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NEWS » DEVELOPMENT

Salvation Army Church rebuilds

Community members voice their concerns as church anxiously awaits construction

CARISSA HALTON

For 68 years the Salvation Army has had a presence in Alberta Avenue. Originally in a building on 118 Avenue, they built a new church on 95 Street and 117 Avenue in 1949 and called the congregation Crossroads. The building has been a place of worship on Sunday afternoons and a space for AA meetings, counseling and Christian prayer sessions throughout the week.

It's a unique congregation made up of individuals who live on the street, families who drive to church and couples who live close enough to walk. Over the last decade, they have been contracted by Homeward Trust as a winter warming shelter. Throughout the year they partner with CEASE to bring sandwiches and spiritual support to women working in the sex trade.

The years and outreach have not been kind to the facility, and leaders began making plans eight years ago to replace the building. As the Alberta branch of the Salvation Army raised money for the small congregation, the building further deteriorated. This year, health inspectors refused to grant them a Food Safety License, effectively stopping all food preparation in the building.

This summer the congregation moved their services and offices two blocks south to a temporary space at Bethel Bible Chapel on 115 Avenue and 95 Street. The plan was to demolish the church building in August and have Clark Builders proceed with their long-awaited new space developed by Edmonton architectural firm Manasc Isaac.

Demolition of the building is delayed, however, as church representatives work with the City to approve variances. These variances include easing current setback rules, restrictions that would see the building set much farther back from the corner of 95 Street and



Danielle Strickland, major at Crossroads Community Church, and building architect, Myron Nebozuk, show the proposed new church building. The current building at 11661 95 St has been condemned. >> REBECCA LIPPIATT

117 Avenue than its current location on the lot. Crossroads argues that being closer to the street increases "eyes on the street" and is more in keeping with the neighbourhood's surrounding architecture. Variances are also needed on parking from the required 25 parking stalls to 6 plus one loading area.

Major Danielle Strickland, leader of the Crossroads' congregation, says, "This building will be a major improvement both for our congregation and the community at large." She says it is a nicely designed building, with improved exterior lighting and landscaping.

"Right now, you can't go anywhere without a set of stairs," says Strickland. The new design promises better access to visitors as well as a more safe children's space.

The new design puts a little less than their current building's square footage on one floor instead of two, meaning it will have a larger footprint

with less square footage. Space will have to be used more efficiently; for instance, the worship space on Sunday afternoon will convert to a winter warming shelter at night.

The wider footprint also means that the lot to the south of the current church will no longer be a thoroughfare for illicit activity when the church is empty.

At the Alberta Avenue Community League board meeting on September 17, 2013, residents expressed frustration at how difficult it has been to communicate with Crossroads about its development plans and how their social outreach programs impact the neighbours.

At the meeting, Major Strickland's initial defensive response softened as neighbours shared some of their concerns centred on the lack of security or oversight of the Crossroads property after hours.

"So you want us to stay

open 24/7?" Major Danielle said with a laugh.

No, that is not what many neighbours want. It's possibly a little simpler: "We need to be able to reach you when we have concerns," says Cora Shaw.

Crossroads was seeking a letter of support for their new building; however, the league board decided this was not something they could provide.

"The league represents the residents and the best interests of the neighbourhood," says President Karen Mykietka. "We know residents, especially those nearby, are not happy about the operations of the Salvation Army church, and it has a negative impact on the immediate neighbourhood."

SDAB appeal hearing on this development is scheduled for Thursday, October 10 at 2:30 pm. For more information see the league news blog at albertaave.org. Provide your comments or contact the league at info@albertaave.org or 780.477.2773.

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NEWS » AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Sexual exploitation affects everyone

Be part of the solution, go online and help make the launch of a YouTube awareness video go viral

RUSTI L. LEHAY

Before you claim sexual exploitation has nothing to do with you and your corner or back alley is free of any ill effects of the sex trade, you may want to think again.

Rashda Bajwa, local resident peering through her own car window to locate her forgotten cell phone, was propositioned by a cruising john. Slowing his truck to a crawl, the driver lowered his passenger side window and said, "Hey, you can earn more money in here with me than by stealing whatever's in that car."

Bajwa whipped around telling the john, "I'm NOT selling what you're buying." The driver spun his tires heading north on the street careening right through a 119 Avenue stop sign. Imagine if it had been your children riding their bikes through the intersection or you carpooling soccer kids home after their game at that moment.

Visible or invisible, pervasive effects of the sex trade exist. Follow the threads of sexual exploitation and you will discover drug addictions. Exploiters addict vulnerable people and then dole out drugs to coerce workers into compliance. Organized crime profits from drugs and human trafficking, all contributing to social problems which draw resources away from other community needs.

Additional negative side effects are outlined by the Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE): assault or death; hunger; poverty; homelessness; discrimination and shame; addictions; mental; and physical health issues; costs to families; communities and public resources. Most people are unaware many victims of sex trafficking are children and youth under 18, some as young as 11. Recruiters may even pose as students in your children's schools to seek out kids they can lure to the streets.

Awareness and remembering

Raising awareness and refusing to pretend it does not exist is one valuable step to break

the cycle and stop the violence. Kate Quinn, executive director of CEASE says, "Remembering those lost due to sexual exploitation is important for the survivors and for community awareness."

A memorial event for all those who lost their lives as a result of sexual exploitation was held on August 14, 2013 behind the Alberta Avenue Community Centre hosted by CEASE. Quinn says, "I'm very grateful to our community for making the beautiful community garden space available. Our regular location was unavailable." After shocking stories from survivors who successfully left the street, balloons were released into blue skies above eliciting gasps, sobs, and silent remembering from the 100 plus adults and children gathered.

Awareness is not for the faint at heart. The community's support, meaningful that night, can continue with you. It is as easy as a click of your mouse, only costing you a few seconds. Watch for the launch of a short YouTube video, with interviews, Edmonton sound and video clips produced by the Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (N.E.T.), CEASE and the Sex Exploitation Working Group (SEWG). The video and social media campaign will be launched mid-October. Make a few calls, share it, and become part of the solution. Making it go viral would make Alec Stratford's dream come true for this project.

Stratford, a Community Capacity Builder for 118th N.E.T. and a vital part of the working group, hopes "everyone will watch, tweet, share it with friends, neighbours, co-workers and create a buzz."

Making a difference

In the video a variety of people speak about the impacts of sexual exploitation on the community and what Edmontonians can do to help. The Edmonton Police Vice Section focusses on the consumers (johns) and exploiters (pimps and organized crime). Staff Sgt. Jerry Nash says, "If

we could change the demand, it would change the whole problem."

Limiting the way johns approach or locate street workers also has power. Motivated to keep her sons and neighbourhood children safe in a john-infested residential neighbourhood years ago, Quinn began with questions. "We just knew this activity was affecting our everyday lives. Children couldn't walk alone to school."

Discovering more questions than solutions with their neighbours, they turned to police and outreach organizations. Collaboration led to finding many children and young adults living within their local neighbourhood were working the street. Quinn says, "As adults in the community, we knew we needed to create safety for all children, not just the children in our homes."

Finding solutions

Creating safety is still a major part of the solution. Stratford says, "Vulnerable youth need places to feel safe and included." Kids who experience a sense of exclusion and marginalization in their homes, communities and schools are easier targets. The average age of entry into the sex trade is 15. It is tragic when kids find this acceptance through the criminal elements and exploiters. "When people come into the community, we need to be inclusive and make sure they are welcomed," says Stratford.

Focusing on the safety angle, Quinn and fellow neighbors asked, "What activities cause the most harm to the most people?" They identified the johns' circling behaviour. When the city transportation department counted traffic around McCauley elementary and junior high school, they found 3,700 vehicles when there should have been 600 or less. Implementing double one way streets in McCauley broke the circulating traffic denying the johns their preferred pattern.

Seeing change

Elizabeth Hall-Petry first noticed a drop in street work-



A thought provoking clay sculpture by local artist Ritchie Velthus, recently exhibited at the Alberta Craft Council. >> REBECCA LIPPIATT

ers when city transportation ripped up Avenue sections for road repairs. For nearly 12 years, Hall-Petry has driven the Avenue checking in on her crime-free apartment building on 89 Street. "I've noticed an obvious decrease of the street workers on warm evenings when I'm leaving the building. The Ave is becoming a safe community space once again." Random construction appears to also disrupt the habits of johns.

Sadly, it is not enough to just chase the johns out of your neighbourhoods. The visible decrease in street workers or the sex trade industry may be linked to several factors. When it is less visible, sexual exploitation is easier to ignore, but it is no reason to be less vigilant.

Stratford says, "Technology has changed the sex trade. Sex service providers can advertise on the world-wide-web, consumers can text to set up meeting places." Quinn works with University of Alberta communi-

cations department to monitor internet buy and sell sites. Then they use a program to send random messages offering help to the workers.

