

your free **COMMUNITY** newspaper

ALBERTA AVENUE
DELTON
EASTWOOD
ELMWOOD PARK
PARKDALE
SPRUCE AVENUE
WESTWOOD

RAT CREEK PRESS

BUILDING COMMUNITY . ENCOURAGING COMMUNICATION . INCREASING CAPACITY

CIRCULATION 8,500

PH: 479.6285 EMAIL: info@ratcreek.org

Eastwood Extravaganza!

Eastwood league committed to creating community spirit

KIMBERLY FERLAND & JOANNE BABYNEC

Eastwood Community League (EWCL) is a leader in revitalizing our community, and it's holding its biggest community celebration yet this summer! On Saturday, August 18, the First Annual Eastwood Fest is an extravaganza you won't want to miss.

The all-day event, at the Eastwood Community League park will be a fun-filled family event featuring live music, wagon rides, kids' activities, an art walk and sale and much more, as well as, of course, the fabulous spray park that so many of the neighbourhood kids and adults enjoy on these hot summer days! Kick-off is at 11 AM with activities, events and demonstrations happening throughout the day. Local band Shakedown, whom many of you may remember from last year's ArtsAlive! Festival, will be hitting the outdoor stage at 11:30.

EWCL is dedicated to being a solid building block for the future of Eastwood. The community is changing and the incoming families and homeowners are bringing a welcome stability to the community. With more people committed to creating a great neighbourhood, the league is determined to work hard too.

"We want a return of the neighbourhood to what it was in the 60's and 70's,"

says Norm Aldi, Eastwood community league president. "We [the community league] have a vision of a vibrant community where families and children are out in the playgrounds, where neighbours know each other, meet at the local coffee shops and businesses and where people are involved in their community."

And it's not just talk. Last summer approximately 500 people came out to the grand opening of the Eastwood Park's water spray park, which included music, hamburgers, native hoop dancing and children's games. The addition of water to the newly built playgrounds is a fantastic hit with the kids, with an average of 20 children per day dropping in to play and get wet.

In February this year the EWCL held its first Family Day celebration with over 200

The next community project slated for improvement is the Eastwood outdoor skating rink, another

step towards creating more positive, affordable, family focused activities for the Eastwood community. Monies for this project will come in the form of grants as well as a fundraising raffle on the day of Eastwood Fest. The Grand Prize of the raffle is a ride in the Edmonton Police Service Air One helicopter, generously donated by Chief Mike Boyd and the Edmonton Police Service.

Raffle tickets will be available from Eastwood Community Board members and at the Eastwood Community League Hall between the hours of 10-2 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Tickets will also be sold

at the Eastwood Fest with the prize draw taking place at 2:30 pm on the day of the festival in Eastwood Park.

EWCL would like to thank EPS and all the Eastwood and community businesses that have donated many other prizes to the raffle. This fundraising raffle is a great example of what the community can accomplish when everyone works together towards a common goal.

Eastwood Community League invites everyone to join us in celebrating our community and building towards a great vision of a renewed Eastwood community.



THE STILTWALKERS WANT TO SEE YOU AT EASTWOOD FEST ON AUGUST 18!

people braving the cold temperatures for a BBQ, hot chocolate, skating contests, and arts and crafts. EWCL also hosted the big bin clean-up and graffiti removal day for the Avenue Initiative in May.

Eastwood Fest – It's an extravaganza you don't want to miss!

Eastwood Community League Park, 11803 86 St Saturday, August 18, 11AM-3PM

- Art Walk & Sale**
- Stilt Walkers**
- Live Music**
- Korean Drummers**
- Family Fun Bingo**
- Spray Park**
- Kid's Activities**
- Dance Demonstrations**
- Horse Drawn Wagon Ride**
- Tae Kwon Do Demonstrations**
- European Swordsman**

Hot or mild – it's your choice

Entertain your palate at the new Thai restaurant on the Ave

THE EDIBLE ADVENTURES OF GASTROBOY
WITH BRAD GOERTZ

***1*2*3 Restaurant – Thai and Lao Noodle House**
9420 118 Ave
Ph 479-1350 for takeout orders

My masochistic streak has two

CONTENTS

Editorial.....	2
Business Briefs.....	3
Travel	4,5
Gardening	6
Law & Order	7
Events.....	8

outlets – two-wheeled accidents and Thai food. As my pavement eating days are behind me (in theory), I am left with papaya salad and green curry to satisfy my need for pain. The family owned *1*2*3 Restaurant – Thai and Lao Noodle House, fits the bill.

Thai and Lao food doesn't have to hurt – if you specify the amount of heat you are comfortable with, the kitchen will tailor your order. The freshness of basil, peanuts and cilantro will entertain your palate without the heat, but I've found the combination with spice included well worth the discomfort.

Co-owner Victoria serves guests while her mother and grandmother, both born and trained in Laos, put southeast Asian love onto each plate. The

simplicity of a sprig of basil resting on a pile of crunchy bean sprouts makes for satisfying presentation (and are meant to go



KHAMLA (L), A CUSTOMER, SHOWS OFF HER DELICIOUS DINNER. STANDING NEXT TO HER ARE THE 3 HARD-WORKING COOKS AT *1*2*3 RESTAURANT. FROM L-R: WENDY, KHANG & MONA

in your soup).

