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## Police use resident's aid in suspected meth dealer 'take-down'

DAWN FREEMAN

On Thursday June 15, Acting Sergeant Gregg Scott and other members of the EPS Avenue Beat unit used long time Eastwood resident Christy Morin's house to watch a suspected meth dealer in the garage next door.

"We took the opportunity of knowing Christy lived next door to use her house for surveillance on the suspected property. We do this primarily to ensure officer safety, so we know how many people are in the premises before we execute the [drug] warrant," commented Scott.

After observing for an hour or so, the 10 plain-clothed and uniformed officers charged into the garage, taking out the door as they went.

"It actually was like watch-

ing 'Cops,'" laughed Christy. "They got the signal, and boom! All these cops go and bust down the garage door, yelling 'City Police! Get down!'"

Because the search did not reveal any drugs however, no charges could be laid.

Christy Morin is no stranger to the lesser qualities of the Avenue area; a problem house next door has plagued her family for years (see page 10 for more about this). But the duplex on the other side had always had good people in it, and was recently purchased by her brother-in-law, Harvey, so no problems were expected from that quarter. The reality was far different.

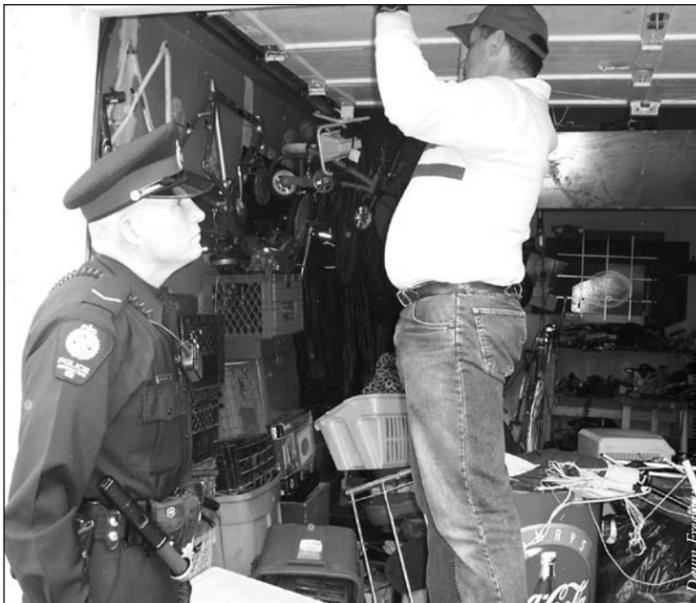
For weeks there was increased activity in their alley, and then Christy was startled one night by a stranger in the yard next door. Knowing this

side of the duplex was vacant Darcy, her husband, challenged the man as to why he was there. The stranger was looking for another man, by the name of Gary, who fixed bicycles from a garage. When he refused to leave, EPS was called.

"The police woke up the woman in the duplex to ask her if she knew a Gary, or knew this man who was in the yard, but she said no," Christy said. "So

the police sent him on his way." Feeling suspicious now, the Morins began keeping

was Gary. Harvey said he wanted him out in 24 hours as he was not on the lease.



CONSTABLE PAT TRACY AND OWNER HARV SURVEY THE CONTENTS OF THE GARAGE.

a close eye on the alley.

"There was one guy, stoned out of his tree, sitting against a fence, legs out in the lane. I saw another guy trying to make camp in the back yard of another neighbour. We called the police on both accounts and they came and did what they had to do, but we started thinking, this is ridiculous," remembers Christy.

Her brother-in-law asked his tenant a second time if she knew a Gary, but she denied it, so he decided to check out the garage himself. To his surprise there was a man in there working on bikes, and lo and behold, his name

The police were notified, but at that point they were told it was a landlord/tenant issue and not something EPS could get involved in.

The next day though, Christy received the surprise call from the Avenue Beat Acting Sergeant Gregg Scott. "He asked if EPS officers could come into our house, today, right now, and use one of the rooms to gain a vantage point on Gary and the garage, because it was now suspected that meth was being dealt from there." EPS set up on her balcony, as well as in the empty side of the duplex and other places around the block.

"After they went in several people were handcuffed, and they were checking it [the garage and the house] out for quite a long time, but I guess they didn't find any drugs," said Christy.

Unfortunately for the Morins and for Harvey the story did not end straight away. Because the man could not be arrested on that day, police had to be called back four or five times, whenever he appeared, and although the tenant had been given a one week eviction notice, she also dragged her feet at moving. In desperation Harvey finally removed the doors to the garage and took it upon himself to move out the mountains of junk that had accumulated in just a couple months, and then the family sat and kept watch over the property.

"We basically sat outside in our yard all Saturday and watched them slowly get their stuff loaded on a trailer. People were still riding up to the garage on bicycles and we suspect that drugs were still changing hands, right in front of us! Thankfully by Sunday morning, they were all gone," says Christy.

Christy and her family are hoping things will quiet down for them now.

"It has been scary for us and actually we have thought several times of moving. But the police presence has been good, and as we know, every drop of water in the bucket makes a difference, so we are hanging in there," says Christy. "Everyone else on our block is great."



DARCY & CHRISTY MORIN LOOKING AT THE NEIGHBOURING FOURPLEX. THE EPS OFFICERS USED MORIN'S REAR BALCONY TO KEEP WATCH ON THE NEIGHBOURING GARGAGE WHERE A SUSPECTED METH DEALER WAS OPERATING FROM.

## CANADA, EH? From British Colony to independent nation

TRACEY COMEAU

On July 1, 1867, the British Parliament passed the British

North America Act (BNA Act), paving the way for Canada to become its own country.

Through the BNA Act, the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were united into the Dominion of Canada. This event was celebrated as Dominion Day.

Although the BNA Act did not release the new Canada from being under colonial rule, it did give Canada's government new powers with which to run the country. Federal and provincial powers were divided, and parliament

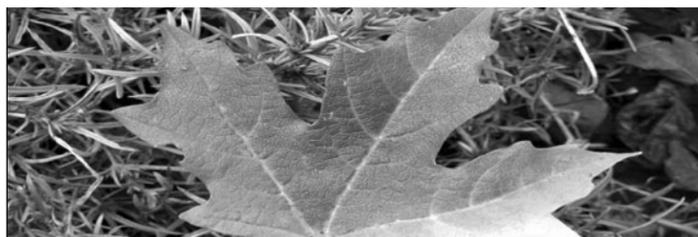
could assume any powers that weren't already assigned.

An act of British parliament in 1982 saw all remaining legislative and constitutional ties between Canada and the United Kingdom dissolved. Dominion Day, which had represented Canada as a dominion within the British Empire, was changed to Canada Day to emphasize the new independence.

Canada Day is officially celebrated every July 1<sup>st</sup>, except when it falls on a Sunday. In that case, it is celebrated the following day.

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### CANADA DAY EVENTS, SATURDAY, JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>

#### CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

In the parking lot at 101 St & Princess Elizabeth Ave (next to Boston Pizza)  
Free admission & free food; games, prizes & music

#### NORWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

At Norwood Square 95 St & 114 Ave  
Yard sale, hotdogs and hamburgers, wagon rides, Norwood Brass Band, inflatables and face painting.

#### VICTORIA PARK

##### River Valley Rd west of Royal Glenora Club

Free: crafts, wagon rides, petting zoo, amusement rides  
\$\$: Tour on a double decker bus; jet boat rides on the river, canoe trips; food concession.

#### WATERFALL ON HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE & FIREWORKS FROM KINSMEN PARK, 11pm

**MANAGING EDITOR** Karen Mykietka  
**EDITOR** Dawn Freeman  
**GRAPHIC DESIGN** Leanne McBean  
**ADVERTISING SALES** Joy Dyck  
**DISTRIBUTION** Coordinator Needed  
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**OUR MISSION**

The mission of the Rat Creek Press Association is to highlight community news, activities, and recreational opportunities as well as local residents and businesses to support the growth of a strong, vibrant, well-connected community.

# Bathroom talk

KAREN MYKIETKA

This is a travel story I wrote a few years back:

While I'm thankful that my oldest child is no longer in diapers, traveling with a potty-trained toddler can be a challenge. During a return trip from the Rocky Mountains, my two and a half year old announces he needs to go pee 15 minutes after we resume our journey from our supper stop. Luckily we were just on the outskirts of Calgary, so we exit the highway and search for a suitable place to stop. Spotting a Tim Horton's, we figure we may as well grab a coffee at the same time. About 20 minutes later from the back seat of the van we hear, "I need to go poop." "What, you just went to the bathroom!" I respond.