Taking Action

Join in the fight to keep exploitation out of your neighbourhood. As private citizens, if you believe you have witnessed a john, and catch a license plate, you can report it online in less than one minute. This keeps johns afraid and limits the number that troll your neighbourhood. Quinn confirms any license plates reported are checked out. Go ahead, make them very afraid. Report a John. They will stay away. You will sleep better at night.

REPORT A JOHN

Report john licence plate numbers by calling 780.421.2656 or online at edmontonpolice.ca
<https://www.edmontonpolice.ca/communitypolicing/familyprotection/prostitution/reportajohnform.aspx>



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NEWS » BRIEF

ArtsCommon

Project goes back to the drawing board



The Alberta Cycle lot referred to as "The Grassy Space" will be used for festivals and community activities until construction of a new building. Picnic tables have been left on site for community use. >> KAREN MYKIETKA

KAREN MYKIETKA

A city council committee rejected the business plan presented for ArtsCommon, a new multi-use arts facility on the site of the former Alberta Cycle building on 91 Street and 118 Avenue. The project is a partnership between Arts Habitat, Arts on the Ave and the City of Edmonton.

The proposed two-storey building would have a gallery, a performance space, a relocated Carrot Cafe and studios with a glassed in "art walk" on the main floor. The second floor would have ten live/work spaces for artists rented for \$600 a month.

The city would contribute \$4 million (in addition to the \$2.2 million they spend to purchase the Alberta Cycle building and land), while Art Habitat would

borrow \$1 million. Additional funding would come from grants and fundraising.

Mayor Stephen Mandel was disappointed with the proposal and its funding model, saying it had little return for the investment. He complained it gave huge rental discounts to artists when the city already funded affordable housing projects.

Tony Caterina, councillor for the area, was also not impressed with the proposal. He thought the plan was too similar to the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts. Caterina suggested a three- or four-storey building and programs that would provide needy kids with music and art classes.

The groups had hoped for a 2015 construction start but now they are back at the drawing board. A new business plan is to be brought forward in 2014.

WHAT'S ON » TOASTMASTERS

Stand and deliver

Helping youths find their confidence in front of a crowd

DYLAN THOMPSON

You're giving a presentation at school. Your daughter is getting married. You have some issues with the proposed highway running next to your child's favourite playground, and you need to stand before city council to share your thoughts. You need to speak in front of a crowd.

You step to the front of the room. Your audience waits with their gazes firmly locked on their smartphones. Your hands won't stop shaking. Your tongue seems too large for your mouth, and your words stumble into disinterested ears.

It happens to everyone, right? That's why Toastmasters International sponsors the Northern Alberta Youth Leadership Project, which offers a program for 11-17 year olds.

Amy Zilinski is a coordinator with the upcoming session of the program, taking place in the Parkdale-Cromdale Community League Hall (11335 85 St). She donates her time because she believes the program gives young people important skills, which aren't being taught in schools.

"We teach them different things like: how to use vocal variety, how to use gestures," says Zilinski. "We're trying to give them the skills to engage their audience and get their message across clearly. If you want to be an effective citizen it's really important to have



Toastmasters International teaches public speaking to local teens. >> STOCK

those skills."

The Youth Leadership Program is free of charge and runs Sundays between October 20 and December 15, 2:30 to 4:30 pm, eight sessions in total. Space is limited to about twenty participants so don't wait to register.

Kimberly Huynh, 18, took the program two years ago. "It's an interesting experience," says Huynh. "You get the chance to actually practice and evaluate. It's really hands on."

Huynh describes the first session, where participants develop and present a speech on a very familiar topic: themselves.

"We call it the icebreaker speech," says Huynh. "They

introduce themselves to the group so we can get to know them a bit better. It's the first speech, and we want them to be comfortable with the topic because they might not be comfortable in front of the audience yet."

Zilinski says she sees a change in the youth who take the program.

"You can tell they've grown a bit through those eight weeks."

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
For more information visit www.naylp.com or contact Amy at 780.244.7846 or email naylproject@gmail.com. To register visit <http://naylp.com/registration>.

FIRE AT THE BISSELL CENTRE'S THRIFT SHOPPE



A fire on September 2 at the Bissell Centre's Thrift Shoppe on 88 St and 118 Ave caused over \$650,000 damage. The store will be closed for at least six months while repairs are done. >> KAREN MYKIETKA

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Rat Creek Press is seeking an editor. The editor works with the publisher to determine content, gives assignments to freelancers, edits copy, writes editorials, covers community news, and supervises interns. Scope of job and remuneration to be negotiated. Applicants preferably local or connected to and familiar with our community. Posting open until suitable candidate is found. Submit cover letter, resume, and writing samples to info@ratcreek.org.

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WHAT'S ON » CREATIVITY

An inspiring place to paint

Weekly drop-in painting sessions at The Studio

WES BELLMORE

Painting is a wonderful way to find inner peace and to express one's artistic soul, except when the kids are crying, the doorbell is ringing, and the dog is chewing on your easel. As any hobby painter or aspiring Rembrandt will tell you, it isn't always easy to find a peaceful place to break out the brushes.

But now there is no excuse for letting your artwork languish, as The Studio on 118 Avenue hosts weekly drop-in painting evenings where participants can enjoy a spacious studio, supportive adult company, and the uninterrupted freedom to let their imaginations run wild on canvas.

Debra Milne is a local artist, a gallery partner, and hostess of the drop-in sessions. She says the evenings are an absolute blessing for anyone whose passion for creating art has been put on hold by the demands of family life.

"We have this terrific working gallery," says Milne, "and we wanted to invite community members to share it with us. It's a time for people to get together, maybe some conversation about what they are doing, to have some time away from their daily lives, to have some 'me' time."

She adds, "You get to work in this amazing space that has all this great art around for inspiration, and you just paint. In oils, or acrylics, or crayons, whatever you want. And there is a coffee shop next door, so you can grab a drink, or take a timeout if you need to."

As she works on her own painting, Milne gestures toward the workspace. "You bring your

own paints and brushes and canvas, or whatever you want to paint on. We have lots of easels, and tables. There are things here you can borrow if you need to.

"We have a back room for cleanup, which is a great for home-based painters because

famous people in blazing colors, dreamy and evocative ink drawings of beasts and birds, moody and atmospheric people in the rain, and gigantic line drawings on towering canvas squares.

Milne and her partners are working to make the gallery an important part of the community.

"We have all this space, all this beautiful art on the walls, and the atmosphere in here is so alive," says Milne. "We would love to look at hosting corporate events, community meetings, private functions, the opportunities here are endless."

The Studio has opportunities for other art professionals to become involved.

"We are looking for more artists to share this space with us," says Debra. "It's a great place to work and exhibit. It's a working gallery, and all the art here is for sale. It's an outstanding opportunity for an artist who needs a place to create and some public exposure."

And even if you're not quite ready to pick up a brush and start squeezing out paint, it's always worth a visit.

"People are always welcome to come in and browse," says Milne. "There is always new stuff happening."

“It's an outstanding opportunity for an artist who needs a place to create and some public exposure.”

it's not so fun to mess up your kitchen sink with paints."

Although the drop-in sessions are not intended to be painting lessons, participants have the opportunity to share tips and tricks if they are so inclined.

"We have people from all levels of experience," says Milne, "from professional artists to those who are just trying it out. We all have something to learn. If you want to share and chat with others, great, but if you want to just do your own thing that's fine too."

The gallery and artspace is a bright, airy industrial bay with high ceilings and huge windows that look onto 94 Street. Every square foot of wall is hung with art; oversized portraits of

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Info: Debra Milne 780.977.7489

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Info: Glen Ronald glen@spark.ca



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- Long-time resident of the area;
- Former teacher and guidance counsellor.

Visit www.edmonton.ca/election to find out where you vote for the October 21 Edmonton election.

PROFILE » RESIDENT

The art of entertainment

Artists turn their talent into a business of comic and mystery



Val and Iain Little are masters at transforming themselves into characters for their business Clown Cartel. >> SUPPLIED

MARY-ELLEN PERLEY

Do you know what would constitute a major home business according to the City of Edmonton? More than one full Rubbermaid container in the garage!

Val and Iain Little discovered this fact in 1999 when Clown Cartel went independent from Sir Unicorn Special Events. At that time, Val and Iain had only a phone number and an ad in the Yellow Pages. Today, they are a thriving major home business with three dozen artists on the roster and a garage FULL of Rubbermaids.

The company has continued to expand under the imaginative stewardship of the Littles. Some of the artistic offerings include balloon animals for parties, airbrush face painting, regular face painting, magic shows, strolling magic, game shows, customized comedy, and comedy for adults.

"We never say anything [in our comedy] that our grandmothers wouldn't approve of!" says Iain, "That's a good yardstick for what is acceptable on the floor."