If you are new to Thai

cuisine, green curry (\$6.50) is a must, as well as Pad Thai (\$6.95), a rice noodle dish made from eggs, sprouts and peanuts. Most dishes come with your choice of beef, chicken, pork or seafood, and sometimes tofu, so vegetarians will be happy. An order of spring rolls (veg. or meat \$5.99 full. \$2.99 half) or Lao style chicken wings are a good appetizer, as well as Shrimp in a Blanket (\$4.99). Consider ordering one dish per person and sharing. For beginners, Victoria also recommends BBQ

Beef Thai style (\$7.25) and Pan Fried Chicken with Cashew

Nuts (\$6.99). Singha Beer, imported from Thailand, will ease your loneliness and the soft karaoke music welcomes the hungry foodie. Other drinks include soy bean milk and coconut juice, both of which offer relief in instances of labiolingual distress.

Nuts (\$6.99).

Singha Beer, imported from Thailand, will ease your loneliness and the soft karaoke music welcomes the hungry foodie. Other drinks include soy bean milk and coconut juice, both of which offer relief in instances of labiolingual distress.

*1*2*3 Restaurant – Thai and Lao Noodle House took over the building that was formerly Ho-Yee (which is reason enough to visit them). The new carpet, new paint, and authentic artwork are among the many improvements made and they were even kind enough to let me park my bike inside.

And remember! You can order mild.

GastroBoy, aka Brad Goertz, has a superpower metabolism that allows him to eat whatever he wishes without gaining a pound, and his super-secret Achilles' heel is Portuguese Octopus Stew – shhh, don't tell anyone!

PHONE 780.479.6285
EMAIL info@ratcreek.org
WEB www.ratcreek.org

MANAGING EDITOR Karen Mykietka
EDITOR Dawn Freeman
GRAPHIC DESIGN Leanne McBean
DISTRIBUTION Canada Post

BOARD MEMBERS

Kathleen Quinn, PAAFE
Peter Rausch, AABA
Verna Stainthorpe, Spruce Avenue
Cheryl Walker, Parkdale
Cath Jackel, Alberta Avenue
Cindy Burgess, Eastwood

More board members welcome.

RAT CREEK PRESS ASSOCIATION
2006 Recipient of the Solicitor General
Crime Prevention Award
Box 39024 RPO Norwood
Edmonton, Alberta T5B 4T8

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.

OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Norwood Neighbourhood Association
Spruce Avenue Community League
Elmwood Park Community League
Alberta Avenue Business Association
PAAFE - Prostitution Awareness & Action Foundation of Edmonton

Operation Clean Sweep

DAWN FREEMAN

You might have noticed over the last month or so a group of people walking around the alleys and streets just off 118 Avenue writing things down in their clipboards. The Safe Streets working group (of which I am a member) from the Avenue Initiative is taking advantage of the warm summer nights to start what we call 'Operation Clean Sweep' – a systematic walk-about of the blocks just north and south of 118 Avenue with the aim of cleaning them up.

"We want the same as everyone else: a safe and strong community we can all enjoy,"

says Neil Fritz, co-creator of the Clean Sweep plan. "Our intent is not to be nosey, but that we care enough to want hazardous, dangerous and illegal things removed from our neighbourhood."

We all are guilty sometimes of being a bit disorderly around our house – perhaps we leave the cutting of the grass a little too long, we have debris left from a renovation, or there is some graffiti on our garage that we haven't cleaned off. Most of the time, most of us clear it up pretty smartly; we don't want our street

or alley to be unsightly.

Sometimes though, things like that are left too long, and that brings us all down. Because disorder and debris make a huge statement: WE DON'T CARE. And if we don't care about our neighbourhood, why should anyone else?

The Safe Streets committee believes safety and order go hand-in-hand. If the abandoned car is not in the alley, then no one can use it to make deals, and if the old freezer is not left by the garage then no one can get stuck in it. And so we are

walking around and taking notes – and we will be sending letters too, pointing out what needs to be changed and offering suggestions and resources.

"Don't be embarrassed to get a letter from us," says Darcy Morin, another committee member. "We are all on the same team working together to find solutions."

Let's make it quite clear to everyone: WE DO CARE about our neighbourhoods. We have respect for ourselves, our neighbours and our community and we can show it easily by keeping it clean, tidy and safe. And then when Safe Streets comes around your block, we'll have nothing to write down at all.

If you wish to join the Safe Streets team, call Judy at the Avenue Initiative on 496-1913.

The Safe Streets committee believes safety and order go hand-in-hand.

**Geronimo
977.0371**

**Wayne
970.2310**



www.thingzinaballoon.ca

XL Furniture

FAMILY BUSINESS SINCE 1952

11349 - 95 STREET
EDMONTON, AB T5G 1L2
780 477-2213
780 477-2245 FAX
www.xlfurniture.com

**Flexsteel
GALLERY**

LA-Z-BOY

**SIMMONS
Beautyrest**

**Ed Struzynski
PRESIDENT**

"We'll Keep You Happy for Life"

Call Me 1st



Thinking of Selling?
Thinking of Buying?
Call Roxanne Litwyn
439-7000

Your neighbourhood Realtor
Serving Central Edmonton Since 1990

FREE MARKET EVALUATION

List of homes for sale
(some restrictions apply)

www.roxannehomes.com

Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale.