By now we're on the open highway with no bathroom in sight. I think back to when he had his last BM and realize it's been at least 36 if not 48 hours. So he likely really needs to go. From his car seat, he moans and whimpers "need to poop." Finally we spot a small gas station and pull over. My husband jumps out, unbuckles him, and rushes in. Less than a minute later,

he's running back with our son who's crying. "What wrong?" I ask. "The owner said they are closed and won't let us in to use the bathroom." How ignorant! We reassure our little guy that we will find another bathroom in a few minutes.

We speed down the road to a small town a few kilometres away and screech to a halt in a restaurant parking lot. When my husband returns to the van, he says our son only went #1 again. I know my toddler's pleas for a bathroom will start the minute we hit the highway. So I take this opportunity to nurse my baby and give my toddler a snack, hoping he'll relax and the food will stimulate his need to go.

A little later, I take him back in to use the restaurant bathroom. He sits on the toilet and for a whole 15 minutes he goes and he goes and he goes! During this time, he chatters away and I get a running commentary on his bodily functions. "Me making a big poop." "Are you all done now?" "No, me need to fart and make more poop."

I comment that it stinks. He responds, "Turn the fan on." "It already is on," I say.

"The fan take my stinkys away?"  
 "Yes, it will." I had explained the function of the bathroom fan to him a few days earlier. Someone enters the stall next to us.  
 "Someone in that toilet?"  
 "Yes."  
 "That another little boy?"  
 "No, it's a lady."  
 "What that lady doing?"  
 "She's going to the bathroom."  
 We hear the flow of urine.  
 "The lady make pee."  
 Chuckling I respond, "Yes."  
 "The lady have a vagina?"  
 Now I'm trying not to burst out laughing, "Yes, she does."  
 "You have a vagina, mommy?"  
 "Yes, I do."  
 "You laughing mommy."  
 "Yes. You're a very funny boy,"  
 "No, you a silly mommy."

Finally he is done. I help him off the toilet and he comments on the size of his poop. At least this time he doesn't launch into a descriptive of his poop being a snake or a train. He flushes the toilet and asks as he points to the floor, "Where the poop go? Poop go there?" I had corrected him last time when he thought it went up into the tank of the toilet. "The poop goes out to the sewage plant where they clean the water,"

I reply. We return to the van and he announces to his father, "I made a big poop and it went out to be cleaned."

Kids are so innocent and pure. They say anything and everything they are thinking without censoring it. I hope the lady who shared the bathroom with us that night understood this, and was amused rather than embarrassed by my son's conversation.

Although this is a funny story, it does illustrate a real problem for children and adults alike when traveling: constipation and irregularity. When on the road our routine goes out the window, we tend not to eat as well, we are often rushed, a lot of time is spent in the car, and we stay in unfamiliar places. This can wreak havoc on our bodily functions.

To prevent these problems make sure to drink lots of water (bring along a water bottle for each person), eat an adequate amount of fibre (pack some veggie sticks and fruit), and take the time to go for a walk each day. If traveling with preschoolers, bring a potty. They always need to go at the most inconvenient times. And MOST OF ALL, don't rush bathroom time— relax and sit a while.

## What's going on with our streets?

### Q & A with our city councillors

KAREN MYKIETKA

**Road Closures**

**Q:** Why has access been closed to 115 Ave east of 80 St? And what are the plans for 79 St?

**A:** Coun. Ed Gibbons responded, "The closure of 115 Ave, east of 80 Street, and the closure of 79 Street, north of Borden Park Road, have been identified as part of long term plans for Northlands and incorporated into the Northlands Area Redevelopment plan, which has been the guiding plan for this area since the 1980s. Although no timing was set for this closure at the time of the Area Redevelopment Plan, it was identified as necessary for Northlands site development, and, in particular, to facilitate movement between properties east and west of 79 Street. The process to close this connection commenced with the application by Northlands, approved by City Council in 2005, for a legal road clo-

sure. Recently, Northlands has implemented this closure through the installation of barriers to prevent through-traffic movement and change the role of the 115 Ave access. Access to Borden Park and the proposed Health Clinic, as well as Northlands, are still available from 112 Avenue."

Coun Janice Melnychuk said, "The Northlands plan was approved by a previous city council but Northlands is only able to accomplish it as money is available. The closure of 115 Ave and 79 Street has always been in the plan, but City council must vote on specifics affecting the public, such as the closure of roads. A majority of Council voted to close the road, but I did not."

Councillors Gibbons and Melnychuk noted that unfortunately the plans to locate a Health Centre at the Cromdale School site were not known at the time. If this had been known, different decisions may have been made.

## Safe streets focus for Avenue Initiative open house

DAWN FREEMAN

On June 6, 75 people came to Eastwood Hall to take part in the latest Avenue Initiative Open House meeting. The focus of this meeting was the Safe Streets committee, although all the committees had displays and information available.

Inspector Jim Kennedy from Edmonton Police Service spoke at length about the role of EPS in the Avenue Initiative, in particular the role of the Community Liaison Officer, the assisting and training of residents and businesses in crime prevention, and about Project Impact, the six-week EPS focus on 118 Avenue. He also touched on plans to provide echo enforcements in the area – this is where police return periodically to do more operations in an area to prevent criminals from re-establishing.

Staff Sergeant Brian Nowlan from EPS Vice Unit spoke about the initiatives they are implementing to deal

with prostitution in our community. The big one is the Report-a-John signs that are being posted in various locations around the Avenue. These include the phone number to call to report john information. He also mentioned Bill 206 – the *Seizure of Johns' Vehicles* bill – is just about ready to hit the streets, creating an effective weapon against johns.

Other speakers from EPS included Constable Patrick Tracy, the Community Liaison Officer, and Constables Wallin, Smith and Brenise from the Crime Prevention and Youth Programs Unit.

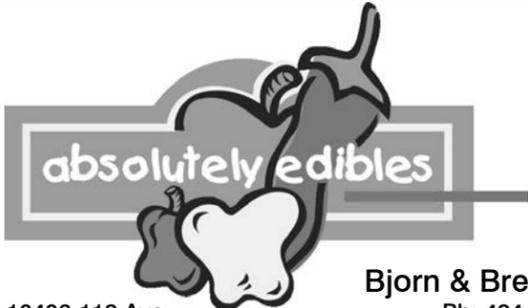
**EPS Update**

Project Impact is a six-week focus on 118 Avenue as outlined in Chief Boyd's 100-day plan. It involves the Downtown and North divisions, along with the Vice, Drug, Gang and Surveillance units of EPS working together to combat the criminal elements that affect community, such as prostitution, drug houses and public drunkenness.

Project Impact ran from May 15 to June 26, 2006. Statistics up until June 5 are as follows:

- 306 individuals dealt with (this means the interaction with the police has more significance than just talking to someone on the street)
- 131 arrests
- 155 warrants executed
- 5 search warrants
- 145 criminal charges laid (excluding drug charges)
- 85 summonses issued for traffic and other violations
- 25 drug charges laid
- 15 condemned houses or eviction notices served

Project SNUG, the combined EPS/PAAFE project aimed at helping prostitutes get off the streets, ran another successful program from June 13 to June 16, 2006. A total of 34 women and 2 men were charged with offences, with 25 of the women requesting assistance. This particular operation fell under the regular schedule which just happened to coincide with the six week concentration on the Avenue.



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# Health Centre process continues

ROBIN GALENZA

Capital Health and Manasc Isaac Architects hosted another community meeting concerning the Eastwood Health Centre at Santa Maria Goretti Center on June 12 at 7:00 p.m. Vivian Manasc revealed the outline of the new building along with a perspective sketch. The community members who attended the meeting were overall pleased with the design but raised a few concerns about the security of the new building and the play areas for the children.

The presentation included several methods that Manasc

Isaac Architects plan to implement into sustainable and healthy buildings for both people and the planet. The architects placed the orientation of the new building east-west which helps cut down on energy consumption. Also, instead of using regular cement in the concrete for the building they will be using fly ash, a by-product of coal.

Manasc says they hope that construction will begin in ten months, if city hall passes the plans for the new centre. That will put the opening of Eastwood Health Centre in April 2008.

TRACEY COMEAU

Community residents recently had a chance to have their voices heard during a public consultation about the proposed NAIT recreation centre expansion.

The consultation was held at the Alberta Avenue Community League on June 5 and featured speakers from Banister Research, the company responsible for conducting the public study regarding the new Centre, and city staff.

