to warm your heart.

### Frostival in McCauley – Spirit of McCauley

### Saturday, Dec 20, 2014

Zocalo, 10826 – 95 Street & Italian Grocery Centre, 10878 – 95 Street, http://mccauley.info/

Join us for Christmas songs and carolling from 12 – 3 p.m. Free hot chocolate.

### Winter Solstice

Dec 21, 2014

Winter officially starts in Edmonton on December 21 at 4:03 p.m. What will you do to celebrate?

# **#YEGlo**ngnight 2014

Saturday & Sunday, Dec 20 & 21, 2014

### www.yeglongnight.edmontonpipelines.org

Winter's online crowd-sourced storytelling phenomenon is back! Brighten Edmonton's 17 hours of darkness by taking part in this 24-hour crowdsourcing event. Submit tweets, stories, pictures, videos and posts using the hashtag #YEGlongnight to help shed light on what it means to live a significant portion of the day, and a long part of the night, in darkness. The event begins at sunset on Saturday, December 20 and continues until sunset on Sunday, December 21. Check out our website to see how Edmontonians spent #YEGlongnight 2013.

### Christmas Ski Camp 1

Dec 20 - 23, 2014

#### Edmonton Ski Club, www.edmontonskiclub.com

Looking for something for the kids to do during the Christmas break? Let us teach them how to ski or snowboard! We're offering camps for ages 7 – 16. Check out our website or call the office for more information.

### Santa on the Hill

Wednesday, Dec 24, 2014

### Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

See if you can spot Santa on the hill as he takes a few runs before mounting up on his sled to deliver gifts throughout the world.

### Christmas Ski Camp 2

Dec 27 - 31, 2014

Edmonton Ski Club, www.edmontonskiclub.com

Looking for something for the kids to do during the Christmas break? Let us teach them how to ski or snowboard! We're offering camps for ages 7 – 16. Check out our website or call the office for more information.

### New Year's Eve Downtown

### Wednesday, Dec 31, 2014

Churchill Square, www.exploreedmonton.com

Ring out the old year and ring in the new with the whole family on Churchill Square! Live music, food, free admission and fireworks. Check out the website for times and more details.

### Servus Free Ski Fridays



### Friday, Jan 2, 2015

#### Edmonton Ski Club, www.edmontonskiclub.com

Join us the first Friday of every month from 5 - 9 p.m. for free skiing, sponsored by Servus Credit Union. Rentals and lessons \$10 each. Dinner specials available. Check our website for full details.

### Swing 'n Skate Sundays at City Hall

### Jan 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2015

### City Hall and Plaza, www.edmontonarts.ca

Swing 'n Skate will feature live swing, jazz and big band music in the City Room at City Hall from 1 - 4 p.m. every Sunday in January and February, with free swing dance lessons from Sugar Swing Dance Club. If you'd rather be outdoors, the live music will be broadcast directly outside for the enjoyment of ice skaters on City Hall Plaza. Free skate rentals are available.

### Ladies' Friday Ski Days - January

Friday, Jan 9, 2015 – New skiers Friday, Jan 16, 2015 – Advanced skiers Friday, Jan 23, 2015 – New skiers Friday, Jan 30, 2015 – Advanced skiers

#### Edmonton Ski Club, www.edmontonskiclub.com

This event is for all ladies over the age of 18 who are looking for a nononsense day of skiing with a casual opportunity to network with other female skiers. Ladies' Friday Ski Days run Fridays only, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### Pump Up the Jam

### Sunday, Jan 11, 2015

#### Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

Kids 12 and under compete at the Beginner Terrain Park for prizes and fun. All freestylers 12 and under are welcome. Contact Snow Rider Ski Shop for details or watch the Snow Valley website for information as it becomes available.



### **Deep Freeze: A Byzantine Winter Festival**

### Friday & Saturday, Jan 10 & 11, 2015

#### 118th Avenue, between 90th & 94th Streets, www.deepfreeze.ca

Celebrate the Russian/Ukrainian "Olde New Year" and embrace our northern climate with winter games and fun. Sweep to victory in a pickup game of Old Tyme curling, enjoy a wagon ride, go ice-skating, watch master ice carvers, play winter mini golf and street hockey, and take part in the famous Deep Freezer Race!

