

Residents object to permit proposal



(Top) Children take a trip through Norwood Square Park as the adults (right) gather to discuss the proposed bylaw change that would allow Arden's Food Mart to sell liquor. Some community residents are concerned the park will become a hang-out place for drinking adults.

KAREN MYKIETKA

Shocked and dismayed. That was the reaction of most people who heard that the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) intended to approve a liquor store at Arden's Food Mart just 30 metres from Norwood Square Park at 114 Ave and 95 St.

"The city bylaw states that liquor stores have to be a minimum of 100 metres from public parks," says Cora Shaw, Alberta Avenue Community League development chair. "We are being encouraged by a numerous of people to take it to court if needed, but we are really hoping it does not come to that. We have better ways to spend our time and money."

Cris Basualdo, a Alberta Avenue resident, was at the SDAB appeal hearing on March 7 and February 2012 when the owners of Arden's appealed the decision of the development officer who denied them a permit for a liquor store.

"The bylaw is clear and we did not think it could be varied at all -- never mind to this

extent," say Basualdo.

Last year, the five member SDAB panel denied the appeal. This time five different members heard the appeal and approved it according to the verbal decision Basualdo was given when she called the SDAB office the next morning - official written decisions come two weeks after the hearing.

Tony Caterina, City Councillor for the area, was also dismayed at the decision and says the city's legal department is looking into the decision.

Allan Bolstad, Executive Director of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, was on City Council in the late 1990s when this bylaw was put into place after the privatization of liquor stores. "We were concerned about people going back and forth from the park to the store and essentially turning the park into a drinking hole. We saw it as a way to space out liquor stores in stressed parts of the city, which already had more than their share of bars, liquor stores, pawn shops and various other outlets."

Once word spread about this decision, angry emails and calls started flooding into the City and offers of support to the Alberta Avenue Community League (AACL).

Chris Wagner of the Parkdale-Cromdale Community League sent the following statement: "We are extremely disturbed that the SDAB would flout a city bylaw that is in place for public safety & security reasons. Liquor stores can easily become predatory businesses, as evidenced by the issues surrounding other stores such as the Cromdale. This ruling sets a dangerous precedent for all neighborhoods, schools and parks in the city, puts communities at risk and negatively affects all the work being put forth by community stakeholders to make Alberta Avenue a great place to live."

On March 13, AACL board members and residents huddled in the league office over computers preparing arguments and evidence against the decision after getting word from SDAB that they would take a written submission from

the community league.

Gerard Forget, another AACL board member, spent the day collecting signatures on a hastily prepared petition. In just one day, between door knocking and parents from Norwood School and the Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre (NCFRC), over 180 signatures were collected.

The AACL has prepared a package including letters of information/evidence from NCFRC, City of Edmonton Community Services and the Neighbourhood Empowerment Team. The liquor store applicants and their supporters stated that Norwood Square Park was not an active park - hardly ever used. When in fact, city statistics show that over the last seven years, it had the highest average number of participants in all of northeast Edmonton.

SDAB contacted the league to inform them the panel will hear further evidence on the case. The hearing will be on April 25 at 9 a.m. in council chambers.

A STEP down for community groups

MARI SASANO

The 2013 Alberta provincial budget was billed as a 'transformational' document -- and the Redford government delivered. While much discussion was held around the budget deficit and 'bitumen bubble', a long-running and popular program for communities and local social agencies was axed in the 2013 year that will radically reduce the services available this summer.

The Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) funds summer employment in Alberta's non-profit sector for postsecondary students, which has traditionally been a win-win: students would be able to find meaningful work over the summer to help pay for tuition, while non-profits would benefit from the availability of skilled workers for summer projects.

Bill Moore-Kilgannon, Executive Director of Public Interest Alberta, is concerned that cutting STEP -- at a cost of \$7.4 million -- is a move that will off-load those services onto the front lines of the non-profits that operate programs and projects that have a low-cost, high-value benefit to the community.

"The social policy framework [of the Redford government] has emphasized downloading responsibility on other levels of government and not-for-profit agencies. The front lines will be struggling to make ends meet instead of investing in services," says Moore-Kilgannon. "For community organizations, it's going to mean a lot of summer activities are not going to happen. For 3000 students, they'll have to find other jobs that are not in the community and not-for-profit areas."

continued on page 3.

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Community News

A touch of travel and culture on our tongues



FOOD QUEST
HABESHA ETHIOPIAN
RESTAURANT
9515 - 118TH AVENUE

RUSTI L. LEHAY



RUSTI L. LEHAY

The quest tonight for Irene, Jens, and myself is to learn about Ethiopian food. Unknowingly, Habesha restaurant at 118th Ave and 95 Street will supply the instruction. When we first walked in the door, we were anxious about the blue haze rising from numerous hookah pipes. However none of us choked or coughed despite the filmy, fragrant atmosphere. Shisha is the Middle Eastern tradition of smoking flavoured tobacco out of a hookah, a water pipe, and the practice dates back hundreds of years.

In the top of the hookah, the flavoured tobacco is burned in a small bowl under aluminum foil holding a hot coal. The smoke travels through small holes into a water-filled chamber at the base. The water cools and adds moisture to the smoke before it is drawn out a connecting hose to the "smoker." While it fills the air with the haze we associate with bars of yesteryear prior to smoking bylaws, we

are relieved to find it lacks harshness throughout the entire evening.

