

Bringing the past alive in 2012

Rat Creek Press and local community leagues start the Alberta Avenue Oral History Project to commemorate our collective history and to celebrate our elders



THE CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES

The corner of Alberta Avenue and 95th Street as it was in 1939. Although the cars are different and the streetcars no longer run down the ave, the stories remain the same. Everyone is encouraged to participate in restoring our narrative history.

KAREN MYKIETKA

An ambitious project to connect local residents to the history of our community is beginning in 2012. After months of preparation, meetings, and funding applications, the Alberta Avenue community is ready to begin documenting and sharing the rich tapestry of stories that reside in the memories of our senior citizens.

Several months ago, A Living Local Art & Heritage Grant was launched by the Edmonton Heritage Council, Edmonton Arts Council and the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues to build connections between the community and neighbourhood artists and historians. Three community leagues (Alberta Avenue, Eastwood and Parkdale-Cromdale) decided to work together through the Rat Creek Press on the Oral History Interpretive Project. The initiative received a \$20,000 Living Local grant plus funding from Norwood Neighbourhood Association, a Revitalization Matching grant and money from each community league.

In October, a group of area residents met at The Carrot Coffeehouse and talked about our neighbourhood's history and how the arts could be used to bring it alive to the community. Those in attendance wanted to build on the success of the 2008 Art on the Ave funded CD titled "Songs from the Ave" with 12 songs written by talented local songwriters and based on our local history.

But there is still so much forgotten or undocumented history in our community. Martin Bundred, president of the Parkdale-Cromdale Community League, said the seniors in our neighbourhoods have interesting stories and memories to share about their experiences immigrating here and building our community. He fears that we are losing more and more of these rich stories each year as community elders pass away.

"I have been curious about the history of this place and the people here. And it's very difficult to gather stories. You have to talk to a lot of people," say Bundred. "What excites me

about this project is that we finally have some volunteers, money and enthusiasm behind the gathering of stories."

It's an ambitious project and the entire community is encouraged to get involved. The initiative involves collecting stories from people in the neighbourhood, doing archival research about their stories and historical context, and then bringing historical characters, events and places alive through interpretive or theatrical performances. The Rat Creek Press will feature stories and information in the paper and we plan to publish pamphlets, walking tour guides and perhaps even a book of narratives and photos.

An integral part of the project will be a website that archives all this information so that it is accessible to everyone now and in the future. The website will be collaborative, like a community wiki site, where everyone can upload photos, audio, video and stories and make comments on material.

The project will look at our current community through the lens of history: from before

the founding of Edmonton up until the present age. All stories and tidbits are welcome.

Who knows something about the Eastwood Orchestra of the 1920s? Or the guy in Eastwood who repairs old phonographs? How about the story of moonshine being made in a Parkdale area basement? Who remembers lawn bowling at Alberta Ave? A historic walking tour and brochure was done in Cromdale in 1979. Why reinvent? Let's find it and update it.

Many residents have deep roots in the community. Bundred found out that his grandfather who came over from Dublin in 1957 took care of the Parkdale rink just like Bundred himself did last year. Three generations of this Irish family have lived and participated in the community. The first member of his family to arrive got a job at Canadian Packers and then others starting immigrating from Ireland. Bundred's grandmother used to take in new arrivals and help them until they settled.

continued on page 3.

The Alberta Avenue Oral History Interpretive Project

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- . Help us identify long term community residents to interview
- . Share your photos, memories, family stories and experiences
- . Comment on the research and stories gathered (once we get a website up)

JOIN THE PROJECT TEAM:

We need:

- . A website designer and web assistants
- . Research assistants to help with archival research
- . Story collectors to help gather neighbourhood stories
- . Writers to work with narratives and archival data to create material for publication



THE CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES

Avenue Theatre, 1938.

Leave a voicemail at 780-479-6285
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Mail: 9210 118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5G 0N2

Watch for updates at www.ratcreek.org

Global Edmonton, Edmonton Journal, DIVE, BASE CHIEF, AVENUE MAGAZINE, NORWOOD

avenue initiative revitalization YEAR END REVIEW update 2011
Streetscape 2011: Looking great!
Nina Haggerty Mural adding new colour to the ave
From The Avenue Initiative

Deep Freeze Fest goes Hawaiian

A snow-to-sand adventure for evening dance and fashion show

DARREN BOISVERT

Somewhere along the way, the Deep Freeze 2012 organizers got some sand in the brain pan and dreamed up an evening of a Hawaiian dance and fashion show to give festival goers a chance to warm up from the winter.

The Tsunami Bros. Surf Band will headline the Saturday dance at the Alberta Avenue Community League building, with their "fuzz tone, reverb and pounding drum style." But no surf-inspired dance would be complete without bikini bodies, Hawaiian lei's and artistic fashion designs.

Cherie Howard has been a fashion designer in Edmonton for over ten years, and volunteered to put the evening festivities together. A self-described 'geek' in high school, she is attempting to host the hottest beach party that Edmonton has ever seen.

"It's going to be a tonne of fun," says Howard. "The band will play two sets, broken up by a 50's and 60's inspired fashion show. There will be bikini's, Hawaiian dresses, cigar-girls, fancy drink straws, and beach balls."

She even promises some bat-inspired fashion pieces included in her section of the show. Drawing upon her experience as owner of the now-defunct punkish Sputnik store, she promises an eclectic and artistic display of fashion throughout the evening.

"When you think of Edmonton, you don't think fashion. It's a tight community and we all work for free. Models don't get paid, but we all do it to pay our dues and build up our community," says Howard.

It's this entrepreneurial spirit that has led her, and the other fashion designers, to embrace the artistic approach to their work. They focus on one-off pieces, unusual materials,



Trisha Pasmak fits a Hawaiian bark fabric dress onto fashion model Kaileen Melanie.

vintage styles and a passion for highlighting the individual style of the person wearing their artwork.

Other designers included in the show are Trisha Pasmak, Nicola Inman (Je Suis Une Femme), and Kelsey MacIntyre (Serendipity).

"The beach style is moving away from thongs," says Pasmak. "I think since Borat was seen in his yellow thong body suit, it kind of turned people off all that exposure."

Her segment of the show will include beach dresses, unusual prints, and a desire to highlight the women and not just their bodies.

"If you can put a dress on a girl and she looks good, and says to herself 'I'm smoking!,' then I feel that I've succeeded," says Pasmak.

It's an artistic ethic that

Inman agrees with. She'll be bringing her passion for 50's and 60's movies (and the fashion designers who created the looks of the shows) to her collection on the Saturday night.

"There is more mystery to a woman who shows less," says Inman. "It allows women without perfect bodies to hide some things and highlight others to still be sexy. Models bring life to the clothes and the 1960's were conservative for fashion. I want to make those styles a bit sexier, but not to make it overly sexual."