### Front Yards in Bloom: Winterscapes

### Jan 12 – Feb 22, 2015

#### All across the city, www.edmonton.ca/winterscapes

Celebrate winter in the city, and keep our neighbourhoods looking beautiful! Why not leave your Christmas lights up, and create a winterscape in the yard in front of your house, community hall, building, or school? Consider hosting a winterscape-building party with family, friends or neighbours, or start a new tradition for Family Day! Check out the website for cool winterscaping ideas and prizes. We can't wait to see what you create!

### World Snow Day



Sunday, Jan 18, 2015

Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca & Edmonton Ski Club, www.edmontonskiclub.com

Celebrate World Snow Day at two Edmonton ski hills! Check the hills for planned events, and get out there and enjoy the snow.



### Ice on Whyte

#### Jan 23 – Feb 1, 2015

#### End of Steel Park, www.iceonwhyte.ca

Enjoy the ice and snow carving exhibits, children's play area, famous giant ice slide, games, ice carving lessons, and much more. Every day new ice and snow carvings will be created by the Artists in Residence and special guest artists. Stay and enjoy the live music, fashion, food, hot beverages and culturally themed days.

### Lunar New Year Pyramid Opening

### Saturday, Jan 24, 2015

#### Muttart Conservatory, www.edmonton.ca/muttart

2015 is the Year of the Sheep. Join us for the opening of the Feature Pyramid "Lunar New Year". There is something for the whole family: music, displays and crafts. So make a date to kick off and celebrate the Lunar New Year at the Muttart Conservatory. Event runs 4 – 8 p.m. The facility will be open until 9 p.m.

### Frostival in McCauley – Cold Folk Music

### Saturday, Jan 24, 2015

#### St. Stephen Church, 10900 – 96 Street, http://mccauley.info/

Warm up to some Cold Folk Music from 7 p.m. – midnight, performed by musicians from the Heart of the City.

### Alberta Masters Race

### Sunday, Jan 25, 2015

#### Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

This year's 7th edition of Snow Valley's Annual Masters Race will be, for the first time, a daytime race. This slalom ski race is open to anyone aged 18 years or older, and no previous racing experience is required. Come out to ski fast and to enjoy some fun and friendly competition!

### Winter Cities Shake-Up Conference

#### Jan 28 – 30, 2015

#### SHAW Conference Centre, www.wintercitiesconference.com

Come to this cool conference that shakes-up preconceptions about how we plan, design, live, work and play in winter cities. There will also be various other activities, events, and field trips all around Edmonton for conference delegates to enjoy! Pre- and post-conference activities are open to all.





### **Green & Glow Winterfest**

#### Jan 29 – Feb 1, 2015

#### University of Alberta, www.uab.ca/winterfest

We're kicking off the Alumni Association's yearlong celebration of our 100th Anniversary with an incredible weekend of winter fun and wonder. Cool Science, Light Up the Night, Snow Day and Snow Pants Party! Sign up to volunteer, or pre-register, and get free festival swag.

### illumiNITE

### Jan 29 – Feb 1, 2015

#### Jasper Avenue between 105th Street and 104th Street, www.eote.ca

illumiNITE will transform Beaver Hills Park in downtown Edmonton with an outdoor gallery of light installations and sculptures. Highlighting the works of local artists and designers, illumiNITE seeks to animate and bring vibrancy to parks and public spaces that are often lost in the darkness and cold of downtown. Enjoy the entertainment and activities as well.

### Winter Shake-Up Festival & Market

### Friday, Jan 30, 2015

### Churchill Square, www.wintercitiesconference.com

In Edmonton, we don't let a little snow or cold stop us from partying – OUTSIDE! Come down to Churchill Square from 12 – 8 p.m. to shake-up winter. Dress to play in the snow and on the ice. Shop at an outdoor winter market, warm up with hot mulled drinks, and skate on the City Hall Plaza Rink. Show delegates from the International Winter Cities Conference how Edmontonians celebrate, northern-style!

### Tropical Weekend

### Saturday & Sunday, Jan 31 & Feb 1, 2015

#### Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

Got the winter blues? Come dressed in your finest luau gear for a chance to win a prize pack from Snow Valley! The Downhill Grill will be cooking up tropical treats all weekend!

