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ArtsAlive! Kaleido 2007 Festival kicks off the fall with colour and style

DAWN FREEMAN

It's a little earlier this year, but no less big and bold. The second annual ArtsAlive! Kaleido 2007 festival will happen on Saturday, September 29 from noon to 11pm, come rain or shine – although organizers are crossing fingers that it will be a beautiful day.

“Last year the weather was not our friend,” says Scott Peters, vice-president of Arts on the Ave (AOTA), the group that is producing the festival. “So we moved it back a few weeks in hopes of warmer temperatures.”

This year's theme - Kaleido - is an analogy for bringing together the different colours and shapes of the community into new and wonderful configurations. The planned Lantern creation and parade is the physical representation of bringing new light and life to the Ave.

Lanterns will be created in two Saturday workshops prior to the festival. Made of various materials, the idea is to decorate them with people's ideas of community, the Avenue, art and family.

“We want people to meet and share in the active creation of the lanterns. When we walk with them, we will be basking in our own illumination; the lights will represent the

re-awakening that is happening in our community,” says Marc Piquette, who along with Rebecca Pickard will be helping facilitate the lantern making.

The festival features music, theatre, dance and art and crafts in various locations all within a four-block radius on 118 Ave.

lightweight event. Organizers have pulled together a first-class line-up – an impressive feat for only their second year out.

The Avenue Initiative Stage, located in the parking lot of the Alberta Avenue Community League, will have music running from noon to 11

Baumung's widely acclaimed Fringe show, Homeless. As well, find your rhythm with dance shows by Raq-A-Belly dance troupe, accompanied by the Global Hand Drummers and enjoy Asante Dance Troupe.

The Al Rahmani Artisan Market and Gallery welcome

The event also boasts unique poetry/art/music collaboration. Mark Henderson of Theatre Prospero, will be dramatizing from Edmonton author Jannie Edwards (www.artsci.gmcc.ab.ca/people/edwardsj) new book Blood Opera: The Raven Tango Poems. Artist Fasil Yennie, who will be painting a tango, as well as music and dancers, will accompany him.

Ms Edwards, as well as the illustrator of her book, will be available for book signings on the night.

For a closer look at what's going to be happening at the festival, check out the centre pages of this month's issue of the Rat Creek. For the official program of performers and times go to the AOTA website at www.artsontheave.org, or pop into the Carrot Arts Coffeehouse (9351 118 Ave) to pick up your paper copy.



Lorraine Shalva

Entry to most events is free, although donations would be gratefully accepted and very, very welcome. Just like last year, many of the performers and artists are local residents.

“We have such a deep well of talent living in the communities surrounding the Avenue,” says Christy Morin, president of AOTA. “So many musicians, actors and artists call this neighbourhood home. We want to share their talent with the whole community and the rest of the city as well.”

With performers such as Captain Tractor, Le Fuzz and Terry Morrison, and actors and dancers such as Kenneth Brown and Gerri Morita appearing, this is no amateur

pm, with the Lantern Parade, Le Fuzz and Captain Tractor rounding out the evening.

The Alberta Avenue Community League will be the stage for a wide range of workshops including mask making, yo-yo tricks and hand-to-hand stage fighting techniques.

The old Alberta Cycle building will be transformed into several venues, hosting the Alberta Cycle Performance Stage, the Gallery Stage, the Al Rahmani Artisan Market and Gallery and the Van Gogh Cafe.

The Alberta Cycle Performance Stage will be the site for Kenneth Brown's multi-award winning new work, Water, and Jeremy

browsers and buyers. Artists and artisans will be offering up their wares for sale throughout the day as well as opening for a pre-festival shindig on Friday September 28, the night before the big day.

The “No-Tie” Gala and Sale, from 7pm to 10:00pm, is a chance to get dressed up, taste some wine and cheese, listen to the smooth styling of the White Cat Trio jazz band, and make some early Christmas purchases.

“We all know you never have time at a festival to shop,” laughs Morin. “So this is an opportunity to buy some of the fantastic creations our artists have to offer, while having a lovely night out as well.”

CONTENTS

Editorial.....	2
Community News.....	3
Local Business.....	4
Arts Alive 2007!.....	6,7
Community.....	8
Seasonal.....	9
Law & Order.....	10
Calendar.....	11
Eastwood Fest.....	12
Pupusa Festival.....	12

INFO FOR THE CALENDAR

“No-Tie” Gala and Sale

WHEN: Friday, September 28 from 7pm to 10:00pm
Special Performance: 10:00-11:00pm
Homeless by Jeremy Baumung. Cost \$5
WHERE: Alberta Cycle Building (9115 118 Ave)
COST: Free, save your dollars for spending!
WHY: Listen to poetry and meet the writer. Buy paintings, prints, cards, jewelry and more!

ArtsAlive! Kaleido 2007 festival

WHEN: Saturday September 29 from noon to 11pm
WHERE: Alberta Ave. Community League, Alberta Cycle building, The Carrot coffeehouse, Avenue Skatepark
COST: Free. Plays are \$5 per person. Donations are very welcome!
WHY: It's the best fall festival in town, and it's in YOUR neighbourhood!

Want to volunteer?
Contact Tanya at info@artsontheave.org

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More board members welcome.

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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
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Passionate about our community?

Do you enjoy reading the Rat Creek Press every month?

We want to hear from you!

The Rat Creek Press needs new board members and new writers. Call us at 479-6285 or e-mail us at info@ratcreek.org.

Did you go?

DAWN FREEMAN

Did you go to the Eastwood Festival that happened on Saturday August 18 at Eastwood Park? It was a fantastic day out with music, art and fun for kids.

Did you go to the Gardening event that was held back in the spring? There were amazing workshops that gave great gardening tips. Did you go to the Dog Show held in June? Even a non-dog owner could enjoy the agility and smarts of the dogs on the obstacle course. Did you check out the El Salvadorean Pupusa Festival in July? The pupusas were delicious!

