



Housing moratorium leaves more questions for local residents



The four storey Norwood Village Apartments on 95 St between 113 and 114 Ave is the last new non-market housing project Alberta Avenue will see until the moratorium ends in November 2015. The 154 unit complex, projected to be completed by October 2013, will have 80 affordable units rented at 15% below market rates and the 74 market units. The \$28 million project by Glenwood Developments, a private development group, received \$11 million in provincial and municipal housing grants.

MARI SASANO

As the core neighbourhoods continue to improve -- thanks to City Hall's revitalization strategies -- is it time to rethink the idea of the inner city as the home to non-market housing?

McCauley, Central McDougall, Queen Mary Park, Alberta Avenue, and Eastwood, are now under a three-year moratorium on non-market housing after City Council passed a resolution temporarily restricting new buildings.

Alberta Avenue resident Cora Shaw has been involved in the consultation process and says that this is a positive step for our community.

"The city has spent so much money to revitalize our community, but at the same time we're getting the housing that leaves a big question mark," she says, citing disruptions at Nova Place as an example close to her home

of one such development she would like to see fewer of.

For many residents, enough was enough. The three year moratorium is shorter than the requested five to 10 years, but the "investment pause" should give enough of a reprieve to assess the current number of non-market homes as well as evaluate how much more the inner city neighbourhoods can support.

However, upon examining the terms and definitions, one might wonder exactly how much good the moratorium will actually do.

"[Non-market housing] is a term that can mean many different things," says Jim Gurnett of the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness. "To the city, it means any housing involving government funding. So right from the beginning, one of the things that causes me concern is that I don't think

people asking for the moratorium have thought of how many types of housing this involves."

What this means is that not only is the development of supported housing developments shut down (the ones housing those who are difficult to house due to social issues such as addictions and mental health), but senior residences and affordable housing for low-income residents or newcomers.

Currently, the neighbourhoods under the moratorium contain 20 per cent of the non-market housing in Edmonton, and of that, they are home to 60 per cent of the supported housing in the city.

The concern for people like Gurnett and for social worker Keith Goertzen is that a moratorium will hurt those who pose no threat to the community.

"I believe that it would decrease the amount of available housing overall. People are

struggling to find housing now. Without safe affordable housing, it's hard to maintain or get a job or keep kids in school, all the basics are difficult," says Goertzen. The City will continue to upgrade non-market housing.

Shaw agrees that the type of development is important. "I've never had an issue with affordable housing; it's knowing what is it that we have in our neighbourhoods," she says.

Even so, Gurnett believes that good supported housing would be a benefit to our community, which already contains good access to the kinds of services that are needed.

"A good example is Urban Manor. If older men with addictions problems had safe, semi-supervised rooms they are not on the street creating a sense of insecurity in the neighbourhood."

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Police warn local residents to secure their property as a rash of break-ins occur in the community.

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WINTER WONDER

In 32 winters I've not learned to love this seven month sentence. But a few times each year, I can recall what the snow is for. I can remember that life is still seasonal, even if mandarin oranges are not.

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HISTORY AWARD

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Community News

continued from page 1.

Gurnett and Goertzen are not opposed to spreading non-market housing throughout the city, but maintain that we must also plan for the kind of availability of services in those neighbourhoods.

"We need satellite services that help people with employment, addictions, mental illness, education, disabilities, child-care and ESL. Addictions and mental illness in particular can lead to chronic homelessness," says Gurnett.

Goertzen also adds that the current supported housing is a boon for our community, contributing to fewer calls into police and emergency health care once individuals are housed.

"There's no loser when you're housing somebody. For people who are homeless or in substandard housing, putting them in homes improves the neighbourhood because they have more choices and opportunities," he says.

Shaw isn't necessarily opposed to more development, saying that it's important that the community remain diverse and that no one is forced to move out. Instead, what she feels is necessary is a more open dialogue and more control over what is built here.

"How to do better community consultation from the ground-up instead of developers coming in and saying, 'This is what we're building.'"

Break-ins bedevil local area residents

MARI SASANO

Delton resident Debra Wood wasn't happy when her house was broken into this fall: her back door was smashed in, cupboards and drawers were left open, and a number of small items (including an iPod and some jewelry) were taken.

"It's definitely rattled me," Wood says. "It's an awful feeling that someone was in my space, and there's the emotional worry of wondering where everything is."

Police are now warning residents to be on alert after a series of break-ins along the 82 Street corridor and west, between 115th to 122 Avenues. They can't release too many details, but there is a pattern: a person knocks on the door to see if residents are home, and if there isn't an answer the back door is kicked or forced open.

"It's nothing more sophisticated than that," says Sgt. Ryan Lawley of the EPS Downtown Division. While police are investigating this string of crimes, he says the best prevention is to watch out for your neighbours: look for strangers walking through yards or knocking on doors, perhaps someone carrying a



Deborah Wood at home in front of her door showing some of the damage that resulted from a recent break-in.

large backpack.

"I think the main thing is to keep the threshold of what you're willing to tolerate low, and to contact the police if you see something," says Sgt. Lawley.

Prevention is also key. Sgt. Lawley recommends making sure that doors are secured with screws longer than 3 inches as the best way to prevent a forced entry of the type that has been occurring, as well as installing a metal

door, securing windows, and an alarm system.

Or, he adds, "Get a dog. They're excellent for keeping your home safe if you treat them well."

Wood will be replacing her door with something more secure once her insurance estimates are in. But despite the stress of this incident, she says she still feels safer in Delton than she did when she lived in St. Albert.

"There, my car was broken

into seven times, and my house was broken into and it was a professional job," says Wood. "They knew exactly what they were doing. In the three years I've lived here, this is the biggest thing that has happened."

You can check the EPS website at www.edmontonpolice.ca for more tips, including how to contact your Community Liaison Constable at 780-421-2602.

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News Briefs



GOLDRING BACK IN COURT

After a 6 month delay, local Progressive Conservative MP Peter Goldring was back in court on November 16th to face charges of failing to provide a breathalyzer sample to a police officer. The charges stem from a December 5, 2011 incident where Goldring was stopped as his car was exiting a bar parking lot. According to the arresting officer, Constable Trevor Shelrud, Goldring was “belligerent” and his car had the “strong smell” of alcohol.