There will be over a dozen models featured during the fashion show, of all ages and different body sizes. Like the models, the fashion pieces will be unique and designed for their artistic value, and for the pure joy of looking good.



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Fashion designers Cherie Howard, Trisha Pasmak, Nicola Inman and Kelsey MacIntyre

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Watch for the 2012 Alberta Avenue Business Directory this month in your mailbox or pick one up at The Carrot.

ACT-ing to end human trafficking

Action Coalition on Human Trafficking moves into neighbourhood

PAULA GILLIS

Dragos is a Romanian welder. Along with four other Romanian men, he was misled by promises of well-paid work in Canada. However, after he arrived in the country, his passport was taken from him; he was made to perform hard manual work and existed in dirty crowded living conditions. He never used his actual trade skills and was never paid the agreed upon wages. He was threatened with deportation if he complained. Dragos fled and went to an organization for assistance. Police are investigating.

Act Alberta recently moved into the Rat Creek area. The mandate of this agency is to educate Albertans about modern day slavery. Act Alberta is an offshoot of Changing Together, an organization for supporting immigrants. The parent agency began to see a pattern where women and men began to arrive at their offices, telling stories of being abducted from their homelands, being sold to the slave trade or being brought into the country under false pretences.

Their captors relieved them of passports and housed them in crowded yet anonymous

housing. In the cases of household slavery, they worked long days, were never allowed to leave the house and were kept in spaces in the house which were not fit for living. Many of these slaves were young people who were promised a Canadian education and a better life once they arrived here but it was never forthcoming.

From construction work to the sex trade, people were



being forced to work on street corners or in some of the 'massage parlours' that are set up across the province. Some were forced to join gangs where they would be expected to engage in crime if they wished to live.

To combat these activities, Act Alberta trains organizations who may come across these people who are being held against their will. They are a small but driving force in this fight against inhumanity. Act Alberta works all across the province. They coordinate responses to human trafficking through several locally-based Response Teams, train and educate professionals working with trafficked persons, provide networking and partnership opportunities and

provide assistance to trafficked persons in partnership with the police and other NGOs.

As a result of their work, ACT is reaching human beings across the province who are being treated like property. It is difficult to calculate the exact number of people being held against their will. According to the US State Report on Trafficking in Persons, Canada is a pivotal point for this inhumane and illegal use of persons for personal benefit. While trafficked individuals come from all walks of life, First Nations girls and women are at particular risk of being brought into this trade.

For those who are trafficked and then freed from their captors, some choose to return to their homeland where families eagerly await their return. Others receive assistance from agencies that deal with immigration in order to start the new life they were looking for when they first came to Canada.

It is hard to believe that these this trade in humans still occurs over a century after it was banned, however, man's inhumanity to man (and to women who make up approximately 80% of the trade) is thriving within our borders.

For more information on human trafficking, or to get involved, email: info@actalberta.org

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Bringing the past alive in 2012



Alberta Avenue, 1963.

continued from page 1.

We want to hear about people's life stories. We want to hear the details of life, work and family in our community and how national and international events influenced our daily lives.

In the introduction to the Songs on the Ave CD, project coordinator Scott Peters asks, "How do we connect the rich past to the darker present to the brighter future?" I think we do it by sharing our stories. We are all our own historians.

The process of doing this project itself will create a shared community experience, and the project will provide a nucleus for future creativity.

When I was elected president of the Alberta Avenue Community Centre, I began by exploring the closets and storage rooms to see what had happened before. I found a 1931 City of Edmonton License for vending candy & ice cream, archival photos, and minutes from community league meetings held in the 1920's. But often you come across unique and interesting tidbits of information when talking to people with roots in the community. I've had a number of old timers stop by the hall and share interesting facts like the guy who said the black mats in our skating area were actually old factory conveyor belts.

On behalf of the Rat Creek Press, and the participating community leagues, I encourage everyone to get involved. To see history as more than boring books, far away places, stories of famous people, or important dates and events for influential people.

We all have history, but most of these stories never get written down. Here is your chance to dust the cobwebs from your memorabilia, to ask your grandparents about how they lived their lives, and to tap into the vast reservoir of experience that resides in our elder residents. It's time to bring our history alive.

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Outdoor skating rinks should be open. Contact community leagues for details.

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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

Our radical Member of Parliament

DARREN BOISVERT

It's hard to believe that our 66-year-old Member of Parliament is the most radical politician to walk the Canadian landscape since --well-- since Louis Riel. He's 'taking it to the man', defying police officers, and facing possible prison time because he's defending his constituents' civil liberties against a draconian drinking and driving law.

Peter Goldring began his insurgent campaign on Saturday, December 3rd, while attending his annual fundraising event at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex in our riding. He was overheard arguing against the new Albertan drinking and driving law (subsequently passed), left the party, and was pulled over by the Edmonton Police Service during a CheckStop. Suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol, the police officer demanded he blow into a breathalyzer. Goldring refused and was charged. If convicted, he faces a minimum \$1000 fine and up to five years in jail.

In an off-air interview with 880 news radio (his only comment to the press or his constituents since his arrest), he claimed he has "long stood

up for civil liberties and ... he's paying a heavy price for his stand, and he will continue to be vocal about our individual rights once this matter is dealt with."

He's so proud of his principles -- so committed to his sacrifice on behalf of all Canadians -- Goldring has resigned from caucus, refused all media interviews, and is hiding out in Ottawa over the holidays. Like Louis Riel, he's been exiled, no doubt to arise once more to lead the charge in rebellion against the tyranny of an unjust state.

No revolution would be complete without a rallying quote to crystalize our reasons, to harden our resolve to fight for a freedom denied.

"It is safe to say everyone is opposed to drunk driving -- but there are civil liberty issues involved," writes Peter Goldring. "There is the presumption of innocence and the right to not self incriminate. That may seem odious when we're talking about a crime such as drunk driving, but it is

hypocritical to hold principles and apply them only when convenient."

Some may say that it would take a python to swallow all of this bull, but perhaps we should gather shoulder-to-shoulder, raise money, and erect a statue of this fearless leader of men. We should stand in solidarity with Goldring in court as he speaks out of the other side of his mouth and tells the judge:

“It is hypocritical to hold principles and apply them only when convenient.”

"Over the past 5 years (the PC government) has passed 18 laws... that crack down on any crimes involving guns, gangs, violent or repeat offenders, sex offenders, impaired driving and car thieves. Time after time, the constituents of SD&SG have told me loud and clear that they want victim's rights placed ahead of the rights of criminals."

We would agree if we could only understand which principle this man is pulling his trigger for. Is our honourable member of parliament a victim of a harsh, oppressive government that forces him

to take a breathalyzer? Or is he an honourable member of parliament that has voted repeatedly to increase punishments against criminals and drunk drivers in order to protect the rights of victims?

