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## A positive way to take up space

The Avenue Take Over discourages criminal activity by encouraging neighbourhood participation

JESSICA KIMMERLY

One week before the Kaleido Family Arts Festival, Chris Hayduk was pressure washing what used to be Dean's Discount Furniture on 118 Ave. He noted the volume of illegal activity happening around him, and realized on that Sunday afternoon, he seemed out of place in his own community. It was then that he realized "we have to do something."

This fall, residents organized for special events, called the "Avenue Take Over."

Despite the name, Avenue Take Over events are non-confrontational, friendly gatherings. The premise is this—people meet at a designated place at a certain time. From there, people go off in groups to enjoy themselves outside along the Ave. "People did whatever they wanted to entertain themselves," explains Hayduk. "Some were knitting, some played scrabble, others were sitting and visiting."

Currently, there are about 45 people who attend Avenue Take Over events. (The numbers fluctuate depending on the weather and the date.) Two of those people are Alice and Bert. They participate in order to "make our streets safe for our families so we can enjoy shopping and walking on the Avenue, and to show everyone that we aren't tolerating this type of activity here



TRISHA ESTABROOKS, GRAEME MCELHERAN AND FIVE-MONTH-OLD ELLA KEEP WARM TOGETHER AT AN AVENUE TAKE OVER EVENT

or anywhere." They add, "And if other communities need our support with this initiative we are willing to help."

"The ultimate goal is that we have a safe, walkable community for everybody. To be able to use our public space for what it is intended for," says Hayduk. And while residents are using their public space, criminal activities become displaced.

"Other communities will not be happy with the word 'displace,'" says Hayduk, "but as a community group, we're

organized because we want to stand up for our community. I'm also prepared to share my experience and ideas with an com-

munity who wants to organize themselves." He says that although they're not going to solve prostitution and drug problems in the city, "if every community in the city stood up and worked to displace criminal activity, globally, we'd be in a better place."

In the meantime, Avenue Take Over events are going to continue into the cold weather. The trick to shake off the cold is to be doing an activity, like walking. "If we are continuously moving it's not too bad," say Alice and Bert. There is talk of having more Take Over events before Christmas, such as caroling to houses just off the Ave and the back alleys.

There are other ways to stay active outside, such as dog walking. Hayduk mentions that as a result of the Avenue Take over events, dog owners in the area have met and formed dog-walking groups. With such connections being made, the purpose of the Take Over events is being sustained—residents are making the most of their public space and not being discouraged by the negative.

Naturally, the people who use the Ave for undesirable activities would rather be alone. "The first initiative that we did, there was a lot of shock that we were out there. A lot of confusion on their part," says Hayduk. By the third event, there were people walking away from drug deals, "because we were all out sitting on corners."

Hayduk tells a story about one woman who was upset about residents occupying the sidewalk. She approached in a vehicle and called to a family from the passenger side, "You're not including people here, you're excluding people." Hayduk recalls, "The response back was 'well, why don't you come join us? You're welcome to sit with us.'" And that is exactly what the Avenue Take Over initiative is about. Hayduk sums it



CHILDREN PRACTICE THEIR SIDEWALK ART SKILLS AT ONE OF THE AVENUE TAKE OVER EVENTS



THE AVENUE TAKE OVER EVENTS GIVE RESIDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE PUBLIC SPACE AROUND THE AVENUE FOR A POSITIVE SOCIAL EXPERIENCE

An additional benefit of coming out to an event is "meeting new people and neighbours you haven't met before," says Hayduk. There is also the benefit of getting out for some physical activity.

Avenue Take Over events are organized by a larger group called Community Response to Urban Disorder (CRUD). CRUD also helps residents deal with drug and disorder houses by building evidence packages that can be supplied to other agencies such as the Edmonton Police Service and Capital Health. For more information and to find out future dates of Avenue Take Over events, visit their website at [www.crudedmonton.org](http://www.crudedmonton.org). Posters with information about upcoming Take Over events are also posted at the Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse (9351 - 118 Ave.)

If you want to get out and enjoy your neighbourhood, joining an Avenue Take Over event is one way to do it. And



JILL THOMSON (LEFT) AND SHARON PASULA VISIT ON THE SIDEWALK DURING AN AVENUE TAKE OVER EVENT

you won't have to worry about feeling out of place on the Ave—your neighbours will be there too.

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**OUR MISSION**

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

**OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS**

Norwood Neighbourhood Association  
Spruce Avenue Community League  
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Elmwood Park Community League  
Alberta Avenue Business Association  
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# If you don't know where you are going, you'll never get there

KAREN MYKIETKA  
RETIRING MANAGING EDITOR

Four years ago, I saw past the *Rat Creek Press* newsletter I got in my mailbox each month to the newspaper it could be. It felt like I was being "chased by a vision" (see poem in sidebar).

I had no background in journalism, no knowledge of the printing industry, and no one to show me the way. But I leaped in anyway and with my eye on the vision I plugged away day-by-day.

Thankfully, I not only had vision but persistence and commitment and a great partner – Dawn Freeman. Dawn worked side by side with me since the beginning to make this paper what it is today.

And even after all this time and editing each other's work . . . we're still friends.

While a newspaper's purpose is obviously to communicate and inform, we saw the potential of going beyond mere one-way communication. The larger purpose was to help develop community and the opportunity for people to explore their creative side, try a hand at writing and other journalistic skills. We've had dozens and dozens of people participate in the *Rat Creek Press* in one form or another over the years. It truly is a newspaper for the community, by the community.

I enjoyed learning to write all kinds of articles. I loved having a reason to be

nosy and ask questions. I met many interesting people and made new friends. But now it is time to move on. I'm being chased by a new vision – a vision for Alberta Avenue Community League and all it could be.

I leave the RCP in the hands of Dawn Freeman as the interim managing editor, a very capable editor – Jessica Kimmerly – and a stable of volunteer writers, and of course the board that we elected at our November annual general meeting.

You won't get rid of me completely. It's impossible for me to live in this community and not have some connection with this wonderful community newspaper.

## Chased by a vision

*A passing thought  
A jumble of ideas  
Someone should  
Not me!*

*Lots of possibilities  
So many benefits  
No one will  
Why me?*

*Persistent self  
Sketching plans  
I dive in.  
You gonna help?*

*Endless work  
Reward for everyone  
People do it.  
We achieve.*

-KM

*The board wishes to send our profound thanks to our outgoing editor Karen Mykietka. For several years, she has been the backbone of this paper. More than the backbone, she has been its heart and soul. It was her passion for what the paper could achieve, and the difference that it could make in our community that allowed the board to do its work. It is her drive and determination that has allowed this paper to grow and achieve and help make our community a better place to live.*

*From the bottom of our hearts, with words that seem so small, thank you Karen.*



**Alberta Avenue Business Association is seeking the services of a Part-Time Administrative Assistant, commencing January 2nd, 2009.**

We are looking for someone with Simply Accounting experience and working knowledge of MS Office. 12 Hours a week, flexible. Require good people and communication skills. Own transportation required.

Please fax Resume to Joe Holtz, Executive Director at 780-477-1378.

## RAT CREEK PRESS

### Upcoming Features:

**January:  
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**February:  
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## Relocation for the Salvation Army E3C

The Salvation Army Edmonton Crossroads Community Church (Salvation Army E3C) has relocated. They are now holding services from 11726 – 95 St., where the Vinyard church used to be.

Major Jaster says they are not sure if the move will be permanent, and for now it is temporary. "We need more space, there's no doubt about that," he says. However, the church is still running all its regular ministries from its new location, and their phone number is the same if you wish to call for more information.

The Salvation Army E3C meets regularly on Sundays at 3 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. —JK

## Community Action Project welcomes new organizer

Hello, my name is Alex Caldararu, and I am the new Community Organizer for the Community Action Project (CAP). My life has taken a long and winding road to get to this point, but in many ways, working in the Norwood area will be a homecoming for me. I spent eight of the first 11 years of my life living in the area covered by the *Rat Creek Press*, and though almost 20 years have passed since I moved away to another part of the city, I still think very fondly of my time here.

Community organizing is work I hold in very high regard, as it is in line with my qualifications and work experience. I graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in Criminology in 2003, and am in the final stages of securing a Master of Arts in Sociology from Queen's University in Ontario. Much of what I have studied has focused on helping communities self-organize and mobilize, and I bring with me years of experience in grassroots organizing through my work on anti-poverty, immigrant rights, and social justice campaigns with groups across Canada. I am very excited about the prospect of building on the 10 plus years of community organizing that CAP has helped facilitate. Hope to see you all around in the neighbourhood! —AC

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WITH DAWN FREEMAN

## CHANGES

**The Carrot Arts Coffeehouse**  
9351 118 Ave Ph 780-471-1580

Changes are afoot at our local arts coffeehouse, and they are all good.

The Carrot is pleased to announce its doors will now open at 9am, Tuesday to Friday, to help all those of you who neeeded your coffee a little earlier in the morning. Toasted bagels with toppings are also available for those of you in need of a snack (or breakfast as the case may be).

Then come back for lunch! Delicious organic soup and a bun are now being offered at the very reasonable cost of \$3.50 per serving. Some of the flavours you will enjoy are Creamy Butternut Squash (personally tried and found very tasty), Creamy Tomato Basil, Sweet Potato, Potato Leek and Creamy Sweetcorn. Just in time for winter!

And if you are an Avenue business owner or employee, or an employee of a community agency, enjoy a free Americano coffee or Mighty Leaf organic tea with your purchase of the breakfast or lunch special.



THE CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEEHOUSE NOW SERVES ORGANIC SOUP AT \$3.50 A BOWL. AVAILABLE FROM 11 A.M. TO 1 P.M., TUESDAY TO FRIDAY

## MOVED

**Ena s Hair Salon**

Ena Polanco has moved her hair styling business to 8604 118 Ave. For better service please call 780-414-1385 to make an appointment.

## NEW

**London Influence Fashion Emporium**  
9560 111 Ave Ph 780-989-5433

This new retail store just moved onto 111 Ave in September from their old address on 107 Ave.

