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Local glass blower brings his art to The Carrot

JESSICA KIMMERLY

"This year has been my lucky year," says Keith Walker. Opening April 2nd, Walker's blown glass art will be displayed as an installation at The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse (9351 – 118th Ave.). The launch will run from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and there will be a reception on April 5th from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. If you miss the opening, don't fret. The installation will remain there for the month of April.

Walker first got involved with glass blowing seven years ago when a friend asked him to visit his mother's glass studio in the west end of Edmonton. At the studio, his friend's mother and her associate (who later became Walker's mentor) coached them in making a paperweight. Walker and his

er." So they joined the team as weekly assistants.

Glass blowing is fascinating to watch. First, a ceramic pot filled with glass is heated in a furnace. Once the glass is melted, the glass blower (also known as the "gaffer") picks up a blob of the melted glass with the end of a rod. Then the gaffer will cool the outside layer of melted glass and shape it into a sphere using a glass blower's block. Walker explains that you can also use burnt, wet newspaper in your hand to shape the melted glass into a ball. Now that the glass is shaped, the gaffer can blow air into the ball, forming a bubble inside and making it hollow.

The glass ball is the basic shape. From there, the glass can be re-shaped by re-heating it in a different furnace known as the "glory hole." Once the glass ball is hot again, the gaffer can manipulate its shape through gravity. More specialized equipment and techniques are used to make openings that transform glass objects into vases or bottles. This is the process Walker used to make the 15 glass umbrellas that will make up his art installation at the Carrot.

"The theme was always going to be a circus-like, kind of fantasy theme. But it has transpired into sort of a scene, like a scene from a mythology book," says Walker. The scene is called "The Rescue." He explains that there will be

a group of bright, colourful glass umbrellas overhead. They are the "nymphs or the fairies" of the story. Approaching this jovial group will be three black and white umbrellas. "They're a little more sinister. They're coming to break up the group." But off to the side will be one more glass umbrella, larger than all the rest. This one is white with blue stripes, "and he's coming to save the day."

"The Rescue" will be Walker's first glass art show, but he is no stranger to the art world. Straight out of high school, Walker became a photographer and did a few shows in Edmonton as well as one in England, where he displayed images from his trip to India. He was a wedding photographer for six years, but is now dedicated to glass blowing. The city of Edmonton has commissioned him to make a piece for the Central Lions Senior Centre, which should be up in June.

"I've always felt like I've been in a weird category, because there's usually either students or practicing professionals," says Walker. "Until this last year I didn't really consider myself a practicing professional because I wasn't selling much work. But I'm neither a student because I never went through school."

With this show at the Carrot, Walker says that he now considers himself a practicing professional. "But I'm still an emerging artist," he adds.

Walker hopes many people will come out to see his show, and not just those who frequent art galleries. His goal



LOCAL GLASS BLOWER AND ARTIST, KEITH WALKER, HOLDING ONE OF HIS GLASS UMBRELLAS. COME SEE HIS GLASS ART SHOW, "THE RESCUE," ON DISPLAY AT THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL.

is to expose Edmontonians to art glass, because "not everyone will step into an art gallery. They feel like they don't belong, or they feel like they need a degree to be there."

There will be a guest book left out for comment, so if you visit the Carrot in April, be sure to leave a note for Walker. "I want to know what people think of the show, straight up," he says.

Walker resides in Parkdale and has been there for almost five years. He just recently joined Arts on the Ave, and thinks the revitalization of the area is awesome. His final words on the art of glass blowing: "It's a humbling experience—it doesn't always work out." The sound of shattering glass is a familiar one at the studio, and the running joke is "don't love it until it's done."



Community Childcare Forum

Thursday, April 3, 6pm

at The Carrot Cafe (9351 118 Ave).

An evening for parents to discuss childcare needs with our community. This would be a great opportunity to meet and network with other parents in your neighbourhood.

All are welcome. For more info contact Pam at 426-4783.

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Tell us your favourite dish!

We need your tips on where to find the tastiest snacks, most mouthwatering entrees and delicious desserts on the Avenue. Send your recommendations to editor@ratcreek.org or call 479-6285.



Laura O'Connor

friend were then asked, "why don't the two of you boys come back next week and we'll work—the four of us—together

like a scene from a mythology book," says Walker. The scene is called "The Rescue." He explains that there will be



EDITORIAL

WITH JESSICA KIMMERLY

down the street. Every career has its hazards.

In honour of the school feature this month, and for all those children, teenagers and adults who continue to live in fear of those ten words that ask us what we want to "be" one day, I am writing this editorial as a mini, extremely limited, yet hopefully entertaining, guide to some careers you may or may not consider.

Flavour Inventor

Job Description: Discovering and mixing new flavours for food products such as gum, ice cream, and cereal.

Qualifications: Good Flavour Inventors should have excellent taste buds, creative ideas and a thorough knowledge of the history of popular flavourings.

Benefits: You'll know the latest flavour of mini-wheats before their new theme song gets stuck in your head.

Hazards: You should have known "cheesy watermelon zing" wouldn't fly.

Wrinkle Chaser

Job Description: Ironing wrinkles out of shoes before they get boxed up for sale and displayed in stores.

Qualifications: Know how to iron?

Benefits: You will forever live with the satisfaction of knowing that you helped make someone's day when he or she walks out wearing a crisp new pair of shoes.

Hazards: Aside from the physical dangers that come from working with hot steam, Wrinkle Chasers may lose interest in, or even develop a fear of, shoes.

Foley Artist

Job Description: Being on a film crew and recording everyday, natural sound effects. (Such as doors sliding open, high heels on pavement and galloping horses.)

Qualifications: Well-coordinated in handling empty coconut shells.

Benefits: You get to tell people that the sound of Leo DiCaprio kissing Kate Winslet was actually

you smooching the back of your hand.

Hazards: A painful feeling of being under-appreciated when your name doesn't appear in the opening credits.

Christmas Tree Decorator

Job Description: Title is self-explanatory.

Qualifications: Has a good eye for tasteful decorations, knows

Every career has its hazards

how to change tiny light bulbs and can demonstrate self-control with boxes of tinsel.

Benefits: It's Christmas every day!

Hazards: It's Christmas every day! Whether you are finished school or still attending classes diligently, we all want to have our dream job. Just remember that no matter what anyone tells you, it's your job. Might as well enjoy it!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: What the Avenue really needs

JAMIE-LEE KOLPIN, EASTWOOD RESIDENT

Why is it that in every newspaper article I've read lately regarding Alberta Avenue, not one of them tells the whole truth. Sure, there's been a huge effort to cleaning up the neighborhood, but the problems still exist. There are still prostitutes and thugs and homeless individuals all around us. Playgrounds are still littered with used condoms, used syringes, etc.

The issue is not throwing those less fortunate individuals in jail—that's not making things better. Believe me, I would know. Jail doesn't make you a better person, especially in E.R.C. What this Avenue needs are some openhearted and caring individuals to get out there and share their experiences with the kids. Also there needs to be more resources for prostitutes and homeless people.

The issue isn't getting the riff raff off the street—it's giving the opportunity to succeed. I am 23 years old, I have a four year old son, I've been into drugs, I've gone to jail, I grew up on this Avenue, I know all the prostitutes and talk to the homeless. Believe me when I say all that this avenue needs is a little T.L.C. I am recovering and getting past my previous way of life. Why? Because somebody cared enough not to give up when I seemed hopeless.

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Every block needs one!

Block Captains project to promote friendliness and safety on the block

DAWN FREEMAN

The Avenue Initiative's Safe Streets Working Group held their first Block Captain training on Thursday, February 28 at St. Faith's church on the Avenue.

A combination of working group members and residents got together to discuss the roles and responsibilities of a Block Captain as well as listen to presentations from EPS's Mike Russell, Community Liaison Constable (CLC) for District One, Neighbourhood Watch and the Safe Streets group. Staff Sgt. Jerry Nash, Watch Commander for District One also popped in to show his support for the project.

Knowing your neighbours and watching out for each other is not a new idea, but it is one of the best ways to deter crime and make sure your community is safe. Many neighbours already connect with each other to some degree; the Safe Streets Working Group wants to formalize these connections and encourage it even further.

Becoming an official Block Captain for a block (and the 'title' can be held by more than one person) does mean stretching the responsibility a little further than just being a good neighbour. The Block Captain would be a contact

and resource for the rest of their neighbours, an organizer of social activities and meetings for the block and a conduit for non-emergency information to the police.

If this sounds a little daunting, don't worry; it doesn't have to be. Each block will find its own rhythm, getting together as little as once a year to socialize, or more frequently like a weekly block cleaning or dog walking. And a block party doesn't have to be an elaborate affair. Hold it on the boulevard, in someone's yard, or even at the nearby park. The important part is just to get people together.

