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# Graffiti crews tag the Ave

DARREN BOISVERT

Graffiti crews and writers returned to 118th Avenue in March, defacing numerous buildings, homes and electrical boxes. In white and yellow block letters, the ubiquitous writing appeared almost overnight to the dismay of residents.

According to Paul Pilon, the Edmonton Police Services Community Liaison Officer, a recent block-by-block survey tallied an additional 66 locations marked by graffiti, bringing the total number to 98 files the police are currently investigating.

Police have arrested only one person in the latest string of vandalism. One man was charged on Tuesday, March 22, with 25 counts of graffiti. Using similar fact evidence, they were able to show by his tags (the unique markers written into most graffiti) that he was responsible for two dozen acts of vandalism, and not just the individual tag they caught him writing.

"Graffiti writers and vandals are out there just for the purpose of destroying property," says Constable Gerard Jorgenson, Edmonton Police Service Graffiti Project Coordinator. "Their goal is to get their tags up as much as possible. Downtown, Whyte



NOT THE FACADE IMPROVEMENTS BUSINESS OWNERS WERE HOPING FOR. SIXTY-SIX NEW LOCATIONS WERE TARGETED BY GRAFFITI WRITERS.

Ave, 118th, their goal is to go 'all-city'."

According to Constable Jorgenson, only 10% of the graffiti signifies activities by street gangs. The rest are created by individuals or crews trying to pump up their street credibility.

Most graffiti is never reported to police. For many homeowners and business people, they remove the graffiti quietly in compliance with the city's bylaw. According to police, it is one area of working with the community that the EPS is working on improving.

"People thought the police wouldn't be interested in hearing about the graffiti," says Constable Jorgenson. "Nothing could be further from the truth. We police have learnt that we need to take it more serious as well. It is costing the city, business owners and homeowners time and money."

## First Free Store closes its doors

MARIE FLANAGAN

Edmonton's First Free Store has ceased operations after only a few months in operation. The unique 'pay-to-donate' store was struggling with numerous problems with the heating system and the water pipes, troubles which resulted in an order by Alberta Health to close the doors.

"We are incredibly sad that the building forced us out before we were ready to expand to the next larger space," says Russ Armstrong, who works at the store. "We are still receiving daily calls from people who don't want to put their stuff in the garbage, and they cannot find a

place to properly dispose of it."

Financial troubles were also a contributing factor in the decision to close down. It's policy of charging those who donate, instead of those in need of goods, meant the store was relying on the community to support the initiative.

"What I would of thought was a slam dunk has missed the mark completely," says Armstrong. "It seems interesting that no one from the greater community (social service groups, environmental groups, anarchists, groups supporting the homeless, young people) did not step-up in anyway to make sure

it continued. I believe they could not see past the free store image that creates this concept of poverty to seeing our store as an environmental or economic engine to help with poverty."

While the store has closed down for now, Armstrong says the organizers of the project are regrouping and intend to re-open at a later date.

"Our future plans are to bring a core group of interested persons that are up for building a profit-making business," says Armstrong. "This new business will operate the re-consume center and feed the First Free Store on the same location." No date has yet been set for their relaunch.

### City-wide graffiti statistics

#### Locations reported to police

In 2008 - 270

In 2009 - 370

In 2010 - 350

#### Reported to Capital City Clean Up (in square metres)

2008 - 7,722

2009 - 13,158

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## Arsonist burns commercial building

An early morning fire at 94th street and 118th Ave completely destroyed a commercial building on March 1. Over 60 firefighters battled the fire and -30C temperatures to save the adjacent buildings. There were no injuries or fatalities.

It was the second fire in a month at the location and the Edmonton Police service have confirmed that both fires were deliberately set. They have opened an investigation to apprehend those responsible, but as of yet, no arrests have been made.



Karen Mykietka

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# Christians gather on the Avenue

DARREN BOISVERT

Alberta Avenue Christians have begun meeting at St. Stephen the Martyr to talk about their community at the invitation of Arthur Dyck and Father John Gifford, priest at St. Stephen the Martyr. A long-time resident of Alberta Avenue, Dyck was concerned about the Christians leaving their community to attend churches around the city.

"It is obvious to all that God is working in Alberta Avenue," Dyck said in his invitation to the community, "and the question is, 'Do we have a responsibility to our own community when we see God working?'"

There have been a number of new initiatives in Alberta Avenue in the past few years which have started to transform the community: the City began a revitalization program; the Rat Creek Press is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year; the Arts on the Ave organization has brought The Carrot Community Coffeehouse to the Avenue and are now in the process of transforming the old Alberta Cycle building into an arts space; and CRUD (Community Response to Urban Disorder) is working to take back the neighbourhood from sex trade workers and drug dealers.

"These are all initiatives which are giving the community a new sense of pride and making it feel like a safer place," says Dyck. "I think the

best way to describe it is that God is bringing shalom to the community. And if he is bringing shalom to the community, don't we as Christians have a responsibility to God and the community as members of the community to step in and aid in that process and explain in 'God terms' why these things are happening?"

As a result of Dyck's invitation, 25 people came out for a potluck at the end of January. The response was enthusiastic and immediate. People wanted to continue to eat together and the first thing they wanted to do was pray together. So it was decided to meet the last Sunday of each month at St. Stephen the Martyr.

"The goal wasn't to pull people away from their churches or to ask them to commit to coming out every month. Many of these people were already actively involved in the community. Rather, I wanted to encourage people to think about their community and offer whatever commitment to this group that they could."

A second gathering on February 27 brought 14 people out on a cold and blustery night. Prayer time focused on the gang and criminal activity that happens on the Avenue. Many were surprised at the intensity of the prayer and the obvious presence of the Holy Spirit.

"Churches like St. Stephen, instead of being outside the community, will become part of

the community and recognized as sacred places where people can gather to meet God and worship," says Dyck. "The form of that worship may be different than we are used to because it is going to be community-driven, but the essentials will be there."

"The challenge will be to help the whole community recognize God as the source of all the good things that are happening here. On the other hand, maybe they recognize it already but just don't have the

words to express it. Perhaps the Christians in our community can help people find a language for their faith."

Father John Gifford is excited about the number of people that are gathering. St. Stephen Parish recently went through an Appreciative Inquiry. In this process, one of the goals that was identified was to find ways to open St. Stephen to the community. Having this group meet at St. Stephen is part of that goal and an answer to their prayers. And

as the community becomes more aware of St. Stephen through this group meeting there, he can foresee more and more people wanting to use the church.

"I'm hoping other Christians will become more vocal about their faith," explains Dyck. "We're almost ashamed to label ourselves as Christians. Perhaps it's a backlash against fundamentalism, but we have nothing to be ashamed about. Not all Christians can be cast in the same light."



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VOLUME 13, ISSUE 4

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Letters should be no longer than 250 words and must include the full name, location and contact information of the author.

Op-Ed columns should be 600-800 words and observe formal rules of spelling and grammar.

The RCP reserves the right to edit all material and to remove any electronic comment at any time.

All columns, letters or cartoons submitted are attributed to the author and do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Rat Creek Press.

Send submissions to the Rat Creek Press Editor via email [editor@ratcreek.org](mailto:editor@ratcreek.org), or 9210 - 118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5G 0N2. Mail may also be dropped at the address above.

