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# RAT CREEK PRESS

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## Does the community have a voice in development?

DAWN FREEMAN

Many residential developers have an interest in the 118 Avenue area, and why not? After all, the communities are all on a direct route to downtown, they are close to bike paths and the LRT, and NAIT brings in many students needing housing.

With proximity to transit and social service agencies downtown, this neighbourhood and adjacent communities have also been a popular area for non-market or social housing developments, especially now with the added emphasis and funding put forward by government.

“Community residents have put a tremendous amount of energy into revitalizing the neighbourhood, making it even more attractive for development,” says Karen Mykietka, President of the Alberta Avenue Community League.

“We have great visions of how we would like to see our neighbourhoods grow and improve. Unfortunately, development is driven by private developers with big money. All we can do is play the small cards we have, opposing variances, discretionary uses or rezoning.”

### Current rezoning applications

Right now in the Alberta Avenue neighbourhood, three applicants are in various stages of seeking rezoning from the City.

The first is a four-story, 24-unit building proposed for 94 Street and 112 Avenue which the architect indicated would be market-value condos. The City held a public hearing on this application on November 25.

The second is for a 130-unit, four-story apartment complex to be located on 95

Street, between 113 and 114 Avenues. It is proposed to be a mix of one and two bedroom apartments with approximately half renting at market rate and half below market rate (affordable).

Lastly, the Univer Bottle Depot on the corner of 93 Street and 111 Avenue wants to build a new expanded building at the same location.

All three of these developments are seeking rezoning to DC2 (direct control) as their current zoning will not allow their intended use.

### The development process

All rezoning applications require surrounding land owners be notified and a public hearing be held, after which the Planning and Development department presents a recommendation to City Council who makes the final decision.

Development applications for permitted uses within the current zoning that conform to the land use bylaw are approved by the City. No notices are sent to anyone. However, all development applications can be found on the city website [maps.edmonton.ca](http://maps.edmonton.ca). Concerned residents can then call 311 for more information.

If an application is for a discretionary use or is asking for variances to the regulations, then written notice is sent to property owners within 60 meters as



PROPOSED SITE FOR A 24-UNIT APARTMENT BUILDING AT 94 STREET AND 112 AVENUE

well as the affected community league(s).

Residents or the community league can appeal any development, which involves preparing and making arguments at a Subdivision Development

Appeal Board hearing (SDAB).

It takes knowledge, time and energy to stay on top of development issues and stand up for the community's interest. This task generally falls on community leagues; however, not all leagues have

people able and willing to do the necessary work. And often there are diverse opinions on the desirability of a develop-

ment.

### Community Input

Sometimes community leagues are approached by developers seeking a letter of support for their project.

Mykietka says, “We are just a handful of people and it's difficult to speak for the larger community, so as a general rule we don't give any support letters unless we are sure the community is behind it.”

The best approach is to consult with the people closest to the development, says Cris Basualdo, a resident and chair of the Community Action Project (CAP), who has a long history working on development issues. “They are the ones who will be most affected.”

On November 18, CAP called a meeting of interested residents to discuss how to handle the proposed bottle depot rezoning. The next steps are more research, talking to neighbouring businesses and

residents and setting up meetings with planning officials and city councillors.

“It takes time and effort but if we don't organize and speak up the City and developers may lose sight of what residents want,” says Basualdo.

“As a community, how can we gain leverage in dealings with developers?” asks Carissa Halton, resident and active community volunteer.

In a pie-in-the sky world, Mykietka says the community would request and evaluate innovative proposals from developers. “But we [the community] don't own the land or have the big bucks to direct development.”

Anyone hiding a few million dollars under their mattress?

See related article: “Envisioning our community” on page 10. Go to the blog at [ratcreek.org](http://ratcreek.org) and share your comments on development issues.



113 AVENUE & 95 STREET

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RAT CREEK PRESS ASSOCIATION

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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.

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# Meet Darren Boisvert

## - new managing editor for Rat Creek Press

*An edited version of a speech given during the Rat Creek Press Annual General Meeting at The Carrot Cafe on November 7, 2010.*

When I was asked to speak at this meeting, I hesitated. Not because I didn't want the opportunity to introduce myself and present my ideas for the rejuvenation of the Rat, but because in my personal life, I'm extremely shy. I prefer listening to talking. As a child, I had to go to a speech therapist, suffered stage fright, and failed in penmanship. So I think it was inevitable that I would end up as a journalist.

People are defined by the personal obstacles they strive to overcome and I'm no exception. Journalism has challenged me, fed my curiosity, and given me a chance to ask people about their lives. In over ten years of being a journalist (CBC-TV, Daily Times in Pakistan) and freelancing documentaries, I've interviewed politicians, judges, refugees, militants, activists, cultists, transvestites, lawyers, diplomats, business leaders, secretaries, unemployed people, artists, martial artists, and musicians. It's been a cavalcade of fascinating stories.

### Great interviews

There's a cliché in journalism circles that says "At the heart of every interview is a betrayal." While this is often true, it's not necessarily true. It refers to the fact the interview is a one way conversation. One person asks the questions, one person supplies the answers. Compare that to the regular give and take of a conversation, and you begin to see the inherent inequality in the relationship.

In a great interview, there is that moment -- that sweet

spot -- when the microphone disappears, the world goes quiet, and it's two people looking into each other's eyes and sharing an intimate story. The best interviews aren't a betrayal. They are a gift. The gift of listening, of empathy, of being an audience to the joys and despairs of a singular life.

### Truth or honesty?

Walk into every journalism college in Canada and the mantra is always the same. "A journalist searches for the Truth." Walk into any journalism job interview and the last question is always the same, "Do you believe in the Truth?" Answer anything but "Yes," and you'll never get the job. It's a litmus test. No employer wants to hire a caustic cynic.

But I would far rather have one honest answer than an earful of truth. Truth can be twisted, spun, and stretched. It's the putty of public relations and the killer of debate. Truth is always the first and last defense of the extremist. It's the gateway to violence; it's the harpy of war.

Honesty allows for the possibility of doubt. It admits that others may have experienced the same event differently. It admits that we have past histories that color our interpretation of the present and influences our vision for the future. An honest tale allows the listener to connect to the story. An honest story is the least violent and most respectful path to encouraging change in other people.

### Positive community action

Change is never easy. I look around this room and into this community and I see people who refused to view this neigh-

borhood "as-it-was", but chose to see it as "something-that-might-be." Since returning to Canada from several years working abroad in Pakistan, Jordan, Afghanistan, and Israel/Palestine, this is the most positive com-

munity activity I have come across.

I'm excited to have been invited into this community through the kindness of the Carrot, and to assume the role of Managing Editor in charge

of the *Rat Creek Press*. It will take time for me to get to know everyone and for everyone to get to know me. But we have time. And I hope we have a common goal of providing the people along 118th Avenue with the best community newspaper in the city.

### What the RCP can offer

A lofty goal, given the immediate difficulties facing this newspaper at this time. But as this rejuvenation process continues, the issues facing this community will get more complex. Success breeds conflict, existing power structures will be challenged and the status quo will fight back. The community needs a strong and vibrant *Rat*, and here today, the *Rat* needs the community to recommit to the hard work of putting out and supporting a newspaper.

And here is what the *Rat* can offer in return for that effort.

We will be the gateway through which new volunteers can be recruited. We will be the trumpet through which our successes at transformation can be an example for change in other communities. We will be the forum where contentious

debate is encouraged, so that our failures can be examined -- where anger can be expressed without violence or suppression -- and we will be a place where solutions may be presented and implemented.

And above all, the *Rat Creek Press* will be a newspaper where all voices can be heard.