London Influence offers the best in gothic, military, cyber and fetish clothing and boasts one of the largest selections of latex in the city. They specialize in custom leather gear, made by Raven Designs as well as offering great accessories such as designed contact lenses, handbags, sunglasses, stickers and more. Body piercing jewelry in a variety of styles is also available.

Go see their collection or check out their website at [www.LondonInfluence.ca](http://www.LondonInfluence.ca)



## What's happening in Spruce Avenue Community

### SPECIAL NOTICE

The Community League has a blog site, which contains current information and updates; the address is <http://spruceavenuecommunityleague.blogspot.com/>

The Snow Shack Program will be operating out of the Community League on December 29, 30, 31 from 12:30 to 4:30pm, open for children age 6-12

### MEMBERSHIPS

2008-2009 Spruce Avenue Community League memberships are now available for residents living within the boundaries of the Spruce Avenue community. A membership will give you and your family:

- Access to programs, including sports programs offered by Spruce Avenue Community League and other leagues.
- A voice on community issues and future planning.
- Access to community rinks.

- Access to free swimming at the MacEwan Centre for Sports & Wellness on Sundays from 2:00pm to 5:00pm.
- Discounts on hall rentals at Spruce Avenue Hall.

### Memberships are

Family – \$15.00 Single – \$ 7.00  
Senior – \$ 7.00 or No charge with volunteer hours.  
Call David @ 780-477-6716

**Meetings: Second Monday of the month at 7pm**  
**Hall address: 10240 115 Avenue Hall phone: 471-1932**  
**League boundaries: 97 St to 106 St from 111 Ave to 118 Ave**

# Ben Calf Robe Society: a beacon in our community

JENNA HOFF

Walk into Ben Calf Robe Society, and you'll find yourself immersed in an environment that is both welcoming and purposeful. Colourful aboriginal artwork and dream-catchers adorn the walls, the smell of sweet-grass wafts through the air, and the joyful sound of laughing children rings out.

The Ben Calf Robe Society was formed in 1981 by a group of citizens who were concerned about the then dismal rate of high school completion among aboriginal youth. They began by partnering with the Catholic School Board, and soon had established the Ben Calf Robe School, "where aboriginal children felt accepted, culturally comfortable, and encouraged to stay in school."

Since then, the Society has grown and expanded, and now provides a diverse array of valuable services in addition to supporting the school. According to Executive Director Pat Dellaire, some of their many programs include Head Start preschools, after-school activities, foster care, parenting classes, group homes, in-home family supports, youth intervention, a prenatal health service and a breakfast and lunch program. While most of the programs and services are for aboriginal people, Dellaire says that all children are welcome in the Youth Intervention Program. "Non-Native kids love to be involved; they see the positive side of our culture."

The mission of Ben Calf Robe, says Dellaire, is found in the recognition that children are sacred. "In keeping with that thought of sacredness, we want to provide the emotional, spiritual, mental, and physical well-being of our children and their families." Indeed, it's evident that Dellaire truly believes this. She points to a picture of an aboriginal child that she has hung on her wall, adding that she encourages all of her staff to keep a picture of a child close to their desks, "and everyday just glance at that picture to remember why they are here."

"I love working here," says Human Resource Manager Charlene Johnson.

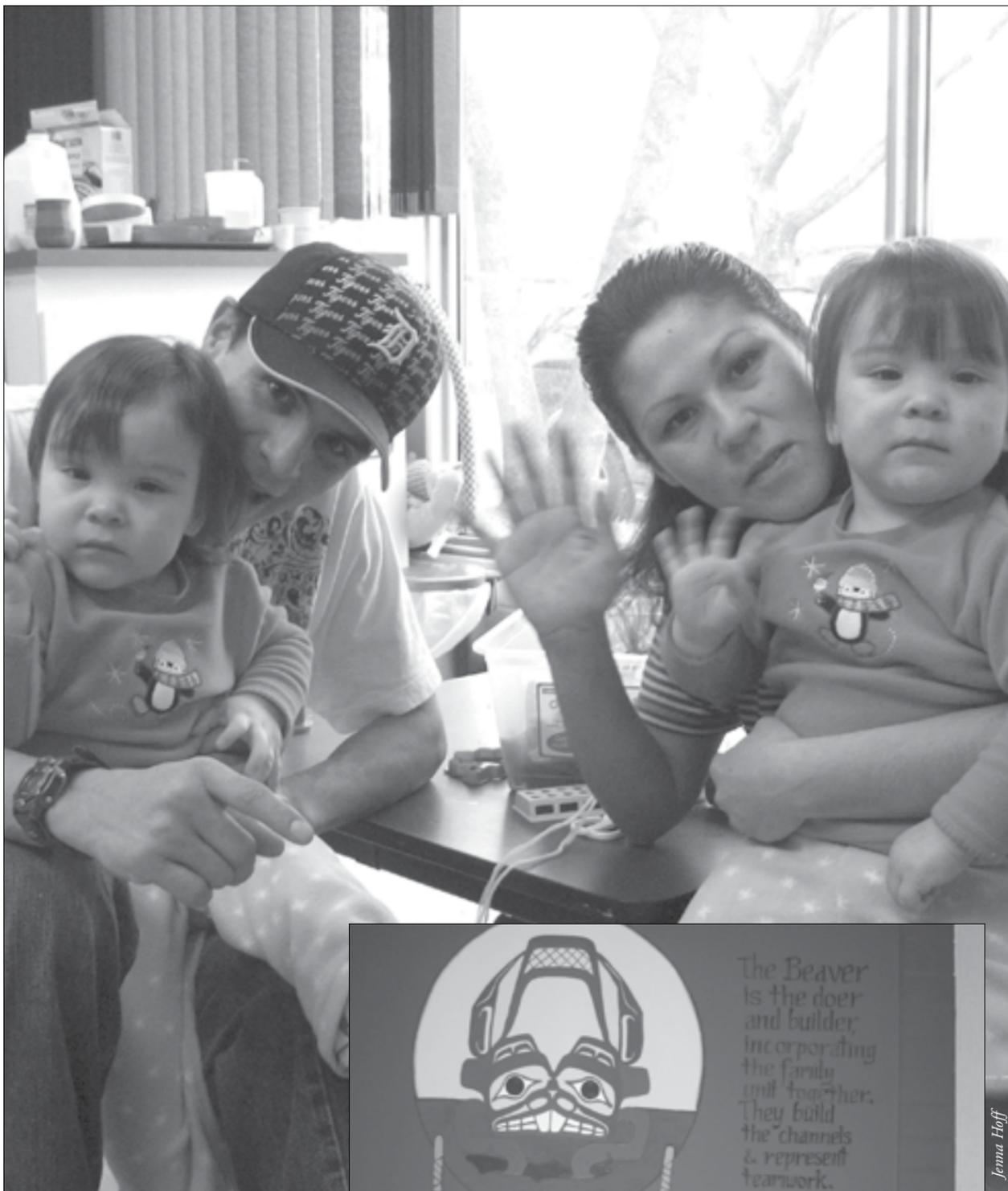
"It's a beautiful organization. We're here to help families." Other staff agree, "There's a great need out there for workers, to help these families," smiles Audrey, a Family Support Worker. She adds that the best part of her job is "seeing people accomplish their goals and move forward and live healthier lifestyles." Adds Head Start Program Manager Melissa Nollski, "We provide many different supports to the children and the families that bring us back to the work that we do."

Marge Mitchell is the Program Manager for a Traditional Parenting group. "I enjoy working with the families," she enthuses. "I've had a

lot of people come back and tell us how they're doing, which is nice." It's "excellent" agrees Traditional Parenting participant Diane, a mother of twin girls, smiling as she shares that through the program, she has learned how to "play better with the kids."

Indeed, there are many successes at Ben Calf Robe. Dellaire's face lights up as she recounts how a young man that she had worked with several years ago recently approached her and said, "because of what you told me,

I'm graduating from University." Another touching story is of a man who as a child was in care by the Society, and has now returned to work in the same Group Home in which he once lived. Charlene Johnson sums it up best when she says "I've seen lots of success stories."



DELBERT AND DIANNE WITH THEIR TWINS, ARIELLE AND CHLOE, ATTENDING A TRADITIONAL PARENTING CLASS



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# Theatre Prospero presents a Christmas play for all ages

JESSICA KIMMERLY

On Tuesday, Dec. 16, Christmas will conquer the Avenue Theatre (9030 – 118 Ave.) with *The Coming of the Kings*, a play that promises to keep everyone entertained. The opening night performance is an event the whole community is welcome to attend. Theatre Prospero will host the evening with caroling, treats, hot chocolate, and of course, a show to put people into the Christmas spirit.

"It's a very funny show. It's a comedy and gentle political satire, but above all it's a nativity play," says director Mark Henderson. *The Coming of the Kings* is written by Ted Hughes, author of *The Iron Man*.

"In my mind, the measure of a really good play is if an eight-year-old gets the story and thinks it's cool, and an 80-year-old professor says 'wow, there's something to think about in that,' then it's a good story. And [The Coming of the Kings] is one of those stories," says Henderson.

*The Coming of the Kings* answers the question why there was no room at the Inn. "I don't want to give too much away, but essentially it has a lot to do with the Innkeeper," say

Henderson. "He makes some funny choices because he hears about some really great news. So it's about how we respond to great news and what might be coming—whether we respond generously or not."

April Killins, who plays the Innkeeper's wife, explains how she interprets the play. "Sometimes when you try to manipulate your fortune, you end up hurting yourself. It's better to be a generous person and see where life gets you." And besides the good morals, "I also find the play really funny," she says.

*The Coming of the Kings* is Killins' third project with



THE COMING OF THE KINGS OPENS DEC. 16 AT THE AVENUE THEATRE

Jon Paterson, who is playing the Innkeeper in *The Coming of the Kings*, has been performing with Theatre Prospero productions since October. "I really enjoy working with Mark. He's a good director and he knows his stuff," says Paterson. He adds, "To have three months as an actor is a really good thing."