Are you planning on taking in the 2nd annual ArtsAlive! Kaleido 2007 festival happening on Saturday

September 29? Music, theatre, art, dance and workshops and all in your own neck of the woods.

Have you popped into the Carrot Arts Coffeehouse to listen to some local music and have a coffee (or juice, or ice-tea)? It's run completely by volunteers, you know.

If your answer is yes to all or most of these questions, then I applaud you. If it is no, my question is why not?

What other community in this city puts on such fantastic, professional, fun and free festivals and events? Events that are organized for the community, by community volunteers?

Everyone wants to clean up the Avenue, to make it a safer, nicer, friendlier and more beautiful place to live. These events are one way some people

have decided to make their mark. They want to create a time and place that everyone can share and have fun in.

We all have busy lives, and we just can't go to every-

around the neighbourhood?

Support the revitalization of 118 Avenue and its surrounding communities by supporting local events and festivals. Recognize the



MANY COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAME OUT TO AVENUE GONE TO THE DOGS - DID YOU?

thing, but when you are planning your time, how about supporting some of the fabulous events that take place

efforts of your neighbours by going to their event. Change the Avenue into the place where everyone wants to go.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Matching grant sparks a fun neighbourhood party

First off, I must tell you how much I enjoy your paper. It's so easy to stay in the know about what's going on in your neighborhood! That's the reason I am contacting you today, to tell you about our recent "Meet Your Neighbor" BBQ, in the hopes that you will share our story and thus encourage other communities/organizations to do something to promote interaction and awareness within.

Our event was kept simple. ATCO provided a nice large barbeque for doing our hot dogs, and a few very talented ladies in the area donated the delicious desserts. We had

games and prizes for the kids (and even got some parents

involved in a couple - go Gramma go!), as well as a challenge for our canine guests, a watermelon-eating contest, and lots of room to gather and socialize!

This event was open to all area residents with the goal

of getting to know each other, share concerns/experiences and help make it a safe and happy community - one to be proud of and call HOME. I would say MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! We received many kudos, and appreciative comments in hopes that we will do this again.

This event was made possible through a Small Spark Grant offered by the Avenue Initiative Revitalization... thank you to the Allocations Committee for recognizing the worth of our event.



SANDRA OGNOSKI WHEELING HER GRANDDAUGHTER ASHAURIA OGNOSKI, AND ROB ROBINSON WHEELING HIS NIECE KATRINA ROBINSON IN THE BLOCK PARTY HELD AT ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL

Wendy Robinson
 Alberta Avenue Resident

Coming Up in the Rat Creek Press

The feature for the October issue is Civics

Do you have an opinion on city politics? How about voting? Send us your submissions by September 15. 300 word maximum; submissions may be edited.

The feature for November is Literacy Lines

Do you write prose or poetry, essays or dialogues? Maybe you have a story about learning to read or write, or teaching someone else. Send us your submissions by October 15. 500 word maximum; submissions may be edited. If your piece is longer, call to discuss!

Darlene Taylor ~ K9 Behave



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Do your fall clean up and load up your junk!

Last Big Bin Event of the year runs Sept 22 & 23 at the Stadium

KAREN MYKIETKA

Don't miss out on your last chance this year to get rid of unwanted large items.

Big Bin Events are large item roundups held on various weekends during the summer. Residents can dispose

of large bulky items that are unacceptable for collection by waste collectors – for free! (Note: Do not bring household hazardous waste like paint, varnish, household

cleaners or batteries. Please take those items to an Eco Station.)

Our neighbourhoods certainly have a lot of excess

garbage! In May, 855 vehicles stopped at the Big Bin Event at Alberta Avenue loaded down with large bulky garbage items bringing in 106 tonnes of garbage and 88 CFC appliances. Word of the Big Bins must be getting out because this is up significantly

to these free dumpsters. In May, one lady did trips back and forth all day with a wagon. Some people load stuff in every opening of their cars and trucks and pile things on the roof. Others borrow or even rent trucks.

However, many people just do not have the transportation or sometimes the ability to move large items. The community organized a free large item pick up in May where volunteers removed about 80 truckloads for their neighbours.

This fall, the Rat Creek Press is doing a large item pick up as a fundraiser. For \$20 we'll haul away up to four large items on Saturday, September 22. Phone 479-6285 and leave a message. See details with photo.



WHO SAYS YOU NEED A TRUCK TO CLEAN UP YOUR YARD?

from last year's 86 tonnes that was the largest amount of all the 12 sites city wide in 2006.

Individuals can be quite creative in getting their stuff

NEED HELP GETTING YOUR ITEMS TO THE BIG BIN? THE RCP IS DOING A LARGE ITEM PICK UP FUNDRAISER



For \$20 we'll haul away up to 4 large items (\$5 per additional item) on Saturday, September 22. We'll only be able to handle a limited number of calls. No new calls after Thursday, September 20. No loose debris; only large items. Phone 479-6285 and leave a message with your name, address, phone number and number of items for pick up. You will have to be home on the 22nd to pay or arrange payment ahead of time.

NNA needs you! Longstanding community association urgently seeking new members



MEMBERS OF THE NORWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM! FROM L-R: YOKO SEKIYA, CATH JACKEL, VALERIE PARR, DARCY MCDONALD, RAYANNE LESCHYSHYN

VALERIE PARR
PRESIDENT, NORWOOD
NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION
(NNA)

"NNA cancels Canada Day Celebration," read the announcement in the RCP.

This was the absolute last option on a list of possibilities, and the option the Board was disappointed to have to realize.

