

your free **COMMUNITY** newspaper

ALBERTA AVENUE
DELTON
EASTWOOD
ELMWOOD PARK
PARKDALE
SPRUCE AVENUE
WESTWOOD

RAT CREEK PRESS

BUILDING COMMUNITY . ENCOURAGING COMMUNICATION . INCREASING CAPACITY

CIRCULATION 13,000

PH: 479.6285 EMAIL: info@ratcreek.org

Ice is coming to a rink near you

JESSICA KIMMERLY
AND DAWN FREEMAN

How do those lovely sheets of smooth ice appear at our community league rinks each winter? It takes effort and time of volunteer ice makers who diligently step into the cold to sweep off the snow and flood the area with water.

Temperature plays a big part in when you can and cannot flood the ice. Spruce Avenue ice maker, Henry Stainthorp, explains that if it is too cold outside, the freshly sprayed water won't bond to the old ice, causing it to crack. (The ideal temperature for flooding is around minus 10 degrees.) Stainthorp worked for Edmonton Northlands for 37 years as a professional ice

maker—he made ice for most of the Oilers games in that time including the five Stanley Cup games they won. He has also made ice for the Tim Hortons Brier and the Canada Cup.

You can see the ice-making process for yourself in the photos on this page. Our community has some great opportunities for skating, so get out and enjoy the ice this winter!

Please note—at 20 degrees or lower, all outdoor rinks are closed to the public.

Eastwood ice rink hours

Wednesday to Friday:
5:30 to 9 p.m.
Saturday: 3 to 9 p.m.
Sunday: 2 to 8 p.m.

Spruce Ave ice rink hours

Rink availability updated on

voice message: call community hall at 780-471-1932.

Alberta Avenue ice rink hours

Call community hall for updates: 780-477-2773
Hours will depend on volunteer help. (Please call if you would like to volunteer!)

Delton ice rink hours

Monday to Friday: 5:30 to 7 p.m. public skate. 7 to 9 p.m. shinny or hockey.
Saturday and Sunday: 1 to 3 p.m. public skate. 3 to 6 p.m. hockey.

Parkdale ice rink hours

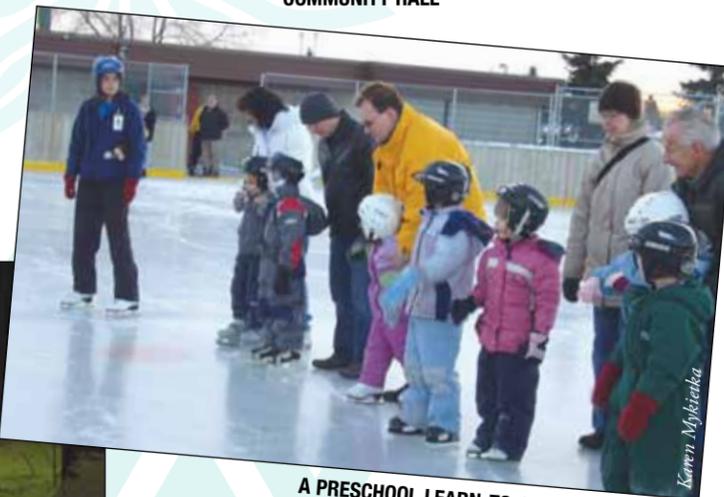
Call for updates: 780-471-4410

Westwood Indoor ice rink hours

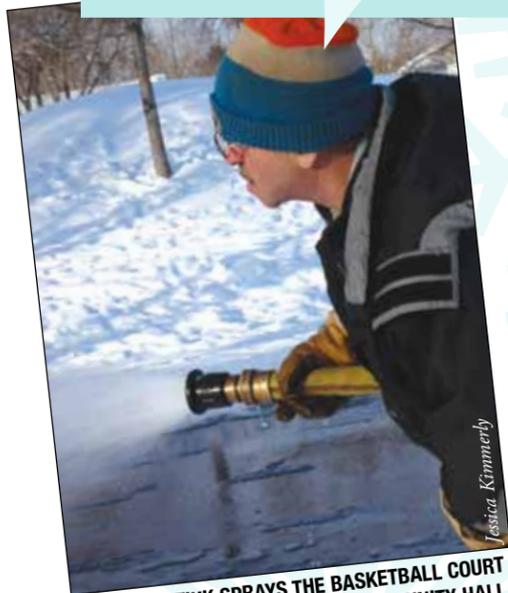
Sunday: 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. (not Dec 21 or 28.)