Theatre Prospero brings Shakespeare and theatre to schools by going on tour. The group of actors spends the whole day at one school, beginning by teaching workshops to students and performing with them in the afternoon. Lately, they have been touring Alberta

and Saskatchewan. Henderson credits his theatre group's success to the generous support of others. Arts on

the Ave, the Avenue Initiative, the Edmonton Arts Council, Avenue Theatre and individuals like Timothy Anderson (a musician and performer) and Amy Farrow (who does costuming) have all contributed to making *The Coming of the Kings* happen.

"I do believe it is the Alberta premiere of this play," says Henderson. So be sure to make one of the performances between Dec. 16 and the 21, because it's likely you have never been awed by the music and lively bold characters of this play before now. Admission is by donation, and the 40-minute play will be sure to keep the attention of both adults and children.

"Do we feel warmer sitting at home watching a Christmas DVD, or do we feel warmer when we go out together to do something Christmas-y with our neighbours who we maybe haven't met yet?" asks Henderson. If you would rather be doing the latter, be sure to be part of the audience at *The Coming of the Kings* this Christmas. Shows start at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., with school matinees from Tuesday to Friday. Please see the advertisement on page 16 for more details.

## A New Year Brings New Beginnings at the Carrot Writers' Circle!

*Starting January 6, 2009, the Carrot Writers Circle will be moving from its regular time on Thursdays to Tuesdays. The Carrot Writing Circle meets to write and share work in a fun and encouraging way. Feel free to bring your laptop or your favorite writing tools and come join us!*

*When: Every Tuesday starting January 6, 2009*

*Time: 7-9pm*

*Where: The Carrot*

*For more information, call Michelle at 780-471-5728.*

## Hello Highlands-Norwood!



### SEASON'S GREETINGS!

On behalf of myself and my constituency staff, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family the very best this festive season.

I hope you all enjoy a safe and happy holiday, and I wish you all the best in 2009!

**6519 - 112 Avenue**  
**Your MLA, Brian Mason**

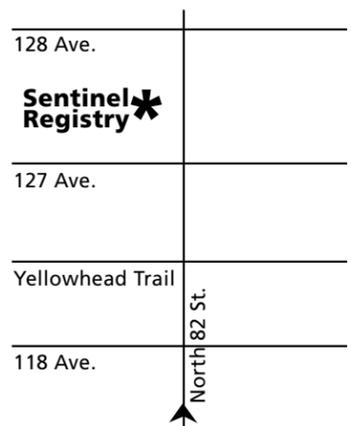
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# Christmas card craft for kids

DAWN FREEMAN

A few weeks ago we were at the "Kids Take Over The Carrot" event to look at what the kids had been working on. This was a great opportunity for kids to show and sell their art as well as giving them the chance to perform on stage – if you missed it, make sure you don't next time!

Our friend Dorothy, who used to live in the neighbourhood, was there with her two boys and I thought one of the things they had brought in was a fantastic idea for a kid's craft. So with their permission I am sharing it with you.

## Home-made Christmas Cards

### You will need:

- Blank card stock that can be painted on
- Watercolour paints and paint brushes
- A supply of old christmas cards (available from the reuse centre)
- Masking tape
- Glue

### How to do it:

Using the masking tape, create a border around the edge of the front of the card. For the more creative people, experiment with different border ideas such as triangles, christmas trees or ovals. Don't stick it down too hard.

Paint inside of the masking tape with the watercolours. Use one colour, or many colours! Try not to make it too wet though!

While the paint is drying, pick an old christmas card and cut out part of the picture. Cut in curves or different shapes to make the picture interesting.

When the paint is dry, glue the cut out picture onto your new card. Don't forget to sign it!

Carefully and slowly remove the masking tape to reveal a straight edge border and voila! A beautiful hand-made christmas card!



# Winter Snow Shacks

Join the exciting outdoor games, crafts, music and winter activities!

*Sponsored by your community leagues and the City of Edmonton*

**December 29 - 31**

**12:30pm - 4:30pm**

**Children age 6-12 years  
absolutely free!**

**Eastwood 11803 - 86 St.**

**Spruce Avenue 10240 - 115 Ave.**

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# Making food available to everyone

## EASTWOOD AND AREA FOOD SECURITY NETWORK

"You don't realize how important food is until you don't have it." (*Living Without Food*, Bissell Document.) The Eastwood and Area Food Security Network is a small group of organizations and community members in the area who work together to support food security initiatives. Established in May 2006, their vision is to support "a community with access to healthy, affordable, and sustainable food."

### What is food security?

A community is food secure when these five elements are satisfied:

- Availability – sufficient supplies of food for all people at all times.
- Accessibility – physical and economic access to food for all at all times.
- Acceptability – culturally acceptable and appropriate food and distribution systems.
- Adequacy – nutritional quality, safety, sustainability of available sources/ methods of food supply.
- Action – ensuring the social and economic infrastructures are in place to enable action that will ensure the previous four elements of food security. (source: <http://www.foodsecurityalberta.ca/content.asp?RootID=1&CatID=1>)

### Initiatives supported by the Eastwood and Area Food Security Network:

#### 1. WECAN Food Basket

- Anyone can join the Food Basket. Participants pay five dollars per year.

- The food basket orders contain only fresh meat and produce. A member may order meat only for \$12, produce only for \$8 or a combined order for \$20. A meat order contains three varieties of meat. A produce order contains three types of fruit, two or three vegetables and potatoes. Many families purchase two or more orders.

- The groceries are purchased in bulk and volunteer drivers deliver the orders to various depots across the city.

- Depot days are always scheduled for the third Thursday or Friday of the month.

- Members pick up their orders according to the times of the individual depots.

The network initiated and supports the local WECAN depot at Flavour Buddzzz Catering, 9142-118 Ave. Current pick up times are 1-4 p.m. on third Thursdays but could include a later pick up time from 6-7 p.m. if requested. To become a WECAN member and to order a food basket contact WECAN at 780-413-4525 or [info@wecanfood.com](mailto:info@wecanfood.com).

#### 2. Collective Kitchens and Junior Chefs program:

St Faith's Church has operated a collective kitchen for two years. Community members gather once per month on the second Wednesday to cook meals collectively and each participant takes home four meals at a cost of three dollars per person. There are one or two spots left. Interested community members should contact Pastor Wendy at St Faith's, 780-477-5931 for more information.

In partnership with Parkdale School, St Faith's also conducts junior chefs programs for youth throughout the school year. Volunteer NAIT students teach the kids how to prepare healthy, affordable meals.

#### 3. Community Gardens:

The network initiated and supported the Crystal Kids community garden, which began in June 2007. This garden is now to capacity and operating independently. If any community members are interested in starting a new community garden in the area please contact Dianne at 780 913-6646 or [dianneg@ualberta.ca](mailto:dianneg@ualberta.ca). Network members will help interested gardeners with the process of establishing a community garden.

#### 4. Get Gardening Workshops:

Last spring, the Eastwood and Area Food Security Network hosted a series of six different gardening workshops over two days. Workshops presented information on herb gardening, eco-scaping, seed starting and other topics. The workshops were very well attended so the network has decided to host another series in the spring of 2009. Look for more information coming up in January. Interested volunteers please contact Dianne at 780-913-6646 or [dianneg@ualberta.ca](mailto:dianneg@ualberta.ca).

The food security network is always looking for new members to join their group. Any organizations or community members who are interested in increasing the availability, accessibility, and sustainability of healthy food for all Eastwood and area community members please contact Dianne at 780 913-6646 or [dianneg@ualberta.ca](mailto:dianneg@ualberta.ca).



# Contact info you need to know

To report crime and to give information, call the EPS Complaint Line at 780-423-4567.

To report a crime in progress, call Police/Emergency at 911.

To report prostitution or details about johns and their vehicles, call EPS at 780-421-2656.

To report drug houses or drug related activity, call EPS at 780-426-2889.

Information about any criminal activity can be made on-line to EPS on their website at [www.police.edmonton.ab.ca](http://www.police.edmonton.ab.ca).

If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (84770, or go on-line to [www.tipsubmit.com](http://www.tipsubmit.com).

To make a by-law complaint, call the City's Planning and Development at 780-496-3100. By-law complaints can be made on-line at [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca).

To report a derelict house, call the City's Derelict Housing dept. at 780-496-6031.

Contact CAP (Community Action Project) at 780-474-8318 for help mobilizing a block.

Contact the Avenue Initiative Safe Streets Committee at 780-496-1913 for information on getting a block together (Block Party and Resource Kit).

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# Extraordinary volunteer has served community for 32 years

HARVEY VOOGD

If you go by the Delton Community League hall and rink, you're likely to see a tall, lean man working. In summer he does repairs and in winter he can be found at the rink making ice.

This extraordinary volunteer is Walter Gurba. For 32 years, he has served continuously on the Delton Community League executive. For the last 18 years, Gurba has also been the League's President.

Gurba moved to Delton as a 21-year-old in 1956. He moved into his in-laws' basement suite, across the street and three houses down from where he lives today.

"I was born on a farm in Lamont, the oldest of five boys," says Gurba. "My parents were Ukrainian and had a mixed farm with chickens, cows, etc."

At the age of 14, Gurba achieved fame when his yearling Hereford steer won Grand championship at the Edmonton Exhibition grounds at a competition with five district beef calf clubs. A story with a photo of

him and his calf ran in newspapers both in Edmonton and back home.

"At the auction after the championship, the T. Eaton store paid 39 cents a pound for my calf," says Gurba. "This was an incredible price because the normal price for beef at auction was 14.5 cents a pound."

"My first job in Edmonton was working for Alberta Government Telephones," recounts Gurba, "putting up telephone posts across the province. But I got tired of working out of town for two weeks at a time and so quit after the winter."

He then joined Marshall Wells Wholesale. "The boss said You're from a farm, eh? We're not hiring right now, but could you start next week? I must have looked confused so he told me his manager said boys from the farm know how to work hard and that was good enough for him," says Gurba. "I

worked there 31 years."

When the company closed, Gurba and four other employees formed Canadian Hardware Agents and Distributors. "We ran the business for 12 years, till I was 65. The secretary and I were the youngest people in the company and the other guys were older. So in 2000, we liquidated the company and retired."

Gurba got involved in the community league in 1976 when he agreed to be the Finance Chairman and lead the

initiative to raise money for a new hall. "Before this time," says Gurba, "my wife, three boys and daughter attended events but weren't active."