We have a representative who can stand firm on two contradictory ideas, cast himself as both the victim and the sheriff. In the end, it's all too much.

Our member of parliament may support himself in this time of trials by the strength of his principles, but he no longer has a leg to stand on. If you're convicted Peter, we can only hope that you will defend the idea that this constituency deserves better than to have a criminal as our representative. If you're convicted, you must either argue that as a criminal you deserve the harshest punishment, or else you should repudiate every vote you made in parliament for stiffer sentencing of criminals. You don't get to be the exception to your own rules.

You have long argued that Louis Riel was rightfully hanged for defying the law. Fair enough. If that's true, and if you are convicted, it is time to pull the trigger on yourself and resign.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Andy Wong

I must say, I really look forward to the Rat Creek Press! It really brings news down to the community level, and it really emphasizes the individual aspects, such as shops and their shop-owners, and individual awards.

On a side note, I noticed there was a significant lack of poetry on this issue (December 2011) and I was wondering if I could write some poems for the Rat Creek Press. I have little to no experience in writing poems, but its fun and enjoyable.

POST MODERN PROVERBS

The smallest good deed is better than the grandest intention.

Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.

The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.

One who lacks the courage to start has already finished.

The heaviest thing to carry is a grudge.

-Author Unknown

BRIAN MASON MLA

Hello friends and neighbours,

Happy holidays to all of you! I hope to see you at Arts on the Ave's Deep Freeze Festival on January 7th and 8th. It is my pleasure to take part in the festival again this year.

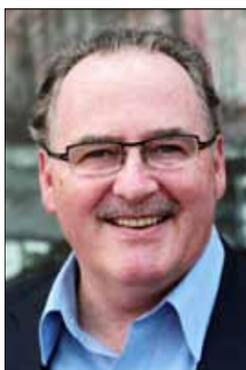
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A Byzantine Winter Festival

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avenue initiative revitalization YEAR END REVIEW

update 2011



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Dawn Freeman

Streetscape 2011: Looking great! The completion of Phase 4 near!

The look of the Avenue has transformed. The Streetscape is now complete from 97th Street to 78th Street. The lights, the trees give the Avenue a fresh, bright look. Phase 4 development went from 82nd Street – 78th Street. The construction had a slow start with the rainy spring but thanks to the fantastic fall weather is now complete. With four phases complete the Avenue is a great place to walk and shop! Trees and Crosswalks will be completed in Spring of 2012. Phase 5 is in the planning stages for 97th Street – 106th Street.

This stretch of the Avenue is different from the previous ones, challenges include large intersections and traffic during rush hours, and opportunities include developing a walkable attractive commercial area with wide sidewalks and large boulevards. There will be opportunities through out January and February to view the new plans. **An Open House will be held in January 23rd 7pm at Westwood Hall 12139 - 105 street.**



Dawn Freeman

From The Avenue Initiative

The Avenue Initiative was born out of a year long consultation with hundreds of people who lived and worked in the communities of Alberta Avenue, Eastwood, Parkdale Cromdale, Westwood and Spruce Avenue.

The message was clear, the area wanted change. Their vision was for community that is built on history and character, a safe community without crime, with a vibrant commercial strip; where neighbours know and care for one another.

They envisioned 118th Avenue as a place that people from all over Edmonton would come to shop and enjoy the unique nature of one of Edmonton's oldest areas.

The community has worked hard with the City of Edmonton for six years to see this vision come to life. Each year has built on the previous one to slowly transform the area with new streetscape, facades, and businesses. The area is now well known as the newest up and coming arts area in Edmonton.

Festivals, Arts studios, theatre, music and dance have added an exciting vibrancy to the area.

This Year In Review highlights many of the exciting events, projects and work that the local businesses, organizations and volunteers have accomplished this year. If you would like to get involved in revitalization of the area or in one of the many events or programs please call Judy at 780-496-1913 or email at judy.allan@edmonton.ca

Nina Haggerty Mural adding new colour to the ave

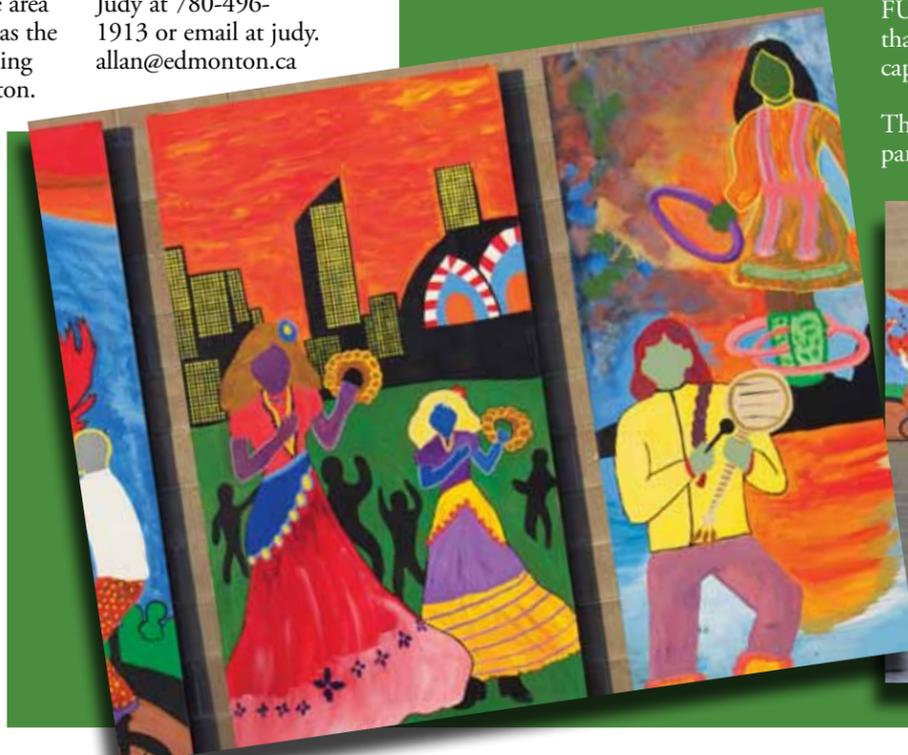
You might have noticed a bit more colour on the east wall of the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts. On June 20, 2011, Mayor Stephen Mandel unveiled a mural project that has been co-created by Nina artists and Canada World Youth, a partnership that took place between September and December 2010.

Ana Beatriz from Nicaragua and Zane Barratt from Vancouver worked with

two Nina artists to create three mural panels using bright colours showing figures engaged in learning and mentorship, practicing and developing mastery, performing and receiving recognition for their achievement. A fourth panel, to be installed at a later date, incorporates acrobatic figures in wood created by Nina artists, representing the many roles we play as part of community.