A bit disappointed to be deprived of ethnic music, we are happy to find our conversation flows at easy speaking volumes even with every table full. Hovering above us, evenly placed horizontal slats hang by chains and serve to absorb both the smoke and sounds drifting up between them and the ceiling, an additional three feet higher.

Ordering the South African Castle Lager, a blonde ale, my friend -- a beer connoisseur -- describes it as having a unique subtle bitter aftertaste that fades and returns delivering a fuller hops flavour than most domestics. Picture my linebacker-type German companion shivering, "It goes down with goose bumps" assuring his partner and me, "this is a good thing."

The evening's only challenge is trying to pronounce the names of the dishes as we fear we would starve if proper enunciation was required. Good thing the servers are accommodating in educating us Canadians and we try combination dinners that serve two. Reasonably priced when you consider our meal could have served a fourth or even fifth companion for \$60.00 (plus our beverages). The first -- a vegetarian assortment of Atkilit, Misser Wot Key, Gomen, Misser Wot Alecha, and Fosolia served with house salad and a combination meat plate. Irene and I shared the traditional tea spiced with cinnamon, cardamom and cloves finding it quite delightful despite our shared tendency to eschew caffeinated beverages. Like a mild chai tea, both it and the beer complimented the spicy food and Injera, the traditional Ethiopian bread ripped and

used to scoop mouthfuls of food. Forget forks or utensils.

"You have to like your company to share food this way," notes Jens.

Injera, a crepe-like, spongy, sour flatbread, is made with the same recipe as it was 2,000 years ago. Using incredibly small high protein teff grains, we learn it takes 150 grains of teff to equal the weight of a single grain of wheat. One cup of cooked teff contains more calcium (387 mg) than a cup of milk and has an excellent amino acid composition. Our server, from Ethiopia, informs us women are judged as good cooks once they master the bubbles in the fermented injera and admits she has yet to attain this skill. Okay by us, as she demonstrates an eye for detail. Our water glasses are kept full and the unlimited injera basket is never empty.

The colourful food arrives piping hot arranged on a huge

flat round piece of Injera and the server places an extra basket of rolled flatbread between Jens and me. Then she tips all the dishes into heaps of flavours on one main plate of injera in the table centre. Irene on the opposite end of the table happily uses up the Injera left on the second plate. Jens, astonished when she reaches across for more, asks, "Have you finished that whole injera already?"

"Shut up and eat. That's what I'm doing." And that is what we did. We ate, laughed, talked without yelling, eating the mild Fosolia, (string beans, carrot and potatoes one of only two dishes we might make at home in our own kitchens), sang sweet praises to the spicy Siga Tibs (cubes of beef tenderloin sautéed in house blend of spices), crunching the gritty Misser Wot (flavourful lentils), savouring the Gomen, (sautéed spinach with garlic, onions, green pepper, other tasty herbs and spices) and all agreed the food and ambiance rates a return visit. Mission accomplished. Our server and the menu provided stories and details. We now feel quite informed and satiated. Seven out nine dishes tantalizingly planted a touch of travel and culture on our tongues.

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News Briefs

Crime-free building training

RUSTIL L. LEHAY

Here I am, the most cautious person in the world, learning how to make crystal meth without a gas mask. I'm certain I did not sign for this in my contract as a resident manager of Madison Place; I did sign up to be certified by the Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) program run by the Edmonton Police Service (EPS).

The Edmonton Apartment Association (EAA) offers applicable seminars and brought in EPS Constable Joe Lewis to inform apartment owners and caretakers on how to recognize the signs of criminal activity. I am still astonished they teach a room full of average people how to make crystal meth.

Constables Dale Brenneis and Reid Nichol are the sole contingent for all of Edmonton's 250 certified CFMH units. Another 150 are in the approval process. That makes them responsible for 20,000 families when six years ago there were less than 50 certified CFMH buildings.

"The reduction in fear and crime improves quality of life," says Brenneis.

With the program growing,

tenants are empowered to choose responsible landlords who discourage illegal activity.

One of our Madison Place tenants, Blair Johnson (not his real name), was a former drug dealer eager to change his lifestyle. He had experienced multiple drug raids in previous rentals. "If I was looking for another apartment I'd definitely look for the crime free status," says Johnson. The building owner, Elizabeth Hall-Petry, says she always asks tenants for their reason for moving. "Johnson had nothing but bad rental experiences prior to moving here. It was Johnson who complimented me on instilling faith in landlords again."

Hall-Petry met all nine components to have Madison Place certified in June 2008. "It has saved me expenses by allowing our tenants to feel secure and stay longer. People in unsafe buildings don't want to stay." She has also found a better class of tenants and she says there is virtually no trashing of in our suites. It is much easier to upgrade suites than constantly repairing damages.

The CFMH community

building allows tenants like Johnston and his neighbors to engage in a three-way partnership with the EPS, and building owners/managers. The long-term leases and building social events encourage tenants to know each other.

When everyone knows everyone, it is almost impossible to engage in illegal activity behind their closed apartment door. Constable Dale Brenneis believes the backbone of the CFMH program is this shared sense of responsibility.

The tenant essentially commits to live a crime-free lifestyle and if a tenant engages in criminal activity they are subject to a 24-hour eviction notice. The agreement permits police to share information about illegal activity with owners or their on-site managers.

Back in meth-class, Constable Lewis shows us how to identify signs of neighbourhood drug houses such as propane tanks with blue brass fittings, containers with spigots, and dismantled lithium batteries. So when you see me looking in dumpsters I am protecting my neighbourhood, my home and the tenants.

continued from page 1.