NAIT President Dr. Sam Shaw proposed in May that the existing NAIT rec centre be expanded and made available to the community as well as NAIT students. The new rec centre, which would be referred to as the North Central Community Recreation Centre, would be financed by the City, the provincial government and NAIT. The City of Edmonton and NAIT would share operating costs.

The total cost of centre completion is estimated at over \$115 million.

Opinions about the centre varied and many new ideas came to light as the community expressed their thoughts.

"This (centre) is so necessary in our area. We need it," said Norm Aldi, the president of Eastwood Community League.

However, Norm said he feels that the centre should be located in the community in order to serve the community best.

# Community voices opinion on NAIT rec centre

"I want a North Central Community Recreation Centre. That's what the sign says. That's what I want," Aldi added.

Other concerns included competing with NAIT students for time in the centre and the cost of transportation to get from the community to the centre.

Community resident Lawrence Loyek said he is fine with the proposed centre being located at NAIT.

"I think it's a great idea," Loyek said. "I think that the public and NAIT could use it together. If they've got the community involved, I don't see anything wrong with it."

Linda Banister, spokesperson for Banister Research and Consulting Inc. at the consultation stressed the project was still in the early stages and everyone involved with the project was waiting to hear what the community thought.

"Nothing has been signed," Banister said. "This is the starting stage...they're listening. Nothing is for sure."

If approved, the new centre will include a fitness centre, a gymnasium, a pool and food services, among other things. There would be unlimited free admission to the Centre as well as free parking.

## CLEANING UP 111TH AVENUE



A NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS FROM CAP (COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT) HIT 111 AVE. WITH SOME PAINT IN JUNE TO REMOVE GRAFFITI. THANKS FOR HELPING CLEAN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD.

## BRIGHT FUTURE FOR 118 AVE.



IN BETWEEN RAIN SHOWERS, THE CITY HAS BEEN BUSY INSTALLING THE NEW PEDESTRIAN-LEVEL LIGHTS ON 118 AVENUE. THEY ARE TEMPORARY FIXED ON THE STREET LIGHT STANDARDS BUT WILL BE PUT ON THEIR OWN STANDARD WHEN 118 AVE GETS ITS MAKEOVER IN 2008. WATCH FOR THE OFFICIAL LIGHTING CEREMONY ON MONDAY, JULY 17 AT 2PM.

## AVENUE INITIATIVE REVITALIZATION STRATEGY UPDATE



**JUNE 6TH OPEN HOUSE—A BIG THANKS** to everyone who came out and to the many volunteers who helped make the night a success. Over 100 people came out to hear from Edmonton Police Services and to see get an update from the Working Groups.

### WORKING GROUPS

Have a voice; make a difference.  
Join a working group:

For more info come out to the open house or contact:  
Judy Allan, Avenue Initiative Coordinator  
judyallan@edmonton.ca or 496-1913

## SIX MONTHS LATER AND STILL WORKING HARD

We are fast approaching the end of our first six months of implementing the Avenue Initiative. I would like to thank all the people who have volunteered to be in a Working Group or sit on the Steering Committee. Many people have given their time, hard work and great ideas to get the Strategy going. Here is a short summary of some of the work being done.

### Streetscape

The Streetscape Committee started off with the big job of choosing the pedestrian lights for the Ave. Today you can see approximately 135 lights on the existing street poles. In time they will be moved to decorative light standards.

The Working Group is now looking at what the Streetscape could potentially look like and how we will implement it. They are recommending starting between 83-89 Streets. The rationale for choosing this section is that is seen as the heart of the area and the most distressed.

### Safe Streets

Within the next few weeks you will see signs on the Avenue letting people know that we DO

NOT tolerate prostitution activity. There is a report-a-john number (421-2856) on the sign for you to report license plate numbers and description of cars and drivers that you see soliciting women on the street. Each call will be followed up on!

You can also help keep the community clean and safe by reporting crime.  
Derelict Houses: 496-6031; Gang Activity: 414-4264; General Crime and Complaints: 423-4567. Remember that every call is counted and this helps get us action!

### Development and Revitalization

In the fall the Development and Revitalization Working Group will bring recommendations for zoning, development and land use to the Community.

The Development and Revitalization Working Group is working with the City to identify buildings along the Avenue that are historical. Homes in the Community may also qualify as Historical. Historical Buildings qualify for funding to maintain the historical nature of the building.

# Province pulls plug on local registry office

TRACEY COMEAU

Police entered the office of the Elizabeth Avenue Registries at 10129 Princess Elizabeth Ave on June 15 with an order signed by Government Services Minister George VanderBurg.

The registry's agreement with the Alberta Government Services was ended and the office was vacated. Computers and other equipment were seized in what has become the first raid and seizure in the 13-year history of privatized registries in Alberta.

According to documents acquired by *The Journal*, the

owner of the registry, Douglas Doby, had been under pressure to sell the business after four B.C. gang members were found with fake licences issued by the registry. It is not known how the licences were transferred from Edmonton to the gang members in B.C.

There will not be another registry at that location, and customers are asked to visit other nearby registries for service.

A thorough investigation will follow.

Go to News at ratcreek.org for a link to the *Edmonton Journal* article.



ELIZABETH AVENUE REGISTRIES IS NO MORE – THE BUSINESS HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN FOR GOOD.

### OTHER NEARBY REGISTRIES

**QUALITY REGISTRIES**  
#138, 9700 105 Ave  
Ph: 423-3228

**FOR AMA MEMBERS:  
KINGWAY CENTRE**  
11220 109 St Ph: 989-6370

**SENTINEL REGISTRY**  
12818 82 St Ph: 478-3228



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# Business Briefs

TRACEY COMEAU

### COLUMBUS GIFT SHOP 9321 118 Ave

A new gift shop has opened up on the Avenue. Owned and run by Vasilios Valotasios, this is the place to get those great decorated samurai swords you always dreamed of having. Along with the swords, the gift shop also sells blankets, pipes, flags, pictures, and Lord of the Rings merchandise. The Columbus Gift Shop is open Monday to Friday, from 10-3 p.m.

### KAMAKAZI INK 8648 118 Ave 702-7153

This new tattoo parlor on the Avenue offers custom tattoos as well as tattoo restoration and covering at a price of \$100 an

hour. Popular designs include dragons, and owner Steve Winget says he has inked a widely diverse clientele including a man who Winget says must have been close to 70 years old. Kamakazi Ink is open from 1-9 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, as well as 12-8 p.m. on Saturdays and 11-4:30 p.m. on Sundays. It is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

### POLISH FOOD AND GIFT CENTRE 10133 Princess Eliz Ave 477-8687

This Polish Food Centre has recently expanded, taking over the space once leased by the Salvation Army. Owned by Jack Tenderenda, this is your one-

stop shop for everything Polish including sausages, rye breads, and teas. If you are looking for Polish magazines, cards, CDs and the like, you will find them and much, much more between the walls of this market. "You can buy everything in one location," says Tenderenda about the variety of goods in his store. Business hours are Monday to Wednesday from 10-6 p.m., Thursday from 10-7 p.m., Friday 9-7 p.m., Saturday from 9-6 p.m., and Sunday from 10:30-2:30 p.m.

### CLOSED - MALAYSIA KITCHEN 9715 118 Ave

After approximately a year of operation, this restaurant still wasn't making ends meet and had to close.

# The Business of Travel

TRACEY COMEAU

Henry Woudstra knows travel.

Working in the travel industry his whole life, Woudstra has always called Butte Travel home. He opened the doors with the company in 1960 when he was just starting out, and took over the reins as owner in 1985. Now located at 95 Street and 117 Avenue, Butte Travel may not have always been in the same building but has always been in the Alberta Avenue area.

Starting off at the ground level and working his way up to the top position has enabled Woudstra to know all the ins and outs of the business as well as what it takes to keep the customers coming back.

Butte Travel specializes in arranging flights, tours, holidays and vacation packages. Woudstra, however, says he hasn't been able to arrange any holidays for himself for quite some time. Understaffed and very busy, Woudstra spends his time making sure his customers' vacations are well-planned before even considering taking one himself.

"It's a very time-intensive kind of work," Woudstra says, and doesn't seem to be bothered by the lack of time off.

Butte's senior travel consultant Pat Chobater agrees.

"It's so busy that sometimes you just go home

dead beat," she says.

Perhaps what makes Butte Travel so unique is the fact that aside from the bookkeeper, every staff member sells. There is no receptionist – the travel consultants take all the calls. Woudstra himself, on top of his owner and managerial duties, acts as a travel consultant. And that's only one of the many ways Butte Travel is different.