The 2010 Edmonton project was coordinated in partnership with FUNARTE, a group in Nicaragua that specializes in building leadership capacity in youth through mural art.

The first three panels were funded in part by the Capital City Clean Up.



Contents

- Streetscape Update.....page 1
- It's All Business.....page 3
- Destination Festival Ave...page 4/5
- Community Events.....page 6/7
- Cycle Building News.....page 8

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.

Avenue Initiative Coordinator:

Judy Allan

Graphic Design & Production:

Lorraine Shulba, Little Blue Bug Studios
www.lshulba.com

Writer: Mari Sasano

NET Working in your Neighbourhood

NET, the Neighbourhood Empowerment Team, has been very active in the past year with four major projects either ongoing or completed. They are:

1) The Spoke: This bicycle program for youths merged with the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters (EBC) to ensure sustainability and recently received generous financial support from the Stollery Charitable Foundation. With this new support, 'the spoke' will be re-launched with an enhanced and expanded program.

2) We Believe: In partnership with the EPSB's City Centre Education Partnership (CCEP), We Believe In 118 ave published letters from youth in the community concerning predatory retail on five billboards along the 118 Avenue Business Revitalization Zone.

3) The Magic Lamp: NET asked community members to make three wishes that would better the neighbourhood. The lamp provided an interesting angle to garner insight and allow the residents to dream beyond some of the current issues they are facing. NET's work as a team is now based solely on the hopes and dreams of these residents for their community. Some examples include: a safer alley, lower rent, a clean and safe Eastwood School park, wheelchair accessibility.

4) 82 Street Team: The team formed to address illegal dumping along 82 street allies. The 82nd street team is made up of representatives from N.E.T., Alberta Health Services, Arts on the Ave, Catholic Social Services, Edmonton Arts Council, Avenue Initiative (City of Edmonton), Capital City Clean Up and Homeward Trust. They chose a unique approach to a common city issue. "Eyes on the Alley", placed eyes of residents on garbage bins to let people know that they are being watched and that it's not a place for dumping debris. Eyes on the Alley transforms the alley, that was once riddled with graffiti, couches and mattresses, into a community gallery in the east alley of 82 street between 120 - 121 ave.

NET is a project of City of Edmonton Community Services, Edmonton Police Service, The Family Centre and United Way of the Alberta Capital Region



Conversation with our Councillor

2011 has seen some exciting change in the 118th Avenue area, and no one is more pleased than Tony Caterina, city councillor for Ward 7.

"Certainly the amount of traffic is encouraging, with people from all over the city taking in our restaurants and arts festivals. It has been really noticeable. People are finding out about the Avenue."

With the completion of the second-to-last phase of the road construction between 82 Street and 79 Street, the Avenue is looking cleaner and safer to those driving and walking along 118th.

Another development for the Avenue is the recent sale of the Cromdale Hotel, which will finally lay to rest one of the community's biggest problem areas. Caterina has been working with the City, the owners of the Cromdale, and the new tenant,

Shoppers Drug Mart, to conclude a long-running community battle.

"It's huge for the community. It's been a blight for years, and now we're at a point where we're dotting our i's and crossing our t's. It's going to be ready to go in February or March 2012," he says.

The continued development of the Avenue to attract retail is a focus for 2012, as well as the other Avenue: 111th.

"We're working on the Stadium Transit-Oriented Development study, to revitalize the area from the Maria Goretti Centre to 97 Street. It's very much overdue," along with the renovation to the LRT Coliseum station.

"It's been a good year. Everything looks very positive in Ward 7 in the next three years' budget."



It's All Business



Alberta Avenue Thinks Outside The Box To Market The Ave

The Alberta Avenue Business Association (AABA) has been active this year, putting into place a three-phase action plan to help bring awareness of Alberta Avenue and AABA and to help increase business in our area.

The plan focuses on three areas: Communication, Advertising/Promotion, and Public Relations.

Communications received a boost from AABA's revamped website and its online newsletter which will be published quarterly. To engage the public at a more immediate level, AABA is now on Twitter (follow @AABA5) and Facebook.

You might have noticed two of AABA's marketing campaigns: three separate ads were run on 630 CHED radio from July 9th to August 15th to raise

peoples' awareness of the very noticeable streetscape improvements made to the avenue.

As well, from August 15th to October 15th, AABA ran promotional interior bus ads covering five different messages, including "Think Outside the Big Box," highlighting the unique shopping and dining on the Ave. Ads are also being placed in the local Rat Creek Press and Avenue Magazine, which is a lifestyle magazine focusing on Edmonton.

The association continues to put out its Taste of the Avenue map, featuring area eateries, and the annual Business Directory, which is distributed to 12,000 homes and businesses with the aim of getting people to shop and dine in our diverse Alberta Avenue business district.

Aside from the new initiatives, AABA has also been very active in promoting the City of Edmonton's Store Front Improvement grants program which saw seven projects approved last year and several under review this year. AABA is also promoting the City's new Development Incentive Program to commercial property owners, which should see increased residential as well as commercial development in our area.

All this would not be possible without the support of the businesses, community, as well as AABA board members, who are business owners themselves along the Avenue. "We've done a lot of planning and we're getting it out there," says Holtz. We want to show that we have an open door for business and encourage everyone to shop and dine the Avenue.

Think beyond the **Big Box** • Shop Local • Shop the Avenue •
Shop Alberta Avenue
www.alberta-avenue.com

AABA
 Alberta Avenue Business Association
 M-F 8:30am - 4:30pm 780-471-2602

New on the Ave!



New renovations are coming along great at Eastwood Community League.



Koultures, a fantastic place to enjoy dinner on the ave! Come in for a visit, and try their wonderful menu selection.



Natty Dread Inc. A great addition to the ave with their selection of fashions, jewelry, movies music and more! Open since June, a cool shop for gift ideas. A great way to support local business.



Destination Avenue

In 2011 over 40,000 people made their way to and through 118th Ave to take in one of the many festival, art shows, and theatre events that are held here each year. 118th Avenue fondly referred to as “The Ave” is quickly becoming a great destination in Edmonton for a wide variety of ethnic restaurants, bakeries and shops. The new streetscape and the many new storefront facades is changing the face of the area. Take a stroll along 118th and experience all it has to offer. It’s a unique and fantastic place in Edmonton.