### Sip & Slide Sundays

### February 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2015

#### Toboggan hills around Edmonton, www.exploreedmonton.ca

Every Sunday in February, pack up your sleds, bring the family and warm up those little red noses with a free hot chocolate from the City of Edmonton! Check the website for times and locations.

### Swing 'n Skate Sundays at City Hall

#### February 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2015

#### City Hall and Plaza, www.edmontonarts.ca

Swing 'n Skate will feature live swing, jazz and big band music in the City Room at City Hall from 1 - 4 p.m. every Sunday in January and February, with free swing dance lessons from Sugar Swing Dance Club. If you'd rather be outdoors, the live music will be broadcast directly outside for the enjoyment of ice skaters on City Hall Plaza. Free skate rentals are available.

### Winter Walk Day

### Wednesday, Feb 4, 2015

#### City Hall and many locations around the city www.shapeab.com/programsevents/winter-walk-day/

Every winter, thousands of Albertans celebrate winter and walking by participating in Winter Walk Day in February. Take part in the public walk at noon starting at City Hall, or register your own event on the Winter Walk Day website.

### Servus Free Ski Fridays

Friday, Feb 6, 2015

#### Edmonton Ski Club, www.edmontonskiclub.com

Join us the first Friday of every month from 5 - 9 p.m. for free skiing, sponsored by Servus Credit Union. Rentals and lessons \$10 each. Dinner specials available. Check our website for full details.

### Snowshoe Through Time

Friday, Feb 6, 2015

#### Fort Edmonton Park, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Snowshoe by moonlight along Edmonton's sensational River Valley loop. Our historical interpreters will guide you through an experience the voyageurs have taken in centuries past. Explore our 1846 Fort and discover what life was like for our early settlers in the winters of Western Canada. Finish the evening around the fire with hot apple cider and a horse-drawn wagon ride to the Train Station entrance.

### The Flying Canoe Adventure/ L'aventure du Canoe Volant

Friday & Saturday, Feb 6 & 7, 2015

#### Mill Creek Ravine and La Cité Francophone, www.lacitefranco.ca

In the spirit of a great winter city, The Flying Canoe Adventure/L'aventure du canoe volant is a creative, interactive, cultural event, designed to celebrate local history and everything that is great about a long winter's night. Loosely-based on the legend of The Flying Canoe and on French, First Nations and Métis traditions, this event celebrates our beautiful Mill Creek Ravine and the newly-established French Quarter.

# Hypothermic ½ Marathon 1

### SUnday, Feb 8, 2015

### Highlands Golf Club, www.hypothermichalf.com

The Running Room is proud to present the Hypothermic Half! This event is held all over Canada and in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

### Ladies' Friday Ski Days - Febuary

Friday, Feb 13, 2015 – New skiers Friday, Feb 20, 2015 – Advanced skiers

#### Edmonton Ski Club, www.edmontonskiclub.com

This event is for all ladies over the age of 18 who are looking for a nononsense day of skiing with a casual opportunity to network with other female skiers. Ladies' Friday Ski Days run Fridays only, from 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### Canadian Birkebeiner Ski Festival

Friday & Saturday, Feb 13 – 14, 2015

WinterCity Edmonton

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

A premier, affordable, family-oriented, friendly cross-country ski loppet (recreational event) honouring the spirit of the Norwegian Birkebeiner legend.

### Silver Skate Festival



### William Hawrelak Park, www.silverskatefestival.org

The festival is rooted in the Dutch tradition of a love of the outdoors and the pleasure of experiencing the cultural and aesthetic beauty of winter. In recent years, the festival has exploded into an extravaganza of art, culture, recreation and sports programming.

### Valentine's Day Disco Skate

### Saturday, Feb 14, 2015

### City Hall Rink, www.exploreedmonton.ca

Take a twirl around the City Hall rink with your special someone this Valentine's Day. Skate or dance to the music, roast bannock over an open fire, or enjoy a cup of hot chocolate from the Kids in the Hall Bistro. Free skate and helmet rentals will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.