# The wolf at our door

There was once an old lady who lived in a small cottage in a clearing in the forest. One day, while she was working in her garden, a large wolf came running by, snarled at her, and disappeared into the trees. The old lady became terrified of being eaten alive. To protect herself, she ran to her house, barricaded the door, and nailed plywood over the windows.

A few weeks later, the old lady's son came by for a visit. Getting no response to his repeated knocking, he took an ax from the woodpile and chopped down the door. Inside he found the dead body of his mother, arms and legs gnawed to the bone.

How did she die?

In various forms, this riddle has been told for thousands of years, across cultures and continents. In modern language, it's a story of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). It questions the roots of our daily self-destructive behaviour. It's our 'cycle of violence'.

It resonates in the inspirational words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who in his inaugural address to the American people in 1933 said, "First of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning,

unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance."

The Old Lady and the Wolf riddle forces us to ask a difficult question: if fear is just in our minds, is it real?

One can only imagine the abject terror instilled by the knowledge that radiation is poisoning you by the food you eat, the water you drink, and the very air you breathe. For the Japanese people living under the cloud of a nuclear meltdown, fear would seem to be the rational response. Yet hundreds of nuclear technicians, firefighters and soldiers have rushed towards the danger and poisoned themselves deliberately to cool the reactors. These men and women are showing us that true heroism is the act of overcoming fear.

The same heroism is seen over and over again in the Middle East and Africa where hundreds of thousands of people are facing tanks, bullets, missiles and mortars in a

bid to end the rule of dictators. Their collective protests have sent a simple message to their leaders that they are no

longer afraid. By choosing to stand opposed, they are dying, but they are dying free of fear.

We should salute their courage, but refrain from romanticizing their efforts.

These are desperate people who face desperate choices. Do I poison myself to save others from sickness and death? Do I gather in the city square and get shot, or wait at home for the secret police to knock on my door to take me way to be tortured?

Here in Edmonton, we watch the television set for updates on rescues in Japan and details of the next protest in Yemen. We wonder if the reactors will be cooled in time, and ask which country will next overthrow its leaders. Will it be Syria? Jordan? Bahrain?

We ask, 'What would I

do in a similar situation?' In our hearts, we hope we would be heroes. In our minds, we despair we would be cowards.

Every day, there are wolves at our doors. We are all afraid. Fear exists. We lock our hearts and slowly gnaw away at our self-respect, and in doing so, blind ourselves to the deeper answer to the riddle. Whether standing shoulder to shoulder in a market square, or working side by side in a radiation cloud, these heroic men and women have shown us the answer. We cannot face fear alone.

It's easier to be brave with our families around us. We stand straighter with our friends by our side. We find strength when we act to support our neighbours down the street. We are heroes when we sacrifice ourselves for those we love.

One doesn't have to look overseas to see clearly: take a peek into the Carrot Cafe, walk through the Nina Haggerty gallery, visit the Crystal Kids centre, introduce yourselves to PAAFE, or walk with CRUD. Every person you see has unlocked their doors, strode down the street, and joined others to make our neighbourhood a safer place to live. They face the wolf, but they are not alone.

**"In our hearts,  
we hope we  
would be heroes.  
In our minds, we  
despair we would  
be cowards."**

## Letters to the Editor

### re: The private patrol of Elmwood Park, March 2011

Your piece in the Ratcreek Press, which I love to read BTW, was perfect except the address for Elmwood Park is incorrect. Elmwood Park is located off the corner of 125th Ave. and 75th Street.

I think most of the home owners around here are very proud of their neighbourhood, but unfortunately many are aging and not up to some of the chores of maintaining a community.

The newcomers are often busy with children and all the business of modern day life in Edmonton. Oh how I wish it were like the old days!

Thanks for the RCP. Love it!

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## Are we being heard?

RENÉ LADSOUS

Many residents attended both information sessions held Feb 1st and Feb 28th by the city Planning & Development Department regarding the proposed development on 95 St. A technology breakdown prevented the developer and the city representatives from presenting their concepts on Feb 1st, but that did not stop the participants from expressing their doubts, their objections, and their concerns. On Feb 28th, the session consisted mostly of an "expo" of computer-generated illustrations, and there was little exchange between the developer, the city representatives and the residents.

Leaving a synopsis of the residents' comments and the vagaries of the answers to someone else, what did most of the participants get from that experience? A sour taste! It seemed the city had already judged the project worthwhile and the meetings were just a formality.

The problem is that the community is totally ignorant of the inner workings. How many residents had ever heard of a DC2, and what is it? How many understand the objective of an information session/public consultation?

This process is foreign to most, and any objection or concern amounts to nothing more than an emotional reaction to the unknown.

The reality is that, from the start, the project is going to go ahead and there is very little chance it can be stopped. The City assesses every project of this nature in accordance with visions, policies and regulations. For its part, the developer will make every effort to satisfy these visions, policies and regulations in order to be eligible for grants or incentives that will help him build something that will profit his interests. Can we blame him?

The objective of these consultations is not to find out if a community is for or against a development, but to "ask" the concerned parties HOW they wish that development to proceed. Something the City failed to make clear!

How can we ensure the inevitable will not have disastrous consequences on our community and our lives? By playing the game! Concerns about street parking – as was the case in this instance – may be justified, but based on what? Statistics would help; but do we have them?



Do we have time to collect them? Is such a large complex needed in the area? Can we confirm or infirm it with a market study? (Incidentally not required for this particular project.) On which vision, policy or regulation do we base an objection as to the appearance of the structure in the neighbourhood? On what do we base the impact the influx of potentially 300 new residents will have?

Our elected representatives should be the ones to defend our interest. Unfortunately, they are the ones who created these visions, policies and regulations. Residents are put at a disadvantage. We do not have the resources and the knowledge – nor the time – to efficiently manage a development that could be potentially detrimental to them.

In the end, it is up to the community volunteers to roll up their sleeves and hope for the best. That is not fair!

## Chinese immigrants' vision for their new homeland

JUELIANG XU

Every new immigrant from China comes to Canada with dreams. Then everyone realizes that uncertainties exist that we did not face in our homeland. After talking with lots of Chinese immigrants living in Edmonton, I feel that the key for success for new immigrants who want to eventually settle down in Canada and live here peacefully is to never forget their dreams and never give up.

The most difficult part for Chinese is the language barrier. Most immigrants are already in their thirties or even forties, and when they land in Canada, all of a sudden they can't communicate. Chinese people can be conscious about making mistakes and it's hard for them to be outgoing in Canadian society. Thus, many former professional people have to first improve their speaking language skills even if they have more than 10 years professional experience in their field in China.

Canadian officials will always emphasize that new

immigrants need to have local education before they can apply for any professional jobs. Sometimes this is not true.

As a matter of fact, there are many cases showing individuals successfully getting professional jobs with Chinese qualifications. The problem is Alberta certification. For example, doctors with a Chinese medical degree do not need to attend a Canadian medical school. If they want to go back into practice, they only need to successfully pass the certificate examination and then find a residency spot.