Many of our community's events and festivals benefit from STEP workers. For example, Arts on the Ave had planned to hire two STEP students this summer.

Parkdale-Cromdale Community League (PCCL), like other community leagues, hosts programs that are run by STEP workers. The loss of the funding now means that the fate of some of these summer opportunities for local children and families are now uncertain.

"The biggest impact would be in the Green Shack program and other events that hire people connected to the Green Shack," says Richard Williams, Vice-President of the PCCL. "Having that daily programming in the summer months, many of which are attended by those vulnerable in the community, will affect many families."

Although there may be a chance that the City may find the funding from other areas

to hire students for Green Shack, Williams is concerned that the City's own tight budget will mean that the community leagues will be left to create replacement programs on their own.

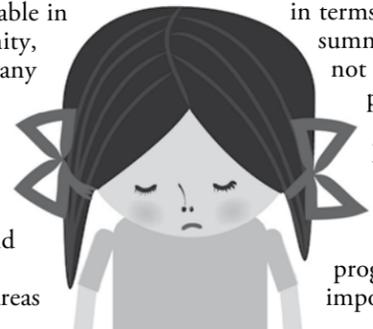
"If we had to hire people ourselves," says Williams. "We probably couldn't run the program. We struggle with volunteers as it is. We don't have the capacity to screen and hire students."

The City of Edmonton, which operates the Green Shack program, declined to be interviewed for this article.

While there are other summer programs available, the impact of losing the Green Shack will have a greater impact on low-income neighbourhoods, says Bill Moore Kilgannon.

"If the Green Shack is not happening, parents who don't have a lot of resources

in terms of money for summer camps are not going to have programs for their children. For more vulnerable families, these programs are important."





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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.

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Skinning the public with every vote

DARREN BOISVERT

With six months to go before the 2013 Edmonton civic election, it is heartening to see our local politicians begin to express themselves openly and honestly to their constituents; issue positions are being clarified and momentous bylaws are being passed with electrifying speed. One can already smell the ink on the ballot paper.

Airport land appropriation. Check. Downtown arena. Check. Residential infill guidelines. Check. Annexing land to the International Airport near Leduc. Check. Horse Hill Area Development Plan. Check.

With an expensive election campaign soon to begin, councillors (and likely the Mayor) not running again are taking the opportunity to pay back developers for the large (and some illegal) donations received in 2010. For those standing for office again, it's the perfect time to solicit more money with proof of decisive action on making Edmonton a land developers' dream market.

When our councillors talk about making Edmonton a 'world-class city', perhaps they should speak more often about the fact that Edmonton is the second largest city in the world. It's true. In terms of land area, we have sprawled our way to the top of the

charts with only a mere one million residents. No need for the Mayor's city re-branding enterprise. Simply call us what we are: The Sprawling City.

Out of all the councillors, no-one has spoken more eloquently in defense of those who backed his last campaign than Tony Caterina.

In a debate to allow citizens to comment on the city's Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy last fall, Caterina said, "If you own the land and you want to grow berries, go ahead. If you don't own the land, I would say the same thing; get the heck out of the way. You have no interest."

He followed this up by stating that unless a person had "skin in the game", he didn't think their opinion was worth being presented to council and heard. His position is clear: issues should be discussed with those who stand to benefit monetarily and let the whining masses keep quiet.

There is no better proof

of his interest in supporting developers (nor of his hypocrisy) than his 2010 campaign election donation list. He received over \$68,000 from donors who live outside the boundaries of our constituency and only one (\$200: Avenue Trading Post: a company run by his in-laws) from the people who live in our community.

Developers, bankers, architecture firms, and construction companies all bankrolled his previous campaign. The influx of money allowed him to vastly out-spend all his opponents, blanket the community with election posters, hire more campaign staff, and buy advertising. Yes, he received more votes than any other candidate, but this was achieved through the unfair advantage of outside money influence on our local election decision.

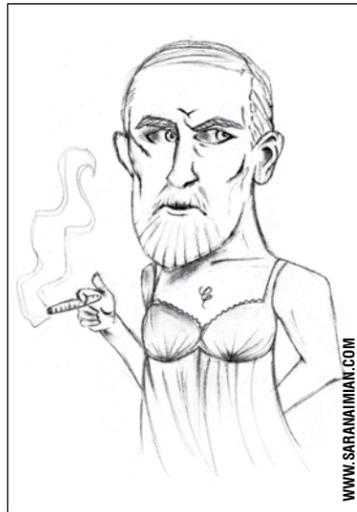
Skin in the game? A more see-through Freudian slip couldn't be manufactured.

Aside from the money and

a voting record that prioritises developers, our councillor has taken a deeply cynical position on democracy. It's not just depressing; it depresses civic engagement. Who will call up our representative on issues they care about when they already know he thinks their opinion is calculated according to 'skin', land, and money? Who will make the effort to present to city council when they hear their councillor snort derision and disrespect for their interest in civic issues? Who will run in the next election knowing they will be out-spent 2-1 by money pouring in from outside companies?

Only a babe-in-arms would fail to understand that money collected during campaign elections don't carry weight when it comes to votes in council. Or that a \$5000 cheque doesn't open doors for one-on-one discussions with politicians. Or that "skin in the game" doesn't translate to more beneficial bylaws for land speculators and developers.

Election campaigns are expensive and money buys influence. The math isn't hard to calculate. But questioning this algebra comes with serious costs. The solution, according to Caterina, is simple. Donate to his campaign and buy your skin. Get a chair at the table. Drink from the spiked Kool-aid and be a team player. Pay to play.