As an example of customized comedy, the artist Anne Harwood gives an address from the throne as Her Majesty and in her address honours the special someone for the milestone event. Lo and behold, Her Majesty also lives in the Avenue neighbourhood.

In addition, Clown Cartel does corporate team-builders, fun money casinos, and murder

mysteries. Val explained, "We model and provide an opportunity for people to play in a safe environment."

Val and Iain create and perform murder mysteries at Fort Edmonton's Selkirk Hotel and at the Muttart Conservatory. They now have 21 mystery scenarios employing approximately 20 actors, at least three of which live on the Avenue. These mysteries often have Edmonton history as their backdrop, which really brings the city to life for the artists and the audience/participants.

For instance, "Til Death Do Us Part" involves a Depression-era wedding gone awry. Did you know that in 1937 Alberta printed its own money? Under Premier Aberhart Prosperity Certificates came into being and the Alberta Treasury Branch was set up to handle them. The certificates were supposed to be good for all goods and services; however, a lot of businesses wouldn't accept them. The murder mystery groom discovers this when he tries to pay the minister with these certificates.

This summer, I was involved in one of Val and Iain's murder mysteries "Under Wraps", presented at the Hotel Selkirk. This was not my first foray into murder mysteries, but I can tell you I was really excited to be part of this amazing company of actors. The routine is to read the detailed material (script, character descriptions and historical background material), which is researched

and written by Val and Iain. Then we have a three hour rehearsal, usually the weekend before the event.

On performance day, we interact with the patrons before, during, and after the dinner. The audience become detectives as they question each of us, and at the end of the evening, they submit their solution and watch in amazement as the "detective" reveals the actual murderer. I must say I had a blast doing the part of Mrs. Brenda Feldspar, "a miner's wife with a pick axe to grind." Did I do it?

History runs deep with the Littles as the house they live in is historic in its own right. Val has lived here since 1986 and Iain since 1993. She originally moved here because "the house was beautiful and affordable."

Val explains, "We both love our house and the neighbourhood. All of the houses in this area are unique, and the trees provide a beautiful canopy. Folks are friendly, and since we've been here other artistic friends have bought in the neighbourhood, too."

Their house was built in the 1920s by Shirley Oliver, the first black musician hired full time in an all-white band. He was the pianist for the Graydon Tipp's Riverside Pavilion Orchestra, a jazz dance band.

I wonder if the Littles will be able to work Shirley Oliver or Graydon Tipp's band into a murder mystery? Stay tuned for this possible development.

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Catholic School Trustee -- Ward 73

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Friday, November 8 from 6 to 9:30 pm at the Hotel Selkirk, Fort Edmonton
Cost: \$89/ticket or Murder Mystery getaway for two (includes two tickets, one night stay and hot breakfast) for \$305
Register: Call 780.496.2772 or fortedmontonpark.ca/events

Tip: While later dates are not yet posted on the Fort Ed website, you can call the Hotel anyway to reserve for the next mystery.

EDITORIAL

Money: the road to city hall

Are costly campaigns and contributions hindering democracy?

DYLAN THOMPSON

Since the turn of the millennium, the bill for a successful electoral campaign in the city of Edmonton, be it for mayor or councillor, has more than doubled. If you decided today that you wanted to represent your ward, you would have to raise nearly \$60,000 to rival the average councillor's war chest. Here's hoping you have rich friends. Or at least, here's hoping your views on how to run the city mesh well with who your rich friends could end up being.

An *Edmonton Journal* article analyzing campaign contributions found that in the 2010 civic election, donations from, "developers, residential construction companies and planning consultants as well as development-related lawyers and lobbyists," comprised a majority of the cash provided to winning campaigns. An average of 60% of the money came from these "developer" sources with one candidate receiving as much as 94% and another as little as 36%.

Are these hefty donations driving up the cost of our elections?

Some would argue that these donations are legal and there is nothing wrong with citizens using their means to support a candidate who shares their vision for the city. However, many moneyed interests donate to several candidates in each race so this can't be an ideology issue.

And the legality of donations isn't so crystal clear, either.



Currently, there is a \$5000 cap on campaign donations. But, as Darren Boisvert wrote in the March 2012 issue of the *Rat Creek Press*, in the 2010 civic election there was exploitation of "the ability to donate money as a private citizen and then donate again as the owner of a company. In practice, this law allow[ed] business owners in Alberta to donate \$10,000, but caps donations for all other citizens at \$5000." Great for them, not so much for democracy.

And this kind of money just isn't necessary in politics. In 2010, Calgary mayor Naheed Nenshi, leveraging a strong online presence, ran a successful campaign with a fraction of the dollars his opponents spent. Canadians are one of the most connected peoples on the planet. Moving forward there will be less need for lawn signs and more need for digital presence, which should drive down some of the costs of a campaign even further.

Our representatives shouldn't have to panhandle in order to have a chance at getting elected. This would be a much clearer issue if campaign donations were limited to individual citizens and thoroughly tracked. Or, instead of direct donations, money could be pooled together and distributed evenly among candidates.

Unless of course the *point* of political donations is to curry favour with the friend you helped get elected. Honestly, if wealthy donors are so eager to give their money to politicians, maybe they should be paying higher taxes. That way the money would be benefiting everyone instead of only them.

ELECTION » PROFILES

Mayoral Candidates

City of Edmonton

KRISTINE ACIELO

Kristine Acielo works in real estate. She believes the downtown arena should be even bigger than what is currently planned because it will create more jobs and more growth.

KERRY DIOTTE

Kerry Diotte, a former journalist, was elected to the position of Ward 11 councillor in 2010. He has made fiscal reorganization a major platform in his campaign, suggesting a freeze on property tax hikes and a reduction in Edmonton's debt. He says a top priority is to improve the state of Edmonton's roadways and eliminate "empty" road construction sites.

FANG HU

From Shanghai, Fang Hu is a former engineer who studied at Concordia and McGill Universities. He believes Alberta is evil and that Labour Day has something to do with childbirth. He describes himself as a "ninja" who seeks to improve the "city of most discrimination in America."

DON IVESON

University of Alberta graduate, majoring in Political Science, Don Iveson is a lifelong Edmontonian. He is passionate about the environment and has led initiatives as a councillor to reduce the city's carbon footprint. He wishes to see the city centre airport closed. He wishes to foster greater cooperation between the municipalities of the capital region.

KAREN LEIBOVICI

Karen Leibovici earned her masters from McGill University in social work. She has worked as a Labour Relations Officer, Equal Opportunity Officer and a Human Resources Consultant. She entered politics as a Liberal MLA for Edmonton-Meadowlark in 1993. In 2001 she transitioned into civic politics and has served as a city councillor.

JOSH SEMOTIUK

A working-class electrician, Josh Semotiuk is taking neither personal nor corporate donations because he believes independence is important and elections should be about issues, not money. His vision for the city includes investing in the people and creating sustainable economic growth.

GORDON WARD

Former engineer and current director of the Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy facilities at the Edmonton General Hospital, Gordon Ward says being a politician should be about serving the community that gives so much. He believes elections should be decided by more than who has the most lawn signs.



ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2013
**BRING YOUR ID.
BRING YOUR VOTE.**



RAT CREEK PRESS ASSOCIATION 9210 118 AVENUE, EDMONTON, AB T5G 0N2 | T: 780.479.6285

ABOUT US

The *Rat Creek Press* is a non-profit community newspaper in north central Edmonton serving the communities of Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park, Parkdale-Cromdale, Spruce Avenue and Westwood.

COMMUNITY, COMMUNICATION, CAPACITY

The *Rat Creek Press* goals are to help connect residents with what is happening in the community, provide a forum where information and ideas can be exchanged, and help individuals learn new skills, acquire experience and develop leadership.

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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 400-700 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 at editor@ratcreek.org, or 9210-118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5G 0N2. Mail may also be dropped at the address above.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Space is available to non-profit groups for event and program listings as well as volunteer opportunities on a first-come first-serve basis and will be printed as space permits.

Please Join Us In Celebrating the 100 Year Anniversary of H.Allen Gray School .

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ELECTION » PROFILES

Ward 2 Candidates

Spruce Avenue and Westwood

MUSTAFA ALI

Mustafa Ali immigrated from Somalia in 1991, then earned a bachelors degree in political science from the University of Alberta. His focus is building stronger communities and promoting stricter fiscal management. He wants to cap property taxes for seniors and low income Edmontonians while reining in Edmonton's mounting debt.

BEV ESSLINGER

Bev Esslinger has served as an Edmonton Public School Board trustee and in various capacities on numerous other organizations. Esslinger wants the Northwest LRT reviewed before construction begins. She wants to ensure the Blatchford development utilizes green technologies and recognizes the aviation heritage of the land it will be built on.