Thousands of foreign-trained physicians complain about not being matched to residency positions and have to wait for years; some of them end up going to the United States to practise. I know of some cases where former Chinese doctors have become family physicians, cardiologists or radiologists in Alberta and across Canada.

In addition to overcoming the language barrier and the local education diploma concerns, I encourage new

immigrants to get involved in different volunteering activities so they can have local experience which is required by many employers. Chinese are not accustomed to volunteering because it is not common in China.

Volunteering is a new experience for most Chinese immigrants, but I believe volunteering builds connections to other Canadians that otherwise would not occur.

It's extremely hard during the first few years for us new Canadians to get used to local life here in Alberta. First we have to conquer language issues, second to find a way back to our former professional careers or find a new career path. In Canada, most people believe -- and have proven -- that working towards your goal will always lead you there.

*Jueliang Xu is a former medical doctor from Shanghai who is studying at the University of Alberta in neurosciences. He graduated in 2001 from Fudan University in emergency medicine. He is married and lives in the Alberta Avenue area.*

## What's The BIG Idea?

### Kick-starting the community choir

GARTH PRINSONSKY

As I was preparing to do a small music concert at the Carrot Cafe, I met the wonderful people who are affiliated with arts projects on 118th Ave. Christy Morin was one of them. She proposed the idea of starting a community choir, and I was excited immediately, because anything that enables people to make music together also has the potential to create lasting friendships. I speak from experience, as I have sung in a community youth choir myself. That is how I developed my music ability, and it's where I grew my roots as a musician.

My name is Garth Prinsofsky. I have been a performing artist and have sung in choirs and bands in Africa for about twelve years prior to moving to Canada in 2008. I am from Namibia, Africa, and singing is very much a part of everyday life in many of the communities in that country. Choir was a fun way to bring fourteen different culture groups together. I am sure that music can have the same effect anywhere in the world, and thus we are excited to welcome people with different backgrounds to our new community choir initiative here in Edmonton.

I have decided to keep the legacy of what I've learnt from my African youth choir experience, by making joyful music and building lasting friendships. That will be the agenda for our new community choirs here in Edmonton. My experience in contemporary music will make this new choir initiative



unique, because we intend to use guitar and percussive accompaniment for most of our music, and that will make our repertoire more upbeat than traditional choral music. We also intend to incorporate as much movement as possible, so consider this a fun way to keep fit!

For anyone who does not sing, but plays any kind of instrument, we welcome you as well, because we would like to incorporate different sounds for different songs.

Working with me as my mentor, is Joel Forth, who has a music theory, composition and a song writing background. Joel is currently a music teacher here in Edmonton. I have extensive performing experience myself, but limited theory training, and therefore Joel is my personal trainer.

What kind of music will the choirs sing? We would like to sing music from all over the world, and we would prefer that the choice of repertoire comes from the members themselves. We have started with some African folk songs already, as these are easy and fun to start with.

We have two different groups, and depending on your skill and commitment level, you can choose which one to try out for.

The first group can be found under "Part Time Choristers" on [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com). This is a non-auditioned group that will meet on a drop-in basis once every two weeks. Anyone is welcome, and no experience is necessary. We sing mostly for fun in this group.

The second group is called "Alberta Avenue Choir", and we meet at least once-a-week for rehearsals. A small audition will be done and these can be booked by sending me an e-mail. We are looking to have a maximum of 30 choristers in this group.

So if you love music, please contact me to see how you can fit into one of our fun and exciting programs. For more information or to get involved, feel free to e-mail me at [princegarth@gmail.com](mailto:princegarth@gmail.com) or visit [www.garthprince.com](http://www.garthprince.com).

# The heritage driving us

Photo essay by Laura McGlone and Doug Barrett



They are beautiful in Fall. They are beautiful in Winter. To us, they tell the story of life in Alberta. For months we've been photographing the abandoned buildings in the countryside around Edmonton. From Lacombe to St. Michael's, from Wostock to Lamont, we've explored the broken buildings that complete our harsh landscape.

For most people, the 80 year-old rusting tractors and the caved-in pioneer houses are the visual clutter of our pristine rural countryside. For us, they're the gateway to the past. There's old wagons, antique trucks, grain elevators, tractors, and water pumps that tell of toil and enterprise. We found an old red refrigerator sitting in the snow behind a heritage barn, a set of hockey skates lying on the floor near a child's rocking horse and an old Canadian vinegar bottle on the windowsill. We see a life once-lived where other's see junk that remains.



There are ruins on almost every quarter-section of land. Fields of wheat are carefully planted around these buckling houses. Access roads swerve to avoid any demolition. These are not forgotten buildings. These are not eyesores. For the farmers in Alberta, they are the memories that endure. They are more precious than the land they sit upon.



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Have an idea for Kaleido Family Arts Festival, Sept 9-11? We want to hear it! [kaleidoprogram@gmail.com](mailto:kaleidoprogram@gmail.com)

# along the road

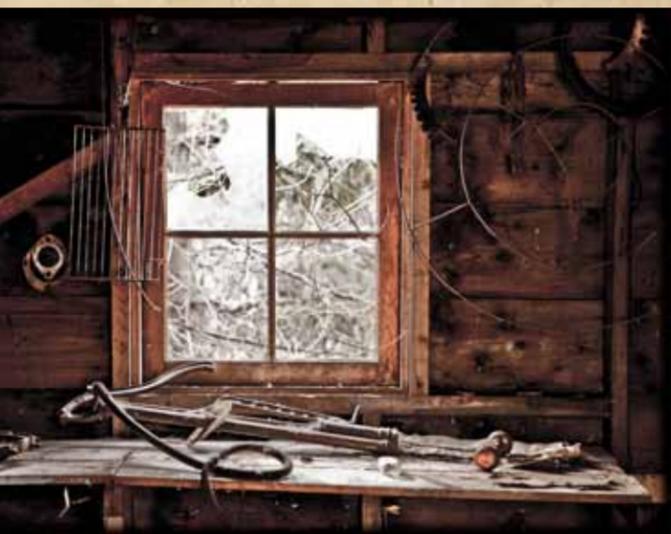


How can you tear down pride? How can you bulldoze your grandfather's house? How can you deprive your children the excitement of exploring their family history by poking through a magical realm? How do you honor your ancestors by placing acreage above respect? In field after field, county by county, we see choice. These buildings have not been forgotten; they exist because they are cherished.

As humans, we crave the exotic. We devour details of our past history. We pour over pictures of temples in India, we wonder where the golf balls landed on the moon, we cringe when we see Buddhist statues demolished in Afghanistan. We may see things, but we feel history.



Whether in Sri Lanka or Lacombe, we all live within the reminders of our past. We walk past gravestones and feel the connection to the exotic history of Alberta. Is this a German or Ukrainian pioneer lying here before me? Are their descendants living in the modern house down the road? Is this my gravestone in a hundred years I see at my feet?



*Heritage Roads Photography crafts heirloom photographic books that act as a time-capsule family journeys, archives stories and photos, and links to the past, present, and future. For more information, visit [www.heritageroadsphotography.com](http://www.heritageroadsphotography.com) or Laura's world photography at [www.lauramcglone.com](http://www.lauramcglone.com)*

## THE TRAVELER'S EYE

A NIGHT OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROM AROUND THE WORLD

APRIL 11, 2011

Join us for a gallery evening of amazing travel photography.