Goldring was elected as a PC member of Parliament, but has sat as an Independent since charges were brought against him last year.

The court case resumes on December 7th, and Goldring has stated that he will give his reasons for refusing the breathalyzer test when the trial continues.



OLD CYCLE BUILDING DEMOLISHED

At the beginning of November, the Old Cycle Building was torn down after structural flaws proved too expensive for the City to continue with it’s plan for an arts hub building. After renegotiating its contract with the building contractor, the wrecking cranes moved in to begin remediation of the site. The City is turning the lot into a green space for community use, with sod placed in the springtime, and residents are encouraged to provide some medium term plans for the space, until future plans for the lot are confirmed.



ALBERTA GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES NEW ELECTION LAW

Alison Redford’s PC government tabled Bill 7, the Election Accountability Amendment Act, in the legislature in November in an attempt to tighten campaign financing rules. It would allow Elections Alberta to investigate more complaints and publish the names of those sanctioned for violations.

According to NDP Party Leader Brian Mason, “This act, quite frankly, simply comprises another piece in the government’s coverup puzzle.”

Not included in the amendments is any authoritative oversight body (ie, Elections Alberta) to investigate or punish illegal donations in municipal elections. Nor are there any provisions preventing one corporate donor (ie, Darryl Katz) from donating from multiple corporate entities beyond the designated limit.

Enjoy the lighting the Yule Ave Giving Tree on Dec. 16th at 8pm, outside the Alberta Avenue Community League.

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EDITORIAL POLICY:

The Rat Creek Press is a forum for all people. We encourage comments that further discussion on a given article or subject, provide constructive criticism, or offer an idea for community activity. Letters should be no longer than 250 words and must include the full name, location and contact information of the author. Op-Ed columns should be 600-800 words and observe formal rules of spelling and grammar. The RCP reserves the right to edit all material and to remove any electronic comment at any time.

All columns, letters or cartoons submitted are attributed to the author and do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Rat Creek Press. Send submissions to the Rat Creek Press Editor via email editor@ratcreek.org, or 9210 118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5G 0N2. Mail may also be dropped at the address above.

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Debating housing policy and practice

KAREN MYKIETKA

Over the last four years, community leaders, housing developers, social service providers, city administration and council have been discussing and debating the issue of high concentrations of non-market housing in certain neighbourhoods. And while Council has granted a three year moratorium on new government-funded housing (e.g. affordable, social, supportive, transitional) the stakeholders still fundamentally disagree.

I think most would agree that everyone deserves to have quality affordable housing. And most would agree that everyone deserves to live in safe, healthy communities. The debate is how non-market housing affects the communities in which it is built. The city and housing providers argue this housing helps relieve poverty and has positive impacts on the health and wellbeing of neighbourhoods. The community leaders argue non-market housing adds to concentrations of poverty, and research shows that spatial concentrations of poverty have a cumulative negative impact resulting in neighbourhood decline.

When communities in central Edmonton campaign against these very much needed and well-intentioned housing projects, it often looks like they are uncaring of those less fortunate and have a NIMBY (not in my backyard) attitude. This

is not the case. They are saying that it is counterproductive to place individual well-being above community well-being when the two are interrelated. Just because something is good, doesn't make it the best choice in all circumstances.

The city has assessed neighbourhoods based on poverty and quality of life indicators and identified what it calls high, medium and low threshold neighbourhoods. The "high threshold" or distressed neighbourhoods are also the ones with the majority of non-market housing and social service agencies.

Does it make sense to help the most vulnerable individuals in our city by housing them in the most distressed neighbourhoods? Is it logical to think the health and well-being of a distressed neighbourhood will be improved by adding more non-market housing to it? Housing that is usually rental based and specifically designated for people with economic, social and health challenges.

Over the last six years the city has invested millions of dollars into the Alberta Avenue neighbourhoods to revital-

ize them. This a great start but it also requires comprehensive planning to create and sustainable mixed communities, without this the result is concentrations and imbalances that aren't healthy. Don't think because you live in a nice middle-class or high end homogeneous little suburb that this isn't your problem.

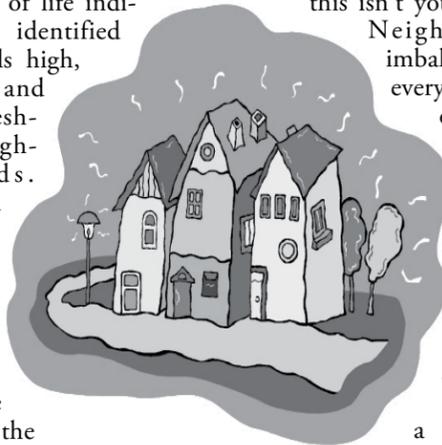
Neighbourhood imbalances affect everyone; everyone has the responsibility to help care for the vulnerable or less fortunate in society.

Over a third of Edmonton neighbourhoods do not have any affordable housing in them and another third have less than five percent. Housing providers argue that if they cannot build in the five central neighbourhoods, it will hamper their ability to provide adequate amounts of non-market housing. How can this be when there are over 200 other neighbourhoods in this city in which they can build; neighbourhoods that are very much in need of more diverse housing options. If each community accepted some social housing, it wouldn't be concentrated in

a handful of neighbourhoods and it wouldn't have a negative impact on any neighbourhood. And it would give all Edmontonians, the dignity of choosing where they want to live regardless of their income.

City Council already has a policy of creating mixed neighbourhoods in their municipal development plan: "Provide a broad and varied housing choice, incorporating housing for various demographic and income groups in all neighbourhoods." So if this is already a city policy, why the need for a moratorium in certain neighbourhoods? Why are these neighbourhoods getting an overconcentration of non-market rental housing? Because you can't rely on the private or non-profit housing sectors to equitably distribute non-market housing on their own as they base their decisions on market factors. Type and location of housing has to be directed by policy and strategic planning. City administration already recognizes this, yet for the last six years they acknowledge they did not take location of projects into consideration.

