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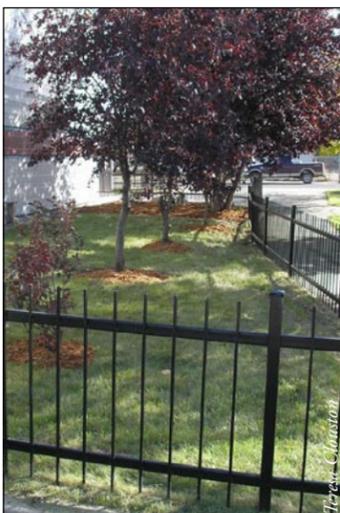
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New look for Alberta Ave league with help of ATB volunteers

DAWN FREEMAN
KAREN MYKIETKA

And the walls came tumbling down. Well, okay, they didn't exactly tumble; they were pulled and ripped apart by a force of volunteers. But the end result was the same. Alberta Avenue Community League (AACL) rink is no more.

For the last few years, the board chose not to open the rink due to the high cost and lack of volunteers. Now the



THE SIDE OF THE LEAGUE LOOKS SO MUCH BETTER AFTER BEING LANDSCAPED AND TIDIED

wood boards, which were in disrepair, have been removed with the aid of some 20 ATB Financial employees who took two days off work on September 19 and 20 to contribute their time and skills to the AACL. Volunteers also helped with landscaping improvements around the side and front of the building.

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ATB volunteers have been involved with the Habitat For Humanity build currently taking place at 96 St and 114 Ave, and the organization wanted to continue its work in the community. They got in touch with the AACL who just happened to have a project.

"Our experience with Habitat has been so positive for the organization and our associates that we wanted to do more," said Kim Irving, ATB Vice President, Edmonton Region. "We believe in contributing to the communities where we live and work. Helping families get into a home is great – but we also wanted to make a lasting contribution to the community, as thanks for bearing with the construction, and to welcome the new families."

Habitat stepped up to assist with expertise, and rallied the support of the Evergreen Foundation, a national non-profit environmental organization with a mandate to create and sustain healthy, natural outdoor spaces. With their contribution of landscaping plans, the stage was set for a change.

The landscaping is especially important as it will clear the sight lines of the building, creating a safer space – one of the goals of the Avenue Initiative Revitalization Strategy.

So what now? Irish Filevich, league president says, "We are looking forward to a more attractive, accessible, and safe outdoor space for our community residents. We have big plans and they will take some time, but the work done this fall gives us a jump start."

She is unsure at this point what could replace the rink; one idea put forward by the Edmonton Arts Council was for a sculpture park, but meanwhile the now open and clear space will be much easier to keep clean and neat.

Community input and ideas will be sought through questions on telephone sur-

veys conducted as part of the Avenue Revitalization in October. Alberta Avenue residents are encouraged to share their ideas in the survey or directly to the league by phone.

The AACL board has maintained a low profile over the past year as it worked hard to get internal affairs in order. The executive that took over in September of 2005 had to deal with a league in debt and a bingo operation that was barely breaking even. After a very volatile first few months the bingo was shut down and the board worked on pursuing grants money to get their books back in the black.

They have been successful; at the midpoint of this year revenue had already outstripped last year's, and a CIP lottery grant application was approved.

The league has sold off their bingo equipment, cleaned out the kitchen and repaired the floor, and purchased 30 new round tables for the hall. They are in the process of getting the heating system fixed and moving on repairing a leaking roof in their program room.

Hall rentals have been steady. Filevich would like to see more educational programs or seminars held there, as well as more mid-week rentals. She says the league is far better situated for teaching seminars than downtown due to excellent parking facilities and access to main roads and bus routes. A recently held healthcare teaching seminar was a huge success.



TEARING IT ALL DOWN. THE RINK BEHIND THE LEAGUE IS NO MORE.

The board is partnering with City of Edmonton Community Services again this year to provide children's programs. Six programs are scheduled between now and Christmas (check



ATB VOLUNTEERS CLEANING UP THE EAST SIDE OF THE COMMUNITY LEAGUE

them out on page 11).

"We have a drama program, a halloween event and various Christmas activities planned," says Corinne Bishop, City of Edmonton Community Recreation Coordinator.

"Everyone is welcome; you don't have live in Alberta Avenue." She adds, "I hope residents take advantage of these great low cost programs. We had to cancel some last spring due to low enrolment." The City is helping the league with programming this year because there are not enough board members and volunteers to undertake activities on their own.

And speaking of volunteers, while the AACL annual general meeting isn't until May, they would welcome more participation anytime.

"We are looking for volunteers and board members who have time, energy, enthusiasm and connections," says Filevich. "If you are interested, call us at 477-2773 and leave a message."

At the very least you can support the league by buying a membership that only costs \$20 for a family or \$10 for a single. Memberships can be bought or renewed on Monday, October 15, from 6:30 to

7:30pm at the hall. If you are unable to make it that night, call the hall at 477-2773 and leave a message. Messages are cleared once a week, so the league asks for your patience.

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- Access to programs available in your community for adults and children
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Ushering in a new season

KAREN MYKIETKA
MANAGING EDITOR

The leaves are already turning colors and falling. I'm waiting to see the new amur maple tree we planted in our front yard turn red. I find the changing seasons exciting because it brings something new. But at the same time, change is a lot of work. We'll have bags and bags of leaves to pick up over the weeks to come.

Rat Creek Press is also in the midst of change. For a while I thought I'd be singing the same old tune about the tenuous future of the Rat Creek Press. However, just before we went to press with the September issue, we received a cheque for \$65,000!! Whew! And YAHOO! We finally got the Community Initiatives Program (CIP) grant we applied for a year ago from the provincial government.

We couldn't cash the

cheque and take a well deserved vacation in Hawaii, so instead we celebrated by making a last minute decision to go with full color on four pages and to boost our circulation to 12,500 (from 8,500) including apartments in our delivery. Also for the first time in three years, the production team got paid a real wage! We also hope to gather all the RCP stuff scattered around various people's homes and set up an office on the Avenue in the months to come.

There is one change I am a little nervous about. We will be hiring a new editor soon - Dawn is moving on (although we won't let her go completely!). Dawn and I have worked so well together over the past three years that

we have almost become one interchangeable person. People who have contact with the RCP often don't realize there are two of us. We talk to each other so often it's like we have a mind meld, fluidly going back and forth, one taking over where the other has left off. I pray for my sake and the sake of the paper that we find the right person to replace her.

Please don't think this grant means we're on easy street. First of all, our new budget with the expanded production and delivery, staffing and office costs is over \$100,000. Secondly, the CIP is a matching grant. We have to show matching dollars and volunteer hours valued at \$65,000. And most importantly, we still need volunteers to run this organization and get the paper written and produced.

Rat Creek Press is also in the midst of change.

Thank you to those who already responded to our call for more board members and writers. The RCP has something for everyone - if you have time and/or talent to share we'll gladly put it to good use.

Come celebrate with us and show your support of the RCP at our upcoming annual general meeting on Monday, November 5, 7pm at The Carrot Arts Coffeehouse (corner of 94 St and 118 Ave).

