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Deep Freezing the Ave

JESSICA KIMMERLY

Expect to see some Byzantine art, die grinders and jollification at the Deep Freeze festival this year on January 12. (Definitions provided later, so keep reading.)

On Saturday, January 12th, Edmontonians of all ages are invited to the first Deep Freeze Festival at the Alberta Avenue Community League (9210 – 118 Avenue). The festivities will run from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This one-day festival has activities for everyone. Outdoors, there will be snow painting, snowshoeing, broom-ball and hayrides. (The hayrides will run from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.) Snow will be ready for making snow sculptures, and bonfires will be burning for warming up hands. And while you are outdoors, you can stop by the sculpture garden to see the masterpiece local artists crafted out of ice blocks. (This is where the die grinder—a tool used to smooth and polish—comes into play.)

Two artists and members of the community, Ritchie Velthuis and Stuart Ballah, will be heading up the creation of a large ice sculpture. Velthuis and Ballah are members of the Sculptors' Association of Alberta, and have participated in Ice on Whyte and the Lesser Slave Lake Sand Sculpture Competition. Their icy work of art will remain on display for the public to enjoy for the following week.

The sculpture garden will also host an ice carving competition. Artists who pre-registered have four hours to complete the one-block challenge and compete for prizes. Judging begins at 3:00 p.m., and the winner will be announced at 4:00 p.m. The Sculptors' Association of Alberta (SAA) is sponsoring the one-block challenge.

Community involvement is a priority of the SAA. Both

Velthuis and Ballah have been involved in the Carrot Arts Coffeehouse and Arts on the Ave events. They feel the Deep Freeze festival will "greatly benefit the community and provide a family-oriented event to enjoy." During and after the festival, the community will be free to enjoy the Alberta Avenue sculpture garden as an exhibit of the community's creativity and a tribute to winter.

For those who shiver at the thought of being outside mid-January, or if you just want to get out of the cold for a while, the Deep Freeze festival has indoor "Byzantine" activities. The word Byzantine describes the traditions that were adopted by the Ukraine from Byzantium, which is now Istanbul. January 7th is Ukrainian Christmas, stemming from the Byzantine Eastern Orthodox Church calendar and January 12th is Malanka, Ukrainian New Year. From this deep history comes rich traditions, arts and food.

Ukrainian culture is a strong part of Alberta's heritage, and has affected the lives of all Albertans. In this province, we can buy bags of frozen pyrogies at grocery stores and dill pickles at movie theatres. Ask staff at a store in Toronto where they keep their potato pyrogies, and they might not even know what you're talking about. These foods, along with cabbage rolls and garlic sausage, are favourites in Alberta. So remember to bring your wallet to the Deep Freeze festival and indulge in some delicious Ukrainian food.

Indoors, you can also view displays of Orthodox and tradition inspired art. Arts on the Ave artists and craftspeople will be showing and selling their work. And if you enjoy creating but are not the chainsaw-wielding, ice-sculpting type, there are family activities and music inside.

All the activities at the Deep Freeze: A Byzantine Winter



ICE SCULPTURE AT THE LEGISLATURE GROUNDS BY RITCHIE VELTHUIS & JOE BURKE

Adventure Festival are free, thanks to a grant from the City of Edmonton's Avenue Initiative Revitalization. The festival is produced in partnership with the Sculptors' Association of Alberta and Arts on the Ave.

After January 12, schools are invited to enjoy broomball and view the sculpture garden at the Alberta Avenue Community League. This is how the jollification (lively celebration with others) of the Deep Freeze festival will continue past Ukrainian Christmas, into the New Year.



DOVE SCULPTURE



RITCHIE VELTHUIS (LEFT) AND STUART BALLAH (RIGHT)

MEET THE NEW RCP EDITOR AND JOIN IN OUR EDITORIAL PLANNING!

Tuesday, January 22
Drop-in and meet Jessica Kimmerly at 7:30 p.m. at The Carrot Coffeehouse (9351 118 Ave).
Join us as we brainstorm and plan for upcoming issues.
Everyone is welcome.

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8 page Avenue
Initiative
Revitalization
Update inside.

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OUR MISSION

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

OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Alberta Lottery Fund

Norwood Neighbourhood Association

Spruce Avenue Community League

Eastwood Community League

Elmwood Park Community League

Alberta Avenue Business Association

PAAFE - Prostitution Awareness &

Action Foundation of Edmonton

NOMINATIONS WANTED FOR THE RCP CONNECT AWARDS

The Rat Creek Press Association is establishing The RCP Connect Awards to annually recognize the achievements of individuals, organizations and/or businesses that support the growth of a strong, vibrant, well-connected community in the Alberta Avenue area.

One award will be presented each year to an organization or business in the following three categories.