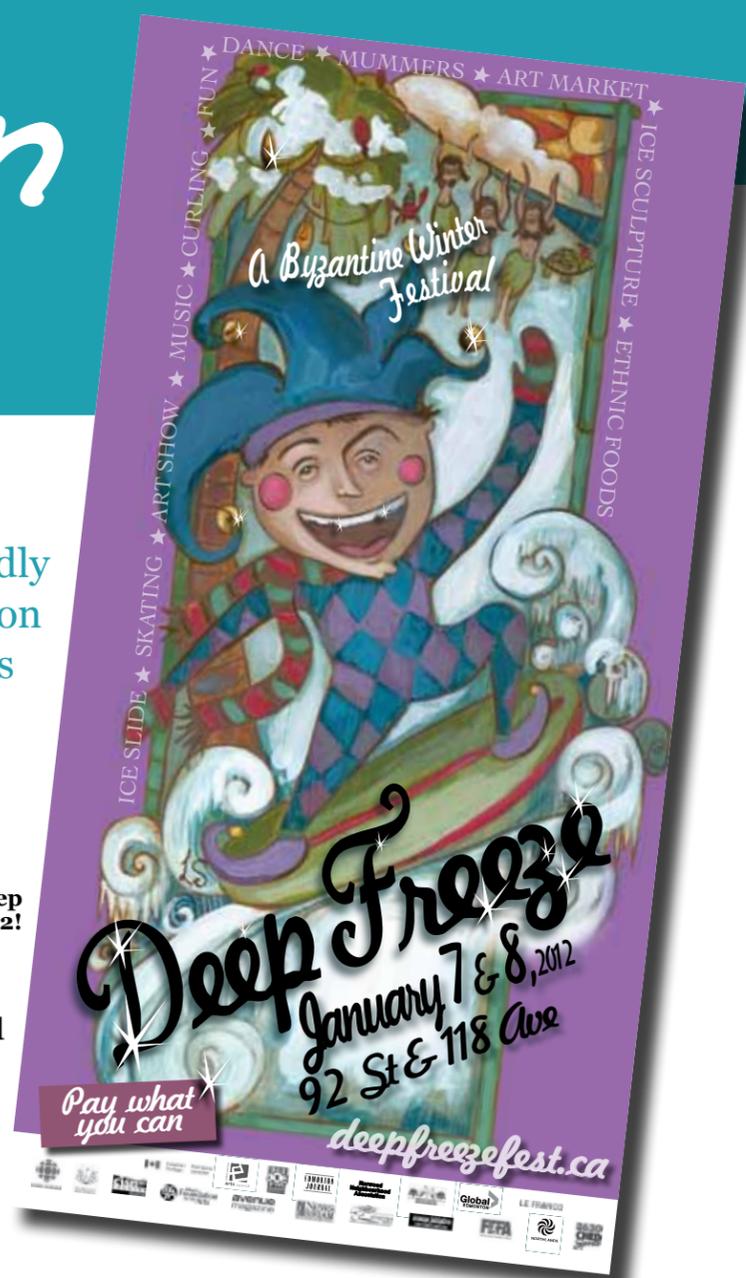
Deep Freeze 2011

Despite a very wintry record snowfall, Deep Freeze 2011 was bigger and better than ever! 5000 hardy residents and visitors dug their way out of snowdrifts January 8 and 9 to enjoy two days of winter fun, indoors and out.

Eight venues hosted activities, from the Carrot to the Old Cycle Building. Saturday followed a Ukrainian theme, followed by a Franco-Albertan Sunday with dance, music, arts and crafts.

Visitors were treated to some dazzling ice sculptures, including work by artists from Harbin. Plenty of winter activities were available to try, from Olde Tyme curling to snowshoeing and ice skating, and a street hockey tournament.

Don't miss Deep Freeze 2012!



That Bloomin' Garden Show and Art Sale

Over 500 people got an early start on the garden season at the 4th Annual Bloomin Garden and Art Show. What originally began in 2007 as an event to encourage residents to clean up their alley has become so much more. Held on Mother's day weekend the show is an opportunity to enjoy cake and coffee while shopping for plants, flowers and a wonderful variety of arts. A variety of top notch gardening experts gave great information on a variety of topics. Once again this year our fantastic Farmers Market vendors came out and joined the fun.



EastwoodFest

Eastwoodfest continues its five-year streak of excellent weather: hot, sunny, and busy!

A record was broken at the free pancake breakfast, with about 800 plates of hotcakes served up by helpful volunteers. The spray park was bustling all day as kids cooled down from activities led by blue-shirted City of Edmonton leaders. Carnival games, a giant snakes-and-ladders board, and two bouncy castles kept the younger crowd active, many of whom had their faces painted.

Musical acts entertained festival goers on the east side of the closed-down 118 Avenue site, while on the west side "the spoke" and Edmonton Bicycle Commuters provided bike tune-ups and a chance to try out some unusual rides in the bicycle library. In between, art vendors and local businesses set up under the white tents, providing a feast for eyes-- and mouths! Kudos to volunteers and organizers who all did a great job putting the day together!



Kaleido 2011

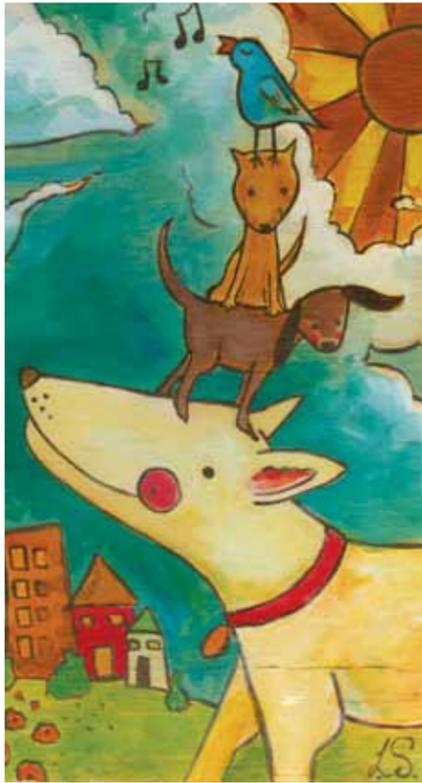
Arts On The Ave once again did a bang up jog of hosting Alberta Avenue's signature festival, Kaleido, brought the biggest-ever crowd to our area this year on September 9 to 11.

"It was a fantastic year: 20,000 people came out," says festival producer Christy Morin. "We had our biggest Saturday evening concert with 3500 people at Delhi 2 Dublin."

Seven indoor and outdoor venues provided a multitude of things for people to see and do, from glass blowers to wall dancers; the Friday night lantern parade; and the piano stage and dance floor which hosted big bands all weekend long. Visual arts, theatre, music, and many roving performers filled the streets. Morin is excited to see the enthusiasm for the festival growing, and looks forward to showcasing our area to visitors from across the city.

"We will continue to use the Avenue area as a canvas for artists to explore and play. It allows the festival to feed the imagination, and to connect the arts and the community."





Avenue Goes to the Dogs 2011

The avenue gets a boost of canine company for all & lots of furry fun!



A thick mist greeted the morning of the fifth edition of the Avenue Goes to the Dogs festival, but the threat of rain disappeared by noon, bringing the crowds-- human and canine alike. Greetings from Brian Mason kicked off the day, followed by a set of sweet music by singer/songwriter and dog lover Dana Wylie.