Another key detail Woudstra takes pride in is the number of languages spoken within his business. Employing people of many different cultural backgrounds, he says, keeps him in touch with the varied cultures of the people that walk through his door.

"Because of the Polish connection, we sell a lot of tickets to Poland," Woudstra says.

"Because of the Danish (connection), we sell a lot of tickets to Scandinavia. And I'm Dutch, so we sell a lot of tickets to Holland and Europe."

Keeping the customers in mind seems to come naturally to Woudstra. He recalls having to spend over three hours to get a new ticket for a customer who was empty-

handed at the airport, and driving to the airport himself to meet up with her and hand her the new ticket. As a result of his effort, the customer was still able to catch up with the group she had been traveling with while they were waiting for their connecting flight in Toronto.

"Those are pressure points that you have to be there to help the client," Woudstra says. "Those situations pop up all the time. But it's always a case where you can help your customer."

Woudstra says being in touch with his clientele is the best part about his job, but at the same time he is aware of the debate over how much longer the human touch of travel agencies will take precedence over booking trips and flights online.



HENRY WOUSTRAS WILL HELP YOU PLAN THE PERFECT VACATION

Woudstra says he is not worried.

"Is there a future in travel? There absolutely is. We are busy."

## 2nd ANNUAL SHINE & DINE on ALBERTA AVENUE

A celebration of cars, food and entertainment! In conjunction with NAIT, the Alberta Avenue Business Association will be hosting a "Shine & Show" for all car clubs and associations.

Over 200 custom and sports cars, and motorcycles on display! Street Dancers! DJ Tanner! Hits from the 50's, 60's, 70's!

Saturday July 8th, 2006

12pm - 4pm

118th Ave 106th St.

NAIT Parking Lot K

Edmonton, AB

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## Which of These Costly Home-seller Mistakes Will You Make When You Sell Your Home?

EDMONTON - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for

their home and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their home on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable.

In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For

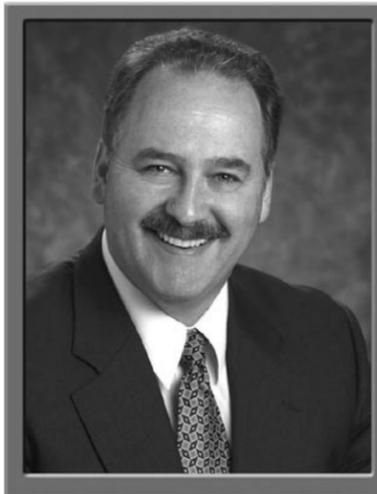
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*This report courtesy of Donna Straus, Realty Executive Challenge. Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale.*

## Brian Mason, MLA Edmonton Highlands-Norwood



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## Excitement is just three hours away

SHERYL BOISVERT

Where can you go in a three-hour drive that has a fabulous zoo and an amusement park? Calgary is where we spent a couple of days on a long weekend, and I must admit it is a good, affordable getaway.

Calgary Zoo is located just off the Deerfoot Trail and Memorial Drive. It is massive, so you should plan on spending the whole day there to enjoy everything it has to

offer. This zoo has nine theme areas: Australia, Botanical Gardens, Canadian Wilds, Conservatory, Creatures of the Night, Destination Africa, Eurasia, Prehistoric Park, and Primates. You'll find many shops and food vendors and if you want to stop for lunch, there is a picnic area and café. We stopped and watched an interesting presentation called "Tiger Tribute," which had great songs for the little ones. If you want to make the zoo even

more affordable go to [www.calgaryattractions.com/coupon.html](http://www.calgaryattractions.com/coupon.html), and print off the two-for-one coupon. Look the zoo up on line at [www.calgaryzoo.org](http://www.calgaryzoo.org). It is truly an amazing interactive experience, and I loved it.

Calaway Park makes kids' eyes light up! My daughter was in heaven, and did not want to leave. I was impressed that they had 21 rides that my three year old could go on. The best one for us was the log ride, but there were many others like the kids' roller coaster, train ride, and haunted house. We also enjoyed fishing for trout and mini golf. Admission is \$25 for adults and \$19 for juniors, but again you can get coupons from the Calgary attractions website. Their web address is [www.calawaypark.com](http://www.calawaypark.com).

Overall we had a great time in Calgary. I would definitely go again. If you have time Canmore is less than an hour away from Calaway Park and it is also a beautiful place to visit in the mountains. Happy holidays.

*Sheryl lives in Alberta Avenue and is a teacher at NorQuest College. She loves hiking in and around Edmonton.*



SENECA AND PAUL BOISVERT ARE LOVING THE SKYCLIMBER AT CALAWAY PARK, CALGARY.

## Be a tourist in your own city

KAREN MYKIETKA & TRACEY COMEAU

When we think "holidays" it usually means leaving where we live and going somewhere else. But if you take a good look at what Edmonton has to offer in the summer, you might just want to plan some of your holidays at home. Edmonton is the city of non-stop summer festivals. The best part is the majority of festivals have free activities so even if you're on a tight budget you can take some of it in.

**June 23 – July 5**  
The Works Art & Design Festival (Churchill Sq)  
**July 7 – 16** Street Performers (Churchill Sq)  
**July 20** Parade (Downtown)  
**July 20 – 29** Capital Ex (Northlands)  
**July 20 – 29** Taste of Edmonton (Churchill Sq)  
**July 21 – 23** Grand Prix (Municipal Airport)  
**July 29** Summer Song Festival (Hawrelak Park)  
**Aug 5 – 7** Heritage Days (Hawrelak Park)  
**Aug 11 – 13** Cariwest (Churchill Sq)  
**Aug 17 – 27** Fringe

Festival (Old Stratcona)  
**Aug 18 – 20** Dragon Boat Festival (river valley)  
**Aug 19 – 20** Latin Expo (Churchill Sq)

For a more comprehensive list of events and festivals in Greater Edmonton go to [www.discoveredmonton.com/Events](http://www.discoveredmonton.com/Events).

However, you don't have to wait for one of these events to have fun this summer. Edmonton has lots to offer if you know where to look. So get your shoes, buckle up the children and check some of our local attractions: Fort Edmonton Park, John Jansen Centre, Valley Zoo, Royal Alberta Museum, Muttart Conservatory and John Walter Museum.

Suffice to say, Edmonton has a lot to offer you this summer. Set your sights close to home and find that fun-filled holiday you've been waiting for. With all the festivals, events and activities this summer, combined with the number of outdoor pools and free picnic sites (see Sports & Rec on page 11), you don't have to experience the boredom blues for one minute. Get out there and experience Edmonton.

## Busin' it across Canada

JILL SCHEYK

It is twenty-five hours into a fifty-one hour Greyhound trip from Edmonton to Toronto, and our earlier sense of adventure fades off, replaced with the kind of laughter you can only produce on three hours of sleep managed upright in a stiff bus seat.

This is not a good time to come upon the town of Wawa, Ontario. It is not a good time to see the thirty foot goose statue, wings spread, eyes wide, beak open as though honking excitedly. Well, to be fair, it's an exceedingly good time for us, but not for other passengers on the World's Longest Road Trip. "He's so happy to be a goose he can't stand himself," I say to Emily. The maniacal laughter finally fades about twenty minutes later.

After that we drive past a lake for three hours.

We stop at every Tim Horton's and Robin's Donuts in every population 300 village

from Alberta to Toronto and pray for Tim every time the bus pulls into a Greyhound station.

We want a shower so badly that we start taking abbreviated sponge baths in bathroom sinks across the country. Our sponges are damp paper towels.

Sometimes it's too hot to move. At night it's cold and we wish for the pillows our mothers offered us and that we scorned as too much luggage.

At some point, at six in the morning – four in the morning for us – we arrive in Toronto. Tired. Mostly numb. Sporting new and

complicated back problems.

This is why when the pleasant travel agent books our flight to Montreal, hemming and hawing over the acceptability of a two hour delay in Calgary, we don't bother to contain our laughter.

"We're really not as picky as you think we are," I say. "Is the flight less than fifty-one hours?"

*Jill is entering her second year of Journalism at Grant McEwan.*



## Summer Vacation

ANN BACK, GRADE 1 TEACHER

The grade one, Happy Puppies, at Norwood School wrote about what they were going to do this summer. Here are a few sample sentences.