Why was it our only choice? Simply put: due to a lack of volunteers. For many years the NNA has worked hard in and with the community to coordinate and deliver the Canada Day Celebration, an event that has seen repeated success. We cannot contemplate this event without the help of community volunteerism and this year it just didn't happen.

I do not blame anyone for this happening; there are a number of reasons. People have busy lives and those that do volunteer can sometimes see themselves as "over involved" because so many organizations need help. Also there is volunteer "burnout," a feeling where a person can no longer keep up with their commitments. The only good way to deal with this

is to take a break, sit back, enjoy the community, get rejuvenated and then decide where to put one's energy.

The NNA for the past year or so has been affected by a serious shortage of volunteers. It is such a serious problem that the future of the NNA is questionable. There I said it...and it is not something we wanted to admit. The Board has looked at this from many angles and we are forced to see what our greatest challenge is to date...our future!

While we see it and admit it we are not prepared to give up. We have identified this very major issue as high priority and are discussing strategies that work for both the NNA and potential volunteers.

NNA was founded in the 1970s, and has been a front-runner in the effort to revitalize our neighbourhood. Age thirty is far too young to die, and I hope you will join us in reviving our organization.

We would like to hear from you. If you have any suggestions, comments, concerns, or would like to be part of a healthy resurrection of the NNA, please call either Valerie at 423-0407, or Yoko at 424-0917.

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DAWN FREEMAN

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Mon to Thurs: Noon – 9pm

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prefer your patties vegetarian, just call ahead, and Safron will whip them up fresh.

Finish off with a Jamaican dessert and a drink of Ting – a popular Jamaican drink. The coconut ice is especially sweet and delicious.

Catering is available too—spice up your next party with Safron!

Kin City – Hip Hop and Urban Clothing Store
8235 118 Ave, Ph 471.2712. Also located at 5324 118 Ave

Kin City is the place to go for the best labels in hip hop and urban clothing. Their stock includes Gino Green, Red Monkey, Evisu Genes and G-Unit, as well as Lot

29 and Sean John shirts and Bapu shoes, plus many more. Kin City has shirts from \$10, jeans from \$45, caps from \$19.99 and shoes from \$60. Ask for Eli at the 8235 store – he knows all about what's hot!

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new store to check out his selection of tiles.

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Chris Martin

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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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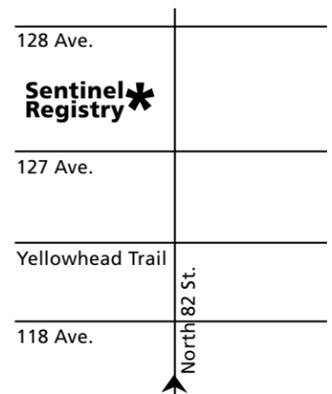
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AVENUE INITIATIVE STAGE

The main music stage is located outside in the Alberta Ave. Community League parking lot at 9210 118 Ave. Music starts at noon and runs throughout the day and night until 11pm.

Main Stage Performers:

Terrell Edwards and Reach Gospel Choir
Dr Blu
James Murdoch Band
Ben Sures
Shakedown
Le Fuzz
Captain Tractor

ALBERTA CYCLE PERFORMANCE STAGE

The former Alberta Cycle building, located at 9115 118 Ave is the site for live performances, scheduled throughout the afternoon. Cost: \$5 per performance; 12 and under are free.

Theatre Stage Performers:

Water written and directed by Kenneth Brown
Homeless by Jeremy Baumung, directed by Kenneth Brown. 13+
Raq A Belly Dance accompanied by Global Hand Drummers
Asante Dance Troupe
Dave Clarke, renowned Edmonton composer, sound designer and thereminist

AL RAHMANI ARTISAN MARKET AND GALLERY

Located in the former Alberta Cycle building, at 9115 118 Ave is the Al Rahmani Artisan Market and Gallery. Unique, well-crafted and beautiful treasures such as paintings, prints and cards, photographs, jewelry, woodwork and sculptures made by talented local artists are all for sale throughout the day. The Gallery Stage will soothe your soul with wonderful instrumental music.

Artists and artisans exhibiting to date:

Stuart Ballah (landscape painting),
Cindy Burgess (jewelry design),
Michelle Leavitt-Djonlic (watercolour painting),
Rebecca Lippiatt-Long (photography),
Don Pattie (jewelry design),
Karen Porkka (abstract painting),
Lorraine Shulba (landscape painting),
Alvin Soto (landscape painting),
Ritchie Velthuis (sculpture),
Henri Yauck (watercolour painting),
Shane Lavender (pencil crayon portraits),
Stuart Adams (silver artist),
Cori Torres (native woodburning),

VAN GOGH CAFE

Located in the former Alberta Cycle building, at 9115 118 Ave. Fabulous goodies, substantial fare such as chilli, tea, coffee and other drinks all made by local caterers Flavour Buds. Relax, have a bite and listen to the smooth stylings from the Gallery Stage as you replenish your energy.



DAVE VON BIEKER WILL BE PERFORMING ON THE CARROT STAGE

CARROT STAGE

Located in the Carrot Arts Coffeehouse, at 9351 118 Ave is the singer/songwriter part of the festival. You may recognize all of these performers from Friday nights live music at the Carrot and most of them are also involved in the up-coming AOTA cd project entitled Songs from the Ave. Great music and great coffee at the Carrot. The project and The Carrot Stage are being sponsored by the Cultural Capital of Canada, Edmonton 2007.

Carrot Stage Performers:

Dave Von Bieker
Karen Porkka
Terry Morrison
Barry Westerlund
Nick Perreault
Paul Bellows



KAREN PORKKA AND REBECCA LIPIATT-LONG ARE TWO OF THE MANY ARTISTS SHOWING THEIR WORK AT THE AL RAHMANI ARTISAN MARKET AND GALLERY

AVENUE SKATEPARK STAGE

Located in Avenue Skatepark at 9030 118 Ave.