Eleven dog-related organizations, including four rescue groups, gave festival goers lots to see and learn, along with informative sessions on dog training by Darlene Taylor and Bev Kerr. Demonstrations by the Northern Alberta Musers Association, the Alberta Schutzhund Association, and the Edmonton Police K9 puppies

Festival MC Nicole Johnston put the visitors through their paces with the dogs bobbing for hot dogs and playing musical mats, with Tragically Hip tickets as prizes courtesy of Northlands.



Mari Sasano



Rat Creek Press



Community Events

Besides the festivals The Avenue is becoming well known for, the Avenue Initiative is proud to support many other community events.

Pickin' Up the Neighbourhood!

Bylaw gets proactive on the Ave!

This summer City of Edmonton Municipal Enforcement Officers took a little extra time investigating bylaw concerns in Alberta Avenue's communities. Pitching in to help pick up litter and tidy up gave officers a chance to talk to folks about what is really going on in the community. The extra effort paid off as officers have received positive feedback from citizens who say that "things have really improved."

In June, officers completed a proactive enforcement blitz that focused on repeat offenders of messy properties, weeds and littering. More than 100 concerns were identified and remedied through enforcement actions including warnings, tickets and orders.

Illegal dumping was also highlighted as a concern on 82 Street. The City partnered with the Neighborhood Empowerment Team and Arts on the Avenue to clean up three problem dumpsters and transformed them into clean locations with awesome street art!

So what can you do to help out?

Most of the improvements to messy properties on the Avenue can be attributed to active citizens who have taken ownership of their community. The City is asking community members to continue working with the Community Standards bylaw officers to address bylaw infractions. When you notice a messy property, a weedy yard or a junky business area, call us.

If you do not see any improvement, take further action by calling the City and asking for an update on your complaint. Sometimes resolving a problem takes time because a variety of agencies such as the Edmonton City Police, Derelict Housing and even health inspectors take part in sorting out the concern. We all have a role to play in improving community standards. Find out how our work is progressing.

We would like to thank Julianna Schulz for all her hard work and dedication cleaning up our communities and welcome Brent Craig to the Ave! Brent is already hard at work making sure the community shines!

For more information on bylaws or to register a concern, call 311 or visit www.edmonton.ca.

Large Item Pick Up

Over 200 oversized household items were picked up by area volunteers during the Large Item Pick Up event on June 18.

Items from 68 homes were picked up and removed in four cube vans and a few pickup trucks thanks to the efforts of 25 volunteers and the organization of Alberta Avenue residents Karen Mykietka and Dawn Freeman.

Large Item Pick Up was funded entirely through the community, including donations from the Alberta Avenue and Eastwood Community Leagues, and a volunteer supper hosted by the Parkdale-Cromdale Community League.

In addition to the scheduled pick ups of furniture, appliances, and electronics, volunteers also cleaned up dumped items behind alleys on 118 and 111 Avenues-- all in the pouring rain! Good work, everyone!

Black History Month

The Carrot Community Coffeehouse hosted 118 Avenue's first Black History Month celebrations during February 2011.

Prominent Black Albertan Fil Fraser's book, *How the Blacks Created Canada*, was displayed in the window, along with paintings by Elsa Robinson.

A performance night featured the Edmonton Slam Poetry team who were semi-finalists in a national competition. Performers included Titilope Sonuga, Ifeoma Chiwetelu, Prince Ali and others.

Black History Month was organized by writer/performer Valerie Mason-John and poet Jannie Edwards with support from Arts on the Ave, the Writers' Guild of Alberta, the City of Edmonton Avenue Revitalization Initiative and the Rat Creek Press.

Community Events

Not Utilitarian Anymore...

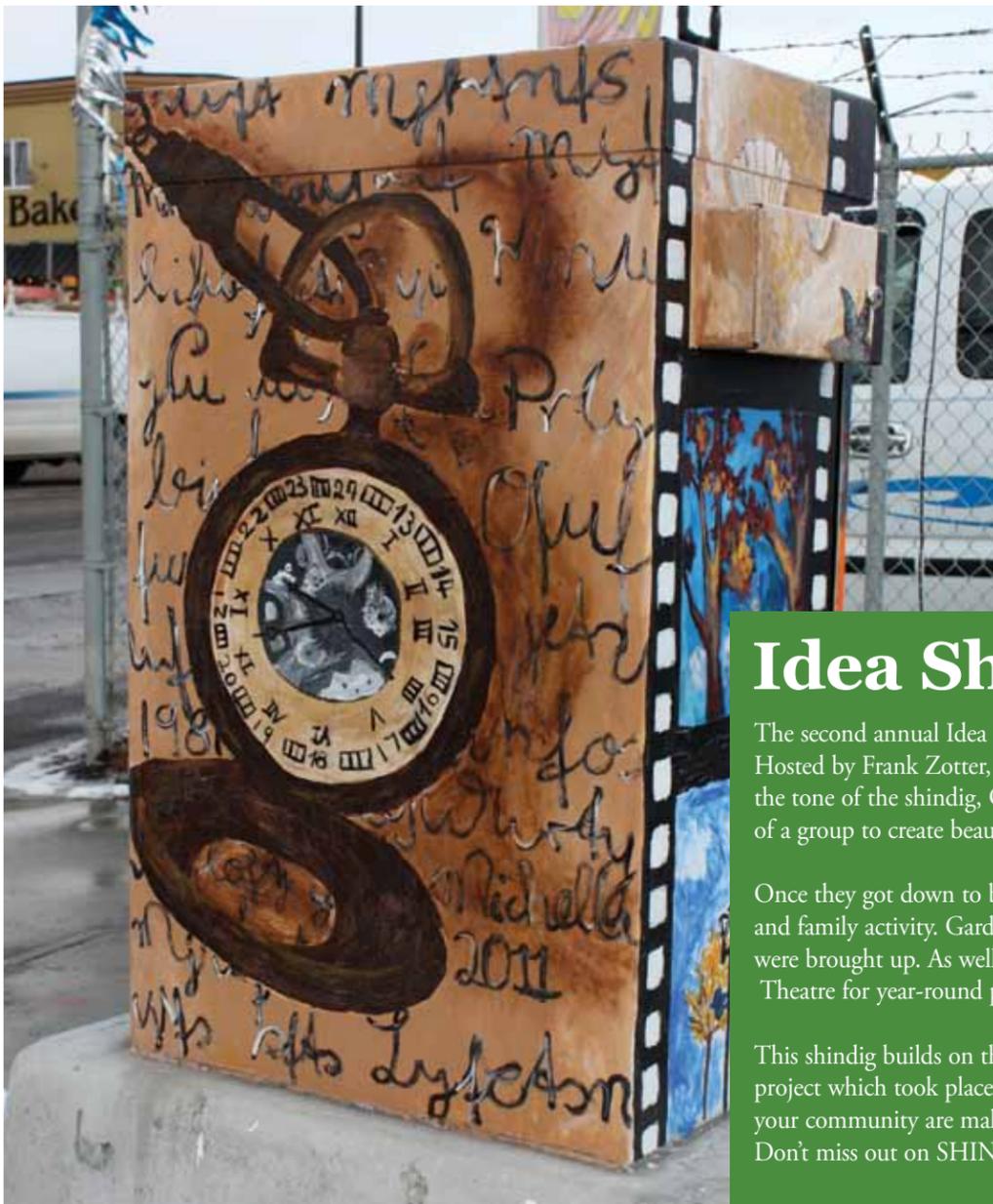
Utility boxes are something to look at on the Ave!