### Touchstones for rejuvenation

I would like to end with a quote written in 1973 by Ron Haggart, a long time social affairs writer from Ontario. While he is specifically referring to the coverage of poverty issues, I feel that his argument is equally applicable to cover any minority group and any issue.

As I go forward in my role as the Managing Editor, I will make mistakes, stumble over words and ideas alike, and mis-speak impolitically. But as this newspaper, the writers, and myself exercise our journalistic muscles, these ideas will serve to be our touchstone for continuing forward in the spirit of rejuvenation.

"The right to a free press is not a right vested in the press itself, which does not enjoy

and does not claim any rights not enjoyed by the people generally. A free press is a right which vests in the people; it is their right to know that is important. When the poverty community is inadequately covered by the press, it is the general public interest which is violated...."

"A second consideration involves the rights of the poor themselves. A measure of their poverty is their lack of access to the resources of the community. The responsibility of the press is to report and analyze that lack of access to the resources of the community, not above all, to become part of that problem itself...

"A free press...is not a right of the press; it is a right of the people. A free press must mean, among other things, an equal right of access to the press."

Thank you,  
Darren Boisvert

“ People are defined by the personal obstacles they strive to overcome ”

“ The Rat Creek Press will be a newspaper where all voices can be heard ”



DARREN BOISVERT

## Write for the Rat Creek Press

Do you have a news tip or an idea for an article?

Email [editor@ratcreek.org](mailto:editor@ratcreek.org)

**Darren Boisvert officially starts as Managing Editor in January; however, you will likely be seeing him around the Avenue and at The Carrot in December.**

## Moving on

I won't be writing anymore articles for the *Rat Creek Press*. I accepted a new position within the Edmonton Police Service in the Crime Prevention Unit starting in

December. A new Community Liaison Constable (CLC) for District 1 is being sought.

I want to pass on a sincere thanks to each and every person who took the time to read the articles I wrote. I spent a good deal of time considering what to write and trying my best to pass on

important information that would help create a safer and more vibrant community -- the community you live in. I hope the information provided was relevant to you, and, hopefully, the information helped you make yourself, your home, and your community a safer place to live.

The residents of District 1 have been very welcoming to me, and for that, I am thankful. The momentum that has been created by you, the community members, is something very special and very important. I hope each and every member of the community makes an effort to keep

the momentum going -- you are the reason attitudes about your neighborhoods are changing! I encourage you to stay involved in the community and to continue moving forward in your efforts to make your community a better place to live.

*Cst. Reid Nichol*

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# New Norwood Fire Station celebrates grand opening

KAREN MYKIETKA

Seven-year veteran firefighter Anitolli Morgatch, and three year veteran Lieutenant Keith Wilson served up hundreds of hotdogs and hamburgers to the crowd that came out on November 6 to tour the new Norwood Fire Station.

The new \$8.25 million station which opened two months ago replaces the one on 101 Street and 112 Avenue. Over ninety percent of the funding came from the provincial government. An EMS bay was part of the original design; however, that changed when the province



LT. KEITH WILSON & FIREFIGHTER ANITOLLI MORGATCH

took over ambulance service. The old station will now be converted to EMS.

Angie Klein, who lives a block from the old station, thinks the new location was a poor choice. "How are the trucks going to get in and out during football games when there is gridlock traffic right in front?," she asks. According to

Captain Richardson of No.5 Station, there aren't any issues or delays with trucks getting through traffic.

While fire stations may evoke images

of firefighters sliding down a pole, modern stations like this one are usually one level. This 12,590 square foot facility is a green building built to LEED

standards. It also includes an art piece called fire\_scape by German artist Jorn Ebner on the west exterior wall.

Lt. Wilson likes the fact the station is a lot brighter and more soundproof. While Morgatch appreciates the separate room for stinky contaminated gear.

"It's a lovely station. It puts eyes on the street and the use of wood is really gorgeous," says Amber Andersen, a former Alberta Avenue Community League board member who was involved in the community consultation process.

Despite the fact the fire sirens set the neighbourhood dogs barking, Ron Raynor, a 17-year resident who lives two blocks from the station, thinks it is the best thing that has happened in the neighbourhood in years.

And the neighbourhood will hear a lot of sirens. Station No. 5 is one of the busiest fire stations in the country. District Chief Brian Panylyk knows this



AINSLEY RICKETTS, 8, AISHA BUNDRED, 4, KOHI BUNDRED, 8, HAVING FUN BEING JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS

by experience. When he was a firefighter at the old station 5, he remembers getting 20-22 calls a night in the summer. He says, "The firefighters don't sleep much at this station."

A total of 40 firefighters work at station #5; eight per shift, 10-hour days or 14 hour nights. Fire stations are manned 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

Remember that Edmonton Fire Stations collect food bank donations, toys for the Christmas Bureau and Santa's Anonymous as well as hats, mitts, socks, backpacks, and blankets (new or wrapped in plastic) for the homeless.

"Knowing firefighters are close by should give everyone peace of mind," says Fire Chief Ken Block.

## Community efforts help reduce crime

KAREN MYKIETKA

Overall crime rates in Edmonton dropped by 18 per cent this year between January 1 and September 30.

"We are currently at a four-year low and more crimes are being solved today than ever before," says Chief Boyd.

Crime rates are based on eight crime indicators: assault, break and enter, homicide, robbery, sexual assault, theft from vehicle, theft of vehicle, and theft

over \$5,000.

Downtown division has experienced a 30% reduction in the eight crime indicators between 2007 and 2010. In the neighbourhood of Alberta Avenue there were 150 fewer victims of crime.

The biggest decrease has been in property crime: theft of vehicles down 49%; robberies down 50%; theft from vehicles down 30%; and break and enters down 40%.

Calls to EPS from

Downtown Division are up 2% in 2010 over 2009. And police have averaged 800 arrests per month, more than any other division.

"These results are directly attributed to your efforts of community activation and community mobilization, simply being out there and involved in your community," says Community Liaison Constable, Reid Nichol.

"Please, continue to own your community – be involved, be active."

### Councillor Tony Caterina

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## 118 Avenue reopens



TRAFFIC IS FINALLY MOVING AGAIN ON 118 AVENUE AFTER THE ROAD WAS CLOSED FROM 92 STREET TO 95 STREET FOR THREE WEEKS. THE CITY DECIDED ON A COMPLETE ROAD CLOSURE IN ORDER TO GET THE STREET FINISHED THIS YEAR. BUSINESSES, HOWEVER, WERE NOT TOO HAPPY AS ACCESS WAS VERY DIFFICULT AND PEOPLE STAYED AWAY. THE BONUS IS THE BUS PADS AND CROSSWALKS WERE DONE DURING THIS TIME AS WELL SO THERE WILL NOT BE FURTHER DISRUPTION NEXT SPRING.



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"... behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger". And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men".

## Community Christmas Celebration

You, your family, and friends are invited to join us for our annual Community Christmas Celebration on Sunday December 19.

Sing along with your favourite Christmas Carols  
 Celebrate the real meaning of Christmas  
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Sunday December 19  
 7:00 pm Christmas Celebration  
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# Notes from the RCP Annual General Meeting

The *Rat Creek Press* held its annual general meeting on November 7. Four board members returned (Lori Youngman, Harvey Voogd, Angie Klein & Karen Mykietka) and three new members will be joining Craig Stumpf-Allen, Arthur Dyck and Shannon Clarke. There are still three vacancies if anyone is interested.

## Excerpts from the Chair's Report

The last year was dramatic, full of turmoil and change but we made it through.