We're Hiring!!

The RCP is looking for an editor / journalist. Check www.ratcreek.org for details.

Cromdale recovery program 'Our House' wins prestigious Laurel Award

DAWN FREEMAN

Beating out 32 other hopefuls, Our House Addiction Recovery Centre became the thirteenth winner of the gold Laurel Award presented by Edmonton law firm Duncan and Craig. The award recognizes the innovation and creativity of non-profit organizations in Edmonton and area.

Executive Director Patricia Benz was amazed to be the beneficiary of the \$3000 prize.

"It never occurred to us

that we would win; there were so many other great nominees," she said. "When they started talking about an addictions recovery program it just knocked us all over."

Our House is an addiction recovery centre for men that takes 10 months to a year to go through. Graduates then can move in to a separate 3/4 house where they still have access to counselors and programs for up to another year. They also host Narcotics and Alcoholics Anonymous weekly meetings.

The award has come at a good time for the program. They are in the process of finding out if they are successful in their application for funding to move to a larger facility - a former motel on 3 acres of land in the west end.

"We definitely need more space," says Benz. "More beds, more bathrooms and the room to seat everyone at the same time for meals - right now the men have to eat in shifts. The new place would allow us to increase from 32 beds to

60, and it has dining facilities to seat 120 at a time."

Duncan and Craig LLP established the Laurel Awards in 1994 to mark 100 years of continuous practice. They are a celebration of this centenary and of the firm's ongoing commitment to community service. The silver and bronze awards went to the Edmonton Financial Literacy Society and Pilgrims Hospice Society respectively. Representatives of the Rat Creek Press were at the awards as they were also nominated.

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Final words from long time Ward 3 councillor Janice Melnychuk

INTERVIEW BY
GORDON VICKRUCK

GV: How long have you been a councillor for?

JM: Six years. But before that for six years I was a public school trustee, so I've been in public service while I had children. My children grew up when I was a school trustee. And as a city councillor I have had the freedom to do this work, which is like 70 hours a week and totally all-consuming. I know citizens don't understand that. They don't get it. They think we have an easy life but it isn't really.

GV: Have you lived in Ward 3 all that time?

JM: I have lived in this area of Edmonton basically all my life. I grew up in Beverley and only moved a couple of times since then, all around Ward 3.

GV: No doubt you have seen a lot of changes since then.

JM: When I was a kid growing up, what a vibrant commercial area 118th Avenue was. And then as the Yellowhead Highway was built, I remember very much the controversy surrounding that. I don't remember anybody saying there will be problems created by moving all of the vehicle traffic off of 118 Ave and putting it on the Yellowhead Trail, but that's what I have really seen as a citizen and certainly as a city councillor.

One of the things I really put on the table was that 30 years ago when we created the Yellowhead Trail we put no time, money or effort as a city into helping 118th Avenue and those communities transform into something different. We just kind of allowed them to slowly deteriorate. And now what we're doing with the Alberta Avenue Initiative is "it's time to pay the bill."

GV: So you talked about the Avenue Initiative. Where do you see that going and what are some of the other developments in the works?

JM: Well it's really exciting. The re-zoning application for that whole area was passed and so what that means is now there is almost an incentive for people to come into the community and start to build those mixed use type of housing projects. You could do some really interesting sustainable design for the area. You've got to get the right devel-

oper who wants to do that. I'm hoping that happens.

In general, Ward 3 shares the same problems as the rest of the city – our mature neighbourhoods everywhere are continuing to be an area that people drive through to go to the suburbs. That's a huge issue and we have to grapple with it. So I hope within the next two to five years, people are going to see the transformation that

Ward 3, then I also needed to see that spending money on the south side [for the LRT expansion] was a good thing to do.

I'm a very inclusive person. I believe in creating community and that government has a role in creating community. So it was exciting for me to be a part of that and having us create that policy and city council agree that for half a million we're going to open our doors to low



JANICE MELNYCHUK, WARD 3 COUNCILLOR OF SIX YEARS, IS NOT SEEKING RE-ELECTION. OUR COMMUNITY WILL BE SAD TO LOSE SUCH A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF THE REVITALIZATION.

city council is working towards – something called Smart Choices and Smart Growth.

We're trying to create walkable communities. We're inputting more money into multi-use trails for people who walk or ride their bikes for that easy access to downtown. We're trying to provide for sensitive densification. It's a long term project. It doesn't happen overnight. It's got many components to it – everything from affordable housing to sustainable communities, to renewing our commitment to parkland for mature neighbourhoods, to trying to find a new use for the schools in the mature neighbourhoods that the school boards are closing down.

An expanded LRT is also part of that vision. I want the people coming to Rexall Place, Northlands, and Commonwealth Stadium all coming on the LRT. As a Ward 3 councillor, I needed to make that commitment to the LRT because the impact of vehicular traffic in Ward 3 is ridiculous. Rexall Place is used almost 200 nights a year – it's huge! And so if I wanted to make a positive impact on

income people. Make it easy for them to use recreation services. And build an inclusive city. It just means so much to me.

GV: So you're the one to thank for that wonderful policy change of providing free access to city recreational facilities.

JM: I'm one of the ones to thank, yes. I think I will go away feeling that was one of my contributions. I was able to help the organization and city council and everybody understand that if you truly want to create a cosmopolitan, vibrant, healthy city for the future, you have to start creating policies and making decisions that create an opportunity for the global community to come here.

GV: So about you? Where are you going? What are you doing?

JM: I don't know. I have a bit of a clean slate. It's exciting and yet it's...not really frightening, but there's that twinge of "hmm, I wonder what I'll be doing in 6 months?" kind of thing. Not knowing what your future really holds.

Zoning changes for Avenue Initiative Strategy set to proceed

DAWN FREEMAN

City Council voted to pass zoning amendments requested for the Avenue Initiative Revitalization Strategy at a Special Public Hearing meeting on Monday, September 10, 2007.

The re-zoning is the result of two years work by the Avenue Initiative Zoning and Development Working Group in conjunction with community consultation and the Planning and Development department of the city, and concludes Phase One of the Strategy.

The majority of zoning needed for the Strategy is already in place. Amendments made will create consistency in the zoning bylaws and will allow for a wider range of commercial and residential developments on 118 Ave. An Alberta Avenue Pedestrian Commercial Shopping Street Overlay along 118 Ave has been created to facilitate an attractive street environment that will encourage commercial development whilst still being pedestrian friendly. As well, zoning to the land adjacent to the LRT site has been changed to allow for future transit-oriented development.

The purpose of rezoning the Avenue is to provide opportunity for develop-

ment, as well as 'eyes on the street' as people will both live and work on the Ave.

"The plan is to help the area to become a vibrant and diverse commercial strip including a pedestrian friendly environment with trees and lighting that will serve the surrounding residential areas with unique services and activities," said Cathy Raftis, from the city's Planning and Development dept, at the hearing.

The loss of some parking on side streets from the Streetscape plan that would see trees, lighting, bulbing and wider sidewalks has recently been raised as a concern. Councillor Gibbons put forward a motion to look into the feasibility of parking behind commercial properties on 118 Ave as a way to increase vehicle spaces.

