

Eight years later...and the walls came down

Demolition crews begin dismantling the Cromdale Hotel to the delight of the community.



An impromptu party emerged on August 8th, as the community stopped and gawked (and had cake) while the Cromdale Hotel came down. Torrential rain did little to dampen the residents' cheers as contractors for Shoppers Drug Mart began the slow process of demolition and remediation of the site. In several months, a new building will arise, which many residents hope will contribute to a warmer and friendlier block on the Avenue.

REBECCA LIPPART

Up in the air with Air One



DARREN BOISVERT

Edmonton Police Service Air One helicopter prepares for flight at the municipal airport before patrolling over the Delton community.

In the August issue of the Rat Creek Press, we ran an opinion piece on the Air One Police helicopter in Edmonton. Many readers wrote us with countering opinions (see page 5). In an effort to get to the bottom of the helicopter noise debate, we went up in the air to see what we could find out.

DARREN BOISVERT

The air traffic controller clears us for take-off, and Edmonton Police (Pilot) Sergeant Chris Barbar lifts Air One into the air above the Edmonton Municipal Airport. Within seconds, we are cruising at 1000ft with a clear view of the Delton neighborhood below.

According to Sergeant Barbar, the helicopter is primarily an 'observation platform', and in a standard flight pattern, we make ever so slightly wider circles in the sky as we watch the activity below.

From my position in the back-seat, I alternate my view from the window to the small screen in front of me. As tactical offi-

cer Constable Wade Weggert works the zoom, we observe the children playing in a school-ground, cyclists heading down the road, and alternate between infrared (where people show up as white 'blobs') and normal viewing. Whereas shapes and sizes of people are visible, individual faces and identifiers are not. Unlike Hollywood movies, the heat signatures of people inside buildings is not visible.

The flight is much smoother than many military and commercial helicopters I've previously flown in. And noticeably quieter. It's reduced noise signature is due to the offset tail rotor blades, which

continued on page 3.



Kaleido

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VISIT: KaleidoFest.ca

ENJOYING THE COMMUNITY PATIO



After a long spring and summer of construction, the facade improvement at the Alberta Avenue Community Centre is wrapping up. The league is celebrating with a patio party on Sunday, September 30 from 1pm to 4pm, stop by for snack, drinks and games. The league plans to leave picnic tables on the new patio and encourages people to use the space. Still to come - new signage, landscape lighting and shrubbery.

A gift between nations

SHARON PASULA AND MYRNA KOSTASH

More than one hundred years ago, Ukrainian settlers began to build their farms and towns on land that had traditionally been the homeland of First Nations and Métis peoples in Alberta.

Now the descendants of those Ukrainian settlers also call this land home.

In 1900, Myrna Kostash's Ukrainian grandparents took out homestead title, on land ceded by Treaty Six in 1876, near Vegreville, east of Edmonton. This was only fifteen years after the turbulent events of the year 1885, which saw the last acts of the Métis and Cree Resistance, from Duck Lake and Batoche, to Frog Lake and Steele's Narrows.

Sharon Pasula's maternal history is Metis with both grandparents of mixed ancestry. They lived predominantly in the St. Albert then Lac Ste Anne areas (90 km northwest of Edmonton, close to the site of the annual pilgrimage - close to Alberta Beach). One interesting connection with this ceremony is that at one time there was a store in Lac Ste Anne owned by a man who was from Vegreville, Bill Moore. Sharon's

Auntie Gloria worked in his store.

For a long time, the Ukrainian settlers told the story of their first contact with the indigenous people, who were in fact their neighbours and helped them survive the first harsh years. But it has been a long time since

any of us have heard these stories. To commemorate this relationship based on a shared bond with land (or *zemlya* in Ukrainian), never officially acknowledged by our respective communities, Sharon and Myrna invite the community to gather with them in an Aboriginal/Ukrainian-Canadian Gift Exchange, to give thanks (*Nanaskomun* in Cree) and to renew an old friendship.

The ceremony has also been inspired by the principles of the Declaration of Edmonton City Council of August 30th, 2005, which states that a legacy of this contact has included "the perpetuation of numerous injustices for many people in today's Aboriginal communities," and that there are Edmontonians of good will who "value harmony in our relationship" and seek to build relationships "rooted in trust and respect."



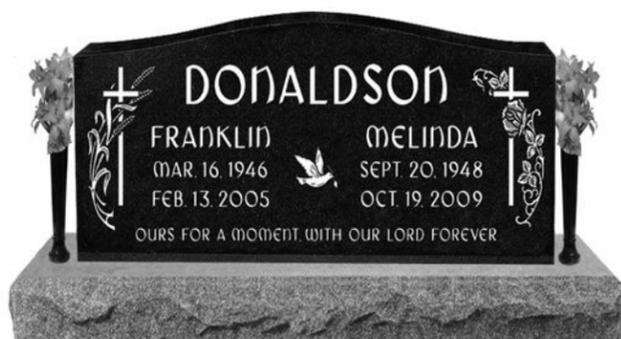
The ceremony will be held on Sunday, September 23rd at
2:00-4:30pm at St. Faith's and St. Stephen the Martyr Prayer Works Hall, 11723 93 Street.

What: Seated in a circle, community members attending will be welcomed by a blessing, an explanation of the background to the ceremony, readings, and the Ceremony of Gift exchanges: three pairs of Aboriginal and Ukrainian Edmontonians will exchange a dance, a story or song, and a sash from their respective traditions.

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Family Park Crawls every Sunday at 1:30pm. Check the CRUD calendar at crudedmonton.org for locations.



The view of Delton from the Air One helicopter. The perspective allows officers to see over a wide distance.

continued from page 1.

according to Sergeant Barbar, mitigates the familiar “chocka-chocka” sound that is associated with helicopters. At 1000ft, a person on the ground will hear Air One at the same decibel level as a vacuum cleaner (65db).

The Edmonton Police Service (EPS) helicopter (they have two, both with the call-sign ‘Air One’) is a Eurocopter 120, capable of flying across the city in 15 minutes, and can stay in the air for over 3 hours at a time. On average, they respond to 10 calls per sortie, or a total of 3555 calls in 2011.

Unlike a decade ago, the Edmonton sky is increasingly crowded with helicopters. In addition to Air One, there are the RCMP, CHED, STARS, mosquito sprayers, and Canadian/American military helicopters flying overhead. There are few

restrictions on night flying in helicopters, and many of them operate in the early morning hours (eg. CHED observing traffic during the Yellowhead rush hour), and throughout the night (Air One and STARS).

