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Billboard campaign unveiled to pressure 'irresponsible' Avenue businesses

DARREN BOISVERT

The 'We Believe in 118' campaign unveiled new billboards this month to end the sale of weapons and drug paraphernalia from the Avenue. Two large signs were erected on the corners of 90th and 83rd streets and 118th Avenue. The billboards feature a letter written by a local student urging the community to support a 'cleaner' neighbourhood and will remain displayed for a month.

"We're trying to bring attention to what is going on in the stores along the Ave," says Mike McLary, an executive committee member with the 'We Believe in 118' campaign and owner of EC Automotive. "It's a non-confrontational attempt to apply pressure to certain business owners who are still selling this merchandise."

A media event and small rally was held on April 7, with members of the Edmonton Police Service, local business owners, NET, and 118th supporters attending. Coffee was supplied by the manager of the 7-11 store in an impromptu sign of support for the event.

The 'We Believe in 118' campaign has been a six-year effort by local residents, the City, and local police officers to change the culture of crime along the main community thoroughfare. "It used to be just a sticker in the store," says

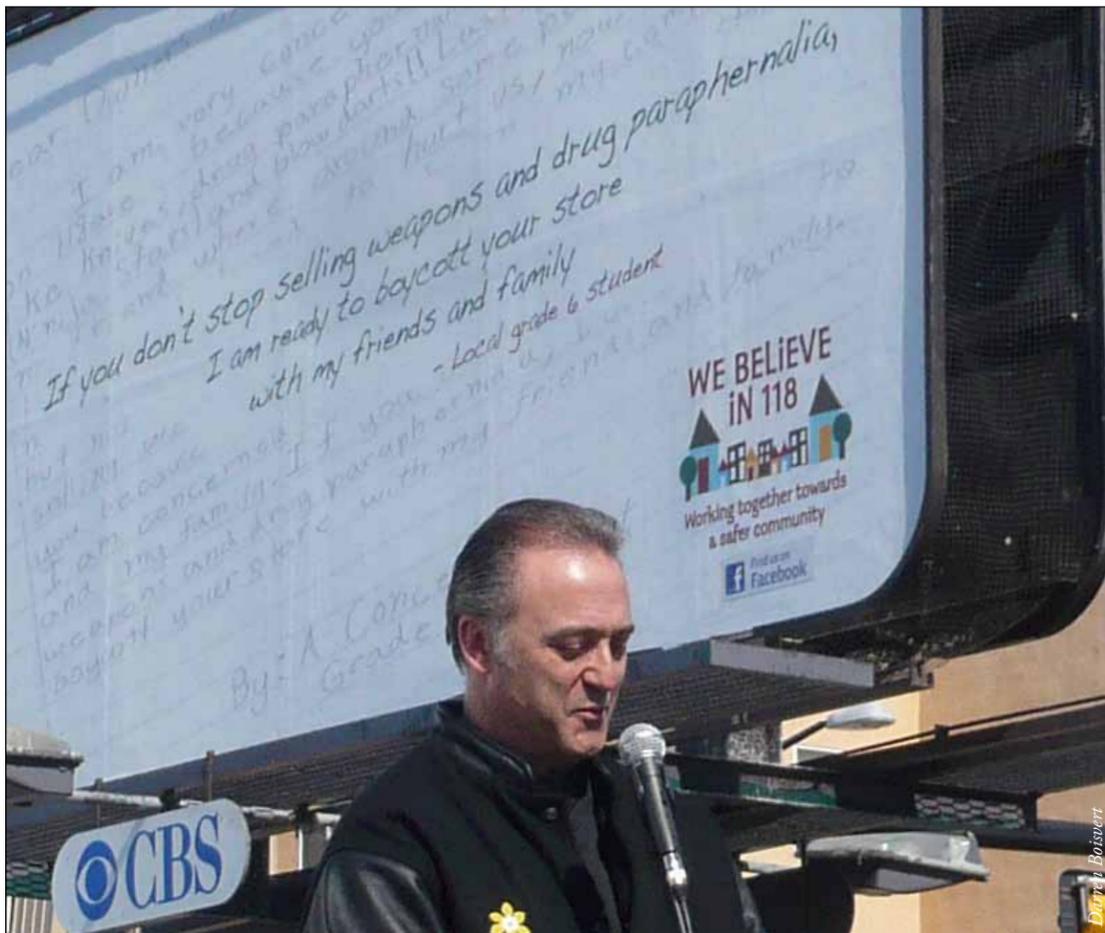
McLary, "We're working hard to change this."

According to the organizers, they have had success in convincing local owners to change their inventory choices.

"Four of these businesses decided to change, and one went out of business," says Constable Paul Pilon, the EPS Community Liaison Officer. "And now we are down to the last business. We are asking, 'Why not (you)?'"

The focus of the current billboard campaign is the Canadian Dollar Store on 93rd and 118th Avenue. Their inventory includes samurai swords and knives, pot bongs and pipes. According to Constable Pilon, they are resisting making any changes and claim they would need \$10,000 to cover their losses if they removed the items. The store declined to comment on the campaign.

Last year, over 75 grade five students from the Edmonton Public School system gathered in a restorative justice effort to connect the youth with the changes underway in their neighbourhood. They wrote letters to City Council and local businesses and explained what it was like to live in an area that features too much crime. One letter was



PRESSURE FROM ABOVE. MIKE MCLARY FROM THE 'WE BELIEVE IN 118' ORGANIZATION SPEAKS AT A RALLY ON APRIL 7, 2011. A CHILD'S LETTER IS FEATURED IN A NEW BILLBOARD CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE BUSINESS OWNERS TO ACT RESPONSIBLY IN THEIR MERCHANDISE CHOICES. THEIR GOAL IS TO HAVE 118TH AVENUE FREE OF ANY STORES SELLING DRUG PARAPHERNALIA AND WEAPONS.

chosen for the billboard campaign.

"We went into the process with information for the children and encouraged them to explore these issues and to

talk to their friends and families about their concerns," says Nancy Petersen, EPS Principal with the City Centre Education Partnership. This approach, she claims, is complimentary to

the variety of social programs offered to the children in the area. "We want the children to have a say in their community, and help make it safer for them."



Federal Election underwhelms the Avenue

Ray Martin spends time discussing the environment and fixed incomes with residents of the Norwood Golden Manor Seniors home. Only eight residents showed up to hear the NDP candidate discuss his candidacy and hopes for the constituency. With few signs displayed and no candidates' forum planned, the election is meeting with a distinct lack of enthusiasm among voters in the area.

Meet your candidates and read their views inside (Page 4 and 5).

INSIDE

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DOG TALK

DARLENE TAYLOR

For most people, a typical morning might include cream in their coffee, milk on their cereal, or perhaps bacon with eggs; some spend time with their cat, or take their dog for a walk; those in the countryside will perhaps drive by herds of cows and horses. If PETA and affiliate organizations such as the Humane Society of United States (HSUS) and Humane Society International (HSI) have their way, you would have none of this. Your children and grandchildren will not be eating meat or dairy, or hugging a family pet.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) believe that animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, use for entertainment, abuse, exploit. On the surface I agree with most of their beliefs but when you take a closer look at each one:

Eat – PETA includes cows, turkeys, pigs, fish, ducks and chickens. This also includes milk and eggs. Think about all the things made with milk, butter, cream, cheese and eggs.

Wear – PETA advocates no use of fur, leather and wool. This includes farm animals such as sheep and cattle.

Experiment On – PETA says no animal should be experimented on in any way shape or form – it should be done with computer modeling or other alternatives. According to PETA President Ingrid Newkirk, "Even if animal tests produced a cure for AIDS, we'd be against it."

Legislation and regulations on the treatment of animals for research already exists. According to the US Office of Technology Assessment, "The most comprehensive study of pain in animal research found that 92% do not experience any pain at all due to the research."

Use for entertainment

– PETA includes horse-drawn carriages, circuses, zoos, animals as film or stage actors, exotic animals as 'pets', cruel sports (while bullfighting and dogfighting are included, so are rodeos, hunting, fishing, and animal racing such as dog-sledding. Society as a whole has outlawed some of these "sports" such as dog and cock fighting and others are regulated and monitored. Do we need PETA to champion more regulations? They will only lead to the inability for anyone to own any animal for any reason.

Abuse – Space prohibits me from going through all that PETA considers abuse. I suppose it depends how one interprets abuse.

Exploit – PETA believes that "If ants, cockroaches, wasps, and bees are calling your house 'home,' there's no need to resort to cruel and toxic pesticides or traps. . . Learn more about these interesting insects and how you can coexist peacefully with them." I'm not sure I want to coexist with a cockroach in my house. I agree there are a variety of ways to prevent pests entering the home such as sealed food containers and keeping areas clean. There are traps that capture and you can release the captive elsewhere.