The huge benefit of the Block Captain system arises when there is trouble. If problems arise on the block, the Block Captain can alert the whole street or organize a meeting of neighbours and police to talk about how to deal with it. And when neighbours know each other, they then often know when something is not right at one of the houses on their street. That creates a safe community for all.

Safe Streets wants a Block Captain on every block! If you are interested in becoming a captain on your block, or want some more information on the project, go to www.stoxservices.com/blockcaptain or call Safe Streets at 496-1913.

Parking study meeting allows opinions to be aired

DAWN FREEMAN

About 25 people from working groups, community organizations and businesses showed up alongside councilor Caterina and councilor Gibbons and a number of city staff to an invitation-only meeting. The meeting covered a parking study report and strategy on the idea of some parking stalls being lost in the Streetscape redesign of the Ave. Council approved Phase One of the streetscape re-design in September 2007, and construction is due to start in spring this year.

The report looked at the number of parking stalls, the usage of the parking stalls and the alleyways north and south of the Avenue. An average of 39% on the north and 27% on the south of available stalls on 118th Ave. and on the side streets up to the lane were used during the hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays. On Saturdays the number of stalls used was 42% on the north side and 32% on the south. The study did note that some side streets are hot spots, with a higher volume of usage than others.

The alleyway behind 118th Ave. was also looked at, as per Council's suggestion, as another viable parking source. The study estimated that an additional 300 stalls could be found behind businesses on the Ave.

The report recommended that the Streetscape development plan go ahead as approved, along with the suggestion the Alberta Avenue Business Association work with businesses to access or create parking in the alleyway north and south of the Avenue. Closing off the alleyways leading to 118th Ave. and creating more public parking on small parcels of land found in some locations behind the businesses were also on the strategy list.

Loss of some parking stalls is a problem, some Alberta Avenue businesses say. They are afraid they will lose customers if people cannot find a space. Other attendees agreed. One woman spoke up saying parking was already so tight in some areas that it was spilling into the residential area, and another couldn't understand why the city would take away parking

from the side streets just to pay money to give it back in the alleyways.

Other people and businesses disagree. Parking is always available, said another woman, if not right outside the business, then no more than a block away. Two other voices spoke on the original design meeting that discussed making the community more accessible for foot traffic, with beautification creating a more inviting place to come. A business on a busy corner suggested that customers coming to their place never had trouble finding parking and in fact visited other stores as well if they did happen to park a block or so away.

Regardless of the opinions for and against, this debate will be finalized soon. Feedback from the meeting and the survey's recommendations will be up before a Community Services committee meeting in April with a final report going before Council not long after, and Phase One of the Streetscape redesign (82 St. to 87 St.), with or without modifications, will be starting in a few short months.

avenue initiative revitalization

The Avenue Initiative is a community based revitalization of 118th from Nait to Northlands. The community has come together to work with the City to create a council approved strategy that will create a safe, walkable community for everyone.



For information call
Judy Allan 496-1913

Get involved...volunteer for one of the many events happening this summer

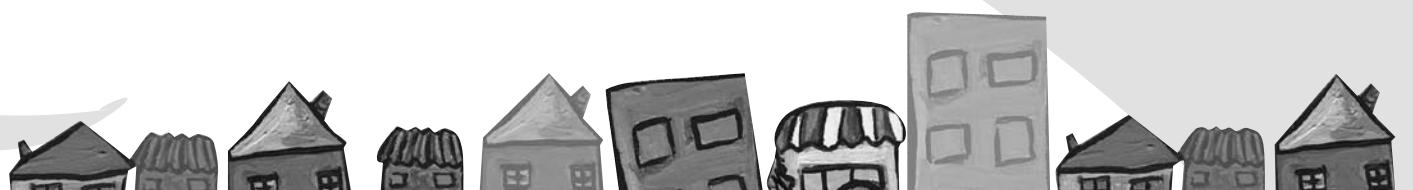
May Community Clean Up, Gardening Event, Avenue Goes to the Dogs, Community League Events

Be a part of making your neighbourhood safer.

The Block Captain Program is in full swing. Block Captains are provided with information on how and where to report problems and crime and how to encourage neighbours to look out for one another. Call 496-1913 for more information.

Zoning and Streetscape

Two components of the Avenue Initiative Revitalization will happen this spring. The Streetscape will take place from 82 - 87 street. Zoning changes to allow for slightly higher density housing one block north and south of 118th will go to council in the spring.



Join a Working Group.

Groups meet on a monthly basis to implement the goals and actions of the Avenue Initiative. To get involved call Judy at 496-1913 or email judy.allan@edmonton.ca

1) Streetscape-- 1st Tuesday of the month

Working on details of the streetscape that is scheduled to begin in spring '08.

2) Development and Revitalization-- 1st Wednesday of the month

Responsible for planning and zoning issues.

3) Beautification & Cleanliness-- 2nd Wednesday of the month

Works on special events, community clean ups and beautification projects.

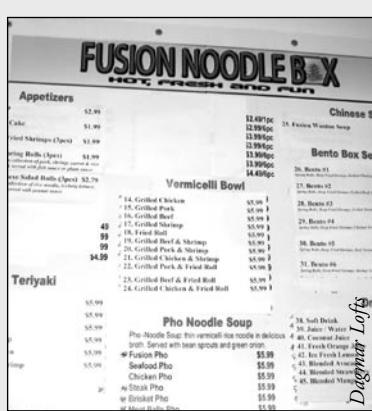
4) Safe Streets-- 3rd Thursday of the month

Works with EPS, Bylaw & Safe Housing to create a safe community.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

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FUSION NOODLE BOX MENU

Something for everyone at Fusion Noodle Box

The Fusion Noodle Box at 11826A -103 St. has been part of the business landscape at the Park Plaza strip mall for the last several months. If you have not visited the restaurant, you simply must indulge in their wonderful Fusion shrimp accompanied by a teriyaki rice dish. The Fusion Noodle Box also offers wonderful vermicelli bowls, various chow mein, pho, and delightful beverages including blended avocado, strawberry, and mango drinks.

There is something for everyone at the Fusion Noodle Box and they can cater many dishes to a vegetarian diet, or accommodate various palettes with altered degrees of spice if you let them know ahead of time.

One can order food to go, or to stay in the comfortable restaurant with its big picture window that allows the sun to filter through. On your next trip to the Park Plaza, NAIT, or Kingsway Garden Mall, do not forget to stop at Fusion Noodle Box for lunch, dinner, or a light and healthy snack of spring rolls or salad rolls. The price is affordable too.

Fusion Noodle Box is open daily Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. till 9 p.m. and on Sundays from noon till 7 p.m. - D.L.



JAY KOZAK WITH STUDENT LEAH. LEAH, A BROWN BELT, HAS WON PROVINCIALS NUMEROUS TIMES, MADE TEAM ALBERTA AND COMPETED IN NATIONALS

New owner brings in Karate school

Jay Kozak has found a home for his dream. After three years of searching for a place to run a karate school, Kozak bought the building on the corner of 114 Avenue and 106 Street and set up his school, Westwood Martial Arts, on the second floor. The main floor has three business tenets – Nextwave video, Edmonton Latino and Absolutely Edibles Café. Kozak's happy with the central location and believes the area is developing and views his purchase as a good investment. He has already completed some interior improvements and is considering how to improve the façade.

This native of Grande Prairie is pretty busy with his day job as an automobile wholesaler, weekend work running a mobile music and karaoke service called Dance Trax, and now a Shorin-ryu Karate-do school. Currently, Kozak (who is a first degree black belt) teaches on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7 p.m. for one or two hours – depending how much time and energy his students want to put in. While he has only been teaching for two years, Kozak has been doing Karate for the past 15 years and works with a teaching partner, Leslie, who is a second degree black belt. The club charges \$75 per month and hopes to eventually offer practice time four or five nights a week.

If you're interested in checking out Karate (and Jay says you're welcome to come watch a class) or if you're in need of music or karaoke services, call Jay at 913-5885. - K.M.



OWNER, MEKONNEN (MAC) IN LIL' LUCY

African and Caribbean specialties at Lil' Lucy

Lil' Lucy is a new African and Caribbean grocery store on Princess Elizabeth Avenue at 101 St. and 118th Ave. by the traffic circle. There is ample parking in front of the store, which is open daily from 10 a.m. till 9 p.m., except on Sundays when the store opens at 11 a.m. till 7 p.m.

Lil' Lucy's offers a wide variety of groceries, from imported flours and spices to over 14 kinds of frozen fish. The store is well stocked and the owner is on site to share some wonderful African and Caribbean recipes with customers who express interest in learning how to prepare the ethnic foods. Lil' Lucy's carries many rice products, including rice flour, corn meals, corn flours and special pans to make your own African breads.