The new hall opened in 1977 and a dining room was added in 1981. "The city wouldn't let us originally build what we wanted," says Gurba. "As a result, it cost double to do the addition. It is also why there are seven furnaces to heat the hall, dining room and the skating shack with its dressing rooms."

Gurba's wife Alvina was the volunteer caterer. "Her catering paid off the hall's mortgage," he explains. "She would make cabbage rolls, pyrogies and other kinds of Ukrainian food."

The four shelves of cookbooks in Walter's kitchen testify to Alvina's love of cooking. She died a year ago on Nov. 3rd, 2007. "All those years, Alvina and I were a team in the community league," says Gurba.

Tears well up in Gurba's eyes as he states "After she died, there was no more catering. When people called to book the hall and catering, I had to tell them things are not the same as they used to be because our cook has died."

In spite of his wife's death and the death of his daughter Gwen this past September, Gurba remains active in the community. "When I grew up on the farm, we all had to work for nothing to operate the church and community hall," says Gurba. "That is where I learned about volunteering."

Plans are underway to raise monies for a new skating rink with real puck boards. "We have a very successful sports program," says Gurba.

Hanging up in Gurba's kitchen is a plaque given in recognition of years of service and dedication to the youth and families of Delton Community League. On the plaque is a quote that reflects his impact on the neighbourhood:

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove . . . but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."



Supplied



Supplied



# Good Neighbour Nominations



Maria Pace-Wynters

*Maria Pace-Wynters is a mixed media artist who works mainly on canvas, paper and wood. She lives in the Norwood community with her husband Chris Wynters and their two daughters, Imogen and Scarlett. Currently her subject revolves around what she revolves around: her daughters and life as a stay-at-home Mum. She says that it is not always easy, but it is more than a little gratifying. For more information on Maria, her art and access to her blog and shop please visit her website [www.mariapacewynters.com](http://www.mariapacewynters.com).*

I feel really lucky to be humming and hawing over which great neighbours to nominate

First we have our neighbours next door and though not all of them speak English (they are French) we communicate all the time and they look out for us and we for them. When someone came into our yard (unknowingly) and picked up our cat and ran away with her, our neighbours came to her rescue by chasing him down they've bought toys for our young daughter, shovelled snow off our sidewalks first thing in the morning and are always smiling, polite and truly kind.

Our neighbours across the street are truly one of a kind and they've helped make this area our home I cant imagine not living across from them. They are a family of 5 parents and 3 girls aged 7, 9 and 11 these girls are always outside playing, rain or shine, and remind me of how kids played when I was young they've more or less adopted our 17-month old daughter as their own and weekly come over with gifts, toys they've grown out of and I believe provided us with our daughters entire wardrobe over the past 6 months. Our house is always full of laughter and squeals with them and their friends taking over our house and us not minding it a bit. Again, with this family its a case of one family looking out for another and we are indebted to them for their welcoming friendship when we arrived in this neighbourhood a year and a half ago.

There are many other friendly, caring people I am happy to call our friends in Eastwood in this place you do see some pretty unsavoury things being carried out a little too close to home but the best of the best also reside in this lucky neighbourhood.

Savannah, Travis, and Makenna

I have lots and lots of great neighbours, more than a person deserves. I want to particularly applaud my immediate neighbors, Don, Jan, and Misty Rae, and Les and Heather. We have the best neighbours ever. I always know they will help us out if we need it. They watch out for us and our house.

Les helped my husband Brian put a baby bird back in a tree (while I hoped they would not fall out of the tree themselves!) Two big guys in a tree! Don helped me figure out the route of a little homeless dog who was too scared to be caught. With his help, we were able to put out a cat trap along his route and catch him. Now that little dog is living a life with lots of love. We share our joys and struggles with each other, we discuss the latest events and what our neighborhood is doing about them, and try our best to be good neighbors to them too. We are very grateful.

Jo-Ann Siebert

My neighbours two houses away have two young children. It was a joy to me during the spring and summer to go outside and observing the parents interactions with the kids. Mom and Dad take turns parenting and both use playfulness, creativity and positive discipline when necessary. I could overhear story telling, fantasy lets pretend play, singing and some school lessons drifting over the shrubs and fences. It always put a smile on my face. At one point Dad started playing hide and seek, and the game soon spilled out over the block with other kids joining in. Once they asked permission, the kids would come and hide under our bushes between houses, and for hours their fun and laughter filled the street on summer evenings.

Patricia Dunnigan

I would like to nominate Mavis Luchak for the good neighbor award. She is always concerned about our well-being; she keeps an eye on our property when we aren't there and is willing to offer a helping hand. She is quick with a smile and is always fun to talk with. She is the person we call on when we want our house looked after when we're away and she always does a good job.

Michelle Earl



PETER GOLDRING  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East

## Helping Canada's Forestry and Rental Housing Industry

The downturn in the American housing market has cut demand for Canadian lumber, which means job losses in our forestry industry - from loggers to mill employees to the truckers who deliver the lumber. Helping the forestry industry might provide opportunity to address another national problem: homelessness.

About 50% of shelter users have an income, but are unable to find affordable accommodations. Builders have been concentrating on high end housing/condominium construction for the past couple of decades, creating a shortage of private sector entry-level singles or single room housing. Many people in cities like Edmonton and Calgary have resorted to government supported shelters, which are bursting at the seams.

We need a proper national affordable housing strategy aimed at jump-starting entry-level private sector rental housing construction. The non-profit social services sector has been largely ineffective in dealing with the crisis and is not the appropriate way to deal with people whose only need is shelter. The private sector rental development and management industry (in the singles and family multi-unit rental housing sector) has been dormant for years. Incentives would convince the industry to once again become involved in entry-level housing.

Perhaps the government could purchase lumber that is not being sold to the US, and offer it to builders as a grant for building affordable rental housing. Coupled with other funding available, this would have a three-fold benefit: It would preserve forestry industry jobs, provide rental accommodation for those in need of affordable housing and reduce pressure on the overflowing homeless shelters.

Private sector companies have the skills and expertise required to deal with the national housing affordability crisis. I think it is more fiscally responsible to invest in a private sector solution that will work, than a non-profit social sector "solution" that has been proven not to work. What do you think?

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# Wow look at that house!

ANGIE KLEIN

Spread the holiday spirit to your neighbors and even passers-by. Take some time to decorate your outdoor space when you decorate inside.

Your door is the first thing your guests see. If you want the Christmas spirit to begin right from your door, follow these simple ideas:

1. First, consider fixing up your door. If it doesn't look good bare, it won't look much better dressed up. It's

amazing what a quick clean or a coat of paint can do!

2. The most classic touch is to decorate your door with a festive wreath.

3. Add evergreen or fake ivy topiaries to both sides of your doorway.

4. Line the pathway with luminaries. Tie co-ordinating ribbon around them.

5. Use evergreen garlands on your railings. Ribbon looks great on them too!

6. Tape wide red ribbon to your door to make it look like a present.

7. String lights into everything. Coordinating colors have more impact.

8. Create interest at the door. Place a large Santa or poinsettia beside the door.

9. Use festive door hangers. A bright bow is also a great quick look.

10. Don't be afraid to experiment and have fun!

Come join the  
NEIGHBOURHOOD EMPOWERMENT TEAM  
as we

## 'REKINDLE' FAMILY & COMMUNITY

Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>  
1:00pm to 4:00pm

Sleigh Ride

Games

Treats

Free Family Fun

Roasted  
marshmallows

Activities

Hot chocolate

Crime Prevention Info

Eastwood Elementary School  
12023 81 Street

## EDMONTON

## Shoveling your snow today...



### ...clears the path for safer streets tomorrow.

Help keep our neighbourhoods safe. Ensure you shovel snow off sidewalks within 48 hours of a snowfall. Failure to do so could result in a \$100 fine. Do your part to keep our community clean and safe.

For more information on our Community Standards Bylaws, contact us at **780-496-3100** or visit our website at [www.edmonton.ca/bylaws](http://www.edmonton.ca/bylaws).

Clean up today for a better tomorrow.



## Do Your Part To Help Prevent Crime!

CONSTABLE SHANE BRENNAN #2470  
COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDER CONNIE MARCINIUK

We have received an order of Tamper Resistant Licence Plate Bolts at Eastwood Community Station 11845 81 St (beside the Safeway). PLEASE COME BY AND PICK UP A FREE SET.

These bolts are installed with a regular flathead screwdriver but require a special tool to remove, making it more difficult for thieves to steal your licence plate.

Licence plate thefts are becoming more common and installing these bolts is a simple, effective deterrent

For more information, or to remove previously installed bolts call the Neighbourhood Empowerment Team at 780 944-8402

### Check that alarm

A friendly message from your Avenue Initiative Safe Streets Working Group:

Due to the recent change by Telus to 10-digit dialing, we would like to advise everyone with a house alarm system to check with their alarm provider that this switch has not affected their alarm system. A report was given to us about a problem with improperly working alarms because of the switch. Better to be safe than sorry!

Seasons greetings from Safe Streets



## Gifts under \$10y ou can do it too!

MICHELLE EARL

With Christmas coming up, I can't help but think of the year ahead. After Christmas, many people are getting out of debt because they have spent so much on gifts. But how do people on lower incomes do it? How do people still have a good time? There are ways, and you can do it too.

We went for a walk around Kingsway Garden Mall, and I picked several stores at random. They were Zellers, The Source, HMV, Coles, Keyman and Game Stop.

#### Coles

There are lots of soft cover books around, but the best place to find gifts under ten dollars is in what they call the "Great Deals" bin. There was also a great sale on Dr. Seuss books. (This deal may not last, but there are always some good children's books for less than ten dollars.) There are also some little gifts for the same price.

#### Keyman

Near Coles is Keyman, a place where you can get your keys cut or things engraved. Here, there is a wide selection of keychains. I know you're probably thinking, "Keychains?" For the person who has a keychain

collection, you can get two keychains for ten dollars, and they are all unique.