Ingrid Newkirk, President of PETA has said "eventually companion animals would be phased out, and we would return to a more symbiotic relationship, enjoyment at a distance."

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) converted from a position of animal welfare to an animal rights advocate by a membership vote in 1980. Wayne Pacella, CEO and President of HSUS said, "One generation and out. We have no problems with the extinction of domestic animals."

The funds supporting these groups goes to the organiza-

tion, salaries, and expenses of the executives, very little if any (maybe 1%) of the millions donated actually support humane shelters or fund spaying or neutering programs.

The disturbing images presented by these groups invoking sympathy imply they are the norm but it is actually the opposite. Dog and cat programs are making major progress so PETA and HSUS have had to expand their mandate to include farm animals, exotics and wild animals to continue the increase of donations. Partnering and expanding to global concerns also increases their ability to continue on the long term. Comments by PETA such as "Humans have grown like a cancer. We're the biggest blight on the face of the earth" worry me that humans are the next target of these organizations.

Here in Edmonton, some celebrities are partnering with PETA for what they understand to be medical attention for Lucy, the elephant at Edmonton Valley Zoo while drawing sympathy and large donations from the public on both sides of the border. While Bob Barker has offered the city \$100,000, it is not clear where this money has come from.

While organizations like PETA may seem to have our best interests at heart, closer examination of their real intentions and philosophies -- never mind a review of their financial statements -- shows the other side. Over the years I have learned to investigate and research for myself the various organizations that I support. It's tough to have to defend what you believe in, but it is necessary. With television, celebrities, and the Internet, many facts are camouflaged and it's up to the individual to break through. Our relationships with animals is one important belief to constantly examine.



THE MAYOR'S WIFE, LYNN MANDEL, PRESENTS A CHECK TO SUPPORT THE RELAUNCH OF THE 'WE BELIEVE IN 118' CAMPAIGN ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14. THE EVENT AT THE CARROT CAFE WAS TO ENCOURAGE BUSINESSES TO SUPPORT POSITIVE CHANGES IN THE COMMUNITY AND HIGHLIGHT THE CONTINUED CAMPAIGN TO REMOVE WEAPONS AND DRUG PARAPHERNALIA FROM STORES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

61% of Canadians exercised their right to vote in the 2004 Federal Election. Vote on May 2.

Shaping the community of avid book lovers

SPRUCEWORDS

SHANNON CLARKE

As a lover of fiction, the public library workplace is ideal for me. It's hard to beat the luxury of being surrounded by a collection of books that is refreshed daily, but the greatest perk is seeing which titles are checked out of my branch most frequently. Like many readers, I want to be part of a larger reading community. I want to read what other people read. I want titles that are so popular they have a hundred holds. If everyone is reading it, it must be good, right?

I often wonder how other readers choose their next book. From casual discussions with friends and colleagues, I've learned some are drawn to a novel for its appealing cover design, while others choose for specific authors or from lists of bestsellers and prize-winners. However, most readers want a book recommended by someone they trust. Staff Picks displays at libraries, other readers, and Oprah's Book Club were cited examples of trustworthy sources for the next good read.

Book clubs, whether they have millions of members (like Oprah's) or eight (like mine) are another great source of reading recommendations. I always leave my monthly book club meeting with a few recommended titles in addition to the selection for next month's discussion. I recently read *Freedom*, by Jonathan Franzen, partly because a book

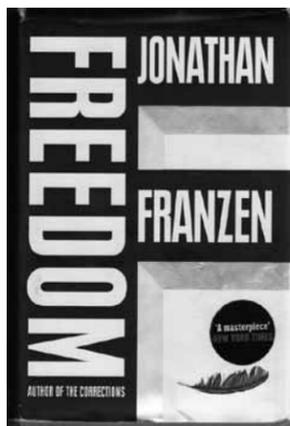
club member recommended it, but also because I watched it get checked out of the library countless times. Oprah's Book Club chose *Freedom* as her 2010 pick, so I was not surprised that the library has 95 copies of this book with most of them signed out.

Is *Freedom* so popular because the cover is attractive, because it's really good and people talk about it, or because Oprah highlighted it in her book club? Cultural Studies, English, and Women's Studies academics have written widely on the phenomenal effects of Oprah's Book Club

on the worldwide publishing industry and reading public. If Oprah loves a book and the audience loves Oprah, then the audience loves the book. Smart, independent readers want to be told what to read, and want to be part of a larger reading community. Oprah has helped shape that

reading community since 1996 when she announced the start of a book club that would eventually grow into a colossal mass of readers.

If you are like me and want to know what people are reading, public library catalogues worldwide now have interactive features that allow readers to share reading lists, review books, and leave comments on every title in the library collection. If Oprah's book club ends with the last season of her show, fear not -- there are other great reading communities of all sizes and formats waiting to welcome you.



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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Rat Creek Press is a forum for all people. We encourage comments that further discussion on a given article or subject, provide constructive criticism, or offer an idea for community activity.

Letters should be no longer than 250 words and must include the full name, location and contact information of the author.

Op-Ed columns should be 600-800 words and observe formal rules of spelling and grammar.

The RCP reserves the right to edit all material and to remove any electronic comment at any time.

All columns, letters or cartoons submitted are attributed to the author and do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Rat Creek Press.

Send submissions to the Rat Creek Press Editor via email editor@ratcreek.org, or 9210 - 118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5G 0N2. Mail may also be dropped at the address above.

A reason to vote in the middle of the humdrum

The federal election on May 2 could go down as the most underwhelming campaign in many years. Here in Edmonton-East, there are so few election signs displayed that many people could well assume that they are merely left-overs from the last election. We are being presented with the same choices. Only Shafik Ruda for the Liberals is the new candidate in the riding. The Green Party is throwing up Trey Capnerhurst once again, the same with NDP stalwart Ray Martin, and incumbent Peter Goldring is contesting for the seat one more time.

The same choices are available at the national level, with only Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff as the new kid on the block. The parties' platforms are all re-hashed positions, and the campaigns are only generating discussion about which party's commercials can hit the lowest character blow.

Critically significant for gauging voter interest is the anemic level of volunteers working on the campaigns. In a riding of over 90,000 eligible voters, there are as little as two hundred volunteers working on the Edmonton-East campaigns. In a community that is re-inventing itself on the strength of volunteering and personal responsibility, it's clear that few people see this federal election as a path to change.

The one commonality in this election is that all the parties, all the candidates and most of the voters think this election is unnecessary and a waste of money. However, the only people responsible for this election are the federal parties who refused to compromise and thus triggered the election. To use the calling of an election as a basis for bashing their opponents reflects poorly on our leaders. The PC's blame the Liberals and NDP for

bringing down the House, the other parties blame Stephen Harper -- and the voters stay at home and blame the politicians for their cynical electioneering.

So why vote?

While an election is not the same as democracy, it is that rare opportunity to choose the best person to represent our interests and values in Parliament. Here in Edmonton-East, voters have excellent candidates that have offered themselves as our federal community leader. They deserve our close scrutiny.

Trey Capnerhurst admits that it is unlikely she will be elected, but even against such long-odds of success, she is

running again for the Green Party. A committed environmentalist, herbalist and community activist, she is hopeful that the election media coverage can be used to educate people about environmental issues. Between elections, the Green Party exists under the radar (even among activists), and Capnerhurst has only had limited success in coalescing the local environmentalists into a political force. Until this changes, it's unlikely there will be increased support at the ballot box.

Rafik Shuda is a likeable man in his early 40's, full of energy and optimism. Standing for the Liberals, he's running on the strength of the Canadian Dream. His accomplishments are worth trumpeting. An immigrant to this country, he has successfully carved out a career in IT, started a family, and given back

to the community by hosting large fundraisers featuring young artists. He's proud of the fact he takes his young sons to hockey games, grabs early morning Tim Horton's coffee, and has a chance to run for public office.

With the Liberals only managing to receive 10% of the vote in the last election, it's also clear that Shuda has little chance at winning this election. Like the national Liberals, he has failed to find an issue that galvanizes the electorate. While his story is inspiring, it hasn't convinced voters that he has a concrete plan for improving their lives.

This election is a rematch between two experienced

politicians in what is likely to be a close battle. Both men have distinguished political backgrounds, both men have worked long hours in public service, and best of all, both men are asking us to chose between their widely

different political positions.

Why vote? Because this riding gets to choose between Ray Martin and Peter Goldring.