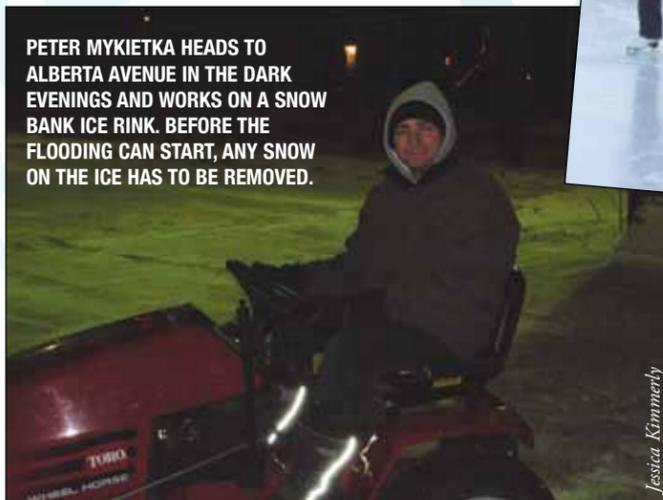
VOLUNTEER HENRY STAINTHORP FLOODS THE ICE AT THE SPRUCE AVENUE COMMUNITY HALL



A PRESCHOOL LEARN-TO-SKATE CLASS AT SPRUCE AVE RINK IN 2007



BILL SOBOTIUK SPRAYS THE BASKETBALL COURT BEHIND THE ALBERTA AVENUE COMMUNITY HALL TO LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR A CURLING RINK



PETER MYKIETKA HEADS TO ALBERTA AVENUE IN THE DARK EVENINGS AND WORKS ON A SNOW BANK ICE RINK. BEFORE THE FLOODING CAN START, ANY SNOW ON THE ICE HAS TO BE REMOVED.



ICE MAKER WALTER GURBA ON THE ZAMBONI AT DELTON'S ICE RINK

Avenue Initiative pullout inside!

Don't miss the Avenue Initiative Revitalization Strategy "year in review" pullout inside this issue.

Rat Creek Press open editorial meeting

Join us for our next editorial meeting, Monday January 12 at 7 p.m., at the Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse (9351-118 Ave).

Everyone is welcome to help us brainstorm our upcoming features and articles! This is your paper, and we appreciate your input.

How to nominate someone for The Rat Creek Press Connect Awards

Do you know any organizations or individuals who build our community, or encourage communication, or increase capacity within our neighbourhoods?

Send us your nominations for the 2009 Connect Awards.

info@ratcreek.org
780-479-6285



Deep Freeze: Byzantine Winter Adventure

Where

Alberta Avenue Community League Hall (9210-118 Ave.)

When

Saturday Jan 10 from 11 a.m. to midnight, and Sunday Jan 11 from noon to 5 p.m.

Schedule

SATURDAY: Ukrainian food, mummary, an enchanted forest sculpture garden and ice carving competition, art gallery and sale, crafts, music, snowshoeing, broomball and family art experiences. In the evening, come for "The Big Meltdown," a Latin salsa party with hot, spicy food.

SUNDAY: Cabane à sucre, curling and skating.



EDITORIAL
 WITH JESSICA KIMMERLY

How to write stories with a camera

As you will soon notice, this issue of the Rat Creek Press is a little different. Instead of getting writers to compose our feature articles, we asked photographers to capture them with their cameras.

A "photo essay" is a col-

lection of photographs that are meant to tell a story or bring out certain emotions in the person viewing them. Sometimes photo essays are displayed as artwork, sometimes printed in a book or in a two-page newspaper spread.

For January, the month of new beginnings (and our only full-colour paper of the year) we all agreed that photos essays would be a bright, fun way to start the year.

Both photographers featured in this issue belong to

our fine community. We are thrilled to feature their work, and hopefully you will learn something new from their distinct viewpoints.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Concerns for Cromdale

Has anyone noticed how deteriorated the old Cromdale Hotel has become? With each passing day this old dinosaur falls further and further into decay.

How long is this eyesore and hazard going to be allowed by the city to stand. If they can pass willy nilly bylaws at will surely they can make one for old structures like this that need to come down.

Who are the owners? Where are they? Can they not be pressured into tearing this mess down?

This building is a disgrace to the area and the people who have to live near it and put up with it daily.

It will past the time it came down. Shame on the owners for allowing it to stay for so long.

Cromdale deserves better than this.

Alan Andre, Parkdale/Cromdale

Scam Artists

Perhaps you'd like to inform your readers of a couple of scam artists that are cruising the neighbourhood in the evening. They are a guy/girl team that work each side of the street. Their story is that they are from Lac La Biche and their truck was stolen... so they are trying to get some money together for a hotel. \$18 more should do it! After conning our neighbour out of \$20, they hopped into a car down the street and drove away.

