

RAT CREEK PRESS

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FEBRUARY 2016

NEWS » ART

We see beautiful women

Local art exhibits honour indigenous women and issues they face



Check out kâ-katawasisicik iskwêwak at Bleeding Heart Art Space. » REBECCA LIPPIATT

Ni Wapataenan is interactive and educational. » REBECCA LIPPIATT

REBECCA LIPPIATT

Alberta Avenue is hosting two different art exhibits about indigenous women: Ni Wapataenan (Michif for “we see”) and kâ-katawasisicik iskwêwak (Cree for “beautiful women”).

Lori Calkins, a Métis woman and Anglican priest, created the concept of Ni Wapataenan out of a desire for reconciliation.

“For me, the project comes from a place of humility and love,” said Calkins. Ni Wapataenan features red dresses in the field at 118 Avenue and 92 Street.

Feeling that a tribute to missing and murdered indigenous women (inspired by Jaime Black’s REDress Project) needed to be in an outdoor public space, Calkins approached Dave Von Bieker from Bleeding Heart Art Space to help facilitate the project. To Calkins, each dress represents a beautiful indigenous woman.

The interactive and educa-

tional display will have dresses set in a spiral with an empty teepee frame in the centre. Entry will be on the east and Cree prayer flags will be in the middle. Attendees are invited to attach the flags to the trees, a sacred way to honour the missing women. The journey into the centre represents a journey towards understanding, and the journey outward towards action.

Calkins said art is a way of educating people who don’t know about issues facing indigenous women or who don’t understand what role they can play in reconciliation. The project’s interactive nature will help people discover a new way of thinking about reconciliation.

When Von Bieker was asked to be part of the project, he thought of the field on Alberta Avenue because it has taken on a place of value in the community. Knowing Whiskeyjack from a previous project, he wanted to juxtapose the vitality and life of her art with the trib-

ute to missing and murdered indigenous women.

He also sent a call out to artists. “We all, regardless of where we are, have something to do with reconciliation,” said Von Bieker.

Calkins is amazed and humbled by Ni Wapataenan. “[It] has taken on an organic life I could not imagine.” Over 20 artists across Canada are involved. Elders are being approached to participate and community organisations such as CEASE and St. Faiths are contributing their knowledge.

Lana Whiskeyjack’s exhibit, kâ-katawasisicik iskwêwak, held at Bleeding Heart Art Space gallery on 91 Street and 118 Avenue, illustrates what it means to be an indigenous woman in today’s society.

Whiskeyjack’s art, with its bright colours and images of mothers and grandmothers holding babies is a counterpoint to the inundation of negative news. Her exhibit focuses on women who walk, create and live in beauty everyday.

She said doing this work as a Cree woman maintains the connection to grandmothers and ancestors.

Her art shows indigenous women’s beauty in an acrylic series showing three generations and also in photographs.

Deeply affected by intergenerational trauma within her own family, art became therapeutic.

“The paintings acknowledge the hurts and also imagine what would make me feel better, or whole, or reconciled,” said Whiskeyjack. “The process of creating is my ceremony.”

Ni Wapataenan
Jan. 30 to March 5.

Bleeding Heart Art Space
Jan. 30 at 1 pm
Lana Whiskeyjack will talk about kâ-katawasisicik iskwêwak.

Ni Wapataenan opening ceremony
Feb. 7, 2 pm
lanawhiskeyjack.com
bleedingheartartspace.com

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BUSINESS » LOCAL SERVICE

Meet your neighbourhood handyman

Bill Nightingale has made a business out of doing odd jobs

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REBECCA LIPPIATT

Ever wished you knew of a handyman to tackle a few jobs? Well, that is exactly what Bill Nightingale's business is all about.

Nightingale does odd jobs that homeowners usually do, but might not have the time, ability or tools to complete. After a career in technical sales, he has spent the last four years building his business as a home and office handyman. His goal when helping people is "to make things better or stronger so it works better than before."

He will help with everything from putting away garden hoses in the fall to hanging pictures, replacing taps, installing new light fixtures or fixing leaky toilets.

Nightingale's favourite group of people to work with are seniors. "I really feel like I am helping them. They want to stay in their houses as long as possible, and I help them to do that." He likes to spend time chatting and jokes that seniors "have good coffee and cookies."

In addition to completing house repairs, Nightingale holds a master gardener certificate from the University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Gardens. He specialises in pruning and organic pest management. He has dealt with aphids, black knot (in the cherry tree family), bronze leaf blight in tower poplars and cotoneaster scale. This part of his job means getting his hands dirty. "If you see a bug on a leaf, you pick the leaf off."

Garden restoration is another facet of his business. For example, if a garden has been neglected for several years, he can make it look like it's been taken care of all that time. He will do full pruning and clean up and

delights in finding buried plant treasures. In one client's yard, he found heritage peonies planted 30 years earlier.

Nightingale also works with Sustainable Food Edmonton, and is helping to develop learning tools for community garden seminars.

In addition to working with homeowners, he offers services to offices that might not have the need for a

full-time maintenance person. He will change light bulbs, check kitchens and washrooms for leaks, prune, do drywall repair and minor painting, repair ceiling tiles, adjust thermostats, fix tiles and assemble and move furniture.

He has WCB coverage, liability insurance and is licensed with the city.



Bill Nightingale does home, yard, and office maintenance for clients. >> REBECCA LIPPIATT

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COMMUNITY » DIVERSITY

Abandoned theatre gets new lease on life

Neighbourhood mosque has undergone a dramatic and beautiful transformation

NADINE RIOPEL

When the directors of the Masjid Quba bought the abandoned building on 118 Avenue that would become their new mosque, it had seen better days. The boiler system and pipes had burst. The wiring was shot, as were the heating and cooling systems. Pigeons and other wildlife had taken up residence. The roof was leaking and the floor was collapsing.

Fewer than four years later, the transformation is amazing. Director Syed Hussain welcomes visitors into what is now not only a solid and comfortable space, but is also becoming a beautiful one. The project has occupied all of the mosque's resources over the past several years, but the effort is paying off.

Because the building was originally a movie theatre, it had no windows, so 10 new ones were cut. The floor has been largely rebuilt, and the electrical redone from scratch. The building now has a new roof, with four high-efficiency, environmentally friendly heating and cooling units installed.

Funds were raised through tireless efforts within the mosque community and much of the work was done by hand.

That work is still underway, but is now focusing on beautifying the space. The main prayer hall boasts lovely arches spanning the high ceiling and is punctuated by multifaceted light fixtures. The design is inspired by famous mosques across the world, including the stunning Prophet's Mosque in Medina,

Saudi Arabia. Carpets imported from Turkey will soon be installed in the hall for worshippers to kneel on during prayers.

Although Hussain said aesthetics isn't as important as serving people, they want to provide a nice space for their members, especially those who worked hard to found the community and kept it going through good times and bad.

A few renovations remain, including finishing work in the women's prayer space (the women are currently using a temporary space), and the exterior.