### Winter Snowshoe Adventure (Family, Ages 7+)

### Saturday, Feb 14, 2015

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

Register through 311 or www.edmonton.ca/ereg (course #532620)

We'll explore nature's winter wonderland as we learn about the science of snow as we make our own "snowflakes" to take home and discover the winter survival secrets of some of our forest animals. On our guided snowshoe hike, we'll become nature detectives as we look for animal tracks and signs, and end the program with a marshmallow roast and hot chocolate. Wonderful wintry family fun!

**Note:** All family members participating in the program must register; all children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

### Family Day Fun Ski Race

### Monday, Feb 16, 2015

#### Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

Share some time as a family at Snow Valley's Family Day Fun Race. Race your family and friends through a beginner race course and enter a draw for some great prize packages.

# Family Day Fun!

Monday, Feb 16, 2015

#### www.edmonton.ca/zooeventdays

Bundle up your family, beat the winter blues, and "Get Closer" for some Family Day Fun in the EdVenture Lodge! Stay warm while you visit the Polar Bear craft table, have your face painted, or participate in the Animal Families scavenger hunt. Visit our free photo booth to take home a family memory. Learn why Edmonton Valley Zoo is an Arctic Ambassador Centre for Polar Bears International. Runs 12 – 4 p.m.

### Family Day at the Alberta Legislature

#### Monday, Feb 16, 2015

#### Alberta Legislature Grounds, www.assembly.ab.ca

This free annual event offers fun for all ages. Families can explore the Legislature Building with a scavenger hunt. Outdoors, celebrate and embrace the Alberta winter with horse-drawn wagon rides, skating, and more!



Thursday, Feb 19, 2015

Welcome the Year of the Sheep!



#### Saturday, Feb 21, 2015

#### 97th Street & 107th Avenue, www.chinatownlittleitaly.com

Celebrate the Lunar New Year in Chinatown with a parade and festivities, starting at noon.

# DeadCold Run

Saturday, Feb 21, 2015

#### Rundle Park Family Centre, 2909 113 Ave NW, www.deadcoldrun.ca

Think zombies mashed up with 'white walkers' from the Game of Thrones! This event is a timed 5K winter run/obstacle course that challenges your fitness against the best that winter can throw at you.

### The Big Hit

### Saturday, Feb 21, 2015

#### Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

Freestylers 13 and up compete at the Skier's Sportshop Advanced Terrain Park for prizes! Riders compete in a day-long, fun-filled event full of spills and thrills! For more information, check out our terrain park page.

### Frostival in McCauley – Beach Party Blues

Saturday, Feb 21, 2015

#### St. Stephen Church, 10900 – 96 Street, http://mccauley.info/

Throw on your best beach wear to join us from 7 p.m. – midnight, and party to reggae and DJ music.

### Coldest Night of the Year

Saturday, Feb 21, 2015

#### www.coldestnightoftheyear.org

The Coldest Night of the Year is a fantastically fun, family-friendly walking fundraiser that raises money for the hungry, homeless and hurting in 64 communities across Canada. During last year's event in Edmonton, 359 walkers on 50 teams supported Edmonton's Hope Mission. We invite you to walk or sponsor a walker this year!



# Hypothermic ½ Marathon 2

### Sunday, Feb 22, 2015

#### Highlands Golf Club, www.hypothermichalf.com

The Running Room is proud to present the Hypothermic Half! This event is held all over Canada and in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

### Mammoet: Edmonton Winter Triathlon

### Sunday, Feb 22, 2015

#### William Hawrelak Park, www.silverskatefestival.org

The Edmonton Winter Triathlon (EWT) requires athletes to ice skate, cross country ski and run during one of the coldest months of the Canadian Winter - February. The Silver Skate Festival will host a race with both SHORT course (10 km) and LONG course (25 km) winter triathlon format.

### Urban Survivors (Ages 9-12)

### Thursday, Feb 26, 2015

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

Register through 311 or www.edmonton.ca/ereg (course #532670)

Could you survive winter in the city if you were a coyote? A chickadee? A squirrel? Find out how these and other local animals survive in our backyards as you play games and examine furs and feathers up close. Make a birdfeeder, search out the food you need to "survive", and finish the afternoon with hot chocolate and marshmallows around a warm fire!