Is it the city's business to direct development? It is when the development is publically funded. It is when they have a housing policy that calls for diversity in all neighbourhoods. What would be the point of having a policy if you have no intention of putting anything into practice to achieve it?



CORRECTION:

RE: COLORING LIVES ONE PAINTING AT A TIME

The Rat Creek Press would like to apologize to Frances Bouchard who was incorrectly identified in the photo we ran with the story. Although she created a mirror art piece, she was not the woman in the picture. We regret any confusion this may have caused.

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Speaker's Corner

Have opinions? Great let's hear them!

Submissions: editor@ratcreek.org

Letter to the Editor: Policing problems

Can anyone tell me exactly what is the purpose of these neighborhood police stations, if not to keep law and order? Any time anyone goes there to report a crime, the excuse is the same, "I can't leave the building."

Today was the last straw for me. I went to check my mail, and caught red-handed a couple I did not recognize taking mail

from one of the other apartment mailboxes. When I asked what apartment they lived in, the woman replied, "Upstairs." Obviously, they had no idea about the apartment numbers in the building.

Hoping the police would help, I refrained from apprehending the creeps myself. They left and walked south down the street, right

between the EPS community station. I hurried to the station and told the officer my story. The suspects were still in the Safeway parking lot, and could have easily been taken into custody. Do you think he moved a muscle? No! He just gave the standard excuse, and said he would put out a call to cars in the neighborhood. While I could be doing many

other things this afternoon, I'm still waiting for the police to arrive and interview me.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that if we are going to clean up the neighborhood, we the people will have to protect ourselves. As it stands now, the criminals are laughing at us and the EPS.

Stan Anderson

CANADIAN NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION PRINCIPLES

PREAMBLE

This statement of principles expresses the commitment of Canada's newspapers to operate in the public interest. A newspaper is a vital source of information and a private business enterprise with responsibility to the community it serves.

INDEPENDENCE

The newspaper's primary obligation is fidelity to the public good. It should pay the costs of gathering the news. Conflicts of interest, real or apparent, should be declared. The newspaper should guard its independence from government, commercial and other interests seeking to subvert content for their own purposes.

COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

The newspaper has responsibilities to its readers, its shareholders, its employees and its advertisers. However, the operation of a newspaper is a public trust and its overriding responsibility is to the society it serves. The newspaper plays many roles: a watchdog against evil and wrongdoing, an advocate for good works and noble deeds, and an opinion leader for its community. The newspaper should strive to paint a representative picture of its diverse communities, to encourage the expression of disparate views and to be accessible and accountable to the readers it serves, whether rich or poor, weak or powerful, minority or majority. When published material attacks an individual or group, those affected should be given an opportunity to reply.

RCP holds 2012 Annual General Meeting

DARREN BOISVERT

The Rat Creek Press held its 2012 Annual General Meeting on November 5th, at the Nina Haggerty Arts Centre on the last day of the Ave We Had Gallery Show.

Twenty-five people showed up to hear about the progress made over the last year and the plan ahead for the newspaper. Karen Mykietka (Publisher) and Darren Boisvert (Managing Editor) recapped a very successful year for the Rat, and outlined the strategy for 2013.

For those who missed the lively debate and excellent food, we provide an overview below.

Sept. 2011 to August 2012

It has been a great year for the Rat Creek Press and we happy to say that our neighborhood now has the best community newspaper in Edmonton. While we still have much work ahead of us incorporating new staff members and launching new initiatives, we have (like our community) transformed our small newspaper into a media outlet that is garnering citywide and national attention.

Editorial

Editorial highlights include the addition of a history page to uncover and share the incredible

history of our community, a investigative feature (scooping every other media outlet in Edmonton) on illegal donations in the 2009 civic election, and a vigorous debate on helicopter noise that led to a fly-along in the Police helicopter that is rarely offered to journalists. We also continue to showcase the many festivals and events along our Avenue. The Editorial page and comments section continues to be a home for sharp arguments and endless discussion for community members on political issues in our community and the City.

Editorial Independence

Despite continuous pressure, the newspaper remains an independent source of news and views for our community. We have maintained our policy regarding the separation of advertorial and editorial content. We will continue with investigative features as time and resources permit.

Advertising

We have had our best advertising year to date increasing our advertising revenue by 13% over the last fiscal year. Our goal for 2012 was to have a minimum of 25% advertising and maximum of 40% in each issue. We



Admire historical photos, the community gathers to discuss the future of the RCP.

succeeded with the average advertising for 2012 being around 33%. Bettyann Dolata, our advertising representative, who join the team in November 2011 has worked diligently with existing advertisers building quality customer service. She has worked hard selling the paper and has brought in approximately 25 new advertisers in 2012.

Community

As a community newspaper, we do what we can to support the community within our means and needs to watch our own sustainability and self-sufficiency.

- We offer a very generous

25% discount to all non-profits groups.

- We often upgrade black & white nonprofit advertising to full color if space permits.

- We provide small sponsorships to festivals such as Kaleido and Deep Freeze in the form of free ads.

- We fill empty space and unsold skinny banners with community information.

- We provide and maintain a Community Calendar which continues to be the first resource for people looking for free activities in our neighborhood. A big thank you to Norwood Neighbourhood Association for sponsoring this page.

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"Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

Avenue Vineyard Community Church invites you to join us for our celebration of the Christmas Story on **Saturday, December 15th at 7:00pm** Crystal Kids Youth Centre (8718 118 Avenue NW) Coffee and refreshments will be served after the program.

Holding onto wonder in the middle of the winter

DAVE VON BIEKER

It is early November and our world is a wash of white. The early snowfall stuck. My kids still know what snow is for, and drag the whole family into an empty field to gather up as much winter as possible into boulders too heavy to push. We build ramps, ancient pyramid style, to stack these arctic monstrosities. The snow is filthy with wet grass and mud, but our joy is pure. In 32 winters I've not learned to love this seven month sentence. But a few times each year, I can recall what the snow is for. I can remember that snowmen and snow forts and snow angels all require, well, snow. I can remember that everything has its purpose and its place. I can remember that life is still seasonal, even if mandarin oranges are not.