Plans for the exterior are still in the design phase, but there is a commitment to maintaining as much of the original brick as possible, and generally preserving and enhancing the character

of the building. The goal is for all work to be complete within one to two more years.

The mosque's directors are eager to finish renovations so they can put more resources into serving the people of their congregation and their neighbourhood.

Hussain emphasized the fact that the people of the mosque see themselves as having more in common with their new neighbours than differences. Seeking that common ground and moving forward together is a priority.

With that in mind, they want everyone to know that their doors are always open. Anyone who would like to visit the mosque, chat with the members, and see the building's transformation is welcome to drop in

at any time. No appointment is necessary, but visitors are welcome to call or email to make one if they prefer.

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info@masjidquba.ca
 780.426.6373
 www.masjidquba.ca



Renovations included repairing burst pipes, collapsing windows, and a leaky roof. >> MASJID QUBA



Members of the Masjid Quba have transformed the mosque into a warm, welcoming, beautiful space. >> REBECCA LIPPIATT

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WHAT'S ON » COMMUNITY LEAGUE

Spruce Ave Community League's history

This year heralds the 65th anniversary of community friendship and participation

STEPHEN STRAND

Spruce Avenue Community League has a long history of community involvement—65 years, to be exact.

I meet with Verna Stainthorp at the Carrot to talk about the league. She's the league's secretary and treasurer and she explained that the anniversary "prompted us to think seriously about archiving the history of the community."

The league is holding the first meeting Feb. 11 at 7 pm at the hall. Anyone is welcome to attend. She is hoping that, "if anyone has photos or stories that they would like to share, please contact me."

We also discuss how the league is a place where community members can meet and become friends. According to Stainthorp, one of the league's goals is participation. "Participation for residents, as well as surrounding areas—we don't do [just] for our own community, we invite other people from around the areas to participate as well."

One example is the skating rink, where there is public skating every day. Stainthorp said Spruce Avenue Junior High and the Polish Bilingual St. Basil Elementary/Junior High School often frequent the rink on weekdays.

Then there's the free drop-in skating lessons for kids of all ages on Saturdays from Jan. 17 to Feb. 28, with the exception of Family Day long weekend. The community league has skates and helmets for the kids to wear, "but if someone can't afford [skating gear], I will make a referral to Sport Central for them."



Spruce Avenue Community League has a great rink that's available to everyone. >>STEPHEN STRAND

That's what a community league is about: gathering, meeting, and helping our neighbours.

Though no one is ever excluded from using the rink, it is encouraged receive a community league membership. At Spruce Avenue, you can buy a membership for \$7 per person per year or \$15 per family per year, or you can volunteer for it. The league's membership drive

is usually the third Saturday in September and volunteers have plenty of opportunities. The Harvest Festival is also at that time, and people can volunteer then or at the league's casino night on May 18-19 at the Baccarat Casino. Casino proceeds go into the redevelopment of the league's parks.

Volunteers can also participate in the annual garage sale the last Friday and Saturday

of April. This is their 20th year hosting the garage sale. Tables cost \$10 and proceeds go back into the community league.

All information for events happening at Spruce Avenue Community League can be found on their website, through advertisements in the Rat Creek Press, and by flyers the community league distributes.

Spruce Avenue Community League

10240 115 Ave
 spruceaveleague@shaw.ca
 www.spruceavenuecommunity.com
 Ph: 780.471.1932
 President: Susan Buhler
 Vice-President: Kate Boorman
 Secretary/Treasurer: Verna Stainthorp (780.479.8019)
 See website for full listing of committee members.
 Check RCP calendar for skating rink hours.



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WHAT'S ON » WINTER PROGRAM

Winter has a special kind of beauty

Transform spaces blanketed in snow into amazing winter landscapes

TALEA MEDYNSKI

Festivals like Deep Freeze provide an opportunity to enjoy winter and appreciate art, but the city is encouraging everyone to be creative and beautify their front yard or a public space.

Winterscapes, an offshoot of the Front Yards in Bloom program, is an effort to keep neighbourhoods beautiful year-round. Amber Brant, the city's community greening coordinator, said Winterscapes began in 2014 after the Front Yards in Bloom committee realized gardens don't need to stop in the fall. The contest started with encouraging people to display winter gardens, meaning plants with different colours, textures, or even sounds. Examples include evergreens, dogwood, mountain ash trees, and ornamental grass.

"Last year we opened it up to working with snow, not just plants," said Brant. "Edmonton is very winter-themed."

Now people can experiment with winter art like snow and ice sculptures and winter play, such as slides, forts, ornaments, and lights. Participating can be as simple as making a snowman or coloured ice or as complicated as creating an igloo, snow fort, or ice sculpture. She also suggested using Christmas lights and garden decorations.

When submitting your entry, the only rule is that the creation must be on a public space or seen from a front yard.

"Snow is like a canvas," said Brant. "Get as creative as possible."

Parkdale residents Steven Townsend and Kevin Wong got creative last year. They enjoy decorating their yard for Christmas and heard about the contest. Inspired by a display of trees at

the Alberta Legislature, they put Christmas trees in their yard and used funky ornaments.

"I love trees," said Wong.

This year, they want to do something different. "I want to change up the light display a bit," said Wong. Townsend added that decorating a yard encourages others to do the same. "For Christmas, we had some healthy competition from neighbours."

Townsend suggested people look at thrift stores or garage sales for unique items or big bulk stores for discounts on lights. "Be creative, don't spend yourself out of house and home. Be economic."

When you're finished, take a picture of your creation because the temperature fluctuates and snow and ice melts. Then, submit your photo by going to edmonton.ca/winterscapes and complete the online form.

Individuals and groups are eligible to submit entries. Schools can make Winterscapes part of the students' education. Community leagues and schools can contact Front Yards in Bloom to receive an information package called a Snow Play Book. If 10 schools enter the contest, one school will receive a pizza party.

Winterscapes runs from Jan. 11 to Feb. 21 and submissions are entered into a weekly draw. Prizes include free passes to events like Ice on Whyte, the ice castle, and various horticultural workshops.

Since Winterscape is a community-based program, Brant said, "We encourage people to nominate their neighbours." However, you can nominate yourself.

Visit the City of Edmonton Facebook page or the city's Twitter page to see the winning entries and use the hashtag #fyib-winterscapes.



Steven Townsend and Kevin Wong filled their front yard with spruce trees and lights.

>> KAREN MYKIETKA

WINTERSCAPES
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EDITORIAL

A leap of faith or beginning of the end?

Growing and improving our paper during a time of financial uncertainty

KAREN MYKIETKA

Many Albertan residents and businesses have been affected by the economic downturn. According to ATB's chief economist Todd Hirsch, the recession will continue throughout 2016 with a modest recovery in 2017.

Most non-profit organizations likely haven't experienced any reduction in funding—yet. But when the economy slows, all forms of revenue are eventually impacted. The effect on organizations will depend on their revenue streams.

At the *Rat Creek Press*, we have two main revenue sources: casino revenue and advertising sales. As this edition hits your mailboxes, 30 volunteers are spending two days at the Baccarat Casino, which will net us around \$70,000. We do this about every two years. These funds pay for the newspaper printing and delivery via Canada Post, two expenses which increased in 2016.