All amateur and professional photographers are encouraged to submit up to three images for consideration. The top ten photographs will be selected for our gallery showing, and all others will be included in our slide presentation and discussion..

Join our PHOTOGRAPH SWAP. Everyone attending can bring in their favorite 8" X10" image, and at the end of the evening, we'll draw lots to exchange photos. Take a great photo home from someplace you've never been.

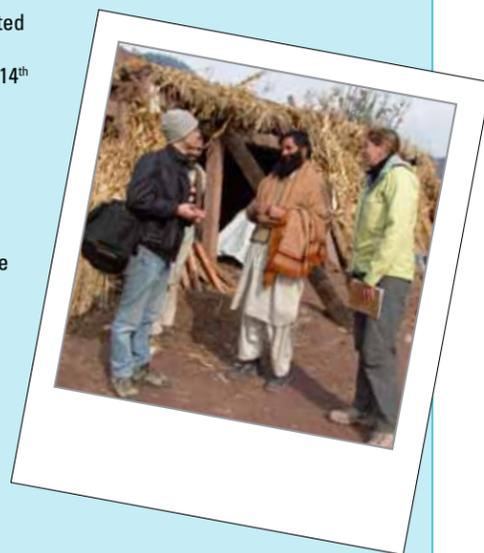
This event is the kick-off for the Edmonton Travel Meetup group ([www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)). A chance for local photographers to share experiences, organize trips, and to discuss collaboration ideas.

Exhibition showing of selected photos will be at the Nina Haggerty gallery from April 14<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>.

Free drinks supplied by the Avenue Initiative Social Art Experience Fund.

Hospitality provided by Irene and the Fabulous Barista Boys at the Carrot Cafe.

**Monday, April 11**  
**7:00-9:30 PM**  
**Carrot Cafe**  
**9351-118th Avenue**



## Hello, Highlands-Norwood!



In addition to my regular paper reports to you on my activities in the Legislature and in the community, I am now sending out monthly reports via e-mail for those who would like them more frequently. Please send an e-mail request to my office at Edmonton. [HighlandsNorwood@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:HighlandsNorwood@assembly.ab.ca) to subscribe.

Also, I have a new online weblog where I will be regularly posting my thoughts on Alberta politics. You can find it at [www.brianmasonndp.wordpress.com](http://www.brianmasonndp.wordpress.com).



**Your MLA, Brian Mason**  
**Edmonton Highlands-Norwood**  
**6519 - 112 Avenue**

[www.brianmason.ca](http://www.brianmason.ca) ph: 780.414.0682



Do you know someone who makes your neighbourhood a better place to live?

Then why not nominate them for the monthly **Nice Neighbour Recognition Award**.

For further details contact CRUD.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO URBAN DISORDER  
T: 780.996.4728 | email: [info@crudedmonton.org](mailto:info@crudedmonton.org)

[www.crudedmonton.org](http://www.crudedmonton.org)



**What's on the Menu? Encourage our readers to Eat Local. Advertise your restaurant here.**

## Death of a community dog

### DOG TALK

DARLENE TAYLOR

In 1996 a young English Springer Spaniel came to his third and final home which happened to be located in Alberta Avenue. While his friends gave him different names, we called him Dogma and he was a self-evident truth. Dogma spent most of his days sleeping either on the front porch or in the grass.

Many other dogs would come to play with him, but Gypsy the Rottweiler who lived on the corner would go to great lengths to escape her yard to spend time with Dogma. I came home one day to find Gypsy chained to a sofa which lay in the middle of my front yard.

Children would love to come by and play a game of tag. Dogma would run ahead just out of reach making it great fun for all involved. His favorite game was to retrieve a tennis ball. In the winter, you could substitute a snowball for the tennis ball. He would dive into snow bank and pounce on it. It would break up and his head would pop up covered in snow waiting for someone to throw another.

When people walked by our yard, he would slowly get up and walk to the edge of his rope and stand there while they would pet or talk to him. He treated each person differently -- seeming to know whether they wanted to meet him or just say "Hi" as they walked by.

I knew he was the com-

munity's dog when I came home one day to a crowd of people standing around him. As I came through they explained that Dogma was very distressed and whining. They tried to comfort him and bring him water, but to no avail. I was touched that so many were so concerned about him.

One day I heard a horrible commotion, I came outside to see Dogma at the end of his rope standing near the sidewalk barking and growling as a man stood frozen in front of him. A police car screeched to a halt in front of our house, handcuffed the man and placed him in their car and drove off. Later we found out that three men had robbed a nearby convenience store and ran in separate directions; with Dogma's help they were caught.

As Dogma grew older, he became part of the neighbourhood's personal history. Only a few months ago, I was stopped by a young man, "Is this Dogma? I remember him when I was growing up!" Time has gone by so quickly and he reminded me how long we have lived here -- how long Dogma has been a community dog.

After sixteen good years, Dogma has now gone to the Rainbow Bridge. Pet owners are familiar with a story, anonymously written, describing pets who are restored and play at the Rainbow Bridge waiting for the day their owner arrives and together they cross into Heaven.

*k9behave@presplus.onza.net*

## Dreaming of Spring?

BLISS ROBINSON

Don't be fooled, gardeners! Despite the mountains of snow in our back yards, spring is just around the corner. Now is a great time to start plotting this year's garden, if you haven't already. Personally, I get out the seed catalogues in January. I peruse the many varieties of tomatoes, peppers and other vegetables, ordering reliable favourites and a few new ones. Within a week or so, a little brown box arrives in the mail. Spring seems a little closer when I sit down with pen and paper

to make my planting plans.

Most years, I would be starting to plant my peppers and tomatoes indoors. For fifty dollars you can buy some fluorescent tubes and a bit of chain -- all you need to start your own indoor greenhouse. My husband hung my lights over an old table, suspended from a length of chain at either end, so I can raise the lights as my seedlings grow.

It's an economical alternative. When you consider the cost to buy plants from the local greenhouse, a few lights and some potting soil is a pretty

good way to save money.

I love watching those first seedlings emerge from the soil! A little water, a little raising of the lights and spring comes long before the snow melts away.

By mid-April, when the daytime temperatures reach 12 or 15 degrees, I carry my pots outside to my small greenhouse to enjoy some real sunshine. You don't need a greenhouse; any sunny, sheltered spot will be fine. Keep them indoors on windy days if there is no shelter in your yard. The lights in the basement will prevent them from becoming leggy.

## Lamb – the new-old turkey alternative

MICHELLE EARLE

Easter is coming, and some people don't have the money or desire to buy turkey. Some people live alone, while with others, it's just two you have to cook for. Lamb has been raised for food for over ten thousand years, but because of overcooking or improper cooking methods, it isn't well liked. Although when it is seasoned and cooked properly, it is one of the most succulent meats you could ever have. During certain parts of the year, you can find lamb an economic alternative.

There are different ways to prepare lamb -- roasted in the oven, cooked in the slow

cooker or crock pot, and my favourite, barbecued. That's where we are going to focus on, barbecuing lamb because if it's nice this Easter, you can barbecue lamb. You could also do this on the broiler rack too.