Air One performs a variety of functions to assist officers patrolling on the ground. With an infrared camera, 30 million candle watt spotlight, and the eyes of experienced (around 8 years seniority) tactical officers, they watch out for erratic driving, suspicious gatherings of people, and can respond to 911 calls to observe disturbances as they unfold. With real-time communication, they assist with search operations and provide backup to single officers on patrol.

Sergeant Barbar has been flying for over 25 years, first with the Canadian military and 7 years with the EPS. As a pilot,

he clearly loves his work and sees his role in city policing as crucial to reducing crime.

He understands that some people might find it a bit unnerving to hear or see a machine hovering overhead. “There may be something happening in your neighbourhood, which is why we are observing your community. But if something is going on, would you prefer us to be there or not? Probably.”

Understanding the need to explain their contributions to residents, as a unit, they attend as many community events as possible. High-tech gadgetry aside, he insists the 6-member Air One unit is no different than the officers on the ground.

“We’re two people in a helicopter who live in this community,” says Sergeant Barbar. “We’re just like two officers in a car trying to prevent crime.”

A JUMPING GOOD TIME AT EASTWOOD FESTIVAL



Annaze plays with Myka Jakoubek and Jayne Waldon of the National Stiltwalkers of Canada at the 8th Annual Eastwood Festival, held at Eastwood Community Hall on August 18th. Hundreds of people showed up to enjoy the pancake breakfast, face painting and bouncing castle. For adult entertainment, the local organizers from the Eastwood Community League brought in Drowning Ophelia to headline their musical showcase.



BORDEN PARK REVITALIZATION UPDATE 2012

Site Construction

The second phase of park site construction is underway and includes: concrete walkway replacement, shelters, east playground, utility upgrades and tree removals. This work is anticipated to be completed in fall of 2012. The third phase of park site construction will be underway in spring 2013 and will see the completion of west parking lot improvements, west playground, formal garden, site furniture and tree planting.

Natural Swimming Experience

Gh3 and Kasian have been engaged as the architectural consultants on the project. Design of the facility is scheduled to begin mid August. Opportunities for community input will be provided during the design development phase and the design finalized Spring of 2013.

Park Pavilion

Tender documents have been completed and the request for proposals for construction of the pavilion close in early August. Once awarded, construction is scheduled to begin in September 2012. Completion of the pavilion is anticipated for summer of 2013.

For more information, call 780-442-4972 or visit www.edmonton.ca/bordenparkrevitalization.



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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 600-800 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 editor@ratcreek.org, or 9210 118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5G 0N2. Mail may also be dropped at the address above.

Editorial

Submissions: editor@ratcreek.org

The future of our education in the past

JONATHAN WELLER

While it is accurate at times to credit our parents for our upbringing, our school system (despite its blemishes) has had an incredible impact and is a legacy in itself to be remembered. In *A Great School for All—Transforming Education in Alberta*, a research report published by the Alberta Teachers Association (ATA) in August, Andy Hargreaves, an internationally respected scholar who has been studying the Albertan system, notes that “one of Alberta’s greatest challenges in years to come will be to acknowledge its own success.”

It is odd to imagine success as a challenge, but it is true. Alberta has built an educational system that is among the best in the world, a fact we rarely acknowledge. The report from the ATA explains that around the globe, governments seek to blame their predecessors and find short term solutions that will gain them points in the next election. However, in Alberta our political stability has allowed for “increasing and sustained success over several decades,” which oddly provides its own challenges. How do we at the same time

acknowledge our success and make room for innovation without falling prey to the business-as-usual attitude of those who are currently satisfied?

operating budgets over three years were set to rise by only 5% (too low to match inflation and population growth) and grants restored in 2011 were all are to be cut by 50%. Research conducted by the ATA in 2011 showed 42% of Albertan teachers reported “somewhat or significant class size increases”.

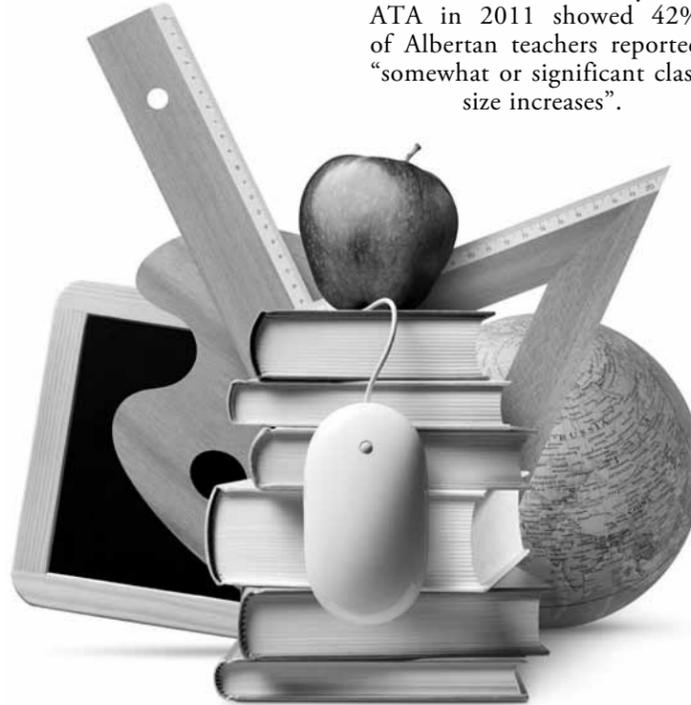
we have accomplished a great deal since then. The authors of the ATA’s report make a case for the continued process of envisioning our future, because even amidst the good times, the seeds of decline are being sown.

A comment that needs no explanation in our neighbourhood.

The report notes the province is predicted to change dramatically over the next decade, but these changes are already in place here in our community. Our population is more diverse than any other in the city, and as such, the educational needs have already changed.

Finding new ways to cope with these challenges alongside the improvements we have already made is what the ATA’s report seeks to do. Their calls are pointed but balanced, embracing the past and looking forward. For example, they support building a more demanding assessment process to replace standardized testing.

As the new school year begins, it is a good time to look back at what we’ve accomplished, and to imagine our future. We can draw inspiration from our past accomplishments to build a better future.



When Alison Redford announced a year ago that funds would be restored to school boards, it was a welcome piece of news to many. However, the February budget was less inspiring,

We have come a long way from the early years of education in this province. Our feelings about the new school year may be the same as they were a century ago but

Help us work on features, share your community photos or pitch an idea. Contact Darren: editor@ratcreek.org



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Speaker's Corner

Have opinions? Great let's hear them!

