

A Somali nomad on the Avenue

DARREN BOISVERT

From the outside, the M&A convenience store at 9747-118th Ave appears as a hole-in-the-wall place to buy cigarettes and phonecards. But for the Somali community that lives in the area, it's a place to sit and chat, catch up with friends, and acts as a vital lifeline to their country back in Africa.

The proprietor, Abdi Salad, is the local agent for Bakaal, a remittance company that for a nominal fee allows the expatriate Somali community to send money back to their families. As a monthly destination for many individuals, the store has become a regular gathering place for the entire community.

According to Salad, 15 Somali businesses have moved to the Avenue in the past two years from their previous 107th Ave location. Deeply impressed with the revitalization of the Avenue, the energy of the festivals, and the decrease in commercial sex workers on the street, the community collectively decided to move into our neighbourhood.

"We follow each other like nomads," says the outspoken Salad. "If someone were to call up and say 'Let's all move to Calgary', we would pack our bags and leave the next day."

Like all expatriate communities, the Somalis in Edmonton stick together; providing financial assistance and housing to new arrivals, engaging in joint business ventures, and providing a stable social network in which to raise their children. According to Salad, the Somali community is also strongly religious. After 20 years living in Somalia under an atheistic Marxist dictatorship, Salad praises the

freedom of religion he finds here in Canada.

Global Nomad

At the age of 55, Salad says he's too old for the cold of Edmonton, but finds it both peaceful and oddly familiar. After spending 12 years as a high school teacher and three years as a college instructor, he left the troubles of Somalia and spent several years working in Saudi Arabia as a hospital administrator. Recalling his time there, he laughingly compares homes. "Alberta is just another petroleum state."

In search of a better life, he bounced around the globe for many years. He landed in Italy and landed a job as a translator and Somali facilitator with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Rome. He also spent time in Toronto, India, London, and eventually arrived in Edmonton in 1990.

He proudly states that even though he was an expatriate and refugee, he always found work wherever he lived. Aside from his high level of education, he relied upon his language skills in English, Somali, Arabic, and 'popular-culture' Italian to provide for himself and his family.

Never too proud to work, he spent time parking cars, stocking shelves in a grocery store and worked as a security guard. But he admits, like other Somali's, he can be a proud and difficult man.

"People see Somali's as being fighters," says Salad. "But that's only because we are educated, smart and not ignorant. We stand up for ourselves."

His pride extends to his Islamic faith, his belief in strong families, and the



Abdi Salad, outside the M&A convenience store on 118th Avenue.

accomplishments of his country and fellow Somalis. For news back home, he is a fan of the hiiraan.com website and laughs at the sharp political cartoons that lampoon the powerful despots of Africa by Amin Amir at aminarts.com.

"People ask, why did I move to Canada?" says Salad. "In a word, it's Peace. When I landed at Pearson Airport in Toronto, it felt like home. You have clean streets, a government that works and religious freedom."

A Canadian citizen since 1993, Salad also reserves the right to fight for those freedoms, and above all, to speak up about justice. In discussing the murders of

Somali youth in Edmonton, he's not afraid to voice his opinion.

"Twenty to thirty Somali kids die in this city and the police don't catch one person. Is that right?" asks Salad. "The law is the law. It must be equal for justice to be real."

As a community leader, he worries about the lack of communication between police officers and his people, but until that changes, he is choosing to focus on strengthening his own community through faith and commerce, and contributing to the improvement of the Avenue as a whole.

"We are people living together," says Salad. "Helping each other out is our way."

MP Peter Goldring pleads not guilty

DARREN BOISVERT

Local MP Peter Goldring plead not guilty to refusing a roadside breathalyzer test during a brief court appearance on January 25th. It was the first time Goldring had appeared in public and spoke to the media since his arrest

on December 4, 2011.

At the Edmonton Provincial Courthouse, he sidestepped the question of why he had refused the mandatory roadside test after being stopped by Edmonton Police on his way home from a fundraising party. Claiming that he had only consumed one beer,

he then went on to accuse Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for leading him astray.

According to the CBC news, Goldring said, "We read about and hear from, for example, MADD. They say 'Go ahead and have one drink with your dinner.' They are wrong."

Since his arrest, Goldring has resigned from the Progressive Conservative caucus, briefly sat as a Civil Libertarian, until eventually changing his affiliation to Independent.

He says he has no intention to resign. His next court appearance is scheduled for February 15, 2012.

Black History Month Events

Join our community in celebrating the culture and history of Africa. There are numerous events planned for February at the Carrot Cafe (9351-118th Avenue). We hope to see you there.

RHYTHMS OF THE EARTH CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Produced by Arts on the Ave Sponsored by Norwood Neighbourhood Association and The Carrot Cafe.

All events take place at The Carrot. For further scheduling please see www.artsontheave.org.

Friday Feb 3, 7:00pm
AFRICAN SONG AND DANCE WORKSHOP
with Garth Prisonsky

Sat. Feb 4, 3:00-5:00pm
AFRICAN DRUMMING PERFORMANCE
Adje Drummers

Thurs. Feb 9, 2:00-4:00pm
AFRICAN DRUMMING WORKSHOP
DrumAdrumDRUM
(Marcus Fung)

Thurs. Feb 16, 7:00-9.30pm
POETRY SLAM
Featuring the Overachievers
Titilope Sonuga and more

Sat. Feb 18, 2:00-4:00pm
RISE & VINE CELEBRATES BLACK MUSICAL HISTORY
Featuring stories by Brett Miles
(Karren Porkka, Brett Miles and friends)

Wed. Feb 22, 7:00-9:30pm
AFRO BEAUTY AND FASHION
Featuring local designers and a braiding demonstration
(Jean Nibb and Mama Afro)

Friday Feb 24, 7:00pm
RHYTHM OF THE EARTH PERFORMANCE

Tues. Feb 28, 7:00-9.30pm
AFRICAN STORYTELLING
(Junetta Jamerson, Dr. Butupu, and Tolwolwa Molle)

Wed. Feb 29, 7:30-9.30pm
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Festival food went down well

5th Annual Deep Freeze: A Byzantine Winter Festival

FOOD ON THE AVE

Ellie Capster

Perhaps it was the unseasonably warm weather or the thrill of a deep freezer race, but for those volunteering behind the food windows and kiosks of this year's Byzantine Deep Freeze Festival, the proof of the Festival's success was in the pudding (or sugar pie to be more exact).

This year's festival brought out a record number of visitors proving that the way to Edmontonians' hearts really may be through their stomachs.

In my short stint as a volunteer at the festival, I developed an appreciation for the amount of background preparation and organization that went into keeping everything running. Someone had to ensure that all the volunteers were in their places, kept busy and there was enough food available and coming at a steady pace to meet demand. Luckily for festival goers and volunteers, the food coordinator was Heather Robertson. She had a good handle on the task at hand and kept the kitchen running and the volunteers grubbing.

I started my volunteer shift at the hot dog and marshmallow kiosk behind the skating rink. Although it wasn't a glamorous

job putting hotdogs on sticks and counting marshmallows, the food was a hit with the kids (and their sometimes reluctant parents) who flocked to the window. It was hard to resist the urge to cook up a wiener or marshmallow to your liking at one of the fire pits scattered around the festival site.

At \$2 a hotdog and \$1 for a bag of marshmallows, it was also a reasonable price to pay. Some patrons commented that the hamburgers from the community league hall kitchen were over-priced at \$10. Despite these comments, the demand for hamburgers sometimes outweighed the ability of the kitchen volunteers to produce them in time, which told me they might be worth the wait. The final hotdog count was more than 200, a testament to their popularity. Perhaps next year an expanded selection that featured smores or bannock would be a great addition to the festival.

Another great addition would be expanded beverage service; the kitchen in the Community Hall closed at seven p.m. (to prepare for the Surfs Up dance) and no coffee, tea or hot chocolate was available for the rest of the night. Patrons were redirected to the Carrot Cafe (down the street) or to the Baileys ice bar (by the skating rink), but next year it would be

great to have hot drinks available into the evening hours to warm chilled festival goers.