Nominated 5 weeks before the writ dropped in 2008, Ray Martin still managed to get 30% of the popular vote. This time around he's been door-knocking for two years. With his easy-going presence and experience on the front-step, it's likely he's changed a few minds. He also can remind them of his tenure serving them admirably in the provincial legislature. If name-recognition will help Martin with voters, his reputation among his NDP volunteers has

energized his campaign.

"He's an icon," said one staffer in his election office. "He's up there with Grant Notley and Ed Broadbent." To be an NDP candidate that wins repeatedly in Conservative Alberta is like making multiple trips to the summit of Everest. His staff is enthusiastic and believe their candidate can win.

His message of helping those on fixed-incomes, commitment to improving the environment, and protecting the health-care system is resonating with many people in the community. Above all, he is a rare politician who has obvious compassion for people. As such, he would be an excellent Member of Parliament.

Equally worth consideration is the Conservative incumbent Peter Goldring. With over 50% of the vote last election, he has a lot of support in the community. First with the Alliance, and then with the Conservatives, he's represented the riding for over 10 years. His background in the military, in business, and as a representative in Ottawa, is filled with accomplishments and experience. He's participated as an observer in international election monitoring and advocated for Veterans.

His advocating for large-scale, affordable housing projects in the constituency, however, is meeting with resistance and could hurt his election chances. The Boyle-McCauley Community League is accusing him of misrepresenting important facts in the debate, and are looking for political support for smaller housing units. It's likely they'll give their votes to Martin.

While the election may be just another trip to the ballot box for many, here in Edmonton East there is a real contest going on. It's worth the effort. It's worth your vote.

"To use the calling of an election as a basis for bashing their opponents reflects poorly on our leaders"

EDMONTON

Public Meeting

Proposal to rezone for business area in Central McDougall

Date: Thursday, May 5, 2011

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Victoria School for the Performing Arts, 10210 - 108 Avenue NW (Kingsway Entrance)

Citizens are invited to a Public Meeting to discuss a proposed rezoning from RF5 (Row Housing) Zone to CB1 (Low Intensity Business) Zone for the properties located at 10809, 10813, 10819, 10821, and 10825 - 111 Avenue. The intent of the rezoning is to enable the development of low intensity office space and commercial services along 111 Avenue.

The meeting will explain the proposed rezoning and be an opportunity to provide input both to the City and the property owner. The public feedback collected will be summarized in a report to City Council before they make their decision on the rezoning.

For more information, contact:

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Speaker's Corner

Have opinions? Great- let's hear them! Submissions: editor@ratcreek.org

2011 Federal Election Candidates Speak

The Rat Creek Press has offered the candidates a free space to speak to our readers about their political plans for the community. The pieces were unedited for content and we encourage everyone to read, consider their choices carefully, and then vote on May 2, 2011.



Shafik Ruda
Liberal

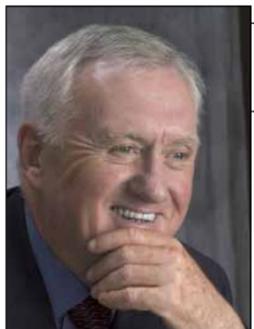
Shafik Ruda has lived in Edmonton East for the past 24 years. He and his wife Zahra are young, energetic professionals. They have 3 children as well as 3 cats.

Shafik attended Queen Elizabeth Composite High School, Concordia College and graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. majoring in math and computing science. He currently works as a Management Consultant, providing services to companies such as Telus, Servus Credit Union, Alberta Health & Wellness, and Edmonton Police Services.

Shafik strongly believes in giving back to the community. He is a founder of "Dil Se" – (from the heart) drama productions from which all proceeds were donated to benefit charities. Shafik volunteered hundreds of hours of his time and inspired at least a hundred volunteers to do the same. Closer to home, Shafik has coached minor hockey and soccer, and currently sits on the parent council at his children's school.

Shafik also believes that giving back extends beyond one's local community and has volunteered for World Partnership Walk & Golf from which proceeds go to initiatives and projects, such as building schools and hospitals, in developing countries.

Shafik is running for office because he believes that Edmonton East needs a stronger voice in Ottawa. Issues such as education, engaging the youth and the young adult population, and empowering seniors and those who care for them are important to those living in Edmonton East and to him.



Ray Martin
NNew Democratic Party

The Tories were elected five years ago on a promise to fix health care and clean up corruption. Since then, you've let me know that health care is worse than ever, with longer wait times and too many Edmonton families without doctors.

And corruption? In five years, Tories stacked the Senate with cronies, and they're under investigation for cheating on campaign spending.

Our own Tory MP hasn't been helping to fix Ottawa either. Instead of working to make life more affordable for families, we've heard nothing from him except for his dislike of Louis Riel and his trips overseas.

Those are not your priorities.

Jack Layton and the NDP have put together some practical ideas that will help - reducing credit card interest rates, improving pensions, and putting more resources into health care.

I've lived in your community for over 30 years, and I want to see Ottawa fixed and working to help your family



Trey Capnerhurst
Green Party

From increasing funding, support and empowerment to already established community organizations like Rat Creek Press, The Carrot, Arts on the Ave and community leagues, to changing how we think about our area; I have always advocated for Edmonton East as a candidate and an activist.

Co-op day-cares, organic local food co-ops and gardens, better public transit, long term stable spaces for the un-housed -- these are just some of the projects I have advocated, worked on, and would like to see in our riding as a vision for the

future.

The Greens are solution-based and locally oriented, and are working all year round to make the changes we need. We are the people in your neighbourhood.



Peter Goldrinig
Conservative

We've accomplished a lot together since 1997, and now have the opportunity to ensure that our hard work on the economy, housing, taxes and other important matters gets resolved.

I have worked with three levels of government and the private sector to provide affordable rental housing for those in need. That led to the breakthrough approval of funding for the private sector Mayfair Village project, saving taxpayers \$40 million and adding 237 units of affordable rental housing to the Edmonton market.

Our Conservative Government has delivered choice and support to more than two million parents through the Universal Child Care Benefit - \$1,200 per year in direct support for every child under six and more than \$3.7 billion in total to help parents with the cost of child care.

We have shown our commitment to seniors with enhancements to the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and more than \$2.3 billion in annual tax relief to seniors and pensioners. More than 85,000 seniors no longer have to pay income tax.

We have lowered wait times in hospitals and increased health care transfers to the provinces.

In Edmonton East we have supported arts organizations like Arts on the Ave and the Works Art & Design Festival.

On May 2nd vote for Peter Goldrinig and Prime Minister Stephen Harper. We are here for Canada, here for you, here for Edmonton East.

What's The BIG Idea?

Food for thought

CARLA MEYER

The Wecan Food Basket Society, a not-for-profit organization began 15 years ago by Edmonton social workers, is all about stretching your budget for healthy food.

The big idea is that community members would have an opportunity to purchase healthy food at a good price and instead of eating your food right away, you would pay at the beginning of the month and get your food at the end of the month when your bank account is running on fumes and your cupboards are looking a bit bare. It's not a food bank, it's food in the bank! Three baskets are available: a \$20 full order, a \$12 meat order or an \$8 produce order, but you are able to buy any number or combination of each. Currently, a meat order consists of three different cuts of meat, a produce order consists of three types each of fruit and vegetables and a full order is both. Due to increasing food prices, Wecan is now considering whether to maintain the price at \$20 and offer only two different types of meat, fruit and vegetables, or whether their members would prefer the variety is maintained but the price be increased to \$25.

There are 21 depots throughout Edmonton and seven additional depots in surrounding communities. Each depot sells \$5 annual memberships, accepts payments from members, collects the orders from The Grocery People (TGP) and ensure that members get their groceries. A great deal of work goes into this process each month, but like anything, many hands make light work!

At our Alberta Avenue depot, there are at least five different people who share responsibility. One payment day volunteer greets customers, explains the program, and takes payment. The depot coordinator submits the money and order to the Wecan head office and ensures the paperwork is done and there are enough volunteers! Once the order gets to Wecan each month, the office staff do many different tasks, an important one being negotiations with TGP about the contents of the basket. On pickup day, another volunteer drives their own car

to pick up all the food from TGP, then unloads at Crystal Kids and meets the pickup supervisor, who organizes the food and ensures that people who are coming to pick up groceries have already paid. And then there is everyone who supports us behind the scenes from Crystal

Kids and the Avenue Vineyard Community Church!

For a long time, our community depot was run by Flavour Budzzz Catering staff, but that all changed in January 2010 when the recession hit and Flavour Budzzz had to close their doors. With the support of the Prostitution Awareness and Action Foundation of Edmonton, we were permitted to access the building, and more importantly - the fridge and freezer - for several hours twice a month to maintain the consistent location. Unfortunately the reduced operating hours didn't work for everyone and our membership began to suffer.