### BARBEQUED LAMB

#### Ingredients

1 butterflied leg of lamb  
1-2 tsp Gourmet Mediterranean Herb blend  
1 tsp pepper  
½c lemon juice  
1 tsp chopped mint  
Salt to taste – I personally don't use it when cooking meats.  
On a cutting board, use a

rolling pin or meat mallet to flatten out the lamb. Put herbs, lemon juice and pepper into a large baggie. Seal and give it a few shakes to blend together its contents. Insert the leg of lamb, seal it, and give it a good rub around. Leave in the fridge for at least an hour, turning and rubbing every once in a while.

Preheat your grill or oven to about 400 degrees. Once heated, use your tongs to lay your lamb flat on the grill/broiler. Cook for 30-40 minutes or until there is a slight bounce-back. Note: Lamb is very forgiving. It's actually better if it's left a little rare. Serve with tzatziki or mint sauce.

Creating a connected  
community  
one block at a time

## Safe Streets

### Open House!

Alberta Ave Community Centre 9210 118 Ave  
Tuesday, April 26 7:00-9:00pm

Connect with EPS, Bylaw, your neighbours  
and more! Bring issues, questions and solutions!



Come hear techniques on how to make your  
home, business, and community a crime  
UN-friendly place with Guest Speaker:  
Edmonton Police Service Crime Prevention Unit.



**BLACK CONNECT**

For information [avenueinitiative@edmonton.ca](mailto:avenueinitiative@edmonton.ca)  
or call Veronica at 780-496-1913

## that Bloomin' garden show & art sale



Saturday, May 7, 2011

9:00 am - 3:00 pm 9210-118 avenue

Alberta Avenue Community Centre

Workshops • Plant & Gift Sale • Kids Activities • Artisans & Art

[avenueinitiative.ca](http://avenueinitiative.ca)  
[artsontheave.org](http://artsontheave.org)



Join us at The Carrot Saturday afternoons for free felting lessons 780.471.1580.

# We 'Ave Words

A showcase of poetry and prose from Edmonton's finest writers

Page editor: Michelle Earle

Submissions email: Lit@ratcreek.org

## Blue

by Bliss Robinson

Viola stood outside the store, mesmerized by the colors and shapes of blown glass. She ventured in, just to look, and it caught her eye immediately. Tall, rounded, the color of the sky and the ocean. Viola imagined it sitting on the window ledge in her kitchen, among the Value Village glassware they used every day. Only she would drink from this glass, and no one but

her would even be allowed to wash it. She peeked at the price and was appalled at first. "Isn't that why we have a credit card?" she thought defiantly. Roger was sure to scream when he saw the bill, but she would worry about that when the time came.

Her heart had taken over then. She carried it reverently to the cashier and paid, without another

thought of the cost. She thought only of how it made her feel. The clerk had wrapped it in purple tissue, placed it in a box and tied it with string. He smiled as he handed it to her, as if he could read her thoughts, and understood. As she headed for the door, a young boy crashed into her knocking it from her hand. The tinkle when it landed told her everything.

## Gateman's Complaint

by David Robinson

As I sat down on the bus, I avoided eye contact with the small handful of riders and silently urged the surly driver to get a move on. The bus began to move and I retreated gratefully into my thoughts. My solitude and the forward momentum of the bus were broken by a loud yell from outside and a soft curse from the driver, "Oh crap, it's the Gateman."

Outside, a man in a wheelchair had rolled directly into the path of the bus. A collective groan rose

from the few passengers and somebody muttered that this was going to take forever. The driver steadfastly refused to help the man board the bus and Gateman argued loudly that he was the victim of discrimination, "You Jerk, I'm handicapped, gimme a break."

I was dismayed by the apparent indifference to the man's plight but part of me wished he had waited for the next bus. Gateman cursed and jumped out of his chair, threw his belongings onto the bus and

physically carried his chair aboard.

"I want statements from all of you, this creep can't get away with discriminating me because I'm handicapped." He slowly arranged his gear and sat down directly in front of me. He was fragrantly drunk. He tried to steal my shoes. I rang the bell for the next stop, "The only handicap you have, Sir, is a big mouth and a bad attitude." I retreated gratefully into my thoughts as I walked home.

## Tea And Serenity

by Sylvia Hafermehl

I know my mom always said, "Have tea and honey when you need to relax".

This has served me well throughout my life. In fact I can remember using it to settle down for many events in my life. The good part is tea always stays neutral. It does not differentiate between good, bad or challenging experiences. It always has a calming effect.

Why is it so hard for others to understand when I need to relax? Sometimes peace of mind, tranquility, serenity, or even a moment of quiet is all I need.

Life has just become so complicated and many expectations come from all directions. Family, work, friends, and now even Facebook, E-mails, and Skype can be used to track me down. Telephones may become obsolete if this keeps up.

What happened to the peaceful family diners of yesteryear, where everyone shared about their day.

The stories of hopes and dreams of tomorrow and the joys and sorrows of their past were shared in these moments.

Will these days not return? Inviting someone over to visit or to spend time is usually like getting a major contract or commitment. Everyone is too busy or involved in their own life's. Isolation is possibly the way of the future. Talking to others thru electronics is commonly referred to as keeping in touch.

In touch with what? I ask. The personal aspect of life is not included. Things are impersonal. Everyone becomes a friend or a friend of a friend on facebook. What is friendship? What are the qualifications of friendship? One thing I know for sure is that tea will bring me back to my senses.

It provides warmth- for the stomach  
A feeling of caring-for the soul  
Memories – of a special mom  
And of course sharing – for who can drink a pot of tea by themselves

## Station 62, or The Wandering Mind of Alice Devine

by V. Kulchisky

She picks things up, she puts them down  
her mind doth travel all around.

She takes her crayons in her hand to color  
on paper some imagined land.

She looks for friends I cannot see, then

speaks to me convincingly  
of family members near and far,  
and country sojourns in a car.

Her temper rises, should I show doubt,  
and so, secluded, she sits to pout.

Minutes pass and she smiles again, then  
tells me of another friend.

"What's his name?" "His name is John...

he was just here,  
but now he's gone."

Then, as if there were nothing wrong, she  
begins to sing a beautiful song.

It's in a language unfamiliar to me; she  
tells me after

she sings in Cree.

She understands not why she's  
imprisoned here,

so her mind races with irrational fear.

With a broken watch she whiles away  
days turned to nights, and nights to day.

It could be early, it could be late,  
but in her world

it's always 'quarter to eight'.

Her bible she seeks, she's put it down, and  
won't be happy until it's found.

Alice can't sleep, she paces round  
the limited confines of her new grounds;  
back and forth, from door to door,  
she wants out, to be free like before.

But, those times are gone...

she'll see them no more;

long lost green grass  
now a cold vinyl floor.

From whence did she come to be on this ward?  
For a hard-scrabble life...

is this her reward?

Her spirit still flickers from the webs of her mind  
and in her sad situation

she still can be kind...

she gives up her apple to another lost soul.

I pray someday soon

she'll once again become whole.

