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Arts coffeehouse opens on Alberta Ave

JILL SCHEYK

Part of Alberta Avenue was transformed in June when Arts on the Ave (AOTA), a coalition of artists who live and work on 118th Avenue, opened an arts-oriented coffeehouse in the building that formerly housed the Popular Bakery.

The not-for-profit venture, officially dubbed The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse, hosted its grand opening on June 22 at 9351 118 Avenue, and it was a huge success with over 100 people in attendance – so many in fact that the overflow was spilling out onto the Avenue itself.



DARCY & MICAH WORKED HARD TO KEEP THE LATTES FLOWING AT THE GRAND OPENING OF THE CARROT

The ‘arts’ part of the coffeehouse includes a gallery wall of paintings as well as a display of jewellery and artisan pieces for sale, and on Friday and Saturday nights it will also be a performing arts venue, with a cover charge of five to six dollars.

“I’m hoping it will be a draw for people all over the city,” Melanie Ustina, an Alberta Avenue resident, said.

The Carrot’s name came from a quote by French impressionist painter Paul Cezanne, who said “The day is coming when a single carrot, freshly observed, will set off a revolution.”

Ustina hopes that revolution will come in the form of a boost to the local artistic community, of which The Carrot will be the cornerstone.

“I look at it as part of the revitalization, because the Avenue has had such a bad reputation in the last few years. It’ll turn that around,” she said.

The coffeehouse will offer free-market coffee prepared with the help of a top-of-the-line espresso machine acquired secondhand for a fraction of the retail price. A selection of cakes, loaves, and other snacks will be provided by Flavour Budzzz catering service.

Director of Arts on the Ave Christy Morin said weekends may also include a Saturday arts market, as well as appetizers over and above regular coffeehouse fare during performances.

“The Carrot will be a place where artists can find support and where the community can come together and have a great cup of coffee,” says Morin. “That sense of ‘a place where everyone knows your name’ is our hope and dream for what we can build with this coffeehouse.”

Arts on the Ave is after a liquor license to serve wine in The Carrot, hoping that, along with the draw of weekend appetizers and performances, the coffeehouse will be pushed to its 60 person capacity.

Getting The Carrot ready for its big debut was a hard month’s work for volunteers.

A coat of paint in reds, greens and yellows and a host

where,” she said. “It has really been transformed by our volunteers.”

Those dirty floors are now clean and tidy, just like the

to be open after 5 p.m. when most other shops on the Avenue have shut down.

Those who would like to offer their services as baristas



SOME OF THE PEOPLE FROM AOTA WHO MADE THE CARROT HAPPEN: SCOTT, THORIN, ARTHUR, RANDALL, CHRISTY, CINDY, DAVE AND ALVIN

of eclectic furniture contributed to a new look.

At a public idea forum for the business on June 7, Morin pointed to the layers of dirt and dust still on the floor to illustrate how far the newly painted room had come.

“Look at the grime on the floor and picture that every-

rest of the space.

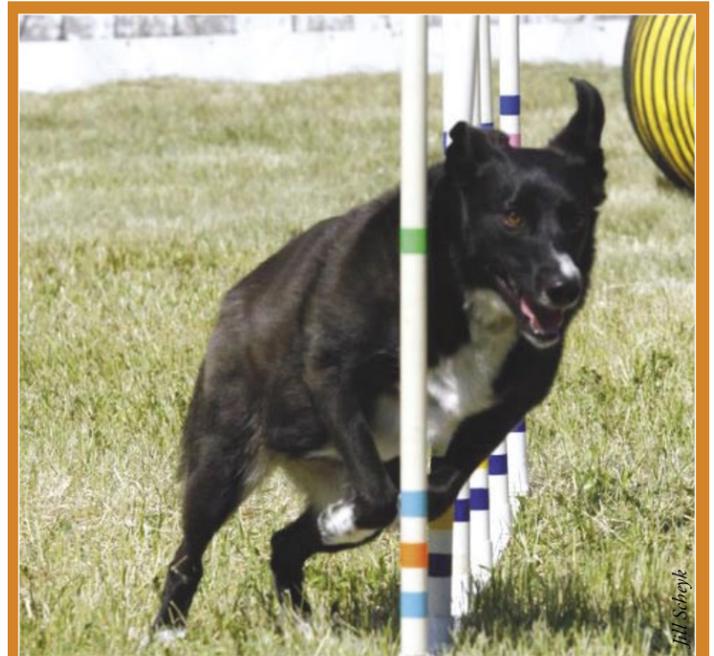
The coffeehouse’s hours will be Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 1 pm and 6pm to 10pm, Saturday, 10am to 10pm, and Sunday, 1pm to 4pm. It will feature live entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights. Morin feels it’s important for The Carrot

can contact Kimberly Ferland at ckferland@hotmail.com or at 474-8302. Shifts are typically three hours long with two volunteers working at any given time. Contact The Carrot at 471-1580 or on their website at www.thecarrot.ca for more information and a list of entertainment.