This is a variation of the numerous scam stories that I've heard of over the years.... From the guy in the parking lot who says his car is at the filling station and he didn't have enough money to pay for his gas so could you please lend him whatever you can and he will certainly pay you back if you give him your address... to another guy standing on the street with a greasy car part in his hand saying he's from out of town and his car has broken down, and he needs the money to buy this part... see? If anyone approaches you with this kind of story, be suspicious!

People for the most part are kind-hearted and these sound like someone-just-in-trouble stories. We've all been there, right?

If you are tempted to help someone out with one of these stories, at least try verifying the story. Your truck was stolen? Can I see your police report? Your car is at the gas station? Which one? I'll call and verify your story. Where is your broken down vehicle?

I hate seeing people being scammed out of their hard-earned money by these scammers who prey on people's good hearts. Less and less people will be willing to help out others who really need it.

Toni Ziganash, Alberta Avenue

Want to help make Norwood a great place to live?

Join the Norwood Neighbourhood Association.

**7pm, Wed. January 14 at NCFRC
 95A St. & 114 Avenue**

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ART & THEATRE

THE CARROT'S VISUAL ARTISTS COLLECTIVE 2nd Wednesday of the month starting Jan 14 at 7pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). Drop in, have a coffee, discuss visual art related topics. For more info contact: Michael Germann, mikalow@shaw.ca, 780-909-7027, www.meetup.com/Carrot-visual-artists-collective

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

MUSIC

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

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

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

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

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

DROP-IN GROUPS & PROGRAMS

FREE FAMILY ART NIGHTS For Parents and children up to 17, at the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts

(9702 111 Ave). Thursday Evenings 6:30 - 8 p.m. All materials, instruction and a light snack are free. No experience necessary, but space is limited. Call 780 474 7611 to register your family.

VISUAL ART SAMPLER The class will include such techniques as watercolour landscape, mixed media abstract, carving plaster of paris/ sculpting, still life with pencil crayons, and paper mache mask making. 8 Tuesdays, Jan 20 to Mar 10, from 6pm to 7:30pm for ages 6 to 10 at the Alberta Avenue Community Centre. Ends with a showcase at The Carrot Coffeehouse. Instructor: Lorraine Shulba. Cost: \$60 members; \$80 non-members. Call 780-477-2773 to register.

CIRCUS ART SAMPLER The class will introduce children to a variety of circus arts such as stiltwalking, juggling, tight rope, hula hoop, creative movement/ clowning, balloon art, magic, face painting, yo yo, puppetry and mime. 6 Thursdays, Feb 12 to Mar 19 from 3:30pm - 5:30pm for ages 8 to 14 at the Alberta Avenue Community Centre. Instructors: various. Cost: \$60 members; \$80 non-members. Call 780-477-2773 to register.

LATIN DANCING Learn the Merengue & Salsa. 8 Wednesdays, Feb 4 to Mar 25 from 7:30 - 8:30pm for ages 14 to 99 at the Alberta Avenue Community Centre. Instructor: Glenroy Wilkinson. Cost: \$30 members; \$50 non-members. Call 780-477-2773 to register.

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

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

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

BABES IN ARMS Fridays, 10am to 12pm at The Carrot Community Arts CoffeeHouse (9351 118 Ave). Come

and connect with other parents in the community. Call The Carrot at 780-471-1580 for more info.

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

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

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

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

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

ENTERTAINMENT

THE CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEEHOUSE 9351 - 118 Avenue FRIDAYS: Live music, 7:30pm-9:30pm \$5 cover charge JAN 2: LECKIE OLSEN rock singer / songwriter JAN 9: SLOWBURN stripped-down acoustic JAN 16: ANDREW PAHL pop/rock singer/songwriter JAN 23: CARRIE HRYNIW folk-pop JAN 30: ANDY MCGAW guitarist, singer/songwriter SATURDAYS: Open mic 7:30pm -10:00pm Music, spoken word, comedy

SPORTS & REC

LITTLE KICKERS INDOOR SOCCER Delton Community League (123 Ave and 88 St). Boys and Girls aged 4 and 5 yrs of age. FREE. Meet other parents while children play soccer. Jan 12, 20, 28. 6:30- 7:30 pm. Drop in-parent must stay with children. Please bring indoor running shoes and water bottle. Contact : Sue-Delton Soccer Director 780-474-3491.