Our advertising revenue is supposed to cover the people-related costs associated with producing the newspaper (publisher, editor, designer, freelancers). But for the last six months it has not been. The trend so far this year is downright scary. For the January and February issues, we were short about \$1,000 and \$800 respectively. It's evident that \$1,000 more expenses than revenue every month is not sustainable.

Despite this, the last few months have been encouraging and exciting. Forty people attended our community event in conjunction with our annual general meeting. We have more board members now than we have had in years. I've been

in meetings with other awesome residents talking about an exciting new initiative, completely revamping our website, improving our paper design, and expanding our content.

This community newspaper needs resident and business involvement to be great and to be sustainable.

In this issue, you will see a new page called Eyes on the Street. This page will feature content related to crime and safety because this is a topic of interest and concern to everyone. We want to acknowledge issues and concerns but not dwell on them. It is "eyes on the street", connections between neighbours, and willingness to get involved that enhances safety, so this is what needs to be nurtured.

More new content will be coming over the next few months. As always, we welcome your ideas, thoughts and feedback. However, your love of your community paper and our enthusiasm to bring you a great product doesn't pay the bills. We need to keep a close eye on our bottom line and make adjustments as necessary for the survival of this newspaper.

While we have endeavored to give the literary and visual arts the respect it deserves and pay our contributors, we may have to scale this back. If this dismal advertising revenue continues, we may have to cut our distribution back to only houses in order to continue operating.

What can you do to help? We are not a charity and don't want charity. We are a non-for-profit operating a highly esteemed community newspaper. We need local organizations and businesses (storefront

and home-based) to support us by purchasing advertising.

Residents, let our advertisers know you see their ads in our paper and tell the businesses you frequent that you want to see them in the *Rat Creek Press*. We are now offering a 10 per cent referral fee on any advertising you send our way.

If you value this community newspaper, then do what you can to support it. If you want local businesses to continue operating, then use them. We need to support and sustain each other.

FREE

A word pleasing to the eye and the ear
As the *Rat Creek Press* is every month of the year

Now air is FREE one may say
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It may not be the receiver but for sure the sender
Please STEP up and be counted or this community paper will be no more

Help the *Rat Creek* and your local businesses survive
In supporting them when they advertise

By shopping local, strong community you are building

Rob Bernshaw
RCP board member

“This community newspaper needs resident and business involvement to be great and to be sustainable.”

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Uniting neighbours and driving out predators

In Norwood, we have young families, artists, seniors, and ethnic diversity that makes our neighborhood wonderfully complex.

For me, the community is a dynamic and affordable place to live. One of my daughters grew up here and now my youngest daughter follows in her sister's footsteps.

It is because of my daughters that I write this letter, partly out of a need to inform the community of a new kind of predator in our midst and partly to continue to voice that criminal and predatory behaviour is unacceptable.

On Oct. 8, on the corner of 101 Street and 112 Avenue, my 10-year-old daughter's life changed when a man sprayed mace into her eyes. My eldest daughter managed to avoid the spray and chased the man and his female partner away.

I won't dwell on trying to understand why someone would do this. I will leave it up to each of you to form an

opinion.

I also can't dwell (but remain bewildered) by the lack of police involvement beyond the first visit. I focus instead on helping my little girl deal with an acute fear of the dark and feelings that every stranger we pass on the street could harm her.

The residents of Norwood continue to inspire my life here, with their sense of caring and support, but a small element of predatory behavior lies here as well. It is through a united sense of community that will show this behaviour is not acceptable and that it can be erased.

Clint Wilson

Norwood resident of 23 years

Editorial Note: The area around Norwood Boulevard (111 Avenue) is sometimes referred to as Norwood. Residents between 111 and 122 Avenues from 89 to 97 Streets are all part of the Alberta Avenue neighbourhood.

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

ABOUT US

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

COMMUNITY, COMMUNICATION, CAPACITY

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

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Rat Creek Press* is a forum for all people. We encourage comments that further discussion on a given article or subject, provide constructive criticism, or offer an idea for community activity. Letters should be no longer than 250 words and must include the full name, location and contact information of the author. Op-Ed columns should be 400-700 words and observe formal rules of spelling and grammar. The RCP reserves the right to edit all material and to remove any electronic comment at any time.

All columns, letters or cartoons submitted are attributed to the author and do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the *Rat Creek Press*. Send submissions to the *Rat Creek Press* Editor via email at editor@ratcreek.org, or 9210-118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5G 0N2. Mail may also be dropped at the address above.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

VALENTINE'S DAY » RELATIONSHIPS

The bedroom is a treacherous place

Being in love and being single on Valentine's Day

RUSTI LEHAY

My 50th birthday began with the gnashing of teeth and copious weeping. By me. I had envisioned being in an evolved, committed, and enriched relationship. No party for me unless you count an internal pity party. My nephew chose my birthday to get married, so I pulled myself together. Everyone thought the ceremony moved me to tears. Waterproof mascara is a grand invention.

Once upon a time I was also married. When my marriage ended, my mother, a cheerful support, said, "You need to find a man before you're too old and ugly."

Mom, you were wrong. No one is ever too old and ugly. One 78-year-old friend told me after her husband died, "I will grieve but he will not be my final lover." If you are also a reluctant single, try Susan Page's book, *If I'm So Wonderful, Why Am I still Single?* Follow her advice and let everyone know you are open to introductions.

Between the ages of 27 and

49, I worked at ending my single status with six attempts at relationships. Serial monogamy carried me through 30 Valentine's Days. The last seven Februarys found me single. Not always happy about that, I finally learned enough about my insecurities, culture, vulnerabilities, expectations, and past emotional wounds to avoid the treacheries of the bedroom, as Deepak Chopra put it. I am complete and capable of creating depth, commitment, and a whole whack of fun in a relationship. I am also happy travelling single on my own focused trajectory.

In this world of coupledom and pairs of almost everything, thoughts of relationships creep into my poems. I find myself wondering if there is someone happy in their own life who may be a fit for me. In my mid 50s, I experienced increasing invisibility. I told a teenager if I was to "find" anyone now, it would be based on conversation, love of similar activities, and a shared outlook on life. It helps to groom our emotional health and IQ regardless

of our relationship status. We need people and connections with or without a lover. I am okay if you tell Cupid I accept Valentine's cards.

I know I jest. Until I am ready to commit to the search for an intimate partner like a full-time job, my single happiness and freedom to pick up and go as I choose is my priority.

Ask your single friends if they want introductions. Tell your friends if you are looking. It is a huge world with so many wonderful people. We cannot meet them all nor will anyone fall through our living room ceiling if we are sitting in there moaning about being single.

I will continue to enjoy life with friends, family, road trips, cross-country skiing and bicycle trips. If I did have a living room to haunt, potential partners will be wise to skip the ceiling crashing, wasted time, trouble and abrasions because they are likely to find it empty.