Submissions: editor@ratcreek.org

Letters to the Editor

I have lived 10 years in Parkdale. It is a beautiful community, not only because of the amazing trees, spectacular bakeries and cute little houses, but mostly because of the people. There is a tireless group of volunteers, advocates and friendly neighbors -- not only in Parkdale but also in the surrounding communities. They are working to make each day better, the streets safer, and fantastic community events for all to experience.

Although I wasn't able to get as involved as I would have liked with many of the community initiatives, I was able to meet a lot of inspiring people that were working hard for change.

After moving away from the neighborhood, I occasionally still wonder how the revitalization efforts are going. Imagine my surprise when I drove past the remnants of the Cromdale Hotel on 118ave yesterday! My heart skipped a

beat! There have been so many people working diligently to get the Cromdale torn down- to shed the negative image and history that is associated with it.

Thank you to all that wrote letters, attended city council meetings, staged protests, voiced your opinions and didn't ever give up. You are breathing life back into The Avenue and into the hearts of those that live there.

Leanne McBean

RE: OLD CYCLE BUILDING PLANS DEMOLISHED

As President of Arts on the Ave (AOTA), I am writing on behalf of the AOTA board to express our dismay at the negative slant of editor Darren Boisvert's front page story in the August 2012 Rat Creek Press. Just like City Staff, the AOTA and Arts Habitat boards were surprised when the true extent of required renovations to the Cycle Building became known, and although we are disappointed that this has put the project back with respect to time, we are happy that the result will be a brand new building (instead of the patched-together old one) that will be

the capstone of the Avenue and a major piece of the 118 Ave revitalization.

Mr. Boisvert's cynical article, in which he states that "plans are now only talk," casts aspersions on the city, when, in fact, the City of Edmonton, under the leadership of Mayor Mandel and Councillor Caterina, has supported this project since its inception. Furthermore, the City has shown leadership and a commitment to the arts that have underpinned the enormous successes achieved to date. As we await further developments, we plan to begin community consultations

to collectively devise plans to creatively use the space that will be created after the building is razed. As for plans "being just talk", well, of course, they are at the stage. Our two boards, city staff, and politicians are talking about our vision for the Avenue, talking about our vision for the community and talking about our vision for a future arts hub that will be a crowning achievement on 118 ave.

Despite what Mr. Boisvert would have you believe, talk isn't always cheap.

Randall Fraser
President, AOTA

RE: TEARING IT DOWN AND BUILDING IT UP AGAIN

I think it's a great idea to set up a garden in the vacant lot during warm weather, and to set up art in the winter.

Those two ideas were my plan, exactly! Another idea would be to put something interactive there. Something will peak the

interest of random passersby. What that is, I'm not too sure.

Brian Ha

RE: HELICOPTER HELL IN DELTON

The article about a noisy chopper is missing some key details. I live about 3 blocks from the landing pad and the noise is not that bad. The take-off times in the evening is around 10:00 pm weather permitting. The times recorded in that article are not accurate. The area in question has a high rate of crime as documented on the Edmonton police crime map. I would like to think a little common sense needs to be exercised here. Local crime is why the chopper is there and a step up in enforcement by bylaw, police and citizens will help reduce the cost of flying Air 1 and give a safer place to live. The noise that comes from calder train yards and Yellowhead trail is a lot louder.

So Ms. Leontowicz, after three months has decided that the sound of Air 1 could cause her to move. Well, after 12 years in Alberta Ave I have noticed the incidences of used condoms and needles in the back alley of my home go from daily to...very seldom (maybe once or twice a summer).



The drug houses on my block has dropped from two to none. The sound of hooligans in my back alley keeping me awake at night has gone from nearly every weekend to never. I credit this to the increased police presence in the area... everything from the 'Cops at the Carrot' to Air 1.

Ms. Leontowicz...in the three months you've lived here I've noticed absolutely no difference in my quality of life. If it comes down to you or the helicopter...I'll take the helicopter any day.

Paul Chaisson

Bob Todrick

I would much rather hear the police in the sky than hear gunshots being fired or hearing/seeing drug and prostitution activities in my area. Nothing wrong with a safer community and this person complaining must be accepting the crime that does happen in any city/town.

I welcome the helicopters in my area and hope that the police continue patrolling whether from the ground or from the sky. That person may want to move to a remote ghost town somewhere if they want it to be that quiet.

Mary C

I live in Delton and I really take exception to the comments made by the helicopter hell in delton person. I suggest if this lady isn't happy, perhaps she should move. I find one of the most comfortable things about this neighbourhood is knowing that police helicopter is up there. It's my opinion, I don't like hers, and she certainly doesn't speak for all of Delton.

Lynn Scott



What's the BIG Idea?

The Ave Food Co-op grows organically

ARTHUR DYCK

It started ten years ago as a conversation in a living room with around half a dozen people. How do we find organic food and gluten-free food and grains for special diets at a reasonable cost? While one can now go into almost any large grocery store and find some of these products, at that time they were very rare and, if you could find them, very expensive.

The answer was to find a distributor, and then place an order jointly so that the request could be placed in quantity and then shared. A distributor was found and an account opened under the name the Ave Food

Co-op. Then the first order was placed and people were thrilled to have access to the type of food they needed at a low cost.

Over the years the Co-op has grown, mostly by word of mouth. Orders are placed quarterly and now instead of a car full of boxes, three pallets of product are received. There is no fresh produce available from the distributor, but products ordered often include: cheese made with unpasteurized milk from Quebec; sacks of a variety of grains, seeds and flours; cases of juice, vegetables and fruit; spices and herbs; pasta of almost any variety made of corn, rice or flour; and cases of gluten-free cookies that melt in your mouth.

Technology has aided the growth of the Co-op. It has an online store through which its members place their orders.

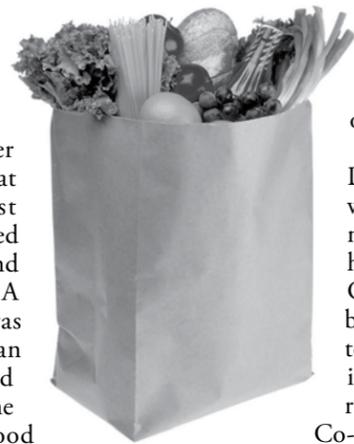
A mailing list is used by its member to see if anyone wants to share a 25 pound box of raisins, a case of tomatoes or 50 pounds of flour. All products are sold at cost with an added charge of 9% to cover shipping and handling, the cost of the web site, and any price increases that occur between the entering of the most recent product information and the time of the order. In addition,

members are asked on a regular basis to come and help sort the orders.