STOP THE PRESS!

LOCAL CANADA DAY CELEBRATION CANCELLED

The Norwood Neighborhood Association regrets to announce that the Canada Day celebration planned for Norwood Square is cancelled due to lack of volunteer resources. Please stay tuned for next year’s plans.



AVENUE GONE TO THE DOGS FESTIVAL, JUNE 9, 2007

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

OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS
Norwood Neighbourhood Association
Spruce Avenue Community League
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PAAFE - Prostitution Awareness &
Action Foundation of Edmonton

What about Norwood?

With Alberta Avenue indicating it is going ahead with revitalization, what efforts are being made to address the Norwood community? Along 95 St. between 118 and 111 avenue we also have similar needs, yet little if anything has been mentioned about our area.

Furthermore, we also have concerns with prostitution and its related activities. Yet despite the fact we have a beat patrol office located at 111 avenue and 95 St. there appears to be no effort by the EPS to provide foot patrols or regular police patrols in this area.

Obviously, the prostitutes, drug dealers and the predators that circle this area are well aware of this. Residents are noticing an increase in these

activities with little in the way of preventing this ongoing situation.

I wonder, after so many years of trying to get the City and the EPS to act on our concerns, why little, if any, effort has been taken to provide this community with adequate services.

Gary, a concerned Norwood resident

Response from the Rat Creek Press:

Norwood and Alberta Avenue are virtually one and the same. Norwood is the historical name of the neighbourhood between Norwood Blvd and 118 Ave between 89 and 97 Street. Alberta Avenue is the community league that includes Norwood and an additional 4 blocks (118-122 Ave).

Although the 118 Ave. area may seem to encompass the majority of the EPS's time, the district as a whole is what we focus on - EPS

encourage Gary to get involved in the Avenue Initiative or in one of the other groups, such as Alberta Avenue Community League or the Community Action Project.

Response from Cst. Michael Russell, Community Liaison Constable, District 1:

With the re-structuring of the EPS which occurred on April 29, 2007, we are now able to address concerns with a more collaborative approach. The Norwood area falls under District One, and in conjunction with Norwood Beats (Cst. Dave Radmanovich) we are now able to target specific locations, with background work being done by myself, and aiding the Beats officers in any way I can. Although the 118 Ave. area may seem to encompass the majority of the EPS's time, the district as a whole is what we focus on. We do realize that problems of drugs, prostitution, derelict housing, etc do not limit themselves to a geographic region.

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Dogs and safety

I have loved reading your paper and will miss it when I move at the end of the month. I'm a disabled adult who has been forced to move due to a \$250/month rental increase. My disability won't keep up with the "Alberta Advantage." I've been so impressed with the writing and scope of Rat Creek, and was planning to volunteer to help in some way this fall. Unfortunately, I'm forced to move to Calgary to a shared rental accommodation that I can afford.

I did have a topic suggestion for the paper, based on my experience this week. On Monday, I witnessed a loose pitbull attack a couple

walking some dogs on 93 Street & approx 119 Ave. Perhaps the paper could address the issue of pit-bulls in the neighbourhood (I know there are several?) People need to know what to do in this situation. The situation on Monday was pretty horrifying to watch but luckily, the people were unhurt and one of their dogs, although bitten, is going to be ok. I do think this is a significant safety issue for people in the neighbourhood.

Thanks again for your paper— you do great work and provide a great service to residents.

Roxanne Stewart

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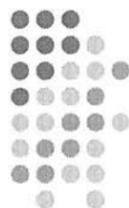
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Day of reckoning

Resident's hard work pays off as problem property is taken down

The hard work of residents, with the aid of the Community Action Project (CAP) and the City of Edmonton's Derelict Housing Department, has paid off.

Demolition equipment arrived early on June 13, 2007 to erase a consistent problem property on their block – one that they have been fighting for 3 years.

The property at 92 St. and 113 Ave. and the owner are well known to Edmonton media. Scott McKeen, of the Edmonton Journal, savoured calling the owner a jerk, to his face, and Cary Castagna of the Edmonton Sun found it suitable as a heap of the week. "That kind of pressure is really helpful for residents trying to clean up their neighbourhood", says Carla

Rugg, neighbour and recently elected chair of CAP.