Freudian Slip.

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Arden liquor permit 'visionary'

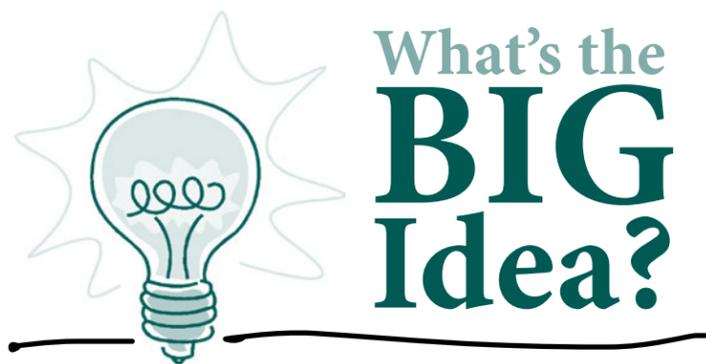
RENE LADSOUS

I must admit, I fail to understand how the opposition to Arden Store's application to sell beer & wine can generate so much effort within our community, especially when the construction of a 155 units apartment building across the street actually stirred much more opposition from concerned residents. Where were these same people back then? Could it be because fighting a developer rather than a family has a much lesser chance of success?

When the Community League is talking about the history of the area, who remembers Arden? This store has been part of the community for more than 20 years, probably more than 50. Did you know this location was once a dry cleaning store? Admittedly it was the source of worries over the years, but since this family took over they have instituted a lot of improvements. No longer can you find drug paraphernalia in the store; the phone booth that was a source of revenues for them (and a calling center for drug dealers) has been

removed at their request; they contribute to the fight against prostitution on that corner by calling the police. They are socially responsible store owners.

The basis for the appeal to the community rests on the morality of potential alcohol consumption in front of children. It is flawed! The media have jumped on the sensationalism of the story and once again the public is misinformed. The SDAB's decision was visionary for not confining us to a reputation that so many residents fought for so many years.



What's the BIG Idea?

No permit for massage parlour

MIRI PETERSON

The proposal to establish as massage parlour 10 metres away from the Crystal Kids Youth Centre is one of the most outrageous and unconscionable ideas I have seen in my career working with vulnerable and at-risk youth since 1993. I have spent countless hours since 2004 working with boys and girls here at our centre to purposefully mentor them out of high-risk lifestyles. I have spent equally abundant hours helping young people pick up the pieces of their broken spirits and the resulting bodily harm after

falling victim to the sex trade and other high-risk lifestyles. It simply blows my mind that this is even up for debate.

If the body rub parlor development appeal should succeed, our work at Crystal Kids will get that much harder and our children will be in grave danger.

I am demanding that the Edmonton Subdivision & Appeal Board deny the appeal (hearing will be on April 4th) for a body rub parlor development permit to be granted. We have much work to do to thwart this threat. We simply must defend our children.



Miri Peterson is the Executive-Director of Crystal Kids. To contact about this issue or sign the online petition, phone 780-479-5283 ext 222, or visit the website at www.crystalkids.org.

Letter to the Editor

RE: OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (MARCH ISSUE)

I wanted to thank Rebecca for the article you wrote in the Rat Creek Press. Staff have commented that they are pleased to have our school featured and represented in a positive manner. We have received phone calls from former students who have

called to share their memories. So thanks again for putting a great message out about community schools and in particular Delton school. I appreciate it.

Nancy Weber
Principal, Delton School

SONGWRITERS AND ARTISTS, JOIN US!

Bridge Songs is an annual community arts event blending original music (a recorded album and live performances) with visual art, poetry and short films around a central theme. We are looking for submissions for this year's event, Bridge Songs: Heartbreak, running June 14 and 15 at The Anglican Parishes of St.Faith's and St.Stephen the Martyr. Check website for deadlines.

Complete submission details and forms can be found online at www.bridgesongs.ca, or at The Carrot on the community table near the front door.



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CUTTING ACROSS THE AVE

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REBECCA LIPPIATT

MB'S BARBER SHOP

Ben Daneluik is an old man now, a thousand haircuts in his life. Every few weeks he travels from the southside of Edmonton to MB's Barber Shop. When it is his turn for a haircut, he moves stiffly from his chair by the window, his metal walker pushed in front of him. Mohamad gently holds Ben's elbow, transferring him to the barber's chair.

Mohamad immigrated to Canada in 1988 and "decided to be a hairstylist so I could be around women all the time", he laughs as he selects his tools and looks around at the men in the shop. Short strands from Ben's balding head shower down on the cape.



REBECCA LIPPIATT

Above: Mohamad El-Baalbaki (barber) and Mr. Melhem
Top Left: Ben Daneluik



REBECCA LIPPIATT

PARK PLAZA BARBER SHOP

Roy owns the Park Plaza Barber shop, which is located next door to a liquor store, so he has the craziest stories. A man caught in a knife fight, his severed finger tucked in his pocket while Roy cut his hair. NAIT students convincing him to barber a stuffed gorilla for a movie they were making for their film class.

Roy can remember all the men he worked for, including his first boss, a Chinese man in Brazil. "I came to be a barber by accident. My first customer was an old guy, a Chinese man who had a barber shop downstairs from where I lived. He was always drunk and let me play at cutting his hair." After more prodding, Roy reveals he left civil engineering in university to follow a girl to Rio De Janeiro. When he returned, after 45 days, not the week he had intended, he was kicked out of university and needed a job. He was hired by the Chinese barber.