Modern dance by Gerri Morita, Mile Zero dance studio
HMS Hip Hop will be combining hip hop and skateboarding and putting the whole thing on film.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Join in the fun at one of the numerous workshops being run throughout festival day in Ave Space.1 and the Lutz Room at the Alberta Avenue Community League (9210 118 Ave).

Rotary Arts Laboratory located in Ave Space.1

Drum and Percussion family workshop
Family Feud: Stage hand-to-hand combat for the family with Calvin Malaka
Go-go Yo-yo Crazy workshop with James Le Pine and the Edmonton YoYo Club
Making an African Mud Cloth

Family Arts Zone located in the Lutz Room

Mask making workshop
Lantern making workshop

FESTIVAL INTERACTIVE SCULPTURE

Just like last year, there will be another wonderful sculpture made by you, the people at the festival! Join artist Mike De Bruin as he collaborates with everyone who wants to make a kaleidoscope of colours and shapes.

ALL OVER THE SITE

Stilt-walkers Face Painters
Balloon Makers Clowns
Astrid Luethe – comedy busking

LANTERN PARADE

The lantern parade in and around the Main stage area will take place before the final band of the evening. You are all invited to make a lantern and join in the illuminating of the Avenue. Workshops will be held on two Saturday afternoons prior to the festival at the Carrot. These dates are yet to be confirmed, but go to www.carrot.org or www.artsontheave.org, or check the Carrot Community Message Board for more details. You can also contact lantern@telus.net.



Raq-A-Belly Dance Troupe

Raq-A-Belly dance! (pronounced 'rockabelly') is a beautiful women's dance troupe based right here in Edmonton. To experience a Raq-A-Belly dance show is to treat yourself to an adventure of the unexpected. Your journey will take you from the smoky perfume of Egyptian cabaret performances, along Marco Polo's spice route, to the fusion of the exotic tribal Indian dance with side trips to the Bedouin camps of North African tribal dance. The costumes are billowing skirts trimmed in traditional Afghani silver, made from delicate silks festooned in crystals and flames of riotous colour. Accompanied by the rhythmic beats of the Global Hand Drummers, this is an act not to be missed.



Homeless

Written by Jeremy Baumung, directed by Kenneth Brown

Edmonton's Jeremy Baumung (creator of the Sterling nominated and internationally toured *Dead Man Talking*) tells his story of working in one of Edmonton's toughest homeless shelter, losing his faith and then finding it again. Directed by multiple award winner Kenneth Brown, Colin MacLean gave it 5-Suns in his Fringe review on August 16 for the Edmonton Sun.

"It's not often a performer can break down the walls of a theatre to transport you to a completely different place. It takes a suspension of belief on the part of the audience and a performer of sufficient ability to tap into that commitment and, through the power of words and performance, create a real and believable world. Such a performer is Jeremy Baumung and the show is *Homeless*. Mark it down." *Colin MacLean, Edmonton Sun*

Water

Written and directed by Kenneth Brown

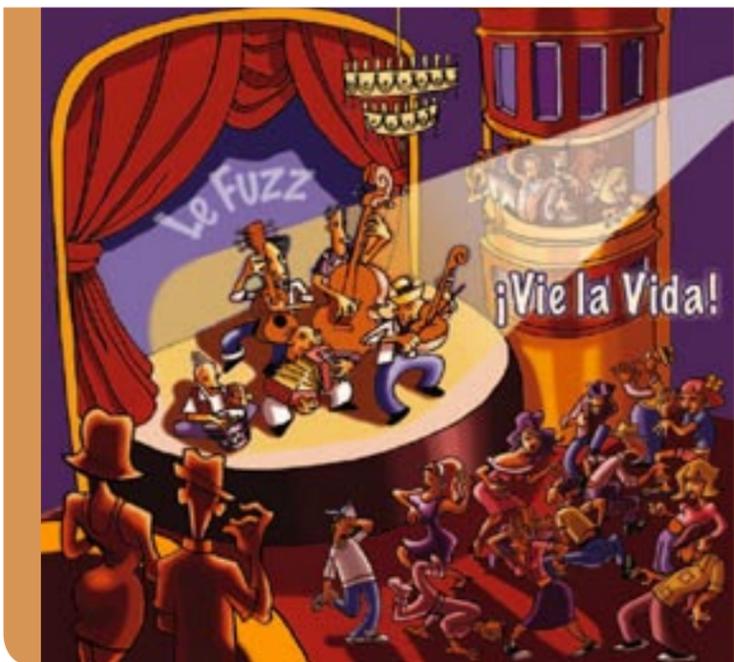
WATER is a show about just that: the spiritual, ecological, psychological, and political aspects of what is soon to become the world's most sought-after resource.



Water is a subject as deep as the ocean and as poetic as the clouds. We come from water, both evolutionarily and biologically. The world's mythologies are inspired to a great extent by mankind's relationship to water, and world literature is full of fantastical creatures that come from the rivers, lakes, and seas, to enrich our collective psyche.

WATER is not a play: it is a theatre event that folds in comedy, mime, clown, pictures, and music. It was conceived by one of Edmonton's most original and resourceful theatre minds, Kenneth Brown (*Letters in Wartime, Life After Hockey*), and features a creative crew that includes two of the original lads from Ribbit Productions (Jon Paterson and Bob Rasko), with whom Ken has created such memorable pieces as *Bouncers, Be a Man, and Boy Groove*, all of which have taken the national (and international) fringe festival tour by storm. Also featured are Jenna Dykes, one of Edmonton's terrific young talents, and Ina Dykstra, a classical pianist whose work as a teacher, adjudicator, and performer have made her justly renowned in Edmonton's classical musical community. Video design is by the fabulously talented Carrie Howard.