★1★2★3 RESTAURANT THAI AND LAO NOODLE HOUSE



9420 118 AVENUE
479-1350

**LUNCH SPECIAL
COMBO PLATE \$6.99**

Chicken or Pork or Beef with steamed rice, cauliflower, carrots and celery and your choice of two chicken wings or a small wonton soup.
Daily from 11am - 2pm

HOURS

Tue-Fri 11am - 9pm
Sat & Sun 11:30am - 9pm
Eat-in or Take-out

Need custom sewing or alterations?

Call **Marion Swanson**, a seamstress with 30 years experience, for quality work at a reasonable price.

Specializing in Plus Sizes,
native ribbon shirts and Leather Work
Industrial Machine available

phone **477-0778**



Darlene Taylor ~ **K9 Behave**



Manners
Obedience
Tricks
CGN Prep
and more...

In-Home Dog Training
New Puppy ~ New Dog
Any size ~ Any breed
Only \$175 for 5 weekly sessions, in your home, with you, your dog and your family.
Customize your sessions to fit you, Your family, and your dog

Phone: 780-915-0213

E-mail: k9behave@interbaun.com



**BLUE PLATE
DINER**

"Best New Restaurant"*
* Golden Fork Awards

uplifted
diner food

brunch • lunch • dinner
10145 -104 Street 429-0740

**If You Eat,
You Qualify!**



FOOD PROGRAM

Individuals at all income levels benefit from participating.

HELP YOURSELF

Stretch your food budget.
Eat Healthy foods

HELP EACH OTHER

Improve your combined economic buying power

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

Contribute to the community through volunteering at the place and interest of your choice. \$2 from every basket is contributed to local housing projects.

**Receive \$40 basket of food, pay only \$20.
Sign up today!
967.0502**

BOX fit class

Learn boxing punches!
each class involves a great cardio workout, strength training and abs.



Monday & Wednesday 5:30-6:30
8812 118th ave
email Karen at: girliefighter@hotmail.com

Business Briefs

DAWN FREEMAN

B-Unique Beauty Salon

9563 118 Ave
757-8840
Hours: Tues-Sun: 10am-9pm

A full service hair salon, B-Unique offers a private retreat for women and children to get their hair done. African hair is a speciality, but any hair type is welcome to come in for a beautiful new 'do'. Prices start at \$15 for a simple cut and \$60 for African braids.

B-Unique also sells quality hair products and wigs, clothing, and a select supply of imported African foods such as juices, rice and dried fruits.

Bule Barber and Studio

9321 118 Ave
Hours: Mon-Sun: 10am-8pm

Bule offers barbering services for men and boys; his apprentice specializes in African hair. Prices start at \$14 for adults and \$8 for children and seniors.

Mama Afro Beauty

9323 118 Ave
477-8511
Hours: Mon-Fri: 11am to 8 pm
Sat: 9.30am to 7pm
Sun: 2.30pm to 5pm

Originally from Montreal, Salina - the Mama of Mama Afro Beauty - has taken her considerable talent with hair away from the Golden Scissors in Kingsway Mall to open her own shop right on the Avenue.

Salina is experienced in doing

all types of hair and offers a full range of services from braiding, cornrolls and extensions to cuts, perms and colours. Prices start from \$25 for a simple cut. Men and children's cuts are also available.

Iftin Grocery Store

9516 118 Ave
Hours: Mon-Sun:
10.30am - 9pm

An old-style general store, Iftin Groceries sells a little bit of everything, with an Arabic

twist. A good portion of their foods, juices, hair products and clothing for men and women are imported from Saudi Arabia. They also stock western grocery items, as well as household goods, jewelry and picture frames. With more stock arriving soon, Iftin Grocery is the place where everyone can find something they want.

Cheremosh Auditions

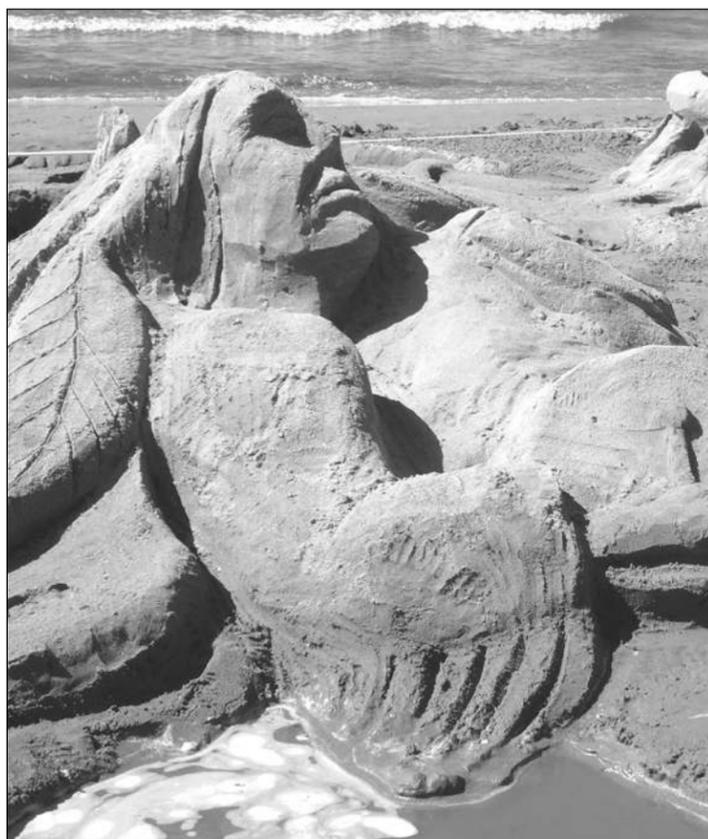
From the internationally acclaimed Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Company to the School of Dance for children, Cheremosh offers an exceptional level of Ukrainian dance for all ages. Cheremosh performing groups are directed by distinguished Artistic Director and Ballet Master Mykola Kanevets.