Joy and Arthur Dyck, who were original members and have run the Co-op since its beginning, used to sort the order in their living room, but the

Co-op grew to the point where that wasn't possible. First they moved to the Avenue Community Centre, but now, due to the kindness of the Anglican Parishes of St. Faith's and St. Stephen the Martyr, the spacious church hall is used. Over the course of three hours on a Saturday morning, the order is picked up, sorted into the individual orders, and picked up by the Co-op members.

Although many of the products are now readily available locally, the Co-op keeps growing as people keep finding an item in the 3500 list available that they can't find anywhere else, that they can't buy in bulk, or at a price that suits their budget.



More information can be found at www.avefoodcoop.org. The next order will be placed on September 10th.



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Aerialists will take to the sky at Kaleido Festival

HEATHER ROBERTSON

Aerialists, thespians and painters are just three types of artists that will fill Alberta Avenue from September 7-9th.

Now in its seventh year, Kaleido is a family-focused arts festival that continues to attract both 118th Avenue residents and individuals from across the city. Last year, some 20,000 people attended the festival which continues to grow each year.

"You could best describe this year as an extravaganza," said Christy Morin, producer of Kaleido, "We are calling it the Year of the Sky—with one of the highlights being aerials."

Saturday night of the festival will feature Kalabante: a Guinean aerialist group from Montreal. Kalabate will put on a show called "Koryass"—marking their debut in Western Canada. Additionally, popular aerialist groups Firefly and LeFuzz will come together as "FuzzFly," and put on a Sunday night performance.

Annie Dugan, Artistic Director for Firefly, is not only excited for the festival, but for the people who will take in the performances. "I hesitate to use the word audience," said Annie. "Since Kaleido started out so small, with only a handful of local people supporting it. The people coming since year one have a certain familiarity with the festival. It really feels like

their festival -- not simply that they are a passive audience."

Annie, going into her fourth year at Kaleido, believes that the festival may be one of Edmonton's best kept underground secrets. "Kaleido

"There's something for everyone," said John. "It's an interesting mix."

John believes that, in addition to variety, Kaleido serves as an inspiration to other communities. "This is one of

"the thoughts, dreams and imagination of a community wondering 'what if,'" states Christy Morin. It draws awareness to the fact that community and creativity are not mutually exclusive.

as a challenge in "building a festival...[with] intentional structures and forms crafted together with creative discipline."

Furthermore, the need for more volunteers increases dramatically each year. So far, only about two-thirds of the required volunteer positions have been filled. Additionally, with more and more featured displays and performances, there is an increased need for venues. Despite some added venues this year, such as the Glen Ronald Gallery, it can be difficult to find spaces around the avenue that are suitable to hold a growing number of attendees.

All challenges aside, there is no doubt that Kaleido has and will continue to change the community for the better—and bring a few days of fun along with it.

"I can't wait to see all the pieces play and dance together this year," says Christy.



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Bird Soul Vertical Dancers will wow you as they dance on the east wall of the Nina Haggerty building on Saturday.

pushes the boundaries of who and what you find at a festival," said Annie. "It is not just theatre, or music, or visual art, but a combination of all of the above...like a bento box of festival!"

John Mahn, member of the Edmonton Arts Council, agrees with Annie's sentiment.

just 35 festivals in the city that we support," said John. "It was built by people from Alberta Ave, and it really does reflect the community: [through] creativity, energy and optimism."

Community is also a central focus for the festival's production team. Kaleido is

According to Christy, the festival "breathes life into the Alberta Ave district and the City of Edmonton. It brings together shapes, form and colour—only to be discovered by the presence of light."

Of course, no growing festival is without its drawbacks. Christy cites "limits of budget"

Some scheduled events for this year's Kaleido Family Arts Festival:

Friday night extravaganza –
Said the Whale 10:15pm
Friday night late night market 8-11pm
Friday night – "No Tie Gala" opening for the art galleries

All weekend:
Workshops – drumming, paper making, artist card workshop
www.kaleidofest.ca



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Xiao Hai Ou Dance Group offers traditional Asian dancing on the Central Stage, Saturday 2:30pm.



PHOTO SUPPLIED

The Trollsons will be roaming the Ave, in alleys, parks and buildings all weekend.



PHOTO SUPPLIED

The Aurora Lantern Parade, starting at the Carrot, Friday at 10:00pm.

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Another dimension to poetry

DARREN BOISVERT

Two years ago, a friend of Joel McKerrow sent him a link for a performance poetry clip online, and since then, he's been inspired to the point of addiction.

"Reading a poem on the page is 2-dimensional," says McKerrow. "Performing a poem on stage is 3-D, with the extra dimension being the emotional response from the audience. It's amazing."

A lifelong writer, McKerrow picked up the pen full-time, packed up his things in Melbourne, Australia, and has been touring the world on an eighteen month 'walkabout'. He has been performing in venues from Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, and is currently visiting Vancouver and Texas before returning

to Edmonton to perform and host a variety of events during Kaleido.

Although he travels light, he has brought with him an impressive list of poetic accomplishments in the past few years. He placed second in the finals of the Melbourne Overload Poetry Slam, released his first book, *Beyond Rhetoric – Writings in the Tradition of Kahlil Gibran*, and is the co-founder of the 'Centre for Poetics and Justice', a not-for-profit organisation focussed on literary education and social awareness for marginalised teenagers.

His complimentary skills as a couch-surfer aside, McKerrow has a keen interest in helping others find their voices through performance poetry. While in Australia, he taught

a first-year college course on poetry and expression, and has continued this support for beginning talent by holding seminars on his trip.

"Even more than performing, I get a chill when I see someone who walks in with very little confidence, stands on-stage, and performs," says McKerrow, who insists there is more to poetry than just providing confidence. "Justice is about access. Access to space in order to express yourself, your stories, and your culture."

You can watch Joel McKerrow perform at the Kaleido Family Arts Festival, Sept. 7-9th. We hope he will be performing at the Rat Creek Press sponsored poetry slam at 4:30pm, on Sept. 9th. You can access some of his material and performances at joelmckerrow.com.



Poet Joel McKerrow will be entertaining the crowd at the Kaleido Family Arts Festival with his eclectic performance poetry.

MOVIE LEARNING Series



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- We Believe in 118
- Community Response to Urban Disorder (CRUD)
- The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse
- Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (NET)

THE AVENUE

The Avenue gives an inside look at 118th Avenue, aka. Alberta Avenue. No longer willing to sit back and watch their neighbourhood fall further into disrepair, community members created grassroots initiatives as a way of taking back their neighbourhoods.