## Guerrilla Gardening

by Nicole Girard

This cement city, dark and frozen for eight months  
Whittles my dormant spirit to a frayed, brittle sliver  
And chides the cheap vibrancy of long forgotten summer  
However, his "Guerrilla Gardening" book is a welcome affront  
To the rutted snow and miserable cold that make my body shiver  
My frostbitten heart beats joy like a lunatic drummer  
In every concrete jungle green patches exist  
Dark untended dirt usurped by neglected weeds  
Desperate for attention, a spade, a loving green thumb  
This Guerrilla book says we can't allow these patches to go unnoticed  
Beautify the forgotten spaces with plants we grow from seeds  
Grow cabbages on corners, in ditches plant mums  
Transform our city from dusty grey to vital green  
Have each and every corner bring us more colour and surprise  
Dig our fingers in healthy soil instead of leaving it to harden  
All winter this Guerrilla book has filled the moments in between  
It's taken this concrete dweller and opened her eyes  
Don't think outside the box, think outside the garden!

## The Day That Never Dawned

by Sam Thomas

So I awoke on a morning with no dawn.  
All of nature's daytime stars simply gone.  
A mystery it was that the Sun could disappear  
But more mysterious that I still stood here  
Without Sun, Moon or twinkling star alight.  
In such a calamity, I expected frozen ground,  
In a land with ice-covered air solidly formed.  
I envisioned our galaxy so devoid of life  
That even asteroids would face cosmic strife.  
Here simple things like wind, rain and clouds  
Should vanish alongside their heavenly friends.  
Yet here I stood on my porch warm and well.  
A ghostly beam shone upon the Earth's outer shell  
While birds chirped in nests perched in my apple tree,  
Dogs barked at all that they could smell, hear or see  
While the wind still blew and clouds continued to form.  
Deep in my rose garden, I could even see some worms.  
No the world without sunshine is nothing like I expected.  
There is no cold, no chill, and there is certainly no dead.  
The light, while white and dim instead of yellow and bright  
Has done an appropriate job in dispelling the night.  
Everything about this morning's dawn suggests disaster  
But from nearby I instead could hear children's laughter.  
Such was the Day That Never Dawned.



**PETER GOLDRING**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East

### Mayfair Village Affordable Housing \$40 Million Savings

A truly groundbreaking partnership of the three levels of government with the private sector to provide quality affordable rental housing development is underway, **saving taxpayers \$40 million!**

Mayfair Village is downtown at Jasper Avenue and 109th Street. When completed the 237 units (of 700) will rent for 10% less than market average rent - making them affordable for lower income people, minimum wage earners or pensioners who have been unable to find good quality affordable independent living housing.

I have been supporting developer ProCura on this project since it was first brought to my attention two years ago when federal and provincial funding applications were stalled. This project confirms there is an alternative to what has become the usual method of funding affordable housing: government grants mostly to social non-profit organizations, at greatly increased taxpayer costs as they expand into becoming rental housing providers. Recent grants from the provincial and federal governments to social non-profit groups have been two to even seven times the amount needed by the private sector to provide the identical housing product.

The emphasis should be on helping those who neither need nor want elaborate non-profit social services' hand holding, just the dignity of their own affordable independent living rental accommodations, currently unobtainable on their minimum or near-minimum wage entry-level jobs.

We need both the private sector and the non-profit sector, working with the municipalities to effect real positive change on a broad range of collective, social and economic needs.

Mayfair Village shows that it is possible for the private sector, in partnership with the three levels of government, to be involved in affordable rental housing at great taxpayer savings - **\$40 million less** than a similar project by the social non-profit sector. It is, I hope, the first of many such projects.

What do you think?

780-495-3261

www.petergoldring.ca

**Thousands of people will read this message. What do you want them to know?**

**kid's Korner**

**Forget the fridge. Post your artwork here!**

Do you like to draw? Take photos? Got a short story or poem you have written? Do you tickle your friend's funny bone's with your cartoons and jokes?

If you got the time, we've got the space for you.

The Kid's Korner is hoping to receive and publishing work by our younger readers. Everyone is encouraged to submit. All creative ideas will be warmly welcomed.

**So send us your best work. We want your stuff!**

Email us at [editor@ratcreek.org](mailto:editor@ratcreek.org).  
 Mail us at PO Box 39024 RPO Norwood, Edmonton, T5B-4T8  
 Drop it off at the Alberta Avenue Community League building at 9210-118th Ave.

# COLOR ME!



Bernice Caligiuri

## Word Up!

There are ten words listed below. Take the letters of each words, shake them up, and come up with brand new words. Use only the letters in the word. See how many new words you can come up with for each starting word.

Example:

**Spear** - pears, spare, reaps

**Nerve** \_\_\_\_\_

**Race** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teams** \_\_\_\_\_

**Strain** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tea** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rented** \_\_\_\_\_

**Leaf** \_\_\_\_\_

**Super** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dealer** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parted** \_\_\_\_\_

*Original hand-crafted board games available at E-Town Games.  
 Jonathan Robert [figtree79@hotmail.com](mailto:figtree79@hotmail.com)*

## Easter Wreath

By Bernice Caligiuri

With Easter coming up, here's some ideas for making a simple wreath to hang on your door.



Cut the center out of a paper plate. Color the outer circle with crayons and wrap it with some ribbon. Leave a loop on the top for hanging.

Draw some leaves and flowers on paper. Cut them out and use glue to attach to the wreath.

Be creative and add whatever you like.



## Poems by Bernice Caligiuri

### Little girls

They always say, that little girls are made of sugar and spice and everything nice.  
 But I know better, some girls are as sour as lemons and grapes  
 While others are naughty and full of disgrace.

### Little boys

They always seem to say, that little boys are made of Snakes and snails, and puppy dog tails.  
 But I've never seen any little boys that looked like snakes or snails  
 Or wear any puppy dog tails.  
 Some boys like to play with snakes and snails,  
 While other bad boys like to pull puppy dog tails  
 And if they get bit they cry and wail.  
 Now we know what little girls and little boys are like  
 So if you like this little poem  
 Clap your hands and stamp your feet,  
 Do a little jig down the street.

**Did you hear the one about the roof? Never mind. It's over your head.**

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Listings for free events and programs as well as volunteer opportunities. Submit online at [ratcreek.org](http://ratcreek.org).

## ENTERTAINMENT

### MONSTER MAYHEM PUPPETS

Join Kaybridge Puppets as they take us into an exciting world of monsters and books. This award-winning theatre group has been creating first class puppetry productions in Edmonton for years. Saturday, April 2 from 11-11:30am at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

### PAWS FOR A STORY

Read a tale to a furry friend with a real tail! Each child will have a 15-minute reading time with a dog from the Pet Therapy Society of Northern Alberta. Saturday, April 30 from 2-4pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

### KARAOKE WITH CRUD

Tune up your vocal cords and join us down Green Frog's Pub (9349 118 Ave) for another hopp'n good time of socializing and singing. Friday, April 29 at 8:30pm.

### THE CARROT OPEN STAGE

Thursdays for Folks 55+ (Zoomers) 1:30pm - 4pm  
Saturday nights 7pm - 10pm  
9351 118 Ave. More info: 780-471-1580

## EVENTS

### YOUNG EMERGING ARTISTS

Tweens to twenty artists needed to display and sell original art & fine crafts. Call Irene by Apr 13 at 780-471-1580 to reserve a table (no charge). Saturday, April 16 from 1-4pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). More info: Irene 780-471-1580.