Whether single or in a relationship, everyone needs connections. >> RUSTI LEHAY

HAPPY COMMUNITIES

Welcoming Syrian refugees

What we can all do to help make the refugee program successful

AYDAN DUNNIGAN-VICKRUCK

Now the fun begins! This is where you and I plug in to help make the Syrian refugee program work. Here are a few things to keep in mind.

Fact one

Refugees who connect with Canadian families or individuals have a much easier time with resettlement. They acclimatize easier, find jobs faster, and have a more positive experience of Canada.

Fact two

We are the experts when it comes to life in the frozen Canadian North! We have spent our entire lives learning how to adapt to a cold climate and have done an admirable job. Even more impor-

tant, we know all the ins and outs of navigating our complex social system. Consider the bewilderment that will confront an immigrant stepping off the plane mid-February in Edmonton: How does one dress to stay warm? How does one pack a school lunch? What are student-teacher meetings? How do you access ETS? What are good value places to shop? When is it appropriate to contact the police? (Keep in mind many families come with suspicions about government officials.) Where are safe and unsafe places to walk late at night? The questions are limitless and we have the answers.

Fact three

Agencies that currently assist with refugee resettlement are already taxed to the max. They have not been allocated any new

resources to address the influx of Syrian refugees. This means that a new family resettled in Canada will receive core professional support of 60 hours for an entire year, approximately an hour per week. (Language studies are in addition to this.) Obviously, this affords time for little else than handling crisis situations.

Fact four

Refugees have to adjust quickly. They come with virtually no money or resources. They receive social assistance and health coverage for a year and a cash advance roughly equivalent to the cost of their plane fare to Canada. During this time, they have to learn the language, adapt to Canadian culture and become self-sufficient.

Fact five

Volunteering is easy and rewarding. Anyone who can spare a few hours a week can make a difference by passing along their expertise at being an Edmontonian.

Consider these volunteer opportunities listed on the Catholic Social Services volunteer registration form.

- Show someone how to use our transit system.
- Babysit while parents attend appointments.
- Tutor a refugee in English.
- Help a school-aged child with homework.
- Be a companion at medical appointments.
- Befriend individuals or fami-

lies.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Catholic Social Services at 780.391.3338 or volunteer online at www.cssalberta.ca.

If you can donate items like housewares or clothing in new or gently used condition, contact Edmonton Emergency Relief Services at 780.428.4422. They also need volunteers to sort clothes and fill donation requests.

Make a difference. Help restore faith in humanity and revitalize your spirit in exchange.



>> COOL REVOLUTION

Alice's Art, Creative Crafts & Kits
FOR ALL SEASONS AND OCCASIONS
CALL OR TEXT 780.477.1366

EDITORIAL » LITERARY

Wrestling with the alphabet

This year, why not explore a new craft and put pen to paper?

RUSTI L LEHAY

Poets with day jobs, full-time writers, wanna-be authors: this page welcomes you. If you have never picked up a pen or fought with the 26 unruly minions of the alphabet, the early months of a new year are conducive to exploring a new craft.

Each day as the light returns, moving us further from winter, take that warmth and feel it in the tips of your fingers cradling a pen or in all 10 fingers on the keyboard. Transfer that energy into writing a poem. Let it sit for a day and revisit it knowing that Anne Lamott's passage in her book, *Bird by Bird* is on to something. "There is no such thing as a finished poem, only abandoned ones." We treat them gently on this page.

This month, we have one of Wendy Joy's poems. She also appeared in June 2015. You may recognize Rob Bernshaw's name from his articles in the paper. Joanne Lenihan recently returned to Edmonton after 35 years in a semi-rural Alberta community. She has shared her take on the "country mouse, city mouse" scenario for you to enjoy.

While you are waiting for spring and the next *Rat Creek Press* issue, you have plenty of time to look over a piece, revise it a few times, let it sit a few days and tweak it some more, then send it to lit@ratcreek.org. Send any selection of your musings. It is your paper

and a space to showcase community writers. If you are over 55 and want a chance to win some prize money, check out the Greater Edmonton Seniors writing contest www.strathconaplace.com. The Strathcona Place Seniors Society is seeking entries for the 2016 edition of the John Bilsand Award.

**WHEN IS THE TIME ...
ROB BERNSHAW**

When ideology blinds the eye and clouds the mind.
How is one their sanity to find?

When in the street, cries of the people are heard loud and clear.
Why do governments cheerfully turn a deaf ear?

When the people en masse have spoken.
How can the governments ignore if democracy isn't broken?

When taxes are high and spirits low.
Where do people turn in their time of woe?

When economic forecasts are becoming bleak.
Whom do the people turn, as solace they seek?

When governments have lost their way.
Would that be the time on bended knee to pray?

For a new day to appear.
Where people don't tremble nor fear

To Stand Up for what's right
Along the road of Democracy's continual fight

**COYOTES CALL
JOANNE LENIHAN**

Coyotes call
Group yip
Frogs sing
A cappella chorus
Auroras dance
Eerie glow

Sirens wail
Jarring shriek
People yell
Tuneless howl
Streetlights glare
Daytime frauds