The year began with a small board of six, full of good heart and great intentions. The production team had numerous changes over the year. Dawn Freeman was with the paper until February training new staff, filling in roles and consulting with the board. After that time, the paper operated without a Managing Editor (ME). As board chair, I stepped into the ME position in an effort to both stabilize the organization and help with transition.

And so I spent many a Tuesday morning at The Carrot with various members of the production team. During this time, I learned what the RCP meant to this community, its revitalization efforts, and its future. I also learned that much of the business of this community and particularly its revitalization efforts take place on Tuesday mornings at The Carrot. It is a place humming with vitality, heart and purpose. You really should check it out sometime. Lastly, I found out that the RCP has friends. Warm, loving wonderful friends.

By summer, we were coming to the end of the funds received from our previous casino. We needed to make decisions about our future, and I needed help both as the president of the organization and the acting ME. I turned to among others Karen Mykietka

for advise and counsel. She offered to step up again to help the RCP in its hour of need... and help she did. Karen eventually replaced our board treasurer as well as our bookkeeper. Countless hours of review were put in. Recommendations were formulated and a course was plotted.

Expenses needed to be drastically cut in order to survive. In the end, the board had to make some very hard decisions. Unfortunately Mari Sasano, our editor, was not able to accommodate the necessary changes of the restructuring and the November issue was her last. I am so thankful to Mari for keeping the editorial side together through all of the upheaval. It was a lot to ask of our editor. Mari lives in our community so if you see her, take a moment and let her know that you value her contribution to the paper.

We grow and gain strength in difficult times. We learn from our mistakes and we go on strengthened and hopefully

wiser. As an organization, RCP is in the process of clarifying itself, its goals, creating and streamlining those much needed systems and countless other things in order to become sustainable. We want to collectively leave a legacy in this community and we need to be sustainable in order to do that.

We will continue to lead and not follow. We will continue to draw this community into the drama of itself. We are excited to have Darren Boisvert, our new very capable and experienced managing editor, to help us on this journey starting in January. Until that time, the dynamic duo, Karen Mykietka and Dawn Freeman agreed to step in and make sure the paper still gets to your door.

Thank you to all the great friends and supporters of this great little community newspaper.

Lori Youngman, RCP Chair



Dawn Freeman

KAREN MYKIETKA

On November 3, the City of Edmonton announced it would not host the 2011 Indy.

The City's offer of \$5.5 million in sponsorship and \$1.5 million in free services over three years was not enough for promoter Octane Racing Group to sign a deal. The City has already forked out \$9.2 million to cover the race's operating losses in 2008 and 2009 and the 2010 outcome is still pending.

A few days later, City Council overturned their decision, directing administration to leave no stone unturned to restart the Indy. It is unclear if this means committing even more tax dollars to the event as earlier statements said that "City Council quite properly set reasonable limits on the amount it was willing to invest."

Perhaps City Council should have conducted a poll to see whether Edmontonians were willing to have their tax dollars used in this way.

Here's what local residents have to say about the Indy:

### What do you think about losing the Indy? Do you care?

I am relieved the city let the Indy go- it has been costing the city millions every year and attendance was declining. I also will not miss the intense droning sound of the race cars. I don't know anyone who is sorry to see it go. Not every business opportunity benefits the city, and I'm glad that the city sees it that way in this case.

-Brandy Basisty, Alberta Avenue

I am glad we've lost the Indy. I think it was a corporate event that had low appeal for the average Edmontonian. On the upside, our backyard will be much quieter that weekend.

-Kate Boorman, Westwood

I care in the sense that it is part of the airport issue that was not dealt with in a fair and reasonable manner. City Hall seems determined to break their promises to everyone.

-Anne Nield, Parkdale

No I don't care, in fact I'm

# Bye bye Indy...Maybe



reference.ca

relieved. Once again, I will be able to enjoy the sweet sound of birds twittering in my branches and the pitter patter of squirrel feet across my fence posts and it won't be drowned out by the thunderous cacophony of vehicles racing endlessly around a track.

-Cindy Burgess, Eastwood

It was a matter of time, how much can a tax payer pay.

-Arlene Kemble, Eastwood

### Did you ever attend the Indy? How was it? Will you miss it?

We never attended the Indy- far too expensive!

-Kate Boorman, Westwood

I did not attend it and have mixed feelings about it -- from an environmental perspective. However, it put Edmonton on the map, and I enjoyed hearing the excitement from my home...

-Anne Nield, Parkdale

The Indy is far too expensive for the average person.

-Steven Michos, Alberta Avenue

### What will the impact of losing the Indy be to our community?

No impact whatsoever; I don't believe for a minute that this put \$\$-- tourist \$\$ or otherwise-- back into the local economy.

-Kate Boorman, Westwood

One more "not a first class city" label. Not just because of losing the event, but because of the way it was handled.

-Anne Nield, Parkdale

For those communities involved dollar-wise, they will suffer however before the Indy they

raised dollars.

-Arlene Kemble, Eastwood

I think some of the businesses close to the Indy will have a drop in sales over that weekend (e.g. hotels and the Save-On strip mall), but I don't see it financially impacting the rest of the community.

-Rebecca Lippiatt, Alberta Avenue

### What do you think of the city using tax dollars to give these kinds of subsidies to private companies to get events like the Indy in Edmonton?

I think it's ridiculous. IF the event was not prohibitively expensive (ie. it was affordable for all) OR it was a proven plus for the local economy, I would feel less negative about it. But I'd much rather my tax dollars support non-profit events we can all enjoy-- like the Winter Light Festival.

-Kate Boorman, Westwood

Not a fan. But they should honour their commitments. The next one will be the arena. Watch that one get pushed through regardless of options and opposition....

-Anne Nield, Parkdale

The tax dollars belong to Edmontonians and though property taxes do not go up due to the Indy, all other city venues have increased.

-Arlene Kemble, Eastwood

If private, for profit companies are not able to run events without such large subsidies from the city, perhaps they need to revise their business models.

-Rebecca Lippiatt, Alberta Avenue



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## Creating my family home

C. MORRISSEY

I lived in the same house until I was 19 years old. When I was little I yearned for novelty envying other children for getting to move into new houses or try new schools. But over time my childhood home gathered meaning. The smells, tastes and textures, the sounds, and mostly the people, made up my memories. It was traumatic when my father became ill, leading my parents to sell the house and move to a condo with my father passing away shortly after.

There had been something ironically stabilizing and freeing about that house. It was an anchor, a soft place to fall, a mainstay in my 29 years. Everything in life changed except that house, which was like a time capsule with furnishings and knickknacks from various decades, family photos archiving the growth of children and grandchildren lining the hallway, pictures of extended family plastering the fridge.

My parents didn't feel the push I did to update to bigger and better things. They were satisfied with what they had and this was reflected in their home and in their relationships with their children. I could come and go and no matter what was unfolding in my life I could be accepted there. I never had to be anything other than their daughter.

My son was born shortly before my father passed. We were then and we are now still in the process of making

our family home. What is important in its creation? It is not about the fact I love the architecture of the house or the shining wood floors or the neutral paint colors that make the house feel light and airy. It's about the memories we create within these walls. We all know life is hard. There are pressures to succeed, to perform, to conform. I want my kids to have a place to go where outside pressures, terms and conditions don't apply.

I remember being annoyed my parents didn't update their decorating or buy newer, more stylish things. But in the end, I admire them for that very reason. Because although I would love my home to look like a cut out from a design magazine, that isn't what matters. What matters is we breed a sense of security and freedom that stability creates when we know we have a place to return to.