JULY 17 @ Alberta Avenue Community League

The Avenue film is in post-production. Its availability for this date is tentative, and another film may be shown on this date.

JUNE 21
JULY 5
JULY 11
JULY 17

There will be supervised activities for children (attending with parents/guardians) + Light refreshments served



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Picasso cubes meet the world of children's Lego

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up." - Picasso

DAVE VON BIEKER

I was standing before an early work of Picasso's in New York when a revelation struck. Picasso was very good. I don't mean good in the 'nose-coming-out-of-forehead-and-cubes-everywhere' sense. I mean good in the boring, old fashioned 'accurate representation' sense. I'd harbored a suspicion that Picasso chose abstraction because he just couldn't handle realism. I know. You can cuff me now. The truth is Picasso mastered his craft, and then — he had to know he'd be labeled a shoddy painter by some — he chose to play.

A couple of Saturday mornings ago I was kneeling beside Jack's bed searching for purple Lego bricks for Lucie's

purple car. This is my role in the Lego universe: the seeker. The kids cannot be bothered to rummage through bins of unsorted bricks, but they have their grand visions. I'm happy to be in on the game, and usually short on grand visions, so brick retrieval works for me. I enjoy the feel of a thousand bricks through my fingers. Sometimes, on some special Saturdays, their creativity infects me and I build my own spacecraft or monster or robot. On those precious few days I get lost in make believe. My son and daughter are far more familiar with imagination. Their make-believe is portable—a circus tent popping up in doctor's waiting rooms, backseats of cars, or an art gallery.

Kids keep the lines between art and play appropriately thin. The more adult the art-world becomes, the less they 'get it.' My kids would stand bewildered at a Christie's art auction, because they haven't learned the complex layers of 'value' that we drape over a painting. They don't look through learned lenses. They simply look, wide-eyed.

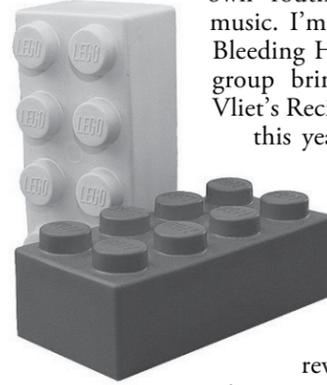
Back when this summer was sprouting, Lucie poured forth excited speech, betraying the dignified use of her umbrella as a cane. "We saw a bird on the step! I think it was a blue jay or something. Do you know what's the awesomest bird? A hummingbird because it can be so tiny it's only as big as a penny." That pure, unbridled amazement at the world reminded me of the beetle.

The kids shrieked into the house and I dropped a dry dish into the sink, scared and sure someone was hurt.

"A huge beetle!", they cried. It was crossing the sidewalk! It was probably still there! I found myself swept into the whirlwind of their wonder. I ran out with them, into spring sunshine, to witness the great big bug. It was massive enough to give me the willies. We approached, pretended to touch its back, and then drew back fast and squealing. We stood for a few moments on our ordinary sidewalk, offering attention to the quiet world. Kids direct our attention, like prophets. Like artists.

I'll be attending Kaleido this year with the best companions;

my children. As a family arts festival, there will be kids everywhere. Kids will stumble on stilts. Kids will reach out to touch temporary lamppost installations, even if they are not supposed to. Kids will mimic steps of rooftop dancers, and choreograph their own routines to main stage music. I'm involved with The Bleeding Heart Art Space, the group bringing Edward Van Vliet's Recipes For Kneeling to this year's festival. In Van



Vliet's installation, old books and cushions line the floor. You must kneel before and open each book to reveal a set of text and imagery. You must become small, open yourself, touch, engage, and really look.

If you're not sure how to do these things—to play and to behold—just watch the children.



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New Seasonal Hours...Open Saturdays



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

Come Check Out These Great Events On The Avenue!

Cromdale Celebration!
Sunday, Sept 16th, 1:00 - 5:00pm
82nd Street and 118th Avenue

Join celebration of the Cromdale Hotel Demo & welcome Shoppers Drug Mart to the Ave
Music, Dance, Entertainment, Food and Fun!

Large Item Pick Up
Do you have large items you don't want?
We will remove up to 5 items
\$5/item or 5 for \$20.00

You must register and pay for items in advance at Alberta Avenue Community League
9210 - 118th Ave
Tue/Thu Sept 4,6 from 12pm to 3pm
Wed/Mon Sept 5, 10 from 6pm to 7:30
Items must be left outside and clearly marked for pickup.

Community Patrol
Tuesday, Sept 18th, 6:30 - 8:30

Are you interested in helping to keep your community safe? Do you want to work with neighbours and Edmonton Police to be "eyes on the street?" Presentation by CPRN (Community Patrol Radio Network). Learn about different kinds of Community Patrols and hear what other communities are doing. Light dinner provided. Located at: Alberta Avenue Community League
9210 - 118th Ave
Register at 780-442-1481 or judyallan@edmonton.ca

Alberta Avenue's very own old fashioned DRIVE IN!

Saturday, October 6th
Drive on in to Alberta Avenue Community League and enjoy GREASE.

For information call Judy Allan 780-496-1913
avenueinitiative.ca



Call the publication people for your book, art cards, newsletter or directory:

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A big weekend in Cromdale

DARREN BOISVERT

The Parkdale/Cromdale Community League (PCCL) is gearing up for a busy September with two big community events planned for Saturday the 15th and Sunday the 16th.

First held will be a 30th anniversary party to celebrate the building of the community hall (11335 - 85 Street), which will include a rededication ceremony to honour the tireless work accomplished by former community league president Sheila Bowker (who unfortunately passed away several years ago).

Bowker's family members have been invited from across Canada, and the community plans to share stories of her

efforts to curb social problems such as prostitution and drug use, and her work organizing the community to close down the Cromdale Hotel.

There will be a BBQ, local councilors have been invited to speak, and there will be games held in the Sheila Bowker Parkdale Park.

One of the issues closely remembered from Bowker's work in the early 2000's was her community activism to pressure the city to close down the Cromdale Hotel. As the pile of rubble attests, that goal has finally been achieved. To celebrate the demolition of the Cromdale Hotel, the PCCL, (along with the City of Edmonton Office of Great Neighbourhoods, Alberta Avenue Business Association

and many other local groups), are throwing a block party along 82nd street and 118th Avenue.

There will be music, speeches by local dignitaries, food, and a commemorative display of the history of the Cromdale Hotel. Everyone in Edmonton is invited, from those with fond memories of playing pool in the hall, to those who wish to savour a social victory in cleaning up our community.