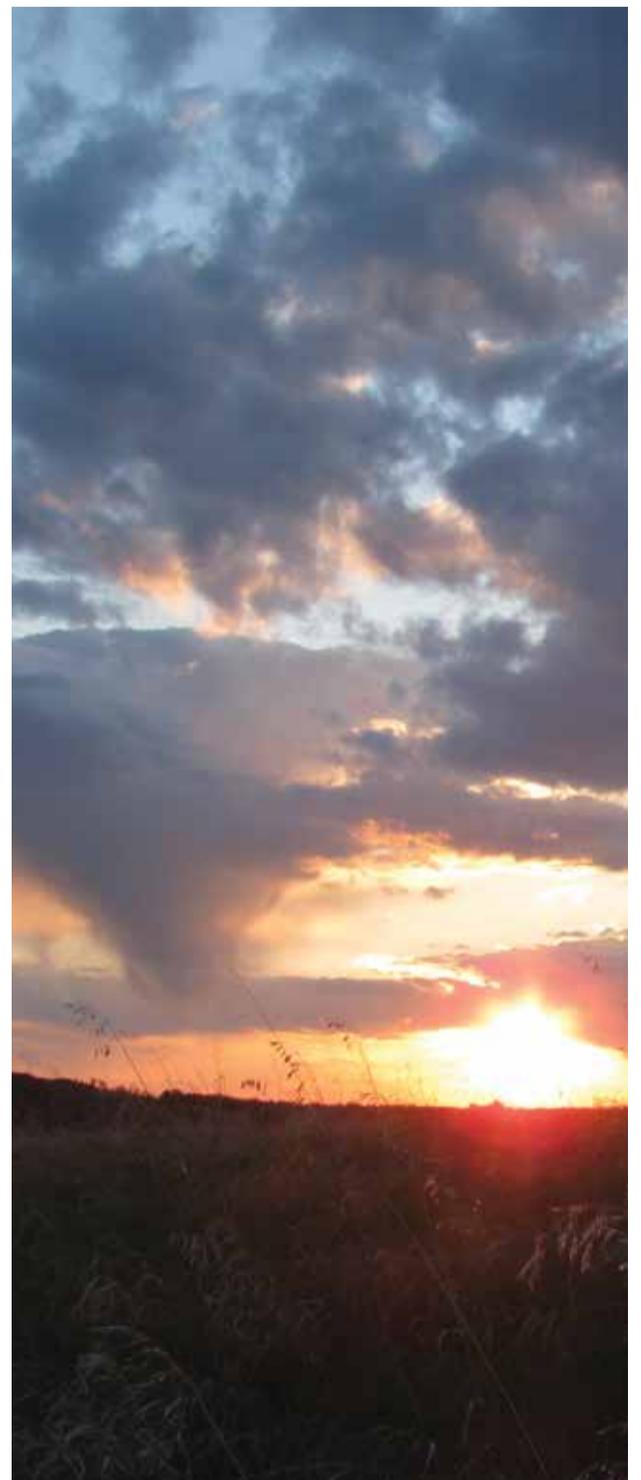
Sure miss the coyotes

**CUSP
WENDY JOY**

ruffled fringe of raincloud
looms over stubble lurking,
pale brown-yellow,
in last year's fields

April a sharp menthol
to sting the nose
make eyes water

yet it will breach May
and find lilacs



Take the time this year to do some writing. >> RUSTI L LEHAY

Community Art Night




FREE and all ages workshops!

Every Tuesday from 6:30 pm to 8 pm at the
Parkdale-Cromdale Community League
(11335 85 Street).

We'll provide the materials, projects and snacks; all you need is
your creative enthusiasm and a sense of adventure!

 Schedule of classes at parkdalecromdale.org

Book This Space!

b&w ad, only \$100!

ads@ratcreek.org

WINTER » FITNESS

Embracing cold weather activities

Venture into a winter wonderland with these four great winter sports

TALEA MEDYNSKI

Living in Edmonton means months of winter and according to Susan Holdsworth, the city's WinterCity coordinator, it's important to go outside and socialize for your mind and body wellness.

"People can become isolated in the winter. We really encourage people to get outside and enjoy the sunshine and fresh air." WinterCity was implemented in 2013, and Holdsworth said, "As soon as we started the conversation about it, we started shifting the [negative] culture."

Sports are a great way to enjoy the outdoors and our communities have several places to skate, snowshoe, toboggan, and cross-country ski. So enjoy these sports on Valentine's Day, Family Day, and any day throughout the winter!

Snowshoeing

If you can walk, you can snowshoe. For the best snowshoeing, go to open areas where snow hasn't been packed down.

Rent snowshoes for adults and children from Mountain Equipment Co-op for \$12 for the first day, and \$8 per day after. Totem Outdoor Outfitters rents adult snowshoes for \$15 a day. Book in advance. Businesses like Costco, Winners, or other sporting goods stores sell snowshoes.

City parks that allow snowshoeing include Rundle Park (2903 113 Ave) and Borden Park (7507 Borden Park Road). Or, snowshoe in your community parks.

Tobogganing

It's as simple as bringing a toboggan and finding a hill. Buy whatever toboggan you prefer from a variety of stores.

Plus, every Sunday in February between 1-5 pm, the city supplies tobogganers with a hot drink at Sip and Slide Sundays. Eligible hills include Rundle Park's ACT

Hill, Jackie Parker Park (4540 50 St), and Gallagher Park (97 Avenue & 92 Street). Sip and Slide could be cancelled if it's too cold or if no one is tobogganing.

Community hills include ACT Hill and Walton's Mountain in Rundle Park (2903 113 Ave).

Skating

Glide around on a variety of community and city rinks. Rent skates from Totem Outdoor Outfitters for \$10 a day or buy skates from any sporting goods store.

Beginner skaters can check out Spruce Avenue Community League's drop-in learn-to-skate program until Feb. 27 (except Feb. 13). Lessons run from 2-5 pm and are for beginners aged 4 years and up. Anyone using the rink can borrow skates and helmets from the league. Eastwood Community League also lends skates.

On Sundays from 1 to 4 pm, listen to music while skating on City Hall Plaza (99 Street & 103A Avenue). Free skate rentals are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Plaza will also be the site of Valentine's Day Disco Skate from 5 to 9 pm. Skate to music from the 70s and 80s, and roast bannock over a fire.

Check the RCP calendar for rink hours at your community league and for other nearby city rinks.

Cross-country skiing

It's a sport that's simple enough to learn, plus the city has a variety of groomed trails varying in difficulty: edmonton.ca/activities_parks_recreation/skiing-locations-maps.aspx.

Rent adult-sized skis at Mountain Equipment Co-op for \$15 per day and \$10 every day after. Totem Outdoor Outfitters also rents skis for youth (\$15/day) and adults (\$20/day). Rental at both companies include skis, poles, and boots. Or, buy skis at any sporting goods store.

Rundle Park (29 Street and 113 Avenue) has an easy trail less than 4 km long.

RENTALS

Mountain Equipment Co-op: 780.488.6614
Totem Outdoor Outfitters: 780.432.1223

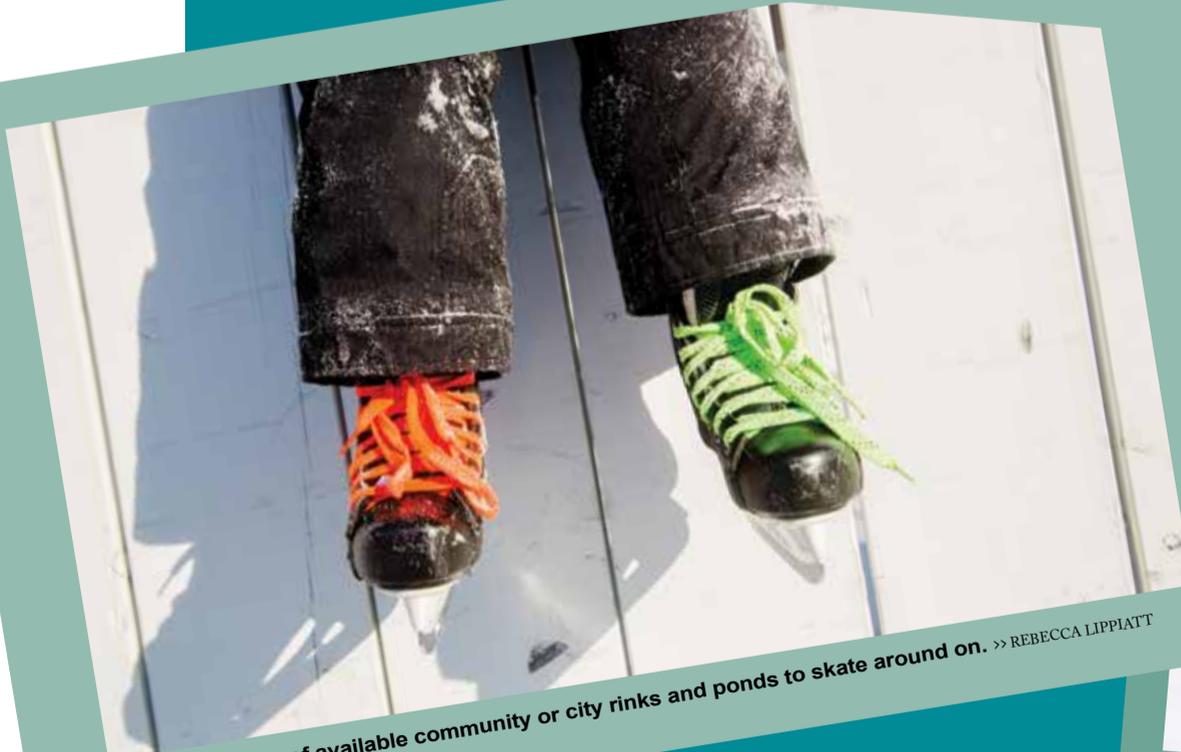
Want more ideas?
wintercityedmonton.ca
For Family Day activities: Silver Skate Festival
from Feb. 12-21.
silverskatefestival.org