Building Community

- Creates networks for individuals and groups to connect within the community
- Supports local businesses
- Promotes what is happening in the community

Encouraging Communication

- Acts as an advocate for the community and all its citizens
- Shares information with residents and non-residents of the community
- Provides opportunity to exchange ideas for the betterment of the community

Increasing Capacity

- Helps individuals learn new skills or acquire experience
- Encourages participation in the community from residents and non residents alike
- Fosters leadership development

Award recipients will receive a non-cash prize. Recipients will be announced at a special event in April. Deadline for nominations: March 1, 2008. Send nominations to: info@ratcreek.org or mail to Rat Creek Press, PO Box 39024 Norwood, Edmonton, AB T5B 4T8.

Go to www.ratcreek.org for more info.

Promises

EDITORIAL

WITH JESSICA KIMMERLY

As the new editor for the **Rat Creek Press**, I promise to lower taxes, strengthen federal accountability and fight global warming . . .

Whoops, this may be the wrong speech. Let me start again.

I am the new editor for **Rat Creek Press**. To break the ice, it is tempting to resort to a classic writing strategy, such as pulling out my faithful dictionary and defining "editor" for you. But I've already looked it up and the definition of an editor is not interesting enough to keep you reading. Instead, I am writing this editorial about something we are all familiar with—promises.

We hear promises all the

time. Everything from "You'll love my homemade fruitcake, I promise" to "Guaranteed satisfaction!" They are assurances we can't be sure of at all. We even make promises to ourselves, at this time of the year which we like to call "resolutions." I am sure all of us have at least one vivid memory about a promise.

My favourite memory about a promise happened a year and a half ago. During one summer road trip, I was waiting for a gas station attendant—a young man—to fill up the car's empty tank. The man was wearing a nametag that caught my eye. His name was Promise. That name fascinated me and made me wonder what significance it held.



Was his birth a fulfilled promise?

It comforts me to know there is a Promise out there that stands on two feet.

Was it someone's hope for the boy to have a promising future? It became

difficult to see the man pumping gas for me as just a person providing a service. He was a character with a story, and travelers who were looking to fill up their tanks, found Promise.

Long after the trip ended, I remembered the man named Promise. Now when I hear the word "promise," I often see a young man with dark eyes and polite manners doing his job quietly. And when I hear

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commercials made by retailers and political campaigns full of unstable promises, it comforts me to know there is a Promise out there that stands on two feet.

I see plenty of promise for 2008. Promise to meet many people in the community, promise to see exciting events on and around the Ave, promise to be part of the stories we write about in **Rat Creek Press**. Personally, I have decided to make no promises, except for this one: as Miss Rat Creek, I will promote world peace.

I look forward to hearing from you throughout the year. Please give me a call or send me an e-mail: editor@ratcreek.org or phone: (780) 479-6285.

Letters to the Editor

Thank you to my Mail Rescuer

We can all be pleasantly surprised living in our neighborhood. About mid-November I was greeted at the door by a police officer that handed me my mail including a VISA bill. She had mentioned that the mail was brought in by an anonymous person that took the mail from a transient, drug-addicted, individual. Our mail box was extremely visible from the street and we provided this needy individual with plenty of opportunity for theft and identity scam. Needless to say, after 15 years, we finally replaced our mail slot with a locked mailbox and some peace of mind. My thanks go out to the good Samaritan that rescued my mail. It goes to show us that as a neighborhood we can all watch out for one another and make everyone's life a little easier.

Dagmar Lofts, Alberta Avenue resident

Outlook

By Georgina

A vast of green
All painted red
The sky dark
The darkness bright
Roses kiss the morning

Pondering

By Georgina

Life is open
If you think
It happens
Something does
Nothing equals
Nothing

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Edmonton Police Service Welcomes New Community Resources

LAW AND ORDER

WITH CST. MIKE RUSSEL

I hope that everyone had a great holiday season and is now ready to continue forming a united front to address issues in our community. We can get back to focusing on building community relations in an effort to more proactively attack crime and disorder in our area.

In past issues, I have highlighted some of the great accomplishments that the Police and community have achieved (drug houses closed, prostitution arrests, etc.) and we are confident that this New Year will be a great improvement on that.

As part of our commitment to proactive Crime Prevention, I would like to introduce a new resource person who is joining our District. With the help of our EPS volunteer coordinator, Lawrence Jensen, we have secured a volunteer Crime Prevention Coordinator and volunteer team. Our new volunteer Crime Prevention coordinator is

Carol Nyereyegona. Carol and the team of volunteers work out of Eastwood Police Station and will provide citizens with EPS crime prevention resources.

Currently Carol and the team are diving deep into our vault and finding resources that are applicable for our area. They will be stocking Eastwood Police Station with these resources and will have access to lots of off-site resources.