#### Zellers

Zellers is a gold mine of gifts under ten dollars for many people. From books to toys to storage, you can find lots of items. For books and videos, look in the delete bins. You can get DVDs of all types there. For people who are home chefs,



you can get select dinnerware, wine and regular glasses, kitchen towels, kitchen utensils, oven mitts, silicone muffin tins, silicone loaf tins (both by Bon appetite), Starfrit muffin tins, Earth Chef cookie sheets, cake pans, cups and saucers and the list goes on.

For those who like decorating or candles, there are lots of ornaments, picture frames and scented candles, not to mention regular candles. There are always candles, Christmas tree ornaments, and all sorts of items

that can be given to those who like collecting Christmas items.

In "Toyland," there are Hot Wheels, Matchbox, Big Trax vehicles, and dinosaurs. Best Pals has a baby care set, Best Pals Pati & New Pony, and other toys. There are also Bratz dolls, Pretty Ponies, My Little Pony, Doodle Art, Paint by Numbers, The Bead Shop with accessories, Jigsaw puzzles, Red Racer cars, Play Doh sets (at the time they were buy one, get one 1/2 price), marbles, games, WWF Figurine assortments and activity books.

For the crafter, there's wool, knitting needles, crocheting hooks, small sewing kits, and in a nearby section there are children's storage containers and small Rubbermaid totes.

#### The Source

From the Source you can get little novelties like LED flashlight keychains, Spongebob Squarepants clock flashlight, and battery operated pencil sharpeners.

#### Gamestop and HMV

Look in Gamestop for some games, as well as game kits for the DS. From HMV, you can find \$6 DVDs and \$10 DVDs.

This is just a tip of the iceberg when it comes to finding the right gift. It may take a while, but if you get shopping early (or in the case of some people, shop all year around) you can find loads of things for your spouse, child, or friend. If I did it, you can do it too.

# avenue initiative revitalization

*The Avenue Initiative is a community based revitalization of 118th Ave from Nait to Northlands. The community has come together to work with the City to develop a council approved strategy that will create a safe, walkable community for everyone.*



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

## Thank you!

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to making 2008 year of the Avenue Initiative a successful one.

Thanks to the many dedicated volunteers there were amazing events, including Deep Freeze, Kaliedo Family Festival, Avenue Goes to the Dogs and the Avenue Garden and Art Show. Volunteers also came together to clean up large items from people's homes and alley ways. Five Working Groups meet monthly to shape the future look of the Avenue. We are truly beginning to see everyone's efforts pay off with the first 5 blocks of Streetscape well underway and the Nina Haggerty Center for the Arts under construction. 6 New facades are complete with many more in the planning stages. The Avenue Business Association has a new look and a new board of energetic business owners. It is through the hard work of both community and business the Avenue is well on its way to transforming into vibrant place for community and all of Edmonton to enjoy!

***I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season!***

Judy Allan  
Avenue Initiative Coordinator



**dog talk**  
WITH DARLENE TAYLOR  
OWNER OF K9 BEHAVE

# Shopping for dog stuff

I love shopping for “dog stuff” and there are some wonderful places to get it. From the usual to the unusual and then, of course, there is the unknown. Unless you go to dog shows and visit others with dogs one may never know the wide variety of useful things out there making life better for you and your dog.

## Collars

There are a wide variety of collars out there for every type of dog. Firstly, available everywhere is the “growth” collar. This is excellent for puppies. It comes in the same variety of sizes and colours as the regular collar but has an adjustment so that it gets bigger as the dog does. The martingale or limited slip collar is one of my favorites as it is easy to slip on and off the dog and becomes snug, which can prevent the dog slipping out of the collar. The ladies at Dog Hair Incrédibles (780-436-9002 [www.doghairinc.com](http://www.doghairinc.com)) can also create a custom type for you. The last type of collar you may find useful is the “hound” collar—this is extra wide to prevent it from coming off dogs whose heads taper from neck to nose. I’ve also occasionally seen them at Tailblazers (780-444-PAWS) and G&E Pharmacy (780-469-7667).

## Adjustable Leash

There is no technical name for this lead but can be easily identified by having clips at both ends and a couple of rings. The lead can be fed through and clipped at six or four foot lengths as well as being looped and clipped easily around a bike stand or post, or even over your shoulder or around your waist. It can even be used as a single lead for two dogs! Rogz dogs now make these leads and are available at many pet stores. Dog Hair Incrédibles can also create a customized lead for you.

## Exercise Pen

Pens are a temporary fencing

option coming in a wide variety of heights and brands. I prefer the Midwest brand as it is lighter in weight than some of the generic brands. If you watch the Canadian Tire fliers, it comes on sale once or twice a year. In home or even outside until permanent kenneling or fencing is available has worked well for me.

## Dog Boots

Many places sell dog boots, but Urban Dog (780-434-3044) has much experience and is extremely helpful in providing the proper style and size for your dog. Generally, most dogs do not need boots, especially if the hair is trimmed even with the pad or even shaved out of the pad area. Avoid sidewalks that have been treated with the ice melting salt as the chemical can irritate or burn the dog’s feet or even worse, get caught in the fur and cause further irritation and possible illness as the dog tries to remove it.

## Belly Belt and Pants

For dogs just learning housebreaking this can help keep areas clear of stains. For older dogs that may become incontinent, this can help their self-esteem and your carpets and bedding. For those few who have not yet spayed their dog this can help keep areas clean and in some cases at least deter interested parties.

## Grooming Noose

While this may look or sound terrible, it is actually an excellent piece of safety equipment to restrain the dog while being brushed or dried. While a lead can be used, the noose is adjustable and comes with a clip that can be attached to an eyebolt attached to the wall. This keeps both hands free to attend to the dog without worrying about them falling off a surface or running away.



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# Young poets brighten The Carrots day

On Friday, November 7, the Grade 4/5 class of Brightview Elementary got a different kind of fieldtrip – they visited The Carrot Arts Coffeehouse and got the opportunity to read their original poetry on stage. How did a west end school find out about The Carrot? Their teacher, Ms. Donahue is a regular!

The 24 kids enjoyed listening to each others poetry while eating cookies and drinking hot chocolate. Here are three of the poems that were read that day. Thanks for sharing Brightview Elementary Grade 4/5!

## Money Can't Buy Everything

By Deklin Mikkelson

Money can't buy everything.

It can't buy bravery and it can't buy truth.  
Money can't buy the sunshine or your family.  
It can't buy the cool white snow  
Or warm love.  
It can't buy a soul,  
and it can't buy the twinkling stars.

Money can't buy everything.



## If I Were In Charge of the World

By Kyle Palmer

If I were in charge of the world  
I'd cancel allergy shots, global warming, and also mice!

If I were in charge of the world  
There'd be brighter night lights, candy growing in your backyard  
And dogs would speak English.

If I were in charge of the world  
You wouldn't have sisters  
You wouldn't have picture day  
You wouldn't have war.  
Or, "Go to bed!"...  
You wouldn't even have a bed!

If I were in charge of the world,  
Video games would be educational  
And smoking would be illegal.

And a kid who sometimes  
forgets to do homework  
And sometimes forgets  
to eat his vegetables  
Would still be allowed  
to be in charge of the world.



## My Dumb Cat

By Bryce Featherstone

Boy, my cat is dumb!  
She ran into the window,  
She fell down the stairs,  
She likes to hair dress my  
mom's hair  
And she eats like a pig!  
My cat is dumb!



**BACKYARD BISTRO**  
WITH SHAWN BAERT

## Simple sauces and dips for holiday entertaining

As I write this month's column I can see the newly fallen snow out my window and am reminded that Christmas and the endless rounds of entertaining are not far behind. I have put together a few of my favorite sauces and dip recipes that are simple to prepare so that you can relax, enjoy your food and your company. After all that's what the holidays are all about! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

### Honey mustard sauce

½ cup white sugar  
1/3 cup vinegar  
1 beaten egg  
1 tbsp dry mustard or 3 tbsp regular  
1 tbsp honey

Dissolve the sugar in the vinegar in a pot while heating gently. Add the honey, mustard, and egg. Stir while simmering to thicken and adjust taste to your liking

### Caciki

2 cups whole milk yogurt  
1 medium cucumber, peeled, seeded  
1 clove garlic finely chopped  
2 tsp extra virgin olive oil  
½ tsp dill  
½ tsp salt

Drain the liquid out of the yogurt by putting in a fine screen colander for three hours. Peel, cut in half and de-seed the cucumber with a spoon, dice or grate. Put in a mixing bowl, add all ingredients and mix well. Serve with pita bread.

### Oyster cheese pat

125 g cream cheese softened  
1 can smoked oysters  
1 tbsp mayonnaise  
1 tbsp lemon juice  
½ tsp horseradish  
½ tsp paprika  
1 green onion chopped

Combine ingredients thoroughly in a food processor. Garnish with smoked oysters and tiny pieces of lemon peel.



HONEY MUSTARD SAUCE



CACIKI



OYSTER CHEESE PAT

# Black and Yellow at The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse

IOANA CLALDERON

Michael Germann is a painter of sensitive caliber, rendering Alberta's sunsets and nature with poetry and employing a large palette of colors. His paintings would be sense impressions where the outlines would lose consistency here and there ("Double Decker"), to make room for delicate brush strokes which build areas of almost transparent color ("Kalamalka Lake");

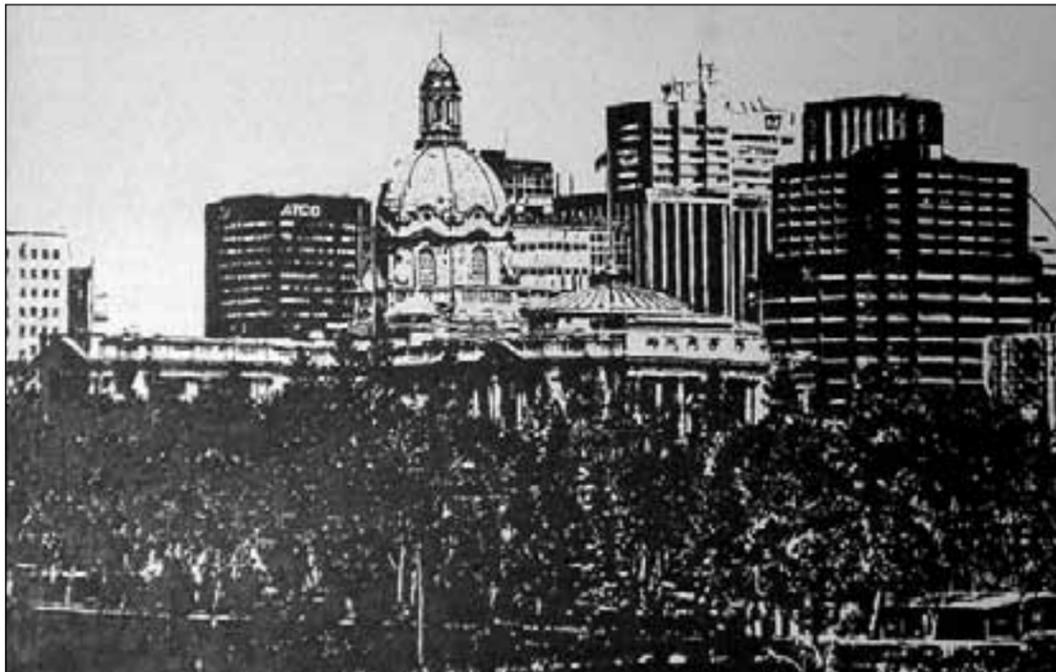


glazes with sensual charm that reflect a poetic perception of reality ("Cat Tails").