The shelves contain novelty items such as pomegranate soup, couscous mix, Maggi cubes and canned African fruits such as ackee and breadfruit. Customers can also purchase goat and lamb meat, fresh produce such as green bananas and specialty drinks including African juices with ginger, ginger beer, malt beer and coconut juice.

The store also sells gift items and urban African clothing imported for your needs. If you get a chance, come visit Lil' Lucy's, relax in their sitting area and enjoy a beverage and snack. And if you get a chance to chat with the owner, ask about the story behind the name of Lil' Lucy. - D.L.

NEWS BRIEFS

Calder welcomes a new face at provincial election

On March 3rd, the Edmonton-Calder riding elected Doug Elniski to be their new MLA. Elniski is with the PC party, which is a big change from the riding's previous MLA, David Eggen of the NDP. In Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, NDP leader Brian Mason will continue serving as the community's representative.

Voter turnout was at an all-time low with only 41% of eligible Alberta voters casting a ballot. Of these voters, 52.7% of the popular vote went to the PCs, 26.3% to the Liberals, 8.5% to the NDP and 6.8% to the WRA. - J.K.

Church demolished by developer

In March, the former River of Life church building on the corner of 114 Ave, & 95 St. was

demolished. In December after much deliberation, the River of Life church sold the building and adjacent parking lot to Gazebo Properties Inc. for \$1.725 million. Gazebo Properties was unable to be reached for comment on their intentions.

Both sides of the 113 Ave. block on 95 St. including this property

are currently zoned CNC - Neighbourhood Convenience Commercial Zone. This zoning permits a variety of services including convenience, retail, health, personal services, professional, financial, office service, and small-scale food. Apartment housing and bars/pubs are two of the discretionary uses in this zoning. As of publication, no rezoning or

development applications had been made (besides the demolition permit).



DEVELOPER DEMOLISHES CHURCH

The River of Life used the building for their church and outreach services providing free clothing and meals out of the building for seven and a half years. Prior to the church the building was operated as a banquet hall under the name "Villa Vesuvius". The church is looking for a new home, in the meantime, however, services will continue with Pastor

Tom Dorsey at the Continental Inn located at 16625 Stoney Plain Rd at the regular times of 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sundays. Contact Pastor Dorsey at 920-1274 for more information on church services and programs. - K.M.

Another liquor store is declined

The strip mall off the Save-On Foods at 82 St. and north of 112th Ave. will not be seeing the Wine & Spirits Market that applied for that space. In February, the Parkdale-Cromdale Community League was pleased when the SDAB (Subdivision and Development

Appeal Board) accepted the residents' appeal and turned down the liquor store application.

The proposed liquor store was within 100 metres of Kinnaird Ravine, which has a playground within its boundaries. The case was built on the fact that the playground itself was beyond the 100-metre rule. However, the planning-department opinion stated the ravine is part of the playground.

The SDAB's decision is a victory for the community, but it still does not make the space immune to liquor stores. New applications may be submitted in six months. - J.K.

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The LFC sports team—where the players are the coaches

JESSICA KIMMERLY

The LFC team is gearing up to start its second year together. LFC has jerseys, fans and all-star moves like any other team, but LFC is different. It is a drop-in sports program where the focus is not on rules like "offside" and "handball," but on leadership and cooperation.

The team started with six kids, mobilized by community member Beth Roehler who noticed there were no children playing out in the neighbourhood fields. That was in April 2007. By the end of May, there were 55 children, teenagers and adults meeting every Wednesday to play soccer. With so many enthusiastic participants wanting to play, Roehler started applying to organizations for support.

"I want these kids to experience the same thing as a kid in a registered community program," says Roehler. She got the word out and before long, Global television picked up the story. Once people became aware of this team that played sports in the Parkdale School field, citizens came forward to help. Lavallee Financial Corporation (LFC) had jerseys made for team (which the team was able to design themselves), McLeod Community League donated a large batch of supplies, and a grant from the Avenue Initiative Revitalization helped fund other basic needs

like giant water jugs and equipment. Many businesses and residents have also contributed, making it possible for the team to have a Christmas party.

But despite the jerseys, LFC does not operate like your average community team. "The kids make all the critical decisions for the team," says Roehler. The team meets all year round, and members decide before the season changes which sports they will play. During the winter, everyone meets in the gymnasium at St. Alphonsus School. And unlike competitive teams, snack and water break is not a time to discuss strategy. "Snack break is amazing. They talk about what's going on in their lives," Roehler says, explaining how the older team members naturally mentor the younger ones. As for player requirements, she continues, "My only expectation is that the big kids teach the sport and sportsmanship to the younger ones."

The team is a mosaic of people from different age groups (ages six to 30) and different areas (14 schools and seven communities), not to mention the many cultures and different walks of life. Yet everyone plays well together, dividing into two teams where the smallest are picked first and someone always volunteers to be picked last. They make sure everyone is included in the game until 8:00 p.m., when the



(LEFT TO RIGHT) KELSEY ROEHLER, JONATHAN FORTIN, CLAYTON BLUMS, CARL BAKER, VINCE ROTA, BEN ROEHLER AND KIARA ROTA ARE PART OF THE LFC SPORTS TEAM

older players separate and hold a more intense game.

"Nobody has a title," says Roehler, who watches the games and makes calls only when the ball goes out of bounds. "I don't even think we keep score." That said, it is sometimes a challenge to keep games non-competitive. The team would love to have a rival team to beat, but for now they continue to play against each other for fun every Wednesday.

While the support for the

LFC team has been great, they still face restrictions. "SHOES! We need shoes!" Roehler exclaims. (Outdoor shoes are not allowed in the gymnasium, and cleats are needed to play soccer.) The LFC wish list also includes baseball equipment, nutritious snacks like oranges and watermelon, and a van for trips to the swimming pool.

"I'd like to see every community have a team like this," says Roehler, who has been a soccer mom for 19 years. "A

lot of it is about attention." With children and youth being so precious to society, none of them deserve to be ignored and left without the benefits of belonging to a team and having a chance to play sports safely. And no matter how young or old we are, we always love to see someone watching from the sidelines, cheering.

If you are interested in supporting the LFC sports team, please call Beth Roehler at 477-6025.

Parkdale residents haggle with city over local improvements

JESSICA KIMMERLY

Earlier this year, the city proposed to start local improvements in Parkdale. Their plan involves putting in new streets, sidewalks, curbs and lighting over a two-year period. Construction will begin in May for the northeast and southeast sides of Parkdale, and the west sides will be under

construction starting in 2009.

"The city does a pavement management system where staff goes out to assess how well the streets are performing and rate all the streets on a number of conditions," says Byron Nicholson, the General Supervisor of Local Improvements Construction. "Then staff comes up with a priority list. Parkdale was at

the top."

Residents' responses are varied. "They love the idea of having better lighting and the roads improved, that's for sure," says Laurie Grant, President of the Parkdale Community League. However, residents do have a few concerns about the planned improvements.

"The trees are wrecking the sidewalks, but they don't want the trees ruined," Grant explains. "We're kind of tree huggers in this neighbourhood. We really value the trees." Grant says the city has agreed to try to "go around" the trees as much as possible, but Grant expresses concern that it might look "funny."

In addition to preserving the trees, residents are worried about the cost. "Of course, it makes your taxes go up and the 20-year payments are a burden for some people. But they're not ready to move anywhere else. They'll be pulled out of their homes if it goes too high," says Grant. Resident Beth Roehler agrees, saying, "From the neighbours that I have talked to, the people on the corner lots are really upset because of the extra costs. And the seniors are upset . . . everybody I've talked to says we pay enough in taxes."

New sidewalks have been the most sensitive issue, especially for those who don't have any problems with their

sidewalks. "We have a lot of sidewalks that were recently done. My street has brand new sidewalks," says Grant. Due to a petition residents submitted, project number five (building new sidewalks) was cancelled on 85th St. from Fort Road to 118th Ave.

While Parkdale residents are grateful for new roads and better lighting, the problem of financial burden is always present. Roehler says her neighbourhood is worried that the city might start taxing residents more and more for local improvements. "What's next? They're going to start charging us for everything. If we allow this to start now, it may affect us down the road."

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GRADE SIX STUDENTS NABIL SAMUEL, STEPHANIE SOLIS AND BREANN GURNEY SERVE GUESTS AT ST. GERARD'S 12TH ANNUAL PASTA NIGHT

JESSICA KIMMERLY

Delton Hall was vibrating with energy on March 7th as excited grade six students tied on tidy white aprons and took their positions behind giant bowls of penne, sauces, dinner rolls and salad. Students and teachers sold raffle tickets in front of a wall covered with the names of people and businesses that donated prizes and supplies. A long table spread with colourful, picture-perfect desserts sat against the opposite wall. St. Gerard's 12th Annual Pasta Night was off to a good start.