### Winter Warmth Bonfire

### Sunday, Mar 1, 2015

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

Drop by the Nature Centre for our Winter Warmth Bonfire! Through song and story, artifacts and more, we'll learn about how our local wild animal friends survive and stay warm through the winter months. Hot beverages and marshmallows (for roasting) provided. Dress warmly and bring a chair and re-usable cup or mug.

### Servus Free Ski Fridays

### Friday, Mar 6, 2015

#### Edmonton Ski Club, www.edmontonskiclub.com

Join us the first Friday of every month from 5 - 9 p.m. for free skiing, sponsored by Servus Credit Union. Rentals and lessons \$10 each. Dinner specials available. Check our website for full details.



### Ladies' Friday Ski Days - March

Friday, Mar 13, 2015 – New skiers Friday, Mar 20, 2015 – Advanced skiers

Edmonton Ski Club, www.edmontonskiclub.com

This event is for all ladies over the age of 18 who are looking for a nononsense day of skiing with a casual opportunity to network with other female skiers. Ladies' Friday Ski Days run Fridays only, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### Farewell to Winter Patio Party!

Mar 13 – 15, 2015

### Restaurants, pubs, coffee shops and bars across the city www.exploreedmonton.com

Patios Aren't Just For Summer! Celebrate the official end of winter with Edmonton's Second Annual Farewell to Winter Patio Party. Visit your favourite patio, or check out new ones. Whether you enjoy basking in the sun, or savouring the nighttime glow wrapped in a blanket, there's a patio ready to help you bid winter a hearty farewell. Check the website for participating locations.

### Winter Warrior Challenge

Saturday, Mar 14, 2015

#### The Ranch Golf and Country Club, www.winterwarriorchallenge.ca

Anyone can play in the mud, but only Canada's toughest warriors can battle through below-freezing temperatures to conquer the course and the elements. Be a part of a uniquely Canadian obstacle course challenge. Located at The Ranch Golf and Country Club, just 5 minutes west of Edmonton! Crawl, climb, and scramble your way through snow and ice and help raise funds for The Rainbow Society of Alberta. Starts at 10 a.m.

### St. Patrick's Day

Tuesday, Mar 17, 2015

#### Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

Show your Irish cheer! Wear green and you can enter to win a prize package in Snow Rider Ski & Snowboard Shop.

### Frostival in McCauley – Burn Away the Winter Blues

Saturday, Mar 21, 2015

### St. Stephen Church 10900 – 96 Street, http://mccauley.info/

Join Bill Bourne and musical friends from 7 p.m. - midnight to burn away your winter blues.

# Simon's Birthday Party at Snow Valley

### Sunday, Mar 22, 2015

#### Snow Valley Ski Club, www.snowvalley.ca

All Cub Club members are invited to Simon's Birthday party. Celebrate the end of winter with fun activities and sweet treats. Any child 12 & under can become a Cub Club member for free. Parents, sign up your child at Snow Rider Ski & Snowboard Shop.

### For the Love of Winter Design Competition and Fashion Show

### Mar 26 – Apr 4, 2015

#### ATB Financial Arts Barns, www.westerncanadafashionweek.com

Fur bikinis?! Check out the cool winter fashions on the outdoor runway, designed by our local designers. Who else knows best how to inspire us to dress warmly and fashionably? A partnership between WinterCity Edmonton and Western Canada Fashion Week, to support Edmonton's growing fashion industry.

### Spring Break at Snow Valley Mar 30 - Apr 2, 2015

#### Mar 30 - Apr 2, 201

#### www.snowvalley.ca

Enjoy the end of the season with family fun in our Campground. Each day from 10 - 2 p.m., you can play games and warm up at the fire pit. Thursday, April 2 will be our last day of operation.

If you have a winter event you'd like us to know about, please contact the WinterCity Office at wintercity@edmonton.ca or 780-496-3664.



# Other Events to Watch For

### Community League Festivals

#### www.efcl.org

Community leagues across Edmonton maintain community outdoor ice rinks and host 50 – 60 winter festivals. Check out your local community league for winter events. Why not get involved?