His portraits render him as a watchful observer who prefers monochrome ("Jessy Thomas") to sharpen characters' main features. Predominant personality features accentuate in time on people's faces; and that's where Germann's one tone color depictions focus. By any means, Germann's portraits are intense; they have

the power of showing people's faces and lives consumed by a passion ("Jimmy Hendrix"). The dramatic lighting effects employed by the artist to emphasize his character's personality features will carry on as a stylistic trait to his bi-chrome "Black and Yellow" series.

With his Black



and Yellow series, Michael performs an acrobatic leap from poetic sense impressions to a powerful, leading, two tone visual message. He eliminates outlines in order to simplify the descriptive means and replaces the beauty of visual expression rendered by a multitude of colors with a scarcity of artistic means. His shapes are mostly sketched, forwarding viewers' eyes to reconstruct during his or her visual incursion ("109 St Overpass") what is not vis-

ible. Michael's play with visible and invisible, color and non-color, indicate the shift to an intellectualized artistic discourse, a game of extreme technical sparseness and simplicity. The viewer is gradually received in the Yellow and Black world ("Death Jacks", "Tea or Whiskey") and led with powerful precision to its meanings ("Biker Shelving", "Homeless").

His minimalist approach in Black and Yellow belongs, stylistically, more to the

graphical arts than to the realm of painting, yet Germann is using canvases as support for his new series. Photography is also employed by the artist in this mixed media production, as an initial operation for effective capturing of segments of life. It is life itself that sources the inspiration for this series and life in its different concrete aspects is rendered at the end. No metaphors, no poetry, but intellectual precision.

## EDMONTON

### Downtown to NAIT LRT Update

#### Fall 2008

On September 25, 2008, Edmonton City Council approved the concept plan for LRT service from Churchill Station to the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). Preliminary engineering is underway.

#### Highlights:

- An approximately 600 metre-long tunnel to bring the LRT from Churchill LRT Station to street-level on 105 Avenue (between 102 and 103 Street).
- Direct connection to existing LRT service:
  - > New extension is approximately 3 km.
  - > passengers will be able to ride in the same seat from NAIT Station to Health Sciences in 18 minutes
- Stations at MacEwan, Royal Alexandra Hospital and NAIT.
- A new multi-use trail connects the LRT stations.
- City Council approved \$45 million to complete a portion of the LRT tunnel in conjunction with construction on the new EPCOR tower. This work is underway.

- The Downtown to NAIT LRT project is estimated at \$825 million (including the portion under the EPCOR tower). City Council is considering a proposal to fund the rest of the construction through the 2009 budget process.

While many decisions have been made through the planning process, the preliminary engineering phase of the study offers opportunities for area residents to be involved in developing design features for LRT stations; provide feedback on traffic/pedestrian circulation patterns, landscaping and visual integration; and receive information on construction staging plans, safety features and intersection design.

#### For more information

**Visit:** [www.edmonton.ca/LRTprojects](http://www.edmonton.ca/LRTprojects)  
**Phone:** 780.496.4874 (leave a message at the LRT Projects Message Centre)  
**Email:** [lrtprojects@edmonton.ca](mailto:lrtprojects@edmonton.ca)



## For the Holidays!

*Sprucewords*

WITH PATRICIA FOUFAS

As the cold arrives and the holiday season approaches, the Sprucewood Library can be a great place to go for home decorating and project ideas. Whether you are celebrating the holiday season or simply fixing the drafts, the coming of the cold weather seems to put the home at the top of the "to-do" list. If you are creating the rustic holiday look around home or beginning a major DIY home renovation, the library is the place to go for how-tos and inspiration.

If it is home DIY advice that you are seeking, we have an entire section of renovation guides and home renovation materials. Browse through the 643s in our Non-Fiction section for books detailing countless home procedures that you can do yourself. With books like *The Home Rehab Handbook*, *Ty's Tricks* or *Outdoor Fix-It 101*, we have everything you need to find out how it all works. Whether it is insulating walls, fixing drafty doors and windows or improving floor coverings there is a book in our collection that will tell you exactly how to do it or how it works. The DIY theme extends

to the seasonal section where there are numerous ways to keep busy when the weather is too cold for the outdoors. Check out our seasonal section for a variety of books amuse the youngsters or create decorative items for your home. Our seasonal collection has Christmas storybooks, holiday cookbooks, seasonal music and DVDs of all your favorite holiday movies. Whether you are planning a quiet made-at-home Christmas or a traditional holiday with all the trimmings, we have all that you need to entertain your friends and family.

Our December programming for adults includes Stories from the Heart of the City with Linda Goyette on Dec. 18 at 1:30 p.m., Café Anglais ESL conversation club on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and the LACE ESL conversation club on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Our children's programming includes an Aboriginal Storytime on Friday mornings at 11:30 a.m. and Saturday Specials for the artistically minded on Dec. 13 and Dec. 20 at 2 p.m. Please see [www.epl.ca](http://www.epl.ca) for more details.

*Patricia Foufas is a library assistant at the Sprucewood Branch of the Edmonton Public Library.*

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## ART & MUSIC



**CREATIVE NONFICTION CABARET**  
Sunday, Dec 7, author Myrna Kostash is hosting a Creative Nonfiction Cabaret at the Carrot (9351-118 Ave). Nine published authors will be reading from 3pm – 5pm. \$5 cover charge. Music: Karen Porkka

**THEATRE PROSPERO PRESENTS:**  
The Coming of The Kings  
December 16 to 21, 7pm at Avenue Theatre (9030 118 Ave). Admission by donation.

**ARTISAN MARKET**  
1st and 3rd Saturdays, 11am-4pm at The Carrot Community Arts Coffee House (9351 118 Ave). All creations are made in Edmonton by local artists and artisans. Jewellery, woodwork, textiles and more! If you are interested in selling your wares at the market, please contact Lorraine at 780-919-9627.

**PIANO LESSONS**  
Holistic and enjoyable music learning. Qualified teacher in your neighbourhood. Book now for the times you want! Call Anna, BMus @ 780-479-1330

**PIANO LESSONS IN YOUR HOME**  
All levels; children and adult students welcome. Please call Connie Collingwood ARCT at 780-490-1922. Must live within the Rat Creek Press boundaries.

**MUSIC LESSONS**  
Professional musician and qualified music teacher, with degrees in Music and Education. Sax, flute, clarinet, piano, keyboards, guitar, bass, theory. All styles. Neil: 780-477-9232.

**PIANO LESSONS FOR BEGINNERS**  
5 to 9 years. In my home using the John Thompson series only. A low rate at \$50 a month, includes book. Call soon, limited openings. Excellent references available. Call Sharon Riley at 780-479-4054.

**KEYNOTE MUSIC**  
Learn to play guitar, bass, piano. Over 10 years teaching experience. Call Reg Taylor at 780-915-1241.

**LOTUS QIGONG + LOTUS DANCE**  
Everyone on the Avenue welcome. Thursdays from 7pm to 8pm. Cost: donation optional. For more details call Astrid at 780-477-0683.

## DROP-IN GROUPS & PROGRAMS

**FREE FAMILY ART NIGHTS**  
For parents and children up to 17, at the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts (9702 111 Ave). Thursday Evenings 6:30 - 8pm All materials, instruction and a light snack are free. No experience necessary, but space is limited. Call 780-474-7611 to register your family.

**WINTER SNOW SHACKS**  
Dec 29-31, 12:30pm to 4:30pm at Eastwood Park 11803-86 St OR

Spruce Avenue Park 10240 - 115 Ave. For Children ages 6-12. Admission is free. Join the exciting outdoor games, crafts and music, drama and winter activities! Come dressed for the weather, we will be outside!

**ACTION FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**  
Voices Community Dialogue 2008: a public discussion to promote the creation of community health and wellness-related initiatives.  
Wed Dec 3 The Haven (15120 Stony Plain Rd), 6:30pm. Topic: Art to know ourselves. Contact Chris for more information: 780-944-4687 or actioncf4@shawbiz.ca or www.a4hc.ca

**CARROT WRITERS' GROUP**  
The Carrot Writers' Circle meets every Thursday morning at 10am at The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse (9351 118 Ave). Join us or call Irene at 780-471-1580.

**SENIORS DROP-IN**  
Wednesdays from 11:30am-12:45pm at Crystal Kids Youth Centre (8718 118 Ave).

**MOMS & TOTS**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30am-12:45pm at Crystal Kids Youth Centre (8718 118 Ave).

**BABES IN ARMS**  
Fridays, 10am to 12pm at The Carrot Community Arts Coffee House (9351 118 Ave). Come and connect with other parents in the community. Call The Carrot at 780-471-1580 for more info.

**THE AVENUE COMMUNITY PLAY GROUP**  
Every Tuesday from 10am to noon at Alberta Avenue Community Hall (9210 118 Ave). Residents from all communities are welcome to join us. For more information contact Becky at peacebeadz@hotmail.com.