This summer I am going to Vancouver. I am going to get to swim in a big pool.  
-Ryker Vivier

In the summer we will be going to visit my sisters. They will take me to a beach. I will get to eat ice cream there.  
-Jessica Boudreau

My sisters are coming to visit me. They are coming from Ontario.  
-Jessica Montgomery

This summer I am going to Vancouver with my Grandpa and Grandma. We will be going camping together too.  
-Jesse Saysongkham

## Standing out in Mexico

RENÉ LADSOUS

I've wanted to go to Mexico for the longest time; it's a Latin country, it's warm, and I wanted to test my Spanish. So after more than 30 years, in April this year I finally went. I spent 10 days in Mexico City, basking in 25° temperatures, while everybody else was freezing in Canada.

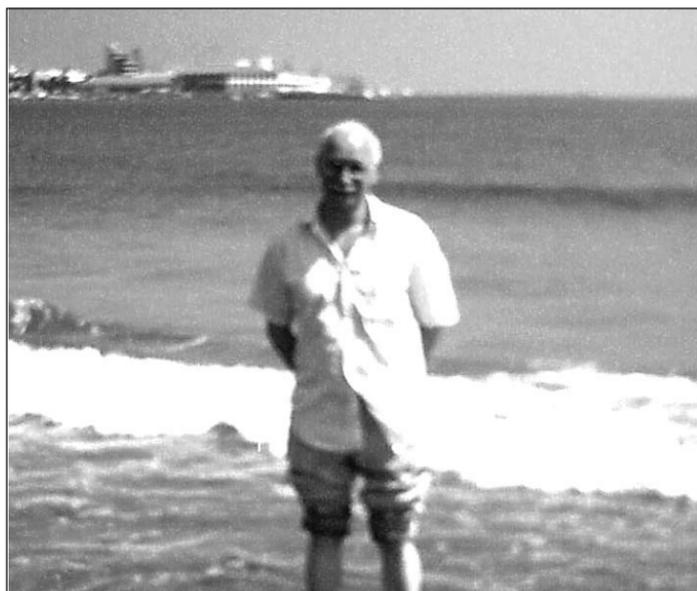
I don't like to look like a tourist, so I kept my camera in my pocket when I went to visit the sites. I guess I did not fool anyone. I was resting my feet across from the Fine Arts Palace, surrounded by people gasping at the architecture with their cameras in hand, snapping pictures as if there was no tomorrow. Three high school students were roaming the plaza in search of an English-speak-

ing tourist to interview as a school project, and they made a beeline straight towards me. Later that day another student, accompanied by her mother, stopped me for the same thing, and then another... (The biggest irony is that in fact French is my mother tongue).

The tourists were marveling at the sights; the locals were marveling at my whiteness. In spite of all my efforts, I stood out like a sore thumb.

I had a wonderful time and I will go back, but the next time, I will spend a month in a tanning salon before taking the plane.

*René lives in Alberta Avenue and works as a translator and part-time security guard at NAIT.*



THIS IS ME, COOLING MY FEET IN THE OCEAN IN PUERTO VALLARTA. FORGET ELEGANCE AND APPEARANCES, MY PANTS ARE ROLLED UP AND I AM HIDING MY SHOES BEHIND MY BACK. INCIDENTALLY, IT IS MUCH SALTIER THAN THE ATLANTIC.

# Trip to Everest

JIM MAXWELL

There were five of us plus the driver and guide. The trip started in Kathmandu, Nepal and headed up the eastern slopes of the Himalayas to the Tibetan Plateau and Mount Everest. Our road hugged the sides of gorges and looked down upon the lush jungle of Nepal. We left our jeep at the Tibetan-Nepali border and walked across, then caught another jeep at Zhangmu.

We were starting to get higher in elevation and it was suggested we begin taking our altitude sickness pills. Kathmandu is at about the same elevation as Banff, just over 1300m. We would be going to over 5000 meters in just two days. At this altitude you don't die if the sickness strikes, but you want



**MOUNT EVEREST PEEKS OUT AT US, COMMENDING US FOR OUR EFFORTS. THE PHOTO WAS TAKEN ON JULY 6, 2005.**

to. With Everest in mind, I started taking the pills.

Zhangmu is at the top of the rainforest. As we went higher, we left the trees behind and welcomed the clouds. The road we were on sometimes became a one-lane road that got interesting when

meeting oncoming traffic.

The second day of the trip found us reaching the Tibetan Plateau. Our next destination was the village of Tingri, the staging point for many Everest expeditions. We stayed in a very basic 'motel': two cots per room and a table. We put our

suitcases against the door to hold it shut against the wind. Tomorrow, we hoped to see Mount Everest. Tonight, we felt the effects of the altitude.

I got up in the middle of the night to go to the toilet. Unfortunately, it was just a hole in the floor with half walls around. The washing facilities were a water barrel with a tap stuck in the side. The plus side to this midnight adventure was looking at the stars - they were so bright and clear.

We started off early on the third day. We thought we would be on the main road south to Everest Base Camp but it was hard to tell just where the road was. We didn't know our driver had made his own route to avoid a Chinese checkpoint - a slow, bumpy trip occasionally finding a bit of a smooth road.

Our trip finally ended at the monastery of Rongbuk, the highest monastery in the world. This is where we stopped.

Everest was there, we were told, we just couldn't see it. While waiting for the clouds to lift and reveal their secret, we went on a tour of the monastery. It was located just up a gentle slope about ten meters away, but our legs felt double their weight and each breath was a prize. We were now a few hundred meters higher than the highest point in the Alps.

Finally, on the road back to the main highway, we were able to see Everest in all her glory.

*Jim has made Norwood his home for the past five years and spends his free time renovating his house.*

## Looking for an angle

GARY SUMMERTON

For dramatic impact in your holiday photos just look for some unusual angles to incorporate on your next photo safari. I have listed some of the tips I like to use.

1. Use doors or windows to frame subject matter.

2. Bird's eye view - Get above what you are taking a photo of by using a chair or ladder but always remember safety first.

3. Dog's eye view - This angle works great for small children. Try a few pictures down at their level and see the difference that it makes.

4. Worm's eye view - For photos with truly a different and dramatic angle. Try lying down on the ground next time you are taking a photo of a tree or building.

5. Night shots - Don't put away the camera just because the sun has gone down. All you need is a tripod or a good level spot for your camera (a bean bag works wonders). For great results set your camera to the AV setting (Aperture value) and your aperture to F16. You

may need to refer to your owner's manual. This works well with black and white which reduces problems with different lighting challenges (a whole different article).

6. Keystoning - When you are framing a shot through your view finder just tilt your camera a little too either side. Take one shot level and then try one tilted to either side and compare the results.

7. Use any of the above techniques in combination to see which results you like best.

I hope I have given you an idea or two to try on your next photo excursion. Whether it's to Borden Park, Borneo, your back yard or living room, there is subject matter just waiting to be captured.

Good Photos everyone!

*Gary Summerton and his wife Irene are local photographers living in the Parkdale area with a passion for travel and photography. They can be reached through their web site [Hisandhersphotography.com](http://Hisandhersphotography.com)*



**FRAMED TREE-TAKEN AT LEITCH COLLIERIES IN THE CROWNSNEST PASS. APRIL 21ST 2005 DIGITAL IMAGE AV F11 17MM LENS. TECHNIQUE: KEYSTONING**

**SAHARA DUNES NEAR MERZOUGA MOROCCO-FEB 6TH 2006 DIGITAL IMAGE AV F16 10 MM LENS. TECHNIQUE: WORM'S EYE VIEW**



**EFFIEL TOWER IN THE RAIN AT NIGHT-PARIS FEB 24TH 2006 DIGITAL IMAGE AV F8.0 10MM LENS. TECHNIQUE: NIGHT SHOT**



**THE HASSAN II MOSQUE IN CASABLANCA MOROCCO- FEB 13TH 2006. DIGITAL IMAGE AV F5.6 10MM LENS. TECHNIQUE: WORM'S EYE VIEW (LADY WALKING)**



**ROMAN COLOSSEUM FEB 18TH 2006. DIGITAL IMAGE AV F8.0 10MM LENS.TAKEN IN THE LAST MINUTES OF SUNSHINE. TECHNIQUE: KEYSTONING (COLESSEUM)**

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# World travel enhances connecting to the community

TRACEY COMEAU

Brad Goertz is the new face of the Community Action Project, better known in the community as CAP.

Setting up his office in Norwood Centre only three months ago, Brad has dedicated his time and energy to the community as CAP's lead organizer ever since settling down in his new position.

CAP's main objectives include finding leaders in the community and bringing them



TRAVEL HAS TAUGHT BRAD GOERTZ THE RIGHT SKILLS TO BECOME CAP'S NEW LEAD ORGANIZER

together to work out solutions, addressing issues in the neighbourhood, and finding ways to bring business back to the area.