After several months of declining orders, we opted to sell baskets at the Alberta Avenue Farmer's Market, which was initially very successful. Market hours were then 2-7pm and while extended payment hours were more convenient for many members, the time commitment eventually over-taxed our meagre volunteer forces. Adding to the strain and confusion, we still sorted and packed groceries at Alberta Avenue Community League in the morning of pickup day, then moved them to the freezer at Flavour Budzzz until members came later for pick up. Then tragedy struck in the form of a freezer breakdown and suddenly we had nowhere to keep the food cold. So we adapted - again!

In September 2010, a member of the Vineyard Church came forward with an offer of a more permanent home for our depot and the opportunity to reach out to those struggling with food security issues. The Vineyard operates the community food bank depot out of the Crystal Kids youth drop-in centre and we hoped the partnership might effectively increase awareness of and membership in Wecan, while simultaneously giving food bank users tools to address household food insecurity. We have adopted a "members-as-volunteers" policy and now operate at Crystal Kids (8710-118 Ave) on the first and third Fridays of each month from 1:30-2:45pm. Our next payment day is May 6 with pickup day being May 20.

The Wecan Food Basket Society continues to offer healthy food at a good price and in our city there is still a very real need for this program, and it deserves your support - we hope you will join us.

For more information, please visit www.wecanfood.com or contact Carla at avefsn@gmail.com.



AT THE BEGINNING OF MAY, SIXTY-NINE PEOPLE FROM NINETEEN COUNTRIES JOINED RENOWNED ADVENTURER/ ENVIRONMENTALIST ROBERT SWAN FOR A THREE WEEK TRIP TO THE ANTARCTIC. SINCE 2003, SWAN AND HIS COMPANY *ANTARCTIC 2041* HAVE LAUNCHED EXPEDITIONS TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN THE WORLD'S FIRST EDUCATION BASE IN ANTARCTIC. LOCAL RESIDENTS JENNIFER KELLER AND DAYLE PETT PARTICIPATED IN THE TOUR AS REPRESENTATIVES OF SOLSTICE CANADA.

LEADERSHIP ON THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

by Jennifer Keller and Dayle Pett



MARCH 1, 2011, EDMONTON, ALBERTA

The day we departed for Antarctica, we joked to our friends that we had to go all the way to Antarctica to warm up. It was -45C in Edmonton and we were asking, "Where is our global warming?" Two days and many planes later, we arrived at the southernmost city in the world, Ushuaia, Argentina.

MARCH 3-5, 2011, USHUAIA, ARGENTINA

Meetings today with other team members, gear checks, safety briefings and other demonstrations. Thankfully we are split into small groups and the intimidation of trying to meet 69 people from 19 nations was certainly minimized. Our last day in Ushuaia was the most intense team building event that we had ever participated in: climbing the Martial Glacier.

The Martial Glacier looms over Ushuaia and it is the main source of freshwater for the city of Ushuaia. Shockingly enough, Global warming has caused significant recidification causing the city to look at alternative sources of water. What would this alternative be? Bottled water. Not necessarily the most sustainable solution, since there is no place in Argentina to recycle the bottles.

MARCH 6-7, 2011, DRAKE PASSAGE

Officially in the Drake Passage. The seas began to roll more steeply and we had to secure our belongings in our room. Around 4am we were rudely awakened, as the boat began to pitch more steeply, and we could feel the hull of the ship lifting and smashing into the water. We woke up feeling very tired, as we got flipped out of our beds several times throughout the night. Despite the discomfort of the Drake, we both agreed that maybe it was good that the Drake was so unpredictable and intimidating... treating it like it's a natural barrier for those who do not belong here.

MARCH 8, 2011, MELCHIOR ISLANDS

We made it out of the Drake Passage! Today was the first calm day and we saw a lot of faces that we haven't seen in 48 hours. Cheeks are pink, legs are stable, and puke bags are packed away for another week.

Suddenly like a mirage, the land of ice was looming before us. We had now entered the Melchoir Islands. There are no words to describe the beauty or the colors that exist on this continent. As we cruised we saw our first glimpses of Fur Seals, Leopard Seals, Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins. Flying around our zodiacs were Kelp Gulls, Petrels, and Cormorants.

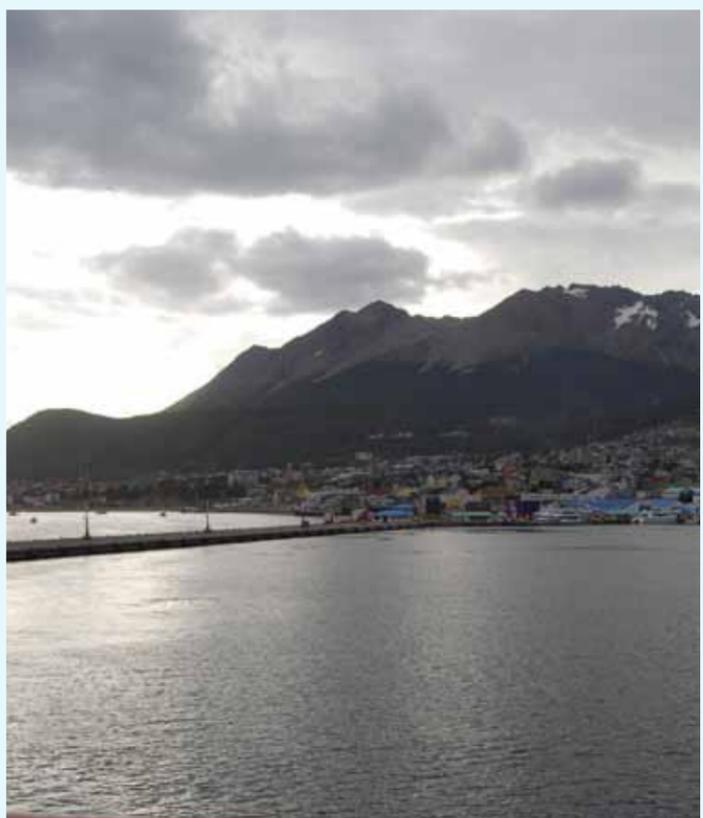
We don't belong here. The beauty is too immense for human interruption.

MARCH 9, 2011, LEMAIRE CHANNEL AND PETERMAN ISLAND

We saw our first glimpses of the cutest creatures ever: the penguin. Little did we know that as soon as we touched land, these funny little animals would want everything to do with us, and we had problems keeping our 5 meter 'safe' distance from them.

As each day goes by, the link between sustainability and leadership is becoming more clear to us. Someone today asked Robert Swan why any country would want to own a piece of Antarctica. He responded, "For fossil fuels...but there is only enough fossil fuel for 10 years of global consumption." Is it worth it?





MARCH 11, 2011, CUVERVILLE AND RONGE ISLAND, ANTARCTIC PENINSULA,

Our challenge for the afternoon was to navigate up the very steep Cuverville Mountain. Due to the dense fog and snow, we couldn't see the top of the mountain, which disguised the steepness of the slope. Returning to the zodiacs, we scrambled to Ronge Island to get settled at the campsite before darkness set in. After creatively pre-warming our bags with hot packs we toddled like sleepy penguins to our tents.

The sounds of the Antarctic, along with the exhaustion from the days hike, lulled us to sleep. We awoke several times during the night to hear the moans of calving glaciers in the distance.

MARCH 12, 2011, WILHELMINA BAY, ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

We spent the three hours cruising the picturesque bay with our Canadian zodiac driver Shane. With over 18 years of experience guiding in the Antarctic, he was able to get us within mere meters of several humpback whales. We could smell their breath. In the distance, we heard cracks and watched the avalanche cascade down the mountain. No one in the boat knew what direction to point their cameras, so instead we all watched Antarctica unfold around us.

MARCH 14, 2011, WHALERS BAY, DECEPTION ISLAND

Opting out of the steep hike, we choose instead to meander along the beach to snoop in the old whaling buildings that remain as part of the historical site managed by the British Antarctic Society. First inhabited by whalers in the early 1900's, over the next 40 years, whalers caught and processed over 185,000 whales on Deception Island -- ultimately hunting them to near extinction.

Following the crash of the whale oil industry, the island was deserted until the 1940's when a British crew landed covertly on the island to set up a "research station". This station was ultimately a cover for a spy camp, but was wiped out by a volcanic eruption in 1969. We saw 40 graves from whalers and 'researchers'. All but two graves remain as the rest were pushed out to the ocean after the last eruption, forever at rest in the Southern Ocean.