## PROGRAM / CLASS

### PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

For three to five-year-olds. Come for stories, songs and finger plays. Listening to stories will help your child get ready for reading. Wednesdays (April 6 to May 11) from 11am to 11:30am at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

### PRAYERFUL ART

An in-house artist offers opportunity and assistance to express yourself in prayer through ART. Supplies provided. Saturdays from 12-3pm at Salvation Army Crossroads Community Church (11661 95 St). More info: 780-474-4324.

## ART CLASSES

Art making ranging from clay building to printmaking and everything in between. Community Night: Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30pm and Family Night: Thursdays from 6:30-8:30pm at Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts (9225 118 Ave). Limited space, call 780-474-7611 to register.

### ABORIGINAL FAMILY STORYTIME

Hey moms and dad! Bring your little ones and join us for an hour of Aboriginal songs and stories presented by Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society. Fridays from 1-2pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

### ENGLISH CONVERSATION CAFE

For those who need to practice their new found English language skills. Every Saturday 10-11:30am at Bethel Gospel Chapel (95 St & 117 Ave). Free child care provided.

### GIRL GUIDES AND BROWNIES

Fun, friendships and new challenges: Sparks (K-Gr 1), Brownies (Gr 2-3), Girl Guides (Gr 4-6). Mondays at 6:30pm at St. Andrew's Church (8715 118 Ave). More info: Jean 780-469-4487 or Angel 780-642-0879.

## SOCIAL

### EASTER PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Crafts, egg painting, and a treasure hunt will be available for the kids. Come on out for some pancakes, coffee, and a chat with your neighbours! Sunday, April 17 from 10am-12pm at Parkdale-Cromdale Hall (11335 85 St).

### STORIES FROM THE HEART

On the third Thursday of each month, come tell your story and hear stories about interesting people who've lived in the heart of the city. Everyone is welcome. Thursday, April 21 from 1:30-3:00pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

### MAKE MELODY

Are you a singer, songwriter musician who wants to perform and share your ideas? Join the Edmonton Melody Makers at the Carrot Saturday nights at 6pm. Contact Mj at [mjn\\_mjn@hotmail.com](mailto:mjn_mjn@hotmail.com) for more info

### FRIDAY NIGHT DROP-IN

Open-house, free coffee and snacks - games and conversation with friends. A safe place to hang out on a Friday night from 7-9pm

at Salvation Army Crossroads Community Church (11661 95 St). More info: 780-474-4324.

### SENIORS LUNCH

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

### LI'L SPROUTS PLAYGROUP

Bring your kids, snacks and ideas and make friends while sharing in activities, adventure and fun! Fridays from 10am-12pm at Parkdale-Cromdale hall (11335 85 St). [www.parkdalecromdale.org](http://www.parkdalecromdale.org)

### CRUD DINNER CLUB

Discover new flavours and restaurants while you explore a variety of wonderful cuisine along Alberta Avenue with friends & neighbours. Check the calendar at [www.crud-edmonton.org](http://www.crud-edmonton.org) for time and location of this months feast.

## SPORTS & REC

### THRILL THE AVE

Classes to learn Michael Jackson's Thriller for performance at Kaleido and Thrill the World. Classes free, no dance experience necessary. For the whole family! Thursday April 7, 21 May 5, 19 June 2, 16, 30 from 7pm to 8pm at Alberta Ave Community Centre (9210 118 Ave). More info: Heather 780-454-9296, [thrilltheave@gmail.com](mailto:thrilltheave@gmail.com).

### MOVEMENT THERAPY

A professional movement therapist offers a one hour class of stretching. Mondays & Wednesdays from 1-2pm at the Salvation Army Crossroads Community Church (11661 95 St). More info: 780-474-4324.

### COMMUNITY SWIM

Free swim for Alberta Avenue Community League members. Sundays from 12pm to 2pm at Eastglen Pool (11410 64 St).

### CRUD DOG WALKING GROUP

Meet neighbours and their canine companions while walking around the community. Mondays evenings: 6:30pm in front of St. Alphonsus Church (11828-85 St). The walk is cancelled if below -15C.

### INDOOR PUBLIC SKATING

No sticks or pucks allowed. Grand Truck (13024 112 St) on Sundays 1-2pm  
Oliver (10335 119 St) on Tuesdays 6:15-7:15pm  
Russ Barnes (6725 121 Ave) on Wednesdays 6-7pm  
Westwood (12040 97 St) on

Saturdays 3:15-4:15pm

## NOTICES

### FREE SAND

All Edmonton Community Leagues should have a green box of sand near their building. This sand is provided by the City of Edmonton for the public. Please sand your slippery walks! If a box is empty, call 311 and report it. Leagues & addresses can be found at [efcl.org](http://efcl.org).

### WRITING HELP & FEEDBACK

Do you have writerly impulses but don't know where to start? Would you like feedback on your creative writing? Drop in or make an appointment with Jocelyn Brown, writer-in-residence for the Canadian Authors' Association. Jocelyn will be "in residence" at the Nina Haggerty gallery every Tuesday and Wednesday from 11am-2pm. To submit your work online or make an appointment, go to: <http://www.canauthorsalberta.ca/writers-in-residence>

### COPS AT THE CARROT

Join EPS members every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 11 am for open and direct access to the EPS members working in your community. Bring your questions and comments or come in for a visit and coffee.

## VOLUNTEER

### HANG AT A GALLERY

Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts is looking for individuals willing to share 2-4 hours a week as gallery attendants. Gain experience working in a gallery setting, while supporting your neighborhood arts scene! For more info, contact Anna at [volunteer@ninahaggerty-art.ca](mailto:volunteer@ninahaggerty-art.ca)

### BE A COFFEE BARTENDER

Learn how to be a barista and make lattes and other coffees, then hang out at a cool coffee shop for 3 or 4 hours and visit with the interesting people who stop in. Drop by: The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse at 9351 118 Ave, call 780-471-1580 or visit [www.the-carrot.ca](http://www.the-carrot.ca).

### DRIVE A SENIOR

Be a volunteer driver who spends 3-4 hours once a month to drive an elderly senior to medical appointments, banking and/or shopping. Gas reimbursed. Call 780-732-1221.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Are you passionate about local food? Organized? Social? The Alberta Avenue Farmer's Market is seeking such a Manager on a permanent, part-time basis. For more details go to [www.albertaave.org](http://www.albertaave.org) or contact Carissa at 780 439 7934. Deadline for applications is April 15, 2011.

### ARTS ON THE AVE AGM

You must be a member to vote applications for membership available on AOTA website. Also available on website is info on serving on the board. [www.artsontheave.org](http://www.artsontheave.org). Sunday, May 1 from 1-3pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave).

### DEVELOPMENT BLOG

The Parkdale Cromdale Community League has started a blog about development happening in and around our community. For information about what is going on and to join the conversation, visit [www.parkdalecromdale.org](http://www.parkdalecromdale.org).

### COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

The Spruce Avenue Community League (10240 115 Ave) will be holding it's 16th annual community garage sale on Friday April 29 from 9am to 8pm and Saturday April 30 from 9am to 5pm. Donations of gently used items will be greatly appreciated with proceeds going towards the Spruce Avenue Park Re-Development. Please call Verna @780-479-8019 for further details.