"It'll be a busy weekend," says Martin Bundred, current PCCL president. "But good things are happening in Parkdale/Cromdale. We hope that people who used to be active within the community will feel re-energized and become re-involved."



It's just a building, but the renovated Parkdale/Cromdale Community League building is the nerve centre of the neighbourhood.



WHEN HORSES RIDE ON BROKEN PAVEMENTS

By Joel McKerrow

*Fragility of
green fire eyes
washed dirty
by the smog of
big city, gutter spaces.*

*Charcoal dust plastered
to smooth skin
tattered clothes
black hair
broken dreams
that don't quite smell right.*

*This night chipped toenail paint
On rusty fingers
gives faint impressions
of a future mapped out for her.*

*She sits outside tent flap.
Yellow moonlight gentle on baby
face
This underpass home
where slum dwellers
make their castles,
gather under rushing rapid cars
screaming horns and bright city
head lights.*

*This night she sits in the dust
again
Out the front again
As Momma makes a buck again
one more man to claim
her for his own.*

*She waits and plays ponies in
the gutter,
her stallion
three legged and a faded mane,
stands proudly,
crookedly,
in dirty palm.
She finds herself in horsey's
eyes.
Tells herself
cause she can tell no other.*

*"I wanna roam mountains
Momma,
gallop above these broken
pavements.
Even three legs must be better
than two.
I don't want to be you Momma
I don't want to be you."*

*There are many horses that
gallop beneath these city streets.*



PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

A LEGACY OF HOPE

Thirty-one years ago, on April 12, 1980, 21-year-old Terry Fox started out on his "Marathon of Hope" – a cross-Canada run to raise awareness and money for cancer research. A cancer survivor himself, the amputee runner was keenly aware of the need for more in the battle against the disease.

Terry was forced to abandon his trek when the cancer returned, having run 143 days and 5,373 kilometres from St.

John's, Newfoundland to Thunder Bay, Ontario.

I have a particular memory of Terry Fox. In 1980, my wife Lorraine, daughter Corinna and I were travelling by car from Edmonton to Toronto, and passed Terry on the northern Ontario highway. Shortly after we passed, my cousin Janet's husband, a doctor in Thunder Bay, was called out to examine him. It was he who confirmed that the cancer had returned and the run was over. At the time his wife, my cousin, in Thunder Bay was also in cancer's insidious grasp and later succumbed.

A telethon held after Terry was forced to abandon his run raised \$10 million for cancer research. Before his June 1981 death, donations had passed the \$23 million target. The first Terry Fox Run, in September 1981, was held as a memorial. In the years since, thousands have participated across Canada and around the world, raising almost \$500 million for cancer research, bringing Terry's dream of a cure for cancer closer.

Terry had that Canadian spirit of perseverance, of determination and dedication that is a mark of many successful people in this country. Canadians dream big, aim for lofty goals and work hard to achieve them.

Terry Fox showed that what sometimes seems impossible can be achieved with determination and effort. A monument of Terry on Parliament Hill attests to his courage and is an inspiration to us all.

What do you think?

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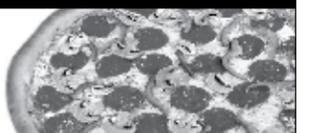
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Meet Your Neighbours at Our Friendly Neighbourhood Pub

What do you think of rezoning a section of Alberta Avenue as a heritage area? Let us know at albertaave.org

HISTORY PROJECT UPDATE

The first phase of the history project is wrapping up; however, we are moving forward with new plans.

WEBSITE

The History Project is up and running and will be updated regularly. If you missed the theatre performance, and would like to hear it or you want to listen to clips from the interviews, please visit us at www.avenuehistory.org.

PROPOSED WALKING TOUR

We want to engage the community in all the stories we have uncovered and to do this we are planning a historical walking tour for the Alberta Avenue neighbourhood, roughly in keeping with the proposed heritage district from the city. It will seek to bring the 'living history' alive, rather than solely share the dates and architectural characteristics of the area's history. In order to do this, the walking tour will use a collection of digital, print and physical mediums to guide participants through the area. To do this we need to hear from those who live there, if you know stories about your house or the houses around you, please let us know. If you are interested in volunteering or sharing please contact us at history@ratcreek.org or call 780.479.6285.

HISTORICAL CALENDAR

A historical calendar of the community with the people who lived here is being prepared for an early November 2012 launch date. It will contain pictures and stories not yet shared with our community.

To contact the history project, email us at history@ratcreek.org or leave a message at 780.479.6285

Going way back to school days

JONATHAN WELLER

It is here again; we all feel it. Children lament their latest failed attempt to freeze time and parents wonder with the casual confusion of ritual 'where has summer has gone'. We all remember the mingling of dread and excitement as we get ready for another year. It doesn't change, no matter the decade.

"I went to Delton for Grade 1 to 6. It was packed. To start out with there were so many kids that they split the classes, some of the classes went from 9 in the morning to 12 and another group would go from 12 to 3. You could only go for half a day in Grade 1 because the school was so crowded."

This was the picture Raelena Mellon remembered looking back on her early years of school. Raelena was one of the gracious participants of the recent oral history project on the Avenue.

Memories of school were common among participants; we heard of the excitement of entering the new Spruce Avenue school building. "It was the first and only time that I ever came in the front door," Louis Grimble recalls of his class marching two abreast from the old school building to the new. After that, students had to use the separate boys and girls entrances on the sides. Perhaps the reason that

memories of school remain so prominent had more to do with the teaching style of the era, one that favored rigidity and force to individual learning and information technology. An era when being left-handed was simply not allowed as Binnie Engley learned. The nuns who ran her classroom at St. Alphonsus offered her a prize in Grade 1 if she could write with her right hand for a whole month. Well, with a dedicated effort and a month of admittedly rather horrid writing, Binnie got her reward, a tin monkey on a swing. She ran home to her grandma, prize in hand, beaming with her accomplishment. "The next day Grandma came over to the school with me and I never wrote with my right hand again after that, because Grandma was left-handed and boy.. she was a fighter."