MARCH 15, 2011, MAXWELL BAY, KING GEORGE ISLAND

Bellingshausen is a Russian research station located on King George Island in the South Shetland Islands. In 1991, Robert Swan raised \$8 million dollars to clean up over 1500 tons of debris from the station over a period of 8 years. The Russians, appreciative but embarrassed by the state of their station, allowed 2041 to set up the very first base camp (E-Base) made of 100% renewable resources.

We visit the tank farm consisting of nine, large, above-ground tanks used to fuel Russian submarines during the Cold War. The tanks are now empty and essentially unused except to store garbage and debris from the Russian station. Visual evidence of spills were present on the soil surrounding the valves and pipe ends.

MARCH 16-17, 2011, THE DRAKE PASSAGE AND CAPE HORN

Perhaps it was luck. The Drake, much like Antarctica, treated us kindly and we saw more Drake Lake than Drake Shake. We had the rare opportunity to round "the Cape". Cape Horn is located in Chilean waters and ships passing through the area are not permitted within 13 miles of the Horn. Luckily for us, our sweet Spanish guide Lolli won over the family living on the Chilean naval base at Cape Horn by telling them that our boat was on a mission to promote environmental sustainability. We sailed within three miles of land. Beautiful. We celebrate in the evening with a Captain's reception, savouring the last moments on the boat and enjoying our last hours of freedom.

We recognize the end of our trip is merely the start of our journey, one that will start back at our office, in our community and our home -- educating others on the one place in the world that should be left undeveloped.

Hello, Highlands-Norwood!



The Tories are out of excuses now that the Alberta Medical Association has backed a public inquiry into doctor intimidation. After months of downplaying and half-measures, there's nowhere left for this government to hide. I will continue to stand with Albertans, and with our medical professionals, to improve our public health care.

I invite you to offer your feedback or share your comments regarding this or any other issues of your concern with my office.



Your MLA, Brian Mason
Edmonton Highlands-Norwood
6519 - 112 Avenue

www.brianmason.ca ph: 780.414.0682

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Sharing the fruits of backyard gardening

BLISS ROBINSON

In many backyards around Edmonton, unused gardens grow crops of weeds while many apartment and condo-dwellers dream of a little plot to grow fresh vegetables and perhaps a few flowers. While there are websites connecting would-be gardeners with landowners in many US cities, there is nothing of this nature this in Edmonton.

"When I came to Edmonton two-and-a-half years ago and moved into a condo, I needed a garden," says Janette Hubka, a member of Little Jeannie Farms. "I found my gardens through friends and word of mouth. I walked the alleys in locations convenient to me, looking into backyards for weedy gardens. I rang doorbells and left notes." Patience, according to Hubka, is as much a virtue in finding a garden as it is in gardening.

Little Jeannie Farms is a Community Supported Agriculture association consisting of six backyard gardens in King Edward Park, Hazeldean, Strathcona and half an acre outside of Edmonton. Property owners get their food for free and the fees collected are used to pay for seeds, equipment and repairs, manure, compost, lumber for raised beds, and transportation costs.

As summer progresses, members receive produce as it

becomes available. Everyone is encouraged to help with the labor in any of the gardens, and while it is not mandatory, Hubka says the concept is to teach people where their food comes from and how to produce it organically.

Finding space to grow food can sometimes be as easy as getting to know your neighbour. Local grower Donna Friesen loves her garden, but found it smaller than she would like. Her neighbour had a garden that he wasn't using, and together they found a great solution with multiple benefits. Friesen does the planting and weeding, and leaves a couple of bags of produce for him on his back step throughout the summer.

"It's fun," says Friesen. "I love being able to produce healthy, fresh food and I can spread it around a bit, too." Since she works at the University, she shares her surplus with grad students as well

as her friends.

There are as many reasons for gardening as there are gardeners: chemical-free food, fresh air, exercise, relaxation and the money one can save on groceries by growing vegetables for the table and the freezer. Gardening feeds all of our senses. A ripe tomato, picked and eaten while still in the garden is one of the sublime luxuries of summer.



A garden is home to discovery and delight, from the first appearance of tiny seedlings to the final harvest. Tending the garden slows us down. We hear, and stop to enjoy, the merry chirping of the many birds that share our neighbourhood.

So if you're a garden-less gardener, check out your neighbours' back yards until you find one that needs some attention. Introduce yourself. You may not only find a garden, but a new friend as well.

Preparing to paint the town red



CHEYENNE BUCKBOROUGH, A GRADE 8 STUDENT AT VICTORIA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS, WORKS ON HER DESIGN FOR THE POWER PAINTING PROJECT. FIVE STUDENTS ARE WORKING WITH LOCAL PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NINA HAGGERTY ARTS CENTRE TO 'TRANSFORM ONE ELECTRICAL BOX AT A TIME' ALONG 118TH AVENUE. IN MAY, THE STUDENTS WILL BE DRESSING UP THE GREEN BOXES FROM 89TH TO 91ST STREETS WITH THEIR ORIGINAL DESIGNS.

that Bloomin' garden show & art sale

Saturday,
May 7, 2011
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
9210-118 avenue
Alberta Avenue Community Centre

- LOUNGE - Expert Gardening Workshops
 - GRANDE HALL - Art and plant sale, Exhibit booths
- Free coffee, juice and cake!
 - LUTZ - Childrens' workshops & readings
- *First 200 moms get a free gift!

FREE!
admission

Workshops • Plant & Gift Sale
Kids Activities • Artisans & Art

avenue initiative revitalization

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



Check it out!

Our newly updated website featuring more info, updates and more! www.avenueinitiative.ca

Avenue goes to the dogs

Mini-Fests

Saturday June 11 & Saturday June 25

Main-Fest

Sunday July 10



For information or to volunteer,
email avenueinitiative@edmonton.ca
or call Veronica at 780-496-1913
www.avenueinitiative.ca



Thousands of people will read this message. What do you want them to know?

We 'Ave Words

A showcase of poetry and prose from Edmonton's finest writers

Page editor: Michelle Earle

Submissions email: Lit@ratcreek.org

The Space Down Below

by Sam Thomas

My day emerged upon a passionate affair
Before I had even brushed my teeth, a noise
Such as I had never heard erupted below
My loft where two lovers had come to blows.
I was not sure if the fight was over pay
But the wife screamed that she was outraged!

I could tell that the fight left both parties outraged.
As I sat down to breakfast, it became clear that the affair
Had escalated to things that had little to do with the pay.
They yelled and screamed in a continuous volley of noise.
Every new issue became a source of verbal blows.
The argument became so intense that the floor shook below.

Five years the couple had lived below
My loft and this was the first time that they were outraged
At each other so indeed I was shocked the two had come to blows.
Yet just when I thought that they had resolved their affair,
Their voices pierced the silence with new noise.
The fight resumed over the bill they had to pay.

It seemed that their needs now exceeded their pay.
I was not sure how much their debt put them below.
Again they calmed down and now I heard no more noise.
They had piqued my interest and now I was outraged!
Glad though I was that they had resolved their affair,
Their muted voices dealt my nosiness a blow.

Their new-found resolve became clear when my door took the blow
As the couple knocked on my door and informed me that they would no longer pay
The rent I charged them as it resolved their affair.
They were moving away from my space down below.
They were now at peace and I was left outraged.
The silence of their choice engulfed me in a new kind of noise.

For hours that day they had made a thunderous level of noise
But despite their raised voices, they had not come to blows.
Instead they were moving back East not at all outraged;
At home with their families where they could live on their pay.
Here in my town their means would stay below
Their income so finding new tenants would be my affair.

The empty house was indeed my affair and it was definitely a blow.
Their departure came with less noise and an absence of pay
For the space down below and until it is refilled, I shall remain completely outraged!

Blossoms

by Danielle Zyp

I have a love close to my heart
Who listens to my soul
All I have to do is start
My love completes the role

We talk together anytime
The way flowers blossom, then die
Just a tendril, then a vine
Blooms so beautiful, tears in your eyes

Everything dies and has an ending
But life's renewal is constant
When one dies, another is pending
Joy of life and death's lament

Another blossom, and another
My love goes on and on forever.