WATER is an utterly unique theatre piece that will move, tickle, and excite you. It will also give you a lot of food for thought. It is unlike anything you will see this year



Le Fuzz

This 5 piece band consisting of bass, percussion, guitar, accordion and fiddle have about 100 years of playing throughout the world experience amongst them, although none of them look a day over 25. Okay maybe 40. From the jungles of Central America, to the deserts of Northern Mexico, onto the plains of old Russia, through the timeless streets of vieux Paris, then home to Alberta on the Voyageur route, Le Fuzz takes you on a magnificent world journey. The music of Le Fuzz reaches audiences both young and old while inspiring an appreciation for a world of music that defies borders. The music will make you laugh, dance and smile. It will move you to ponder far away places. Combining rhythms and song-writing traditions of other cultures with their own unique blend of Alberta folk music and original lyrics, sung in French, Spanish, Russian, and a wee bit of English, Le Fuzz brings the world to you.

Their new album, entitled *Vie la Vida!*, was released this May to rave reviews. Don't miss this wholly unique world-band experience!

Kicking, laughing and learning at Rising Eagle

Tae Kwon Do draws families and youth toward positive lifestyle choices

DARCY MORIN

Chiding myself as I walked up the stairs at the Eastwood Community Hall, I was a little nervous about being five minutes late for class. I was checking out the Tae-Kwon-Do school that I had just heard about from my wife, Christy. "Completely free", she said. "What? Uniforms, instruction and promotion tests?" I asked, unable to believe my ears. "Yes that's what I heard from Reverend Kim," she responded. Incredible. I mean this would cost more than \$200 a month for me and my kids at any of the other clubs that I had checked out in the area. "Must be too good to be true," I said, secretly hoping that it wasn't.

As I got to the top of the stairs, I heard the sound of running feet and the soft thud of a ball hitting a body. The belly laugh that followed also caught me off guard. I had apparently entered class dur-

ing warm-ups. Dodge Ball? It looked like everyone was having a great time, but Dodge Ball? I looked closer at the boy who had just tagged his buddy and I saw a sheen of sweat on his grinning face. I guess he was getting warmed up and having fun while he was at it. For the duration of the class, I saw a lot of laughing, learning and teaching going on. I decided then that I would bring my two children and that we, as a family, would study Tae Kwon Do.

Rising Eagle Tae Kwon Do is a non-profit outreach program based out of the Edmonton Urban Native Ministry (EUNM). Reverend Hoo Sik Kim from the EUNM approached Master Hong Park, founder of the Hong Park Tae Kwon Do College, with a pressing need for a positive beacon in the 118 Avenue communities to draw families and youth toward positive lifestyle choices. Master Park wholeheartedly embraced the concept of the

satellite school and now Rising Eagle Tae Kwon Do students can be found kicking, learning and laughing at the Eastwood Community Hall every Monday and Thursday night.

All of the instructors are personally selected by Master Hong Park and have completed a lengthy and rigorous training program designed to help them develop not only a high level of technical skill, but also the ability to communicate effectively with students of all ages. Members of our community are encouraged to join and build self-esteem, confidence, discipline, positive attitudes, and values through a philosophy of positive reinforcement. Rising Eagle's method of training promotes the desire to learn, improves effort, motivation, concentration and self-discipline, and instills respect.

The students receive instruction, promotion tests and uniforms free of charge. Members of the club

banquet was a special highlight for my family where we joined together with students, instructors and the Edmonton Urban



STUDENTS FROM THE RISING EAGLE TAE KWON DO CLUB STRIKE A FIGHTING POSE FROM L-R: DARCY, CASSANDRA, RANDY, SERENA, GEORGE

include youth, children and entire families. The instructors accommodate the mixed ages in the classes with ease, facilitating the participation of all students in the classes. There is a real sense of family and community at Rising Eagle Tae Kwon Do. The Christmas

Native Ministry for a banquet before the Christmas holiday.

Rising Eagle is open to all community members. Classes are every Monday and Thursday evening from 6 – 8 PM located at the Eastwood Community Hall (11803 86 St). Come join us, you won't regret it.



PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

RENT SUBSIDIES CONTRIBUTE TO LANDLORD PROFIT MARGINS

The news that the new provincial rent assistance fund is swamped and running out of money is no surprise. Rents in Edmonton are rising far faster than salaries and rental housing operating costs.

Now, in addition to those that can't find affordable entry level rental housing, are those being forced out of their rental homes by increases they can't afford. Little wonder the province's \$9 million assistance fund planned to last until March of 2008 is expected to run out of money by September, and the Minister is asking for \$20 million more.

Rent subsidies are risky as a temporary fix for an ongoing problem and won't solve the real problem: **the lack of new affordable entry level rental housing.** Ironically the governments that have created the barriers that inhibit the development of new private sector entry level rental properties and are hesitant to offer incentives for the private sector industry to build are now the very ones contributing to the private sector rental profit margins in a market squeezed by lack of new supply. The private sector affordable rental housing industry has been in decline since the 1970's.

It seems as if everyone is willing to acknowledge that the crisis exists, but no one is willing to look at the causes and do what is necessary to find real solutions.

Alberta's population is growing at 100,000 per year. Where are they and their families going to live? Now is the time to start encouraging the construction of new affordable rental units by consulting with the private sector rental housing industry to find out why they have dropped out of the affordable rental housing market and what it would take to get them building again. Our country needs them.

What do you think?