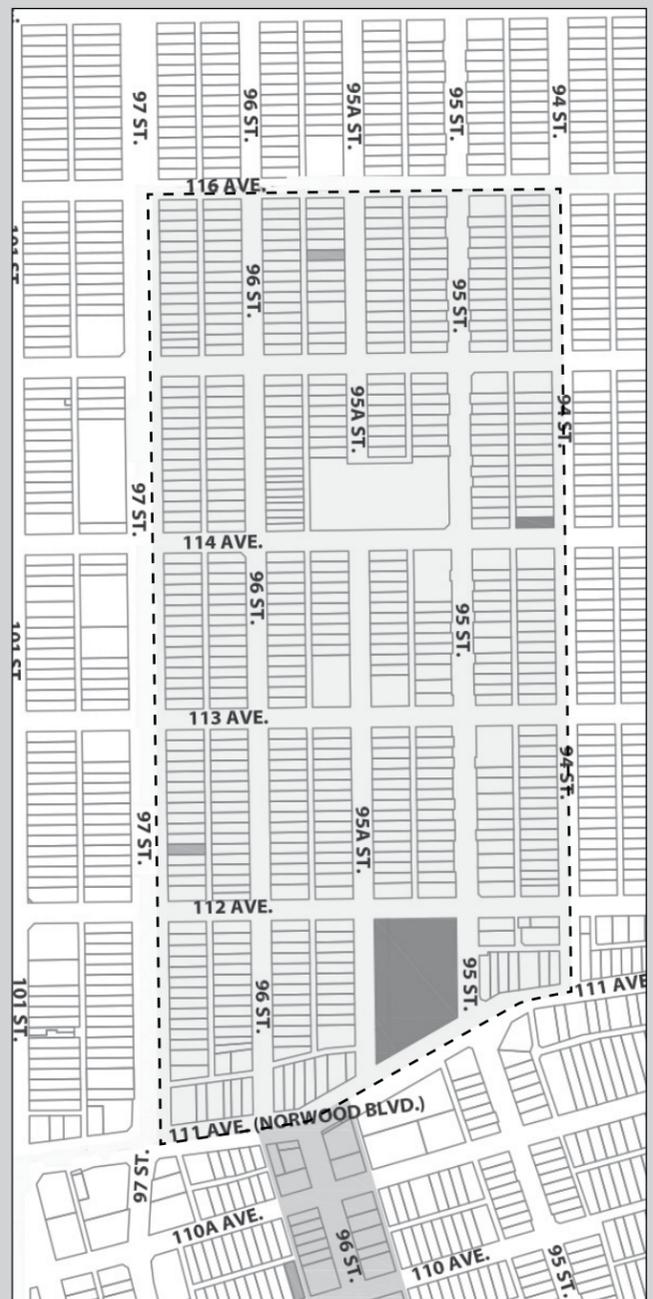
What would have become of us if our parents had not been there to push us through school? Likely we would be better rested, but perhaps to our detriment. "I always told my kids, with a good education you always get on your feet" says Molly Ehman whose own education was drastically ended by war in her home country of Germany.

To hear these and more stories from the Oral History Project please visit our website at www.avenuehistory.org



Children playing at Borden Park in 1913.

PROPOSED HISTORICAL AREA



Outlines of the City of Edmonton's proposed historical district. Anyone living in this area is encouraged to contact history project producer, Jonathan Weller at history@ratcreek.org.

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Check our history website avenuehistory.org. It's a work in progress. Please add your stories and comments.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

for the neighbourhoods of Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park, Parkdale-Cromdale, Spruce Avenue and Westwood

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

ENTERTAINMENT

THE CARROT OPEN STAGE

Thursdays for folks 55+ 1:30-4pm.
Saturdays 7pm-10pm Open mic. Great time to share your newest tune, poem or comedy act! Free for all ages. Minimum \$1.25 charge. 9351 118 Ave. More info call Irene at 780.471.1580.

THE STOLLERY GALLERY

at the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts (9225 118 Ave). Gallery Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-2:30pm; Thursday 4:30-8:00pm; Saturdays 1:00-3:00pm. Find out more: ninahaggertyarts.ca

EVENTS

INTRO TO TIBETAN MEDICINE

Tibetan medicine uses pulse analysis, diet, herbal medicine and physical therapy to treat illness and foster health. Yangdron Kalzang is a Doctor of Tibetan Medicine, Licenced and Certified Acupuncturist and founder of the Tibetan Wellness and Healing Center in Daly City, California. Friday, September 14th from 7pm to 9pm at Alberta Ave hall (9210 118 Ave). Admission by donation. www.gasamling.ca

TIBETAN BAZAAR

Each year members from Alberta's exile Tibetan community gather to sell items such as yak hair blankets, prayer wheels, mala rosaries and jewelry. Items for sale are imported from Tibet, India and Nepal. In addition to the Tibetan market, the bazaar provides a sampling of Tibetan culture including traditional food, chanting by Tibetan Buddhist monks, meditation sessions, and slide shows. Saturday and Sunday, September 15th and 16th from 10am to 5pm at Alberta Ave hall (9210 118 Ave). Admission \$5; children free. www.gasamling.ca

PARKDALE HALL 30TH ANNIVERSARY

September 15th is the 30th anniversary of the Parkdale/Cromdale Hall. Events include a BBQ, a rededication of the Sheila Bowker Park memorial, and fun activities for the family. All alumni of the League are encouraged to attend. Festivities begin at 1pm till 6pm at 11335 85 St.

LARGE ITEM PICK UP

Pick up service for large items on September 15 for a small fee. Check the Avenue Initiative ad for registration details. Or bring your large household items that cannot be picked up with regular garbage service to the City of Edmonton Big Bin Events and drop them

for free! Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 5pm on September 15th and 16th at Commonwealth Stadium (112 Ave/90 St).

CROMDALE DEMOLITION CELEBRATION

A celebration of the demolition and redevelopment of the Cromdale Hotel. Local community leagues, CRUD, city officials will be on-site to relive some of the history and talk about the future. A BBQ and entertainment will be part of the festivities! Sunday, September 16th from 1pm to 5pm at 118 Ave and 82 St.

YOUTH FESTIVAL

Parkdale-Cromdale Community League, Action for Healthy Communities and Northlands are hosting a youth festival at Parkdale school (11648 85 St). It will run on September 22nd from 10 am to 10 pm. Sports, Music, Performance, Fashion Show, Carnival and more.

ABORIGINAL-UKRAINIAN CEREMONY

Aboriginal-Ukrainian Ceremony, Renewing Friendship, is coming to St. Faith/St. Stephen the Martyr Church on Sunday, September 23rd from 2-4pm. It will be an exchange of gifts and storytelling. Contact kostashm@yahoo.ca

NOTICES

FREE PUPPIES

FREE 2 AKC Tea Cup Yorkies Puppies male and female. NEED a new good home. They have current shots and play along with children and other animals. Contact aliciamoore077@gmail.com

GARAGE SALE - JUNK IN YOUR TRUNK

Junk in Your Trunk is a unique Garage Sale on the Ave during Kaleido Family Arts Festival on Sunday, September 9th. Bring your vehicles with trunks full of gently used items for sale. Limited stalls available! Contact Gerard at 780.474.3769 to save a space.