TED GRAND

Ted Grand is a purchasing agent for Sealy Corporation, and he has served on community league executives. He says his job and volunteer experience has prepared him to be open minded and seek compromises. He believes urban sprawl must be balanced with infilling of mature neighbourhoods. He wants the city to conduct more public consultations with residents to properly gauge what people want.

NITA JALKANEN

Nita Jalkansen has worked many positions, from marketing manager to yoga instructor, and currently serves on the Edmonton Folk Music Festival board. She believes in prudent fiscal management and that the municipal government's role is to manage and maintain infrastructure and services in a manner that is "socially conscious, considerate, and thoughtful about quality of life."

JASON MILLAR

A lifelong Edmontonian, Jason Millar attended the J.R. Shaw School of Business. He has worked for over 19 years with a bulk trucking company. Millar promises he will make a northwest police station a reality, increase the number of senior facilities in his ward, and make it easier for the city to construct playgrounds.

SHELLEY TUPPER

An accountant with a diploma from NAIT, Shelly Tupper has volunteered with numerous organizations. Her focus is improving the city's infrastructure, transparency, and accountability. She wishes to expand the city's police force while encouraging all residents to participate in making their communities safer.

School Board Trustee Candidates

EDMONTON PUBLIC - WARD D

ELIZABETH JOHANNSON

Elizabeth understands the value of arts in education, while at the same time understanding financial requirements. She wants important decisions to be made with consultations, not imposed from above.

RAY MARTIN

Ray Martin has experience as a school trustee and MLA. He works toward schools where every child has full and fair opportunity to develop their gifts and potential.

EDMONTON CATHOLIC - WARD 73

MICHELLE DAVIS

Michelle Davis is committed to finding solutions to maintaining community based schools before closure is suggested as is the solution.

CINDY OLSEN

"I will continue to respond to all stakeholders, thoroughly research issues and emerging educational directions, resulting in informed, responsible decisions that reflect public will, innovation and opportunity."

Ward 7 Candidates

Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park and Parkdale-Cromdale

TONY CATERINA

Tony Caterina has been the Ward 7 councillor since 2007. He is a businessman who describes himself as a fiscal conservative. His platform is based on improving policing and reducing crime, including LRT security and support of the Neighbourhood Renewal Program.

According to Caterina, "good economic policy is good social policy." Tony is passionate about continuing to improve the quality of life for residents in Ward 7 by supporting initiatives that are important to the community.

DAVE COLBURN

Dave Colburn was a conductor and locomotive engineer for 35 years before serving as a school board trustee for nine years. In an interview with thelocalgood.ca, Colburn sums up his campaign, saying, "We need to change our growth management strategy, protect agricultural land, control debt in Edmonton and prioritize revitalization of mature communities."

Colburn believes urban sprawl is a result of poor governance and wishes to revitalize mature neighbourhoods. Furthermore, he says the city must reevaluate its transportation infrastructure with reduced emphasis on vehicles.

MIMI WILLIAMS

Holder of a BA in Political Science from the University of Alberta, Mimi Williams has lived in Delton since 1994. She does research, communications, and fund development for non-profit organizations and has written extensively.

In her opinion, city council needs to have more respect for the opinions of its constituents. The city's needs should come before wants, especially in the case of infrastructure. And urban sprawl is a result of a lack of care given to mature neighborhoods. She seeks to add a cap to election campaign expenses, getting excessive money out of politics.

TISH PROUSE

Eastwood resident since 2007, Tish Prouse has a master's degree in Archeology and culture management. He believes communication between residents and their representatives is the most important step in streamlining the work of city council. He lauds the city's efforts to preserve and maintain our natural spaces but believes we can do better.

Prouse believes the desires of developers must be balanced with the needs of mature neighbourhoods. He suggests a tiered system for public transportation fares, whereby fees would be lower in certain zones of the city and higher in outlying areas, which would help mitigate excessive sprawl.

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COMMUNITY » RESOURCES

Past the cover and into the story

Sprucewood Public Library is a thriving branch with much more than just books on its shelves



Kathryn Rambow with her two year old son, Seamus. >> HANNAH CAOQUETTE



Moms and tots enjoying circle time at Sprucewood Library's Sign, Sign, Laugh and Learn program. >> HANNAH CAOQUETTE

HANNAH CAOQUETTE

Let's be honest; when it comes to libraries, many of us have outdated images that come to mind, not ones revolving around modern technology, new releases, and engaging programs. When it comes to change and development in and around the Ave, our library has not been left behind; rather, it has played a crucial part in the advancements our community has made.

The Sprucewood branch of the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) began its exciting journey in the St. Alphonsus Church on 118 Avenue and 85 Street in 1953. On September 1958, it opened its doors to the public in its current location on 95 Street and 115 Avenue. Interestingly, the *Edmonton Journal* reported in October 1958 that Sprucewood was the

"first library since the opening of the central library in the 1920s to have its own building."

Today, Sprucewood is a thriving branch. It serves a dynamic community and offers a much bigger selection of services. Roughly 20 programs are run inside the walls of Sprucewood. "Diversity," according to former Sprucewood community librarian Danika Bernard, "is one of the beautiful things about this branch. You get to listen to so many people and learn so many of their stories."

Sprucewood strives to build relationships with the community and bring services to those who may not otherwise have access to them. Bernard related a story of her involvement with the Capital Care Choice Norwood day home for seniors. One of the participants had lost the ability to turn pages,

and Bernard was able to find a solution to this problem by connecting her with one of the EPL's eReaders.

"Finding a solution for this need and watching someone regain the independence they had previously lost [was rewarding]," says Bernard.

"The Edmonton Public Library offers more than you would think," according to one of Sprucewood's active users, Kathryn Rambow, a busy mother of two. Rambow participates in the Tuesday morning Sing, Sign, Laugh and Learn Program for young children, one of the many programs offered, and finds it, "a great place to build relationships with other moms in the area."

Another mom, Candace Newbury, commented, "It is nice to have an opportunity to get out of the house and con-

nect with other adults—an opportunity that is hard to come by as a busy mom."

But Sprucewood's story wasn't all good news. According to *Edmonton Journal* records, the EPL board tried multiple times to close its doors, and without the help of a dedicated community, it might not be here today. The possible closure of Sprucewood was an attempt to cut costs by the Edmonton library board. After much deliberation, however, the necessary changes were made and today, Sprucewood Library remains a vital part of this community.

Michael Eaton, assistant manager at Sprucewood, believes the biggest challenge is, "working to overcome what people think we do versus what we actually do."

Like most modern libraries, Sprucewood offers a wide

range of resources from a variety of books to the latest movies, music, eReaders, and online resources. In addition, Sprucewood offers a wide range of programs from competitive Teen Gaming nights and engaging NFB Film Clubs to relational building Family Story-times.

According to Michael, "It is important as a library, to make sure this is a safe and comfortable place for everybody, being that it is, after all, the community's space."

Sprucewood Library is an excellent resource, retaining a rich history and offering a colourful future to our community. Today's library is much more than books on shelves.

Did you know library cards are FREE until March 13, 2014 as part of the centennial celebration?



UNPACK & PLAY

LEARN SUPPORT SHARE

To register for this program at Eastwood Community League
Contact Anastasia @
anastasia.citywest@telus.net
 Phone: 780.451.5691
 Or visit
www.citywestedmonton.com
Click "Support Society"

Fall Session begins
September 11th, 2013
 10:00am - 12:00pm

This program is funded by the City of Edmonton through Family and Community Support Services

City West Provides:

- Family & Community Support Services
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- Parent - Tot Special Events
- Fully Accredited Childcare
- Community & Family Oriented Events
- Access to Scholastic Canada

This free 12-week registered program combines interactive activities for parents and children, such as: circle time, story time, craft time, dancing, educational play time, reading interesting books and more!

Each week different topics with handouts will be provided. They include: child development, behaviour management, positive parenting, developmental screening, nutrition, health & hygiene, and more!

This interactive program brings parents together to learn, support and share with each other.

Learn and play with your child while strengthening the parent/child bond.

One of the sessions is a field trip to one of Edmonton's many educational or entertainment facilities.



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ELECT

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Public School Trustee - Ward D



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- * Passion
- * Commitment

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COMMUNITY » ACTIVITIES

Talking to strangers and moving beyond fear

How to enjoy some Halloween frights around the neighbourhood this year

DAVE VON BIEKER

It's last Halloween night. In the cold darkness, I am walking my son and his friend towards our final house—the Scary House. We've been putting it off. Our hearts are pounding. Screaming kids pierce the soundtrack of horror music and monstrous moans. An eerie glow, lights the whole street in unnatural hues like a giant flickering TV. As we approach, young kids run from the house. One is crying. Another is carried by parents. This house is a test of bravery.

The owners have thought of everything—fog machines, zombies clawing up from the lawn, gravestones bearing pun-packed names like “Deadward.” A torture chamber displays body parts like meat hung in a butcher shop. Life-size demon sentinels stand guard. We make it past, only to spy a real person lurking in the shadows, waiting to pounce on our fear. He is wearing an uncanny, expressionless mask, slowly moving towards us. We've had enough. We retreat.