<h3>CHEREMOSH SCHOOL OF DANCE</h3> <p>PERFORMING ENSEMBLES AUDITIONS</p> <p>Thursday, September 6, 2007 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm CHEREMSHYNA (Ages 14+)</p> <p>Friday, September 7, 2007 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm CHUMAK I (Ages 9 - 11) 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm CHUMAK II (Ages 12 - 14)</p>	<h3>CHEREMOSH UKRAINIAN DANCE COMPANY</h3> <p>BEGINNER CLASSES REGISTRATION (DURING AUDITIONS)</p> <p>Thursday, September 6, 2007 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm (Ages 4 - 12) & Adult Group (18+)</p> <p>Friday, September 7, 2007 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm (Ages 4 - 12) & Adult Group (18+)</p>
--	---



CHEREMOSH STUDIO
4005 - 115 Avenue • Edmonton, AB T5W 0V5
Telephone (780) 466-0089 • Email contact@cheremosh.ca • Website www.cheremosh.ca *Located in Beverly Heights!*

Local residents place 3rd in sandsculpture competition



THIS IS JUST PART OF THE AMAZING SCULPTING DONE BY THE "PLAYING IN THE SAND" TEAM AT THE ALBERTA OPEN SANDSCULPTURE CHAMPIONSHIPS AT LESSER SLAVE LAKE ON JULY 21

onlineEXTRA VIEW MORE PHOTOS AT:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/ratcreekpress>

PETALS

ON THE TRAIL

TRENDY TO TRADITIONAL DESIGN
SPECIALTY GIFT AND FRUIT BASKETS
BEARS AND BALLOONS

HIGH END DESIGN
AT
ROCK BOTTOM PRICES

SAME DAY SERVICE
SERVING THE GREATER EDMONTON AREA

482-7673

11807 ST. ALBERT TR.

For advertising rates and info check out www.ratcreek.org or phone **479.6285**.
Place a business card ad for only \$40!

All welcome at

SOLID ROCK EVANGEL CHURCH



Sundays at 11 am
Wednesdays at 7 pm

Colosseum B&B Chapel **Pastor Stanley Burdett**
11827 - 85 Street **Ph: 463-5950**



The Travel Experts!

Butte

477-3561

TOLL FREE 1-800-661-8906

11733 - 95 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
Henry Woudstra, Manager

BUTTE TRAVEL SERVICE



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

Avenue Silver Company

Top Quality Silver Jewelry
New to the Avenue area
Choose from 8,000 pieces
Best retail prices around
Guaranteed .925 Silver
Full money back guarantee
Home silver parties

Order on-line or call today
(780) 554-8303
www.avenuesilver.com



Bjorn & Brenda

Café 10406-118 Ave Ph: 424-6823
Deli 9567-118 Ave absolutelyedibles.com

27 Seller Tips

Quick and Easy FixUps to Sell Your Home
Fast and for **Top Dollar** - free report

1-866-815-9646 ID#4905

donnastrauss.com Royal Lepage Arteam

Two weeks in Europe

Words of wisdom from a 30 year travel veteran

JIM MAXWELL

This summer I was supposed to be on a dragon boat team on the North Saskatchewan. Instead I decided to go on a seven-week overland odyssey from Hong Kong to Paris. As it happens, the captain of the team is planning on going to Europe for the first time in September and asked for some advice. He is going with his girlfriend, has two weeks, and does not want to go on a tour. France and Italy are on the list of places. This is what I told him.

The first thing to do is pop over to a book store and pick up a copy of Fodor's, Frommer's, or Lonely Planet *Europe* which will list everything you could possibly want to know about sights, prices, museums, bars, youth hostels, budget to 5 star travel, Eurail pass, maps of cities, suggested walking tours, and more. They are about 1000 pages and cost around \$25. You can probably also find a copy in the library.

There are two approaches to traveling Europe. One is you will never go there again so cram in as much as you can. A girl I met on the plane did something like 20 countries in 40 days. That was last year; I don't know if she has recovered yet. That's also what I did when I went to Tibet a couple of years ago – on the road for 17 of the 21 days. People who

take the Eurail also do that – you have paid for traveling, so travel!

The other approach is to relax and enjoy yourself. Find that Italian villa on the Adriatic, sit back and enjoy the food and wine. Then have all sorts of self-doubts about why you should leave to go back to work!

Some places are better to go by tour especially where you don't know the alphabet or the government does not allow private travel. But this is not the case with Europe since young travel was invented here. What about Eastern Europe? "Eastern Bloc" is a Cold War concept so don't let that scare you. Passing

through "Checkpoint Charlie" to return to West Berlin no longer means "Your papers

Budapest.

In some places hostelling is the way to go; it's cheap, you meet new people to travel and party with, and you can get the latest news on events and places. In places like Italy though, you can probably get a hotel room for what it would cost for a hostel in Germany.