"We try to make it a walkable community where you can take your kids and maybe get an ice cream or go to an art gallery," Goertz says.

While Goertz enjoys his new job, he didn't come to it empty-handed. He came prepared, armed with something he feels has been beneficial – his travel experiences.

Perhaps surprisingly,

Goertz says the four years he spent away from the workforce and traveling the world has made him better prepared for what he would encounter as CAP's lead organizer. Taiwan, China, Mongolia, Salt Spring Island – Brad has seen them all in what he says was an eye-opening experience.

"It's a certain kind of experience...and the only way you can learn (certain) things is by doing them," Goertz says. "You can't read about it in a book and you can't teach it to someone else."

Some of those "things" Goertz refers to are the ability to be humble as well as the skill of being sensitive to what's going on with a person without actually being able to ask them. The latter came by way of language barriers which he constantly had to find ways to overcome.

In addition, Goertz says it was helpful to witness the mechanics involved in helping each city run, as CAP works closely with those same mechanics here. Being able to compare the two first-hand was valuable, he says.

Goertz did some work with CAP several years ago, but put it on hold while he dedicated his time to his travels. He financed his trips by teaching English overseas in what he describes as a "live-work kind of a plan." He lived in the countries he visited and got to know them as a resident

rather than a tourist, something he highly recommends.

"It's challenging, because when you live in another place it's different than when you're just a tourist," Goertz says. "You learn the language and you interact with the natives, you eat the same foods and fit into the same rhythms. It's a much more intimate travel experience," he adds.

Goertz worked to fit in with each society he was living in, as well as did his best to learn the local languages and customs. As a result he can speak Mandarin, along with a smidge of Mongolian.

"It's very immediate how much every day is a choice," Goertz recalls about his travels.

And while his new job has taken precedence over his traveling, Goertz plans to keep seeing the world when he retires. It's something he needs to do, he says, and the lessons learned in the process are priceless.

"You see how radically different the way of life is, but that it's a way of life and it works," Goertz says. "People get along in it and they have good lives and their values are different but they work. It reminds you that you're just one idea and one viewpoint in a world of them."

## onlineEXTRA

Learn more about Brad and read about his fantastic bike trip in Mongolia. Go to [ratcreek.org](http://ratcreek.org)

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# Gangs in the 'hood – and next door

TRACEY COMEAU

Gangs are in our cities and in our communities. We are aware of their presence in our neighbourhoods as we pass the endless graffiti on our way to work. And thankfully, that's the closest some of us will ever have to get to a gang. So what do you do when one moves in next door?

Eastwood residents Christy and Darcy Morin were faced with that very problem after members of a self-proclaimed gang moved in beside them.

After a late evening out, Christy says, her husband went outside to retrieve a package they had forgotten in their van. He heard some commotion coming from next door, which was no surprise. He and his wife had called the police before about that same house and its inhabitants.

After informing Darcy that they knew when he would be at work and when his wife would be at home, the young man threatened to drop a pit bull in the Morins' backyard while their kids were playing, and left.

"The stuff he was saying really scared us. We thought 'what's going to happen to our little family?' And really, (we) got afraid to call the police," Christy adds.

The next night, while home alone, Christy says she heard pounding on her front door. A quick peek out her blinds confirmed her fear: the gang from next door. Frightened, she called her sister who in turn called 9-1-1 but was told they couldn't take a second hand report. So Christy called Avenue beat officer Norm Cameron whom she'd been talking to a couple hours earlier. The police arrived in



But even in the heat of the moment, Christy says it was hard for her to ignore the previous threats and pick up the phone.

"I can now understand abused people, because (the

"We really love the people."

The young men next door to the Morins moved out after about three or four months, Christy added, noting that the police were extremely helpful throughout the whole ordeal.

"The beat cops are phenomenal," she says. "You just can't ask for anything more."

Thankfully, stories such as Christy's are not a reality for many of us. Communities are coming together to help combat crime, gangs, and other unwanted disturbances in the area.

The Crystal Kids Youth Centre, located at 8718 118 Ave is one such centre intent on improving things by starting with the children - providing a safe haven for youth aged 6-17.

"We certainly give them positive role modeling here...we give them a safe place to be off the streets," says Miri Peterson, the acting executive director of Crystal Kids.

Inside the Centre, it is easy to see that the children attend because they truly enjoy being there. A group of children giggle at what they're watching on television. Another group participates in a pick-up basketball game with one of the supervisors.

The friendships formed and the love shared between the youth and the adults in the centre help curb the temptation of joining any kind of gang the children may be exposed

to in their everyday lives.

"There is an element that is visible on the street...we just sort of live with it and we know it's there," Peterson says of gang presence in the community.

"We provide support, nurturing and caring for the kids who come in here so hopefully they won't go down that path."

This effort seems to have paid off, as is evident when speaking to the youth at the Centre.

"Gangs are not cool – they do drugs and stuff. It messes with your mind and everything," says one youth, unnamed to protect his privacy.

"I don't trust (gangs)," says another.

Contributions to the neighbourhood such as the one Crystal Kids makes by keeping our children off the streets is one of the biggest ways to make the community a safer place to live and work.

And while gangs and gang activities certainly have their share of media coverage, it must be remembered that not all youth are involved in gangs. The combination of efforts by parents, teachers, mentors, neighbours and places such as Crystal Kids definitely helps keep it that way. No community is without its problems, and ours is no different. But by working together, hand in hand, we can hope to show gangs our community is no home for them.



**A PROBLEM RENTAL PROPERTY NEXT DOOR TO DARCY & CHRISTY MORIN HAS BEEN THE THORN IN THEIR SIDE OVER THE 12 YEARS THEY'VE LIVED IN EASTWOOD. ONE WEEK IN JANUARY, THEY WERE THREATENED BY THE GANGBANGERS FLOPPING NEXT DOOR, HAD THEIR VAN STOLEN, HAD A FIGHT BREAK OUT THAT DAMAGED THEIR RENTAL VEHICLE AND HAD TWO MEN STABBED NEXT DOOR.**

One of the young men from next door approached Darcy, angry with the calls to the police that had been taking place.

"He said if we ever called the cops again, there'd be hell to pay," Christy remembers.

what she says felt like seconds.

Christy says it turned out the young men were not trying to harm her, but rather were asking her to call the police as a fight next door had left two men stabbed while a number of others fled.

threats) really do a number on your psyche," she says.

Even with all their troubles, the Morins refused to move (as a police dispatcher officer had inappropriately suggested!).

"We really have a heart for the area," Christy says.

# This community does not tolerate PROSTITUTION



call 421-2656 with the license plate



# A good news, bad news anniversary "John school" turns 10

KAREN MYKIETKA  
& KATE QUINN

Over the last ten years, 2008 eligible individuals attended the Prostitution Offender Program, otherwise known as "John school."

The John school, created in response to neighbourhood advocacy, provides an alternative to the Criminal Justice system for men charged with "soliciting for the purposes of prostitution." Only first-time, non-violent offenders are eligible. Over 2700 charges were laid in 74 police stings since John school started on May 25, 1996. Three-quarters of those charged attended the program. Less than 3% have been caught soliciting sex again.

The prostitution offenders pay a \$500 fee to attend an eight-hour Saturday class and then charges against them are dropped. At the class, offenders hear from women survivors of prostitution, parents of murdered prostitutes, community residents and business owners from affected neighbourhoods.

"It works because of the power of stories," says Kate Quinn, executive director of the Prostitute Awareness and Action Foundation of Edmonton.

Cheryl Walker, a Parkdale resident, has spoken at John school on two occasions. "The first time I spoke to them I think they were surprised. Surprised that people lived in the neighbourhoods they trolled. Surprised that I was ordinary. Surprised that I noticed their activities. That's why I go, not to get angry at

them, but to show the damage they do. I've had men ask me if I really mean what I say when I talk about the damage they do. I've had one or two apologize and tell me I won't see them again."

So the good news is the community, police and government partners continue to work together. The bad news is every time the Edmonton Police Service does an undercover operation, there are 15-40 new first-time offenders. As Quinn points out, the men who go to the program are first-time offenders, others are not; they just haven't been caught before.

PAAFE and EPS Vice Section estimate that over 10,000 men cruise city streets at any time of the day or night over the course of a year. The Prostitution Offender Program is just one tool to reduce street prostitution, and a humble one at that. Vehicle seizure legislation, which will hopefully come into effect this summer, will be another tool. There is also a new "Report-a-john" campaign where residents can call 421-2656 with a john's license plate number and the police will follow up with a "Dear john" letter.