Two Haikus

by Allison Akgungor

Ice impenetrable
to metal chopping blade
disappears in warming sun

From spire of tall spruce
Robin sings the call to Spring
Season we all believe in



Angel Voices

by Rick Mogg

Laying in the shadow of a doorway
Beside the empty bottle of his soul
Troubled by a wicked childhood memory
That's weighing on his conscience like a stone

A small wooden cross - hangs around his neck
Life cannot be measured by things that he possessed
Daydreams and lullabies, friends he has known
Angel voices are calling him home

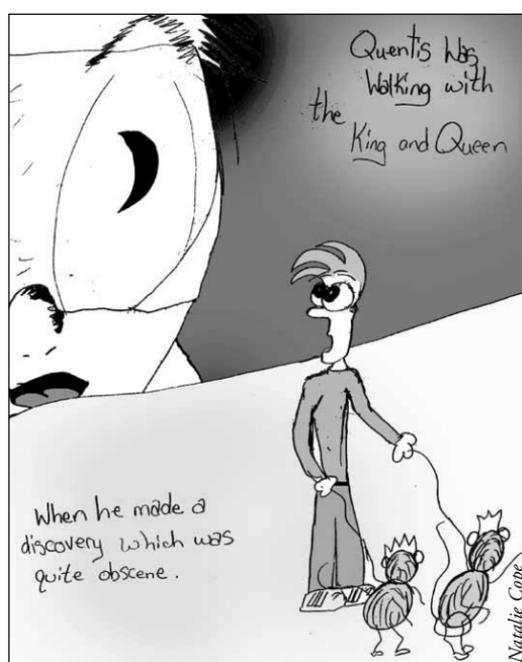
Life has left some marks upon his forehead
Childhood dream long since come and gone
Comfort he has found within a bottle
With melancholy of the wine and song

A small wooden cross - lays upon his chest
Life cannot be measured by things that he possessed
Daydreams and lullabies, friends he has known
Angel voices are calling him home

We see him as a victim of addiction
A broken soul that's hard to understand
A prisoner of fear and indecision
Won't mean that he was any less a man

A small wooden cross is all that he has left
Life cannot be measured by things that he possessed
Daydreams and lullabies, friends he has known
Angel voices are calling him home

Daydreams and lullabies, love seldom known
Angel voices are calling him home



Life's Primal Pull

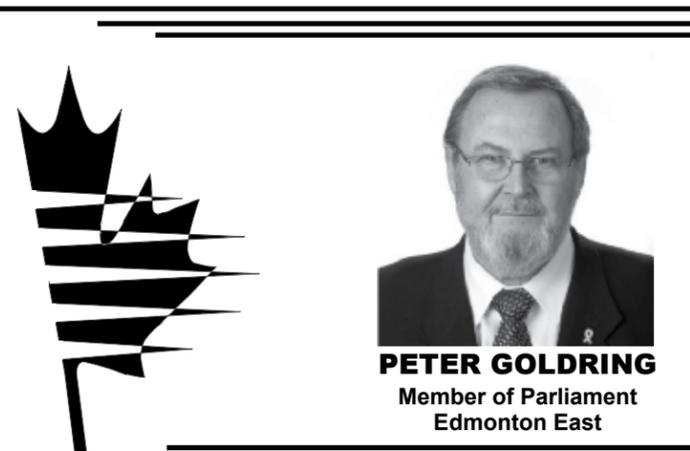
by Nicole Girard

Spring trees push out their baby leaves
Sleepy sap wakes from its long nocturne
The burgeoning sun offers hot reprieve
Through this stretch of its annual sojourn
Winter birds are no longer taciturn
They sing the joy of earth's renewal
Call home the tern, unfurl the fern
Allow surrender to life's primal pull

Pent and pale people put away long sleeves
Fat coats and boots are locked up in turn
We ask our bosses to grant us leave
To worship the sun until our skin burns
And our colour so long faded returns
Our sharp, icy strides turn into an amble
As our faith in seasons slowly returns
We surrender to life's primal pull

The symphony of life is a few sublime themes
The notes and rests are the lessons we learn
The bars and motifs are goals we achieve
We pray the conductor isn't too stern
And grants our desire for the things that we yearn
Magnificent music, the song of our soul
Each beautiful life is its own overture
Each a surrender to life's primal pull

In time we will all end up in an urn
The brevity of human life is cruel
From nothing we start, to nothing return
Allow yourself to surrender to life's primal pull



McCauley Rink

In 1999 there were plans to appropriate the full-size McCauley Community Hockey Rink (which is paved, allowing summer roller skating ball hockey), replacing it with rental housing by a social group intending to use "profits" from the "non-profit" housing to pay for social centre office space. Also proposed was to keep an ice rink so small as to be negligible - other than to deceive the community into believing that it would still have a hockey rink.

As Member of Parliament I was appalled at this callous social-centric takeover attempt. I felt it was important to save the hockey rink as it is the only such facility in the area. However a social-centric group of 10 came to my office to threaten me that they would use all their social non-profit resources against me in the upcoming nomination and election. I don't threaten well. I consulted with the community and they were aghast at losing the rink and spoke up. The social welfare project was cancelled and the rink was saved. Twelve years later the rink is still a community magnet in all seasons as skaters use it in cold weather and warm for skating, hockey and ball hockey.

One of the highlights of the rink year is the now annual McCauley Cup where beat officers from Edmonton Police Service's Downtown Division take on McCauley community youth in a game of shinny. This gives area youth positive interaction with the police, is good for the children and the community as a whole. An event such as this allows stereotypes to be broken, for the benefit of the community.

I think facilities such as the McCauley rink are a treasure to all communities. We should be vigilant and rightfully suspicious of those that wish to appropriate such facilities.

What do you think?

780-495-3261

www.petergoldring.ca

Enjoy a sunny day and take a stroll down 118 Avenue. Many new businesses have opened recently.

kid's Korner

Forget the fridge. Post your artwork here!

Do you like to draw? Take photos? Got a short story or poem you have written? Do you tickle your friend's funny bone's with your cartoons and jokes?

If you got the time, we've got the space for you.

The Kid's Korner is hoping to receive and publishing work by our younger readers. Everyone is encouraged to submit. All creative ideas will be warmly welcomed.

So send us your best work. We want your stuff!

Email us at editor@ratcreek.org.
 Mail us at 9210 - 118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5G 0N2
 Drop it off at the Alberta Avenue Community League building at 9210-118th Ave.

Goerge the Apple

LAUREN GREGORIE

Once there was an apple. His name was Goerge (Go-erg). He had heard from his best friend Watermelon (who was an orange), that the King of Hummbug Kingdom was dying, and that someone would have to replace him. Goerge had been picked on at school and kicked around so much that he decided he would do it. Since the Kingdom of Hummbug was ruled by humans, he thought it would be cool to have an apple as King, but he had a few slight problems. First, he was in a kitchen. Second, he couldn't move or walk. Third, it was just a dream, and the last problem: he was about to be digested...
 The End

Come on in to Crystal Kids

KYLA (AGE 13)

Crystal Kids (C.K.) is a remarkable blue and white building on 87st and 118 Ave, and in my opinion, it's one of the best youth centres because the staff are sensitive, passionate and hilarious. These incredible staff members somehow have a magic way of making you happy when



you are in the saddest of moods. Also C.K. provides you with the chance to go places some kids never get to visit like the Calgary Zoo and Calaway Amusement Park, and other places kids from Edmonton can barely ever afford to go to like Disneyland!

When you walk into this warm-hearted place you will be greeted by all of the amazing staff and perhaps your best friends. Of course, when you're done being greeted you will have to get an interesting book of your choice and read it for 15 minutes on the brand new couches. If you read one full book you will be rewarded a free Slurpee. This year the goal was to finish 100 books and when the goal is finally reached, we get to go to West Edmonton Mall Water Park (splish splash).

There are lots of fantastic activities, like chilling with your Besties (friends), and playing video games like Rock Band and Halo. There are 5 computers that any kid in the centre can use, but only with permission by one of the staff members at the circular desk. You can also go in their humongous gym and play anything of your choice.

There are so many awesome reasons why Crystal Kids is the most remarkable place in the world, and if you are 6-17 years old, then I hope you will stop in one time to say "Hello".

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COLOR ME!

ce ce

Poems by Bernice Caligiuri

Lady From Peru

A fat old lady from Peru

Took a flight in the middle of the night
 She wanted to go to Timbuk Two
 She went east instead of west
 And ended up in a gopher's nest
 And nobody has seen the fat old lady from Peru
 She never got to Timbuk Two
 But the gophers danced and dined all night
 On the fat old lady from Peru

Old Friend

I have a very old friend,
 Her legs are stiff as a rod,
 She's very gross, when she chews her gum,
 Like a cow chews her cud.
 She stepped on my foot one day,
 I kicked her in the leg
 and she limped away.
 She has very long hair which she always
 Flippies in the air, but I fixed her up one day
 I took that hair and cut it away
 I sure hope by now that you realize
 That my old friend is Betsy the cow.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

for the neighbourhoods of Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park, Parkdale-Cromdale, Spruce Avenue and Westwood

Listings for free events and programs as well as volunteer opportunities. Submit online at ratcreek.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

RCP PARTY & CONNECT AWARDS

Unveiling of the new look for the Rat Creek Press. Nominees & winners of the 2011 Connect Awards. Opening band - Alberta Avenue Choir. Headliners - The Proper Charlies. Friday, May 27 at 7:30pm at the ARTery. Tickets \$10 includes one free drink and refreshments. More info: info@ratcreek.org or 780-479-6285.