495-3261

www.petergoldring.ca

Street Love So Sweet Love

Chantel



Early morning sunshine
glints off a steel cage
a home to a motley of squashed tins
ragged apparel
and tattered dreams
It catches the eye
A silhouette of two lovers emerges
His furrowed hand
clasping a near toothless comb
caresses her dew dropped washed hair
Her hair thin as spun gold
but gray as the smoke
swirling up from his cigarette
falls sensuously around
her gaunt shoulders
Eyes closed she lounges
against the scared and battered table
Her spaghetti legs up
bare feet dangling
as if awaiting a pedicure
His face glows yet not from sunshine
Her simple luxury appears to fulfill
And what shall be felt
Pity or admiration

Lorraine Simlba

In which she plans for the future

the Gardening Diva

WITH CHERYL WALKER

Dear readers, ordinarily TGD writes her columns based on the time of year. Not this one. This one is, or rather was, written in April – with an earnest plea for September. Take some time dear reader, and do some planning for next year. Ordinarily TGD takes a hands-off approach to garden planning. In fact, the très wonderful garden diva husband has accused TGD of taking a Ralph Klein approach to gardening on more than one occasion. This spring, rather like our provincial politicians, TGD found herself bewildered by three plants in her garden. She did not know what they were. She did not know where they came from. She was not sure if they should be there (although she knew they were not weeds). She later discovered that as a result of lack of planning she destroyed two slow to start hostas when she was tilling her shade bed. These senseless tragedies could have been prevented. Last September.

Mark Everything Now

That cute plant you got. The daylilies you split from your

neighbour. The half dead perennial you got at Rona for \$1. Mark it with a plant label, and not just the label that came with it, as these labels have an unfortunate tendency to become illegible over the winter.

Plant labels can be metal, plastic, ceramic or stone. Your budget and imagination are the only limits. Do choose labels that will stand the test of time; TGD uses metal ones from Lee Valley. However you choose to do it, dear reader, mark every specimen in your garden with its name.

Start a Garden Journal

TGD's darling and wonderful mother bought her a very nice garden diary last year. TGD had the best of intentions about using it. She really

did. She intended to note the blooming period, the colour, size and height of the plant, the common and Latin name of the plant, where it was located, where she got it from and when she received it. She

likely to be, well a titch peevish with you, because you didn't use her Christmas gift.

Pictures and Diagrams

Dear reader, you will not remember where you planted

planted the carrots.

This situation has an easy solution. Take a picture of your garden and make notes on the back. TGD plans to draw diagrams. Or rather, TGD's engineering type husband will draw diagrams to scale, with accurate measurements, and TGD will plot the plants in.

The drawing or photography options also end the embarrassing situation of garden creep. This sad disease seems to affect TGD every year. In her minds' eye, the gardens grow bigger each winter. Alas, the spring arrives and they shrink. In the interim, TGD has started seeds on the basis of mind's eye size, and finds herself desperately looking for good homes for tomato plants. Again. (The astute reader will now be making a note in their calendar for next April, to ask TGD for extra seedlings). An accurate drawing will allow better plotting next year.

Don't dilly-dally dear readers, start your planning today.

TGD lives and weeds in Parkdale, with the très wonderful gardening diva husband and the non-gardening dogs. She resolves to plan better than a politician. Next month she will talk about putting the garden to bed.



also planned to note how well it did where it was located. This is a very good idea. Dear reader, you should do this. It prevents senseless tragedies. And your mother is far less

your carrots last year. You simply won't. You will be forced to ask the très wonderful garden diva husband, who will snicker at you, and also not remember where you

avenue initiative revitalization

The Avenue Initiative is a community based revitalization of 118th 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.



For information call
Judy Allan 496-1913

A lot has happened during the first two years of the Avenue Initiative. This includes a Streetscape Plan, Zoning Plan and numerous events. This is due to the work of 4 Working Groups that meet on a monthly basis.

1) Streetscape-- 1st Tuesday of the month (Starting September 4)

Preliminary design is complete, this year we will be working on details of the streetscape that is scheduled to begin in spring '08.

2) Development and Revitalization-- 1st Wednesday of the month

Exception for September—Thursday September 6th

On September 10 a re-zoning application to increase variety of use of commercial space along the Avenue goes to City Council.

3) Beautification and Cleanliness/Programs-- 2nd Wednesday of the month (Starting September 11)

Works on special events, community clean ups and will plan new initiatives that would help beautify the area.

4) Safe Streets 3rd Tuesday (Starting September 18)

Currently identifying and reporting problem properties. Work with Edmonton Police Service, Bylaw and Safe Housing to create a safe community is the main focus.

Neighbourhood Matching Grant

Do you have an idea that would make a difference in your neighborhood? We are looking for projects that will enhance, beautify, create a sense of community or improve safety. The Neighborhood 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 neighborhood 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

Reporting Drug Houses

Normally the things that people do in their own homes are none of our business. But there are some homes that cause so much trouble, traffic, noise and disturbances that they become a nuisance to people, homes and businesses all around them. It may even be a drug house.

If you think that you have a house like that near you, Edmonton Police Service would like details. Here are some of the things they want to know:

WHO lives in the house?

WHAT do they look like?

WHO comes to the house?

WHAT do they look like?

WHAT vehicles do they drive?

DO they ride bicycles?

WHAT times do they come?

WHERE does the transaction take place?

WHERE is the house? WHAT does it look like?

ARE the windows used as look-outs? Lights as signals?

WHAT does the area surrounding the house look like?

Download the Reporting

Drug Houses form from the Rat Creek Press website at www.ratcreek.org or pick up copies of the form at Eastwood Police Station or the Sprucewood Library. Alternatively, call the Report-A-Drug House line at 426-8229 with your information.

Let's make our neighbourhood safer and cleaner by getting rid of drug houses.

THE NUMBERS YOU NEED

Emergency: 911

Police complaint line – non-emergency: 423.4567

Nuisance – By-law enforcement: 496.3100

Children's Services Crisis Unit: 422.2001

Report-a-Drug House: 426.8229

District 1 Community Liason Officer: 421.2602

118 Avenue Beats: 421.2322

TECHNO BABBLE

WITH ROBIN STOCKS

How to use up time on the internet

* Warning: the following websites are very addictive. Possible side effects include: losing all track of time, no girlfriend, no personal contact with your friends, having your pets leave presents around the house, or divorce.