Every year, the grade six students of St. Gerard Elementary School host a pasta dinner fundraiser. The students make advertising posters, serve the meal, sell raffle tickets and clean up at the end of the night in order to raise money for a trip to Pioneer Ranch Camp.

"It's an amazing opportunity to get these kids to experience nature and the outdoors," says Carrie Purkis, a teacher who has accompanied students to Pioneer Ranch Camp for the past three years. Not only is it a way for grade six students to wind up their years in elementary school before moving on to junior high, the camp also gives students a chance to participate in activities they have never been exposed to in the city.

"We've heard that you get to go horseback riding and spend the night in a cabin," says student Briana Doherty. Doherty, who has never been to camp before, says "We're lucky, because not every school gets to

do it." Rayanna Wowchuk, who has also never been to camp, is looking forward to "horseback riding, archery, hanging out with my friends and sleeping in cool cabins."

Pioneer Ranch Camp is by Rocky Mountain House. Students who stay at the camp can participate in horseback riding, archery, canoeing, orienteering (hiking by navigating with a map and compass), rock climbing and campfires. And of course, everyone sleeps in log cabins. St. Gerard's students make the trip to Pioneer Ranch Camp in June and stay for three days, learning about nature and experiencing outdoor activities.

Last year, the students raised \$3500 for their trip to Pioneer Ranch Camp. With the help of businesses—such as Telus Space and Science Centre and Handy Bakery—to provide prizes to be raffled and food items for the dinner, the money raised can go directly to the students. "What's really unique about this fundraiser is it's not just the school, it's the whole community," says principal Nancy Bergeron. She says that parents come to the pasta dinner even after their children have graduated from the school, former students come back, and community residents call the school asking when the annual pasta night will be.

So keep your eyes open next year for student-crafted posters advertising St. Gerard's Pasta Night. The students and staff of St. Gerard's would love to have you, and as Doherty says, they will "show everybody what St. Gerard's is all about."



St. Gerard School
Instructional Focus: Literacy and math

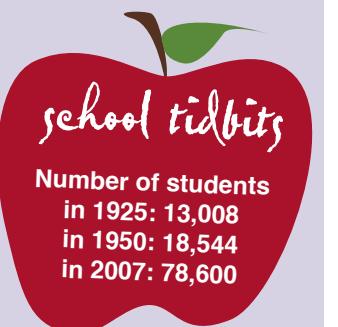


school tidbits

Number of schools
in 1925: 35
in 1950: 44
in 2007: 199

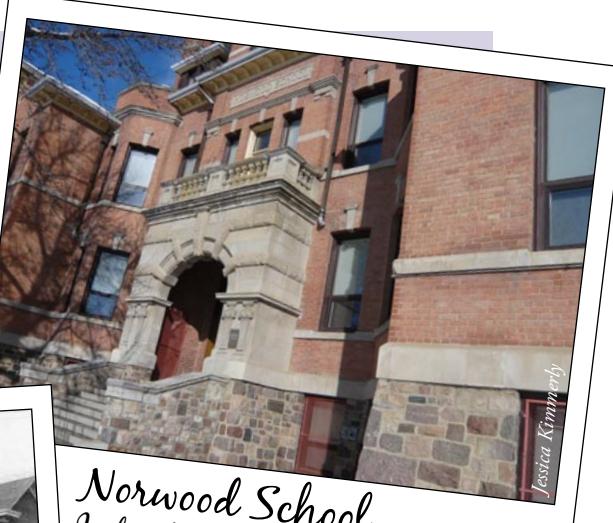


The students and staff of
Norwood School in 1916



school tidbits

Number of students
in 1925: 13,008
in 1950: 18,544
in 2007: 78,600



Norwood School
Instructional Focus: Differentiated
instruction (individual learning choices).

Winning playwrights from Parkdale School

JESSICA KIMMERLY

In January, teachers and students from Parkdale School watched one of their class assignments being performed live on stage. Three grade nine students from Parkdale won first, second and third places in a citywide playwriting contest for junior high students, put on by the University of Alberta Bookstore. The prize was getting to participate in the "Ten Days of Madness Playwriting Festival," and working with professional playwrights and Victoria School students to put on a production of the winning plays.

"This is very significant for us," says principal Marlene Hanson. "[Students] don't often get that kind of experience where their work is celebrated." Not only did the three winners get the chance to learn directly from professionals in the playwriting field, but the whole grade nine class at Parkdale got to be involved in a workshop run by Frank Moher, whose plays have been produced internationally.

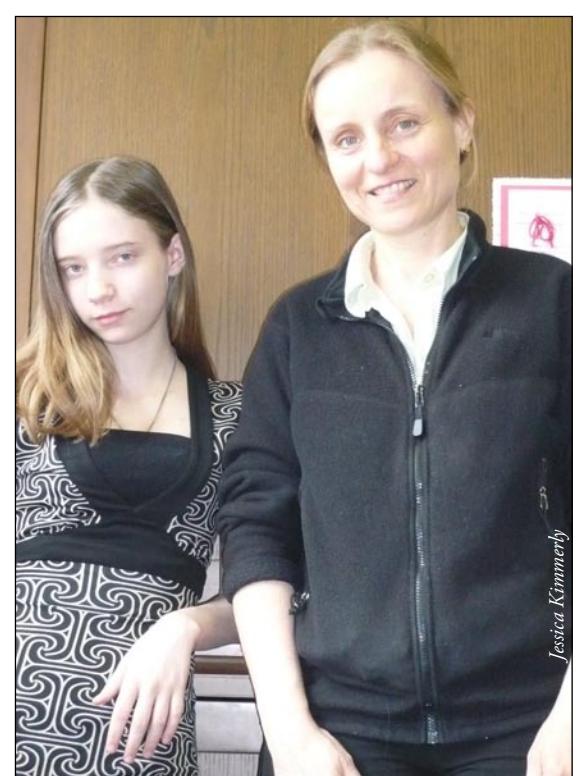
Grade nine instructor Rae Hankens entered her class in the contest after they had studied the novel *The Freedom Writers Diary* written by a group of students from Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach, California, and their teacher Erin Gruwell. (The nonfiction book also inspired the 2007 film *Freedom Writers*, starring Hilary Swank.)

Hankens started her students with journaling "to get some kind of meaning in their writing." After the playwriting contest crossed her desk, she

decided to coach her students in how to turn their stories into plays. "I phoned Marty Chan (an Edmonton playwright) and asked what it takes to write a good play." Hankens was then able to instruct her students in how to take real life situations involving conflict with at least three characters, change their names, and bring the scene to life through dialogue. "Their stories are intense and incredibly vivid," says Hankens about the resulting plays.

The students who won the contest—Serena Church, Natasha Wright and Phuong Tran—all have amazing stories. Tran, who won third place, says her play is about "a girl who wanted to know what happened to three other girls who stopped talking to each other." Church, the first place winner, says hers is about foster care. Church thought seeing her play performed was "pretty cool. It was neat they were performing something I wrote." Her winning play was the first she ever wrote, and while she does not plan on writing more plays, she

is interested in writing short stories, and "maybe eventually get bigger." And Wright, who



SERENA CHURCH (LEFT) AND HER TEACHER RAE HANKENS.
CHURCH'S PLAY WON FIRST PLACE IN THE U OF A BOOKSTORE'S PLAYWRIGHT MADNESS CONTEST

won second place, was absent during some of the class writing time and ended up writing her play in one 50-minute session.

Those who went to see the students' plays performed were impressed. "I was moved to tears," says Hanson. "It made you choke up—it was very moving," says Hankens. Since that playwriting event, Hankens has noticed how her students have matured. She credits it to being recognized and having to "leap out of their comfort zone." But most of all, Hankens says that their playwriting experience "showed them that we all have stories to tell."