Transforming Alberta Avenue into an Arts Destination took to the street this year. Seven electrical boxes along 118th Avenue were painted with colourful designs this summer, thanks to a new program that matched young emerging artists with experienced visual artists from the neighbourhood. "The whole idea came about out of the Idea Shindig in 2010. We got submissions from young artists over the winter and professional artists were on board by spring," says Jaimie Clements, coordinator of the

project. The paintings depict scenes from the community, nature, and even a box of crayons. Response so far has been positive. "People walking around the area gave us some great feedback. They were very interested in what we were doing. For the young artists, to be able to be part of a project right on the Avenue was great for them. People were so supportive and helpful." Based on the success of this first project, plans are underway to give a fresh look to more boxes in the future.



Lorraine Shulba



Idea Shindig

The second annual Idea Shindig brought about 22 people to the Carrot on March 21, 2011. Hosted by Frank Zotter, these residents pitched their ideas to improve the community. To set the tone of the shindig, Garth Prinsonsky led everyone in a song, demonstrating the power of a group to create beauty, each contributing his or her unique voice to the music.

Once they got down to business, a few themes emerged: communication, outdoor activity, and family activity. Gardens, social media, and outdoor recreation are some of the suggestions that were brought up. As well, a segment of time was spent discussing the potential of the Avenue Theatre for year-round programming.

This shindig builds on the process initiated last year, which spawned the utility box painting project which took place this summer. Look out for more creative ways that members of your community are making this area brighter, safer, and a better place to live! Don't miss out on SHINDIG 2012!



A BIG Thanks and congratulations to the artists for their hard work:

Kyrsten Lofts, Markelle St. Laurent, Rhema Kennedy
Cheyenne Buckborough, Serena Archambault, Michelle Woite

Thank you to the professional artists:

Kris Friesen, Maria Pace-Wynters, Brenda Christiansen,
Sherri Chaba, Lorraine Shulba

Cycle Building: New Developments!

The Old Cycle Building continues to undergo its transformation as major renovations will soon be underway.

In the fall, the City completed a demolition to remove hazardous materials and to investigate the roof and building structure. Shelterbelt Architects has completed construction documents for the building code upgrades, which include: upgrades on the mechanical systems, adding wheelchair accessibility, and putting in sprinklers. At the same time, upgrades will take place to add washroom

The demolition, hazardous material removal, and building code upgrades are all City contracts, while tenant upgrades are

a project of the City and Arts Habitat Association, in partnership with Arts on the Ave.

“It already looks much better and brighter. The building is more inviting since we’ve removed the old materials, and the air quality has improved. It already looks more like a creative space,” says Katherine Kerr, project coordinator of the Arts Habitat Association.

Construction is expected to begin early 2012, and be complete by summer.

The building was purchased by the City in 2009 to be repurposed as a multi-tenant community arts facility by the Arts Habitat Association and Arts on the Ave partnership. The Development Permit Application for that use is in process.



Light Up The Ave Bringing a glow to the neighbourhood

On November 19th eighteen business lit up their windows giving a festive glow. Business were given prizes for the best lights. Light is a powerful way to create warmth, a sense of safety. Thanks to all the businesses that participated and we look forward to an even brighter 2012!



2010-2011 Grants: Projects we supported this year...

The Avenue Initiative provides grants to local organizations for projects throughout the year. Here is a list of the ones we did support and help to strive.

During 2010/2011, the following projects were supported through this program:

In 2011: Deep Freeze 2011, Black History Month (Carrot), Avenue Family Funtime (Avenue Vineyard Church), “The Avenue” movie, Mummies workshop, Connect Awards, Peace Walk, Avenue Goes to the Dogs, Kaleido Family Arts Festival 2011, Taste 118, 117/116th Avenue Block Party, AABA 630 CHED radio campaign, Farafina African Cultural Festival Arts Society, Eastwoodfest 2011, Halloween Door Decorating on 82 Street, Light Up the Ave.



Streetscape OPEN HOUSE

Phase 5: 97st - 106st
An Open House will be held in January 23rd 7pm at Westwood Hall 12139 - 105 street.

Meet our Community Liaison Officer

Constable Paul Pilon has been our Community Liaison Constable for one year as of November, and he has had an amazing time working with the community so far.

“It has been awesome to be involved in the community,” he says. “It has surprised me how much people are concerned about what is happening. And when the police are not around, they see it right away,” he laughs, noting the number of “Where are you?” emails he received while on holidays.

Throughout the year, Constable Pilon has been a regular sight at area events and festivals, as well as making school visits and meeting with residents at the Carrot every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

And while there are plans to have more officers present, we must all become active in order to make the community safer: “You can’t complain without getting involved. Talk to your neighbours, come to a meeting. It’s easy to say what you don’t like, but you need to say how you are going to change it.”

Speaker's Corner

Have opinions? Great let's hear them! Submissions: editor@ratcreek.org

Posting the poetry position

Bard of the Ave project seeking interested applicants

HARVEY VOOGD

William Shakespeare was known as the Bard of Avon. You could be known as the Bard of the Ave. Arts on the Ave and the Rat Creek Press are proud to launch the Bard of the Ave project.

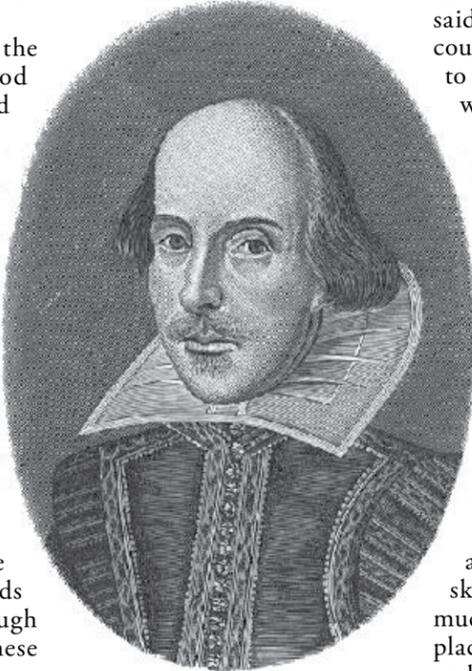
Thanks to funding from the Norwood Neighbourhood Association, the first Bard will begin to serve a two-year term on September 1st, 2012. The Bard of the Ave is inspired by the City of Edmonton's Poet Laureate position, currently held by local Avenue resident Anna Marie Sewell.