**SCRAPBOOKING**  
Thursdays from 6pm to 8pm at Ben Calf Robe Society (12046 77 St). Come make a photo album for your new baby or one for yourself. Bring your pictures and we supply the rest of the materials. Childcare is available. Call 780-477-6648 for more info.

**PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**  
Fridays from 1pm to 4:15pm at Ben Calf Robe Society (12046 77 St). Join us for crafts, coffee, snacks and great conversation. Call 780-477-6648 for more info.

**ST. FAITH'S**  
Community Collective Kitchen meets at St. Faith's Church on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. There is currently space. If you are interested, please call 780-477-5931.

**CRYSTAL KIDS YOUTH CENTRE**  
8718 118 Ave, Ph 780-479-5283 Youth program (ages 6-17):  
Mon, Tue, Wed 3-8pm, Thur 2:30-8pm, Fri 3-10pm, and Sat 1-5pm.

## ENTERTAINMENT

**THE CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEEHOUSE** 9351 – 118 Avenue  
FRIDAYS: Live music, 7:30pm-9:30pm \$5 cover charge  
Dec 05: THE SHRINKING VIOLETS (FEATURING CORA MCLACHLAN, KIMBERLY MACGREGOR AND KIRSTEN SCHMIDT)  
Dec 12: MIKE MCDONALD  
Dec 19: JINGLE JAMMIN'  
HOSTED BY BILL DAMUR (MOBIUS, WHITE CATS)  
CLOSED Dec 24, 25, 26  
SATURDAYS: Open mic 7:30pm-10:00pm  
Music, spoken word, comedy

## SPORTS & REC

**FREE SKATE AT WESTWOOD ARENA**  
Wednesday nights, October to March at Westwood Arena 12040-97 St. Call Marty at 780-474-2667 to sign up.

**FREE SWIM FOR ALBERTA AVE COMMUNITY LEAGUE MEMBERS**  
Sundays from 12pm to 2pm at Eastglen Pool (11410 68 Street). Call 780-496-7384 for full pool schedule or go to www.edmonton.ca and search Eastglen pool.

## VOLUNTEER

**EASTWOOD PARENT ADVISORY ASSOCIATION**  
Need casino workers for January 9 & 10 2009 (Fri & Sat) Century Road Casino. Contact Arlene @ 780-477-5606

**DEEP FREEZE: BYZANTINE WINTER ADVENTURE**  
We're looking for volunteers for the festival Jan 10 and 11. (See "Notices & Upcoming Events" for more details.) Contact Judy Allan at 780-496-1913. We're also looking to re-use your Christmas trees. Please e-mail Ritchie at ritchiev@telus.net and leave your address. Put your Christmas tree in the lane for pickup Jan 3 and 4.

**GIRLS NIGHT OUT!**  
Help disabled women get out in the community and participate in recreation and social activities. Female volunteers are needed 2-3 hours, twice a month, evenings or weekends. Delton area. Staff assistance provided. Contact Leslie @ 780-432-1137, ext 357.

**WALKING CLUB VOLUNTEER**  
Accompany disabled adults as they walk the mall for fitness and socializing. Every 2nd Friday; 5:30pm to 7:30pm, at Westmount Mall. Staff support on-site. Contact Leslie @ 780-432-1137, ext 362 or e-mail volunteer@catholic-social-services.ab.ca

**IMMIGRANT/REFUGEE SETTLEMENT MENTORS**  
Mentor new immigrants/refugees in a formalized friendship; assist newcomers to practice English, develop social networks, learn about Canadian culture, and acquire life skills to facilitate successful

integration into Canadian society. 8 hours/month. Training and support provided. Contact Leslie @ 780-432-1137, ext 362 or e-mail volunteer@catholic-social-services.ab.ca

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH MENTORS**  
Be a positive role model to abused/neglected children and youth, aged 5 to 17 who live in group care. Participate in supervised leisure and educational activities; share your interests, hobbies, talents. 2 hours/week. Orientation and staff support provided. Contact Leslie @ 780-432-1137, ext 362 or e-mail volunteer@catholic-social-services.ab.ca

**VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED**  
Do you know what a Volunteer Driver is? It's a community member who can spare 3-4 hours once a month to drive a senior to appointments, banking and shopping. Gas reimbursed. Call Bev at 780-732-1221.

**NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS**  
Do you love art and people? Then the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts can use you! Come volunteer and show off your talents and passion. www.ninahaggertyart.ca or 780-474-7611

**THE CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEEHOUSE**  
Learn how to 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. Stop in at 9351 118 Ave, call 780-471-1580 or visit www.thecarrot.ca.

## NOTICES & UPCOMING EVENTS

**SPRUCE AVENUE ANNUAL POINSETTIA SALE**  
Wednesday Dec 17 10am  
Spruce Avenue School

**DEEP FREEZE: BYZANTINE WINTER ADVENTURE**  
Saturday Jan 10 from 11 to midnight, and Sunday Jan 11, noon to 5pm  
On Saturday, enjoy Ukrainian food, mummy, a sculpture garden and competition (enchanted forest theme), art gallery and sale, crafts, music all day, snowshoeing, broomball and family art experiences. In the evening, join us for "The Big Melt-down," a Latin salsa party with hot spicy food. Sunday we'll have a Cabaneà sucre, curling and skating.

**REKINDLE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY**  
Saturday, Dec 13 from 1pm to 4pm at Eastwood Elementary School (12023 - 81 St.). Presented by NET (Neighbourhood Empowerment Team). Join us for sleigh rides, hot chocolate, marshmallow roasting, activities and crime prevention info.

**CARROT GIFT CERTIFICATES**  
Buy your friends an original gift... Carrot gift certificates available at the Carrot. Also Tickets to Friday Night For Two. At the Carrot: Gift certificates for our evening performance.

**GRAFFITI REMOVAL KIT**  
A graffiti removal kit is available for residents to borrow free of charge. Call Joe at the Alberta Avenue Business Association at 780-471-2602.

## CHURCH SERVICES

**ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
8715 - 118 Ave. Community Carol Sing, Sun. Dec. 14, 7-8pm Come sing some favourite Christmas carols and enjoy some hot chocolate with us! Christmas Eve Service, Wed. Dec. 24, 7:30pm For more information - 780-477-8677

**BETHEL GOSPEL CHAPEL**  
11461 95 St. Community Christmas Celebration on Sunday, Dec 14 at 7pm Everyone is invited!

**CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTRE**  
10123 Princess Eliz. Ave. Join us for our kids' Christmas musical on Sunday Dec. 7, 10:30

**NORWOOD WESLEYAN STANDARD CHURCH** (corner of 113 Ave & 91 St) "Live, From Bethlehem." A Christmas Concert featuring a short play, special music, piano recital by Sunday School attendees, and various special presentations. Saturday, Dec 13 at 6:30pm All Welcome! Luncheon to follow concert.

**ST. FAITH'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
Thursday, Dec. 11th at 6pm - Women's Supper  
Friday, Dec. 12th at 7pm - Christmas Caroling in the neighbourhood followed by hot chocolate in the hall. Meet in the church hall (parking lot entrance)

Saturday, Dec. 13 from 8:30 - 9:30am Community Breakfast  
Sunday, December 14 at 7pm - Praise & Worship Service  
Friday, December 19 from 5 - 6:30pm Community Supper followed by Christmas Carols and a movie  
Christmas Eve Services: Family Service 8pm, Candlelight Service 10pm  
Christmas Day Service 10am  
11725 - 93 St. Ph. 780-477-5931  
Sundays 8:30am and 11am  
Sunday School at 11am  
Hall available for rentals.

**AVENUE VINEYARD**  
NEW LOCATION: 8718 118 Ave (Crystal Kids) Sundays, 10:30am. www.avenuevineyard.com

**ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN**  
8715 118 Ave, Ph 780-477-8677  
Regular service, Sundays, 11am

**SALVATION ARMY - HAS MOVED!**  
Edmonton Crossroads Community Church (EC3) is now at 2nd floor, 11726 95 St, Ph 780-474-4324  
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thur., noon to 4pm Fri., 7pm - 10pm

**CHARISMA CHURCH**  
Free Christmas Banquet  
December 22, 5:30pm  
Held at Eastwood Community League (11803 86 St)

**Edmonton Public Library**

**SPRUCEWOOD BRANCH 11555 - 95 Street**  
Call 780-496-7099 to register  
Go to [www.epl.ca](http://www.epl.ca) for more program details

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**CHILDREN**

**Aboriginal Family Storytime**  
11:30 am Fridays, Sep 5 to Dec 19  
Participation limit: 15  
Presented by Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society

Hey moms and dads! Bring your little ones and join us for an hour of Aboriginal songs and stories.

**Calling All Homeschoolers**  
2 p.m. Tuesdays, Sep 16 to Dec 16  
\$JHV H DV/  
Participation limit: 12  
Looking for a fun outing at the Library? Join us for an hour of books, activities, games and crafts.

**EXplore! Your Library**  
Participation limit: 30  
Please call 780-496-7043 to book a time

What's missing at the library? YOU! Your group is invited to join us at the library on a staff-guided tour. The tours help children of all

ages learn more about Edmonton Public Library, and the world of resources to be found here. It can be a simple introduction, or an in-depth exploration of a topic of your choice. Daycares, homeschoolers, and clubs are welcome.

**Saturday Specials**  
2 p.m. Saturday, Dec 13  
2 p.m. Saturday, Dec 20  
\$JHV H DV/  
Participation limit: 15

,P DJLQH DQG WKHQ FUDM  
What can you do with paper? Go wacky!  
What can you do with string? Be wicked!  
What can you do with lids and tubes, bits of wire and pieces of yarn?  
Open your mind to ALL the possibilities!

Join us these Saturdays for tons of fun, and holiday specials!  
& KUMP DV ' D ERP E EDM  
balms  
& KUMP DV \* UD KDP & UDFNH  
Houses

**TEENS**

**Girl Power**  
3:30 p.m. Thursdays, Sep 25 to Dec 19  
\$JHV H DV/  
Participation limit: 20

2 . JLV JHVHDG VR KDYHD  
ton of fun! Do you have interests that need to be challenged? Join the gang at Girl Zone where you will participate in heaps of activities like: team building, leadership development, fashion, cooking, arts and crafts, music, fitness, sports, drama, and much much more!