Warning: be careful of Paris. If you take your girl to Paris she will be with you always. A friend spent 3 weeks in Montparnasse, a suburb of Paris, and loved it; sidewalk cafes, museums, people watching, food, just being in the City of Love AND the hotel was reasonable. The

weather is ideal in September. You can book a cycling tour through the wine regions, or go see the Vimy memorial between Calais and Paris. You don't have to go far to see something completely different: wild discotheque to a cha-

teau on a cliff.

Going to Europe in September is after the peak season, which means greater travel flexibility and lower prices. Traveling eastward jet lag is going to knock you out for a couple of days. Get onto local time as soon as possible. If you arrive at 9:00 am stay up all day; if necessary take cat-naps of 10-15 minutes, but no longer. You only have 11 days for your holiday: 2 days travel plus jet lag plus one day travel return, so don't waste any time.

Pick three places or cities you want to go to. Plan to arrive at your destination by 4:00 pm. This allows you to look for a place and if one place is full or not suitable you still have lots of time to find another place and not get stressed out. DO NOT, repeat DO NOT travel like I do and arrive at your destination at 11:00 pm looking for any place to stay. I doubt if your girlfriend would appreciate sleeping on a park bench.

Remember this is supposed to be fun. You may have to remind each other this. Next to your passport and tickets make sure you pack your humour.

Jim Maxwell has lived in Norwood for 5 years, lived in Siberia and Central Asia for 7 years, and first went backpacking through Europe in 1974.



HAVE GUITAR – WILL TRAVEL. WALKING ACROSS THE SPANISH-FRENCH BORDER IN 1978. IN THE BACKGROUND ARE THE PYRENEES

please," or the secret police will take you to jail. It now means dodging the souvenir hawkers. You might try the Czech Republic. Prague is a beautiful city. Hungary is the same, just take a right when you get to Vienna and go to

avenue initiative revitalization

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



For information call
Judy Allan 496-1913

After a busy spring of great events Working Group meetings are taking a break over the summer months. We will be back in full swing in September. If you are interested in getting involved please call Judy at 496-1913.

Watch for our new Avenue Initiative Website coming soon. You will be able to use it to keep up to date on events and projects happening in the area.

Neighbourhood Matching Grant

Do you have an idea that would make a difference in your neighborhood? We are looking for projects that will enhance, beautify, create a sense of community or improve safety. The Neighborhood Matching Fund will match your volunteer time or donations in kind to make your project a reality. You can apply for up to \$20,000 for large community projects. SMALL SPARKS funds up to \$250.00 for local neighborhood events such as block parties or fence painting. For an application and more information go to www.ratcreek.org or email judy.allan@edmonton.ca

Bloomin' Backalley Challenge—Deadline extended

Spruce up your back alley and win \$250! Submit your before and after picture by August 15. Email your pictures and a small description of your project to judy.allan@edmonton.ca or drop them off to the Landlord and Tenants Office 8904 – 118th Ave.

Host a block party

Getting to know your neighbours is not only a lot of fun, it is also one of the best ways to improve community safety. A block party can be held in a back or front yard, a park, or your street can be closed off. If you are interested in hosting a block party call Judy at 496-1913.



To travel to the end of the earth

Finding a slice of paradise in the unspoiled wilderness of Patagonia

GORD VICKRUCK

What would lure a distinguished Edmontonian couple to sell a successful business, leave their family and friends and move to an outpost of Argentinean Patagonia? And what would entice my wife, Patricia, and I to use up well-earned air miles and vacation time and travel 15,000 km including a 24 hour plane flight and a 20 hour bus ride, to track them down?

Patagonia has maintained the mystique of being the end of the world, the last unexplored frontier, running down the spine of the Andes to the Straits of Magellan. It is not typically identified as a location for one's dream villa, (or summer vacation, for that matter). But that is what it has become for Ernst and Tamara Eder, former owners of La Boheme restaurant and inn.

For the last few years they have been disengaging from Edmonton to free themselves up to build *Pyramides Andinas* on the shores of Lago Nahuel Huapi on the outskirts of San Carlos de Bariloche. It is a very striking lodge and cabins with a distinctive pyramid design that opens the ceilings up to the sky. Meandering in around the lodge and cabins are numerous spring fed creeks, and the stone covered walks that connect the cabins and lodge to the rest of the grounds are covered with a botanical display of flower, tree and herb gardens. Several species of exotic birds have taken up permanent residence on the Eder's property in addition to the flocks of migrating birds that frequent the adjacent nature preserve.

Bariloche is one of the prettiest cities (pop 93,000) you will come across. Nestled against the foothills of the Andes, and overlooking the lake district with thousands of kilometers of shoreline, it is a tourist destination renowned for its pristine wilderness and outdoor adventures, including fishing, kayaking and sailing. The cost of living is less than half of what it would be in Edmonton, and even less with respect to housing. Taxes and utilities together would total not much more than the average phone bill.

Walking down the main street of Bariloche, Argentina, we meet Jim, born Argentinean, but sporting a broad English accent, a friend of Ernst and Tamara. Tamara proclaims to him proudly that they have just received their Argentine residency papers.

"It takes a special kind of insanity to want to become an Argentinean," says Jim. "Why

on earth would you want to live here when you come from the best country on earth?" Truth is, Ernst and Tamara see themselves as belonging to no country, but rather are citizens of planet earth, at home wherever they find themselves. And this is why they see themselves as especially suited to Patagonia.

"Patagonia is a place without borders. People here do not consider themselves



THE LODGES ARE DESIGNED TO BLEND INTO THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE AREA

Argentineans," says Ernst. "They are Patagonians. They owe their identity to this unique, unspoiled part of the earth."