It is December of 2010 and my son's wonder is on life support. I am desperately trying to resuscitate his belief in Santa Claus. It seems he's been growing up. He's seven now, and he thinks he knows the truth. It's the first time I can remember the truth feeling cool and prickly and wondering if a good lie is not better—more useful. I reach far back into my manMom bag of tricks and retrieve the definitive test—the cookie test. We will leave out cookies. It



Its hard to fine joy in the middle of a snow bank. Spending time with our children is a good way to reconnect to winter time.

will be simple. If the cookies are eaten and the milk glass empty, we will know Santa has come. Jack and Lucie, my younger daughter, seem pleased. They awaken the next morning to an empty plate

and a glass just a quarter full. Santa wasn't that thirsty. I revel in the genius of leaving just a little milk. It's all in the details. I look hard into Jack's eyes and swear I see a sparkle of wonder, however

dim. I feel like I have just saved Christmas.

I have grown up in church and I know that Christmas is not about Santa. But it is not about a softly, naively cooing baby Jesus either. Myrrh was

used mainly for burials.

The Nativity story is heavy with melancholy. Mary and Joseph are in Bethlehem displaced—forced to travel long and hard and pregnant. Far from a greeting card petting zoo, the stable is a smelly, dirty, uncomfortable and cold place to give birth, miles from family and friends. This first Christmas is spent with less desirable company—stranger shepherds and mysterious long-bearded astrologers. The birth itself is a joy to mark a sorrow. Christmas has always woven pain with joy—innocence with world-weariness.

Many people will find this the loneliest, most stressful time of year. Credit card bills will grow as we try to ransom the closeness of family or the joy and hope of childhood Christmas mornings. Expired calendars will fill blue bags as many things end and others begin. But even as we know these things, Christmas calls us to find joy, promise and a fresh hope, even here.

I'm thankful that my children help me gather the damp, cold heaviness around me and shape something beautiful from it. I intend to return the favour.

You see, my son is nine this year, and my daughter seven, and I think those will be the tastiest cookies Santa and I have ever eaten.



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Christmas in the Community



PHOTOGRAPHS BY REBECCA LIPPIATT

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- Year-round employment available
- Staff incentive and recognition programs

We have a variety of job options available. Please visit northlands.com for more details.



THE LEMONADE STAND THE ARCHITECTURE OF BUSINESS SUCCESS

Here is the third in the series on building a successful business. We hope that by presenting the challenges and hurdles faced by many independent business owners, along with sensible advice for success, will encourage others to consider following their dream of independence. If you are a freelancer, entrepreneur, independent artist, or you run a cottage industry run from your home, we want to hear from you. What information do you need? What hurdles have you faced?

The RCP is looking to start several initiatives to assist new business owners realize their dreams. This will include an online resource for starting businesses and an idea to provide short-term, free rental to a local entrepreneur. Contact Darren Boisvert at editor@ratcreek.org if you would like to assist or participate in any way.

Know your customers, know your business

Make this mistake and your business failure is guaranteed.

HENRI YAUCK

New start-up's usually do not have any customers when they open their doors, or at best, very few. Then to make matters worse, business owners do not have a proven way to generate a consistent flow of customers.

Today, with thousands of competitors in every niche, the concept of 'build it and they will come' (spider marketing) just doesn't work. The mistake is ignoring the fact that your market is your customers, or the third leg of a three legged stool. No customers = No business.

This is where the problem that leads to business failure begins.

In addition, your potential market has become a sea of distracted and skeptical people.

Put bluntly, they may never see you (distracted), and if they do see you, they don't trust you. The time frame from potential market to customer has become protracted, too long for most start-ups to survive their grand-opening enthusiasm.

How do you change that reality?

Take a hard look at your product (or service). Is it something people will need. Is it something that you feel is such a great idea everyone will need it, or will realize they need it when they

see it. If that is how your product is best described or you think about it, you are already out of business.

The reality is people who become customers buy what they want -- not what they need.

It is only the people with the "I want" emotion that you want in your store.

What this means is you need to look hard at your product(s)/service and ask the question, "why would anyone want this?"

Make a list of why someone

would want your product. Once you have that list written out, ask yourself, "Why would anyone want to buy this from me (my store, my company)?"

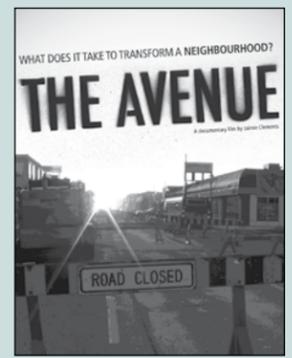
It is with these two lists that you will build a strong marketing strategy, with sound actionable marketing tactics. The foundation for a steady stream of customers. A sturdy third leg.

INSIDER SECRET

"If you want to catch a mouse, make a noise like cheese." This is a phrase coined by the former president of Radio Shack, Lewis Kornfeld. It was key to making Radio Shack the largest and most profitable retailer of its kind in the world. It holds the key to the one of the most successful marketing strategies in retailing history.



PUBLIC FILM SCREENING



Want to discuss what it takes to change a neighborhood? Got an idea to make a positive change?

Join Epidaurus Films, The Edmonton Public Library and the Rat Creek Press for an evening of film and discussion when we hold a free public screening of *The Avenue: A Documentary* at the Sprucewood Public Library.

Attendance is free.
Monday, December 10th.
6:30pm to 9:00pm.
11555-95 Street.

Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

For more information, contact Danika Bernard at dbernard@epl.ca or call at 780.496.7099.

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Meet Your Neighbours at Our Friendly Neighbourhood Pub

EDMONTON

Parkdale/Cromdale Snow Shack
11335 85 St
January 2-4, 2013
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Winter Fun Snow Shack
Dates: January 2-4, 2013
Times: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Location: Parkdale/Cromdale Community Hall 11335 85 St
Who: All Families in the 118th Avenue Area
Cost: FREE

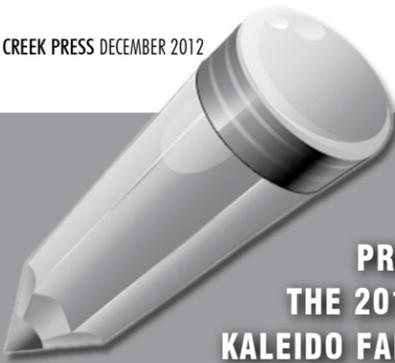
January 2: Crafts, Snowshoeing and Games
January 3: Crafts, Broomball and Games
January 4: Crafts, Fort Building, Snow Painting and Outdoor Fun

**COME DRESSED FOR THE WEATHER!
WE WILL BE OUTSIDE!!!**





Purchase your 2012-13 membership from your local community league. Go to efcl.org to find contact info.