**Teen Game Night**  
6:30 p.m. Fridays, Sep 26 to Feb 20  
\$JHV H DV/  
Participation limit: 15  
Drop in for some board and electronic game fun with other teens.

**ADULTS**

**&D \$QOV (QOVK**  
**Conversation Club for Newcomers**  
6:30 p.m. Mondays, Sep 22 to Dec 22  
Participation limit: 20

**FREE of Charge**

Learning English? Join the club at &D \$QOV ZKHUR XFDQKOV in English, meet new friends, and use our vast resources!

**English Conversation Circle (LACE Program)**  
10:30 am Saturdays, Sep 27 to Dec 13  
Participation limit: 10  
Free of Charge  
Drop-In.

Practise your English at the library. Drop in and join others who also want to talk in English. Catholic Social Services Learning and Community Enrichment (LACE) program offers this program. For more information contact Biviana from Catholic Social Services at 424-3545.

**Stories from the Heart of the &LV ZLVK / LQD\* R HMM**  
1:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec 18  
Drop-in, Free of Charge  
All are Welcome!

Do you live in Boyle-McCauley or Norwood or along the Avenue of Nations? Did you move here from somewhere else, or did you grow up here? Come and

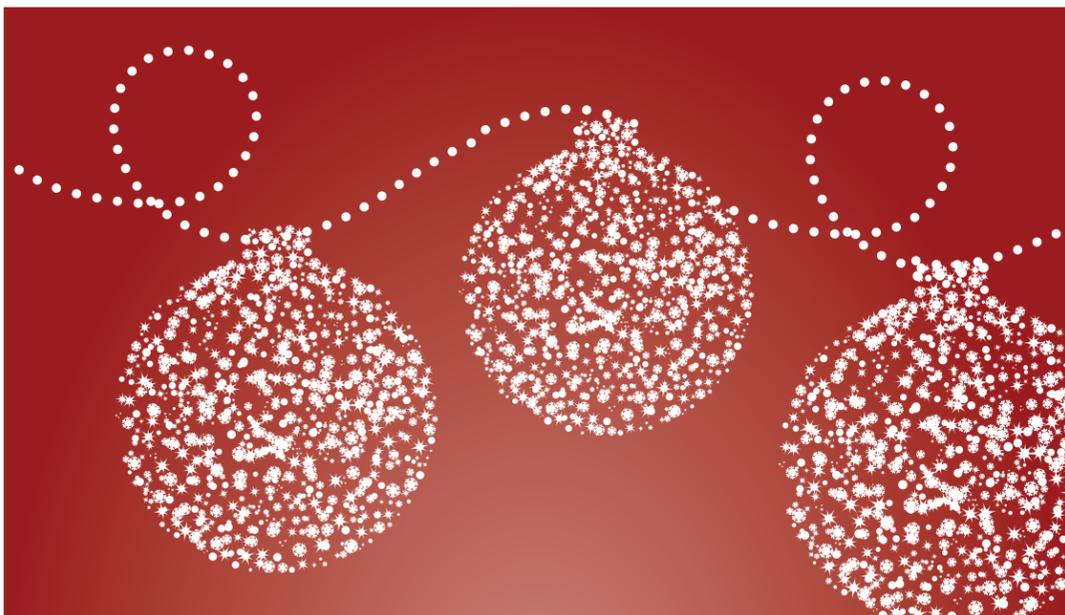
tell your story, and hear stories about interesting people who lived here over the years. Writer Linda Goyette will host this session for story-lovers of all ages.

**&RP SXMU%DMFV ' DMEDVH**  
**at the Edmonton Public Library**  
10 am Mondays, Nov 24 to Dec 8  
Participation limit: 4  
Seniors Welcome!

Your library card gives you access to more than books. With it, you can also access databases on the library website. Learn about our audiobooks, encyclopedias, consumer information, world newspapers, health information and much more.

**ELL (English Language Learning) Tours**  
Call 780-496-7099 to Book a Tour

Learn all about the Edmonton Public Library in a tour for English Language Learning (ELL) students. We create library cards for all students.



*Enjoy your holidays!*  
*From the Rat Creek Press*

*Next editorial meeting is Monday January 12  
 at 7pm at the Carrot Community Arts  
 Coffeehouse. Everyone welcome!*



## December at The Carrot

*Jolly Up to The Carrot...*  
 A neighbourhood Christmas party!  
 Thursday, December 4, 7:00pm - 9:00pm  
 Bring out your neighbours & family for a  
 great time of FREE food & holiday cheer.  
 Fun for Kids of all ages!  
 Sponsored by Norwood Neighborhood Association

**Jingle Jammin' at The Carrot!**  
 The Carrot goes AÍ Carolling  
 Friday, December 19, 5:30 - 7:30pm  
 Come carole on Alberta Ave. Bring lanterns, flashlights  
 and let's light up the Avenue in song!!!  
 8:00 pm - Free Christmas carolling  
 performance, food and beverage.  
 Sponsored by Avenue Initiative Revitalization

9351-118ave 780-471-1580 www.thecarrot.ca

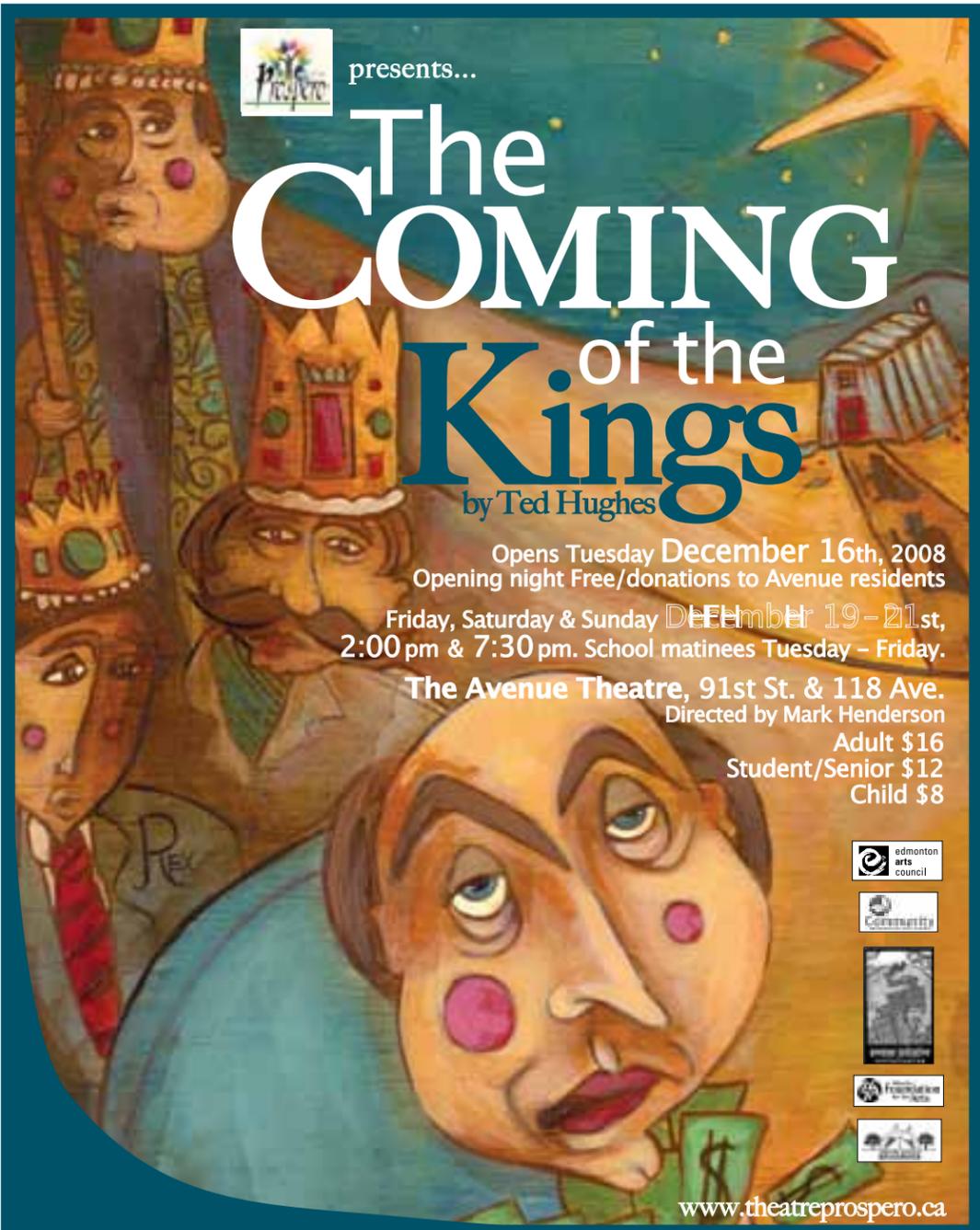


### CARISMA CHURCH

Invite your family to our  
 Annual Free Christmas Banquet

**December 22 - 5:30pm**  
 Eastwood Community League  
 11803 - 86 Street

Gifts for kids U10 **MERRY CHRISTMAS** All welcome!



prospere presents...

# The COMING of the Kings

by Ted Hughes

Opens Tuesday December 16th, 2008  
 Opening night Free/donations to Avenue residents  
 Friday, Saturday & Sunday December 19-21st,  
 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm. School matinees Tuesday - Friday.  
**The Avenue Theatre, 91st St. & 118 Ave.**  
 Directed by Mark Henderson  
 Adult \$16  
 Student/Senior \$12  
 Child \$8

Logos for Edmonton Arts Council, Community, and other sponsors.

www.theatreprospere.ca

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 T5J 2R7

Phone: (780) 496-8333  
 Email: tony.caterina@edmonton.ca  
 Web: www.edmonton.ca



Happy holidays from my family to yours

## ED GIBBONS

City Councillor, Ward 3

phone: 780.496.8138 email: ed.gibbons@edmonton.ca