OUR SCHOOLS



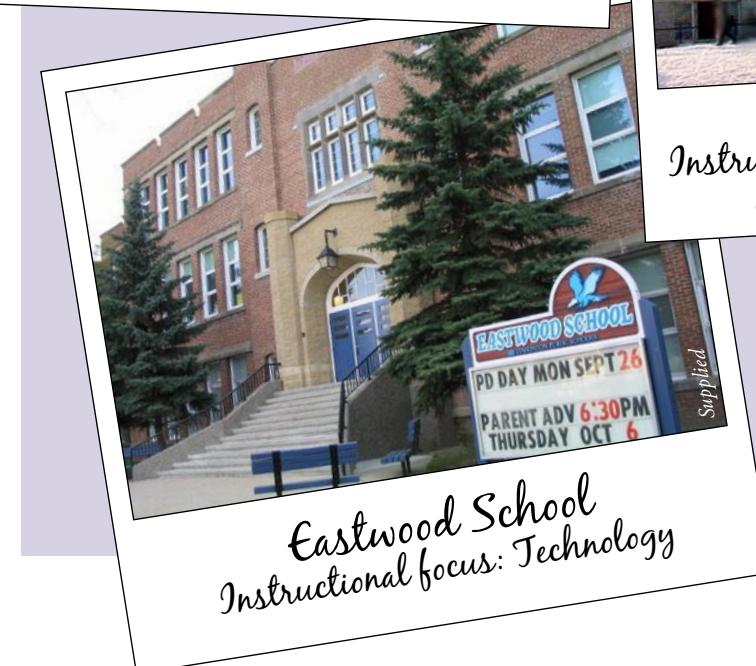
Jessica Kimmery

St. Alphonsus School
Instructional focus: Literacy



Jessica Kimmery

Spruce Avenue School
Instructional focus: Literacy skills & communication



Jessica Kimmery

Eastwood School
Instructional focus: Technology

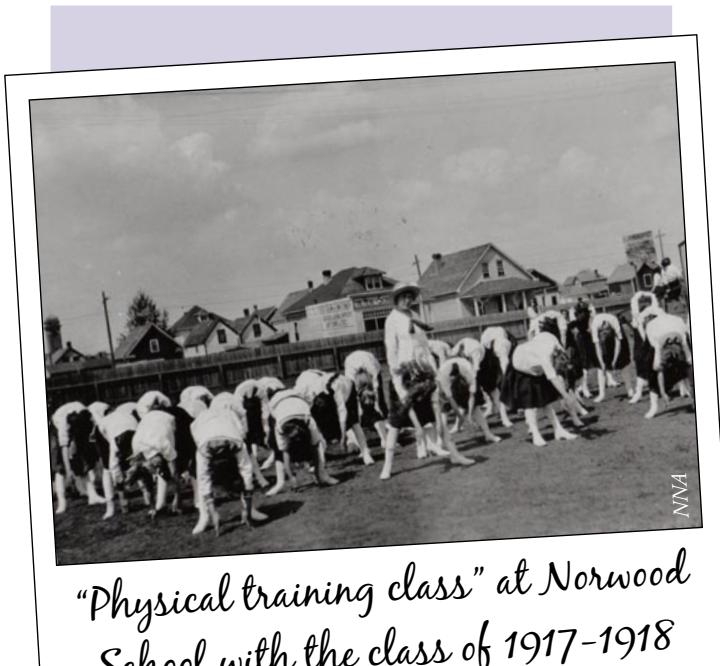
onlineEXTRA

Go to
www.ratcreek.org
to download an
overview chart of
our schools



Jessica Kimmery

Delton School
Instructional focus: Literacy



NNA

"Physical training class" at Norwood School with the class of 1917-1918



NNA

A Norwood School photo from 1910

Fine art in a family-friendly school

DAWN FREEMAN

Virginia Park School
7324 109 Ave, 477-8152
Principal: Tami Dowler-Coltman

Virginia Park is a wonderful fine arts curriculum school for kindergarten to grade six, situated in a quiet community right next to Concordia University College. The school houses approximately 200 students and is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

Virginia Park is proud of the academic and artistic excellence of its students demonstrated in everyday class work, district and provincial exams, and in theatre, music and art displays throughout the city. The school is just as proud of its family atmosphere, which is evident from the moment you

step into the building. Bulletin boards and display cases are filled with student work. Parents as well as students are known by name.

On top of excellent academic and artistic instruction, Virginia Park offers choir for all children in grades one to six, artist-in-resident programs and fantastic events such as MADD (music, art, dance, drama) Day, Annual Family Dance, Fine Arts Night, Annual Family Ski Celebration, December Concert and much more.

Virginia Park is now accepting registrations for the 2008-2009 school year. The kindergarten Open House will be held on Thursday April 17 from 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for parents with their child or 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. for parents alone.

City Centre Education Project



CCEP is a collaboration project that allows city centre schools to pool their resources, giving students more opportunities and support. These resources take the form of facilities, coaches and counselors.

CCEP's Mission:

1. All students will complete high school. Poverty cannot be a limiting factor.
2. Students in city centre will receive excellent education with enriched environments and experiences.
3. Equality of opportunity requires inequality of resources.
4. Strong relationships and partnerships are the foundation of our success.

CCEP partners with many organizations. Participating schools include:

- * Abbott
- * Delton
- * Eastwood
- * John. A. McDougall
- * McCauley
- * Norwood
- * Parkdale
- * Spruce Avenue

school tidbits
Edmonton has three publicly funded school districts: Edmonton Public Schools, Catholic School District and North-Central Francophone School Authority, providing kindergarten through grade 12.

school tidbits
In Edmonton we have:
208 schools
82,000 students
2,600 non-teaching staff
4,400 teaching staff
Post-Secondary:
170,000 students

What were they thinking?

GORDON VICKRUCK

For the last twenty-five years, I wake up the morning after the election the night before, with the same splitting headache from the same question pounding in my brain. I will then commit the rest of the week scowering the newspapers, hanging on every word of the political pundits and talk-show hosts, trying desperately to gain some insight into my unanswerable question with the hope of alleviating my confusion.

Note to self: "If you ask the same question for 25 years and do not get a satisfactory answer, ask another question." Daah.

According to a new book *The Political Brain: The Role of Emotion in Deciding the Fate of the Nation*, Drew Weston, the correct question is not "What were they thinking, but "What were they feeling?"

Okay. Now we are on to something.

Apparently, according to the above source, voters don't

think, they feel. It is all beginning to make sense. Consider Steady Eddie's comments in the leadership debate: "This election was not about issues, it was about leadership."

Not about issues?

Apparently not.

What about health care and royalty rates, and infrastructure, energy deregulation and the environment? None of that matters in an election. Sure, voters care about these issues, but it doesn't determine how they vote. That's why in pre-election polls, the majority of Albertans could disapprove of how the government was handling the above issues, but that same majority still voted for them.

Issues are complicated, worrisome. What voters are interested in is how a particular politician makes them feel. And Steady Eddie, or Honest Ed, won in that department hands down. In the post-election call in shows, I heard the same comments over and over again. "He's an honest man." "I am sure he is doing the

best he can." "He comes from good stock. He's a Ukrainian farmer." "He has the face of a man you can trust."

That is where I am out of synch. I always chose my politicians like I would an accountant: Who is going to get me the best results for the least cost? Personality was a non-starter. It is not like they are going to be marrying into my family!

Out of synch again. Most people do see politicians as family members. And well they should. By virtue of modern technology, i.e., the boob tube, Honest Ed will be a regular guest in their home for the next four years. My bad! I don't watch TV.

It makes a lot of sense to vote for someone who has a kind face, a reassuring quality to his voice and will give you a good feeling about life. To paraphrase Premier Stelmach's comments about issues and leadership; "Don't worry your pretty little heads about all the complicated social conundrums that we have got ourselves entangled in. Leave it all to me. I will make all the necessary decisions for you. This my job, what I am paid to do." We can all feel better when we go to sleep at night knowing Steady Eddie is at the controls.

A dear friend of mine just retired from the civil service. He was a warm, kind, generous human-being. On his office wall was posted, "Long after people have forgotten what you said or did, they will remember how you made them feel." That motto could well be posted in the office of every politician and on every wall in the legislature. It may not get us good government, but it could get us a good night's sleep. And at the end of the day, what is more important?



PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

Good News For The Polish-Canadian Community

Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East and vice-chair of Parliament's Canada-Poland Committee, was pleased to announce that Canada's Conservative government has removed the travel restrictions requiring Polish citizens to obtain a visa to visit Canada.

The Edmonton announcement was made March 1 at Mr. Goldring's constituency office with 25 members from the Polish-Canadian community and MLA Thomas Lukaszuk. Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Diane Finley made her announcement in Toronto the same day.

"This is in keeping with Canada's Conservative government's great initiative to be much more engaged throughout the world, facilitating improved trade and commerce," Mr. Goldring states. The move makes traveling to Canada much easier for Polish friends and family of Canada's substantial Polish Canadian diaspora.

"I am especially pleased to have this come to fruition after several years of promoting the idea in Parliament while working extensively with central and eastern European countries for mutual benefit."

Visa restrictions have also been lifted for citizens of Slovakia, Lithuania and Hungary. In 2006 temporary resident visas were issued to 33,363 Polish citizens, 6,385 Hungarians, 3,780 Slovaks and 989 Lithuanians.

"This is something that the 800,000 Canadians of Polish ancestry have been calling for," Mr. Goldring states. "It will certainly benefit family and business travel between our two countries and recognizes the long and historical partnership between them."