Strap on some snowshoes and have fun in community parks. >> REBECCA LIPPIATT



Bring your toboggan and sail down a hill. >> REBECCA LIPPIATT



There are plenty of available community or city rinks and ponds to skate around on. >> REBECCA LIPPIATT



Cross-country skiers have plenty of choices for groomed trails. >> REBECCA LIPPIATT

Elmwood Park Community League

Join us at the community hall Sat Feb 27 from 1-4pm for an afternoon of outdoor fun! 12505-75st nw epcl@shawbiz.ca

EYES On The Street



LETTER

Prostitution activity in front of police

We have a serious backslide into community disorder—daily daytime prostitution, drug dealing—right out my front window. I saw a john pick up a regular working girl right in front of a passing police unit. He clearly witnessed it and did nothing. This is the pinnacle of disrespect for this community. We pay taxes. We do not want our kids exposed to this. And now the police are not on our side. This sends the message that homeowners are less important than johns and hookers.
- Clay Smith, Parkdale resident

RESPONSE

Police, prostitution and the law

Police can only arrest someone who is doing something illegal. Makes sense, right? Even though a girl standing on a corner may obviously be a sex trade worker, neither being a sex trade worker nor loitering are illegal. A vehicle pulling over to pick up someone standing on the street corner is not illegal.

So what is illegal? The laws changed in December 2014 with the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act. “The new laws target the demand side of the industry, making it a criminal offence to buy sexual services in any place which also includes online communications to buy sexual services,” said Melanie Grace, a detective with EPS vice section.

“The sex services buyer [john] is committing an illegal act that now is considered a dual offence charge; meaning, if convicted the john could face a substantial time in jail and receive a criminal record.”

So in the example Smith describes in his letter, there is little police can do.

Grace points out, “Police need grounds to pull a car over, such as in response to a traffic violation. When this happens, only the driver is obligated to provide identification, not any passengers.” Picking up a girl off the corner is not grounds to stop a vehicle.

Police may stop and talk to a sex services buyer or a person they recognize as a known sex services provider, but usually the only way they can lay charges is to conduct a sting.

“Covert operations to arrest the johns on the street are conducted several times a year. Most buying of sexual services isn’t on the street but online. It’s estimated that 80 per cent of sexual service transactions in Edmonton occur online,” said Grace.

ACTION

Response to sex trade activity

Is there anything I can do if I see a john activity or if someone propositions me or my children?

Obtain the johns’ licence plate and report a john using the online form at edmontonpolice.ca (under How do I...) or call 780.421.2656 and leave a detailed message. The information provided will be compiled with other police data and different investigative options will be considered.

What should I do if sex trade workers are causing a nuisance? (e.g. harassing or flashing people; shouting or swearing)

Call the complaint line at 780.423.4567 for police to respond. When prompted, press “2” for complaints, then “8” for all other complaint types, then “1” for new complaint. Give details on the inappropriate or dangerous behavior (remember, just standing there is not a crime).

What can community residents safely do to move activity out of our area?

Jeff Thomsen, Community Liaison Constable (CLC): “If there is a hotspot of activity, members of the community can contact me and report the specifics. I can then determine what additional police or community resources are required to assist in solving the problem.” jeff.thomsen@edmontonpolice.ca

Gerard Forget: “On my block, three or four of us sat at the corner every evening between 7 pm and midnight from mid July to mid September. We met several new friends from the neighbourhood and recorded hundreds of licence plates of johns.”

ACTION

A respectful approach

Rebecca Lippiatt

I have lived in this community for 10 years. My reaction to prostitution is inclusion and kindness. On the occasions I have seen women working and I am with my kids, I make sure my kids see me say hello.

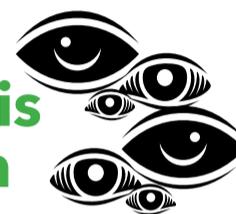
When my children ask “why is she dressed like that?” or “what is she doing?” I have responded with “they have one of the hardest jobs anyone could possibly have. You must always treat women who work on the street with respect. No one respects them, and their lives are really, really difficult.”

I have never had any incidents or issues. I think when they see that I have children and I am being respectful, it diffuses hostility or defensiveness.



RESOURCE

Edmonton Crisis Diversion Team



A 24/7 service for vulnerable people

People living on the streets and other vulnerable people experience crisis at all times of the day and night. Many police and emergency medical services (EMS) resources were being used to deal with these non-emergency crises and needs.

In 2013, a crisis diversion team was created and operated under the Bissell Centre 24/7 to address some of these calls. The team was able to provide more relevant interventions while avoiding the higher costs of police and EMS crews.

Now there are teams responding to 211, EMS and EPS calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The teams provide crisis intervention services when someone is:

- Experiencing a medical/mental health (non-emergency) crisis.
- Experiencing a potential safety concern.
- Possibly intoxicated, or otherwise impaired.

They also provide a *warm hand-off* by connecting individuals to the support they need in the crisis.

This past December, city council moved to give REACH Edmonton, who took over the crisis team program, an additional million dollars in funding. REACH Edmonton is now able to fund five 12-hour teams to respond to 211 calls. Street teams will be expanded to Whyte Avenue, Kingsway and Beverly. This service is provided through a partnership between Boyle Street Community Services and HOPE Mission (Man Down Van).



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

events

COFFEE WITH COPS

Join Cst. Thomsen to chat about neighbourhood concerns. Feb. 2, 10-11:30 am at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave).

SHARE YOUR SPRUCE AVENUE HISTORY

Spruce Avenue Community League is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year. First meeting on Feb. 11 at 7 pm at the hall (10240 115 Ave). Bring photos or stories to share. Contact Verna at 780.479.8019.

OUTDOOR FUN IN ELMWOOD

Come to Elmwood Park community hall for an afternoon of outdoor fun, Feb. 27, 1-4 pm. Snacks, games, and friendship! 12505-75 St.

AT THE CARROT (9351 118 Ave)

artsontheave.org
Gallery Opening Featuring the works of Elsa Robinson and Daniela Neves. Feb. 3, 7:30-9:30 pm.