Each day of the festival was themed with a different set of cultural foods. Saturday featured French-Canadian fare with tortiers, sugar pies and maple syrup on ice, while Sunday highlighted Ukrainian foods in celebration of Ukrainian Christmas under the Orthodox calendar.

In keeping with the Byzantine theme and a nod to the European roots of many Edmontonians, the Festival featured a roast pig station in front of the community hall. Having only seen a roast pig (usually with an apple in its mouth) in movies, this was a unique culinary opportunity for me. I was surprisingly taken aback when faced with a whole roast pig.

The chef's enthusiasm for his craft was infectious and with a bit of coaxing I ordered a slice of pork on a bun. The meat was tender and juicy but I was a bit disappointed with the buns and condiments that accompanied it. The meat would have been great with grainy mustard and a crustier bun as the yellow mustard and ketchup seemed a bit run-of-the-mill. Although the meat was tender and juicy, I couldn't get past my initial reaction of seeing the animal I was eating up close and person-



Vlad's Village Pig: fire-roasted suckling pig, fresh from the spit, and served on a bun.

al, so my husband happily ate the remaining sandwich with vigour.

By the time I started my Sunday shift in the community league hall kitchen, Heather Robertson had again managed to get the kitchen up and running like a well-oiled machine. It was divided into a series of stations: a volunteer on the grill preparing hot and juicy kielbasa, two volunteers on the "works" station scooping perogies and lazy cabbage rolls and garnishing plates with onion and melted butter, two volunteers at the window taking

orders and I stationed at the borscht pot. The definite hit of the day was the perogies and the borscht, both provided by the ladies at the St. Johns Cultural Center. One woman even came back to the window for a take-home cup of borscht because she loved the spicy soup so much.

In all, the Deep Freeze Festival was more than a place to get something to eat: it provided visitors with a culinary experience and a chance to see the Norwood community in action. Now that's food for thought.

avenue initiative revitalization

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



For information call
Judy Allan 780-496-1913

Bring your idea to the community!

The deadline for matching grants is the 15th of the month.

Do you have an idea that would make a difference in your neighborhood? We are looking for projects that will enhance, beautify, create a sense of community or improve safety. The Neighborhood Matching Fund will match your volunteer time or donations in kind to make your project a reality. You can apply for up to \$20,000 for large community projects. SMALL SPARKS funds up to \$250.00 for local neighborhood events such as block parties or fence painting. For an application and more information go to www.avenueinitiative.ca or call Judy at 780-496-1913.

Celebrate Black History Month at the Carrot

Drop by the Carrot and enjoy a variety of art, story telling and drumming workshops.

- Garth Prisonsky – African Vocal performance and workshop
- Adje Drummers – African drumming performance
- Drum a drum drum – African Drumming workshop
- African Storytelling – the art of story - listen to the stories past down though the generations...
- African Beauty – fashions and hairstyling art – local designers and hairstylists

Check out the website for all of Black History Events on the Ave
artsontheave.org

Ideas for Kaleido Family Arts Festival in Sept?? Please send them to info@artsontheave.org.

Local novelist named Edmonton Public Library Writer-in-resident



Alberta Avenue resident Jocelyn Brown has been appointed the 2012 Writer-in-resident for the Edmonton Public Library (EPL), taking over the high-profile position from the outgoing Marty Chan. She assumed her position on January 3, and has already begun to encourage Edmontonians to write and explore the literary world.

"I was so thrilled when they told me I got the job," says Brown. "I'm looking forward to being visibly out in the community assisting writers and creating projects."

She will be available to aspiring and published writers most evenings at the Stanley Milner Library downtown, providing feedback to writers on their manuscripts and tips on getting published. Throughout the year, she will be running a literary scavenger hunt (based on the 'hero's journey') for children and teens, providing sessions on memoir writing, and producing the Margaret Crang Project, an online creation about one of early Edmonton's most fascinating councillors.

The EPL appointment is a boost to her career as a local writer with a focus on Edmonton stories and characters.

She grew up in Edmonton and has written prolifically about the city. Her story *Miss Canada*, was nominated for a National Magazine Award and won the McClelland and Stewart Journey Prize. She's also the author of *One Good Outfit*, which combined her love of clothing with social satire, and *The Mitochondrial Curiosities*

of *Marcel's 1-19*, a young-adult novel about grief, crafts, and semi-criminal adventure.

"I'm curious about the character of Edmonton and how it affects people," says Brown. "It has a strange emptiness that can either depress people or offer a starting place to motivate us to create."

Those wishing to get in contact with Jocelyn can email her at writerinresidence@epl.ca or leave a message at 780.496.5999.



January Photo Contest Winner. Steve Allen submitted a series of sunset photos and moonlight pictures to the RCP.

Mennonite Centre names first Poet-in-residence

RUKHSANA KHADER

Ahmed Ali (also known as Knowmadic) has been chosen to be the Poet-in-Residence for the career services at the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. Over the next year he will act as a spokesman for immigrant clients (youth, refugees, professionals) who are struggling to find meaningful employment and to integrate more fully into Canadian society.

Ali has been writing and performing poetry throughout Edmonton for 3 years, putting

on poetry slams for students, and was involved directly with the 'In Edmonton Poetry' festival. He was one of the founders of the Breath in Poetry collective: a collective of poets and poet-enthusiasts who hosted a regular poetry session every Tuesday.

He was also part of the 2011 Edmonton Slam team which won the Canadian Festival of Spoken word. While he will be touring Ontario throughout February, he will be assisting in launching the first annual Mennonite Centre Arts event on the 24th of Feb at 2 p.m. in

the Alberta Avenue Community Hall. They are currently accepting applications from talented individuals. The participants will showcase their art work, whether it be in spoken word poetry, rapping, painting or photography. The event is to convey the message through artistic perspective and the theme will be around hardship and challenges immigrants face in their pursuit for settlement and integration in the society.

For more information, please contact rkhader@emcn.ab.ca.

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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.

Editorial

Submissions: editor@ratcreek.org

History Project a gift to our elders

DARREN BOISVERT

This past month I had coffee with Angelo Biasutto and his wife Rosa in their tiny little bungalow on 113th Ave and 87th street. I was served with Italian espresso and homemade cookies while I asked Angelo about his 60 years of memories living in our neighbourhood.

He had arrived in Canada in 1950, escaping the post-war destruction of Italy, and moved into Edmonton's original Little Italy, just north of the Commonwealth Stadium. He recalls only 200 Italians living in Edmonton at that time, a small community that played bocca ball in a nearby field on Sunday afternoons. He found work as a janitor during the day, and at night was the Italian Vice-consul for Edmonton. He welcomed and assisted new immigrants, helped with passport applica-

tions, and even negotiated an end to a wildcat strike when non-unionized Italian workers for the Canadian National Railways walked off the job.

He shared his fragmented memories with me, and then took me downstairs and proudly showed me a picture of himself dining with the Italian Ambassador to Canada at the Cromdale Hotel. I could not help noticing that both the hotel and Angelo had once been young and handsomely dressed.

Time wears us all down; a hotel that once hosted diplomats is an asbestos-filled com-

munity eyesore, and Angelo is a 90-year-old man who struggles to remember details of an accomplishment-filled life.

“The Alberta Avenue Oral History project is more than collecting old photos ...”

While many would gratefully cheer the demolition of the Cromdale in search of a better Avenue, the people who built our community deserve more than a casual notice in the obituaries.

The Alberta Avenue Oral History project is more than collecting old photographs, more than documenting history, and much more than entertaining the young with stories and characters from the past. If this project is about anything, it's

about listening to our elders and acknowledging that their stories are important to them, not just interesting tales to us. This project isn't about what we learn, it's about what they wish to share with us.