Carol and the team encourage citizens to come to Eastwood Police Station not only to report crimes, but to gather information on Crime Prevention and Crime Reduction or ask for assistance in other matters.

As the Crime Prevention team is run by volunteers, we may not yet have full coverage for every hour we are open at Eastwood Police Station, but we still encourage citizens to come by and visit the volunteers for any concerns. The team can also be reached by phone at 421-8502. We are confident that this new team will enhance our ability to address concerns of the community.

Community:2 Liquor Stores:0

JESSICA KIMMERLY & KAREN MYKIETKA

In the December issue of Rat Creek Press, we asked the community to send us thoughts and experiences with liquor stores in our area. Your response was unanimous.

"I think there are enough liquor stores in the area, and if the Northeast Medical Centre [between 79th and 80th street] is opening and having an AADAC treatment centre, why put in a liquor store one block away?" says resident Grace Morrison.

"I live within walking distance of two liquor stores and I don't see why we need another one at the Save On at 82 St. It is ridiculous that council can't see that it will mar the neighbourhood. There are plenty of liquor stores around in walking distance. I really don't know how we can make council see and not pass these kinds of businesses in residential areas," says an anonymous Parkdale resident.

On November 29th, city council did see the distress of the community regarding liquor stores. Representatives from the community spoke before the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) against the N&N liquor store application (9023 118 Avenue). The speakers had many convincing arguments and stories, such as Constable Michael Russell's statistics about the high volume of calls the police received from that area last year (112

calls to Mona Lisa's Pub and the liquor store on 96th street and 118th avenue, 48 calls to the Cromdale liquor store, 107 calls to the 7-11 at 90 street) and Cris Basualdo's plea not to build a liquor store a mere 15 meters away from the Alberta Avenue Skate Park. Amber Anderson, the Alberta Avenue Community League (AACL) Secretary, says "all residents should have a right to determine what kind of developments will be consistent with promoting a strong local economy, aesthetically pleasing streetscape and a safe community."

The SDAB can turn down an application if the proposed development is within the "discretionary use" zone, and in N&N's case, the SDAB did turn it down. The council rejected the N&N liquor store license because of the potential damage it would cause to an area with a high incidence of alcohol abuse. The SDAB board accepted the evidence made by speakers from the community. In fact, one of the reasons the SDAB listed for rejecting the license was that "Many neighbours and people who work in the immediately adjacent area appeared in opposition. No one but the Appellant and his legal counsel appeared in support of the development."

This case is proof that when united in a cause, community members do have power. Basualdo, AACL Treasurer, says, "The Alberta Avenue Community League is thankful for the support of those who assisted us in our appeal

against the N&N liquor store development on the old Dairy Queen site, and we are ecstatic that the SDAB has used their discretion to show support for the revitalization of our community by refusing this application. The successful conclusion of this battle demonstrates the importance of our community working together on these types of common issues."

"It is important to note that this was the second trip to SDAB for Alberta Avenue within a month to appeal a liquor store. It takes a huge amount of volunteer time and energy to fight these battles," adds Trish Filevich, league President. Filevich, frustrated with Planning & Development, says "I am coming to believe that direct control... where we systematically choose zoning, specify what is allowed, and have first right of refusal, may be the only option we have going forward to ensure we don't have to fight battle after battle. Though it would be a huge volume of work, it would give us the control we can count on."

The appellants, who lost the license appeal, did not provide a comment. They have not yet decided what to do with the empty space they prepared for the liquor store. Expanding the Canadian Dollar Store they currently own and operate is one possibility.

In the meantime, community members continue their battle against unwanted liquor stores.

Parkdale Liquor Store fight

The fight to stop a liquor store at the Save-On business area continues...

Oct 2005 Appeal Board approves liquor store after Robert Noce presents convincing arguments.

Oct 2007 Parkdale-Cromdale Community League (PCCL) wins new appeal board hearing after court battle.

Nov 8/07 Irv Kipness (CEO) and Kerry Rempel (Director of Real Estate) from the liquor store meet with community league executive to try and alleviate community concerns.

Nov 29/07 Kerry Rempel speaks at a PCCL meeting to 12-15 residents assuring them the liquor store would be a high-end boutique store that would attract more boutique stores. He says they could financially help the league and they would talk to the other area liquor stores about getting rid of cheap beers like Big Bear. The residents aren't convinced and state they will continue to oppose a liquor store. Tracey Patience, league secretary/treasurer, says it doesn't matter how high-end the liquor store, it is still less than 100m from a playground and the league will fight it.

Dec 6/07 SDAB refuses to hear the liquor store appeal as their counsel Robert Noce had yet to sign the court judgement and pay court costs.