Fellow CAP member and next-door neighbour to the blighted property Laurel

bank foreclosed on the mortgage when they learned about the insurance risks the property posed. She says of the ordeal, "Living next door to this nightmare has worn us down. It's such a relief to know that it will be replaced by something respectable. Another silver lining is that it helped bring the neighbours closer together."

"It's really unfortunate," she added. "It was a beautiful house three years ago and with this boom we can't afford to be wasting our housing stock. I wish it didn't have to be demolished, but in its present condition it's unsafe on top of being an eyesore."

Montorio Homes purchased the property with the intention of rebuilding on the site. Their plans for a 2-storey, 1800 sq-ft home have been approved by some of the neighbours as fitting in nicely with the mature neighbourhood.



NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS GATHER TO WATCH THE DEMOLITION OF THE PROBLEM HOUSE ON THEIR STREET

L-R: Brad Goertz, Lead Organizer Cap; Eleanor Edye And Iain Edye, Neighbours; Rod Stanwnychy, Mid-city Excavating, Demolition, Site Services; Julian Langauer And Carla Rugg, Neighbours; Pete Turland And Danielle Lutz Holding Baby Presley, Neighbours.

Ostrom, who led the fight to have the house torn down, held a barbecue when it was discovered that a builder had purchased the property. The

Nina Haggerty Centre moving

The Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts may be on the move to 118 Avenue by fall 2009, in a partnership with the Edmonton Inner City Housing Society that combines artistic space with affordable housing.

The new Centre would be moving to the lot currently occupied by Pro Auto Sales at 93 Street and 111 Avenue. The main floor would be taken up by the Haggerty Centre with about 16 below-market condos on the upper two or three floors.

"During the next few months, the Nina Haggerty Centre and EICHS...will be exploring grant opportunities, fundraising capacity and other factors that will ultimately determine whether or not we can make this project a reality," Wendy Hollo, director of the Haggerty Centre, said.

The idea for the partnership came when the Centre, stretched for space and nearing the end of a lease, approached the city to ask about a permanent home on 118 Avenue.

The Haggerty Centre, opened in 2003, is an artistic haven for the developmentally disabled.

"The primary goal of the Centre is to provide a place where people with developmental disabilities can explore their creative potential through artistic expression," Hollo said.

The Centre, currently located on 97 Street and 111 Avenue, is also involved in free and low-cost art programs for the community.

An architectural firm has been hired to make up drawings

to take the project to the permit stage.

If the project is okayed by the city, construction will begin in spring 2008 and is expected to wrap up the following fall.

About Nina

The Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts' namesake died at the age of 85 years, after realizing her dream of sharing a house with her sister, Rita, and sharing her love of painting with many.

Haggerty was born in 1915, the daughter of a WWI soldier who didn't make it home. Both girls contracted polio at an early age, and their mother took them to the Mayo Clinic in the U.S. for treatment.

There she met the girls' stepfather, a man who was an abusive drunkard. On the advice of friends and to protect them, Nina and Rita Haggerty's mother placed them both in an institution.

The two remained at the Michener Centre in Red Deer, Alberta, for over 50 years.

It was only in the last decade of her life that Nina Haggerty began to realize the dreams she'd fostered since childhood. She moved to Edmonton with her sister, where they shared a house. She took up painting, and she was talented – a budding artist.

Three years after her death in 2000, the organization that had been supporting her near the end of her life, the SKILLS Society, opened the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts.

onlineEXTRA Prostitution Working Group update & The Gardening Diva on pests go to www.ratcreek.org

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WHEN

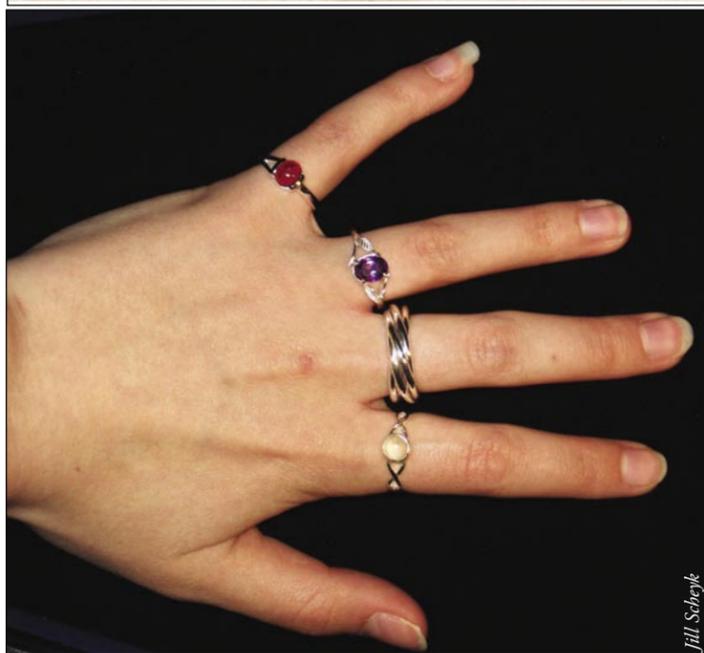
A selling space is booked for July 7th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at City Market on 104th downtown.