### Horse-drawn Sleigh Rides at Fort Edmonton Park

Check website for dates and details, or call 780-423-4069 to make a booking, www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Celebrate winter and togetherness on a Hot Chocolate Horse-Drawn Sleigh Ride. Set out on a ride around the charming and picturesque grounds of Fort Edmonton Park, stop for a cup of hot chocolate and a sweet treat, then get back on the sleigh for one more go-around.



### Trail-Ventures and Snowshoe Trail-Ventures

Weekends, Dec 2014 – Mar 2015

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

Join us on the trails for a hands-on sensory exploration of the plants and animals that make the river valley their home. Spend some time exploring and playing in our beautiful backyard! If snow and weather permit, we will travel on snowshoes while exploring the nearby fields and forests. Check our website for the drop-in schedule.

Note: If you are interested in snowshoeing, please let us know ahead of time so that our interpreters are prepared for your visit. We provide snowshoes and instruction for beginners, though our snowshoes may not fit children under the age of 7.

### Winter Signature Drink Contest

### Dec 2014 – Jan 2015

#### www.facebook.com/WinterCityEdmonton

Get your creative spirits flowing and mix up some wintry goodness for Edmonton's 2nd Signature Winter Drink Competition! Watch for details on how to send us your hot or cold beverage recipes, with or without alcohol, that complement our winter social events and outdoor activities. Final judging event will be held at the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald.

### Red Bull Crashed Ice 2015

### Mid-March, 2015

#### SHAW Conference Centre, www.redbullcrashedice.com

Come and join thousands of people from all over the world to watch the 2015 Red Bull Crashed Ice. Since the first-ever race back in 2001, Red Bull Crashed Ice has developed into one of the world's most breathtaking winter sports events. Riders hurtle down courses up to 600 metres in length in groups of four, shoulder to shoulder, as they fight it out for victory.



### Winter Activities

### **Cross Country Skiing**



Edmonton's expansive river valley and parks system is a perfect cross-country skiing destination!

#### **Groomed Ski Trails**

Groomed trail are located throughout the City, but are found primarily in the beautiful river valley. Locations and types of trails are listed on the City website.

Cross-country ski trails are groomed by the City and Edmonton Nordic Ski Club based on a priority list. Under normal conditions, sites will be groomed following the established order until they have all been set for skiing. It may take two or three days to groom all of the sites. Check out the City website to find the order of priority for trails.

#### **Park Amenities**

Each groomed park has an emergency phone. Please also carry a cell phone, especially if you are skiing alone or at night. Washrooms and shelters are available at all of the parks except Riverside Golf Course (no amenities), Argyll Park at Mill Creek (no amenities), and Terwillegar (no shelters).

### Trail Lighting

The trails at Gold Bar/Goldstick and Kinsmen Parks are lit at night for evening or night skiing.

#### Learn How to Cross-Country Ski!

The City of Edmonton offers cross-country and biathlon courses, as well as group programs.

Register through 311 or www.edmonton.ca/ereg

Edmonton Nordic Club also offers cross-country ski lessons for all ages. www.edmontonnordic.ca

Check out www.edmonton.ca/activities\_parks\_recreation/cross-countryskiing.aspx for trail conditions and more information.



### Snowshoeing



Explore Edmonton's winter wonderland on snowshoes!

Snowshoeing is a traditional mode of transportation for Canadian Aboriginals, 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.

#### Locations

Most City trails are packed down, but snowshoes perform best in areas that are more open and off the beaten track. Check out the City website for parks in and around Edmonton that offer great places to snowshoe. www.edmonton.ca/activities\_parks\_recreation/snowshoeing.aspx

# Sip & Slide Sundays!

### Feb 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2015

#### Toboggan hills around Edmonton, www.exploreedmonton.ca

Every Sunday in February, pack up your sleds, bring the family and warm up those little red noses with a free hot chocolate from the City of Edmonton! Check the website for times and locations.

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# Tobogganing

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 out the City website for locations and notifications about Citymaintained toboggan hills. These hills have safe run-outs, safety signs and reduced hazards. www.edmonton.ca/activities\_parks\_recreation/ toboggan-hills.aspx

### Ice Skating

Ice skate outdoors this winter for fun, free entertainment for the whole family!