Community consultations about Phase Two zoning changes will begin with two public meetings held at Eastwood Community Hall (8601 118 Ave) on November 6 and November 29. Phase Two of the Strategy will be looking at one block north and south of the Avenue.

If you want more information about the Avenue Initiative Revitalization Strategy, contact Judy Allan at 496-1913.

Parking or Beautification?

The Avenue Initiative Streetscape Working Group worked with Planning and Transportation to develop a streetscape plan to be implemented in stages over the next five years. This proposed pedestrian-friendly streetscape upgrades and beautifies both 118 Avenue and the side streets. The plan was presented to the community at an open house in May. Phase 1 which is planned to begin next summer is awaiting final budget approval.

The proposed streetscape will result in some loss of parking. A handful of residents and business owners are opposing the plan because of this.

Is the loss of some parking worth the upgrading and beautification of the side streets on 118 Avenue?

What do you think?

Send your comments to editor@ratcreek.org.

VanCafé serves up a great multimedia centre along with food and coffee

IFEANYI UZOR

VanCafé is a multimedia centre and cafe recently established on the Avenue by Vantage International Enterprises Corporation (Vantercor). Unlike a typical coffee and Internet shop, VanCafé goes the extra mile. It offers its customers a state of the art computer lab that enables them to perform multimedia tasks as well as get a great cup of gourmet coffee and some fine multicultural cuisine.

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If you like to play com-

puter games, VanCafé offers customers the opportunity to utilize its computers for various gaming tournaments. Vantercor is a member of iGames (www.igames.org) and VanCafé is now one of the organization's gaming centres in North America. In the future they plan to order new games on a weekly basis so customers can have the opportunity to "try before they buy."

Games, work or surfing, eat in or take out, VanCafé is a multi-use facility.



IFEANYI UZOR, OWNER, TAKES A TURN BEHIND THE COUNTER AT VANCAFE

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Kid Power: Why elections matter, even though you don't yet get to vote

JAN BUTERMAN

Drivel makes our brains shrivel. So why should kids care about October civic elections? Sure, no one is going to let you vote anytime soon, but elections are still important for you.

City Elections

Civic elections decide who gets to be the mayor and who gets to be the councillors – the same people who get to decide how often your icky, smelly garbage gets picked up or if your street will ever get dug out from underneath the snow. You might not care too much about either of these things, but trust me; the grownups around your house probably care a lot. (Although on the bright side, if there is enough snow, the stinky garbage isn't quite so noticeable.)

Working together, the mayor and councillors are known as "city council", and they make rules called "bylaws". Bylaws include things like how late at night you're allowed to annoy your neighbours with your cutting-edge garage band (definitely not after 10 pm), and how many cats the little old lady down the street is actually allowed to own at any particular time (only six). City council also makes decisions about how much bus fare you need to pay to travel and how much funding (money) will be available for the library branches around the city.

In grade six, kids get to learn about how local governments are chosen (in Edmonton, this is the "city council") and the responsibilities they have, such as creating bylaws and charging taxes. Kids also learn about different ways of influencing government, such as lobbying, petitioning, and attending meetings. The fancy title for all this is Power, Authority, and Decision-Making (PADM), which is almost, but not quite exactly like Queen Padme Amadila's name, but that doesn't matter right now.

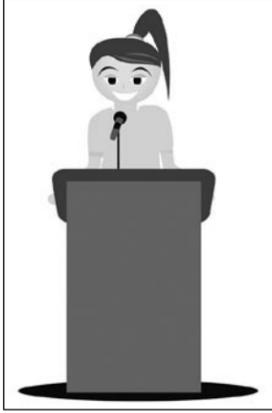
School Elections

"Well so what" you still say, because you are young and it's hip to be cynical. "Kids don't get to vote, so why should I care?"

Dave Colburn thinks you should care. Colburn is the guy who won the election for school trustee for Edmonton Public Schools in our area in the last civic election. As the incumbent (the guy who won before and is trying to win again), he has a lot to say about kids getting involved in elections.

"Youth as young as junior high are routinely involved in student councils and other leadership activities," Colburn says. "So they are already participat-

ing on some levels. But many youth still don't get involved in larger elections such as the civic, provincial, or federal elections, even once they're old enough to vote."



Get Involved

You might shrug and think, "so what?" again, but Colburn has something to say about that too.

"School board trustees are elected by the people. Trustees have a lot of power:

they get to hire and fire the school Superintendent, and they get to make decisions that effect all the schools they run."

In Edmonton Public, there are nine trustees, and as Colburn

says, "The trustees can sit down together and decide anything for the schools, as long as it is legal." In other words, if you or your parents want all kids to have access to the best computer technology available, the trustees are the people who could make that happen. They also could decide that everyone in every school has to wear a purple toque on cloudy days. (Okay, so that's not so likely, but the point is, these people have a whole lot of that PADM juice on their side.)

The democratic process needs people to run for elections. More importantly, it needs quality people to run for elections. History is full of communities that had elections, but elected Very Crazy People and then had Very Bad Things happen.

Colburn knows it is important for kids to get involved in democracy at a young age, and

not just to help their communities find great people to vote for.

"Young people need to demonstrate community involvement and volunteerism to get into university and sometimes even to be selected for a job," he says. "During my first campaign, many youth worked alongside their parents and got to learn a lot about what's involved in the democratic process."

They also got valuable experience in their community, just the type of experience that future universities and bosses are looking for. This year, Colburn has about twenty youth between the ages of 12 and 20 who are volunteering to help him campaign for school board trustee. "Young people get a chance to learn all about being involved in an election, and a solid reference for their future education or employment," he says.

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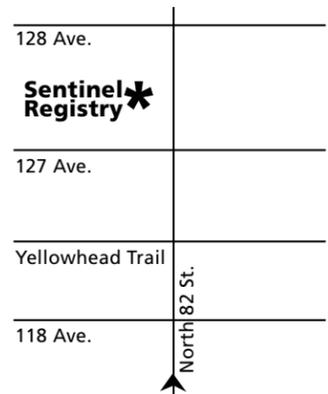
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Who's who in Ward 3



Ed Gibbons



Harvey Voogd



Chris Martin

Regular contributor Gordon Vickruck composed a series of questions for four of the candidates of Ward 3 to give our readers a little bit of inside knowledge when they go to the polls on October 15. Unfortunately the Rat Creek Press did not receive Mr. Caterina's questionnaire before we went to press. Other candidates for Ward 3 are: Kyle Balombin, Shiu Wing Mak, Chris Roehrs and Thomas Tomlinson. If you are interested in knowing the boundaries for the Wards, go to www.edmontonelection.ca/maps.

The Rat Creek Press would like to extend our thanks to Councillor Gibbons, Mr. Voogd and Mr. Martin for taking the time to share their opinions with our readers.

Tell us a little about yourself on a personal level.

EG: I was born and raised on the family homestead beside the town of Gibbons, which is named after my great grandfather. I have been married to my wife Carolyn who is a Registered Nurse for 36 wonderful years and we have raised our family, Mark (grandchildren Braydon and Sarah), Darren (wife Jenny), and Margo in North East Edmonton. I enjoy spending any free time, with my family and in my garden.