PRICE RANGE

From \$35 to \$155 per piece.

CONTACT

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Avenue Silver

WHO

Chris and Kimberly Ferland

WHAT

Silver jewelry imported from around the world.

WHERE

12111-89 Street, but also hosts parties in customer homes

WHEN

Open House with refreshments, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., July 14th

PRICE RANGE

Averages \$30 to \$50, some upwards of \$200

CONTACT

Phone: 554-8303
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African Beauty Supply

WHO

Abdullahi Mohammed

WHAT

Handmade head scarves and cultural dress imported from Dubai and India

WHERE

11748-95 Street

WHEN

Open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily

PRICE RANGE

\$120 to \$150 for full dress
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ALSO SELLS

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CONTACT

Phone: 471-2212



OWNER ABDULLAHI MOHAMMED POINTS OUT A DISPLAY OF COLOURFUL SCARVES

Rodéo Drive whips competition

JILL SCHEYK

After bouncing from a Whyte Avenue store to 124 Street in a period of just under eight years, Brenda Lee decided that the best place for exotic clothing store Rodéo Drive was in her home.

"This is the only store in Edmonton where you can shop naked," she said with a laugh. "I've advertised that."

It's not uncommon for couples to run around in their G-strings while they browse, she added.

That's the kind of atmosphere she likes to create with her appointment-only policy: one of total comfort. Considering the kind of products she carries, customer comfort is good for business.

Rodéo Drive offers everything from lingerie, fetish-wear, sexy Halloween costumes and daring swimsuits to wigs and light-up high heels.

And that's only a fraction of what's for sale in the glittering shop, where piñatas in the shape of a lipstick tube and a wedge-heeled shoe hang from the ceiling.

In this store where fantasy becomes reality, thousand dollar mannequins dressed in PVC miniskirts strike bold poses in every room.

Customers can book appointments for exotic fantasy photography, full makeup service, and a "look consultation" which is essentially a total makeover.

Brenda has owned the store for 16 years, and her customer base is loyal and just as diverse as her product range.

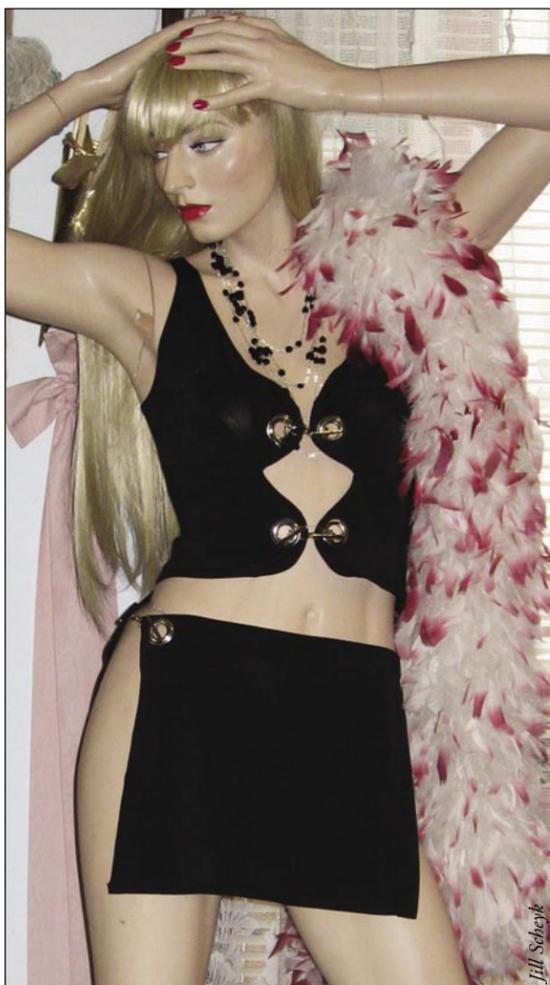
"I see all different walks of life," she said.

"Everybody's into different things."