For the next six months, as we publish stories and profiles of our seniors in this paper, I hope all members of our community begin recognizing that by listening to our elders, we give them the dignity their lives deserve. Our ears give their stories value. Our time shows them appreciation for the Avenue they built.

Every cup of coffee shared and every old scrapbook page turned is our way of telling them we are proud of them. This project isn't about their lives; this project is about giving their lives meaning. A shared life is a worthy one. Let this project be our gift to them.

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

The Rat Creek Press's annual Connect Awards is once again accepting nominations from community members to honour those who have made significant contributions to our neighbourhood. Do you know anyone who deserves recognition for their hard work? We will be awarding three individuals or organizations in the following categories: **Building Community, Encouraging Communication and Increasing Capacity**. All nominees and winners will be honoured at our 2012 Connect Award party. Keep reading the Rat Creek Press in the coming months for details about how to get involved and the date for the evening event. For information on how to make a nomination, go to www.ratcreek.org, or contact the Rat Creek Press at board@ratcreek.org and 780-479-6285.

Letters to the Editor

HISTORY PROJECT

I heard a CanadaAM program on CBC regarding preparing a history of Alberta Avenue.

I was born near Alberta Avenue in 1920.

When I was 12-years-old, I worked for Smith's Bakery everyday after school and all day Saturday delivering bread for \$2 a week. At that time, I dealt at Elfstrom Store and Mitchell's Drug Store as well as Clark's Grocery Store. I played hockey on the outdoor rink at 96th Street North of 118th Avenue. I played hockey with Max and Neil Colvil who later played for the New York Rangers in the NHL. I remember seeing Mr. Page delivering dry cleaning from his initial dry cleaning location on 118th Avenue. I used to attend the Rose Theater Friday evenings for 5 cents to watch black and white silent movies. You have probably contacted many others before my time but I have pleasant memories of growing up on Alberta Avenue. Thanks!

Sincerely,
Louis Grimble, P.Eng. (ret)

GOLDRING'S SOLUTION

RE: Our radical Member of Parliament

Autonomous cars may arrive just in time to save Peter Goldring. Creating and supporting autonomous car legislation would arguably provide redemption for the seemingly irredeemable refusal of the breathalyzer.

Cars that drive by themselves are not far off into the future. Autonomous cars can drive on the roads, pay full attention to all that is around them, make instant driving decisions and deliver machine precision and response.

Peter Norvig created a self-driven car that completed the DARPA desert grand challenge. A robot car of Norvig's completed an urban driving challenge. His google concept cars have taken to the roads.

Now 50,000 students have completed his free open online artificial Intelligence class with Stanford. Autonomous cars need to be programmed for Canadian laws and conditions. Autonomous cars can provide autonomy for the blind, disabled and the occasional drunk.

Stanley Marcinkowski

NEW PRIDE CENTRE TO OPEN IN FEBRUARY

After several months of closure due to an electrical fire at our previous location on 112th Ave in early August, the Pride Centre of Edmonton is pleased to announce that we formally took possession of our new downtown location at 10608 - 105 Avenue effective January 16th, 2012.

"This is an extremely exciting and positive move for the Centre and the feedback we have received from the community about the new location has been overwhelmingly positive" says Executive Director Ashley Matchem, noting that a Christmas fundraising campaign raised over \$30,000 towards renovating and furnishing the new space.

"We are eternally grateful for the ongoing support of the community and looking forward to re-opening next month, we could not have done this without everyone's support," adds Board President Amanda Barrett.

CORRECTION

The Rat Creek Press would like to apologize to **Henry Woudstra** for misprinting his name in the "Back Alley Heroes" article in the January 2012 issue.

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Speaker's Corner

Have opinions? Great let's hear them!

Submissions: editor@ratcreek.org

Bottle depot is a resource for everyone in our community



Customers return their bottles at the newly renovated Univer Bottle Depot on 112th Ave.

JUSTINE MEKISH,
PARKDALE-CROMDALE
COMMUNITY RESIDENT

Re: "Bottle Depot Problems Are Also Neighborhood Housing Problems" by Kylie Glessing.

While I valued the opinion by Ms. Glessing, I respectfully disagree with it as do many other Parkdale-Cromdale community members. Univer Bottle Depot has re-opened and I personally think it is a facility worth having in our north central community. My family and I currently reside in the neighbourhood and have great use for the bottle depot.

The people you call 'unattractive' walking in and around our neighborhood in actuality are doing us a favor. They may not live in our community, but they are helping contribute to a healthy environment by recycling the stray bottles and cans as well as making it safe by picking up the glass that could harm our children if broken.

The 'unattractive' people

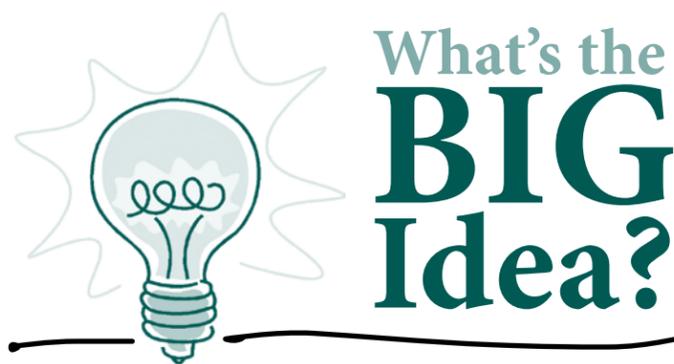
walk to the neighborhood bottle depot using shopping carts or wagons but you yourself would rather drive to a farther recycling facility. While you're driving to a further facility, think about the emissions you are emitting into the air and contributing to global warming. My family also walks to the Univer Bottle Depot with our children. We stop with my children at the park nearby so they can play which is safe from glass shards. This Univer Bottle Depot is of great use for my family.

The majority of our community members are low income individuals or single parents providing for their families through government funds, employment insurance, AISH, disability, old age pension, and social income support. This causes them to have an income at a very minimum level. These low-income earners must look for a rental suite in a substantially acceptable neighborhood but at an affordable price, which most often is not nearly affordable with the

bare minimum income they receive.

Our neighborhood has plenty room for the low-income earners. Low-income earners don't receive enough financial support to meet the needs of their families, but at least they have a place to call home. We are also welcoming low-income families into our community by our social services and resources: Norwood Child and Family Resource Center, Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, Edmonton Public Library, Crystal Kids, Bissell Thrift Store, Salvation Army, and numerous churches that offer hot breakfasts, lunches and dinners to our community members that often require these things on a daily basis.

Personally, I think the Univer Bottle Depot is of great use for our whole community. A huge thanks and big hugs to our community members and resource centers -- especially to the Univer Bottle Depot. They play a huge part in helping community members provide for our families.



Stories from the Carrot

ARTHUR DYCK

In June of this year it will be five years that The Carrot has been open. To those of us who had a vision of what The Carrot could be, The Carrot has by far exceeded our expectations in terms of its effect on the volunteers that have passed through its doors, the musicians who have played at the open mikes and Friday nights, and the artists who have had their work displayed. While we thought that The Carrot could have an effect on the community, we never realized that it would become a catalyst for revitalization of Alberta Avenue.

What has also amazed us is the stories that have emerged from The Carrot as people became involved as volunteers, musicians and artists.

It is time to start collect-

ing those stories and the pictures that have documented the events at The Carrot. The goal is to have a book published called "Stories from The Carrot" in 2012 which will contain the stories that you, the volunteers, board

members of Arts on the Ave., The Carrot Committee, the artists, the musicians and community members have about The Carrot. We are also looking for photographs which document events at The Carrot.

So start thinking about your experiences at The Carrot. How has The Carrot impacted your life? The lives of others? Your community? Write them down. Look through your photos and see what pictures you have from The Carrot. If you aren't comfortable writing and would like to just tell your story, that's possible as well.



Please forward all material to Arthur Dyck at storiesfromthecarrot@gmail.com.