Social Networking

<http://www.myspace.com>

<http://www.facebook.com>

Here are sites where you can vote for your favourite news articles

<http://www.digg.com>

<http://www.dogdot.us>

<http://www.fark.com>

<http://slashdot.org/>

Sites to look up things

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Looking for a telephone number

<http://www.mytelus.com/phonebook/>

<http://www.whitepages.ca/>



<http://www.411.ca/>

<http://www.superpages.ca/>

One of my favourites sites is the Hollywood Stock Exchange, where they give you 2 million

dollars to invest in movies, actors etc.
<http://www.hsx.com>

Movie Trailers

<http://www.apple.com/trailers/>
<http://www.comingsoon.net/trailers/>

<http://movies.yahoo.com/trailers/>

<http://www.darkhorizons.com/trailers.php>

Want to know other people's secrets?

<http://postsecret.blogspot.com/>

Free Stuff

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EdmontonEarthcycleChat/>

Online Games

<http://www.deathball.net/online/levelone.htm>

Got a computer question? Feel free to drop me an email at support@stoxservices.com

Robin and his family live in Eastwood. He has worked in the Information Technology field for 8 years, for companies such as IBM, DELL, the Alberta Motor Association, as well as for the Government of Alberta and the City of Edmonton.

Thank you for your support!



I hope you had a wonderful and safe summer season; please feel free to stop by my office anytime. I would love to hear from you!

6519 - 112 Avenue.
Your MLA, Brian Mason.
Edmonton Highlands-Norwood
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ph: 780.414.0682



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Caring for Communities

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1 Sir Winston Churchill Square

Edmonton, AB T5J 2R7

www.edmonton.ca



CALENDAR

CHECK OUT THE NEW ONLINE COMMUNITY CALENDARS

All our community events & meetings are now on google calendars. Go to www.ratcreek.org/calendar. Scroll down to view one of the four different calendars. Click on an event to get the details. To submit your event or post a free community notice (max 75 words) email events@ratcreek.org or call 479-6285. Events & notices printed in the paper as deemed appropriate by the editorial team and as space permits.

ADULT EDUCATION

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

PRESCHOOL SOCCER PROGRAM

(Basic Skills), for 2 -12 years olds. Outdoor practice at either Clark Park on Stadium Road or Giovanni Cabotti Park, Saturdays, August 11 to Nov 3, 10:30 AM - 12:00 Noon. Parents are asked to participate in the program. No fees, please call for registration and park location. For more information, or if you are interested in helping out as a coach, contact Coach Tony at 420 - 0760.

LIGHT YOUR LIFE COFFEE & STUDY

Ladies come join us for coffee, cake, conversation and the opportunity to discover and

explore God's word together Thursday mornings starting Sept 13, 9:45 - 11 am at the Orthodox Reformed Church, 11610 - 95A St. Find out more by calling Lois at 455-0626 or Lorraine at 474-3893. Feel free to just show up, no registration required. Free childcare available. Check out our website at www.orcuc.org.

SPRUCE AVENUE COMMUNITY RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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

SPRUCE AVE COMMUNITY SWIM ON HOLD

Spruce Ave. wishes to inform its members that Grant MacEwen pool will be closed from July 27-Sept 10 so there will be no free swim between those dates.

PIANO LESSONS

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

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.

COMMUNITY MESSAGE BOARD

Need something to do in the evenings? Interested in finding out what is going on in your neighbourhood? Want to invite people to a community event? The Carrot Community Arts Coffee House has a new community message board. There is space to post upcoming community events, activities

going on in the neighbourhood, and "freecycle" items. Come in, fill out a card or bring your poster and let your neighbours know what is going on.

EDMONTON URBAN NATIVE MINISTRY

Contact Reverend Kim at 477-1769 or at hoosik@hotmail.com

Free piano lessons offered for children and adults. Beginners welcome. Please call to register.

Free guitar and band lessons offered for children and adults. Please call to register.

Free Tae Kwon Do classes offered at Eastwood Community Hall. Mondays and Thursdays, 6pm for children, 7pm for youths and adults.

Drop In program offered at St Andrews church. Tuesdays to Fridays, 10am - 4pm. Coffee and snacks are available. Sunday service and Sunday school classes, 4pm.

LITERACY PROGRAMS AT NORWOOD CHILD & FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre: 9516-114 Ave. Phone: 471-3737 Fax: 477-1632, Email: tinak@ncfc.ab.ca. Call to register for any of the groups.

Rhymes that Bind: In partnership with Centre for Family Literacy Wednesdays, September 19 - November 21, 11:45 - 12:30. Children who are between the ages of newborn to 3 years old can join this group

with their parents or caregiver. We learn songs and rhymes. Lunch is provided. There is no transportation available for this program.

Books for Babies: In partnership with Centre for Family Literacy Tuesdays, September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 10:30 - 11:30 am Children who are 12 months old and younger can join this group with their parents or caregiver. We read books and sing songs. Learn about types of books to choose for infants. There is time to discuss other topics of interest and to meet other families.

Books for Toddlers: Wednesdays, September 19 - October 24, 10:00 - 11:30 am Children who are between the ages of 13 months - 2 years can attend this program with their parents or caregiver. We will explore books, play games, sing songs, and do crafts and many other fun activities.

Books for Preschoolers: Thursdays, September 20 - October 25, 10:00 - 11:30 am Children who are between the ages of 3 - 6 years old can attend this group with their parents or caregiver. We will read stories, tell stories, sing, dance, do crafts, play games and meet other families.