HV: I am 47 years old and am married to Marie Butler. She is an artist and crafts person with her own business called Return to Rustic. Through her program Crafts for Kids, Marie has worked in many of Ward 3's schools. She is famous among children as Grandma Willow or the Willow Lady. I relax through cross-country skiing, walking my dog, read-

ing and cooking.

CM: I came to Edmonton from Guelph, Ontario in 1993. I graduated from the U of Guelph with a degree in Canadian Literature and History. Much of my working career in Edmonton has been in the arts industry as a manager/booking agent for a variety of Alberta music performers. As well I have worked in the broadcast industry as a programmer at CKUA. Currently I am employed at the CBC on the production of a radio program and a television show.

How long have you lived in the Ward?

EG: More than 33 years.

HV: I live one block outside of the ward in Delton. All my 23 years in Edmonton have been spent in McCauley, Alberta Avenue or Delton.

CM: I lived in Norwood from 2003 to 2006 and have been in Alberta Avenue for the past year.

What has been your experience living in the ward?

EG: Ward 3 is the largest ward in Edmonton, approximately 150,000 residents and spans 25 x 20 kms. Households run the full gamut of personal incomes and as such we run the full gamut of socio economic concerns from farming issues and needs in the far North East end to homelessness closer to the inner city. Ward 3 is historical, multicultural and diverse. It has green space, urban centres, and suburban living. You can find anything you want or need within its boundaries.

HV: I would not live in this

area if I did not like it. The people are diverse and I enjoy the mature trees and housing. I love the local shops like Popular Bakery, El Rancho or PuppyLove dog grooming. Things I don't like about the ward, such as poor housing or prostitution, I have worked hard to address. My work as Chair of the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund and my founding of Communities for Controlled Prostitution reflect my attempts to address these concerns.

CM: On the down side: in Norwood my car was stolen from behind my apartment, in Alberta Ave our house was broken into. These are experiences that I have never had to deal with before. On a more positive note the area has provided affordable living space, amenities such as local shopping, independent restaurants, walkability and access to the transit system. All of these have helped to create a quality of life that defines the advantages of the area.

What attracted you to running for the position of City Councillor?

EG: Living and raising my family in Ward 3 has been a rewarding and enjoyable experience and for that reason I chose to run for council to try to give something back to the community.

HV: I want to ensure that northeast Edmonton receives its fair share of resources to keep our infrastructure and community strong.

CM: Since I came to Edmonton in 1993, I think the city's unchecked desire for growth and progress without necessary planning and vision have

resulted in an increased cost of living, increase of crime, and demands on infrastructure that are beyond resources among others. The growth pattern has reduced the quality of life for the citizens of Edmonton. I can sit around and complain about the direction in which the city is going or I can be proactive and help to create solutions.

What strengths and qualifications do you bring to this position?

EG: I bring 25 years of community volunteerism to the table as well as a lifetime of experience in and understanding of the ward. I have always tried to lead by example and have been rewarded with success in many of my endeavors on behalf of North East Edmonton and Edmonton as a whole. I was the Liberal MLA, Edmonton-Manning, 1997-2001/Critic for Municipal Affairs, Gaming and Government Affairs, and was elected to council in 2001.

HV: I have previous City Hall experience due to my work in the past as Executive Assistant to Councillor Michael Phair. When I am elected, I will hit the ground running and be able to respond readily to issues facing Ward 3. I have worked on a wide variety of issues including transportation, crime, housing, and neighbourhood planning and development. I am known as a leader who is a hard working, responsible and mature person committed to doing a good job. In 2005, I was honoured to receive the Alberta Centennial Medallion for community leadership.

CM: I have many years experience on Boards of Directors

with a variety of organizations. I am well versed in the process of committee style decision making. For over fifteen years I have worked in the arts industry. Many of the skills related to management and agency representation transfer well to the tasks of a City Councillor. The ability to plan, negotiate, coordinate and communicate effectively with a vision to long-term outcomes is essential to the position. I believe that I have these qualifications, as well as a good sense of perception that lends itself well to creative solutions.

What are the opportunities and challenges facing this ward?

EG: With the growth the ward is experiencing we have the opportunity to shape our future and to demand a safe and clean environment. We are now in the process of rejuvenating some of our older historical neighborhoods, Fort Road, and Alberta Avenue; these have both been long and sometimes complicated processes that included the communities at every level. Both communities should be proud of their accomplishments. There are challenges in every part of our city and unfortunately crime is number one. I continue to work closely with many of our communities and the police to try and address those concerns. I believe that we can make our neighborhoods safer by just looking out for each other as a start.

HV: I will fight to ensure that Edmonton and Ward 3 remains a healthy place to live, work, play and raise a family. This means:
- Well-planned and maintained transportation including roads,

Continued on next page...

Who's who in Ward 2

ANGIE KLEIN

Ah... another civic election is soon upon us. Here's a quick run down of the candidates for Ward 2. If you are interested in knowing the boundaries for the Wards, go to www.edmontonelection.ca/maps.

Ron Hayter, currently serving as co-councillor is in his 30th year of public service. A family man with an impressive list of community service, he's like a political energizer bunny. He just keeps going and going and going.

Kim Krushell, also currently co-councillor, has a passion to improve our growing city by pushing for more funding for core services such as policing, fire protection, transit and affordable housing. I have had the opportunity to work on community issues with Kim, and have seen how passionate she is first-hand.

Jabin Caouette is a 2nd year U of A political sciences major and one of the younger candidates running. He has lived in Ward 2 for the past 20 years and has "fresh ideas, fresh energy, and a fresh vision for the city of Edmonton."

Kerry Hutton, also living in Ward 2 for the past 20 years, has a blended family of 7 children, and is a huge advocate for bingos and casinos. He also has concerns about the traffic and conditions on our city streets and our need for more affordable housing.

Mike Sokoluik feels "The purpose of an elected official is to work to improve the quality of life of the people they represent". He is pushing for tax cuts and budget reductions at city hall, including eliminating the scheduled pay raises for Council.

Shelly Tupper has a commendable record for her work with community leagues, and crime prevention. She wants to see more community policing and better roads.

Dave Loken is a CUPE member. He's had enough of the raises in our municipal taxes and would like to reduce the scheduled pay raises for Council.

Well that's it in a nutshell
Make sure you get out and vote - because if you don't, then you can't complain about the quality of your government!

Bring ID to the polls this election

A major change voters will see in this fall's election is that they must present identification in order to cast a ballot. This is one more way to ensure a fair and accurate election by confirming that all voters are indeed eligible.

An Alberta Driver's Licence, an Alberta Health Care card or a passport are among the easiest choices. There are many other alternatives. For details, check www.edmonton.ca/election or call the Election Office at 496-8008.

Continued from page 6...

transit, cycling and walking routes.
- Safe neighbourhoods where people look out for each other, work closely with police, and crime prevention is a priority.
- Solutions so that all people can have a safe, affordable place to call home.
- Northeast Edmonton has the same parks and recreation facilities that other areas of the city enjoy.
- Thriving arts and culture.