I try to muster our collective courage so the kids can get that coveted candy. Imagine the reward at this house, I coax. Maybe they give out free iPads! Even the lure of video games is powerless at the Scary House. We leave empty handed.

For kids, haunted houses are the ultimate Halloween horror. Parents have different fears.

Parents worry. We've learned our worry from other parents and from the news and countless cautionary tales. For us, Halloween has become a night of pitfalls and precautions. Don't accept apples (razor



While teaching children appropriate Halloween and stranger safety is important, don't forget to model and teach about neighbourliness and the benefits of knowing our neighbours. » STOCK

blades, of course). Don't take anything that isn't wrapped (poisoned, of course). Only visit homes of those you know (people you don't know are creeps, of course).

Some rules grow from common sense, but others twist up from reactionary seeds of fear.

We've all heard stories. Stories are hard to shake. But what if those stories never happened? What if there never was a razor blade in a candy apple? What if no kid was ever poisoned by a homemade Halloween cookie? Then we'd have let our fears get the best of us, keeping us from knowing

each other yet again.

According to sociologist Joel Best, there is absolutely no evidence Halloween treats have ever been tampered with and harmed someone. The few stories that surface wind up with alternate explanations. Best has been studying such stories for decades.

There are real dangers, of course. Vehicle-related injuries spike on Halloween night, so perhaps the thing to fear this Halloween is cars, not creeps.

In these days of nameless, faceless neighbours, Halloween can be one night when we break through our fears and offer each other the smile of

kindness.

Here is what I love about trick or treating. With each open door, I meet a smiling neighbour, framed by the warm glow of their home. It is the only time I approach these doors, often the first time I say a word to these neighbours. Halloween night provides a basic map of “he lives here” and “she lives there.” Quite literally, it opens doors to knowing our neighbours.

And my neighbours seem to be decent people. One recent Halloween when my wife was working late, I had to give out candy and take my kids around at the same time. Fearing the

worst, I left the candy bowl on the front step. I head out, thinking I'd be lucky if the bowl itself remained. I was wrong, of course. At the end of the night, the bowl was still half full. Strangers had come, taken just enough, and left the rest for others.

Maybe it takes the exaggerated ghoulish terrors of Halloween to drag us past our little fears. The fear of knocking on a stranger's door and saying hello. The fear of walking our own streets at night. The fear of smiling as we pass on the sidewalk.

This Halloween, let's be safe. But not so safe that we stay indoors, protected from one another. Not so safe that we huddle in the fluorescent glow of shopping malls, protected by hired security. We can take care of each other. We're good people.

I'll have some candy ready. Maybe even some cookies. Drop by...if you dare.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Edmonton Police offer many sensible tips for those parents and kids heading out on Oct. 31 at <http://www.edmontonpolice.ca/News/SuccessStories/Halloween2012.aspx>

MORE ON HALLOWEEN CANDY

Joel Best's research on the non-dangers of Halloween candy can be found at <http://www.udel.edu/soc/faculty/best/site/halloween.html>

COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN EVENT

The Great Pumpkin Event is a great, safe way to meet neighbours on Halloween night. Thursday, October 31 from 5 pm to 8 pm at Parkdale School (85 St and 116 Ave). See ad on page 13 for more info.

re-elect

Tony Caterina

WARD 7 COUNCILLOR

Communities to be proud of.

Election Day: Monday, October 21, 2013

EDITORIAL » LITERARY

Zinging power of words



Spectacular fireworks display enjoyed by patrons at the Kaleido Family Arts Festival. >>STOCK

RUSTI L LEHAY

What a fabulous neighbourhood we have on the Ave. Not only was the Kaleido Family Arts Festival full of surprises on every corner and almost every hour, with performers, artisans, music, big name bands, flash mobs, there was the annual poetry slam organized and sponsored by the *Rat Creek Press*.

The variety of the slammers and recent feedback from a caring critic dictates a change in how the Words We 'Ave page operates. To make this page really yours, restrictive themes that may fail to inspire you are out. However, if you, the writers out there in this community, refuse to take

ownership of this space, the power of poetry and the art of stringing words together creatively may be zapped before your prose or verse can zing about in people's minds and hearts.

Peek at excerpts from the winning poems on pages 12-13. Visit www.ratcreek.org/poetry-slam.html to be inspired. Mega's poem of how the elite stay cozy in their burbs while disenfranchised minorities struggle. Rayanne Doucet's second-place poem about the woman's poked and prodded body with all the lines it has been fed. Mary Pinkoski's poem on catching the best-ever case of head lice by tutoring non-English speaking children in a ghetto-like

part of Edmonton. All three poems display and ooze the power of the written word. Visit various corners of your minds and give some words their marching orders on your page.

Let your words splash out of you like fireworks, uncontrolled or formed and see where they take you. Then send them in to lit@ratcreek.org or drop them off in our mailbox at 9210 118 Avenue. Surprise and dazzle our readers. Make them weep or startle them into laughter. Your words have power. Take it and own it. This is the space to showcase the amazing writers of Edmonton, preference given to writers in the Rat Creek area.

HARVEST

JOUNI KAIKKONEN

In this rotated crop
Is sown a bitter tithe
The ones that do not drop
Cut with a deadly scythe

Amid the lifeless stones
Reaping only bones



SEASONS

VIRGINIA L LEHAY

birdsong
Spring's lyrics

tanned skin
Summer's dress

leaves fading
Fall's farewell

naked trees
Winter's nudity

winter's child...
I am

BREAD

RAYANNE DOUCET

I will wither at day's end

Lost
to a devil
that wouldn't be beaten

How strong is hope
in the face of alone?
When alone
is what you are left with

I am still there
In the house
where we kneaded dough

There is not alone
I am not alone

My love

Bake the bread we love
and put it on the counter
So you can still smell me
in the morning



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Not made in Canada

NEHA SONPAR

Mrs. Sharma felt uneasy. She stared at the purple woman in the painting hanging opposite her in the physician's waiting room. She had a 2:30 pm appointment. It was now 3:30 pm. She had flipped through all the magazines. They spoke of a life that did not touch her. Her hair was always dragged back and she wore no make-up. She felt as trapped and immobile as that woman in the painting.

Frozen in the web of her own Canadian dreams, she was a stunted, twisted person who created only blackness and then more blackness. This white land did not feel like home even after ten years. She could not recognize her daughter in that twenty-one year old self-possessed girl who calmly said, "You are yelling at me again. I am not going to listen." That hurt. It hurt so much she could not breathe and all the pains in her body coalesced into one

large, throbbing, aching mess. Mrs. Sharma was so dependent on preserving links that she did not have the courage to walk up to the receptionist and say, "I need to transfer my file to another doctor, one who respects the patient's time." Not once in the last eight years had the physician apologized for making her wait, repeatedly making her wait. Maybe he knew she was an oddity. It was written large across her face. Not made in Canada.

BOOKS TO READ BEFORE OUR SKIES FADE TO WINTER GRAYS:

Steve Smith's *Red Green's Beginner's Guide to Women (for men who don't read instructions)*

Margaret Atwood's *Madd Addam*

Helen Fielding's *Bridget Jones Mad about the Boy*

Malcolm Gladwell's *David and Goliath*

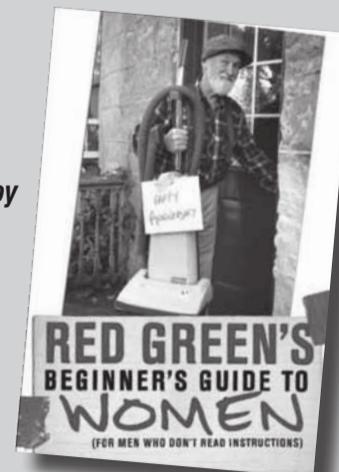
Billy Crystal's *Still Foolin' 'Em*

Louise Penny's *How the Light Gets In*

Bernie S Siegel's *The Art of Healing*

James Patterson's *Treasure Hunters*

David Baldacci's *The Hit*



Local Poet

Local Poetry

Find

Bard of the Ave

Marlene

Salmonson

at

ratcreek.org

BUSINESS » THE LEMONADE STAND

Branding? Branding my business?

But I'm not a rancher and my business isn't a herd of cows

HENRI YAUCK

Lately we have been hearing a lot about branding. A few days ago I listened to a short discussion on the radio with a branding expert. He suggested every business must create or recreate itself as a brand. He even went so far as to suggest every individual must become a brand, and we should brand all those who don't exist as a brand. Sounds almost too much like a herd of cows rounded up for a branding session.

What is a brand? When does something become a brand? As a small business, should you focus your efforts on being a brand? It gets a little confusing, doesn't it? Well, let's cut to the chase.