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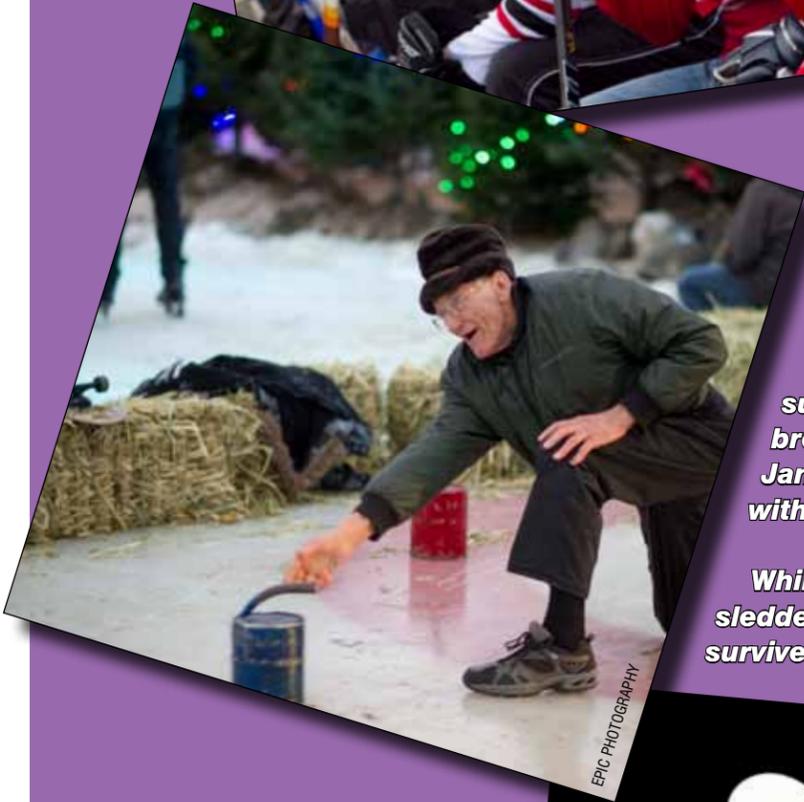
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A LIGHT WITHIN

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A hot way to celebrate the cold



The 2012 incarnation of the Avenue's Deep Freeze festival was successful beyond all measures. Organizers estimated that a record-breaking 20,000 people enjoyed the festival on Saturday and Sunday, Jan 8-9th. The crowds also enjoyed the un-seasonally warm weather, with the temperature spiking above 9 degrees Celcius.

While the heat was a challenge for the ice carvers and the deep freezer sledders, everyone enjoyed the warmth of the sun -- especially those who survived the blizzard that engulfed the previous year's festivities.

It's clear from the success of both the Fall's Kaleido Family Arts Festival and our recent Deep Freeze Festival, that our local celebrations have been embraced by Edmonton as a whole. Kudo's to the organizers and volunteers who have brought our Avenue alive, as a gift not just to ourselves, but to everyone in the city.



Call the publication people for your book, art cards, newsletter or directory:

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Our family eyes the Avenue

Deep Freeze 2012 Fireworks

The Rat Creek Press would like to welcome our newest writers to the paper. Dave, Lucie (6) and Jack (8) Von Bieker will be providing us with reviews of kid events, family facilities, and some critiques of how adults organize children's lives.

Our community is made up of many young families, and we look forward to hearing about the adventures and hurdles this particular family faces as it explores our community.

DAVE, LUCIE & JACK VON BIEKER

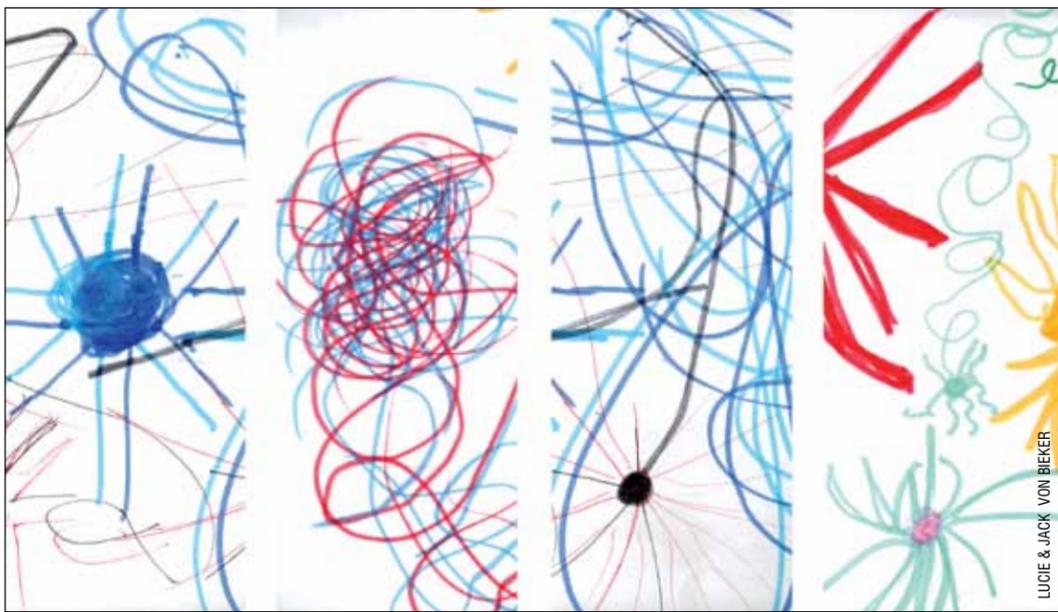
Jack and Lucie were unanimous. The highlight of Deep Freeze 2012 was the fireworks display. I'd have to agree, and it only makes sense that we begin our adventures in the Rat Creek Press with a bang. Or hundreds of bangs.

my family, screeching onto the Alberta Avenue Community League field.

We arrived to find a beautiful sight. Caution tape stretched wide, declaring, "You're so near explosives that if you come any closer someone will get in trouble." This manMom doesn't see much danger, so small thrills

Unexpected tears tugged at my throat. We know all-too-well the tears of sadness and sometimes even joy, but it is a true and rare gift when beauty breaks a heart.

In the glow of the light, I imagined our community on porches, silent and still, their faces beaming with the same



Lucie and Jack re-create the fireworks exploding over our neighbourhood during the 2012 Deep Freeze Festival.

The fireworks began for us in typical manMom fashion. I was running late and losing things with each child multiplying mayhem. Ten tiny minutes from the blessedly early 6 p.m. fireworks display, we still hadn't paid for our *Hakuna Matata* meal. Rushing to settle up and rustle our herd, my wife and I realized I'd lost the manMom bag.

The bag with the food and the water and the wallet. The wallet. Somewhere. At The Carrot? No, they hadn't seen it. I drew breath and sprinted towards the Popular Bakery, just before close. Sensing my desperation, the woman behind the counter smiled reassuringly and handed me a small black backpack. My heart regained its rhythm. I exhaled, gushed my thanks, then left to join

can sustain me for weeks. I held my family's hands and watched fuses lit just metres away.

A single small blast like a starter's pistol, and they're off! A few at once, a bit higher up. Then some screamers. Then bursting white light. Then an airborne kaleidoscope.

We were surprised again as the fireworks slowed. It was a good enough show for our small community and I warned the kids this wouldn't last long. But the explosions marched onstage for an encore (the first of two) and played all their hits. At first I could note each hue, SQUEEL! and POW! but soon I lost track. All my senses were bombarded, all my space was filled in all directions. I'd never been so close to so much at once, and this in my own backyard.

wide eyes I saw when I turned toward my fellow star gazers. There was something happening that was brighter than the fireworks -- all of us gaping like my children -- *witnessing* a small miracle.

At the end of this holiday season of giving and light and wondrous stars, we were given one last gift. It came with all the glory of an angel choir proclaiming some sacred beginning. This fifth Deep Freeze indeed felt like a new year for a new Ave, renewed with each new space and face that moves in. There will be more fireworks, I am sure. Future years may fade into memory like smoke in the 6:15 sky, but this year's light illuminated a memory this manMom was proud to share with his wife, his kids and his community.