"This country has a distinctive feel to it. It is so clean, so raw. There is a sense of expansiveness," adds Tamara. Clean it is. So clean that the water does not require

filtering and the air shows no evidence of pollution. Ernst and I climb to the top of a neighbouring mountain and scan a hundred kilometres across the horizon with no sign of pollution.

"There is more water than we could ever know what to do with," says Ernst, whose property

is next to a nature wetlands preserve and bird sanctuary. "Compare this to Alberta, which will be facing a severe water crisis within the next ten

years." We digress momentarily to discuss Albertan politics until we remember the cardinal rule – "one leaves politics behind when one comes to Patagonia."

So, have they left Edmonton behind for good? "We still have family there and I am currently working on a project for the Edmonton public school system," relates Tamara. Ernst also has family in Edmonton as well as countless friends that they will continue to keep in touch with.

For our part, rather than wait for them to journey to Edmonton, we wanted to check out how they were doing in their new digs. "Very well thank-you," and it is perfectly understandably why.



PATRICIA CONTEMPLATES NEVER RETURNING TO EDMONTON

The Carrot Arts Coffeehouse needs you!

If you are able to volunteer please contact us at thecarrot@artsontheave.org or at 471-1580.



PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

HOW MUCH SUBSIDY IS NEEDED TO MAKE RENTAL HOUSING AFFORDABLE?

A concerning trend in Alberta is the ever increasing number of lower income workers, some making \$15.00 per hour, that just can't find a home to rent at a price that they can afford. Meanwhile the ever decreasing remaining stock of entry level private sector rental units are being converted to condos at an alarming rate.

Because of the void of newly built affordable private rental housing, some have moved into non-profit housing such as that supplied by the Edmonton Inner City Housing Society. The question though is how much public money is needed and for how long to simply make rental housing affordable and to still allow necessary income for operating costs.

Private sector rental housing developers, the so-called 'for profit' sector, who could provide the same housing, are greatly disadvantaged competitively by the numerous public grants and financial advantages given to the so-called 'non-profit' groups which pays for their land and construction costs and further pays ongoing rent subsidies which tops up rents to market average rents.

To further give permanent property tax free status to certain non-profit organizations for otherwise fairly conventional rental housing further disadvantages the private sector and impinges on a city's bottom line taxation paid service base for fire and police services, etc, and seemingly is excessive given numerous other construction capital and operating grants.

Recently the City of Edmonton has recognized this inconsistency of taxation policy between similar rental housing providers and is asking for taxation equality, by requesting the payment of property taxes. The City after all has to provide services that property taxes should be paying for.

Is this fair?

What do you think?

495-3261 www.petergolding.ca

She confesses she is (not so) wild about weeding

the Gardening Diva

WITH CHERYL WALKER

"You fight dandelions all weekend, and late Monday afternoon there they are, pert as all get out, in full and gorgeous bloom, pretty as can be, thriving as only dandelions can in the face of adversity."
- Hal Borland

Dear readers, it is August, the flowers are blooming, the peas are ready to eat, there are tomatoes on the vine, and the weeds are here, seemingly overnight. Dear reader, weeding is the Peter MacKay of Conservative Federal politics: not terribly interesting, but it does seem to fulfill a necessary purpose.

Chemicals

TGD is aware that there are broad-spectrum herbicides that work particularly well on weeds. TGD would remind her dear readers that a herbicide can not tell the difference between a yellow dandelion and a yellow marigold. Herbicides wind up in your lakes and rivers and your food. TGD has only issued permission to one gardener she has met, who had, quite possibly the most abundant crop of dandelions she has ever seen.

About weeds

Did you know, dear reader, that there are annual and perennial weeds? Annual weeds, like chickweed, have a very short lifecycle from germination to growth, to flower to seed,

meaning they have a shallow root system. Perennial weeds on the other hand have a much longer lifecycle, and have had years and years to grow that wonderful flower or thistle in your garden. Their root system is much more elaborate and deeper than an annuals.

How do I get rid of weeds?

This is the most important question, isn't it? The answer is quite simple dear reader, regardless of what type they are. We get rid of weeds by pulling them. All of them. Including

When pulling weeds, it is a good idea to have a bucket or a bag handy to put the weeds into. TGD finds that it is not wise to attempt to compost weeds that are flowering, as the seeds will mix in with your compost and further afflict your gardens. Non-flowering weeds are just fine in your compost.

How do I keep them from coming back?

Constant Vigilance, dear reader, Constant Vigilance! Whenever a tiny little weed pops its infinitesimal and horrific head above



every bit of root, or they will come back. Those shallow rooted annuals in loose, well-aerated soil come out easily by hand after a rain, or with a hoe or hand cultivator. For deep-rooted perennials, you will need to dig them out, to ensure that you get all of the roots. You may use a spade, and turn over the soil, you may use a hand held trowel or cultivator to loosen the soil and pull out the weeds, or in the case of dandelions, you may use a dandelion puller, which is a tall narrow tool that you can purchase anywhere garden tools are located.

the ground, you must eradicate it. Show no mercy, spare it not! At all costs, under any circumstances, pull weeds before they flower. Consider using mulch dear reader, to prevent weed seeds from germinating. Over time, the vigilant gardener will note that fewer and fewer weeds afflict their garden.