## Promote your event or program!

### Calendar Guidelines

Our community calendar listings are for FREE events and programs happening in the seven neighbourhoods covered by the Rat Creek Press as well as volunteer opportunities. Submit online at [ratcreek.org](http://ratcreek.org) under the calendar tab.

- Events must be submitted by the 18th to get printed in the next month's paper. Events are also published online.
- Limit of 5 event listings per organization/group.
- Reoccurring events need to be confirmed every three months.
- If your event or program is not free or you have a notice, job ad or business advertising, please refer to our classifieds or display ads.

## Advertise in the Classifieds!

- 1 classified \$25.
- 6 classified credits \$120.
- 12 classified credits \$180.
- 25 character title in BOLD CAPS + 200 characters (approximately 35 words).
- Submit classified to the website at [www.ratcreek.org](http://www.ratcreek.org) by the 18th for the next month's print issue.
- Payment due in advance.

# Church services

### Avenue Vineyard Church

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

8718 118 Ave (Crystal Kids building)

Sundays at 10:30 am

[www.avenuevineyard.com](http://www.avenuevineyard.com)

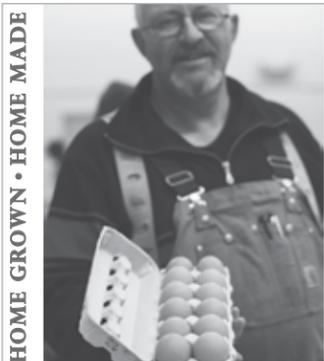
### Bethel Gospel Chapel

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

### Sunday meetings:

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

Advertise your church here for only \$120/year.  
Contact [ads@ratcreek.org](mailto:ads@ratcreek.org)



# ALBERTA AVENUE FARMERS' MARKET

## Thursdays 5pm - 8pm

93 Street & 118 Avenue

[www.albertaave.org/market.html](http://www.albertaave.org/market.html)

More info contact: Kerrie 780-477-2773 [market@albertaave.org](mailto:market@albertaave.org)



Interested in the Alberta Ave Choir. Contact: [info@artsontheave.org](mailto:info@artsontheave.org)

**VIVA CITY**  
expose yourself to life on 118 ave.  
SPRING

**Community Arts Night**  
6:30 - 8:30 PM  
Tuesdays

**Family Arts Night**  
6:30 - 8:30 PM  
Thursdays

9225 - 118 ave Edmonton, AB  
T5G 0K6 780-474-7611 [www.ninahaggertyart.ca](http://www.ninahaggertyart.ca)

*The Empress in Winter:*  
a Bedouin Beats  
Bellydance Showcase

Royal Alberta Museum Theatre  
12845-102 Ave

**Saturday**  
March 26, 2011  
Showtime 7:00 PM

[www.bedouinbeats.com](http://www.bedouinbeats.com)

**PENNY CARNIVAL**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 9 1-4PM  
ALBERTA AVE HALL  
9210 118 AVENUE  
AN AFTERNOON OF FUN!

**Spruce Ave Garage Sale!**  
Friday & Saturday  
April 29th & 30th

To book a table call  
780-479-8019  
11219 - 105 Street

**Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse**

Live Music **Friday Nights!**

Direct trade coffee  
Made in Edmonton gifts **9351-118ave**

[www.thecarrot.ca](http://www.thecarrot.ca)

**Think Spring!!!**

*Interested in Community Gardens?*  
Eastwood, Alberta Avenue, Parkdale / Cromdale?  
Contact your community league for more info!

**AVENUE**  
[www.avenue theatre.ca](http://www.avenue theatre.ca)

9030 118th Avenue Edmonton Alberta, Canada T5B 0T8 ph. 780 477 2149

**Rapidfire Theatre Improv**  
March 31st, April 28th, & May 26th  
Doors at 7:00pm \$5

Common Ground Presents Rock, Funk, & silent auction to Conquer Cancer, April 29th

**ALBERTA AVENUE FARMERS' MARKET**  
THURSDAYS  
5PM - 8PM  
93 Street & 118 Avenue  
[www.albertaave.org/market.html](http://www.albertaave.org/market.html)  
More info contact: Kerie 780-477-2773 [kerie@albertaave.org](mailto:kerie@albertaave.org)

**YEAR ROUND!**

Think beyond the **BigBox** Shop Alberta Avenue

Alberta Avenue Business Association

[www.alberta-avenue.com](http://www.alberta-avenue.com)

**RCP connect awards**

Recognizing contributions that support the growth of a strong, vibrant and well-connected community

The Rat Creek Press Association seeks nominations in each of the following award categories:

**Building community** *An individual, organization or business that:*

- Created networks for individuals and groups to connect within the community
- Supports local businesses
- Promotes what is happening in the community

**Encouraging Communication** *An individual, organization or business that:*

- Acts as an advocate for the community and all its citizens
- Shares information with residents and non-residents of the community
- Provides opportunities to exchange ideas for the betterment of the community

**Increasing Capacity** *An individual, organization or business that:*

- Helps individuals learn new skills or acquire experience
- Encourages participation in the community from residents and non-residents
- Fosters leadership development

**Deadline for nominations: April 5, 2011**

Download details at [www.ratcreek.org](http://www.ratcreek.org)  
or contact the Rat Creek Press at [board@ratcreek.org](mailto:board@ratcreek.org) or 780-479-6285

**AABA** • Shop Local • Shop the Avenue •  
Alberta Avenue Business Association

Welcome to **YOUR** Avenue, welcome to the Alberta Avenue Business Association

- Copies of 2011 Business & Community Director available.
- Watch for our 7th Annual Spring Street Sweep – May 17th, 18th & 19th.
- Coming soon: our updated Website, Facebook Page & E-Newsletter!
- Contact us for an E-Copy of our "Economic Impact Assessment Report" on our BRZ.
- Our *Taste of the Ave* restaurant guides available!
- Façade Program & Development Incentive Fund brochures are available to commercial property owners in our BRZ.

M-F 8:30am - 4:30pm 780-471-2602 [www.alberta-avenue.com](http://www.alberta-avenue.com)

**Japan Devastated by Earthquake & Tsunami**  
You Can Help!



The Canadian Red Cross is in close contact with the Japanese Red Cross, is monitoring the situation closely, and has emergency supplies and trained delegates ready to be deployed if requested. Over 80 health and disaster relief teams are currently on the ground, providing emergency medical aid, assisting in evacuations, and distributing urgently needed supplies, including over 30,000 blankets.

The Canadian Red Cross is encouraging Canadians to make a financial donation that will help provide clean water, shelter, medical support, and emergency supplies to support those affected by this disaster. Cheques should be made payable to the Canadian Red Cross and earmarked "Japan Earthquake-Asia Pacific Tsunami".



Canadians can give at their local Red Cross office, by calling 1-800-418-1111 or online at [www.redcross.ca/helpnow](http://www.redcross.ca/helpnow).

To make a donation via SMS, text **ASIA to 30333**. Text message donations are available in \$5 increments.

In Edmonton, call 780-423-2680 or visit the local office at 9931-106 St. to make an in-person donation.