Brenda got into the exotic clothing business



THE MANNEQUINS IN BRENDA LEE'S SHOP HAVE COST HER FROM \$1000 TO \$1500 EACH



A MANNEQUIN MODELS A PVC OUTFIT AND FEATHER BOA IN RODEO DRIVE'S FRONT ROOM.



BRENDA LEE SHOWS OFF SWIMSUITS FROM A RACY BRAZILIAN CLOTHING LINE.

ness when she decided to do something about her love of sewing and design.

She took a business course and started Rodéo Drive to give her creations a home. For her each day is a new chance to help someone play dress-up.

"I love giving customers a thrill," she said. Her favourite part of the business is showing doubtful people that they can look sexy.

"They're shocked; they didn't think they could look like that."

Brenda put in her share of hard work to get Rodéo Drive off the ground.

Early on in her business, she sent handmade samples to celebrities to get exposure. Sass Jordan wore a leather jacket of hers to an Edmonton concert.

Nowadays most of her clothes are imported from suppliers across North

America and even as far away as Brazil.

While that might make some shop-owners lazy, Brenda still takes the time to handcraft many of her products. Most notable of the handmade items is a selection of her Halloween costumes. They can require anything from sewing together panels of PVC for a sexy nurse outfit to painstakingly attaching hundreds of beads for a bellydancer's garb.

Although the quality of her product is impeccable, Brenda Lee credits her success instead to her personalized customer service.

Brenda has constructed outfits for cross-dressers, breast cancer survivors working around a mastectomy, and the average neighbourhood couple, all the while operating a step above her chain competitors.

"I know my job," she said confidently. She knows it so

well, Brenda added, that she can tell anyone their chest, waist and shoe size just by looking at them.

Even with that experience, and with her business established, the work hasn't slowed down.

Between her appointments, maintaining her website and sewing new clothes, Brenda regular puts in 10-13 hour days.

That's about to get a lot busier with her first-ever "jazzy pet wear" line, launching in fall 2007.

Still, she's always open to new customers. Her monthly theme parties are a great way to check out Rodéo Drive for the first time.

The next event is a Hawaiian beach party on July 14. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased directly from Brenda Lee at 474-0413.

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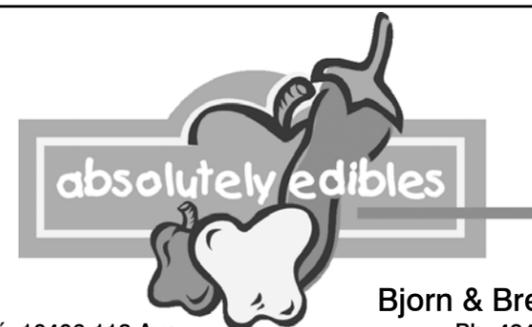
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PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

Affordable Rental Housing Solutions Needed

The vacancy rate today is .5 per cent and it seems almost impossible to find an affordable place to live, as the average rent in the city has crossed the \$800 mark and is expected to rise to \$1,000 before the end of the year.

A person making \$15 hourly, spending 30% of their take home pay on housing wouldn't be able to afford apartment rent. Where are they supposed to go?

I think it's time all levels of government worked together and took a hard look at solutions for what is rapidly becoming a crisis.

As I see it, we need to encourage the private sector rental housing industry to do what it does best. The demand for new rental apartments is obviously there as our population continues to grow. But construction of new rental units is just not happening. Instead existing apartments are being converted to expensive condominiums for resale.

The question governments need to ask is: what has happened?

Have private sector developers been discouraged by excessive municipal building and operating fee charges? Shortage of land? Unnecessary zoning restrictions? Is there too much competition from non-profit housing groups that make private sector affordable housing an unattractive investment? Are municipal, provincial and federal taxes too high? Are taxation regimes conducive to encouraging a healthy private sector rental industry? Are incentives needed?

All three levels of government need to ask these questions, not just of themselves but also of developers and property management groups.

Let's put everything on the table for discussion with the private sector rental industry. I believe together we can find a solution if we are willing to put aside any pre-conceived agendas and work together for the common good.

We owe it to the citizens of Edmonton to do all we can by encouraging affordable rental housing.

What do you think?

495-3261 www.petergoldring.ca

Bowling on the Ave?
It might be right up your alley!

PETER RAUSCH

Terry Stride, third generation owner of Plaza Bowl, has a passion for bowling that started in his fathers' and grand-fathers' bowling center that opened on the Avenue in 1959. He gained his agility skills at the family business as a pin boy in the 60's.