The move makes sense, Mr. Goldring says, since Poland is Canada's largest trading partner in Central and Eastern Europe, with more than \$1.2 billion in annual trade between the two countries. "It is also a country with shared values," he points out, "a member of the European Union and NATO."

There are about 70,000 people of Polish ancestry in Edmonton, giving the city the largest Polish-Canadian community outside Ontario.

Visa-free status for Poland and the other three countries takes effect immediately.

495-3261

www.petergoldring.ca

The History of Borden Park: Part One

July 1, 2008 will mark a significant date in Edmonton's summertime culture events, and more importantly, the intriguing, extensive and influential history of Borden Park. It was underneath a bright and sunny sky in 1958 that 3000 excited Edmontonians assisted Mayor William Hawrelak in officially re-opening Borden Park after it underwent \$600 000 in renovations, improvements and additions.

Equating to several million dollars in today's currency, the revamping was a major project that reinvigorated Edmonton's

northeast and attracted an excited influx of Edmontonians as well as tourists to the beautifully landscaped grounds that now included picnic areas, wading and swimming pools, tennis courts and a sports centre.

A meandering concrete pathway system complete with a state of the art water drainage system, a caretaker's lodge and facilities building, as well as a perfectly situated and well-designed band shell, were all welcome additions which enabled the park to come alive with varied activities and events. Completing the 1958 celebration as well as christening the brand new band shell was the very talented 49th Battalion Loyal Edmonton Regiment with an undoubtedly rousing performance. A new era in Borden Park's history had begun.

The current Borden Park reflects the 1950s renovation

with the only exception being new playground equipment on the north side. The now beautifully mature and majestic elm, pine and spruce trees all blend perfectly with the well-manicured shrub and flower beds as well as the vast amount of lush summertime grass that make this expanse of land a municipal and provincial highlight.

The pine family trees provide an ideal habitat for the chattering red squirrels that stow individual caches of spruce and pine buds within the ground. A spring afternoon walk through this

landscape will most likely produce incessant vocalizations on behalf of these squirrels, especially when it appears an intruder may be threatening their food supplies. Each sound it makes has certain meaning, usually related to the level of danger present, and even the position and action of its bushy tail has significance.

The red squirrel is quite approachable and I have found that when one displays a sincere curiosity in them they will reciprocate and sometimes jump from branch to branch in order to follow and observe as you walk.

In addition to the squirrels, rabbits are also commonplace in the park. It is almost a certainty to come across a pair of rabbits during an evening walk through Borden Park, and although rabbits are more standoffish than squirrels, it is fun, especially for children, to observe them for a period of time.



OUR HISTORY
WITH ALAN KAUSY

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Resident Profile

WITH HARVEY VOOGD

Can you imagine 45 students in your class at school? According to Pat Hewitt, this was the average classroom size at Norwood school in the 30's and 40's.

"I was four years old when my family moved to McCauley," remembers Mrs. Hewitt. "When I was nine, we moved to 9533-95A Street across from Norwood school." She recalls memories of her school days:

"When the bell rang, everyone lined up with their class in the hallway and then walked to their room while a record played

marching music. Once in your room, the whole class saluted the flag and the day began with everyone saying the Lord's Prayer."

Even recess and lunch were different then. "Outside, the school only had one basketball hoop and one teeter-totter," says Mrs. Hewitt. "Mostly we just made up our own games." There were no hot lunch programs, because at lunchtime, everyone went home. "Everybody lived close enough to walk to school because the rule was you had to go to the local school."

Friday afternoons were an exception to the daily routine at Norwood School. "On Friday afternoons the whole school attended shows in gym. The gym was on the top floor, where the library now is. It had a stage for concerts," explains Mrs. Hewitt. "The entertainment would be music, singing songs or magic lantern shows which were like a slide show."

Mrs. Hewitt also has fond memories of her teachers. "I loved Miss MacKenzie, my grade one teacher. She was a motherly type who hugged all the kids . . . Miss McCrae, the grade two teacher, was also very nice. She was quite patient. She was there for a long time." However, teachers did not live in the same neighbourhood as their students. "I don't think any of the teachers lived in Norwood. Most of them came by street car. Not too many people had cars."

Perhaps the most significant difference between Norwood School now and then, is the way we handle the genders. "Back then boys and girls entered through separate doors. Girls entered the school from the west entrance on 95A St. and boys used the east entrance

on 95 St. . . . If you couldn't go out for recess because of the weather, everyone went to the basement where there were separate girls and boys playrooms."

Teachers who were women were also expected to behave differently. "Moms were always

Mrs. Hewitt adds, "any woman who got pregnant had to leave immediately."

There were strict rules for students then—rules that young Pat didn't always follow. "I used to talk a lot and get sent out of the room and have to stand in the hallway by the door," says Mrs. Hewitt. "I never told my parents about that." She even got the strap once. "The boys next door showed me how to make a paper airplane. The teacher caught me making one in class and I got the strap."

Today, Pat Hewitt has a deep interest in the historical background of Norwood and the Alberta Avenue area.

You can meet her at the storytelling group called "Stories from the Heart of the City," which meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at Sprucewood Library.



PAT HEWITT, AGE 15, IN FRONT OF NORWOOD SCHOOL

Supplied

at home. The only women who worked were single women or widows. All the women teachers when I was at Norwood were single." And if a teacher did marry, she had to resign. And,

remember their lost love.

TGD lives and gardens in Parkdale, with the très wonderful Gardening Diva husband and the non-gardening dogs. She believes that a tree is a wish for the future and that we should plant more. Next month she will discuss bedding plants.

TGD plants a tree

refuse to acknowledge that the cute little sapling will turn into a Manitoba maple like my neighbours' tree—some 25 metres tall, with a spread of 15 metres. So think dear reader, can you fit that huge tree into your tiny lot?

To fruit or not

TGD still cringes at the horror of relentless, unending tiny little crab apples that TGD's mother

purchasing a tree that is not only beautiful, but practical as well. Pay close attention, trees may require mates to produce fruit.

To flower or not

Around about the second week of May, TGD begins to smell the most wonderful fragrance. For years, she knew it wasn't lilacs, and it wasn't the salt bush tree in her neighbours front yard (although it is very pretty); it was a mayday tree. Covered with small white flowers, sometimes mistaken for a lilac, these trees are very fragrant, and one of the first trees to leaf out in spring. Flowering trees are a wonderful hint of spring in a garden that is still partly asleep.

Interesting texture and winter colour

Remember dear reader, your tree will only have leaves for perhaps six months—you will want to consider what the tree looks like in winter. Consider planting evergreens, often the only bits of colour in our white winter landscape. TGD is also particularly fond of the rowan tree (mountain ash). These wonderful trees have a lovely bronzy bark and orange berries.

So then, a few trees to



insisted on turning into jelly, lest they rot on the ground. Fruit can be wonderful, but only if you pick it, prepare it in some way and store it. If you let it rot dear reader, you may rest assured that it will be nothing more than a meal for wasps and a reason for your neighbours to protest. Having said that, there are varieties of cherries, plums, apples, and even pears that will thrive in our zone three climate. Consider

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**BACKYARD
BISTRO**
WITH SHAWN BAERT

A dish to kick-off BBQ season

Spring is here and it's time to hit the back yard cooking!

Barbeque is all about the bragging rights and this great poultry rub will give you plenty to brag about. You can use a turkey instead of chicken in the following recipe, just upgrade to a 975 ml can of beer, invite more guests and practice graciously accepting all the compliments sure to follow.

Poultry Rub

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup paprika
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup ground black pepper
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup celery salt
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup Mexican oregano
2 tablespoons Chile powder
2 tablespoons onion powder
2 tablespoons dry mustard
2 tablespoons garlic powder
2 teaspoons cayenne pepper

Mix the spices thoroughly in a bowl. Store covered in a cool, dark place.



BBQ CHICKEN MADE WITH POULTRY RUB

Beer-can Chicken

1 can (12 oz) beer
1 chicken (3 to 4 lb)
2 teaspoons oil
2 teaspoons liquid smoke
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup poultry rub

Use only $\frac{1}{2}$ a can of beer (what you do with the other half is your business), add the liquid smoke and/or your favorite spice, set aside.

Wash clean and pat dry the chicken, then brush with the oil. Rub the chicken with the rub inside and out, hold the bird upright with the opening of the body cavity at the bottom and lower it onto the beer can so the can fits into the cavity. I recommend using a drip pan or a baking sheet. Pull the chicken legs forward to form a tripod, so the bird stands upright (the beer can serves as the rear leg of the tripod). Close the skin flaps on top of the chicken with a couple of tooth picks, to keep the flavor and steam in.