Carrot by Moonlight Wine, cheese and chocolate! Feb. 14 at 7:30 pm. Reserve: carrot.operations@gmail.com.

Dance Workshop led by Reckie Lloyd (Black History Month). Feb. 21, 1:30-3:30 pm. Register: 780.819.4757.

Poetry Night open mic (Black History Month). Feb. 25, 7:30-9 pm. Poetry slam on Feb. 8 from 7:30-9:30 pm.

Create a winter drink The Carrot is hosting its own qualifying round for non-alcoholic drinks for the Winter Signature Drink Competition. More: carrot.operations@gmail.com.

African Mud Cloth Art Workshop led by Elsa Robinson. Feb. 28, 1-4 pm. Reserve: 780.819.4757.

art & music

COMMUNITY DANCE CLASSES
Mile Zero Dance Society offers an opportunity for free community dance/movement classes that can come to YOU. Email Jodie at education@milezerodance.com or call 780.719.6585.

JOIN EMCN's GLOBAL SINGERS

Eat a delicious lunch, learn new songs and meet new people. Thursdays from 12-1 pm. Room 2-4, Mennonite Centre (11713 82 St).

NASHVILLE SONGWRITERS ASSOC INTERNATIONAL (NSAI)

Feb. 8 from 6:30-10 pm at the Carrot. Subject to change. RSVP by emailing col_kside@hotmail.com

FAMILY ART WORKSHOPS

Dive into the wonderful world of art with FREE all-age workshops every Tuesday from 6:30-8 pm at Parkdale (11335 85 St).

COMMUNITY ART NIGHT

Free workshop for adults. Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm at The Nina (9225 118 Ave).

FAMILY ART NIGHT

A variety of free art activities for school age children accompanied by adults. Wednesdays from 6:30-8 pm at The Nina (9225 118 Ave).

MUSIC LESSONS BY CREART

Free group music lessons Saturdays at Parkdale (11335 85 St). Singing lessons 10 am to 11 am, guitar lessons 11 am - 2 pm, and violin from 12-1 pm. More info: Mackensie chefthemusical@gmail.com or Sebastian cbastianb44@gmail.com.

programs

BALLROOM DANCING LESSONS

Cha, Rhumba, Tango, Salsa, Viennese waltz, Waltz, Jive, Hustle, Greek Dance. All welcome. Thurs, 6:30-8 pm. Register: Janice 780.405.8596 or bridgetjones6@hotmail.ca.

SITTING MEDITATION IN THE BUDDHIST TRADITION

Mindfulness meditation, short reading, and group discussion. Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm. More info: charlesmorrow@yahoo.ca.

RHYMES THAT BIND

Parents/caregivers enjoy rhymes, finger plays, songs, and simple movement games with their infants and toddlers.

Wed 6:30-8:30pm. More info: Sarah at (780) 887-6825 or sarahdelano@hotmail.com.

LEGO AT THE LIBRARY

Design and build a Lego creation. Ages 6-12. Feb. 13, 2 pm at Highlands Library (6516 118 Ave).

GIRL GUIDES

Girl Guides meeting Monday evenings from Sept-June at St Andrew's Church. Email 39thedmontonguiding@gmail.com or call 1.800.565.8111 (answered locally) for more info.

ESL PROGRAM @ PARKDALE

Helping those in the community improve their English language skills, including FREE Parent-Tot classes. More info: Sarah 780.887.6825 or sarahdelano@hotmail.com.

CREE LANGUAGE CONVERSATION CIRCLE

Join this free drop-in program provided by the Canadian Native Friendship Centre in a culturally appropriate and educational manner. Mondays, 6-8 pm at Highlands Library (6516 118 Ave). No class on Feb. 15.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CIRCLE (LACE Program)

Drop in and join others practicing their English. More info: 780.424.3545. Fridays at 10:30 am at Highlands Library (6516 118 Ave).

PRACTICE ENGLISH @ YOUR LIBRARY

Practise your English, meet new friends and have fun. English speakers at all levels are welcome! Mondays at 7 pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St).

FAMILY DAY FUN

Spend Family Day at the library! Feb 15, 1-5 pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St) and 2-4 pm at Highlands Library (6516 118 Ave).

POP-UP MAKERSPACE

Robot challenges, Makey Makey hacks, DIY music, Art and 3-D design. Feb. 3 from 6:30-7:30 pm and Feb. 20 from 2-3 pm at Highlands Library (6516 118 Ave).

SMART SPACE

Join other youth ages 13 to 18 at the library who are doing homework, working on projects, or learning about tech gadgets and other online tools. Thursdays at 4 pm at Highlands Library (6516 118 Ave).

PRAYERWORKS COLLECTIVE KITCHEN

Cook with friends, try new recipes, help your food budget. Second Wednesday of each month, 5:30-8 pm at St. Faith/St. Stephen Anglican Church (11725-93 St). Cost: 4 one serving meals \$3. Trish 780.464.5444.

ADULT READING & WRITING

A new program using mainly Aboriginal materials. Thursdays, 9:30 am to 12 pm at St. Faith/St. Stephen (11725 93 St).

sports & rec

LEARN TO SKATE

Drop in program Jan. 9-Feb.27 from 2-5 pm at Spruce Avenue rink (102 St & 114 Ave). More info call Verna 780.479.8019.

DELTON RINK

123 Ave & 88 St
Public skating 5:30-7 pm weekdays, 1-3 pm weekend. Shiny hockey 7-9 pm weekdays, 3-6 pm weekends. Must have skate tags or pay admission. Under 16 must have a helmet. Closed if below -20 C. 780.477.5056.

SPRUCE AVE RINK

114 Ave & 102 St
Public skating Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 4-6 pm and 7-8 pm; Wed 4-6pm only; Sat 4-8 pm; Sun 1:30-4 pm. For membership questions, contact: Verna Stainthorpe, 780-479-8019 or visit spruceavenuecommunity.com

ALBERTA AVE RINK

93 St and 118 Ave
Snow bank rink open weeknights 4-8 pm; weekends 1-6 pm. Unsupervised. No indoor access.

EASTWOOD RINK

11803 86 St
Public skating on Wed, Thurs, Fri from 5:30-9 pm. Weekends: 3-9 pm. Closed: Mon and Tues. Phone: 780.477.2354

SHERIFF ROBERTSON PARK & RUNDLE PARK SKATING

Sheriff Robertson unsupervised snowbank rink (81 St & 111 Ave). Rundle Park Skating Pond & Shiny Pond (113 Ave & 29 St). Call 311 to find out if open.

FREE COMMUNITY ACCESS AT COMMONWEALTH REC CENTRE

Use any of the amenities at the rec centre on Saturdays from 5-7 pm with your community league membership.

FREE SPORTS EQUIPMENT

All kinds of sports equipment for kids in need. sportscentral.org. or 780.477.1166.

social

AVENUE BOOK CLUB

Last Wednesday of each month at The Carrot at 7 pm. If interested, please contact Lorraine at 780.934.3209.