It is expected that Robert Noce will submit another appeal on behalf of Irv Kipness, CEO of one of Alberta's largest liquor store chains. The league will continue to fight the development with the aid of their lawyer Janice Agrios. Lloyd Milton from Target Liquor at 10940 84 St continues to pay the legal costs.

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Now & Then

Did you know Norwood Boulevard used to be a creek? It was called Rat Creek. This New Year, we are taking a look back to see what the community looked like 40 to 70 years ago.

Story and current photos by Jessica Kimmerly. Historic photos provided by City of Edmonton Archives.

After looking through these old photos, I imagined what our neighbourhoods might look like in another 70 years. I'm not the only one who has wondered what the area will be in the future. Looking through archives of the *Rat Creek Press*, I found an article from April 2002 titled "Imagine How Great It Can Be!" In his article, Michael Walters says, "In conversations I've had with residents of Norwood, Alberta Avenue, Parkdale and Eastwood, people are beginning to daydream about the possibilities." As part of the community, we all have an affect on how the area will look in 2078.



A streetscape from 1963. These shots were taken from 87th Street, looking down 118th Avenue. St. Andrew's Presbyterian church is still there (first building on the right).



118th Avenue from 88th Street in 1960. Where the Shell station was, now stands an ATB Financial building. In place of the Evangelical Tract building (with the sign "Prepare to meet thy God") is a pawn shop (with the sign "We buy trade exchange anything of value").

Huh? Rat Creek . . . Press?

Where did that come from?

When the paper first started, it was decided that the first page would run a historical story. In keeping with this the founders chose a historical name. Rat Creek used to run between the Boyle McCauley area and the Norwood area. It ran from 97 Street just south of Norwood Boulevard east to Kinnard Ravine and into the river. Rat Creek became a dump and was eventually covered and paved over as Norwood Boulevard.



Here at 118th Avenue and 95th Street, compare Mitchell's Drug Store in 1939 to Shoppers Drug Mart, 2007. Also in this old photograph, we can see Cotter Hardware, Payless Meat Market, Glauser Jeweler and Elfstroms.

Now & Then



A Streetcar travels down 95th Street at 117th Avenue in 1939. Back then, people could smoke at the back of the trolley, and the ride from the busiest Norwood stop to downtown took 30 minutes. Today, there is no smoking on ETS buses, and the trip downtown will probably take only 15 minutes.



The Alberta Avenue Community League in 1937 and 2007. Now, the community league sees more skateboarding than lawn bowling.



Avenue Theatre in 1938. This photograph, taken by H.A. Hollingworth, captures the “Monday Nite Special.” Admission was 25 cents. Before the 1930s, the Avenue Theatre was called the Rose Theatre. Entrance was a nickel, and on Saturdays children would be lined up for blocks to see a show. The Avenue was the last to play each show before it left theatres, earning the name “last chance movie house.” Some time later, the Avenue Theatre re-opened at a different location, on the corner of 91st Street. (It used to be between 94th and 95th Street.) Next door on the right is Markins Grocery.

Rat Creek Rebellion

On Thursday, November 29, author and Edmonton historian Tony Cashman spoke at the Sprucewood Library. Before a captivated audience, Cashman shared stories about the Alberta Avenue area. Below is Cashman's account of the Rat Creek Rebellion as recorded during his presentation at Sprucewood Library.

“On two occasions, troopers of the Northwest Mounted Police rode down the trail from Fort Saskatchewan to quell rebellions. In 1885, it was the North-West rebellion, when the Edmonton settlement was under siege from the tribes. In 1892, it was for the Rat Creek Rebellion. This is a popular local name for an uprising not by the natives, but by the citizens of Edmonton rebelling against official skulduggery.

“The plot was discovered when a wagon drew up in front of the Land Titles Office (on the site of the Shaw Conference Centre) and someone went in and began removing files. A patriot rang the fire bell, which warned of fires and other threats. The wagon was circled, and the files carried back in.

“Alert citizens had followed the plot to move the most important government office across to the south side. But the plotters weren't giving up. Word came that the Mounted Police would be sent to enforce the official order. Mayor Matt McCauley resurrected the home guard, which rallied to defend Edmonton in 1885. It's said that 500 armed men gathered in front of the town hall. (That's probably an exaggeration.) Then word came that the horse soldiers were on the way, led by Major Greisbach. (That's the fellow you pass on the way into Rexall place.) “So [the Mounted Police] came to Rat Creek, crossed, and set up camp just beyond the town limit. The exact location of their camp isn't known, but I'm sure if you were to stand on the platform of the Stadium LRT station, you could see where it was. The situation was tense, and Matt McCauley understood the mood. He went to meet the troop commander. ‘Major,’ he said, ‘we're both young men and life is sweet, but if you come into town, there will be bloodshed and the first to die will likely be you and I.’ “Major Greisbach decided to wait for further orders, and in a few days an order came, but the movement was squashed and the troopers could head back up the Fort Trail. The Land Titles Office was saved.”