Cover the grill and cook the chicken until the skin is a dark golden brown and very crisp and the meat is cooked through (about 180dg) 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Use extreme caution when removing chicken from barbecue, the beer/spice mixture is hot! Allow to cool five minutes before wowing your guests with this dish.

Protecting your home

For years now, some of the mainstream media have unfairly labeled the Alberta Avenue (and area) as crime ridden and violent. This moniker may not have been unfounded in the past, however, the community has made great strides and is becoming a more vibrant, involved and safer community. One of the problems we do face in our communities is property related crime, such as Theft from Vehicles, Theft of Vehicles and Break and Enters.

In the past I have written about things like Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and the Block Captain program. I want to put all of these ideas together, along with some new ones, to help you protect your property and to reduce the likelihood of this happening to you.

Some of the best ideas for protecting your home are very simple:

- Make sure your doors and windows are locked, even if you are outside in the yard. Someone may come in the back door as you are cutting the grass in the front.
- Have lights on timers, or leave your porch and garage

lights on at night. This increases visibility and bad guys don't like to be seen.

- Leave drapes open at night when you are at home. This shows inadvertently that the people in the house are looking out.



LAW AND ORDER

WITH CST. MIKE RUSSELL

a suspect.

- Make sure there are clear sight lines from your house to the walkways or alleys.

Other ideas of how to be proactive in your approach:

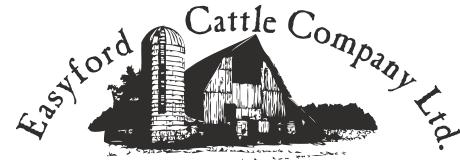
- Join the Alberta Avenue Safe Streets committee, or become a Block Captain on your block (information at: <http://www.stoxservices.com/blockcaptain/>) or call Judy Allen at 496-1913 or Cst. Mike Russell at 421-2602.

- Enroll in Citizens Police Academy (CPA). CPA class gives hands on lectures from EPS members and gives a great insight into the inner workings of the EPS. For information or to register, call Lawrence Jensen at 421-3546.

- Attend Eastwood Community Station and talk to one of our crime prevention volunteers. They are yet another great resource for our community.

If each person simply looks out for neighbors and takes a few steps to make his or her own house less of a target, we will have great results.

If you have any further questions on home safety, feel free to call Cst. Russell at 421-2602.



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and
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Email editor@ratcreek.org or call 479-6285. Events & notices printed in the paper as deemed appropriate by the editorial team and as space permits.

ONLINE COMMUNITY CALENDARS

All our community events & meetings are also on google calendars. Go to www.ratcreek.org/calendar. Scroll down to view one of the four different calendars. Click on an event to get the details.

ART & MUSIC

ARTIST TRADING CARDS

Saturday, April 12 from 12pm to 3pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). Artist Trading Cards are miniature works of art created on 2.5 X 3.5 inch card stock or mat board. They are originals, small editions, and, most importantly, self-produced. Anybody can produce them. The idea is that you trade them with other people who produce cards at the sessions. The workshop will include samples, ideas on how to get started and some materials (but please feel free to bring some of your own to keep costs down.) To register call Becky 435-3499.

ARTISAN MARKET

1st and 3rd Saturdays, 11am-4pm at The Carrot Arts Coffeehouse (9351 118 Ave)

All creations are made in Edmonton by local artists and artisans. Jewellery, woodwork, textiles and more! If you are interested in selling your wares at the market, please contact Lorraine at 919-9627.

BOOKBINDING

Saturday, April 19 at 4pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave) with Jan Przysiezniak. To register, call Becky at 435-3499.

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All levels; children and adult students welcome. Please call Connie Collingwood ARCT at 490-1922. Must live within the Rat Creek Press boundaries.

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NORWOOD CHILD & FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

9516 114 Ave, Ph: 471-3737
Must register for all programs unless stated drop-in. Rhymes that Bind Drop-in Wednesdays, 11:45-12:30 from Apr 9 to Jun 11. Songs & rhymes for children between newborn and age 3 and their caregivers. Lunch is provided. Book for Preschoolers Thursdays, 10am to 12pm from Apr 10 to May 15. Literacy and Parenting Skills (L.A.P.S.) Tuesdays 2:00-3:30pm from April 8 & 22, May 6 & 20, June 3 & 17 (Tuesdays) parent only group Planet Norwood After

school program Learning, fun and a safe environment for ages 5-13. Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 3:30-6:00pm and Thu 12:00-6:00pm.

REGISTER FOR SUMMER PROGRAM

The Child & Youth Program at the Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre is now taking registrations for the summer program. Children must be between the ages of 5 – 13 to register for this program. Please call 471-3737 for more information.

REGISTER FOR FALL HEAD START

The Head Start Program at the Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre is now taking registrations for 2008 – 09 school year. Children must be 3 1/2 by September 1st 2008. Please call 471-3737 for more information.

BABES IN ARMS

Fridays, 10am-noon at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). Come and connect with other parents in the community. Call 471-1580 for more info.

EDMONTON URBAN NATIVE MINISTRY

Drop In from Tuesdays to Fridays, 10am – 4pm at St Andrews church (8715 118 Ave). Coffee and snacks are available.

SALVATION ARMY

Edmonton Crossroads Community Church (EC3)
11661 95 St, Ph 474-4324
Tue, Wed, Thur from noon to 4pm
Fri from 7:30-10:30pm

ST. FAITH'S

Community Collective Kitchen meets at St. Faith's Church on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. There is currently space. If you are interested, please call 477-5931.

CRYSTAL KIDS YOUTH CENTRE

8718 118 Ave, Ph 479-5283 Seniors program: Wed, 11:30am-12:45pm. Moms and Tots program: Tues and Thur, 11:30am-12:45pm.
Youth program (ages 6-17):

Mon, Tue, Wed 3-8pm, Thur 2:30- 8pm, Fri 3-10pm, and Sat 1-5pm.

ENTERTAINMENT

ROMEO AND JULIET

Theatre Prospero presents Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare. Saturday, April 12th 2008 – 7:30pm Alberta Avenue Community League The Big Space – 9210 – 118th Avenue Appropriate for ages 9 and up.

PENNY CARNIVAL

Saturday, April 26 from 2pm to 4pm at Parkdale Hall (11335 85 St). Bring your pennies and loose change and come enjoy games, contests, science experiments, balloon animals and more. Sponsored by Avenue Vineyard Community Church with funding assistance from the Avenue Initiative Matching Fund. For more info call Wayne at 660-0334. Change will be donated to Third World Mission projects.

THE CARROT COFFEEHOUSE

9351 – 118 Avenue Fridays: Live music, 7:30pm-9:30pm
\$5 cover charge

April 3 IMPROV
April 4 KAREN PORKA & MO LAFEVRE
April 11 MIKE SADAVA & KEN BROWN
April 18 BACK PORCH SWING
April 25 DALE LADACEUR
May 2 MARTY AND LIL SILTANEN
Saturdays: Open mic 7:30pm-10:00pm
Music, spoken word, comedy

LIVE READING AT THE CARROT

The writers of MacEwan's Professional Writing program have been rounded up for three nights of live readings at The Carrot. Students will read poetry, fiction and creative non-fiction. April 9, 10 and 15 from 7-9pm

PICTURE TIBET

April 17, 7pm - 9pm at The Carrot Coffeehouse. A slideshow of pictures taken in Tibet by Glen McLean.

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

Are you interested in meeting your neighbours, discussing a good book and have a great cup of coffee (or tea)? Call Kimberley at 474-8302.

SPORTS & REC

FAMILY FUN RUN

Sunday, May 25, 2nd annual Community Action Dash Family Fun Run. A 10 km run (starting at 9:00) or a 5km walk (starting at 9:05) from Giovanni Caboto Park through Parkdale and Alberta Avenue. Cost \$15/person; children under 12 years free; groups over 15 people \$10/person. For registration form or more info call Brooks at 944-4687. Also register online at www.runningroom.com or day of the race at Caboto Park before 8am.

SPRUCE AVE FREE SWIM

Free swim for Spruce Ave community league members at Grant MacEwan pool, Sundays, 2-5pm. Show your current community league membership to get in. Memberships are available by calling Ray @ 474-5354.

ALBERTA AVE FREE SWIM

Free swim for Alberta Ave community league members at Eastglen pool, Sundays, 12-2pm. Show your current community league membership to get in.

FREE TAE KWON DO CLASSES

Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-6:45pm for beginners. New students must be aboriginal or metis. Contact Reverend Kim at 477-1769 or at hoosik@hotmail.com for more info.