"What will really change the prostitution scene is when boys and men of all ages are educated that it is simply not acceptable to use our streets as their shopping malls and consume children and women through prostitution," states Quinn, "Remove the demand and there will be no incentive for drug dealers and pimps to

profit from vulnerable people."

It is no longer acceptable to drink and drive, even though some people still do it. A massive education program, police check stops and court consequences resulted in this societal change. The same thing could happen with sexual exploitation through prostitution, but it will only happen if people advocate and take action.

## onlineEXTRA

See Kate Quinn's full original article including the history of "john school" at [ratcreek.org](http://ratcreek.org).

### WHO ARE THE MEN AT JOHN SCHOOL?

- more than half the men who go to john school are between 25 and 45 years old;
- nearly half are in a committed relationship with a woman;
- one in three have children at home;
- roughly two-thirds are blue-collar workers, one in five are white-collar workers and just under 10 per cent are unemployed;
- three-quarters are from Edmonton, one in five live in other parts of Alberta and about four per cent come from outside Alberta;
- one in five said they had been using drugs or alcohol before they were arrested;
- about 61 per cent said they had never used the services of a prostitute; 31 per cent said they had done so at least twice before being arrested.

Source: Prostitution Offender Program, Offender Survey Report, May 2006

## "These women are not disposable" says Sharon Buckey-Tkatch of PAAFE

On May 18, the Prostitution Awareness and Action Foundation of Edmonton (PAAFE) and partners held a Memorial for women who have been murdered and women who have been victimized by violence.

Kate Quinn, Executive Director of PAAFE, said, "Every day in this province women and children are hit, hurt, raped, maimed or killed. We need to continue to draw public and political attention to the epidemic of violence against women in Alberta." She went on to say, "What we can never forget is...there is not just one killer. We can not let ourselves off the hook...Violence is a daily/nightly factor on the street."

Other quotes from the memorial:

Kathy King, who lost her daughter to murder – "These women did not deserve to die, yet there were few resources to help them live."

Delia Quinney, whose daughter was found dead



DELIA QUINNEY, LEFT, AND BEVERLY INNES SHARE AN EMOTIONAL MOMENT AT A MEMORIAL SERVICE IN EDMONTON HONOURING OVER A DOZEN WOMEN FOUND SLAIN NEAR THE CITY IN RECENT YEARS. BOTH WOMEN GRIEVED FOR THE DEATHS OF THEIR DAUGHTERS.

in a wooded area in 2004 – "Have mercy on them Lord...they were mothers, daughters, sisters." RCMP Cpl. Wayne

Oakes – "The men and women of law enforcement will remain dedicated to this task (of finding the murderers,)" Oakes told the crowd.

## Orthodox Reformed Church

11610 - 95A St [www.orcurc.org](http://www.orcurc.org)

WORSHIP SERVICES Sundays at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm  
FREE COMMUNITY SOUP AND STUDY Thursdays at 6:15 pm  
COMMUNITY SOCCER for Gr. 9 to adult at Eastwood School on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

For youth activities and other info  
phone Pete 479-1860

## Norwood Neighbourhood Association



Valerie Parr was elected as the new president in June. We are very sad to see outgoing president, Darcy Flemming, moving out of the neighbourhood. He's given many volunteer hours to NNA and the betterment of the community.

We are still meeting over the summer months. Come meet some great people and help us make plans for the upcoming year. **Meetings:** 7pm, Wednesday, July 12 & Wednesday, August 9 at the Norwood Family Centre. Ring doorbell to right of door if it is locked.

More info call Darcy MacDonald 479-0963



**PETER GOLDRING**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East

## Community dialogue is the first step towards mutual understanding

Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East, participated in a special round table meeting on June 24 at Edmonton's Canadian Islamic Centre to establish a dialogue between the Alberta Muslim community and local and federal government agencies about community and national concerns. Muslim community organizers invited members of the Arabian-Muslim Association, the Canada-Arab Friendship Association, the World Lebanese Cultural Society and the Edmonton Council of Muslims. Representatives of the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service, the RCMP, the Edmonton Police Service and other Members of Parliament were invited by Mr. Goldring to attend.

Members of the Alberta Islamic community want to become more directly involved, so that they can regularly contribute to finding solutions to problems and be part of the dialogue to reinforce the community resolve to relay to the community the importance of all Canadians to respect Canada's laws.

"It is extremely important to recognize that any community, any group, or person can be impacted by the unacceptable actions of a very few, actions that are unconstrained by religion or ethnic background," says Goldring. "Yet it is the very groups who are impacted by such behaviours who can also be crucial sources to solutions. Edmonton's Muslim community clearly wants to be part of the solution. Regular dialogue between the community and local and federal authorities, conducted on a cross-cultural basis, in an open and frank manner, is in everyone's best interest."

Dialogue was also on the agenda on June 29, when Mr. Goldring attended a forum for candidates vying for the leadership of the Alberta Progressive Conservative Party at the Chateau Louis on Kingsway.

"Community dialogue is the first step towards mutual understanding," commented Mr. Goldring. "I am honoured to assist in facilitating such dialogue."

For information or comments, call 495-3261.

495-3261

[www.petergoldring.ca](http://www.petergoldring.ca)

**SPORTS AND RECREATION**

**DANCE**

8 Wednesdays, July 12 – Aug 30  
At Eastwood Community League  
Instructor: Kim Goodwin

**Beginner 3-4**

Time: 6:00-6:30  
Cost: \$35.00 CL members, \$65.00 non-members

**Beginner 5-6**

Time: 6:30-7:15  
Cost: \$45.00 CL members, \$70.00 non-members

**Beginner 7-10**

Time: 7:15-8:15  
Cost: \$55.00 CL members, \$80.00 non-members

**SOCCER CAMP**

Sunday, July 16, 11-1 pm  
At Eastwood School Field  
\$10.00 for CL Members;  
\$20.00 for non-members

**REGISTRATION**

For more info or to register call:  
Brad MacCallum, Community Sports Coordinator  
cell: 982-3052

Bring cheque (made out to Alberta Avenue Community League) or cash to one of the following locations, whichever is most convenient. A receipt will be provided upon payment of fees.

**Alberta Avenue Hall**

1pm-5 pm Wed

**Parkdale-Cromdale Hall**

11am-2pm on Mon, Wed or Fri

Your registration must be confirmed by payment of fees (if applicable) 3 days prior to the start of the class. Some late registrations are accepted at the discretion of the course facilitator.

**FREE FUN!**

**PLAYGROUND PROGRAMS**

Check out this free drop-in program run by the City of Edmonton in conjunction with the Community Leagues and other partners.

While all children are welcome, children under 6 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times.

Playground Leaders have security clearance, are trained in first aid, and are easily identified by their blue shirt and nametag. They will ensure participants play safely but parents are responsible for their children at all times and must be available in the event of an emergency.

Activities include exciting games, crafts, music, drama and special events. Programs are still offered on rainy days. Playground locations marked with an \* have a wading pool/spray deck on site which will be in operation, weather permitting, at the discretion of the playground leader.