Motherhood transfigures more than just body

BECKY PICKARD

Becoming a parent has been the most transforming experience I have ever had. My daughter Zéa is only 5 months old and already I've almost forgotten what my life was like before her. Gone are the days when evenings and weekends were considered "me time". When I could ramble aimlessly through a shopping mall trying on clothes that caught my fancy. When my husband and I could whimsically decide to catch a live band, or enjoy a pint of beer at our favorite pub.

Now, a "date" consists of putting Zéa to bed and watching a rented episode of Battlestar Galactica over a bowl of popcorn and the

whisperings of a baby monitor. As for shopping, lately I find myself selecting garments based less on fashion and more on how well they lend themselves to nursing in public.

I admit, before I had a child, I felt mildly sorry for my mother friends who seemed shackled with responsibility. Parenthood, in my mind, seemed like tiresome, unrelenting work, fettered by the demands of needy children. Good-bye adventure and spontaneity, hello dirty diapers and sleepless nights.

Then I had my own child and my thinking changed drastically.

Yes, parenthood can be demanding, babies are needy and don't respect your space (or your need for sleep!) There's no debate: the work and the sacri-

ifice that come with parenthood is real, but here's the clincher -it's all worth it! It's more than worth it. I discovered that when it's your own child, the work ceases to feel cumbersome because the rewards simply blow your mind.

Nobody told me that becoming a parent would truly be one of life's greatest adventures. Nobody could quite describe the profound love I would feel toward my girl the moment I saw her. I never knew how disciplined I could be, or how well I could manage my time. Simply put, having a child has made me want to be a better person and the world a better place. Don't get me wrong, there are days when I feel like screaming and running for the hills...but that's another article!

Recently I received a poem that attempts to capture the perplexity of emotions that come with having a child. I thought it appropriate to share:

Before I was a Mom

I had never been puked on.

Pooped on.

Chewed on.

Peed on.

I had complete control of my mind and my thoughts.

I slept all night.

Before I was a Mom

I never held down a screaming child so doctors could give shots.

I never looked into teary eyes and cried...

I never knew that I could love so much, or feel so vulnerable.

I never got gloriously happy over a simple grin.

Before I was a Mom

I never sat up late hours at night watching a baby sleep.

I never knew that something so small could affect my life so much.

I didn't know the feeling of having my heart outside my body.

I didn't know how special it could feel to feed a hungry baby.

Before I was a Mom

I had never known the warmth, the joy, the love, the

heartache, the wonderment or the satisfaction of being a Mom.

-Author Unknown



Zéa in her Halloween finery.

PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's that time when we wish each other all the best for the coming year, having just reflected on the year past and what it meant to us.

For some people in our community it's not quite New Year's yet, and for others that New Year is still months away.

All my married life I have celebrated at least two New Year's Days. My family celebrated January first, according to the standard international (Gregorian) calendar. My wife's family, being of Ukrainian background, celebrates Christmas and New Year's according to the older Julian calendar, which runs 14 days behind the Gregorian.

As a Member of Parliament it has been my privilege to celebrate many other New Years Days with the different communities that make up the Canadian mosaic.

The Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean communities use a lunar calendar which has been in use for a little more than 4,000 years. The Chinese will be celebrating their New Year February 7, the first day of the year of the Rat. (All Chinese years have an animal associated with them according to a 12 year cycle. Last year was the year of the Pig, next year will be the year of the Ox.)

Other countries and cultures celebrate their New Year at different times. For Cambodians it's usually in mid-April. For Muslims the New Year falls on the first day of the month of Muharram, which this year is January 10. Jews celebrate Rosh Hashanah, which this year starts September 29.

Whatever date you choose to celebrate, my best wishes to you this New Year. As always, if there is any way I or my staff can assist you, please call 780-495-3261, or send an e-mail to goldrp1@parl.gc.ca

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Happy New Year Highlands-Norwood!



My office staff and I hope you and yours had a wonderful and safe holiday season. Thank you for your support and I look forward to serving you all again in 2008.

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ART & MUSIC

ARTISAN MARKET at The Carrot Saturdays, 11am-4pm at The Carrot Arts Coffeehouse (9351 118 Ave) All creations are made in Edmonton by local artists and artisans. Jewellery, woodwork, textiles and more! If you are interested in selling your wares at the market, please contact Lorraine at 919-9627.

PIANO LESSONS IN YOUR HOME All levels; children and adult students welcome. Please call Connie Collingwood ARCT at 490-1922. Must live within the Rat Creek Press boundaries.