When I recall my childhood home with its old shag carpet, its cupboards and counter tops straight out of 1978, I think of it with nostalgia. I know what made up the breath of my memories was the family traditions that took place under that roof, from holidays and birthdays to the everyday routines that became family life and tied loved ones together. This is what I am building my family home upon. Every day we are in this home building those memories and creating our own traditions melded and modified to suit our family, the more I feel we are truly home.

## The nostalgia and reality of home

### AN AVENUE HOMESTEADER WITH CARISSA HALTON

As a self-proclaimed homesteader, I've given some thought to the role Home plays in my life. Homesteaders in the traditional sense are concerned about the basics of survival: food production, food preparation, shelter from the elements, food preservation, and propagating more humans to consume said food resources.

Surely Home is a lot more than the sum of these skeletal parts. Screws and 2x4s, trusses and shingles, cement and hardwood: a house this makes—but a home?

The word Home has an emotional dimension that, when I imagine it, is the "meat" (err; flesh) on the skeleton. Relationships, memory, expectations, and exasperations stretch over the structure and add warmth like that of new love or old love, or bacon-wrapped tenderloin.

There are many words that start with 'home' which are full of emotional associations. Let's explore a few.

Consider the word: "Homemade." Its very mention conjures the image of a crackling hearth and wafting scent of chicken soup and fresh bread. Strange that this word doesn't bring to mind those biscuits I cleverly disguised as "biscotti" or the smoke from the hearth pizza that assailed the fire alarm until it shrieked like a cat fight.

Consider the word "Homemaker." As a generation Y-er, I have a hard time detaching this word from snide "barefoot and pregnant in the kitchen" comments. But the homemakers I've met don't look much like their caricature. Women and men, fathers and grandmothers, they are involved in more than giving a house that homespun feel. Regularly they fuel the fire that is community action.

Consider the word "Homely." I usually imagine Beetlejuice. Often it is how I look on the days when I take over from my husband as homemaker. Some may say the spaghetti on my sweater and sauce dripping down my arm looks "homey;" I beg to differ.

Say it, "Home." I hear: Crackling fire (I don't have a fireplace) and crinkle of

Christmas presents (one day a year).

The reality is, at times Home sounds like me screaming at the kids to stop crying while they scream at me to stop screaming. Thankfully these off notes join the tenors of other sounds: the piano thumping, the girls wrestling on squeaky couch springs, the screen slamming with Mat's entry, the bath tap pouring, the oven door opening, the forks scraping, and boots booming across the living room floor.

The music of home, the real soundtrack and not the one created by advertisers and nostalgic storytellers, is dissident and soothing in even measure. It is as complex as a master composition: something to be enjoyed thoughtfully on a cold, snowy Christmas Day.

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# Out of the mouths of babes... What home means to kids

Home is comfortable, lovable, it looks good and healthy and smells like flowers.  
*Matty*

Home is a place where I hang alone, or where I can pretend to talk to my Dad, or just go to my room and just go sad or frustrated and listen to music. I love my home.  
*Kyla, age 12*

When you are at home, you are loved by your family and everybody looks out for each other. Home is shelter where you are warm on the outside and in. A home should be safe and not violent. I'm proud to have a home because it sucks to be homeless and have nobody be there for you and be cold.  
*Sarah, age 16*

Home is a place where you can go, it's warm and cozy. It's a place to be safe and where your family is and cares for you.  
*Josh, age 13*

Home means a lot different things. For me it means safety, comfort, warmth, food, water, beds to sleep in and people that love you.  
*Dennis, age 14.*

Home is the place I live.  
*Lucie, age 4*

I believe my house will be more welcoming and secure now it's just my Mom and I. The shelter here is awesome. The smell of bacon always wakes me up to go to school.  
*Abdella*

Home is wonderful. It's a place to be with family and friends and to build relationships and where memories are born. It's where you can be you.  
*Meagan, age 11.*

The place I sleep, the place I feel happy, the place I know is safe. Everyone should have one.  
*Thorin, age 7*

My bed, my house, my place.  
*Jack, age 7.*

A home is special because that is where you sleep and eat. Homes keep you safe and have so many memories, like Christmas and Halloween. Homes are with family all around you.  
*Britany*

I think home is with family and you are happy to be there. You can have someone to talk to and someone who cares for you and can take a minute for you when you're feeling sad or mad. Home is where you are happy and warm and cozy.  
*Kaitlyn, age 14*

Home means love and being cared for, having kindness and watching out for each other. And also good meals.  
*Nessa, age 10.*

I feel good at home because I get to see my family.  
*A.J.*

Home is where I go to sleep in peace. It is shelter so I am not rained on. It is where my family is.  
*Kobi, age 8.*

Home is a soft fuzzy place where you feel welcome. A place to relax, warm and welcoming. If you are having a bad day you can go home and forget about things.  
*Mikayla, age 10.*

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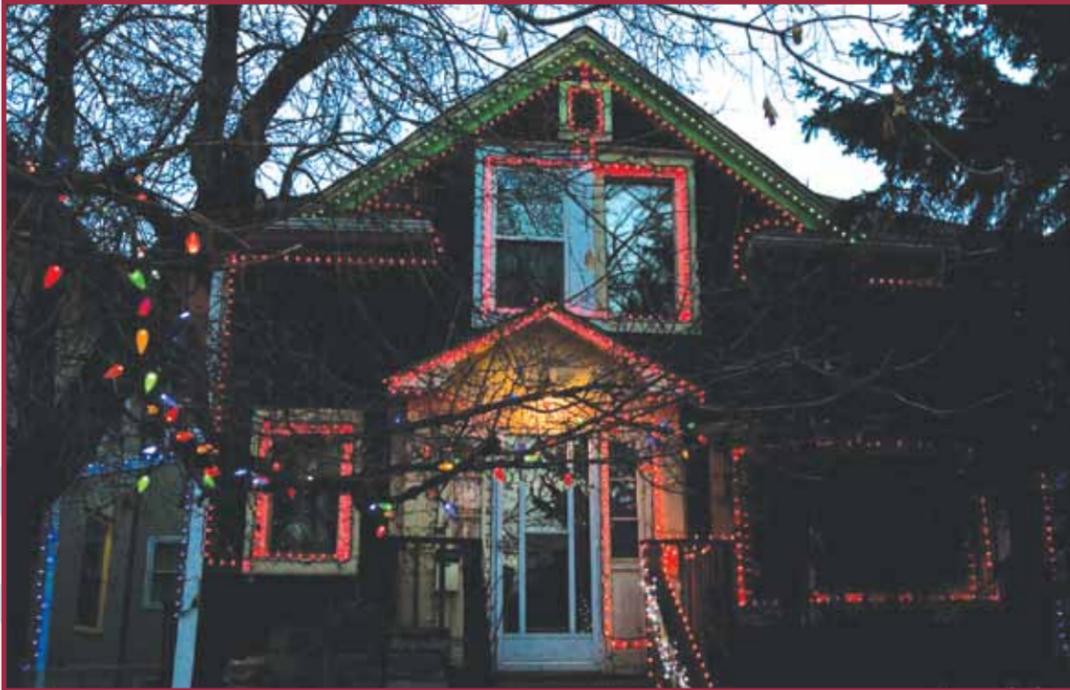
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## Families at home



PHOTOS BY REBECCA LIPPIATT / DRAGONFLY PHOTOGRAPHY



## The Birthday



A tiny babe in a manger lay,  
In swaddling clothes, on sweet smelling hay.  
Ten little fingers, ten little toes,  
Two beautiful eyes and a sweet little nose.  
A babe of humble and lowly birth,  
Yet angels sang, and a glorious star  
Guided the way for those from afar.  
How thankful we are for that day of his birth,  
And the miracles it brought for the people of earth.