COMMUNITY RINKS Call for opening dates and times. Free to any community league members. Alberta Avenue (snow bank rink)

780-477-2773 www.albertaave.org Delton 780-477-3326 Eastwood 780-477-2354 Parkdale 780-471-4410 Spruce Avenue 780-471-1932

FREE PUBLIC SKATING/INDOOR ARENAS

Grand Truck (13025 112 St) Sundays from 1pm to 2pm (no Dec 21, 28) Russ Barnes (6725 118 Ave) Saturdays from 5pm to 6pm (no Dec 27) Oliver (10335 119 St) Tuesdays from 6:15 to 7:15pm (no Dec 30) Westwood (12040 97 St) Sundays 3:15 to 4:15pm (no Dec 21 & 28)

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

FREE SWIM FOR ALBERTA AVE COMMUNITY LEAGUE MEMBERS

Sundays from 12pm to 2pm at Eastglen Pool (11410 68 Street). Call 780-496-7384 for full pool schedule or go to www.edmonton.ca and search Eastglen pool.

VOLUNTEER

DEEP FREEZE: BYZANTINE WINTER ADVENTURE

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

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

WALKING CLUB VOLUNTEER

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

IMMIGRANT/REFUGEE SETTLEMENT MENTORS

Mentor new immigrants/refugees in a formalized friendship; assist newcomers to practice English, develop social networks, learn about Canadian culture, and acquire life skills to facilitate successful integration into Canadian society. 8 hours/month. Training and support provided. Contact Leslie @ 780-432-1137, ext 362 or e-mail volunteer@catholicsocialservices.ab.ca

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MENTORS

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

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

New address for Seniors Assisted Transportation Society (SATS): 9907 108 Ave. Drive a senior to an appointment and we reimburse the gas. Do you have 3-4 hrs once a month to donate? Call Bev at 780-732-1221.

NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

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

NOTICES & UPCOMING EVENTS

DEEP FREEZE: BYZANTINE WINTER ADVENTURE Saturday Jan 10 from 11 a.m. to midnight, and Sunday Jan 11, noon to 5 p.m. held at Alberta Ave Community League (9210 118 Ave). On Saturday, enjoy Ukrainian food, mummery, a sculpture garden and competition (enchanted forest theme), art gallery and sale, crafts, music throughout day, snowshoeing, broomball and family art experiences. In the evening, join us for "The Big Melt-down," a Latin salsa party with hot spicy food. Sunday we'll have a Cabaneà sucre, curling and skating.

CARROT GIFT CERTIFICATES

Buy your friends an original gift... Carrot gift certificates available at the Carrot and Tickets to Friday Night For Two at the Carrot Gift certificates for our evening performance.

CHURCH SERVICES

ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH 11828 - 85 St. 780-474-5434. Mass every Sunday at 10 a.m. Saturday mass at 4 p.m. Morning mass from Tuesday to Friday at 7:30 a.m.

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

ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN 8715 118 Ave, Ph 780-477-8677 Regular service, Sundays, 11 am

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

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Edmonton Public Library

SPRUCEWOOD BRANCH 11555 - 95 Street
Call 780-496-7099 to register
Go to www.epl.ca for more program details

CHILDREN
EXplore! Your Library
Participation limit: 30
Please call 780-496-7043 to book a time. Unscheduled event - call to register.

TEENS
Girl Power
3:30 p.m. Thursdays, Jan 22 to Mar 26
Ages: 12 - 15 years
Participation limit: 20

Teen Game Night
6:30 p.m. Fridays, Sep 26, 2008 to Feb 20
Ages: 12 - 17 years

Participation limit: 15

ADULTS
Cafe Anglais - English Conversation Club for Newcomers
6:30 p.m. Mondays, Jan 5 to Jun 29
Participation limit: 20
FREE of Charge

Stories from the Heart of the City - with Linda Goyette
1:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan 15
Drop-in, Free of Charge
All are Welcome!

English Conversation Circle (LACE Program)
10:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan 10 to Feb 21
Participation limit: 10
Free of Charge
Drop-In.

ELL (English Language Learning) Tours
Call 780-496-7099 to Book a Tour. Unscheduled event - call to register.

About Bob Todrick

BY STEVE SIMON

In Bob Todrick's photographic life, as in his real one, the glass is always half full.

There is a long tradition of photographers pointing their cameras in the direction of their own lives and families. Unlike amateur photographers who often photograph to mark a milestone or special occasion, it is obvious from his work that Bob's camera is his constant companion.