BRIAN MASON MLA

Dear friends,

Albertans pay too much for electricity! Since deregulation of the electricity system was introduced in 1995, power prices have gone up steadily. Big power companies manipulate the market and gouge consumers. I propose restoring regulation of power prices in Alberta to ensure stable and reasonable prices to consumers. Please sign our online petition at:

www.ndpopposition.ab.ca/powerprices

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Digging into the dirt on composting

LEIGH-ANN TOPFER

About this time last year I noticed an ad for the Master Composter Recycler Program (MCRP), offered by the City of Edmonton. I confess my interest was purely selfish. Compost, I knew, was great for gardens, but my home compost bins were sorry piles of semi-rotten vegetables, liberally laced with coffee grounds, and topped with fall leaves. Somehow the rich dark 'black gold' that was supposed to magically appear - hadn't.

Here was my chance to find out how to compost - and for free. Learning about recycling was appealing too - although I was already a fervent recycler and pretty sure I'd ace that part of the course. I checked the MCRP web site, and without thinking too much about it, submitted my application form.

After the first class I realized that the program is much

more than learning how to compost, and not just a crash course in waste management. It is all about how we can each make Edmonton a greener and better city. The classes included terrific presentations by local experts and MCRP graduates. We learned a lot about garbage - how we can save energy and the environment (as well as money) by reducing the amount of garbage we produce. We learned about what makes a "livable" city. Some of the sessions were workshops (my favourite - the day we made worm bins and watched demonstrations of different composting system); others were field trips (the Edmonton Waste Management Centre is truly impressive). Most importantly, we learned about the many City of Edmonton resources for waste management and sustainable living, and how to help promote these resources in our own communities.



This year's Master Composter Recycler Program runs on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and all day Saturday, from April 10 through 28, 2012. If you are interested in becoming a fellow Master Composter Recycler visit the MCRP web site at: www.edmonton.ca/mcrp or call (780) 496-5991 for more information and the online application form. Application deadline March 7, 2012.

Accidental advice for winter automobile crashes

DARLENE TAYLOR

Getting into a motor vehicle accident can be a stressful few seconds of fear and dread. Dealing with the aftermath can be a long, drawn-out nightmare of insurance claims, police forms, court cases, and arguments.

In the last three months I have been the victim of two moving vehicle accidents. Having gone through the wringer, I wanted to offer some advice for others if you find yourself in a similar predicament.

City of Edmonton Police Service Website shows:

- If your vehicles are drivable, move them to another location so that they will not be obstructing traffic. If one or more are not drivable call the police complaint line at (780) 423-4567.

- Exchange information (insurance, registration, name and drivers licence number).

- If someone refuses to provide their information document the licence plate number, vehicle description and driver description before they leave the scene.

- Obtain names and phone numbers of all witnesses.

If the collision involves serious injuries or if impaired operation of a motor vehicle is suspected, here is what you or someone else should do.

- Call 9-1-1 so that the necessary medical help can be dispatched to the scene and police can be notified.

- In this instance, vehicles need to remain where they are in order that the collision scene can be investigated.

- If the combined damage to the vehicles involved is over \$2,000 you must attend a police station and file a Collision Report Form. Failure to do so could result in a \$287.00 fine.

Police attendance is ONLY required when:

- Someone has been seriously injured.

- Individual does not have documentation including driver's license, registration or insurance.

- You suspect the driver is impaired

- One or more of the vehicles isn't drivable.

If you are unsure, call (780) 423-4567.

The first action when involved in an accident is to determine serious injuries, vehicle conditions - are they drivable and if impairment is suspected. Check the vehicle for fluids or leakage. This assessment will determine who you call and the urgency of their response to the scene of the accident.

To exchange information get all the details you can from the driver's license and

insurance pink card; information not on these cards are home and work phone numbers.

If you have a cell phone or camera, walk around both vehicles and take photos of the damage, even the general area, such as how far apart the vehicles are from each other and location on the street. Write out what happened while at the scene of the accident or within hours of the accident. This includes weather conditions, location, direction of travel, street condition, time of day, and anything else. It's almost like writing a police novel. You will likely be writing out or telling this story several times as you talk to the insurance company, doctors, repair shop and lawyers.

The website says "serious" injuries but never assume that there are no injuries - especially with yourself. Always see a doctor, your doctor, within 24 hours of the accident. Your body's defense system is at its peak at the time of the accident and it can take several days for you to realize soft tissue damages, bumps, bruises, sprains, strains or scrapes you didn't realize you have. A doctor or professional assessment within hours of the accident is critical. Never say you are fine until you have been professionally checked out.

Get more success from your dog training classes

DOG TALK

Darlene Taylor

One pays good money to attend dog training classes. While you may think you got what you paid for, unless you take advantage of the secret I'm about to tell you then you might as well save your money and stay home.

Recently I spent almost an hour on the phone with a frustrated owner having a problem with her dog. As I listened to her concerns, the story became all-too familiar. I already knew the answer when I asked if she had taken classes and I already knew the answer when I asked if the dog would perform any of the basic commands in a high distraction environment like on

a walk or in the off-leash park. What does knowing how to sit have to do problem behaviours?

I receive calls where the dog is barking and lunging at passers-by. Fence fighting with dogs as they walk-by becomes increasingly worse. Maybe even charging at other dogs on a walk or in the park.

Dogs are often star examples - in class. Why is that? Well, class participants divide into a) only practice in class; b) practice at home occasionally when they can fit it into their busy schedule and usually only for the first few weeks of class; c) practice daily but can't seem to get anywhere; d) practice and have success.

So how do you get more out of class and what does it matter? First, practice every

day - the best time is at the dog's meal time - spend about five minutes practicing



what was learned in class. Practice in different rooms of the house - not

just in the dog's feeding area. The 'easy' things like 'sit' - start to practice outside, in the porch or backyard. When out for a walk start each walk with a bit of practice. Just three to five repetitions should work well.

By the third or fourth week of class you should try to practice in public places away from home and practice more difficult behaviours like 'leave it' or 'down'. Even visiting with relatives or friends - fit in a bit of practice.

Remember, dogs will repeat behaviours that get rewarded. So if you practice in a variety of places, indoors and outside, the dog will repeat what he is learning. If you are out for a walk or play - practice a couple 'sits' before you start - a bit of work then play is a great reward.

Bottom line - the dog will be more relaxed because he has learned how to control his excitement in public places. The dog understands what he is supposed to do. Mostly, he is still hearing his owners and more likely to listen to them. Then when 'life happens' the dog has a higher chance of success at doing the right thing. Even if he chooses the wrong thing, because of your practice, you can at least say his name and redirect him to the correct thing.

I rarely get phone calls for problem behaviour from people who have practiced with success on the basics with their dog.

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When Norwood School opened in January 1909 there were only wagon trails and paths through the bush leading from the school. And Rat Creek flowed where 111th Avenue now is. In the spring, a policeman was stationed near the crossing to make sure kids could get across the creek.

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February is Black History Month. Check out www.artsontheave.org for events.

Volunteer! It's a good thing for yourself and others

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Paula Gillis

Tera was a tiny little eight year old who used to chew through the thumbs of her mittens in order to nibble on the contents. Her brown eyes sparkled when she ran into me on the school playground while I substituted at her school. The child was full of love and excited about the possibility that I would become her Big Sister. I was too.

I chose to become a Big Sister in Fort MacMurray as I was many miles from my family of origin and needed to fill some personal gaps in my life. I missed the joy of always having a child around so that we could play on the swings and go to movies together. So I was matched with Tera and discovered a side of myself that was so much fun! I was also amazed at how much love I had to give her. Tera is now 32, lives in North Carolina where she has two children of her own and she too remembers all of the fun we had together. She is grateful that I chose to be her Big Sister but I think I got the better end of the deal.