FREE PIANO, GUITAR AND BAND LESSONS For children and adults. Beginners welcome. Please call to register. Edmonton Urban Native Ministry Reverend Kim at 477-1769 or email hoosik@hotmail.com

ARTIST TRADING CARDS Saturday, Jan 19 from noon to 3:30pm at The Carrot (9351-118 Ave). These miniature works of art can be created by anyone. You trade them with others who produce cards. The main purpose is to share ideas and to meet other people through art. The free workshop includes samples, ideas on how to get started and some material. (But please feel free to bring some of your own material to keep costs down.) For more information, call Becky 435-3499

DROP-IN GROUPS & PROGRAMS

NORWOOD CHILD & FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE 9516 114 Ave, Ph: 471-3737 Must register for all programs unless stated drop-in.
Rhymes that Bind Drop-in Wed, 11:45-12:30 from Jan 16 to Mar 19. Songs & rhymes for children between newborn and age 3 and their caregivers. Lunch is provided.
Books for Toddlers Wed, 10am-11:30am from Jan 16 to Feb 20. For children 13 months to 2.5 years and their caregivers. Explore books, play games, sing songs and do crafts.
Books for Preschoolers Thu, 10am-

12pm from Jan 17 to Feb 21 OR Tue, 10am-11:30am from Jan 22 to Feb 26. For children 3 to 6 years and their caregivers. Read & tell stories, sing, dance, do crafts, play games and meet other families. **Family Literacy Day** Mon, Jan 28 from 11 am to 2pm. Storytelling, crafts, singing & more.
Planet Norwood After school program Learning, fun and a safe environment for ages 5-13. Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 3:30-6:00pm and Thu 12:00-6:00pm. **Youth Night** Fridays, 6:00-8:00pm for kids ages 9-13.

BABES IN ARMS PARENTING GROUP Fridays, 10am-noon at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). Come and connect with other parents in the community. Call 471-1580 for more info.

EDMONTON URBAN NATIVE MINISTRY Drop In from Tuesdays to Fridays, 10am – 4pm at St Andrews church (8715 118 Ave). Coffee and snacks are available.

SALVATION ARMY Edmonton Crossroads Community Church (EC3) 11661 95 St, Ph 474-4324 Tue, Wed, Thur from noon to 4pm Fri from 7:30-10:30pm

Public Forum and Information night Tuesday, February 5 at 7:30pm Captain Jaster of the EC3 Salvation Army church invites everyone to attend this information meeting about the programs the church is offering. Contact Captain Jaster at 474-4324 for more information.

ST. FAITH'S CHURCH Community Collective Kitchen meets at St. Faith's Church on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. There is currently space. If you are interested, please call 477-5931.

CRYSTAL KIDS YOUTH CENTRE 8718 118 Ave, Ph 479-5283 **Seniors program:** Wed, 11:30am-12:45pm. **Moms and Tots program:** Tues and Thur, 11:30am-12:45pm. **Youth program** (ages 6-17): Mon, Tue, Wed 3-8pm, Thur 2:30-8pm, Fri 3-10pm, and Sat 1-5pm.

ENTERTAINMENT

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB Come out and meet your neighbours, discuss a good book and have a great cup of coffee (or tea). The Carrot Community Book Club meets

January 23 at 7pm at the Carrot (9351 118 Ave). We will be reading and discussing the book *Sweetness in the Belly* by Camilla Gibb. For more information contact Kimberley at 474-8302 or Becky at 435-3499.

MUSIC AT THE CARROT COFFEEHOUSE 9351 – 118 Avenue Fridays, Live music or improv Jan 18 Dr Blu Jan 25 Terry Morrison Feb 1 TBA Feb 8 Barry Westerlund Saturday nights open mic 7:30pm-10:00pm

SPORTS & RECREATION

SPRUCE AVE RINK 10240 115 Ave, 471-1932 Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri 6:30-7:30 Public 7:30-9:00 Shiny Sat 2pm to 8pm Sun 1:30pm to 4:30pm Wed Closed Public skating free with a membership. Spruce Avenue residents memberships will be available at the rink. Residents from other communities will need to get memberships from their respective community leagues. Rink will be closed when temperature reaches a wind chill factor of -20 celsius or when temp rises to +5 celsius.

FREE LEARN-TO-SKATE Thursdays, Jan 17 to Mar 6 at Spruce Avenue Community Rink (10240 115 Ave). Preschool (3 to 5 years) from 3:45 pm to 4:30 pm. School age (6 to 10 years) from 4:30 pm to 5:15 pm. To register call Verna @ 479-8019 before January 15.

COMMUNITY RINKS Call for opening dates and skating times. Delton 477-3326 Eastwood 477-2354 Parkdale 471-4410

FREE PUBLIC SKATING Oliver (10335 119 St) Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15pm Russ Barnes (6725 121 Ave) Saturdays, 5-6pm Westwood (12040 97 St) Sundays, 3:15-4:15pm

SPRUCE AVE FREE SWIM Free swim for Spruce Ave community league members at Grant MacEwan pool, Sundays, 1-4pm. Show your current community league membership to get in.