Since then he has seen a few changes to the business. Pin setting machines replaced the pin boys in 1967 and most recently an auto scoring system was added, but the business continues to be a family oriented recreation center and family run business. "It's the last traditional

bowling centre in town," says Stride proudly.

Walk down the stairs and enter the huge space that holds 16 all-wood bowling lanes for 5 pin bowling and you will see why. It's like walking into a scene from the television show Happy Days. The walls are filled with awards, trophies, plaques and other memorabilia that honour the numerous major tournaments, including the National and Provincial Championships, that were hosted at Plaza Bowl over the years.

Even with numerous other recreational activities to choose from, the bowling scene is still very active. The lanes are filled with over twenty leagues that play year round and are booked throughout the day and evenings with senior competitive and recreation teams,

special Olympic and youth leagues. During the school year the lanes are used by groups of students from local schools. NAIT students also frequent the lanes, especially after they wind down after exams.

Time slots are booked throughout the week for recreational bowlers out for a fun and affordable evening out, and Plaza Bowling offers instruction to any player that wants to hone their skills. Then if you really enjoy the sport you can talk to Stride about joining a league.

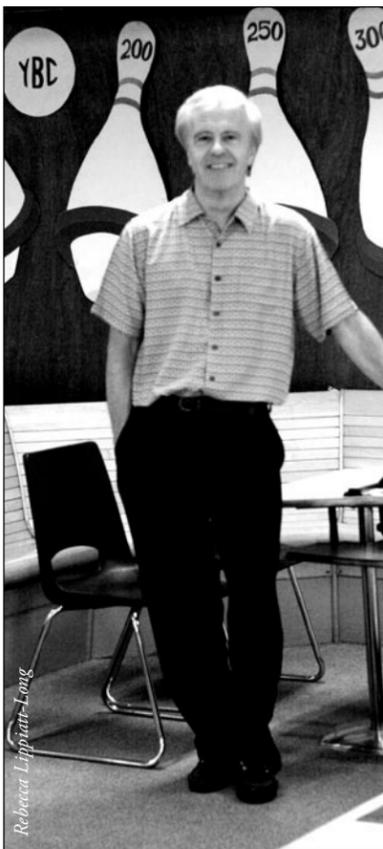
Planning a kid's birthday party idea on a hot summer's day? Book your party in the air-conditioned comfort of the lanes and enjoy a game of glow bowling.

"We will gladly install the bumpers on the lanes," says Stride. "We want to make sure that even the most novice bowler has a good game."

The bowling center is also booked for company parties, Jack and Jill showers and other club social functions out for a fun evening. Discounts are available for group functions.

Plaza Bowl offers a licensed snack concession to keep your energy up during your match play. Group functions can arrange to bring in their own pizza for their event.

"Come in, have a game, relax and enjoy," invites Stride. "When we installed the new auto-scoring, we still kept the lane tables and offer the traditional paper scoring sheets and stubby pencils – so you can still do it the old way and ensure yourself a good score!"



TERRY STRIDE AT PLAZA BOWL



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

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

Summer Registration:

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

School Year Registration:

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

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



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So you've got a Community Liaison Constable...now what?

CONSTABLE MIKE RUSSELL

It is an honor to be writing my inaugural article in the Rat Creek Press. I have to say I was a little anxious when first approached about writing, but I truly believe that this is a wonderful way to connect with the community and let you know what we (the EPS) are up to.

On April 29, the Edmonton Police Service rolled out a new service deployment model which divided each of the 5 divisions (North, Downtown, West, South West and South East) into four separate districts. I am one of 20 Community Liaison Constables (CLC'S) in the EPS.

I started this position with the goal of being the conduit for both the community and the EPS. Community members must realize, however, that I am only allowed to share as much information as legally possible. I want to share in our successes as a community and will do so through the means I have. I am also able to coordinate our resources for specific problems, such as contacting Derelict Housing, Report a Drug House Program, etc.

As a community you may see me at various events and meetings, as this is an integral part of my job, but it's not the only part. I have a different mandate than the 4 Beat officers in the area and the other 23 Patrol members who are specifically assigned here. Here's the "Coles Notes" version of my job description.

Q: When the CLC is not at the community meetings, what the heck is he doing?

A: As a Community Liaison Constable I am assigned to District One (with boundaries of 97 St to Wayne Gretzky Drive and 112 Av to the Yellowhead Trail). I address long-term, ongoing problems. I do not respond to calls for service like Patrol or Beats. Calling

my phone is not a quick line to response. As Patrol and Beats members often have to go from call to call, I gather and disseminate all the intelligence that they obtain and re-distribute it by creating Directed Activity Assignments (resources) for the Patrol and Beats members to use. The goal of my job is to increase the effectiveness of what Patrol and Beats members are focusing their efforts on.