THE RAT CREEK PRESS IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE THIRD PLACE WINNER FROM THE 2012 POETRY SLAM HELD DURING KALEIDO FAMILY ARTS FESTIVAL.

THE TALE OF A RUNAWAY TOENAIL

By Leah Pauls

*In a land far away, by the edge of the sea
A man of great strength stubbed his toe on a tree.
It was a common event for the men of this land,
But this time was different, or so says the sand.
Yes billions of witnesses relayed to me
An account of the man and his catastrophe.*

*He was a muscular man, as I mentioned before,
His pectorals, they bulged through the shirt that he wore.
And poor man, he could never find britches his size,
For he had the most marvellous, mountainous thighs.
This body seemed perfect in its stock and store,
But something was wrong with the man on the shore.*

*As he walked on the beach he could feel the sand ooze
Through his toes, which, for some reason, carried no shoes.
Curiosity spurred the sand grains to unveil
An interesting fact of this, thought, "perfect" male.
Yes the feet to the sand sang in rhythm and blues
Of a missing toenail and the life he did choose.*

*Meanwhile, not far from the talk taking place
Between sand grains and callouses on the foot-face
A lonesome toenail, who'd once had a home
Now stood in self-pity, afraid and alone.
He had no idea of what would take place
On the body whose size made him feel a disgrace.*

*The toenail wailed "I'm so lonely today!
From my place on the body I've stolen away
But my actions are justified, don't think they're not
For kings have instructed and rich men have taught
That the smaller one is in life's massive array
The less one can do, and the less one should say.*

*And since I'm just a wrap on a blistered big toe,
I think that I'm worthless, so sulking I go."
Now the leaves of the grapevine had heard the nail mourn,
So they said to themselves, "from a toe there is torn
A quite an ignorant creature, with head hanging low
His beliefs must be changed, he can't be thinking so!"*

*While the leaves of the vine discussed what they should do
To aid the poor toenail in getting a clue,
The affair of the strongman's encounter with fate
Had transpired, and sand gives an in depth update.
As the toes to the sand wailed "oh we're so blue!"
They neglected to spy an enormous bamboo.*

*"CRUNCH!" impact echoed its scream o'er the waves,
As the ruthless bamboo stabbed the toe with its staves
The tree knew, for he'd heard the man's largest toe wail
That there's no toe protection where there is no nail.
So the once perfect form of the brawny man, brave
Now writhed in affliction and wished for his grave.*

**Please visit ratcreek.org for the rest of the poem.*



Leah Pauls, born and raised in central and northern California, Leah moved with her husband and two youngest children to Alberta on Canada Day, 2011, to start a new life as poultry farmers. She is a singer-songwriter and self proclaimed Go-For-it-Girl! with big aspirations to build a business and ministry focused on

inspiring people to be all that God created them to be. She's searching for an illustrator for Tale of a Runaway Toenail, and she's seeking other like-minded adventurers to help build the dream. You can find out all about it on her website: www.paulsinspiration.com.

Prose Creative Writing Group

**Tuesdays at the Carrot
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

**Weekly writing prompt sessions
& monthly manuscript readings**



For more information

Email Vivian vzenari@gmail.com

Talk to Irene or Heather at the Carrot
780-471-1580

Season's Greetings



Feature Properties:



BRINTNELL BI-LEVEL - \$310,000

Located in the growing community of Brintnell is the perfect Bi-level to call home. Built in 2006, this 1112 sq.ft. house has an open concept kitchen, living and dining area which makes this the perfect place for entertaining family and friends. The master bedroom is spacious, and has plenty of closet space. The second bedroom, just off the stairs, can be used as a guest bedroom, a dressing room or an office. When the sun and warm weather return, you can invite guests to share in the enjoyment of your massive deck. The large unfinished basement is awaiting your customization. Close to all amenities and transportation, this home will not disappoint.



ALBERTA AVENUE BI-LEVEL - \$320,000

Own your own income property! Come see this fantastic bi-level located in Alberta Avenue, just minutes from the heart of the city. Built in 1994, this home has a large spacious kitchen that opens into the dining and living area, making this home great for entertaining. Two bedrooms are located just off the main floor hallway, and a short set of stairs lead you up to the master bedroom with 3 piece ensuite. The basement is equipped with an additional kitchen, 2 more bedrooms, and a 4 piece bathroom. The basement suite is currently being rented for \$800/month and the main level is being rented for \$1200/month. The rent from the lower suite will more than

cover your mortgage on this property. The property includes a single attached garage and a huge cement pad, perfect for additional parking of RV's or campers.



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FROM HOME TO HOME,
AND HEART TO HEART,
FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER.
THE WARMTH AND JOY OF CHRISTMAS,
BRINGS US CLOSER TOGETHER.
--- EMILY MATHEWS

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The Ave We Had

www.avenuehistory.org

What's new in history on the Avenue

JONATHAN WELLER

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S HISTORY AWARD

We are proud to announce that The Ave We Had: A living History Project is being honored by the Governor General of Canada. This December 10th, Darren Boisvert, the History Producer for the project, will be traveling to Ottawa to accept the Governor General's History Award (honorable mention) in Community Programming on behalf of the project.

The Governor General's History awards are Canada's top honors in the field of history and heritage. Established in 1996, the awards "celebrate the very best in Canadian achievements to ensure our national past has a vibrant presence in our society today."

HERITAGE AREA

On Monday, November 19, about fifty people attended a workshop put on by the City of Edmonton, in partnership with the Alberta Avenue Community League and the Avenue Revitalization Initiative, to discuss the idea of creating a heritage district in a portion of the Alberta Avenue neighbourhood.