ALBERTA AVE FREE SWIM Free swim for Alberta Ave community league members at Eastglen pool, Sundays, 12-2pm. Show your current community league membership to get in.

FREE TAE KWON DO CLASSES Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-6:45pm for beginners. New students must be aboriginal or metis. Call Reverend Kim at 477-1769 or at hoosik@hotmail.com for more info.

INDOOR SOCCER PROGRAM Saturdays, 9:30 AM - Noon at Sacred Heart School Gym (96 St 108 Ave). For girls and boys ages: 2 – 12 Years. Learn Basic Soccer Skills. For more information contact Tony (renowned FIFA soccer coach) 420-0760.

GIRLS GROUPS Sparks (ages 5/6) and Brownies (ages 7/8) on Mondays 6:30-7:30pm. Girl Guides (ages 9-12) on Mondays 6:30-8:30pm at St Andrews Presbyterian Church (8715 118 Ave). Call Jean at 469-4487 for more details or to register.

VOLUNTEER

NNA NEEDS CASINO WORKERS The Norwood Neighbourhood Association is looking for casino volunteers on February 12 and 13, 2008. Help the NNA continue to support community enrichment projects like the Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre, Arts on the Avenue, and *Rat Creek Press*. Call Yoko at 424-0917 or email nna.org@hotmail.com to sign up for a shift.

THE CARROT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS Learn how to make lattes and other coffees, then hang out at a cool coffee shop for 3 or 4 hours and visit with the interesting people who stop in. Stop in at 9351 118 Ave, call 471-1580 or visit www.thecarrot.ca.

SPRUCE AVENUE COMMUNITY RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT Volunteers are needed! Please contact Laurie Cote at 474-5354 for more details.

LIKE TO WRITE? WANT TO TRY IT? The *Rat Creek Press* is always looking for volunteer writers. Contact us at editor@ratcreek.org or 479-6285. Join us at our editorial planning meeting Tue, Jan 22, 7:30 p.m. at The Carrot (9351 - 118 Ave).

NOTICES

PLANNING ACADEMY Curious about urban planning and want to get involved in the process? Register with the City of Edmonton's Planning Academy. Topics include land use planning, transportation, urban design and more. To find out locations and times visit www.edmonton.ca/planningacademy or call 496-7370.

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.

ADULT EDUCATION Do you know an adult who wants to improve their reading, writing or math skills? Please tell them about The Learning Centre. We offer free tutoring and small group learning at Boyle Street Community Services. Call 429-0675 for information.

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.

CHURCH SERVICES

AVENUE VINEYARD 2nd Fl, 11726 95 St Sundays, 10:30 am Monthly Avenue Family Fun Time www.avenuevineyard.com

ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 8715 118 Ave, Ph 477-8677 Regular service, Sundays, 11 am



Edmonton Public Library

SPRUCEWOOD BRANCH 11555 - 95 Street Call 496-7099 to register Go to www.epl.ca for more program details

KIDS
Sing, Sign, Laugh and Learn 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan 8 to Feb 26 Drop-In for children birth to three and a grown up who loves them. Come and spend an hour cuddling, reading, signing, playing, laughing and learning. Brothers and sisters are welcome to attend. Parents will learn strategies to engage their child and enhance their communication and development.

Pirates Who Don't Do Anything 2 p.m. Saturday, January 12. For ages 6 – 12 years. Join the Pirates Who Don't Do Anything (a.k.a. Larry the Cucumber, Pa Grape and Mr. Lunt) as they celebrate the launch of their movie.

Firefly Early Literacy Program 10:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan 19 to Apr 19 This Frontier College program is designed for parents and tots ages 3-6. Help your child develop literacy skills. Children will be paired for one-on-one instruction with a tutor for the first half hour to work on letter learning, distinguishing between sounds, and other skills. In the last half hour, parents will come together to work as a group with their child and tutor on a literacy-related

craft, song, or other activity. For more info call Jennifer at 429-5728

Optical Illusions 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan 19. For ages: 8 – 12 years. Optical illusions: amazing, eye-popping, magical pictures that will play with your mind and have you questioning what you are seeing! Is it a rabbit or a duck? Are the lines straight or curved? Can you make a finger float right before your eyes? Join the fun and decide for yourself.

Family Storytime 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan 26. Stories, songs, activities and fun for everyone. Join our storytellers and make your visit to the library a family fun time.

Very Valentine's 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb 9. For ages: 6 – 12 years. Valentine's Day means pink hearts, flowers and chocolates, and cards and letters. But why? Come and learn more about Valentine's Day, hear a story, and do a craft.