**Playground Program Hours unless otherwise stated:**  
Mon-Thur 10 am-5.30pm  
Fri 1.30pm-5.30pm

**Alberta Avenue**  
9210 118 Ave

**Delton**  
12325 88 St  
Mon/Wed 10 am-5.30pm  
Tue/Thur 1pm-8.30pm  
Fri 1.30pm-5.30pm

**\*Eastwood**  
11803-86 St  
NEW SPRAY PARK GOING IN

**\*Elmwood Park**  
12505 75 St

**\*Giovani Caboto Park**  
9403 109A Ave  
NEW SPRAY PARK GOING IN

**McDougall Park**  
107 St & 109 Ave

**Norwood Square**  
9616 114 Ave

**Parkdale**  
113 Ave and 85 St

**\*Queen Mary Park**  
10844 117 St

**Spruce Ave**  
10240 115 Ave  
Mon-Thur 12.30pm-4.30pm  
Fri 1.30pm-5.30pm

**Sheriff Robertson Park**  
82 St and 111 Ave

**\*Westwood**  
12139 105 St

**WADING POOLS & WATER SPRAY PARKS**  
Open 7 days a week from July to September, 11am-6pm.

**Borden Park Wading Pool**  
112 Ave and 74 St

**City Hall Fountains**  
Churchill Square

**Legislature Fountains**

**G Edmund Kelly Spray Park**  
150 Ave & 79 St

**Castledowns Spray Park**  
153 Ave & 115 St

**COMMUNITY LEAGUE INFORMATION:**

**Alberta Avenue**  
9210-118 Avenue  
Ph: 477.2773  
Meets 2nd Tue at 7pm  
Hours: Wed 1pm-5pm

**Delton**  
12325-88 Street  
Ph: 477.3326  
Call for meeting times

**Eastwood**  
11803-86 Street  
Ph: 477.2354  
Meets 4th Wed at 7pm  
Hours: MWF 10am-2pm

**Elmwood Park**  
12505-75 Street  
Ph: 479.1035  
Call for meeting times

**Parkdale Cromdale**  
11335-85 Street  
Ph: 471.4410  
Meets last Thu at 7pm  
Hours: MWF 11am-2pm

**Spruce Avenue**  
10240-115 Avenue  
Ph: 471.1932  
Meets 2nd Mon at 7pm

**Westwood**  
12139-105 Street  
Ph: 474.1979  
Meets 1st Wed at 7pm

**FREE Outdoor Soccer**

For girls and boys 2 to 12 years

**Saturdays**

**10:30 - 12:00 PM**

**starting June 24**

At the park across from Sacred Heart School Gym (9624 - 108 Ave)



Introduction to basic soccer skills by renowned FIFA Soccer Coach Tony Wallace. Children of all abilities and special needs are welcome.

**WE PLAY FOR THE FUN OF THE GAME!!!**

For more information call Tony at 420-0760.

go have a **SPLASH!**

**BOOKKEEPING AND TAX PREPARATION**

**BIG RED INCOME TAX & ACCOUNTING**

- ★ Small Business Specialists
- ★ Corporate & Personal Returns
- ★ In Your Community For Over 25 Years

11107 - 95 Street  
**471-6251**

**Dave Patterson, Manager**

*Good Accountants Don't Cost You Money!  
They Save You Money!*

**\$50 OFF**  
Any Invoice  
Of \$200  
Or More  
1 Coupon Per Client

**\$100 OFF**  
Any Invoice  
Of \$350  
Or More  
1 Coupon Per Client

EDMONTON

**DRIP IN**  
Programs and special events

**FREE Introduction to skateboarding**

Come out and learn basic skateboarding road skills! Pushing, stopping, balance skills, and tricks such as tic tac, ollie, pivot will be explored.

**Where:** Alberta Ave 9210 - 118 Ave  
**When:** July 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug 14  
**Time:** 12:30 - 1:30 PM  
**When:** July 31, 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Spaces are limited to 12 participants so please pre-register by phone 496-2966  
Skateboards will be provided, Please bring your own helmet, elbow and knee pads.

\*PLEASE NOTE: Lessons will be cancelled in the event of rain or standing water. Please call our office to confirm lessons during wet weather. Phone: 496-2966

**Free Community Swims**

Alberta Avenue and Parkdale community league members can swim for free at Eastglen Pool (11410-86 St) on Sundays from 12-2 pm. Call your league to buy a membership.

Spruce Avenue community league members can swim for free at the MacEwan Centre for Sport and Wellness (10700-104 Ave) Sundays from 2-5 pm.



10643 - 123 Street, Edmonton, Alberta | Ph: (780) 482-7178 | www.thebluepear.com  
owned and operated by Darcy & Jessie Radies.. residents of Norwood community



**Ed Gibbons** City Councillor  
*Caring for Communities*

(780) 496-8138  
ed.gibbons@edmonton.ca  
City of Edmonton 2nd Floor, City Hall  
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square  
Edmonton, AB T5J 2R7  
www.edmonton.ca



GO TO [RATCREEK.ORG](http://RATCREEK.ORG) ONLINE FOR A COMPLETE AND UP-TO-DATE CALENDAR.

To submit your event or post a free community notice (max 75 words) email [events@ratcreek.org](mailto:events@ratcreek.org) or call 479-6285.

Events & notices are posted online and printed in the paper as deemed appropriate by the editorial team and as space permits.

**SUMMER FUN AT PLANET NORWOOD** 

Summer drop-in program for children ages 6-13  
 July 6 - Aug 31<sup>st</sup>  
**Monday - Friday: 11:00 - 5:00 pm**  
**Saturdays: 12:00 - 4:00 pm**  
 Friday Teen Night: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
 At Norwood Family Centre 9516-114 Ave

If you have any questions or would like to register, please phone us at 471-3737 ext 222 or 237.

 **Edmonton Public Library** **SPRUCEWOOD BRANCH**  
 11555 - 95 Street, 780.496.7099

**Heroic Writing Contest!**  
 Whether your hero is a friend, relative, celebrity, pet or historic figure, we want to hear about it! Tell the world about your hero and enter for a chance to win great prizes! Entries may be in any form - a story, a newspaper article, a poem or even a comic strip! Write about your hero in 500 words or less and drop your entry off at the Sprucewood Branch by Friday, August 11, 2006.

**Princesses and Knights**  
 2 p.m. Thursday, July 6  
 Hear fabulous tales. Learn about the symbols of heraldry and what special qualities it takes to wear the crown then design your own unique crown and shield. Ages: 5 - 12 years.

**Super Heroes? Super Fun!**  
 2 p.m. Saturday, July 8  
 Is it a bird? Is it a plane? You'll have to join us for a really SUPER family storytime to find out!

**Heroes in the Making: Drawing Superheroes**  
 11 a.m. Saturday, July 8  
 Join our guest artist and learn how to invent, draw, and detail a superhero of your own creation. Ages: 5 - 12 years.

**Heroes of Science**  
 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 19  
 Join our guests from the Telus World of Science and learn about the scientists who have made some heroic discoveries. Ages: 6 - 12 years.

**Animals to the Rescue**  
 2 p.m. Saturday, July 22  
 Family storytime about the animal heroes!

**Fractured Fairytales**  
 2 p.m. Thursday, July 27  
 An afternoon of twisted tales and crazy characters. Listen to fairytales gone horribly wrong and try your hand at creating your own! Ages: 5 - 14 years.

**Heroes in the Making: Marvelous Manga**  
 2 p.m. Friday, August 11  
 Calling all artists! Learn the cool techniques of Manga, a Japanese style of drawing, as you create a hero with our guest artist. Ages: 6 - 12 years.

**CALL TO REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS** Monday - Tuesday 10 am-8 pm  
 or to book the large meeting room Wednesday - Friday 1 pm-8 pm  
 for free both during or after hours. Saturday 10 am-5 pm Sunday closed

**arts on the avenue** BRINGING TOGETHER ARTISTIC EXPRESSION  
 In a Community Environment

A number of local artists have come together to form a non-profit society and organize a fall arts festival for October 7. The society and the festival will only happen if there are enough people who come together and volunteer their time and expertise. All art forms welcome.

**Planning Meeting**  
 7pm, Wednesday, July 5  
 at Alberta Ave CL lounge  
 (92 St & 118 Ave)  
 For more info contact Christy 471-3585.

**DON'T BE FORGOTTEN!**

Make sure your business, home-based business or organization is listed in the 2006 Alberta Avenue Business & Community Directory. Listings include name, address & phone number and are absolutely free!

**Don't stop there though!**

Let the community know what you have to offer.

Purchase a display ad starting from \$25 for 1/8 page to \$200 for a full page. If you want to stand out even more go for full color! Early bird special: pay before Aug 15 and receive 15% off.

Download an info sheet from [ratcreek.org](http://ratcreek.org) under News or contact Tracey at the Alberta Avenue Business Association 471-2602.

**JOIN US THIS SUMMER WE NEED YOU**

**KZAMM KIDS SPY ZONE DAY CAMP** 

**Special Agents Required** 

**Mission:** To uncover the secrets of the stones  
**Where:** KZAMM HEADQUARTERS  
 10123 Princess Elizabeth Ave  
**When:** Week 1- July 10-14, Week 2- July 17-21  
**Time:** Reporting at 9 AM Sharp Until 4 PM  
 Special Agents from Grades 1-6 Required !

**Registration \$15/ week** **InCLUdes** 

 **CALL TODAY! 471-2250**  
**Limited spaces Available**

- ☺ Games
- ☺ Cool Prizes
- ☺ Funky Music
- ☺ Delicious Food
- ☺ Field Trips

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Volunteers make Rat Creek a Success. Getting Rat Creek to over 8,000 mailboxes takes a lot of time and energy and it could not be done without the hard work of our volunteers.  
 Call: 479.6285



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