Above: Cory Olds

Right: Roy Karout (barber) and Cory Olds (green hair)

Far Right: Roy Karout and Don Buziak



REBECCA LIPPIATT



REBECCA LIPPIATT

Roy focuses on his customer, his face furrows in concentration. Blue-green shafts of hair flip off the silver ends of the scissors. The full Mohawk is clipped. Roy finishes with the scissors, brushes hair off the cape and holds the mirror up for a closer inspection of the back of the head. Cory regards his haircut, nodding in satisfaction. After paying, he nods to Roy "see you soon," and exits the barbershop.

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that **Bloomin'** garden show & art sale Saturday, May 11, 2013 albertaave.org

-- CUTTING ACROSS CULTURES

STAN'S BARBER SHOP

The stories told in barbershops layer one on top of each other, woven together like the hair shed on the floor, creating a mosaic of history. Kelly's business is named Stan's Barbershop, for the Ukrainian man who owned the business before Kelly. Barbering was one of the quickest trades he could learn as a new immigrant, and he was trained by several other barbers before opening his shop. "I apprenticed with two Italian brothers," says Kelly. "They taught me a lot and were very helpful."

Stories are told. Old stories, new stories. Stories about wives and girlfriends. Jobs. Politics. The weather. "I hear good ones, sad ones, bad ones", says Kelly. "We become like a bartender or a psychiatrist." The stories shared between barber and client creates a bond. Men trust their hair and the details of their lives with the barber, and over time a relationship is cemented. Kelly talks highly of his customers, "It becomes like family."



Above: Kelly Tarbine (barber), Yousuf Abdulle

Left: Kelly Tarbine (barber in back), Moe Safadi (barber in front), Yousuf (father), Said (son) and Sainab (daughter) Abdulle

Below: Moe Safadi (barber), Said Abdulle

Moe talks softly and reassuringly as he gently cups his hand on the scalp of the small boy in the chair. The boy flinches each time the clippers near his head; he squinches his face as a spray of water wets his hair. He squirms this way and that, until his father in the next chair asks him to sit quietly. He quiets his body, holding himself tight, determined to honour his father's pride.

When he finishes the haircut, Moe helps the boy off of the chair. "Would you like a sucker now?" The child nods, his face still solemn. He remembers the sucker from his last visit. He pops it in his mouth and watches as the clippers buzz the finishing touches to his father's hair.



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THE LEMONADE STAND THE ARCHITECTURE OF BUSINESS SUCCESS

Here is the 7th in the series on building a successful business. Our neighbourhood is filled with freelancers, entrepreneurs, independent artists, and cottage industries run from homes.

We hope that by presenting the challenges and hurdles faced by many independent business owners, along with sensible advice for success, will encourage others to consider following their dream of independence. This series is dedicated to helping these entrepreneurs succeed.

Practice the principle of compensation

HENRI YAUCK

This simple principle is frequently the difference between a successful business and one that fails. Think of it like this: you are out on an archery range doing a little target practice. You put the arrow in your bow, draw, aim, let the arrow go. It misses the target.

When the shooter misses the target, is it the target's fault?

Consider this. If getting at your customer's money is your target you will miss your mark. Instead, if you have provided value to your customer, then you will be more likely to hit a target that is there. The goal

should always be on gaining repeat business and providing value to your customer. The money is simply the result of the value you've provided. In other words, when you've "hit your target."

When it comes right down to it, running a successful business is not about us, and it's not even about our product or service, it's about the other person -- the customer -- and how our product or service will affect their lives in a way that they see as being of value.

This is the basis of The Principle of Compensation, but this idea is a two-edged sword, and must be masterfully handled.

Many people become so fired up about their product, they forget to learn about their customers before they put the proposition across. While huge belief in (indeed, while passion for) one's product or service is obviously a terrific thing, it can have a downside as well. It can cause a business person to forget that -- when it comes right down to it -- it isn't about the product or service... it's about the customer and the value he or she perceives in your product or service.

The other edge of the principle of compensation sword is your ability to communicate that value... not as you see it, but as your customer sees it. For

example, people who buy a 1/4 inch drill bit aren't buying the bit -- they are only wanting a smoothly drilled, splinter free, 1/4 inch hole.

To sum it up, a business person needs to always connect with the needs and desires of the customer, communicating that value to them clearly and simply.

Do you have a start-up business in mind that is about ready to roll? Then it's time to contact Darren Boisvert at editor@ratcreek.org and get your name and business on our first contact list. You may qualify for marketing and business-building guidance from our team.

RCP IS GROWING THIS SUMMER

Thanks to the support of our advertisers and changes coming with a new press at Gazette Press. The RCP will be undergoing some changes this summer. The paper will be expanding to 16 pages and 8 of them will be color. Watch for our color ad special. Details in June. And we will need more writers to fill the space with all the interesting stories from our community. Contact editor@ratcreek.org

WANT TO GARDEN THIS SPRING?

Spots available at Community Gardens in Alberta Avenue, Eastwood, and Elmwood Park. We are discussing future gardens at St. Patrick School (One World One Centre) and Norwood Square (near Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre). Interested? Contact Rocky rocky.pilisko@edmonton.ca or 780-496-3782

Got any ideas on improvements for Norwood Square Park at 114 Ave and 95 St? Email info@albertaave.org

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Dancing the terrible tango down one memory lane

BOOK REVIEW

TRAUMA TO TANGO: DANCING THROUGH THE SHADOWS OF UNFORGIVEN DREAMS.