CM: Perhaps the most prominent opportunity visible in the ward is the changing face of the southern neighborhoods. Young families are moving into the communities to start homes. Many of the new inhabitants of the area have strong ties to the arts community. In the southern and northern areas alike the strength of Ward 3 is in its

community involvement. Vibrant, active community leagues create clean, enjoyable neighborhoods.

The challenges fall into a few categories. Crime is always on the top of everyone's list: prostitution, drug dealing, street crime and property crime vary in intensity throughout the Ward. As the age of the community reaches and surpasses thirty years the infrastructure: sewers, road, parks, rinks etc. are all in need of or approaching need for repairs and upgrading. One of the most prominent challenges is the potential for growth north of 167 Ave. Without proper planning and vision, expansion in this direction can become an immense liability to the Ward and the city as a whole.

What is your opinion of some

Where to vote

Election Day - October 15 from 9 am to 8 pm

You must vote at your assigned polling station (or see below for advance polls and other options). All Polling stations are wheelchair accessible. A Where-to-vote card will be mailed to every household the week before the election. The card will list the candidates running in your area and where your voting station is. You can also go to www.edmontonelection.ca to access an online address/poll finder.

Ward	Poll	Community	Boundaries	Poll Location
2	201	Spruce Ave	97 - 106 St 111 - 118 Ave	St. Basil School 10210 - 115 Avenue
2	208	Westwood	97 - 107 St 118 - 125 Ave	Westwood Community Hall 12139 - 105 Street
2	209	Delton	86 - 97 St 118 - 125 Ave	Delton Community Hall 12325 - 88 Street
3	304	Cromdale/Viewpoint		Virginia Park Senior Lodge 11033 - 76 Street
3	305	Parkdale	LRT line - 89 St 112 - 118 Ave	Parkdale Community Hall 11335 - 85 Street
3	306	Norwood	89 - 97 St 111 - 118 Ave	Norwood School 9520 - 111 Avenue
3	307	Alberta Avenue	89 - 97 St 118 - 122 Ave	Delton School 12126 - 89 Street
3	308	Eastwood	82 - 89 St 118 - 122 Ave 82 - 86 St 122 - 125 Ave	St. Gerard School 12415 - 85 Street
3	309	Eastwood Elmwood Park	75 St/Fort Rd - 82 St 118 - 125 Ave	Eastwood School 12023 - 81 Street

Advance polls are available from October 1 to 13.

No matter what ward you live in, you can vote at City Hall from October 1 to October 13 (closed Sunday, October 7 and Monday, October 8). Polls will be open in the Heritage Room from 11:30 am to 5:30 pm. Monday to Friday and 9 am to 4 pm on Saturday.

One voting station will be open in each ward on Saturday, October 6 and Saturday, October 13. Voting stations will be open from 9 am to 4 pm. Voters must vote in the ward in which they reside.
Ward 2 Glengarry Community League 13325 - 89 Street
Ward 3 J. J. Bowlen Catholic School 6110 - 144 Avenue

Mail-in Ballots

Voters also have the option of requesting a mail-in ballot if they are physically incapacitated, out-of-town or working the election. Call 496-8008. In order to be counted, ballots must be received by 7 pm on October 15.

At-Home Voting

Voters who are physically unable to go to the advance or election day polls may arrange to vote at home. This special service will be offered on Saturday, October 6 and Saturday, October 13. To register, phone 496-8008 before 4 pm on Thursday, October 11.

of the neighborhood improvements and what more can be done?

EG: I was instrumental in the decision to rejuvenate both Fort Road and Alberta Avenue and have been vitally involved in every step of the process. I believe that both of these initiatives are necessities for these communities and the City of Edmonton.

I further believe we should continue the pursuit of the rejuvenation of all of our older and historic neighborhoods as well as basing the building of our new neighborhoods on informed and sound planning decisions.

HV: I believe the current neighbourhood improvements are positive. I think we are at a tipping point in terms of seeing incredible new energy,

growth and diversity in the area. The work of groups like the Community Action Project, Arts on the Ave and the local community leagues has already had an impact. Home ownership has increased dramatically from 5 years ago. There are indications that 118 Avenue will soon see new developments combining both commercial and housing.

I am very pleased with the exciting work being planned or already underway. I look forward as your city councillor to advancing these neighbourhood improvements and doing my bit to make a difference.

CM: As the initiatives come into play the ability for the area to maximize its potential is slowly realized. To be effective and create a community that sustains itself there needs to be a concentration of both

people and amenities. City resources are only going to get thinner as time goes by and growth continues. To simply call upon these resources to face the challenges and then wait for it to happen will not help to deal with anyone's concerns.

Community involvement is the key to effective change. Programs, initiatives, activities, and above all participation by the members of the community can result in the kinds of changes that have potential. Increased community involvement will lessen the quantity of resources and funds required from the City. If the demands of the City are more achievable they are more likely to become a reality.

It all sounds cliché but in essence if we all work together we can attain the goals we seek.

Wise words from the mouths of babes

KIMBERLEY FERLAND

When is it too soon to begin being involved in your community? You're never too young, says Madeline Halton, known as Madi by her friends, a 10 month old resident who is very active in the community. She can be seen volunteering on a weekly basis (with the help of mom and dad) at the Carrot Community Art Coffeehouse. She shops at many of the local stores and is very fond of many of the local restaurants. She also walks her dog and attends many of the community meetings.

"My mom and dad (Mat and Carissa) have lived in the area for about three years and love it, just like me," says Madi. "They are pretty involved too – I guess it runs in the family!"

Similar to many others in the community the family has met many of their neighbours; they watch each other's dogs, and one neighbour lent them a trailer and his time



so that they could clean up their yard. Several friends and family members have also moved to the area because of the positive reviews given by Madi and her parents.

"Compared to the neigh-

bourhood they (Mat and Carissa) moved from where they knew only a handful of people, they are so much happier here," reflects Madi.

Big changes are afoot for the young resident. After having her mom around full-time since her very first day in the world, Madi is now taking on the challenge of a full-time dad.

"My dad works with junior

high school students from three local schools as a youth worker for the Edmonton City Centre Education Project. This is a collaborative approach to caring and supporting students who are facing challenges in their lives, and his team is committed to focusing on the strengths and successes of their students."

"But he has decided to take a year's leave to work on a new

project and to stay home with me," beams Madi, obviously very happy with that decision.

Mat's project is entitled Pre/Post, and is inspired thematically and lyrically by his work as a Youth and Childcare Worker and the strengths and stories of his students. He is also one of the many talented emerging artists in the Avenue area and has played at the Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse.

Madi's mom Carissa is now back at work full time at the Mustard Seed, an organization committed to caring for the poor in the Edmonton community. She has recently started a small home business called Tambara Baby. Tambara is Swahili for fabric and the business is focused around teaching parents how to effectively use the unique wraps that Madeline so enjoys.

"I love this way of being carried about so much more than the stroller or car seat I see other babies in," says Madi. "I get to see and talk to people and go to lots of different places with mom and dad, even to my mom's work!"