Q: Why do you not walk the Beat all the time?

A: Much of my work is done with the various computer programs we have within the EPS. I also have to liaise with all the other members of the EPS, like Derelict Housing, the District Intelligence Officer, and all our specialized units. This networking keeps me in the division for some of my day. As our new model shakes all the kinks out, I will be able to be more active in the community.

Q: Speaking of Beats...why don't I see them as often as I used to?

A: Beats help me so much in the job I do. They provide the intelligence that I often use to identify my suspects and help in crime prevention by being proactive. Beats often get involved in various projects in the District. They assist the Vice unit, Drug unit, Gang unit, etc. all while remaining within the district or doing things which have a direct benefit to the district. The fact that you don't see their smiling faces does not mean that they are not there.

Q: I called Cst. Russell with a concern about an ongoing problem and it doesn't seem like anything has been done.

A: Just like patrol calls for service, I have to prioritize the calls and problems I get. Things that are of an immediate con-

cern (like increase in Theft of Auto or Break and Enters) require my immediate attention. I will always endeavor to call a citizen back and let them know the progress of their concern, but some times this may take a little time. I take every concern seriously. I may not be the one to investigate it, but I will help direct the proper resources. I may be already

working on it and be unable to call back until the concern is dealt with. There are more ways to solve a problem than to park a marked police car on the corner.

This is the abbreviated version of my job description. There are many other tasks which I perform, but this gives a good idea of what I can and cannot do as a CLC. I am very

excited to be part of these communities and I am looking forward to meeting community members at all the various events planned for this year.

For more information on the Edmonton Police Service and our new deployment model, visit: <http://www.police.edmonton.ab.ca/Pages/ContactUs/PublicInformationPackageMay2007.pdf>

Be effective against Break and Enters

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

1. Lighting: increase lighting at doors and alley entrances. Bright motion lights work great for this. If all you have is a

small bulb on the garage, use it! Some light is better than none.

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

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

head door if you can.

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

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



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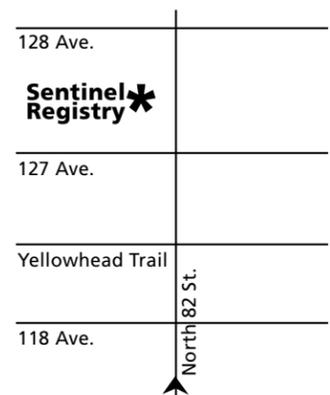
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EVENTS

CHECK OUT THE NEW ONLINE COMMUNITY CALENDARS

Go to www.ratcreek.org/calendar.

KEEP THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CLEAN. MAKE USE OF THE CITY'S BIG BIN EVENTS

Residents can dispose of large bulky items that are unacceptable for collection by waste collectors. There is no charge. Saturday and Sunday from 9 am - 5 pm, Aug 18 & 19 Kennedale 128109 58 St Sept 22 & 23 Commonwealth Stadium 112 Ave & 90 St

BE A PART OF THE GRAND PRIX!

Spruce Ave Community is looking for volunteers to sell 50/50 tickets at this summers Grand Prix race on July 20-22. For more information contact Verna on 479-8019.

PIANO LESSONS

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

COMMUNITY GARDENING

The Avenue Community Garden Initiative is growing! The first stage will begin in upcoming weeks as gardeners learn about gardening and are given the options of "container" gardening and/or the possibility of working together in donated gardening space supplied by a kind neighbour. Crystal Kids Youth Centre and Healthy Alberta Communities are the driving forces behind the Avenue Community Garden Initiative and are excited to be part of such a healthy community project. The opportunity to cultivate relationships as well as produce promises to be an exciting venture. There are many opportunities for "growth" and we are welcoming volunteers, gardeners and gardening space ideas. For more information on the project please contact Crystal Kids at 479-5283, ext. 0 or Dianne at Healthy Alberta Communities at 471-2724.

GUERRILLA GARDENING

Guerrilla Gardening is an international organization for the improvement of local areas both urban and rural. The website www.guerrillagardening.org gives good details on projects started by this group both in Canada and worldwide. The Edmonton chapter has just been opened in Alberta Avenue. Donations of outdoor plants, trees or shrubs or even seeds and bulbs needed. For more info or to donate contact Nick at 473-5289 or kinkstein@hotmail.com.