BY AYDAN DUNNIGAN

KAREN MYKIETKA

“Most of us don’t share our deepest thoughts, feelings and struggles with our closest friends and sometimes we can’t even be honest with ourselves. But in a memoir, a writer swings the pendulum in the other direction and shares publicly with everyone.

Aydan Dunnigan, an Alberta Avenue resident, has spent the last ten years journaling through his pain on a journey of healing. “When I started writing, it was all about anger. I kept writing and by the time I had finished writing I was just done with it all. I read the story over so often, it was a way of healing.”

Dunnigan has taken his writing and published a memoir called *From Trauma to Tango*. The memoir explores his “unraveling at the seams” after many years of hiding from his childhood trauma where he mastered “the art of disconnecting body from spirit”.

“There’s no quick fix [to life’s problems],” says Dunnigan.

“At times you just want to run away but you need to do the work now or go through the same stuff again. It’s all painful. When it first starts, you feel like it’s never going to stop. I thought I was going to destroy me. But then it passes. The pain is the teacher.”

For Dunnigan, an important part of his healing process was learning to dance the tango -- learning to connect his mind, body and spirit -- to help

“ I grew to appreciate that this was my story... ”

unlearn his childhood habit of disassociating in order to survive. “Tango...gets me into my body,” he says.

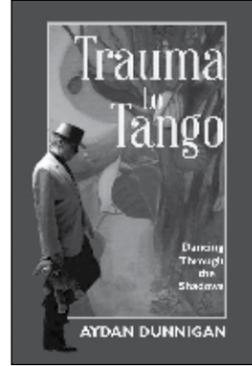
His memoir is structured with chapters of stories, memories and flashbacks interspersed with short sections on his experience with tango. The writing is not chronological so sometimes the timelines are not immediately apparent. A big impact on Dunnigan’s journey was his

experience with religion and the church followed by New Age and psychology, so there is a fair bit of jargon and the language is above your average reading level.

Despite this, Dunnigan’s writing is descriptive and often humorous. He paints word pictures of idyllic childhood moments, small town Alberta and conservative rural churches as well as terrifying moments and how children cope. And then there is the humorous account of his inner “cacophony of counsel” from his imaginary characters - monkey, fox and raven - as “metaphors for the conflicting aspects of my psyche”.

Pairing the sultry, seductive dance of tango with sexual abuse may seem odd or even inappropriate as first, but when you read about the lasting impacts of sexual abuse and how tango helps him work through these issues it really makes sense. As he writes, “Tango brings to the dance floor all the relational dynamics and communication patterns that one experiences in real life relationships.”

This memoir is a useful read as it should hopefully inspire us to reflect on our own lives and perhaps embolden us when we need a little courage.



Book Launch

Trauma to Tango: Dancing through the shadows of unforgiven dreams. April 7th, 2013 2-4 p.m. Carrot Café, 9351 118 Ave.

Book signing, readings and refreshments. Everyone welcome.

RSVP at www.traumatotango.com

BARDIC UPDATE

The Bard of the Avenue, Marlene Salmonson’s poem *Love Song to Sprucewood Library*, was shortlisted by the judges of the Edmonton Public Library’s “Love Letters to Your Library” poetry contest celebrating the EPL’s centennial.

The winners were Gary Garrison, Wendy Joy, Ben Murray and D’James Rushlow, whose poetry is currently in circulation on buses and transit throughout Edmonton.

SPRUCEWOOD LIBRARY LOVE SONG

I love you- this I cannot deny,

Read on and I will tell you why.

I hold you close to me, at my Alberta Avenue bodega,

Your words inflame my blood, like those of Twilight Saga.

The very thought of you makes my eyes go misty,

Epecially your collection of Agatha Christie!

I think of you, my book-filled love,

before I go to sleep,

Of whaling trips and sailing ships

and all the worlds you keep.

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HISTORY PROJECT UPDATE

Coming off a strong year in 2012, the History Project has been progressing steadily in the last few months. There is never a shortage of work to be done and we are always looking for new ideas. If you are interested in becoming involved in the project in anyway please contact us at history@ratcreek.org.

Beyond our monthly historical feature in the paper we are moving forward with the Historical Walking Tour project which will be an interactive tour of the Alberta Avenue Neighbourhood that combines audio, video and the written word to bring history to life. If you live in the neighbourhood and are interested in sharing your stories about the area please contact us.

As well, this month we are happy to announce the launch of a new feature on our website www.TheAveWeHad.org. The new tab (archives), is a collection of oral history interviews, reports and articles for download and links to further sources to get you started in learning and researching the area. It is hoped that this is only the start of an archive for the community and any suggestions for additions are most welcome.

Numbering Edmonton's street names

JONATHAN WELLER

In a plebiscite held on April 6, 1914, Edmonton became a city of numbers. The debate had been consuming the city since the beginning of the year with long-winded arguments on either side vying for council's time.

Prior to 1914, Edmonton was a confused city. The majority of roads in Edmonton, including Norwood, were labelled with names, however the avenues ran north-south and streets ran east-west, with a few fairly glaring exceptions, such as Jasper and Alberta Avenue.

When the Hudson's Bay Company opened sales on the reserve land to the west of Queen's Avenue (now 100 St), the labeling system changed. Streets were now north-south and numbered, while Avenues were east-west but still named. As a result you could, for example, travel west along MacKenzie Avenue (now 104 ave) until you intersected Queens Avenue at which point you were on Boyle Street.