Carissa sews the wraps but she is also happy to teach people this unique carrying method with wraps they have purchased from other stores. Although it seems quite complicated Carissa notes that within a half hour she can teach someone how to correctly tie and carry a baby in this way.

While they moved here initially to be closer to their respective workplaces, Madi notes that her mom and dad couldn't have made a better choice – even though she wasn't available to give advice at the time.

"We find the neighbours to be friendly and the community so very diverse," says Madi, "and our family is committed to building a safe and caring community."

Mark your calendars with the name Madeline Rachel Halton folks – this little girl is going to be mayor someday!



PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

Time For a New Consulate

It is time for the establishment of a Ukrainian Consulate in Edmonton. While Ukraine has honorary consuls in Winnipeg and Vancouver, a consulate in Edmonton could better serve the hundreds of thousands of people of Ukrainian descent in the western provinces. After Ukraine and Russia, Canada has the third largest Ukrainian population in the world. At present full consular services for Ukrainians are available only through the embassy in Ottawa or the consulate in Toronto.

Edmonton with its large Ukrainian population would seem to be a logical choice for a Ukrainian consulate. His Excellency Ihor Ostash, the Ukrainian Ambassador, indicated in a visit to Edmonton in March he would support the establishment of such a consulate. Support for the idea has also come from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Edmonton branch, and Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach.

A consulate would help protect the interests of Ukraine in Western Canada and facilitate tourist traffic both to and from Ukraine. It would also further the development of commercial, economic, cultural and scientific relations between Ukraine and Canada.

The ties between the two countries are strong and historic, from the wave of Ukrainian immigrants to Canada in the early part of the 20th century, to the appointment of a Ukrainian descendent (Ray Hnatyshyn) as Governor General, to the fact Canada was the first Western nation to recognize Ukraine's sovereignty in 1991.

With more than 125,000 residents of Ukrainian descent, the Edmonton area has more citizens of Ukrainian extraction than Winnipeg, about twice as many Calgary and about the same number as Vancouver, Regina and Saskatoon combined. Therefore it seems to me establishing a Ukrainian consulate in Edmonton would be the logical next step in the growing relationship between the two countries.

What do you think?

495-3261

www.petergoldring.ca

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ABC Head Start works with low income families and their preschool children to achieve success in learning and life. We have locations throughout the city with both morning and afternoon times available.

Call 461-5353 or email annb@abcheadstart.org.
Visit www.abcheadstart.org for more information

October 15th

RE-ELECT



ED GIBBONS



City Councillor

"A balanced perspective"

WARD 3

Sensible Growth
Fiscal Responsibility
Quality of Life

In which she discusses putting your garden to sleep

the Gardening Diva

WITH CHERYL WALKER

Dear readers, The Garden Diva (TGD) has a teeny-tiny confession to make. Every year she gambles on Mother Nature. You see, dear reader, the longer root vegetables stay out in the garden, the sweeter they become. In particular, carrots approach a splendid sweetness after a few hard frosts. Alas, sometimes TGD leaves this gamble a tiny amount too long, and snow falls. Last year was such a year. April of 2007 found TGD digging carrots and parsnips from the fall of 2006. This cautionary tale serves as a warning. Picking tomatoes madly in a snow-storm is no great fun. Neither is digging fall carrots in March. Below TGD shall detail exactly how one should be preparing for winter.

The Vegetable Garden

As noted above, dear reader, do empty the vegetable garden before the snow flies. Remove everything from the garden and make sure that you turn over the dirt. The freeze and thaw cycle will assist in breaking down large lumps in the soil and help with water retention and aeration next year. Feel free to add compost or well-rotted manure.

Trees

Give trees a good water in the early part of the month. Perhaps even a smattering of fertilizer. When watering trees, a small amount of water over a long period of time is a much better thing. TGD waters the very large spruce tree and the two elms in front of her house for about 3 hours, with the hose turned on about at eighth of a turn. Please, pay particular attention to your cedars. TGD does not believe in wrapping cedars, but they should be given a good watering as late into the fall as you possibly can.

Perennials

Consider dear reader, many large perennials can be moved this late in the season. Divide your day lilies, iris, asters, michealmas daises with a friend. To divide perennials, remove the entire plant from the ground. Use a sharp knife to divide the root balls. Plants can be quartered quite easily. TGD sprinkles a bit of bone meal and fertilizer or compost into the bottom of the hole you have dug. Remember to mark them!

are zone 4 should likely be covered with leaves, grass clippings or commercial mulch. Even some zone 3 plants, like lupin, should be covered. Zone 5 plants in planters should be brought into a cool place that stays at about 5 degrees Celsius.

narcissius, crocus, alliums and even gladioli. Please dear reader, do not be sucked in to buying the cheap grocery store versions. Often these bulbs simply rot in the ground. Spend more money and purchase good bulbs from a mail order catalogue or a garden centre. Consider Breck's or Vessey's.

Some seeds do particularly well when seeded into the garden in the fall. TGD has heard of people seeding lupin and primula into their garden in the fall. Seeds that require a cold period to germinate do particularly well with fall seeding. TGD has also heard of people planting peas and carrots in the fall, for an earlier crop. As long as gardener does not rototill in the spring, and plants very thickly, with an inoculant mixed into the pea seeds, this should be a good plan.

And with this, TGD bids you adieu for the season. She shall spend her winter enjoying Christmas and dreaming of spring. Until seeding time in February, have a happy hibernation.

TGD (aka Cheryl Walker) lives and weeds in Parkdale, with the très wonderful gardening diva husband and the non-gardening dogs. She is always a bit sad in October. She thinks that the three months until she can start seeding in February are very long months.

TGD (aka Cheryl Walker) lives and weeds in Parkdale, with the très wonderful gardening diva husband and the non-gardening dogs. She is always a bit sad in October. She thinks that the three months until she can start seeding in February are very long months.



Covering Up

Consider the need to mulch or cover your plants. Plants that

Bulbs and Seeds

Fall is bulb season. Prepare soil and be ready to plant tulips,

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.

Zoning in your area

Phase one of the zoning plan is complete. Open houses to look at potential rezoning of 119th Ave. and 117th Ave. (Phase two) will be held at: Eastwood Community League Tuesday November 6th, Thursday November 29th, 7:00 - 9:00 pm Come to find out information on why the changes and what the rezoning to this area means.

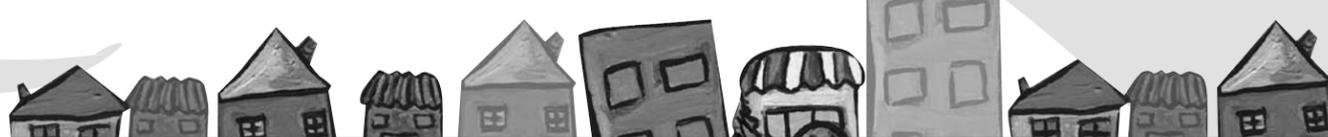
Neighbourhood Matching Grant

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



avenue initiative
revitalization

For information call
Judy Allan 496-1913



Working Groups

Groups meet on a monthly basis to implement the Avenue Initiative. To get involved call Judy at 496-1913 or email judy.allan@edmonton.ca

- 1) Streetscape-- 1st Tuesday of the month (October 2nd)
Working on details of the streetscape that is scheduled to begin in spring '08.
- 2) Development and Revitalization-- 1st Wednesday of the month (October 3rd)
Responsible for planning and zoning issues.
- 3) Beautification & Cleanliness-- 2nd Wednesday of the month (October 10th)
Works on special events, community clean ups and beautification projects.
- 4) Safe Streets-- 3rd Tuesday (October 16th)
Works with EPS, Bylaw & Safe Housing to create a safe community.