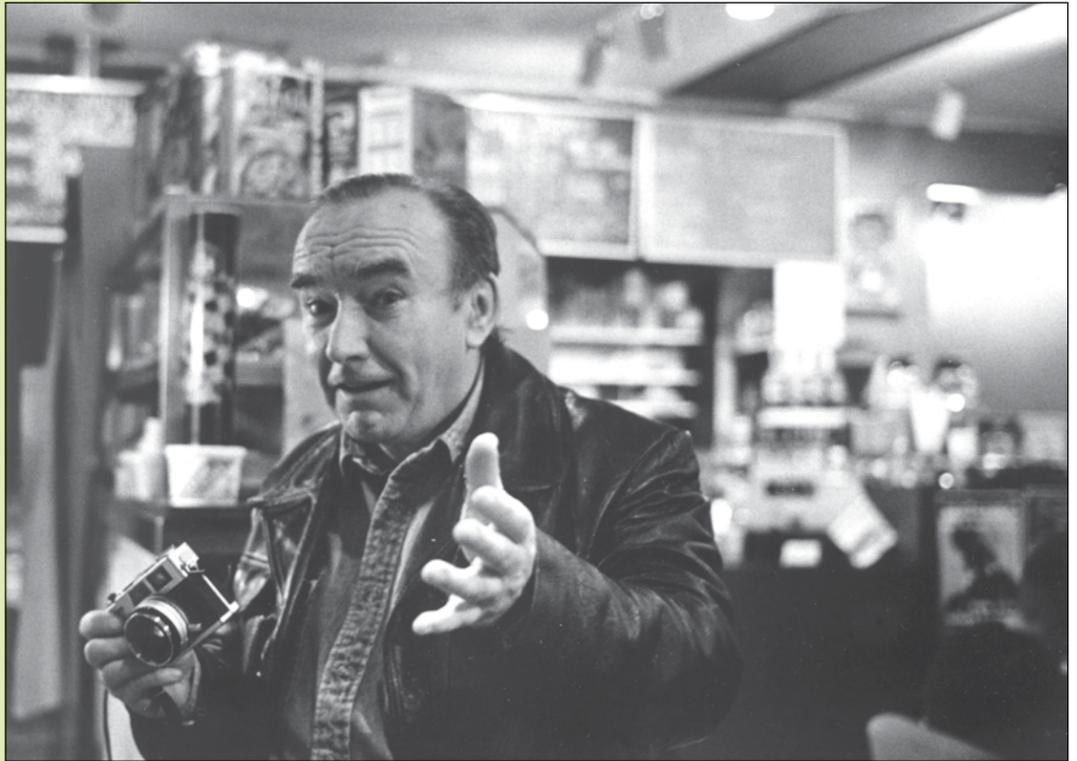
He is perhaps the hardest working photographer I know, always shooting and experimenting, always evaluating and pushing past any barriers that might try and contain him. Bob follows in these rich photographic traditions to remind us that we all have to face the bad with the good; but that in the end it truly is, a wonderful life.

About the book *It's a Wonderful Life*

BY BOB TODRICK

History has always been recorded in part by the journals and artwork left behind by people and often their family histories. In the 20th and 21st centuries, the journal became a lost art, replaced by the family photograph.

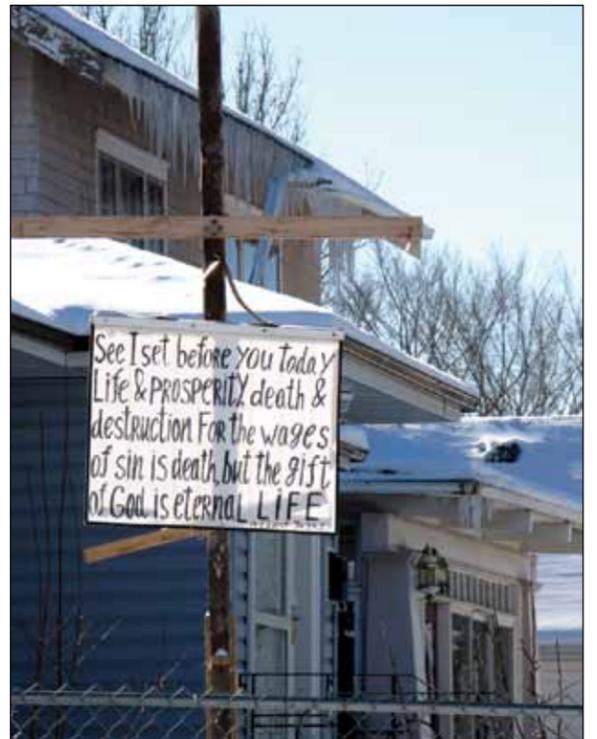
I struggled in the making of this book. As a photographer, I've always worked toward the singular image that can be hung on someone's wall. Five years ago, when I first thought about doing a book, I immediately felt it would be a collection of these pieces of art. But as the last five years passed, and my work was shown in galleries and published in books, I came to realize that the most important work, the work I would most want to hand down to my children and friends, were the photographs I made of them, the world around us and our history. It is the story of my life, and it's a wonderful life.