VOLUNTEER

NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Do you love art and people? Then the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts can use you! Come volunteer and show off your talents and passion. www.ninahaggertyart.ca or 474-7611

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Gardening Day (May 10), Large item pick up(May 24), Avenue goes to the Dogs (June 14) and Arts Alive (September 26-28) will be needing numerous volunteers to make them a success again this year. You can be involved in the planning or give a few hours on the event day. Contact Karen at 479-4812/info@ratcreek.org

org or Judy Allan at 496-1913/judy.allan@edmonton.ca.

THE CARROT COFFEHOUSE

Learn how to make lattes and other coffees, then hang out at a cool coffee shop for 3 or 4 hours and visit with the interesting people who stop in. Stop in at 9351 118 Ave, call 471-1580 or visit www.thecarrot.ca.

SPRUCE AVENUE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Volunteers are needed! Please contact Laurie Cote at 474-5354 for more details.

NOTICES

COMMUNITY CHILDCARE FORUM

Thursday, April 3, 6pm at The Carrot Cafe (9351 118 Ave). An evening for parents to discuss childcare needs with our community. This would be a great opportunity to meet and network with other parents in your neighbourhood. All are welcome. For more info contact Pam at 426-4783.

ARTS ON THE AVE AGM

Sunday, April 6, 3pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). The Annual General Meeting of Arts on the Ave. Memberships \$5. www.artsontheave.org

LADIES TEA PARTY

Sunday, April 13 from 2pm to 4pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). Bring a tea cup, some tea to share and if you are so inclined some baking. This is simply an opportunity for ladies to hang out, get to know each other and enjoy a good cuppa tea.

INCOME TAX HELP

Wednesday, April 9 from 6:30-9:00pm and Saturday April 12 from 1:00-4:30pm at Avenue Vineyard Community Church (2nd floor, 11726 95 St) "Make Tax Time Pay" – free income tax preparation program for low income families by Vibrant Communities Edmonton. Families will also be reviewed for a variety of subsidy programs to ensure they are receiving the maximum benefits available.

COMMUNITY GARBAGE SALE

The Spruce Avenue Community League will be holding its 13th annual Community Garage Sale May 1, 2 and 3. It's not too early to start thinking about spring clean-up and if you have items that you would like to sell but do not want the hassel of holding your own garage sale you may want to consider renting a table at a cost of \$10.00 for the 3 day event. A bottle drive will also be held on that week-end with proceeds going to the park re-development. Call Verna at 479-8019 for more details.

NNA AGM

Norwood Neighbourhood Association will hold its AGM on Wednesday, May 14 at 7:00 PM at the Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre 9516 – 114 Ave. To gain access ring the bell high up on the right side of the door. Come out and get involved, we are always interested in what you have to say.

DESCSA—BRINGING SKILLS TO LIFE!

Are you an Alberta resident, 18 years of age or older, unemployed or marginally employed and ready for a quick entry

designed to hit your funny bone.

Good Ole Hockey Game

2 p.m. Saturday, April 12

Ages: 4 – 12 years

Participation limit: 20

Get ready for the NHL playoffs in style with some hockey stories and hockey-themed activities. Be sure to wear your hockey jersey or t-shirt if you have one.

Dreamcatchers

2 p.m. Saturday, April 26

Ages: 10 years and up

Participation limit: 10

Create an Aboriginal dreamcatcher with a Metis artisan.

TEEN

Teen Advisory Group

6:30 p.m. Friday, April 11, April 25,

May 9

For ages: 12 – 17 years. Make your voice heard! Join our Teen Advisory Group and you can suggest programs that the library should offer for teens and what books, music and movies we should order. Have fun, meet other teens, and

or re-entry into the labour market within a three to six week timeframe? Are you legally entitled to work in Canada? Labour Force Solutions is an employment placement program that:

- * Identifies employment opportunities of interest by matching job seekers with potential employers to find the best job placement fit
- * Provides ongoing individualized and high quality customer service utilizing a variety of methods to meet specific job seeker needs

- * Works with employers to develop supports and strategies to improve employee work performance and job retention

For more information or to make an appointment contact: (780) 471-9627 Website: www.decsa.com

CASINO WORKERS NEEDED

Rat Creek Press is raising operational funding through a casino. We need numerous volunteers for Sat and Sun, Sept 27 & 28. Day and evening shifts. Call Verna at 479-8019 or email verna.stainthorp@shaw.ca.

RCP SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 23 at 7pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). A quick vote on a bylaw change required by Corporate Registraries.

RCP EDITORIAL MEETING

We meet monthly to plan our upcoming issue. Stop in and share your thoughts and ideas or share something you've written or would like to write. Contact us if you'd like to be on our editorial email list: editor@ratcreek.org or 479-6285. Next meeting: Wednesday, April 23 at 7pm at The Carrot.

PLANNING ACADEMY

Curious about urban planning and want to get involved in the process? Register with the City of Edmonton's Planning Academy. Topics include land use planning, transportation, urban design and more. To find out locations and times visit www.edmonton.ca/planningacademy or call 496-7370.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Edmonton is hiring summer recreation staff as well as part-time rec staff starting immediately. Go to www.edmonton.ca Click on City Jobs / Job Opportunities

WORKING HARD TO MAKE ENDS MEET?

Get your taxes done for free!!

Does your total family income fall within these ranges?

Maximum Income	Family size
\$30,000	1 person
\$37,000	2 persons
\$40,500	3 persons
\$43,500	4 persons
\$47,000	5 persons

Then call 211 for the **MAKE TAX TIME PAY** site nearest you.



Community FUNtime

Bring your pennies and loose change and come enjoy an afternoon of fun.

Change will be donated to Third World Missions projects



WHAT: Penny Carnival

WHEN: Saturday, April 26 from 2pm to 4pm

WHERE: Parkdale Hall
11335 85 Street

Community FUNtime is brought to you by Avenue Vineyard Community Church with funding assistance from the Avenue Initiative Matching Fund. For more info call Wayne at 660-0334.

**Proud to Live
In Ward 3**



Councillor Tony Caterina
2nd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2R7

Phone: (780) 496-8333
Email: tony.caterina@edmonton.ca
Web: www.edmonton.ca



**A B C
HEAD START**

Register your preschooler for a free preschool program at ABC Head Start!

We are taking registrations at our 12 sites, including Eastwood, St. Alphonsus and St. Francis, for the 2008-2009 school year.

The program is for children aged 3.6 to 5 years from families currently experiencing a lower income. It runs four half-days a week. Bussing and snacks are free. Call 461-5353.



Norwood Neighbourhood Association

nna.org@hotmail.com

Celebrating our community connection

It happens every 18 months to two years, just like clockwork. We get our two day date with a local casino compliments of the Gaming Commission. Each time we know it's coming but each time we get just a little anxious about filling all 36 spots. That's right, 36! Fortunately Yoko stepped up and took the role, and this year she scored a hat trick as Casino Coordinator! Believe it, the board of the NNA is most grateful for her strong organizational skills.

The amazing thing is that 36

people stepped up to help out, and we all know a shift at a casino is a big chunk of time to ask of folks. So once again it's a done deal, all shifts were covered and we all tried to make it as much fun as possible. Norwood has some terrific residents and through six degrees of separation we are all connected.

With that kind of support, we thanked our volunteers with an appreciation event. With a little planning, we had the license, the wine, the music, the delicious food from I,2,3

Thai Restaurant and the perfect venue, The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse. It was a very relaxed, friendly and comfortable time with our neighbours and I whipped up some serious lattes as well!

What made it even more special was the action taken by Jim and Ross. When we arrived at The Carrot we noticed that two windows had been hit in a random "egging" along the Avenue. Shortly after that Jim asked for water and Ross got his window scraper and between the two of them they completely cleaned egg off the windows. A real act of random kindness for sure. It topped off the community connection created in The Carrot on a sunny Sunday afternoon.

I'm happy to report other positive happenings in the NNA. We have recently seen an increase in our board, something we have been focussed on for some time. A big welcome to Gillian, Karina, Alex, Ross, Neil and Laura. It's very exciting for us and the Norwood neighbourhood can expect more good things to come from the NNA. We also say good-bye to Darcy M. who has moved on to new adventures in his life. Thanks Darcy for all your help over the last few years, we'll miss you but wish all the best in the future.

Speaking of the NNA board this is notification of the upcoming AGM on May 14 at 7 p.m. at the Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre 9516 – 114 Ave. To gain access ring the bell high up on the right side of the door. Come out and get involved, we are always interested in what you have to say.

Valerie Parr, President of Norwood Neighbourhood Association

"Spring" into the Carrot!

Please bring in this ad and Buy one Latte, get one free!
Coupon Expires May 30, 2008
9351-118ave www.thecarrot.ca

Ladies Teaparty

Bring a tea cup, your favourite tea to share
and if you're so inclined some baking.

sunday, April 13
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
at The Carrot (9351-118 Ave.)