In its simplest form a brand is a design, an image, or a sound that identifies a product, service, or business at a quick glance. The goal is for you to automatically associate the name, logo, or certain image with the company that makes or sells the product or gives the service. So whenever you think of that product, service or business category their brand comes to mind which

gives them an advantage over their competitors.

Webster defines brand this way: "A class of goods identified by name as a product of a single firm or manufacturer. A characteristic or distinctive kind." Or, "a mark put on criminals with a hot iron." The last one is no longer in fashion.

Still confusing, isn't it? Maybe the best way is to just name a few brands we may find familiar: Cadillac—a luxury car, Coca-Cola—a bottled carbonated drink, McDonald's—a fast food hamburger store, Apple—a specific make of computer. I'm sure you get the idea.

Many business gurus and advertising gurus promulgate the idea that the single most important thing you can do is to create a brand or brand image. Otherwise, they suggest your business will not succeed.

Let's pause a minute and consider this carefully. Do you know of even one business that spent a ton of money creating a brand with advertising, pens, T-shirts, and logos before they built their business? I can't name even one. However, I can name hundreds that became a brand as their business, service, or product gained demand.

Apple, McDonald's, Alexander Keith's, Campbell's, Kleenex, they all have one thing in common; they became a brand as their demand increased over time.

This occurs only when authenticity occurs. Authenticity occurs only when your customers' experience with your product, service, or company aligns with their expectation of your product, service, or firm.

In a certain way, a brand or brand image is formed in

the mind of the customer by the strength of the relationship which is to a large degree determined by the process that formed it. Not the other way around.

And that process is very much dependent on the performance of your product or service, and it starts with their first contact experience with your firm. It does not start with an image, logo, or slogan, or for that matter a mission statement.

Life, and business, tends to be very practical.

Apple today is synonymous with a specific computer company because they built a company that provided a specific product experience a lot of people want. So the term Apple has become the identity of that product experience. Before then, in the not too distant past, "apple" was synonymous with something that came out of grandma's kitchen; some of us remember that as grandma's apple pie. To me as a youngster, the product experience of eating that apple pie was a terrific memorable and desirable experience, even the smell of it was tantalizing.

Now that's a brand.



BUSINESS » SHOP LOCAL

Mountains of flat bread



Seada Seid cooking up sourdough Ethiopian flat bread called inerja.

>> REBECCA LIPPIATT

FAMILY INERJA
8612 118 AVENUE
OWNERS: SEADA SEID AND MOHAMED AHMED
HOURS: DAILY 10 AM-9:30 PM

REBECCA LIPPIATT

Family Inerja is a family-run store that has been on the Avenue for three years. The bright and welcoming store is stocked with a variety of Ethiopian foods including green coffee beans, an assortment of grains, beans, lentils and all the necessary spices for preparing Ethiopian and Indian foods.

They also sell t-shirts, colourful teapots, traditional Ethiopian coffee pots and lovely (and practical) storage containers for transporting food to family gatherings or potlucks.

Next door to the store is the bakery which supplies inerja (a traditional Ethiopian bread) for their store as well as many other stores in the city along with numerous restaurants. The bread is made from a sourdough and requires six to eight hours to prepare and only a minute to cook on flat griddles.

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ADVICE » PARENTING

Through my child's eyes

A conversation between parents and kids

MELANIE MOORE

Parent: We live near a park where people sometimes gather to drink and party. How do I keep you safe when you are playing outside and these people are around?

Child: Dad, Mom, you need to go to the park with me until I am old enough to take care of myself. That's around age 11, the same age that you can leave me alone in the house. When we go to the park together, there are lots of things for you to teach me about being safe.

First, take the safest routes to get to the playground. Avoid alleys or busy streets. Use the sidewalk and crosswalks. When we arrive at the playground, you should scan it first and pick up any litter that you see. It's really important that you pick up anything sharp like broken glass or nails. This keeps me safe and teaches me that we all need to take care of our parks. If you see needles, don't touch them. They might have diseases on them. Phone 311 and report them so that the City guys can pick them up. They have special gloves and boxes to put the needles in.

When we bring lunch or snacks, we should throw any garbage in the can so that the park can be nice for the next kids who come there.

If we see people drinking alcohol, or breaking other laws, it is not a good idea to talk to them. Take me home right away and phone the police to let them know about the people who are breaking the laws. When I am older (i.e., 9 and older) you can be



Children having fun in the new playground at Borden Park. >> RUSTI L. LEHAY

honest with me, and tell me:

"Those people are breaking the law. They are not supposed to drink alcohol here/use illegal drugs/sell illegal drugs/sell their body."

By showing me what to do when we see people breaking the law, you teach me what to do when I am older. I learn from your example.

You need to teach me where the safe houses and stores are in my neighbourhood. It could be my next-door neighbour, or other families that live near the school and playgrounds. It could be a business, like Save-On Foods, or the drug store. That way, when I am older and walking to school by myself, I know where to go if I feel unsafe. I need to know that it is okay to talk to another mom or dad in the park if I am afraid. Show me who I can trust and who I should avoid.

If you don't know any other

families, then we could join the community league. You can meet other moms and dads and talk about ways to keep me and the other kids safe. That way I learn there is a whole community of people who care about me, and want to make our neighbourhood a good place for kids, safe and clean.

If you do all this mom, then by the time I'm 11 I'm going to know exactly what to do when I'm at the playground with my friends. Or when I'm walking home from school. You will have taught me how to be safe. Thanks Dad! Thanks Mom!

Melanie Moore...child at heart (maybe that's why I love being around children); mom forever (my son is now 29, and I'm still learning); doctor in family studies (yes, parenting is a science as well as an art! It's not all common sense.)

POETRY » KALEIDO SATURDAY SNAP SHOTS

FIRST DATE

BARD OF THE AVE, MARLENE SALMONSON

They pause in front of me, two smiling teenagers
Shyly holding hands
Torn between a rocking Cuban band,
And the performance artist, Spandy Andy.
I wonder if this is their first date.
As they separate—her hand flutters apart from his,
Like a bird gently released into flight
Her fingers looking back as she lets go.
Behind them a middle-aged couple spontaneously starts dancing in
the street,
In their own world
Their joy in the moment so real
That you want to reach out and grab it.

HINY OBJECTS

BARD OF THE AVE, MARLENE SALMONSON

While in line at a bistro, a little girl shows me her new, sparkly,
butterfly tattoo
She's so proud of it.
The food line consists of my new friend with the tattoo, a policeman
and, me, dressed in
Shakespearean garb. An ordinary Kaleido line-up.
Outside the restaurant, there is a drum circle, the drum beat is
magnetic.
In the middle, a little boy, with a blue dolphin painted on his cheek,
is playing a triangle and dancing.
From the Nina Haggerty Centre emerges a youngster clutching his
blue and green water colour
painting, which he tells his dad "is magic," as he skips away with his
arm in the air,
the painting fluttering in the breeze.
At the building's corner, hang two human flies waving at the kids
below.
On a balcony, farther up the street,
Hoja is singing an old Monkees tune, "I'm a Believer," in a capella.
A kite pokes its nose above the crowd,
As I watch a flash mob of "YMCA,"
And two helicopters continue to circle above—adding to the
cacophony of sound.



Marlene Salmonson enjoying Kaleido's festivities. >> REBECCA LIPPIATT

CITY COUNCIL

WARD 7

ELECT

DAVE COLBURN

PROVEN LEADERSHIP



Dave has shown proven leadership as your elected school board trustee

- he led the fight against school closures
- he eliminated junk food sales from schools
- he prioritized support for vulnerable students

Dave wants a fair share of tax dollars for our mature communities

- we need to say "No" to Urban Sprawl; the current council has approved expensive new infrastructure on the edge of the city while infrastructure in our mature communities is left without maintenance funds
- we need to prioritize maintaining the infrastructure we already have like repairing roads, sidewalks, and sewers

Dave represents communities, not developers

- he was greatly disturbed to learn that 56% of the funds that elected the current city council came from development companies
- he is refusing to accept any contributions from developers
- he is calling for a ban on corporate and union donations in municipal elections; our democracy should belong to the voters, not special interest groups

WWW.DAVECOLBURN.CA

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>> MOONSKY PHOTOGRAPHY



>> SHARON BLOCK



>> NORMAN DECULIN



>> LAURICE BLOCK



>> EMILIA

THE GREAT PUMPKIN EVENT

FREE

Thursday, October 31
 5:00 - 8:00 pm
 Parkdale School Grounds
 11648 - 85 Street
 Fireworks Display 8:00 pm

Spook and Bannock!
 Starts at 5:00pm
 while it lasts!

Join us for a spooktacular fun filled night!
 Wagon Rides, Hot Chocolate, Marshmallow Roast, Halloween Crafts and activities!

Lots of Scary fun for the whole family!