As explained in the July issue of the Rat Creek Press, the City is looking to gain public support for a historic designation for the area which would protect the heritage character. The details of this designation are to be determined by community members and were the focus of the workshop. Participants were asked to work together to develop answers to a number of questions, which can also be filled through an online survey. (<http://fluidsurveys.com/s/albertaavenueheritagesurvey/>)

For more information on the designation process and how it will affect you, please contact: history@ratcreek.org or David Holdsworth - Principal Heritage Planner - david.holdsworth@edmonton.ca 780-496-5281.

WALKING TOUR UPDATE

As reported last month, The Ave We Had will be continuing on with a new project, a multimedia historical walking tour of the Alberta Avenue community. The tour will focus on aspects of the area's history from its origins to today. Combining audio, photographic, video and written presentations the history will come to life in an exciting new way.

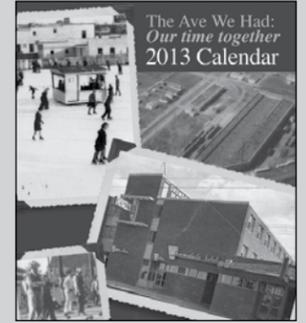
There will be lots of work to be done on this project and volunteers are most welcome. As well if you have stories to share or ideas for the tour please feel free to contact us at history@ratcreek.org

COMMUNITY HERITAGE PLAQUES

On November 1, the Alberta Avenue neighbourhood was recognized as an area with a unique heritage. The Edmonton Historical Board presented Alberta Avenue with a plaque to be erected in the area at the 38th Annual Recognition and Plaque Awards.

In the past 38 years the black and gold plaques have become a familiar sight around Edmonton. They are signposts marking those particularly unique homes, buildings and sites that remain as testaments to Edmonton's ongoing story. This year, the Historical Board presented eight plaques to sites from around the city including Alberta Avenue.

TIME FOR A HISTORICAL CALENDAR



This year, to celebrate our history, The Rat Creek Press has put together **The Ave We Had: Our Time Together**, a historical calendar for the Alberta Avenue neighbourhood. It is a stylish (oh yes, a calendar can be) and unique collection of historical photos and stories, as well as a guide to the festivals and events in the area this year. Please contact info@ratcreek.org to order your own copy.



780.455.4546 EDMONTON COMMUNITY HERITAGE

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SEASONS GREETINGS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS
TO THE COMMUNITY OF THE RAT CREEK PRESS



I AM GRATEFUL TO LIVE AND WORK IN
THIS NEIGHBORHOOD WITH SUCH A DIVERSE
AND GREAT GROUP OF PEOPLE
ALL THE BEST IN 2013

 1155-65 Street Edmonton, AB T5W 4K2



PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East



RESPECTING TRADITION

December is a month of anticipation within our culture, leading up to Christmas on December 25. Everywhere we are inundated with 'seasonal' music and decorations, frequently designed to encourage people to spend money on gifts.

But there's more to Christmas than commercialism. Christmas refers to the birth of Jesus Christ, who is accepted by Christians as the Son of God, born on Christmas Day, crucified on Good Friday and resurrected on Easter Sunday. The holiday is tied to a specific event in history that is celebrated in December. There are many who don't believe Christ is God, believing instead he was a prophet or wise man, but there is no dispute he is the reason for the season.

There are other holidays in December of course, such as Hanukkah, but they have not had the same impact on our society as Christmas. Our tradition of gift giving began with the first Christmas and the gifts of the Magi and continued through the work of St. Nicholas (Santa Claus) in the fourth century to our Christmas gift-giving today.

That is why it seems well-meaning but rather misguided to replace the sending of Christmas cards with 'holiday' cards, or to wish someone 'happy holidays' or 'season's greetings' instead of saying 'Merry Christmas.' It looks like an attempt to avoid the fact that Christmas is about Christ, as if bringing his name into it somehow makes many people uncomfortable.

The message of Christmas, of 'peace on earth and good will to all' remains just as universal today as when it was first proclaimed. There is no reason to remove Christ from Christmas. Save the 'happy holidays' for a different time of year. What do you think?

**Please join us for our Christmas Open House at 9111-118 Ave.
Wednesday, December 19th 3-7pm**

780-495-3261 www.petergoldring.ca

Yule Ave

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY
DEC 14, 15 & 16

FEATURING

JINGLE JAMMIN' CAROLING AT THE CARROT
Chili, caroling and a great time with friends! Friday at 6:30pm at The Carrot

SNOWSPIRATION Carve your very own Christmas inspired snow creation.
Saturday & Sunday, from 11 to 2 in the lot across from the Alberta Avenue Community League.

NILES' JOURNEY: A BABY CAMEL'S STORY
A free family puppet show from Concrete Theatre. Presented by ZU-MA: Talent to Amuz
Saturday at 2:30pm in the Stollery Gallery at the Nina Haggerty

Free access to Commonwealth Rec Centre on Saturdays from 5pm to 7pm with your league membership.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Listings for free events and programs as well as volunteer opportunities. Email your listings to info@ratcreek.org.

EVENTS

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE

Parkdale Cromdale Community League will be hosting a Christmas Craft Sale for baking and crafts on December 1st from 9am-5pm and December 2nd 9am-4pm. Cost of tables will be \$10. Contact Margaret at 780.479.8134 to reserve a table.

JINGLE JAMMIN' CHRISTMAS CAROLIN'

A night of community and traditional Christmas caroling. Meet at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave) 6:30pm on December 14th for a bowl of chili and then we'll head out to the to carol. All ages welcome, dress for for the weather.

THE CARROT STAGE

Thursdays: Zoomers open mic for folks 55+ 1:30-4pm. \$1.25 minimum charge. Fridays: Live music. For line up go to www.thecarrot.ca. \$5 at the door. Saturdays: Open mic 7:30-9:30pm. Great time to share your newest tune, poem or comedy act! Free for all ages. \$1.25 minimum charge, (9351 118 Ave). More info: call Irene at 780.471.1580. Closed for private functions from December 23rd to January 1st.