Let's share our successes

Community information aids police in shutting down 10 problem houses

LAW AND ORDER

WITH CST. MIKE RUSSELL

Well I am finally back from my hiatus and I have been really busy. The last couple of issues of the Rat Creek Press, I have provided information on how to spot, identify and report drug and disorder houses. I must say...the response I have received is phenomenal. With this information from the community I have compiled a list of over 30 houses and locations that need the special attention of police.

On September 4, 2007 Cst. Ryan Lawley of Derelict Housing and I started to visit all of the locations on the list. We spent all shift for four days visiting and working the houses. We had a lot of good information from the public and found that some of the problems had taken

care of themselves. Some of the houses had already changed hands or renters, and were no longer an issue.

There were still a lot of houses that required the assistance of the City of Edmonton, Capital Health, Safe Housing, Building Compliance, and Bylaw. All agencies cooperated with us and were able to offer immediate help. Many houses were boarded up or condemned, or now have orders on them.

This program is ongoing – it is not a 'one-off'. We will be actively assessing all of the houses that we have worked on, along with those that we will gather new information on in the future. With the assistance of the community members, and collaboration with all the other agencies, we have successfully concluded 10 houses. Five more of these houses require further follow up, and the police will actively pursue them.

Thanks to the community members for all their hard work. Keep it up!

El Rancho serves up spicy Spanish fare at reasonable prices

The Daring Diner

WITH ANGIE KLEIN

When asked to review one local restaurant each month, I hesitated a moment, thinking to myself "I am not a qualified restaurant critic" but to my credit, I have eaten almost every ethnic type of food available and can cook most of them, so I feel that my opinion is an educated one.

We decided to start out with El Rancho Spanish Restaurant, a homey, simple little place, located at 11818 87 St. The restaurant was fairly busy for a Thursday evening, and the service was fairly slow, mostly due to the lack of staff.

We ordered a Negra Modela beer to share and when it arrived it was cold and came with chilled glasses, Tyra, my 10-year-old daughter, had a Cola Champan, sort of a cross between cola and orange pop...a big hit.

Our waitress Cristina was friendly and genuinely helpful. She suggested we start out with pupusas – a little round tortilla pouch filled with mozzarella, fried beans and chicharon (seasoned pork),

served with pickled cabbage and El Rancho tomato sauce. The pupusas were not too spicy and the fresh salsa-like sauce was a nice compliment. For those who like something spicier the pickled cabbage had plenty of heat and at \$2.25 each, they have a lot of bang for your buck.

Tyra found what she wanted immediately and

ordered Canasta de Nachos, \$10.95. The waitress commented that it was a large order and should be shared, but that didn't deter my little girl. When the nachos arrived, the order was indeed very large, but the promised black olives were missing, and the seasoned taco meat was scant and buried beneath mounds of sour cream. It came with guacamole, which Jeff and I ate with the nachos we were sneaking, but it was not much more than coarsely mashed avocado.

We were getting full by now, but I thought we

should split a bowl of Sopa de Tortilla – soup with spicy chicken broth topped with fresh cilantro, avocado slices, tortilla chips and fresh mozzarella cheese, \$5.95. The flavor was very authentic and the soup had a soothing effect on the head cold I was suffering from, but for those of you who are not a cracker in your soup type,



WAITED ON BY THE OWNER HERSELF. ALBA HELPS OUT IN THE RESTAURANT WHEN SHORT STAFFED

ask for the chips on the side.

All in all the food was good, the music playing in the background had a festive Spanish feeling, the bathrooms were clean, the portions large and the prices reasonable. The other diners seemed to be enjoying their meals. We would go back again, but next time I think I'll have the fish. Happy Eating!!

Support the Edmonton Coalition on Housing & Homelessness!

2008 "Homes for All" Calendars will be available for purchase (\$15) in October at:

Earth's General Store - 10832 Whyte Ave.
Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers - 101, 10010-107A Ave.

Join us at "Homefest" at the Trans Alta Arts Barns on November 4, 2007!
For more information go to www.ecohh.ca



Thank you for six great years as your City Councillor. It has been a privilege and an honour to serve you and the City of Edmonton.

Councillor Janice Melnychuk

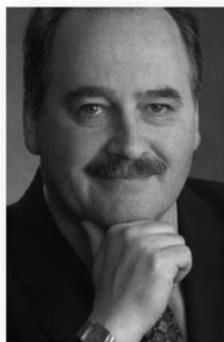
Ward 3 - NE Edmonton
2nd Floor City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton AB T5J 2R7

phone: 496-8333

email: janice.melnichuk@edmonton.ca



Thank you for your support!



Please join me at our upcoming "Report a Drug House" Town Hall meeting with Det. Maurice Brodeur

EASTWOOD HALL
11803-86 Street
Tuesday Oct 2nd 2007
@ 7:30pm

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



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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.

EDMONTON COALITION ON HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS SOCIETY (ECOHH) are fundraising for their worthwhile cause with a 2008 calendar, available in October at Earth's General Store (10832 Whyte Ave.) and Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (101, 10010-107A Ave). Join us Nov. 4 for Homefest, happening at the Trans Alta Arts Barns. For more information go to www.echohh.ca

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, 9:45 - 11 am at the Orthodox Reformed Church, 11610 - 95A St. Find out more by calling Christy at 486-4389 or Lorraine at 474-3893. Feel free to just show up, no registration required. Free childcare available. Check out our website at www.orc.org.

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB
Come out and meet your

neighbours, discuss a good book and have a great cup of coffee (or tea). The Carrot Community Book Club is meeting on October 17, 7:30 at the Carrot (9351 118 Ave.) We will be reading and discussing Edmonton author Todd Babiuk's latest book *The Book of Stanley*. Everyone who loves to read and discuss literature is invited to read the book and join in the conversation. For questions or more information please call Becky at 435-3499 or Kimberly at 474-8302.

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 Cabott 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.

SPRUCE AVENUE COMMUNITY RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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

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 (8715 118 Ave). Tuesdays to Fridays, 10am - 4pm. Coffee and snacks are available. Sunday service and Sunday school classes, 4pm.

PIANO LESSONS IN YOUR HOME

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

LITERACY PROGRAMS AT NORWOOD CHILD & FAMILY RESOURCE CTR. (9516 114 Ave)

Programs have been postponed until October due to unforeseen circumstances. Please contact the Centre at 471-3737 for information about new start dates.

SPRUCE AVE FREE SWIM IS BACK!

Free swim for Spruce Ave community league members at Grant MacEwan pool. Sundays 1-4pm. Show your community league membership for access.