PAWS FOR A STORY

Read a tale to a furry friend with a real tail! Each child will have a 15-minute reading time with a dog from the Pet Therapy Society of Northern Alberta. Saturday, April 30 from 2-4pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

MOTHER'S DAY SHOWCASE

A day of entertainment, craft sales, door prizes and more! Seniors and children under 6 are free! Sunday, May 1st from 12pm to 5pm at Beacon Heights Community Hall. More info: www.indulgentinterludes.com

YOUTH WEEK - CLAYMATION

This workshop will introduce you to the basics of animating with clay. Create a character and make it come alive with stop-motion animation. Friday, May 6 from 4pm-6pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

BETWEEN THE COVERS

A multimedia exploration of music, literature, history and culture. This unique program blends live performances of pop music with literary readings and discussions of significant world events. Sunday, May 15 from 2pm-3pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

KARAOKE WITH CRUD

Tune up your vocal cords and join us at Green Frog's Pub (9349 118 Ave) for another hopp'n good time of socializing and singing. Friday, April 29 & May 27 at 9pm.

THE CARROT OPEN STAGE

Thursdays for folks 55+ 1:30-4pm. Saturdays 7pm-10pm. 9351 118 Ave, 780-471-1580.

ABORIGINAL FAMILY STORYTIME

Bring your little ones and join us for an hour of Aboriginal songs and stories presented by Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society. Fridays from 1pm-2pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

EVENTS

ART FROM THE HEART

The Inner City Schools Annual Show and Sale displays artwork by students from the City Centre Education Partnership Schools. Proceeds go to support art programs for the students. Friday, April 29 from 3:30-pm & Saturday, April 30 from 11am-4pm at the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts (9225 118 Ave).

METRO PICTURES RECEPTION

Opening reception for 'Metro Pictures' - artwork by Marc Munan and Scott Berry. Join us for live music, nibbles, and wine. Everyone welcome! Thursday, May 12 from 5pm-7pm at the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts (9225 118 Ave). More info: www.ninahaggertyart.ca

MONTANA FIRST NATION

Opening reception for 'Montana First Nation', Young Photographers from Hobbema! Join us for live music and nibbles at the Stollery Gallery. Everyone welcome! Wednesday, May 25 from 6pm-8pm at the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts (9225 118 Ave).

AVENUE GOES TO THE DOGS FESTIVAL

Contact Eastwood Community League if you are interested in participating in the festival as a vendor or a volunteer. Mini-festivals on Saturday, June 11 & 25 and Avenue goes to the Dogs Festival on Sunday, July 10. More info: info@eastwoodcommunityleague.com or (780) 477-2354

PROGRAM / CLASS

PLAY RANGERS

Each week learn new and exciting skills like orienteering, shelter building, GPS geocaching! Meet a real Park Ranger and learn about the great outdoors with plenty of fun and games! Thursdays, May 12 to June 23 from 3:30-5:30pm at Sheriff Robertson Park (82 St & 111 Ave). More info: www.parkdalecromdale.org.

NEEDLE FELTING WITH MIKE GERMANN

Learn the basics of felting. Materials supplied and tools will be on hand for those who don't have their own. Share ideas and techniques while chatting over a drink. The Second Saturday of the month starting May 14 at 1:30 pm at The Carrot Community Arts Coffee House (9351 118 Ave). More info: info@artsontheave.org or call 780-471-1580.

PRACTICE ENGLISH @ YOUR LIBRARY

Are you learning English? Practise your English language skills, meet new friends and have some fun. We'll have conversations about many different topics, using materials from the library. Mondays from 6:30-8:30pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

PRAYERFUL ART

An in-house artist offers opportunity and assistance to express yourself in prayer through ART. Supplies provided. Saturdays from 12-3pm at Salvation Army Crossroads Community Church (11661 95 St). More info: 780-474-4324.

ARTHRITIS SELF-MANAGEMENT

This program is designed to help you better understand arthritis, learn ways to cope with chronic pain, and how to take a more active role in managing arthritis. Tuesdays, May 3 to June 7 from 2pm-4pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). Phone 780-496-7099 to register.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CAFE

For those who need to practice new found English language skills. Every Saturday 10-11:30am at Bethel Gospel Chapel (95 St & 117 Ave). Free child care provided.

SOCIAL

EDMONTON TRAVELLER'S MEET UP

Travel photography from around the world and Alberta. This month's photo-essays on Kashmir, Antarctic and Cambodia. Everyone welcome. Monday, May 9 from 7-9:30pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). More info: laura@lauramcglone.com.

MAKE MELODY

Are you a singer, songwriter musician who wants to perform and share your ideas? Join the Edmonton Melody Makers at the Carrot Saturday nights at 6pm. Contact Mj at mjn_mjn@hotmail.com for more info

FRIDAY NIGHT DROP-IN

Open-house, free coffee and snacks - games and conversation with friends. A safe place to hang out on a Friday night from 7-9pm at Salvation Army Crossroads Community Church (11661 95 St). More info: 780-474-4324.

SENIORS LUNCH

Wednesdays from 11:30am-12:45pm at Crystal Kids Youth Centre (8715 118 Ave).

L'I' SPROUTS PLAYGROUP

Bring your kids, snacks and ideas and make friends while sharing in activities, adventure and fun! Fridays from 10am-12pm at Parkdale-Cromdale hall (11335 85 St). www.parkdalecromdale.org

CRUD DINNER CLUB

Discover new flavours and restaurants while you explore a variety of wonderful cuisine along Alberta Avenue with friends & neighbours. Check the calendar at www.crudedmonton.org for time and location of this month's feast.

SPORTS & REC

THRILL THE AVE

Classes to learn Michael Jackson's Thriller for performance at Kaleido and Thrill the World. Classes free, no dance experience necessary. For the whole family! Thursday May 5, 19 June 2, 16, 30 from 7pm to 8pm at Alberta Ave Community Centre (9210 118 Ave). More info: Heather 780-454-9296, thrilltheave@gmail.com.

MOVEMENT THERAPY

A professional movement therapist offers a one hour class of stretching. Mondays & Wednesdays from 1-2pm at the Salvation Army Crossroads Community Church (11661 95 St). More info: 780-474-4324.

COMMUNITY SWIM

Free swim for Alberta Avenue Community League members. Sundays from 12pm to 2pm at Eastglen Pool (11410 64 St).

CRUD DOG WALKING GROUP

Meet neighbours and their canine companions while walking around the

community. Mondays evenings: 6:30pm in front of St. Alphonsus Church (11828-85 St). Walk is cancelled if raining. More info: www.crudedmonton.org.

INDOOR PUBLIC SKATING

No sticks or pucks allowed. Grand Truck (13024 112 St) Sundays 1-2pm Oliver (10335 119 St) Tuesdays 6:15-7:15pm Russ Barnes (6725 121 Ave) Wed's 6-7pm Westwood (12040 97 St) Sat's 3:15-4:15pm

VOLUNTEER

HANG AT A GALLERY

Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts is looking for individuals willing to share 2-4 hours a week as gallery attendants. Gain experience working in a gallery setting, while supporting your neighborhood arts scene! For more info, contact Anna at volunteer@ninahaggertyart.ca

BE A COFFEE BARTENDER

Learn how to be a barista and 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. Drop by: The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse at 9351 118 Ave, call 780-471-1580 or visit www.thecarrot.ca.

DRIVE A SENIOR

Be a volunteer driver who spends 3-4 hours once a month to drive an elderly senior to medical appointments, banking and/or shopping. Gas reimbursed. Call 780-732-1221.

NOTICES

BIG BIN EVENTS

City residents can drop off items such as old couches, chairs, mattresses, and appliances free of charge. Computers and other electronics will also be accepted for recycling. Do not bring household hazardous waste like paint, varnish, household cleaners or batteries. All events run from 9am to 5pm. May 7 & 8 at Commonwealth Stadium (112 Ave & 90 St), June 18 & 19 at Northlands (112 Ave & 73 St), Sept 17 & 18 at Commonwealth Stadium (112 Ave & 90 St) Watch for details on a community large item pick up for June 18. Full event list at www.edmonton.ca/waste

EASTWOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN

Help plant our community garden. More info: (780) 477-2354 or info@eastwoodcommunityleague.com.