TGD lives and weeds in Parkdale, with the très wonderful gardening diva husband and the non-gardening dogs. She thinks that Belinda Stronach has very good taste in shoes. Next month she will talk about forethought.

Parkdale After School Care Society

The NON PROFIT CHILD CARE CENTER IN YOUR COMMUNITY TEAMING UP WITH YOU, YOUR FAMILY & COMMUNITY TO ENSURE ALL YOUR CHILD CARE NEEDS ARE MET!

SUBSIDIES ARE AVAILABLE

We provide your 4 1/2 to 12 year old children full day care throughout JULY & AUGUST. Our hours of operation are from 6:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. - Monday through Friday.

Our Summer Program Includes :Trips to area beaches & lakes, visits to city parks & summer festivals • Weekly visits to Borden Swimming Pool • Arts & Crafts, Life Skills & Literacy programs • Computer activities... AND SO MUCH MORE!

Summer Registration:

We are presently accepting registration for our summer program. If your child is entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2007, they are eligible for our program on the first day of school. Children going into grades one through six are eligible immediately.

School Year Registration:

We offer care in the morning, lunch hour and after school. We serve St. Alphonsus & Parkdale School and accept children who can be bussed to and from our center.

Parkdale After School Care Society is located at: 11648 - 85th Street. Parkdale School, South-side entrance in the basement
Phone #: 474-7636



EASYFORD MEATS
"Your Natural Choice"

"Your Direct Farm Connection" 12165 Fort Road ph. 479-1714 www.easyford.com

It is Barbeque Season

Call or order on line for our
**Tender juicy steaks,
awesome pork ribs, lean
burgers or the
many varieties of smoked
and fresh sausages**

\$99 Dollar Freezer Packs
Free Delivery for orders over \$50
Special Premium Garlic Sausage
3 Rings for \$9.99

Try our selection of famous
European Sausage

Check us out or order online @
www.easyford.com

EASYFORD MEATS 12165 Fort Road 479-1714 www.easyford.com

Reporting the facts about drug and disorder houses

CST. MIKE RUSSELL

When I started this new job in May of this year I was lucky enough to be provided all the back issues of the Rat Creek Press. This allowed me to get a further grasp on what issues my fellow community members are facing. One Saturday morning I sat down with my cup of coffee and my back issues and began to read. The one binding thread I noticed between most of the issues is the problems that are associated to low-level drug and disorder houses.

Recently the Edmonton Police Service has developed numerous ways to report and deal with these drug and/or disorder houses. What the police now need from citizens is good information to help us do our jobs. We are then able to take this information and channel it through the various tools we employ.

One of these tools is the "Report a Drug House" program initiated by Det. Maurice Brodeur. Det. Brodeur had many success stories when he ran this program in South Division during the last few years. One of the reasons this tool works is that the reporter (citizen) is at the beginning and end of the investigation. Citizens can call 426-2889 and leave a message as to what is happening at a certain house. A reporter can also fill out the form at: <http://www.police.edmonton.ab.ca/Pages/ContactUs/REPORTADRUGHOUSE.doc>

The form prompts you for information so you can be more accurate, and so that when the police go to act on the tips provided they have current and accurate information.

Another way to report this information is through your

local Beat officers. There is nobody in your area that knows the "heartbeat" better than your local Beats. If you are able to provide these constables with good information, chances are they already know of at least 10 people who have been coming and going from that location. You can certainly take the form from the webpage and fill it out for the officers. The trick is to be as specific as possible; having said that, we don't want you running down your back alley after cars to get license plates.

The more you can make note of the fine details of the Who, What, Where, Why and When, the more we can use this information. We are also in the process of developing a template so reporters can "fill in the blanks" and be more accurate. This can be picked up at Eastwood Police Station.

I want to assure you that if you know of a drug or disorder

house and you can accurately report it using some of these

tools, we will be able to work on it with you.

Be effective against Break and Enters

In recent weeks we have seen a rash of Break and Enters into private garages in this area. Of particular interest seems to be construction tools. Here are some great tips to help make your garage a harder target.

1. Lighting: increase lighting at doors and alley entrances. Bright motion lights work great for this. If all you have is a small bulb on the garage, use it! Some light is better than none.

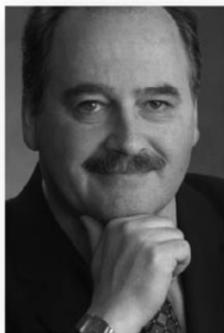
2. Trim bushes, plants, and trees away from garage windows and doors. Do not leave cover for individuals skulking around.

3. Locks: Lock everything! Lock your garages with dead bolts (that go at least 1" into the stud). Lock your cars in your garages, and lock your overhead door if you can.

4. Report suspicious activity. If you suspect a Break and Enter in progress call 911, if it is a suspicious person in the alley way call 423-4567. If we don't know, we can't help.

5. Watch out for each other. There is nothing wrong with being nosy. The more eyes out on the streets and back alleys, the more prevention we can do.

Thank you for your support!



Have a great summer wherever it takes you, and please stop by and visit anytime!