Its little wonder that in the debates that ensued, mail workers were most consistently in favour of change.

Throughout the winter of 1914, numerous schemes were



Willow and Henry streets before Edmonton become regulated by numbers in 1915.

suggested but in the end only two were presented for a public vote: the numerical system, the ultimate winner and system we know today, and the Edmonscona system, a blend of quadrants, names and numbers devised by George Gowan, a manager at Credit Foncier and Dr. Revell, the former provincial bacteriologist.

With the exuberance of a passionate parent, Gowan defended his system until the bitter end. In a community meeting held on April 3, at the Rose Theatre on the corner of 95th Street and Alberta Avenue, Gowan "spoke for over half an hour on street

numbering", attacking the numerical system, which he labelled the "penitentiary system of numbering" and promoting his own version.

In the end, Edmontonians voted in favour of the numerical system which with a few minor adjustments remains with us today. However, this spring, to celebrate the history of the area perhaps we can give a nod to Gowan and free ourselves from the shackles of the numerical system and remember the old names for streets in the neighbourhood. Take a walk through the community and rediscover the names of our past.

HISTORICAL STREET NAMES

STREETS

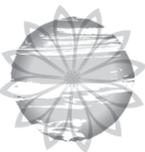
97th - Namayo
96th - York Street
95A - Sinclair
95th - Kirkness
94th - Carey
93rd - Kennedy St
92nd - Lorne
91st - Henry
90th - Otter
89th - Fox
88th - Marten
87th - Leggett

AVENUES

111th - Norwood Blvd
112th - Pine
113th - Elm
114th - Spruce
115th - Willow
116th - Oak
117th - Beech
118th - Alberta
119th - Cleave
120th - Spadina
121st - Westminster
122nd - Woodward



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DISTURBING EUTHANASIA LEGISLATION

The Quebec government is proposing legislation legalizing euthanasia. This legislation is disturbing and should not be supported anywhere in Canada.

The proposed legislation would infringe upon the Federal jurisdiction of the *Constitution of Canada Article 91.27* of the *Canadian Criminal Code* by calling euthanasia a medical act, and thus putting it under provincial jurisdiction.

This would allow a doctor, at their own discretion, to aid a person who is suffering from a terminal illness and has given their consent to die.

It sounds noble: ending suffering and supposedly giving the right of a person to decide themselves to die with dignity. The reality is, once society starts deciding who is to live and who is to die, compassionate reasons can readily be replaced with convenient expediency by criminal greed. The bill would serve to make the elderly even more of a target by the creative opportunists, some of whom are their very own caring children.

Many elderly people, on medications or not, have difficulty deciding on issues, have times of depression and are susceptible to being influenced by others. This legislation does not take into account the subtle and not so subtle abusive coercion that could cause a confused senior to agree to euthanasia as an escape, for example, rather than face the shame of reporting close family members' abuses, financial or otherwise.

This path could also lead down a slippery slope towards Belgium-style euthanasia problems. Despite them having similar safeguards in place, it is reported that upwards of 32 percent of euthanasia deaths in Belgium occur without a patient's request.

I think proposing euthanasia legislation must be challenged across Canada. We need better, stronger laws to protect the elderly and susceptible, many times from their own families, and not laws that put the elderly at greater risk.

What do you think?

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Get your 2013 Ave We Had historical calendar before they are all gone. Email info@ratcreek.org

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.

EVENTS

SPRUCE AVE GARAGE SALE

Check out the 17th annual Spruce Avenue Community Garage Sale (10240 115 Ave). Friday, May 3rd from 9am to 7pm and Saturday, May 4th from 9am to 5pm. Table rentals \$10. Donations of gently used household items, books, games, etc also accepted with money raised for the park re-development project. Due to limited space large household items will not be accepted. Call Verna at 780.479.8019 to reserve a table or for further info on donation drop-off. Concession open both days.

THE AVE WE HAD HISTORY WALK

May 5th at 1pm as part of Jane's Walk www.janeswalk.net.

THE CARROT STAGE

9351 118 Ave. More info: 780.471.1580. Thursdays: Zoomers open mic for folks 55+ 1:30-4pm. \$1.25 minimum charge. Fridays: Live music 7:30-9:30pm. Go to thecarrot.ca for line up. \$5 at the door. Saturdays: Open mic 7:30-9:30pm. Great time to share your newest tune, poem or comedy act! Free for all ages. \$1.25 minimum charge.

NOTICES

WANT TO GARDEN THIS SPRING?

Spots available at Community Gardens in Alberta Avenue, Eastwood, and Elmwood

Park. We are discussing future gardens at St. Patrick School (One World One Centre) and Norwood Square (95 St and 114 Ave). Interested? Contact Rocky at 780.496.3782 or rocky.pilisko@edmonton.ca.

MARKET CHAT

With local realtor Michelle Nipp. Wednesdays from 10:30am-12:30pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave) starting April 24th.

THE CARROT GALLERY IN APRIL

Will be featuring work by Vanessa Mastronardi.

NEW CARROT HOURS

Now open all day on Fridays from 9am to 10pm. Join us for a coffee after work.

PROGRAMS/CLASSES

BROWNCOAT KNITTING GROUP

April 10th and 14th from 6:30pm-9pm. Join the members of the Alberta Browncoats in knitting Jayne hats. Everyone is welcome. No experience required. Email: info@albertabrowncoats.com for more information.