NOTICES

RINK ATTENDANT NEEDED

Alberta Avenue is looking for a responsible adult who enjoys skating and working with children to supervise our skating rink on weekday evenings from 4pm to 8pm and Saturdays from 1pm to 6pm over a 6-7 week period from approximately January 10th to March 9th. The individual will also run a basic concession, assist with snow removal from the rink and maintaining the ice. The position is 30 hours a week at \$10/hour. Email: info@albertaave.org

ICE SCULPTING CONTEST

Arts on the Ave presents... Deep Freeze: A Byzantine Winter Festival featuring the Sixth Annual Ice Sculpting Contest. 2013 Sculpting Theme: The Wild West. Carve up to 3 block of ice from 10am January 12th to 2pm January 13th. Grand Prize \$250, Second Prize \$125, Third Prize \$75. We invite all artists to participate in creating a gallery of ice sculptures for all of Edmonton to enjoy. More info: email deepfreezeproducer@

gmail.com. Submission Deadline: Friday, December 16th, 2012.

COPS AT THE CARROT

Join EPS members every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 10:30am for open and direct access to the EPS members working in your community. Bring your questions and comments or come in for a visit and coffee. Or contact the Community Liaison Constable Christopher Lucas at 780.421.2602.

PROGRAMS/CLASSES

GIUITAR LESSONS

Free group guitar lessons every Saturday from 10am to 11am at Parkdale Cromdale Community Hall (11335 85 St) for members. The teacher is directly a part of the community and loves to share his knowledge.

SING, SING, LAUGH AND LEARN

For children up to age three accompanied by a grown-up. Parents will learn strategies to engage their children and enhance their communication and development. Tuesdays from 10:30-11:15am until December 18th at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

ABORIGINAL FAMILY STORYTIME

Join us as we share songs, stories and rhymes inspired by the Aboriginal culture. Friday, November 30th and December 28th at 1pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

CREATIVE PROSE AND WRITING GROUP

Tuesdays from 7-9pm at The Carrot. More info: Vivian at vzenari@gmail.com

NEEDLE FELTING

Materials supplied and tools will be on hand for those who don't have their own. The Second Saturday of the month at 1:30pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). More info: info@artsontheave.org or call 780.471.1580.

FREE ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

Practice your English conversation skills every Saturday morning, 10:00am to 11:30am at Bethel Gospel Chapel, corner 95 St and 115 Ave, starting September 29th. Classes are free, and childcare is provided.

ESL GROUP

New students are always welcome so drop-in or recommend a friend! Wednesdays from 9:30-11am at the Parkdale Cromdale Community Hall (11335 85 St). More info 780.887.6825.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

FAMILY STORYTIME

Share stories, songs and games for the whole family. Saturdays from 2:30-3:00pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

TEEN GAMING

Come to the library to play some great games! Hone your *Guitar Hero* or *Dance Dance Revolution* skills, or choose from plenty of other Wii and PlayStation games. Thursdays from 6:30-8:30pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

WOMEN'S AFTERNOON OUT GROUP

Get out and mingle with other women who like to work on crafts such as knitting, crocheting, card making and more. Ladies are welcome to work on the project we are working on or bring their own. Cost is \$1 which goes toward the purchasing of materials. We also have a potluck snack. Every Monday from 1:30-4pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: Michelle 780.232.5822.

COMMUNITY MEALS

Breakfast: 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 8am-10am; Supper: 3rd Friday at 5pm; Women's fellowship supper: 2nd Thursday at 6pm; Drop-in Centre Thursdays 10am-2pm at the Anglican Churches of St. Faith's and St. Stephen the Martyr (11725 93 St). More info: 780.477.5931.

PARKDALE-CROMDALE SENIORS GROUP

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

SENIORS LUNCH

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

BABES IN ARMS

A casual parent group Fridays, 10am-12pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave).

L'L SPROUTS PLAYGROUP

Come by the Parkdale Cromdale Community Hall (11335 85 St) with your little ones Fridays, 10am-12pm. For more info. call Chantal at 780.669.3272.

CRUD COMMUNITY DINNER CLUB

Discover new flavours and restaurants while you explore a variety of wonderful cuisine along Alberta Avenue with friends and neighbours. Check CRUD's calendar at www.crudedmonton.org or Facebook for time and location of this month's feast.

SPORTS/REC

FREE COMMUNITY ACCESS AT COMMONWEALTH REC CENTRE

Enjoy the pool or the fitness centre at Commonwealth for free on Saturdays from 5pm-7pm with your community league membership. All 7 area leagues are participating. Contact your neighbourhood league to get a membership.

BALL HOCKEY TOURNAY

Enter your team for the 3-on-3 street ball hockey tournament at Deep Freeze Festival on January 12th and 13th. Email deepfreezeohockey@gmail.com.

DEEP FREEZE RACE

Get a team of 3 together and race at the Deep Freeze Festival in an actual deep freeze. Deep Freeze on skis provided. Enter your team at deepfreezerace@gmail.com

FREE QIGONG CLASS

YiXue Lotus practice (Lotus Qigong) for a calm, stable heart and overall well-being. Weekly class. No Fee. More info: call Astrid at 780.477.0683.

THRILL THE AVE

Maybe you saw us doing Thriller at Kaleido and thought, "That looks like fun!". It is. We are continuing classes to learn Thriller to perform at events throughout the year. Classes are Wednesday nights 7-8pm at Alberta Avenue Community League (9210 118 Ave). Classes are free and no dance experience is necessary. We welcome people of all ages. Fun for the whole family. For more info. contact Heather at 780.454.9296, email thrilltheave@gmail.com or Thrill the Ave on facebook.

CRUD DOG WALKING GROUP

Meet neighbours and their canine companions while walking around the community. Mondays evenings: 6:30pm in front of St. Alphonsus Church (11828 85 St). Walks are cancelled if raining or below -15 degrees.