NICE NEIGHBOUR RECOGNITION

Do you know someone who makes your neighbourhood a better place to live? Then why not nominate them for CRUD's Nice Neighbour Recognition Award and give some recognition to those that make our community great. Nominations are accepted via e-mail at info@crudedmonton.org.

FREE SAND

All Edmonton Community Leagues should have a green box of sand near their building. This sand is provided by the City of Edmonton for the public. Please sand

your slippery walks! If a box is empty, call 311 and report it. Leagues & addresses can be found at efcl.org.

WRITING HELP & FEEDBACK

Do you have writerly impulses but don't know where to start? Would you like feedback on your creative writing? Drop in or make an appointment with Jocelyn Brown, writer-in-residence for the Canadian Authors' Association. Jocelyn will be "in residence" at the Nina Haggerty gallery every Tuesday and Wednesday from 11am-2pm. To submit your work online or make an appointment, go to: www.canauthorsalberta.ca/writers-in-residence

COPS AT THE CARROT

Join EPS members every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 11 am for open and direct access to the EPS members working in your community. Bring your questions and comments or come in for a visit and coffee.

CLASSIFIEDS

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

Do you have a sense of humour, patience, excellent support/mentoring/guiding skills? Can you provide support within your family environment to an interesting young man with a developmental disability? Background check and references required. Questions? Contact Corinne at Cifafha@gmail.com or 780-477-8697.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

The Spruce Avenue Community League (10240 115 Ave) will be holding it's 16th annual community garage sale on Friday April 29 from 9am to 8pm and Saturday April 30 from 9am to 5pm. Donations of gently used items will be greatly appreciated with proceeds going towards the Spruce Avenue Park Re-Development. Please call Verna @780-479-8019 for further details.

ARTS ON THE AVE AGM

You must be a member to vote applications for membership available on AOTA website. Also available on website is info on serving on the board. www.artsontheave.org. Sunday, May 1 from 1-3pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave).

CRUD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It's been another great year of engaging community. Please join us for our AGM and board elections on Sunday, June 5th from 1:30-3:30pm at the AAAC (9210 118 Ave). Light refreshments provided. www.crudedmonton.org

CRUD SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

All CRUD members are invited to attend a Special General Meeting on Sunday, June 5th at 2:30pm at the AAAC (9210 118 Ave) after the AGM and board elections. The purpose of this meeting is to change a clause in the by-laws. www.crudedmonton.org

Church services

Avenue Vineyard Church

A friendly, informal, non-judgmental and safe place to grow spiritually. Traditional Christian values in a non-traditional way.

8718 118 Ave (Crystal Kids building)

Sundays at 10:30 am
www.avenuevineyard.com

Bethel Gospel Chapel

A Bible-based, multi-ethnic fellowship

11461 95 St. 780-477-3341

Sunday meetings:

9:30 AM - Lord's Supper
11:00 AM - Family Bible Hour
Saturdays - Free English Conversation Café for immigrants

Advertise your church here for only \$120/year.
Contact ads@ratcreek.org



9535 JASPER AVENUE
780.441.6966 info@theartery.ca

theartery.ca

events listing & ticket sales



Arts & Events
community arts & events venue

Rent the Artery
hourly, no frills & full rental options

FRIDAY
MAY
6

Lords Kitchner, Noisy Colours & guests

Advance tickets are \$10 available at Blackbyrd Myoozik and at www.theartery.ca. Cover is \$12 at the door. This event is all ages & licensed. Doors at 8:00 pm.

SATURDAY
MAY
7

Fire For Effect

Join us for Fire For Effect with Fringe and Kay There House Builder at the Artery. All ages + licensed.

FRIDAY
MAY
20

Artshows: Dupes and The Transport Tycoons
From May 15 - June 19, Dupes by Wilfred Kozub and The Transport Tycoons by Josh Holinaty.
Opening reception on May 20 at 8:00 pm.

Interested in a Peace walk on the Ave? So are others in the community. Let's talk...email us...info@artsontheave.org.

EDMONTON TRAVELLER'S MEET UP

Travel photography from around the world and Alberta. This month's photo-essays on Kashmir, Antarctic and Cambodia. Everyone welcome.

Monday, May 9 from 7-9:30pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave).

More info:
laura@lauramcglone.com

AABA • Shop Local • Shop the Avenue •

Alberta Avenue Business Association

Welcome to *YOUR* Avenue, welcome to the Alberta Avenue Business Association

- Copies of 2011 Business & Community Director available.
- 7th Annual Spring Street Sweep – May 17th, 18th & 19th.
- Coming soon: our updated Website, Facebook Page & E-Newsletter!
- Contact us for an E-Copy of our "Economic Impact Assessment Report" on our BRZ.
- Our *Taste of the Ave* restaurant guides available!
- Façade Program & Development Incentive Fund brochures are available to commercial property owners in our BRZ.

M-F 8:30am - 4:30pm 780-471-2602 www.alberta-avenue.com

WELCOMING ACTIVE DIVERSE RESOURCEFUL ENGAGING

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

THE FOUNDATION TO A STRONG AND HEALTHY NEIGHBOURHOOD

- DOG WALKING GROUP
- COMMUNITY GATHERINGS
- FAMILY PARK CRAWL
- COMMUNITY DINER CLUB
- KARAOKE WITH CRUD
- NICE NEIGHBOUR AWARDS
- PROBLEM PROPERTIES
- WORKSHOPS & OUTREACH

CRUD
COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO URBAN DISORDER

www.crudedmonton.ca

RAT CREEK PRESS RE-LAUNCH PARTY & CONNECT AWARDS CEREMONY

May 27, 2011 7:30pm
The Artery 9535 Jasper Avenue

Everyone welcome!

Help us celebrate the **NEW Rat Creek Press** and honor those who contribute to the growth of a strong, vibrant and well-connected community.

Tickets \$10
(includes one free drink and free food)

Entertainment by:
Alberta Avenue Choir and The Proper Charlies

For more information and tickets contact the Rat Creek Press at board@ratcreek.org or 780-479-6285.

- Murals are a great way to prevent graffiti vandalism and beautify Edmonton.
- Community groups can get up to \$2000 to paint murals on private and public property with the owner's permission.

For information call 780 442 5302
Together We Can Wipe Out Graffiti Vandalism

www.edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup
Report Graffiti Vandalism. Call 311.

EDMONTON

Play and Save

Summer Day Camps for Low Income Families

The following fun filled day camps will be running in the Central-Downtown Area this summer!

Surviving Summer	Kitchen Kapers
Extreme Action	Creative Café
Little Heroes	Secret Agent Camp
T-Rex and Friends	Multi Sports
Hop to It	Creative Carnival
Sports Stars	Outbound
Wee Adventures	Adventure
Move and Grove	Just for the Girls
Kinder Sports	Science Discovery
Swinging Safari	

Eastwood
Elmwood Park
Oliver
Parkdale Cromdale
Queen Mary Park
Riverdale
Spruce Avenue
Westwood

Registration Starts May 3
Call 311

	Week 1 July 4 - 8	Week 2 July 11 - 15	Week 3 July 18 - 22	Week 4 July 25 - 29	Week 5 Aug 2-5	Week 6 Aug 8-12	Week 7 Aug 15-19	Week 8 Aug 22-26
Half Day 9-11:30am		Little Heroes Age 3-5 \$16 392869						
		Queen Mary Park						
		T-Rex & Friends Ages 3-5 \$16 392870 Spruce Ave	Hop to It Ages 3-5 \$18 392874 Westwood					
Half Day 1:30 - 4pm	Sport Stars Ages 5-9 \$12 392868 Queen Mary	Wee Adventure Age 5-7 \$18 392871 Oliver	Move & Groove Ages 6-10 \$16 392875 Westwood	Kinder Sports Ages 4-6 \$16 392891 Elmwood Park		Swinging Safari Ages 3-6 \$18 392867 Riverdale		Kitchen Kapers Ages 6-9 \$16 392924 Spruce Ave
Full Day 9am - 4pm	Multi Sports Ages 7-10 \$30 392945 AB Ave	Extreme Action Ages 9-12 \$48 392958 Westwood	Creative Café Age 6-9 \$34 392993 Parkdale Cromdale	Science Discovery Ages 8-12 \$30 392979 AB Ave	Outbound Adventure Ages 9-12 \$35 392983 Queen Mary	Creative Carnival Age 6-10 \$29 392990 AB Ave	Multi Sports Ages 7-10 \$30 392948 Oliver	Creative Café Age 9-12 \$34 392994 AB Ave
			Surviving Summer Age 7-12 \$30 392970 Riverdale	Just for Girls Ages 7-12 \$24 392987 Eastwood			Secret Agent Camp Age 9-12 \$48 392981 Parkdale Cromdale	