TEENS
Teen Advisory Group 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan 4 & 18, Feb 1, 15 & 29. For ages: 12 – 17 years. Make your voice heard! Join our Teen Advisory Group and you can suggest programs that the library should offer for teens and what books, music and movies we should order. Have fun, meet other teens, and gain valuable volunteer experience.

Anime-ted Library 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan 17, Feb 14, Mar 13, Apr 17, & May 15. For ages: 12 – 17 years. Get together with friends and fellow anime-holics to watch Japanese animation and to discuss manga. The club meets once a month and light refreshments will be served.

Terrific Teen Tuesdays 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan 22 to Mar 25. For ages: 8 – 14 years. Munchies provided. Chill out Tuesday afternoons and catch some awesome action in "the room" for you to choose from like 'Food on the Fly' cooking, Hip hop dance, Ductivity Duct tape art, and much, much more.

NEW WECAN FOOD BASKET IN ALBERTA AVENUE

Pay \$20 for a basket and save 20-40% on fresh meat or produce. Open to everyone.

For information call the wecan food basket coordinating centre at **413-4525** or email: info@wecanfood.com

Change coming at Business Association

KAREN MYKIETKA

The Alberta Avenue Business Association has hired a new Executive Director as Peter Rausch will be leaving his position as of January 15th. "When I took this position, I wanted a change in my career from what I was doing. I always said I would commit three years and September was three years," says Rausch. Rausch will be going to a business development position with Lynum, a manufacturing company for the mining industry.

Rausch has enjoyed his time here.

He says, "This has been the neatest job anybody could every have. Every day there

was something different."

"When I started there were a lot of problems with the business association. The previous E.D. had been terminated. There were a lot of things internally in terms of administration to be set up," explained Rausch. He achieved his goals of developing a strategic plan for the association and sorting out board and governance issues.

"There has been hundreds of small victories but I think the thing I'm most pleased with is the attitude of our business members," says Rausch, "They seem empowered

and involved. The Avenue Initiative has brought a chance for the businesses and residents to develop the community that they want to see."

It's not all been smooth sailing, however. "Through this process one of the most disappointing things has been participants who are disruptive and self-serving and can't grasp the bigger picture," states Rausch. "Progress is a series of negotiations and unfortunately some people in the community refuse to negotiate."

When asked what he saw in the future for 118 Ave, Rausch replied, "I really believe that the area has hit the turnaround point. People see the gems in

the area and the property owners, businesses and community want to work towards cleaning up some of the rough spots."

He went on to say, "I'm really pleased with how the arts community has bonded together to make this a place where they work and celebrate their crafts – and not just for them but for the residents. It'll become quite a unique little area. It's going to definitely be a go-to place in the city."

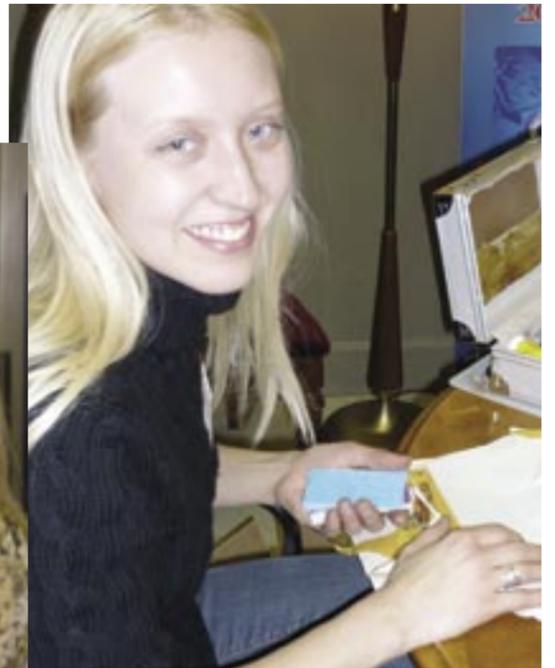
Rausch plans to serve on AABA board as an honorary member for the next year to help with the transition.



PETER RAUSCH IS LEAVING THE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION.

Events and fun at The Carrot!

INA DYKSTRA AND NANCY WATT
PLAYING AT THE ARTS BAZAAR



LAURIE HAS FUN CREATING ART

9351 - 118ave. www.thecarrot.ca

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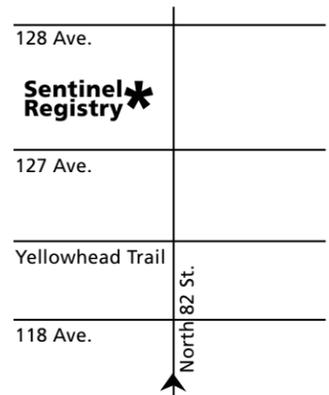
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