By Sharon E. Riley





## Invest in the community and get a 50% tax credit!!

Make a donation to Alberta Avenue Community League before December 31, 2010 and receive a charitable tax receipt.

Donate to the league's general fund, capital fund or program/festival fund.

9210 118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5G 0N2  
Email: [info@albertaave.org](mailto:info@albertaave.org) Phone: 780-477-2773



**PETER GOLDRING**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East

### Declining Homeless Numbers Are Encouraging

For the first time in more than 10 years the number of homeless in Edmonton has declined, due to a large part to the efforts of our federal Conservative government partnering with the province, city of Edmonton and particularly the private sector on affordable rental housing.

In 2008 Edmonton's homeless population count was 3,079 people. This year's count found that number had declined to 2,421 – a drop of 658 people, over 20%.

As a member of the Edmonton Committee to End Homelessness I disagreed completely with the \$1 billion social industry cost number for 3,000 homes quoted in the committee's 2009 report. However I was very much in agreement with the need to help those in need with more appropriate assistance.

The reduction in the number of homeless can be directly attributed to the partnership of governments of all levels with the economy of the private sector, something I have been encouraging in books, articles and speeches since first being elected in 1997. Boardwalk Rental Communities, for example, a private sector company, is committed to working with governments and non-governmental organizations to provide affordable rental housing for the homeless and chronically homeless.

By engaging the private sector and similarly funded non-profit efforts, more homes can be provided and the number of homeless in Edmonton will hopefully continue to decline. Developer ProCura's Mayfair Village project, now under construction, includes 237 units of private sector rental housing, affordable for those on minimum wage or modest pensions. I hope to see the day soon when the homeless numbers will have dropped to the point where we are actually closing homeless shelters in Edmonton East.

While the 2010 homeless count numbers show great improvement, there is still much more to be done. 2,400 homeless people in Edmonton is still far too many. What do you think?

Please join us for our Christmas Open House  
9111-118 Ave. Friday, Dec. 17th 3-7pm

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

## Pets and the Holidays

Holidays are a joyous and busy time. We are busy visiting and receiving visitors, cooking, decorating and having a great time. For our pets it can be a very confusing time. Animals don't always accept change in routine very well, especially if they are new to the home or under two years of age (for dogs and cats). Remember to give them attention and try to keep to a routine as much as possible.

Christmas plants that your pets should avoid are poinsettia, mistletoe, and holly. Consult with your veterinarian on how these plants can affect your pet and recommended treatments.

The one plant we often have the most challenge with

is the Christmas tree. It is attractive with smells and shiny ornaments. Set up your tree, if possible, in an area not frequented by pets.

Some suggestions to keep both tree and pets safe are:

- Place the tree on a low table – pets tend to think if it's on the floor it belongs to them. By elevating the tree it can help to deter pets from getting into the base of the tree or playing with, breaking or ingesting ornaments and other decorations.

- Place a barrier around the base of the tree and gifts – there are some very decorative type plastic fences. Sometimes a citrus scent such as oranges or lemons can deter pets from going into the area and/or

“marking” the tree.

- Keep pets out of the room unless supervised – prevention is always best.

- Supervise and train your pets (yes even cats can be trained). Have your dog lie on a bed or in a crate or dog designated small rug near a sofa or chair that you sit in (as long as it's not next to the tree). Reward the dog with petting, treats, or a scratch on the belly or behind the ear when they are calm and at their “spot” in the room. Remember, do not play with pets in that room until the tree comes down.

Have a happy and safe holiday!

Darlene Taylor, K9 Behave  
780-915-0213,  
[k9behave@presplus.onza.net](mailto:k9behave@presplus.onza.net).

## Local Kiwi returning to her island home

DAWN FREEMAN

Long time Alberta Avenue resident Linda Maude recently made the hard decision to return to her native land of New Zealand. Not an easy choice considering she has lived half her adult life in Canada.

“I want to go back, but part of me wants to stay too. I'll miss Canada and all the wonderful friends I have made here,” says Linda. She's not making the trip alone though; Millie, the dog she rescued, and her two cats, Tosca and Musetta, are going with her.

Linda has been a tireless volunteer in the community. She wrote several articles over the years for the *Rat Creek Press* as well as delivered the paper, and she was the dedicated first aid volunteer available at most of the festivals in the area. One of the original committee members, Linda also worked many hours volunteering as an organizer and barista at The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse.

An active community member, Linda says there is no

reason to be lonely when living in the 'hood.

“The Carrot is a wonderful place to get together with old friends and make new acquaintances,” she says. “As a single person and a shift worker, I loved being able to just drop in to a place where I felt welcome and safe.”

Linda is an avid macro and

close-up photographer.

“There is so much inspiration right here in the community and in the river valley,” she says. “I encourage people to get out and explore the beauty of their own backyard.”

We'll miss you, Linda. You have been a vibrant part of our community.



SOME OF LINDA'S PHOTOS



# So nice she named it twice

## The Daring Diner

WITH ANGIE KLEIN

Ruth's Chris Steak House is a fine dining chain that originated in New Orleans. Originally called Chris Steak House, Ruth Fertel bought the restaurant, and due to a fire destroying the kitchen she had to move. She couldn't use the name Chris Steak house in a new location and so Ruth's Chris Steak house was born. After over 40 years the franchise has gone global, including restaurants as far away as Japan.

I checked out this restaurant a few years ago and deemed it too expensive. The recession has changed that, and even though the regular menu is extremely pricey, they now offer a Wednesday "Date Night." This sweetheart of a deal is dinner for two including one appetizer, two entrées, two glasses of wine and one dessert all for \$99.00. I expect a lot when I part with a hundred of my hard earned dollars and this meal didn't disappoint!

My young daughter Tyra and I arrived in the early evening without a reserva-

tion. Sadly, the dining room was full, but they did have a table available in the lounge. I explained my daughter was under 18, and they assured me their license was for all ages. You could feel the excitement from daughter, dressed up for dinner, having a special girl's night out! The wait staff were very gracious and made Tyra a beautiful virgin Mojito, loaded with fresh mint leaves and lime.

We decided upon the Crab Stuffed Mushroom Caps as our starter. They came before our bread arrived, which is too bad because the mushroom caps were barely heated through. They were however stuffed to overflowing with tasty rich crab meat topped with Romano cheese. We each ate one and waited for our entrées to arrive. We selected our side dishes, Lyonnais Potatoes and Green Beans with Almonds. Tyra opted for a stuffed chicken breast, while I chose the Tenderloin. After all, it was a steak house.

All the meals are served family style with a sizzling hot plate of meat for each diner, an interesting concept for such a high end place, but it seems to work. I never thought I

would say there was such a thing as too much butter, but this meal was pushing the limit. Even my perfectly medium rare Petit Filet was dipped in a rich browned butter before being served. Fresh creamery butter dripped off our freshly cut green beans and potatoes, golden rich with caramelized onion. The Garlic Herb Cheese Stuffed Chicken came with the two breasts and drumsticks attached topped with Lemon Butter. All delicious, more than ample servings.

We agreed to share the Bread Pudding with Whisky sauce, something I assured Tyra has no alcohol left in it after cooking. The sumptuous home-cooked flavor was the perfect compliment to our rich feast.

After all was said and done our meal came under \$125.00 with a generous tip for the excellent service. We brought home enough food to have a meal each the next day and were completely full!

Ruth's Chris steak house is located at 9990 Jasper Ave. Reservations are recommended.

Until next time...Happy Eating.