FATHER CLUB

A place for fathers to talk about guy stuff and do guy things. Supper and childcare included. Feb. 10 from 5:30-7:30 pm at

Norwood Centre (9516 114 Ave). Register: 780.471.3737.

GROWING TOGETHER GROUP

A FREE drop-in group for pregnant women and women with babies up to 3 months of age. FREE resources including milk coupons and prenatal vitamins. Tues from 1:30-3 pm at Norwood Centre (9516 114 Ave). More info: 780.471.3737.

BOARD GAMES NIGHT

Games provided or bring your own games. Feb. 23 from 7-9 pm at The Carrot. Sponsored by NNA.

PRAYERWORKS COMMON

Hot complimentary meals & warm friendship at St. Faith/St. Stephen (11725 93 St). Thurs drop-in 10 am-2 pm. Fri community supper, 5 pm. Sat breakfasts 8:30-9:30 am. For more info, call 780.477.5931.

TWEEN LOUNGE

Join other kids to play video games, make a DIY project, meet friends or hang out. Thurs at 3:30 pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St) and Fri at 4 pm at Highlands Library (6516 118 Ave).

TEEN GAMING

Hone your skills by playing some of the best games out there! Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St).

pre-schoolers

NORWOOD CENTRE COME AND PLAY

Enjoy our free indoor play space and meet new friends in this unstructured group for parents and children. Snack included. Mondays from 10 am - noon (9516 114 Ave).

BABES IN ARMS

A wonderful casual parent group Friday mornings from 10 am-noon at The Carrot. Join us with your little carrot!

PROGRAMS AT SPRUCEWOOD LIBRARY

11555 95 ST, 780.496.7099
Family Storytime, Wednesdays 6:30 pm.
Baby Laptime (up to 12 months), Mondays, 10:30 am.
Sing, Sign, Laugh & Learn (for caregivers and children up to age 3), Sundays, 2:30 pm and Tuesdays, 10:30 am.

PROGRAMS AT HIGHLANDS LIBRARY

6516 118 AVE, 780.496.1806
Family Storytime, Mondays at 10:30 am. Sing, Sign, Laugh & Learn (for caregivers and children up to age 3), Wednesdays and Thursdays 10:30 am.

seniors

NORWOOD LEGION SENIORS GROUP

Play darts, shuffleboard and pool. Socialize over coffee and desserts. Tues at 10:30 am. Cribbage, Wed at 1 pm. At Norwood Legion (11150 82 St).

PARKDALE-CROMDALE SENIORS SOCIAL

Mondays, 10:30 am - 1 pm at Parkdale (11335 85 St). More info: PCCL.info@gmail.com.

SENIORS BREAKFAST & SOCIAL (55+)

Join us for breakfast, visit, play cards or billiards or watch a movie! Wed from 11:30 am - 12:45 pm at Crystal Kids (8715 118 Ave).

CHURCH SERVICES

ANGLICAN PARISHES ON ALBERTA AVE ST. FAITH AND ST. STEPHEN

Two Traditions - One Faith.
11725 93 Street

St. Stephen: 780.422.3240

Sunday Worship:

8:30 am - Low Mass
9:00 am - Morning Prayer
9:30 am - High Mass
7:00 pm - Evensong

St. Faith: 780.477.5931

Sunday Worship:

Morning Prayer Fridays at 9:00 a.m.
11:00 am - Sunday Worship
1st Sunday - Worship in the Common
2nd Sunday - Traditional Anglican
3rd Sunday - Aboriginal Form
4th Sunday - Traditional Anglican

AVENUE VINEYARD CHURCH

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

8718 118 Avenue (Crystal Kids building)
www.avenuevineyard.com

Sundays at 10:30 am

AVENUE CHURCH

A community to belong in...a community to serve with.

11739 94 Street (The Studio)

www.avenuechurch.ca

Sundays 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

10:30 am Service

BETHEL GOSPEL CHAPEL

A Bible-based, multi-ethnic fellowship.

11461 95 Street 780.477.3341

Sunday Meetings:

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

EVANGELICAL BAPTIST CHURCH

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you... Therefore encourage one another and build each other up"

Eph. 4:32, 1 Th. 5:11a

12317-82 St. 780.474.4830

Sunday School 10:00 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am

Wed. Study/Prayer 6:30 pm

ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

11828 85th Street 780.474.5434

Service Times:

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

English Classes

(Seasonal - call for more info.)

St. Vincent de Paul Food Help Hotline:
780.471.5577

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8715 118 Avenue 780-477-8677

Service Times:

Sundays at 11 am
A caring and loving church in your community where everyone is welcome.

Free Pet Food Samples

www.MultiMenuYEG.com




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 tues - sat: 10 am to 5:30 pm | mon - sun: closed | evenings by appointment

Brian Mason, MLA

EDMONTON-HIGHLANDS-NORWOOD

Happy Valentine's Day




Ph: 780-414-0682
 6519 112 Avenue
 Edmonton, Alberta

Search for
 "Brian Mason Edmonton"
 to find me on Twitter and
 Facebook



edmonton.highlandsnorwood@assembly.ab.ca

North East Zone BASEBALL & SOFTBALL Registration for the 2016 Season:

Watch for registration dates in your home community. This is where you should register if they are taking baseball or softball registration.

If your home community league is not taking registrations then register at Northeast Zone Central Registration.



Saturday, February 20 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
 Saturday, February 27 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
 Sunday, March 13 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
 Wednesday, March 23 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
 Wednesday, March 30 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

NEZ Office: 7515 Borden Park Road (behind the tennis courts in Borden Park).

www.playnezbball.ca

Get Involved!

Some new and exciting ideas are in the planning stages and you can get involved!
 For more information email:
judy.allan@edmonton.ca or 780-496-1913.

JAM SESSIONS
 Do you play an instrument? Regular jam sessions are beginning in February! Come out and join in!

COMMUNITY GARBAGE SALE
 One day of many sales! Imagine garage and sidewalk sales throughout the community and along the Ave. Lots of opportunities to get involved whether in planning or hosting your own sale.

ENGAGING WITH NEIGHBOURS
 Connecting neighbours is what it is all about! Alberta Ferret Community League has plans in the works to make it easier for neighbours get to know each other and have fun on their blocks.

GUERRILLA GARDENING
 Do you love to garden? Or love the idea of planting in fun and cozy places? A group of neighbourhood residents are planning mini beautification projects and are looking more involvement.



avenueinitiative.ca



We Believe In 118!

Do you have a story about the area that you would like to share?

Tell us what you love about the area, a great memory or experience. We will be posting stories on the new "We Believe in 118" website. All entries will be included in a draw for dinner at one of the great restaurants on 118 Avenue! Submit your stories to: judy.allan@edmonton.ca

What's On?

We are becoming known for our fantastic arts scene and for good reason!

Ni wapataenan WE SEE
 Feb 7 - March 5
 92 St and 118 Ave
bleedingheartartspace.com

Skirts a Fire
 March 10 - 13
Skirtsafire.com

Serca Festival
 March 18-20
sercafest.com