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CHRIS AT THE CARROT



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January 13, 2009 Tickets \$35
(must be purchased by Jan 8)



What's happening in Spruce Avenue Community

FREE LEARN-TO-SKATE LESSONS

Spruce Avenue Community Rink
10240 - 115 avenue

Thursday Jan. 15 to Thursday March 5

4 - 6 year-olds 2:30 pm to 3:00 pm

7 - 12 year-olds 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm

Must have skates. Use of helmets are available at the rink. A referral can be made to Sport Central for skates. Please call Verna at 780-479-8019 to register.

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



Avenue Vineyard Community Church

Extending Healing Through
Faith, Hope and Love

Avenue Vineyard is a friendly, informal, non-judgmental and safe place to grow spiritually, teaching traditional Christian values in a non-traditional way.

Services contain elements of worship music, prayer, announcements, a teaching time and personal prayer time and a nursery and children's ministry that begins halfway through the service.

Pastors Wayne & Christie Thomas
Email: wctomas@telus.net
www.avenuevineyard.com
Church office: 780.474.1178

Sundays, 10:30 am

Church Location:
Crystal Kids 8718-118 Ave.

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Hello Highlands-Norwood!



I hope you all enjoyed some much needed rest over the holiday season and were able to get together with friends and family.

I look forward to serving you in 2009. As always please don't hesitate to contact my office if there is anything I can do for you.

6519 - 112 Avenue
Your MLA, Brian Mason

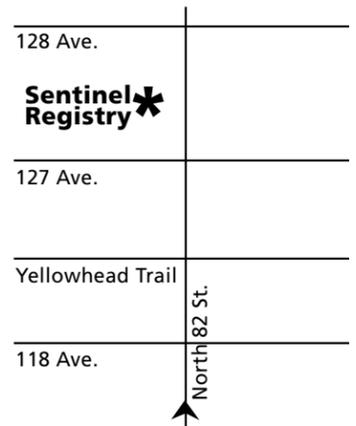
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About Rebecca Lippiatt-Long

This collection of photos illustrate the things I love about my neighbourhood.

I wanted to move to this neighbourhood for a long time. For years before I moved here, I used to drive slowly up and down the streets admiring the character of the houses, the colours, the history of the architecture and the diversity of the people.

When I finally moved to Norwood, I found even more to love. The week I moved in, three of my neighbours came to introduce themselves. I feel so blessed to live here.

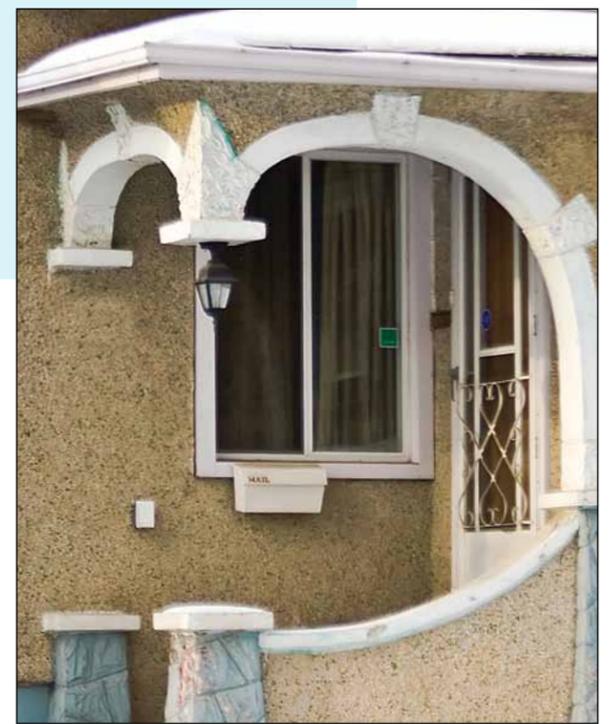
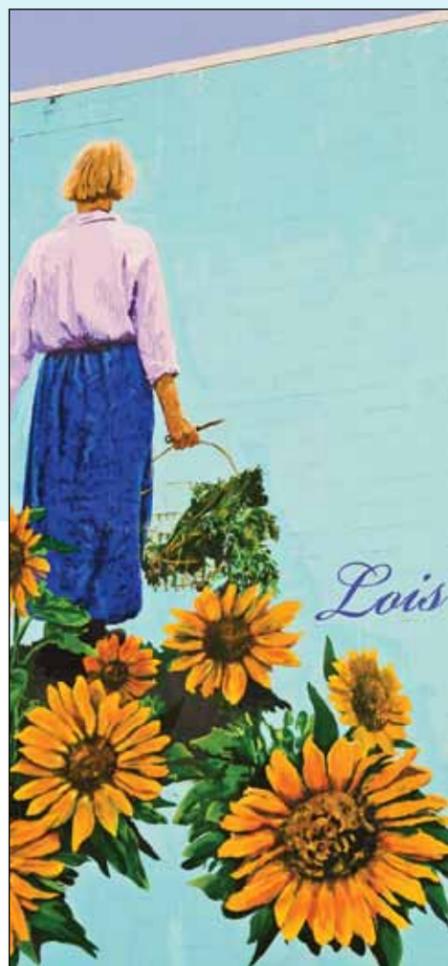
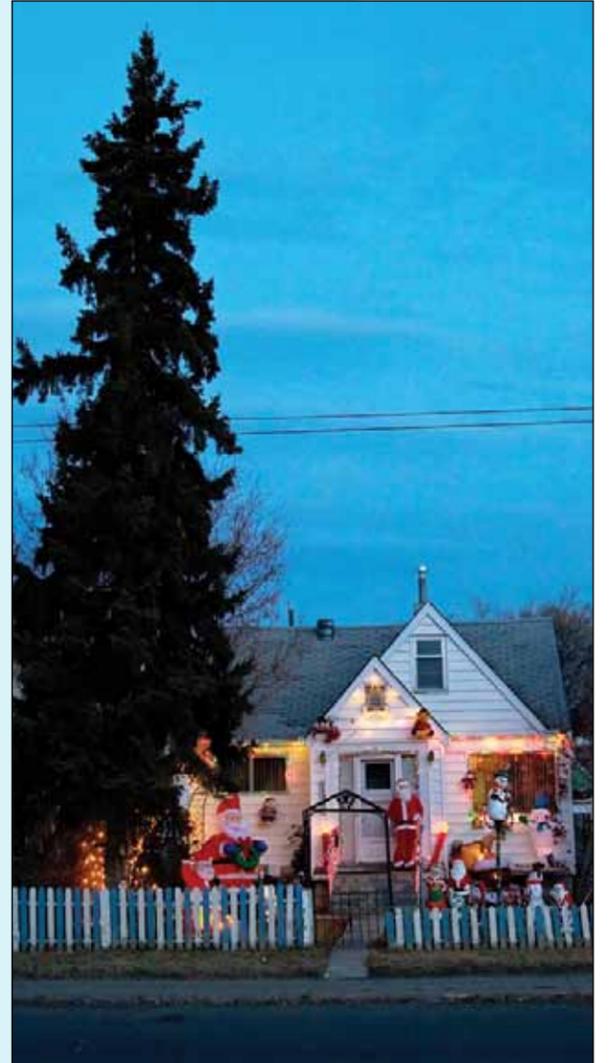
I now know all of my neighbours in a ten-house stretch and know many of the people who walk their dogs, who walk to work and to school.