Volunteering means different things to different people.



Volunteers serving up lattes and smiles at the Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse, 9351-118 Avenue.

Some people sit on boards or committees where they love putting their organizational skills to use. People volunteer at Bissell Centre or the Mustard Seed Church out of a sense of social obligation or they may pick a project that will help them find a better job. Some people just want to have fun volunteering at festivals like the recent Deep Freeze.

After taking time off work in 2010 due to an illness, I played Facebook Games until I started to return to good health. Then I decided to do something that would allow me to be around other people and make new friends.

A friend had introduced me to The Carrot Cafe and I remembered this as I scanned by brain for something to do. So I dropped in to see the

manager Irene, filled out an application, and began making special coffees. I also learned how to hold a conversation again, how to laugh and even how to get up the nerve to read some of my poetry during open mic nights. I found what I needed: a schedule.

Coincidentally, I met up with Darren, the Editor of the Rat Creek Press during my first shift as a barrista. When

he found out that I enjoyed writing, I was easily convinced to become a volunteer reporter. Finally I would have my name in print and it encouraged me to continue on with my personal writing.

I have learned from experience that volunteering needs to be personally fulfilling. I get bored at board meetings as leadership is not in my skill set and there are other people far better at organizing. So while festival meetings are held at The Carrot, I make coffee for them and I still go home feeling that I contributed.

I am amazed at the volunteer energy on the Avenue. This energy is infectious. I served coffee from The Carrot during Deep Freeze and many volunteers walked in with their white coffee mugs and rosy cheeks. Most were smiling, although a few complained about cold toes.

Not everybody was meant to make cappuccinos or organize a festival. However, if you find that your calendar is a little empty and your life in need of human contact, perhaps it is time to consider volunteering. You might surprise yourself by reading to seniors at a nursing home or helping out at the Boys and Girls Club. Everyone has something to offer to a community that gives back by teaching you skills or raising your spirits.



PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East



HELPING SMALL BUSINESS, HELPING STUDENTS

Canada Summer Jobs helps small businesses create job opportunities for students, focusing on local priorities while achieving tangible results for both students and their communities. This is a great opportunity for employers to offset costs during the summer months.

The program provides work experiences for students, recognizing that local circumstances, community needs and priorities vary widely. In 2011 the federal Conservative Government increased the budget for **Canada Summer Jobs** by \$10 million, to total \$107.5 million.

Funding is provided to small private sector for-profit employers with 50 or fewer employees, not-for-profit and public-sector employers to create summer job opportunities for full-time students aged 15 to 30 who are intending to return to their studies in the next school year. Employers who wish to take part in this year's program must apply by February 29.

Proposals will be assessed using the following guidelines: service to local communities; jobs that support local priorities; jobs that provide career-related experience or early work experience; jobs with a salary that contributes to the student's income; employers who provide supervision and mentoring; project activities that are directed toward members of, and support the vitality of, an official language minority community; and employers who intend to hire priority students (those with disabilities, Aboriginals and members of visible minority groups).

Small private sector for-profit businesses with 50 or fewer employees and public-sector employers are eligible for up to 50 percent of the provincial minimum hourly wage. Not-for-profit employers are eligible for up to 100 percent of the provincial minimum \$9.40 hourly wage and mandatory employment-related costs.

Employers looking for more information may contact the Service Canada Centre at Canada Place on Jasper Avenue, go online at www.servicecanada.gc.ca or call 1-800-935-5555.

I think the **Canada Summer Jobs** Program is a win-win for employers, students and all Canadians. What do you think?

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1 Pasta, 1 Garlic Toast,
10 Chicken Wings,
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\$27.95

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2 Medium 10" Pizzas with any 2 toppings
2 Baked Pasta,
2 Garlic Toast,
One 2-litre Pop
\$28.99

Family Pack

2 Large 12" Pizzas with any 2 toppings
20 Chicken Wings,
One 2-litre Pop
\$33.95

Two 8 oz. NY Steak

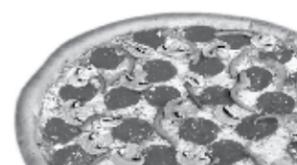
with Fried Mushrooms,
2 Fries, 2 Caesar Salads,
2 Garlic Toast,
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with cheese, onions, lettuce, tomatoes & sweet sauce
CHICKEN OR BEEF \$9.99
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Meet Your Neighbours at Our Friendly Neighbourhood Pub

Watch for the 2012 Alberta Avenue Business Directory in your mailbox or pick up at The Carrot 9351-118 Ave.

HISTORY PROJECT UPDATE

We are pleased with all the excitement and interest this project is stirring up in the community! That's the whole intent - everyone can get involved. Please just be patient with us as we get things organized and underway. We're working on a publicly accessible 'wiki' website. Check ratcreek.org for project info and link to the new website.

Darren Boisvert, RCP Editor, was interviewed about the project on the CBC Morning show on January 26. Go to cbc.ca/edmontonam to hear the interview.

We are still eagerly looking for anyone with memories of Parkdale-Cromdale/Norwood/Delton/Elmwood/Alberta Avenue. Did your parents live here? Grandparents? Please contact us if you have stories to share.

THEMES WE WILL BE EXPLORING:

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

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

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

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

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

PHOTOS AND DOCUMENTS

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

HOUSES

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

BUSINESSES

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

I WONDER...

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

To contact the history project, email us at history@ratcreek.org or leave a message at 780-479-6285

The Night and the Music

ALEX MAIR

Reprinted from: *Through the Years - Alberta Avenue 1995*

Alberta Avenue plays a special role in the memories of anyone who grew up in the neighbourhood. The memories are rich, because on winter nights, the air was filled with the sound of music.

Hard as it may be to believe in 1995, there was a period in the life of the Avenue when one of the happier activities that filled a winter's evening was skating. There were no indoor rinks, of course, other than the Gardens, or the Arena, as it was called, but every community had an outdoor rink. All across the city, skaters would gather at the rink, every night of the week, and skate for two hours. Usually the skating was accompanied by scratchy music played over loud speakers positioned around the ice. The music came from 78 rpm records played inside the rink shack, and there was a similarity between the records played all over the rest of the city. But the Avenue rink was different.

Twice a week, Saturday and Sunday evenings, the skaters would whirl around the ice to the sound of a live band. There was only one other rink

in the city that offered this marvelous addition to the evening's fun, and that was Central, the rink down on Jasper Avenue and about 112 Street. Throughout the week, the skaters at the Avenue had the same recorded music as the rest of the city rinks, but about half past seven on a Saturday evening, the rink staff would slide a small wooden hut out to the middle of the ice. This hut was open on all four sides, had canvas walls that dropped down if it was a windy night, and was just big enough to accommodate four musicians, all bundled up against a prairie winter night.

There was a small pot-bellied stove in one corner, a stove that fought a valiant and futile battle against a thirty below night. Then, at eight o'clock, the music started. Three marches, three waltzes, three marches, and so on until the warm-up break at nine. Then it was back out into the

little shack, and another hour, three marches, three waltzes, three marches, until it was ten o'clock and time to go into the big shack and get warmed up before the walk home.

Elmer Mack played trumpet, and was the leader. There was a baritone horn player called Schultz, a tailor at his day job, and there was a trombone player and a drummer.

That was it. Four people huddled into a small wooden crate. The drummer was charged with keeping the stove fired up, but he sat farthest from it. A drum does not need to be warm to be played. A horn, on the other hand, freezes up. The horn players got the heat.

The repertoire was made up of old classics, McNamara's Band, Alexander's Ragtime, the Skaters Waltz, the Blue Danube Waltz, and many, many more.