NICE NEIGHBOUR RECOGNITION

Do you know someone who makes your neighbourhood a better place to live? Then why not nominate them for CRUD's Nice Neighbour Recognition Award and give some recognition to those that make our community great. Nominations are accepted via e-mail info@crudedmonton.org.

COPS AT THE CARROT

Join EPS members every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 10:30am for open and direct access to the EPS members working in your community. Bring your questions and comments or come in for a visit and coffee.

PROGRAMS/CLASSES

SING, SING, LAUGH AND LEARN

For children up to age three accompanied by a grown-up. Join us for singing, rhyming and signing. Parents will learn strategies to engage their children and enhance their communication and development through repetition, visuals and movement. Tuesdays, from 10:30-11:15am at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

FAMILY STORYTIME

Share stories, songs and games for the whole family. Saturdays from 2:30-3:00pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

TEEN GAMING

Come to the library to play some great games! Hone your Guitar Hero or Dance Dance Revolution skills, or choose from plenty of other Wii and PlayStation games. Thursdays from 6:30-8:30pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

WOMEN'S AFTERNOON OUT GROUP

This group gives women a chance to get out and mingle with other women who like to work on crafts such as knitting, crocheting, card making, and more. Ladies are welcome to work on the project we are working on or bring their own. Cost is \$1 drop in fee which goes toward the purchasing of materials. We also have a potluck snack. Every Monday from 1:30-4pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: Michelle 780.232.5822.

COMMUNITY MEALS

At the Anglican Churches of St. Faith's and St. Stephen the Martyr (11725 93 St) will resume in October. More info: 780.477.5931.

FRIDAY NIGHT DROP-IN

Open-house, free coffee and snacks - games and conversation with friends. A safe place to hang out on a Friday night from 7-9pm at Salvation Army Crossroads Community Church (11661 95 St). More info: 780.474.4324.

PARKDALE-CROMDALE SENIORS GROUP

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

SENIORS LUNCH

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

BABES IN ARMS

A casual parent group every Friday, 10am to noon at The Carrot Coffeehouse (9351 118 Ave).

L'I' SPROUTS PLAYGROUP

Come by the Parkdale-Cromdale Hall (11335 85 St) with your little ones Fridays, 10am-12pm. For more info: Chantal 780.669.3272.

CRUD COMMUNITY DINNER CLUB

Discover new flavours and restaurants while you explore a variety of wonderful cuisine along the Ave. This month we will be visiting Lans Asian Grill (11828 103 St) on Tuesday, September 25th, 6-8pm. All are welcome! Please RSVP to Bert or Alice at bertg@telusplanet.net

SPORTS/REC

COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE

You are invited to join your 118th NET team for a Community Bike Ride on Tuesday September 4th meet us at Eastwood Park at 6:30 for some community fun! If you have any questions, concerns or need to borrow a bike let us know! Contact Alec 780.668.7956.

FREE QIGONG CLASS

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

CRUD DOG WALKING GROUP

Meet neighbours and their canine companions while walking around the community. Mondays evenings: 6:30pm in front of St. Alphonsus Church (11828 85 St). Walks are cancelled if raining.

FREE COMMUNITY ACCESS AT THE NEW COMMONWEALTH REC CENTRE

Saturdays from 5pm-7pm there is a free community access time for community league members. Enjoy the pool or the fitness centre. All 7 area leagues are participating. Contact your neighbourhood league to get a membership. Note: Due to football games the September 22nd time is moved to September 23rd and the October 13th to October 14th.

CRUD FAMILY PARK CRAWLS

CRUD's Family Park Crawls are the place to be every Sunday at 1:30pm. Come and enjoy neighbourhood parks and meet new families. Check CRUD's calendar at www.crudedmonton.org for weekly locations.

VOLUNTEER

HELP AT NORWOOD CENTRE

Become a Volunteer at Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre (9516 114 Ave) and gain experience for employment/education, meet new people, learn new skills, have fun and give back to your community. Click the volunteer tab at www.norwoodcentre.com to view positions descriptions or phone: 780.471.3737.

BEFRIEND A SENIOR

Provide much needed companionship to an isolated senior by assisting them with grocery shopping, sharing life stories, playing cards or completing crafts, going for walks or driving them to and from medical appointments.

There are seniors in your community waiting for a volunteer right now. It could take as little as an hour each week! For more info call Carole at 780.342.4421.

HANG AT A GALLERY

Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts is looking for individuals willing to share 2-4 hours a week as gallery attendants. Gain experience working in a gallery setting, while supporting your neighborhood arts scene! For more info, volunteer@ninahaggertyart.ca

BE A COFFEE BARTENDER

Learn how to be a barista and 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. Drop by: The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse at 9351 118 Ave, call 780.471.1580 or visit www.thecarrot.ca

DRIVE A SENIOR

Be a volunteer driver who spends 3-4 hours once a month to drive an elderly senior to medical appointments, banking and/or shopping. Gas reimbursed. Call: 780.732.1221.

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

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

BETHEL GOSPEL CHAPEL

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

Sunday Meetings:

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

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please join us for our diverse services. We offer regular Sunday worship services in German and English languages.
10759-96 Street (Corner of 108 Ave)
780-422-0059 www.stjohnsluth.ca

Service Times:

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

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

ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

11828-85th Street 780-474-5434

Service Times:

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

St. Vincent de Paul Food Help Hotline:
780-471-5577

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

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

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

Service Times:

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

We would like to thank the Norwood Neighbourhood Association for sponsoring the Community Calendar.

For more info about the NNA, go to albertaave.org/nna.html

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Poets, young and old, wanted for September poetry slam



Poets are invited to compete for \$500 in prizes at the **"Words from the Avenue"** poetry slam. The event will be held on Sunday, September 9th, 2012 at 4pm as part of the Kaleido Family Arts Festival. Interested poets should contact Harvey Voogd at rusic13@telus.net or 780.474.2576 to register.

Last year 17 poets competed. The \$300 first prize was won by Tyler Enfield for his poem *Novo Rapid*. Anthony Goertz won the \$150 second prize for his poem *The Arbutus Tree (When We Were Younger)*. The third prize of \$50 was won by Rachel Lindley for her poem *The Contortionist Speaks of Dislocation*. Depending on the number of contestants, preference will be given to poets who live in the Rat Creek Press distribution area.

A poetry slam is a competition at which poets read or recite their own original work. **Words from the Avenue** is sponsored by the Rat Creek Press to celebrate the printed word.



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