I knew I was in the right place when I realized the church on the corner down from my house was St. George's, which is my second son's patron saint. On 95 Street, there is the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs—which pretty much describes me.

I love how unique the houses are, how people decorate for all the holidays and the names of the businesses. But, what makes this community really wonderful are all the people who live here—the older children who play in the playground and watch out for my kids, the men and women who walk the back alleys, letting me know my garage door is open and who collect my bottles to recycle, the neighbours who let me know my car lights are on, and the amazing, caring teachers at my children's preschool.

I love this place.

Rebecca Lippiatt-Long is a photographer (www.dragonflyphotography.ca) who loves her two boys, her 100-year-old house and her neighbourhood.



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Visual Art Sampler (ages 6 to 10)

The class will include such techniques as watercolour landscape, mixed media abstract, carving plaster of paris/sculpting, still life with pencil crayons, and paper mache mask making.

8 Tuesdays, Jan 20 to Mar 10

6pm to 7:30pm

Ends with a showcase at The Carrot Coffeehouse

Instructor: Lorraine Shulba www.lshulba.com

Cost: \$60 members; \$80 non-members

Circus arts sampler (age 8 to 14)

The class will introduce children to a variety of circus arts such as stiltwalking, juggling, tight rope, hula hoop, creative movement/clowning, balloon art, magic, and face painting.

3:30pm - 5:30pm

6 Thursdays, Feb 12 to Mar 19

Instructors: various

Cost: \$60 members; \$80 non-members

Brought to you by the Alberta Avenue Community League
(9210 118 Avenue).

To register, call 780-477-2773 or stop in during office hours
on Mondays & Wednesdays between 6pm to 7:30pm.

Membership rates are extended to members of any community league. Edmonton Federation of Community League guidelines are that you purchase a membership in the league in which you live. If fees are a hardship, it is possible to earn program credits through volunteer hours. Please contact the league for more info.



EDMONTON

Stadium Station Transit Oriented Development Plan Community Workshop

Where: Santa Maria Goretti Centre - Theatre
11050-90 Street

When: Wednesday, January 21, 2009
7:00pm – 8:30pm

The City of Edmonton has begun the preparation of a plan for the area surrounding the Stadium LRT Station. The Plan will establish a vision and land use concept for the area. This project is part of the City's Smart Choices Program to promote urban development that is comprehensively planned and integrated with major transit stations and centres.