## Sprucewords

WITH SHANNON CLARKE

I love being at home. My favorite winter activity is snuggling up with a blanket, some hot tea and a book. Winter usually means more time spent at home, so lately I've been exploring some new ways to make my home a bit homier. For me, a clean home full of wonderful baking smells and gentle music is a perfect setting for entertaining guests and enjoying solo reading time.

If you've been to the library, you likely know you can come in and find (or put a hold on) numerous books about home improvement, holiday cooking, entertaining and crafting, or pick up some favorite fiction titles for relaxing holiday reading. But did you know you can download free ebooks, audiobooks, music and videos from [epl.ca](http://epl.ca)? Thanks to EPL's digital content, you can access these inspiring resources from your home computer to help create the perfect winter home.

To take advantage of these unique collections go to the Digital Content link on [epl.ca](http://epl.ca). From here you can download the software (Overdrive and Netlibrary) used to read ebooks and listen to audiobooks. For example, *Green Your Home All-In-One for Dummies* by Yvonne Jeffery is a great source for natural house cleaning methods and is available as an ebook on Netlibrary.

There are also several videos in Overdrive to help

## Home for the Holidays with some help from EPL

you prepare your home for the holidays with topics ranging from Household Hints to Easy Cocktails and Chocolate Passion. While you work on holiday baking and decorating, you can also download and listen to the latest Nora Roberts novel, or listen to a variety of music from one of the five great eMusic sources on [epl.ca](http://epl.ca).

Starting January

11th, you can drop in to Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St) for our Digital Content – Downloading Basics program (Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 8:30pm). You'll get your own laptop for an hour and a half and we'll help you open the door to a world of free downloadable content you can access from the comfort of your cozy winter home.

**EDMONTON**

**Avenue Communities Family Winter Festival**

*Saturday*  
*December 18,*  
*2010*

12:00 - 4:00 pm

### Avenue Communities Family Winter Festival

Join us for exciting outdoor games, crafts, and winter activities including snowshoeing!

Most importantly, all of our leaders are certified specialists in FUN!

**Who:** Residents from communities surrounding 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**Date:** *Saturday December 18, 2010*

**Times:** 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**Location:** Sheriff Robertson Park  
111 Ave and 82 Street

**Cost:** FREE

**COME DRESSED FOR THE WEATHER!  
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# Parkdale memories: a principal looks back, Part 4

MARLENE HANSEN

If the walls could talk, I wonder what other stories they would tell us about life in the Alberta Avenue Community over the years. I wonder what stories they'd tell of Parkdale School, and the children who have attended there. Perhaps they'd help us to unravel the mystery of the initials etched into the poster-covered chalkboard in a main floor classroom- 'EAW 1934.' Perhaps they'd remember a time when the phoenix rose from the ashes of the 1913 fire, to become the school symbol of resiliency for the next 97 years.

Perhaps they'd laugh along with the voices of children heading outside for recess on a sunny day. Or stand at attention while the Canadian Military marched in for Remembrance Day services. They'd tell of a day when Canadian wildlife artist Robert Bateman came to visit, and spent the day listening to children and youth talk about their science and art exhibits. Or of the Cree drummers who honoured the day, and the Elders who gave cultural teachings under a 90-year-old elm tree.

If the walls could talk, there would be many stories to tell, that have shaped the Alberta Avenue community today. If Florence were still alive, and writing in her diaries today, the recent entries, might read, in her matter-of-fact style:

June 19, 2010 Attended 'Parkdale Memories' Open House. Visited with many friends. June 22, 2010 Sadie C. visited the school. Still looking great in her 90's! June 30, 2010. Parkdale School



officially closed. Children will go to Delton next year. Older ones will bus to Spruce Avenue. July 1, 2010. Celebrated Canada Day with fireworks. Summer begins.

And as my mind returns to counting the desks that will now move to Delton and Spruce Avenue Schools in the fall, I smile at the memorable times that this community, and this school, have provided my family, and many other families, over the past century. The skating parties of the past have become arts events on the avenue. The fortress will stay standing, hopefully opening its doors again to community groups; the children will move on with their old friends, and make new friends elsewhere; and the memories will remain forever. Thank you to all of the families who have contributed to the memories, and to the archival history, of Parkdale School over the years!

*Marlene Hansen, granddaughter to Frank and Florence McCoy, served as principal of Parkdale School, from 2003 to 2010. Martha Hanson (McCoy) passed away in 2006. This is the last of a four part memoir of her family's history in the Parkdale area.*

# Envisioning our community

DAWN FREEMAN

The neighbourhoods in north-central Edmonton have a lot of growth and development potential both in residential areas and commercial strips.

Developers are interested but their motivation ultimately is to make money. The vision of the residents who live here on the other hand is to build a healthy, vibrant community. What type of development will help achieve that vision? Residents may have differing opinions.

Cris Basualdo, a longtime resident and community advocate in the development arena, thinks we need to attract more home ownership and market value developments. Economic diversity makes for healthy communities.

Developers need to have faith in a neighbourhood and develop market value homes, continues Basualdo. "It's a challenge, but this is what turns around neighbourhoods and makes them places people want to live."

And she believes it is better to wait than to accept a development that is less than what residents want. "An empty lot is a bad thing to some people, but I see it as potential down the road."

"I'm in favour of a healthy, balanced mixed usage within a

higher density building," says Carissa Halton, resident and active community volunteer. "Let's re-image what high density could look like to create this urban village people talk about. There is so much possibility around a large building, especially in a northern city where we are inside much of the year."

Halton envisions a complex that could be part market value, part affordable and part social. She feels a mixed income development creates opportunities for a healthy community by using the strengths of each group to work for the whole.

She concludes: "For our neighbourhood to grow, we need more people to be feet on the streets, eyes in the community and shoppers at local businesses."

"We need developers with a vision to create an urban village, developers that are ethical and moral as well as financially savvy. They can still make their money, but in the end we all have a better product."

Basualdo believes our communities need to be cautious. Development eyes that are interested in government funding for affordable and social housing could be looking at us.

"Neighbourhoods close to us are suffering from the effects of high concentrations of poverty through non-market

housing but are being recognized as saturated. Non-market housing advocates tend to use proximity of existing social services and availability of transit as factors when selecting new sites, though roaming or in-situ services can provide equal or better outcomes for clients."

Although the Avenue communities don't have the same level of concerns as others such as Boyle Street and McCauley, many of them are still considered distressed communities based on three factors: levels of non-market housing, quality of life, and rates of low income persons or families.

Basualdo believes the city and the province need to cap funding non-market housing developments in these communities as distributing them throughout the City creates healthier neighbourhoods and better outcomes for clients.

The Avenue communities are diverse - ethnically, economically and socially. Residents often have different opinions and visions of development. Ongoing open dialogue and consideration of different viewpoints will be needed.

Development issues will continue to challenge the community in the years to come. The question is, will the community be able to work together to respond to them?



## EDMONTON

### IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PET OWNERS Animal Care & Control Centre Moves to New Location

Starting **October 28**, residents who have lost or found an animal should go to the **new** Animal Care & Control Centre located at **13550 - 163 Street**, next to the Edmonton Humane Society.

The **new** Centre will provide enhanced care for over 8,000 stray animals yearly, including better designed spaces for pets, larger service areas for pet owners and all City of Edmonton pet-related services under one roof.



### REMINDER TO RESIDENTS

#### If you have found a pet:

- ◆ Take found pets to the Animal Care & Control Centre at **13550-163 Street**. (If the animal is injured, or aggressive, call 311 to be connected to an Animal Control Officer.)