NEEDLE FELTING

Learn how to needle felt with Mike. April 13th from 1:30-4pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). More info: info@artsontheave.org or call 780.471.1580.

GUITAR LESSONS

Free group guitar lessons every Saturday from 10am to 11am at Parkdale Cromdale Community Hall (11335 85 St) for members. The teacher is directly a part of the community and loves to share his knowledge.

CREATIVE PROSE AND WRITING GROUP

Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). More info: Vivian at vzenari@gmail.com

FREE ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

Practice your English conversation skills every Saturday morning, 10:00am to 11:30am at Bethel Gospel Chapel, corner 95 St and 115 Ave. Classes are free, and childcare is provided.

ESL GROUP

New students are always welcome so drop-in or recommend a friend! Wednesdays from 9:30-11am at the Parkdale Cromdale Community Hall (11335 85 St). More info 780.887.6825.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

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.

TWEEN LOUNGE

Join other teens in the program room to play video games, make a DIY project, meet friends or just hang out. For ages 7-13. Thursdays at 3:30pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

PARENT/CHILD PLAY GROUP

Every Saturday from 10am-12pm for children under 5 and their parents at Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre (9516 114 Ave). More info: Ashley at 780.471.3737.

COMMUNITY MEALS

Breakfast: 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 8am-10am; Supper: 3rd Friday at 5pm; Women's fellowship supper: 2nd Thursday at 6pm; Drop-in Centre Thursdays 10am-2pm at the Anglican Churches of St. Faith's and St. Stephen the Martyr (11725 93 St). More info: 780.477.5931.

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 Fridays, 10am-12pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave).

LI'L SPROUTS PLAYGROUP

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

SPORTS/REC

FREE COMMUNITY ACCESS AT COMMONWEALTH REC CENTRE

Enjoy the fitness centre at Commonwealth for free on Saturdays from 5pm-7pm with your community league membership.

VOLUNTEER

ARTS ON THE AVE CASINO FUNDRAISER

Volunteers needed April 14th and 15th! If you are interested email Karin karinchampion@yahoo.ca

HELP AT BLOOMIN GARDEN SHOW

Volunteers needed for Saturday, May 11th. Help serve coffee and drinks, with children's garden activities, with raffles/silent auction, info, book/magazine exchange, perennial swap. bloomin@albertaave.org or 780.477.2773.

NNA CASINO FUNDRAISER

Norwood Neighbourhood Association needs volunteers June 18th and 19th. If you can help out email: nna@albertaave.org

CHURCH SERVICES

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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)

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.

AVENUE VINEYARD CHURCH

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

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

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

CARISMA CHURCH

Our vision is to EMBRACE a relationship with Jesus and share it with others. Come and experience a multicultural worship service in an informal, friendly environment.

8401-114 Avenue 780-477-1235
www.carismachurch.org

Sundays at 10:00am

Kids Ministries for ages 2 to 12yrs.
Come as you are. All welcome!

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

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR SPONSOR

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COMMUNITY LEAGUE

ALBERTA AVENUE COMMUNITY LEAGUE DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 30 from 6pm to 8:30pm
9210 118 Avenue

Displays and Development updates
Guest Speaker: Bev Zubot from EFCL
Habitat for Humanity condo development
Food, music and drink

that **Bloomin'** garden show & art sale

A fantastic event that combines gardening information and products with an artisan market & gallery all in a beautiful, serene atmosphere.

FREE! admission

Saturday, May 11, 2013
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

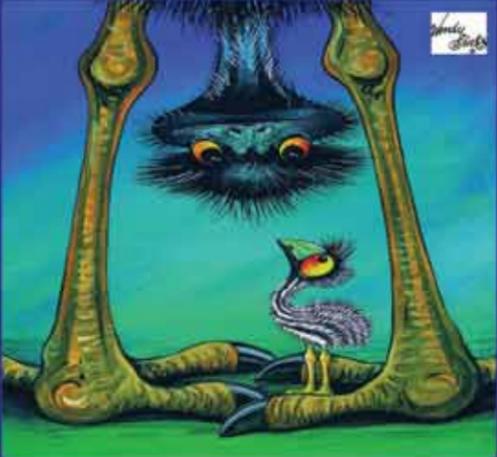
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More info at albertaave.org

NNA NORWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

Email: nna@albertaave.org Website: <http://www.albertaave.org/nna.html>
Mail: 9210 118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5G 0N2



Our FREE and interactive parent and child program is open to families with children 2 1/2-5 years.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Woodcroft Community League 13915-115 Avenue	Michener Park 101 Vanier House (Basketball Court)	Castle Downs YMCA 11510-153 Avenue	(AM) Alberta Ave. Com. League 9210-118 Avenue (PM) Bent Arrow Parent Lnk 11666-95 Street
April 22, 2013	April 23, 2013	April 24, 2013	April 25, 2013
April 29, 2013	April 30, 2013	May 1, 2013	May 2, 2013
May 6, 2013	May 7, 2013	May 8, 2013	May 9, 2013
May 13, 2013	May 14, 2013	May 15, 2013	May 16, 2013
NO PROGRAM	May 21, 2013	May 22, 2013	NO PROGRAM
May 27, 2013	May 28, 2013	May 29, 2013	May 30, 2013
June 3, 2013	June 4, 2013	June 5, 2013	June 6, 2013
June 10, 2013	June 11, 2013	June 12, 2013	June 13, 2013

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