For more information
 (780)481-3451
 www.bentarrow.ca

HISTORY » VINTAGE FILM

Classic screening

One man shares his passion for film

CHANTAL FIGEAT

As I enter the main entrance of the Virginia Park Lodge, Bill Cameron greets me with a friendly smile and courteously holds the door for me. Now 74, Cameron chose the Virginia Lodge four years ago for the protected mature greenery on the property and easy access to amenities.

Cameron, who was born in the Bonnie Doon area, worked as an interviewer for Gallup Poll for numerous years, gathering information on products and current events. The last 12 years of his employed life, he worked as a nurse's aide.

Cameron talks about his vintage film club with contagious enthusiasm. The club was formed in 1993, and the films are of the Western genre dating from the 40s, 50s, and 60s. "Some of these films today, I wouldn't let a horse watch," says "Bronco Bill."

Cameron appreciates the acting skills of actors such as John Wayne and Jimmy Stewart who had to get into character and who were unable to rely on the graphic techniques used in modern filmmaking. Many stars such as

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers were multi-talented, having several skills such as singing, acting, and dancing. Bill also likes the good role models and family values depicted in these films.

In addition to the popularity of Westerns, the post-World War II years of Cameron's youth also ushered in an era of social guidance films. These restricted films were attempts to influence children and adults on matters such as sexuality, responsibility, and illegal drug use. Cameron laughs when he remembers *The Story of Bob and Sally* which was released in 1948. The film, which is tame by today's standards, cautions against the perils of premarital sex and syphilis and is so melodramatic it is an unintentional comedy.

Cameron has fond memories of attending Edmonton movie theatres during the age of the Silver Screen. Movie theatres such as the Avenue Theatre on 118 Avenue were "the first form of babysitting." Mothers would give their children one to two dollars, and kids could watch the same film several times at a Saturday afternoon matinee while munching on popcorn.



Joining the local Vintage Film Club is a great way to revel in some Silver Screen classics. » STOCK

Sometimes the young Bill even got in for nothing. "The ushers would open the doors [to let people out] and we would sneak in, we would walk backwards, follow the crowd, and would get in free." Bill gained access to restricted movies such as *The Story of Bob and Sally* by getting a cooperative adult to escort him in.

"My burning desire is to bring a film personality to Edmonton," shared Cameron. Vintage films starred many talented Canadians, and he has several Canadian film stars as members of his club. Cameron

cites *3:10 to Yuma* starring Glen Ford of Calgary, *The Frontier Gal* starring Yvonne De Carlo of Vancouver, and *June Story* starring Ruta Lee of Montreal as good examples.

Cameron usually gets about eight to ten people out to see his films, and the residents at Virginia Park Lodge are appreciative of his community spirit and passion. As one of the ladies at the lodge told me, "It's a great way to forget your troubles."

Cameron suffers from arthritis and is therefore unable to work full-time. He says he

needed to do something, so he started taking his films and film memorabilia to colleges such as NAIT and Grant McEwen. He eventually decided to branch out into hospitals and long-term care facilities. At times, he also does guest speaking. It makes Cameron excited "to just make their day."

Bill Cameron runs his vintage film club as a free public service. If you are interested in joining the club or have a group that would enjoy seeing one of his films, you may contact him at 587.708.1452 to arrange a showing.

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Body-Worn Cameras Protect The Police And The Public

The Edmonton police department has been testing body-worn video recording devices but is debating the value, stating that they still need more time to study. Other arguments of privacy concerns are hollow, given the public proliferation of TV cameras in society by banks, 7-Eleven's, etc. The Calgary police force has been using these cameras since November 2012; they have found that the cameras enhance officers' effectiveness, as well as public safety and intend to continue using them.

According to a recent CBC Calgary article, the cameras have resulted in early case resolutions and convictions. They showed that people behaved differently when they know they are being videotaped, not only the civilian but the officer as well; this helps to de-escalate the situation for both parties.

The president of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police believes yet another advantage from the body-worn cameras would be that, the evidence from these cameras could be used in court to "protect officers from false allegation of misconduct, and also provide us with the opportunity to hold our officers accountable, if there was misconduct." These body-worn cameras would not only protect the citizens but also the police.

Compare court evidence given at present to this new technology! Hand-written anywhere any time, notebooks from memory, with Timex arbitrarily recorded times to real digital time recording, real digital pictures, and real digital sound recording of events. Imagine the many thousands of hours of court evidence time saved and improved upon each year questioning witnesses, police, and others without memory lapses, and with real proof of time referencing.

One eight hour day of court time, with judge, prosecutor, and defence, can cost over \$20,000! Body-worn video cameras cost approximately \$1,200!

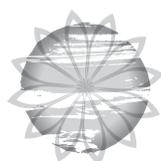
I believe all police should wear body-worn video cameras for assurance of quality.
What do you think?

780-495-3261

www.petergoldring.ca



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Bettyann at
780.450.6942

TheAveWeHad.org

A LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

A collection of oral history interviews, reports, articles, photos and more.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sponsored by the Norwood Neighbourhood Association whose vision is to support good projects and activities that benefit the neighbourhood.

For the communities of Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park, Parkdale-Cromdale, Spruce Avenue and Westwood.

EVENTS

ST. ANDREW'S CENTENNIAL EVENTS

Music festival, Friday, October 4 from 7-9 pm. Drop-in visits, Saturday, October 5 from 1:30-3:30 pm. Church service, Sunday, October 6 at 11 am at 8715 118 Avenue. Also, a banquet on Saturday, October 5 at 6 pm at Balwin Community Hall (12904 74 St). Cost: \$20/person.

COPS AT THE CARROT

Join Edmonton Police members on Tuesday, October 8 from 10-11 am at The Carrot Cafe (9351 118 Ave). Bring your questions and comments or just stop in and say hi. Can't make it? You can always call your Community Liaison Constable Christopher Lucas at 780.421.2602.

ART SHOW OPENING

"Reflecting 96 Street" opening reception on Thursday, October 10 from 7-9 pm at The Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts (9225 118 Ave).

BOWL & HELP THE CARROT GROW!

Register a team of 5 for the Carrot's "Bowling for Bucks". Saturday, October 26 from 7-10 pm at Plaza Bowl (10418 118 Ave). \$50 team registration. Win prizes and help raise funds to support the Carrot. To register your team go to the Carrot or email carrotassist@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN EVENT

The Great Pumpkin Event is a great, safe way to meet neighbours on Halloween night. Thursday, October 31 from 5-8 pm at Parkdale School (85 St and 116 Ave).

NOTICES

BRAZILIAN PERFORMANCE

Come to the Parkdale-Cromdale Community Hall (11335 85 St) to see free capoeira performances every Saturday from 1-2 pm! Capoeira is a mix of Brazilian martial arts, music, and dance. More info: www.capoeiraacademy.ca

KEEP THE LOVE ALIVE

The Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts needs \$250,000 by November 30 to

keep its doors open and its paint pots full. Fortunately, the Stollery Charitable Foundation will match all donations to a maximum of \$125,000. It may sound like quite a bit, but if only 1,000 people give \$125 each, we will meet our goal. Donate online www.thenina.ca

THE CARROT STAGE

9351 118 Avenue. More info: 780.471.1580. Thursdays: Zoomers open mic returning in October. Fridays: Live music 7:30-9:30 pm. Check website for line-up. \$5 at the door. Saturdays: Open mic 7:30-9:30 pm. Great time to share your newest tune, poem or comedy act! Free for all ages. \$1.25 minimum charge.

RECYCLE YOUR COMPUTER ITEMS

The Electronic Recycling Association will refurbish used computers and IT equipment and donate to non-profit organizations. Go to www.era.ca for more info.

PROGRAMS/CLASSES

FREE ART NIGHTS AT THE NINA

Community Art Nights, Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm. Family Art Nights, Thursdays, 6:30-8 pm. The Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts (9225 118 Ave). More info: www.thenina.ca

TOASTMASTERS YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Learn how to prepare and present speeches, think on your feet, provide feedback, and conduct meetings. Sundays, October 20 to December 15 from 2:30-4:30 pm at Parkdale-Cromdale Community Hall (11335 85 St). For 11 to 17 yrs. More info: www.naylp.com or contact Amy at 780.244.7846 naylproject@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY PATROL - NEW NIGHT

Join a community patrol walk on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm. Meet at Safeway on 118 Ave and 82 St. Focus will be in the parks in the area. Exact routes and whether to walk or drive will be decided at the meeting point. More info: safestreets118@gmail.com.

FREE MUSIC LESSONS BY CREART!