SPRUCE AVENUE COMMUNITY RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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

LIGHT YOUR LIFE COFFEE & STUDY

Look for details in August as we prepare to re-start our "Light Your Life Coffee & Study" program in September. We would like to get to know you! Come join us for coffee, conversation and an opportunity to discover and explore God's word together. We offer free childcare as well. For more information please feel free to contact Lois at 455-0626 or Lorraine at 474-3893.

ALBERTA AVENUE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION JOB FAIR

Thursday, July 12th, 3pm to 8pm 11770 -95 Street
AABA is hosting a drop-in "job fair" for local residents who are interested in full or part time employment with one of our Avenue businesses. Positions being recruited include retail/sales staff, customer service representatives, restaurant/catering staff, office and clerical staff, trades and skilled employees. Please call the AABA office with any questions at 471-2602.

GRAFFITI REMOVAL KIT

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



Edmonton Public Library

SPRUCEWOOD BRANCH

11555 - 95 Street Call 496-7099 to register

Summer Reading Club
Max's Marvelous Time Machine!
Wed. July 4 at 2 p.m.
Ages: 3 - 12 years
Discover ancient worlds from the time of the Dinosaurs to that of the Great Pyramids, and even meet a pirate or two! Presented by Kaybridge Puppets.

Walk like an Egyptian
Wed. July 18 at 2 p.m.
Ages: 6 - 12 years
Take a journey down the Nile and uncover the secrets of the ancient Egyptians.

Pirate's Life for Me
Wed. August 1 at 2 p.m.
Ages: 6 - 12 years
All hands on deck for a shipload of pirate tales, activities, stories of the sea and discovering hidden treasure.

Mystery Skulls
Thurs. August 2 at 2 p.m.
Ages: 8 - 14 years
Fascinated by CSI? Come help us

uncover the identity of six different mystery skulls. Skulls provided.

Adventures from the Armchair
Wed. July 11 at 2 p.m.
Ages: 6 - 12 years
Join us for stories and activities that will take you on some exciting adventures right here in your own backyard!

Hogwarts Grad Party
Sat. July 21 at 2 p.m.
Ages: 9 - 12 years
Celebrate the end of the Harry Potter series (but hopefully not THE end for our heroes).

A Day in the Life of a Police Dog
Wednesday, July 25 at 2 p.m.
Ages: 6 - 12 years
Meet Cora, one of the service dogs with the Edmonton Police Canine Unit, and her handler Constable Darren Smith.



THE Carrot
Community Arts Coffeehouse

Live music every Friday and Saturday night!

We are open:
 Tuesday - Fri from 10 AM - 1 PM
 and 6 PM - 10 PM
 Sundays we open 1 PM - 4 PM
 Saturdays from 10 AM - 10 PM
 Mondays we are closed.
 Please drop by! 9351-118ave

We need volunteers, www.thecarrot.ca or call 471-1580 to help.

avenue initiative revitalization

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 create a council approved strategy that will create a safe, walkable community for everyone.

NEIGHBOURHOOD MATCHING GRANT

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

BLOOMIN' BACK ALLEY CHALLENGE

Spruce up your back alley and win \$250! E-mail your before and after pictures, and a small description of your project by August 1st to judy.allan@edmonton.ca or drop them off to the Landlord and Tenants Office at 8904 -118th Ave.

THANK YOU!

On June 9th the Avenue went to the Dogs with great style and celebration. Thanks to Jo-Anne Seibert, Nicole Johnson of Dogspaw, Darlene Taylor of K9 Behavior, all the wonderful volunteers that came out and put up tents, worked the booths and kept the event running, and to Cheryl Walker and her Rat Creek Press Team for a great concession. Thanks also to the Dog Rescue organizations and their dedicated volunteers for making the day dog-gone fun! Many dogs found new homes on the Avenue and throughout Edmonton.

Thanks to the Beautification and Programming Working Group: Robin Stocks, Jennifer Herrick, Carrie Herrick, Kimberly Ferland, Peter Rausch, Margaret Larsen, Dianne Gillespie, Victoria Hemmings for planning and hosting the events this spring. A special thanks to the event lead co-ordinators: Karen Mykietka (Large Item Pick Up), Christy Morin and Mark Stumpf-Allen (Gardening), Jo-Anne Seibert, Nicole Johnson and Darlene Taylor (Avenue Goes the Dogs). Your hard work resulted in 3 amazing events. The Avenue was definitely the place to be.

Watch for the Arts Alive! 2007 festival. September 28th is the No Tie Art Sale and Gallery and September 29th is festival day. Volunteers are needed; contact www.artsonave.org.



**avenue initiative
revitalization**

**For information call
Judy Allan 496-1913**