6519 - 112 Avenue.
Your MLA, Brian Mason.
Edmonton Highlands-Norwood
www.NDPOpposition.ab.ca
ph: 780.414.0682

BELLARE INDUSTRIAL COATINGS INC.
12253 Fort Road N.W.
The Paint & Wood Finishing Store

Jasper 2 1/2" sash brush \$4.69

SICO EXPERT INTERIOR EGGSHELL LATEX
Sale \$17.99 Reg \$28.99

STAIN CLEARANCE \$15.00 Reg 4L

471-6160 Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am - 5 pm
Supplier of Sico and Pittsburg paint • All your painting supplies at an everyday low price

Becker Systema

Sentinel registry

- VEHICLE REGISTRY
- DRIVER LICENSING
- CORPORATE SERVICES
- VITAL STATISTICS
- LAND TITLES
- LIENS & SEARCHES



12818 82 St. Edmonton AB, T5E 2T2
www.sentinelregistry.com
Phone: (780) 478-8832 Fax: (780) 476-5887

EVENTS

CHECK OUT THE NEW ONLINE COMMUNITY CALENDARS

All our community events & meetings are now on Google calendars. Go to www.ratcreek.org/calendar. Scroll down to view one of the four different calendars. Click on an event to get the details. To submit your event or post a free community notice (max 75 words) email events@ratcreek.org or call 479-6285. Events & notices printed in the paper as deemed appropriate by the editorial team and as space permits.



THE Carrot
Community Arts
Coffeehouse

**Live music every
Friday and
Saturday night!**

Friday August 3	James Murdoch
Friday August 10	Dave Von Bieker
Friday August 17	Barry Westerlund
Friday August 24	Mat Halton
Friday August 31	Terry Morrison

Open stage every Saturday night.

We need volunteers, www.thecarrot.ca

CLEAN UP WITH THE CITY'S BIG BIN EVENTS

Big Bin Events are large item roundups held on various weekends during the summer. Residents can dispose of large bulky items that are unacceptable for collection by waste collectors. There is no charge. Note: Do not bring household waste like paint, varnish, household cleaners or batteries. All events run on Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 5pm.

Aug 18 & 19 Kennedale
128109 58 St
Sept 22 & 23 Commonwealth
Stadium 112 Ave & 90 St

SPRUCE AVENUE COMMUNITY RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Volunteers are needed! Please contact Lori Coté at 474-5354 for more details.

SPRUCE AVE COMMUNITY SWIM ON HOLD

Spruce Ave. wishes to inform its members that Grant MacEwen pool will be closed from July 27-Sept 10 so there will be no free swim between those dates.

PIANO LESSONS

Beginners only, ages 6-10, using the John Thompson Series. Reasonable rates. Call 479-4054.

LIGHT YOUR LIFE COFFEE & STUDY

Ladies come join us for coffee, cake, conversation and the opportunity to discover and explore God's word together Thursday mornings 9:45 – 11:00 at the Orthodox Reformed Church, 11610 – 95A St. Our start date this coming season is September 13. Find out more by calling Lois at 455-0626 or Lorraine at 474-3893. Feel free to just show up, no registration is required. Free childcare offered as well. Check out our website at www.orcure.org.

GRAFFITI REMOVAL KIT

A graffiti removal kit is available for residents to borrow free of charge. Call Peter at the Alberta Ave. Business Association at 471-2602.

COMMUNITY MESSAGE BOARD

Need something to do in the evenings? Interested in finding out what is going on in your neighbourhood? Want to invite people to a community event? The Carrot Community Arts Coffee House has a new community message board. There is space to post upcoming community events, activities going on in the neighbourhood, and "freecycle" items. Come in, fill out a card or bring your poster and let your neighbours know what is going on.

KARA-LOT

SECOND HAND STORE

12034 Fort Road

Monday - Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM
Closed Sundays and Holidays. Parking at rear.
Phone - (780) 472-0610

Seniors Day

-the 1st Tuesday of the month. 60+ get 1/2 off.

1/2 Price Weekends

-the last Friday & Saturday of the month, clothing is half price.

 **Edmonton Public Library**

SPRUCEWOOD BRANCH
11555 - 95 Street
Call 496-7099 to register

Summer Reading Club

Lost Worlds
Wednesday, August 8, 2 pm
Ages: 3 – 5 years
Join us for stories, events and activities as we travel to exciting and mysterious lost worlds. We're on a hunt for lost secrets under the sea! Come and explore what lies hidden below. Glub, glub, we're going down.

Summer Reading Club Closing
Saturday, August 25, 2 pm
Ages: 3 – 12 years
We're leaving the Lost Worlds behind as the Summer Reading Club comes to an end. Thanks for a great summer!

Adults Programs

Aboriginal Women Aglow
Third Fridays of the month, August 17 to December 21, 6 p.m.
Contact: Deborah Minoose at 637-9213 or deborah.minoose@gmail.com for details.

Need some encouragement and fellowship with a really neat group of women? Come join this interfaith group of females who meet every third Friday of the month to discuss First Nation issues and share experiences.

- ⌘ FIRST ANNUAL EASTWOOD FEST
- ⌘ Celebrating our Community!
- ⌘ SATURDAY August 18th
- ⌘ 11:00 am - 3:00 pm



Outdoor Family Fun



- Live Bands
- Family Bingo
- Games & Prizes
- Artists & Performers
- Horse drawn wagon rides
- Hot dogs & Hamburgers

Eastwood Community Just Wants to Have Fun!

It's All Happening in EASTWOOD PARK !!
It's All Free Fun!!

Enter to win the Eastwood Fest Raffle ...

A ride in the Edmonton Police Service Air 1

An Extravaganza you don't want to Miss!

Volunteer & get a free gift. Call us to help out 780-477-2354



In cooperation with:

