

## Full funding promised for local East Edmonton Health Centre

DARREN BOISVERT

After years of wrangling, the East Edmonton Health Centre has finally been allocated money to staff and run its family and urgent care units. In a pre-election funding announcement on March 19, Premier Alison Redford committed the 8.7 million dollars required to fully open the facility.

The centre, located at 79th street and 112th avenue, will open its family care unit on April 1, and the mini-emergency room will commence operation in the fall once Alberta Health Services hires the required doctors and nurses.

The 44 million dollar facility opened in 2010, but the promised funding for the family and urgent care units never materialized. With the extra cash, the community will now have access to family doctors, a cast room for treating broken bones, a small operating theatre, and 22 examination rooms which will help alleviate the overcrowded emergency room in the Royal Alexandra Hospital's emergency department.

While most of the building sat mothballed for two years, social agencies and addiction treatment professionals provided treatment to area residents. The partial funding and under-utilization was a source of anger for area residents and politicians who felt the provincial government had broken a promise to address the lack of medical services in the community.

Brian Mason, the leader of the Alberta NDP, had been persistently vocal in the legislature and helped organize a letter-

writing campaign and rallies to pressure the government to fund the centre.

"I'm pleased with the announcement," says Mason. "The Progressive Conservatives gave me credit in the legislature for keeping the issue alive, but it was really the community that made this happen."

It was an issue that cut across ideological party lines, as community residents such as Cris Basualdo (who is currently running as the PC candidate in Highlands-Norwood for the provincial election) spoke out in favour of full-funding for the health centre.

Basualdo recalls attending the public design and area use consultations in 2006 while she was treasurer with the Alberta Avenue Community League.

"We had an agreement for full family and urgent care facilities, but it never happened. Instead we got an STD clinic and an addictions treatment centre. I think we have a new premier now and she is interested in providing health care for families."

The community, with over 62,000 residents, 7,000 seniors and 9,000 students, will soon be able to bypass the Royal Alexandra Hospital emergency room. The new urgent care centre will be open until 11 p.m., seven days a week and assist patients with simple fractures, wounds that need stitches, sprained ankles, or late-night ear infections.

According to Mason, it's a decision that is well-overdue. "Healthcare is supposed to be there when people need it, not for people to make money."



After years of stalling, the Alberta Government finally gave a green light to the East Edmonton Health Centre. The family care unit is now open and the urgent care unit is slated to open in September 2012.

## Community Action Team lands on the Avenue

DARREN BOISVERT

As part of the City of Edmonton's Violence Reduction strategy, the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) arrived in the community in-force on March 21 for a 4-day intensive policing initiative. Setting up their mobile action centre (a refurbished RV) in the Safeway parking lot on the corner of 118th Ave and 82nd street, the Community Action Team (CAT) began a highly visible campaign to "reduce the severity of violence, the frequency, and the fear and perception of violence".

For several days last month, an extra 10 officers were patrolling high-crime areas of the community, organized sev-

eral community gatherings with crime-reduction organizations in the area, and encouraged citizens to get involved in reporting problems. Every evening, a dozen police cruisers gathered in the parking lot before heading out into the community to help people feel safer.

Chris Hayduk, Acting Staff Sergeant with the EPS and coordinator of the CAT deployment, explained that the multi-pronged approach was to highlight the possibility of changing the dynamic of crime in this community.

"We are focusing on prevention, educating the community, and intervention: working to divert people from the drivers of crime," said acting Staff Sergeant Hayduk.

The police were also offering those with outstanding warrants to voluntarily turn themselves into police to avoid the stigma of being arrested at work or home. Constable Michelle Horchuk, the officer coordinating Project "OWE", said there were still 16,000 current warrants unserved in Edmonton, and was encouraging people to come to the Command Unit, or to present themselves at one of the local detachments.

"It could be something as simple as having failed to remove snow, to more serious criminal behaviour," said Constable Horchuk. "It's better to deal with these matters when people have time and can perhaps be away from their family."

In addition to the surge in policing in the community, EPS helped organize community meetings where groups such as Crystal Kids, Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE), and Community Response to Urban Disorder (CRUD) offered citizens the chance to participate in crime reduction initiatives.

Peter Hares, a member of CRUD, attended the opening press conference of the CAT initiative and encouraged people to participate in fighting crime. "Great policing comes from a relationship between police and the community. It's important to make crime prevention a community effort."



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# Revving up education for community kids

DARREN BOISVERT

An innovative educational program for parents and pre-school children is rolling into our community in April. The Early Learning Mobile Unit (EMU) is a specially-designed RV vehicle that the Edmonton Catholic Schools hopes will assist families in accessing resources for their children.

Inside the cosy mobile unit is an art section, book corner, and carpet with building blocks for the creative hands of children. There is also a seating area for parents to relax and access tips and resources they may not already have for the raising of their family.

"We are seeing that parents don't always know what programs and services are out there for their kids," says Christina Lepage, Early Learning Facilitator with EMU. "We want to provide ideas that parents can take home to enhance the education of their children."

The EMU team will be setting up every Thursday morning at the Alberta Avenue Community League Building (9210-118th Ave) and Thursday afternoon at Bent Arrow Parent Link (11666-95th Street) starting April 19. Parents are asked to pre-register for the free seven week program as there is limited space available. There are 3 programs daily, both morning

and afternoons, and everyone is encouraged to drop-by to meet with the staff and enjoy a tea and coffee.

Primarily designed for families that can't otherwise access pre-school programs, EMU is hoping to bridge the gap between organizations and the community. Specialists such as speech pathologists, physical therapists, behaviour therapists and early learning educators will all be available for personalised evaluations and assistance. Language interpreters will also be provided when necessary.

According to Lepage, the EMU program has been slowly developed over the past two years. Originally based on a similar program in Ontario, it's a brand new approach to providing educational services to the community. It's been running since November, and has seen increasing interest from families across Edmonton.

"It's been challenging because this type of mobile pre-school programming has not been done before," says Lepage. "We're trying to create something from the ground up. We've spent two years meeting with other community agencies, figuring out which communities would most benefit from this program, and discovering what services parents were looking for."

According to Lepage, this is the only program that incor-

porates parents. EMU will help them in everything from providing recipes for making Play-doh to tips on positive learning and disciplining.

"We want to help familiarise children with a school environment," says Lepage. "Even things as simple as teaching them the rhythm of sitting for book learning, we can start them on the road to success in school life."

Program begins Thursday, April 19th and runs 7 consecutive Thursdays until June 7th. To pre-register, contact Edmonton Catholic Schools (ask for the EMU ladies) at 780-638-6810 or send an email to christina.lepage@ecds.net.



It doesn't look like a bird, but the EMU bus provides a warm welcome to parents and pre-schoolers.

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### Donate

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### Volunteers needed

We needed people to help with the info booth, kids area, swap tables, compost sale and of course the set up, decorating & tear down of the event. Email: bloomin@albertaave.org

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# Casting a NET over the Ave

ALEC STRATFORD

You will soon see some new faces in the community as the Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (N.E.T.) introduces Constable Kurtis Hauptman, social worker Alec Stratford and youth worker Cassie Smith as your 118th Avenue N.E.T. team. The team is excited to meet with residents, businesses and organizations to support the many great initiatives already in progress and to help the community address crime.

N.E.T. believes that communities grow stronger when responsibility for crime prevention is shared. This means utilizing and building on existing strengths to solve problems common to those living, working and playing in the community. At the same time, in order to tap into these strengths people must feel it safe to do so. Your N.E.T. team will help create an environment where you feel safe and able to contribute.

As experts in each of their fields (policing, social work and youth work), N.E.T. team members bring a diversity of approaches to problem-solving. As a team, they nurture and support those who want to make a positive difference for themselves and for their families. As an example, the 118th Avenue N.E.T. team will be working with three low-rise apartment buildings in Eastwood that have high calls for police service. The team aims to engage with tenants and support them in developing a crime prevention strategy that works uniquely for them. As a vital part of any community, youth will be invited to bring their perspectives and strengths to the project.

We look forward to meeting you and getting to know you! If you see us on the street or in your apartment building, stop and say hello – we want to hear about your ideas and the strengths you bring to your community.

Community residents can contact the new N.E.T. Team by phone at 780-668-7956 or by email at Alec.Stratford@Edmonton.ca. You can also follow their activities on Twitter @Alec\_NET.



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#### EDITORIAL POLICY:

The Rat Creek Press is a forum for all people. We encourage comments that further discussion on a given article or subject, provide constructive criticism, or offer an idea for community activity. 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.

#### In An Airplane Over The Prairie

By Anthony Goertz

*Cotton mist suspended  
As light ignites the sky  
And far below a river  
flowing  
Cracks the earth and I  
Am just a word suspended  
Above the quilted plain.  
My name will soon fall out  
of use,  
Your lips no longer  
stained.*

*Whisps of white collect  
themselves  
In wrinkled veins of grey  
As rivers carve their  
victories  
Of water over clay.  
Below the ridges wear  
their tales  
Of bowing to the hands  
And sands of time to  
faithless eyes  
Cry straightest lines  
collapse.*

*And cut against the  
winding sinews  
Bringing life to life  
Mark visions of short-  
sighted men  
Who held that greedy  
knife.  
These men like me who  
enterprised  
In terms of not enough  
Reveal their patchwork  
folly  
To downcast eyes above  
And I can see from here  
My dear, I'll always want  
your love*

# Keeping it all clean and orderly

BRENT CRAIG

As the City of Edmonton promotes a safe, clean and attractive Edmonton, there continues to be problems of litter, graffiti, nuisance and derelict properties. All areas of the City have Municipal Enforcement Officers who actively respond to 311 complaints, as well as being proactive in locating properties where there is graffiti, nuisance properties and snow and ice on sidewalks. Alberta Avenue has previously had its challenges of having a reputation for being an undesirable area but over the past few years that reputation has had a quick turn-about. With the revitalization of Alberta Avenue there is better street lighting and the streets, sidewalks, walkways and business facades are more appealing. There appears to be more traffic in the area and more and more new businesses are taking

their place on the Avenue. Alberta Avenue and the surrounding communities would now be considered a desirable place live, shop and take part in the many programs it offers.

Alberta Avenue can be thankful they have many professional resources that address Community Problems. One of these resources is the City of Edmonton Community Liaison Officer who is assigned along with the three Municipal Enforcement Officers assigned to the area around Alberta Avenue. The "CLO" is a proactive section response created to improve Edmonton's livability. The delivery of this program is designed to integrate a specialized service to specified communities and engage with the Community to create a safer community with a reduction of crime and disorder, as well as, a reduction of community standards concerns.

In October 2011, I was

assigned as the "CLO" for Alberta Avenue. I have been with the Community Standards Complaints and Investigation Section and Community Services in City of Edmonton for one year. For the past 18 years, I was a Peace Officer appointed by the Solicitor General who served in the Rank of a Sergeant and was responsible for Traffic Enforcement. I was also the Director of Protective Services for the Town of Rocky Mountain House where my duties included completing the budget and being the liaison for the R.C.M.P., the Regional and Municipal Fire Department, Animal Control and Bylaw Contracts, Ambulance, Community Peace Officers.

I was able to address community problems by creating bylaws including an Anti-bullying Bylaw, the first of its kind in Canada. This bylaw gained nation wide awareness

and I was recognized in 2005 with the Minister of Municipal Affairs Award. I hope to use this past experience and expertise by applying it to community problems, a way of thinking outside of the box to get results. My focus will be property maintenance and cleanliness, derelict properties, business activities and licensing, responsible community behaviors, legal and illegal uses of space and areas.

*Join Craig, along with EPS members, at the Carrot (9210-118 Avenue) every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 10:30am for open and direct access to the EPS, Bylaw, and other community services members working in your community. Bring your questions and comments, or come in for a visit and coffee.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Re: Civic elections open for business

Congratulations to the Rat Creek Press on its magnificent piece of investigative reporting on the topic of civic election contributions. I am truly horrified that individuals and their campaigns have flagrantly broken election rules and just shrug off the violations as though it doesn't matter, especially since they have been re-elected time and again.

As a family who struggled to support a candidate in the last civic election, we know the costs involved and the lack of corporate contributions given to a newby. We even returned out of province contributions from family members because we didn't want to "break the law". What a joke on us.

Thank you for having the courage to expose this corruption.

**Dianne Post**

As a member of the general public I want to give my whole-hearted thanks to your editor and the Rat Creek Press for the recent article on civic election financing in Edmonton and Alberta. Also thanks to Councilor Anderson, who appears to be the only member of council with enough integrity to put forward donor information.

The fact that the mayor and most of city council put the "rights" of their financial backers over the right of the public to know who these financial backers are, paints a sad picture of civic democracy. How are citizens to have confidence in elected officials that refuse to release complete information on their campaign financing?

It will take much public pressure to change election laws to make all campaign financing transparent, and to level the playing field between the voting public and the financial enablers of municipal politicians.

**Clyde MacDonald**

I wanted to commend the Rat on an excellent article and several pages about the civic elections and how Mayor Mandel had taken contributions well above the maximum. I hope you guys pursue it and bring it up with the powers-that-be. I have called into City Hall and I have left messages about my concern regarding this. I would love to see Mandel resign over this. As far as I'm concerned we don't have fair representation. Thanks so much for writing this article. It's awesome.

**C Deschamps**

### Re: "What is a human being"

First, I would like to congratulate the you, Darren Boisvert, and the rest of the Rat Creek Press on your fantastic piece regarding the civic election donations. This is the kind of well-researched, well-written journalism that I had long thought gone from today's media. The Edmonton Journal and the Sun should take pointers from you.

Second, I would like to respond to Mr. Peter Goldring's argument that "50...children who are born alive but then are allowed to die under the category 'termination of pregnancy'". He is completely clueless. Late-trimester abortions are performed when an embryo or fetus has terminal congenital defects. That means that when the child would have been born, they would have died anyway. Why subject a woman to that type of cruelty? Of knowing that her embryo cannot and will not ever live on its own, or have to watch that embryo or fetus suffer while waiting

for its inevitable demise?

Election to Parliament does NOT give anyone the right to determine whether or not I will carry a pregnancy to term. I will be the one to decide when and if I bear children, how many (if any) children I will have, and nothing that they say, do, or enact will prevent me from doing otherwise.

**Franki Harrogate**

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# Meet your 2012 provincial election candidates

**Monday, April 23 is the next provincial election in Alberta. The Rat Creek Press encourages everyone to get out and vote. More importantly, we hope that all citizens will spend time to make informed decisions about the people who will make up our legislature.**

**We offered equal space to all the candidates to present a positive message of how they would improve the lives of all those who reside in the Highlands-Norwood constituency. Keegan Wynchuk, Alberta Liberals, and Cameron McCormick, Alberta Party, were nominated after our editorial deadline and are not included below. NDP incumbent and Party leader, Brian Mason, did not send in an article.**



**Cris Basualdo, Progressive Conservatives**

I am central Edmonton volunteer who is ready to bring my energy and more than 17 years of community service experience to the Provincial caucus table as your MLA.

My focus, like yours, is on quality of life.

Our community matters, and when neighbours say they want change, they know I will work with them to get action on their concerns. That's why they asked me to deliver a NEW VOICE for Highlands-Norwood to the Provincial table – one that can work with caucus to get our communities meaningful action on the issues that they identified as a priority:

- Reducing crime, disorder and improving safety so that families stay in our community and our business districts can thrive.
- Improving access to local primary and acute care. Relieve ER pressure from street populations through innovative models of addiction and mental illness care.
- Improving neighbourhood quality of life so we can attract enough families with children to keep our remaining schools viable and see those that were closed reopen.

As an individual and as a representative for various organizations, I have partnered with area Community Leagues and other resident-led organizations to resolve crime, disorder, traffic, planning and development issues and raised concerns about the impact school closures have on Highlands-Norwood communities.

As your neighbourhood representative, I have carried those messages from our community forward to various City of Edmonton council meetings and to Federal committees studying the impact of crime on communities. I believe that strong and healthy communities are necessary to creating a vibrant, desirable riding that is able to contribute to a healthy province.

In order to do this we need to create neighbourhoods that are safe, family and senior-friendly, with community schools and other amenities that can once again attract families, young professionals and individuals back to Highlands-Norwood neighbourhoods, and to help improve our local business districts.

I want to translate the expertise gained during 17 years of local volunteer work into policies that will improve the quality of life in our communities. I understand that our mature communities need to have a voice and a role in the planning and policy discussions that will shape the business of provincial government today and tomorrow.



**Dairine Lynn, EverGreens**

I am Dairine Lynn, Dari for short, and I am an activist, an herbal practitioner and business owner.

I have lived in Alberta all my life, residing in many rural towns with my family. I have lived in Highlands for two years with my child, Cael, and cats. I am an advocate for eco-consciousness, sustainability and responsibility in my business, and all aspects of my life.

I work with the EverGreens and in turn the Greens because they were the only party that has shown to be transparent, fully accountable and responsible – I have not met a politician yet! We are grassroots a part of the global Green network. We work with tried, effective and sustainable solutions that have been proven all around the world. This gives Alberta an option to increase our wealth, food security and social justice while protecting the environment.

The EverGreens stand for the six Greens principles: ecological wisdom, social justice, participatory democracy, non-violence and respect for diversity. Our priorities are:

- Restore the environment - Biodiversity is diminishing, chemicals threaten human health and carbon dioxide from fossil fuel energy is damaging the atmosphere. The EverGreen Party is committed to re-establish our thriving eco system.
- Work towards a Sustainable economy - We must strive for stability rather than growth, and an equitable distribution of wealth.
- Restore the Community - The EverGreens seek to restore and strengthen local communities and to empower them to create equitable and supportive societies.
- Renewal of Democracy – The EverGreens are in strong support for proportional representation ensuring electoral fairness.

In this riding, I would like to focus on encouraging and empowering people to be involved with our democracy. By having pro-politics events to take the bad taste out of people's mouths would be a one of my goals. I want citizen circles, where people can come and discuss certain issues that pertain to them and what possible solutions we could try; with more thoughts involved in brainstorming the more options and innovations we can find. Nurturing the budding community here is very important to me and fighting for social services such as healthcare, public transit and education (where did all of our schools go?) is crucial. Most of all I am looking forward to providing a green choice and optimism for

our future, one that is going to be inherited by my peers and our children. Vote for change this election, vote EverGreen.

**Wayde Lever, Wildrose Party of Alberta**



I chose to represent the Wildrose Party for Highlands-Norwood because I strongly believe their fundamental political philosophy closely align with my personal values; individual freedom, streamlining government regulations and services, effective/efficient use of taxpayer's dollars and a social safety net that ensures dignity and equal opportunity for all Albertans.

As a resident of Highlands-Norwood for 15 years, and an individual living with personal challenges all my life, I have had years of experience in dealing with many of the social programs delivered by the Alberta government. Also having held several positions with Non-Profit social organizations, I have witnessed first-hand the onerous regulations creating barriers to delivering services to people in need. Over the years it became clear to me it is time to change the Progressive Conservative Government of over 40 years. I strongly believe the Wildrose Party and my candidacy are the only credible choice to effect change in the provincial government for residents in Highlands-Norwood.

If I have the honour of being chosen to represent the citizens of Highlands-Norwood in the Alberta Legislature, my focus will be the following:

1. Provide approachable and timely representation to all constituents of Highlands-Norwood on issues and policies that concern them.
2. Champion the streamlining of government services and regulatory oversight.
3. Focus on the present and future needs of seniors to ensure all have a secure and dignified lifestyle.
4. Work on policies that strengthen the health and well being of families.

My lifetime of experience in living and working within the Alberta government's delivery of social programs gives me a unique insight that will assist the Wildrose Party to adopt effective policies which give all residents the Alberta Advantage regardless of their individual circumstances. If I am chosen to be the representative for Highlands, I intend to be the citizen's gateway to the Alberta Legislature and the Alberta Government. As an MLA, all my energies and effort will be on issues important to all residents in this community no matter what their individual circumstances or political ideologies.



Our community matters, and when my neighbours say they want change, they know I will work to get action because I have done so locally for 17 years. They asked me to deliver a NEW VOICE for Highlands-Norwood – one that can work within caucus to get our communities meaningful action on priority issues:

- Reducing crime, disorder and improving safety
- Improving access to local primary and acute care.
- Improving neighbourhood quality of life and access to education locally
- Supporting community leagues and other neighbourhood organizations.

**Vote for Cris Basualdo on April 23, 2012.**

**CrisBasualdo Real life leadership.**

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 website: [www.basualdo.votepec.ca](http://www.basualdo.votepec.ca)

Authorized by the Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta, 9623 - 103 St. NW, Edmonton, AB T5K 0X5 780 423-1624



# A FAMILY REVIEW OF THE NEW Stadium Rec CENTRE



DAVE, LUCIE AND JACK VON BIEKER

First the crazy, crystalline shapes grew from the side of the Commonwealth Stadium. Next the vivid orange panels appeared, zigging and zagging around the facade, framing pane after pane of glass dashed with white lines. The design obscured our curious peeks inside. Was that a water slide?! Our guesses became a family driving game along Stadium Road, but we needn't guess any longer. The new Commonwealth Rec Centre is open and, as their tagline reads, 'Prepare to Be Amazed'.

Stealing away on opening day, March 13, my wife Christie and I entered the inconspicuous side door to find a massive foyer from the future, shining white from floor to sky-high ceiling. A staircase straight out of science fiction snakes upwards, perforated with dots. Angular zigzags and dots show up in several surprising places at Commonwealth, and searching for them can be an activity in itself. But our first visit was not about design, and perhaps not even fun. We were here strictly as adults. We were getting fit.

This manMom feels about as comfortable in a gym as a pro wrestler at a tea party. Impressive change rooms softened the blow. Was this some abandoned Apple store, the benches, floors and lockers gleaming white? Mirrors and outlets adorn every aisle, for the grooming conscious. These little touches make me feel special, and at the gym, I need that.

Leaving the locker room, I began the routine that's become painfully familiar with return visits. I weigh myself on the scale to read a shockingly small number. I move into the gym and work my way through confusing machines, removing the pin from the weights, dividing the number by two or three, then re-inserting it. I avoid eye contact. I try to become invisible. I stifle involuntary grunts but try my hardest to sweat, proving my effort to those surely watching this little man-Mom's adorable attempts at bulking up.

We adults are ridiculous, but kids can knock the self awareness out of you with one cannonball into the deep end. They get the real purpose of the Commonwealth Rec Centre: FUN!

"My favourite thing in the Rec Centre was the slide. It isn't open yet but it is still cool to look at," reflects my daughter, Lucie.

Jack is loving the exercise. "My favourite thing was the running track," he writes. "Because it is very fun and it is a good workout. I usually run 1 kilometer."

I love to picture their wide eyes, setting sight on the huge foyer or the aquatic climbing wall for the first time.

The Centre is not perfect. There are a lot of things small kids cannot do. My daughter is too young for the track and neither can use the gym. The cost is higher than other local pools because you pay one price for everything. A lower 'swim only' price would be nice.

My kids have their own ideas for improvements.

Lucie suggests that, "It would be cool to have a jungle gym because it would be cool to have monkey bars in the Rec Centre and it would be cool to have a park."

Along the same lines, Jack adds, "I wish that there was a zip-line over the water because it would be fun and it would be very long."

Perhaps all future city projects should enlist a couple of kids because it's tough to argue with monkey bars and a zip-line.

Still, The Commonwealth Rec Center has a lot to offer. The pool is open for public swim most times. No more planned trips foiled by a pool booked up for lessons or lanes (but do check the schedules to make sure). A 25 meter lane pool provides separate space for serious swimmers. The aquatic climbing wall is a truly distinct and awesome feature. The slide is promising. When you're all done, a huge triangular hot tub awaits.

The field house offers a huge indoor field to hone soccer skills or toss a football. The gymnasium can be used for

family badminton or basketball games. They even provide equipment. There is a play area for younger kids, and child care is offered while mom and dad work out upstairs. The gym is impressive, with a 250 meter indoor track and dozens of machines for every fitness level. An array of windows lets the sunshine in and allows you to watch the outside world with just the right amount of smug satisfaction as you get fit.

If fitness, or even swimming, is new to you, Commonwealth is ready to help. Personal trainers are available. Swimming lessons start in April. Dozens of programs are offered, ranging from boot camps to an adult art studio, with drop in and registered options. While you are there, be sure to glance upwards to read 'INFORMATION' etched into the roof. It's a nice touch that joins details like funky furniture and public art to make this space sing.

Now, if this space were free, none of us would ever again fear the words 'daddy, I'm bored' two days into Spring Break. But it is not free. And for many families, it is not cheap, or even affordable. However, the City offers a Leisure Access Program for low income families, providing free use of the facilities. Second, a monthly or annual pass to Commonwealth includes access to all City of Edmonton Rec Centres, except Terwilliger. It even gets you instructor-led drop-in programs at no extra charge.

I've saved my own favorite part for last. Among all the new equipment, I'm discovering a new me at Commonwealth, and I like him. Despite my awkward beginnings I'm actually having fun at the gym. Working out moves my mind from the stresses of life towards the here and now. I push myself and I feel better for it. This week I'll walk in and buy my first ever monthly pass to any fitness facility, ever. 'Prepare to be amazed', they warned. I am.

Commonwealth recreation centre is open from 6am-10pm, Monday to Friday and 7am-9pm on Saturday and Sunday. The facility is also open on statutory holidays from 8am-8pm.



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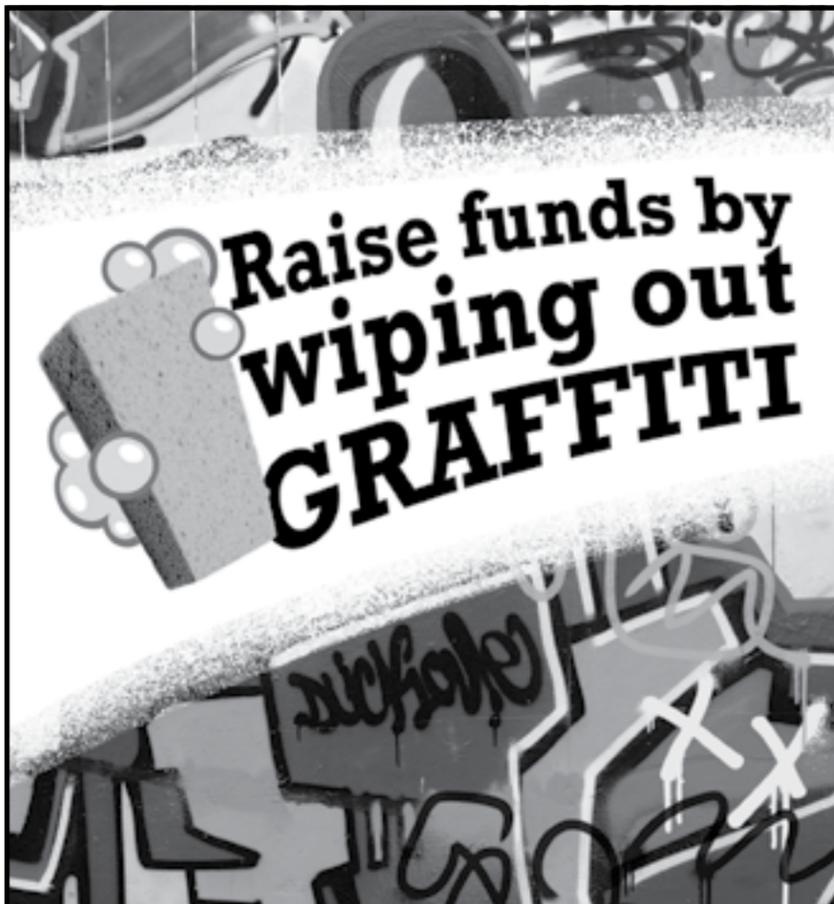

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 For more info call 780-716-6823

# Making sense of charging neighbourhood dogs

## DOG TALK

Darlene Taylor

I work with many kinds of dogs and people. I've worked with dogs that have been "charged" by another dog. This can be a very frightening experience and the results can vary. It really doesn't matter if the dog that was doing the charging was friendly or not. The unfortunate thing is if the dog being charged repeatedly – the repercussions mount.

Let's say the first attack was by a "friendly" dog that came in a bit too fast for a young puppy with little experience. The young dog is likely bowled over, and while not physically hurt, may still have been

frightened and will be extra wary of dogs running toward him. While some dog's "get over it" and may not have it happen again, there are others that whether through their hesitance, their being forced into additional situations, or just plain bad luck can be emotionally scared. These dogs run away, growl and bark excessively at other dogs, lunge on leash, or even "charge" other dogs before they can be charged.

Then there are the cases where under normal circumstances the client's dog was fine. Played in the off-leash or doggie daycare. A happy dog that readily accepts the variety of personalities of other dogs. Then one day this dog gets older and starts experiencing

pain or weakness. Perhaps the dog receives an injury or gets an operation. Some just get older and are more interested in casual walking and sniffing than playing. I've seen firsthand where a dog gradually gets older they become less tolerant of the lively playful young dog bounding up to them at full speed sometimes knocking them over. More than once my old guy would be limping away after being charged by a friendly dog. His patience waned and he started to growl a warning at the rowdy. Any dog approaching in a more mannerly fashion was accepted and greeted kindly.

I'm currently volunteering with a service dog charity and we have regular training ses-

sions in a variety of environments. Depending on the situation we may or may not have the vest on the dog telling people this is a working dog and not to pet or approach. It is shocking the number of people that ignore the warning and just walk up to the dog and start petting and talking to the dog. Other dog owners see a well behaved or attentive dog or calm dog and walk right up with their dog. After it's too late they explain their dog is friendly, or they want their dog to meet other dogs, or they are socializing their dog. In short, this well intentioned act can undo the training of a working or service dog. Their job is to be watchful of the handler or the task at hand. ONLY when

the owner gives the command and "releases" the dog can they interact with people or other dogs and only if appropriate.

Can the rambunctious, lively, exuberant, friendly dog be taught to approach in a more courteous

manner, yes. Can people be taught to ask first before approaching someone else's dog that is on leash? If they are told "no" can they walk away reminding themselves the dog and owner have a valid reason and accept it?

Some dogs need space and, in fact, there really is nothing wrong with that.

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Taking your dog to the park shouldn't be a lesson in being afraid of aggressive dogs.

DARLENE TAYLOR

## Edmonton Census 2012



### Count YOURSELF in.

Starting April 1, census workers from the City of Edmonton will go door-to-door asking a few brief questions.

**Answering the door and these questions is important to your future.**

The census information they gather is used to determine how much funding may be provided to our city by the provincial and federal government for things like police, libraries and infrastructure improvements.

If you have questions about the census, visit [www.edmonton.ca/census](http://www.edmonton.ca/census) or call the City of Edmonton Census Office at 780-496-8008, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



## ROBOCALLING FOR HARASSMENT IS A CRIME

On December 3, 2011, thousands of people in Fort McMurray received an automated phone call that showed on call display as coming from the private unlisted home phone number of Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East. In the 90 minute period before Mr. Goldring departed to his function some 80 people returned the call, complaining they couldn't understand the muffled automated message they heard and asking why they had been called. The calls continued for days.

Mr. Goldring, preparing for an important function, was distracted by these sometimes angry callers, calling about something he knew nothing about. These "robocalls" were obviously the work of political opponents, intending to harass him. Most people seeing an unfamiliar number on call display or hearing a muffled automated message wouldn't bother returning a long-distance call from someone they didn't know. If the 150 returned calls represent five per cent of the total (a high estimate), then 3,000 fraudulent calls were made. It could easily have been more than 10,000.

Mr. Goldring reported the harassment to police, who are continuing their investigation into the crime.

"This sort of personal attack has no place in Canadian politics," Mr. Goldring says. "It's not merely unethical, it is also criminal."

The Criminal Code of Canada includes provisions for up to six months in jail and up to a \$5,000 fine for anyone convicted of making repeated harassing telephone calls.

"There's no doubt in my mind the intent was to harass me," Mr. Goldring states. "Whoever was behind this must have known that many people would return the call, especially since the robocall message was deliberately unintelligible."

We need to work together across all party lines to track down these criminals. These calls were not "dirty tricks" but serious business. What do you think?

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**Watch for Big Bin Event dates**  
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**The Rat Creek Press needs volunteers for its casino on July 13 & 14. Email [rustic13@telus.net](mailto:rustic13@telus.net).**

## Connect Awards nominations open

The Rat Creek Press's annual Connect Awards is once again accepting nominations from community members to honour those who have made significant contributions to our neighbourhood.

Do you know anyone who deserves recognition for their hard work? We will be awarding three individuals or organizations in the following categories: Building Community, Encouraging Communication and Increasing Capacity.

All nominees and winners will be honoured at our 2012 Connect Award party. Keep reading the Rat Creek Press in the coming months for details about how to get involved and the date for the evening event.

For information on how to make a nomination, go to [www.ratcreek.org](http://www.ratcreek.org), or contact the Rat Creek Press at [board@ratcreek.org](mailto:board@ratcreek.org) and 780-479-6285.

## Seeking an Avenue Bard...

Arts on the Ave and the Rat Creek Press are proud to launch the Bard of the Ave project.

Thanks to funding from the Norwood Neighbourhood Association, the first Bard will begin to serve a two-year term on September 1, 2012. The Bard of the Ave is inspired by the City of Edmonton's Poet Laureate position, currently held by local Avenue resident Anna Marie Sewell.

Historically, the role of the Poet Laureate was to serve as the official chronicler of state events and occasions. The role of the Bard is to reflect the life of the seven neighbourhoods who make up the Ave through readings of poetry. These neighbourhoods are Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park, Parkdale-Cromdale, Spruce Avenue and Westwood. As an ambassador for the literary arts, the Bard will incorporate poetry into a range of official and informal community activities.

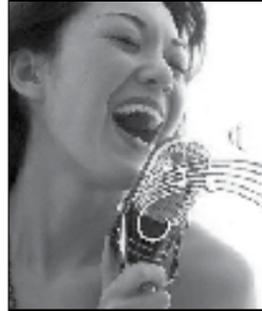
The Bard of the Ave will receive an honorarium of \$1,000 each year and produce at least two original works each year. He or she will present works of significance to the citizens of this community at various events. These will include the Kaleido Family Arts and Deep Freeze festivals, Community League sponsored events, as well as other community functions.

The Bard will also be asked to initiate one legacy project during the two-year term

Applications to be the Bard of the Ave will need to be submitted by the end of May 2012. Information is available online at [www.ratcreek.org](http://www.ratcreek.org) and [www.artsontheave.org](http://www.artsontheave.org).

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20 Chicken Wings,  
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with Fried Mushrooms,  
2 Fries, 2 Caesar Salads,  
2 Garlic Toast,  
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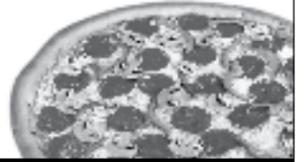
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Meet Your Neighbours at Our Friendly Neighbourhood Pub



Bridging pottery and sculpture, "Unique Mythical Vessels" explores the natural world through the human figure. Through traditional techniques and expressive marks, Corwin references history and culture, as he explores worldly themes of the elements, good and evil, and human nature. The resulting functional pieces remind us of our interconnectedness, and our vulnerability.

Edmonton-based emerging artist Corwin Cherwonka has been active in the NHCA Collective since 2010, beginning his clay works in 2011. "Unique Mythical Vessels" at the Stollery Gallery is his first solo exhibition.

The Stollery Gallery is dedicated to the exhibition of art by those who face barriers to artistic expression, and is a division of the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts: a non-profit, charitable organization that provides an inclusive creative environment.

Opening Reception will be on Thursday, April 12, 5-7 PM. Meet Corwin and listen to live music by local guitarist Steven Johnson. Show runs at the Stollery Gallery (9225-118th Ave) from April 4 - 16.

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# VOLUNTEER WITH BRIAN MASON'S CAMPAIGN

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## HISTORY PROJECT UPDATE

We are pleased with all the exciting and interest this project is stirring up in the community! That's the whole intent - everyone can get involved. Check [ratcreek.org](http://ratcreek.org) for project info and link to the new website.

### Cromdale memories and photos

With the sale of the Cromdale Hotel, and its imminent demolition, we are looking for pictures and stories of this iconic building before it fell into disrepair. Did you stay there? Did your family have a wedding reception in the banquet hall? Do you have any memories of it being built? Please contact us if you have stories to share.

### Themes we will be exploring:

*What was the First Nations history and experience in our neighbourhood?*

*What was it like to immigrate here, work here, go to school here in years past?*

*What community groups did people belong to? What was their role in the community?*

*What was the spiritual, social, cultural, and recreational life like over the years?*

*How did 118 Avenue and the surrounding neighbourhoods change over the past 100 years and what influenced this?*

### Photos & documents

Do you have any old photos of your family? Your house? the neighbourhood? Do you have any historic documents? Grandparent's immigrant papers, land titles, etc.

### Houses

Do you know the history of your house? Did you find anything interesting when renovating?

### Businesses

What businesses do you remember along 118 Avenue? Do you have any photos inside and outside your favourite shop?

### I wonder...

What are things you've always wondered about or wanted to know about our neighbourhood?

To contact the history project, email us at [history@ratcreek.org](mailto:history@ratcreek.org) or leave a message at 780-479-6285

# Sew many memories of GWG

## GWG: Piece by Piece

DARREN BOISVERT

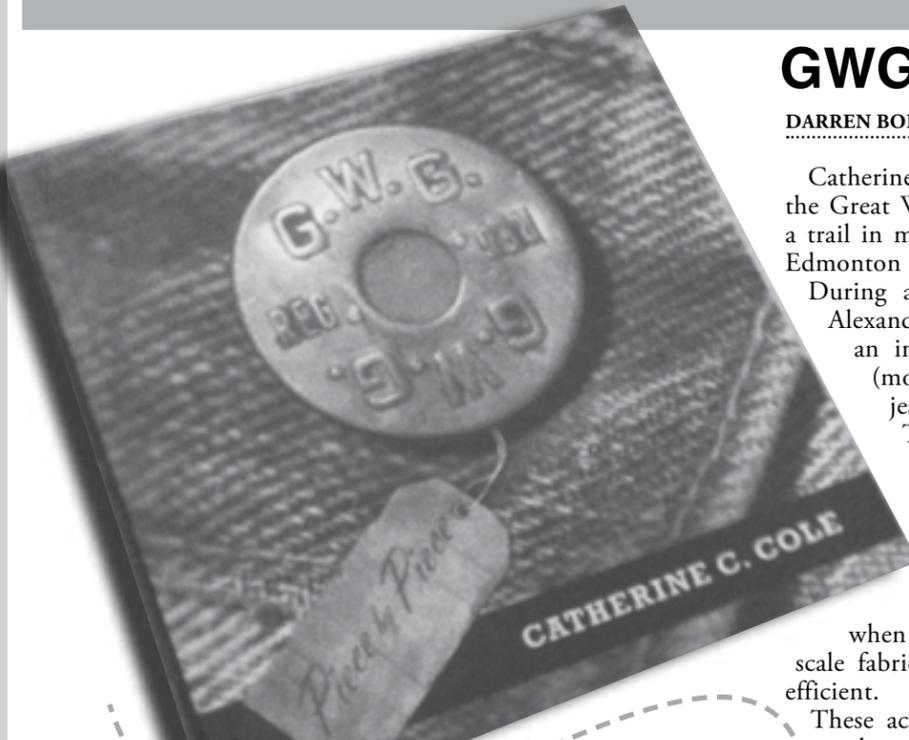
Catherine C. Cole has written an exhaustive history of the Great Western Garment Company (GWG) that blazed a trail in manufacturing techniques and labour victories in Edmonton from 1911-2004.

During a book pre-launch presentation at the Queen Alexandra School on Tuesday, March 27, Cole listed an impressive array of 'firsts' accomplished by the (mostly) women and men who designed and sewed jeans and workwear in the massive GWG factory. The company was the largest fabric manufacturer in the British Empire before WW1. Its union, Local 120, was the first to negotiate an 8 hour day/40 hour week contract in North America. It pioneered safety in an industry plagued by fires and disasters. Its line of Scrubbies jeans was the first pre-washed pants in the world. And when it closed its doors in 2004, it was the last large-scale fabric manufacturer in North America -- and most efficient.

These accomplishments are even more impressive when you learn all these achievements were made by immigrant and 'off-the-farm' women who worked on the factory floor.

Catherine C. Cole will be officially launching her book *GWG: Piece by Piece* at the Provincial Museum of Alberta on April 19, 2012, where it will coincide with the unveiling of the testimonials and memorabilia from a truly innovative Edmonton company.

The Avenue History Project is seeking men and women who worked at the GWG factories and lived in our neighbourhood to share their memories and stories with us.



### JANET CARDINAL

I came to Edmonton at the age of 17 from the countryside 50 miles out of Edmonton. I lived with my aunt and uncle on Fort Road. My aunt suggested I go to Great Western Garment Company (GWG) to get a job because I liked to sew.

So in 1962 I started working at GWG. In 1965 I rented an apartment from Mr. and Mrs. Snell on 118th Ave and 83 Street. There were times I couldn't afford bus fare, so I would walk to and from work.

In 1966 I got married at St. Alfonso Church on 118th Ave. I started a family but continued to work at GWG until 1967, when I changed jobs and worked at Stylemaster for 5 years. I left Edmonton when my marriage ended, but returned in the 1980's. GWG had changed its name to Great Northern Apparel, and since they weren't hiring, I returned to work at Stylemaster for a couple of years. Because there wasn't enough work, in 1988, I returned to GWG which had been taken over by Levi Strauss Co.

I was very involved in the union helping the other employees as much as I could. I continued to work at Levi's until it closed its doors in 2004, which left 488 employees looking for jobs. We gave our union information to the Alberta Museum for display and research. I still continue to live in the Parkdale area.



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## Participate in the ALBERTA AVENUE HISTORY PROJECT

Drop-in on Tuesdays from 1pm-3pm at the Alberta Avenue Community League, 9210 118 Avenue.

Free coffee & conversation! View what the team is working on. Share your photos, stories and information on the area.

**Hold the date! Community celebration of the history project and Connect Award presentations on Saturday, June 9.**

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Listings for free events and programs as well as volunteer opportunities. Email your listings to [info@ratcreek.org](mailto:info@ratcreek.org).

## ENTERTAINMENT

**THE CARROT OPEN STAGE**  
CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY  
Thursdays for folks 55+ 1:30-4pm.  
Saturdays 7pm-10pm  
9351 118 Ave, 780-471-1580.

**IN THE STOLLERY GALLERY**  
**April 4-16: Mythical Vessels by Corwin Cherwonka**  
Bridging pottery and sculpture, "Mythical Vessels" explores the natural world through the human figure. The resulting functional pieces (from vases to wind chimes) remind us of our history and vulnerability. Gallery Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30-2:30; Thursday 4:30-8:00; Saturdays 1:00-3:00.  
Opening Reception: Thursday April 12th from 5-7 PM This free celebration features wine, treats, and live music. Artist in attendance.

## EVENTS

**CARROT BIRTHDAY PARTY**  
The Carrot birthday party planning for June 23. Any ideas for the 5th celebration? Call The Carrot at 780-471-1580.

**SPRUCE AVENUE GARAGE SALE**  
The Spruce Avenue Community League will be hosting it's 17th Annual Garage Sale on Friday May 4 and Saturday May 5 at the community hall (10240 115 Ave). Table rentals are \$10/table for the 2 day event alternatively community league members who wish to hold their own sale from their garage may post particulars about their event at the hall for \$10.00. We are also asking for donations of gently used items excluding larger furniture and appliances with proceeds going to the park re-development project. Please call Verna at 780-479-8019 if you would like to reserve a table or donate items to the sale.

**HOLD THE DATE**  
Plan to be at the community celebration of the Avenue History Project and Rat Creek Press Connect Award presentations on Saturday, June 9th at or around Alberta Avenue Community Centre.

## PROGRAM / CLASS

**MOSAIC WORKSHOP**  
Taste of Mosaics class with guest instructor Margo Anton. Social Art Experience on May 19 from 2:00-5:00pm at the Carrot Coffeehouse. To register call Irene 780-471-1580- limited space available. Sponsored by Norwood Neighbourhood Association.

**COMMUNITY ARTS NIGHTS**  
These FREE adult classes are geared toward first-timers and accomplished artists alike! Each class focuses on a different project or technique. Tuesdays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. To register, please call 780-474-7611.

**KOINONIA CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM**  
Fridays 6:30-9pm and Sundays 1pm-4pm at St. Alphonsus School (11624-81 St). Contact Info - Rachel Wiebe 780-700-3475. Cost - FREE. Registration forms must be filled out. Youth activities include cooking, crafts, sports etc.

## NOTICES

**ARTS ON THE AVE GENERAL MEETING**  
The 2012 AOTA AGM takes place on Sunday, April 29 from 1-2:30 pm at the Carrot. You must be a current (2011/12) member to vote. To become a member of AOTA, go to [artsontheave.org](http://artsontheave.org). Forms are also available at the Carrot. A yearly membership is \$5. Light refreshments and snacks provided. Guest speaker tba.

**CRUD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
It's been another great year of engaging community. Please join us for our AGM and board elections on Sunday, June 3 at 1:30pm at Alberta Avenue Community Centre (9210 118 Ave). Light refreshments provided. [www.crudedmonton.org](http://www.crudedmonton.org)

**CASINO HELP NEEDED**  
Your community newspaper, the Rat Creek Press, needs volunteers for its casino which will be held on Friday, July 13 and Saturday, July 14, 2012. The event will be held at Baccarat Casino which is downtown. Email your availability to [rustic13@telus.net](mailto:rustic13@telus.net).

**COPS AT THE CARROT**  
Join EPS members every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 10:30am 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.

## SOCIAL

**WOMEN'S AFTERNOON OUT GROUP**  
This group gives women a chance to get out and mingle with other women who like to work on crafts such as knitting, crocheting, card making, and more. Ladies are welcome to work on the project we are working on or bring their own. Cost is \$1 drop in fee which goes toward the purchasing of materials. We also have a potluck snack. Every Monday from 1:30-4pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: Michelle 780-232-5822.

**FREE YOUTH DROP-IN**  
For Ages- 12 and up at St. Alphonsus School (11624 81 St). Mondays from 7pm-9pm (no program Feb 20, Mar 26 or Apr 9). More info: Melanie Kidder 780-246-1742.

**FAMILY STORYTIME**  
Share stories, songs and games for the whole family. Saturdays from 2:30-3pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099

**TEEN GAMING**  
Come to the library to play some great games! Hone your Guitar Hero or Dance Dance Revolution skills, or choose from plenty of other Wii and PlayStation games. Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

**KARAOKE WITH CRUD**  
Now twice the fun! Tune up your vocal cords and join us down at Wings' Sports Bar (8541 118 Ave) on Friday, April 20 at 9pm and then at Green Frog's Pub (9349 118 Ave) on Friday, April 27 at 9pm for more hopp'n good times of socializing and singing.

**ART ON EARTH**  
An opportunity to explore art through various media with Jean Tait. Lunch is provided. Wednesdays from 10am to 12pm at the Parish Church of St. Faith's and St. Stephen the Martyr (11725 93 St). More info: 780-477-5931.

**COMMUNITY MEALS**  
Breakfast: 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 8am to 10am; Supper: 3rd Friday of the month; Women's fellowship supper: 2nd Thursday; Drop-in Centre Thursdays 10am to 2pm at the Anglican Churches of St. Faith's and St. Stephen the Martyr (11725 93 St). More info: 780-477-5931.

**ALBERTA AVENUE CHOIR**  
We are looking for new members. Visit us and make some friends. World Music. Garth Prinsonsky [albertaavechoir@gmail.com](mailto:albertaavechoir@gmail.com)

**PARKDALE-CROMDALE SENIORS GROUP**  
Seniors bingo takes place every Monday from 10am-2pm at the hall (11335 85 St). Coffee and snack provided.

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

**BABES IN ARMS**  
A casual parent group every Friday from 10am to noon at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave).

**LI'L SPROUTS PLAYGROUP**  
Come by the Parkdale-Cromdale Hall (11335 85 St) with your little ones Fridays, 10am-12pm. Call the hall for more information. 780-471-4410 or [parkdalecromdale.org](http://parkdalecromdale.org).

**CRUD COMMUNITY DINNER CLUB**  
Discover new flavours and restaurants while you explore a variety of wonderful cuisine along Alberta Avenue with friends & neighbours. Check CRUD's calendar at [www.crudedmonton.org](http://www.crudedmonton.org) or Facebook for time and location of this month's feast.

## SPORTS & REC

**THRILL THE AVE. THEY'RE BACK!**  
The Thrill the Ave zombies will once again be performing Michael Jackson's Thriller at this year's Kaleido Festival. Classes to learn the dance will be on Monday's from 7pm-8pm beginning Monday April 2 at Alberta Avenue Community League (9210 118 Ave). Everyone is welcome, no dance experience necessary. Classes are free. Fun for the whole family. For more info, contact [thrilltheave@gmail.com](mailto:thrilltheave@gmail.com) or Heather at 454-9296.

**FREE ZUMBA CLASS**  
Every Friday from 7pm-8pm at St. Alphonsus School (11624-81 St). Kids welcome with parents. More Info: Melanie Kidder 780-246-1742.

**CRUD WALKING GROUP**  
Join us for a nice stroll around the neighbourhood. Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in front of the main doors of the Alberta Ave Community League (9210 118 Avenue). The group walks west to 95th Street, heads south towards Norwood School, then loops back and ends at the League. Walk is cancelled if it is below -15 degrees.

**FREE COMMUNITY ACCESS AT THE NEW COMMONWEALTH REC CENTRE**  
Saturdays from 5pm-7pm there will be a free community access time for those leagues that buy into the program. Contact your league about their participation and buying a league membership.

**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). Walk is cancelled if raining or below -15 degrees.



**We would like to thank the Norwood Neighbourhood Association for sponsoring the Community Calendar.**

**For more info about the NNA, go to [albertaave.org/nna.html](http://albertaave.org/nna.html)**

<p><b>Anglican Churches of St. Faith's and St. Stephen the Martyr</b> <i>St. Stephen uses the Book of Common Prayer in the rich worship style of Anglo-Catholicism. St. Faith worships according to the Book of Alternative Services and has a more contemporary service in language and form. Two Traditions – One Faith.</i></p> <p><b>St. Faith's: 780-477-5931</b> <b>St. Stephen: 780-422-3240</b> 11725-93 Street</p> <p><b>Sunday Services:</b> 8:30 am - Low Mass (St. Stephen) 9:00 am - Morning Prayer (St. Stephen) 9:30 am - High Mass (St. Stephen) 11:00 am - Morning Worship (St. Faith's) 7:00 pm - Evensong (St. Stephen)</p>	<p><b>Bethel Gospel Chapel</b> <i>A Bible-based, multi-ethnic fellowship.</i> 11461-95 Street 780-477-3341</p> <p><b>Sunday Meetings:</b> 9:30 am - Lord's Supper 11:00 am - Family Bible Hour Saturdays - Free English Conversation Café for immigrants</p> <p><b>Christian Life Center</b> <i>Our Vision is to be a growing community of believers who are woven together by the love of God for support, fellowship and prayer.</i> 10123 Princess Eliz. Avenue 780-471-2250 <a href="http://www.clifec.ca">www.clifec.ca</a></p> <p><b>Service Times:</b> 9:40 am - Pre-service Prayer 10:30 am - Worship Service 10:45 am - Kzamm Kids <i>Child care provided for ages 0 to 12 yrs.</i></p>	<p><b>Avenue Vineyard Church</b> <i>A friendly, informal, non-judgmental and safe place to grow spiritually. Traditional Christian values in a non-traditional way.</i> 8718-118 Avenue (Crystal Kids building) <a href="http://www.avenevineyard.com">www.avenevineyard.com</a> Sundays at 10:30 am</p> <p><b>St. Alphonsus Catholic Church</b> 11828-85th Street 780-474-5434</p> <p><b>Service Times:</b> 7:30 am - Mass, Tuesday to Friday 4:00 pm - Mass, Saturday Vigil of Sunday 11:00 am - Mass, Sunday Main Celebration 4:00 pm - Mass, Sunday, Eritrean Catholic Community</p> <p>St. Vincent de Paul Food Help Hotline: 780-471-5577</p>
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Advertise your church here for only \$120/year.  
Contact [info@ratcreek.org](mailto:info@ratcreek.org)

**The Carrot Coffeehouse will be closed on Good Friday. Learn more about this volunteer-run enterprise at [thecarrot.ca](http://thecarrot.ca)**

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 MLA**

Dear friends,

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- Keeping community schools open and adequately-funded
- Protecting and strengthening public health care
- Making our communities safer places to live
- Regulating power prices so they are affordable for all Albertans

**Connect with Brian Online**

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