INDOOR SOCCER Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park, Parkdale-Cromdale, Spruce Avenue and Westwood Community Leagues invite their members to register

CHILDREN FOR THE 2007 INDOOR SOCCER SEASON

Registration:
Sept 7, 6-8 pm Delton Hall (12325 88 St)
Sept 15, 1-3 pm Delton Hall (12325 88 St)
Registration requirements:
• Community League Membership
• Fees: have not been confirmed but will range from \$130 to \$220 depending on the age group.
• Jersey deposit-\$75.00 for each child
• 2 volunteer deposit cheques \$100 each per child registered (maximum of 3 volunteer commitments per family)
• includes 1 tournament/team & individual picture/banquet & award
Kidsport funding applications will be available - ask if your family qualifies. Any questions contact: Delton Soccer Director, Sue Nozack 474-3491

EASTWOOD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, October 24 at 7pm All members welcome. Call 477-2354 for more details.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE AT THE CARROT

Sept 07 Will Preville
Sept 14 Wendy Gronnestad-Damur
Sept 21 Karen Porkka

RANDOM ACTS OF POETRY WEEK, OCT 01-08

The theme is Adult Literacy. Watch for spontaneous performances from poet Jannie Edwards on the Avenue throughout the week



Edmonton Public Library

SPRUCEWOOD BRANCH

11555 - 95 Street Call 496-7099 to register

KIDS

Aboriginal Family Story Time

Fridays, September 7 to December 21, 11:30am

Presented by Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society Hey moms and dads! Bring your little ones and join us for an hour of Aboriginal songs and stories.

I Am That Hero! - Larryboy to the Rescue

Saturday, September 15, 2pm. Ages: 5 - 12 years

Citizens of the Library, take a trip to Bumblyburg and join Larryboy and his friends in his mission to fight crime and have fun!

Optical Illusions

Thursday, September 20, 3:30pm. Ages: 8 - 12 years

Optical illusions: amazing, eye-popping, magical pictures that will play with your mind and have you questioning what you are seeing!

Kids Read! Edmonton - The Mystery of the Graffiti Ghoul

Saturday, September 22, 2pm

You don't want to miss out on this one! Join us for some mystery fun as we celebrate the first ever Kids Read! Edmonton. This fall kids in grades 4-6 are invited to read local author Marty Chan's *The Mystery of the Graffiti Ghoul*. Participate in mystery activities at your local library and find out about this great book all the kids in Edmonton will be talking about!

TEENS

Teen Advisory Group

Friday, October 5, 6:30pm. Ages: 12 - 17 years

Make your voice heard! Join our Teen Advisory Group and you can suggest programs that the library should offer for teens and what books, music and movies we should order. Have fun, meet other teens, and gain valuable volunteer experience. The group will be meeting once a month and future meeting dates will be

arranged depending on the availability of the members.

ADULTS

Aboriginal Women Aglow

Fridays, August 17 to December 21, 6pm

Contact: Deborah Minoose at 637-9213 or deborah.minoose@gmail.com Need some encouragement and fellowship with a really neat group of women? Come join this interfaith group of females who meet every third Friday of the month to discuss First Nation issues and share experiences.

Law in the Library Landlord and Tenant Law:

Wednesday, September 19, 6pm

Presented by Student Legal Services. Call Sarah at 492-2226 for more information. Future sessions: Wills and Estates - October 17, 6pm; Employment and Labour Law - November 21, 6pm.

Decorating Kids' Cakes

Monday, September 24, 6:30pm

Give your kids a cake to remember at their next birthday party. Get ideas and techniques for decorating creative cakes for kids' parties. This hands on workshop will give you the opportunity to try some of the skills yourself.

Edmonton Reads Book Discussion

Wednesday, September 26, 6:30pm
De Niro's Game by Rawi Hage

Join us for some stimulating discussion of *De Niro's Game* by Rawi Hage. Traditional Lebanese tea, hor d'oeuvres and sweets along with stimulating conversation and music will be served up at the Sprucewood Library.

Let The Games Begin!

Friday, September 28 to December 14, 1pm. Drop in program.

In celebration of the Year of the Older Person! We're cranking open our card tables, polishing up the checkers, cracking open board games of yesterday and offering up our program space for you to meet other members of your

community and socialize.

Good Timers Group

Saturday, September 29, 2pm

Celebrating EPL's Year of the Older Adult - All are Welcome!
It's not rock n'roll, but this gang of Electric Guitar playing seniors know how to have a really good time! Come have a good time too and listen to a variety of entertaining music in good company.

Stories from the Heart of the City - with Linda Goyette

Thursdays, October 4 to December 20, 1pm. Drop-in.

Celebrating EPL's Year of the Older Adult - All are Welcome!

Do you live in Boyle-McCauley or Norwood or along the Avenue of Nations? Did you move here from somewhere else, or did you grow up here? Come and tell your story, and hear stories about interesting people who lived here over the years. Writer in Residence Linda Goyette will host this session for story-lovers of all ages.

Eastwood Fest!



D-J, AGE 4, GETS A BALLON CREATION FROM M AND M THE CLOWN



KOREAN DRUMMERS WOW THE CROWD



LIVE SCULPTING WITH RITCHIE VELTHUIS



MAYOR MANDEL AND ZACH MORIN

Pupusa Festival!



EAT THOSE PUPUSAS! DARSHAN AND ANTONIO MURRILLO CAME ALL THE WAY FROM MILLWOODS TO JOIN IN THE FESTIVITIES



ANA AND MAREA MAKE PUPUSAS IN THE MID DAY HEAT AT THE EDMONTON SALVADOREAN SOCIETY'S SEVENTH ANNUAL PUPUSA FESTIVAL HELD AT THE ALBERTA AVENUE COMMUNITY LEAGUE ON JULY 28



THE LINE FOR PUPUSAS WAS LONG IN THE HOT SUN, BUT STILL THE PEOPLE WAITED!

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