This Community Workshop is the first in a series of three to be held in 2009. It is an opportunity for interested citizens to become familiar with the project and to provide input to the Plan's objectives.

To help us prepare for this event, please RSVP to the telephone number or email address below by January 12, 2009.

For more information contact:

Lisa Larson, Planner, Smart Choices Program
Phone: 780-944-0103 Email: lisa.larson@edmonton.ca

For more information about the Stadium Station Transit Oriented Development Plan please visit www.edmonton.ca/smartchoices.



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Learn more about and get involved in City issues affecting you and your neighbourhood. Go to www.edmonton.ca/PublicInvolvementCalendar for a list of City of Edmonton public involvement opportunities.



PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

The Company They Keep

When opposition parties join forces and vote against a government they are exercising their democratic rights under our Parliamentary traditions. That is understood by all.

However, the recent plan by the Liberals and NDP to form a government, dependent on the support of separatists, is something that cannot be understood as anything other than a blatant desire for power with a disregard for the good of the country. How can such a coalition be considered good for Canada if it depends on the support of those whose political goal is to break up the country?

That supposedly federalist politicians would consider such an option just weeks after an election and days after supporting the government on the Throne Speech is troubling, to say the least. They should be ashamed of themselves, especially since they stated clearly during the election campaign that a coalition between parties was not an option.

I first entered public life after the 1995 Quebec Referendum to champion the cause of Canadian unity, working on unity projects in both Alberta and Quebec. When I first ran for Parliament, in 1997, it was on a Canadian unity platform – and I have continued to work for unity in the years since.

When parents are raising their children they frequently remind them of the importance of making wise choices in their friendships, telling them they will be known by the company they keep. This is something that Liberals and New Democrats might want to consider as they ponder their political future. History will judge them by their associates, and do they really want it said they were in bed with the separatists?

I think the government of Canada should never be turned over to those who want to break the country apart.

What do you think?

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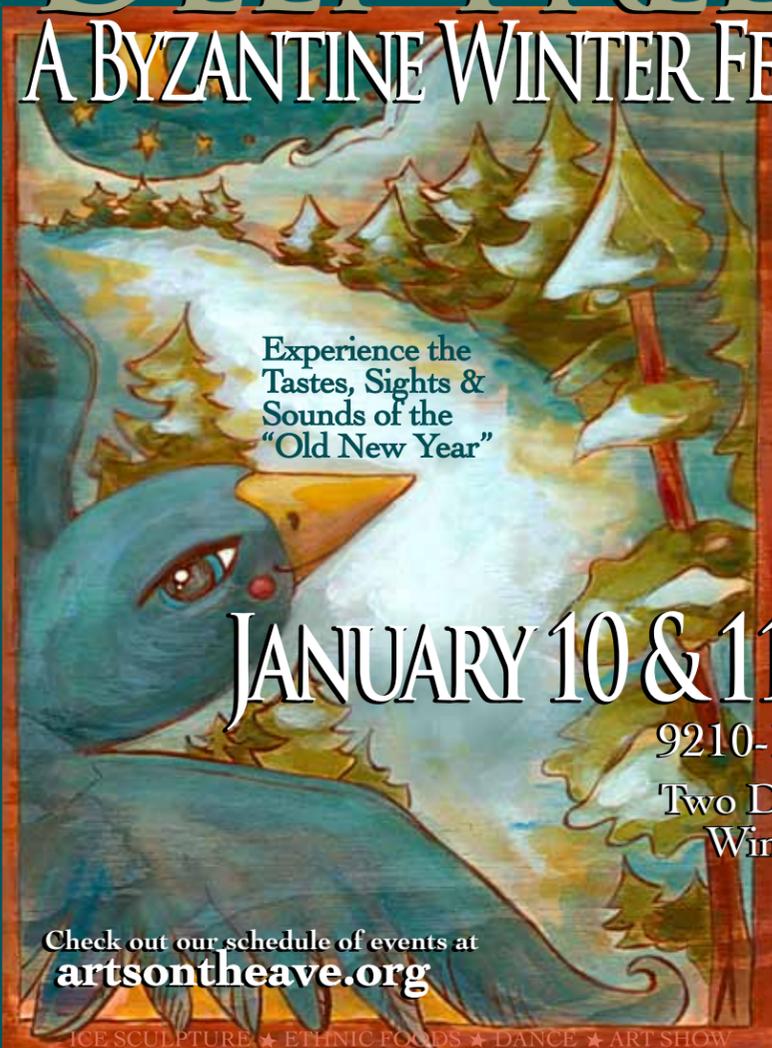
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