#### If you have lost a pet:

- ◆ After checking your neighbourhood thoroughly, log in to **PetLynx (www.petlynx.net)** and create a lost pet report. All animals in the Animal Care & Control Centre are entered into PetLynx. If your pet has been found with current ID, the Centre will notify you.

#### NEW HOURS:

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, Thursday 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

**Closed Sundays and Holidays**

**Need more information? Visit [www.edmonton.ca/pets](http://www.edmonton.ca/pets) or call 311**



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Send us your events & notices - it's free for all non-profits and community organizations. Maximum of 75 words. Email [editor@ratcreek.org](mailto:editor@ratcreek.org) or call 780-479-6285.

## ART & THEATRE

### VISUAL ARTISTS COLLECTIVE

Second Wednesday of the month at 7pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). Drop in, have a coffee, discuss visual art related topics. For more info contact: Michael Germann, [mikalow@shaw.ca](mailto:mikalow@shaw.ca), 780-909-7027.

### ARTS NIGHTS AT THE NINA HAGGERTY

Come out for a FREE evening of art making ranging from clay building to printmaking and everything in between. Community Night: Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 PM and Family Night: Thursdays from 6:30-8:30PM at 9225 - 118 Avenue. RESUMES JAN 11. Limited space so please phone ahead to register: 780-474-7611.

## DROP-IN GROUPS & PROGRAMS

### BOOK CLUB

Second Thursday evening of each month from 7PM to 9PM. Love to read? Come and join us at The Carrot Coffeehouse (9351 118 Ave). Lively discussions, humor, and enlightenment! More info: Ann 780-752-4867.

### ENGLISH CONVERSATION CAFE

Every Saturday morning, 10:00-11:30 AM at Bethel Chapel (95 St & 115 Ave) for those who need to practice their new-found English language skills. Free child care provided.

### PRACTICE ENGLISH @ YOUR LIBRARY

Mondays at 6:30pm at Sprucewood Library (95 St & 116 Ave).

### PARKDALE-CROMDALE SENIORS GROUP

Mondays from 10am to 2pm at 11335 85 St.. Join us for bingo, coffee and snacks.

### SENIORS DROP-IN

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

### CRYSTAL KIDS YOUTH CENTRE

Mon to Thur 12pm-8pm, Fri 3pm-10pm, and Sat 1-5pm at 8718 118 Ave. Youth program for ages 6-17. More info call 780-479-5283.

### TEEN GAMING

Fridays, 6:30pm for ages 12 to 17 at Sprucewood Library (95 St & 116 ave) until Dec 17. Hone your Guitar Hero or Dance Dance Revolution skills, or choose from plenty of other Wii and Playstation games.

### SING, SIGN, LAUGH AND LEARN

Tuesdays, 10:30am at Sprucewood Library (95 St & 116 Ave) until Dec 21. Parents will learn strategies to engage their children and enhance their communication & development through repetition, visuals & movement. For children up to age three.

### STORY STOP

Thursdays, 10:30am at Sprucewood Library (95 St & 116 Ave) until Dec 30. This quick 15-minute storytime features stories, rhymes and songs - fast and fun for the whole family.

### PARKDALE-CROMDALE LIL SPROUTS PLAYGROUP

Fridays from 10 am to 12 pm at 11335 85 St. Come join our playgroup! A place where parents can meet and children

can play. Bring your snacks, ideas and sense of adventure! For more information, email [info@parkdalecromdale.org](mailto:info@parkdalecromdale.org) or phone 780-471-4410.

### BABES IN ARMS

Fridays, 10am to 12pm at The Carrot Community Arts CoffeeHouse (9351 118 Ave). Come and connect with other parents in the community. More info: 780-471-1580.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### THE CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEEHOUSE

9351 - 118 Avenue  
THURSDAYS: Zoomers (Boomers with Zip!) Open mic 1-4 pm  
FRIDAYS: Live music, 7:30pm-9:30pm; \$5 cover charge  
SATURDAYS: Open mic 7:30pm-9:30pm; Music, spoken word, comedy.

## SPORTS & REC

### MORNING RUNNING CLUB

Thursdays at 6:20am and Saturdays at 7:30am. Meet at the corner of 117 Ave & 89 St.

### BOOTCAMP

NEW SESSION: Tuesdays & Thursdays 6pm to 7pm from Jan 11 to April 21 at Alberta Ave. Drop-in for \$15/class or \$280/person. Contact Candace Ph: 780-445-5191 or E-mail: [candacetaha@yahoo.ca](mailto:candacetaha@yahoo.ca)

### YOGA IN PARKDALE

Parkdale-Cromdale yoga classes begin in January. Email [info@parkdalecromdale.org](mailto:info@parkdalecromdale.org) for more information.

### FREE PUBLIC SKATING DROP-IN

Offered year-round at City of Edmonton indoor arenas. Supervised by ice marshal. No sticks or pucks allowed. Search "shiny hockey" at [edmonton.ca](http://edmonton.ca) for times.  
Grand Truck (13025 112 St) Sundays 1-2pm (no Dec 26);  
Oliver (10335 119 St) Tuesdays 6:15-7:15pm;  
Russ Barnes (6725 121 Ave) Wednesdays 6-7pm;  
Westwood (12040 97 St) Saturdays 3:15-4:15pm (no Dec 25)

### CRUD DOG WALKING GROUPS

An excellent opportunity to meet your neighbours (and their canine companions) as well as spend some quality time walking around the neighbourhood.  
Monday evenings: 6:30pm in front of St. Alphonsus Church (118 Ave and 85 St.)  
Wednesday mornings: 4:45 am (yes, you read that correctly), in front of the Parkdale Community League (11335 85 St.)  
Thursday evenings: 7:30pm in front of the Telus building (118 Ave and 89 St.) Please note: if the temperature is below -15 degrees with a wind-chill, or if it is pouring rain, the dog walk will be cancelled.

### FREE SWIM FOR ALBERTA AVE COMMUNITY LEAGUE MEMBERS

Sundays from 1:15 to 2:45pm at Hardisty Pool (10535 65 St). Eastglen Pool is closed for maintenance from Sept to Nov.

### GIRL GUIDES AND BROWNIES

Mondays at 6:30pm at St. Andrew's Church (8715 118 Ave). If you're a girl looking for fun, friendships, and new

challenges, Girl Guides of Canada - Norwood District has a spot for you! Sparks (K-Gr 1), Brownies (Gr 2-3), and Girl Guides (Gr 4-6). For more info, call Jean 780-469-4487 or Angel 780-642-0879.

### FREE SKATING LESSONS

At Spruce Avenue Community Rink (10240 115 Ave) once a week to start Friday, January 14 to finish Friday March 4. 4 and 5 year olds skate from 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm; 6 - 12 year olds 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Helmets can be provided however you will need to provide your child's skates. If you can not afford skates a referral can be made to Sports Central. Call Verna at 780-479-8019 to register.

### SPRUCE AVENUE RINK

10240 115 Ave. For public skating hours please call 780-471-1932.

## VOLUNTEER

### RINK HOSTS NEEDED AT AB AVE

Hang at the Alberta Ave rink and serve hot chocolate. Hosts needed for Saturdays and Sundays from January to March, shifts are 1pm to 3:30pm and 3:30pm to 6pm. Call 780-477-2773 or email [info@albertaave.org](mailto:info@albertaave.org).

### HELP AT EDMONTON'S COOLEST WINTER FESTIVAL!

Deep Freeze: A Byzantine Winter Festival is fast approaching on January 8 & 9. We are expecting over 10,000 visitors and need lots of volunteers for indoor and outdoor jobs over the weekend as well as help prior to and after the festival. Please email [deepfreezevolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:deepfreezevolunteers@gmail.com) about opportunities.