New Years Eve was always a big night. And a long, cold

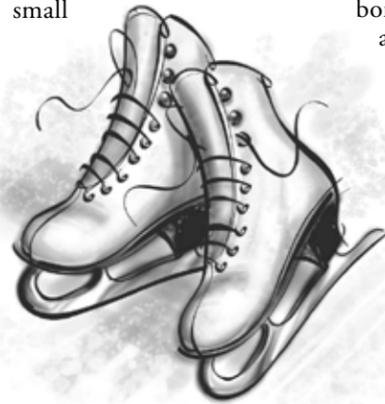
one too, for the musicians. Yes, Virginia, there was a day right here in Edmonton when people skating in the New Year.

There were traditions to the evening at the rink. The skaters always went around clockwise. The ice surface was always scraped clean at half time. The snow scraped from the ice surface was shoveled over the boards and onto piles that grew, as the winter progressed, until they were higher than the top of the rink boards. The spectators always stood on top of the snow banks, and for some strange reason, nobody ever slid onto the ice.

There was a grace and a rhythm to the skating, and sometimes the skaters sang along with the music. "the drums go bang and the cymbals clang, and the horns they blaze away. McCarthy pumps the old bassoon while I the pipes do play... you never heard the likes of McNamara's Band."

They had live music down at Central, yes, but they didn't have the live music that filled those winter nights at the Alberta Avenue Skating Park.

When you hear people talking about the good old days, it's the memories of Saturday night at the Avenue that they're talking about.



Do you remember this?



Lawn bowling at the Alberta Avenue Community Centre in 1937. The History Project is seeking anyone who has memories or stories about this popular pastime. If have any old photos of activities or community groups in our neighbourhood, please contact the History Project. See sidebar left.

THE CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES

Participate in the ALBERTA AVENUE HISTORY PROJECT

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

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



"Lots in Parkdale with conveniences of the city selling for \$250 to \$1460" - From Saturday News advert, April 1911.

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.

ENTERTAINMENT

THE CARROT OPEN STAGE

Thursdays for folks 55+ 1:30-4pm.
Saturdays 7pm-10pm
9351 118 Ave, 780-471-1580.

EVENTS

CRUD FAMILY DAY CELEBRATION

Celebrate Family Day with CRUD and the Alberta Avenue (9210 118 Ave). Outdoor FUN for the whole family! Join us for skating, broomball, snow painting, tobogganing, and around the fire Hotdog and Marshmallow Roast on Monday, February 20th from 11am-4pm.

OXFAM POTLUCK

The Edmonton Chapter of Oxfam Canada is having a POTLUCK diner at Old Strathcona Library (8331 104 St) on Wednesday, February 8 from 6:30-8pm. Discover how you can be apart of a healthy, sustainable global food system. For anyone interested in good food and good company join us!

BETWEEN THE COVERS

A multimedia exploration of music, literature, history and culture. This unique program blends live performances of pop music with literary readings and discussions of significant world events. Saturday, February 11 from 3pm-4pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

FAMILY DAY PLAY

Spend Family Day at the Library! All branches will be open and featuring fun family activities for you to enjoy. Monday, February 20 from 2:30-3:30pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

MOSAIC MADNESS!

Mosaic creation workshop on Saturday, February 25 from 2pm-4pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). Spaces limited. \$10 suggested donation. RSVP info@artsontheave.org. Sponsored by NNA.

SNOWBALL EVENT

Outdoor fun and games at Parkdale-Cromdale Hall (11335 85 St) on Sunday, February 26 from 1pm-5pm.

WOMEN'S WELLNESS FAIR

Come learn about a wide variety of aspects to wellness. There will be information tables on such topics as acupuncture, natural skin care, nutrition, fitness and much more. There will also be free talks on a variety of topics and free fitness classes including yoga, boot

camp and belly dancing. Plus activities for the kids including book making and a magic show. Saturday, March 10 from 10am-2pm at Alberta Avenue (9210 118 Ave). For more info: info@albertaave.org or www.albertaave.org

NOTICES

RECYCLE YOUR FOOTWEAR

Bring in your broken boots to Fast Shoe Repair, 8652 118 Ave and they will be repaired and donated to the Salvation Army.

NICE NEIGHBOUR RECOGNITION

Do you know someone who makes your neighbourhood a better place to live? Then why not nominate them for CRUD's Nice Neighbour Recognition Award and give some recognition to those that make our community great. Nominations are accepted via e-mail at info@crudedmonton.org.

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.

PROGRAMS/CLASSES

EPL EARLY LITERACY

Learn how to incorporate early literacy skills into everyday routines with your children through books, songs, and rhymes. Edmonton Public Library staff will facilitate part of the program on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30 am or 4:15-6:15pm at the Mosaics Early Learning room in One World One Centre (12050 95A Street). A light meal is provided. Please register at 780-638-6810

KOINONIA CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM

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

CHILDREN'S JAZZ DANCE CLASSES

Parkdale Cromdale Community League will be offering jazz dance classes for kids 5-12 years old beginning January 18. Classes are free for community league members and will be held at the Parkdale-Cromdale Hall (11335 85 St) on Wednesdays between 5:30 and 7:00 pm. Contact Megan Petryk for more info or to register by phone 780-477-1171 or email mpetryk@ualberta.ca.

MOSAICS EARLY LEARNING ROOM

At One World One Centre 12050 95A St.
Rhymes that Bind: Thursdays 10:00-11:30am February 2, 16, 23, March 15, 22. Drop in Program no registration required. Light snack included.

Parenting in Two Cultures: Tuesday 5:30-7:30pm, February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13. A light meal is provided. Please register at 780-638-6810
EMU(Early Learning Mobile Unit) will be at our site in the parking lot: Mondays February 6, 13, 27, March 5, 9:30-11:00am or 1:00-2:30pm (Registered programs call 780-638-6810) and 11:00-12:00 (Drop in program).

ADULT GUITAR LESSONS

Bring your guitar, learn a few chords and meet some friends! Saturdays from 10am-11am at Parkdale Cromdale Community League (11335 85 Street). Free to Parkdale Cromdale league members. More info: Sebastian Barrera 780-477-1294.

NEEDLE FELTING WITH MIKE GERMANN

Learn the basics of felting. Materials supplied and tools will be on hand for those who don't have their own. Share ideas and techniques while chatting over a drink. The Second Saturday of the month at 1:30 pm at The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse (9351 118 Ave). More info: info@artsontheave.org or call 780-471-1580.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CAFE

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

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

FREE YOUTH DROP-IN

For Ages 12 and up at St. Alphonsus School (11624 81 St). Mondays from 7pm-9pm (no program February 20, March 26 or April 9). More info: Melanie Kidder 780-246-1742.

FAMILY STORYTIME

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

TEEN GAMING

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

KARAOKE WITH CRUD

Tune up your vocal cords and join us down Green Frog's Pub (9349 118 Ave) for another hopp'n good time of socializing and singing. Friday, February 24 at 9pm.

ART ON EARTH

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

LI'L SPROUTS PLAYGROUP

Come by the Parkdale-Cromdale Hall (11335 85 St) with your little ones Fridays, 10am-12pm. Call the hall for more information. 780-471-4410 or parkdalecromdale.org.

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.

DROP-IN TIME

Come in for warmth, conversation, coffee and a bowl of soup. Thursdays from 10am-2pm at the Parish Church of St. Faith's and St. Stephen the Martyr (11725 93 St). More info: 780-477-5931.

COMMUNITY MEALS

Breakfast: Saturday, February 12 and 26 from 8:30-9:30am and Supper: 5pm-6pm at the Parish Church of St. Faith's and St. Stephen the Martyr (11725 93 St). More info: 780-477-5931.

ALBERTA AVENUE CHOIR

Join your neighbourhood choir on Sundays 4pm at St. Faith's Church. Check out Garth Prince "Sand and Sea" featuring the choir on iTunes! Contact Garth 780-700-2847.

MAKE MELODY

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

FRIDAY NIGHT DROP-IN

Open-house, free coffee and snacks - games and conversation with friends. A safe place to hang out on a Friday night from 7-9pm at Salvation Army Crossroads Community Church (11661 95 St). More info: 780-474-4324.

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).