Running continually every Saturday at Parkdale-Cromdale Community Hall

(11335 85 St) free group lessons will be offered to members. The teacher is part of the community and loves to share his knowledge! Singing lessons run from 9-10 am and Guitar lessons from 10 am-12 pm. Play and meet others. Contact Chantal at 780.669.3272

SING, SIGN, LAUGH AND LEARN

For children up to age three accompanied by a grown-up. Tuesdays from 10:30-11:15 am at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

CREATIVE PROSE / WRITING GROUP

Tuesdays from 7-9 pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). More info: Vivian at vzenari@gmail.com

ESL GROUP

New students are always welcome so drop in or recommend a friend! Wednesdays from 9:30-11 am at the Parkdale-Cromdale Hall (11335 85 St). More info: 780.887.6825.

ALATEEN MEETINGS

Help for young people whose parent, relative or friend is a problem drinker. Saturdays at 10 am at 11107 129 St (backdoor, downstairs). More info: call 1.866.322.6902 or Google alateen edmonton. Al-Anon and Alcoholics Anonymous meet at the same time, in the same building. Help and hope for the whole family.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

CRUD DINNER CLUB IS BACK!

Everyone welcome. The next Dinner Club is October 8 from 6-8 pm at Lan's Asian Grill (11828 103 St). Please RSVP and Pre-Order your meal (72 hours in advance) on CRUD's on Facebook page.

FAMILY STORYTIME

Share stories, songs and games for the whole family. Saturdays from 2:30-3 pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

TWEEN LOUNGE

Join other kids in the program room to play video games, make a DIY project, meet friends or just hang out. For

ages 7-13. Thursdays at 3:30-5 pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

TEEN GAMING

Come to the library to play some great games! Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 pm for ages 12-17. Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

BABES IN ARMS

A casual parent group Fridays, 10 am-12 pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave).

L'I'L SPROUTS PLAYGROUP

Playgroup is temporarily cancelled while Parkdale-Cromdale Community Hall under goes renovations. More info: Chantal 780.669.3272.

WOMEN'S AFTERNOON OUT GROUP

For women to get out, socialize and work on crafts such as knitting, crocheting, card making, and more (or bring your own project). Cost is \$1 drop-in fee for materials. We have a potluck snack. Mondays from 1:30-4 pm in the Sprucewood Library Programming room. More info: Michelle at 780.232.5822 or heartsalive@hotmail.com

PARKDALE-CROMDALE SENIORS GROUP

Seniors bingo takes place every Monday from 10 am-2 pm at the hall (11335 85 St). Coffee and snack provided.

SENIORS LUNCH

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

SPORTS/REC

FREE SPORTS EQUIPMENT

All kinds of sports equipment to kids in need, including hockey, skates, bicycles, soccer, softball, rollerblades, racquets, snow sliders and more. More info at 780.477.1166 or sportscentral.org. Also accept donations of gently used sports gear.

FREE COMMUNITY ACCESS AT COMMONWEALTH REC CENTRE

Enjoy the fitness centre at Commonwealth for free on Saturdays

from 5-7 pm with your community league membership. **Date Changes:** Moved from October 5 to 6. There will only be pool and fitness access on these dates.

FREE QIGONG CLASS

YiXue Lotus practice (Lotus Qigong) for a calm, stable heart and overall well-being. Weekly class, No fee. Call Astrid 780.477.0683.

VOLUNTEER

HELP AT NORWOOD CENTRE

Become a volunteer at Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre (9516 114 Ave) and gain experience for employment or education, meet new people, learn new skills, have fun and give back to your community. Go to norwoodcentre.com or call 780.471.3737.

VOLUNTEER AT THE CARROT

Daytime and evening shifts at the Carrot need volunteers. More info: carrotassist@gmail.com.

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! More info: volunteer@ninahaggertyart.ca

BEFRIEND A SENIOR

Provide much needed companionship to an isolated senior by assisting them with grocery shopping, sharing life stories, playing cards or driving them to and from medical appointments. More info: Carole at 780.342.4421.

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.

Listings for free events and programs as well as volunteer opportunities. Email your listings to: info@ratcreek.org.

CHURCH SERVICES

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St. Faith's: 780-477-5931
St. Stephen: 780-422-3240
11725-93 Street

Sunday Services:

8:30 am - Low Mass (St. Stephen)
9:00 am - Morning Prayer (St. Stephen)
9:30 am - High Mass (St. Stephen)
11:00 am - Morning Worship (St. Faith's)
7:00 pm - Evensong (St. Stephen)

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

Our Vision is to be a growing community of believers who are woven together by the love of God for support, fellowship and prayer.

10123 Princess Eliz. Avenue
780-471-2250 www.clifec.ca

Service Times:

9:40 am - Pre-service Prayer
10:30 am - Worship Service
10:45 am - Kzamm Kids
Child care provided for ages 0 to 12 yrs.

AVENUE VINEYARD CHURCH

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

8718-118 Avenue (Crystal Kids building)
www.avenuevineyard.com
Sundays at 10:30 am

BETHEL GOSPEL CHAPEL

A Bible-based, multi-ethnic fellowship.
11461-95 Street 780-477-3341

Sunday Meetings:

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

CARISMA CHURCH

Our vision is to EMBRACE a relationship with Jesus and share it with others. Come and experience a multicultural worship service in an informal, friendly environment.

8401-114 Avenue 780-477-1235
www.carismachurch.org

Sundays at 10:00am

Kids Ministries for ages 2 to 12yrs.
Come as you are. All welcome!

ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

11828-85th Street 780-474-5434

Service Times:

7:30 am - Mass, Tuesday to Friday
4:00 pm - Mass, Saturday Vigil of Sunday
11:00 am - Mass, Sunday Main Celebration
4:00 pm - Mass, Sunday, Eritrean Catholic Community

English Classes & Collective Kitchen (seasonal - call for info)
St. Vincent de Paul Food Help Hotline: 780-471-5577

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please join us for our diverse services. We offer regular Sunday worship services in German and English languages.

10759-96 Street (Corner of 108 Ave)
780-422-0059 www.stjohnsluth.ca

Service Times:

9:30 am - German Service
11:00 am - English Service
11:00 am - Sunday School for Children

Holy Communion: Every first Sunday of the month in the German Service
Holy Communion: Every third Sunday of the month in the English Service

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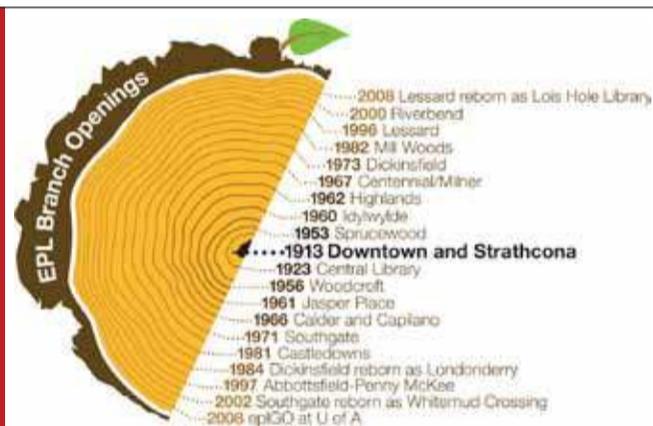
TODAY CHANTEL POWERED HER CITY IN A DIFFERENT WAY.

What really connects us as Edmontonians isn't just wires and water lines – it's the urge to lend a hand when it's needed.

Through a variety of programs, EPCOR employees like Chantel help families in our community by giving back. Today that means filling hampers at the local food bank. Connect with a career where you matter more at epcor.com/matter.

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Words We 'Ave Poetry Slam Winners



Kaz Mega, poetry winner. >> AARON PEDERSON

Big name poets and poets brand new to slamming took the stage for five minutes or less to regale the audience and judges with topics ranging from the construction of the Alaska Highway to dreamscapes of fathers with missing legs, daughters healing mothers long deceased, the re-imagining of Adam and Eve, and how to roll with a really bad day.

Here are the winners with an excerpt from their poem. Go to ratcreek.org/poetry-slam.html to read the full poems.

The winning poem was "Part-time Apartheid" by Kaz Mega:

And that is when it hits me,
she is 7 years old and spent
her whole life in a refugee camp and
arrived in Canada to 5 months of winter.
The first time she rode in a car was from
the airport to her new home. They build walls we build
government housing "indian" reserves
while our government stay living in the burbs
Welcome to the dark side of part-time apartheid

Second place was "A Story for My Soul When She Needs It" by Rayanne Doucette:

My Body is More than a Temple
It's a God Dammed Compound
Until I understand it
You damn sure aren't
Poking it
Prodding it
Tasting it
Demeaning it
or Politicizing it

Third place was "Words" by Mary Pinkoski:

And I realize, I can't give this girl anything
more than she already has. So I pass on some words
with no meaning to her and she stores
them away for a time when they
might be useful.



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- Staff incentive and recognition programs

We have a variety of job options available. Please visit northlands.com for more details.



HAVE DINNER ON THE AVE WITH NEIGHBOURHOODS · CRUD DINNER CLUB ON FACEBOOK