Outdoor ice will open as soon as maintenance equipment (snow clearing and watering trucks) can safely drive on the ice. Please obey all posted signs. Skate rentals are available at William Hawrelak and Rundle Parks.

#### **Outdoor Rinks & Ice Conditions**

Check out the City website for outdoor rinks and ice conditions. www.edmonton.ca/activities\_parks\_recreation/outdoor-ice-rinks.aspx

#### **Community League Rinks**

Check with your local community league for hours and possible equipment rentals. Why not volunteer with your local league to help maintain the ice or rink shack? www.efcl.org

# Downhill Skiing, Snowboarding & Tubing

The City of Edmonton leases land in the river valley to private downhill ski operators. Conveniently located in the central, west 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

#### Edmonton Ski Club 96th Street & 96th Avenue, beside the Muttart Conservatory www.edmontonskiclub.com

- Ski & snowboard rentals
- Group, private, women-only & terrain park lessons
- Christmas & Spring Break Camps
- Instructor training program
- Recreational skiing, snowboarding & masters racing
- Terrain park
- After school drop-off program
- After work drop-in fitness
- Ladies' Friday Ski Days
- 10% discount for public employees until opening day
- Corporate passes available

#### Snow Valley Ski Club 132nd Street & 45th Avenue, www.snowvalley.ca

- Ski & snowboard rentals
- Group, private, women-only & freestyle lessons
- Holiday, Teachers' Convention & Spring Break Programs
- Instructor training program
- Masters racing
- Terrain park

### Sunridge Ski Area

#### 109th Avenue & 17th Street, www.sunridgeskiarea.com

- Ski & snowboard rentals
- Group & private lessons
- Holiday & Teachers' Convention Camps
- Terrain park
- Tubing park

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

### YOUR EVERY DAY WAY

# Unlimited transit use all day

### ETS Day Pass only <sup>s</sup>9

One adult and up to four children (ages 12 and under) ride ETS all day. takeETS.com/DayPass





# Use ETS to get around this winter!

Visit www.takeets.com for more information on winter events and services, such as ETS Christmas Lights Tours and Free New Year's Eve.

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	SUNDAY	Celebrate the Season at the Alberta Levislature	- Month-long December annual event	<b>7</b>	14 ⊕ ⊕ ⊖ ⊖ Unsilent Night Edmonton + Holiday Celebration	21	<b>58</b> ⊕ ⊕

SATURDAY	•	<b>10</b> Deep Freeze: A Byzantine Winter Festival © Jan 10 - 11	17 ⊕	24 • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	31 ⊕ ⊕ ⊕ ⊕ ⊕ Tropical Weekend ⊕ Jan 31 - Feb 1
FRIDAN	Z .	9 Ladies' Friday Ski Days ⊙ Jan 9, 16, 23 & 30	<b>16</b> •	23 ⊕ ⊕ Ice on Whyte ⊕ Jan 23 - Feb 1	30
THURSDAY	<b>1</b> €	œ	<b>15</b> •	<b>53</b>	29 ⊕ ⊕ ⊕ Green & Glow Winterfest ⊕ Jan 29-31 + IllumiNITE ⊕ Jan 29-Feb 1
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SUNDAY	<ul> <li>Indicates Multiple Day Event</li> </ul>	<b>4</b> Swing 'n Skate Sundays ⊕ Jan 4, 11, 18 & 25	Pump Up the Jam	18	25 ⊕ ⊕ ⊕ Alberta Masters Race

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<b>22</b> Simon's Birthday Party at Snow Valley	23	24	25	26 For the Love of Winter Design Competition and Fashion Show ⊙ Mar 26 - Apr 4	<b>27</b> (6)	®
€ ()	30 Spring Break at Spring Break at Snow Valley OMar 30 - Apr 2	<b>31</b> ⊕		Laughing Dog - ii, 3, 6 44, 45, 47, back cover	<ul> <li></li></ul>	<ul> <li>Indicates Multiple Day Event</li> <li>Laughing Dog - ii, 3, 6, 8, 11, 14, 15, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 34, 37, 39, 40, 44, 45, 47, back cover / Dave Tameling - 38 / Courtesy of Ice on Whyte - 22</li> </ul>



www.exploreedmonton.com
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www.edmonton.ca/wintercitystrategy