VOLUNTEER

JOIN THE COOLEST FESTIVAL

Be cool and wild at the 2013 Deep Freeze Festival on January 12th and 13th. The theme this year is The Wild West. We are in need of cowboys and cowgirls to help round up the crowds - outdoor, indoor, before, during, after. Take your pick. Also need scouts (security), guides (information ambassadors), and wranglers (team leaders). Email deepfreezevolunteers@gmail.com or come out to a volunteer round-up on December 6th or January 8th at 6pm at the AACL (9210 118 Ave).

HELP AT NORWOOD CENTRE

Become a volunteer at Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre (9516 114 Avenue) and gain experience for employment or education, meet new people, learn new skills, have fun and give back to your community. Click the volunteer tab at norwoodcentre.com to view position descriptions or phone 780.471.3737.

HANG AT A GALLERY

Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts is looking for individuals willing to share 2-4 hours a week as gallery attendants. Gain experience working in a gallery setting while supporting your neighborhood arts scene! For more info, volunteer@ninahaggertyart.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.

DRIVE A SENIOR

Be a volunteer driver who spends 3-4 hours once a month to drive an elderly senior to medical appointments, banking and/or shopping. Gas reimbursed. Call 780.732.1221.

We would like to thank the Norwood Neighbourhood Association (NNA) for sponsoring the Community Calendar. For more info about the NNA, go to albertaave.org/nna.html

CHURCH SERVICES

ANGLICAN CHURCHES OF ST. FAITH'S AND ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR

St. Stephen uses the Book of Common Prayer in the rich worship style of Anglo-Catholicism. St. Faith worships according to the Book of Alternative Services and has a more contemporary service in language and form. Two Traditions - One Faith.

St. Faith's: 780-477-5931
St. Stephen: 780-422-3240
11725-93 Street

Sunday Services:

8:30 am - Low Mass (St. Stephen)
9:00 am - Morning Prayer (St. Stephen)
9:30 am - High Mass (St. Stephen)
11:00 am - Morning Worship (St. Faith's)
7:00 pm - Evensong (St. Stephen)

AVENUE VINEYARD CHURCH

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

8718-118 Avenue (Crystal Kids building)
www.avenuevineyard.com
Sundays at 10:30 am

BETHEL GOSPEL CHAPEL

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

Sunday Meetings:

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

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please join us for our diverse services. We offer regular Sunday worship services in German and English languages.
10759-96 Street (Corner of 108 Ave)
780-422-0059 www.stjohnsluth.ca

Service Times:

9:30 am - German Service
11:00 am - English Service
11:00 am - Sunday School for Children

Holy Communion: Every first Sunday of the month in the German Service
Holy Communion: Every third Sunday of the month in the English Service

ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

11828-85th Street 780-474-5434

Service Times:

7:30 am - Mass, Tuesday to Friday
4:00 pm - Mass, Saturday
Vigil of Sunday
11:00 am - Mass, Sunday
Main Celebration
4:00 pm - Mass, Sunday,
Eritrean Catholic Community

St. Vincent de Paul Food Help Hotline:
780-471-5577

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

Our Vision is to be a growing community of believers who are woven together by the love of God for support, fellowship and prayer.

10123 Princess Eliz. Avenue
780-471-2250 www.clifec.ca

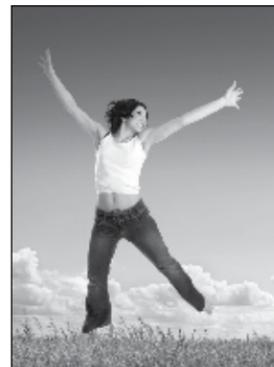
Service Times:

9:40 am - Pre-service Prayer
10:30 am - Worship Service
10:45 am - Kzamm Kids
Child care provided for ages 0 to 12 yrs.

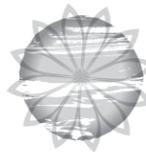
REBECCA LIPPIATT

photographer

rmll@shaw.ca • 780.641.9417
www.dragonflyphotography.ca

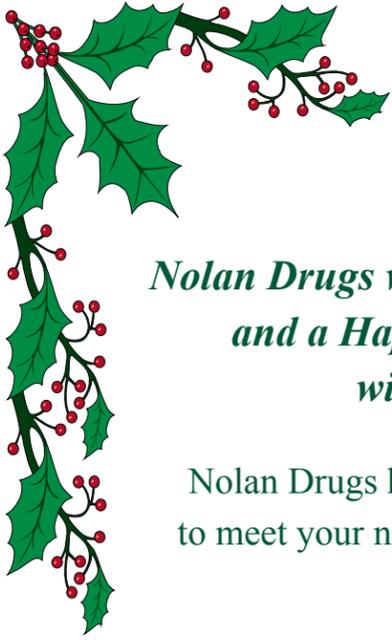


Reiki for the Soul



Please call
Bettyann at
780.450.6942

Outdoor skating rinks will likely be opening this month. Check with your local community league or go to efcl.org



Seasons Greetings from **NOLAN DRUGS**



Nolan Drugs would like to sincerely wish you and your family Season's Greetings and a Happy and Safe Holiday Season. We hope that the upcoming year will bring you the best of health, happiness and prosperity.

Nolan Drugs has been serving the community for over 50 years. We customize our service to meet your needs. We sincerely thank you for your continued patronage and look forward to serving you for many more years to come.

OUR CUSTOMIZED SERVICES INCLUDE:

- * **FREE** Prompt and Courteous Prescription Delivery Service
- * **FREE** Medication Reviews
- * Home Visits and Consultations
- * **FREE** Compliance Packaging (dosette / bubble / pouches)
- * Medical / Incontinence Supplies for Homecare
- * Administration of Vaccinations and Immunizations
- * Pre-filled Insulin Syringes
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 E-mail: nolandrugs@shaw.ca • www.arppharmacy.com

Hours: Mon - Fri 9 am to 6 pm
 Sat 9 am to 5 pm



"Building lasting relationships through superior level of care"

Wishing you all the happiness of the season and peace and prosperity in the new year.

NOV 7, 2012

25cm of heavy, wet snow shut down the City of Edmonton.

It's people like Patrick that helped bring it back to life.

When severe weather causes outages, Powerline Technicians like Patrick are 6 metres in the air working to restore the power. Learn about a career that matters more at epcor.com/careers.

PROVIDING MORE