SPORTS/REC

FREE ZUMBA CLASS

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

PARKDALE-CROMDALE RINK

Our hours (pending weather) are 4:30-8pm weekdays and 12-8pm weekends 113 Ave and 85 St. If our lights are on we are open, unless we are flooding! Must have membership/skate tags. There is a snowbank rink at Sheriff Robertson Park on 82 St just south of 112 Ave.

ALBERTA AVENUE RINK

Open weekdays 4pm-8pm and weekends 1pm-6pm behind the hall at 93 St and 118 Ave. Free hot chocolate for skaters on the weekends!

RUN/WALK GROUP

Looking for people to join a run/walk program. Something to suit everyone's fitness level. 2-3 times a week with the same meeting place and a routine. Possibly Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and Saturdays at 11 am. If you are interested, leave a message for Roxanne at 780-479-7702 and what days and times would be best for you.

FREE INDOOR PUBLIC SKATING

Free Public Skating is offered at City of

Edmonton indoor arenas year-round. Staff will be on site during all Public Skating times. Skate Assists will be available for Public Skating. Helmets are not required, however highly recommended. Equipment not permitted during Public Skating includes the following: strollers, sleds, hockey sticks, pucks, and balls. Three types of Public Skating programs at our indoor arenas: Family Skate, Parents & Tots and Senior Skate. More info: Call 311 or go to edmonton.ca (search public skating).

COMMUNITY SWIM

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

CRUD DOG WALKING GROUP

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

VOLUNTEER

THANK YOU FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all those that volunteered and helped Deep Freeze Winter Festival. Thank you for welcoming festival visitors to our community. They experienced a magical winter festival on the Ave! Have a wonderful winter. Warm regards, Arts on the Ave board and Deep Freeze Festival production team.

ARE YOU A DJ?

Do you love music, meeting new people, having fun and volunteering for a great organization? We are looking for a DJ for our "Spring Fling Family Dance" on Friday, April 20, 2012 from 4:30 to 8:30pm. Call Norwood Family Centre at 780-471-3737 if you are interested in volunteering for this event.

HELP AT NORWOOD CENTRE

Become a Volunteer at Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre (9516 114 Avenue) and gain experience for employment/education, meet new people, learn new skills, have fun and give back to your community. Click the volunteer tab at www.norwoodcentre.com to view positions descriptions OR Phone: 780-471-3737 to find out what positions are available.

BEFRIEND A SENIOR

Provide much needed companionship to an isolated senior by assisting them with grocery shopping, sharing life stories, playing cards or completing crafts, going for walks or driving them to and from medical appointments. There are seniors in your community waiting for a volunteer right now. It could take as little as an hour each week! Please contact Carole at 780-342-4421 for more information.

HANG AT A GALLERY

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

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

St. Faith's Anglican Church and St. Stephen the Martyr Anglican Church

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: 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)

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

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 years.

Advertise your church here for only \$120/year.
Contact info@ratcreek.org

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

Check out the Stollery Gallery (9225-118 Avenue). Mon-Fri 10am-2pm; Thu 4:30-8pm; Sat 1pm-3pm.



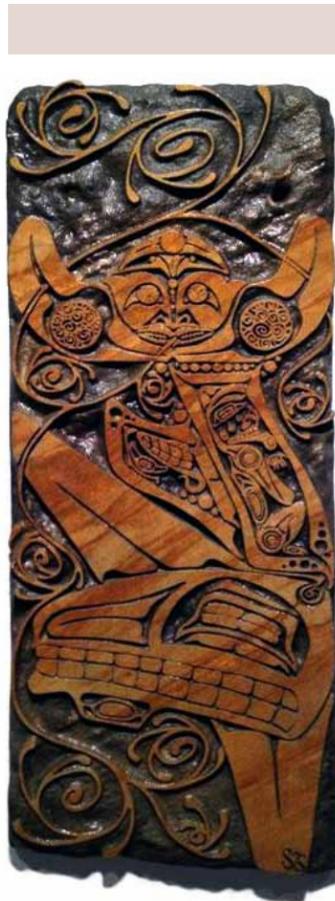
SHAWN ADAMS
'Raven and Sun'
 Greek Travertine Stone and Old Knotty Pine
 2011

RAVEN AND SUN:
"Most important of all creatures to the coast Indian peoples was Raven. It was Raven – the Transformer, the cultural hero, the trickster, the Big Man – who created the world. He put the sun, moon and stars into the sky, fish into the sea, salmon into the rivers, and food onto the land. Raven gave the people fire and water, placed the rivers, lakes and cedar trees over the land, and peopled the earth."

*Featured during the 2012 Deep Freeze Festival
 Stollery Gallery, Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts*

HOTDOG AND MARSHMALLOW ROAST
Family Day Celebration
 Outdoor FUN for the whole family! Monday, February 20 from 11am till 4pm
 Alberta Avenue Community Centre, 9210-118 Ave

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO URBAN DISORDER
 T: 780.996.4728 | email: info@crudedmonton.org
 www.crudedmonton.org



SHAWN ADAMS
'Nanasimgit'
 Wood Carving
 shawn-adams@hotmail.ca

Tabula Rasa
 A Social Arts Experience

Buy a blank canvas and we'll supply paint and brushes, food and wine... everything you need to free your inner artist.

Our crew will provide encouragement, insight and inspiration to aid you throughout your creative journey. Bring your friends, party and raise funds to support The Carrot. Be inspired...

"The day is coming when a single carrot, freshly observed, will set off a revolution."
 - Paul Cézanne

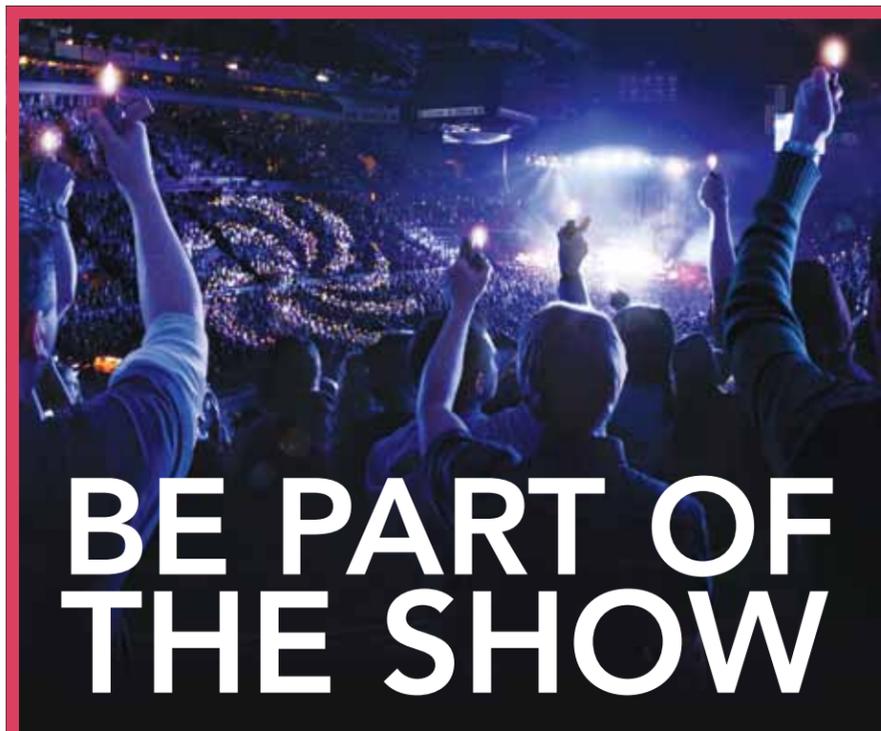
February 25, 2012
 Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts | 9225 - 118 Ave
 rsvp: info@artsontheave.org
 Tickets \$118

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Here's just some of the great northlands job perks:

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- Flexible shifts
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- Opportunities for advancement
- Gain valuable experience
- Year-round employment available
- Staff incentive and recognition programs

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