### HANG AT A GALLERY

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

### BE A COFFEE BARTENDER

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

### DRIVE A SENIOR

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NAME THAT TUNE

Thursday, Dec 9, 7:30-9:00pm at The Carrot. Bring a team or come by yourself. Prizes and a whole lot of fun!

### JINGLE JAMMIN AT THE CARROT

Friday, Dec 17, 6:00pm-10:00pm. Chili and carolling. Please RSVP to [info@artsontheave.org](mailto:info@artsontheave.org)

### RUDOLF'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Join us for breakfast, carols, and holiday crafts for the kids on Sunday,

December 12 from 10a.m.-12p.m. at the Parkdale-Cromdale hall.

Admission is free with a donation to Edmonton's Food Bank. Email [info@parkdalecromdale.org](mailto:info@parkdalecromdale.org) for more information.

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MOVIE & CRAFTS

Thursday, December 16 from 4pm-6pm at the Alberta Avenue Community Centre (9210 118 Ave). Shop the last farmers' market before Christmas while the kids are busy.

### STORIES FROM THE HEART OF THE CITY

Thursday, December 16, 1:30pm at Sprucewood Library. 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 tell your story, and hear stories about interesting people who have lived in the heart of the city over the years.

### COMMUNITY PUB NIGHT

Friday, December 17 from 8pm to midnight at the Alberta Avenue Community Centre (9210 118 Ave). No minors. Entry fee: Community league membership from any league. Memberships for all area leagues will be available.

### AVENUE COMMUNITIES FAMILY WINTER FESTIVAL

It won't be hard to stay warm with exciting outdoor games, crafts and winter activities like snowshoeing! All community residents are welcome to join in the free winter fun on Saturday, December 18 from 12-4p.m. at Sheriff Robertson Park (111 Ave & 82 St). Remember to dress for the weather!

### SNOW BALL FUN

Celebrate winter fun at Parkdale-Cromdale's Snow Ball in mid January. Join us for some hot chocolate, skating, sleigh rides, and snow castle building. Check [www.parkdalecromdale.org](http://www.parkdalecromdale.org) for more information.

### COLLECTIVE KITCHEN

Parkdale-Cromdale Collective Kitchen continues in the new year. For just dollars a person, learn how to make delicious meals from a Red Seal Chef and wow your family. Email [info@parkdalecromdale.org](mailto:info@parkdalecromdale.org) for more information.

### HERITAGE INVENTORY OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, Dec 2, 7-9pm at the Alberta Avenue Community Centre (9210 118 Ave). McCauley, Alberta Avenue, Parkdale neighbourhoods. Do you have what you think is a heritage property? Incentives and grants are available through the City. If you have old photos, plans, drawings or are just curious to find out what buildings are already being considered please attend the open house.

## NOTICES

### JOB OPPORTUNITY

Parkdale-Cromdale Community League is hiring a part-time hall caretaker and rental manager. For more information or to submit your resume, email [info@parkdalecromdale.org](mailto:info@parkdalecromdale.org).

### THE CARROT TAKES A HOLIDAY

From Dec 24 1:00pm - January 3, 2011 Merry Christmas From The Carrot Family to Yours!

### WRITING HELP & FEEDBACK

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

### COPS AT THE CARROT

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

### DELTON PARK REVITALIZATION

More committee members are needed. Our next meeting is Thursday December 9. Currently looking for help in the following areas: someone to help us set up a website, fundraising ideas, volunteers to help out at bingo, casinos, and special events, grant applications. Contact: Laura Zacharuk, [deltonpark@hotmail.com](mailto:deltonpark@hotmail.com) or 780-752-0098.

### PARKDALE GARDEN COMMITTEE

We are open to suggestions for workshops, whether it be canning, fall gardening, pruneharvest tips, etc. Contact [info@parkdalecromdale.org](mailto:info@parkdalecromdale.org) or phone 780-471-4410.

### STITCH AND CHAT

Looking to restart. Contact [info@artsontheave.org](mailto:info@artsontheave.org) if interested.

## Church services

### Avenue Vineyard Church

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

8718 118 Ave (Crystal Kids building)

Sundays at 10:30 am  
[www.avenuevineyard.com](http://www.avenuevineyard.com)

### Bethel Gospel Chapel

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

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

Dec. 19th, 7:00 PM  
Community Christmas Celebration



# Alberta Avenue Farmers' Market

Home made • Home baked • Home grown

Thursdays 2pm - 7pm  
Year-round!  
93 St & 118 Avenue  
[www.albertaave.org](http://www.albertaave.org)



### Nice Neighbour Recognition Award for October

Karen Mykietka, a long time Alberta Avenue resident, is known around the community as someone who is always willing to help, has excellent organizational skills, and continually takes on new leadership roles. This month CRUD is pleased to recognize Karen for her thousands of volunteer hours and endless energy which she pours into our community; as President of the Alberta Avenue Community league, Treasurer (and former Managing Editor) of the Rat Creek Press, and coordinator for the Alberta Avenue Business Directory. Karen also participates on countless other initiatives in the community and is always willing to lend a hand. Thanks Karen for making such a difference in our community!



### Nice Neighbour Recognition Award for November

Since moving into her Parkdale home in 1969, Bernice Caligiuri has been an active member of the neighbourhood. It's not uncommon for Bernice to stop by with small gifts for the kids, a home-spun poem, a painting of your pet, and occasionally some tasty treats. Bernice has on her own accord, captured the history of the Carrot Coffeehouse with a series of photo albums as well as created colouring books for the children that stop by the Carrot. It is all of the kind, thoughtful, little projects that Bernice does which brightens our community. Congratulations Bernice!

For details on the CRUD Nice Neighbour Recognition Awards along with other community building initiatives visit [www.crudedmonton.org](http://www.crudedmonton.org).

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**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!

**FREE**  
Social Arts Experience  
sponsored by the  
Avenue Initiative

**CARROT CHRISTMAS CHEER**

**Name That Tune at The Carrot**  
Thursday Dec 9th  
7:30 - 9:00pm  
Bring a team or come by yourself.  
Prizes and a whole lot of fun!

**Jingle Jammin at The Carrot**  
Friday Dec 17th  
Chili and carolling 6:00pm - 10:00pm  
Please RSVP at [info@artsontheave.org](mailto:info@artsontheave.org)

**Shop The Carrot for Christmas Gifts**  
Christmas Gifts in all price ranges.

**The Carrot Takes a Holiday**  
Dec 24 1:00pm - January 3, 2011  
Merry Christmas From  
The Carrot Family to Yours!

**9351-118ave www.thecarrot.ca**

**GOT  
COMMUNITY  
NEWS?!**

**CALL US!  
780-479-6285**

**nice neighbour**  
RECOGNITION

Do you know someone who makes your neighbourhood a better place to live?  
Then why not nominate them for the monthly  
**Nice Neighbour Recognition Award.**  
For further details contact CRUD.

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

**Hello Highlands-Norwood!**

November 18th was the kick-off of our community-based campaign to open the currently-unfunded urgent care and family medicine sections of the East Edmonton Health Centre. The centre was built to serve us in east Edmonton, and it has remained closed due to a lack of funding from the Stelmach government. I look forward to continuing the fight with you to see our communities provided with the services we have been long-promised. Please do not hesitate to contact my office about this issue or any other concerns.

Happy holidays to all of you.

**6519 - 112 Avenue**  
**Your MLA, Brian Mason**  
Edmonton Highlands-Norwood  
[www.brianmason.ca](http://www.brianmason.ca) ph: 780.414.0682

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