FAREWELL GET TOGETHER FOR JANICE MELNYCHUK

Come to the Carrot on Friday October 5 to say goodbye to Ward 3 councillor, Janice Melnychuk. Starts 7 pm.

NINA HAGERTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS FAMILY ARTS NIGHT

9704 111Ave, Ph: 474-7611 www.ninahagertyart.ca Starting October 4, the Centre is offering free family art classes every Thursday night from 6:30 - 8:00pm. Call for more information and to register.

FAMILY FUN & RESOURCE FAIR

Saturday, Oct 20, 11am to 3pm Eastwood Hall (11803 - 86 St) Free Food, games and storytelling! Fun for the whole family. Hosted by Stronger Eastwood Families Network.

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF SPRUCE AVENUE

The Annual General Meeting of the Spruce Avenue Community League will be held:

Monday, October 15, 2007, 7:00 pm
Spruce Avenue Community Hall (10240 - 115 Ave)

At this meeting the league will be bringing forward two amendments to the existing Bylaws.

- 1) Addition of a statement declaring what will happen to any gaming proceeds should the league need to be dissolved
- 2) Update to the verbal description of the league boundaries - these boundaries are used by the City of Edmonton to issue planning notices, transportation notices and for the allocation of the league's annual operating grant.

The exact wording of these amendments will be made available at the meeting itself. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Edmonton Public Library

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

KIDS

Aboriginal Family Story Time
- Presented by Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
Fridays 11:30 am, September 7 to December 21

Fabulous Readers' Club
Saturday 2 pm, October 6 and on-going. Join us every month as we check out some awesome books and have a great time too!
Grades 4 and up

Dastardly Dragons!
Saturday 2 pm, October 13.
Ages: 6 - 12 years

Time for Twos
Tuesdays 10:15 am, October 23 to November 13. Ages: 24 - 36 months. Bring along Mom, Dad or a caregiver and join in the fun with songs and stories chosen especially for you!

Halloween Howls!
Saturday 2 pm, October 27.
Ages: 6 - 12 years

Babysitting and Beyond
Friday 6 pm, November 2, and Saturday 9 am, November 3.
Ages: 11 - 18 years. Free of Charge. Come and learn basic childcare safety, and first aid. This course is ten hours taught over two days by a qualified instructor.

TEENS

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

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.

Terrific Teen Tuesdays
Tuesdays 6 pm, October 2 to December 4. Ages: 8 - 14 years
Munchies provided

What To Do After High School
Thursday 6:30 pm, October 11.
For 15 year olds and older.

High School Musical
Saturday 2 pm, October 20.
Ages: 10 - 15 years

ADULTS

Law in the Library - Wills and Estates - October 17, 6pm
Presented by Student Legal Services. Call Sarah at 492-2226 for more information

Let The Games Begin!
Friday, September 28 to December 14, 1pm. Drop in program.

Stories from the Heart of the City - with Linda Goyette
Thursdays, October 4 to December 20, 1pm. Drop-in.

What a Chiropractor Can Do For You - Guest Speaker: Dr. Cameron Edgar, Chiropractor from the Brentwood Chiropractic Clinic in Sherwood Park
Monday 6:30 pm. October 15

EDMONTON

ALBERTA AVENUE

Community League Hall
9210-118 Avenue
Sharing in Community Living
www.aaci.shawbiz.ca

Children's Programs in your community

To register:

- ❖ call 496-4999, press #2 to register over the phone
- ❖ Go to ereg.edmonton.ca and search using the course code
- ❖ Drop in to any City of Edmonton Recreational Facility

TAKE A BOW - DRAMA PROGRAM

Date: Saturdays Oct 6 -27
Time: 1-3pm
Ages: 6-12
Cost: \$16.00
Code: 265853

October 6- 27,2007

Reach for the stars in this exciting introduction to drama. Take part in theatre sports and drama games to develop your skills and perform in your own production!

HALLOWEEN MONSTER BASH

Time: 1-3pm
Ages: 6-12
Cost: \$7

October 28, 2007

Join us for some creepy fun this Halloween. Come dressed up as we create spooky crafts, play tricky games and enjoy yummy treats.

CHRISTMAS SATURDAY SERIES

Time: 1-3 pm
Ages: 6-12
Cost: \$7

Time: 1-3pm
Ages: 6-12 & Families
Cost: \$7

Time: 1-3 pm
Ages: 6-12
Cost: \$7

Nov. 17 - Dec.8, 2007

Candle Making November 17, 2007
Light up the season with this creative program. Make a variety of candles perfect for gift giving or decorating.

Christmas Music November 24, 2007
Join us for apple cider as we celebrate the season, making a variety of musical instruments and singing Christmas songs.

Soap Making December 1, 2007
We will melt, pour, colour and scent your very own soaps. You will also create custom bath salts, a perfect gift for the holidays.

Christmas Crafts & Gifts December 8, 2007
Spend some enjoyable time creating treasures for the holiday season. Each child will take home a special gift for a loved one - made and wrapped by them!

In partnership with **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Hosted by the Alberta Avenue Community League

RAT CREEK PRESS OCTOBER 2007

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Aboriginal youth mural art

DAWN FREEMAN

The weather was chilly, but spirits were warm on September 19 in the parking lot of the Metis Nation of Alberta Zone IV Regional Council building (11724 95 St) where people gathered to celebrate the public unveiling of a mural made by aboriginal youth during a summer run program.

Seeing Ourselves in the City: Aboriginal Youth Mural Art is a collaborative effort between locally based Latin American mural artist Pedro Rodriguez De Los

Santos and Aboriginal artist Duane Linklater, and nine indigenous youth from the Edmonton region.

The artists and the kids, aged 12-17, had just 2 days to design and finish the mural, which is hanging on the top and sides of the building that houses the Metis Nation of Alberta Zone IV Regional Council. The time constraints, say Linklater, gave the kids the confidence that they could conceive of, and finish a project in a short period of time. De Los Santos agreed, and added that he was proud to be able to share the concept of public

art with these youth, especially considering that the Aboriginal mural is one of the oldest forms of public art in North America.



JORDAN LANGFORD, 9 PERFORMS WITH THE METIS CHILD LITTLE JIGGERS AT THE UNVEILING



**Live music every
Friday and open stage
Saturday night!**

We need volunteers,
Call 471-1580
See us at 9351-118 ave.

**Art Market Starts
October 6th!**
www.thecarrot.ca for details



HARVEY VOOGD | 3

COUNCILLOR WARD 3

Community Minded

Led the fight against privatization of healthcare with Friends of Medicare, initiated Communities for Controlled Prostitution and served on the Mayor's Task Force on Safer Cities

Experienced Leader

Worked as Executive Assistant to retiring Councillor Michael Phair and was appointed by City Council to the Board of the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund

Dedicated to Volunteering

Sat on the Christmas Bureau of Edmonton and Seniors United Now Boards, volunteer for the Edmonton Folk Music Festival and led Community League Soccer as director and coach

Committed to Positive Community Growth

Join our campaign | voogd.ca

780.474.2854 | PO Box 20090, RPO Beverly Edmonton, AB T5W 5E6 | harvey@voogd.ca