Historically, the role of the Poet Laureate was to serve as the official chronicler of state events and occasions. The role of the Bard is to reflect the life of the seven neighbourhoods who make up the Ave through readings of poetry. These neighbourhoods are Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park, Parkdale-Cromdale, Spruce Avenue and Westwood. As an ambassador for the literary arts, the Bard will incorporate poetry into a range of official and informal community activities.

"The whole idea of having a position that is essentially a herald and representative of the artistic voice of the

community is very timely," says to Randall Fraser, President of Arts on the Ave.

"I think the Bard proposal is a great initiative, and I look forward to seeing what comes of it."



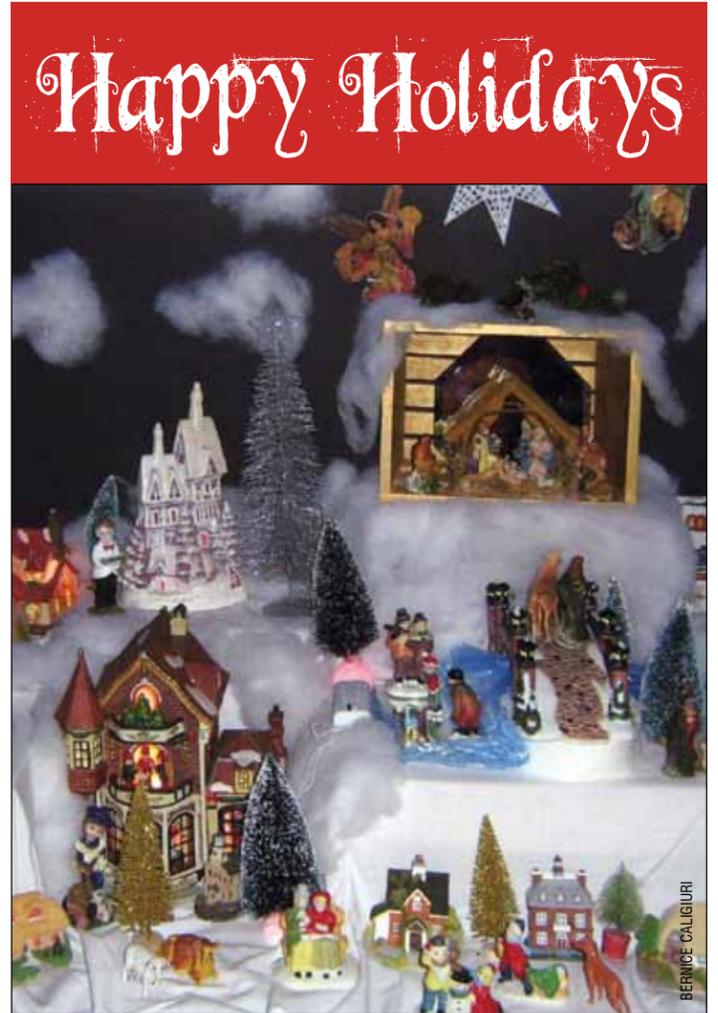
The Bard of the Ave will receive an honorarium of \$1,000 each year and produce at least two original works each year. He or she will present works of significance to the citizens of this community at various events. These will include the Kaleido Family Arts and Deep Freeze festivals, community league

sponsored events, as well as other community functions.

The Bard will also be asked to initiate one legacy project during the two-year term. "This project is a great way to channel the feelings and thoughts of a community," said Fraser. "I also think it could set a wonderful example to which other communities, who are looking at re-energizing themselves, can look to. Arts on the Ave fully endorses this new initiative in an ever growing list of excellent ideas that are sprouting out of our community."

John Mahon, Executive Director of the Edmonton Arts Council calls the Bard idea terrific. "It is about the integration of artists into their communities as citizens with special skills that contribute so much to our shared sense of place. The Bard of the Ave and similar projects supports our wonderful Poet Laureate and resonates with her commitment to sharing and outreach through the spoken word and poetry."

Applications to be the Bard of the Ave will need to be submitted in May 2012. Information will be available by early spring at www.ratcreek.org and www.artsontheave.org.



Christmas festivities at Bernice Caligiuri's home in Parkdale.

Farmer's Market closes for winter



The crowds have all disappeared and the Farmer's Market is in hiatus until the summer.

KAREN MYKIETKA

The Alberta Avenue Farmer's Market will be hibernating for the winter. We unfortunately do not have a sufficient number of vendors committed to a weekly winter market due to

the low number of customers. Without adequate vendors and customers, there is little point in running a market over the winter months. We thank the loyal customers who have supported our vendors. Please continue to support them by

buying from them directly or at other markets (see our website for details). And let them know that you would like to see them back in the summer.

Stay tuned for our 2012 summer re-opening date!
www.abavenuemarket.org

10643 - 123 Street, Edmonton, Alberta | Ph: (780) 482-7178 | www.thebluepear.com
owned and operated by Darcy & Jessie Radies.. residents of Norwood community

Triple R Lawn and Snow Services Ltd.
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Other services provided:
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Ed Remesz 780-471-5322

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Garden of infinite delight

Szechuan Garden not fine dining, but good value eating

FOOD ON THE AVE

Ellie Capster

SZECHUAN GARDEN
8907 118 Avenue

Walking in the door we wondered if we had made a mistake. It was six P.M. Friday night and there were thirty free tables in the large dining hall of the Szechuan Garden Restaurant. We perused the menu and the prices posted at the door and decided it was worth a try -- with the reasonably priced selection it was hard to go wrong.

As we sat down, we were greeted by a friendly waitress (who we later learned owns the restaurant with her husband), and inquired about how business had been lately. We were surprised it was so quiet in the restaurant, especially with the holiday season approaching

and so many seats available. Abruptly the phone started to ring and the waitress hurried off leaving us with the menu. Although Szechuan Garden is spacious and could probably hold 100 people, most of its customers seem to prefer take-out with free delivery offered for orders over \$25.00.

With the minimalist and sparse setting, it is understandable why some customers may feel more comfortable at home than in the brightly lit, empty space; however, Szechuan Garden has an honest charm that makes many of the restaurants in the Alberta Avenue area so unique. You won't find any fancy decor or flashy menus. Specials are handwritten on Bristol board and the menu contains all the dishes that you would expect to find at a Chinese-Canadian restaurant: wonton soup, kung po

chicken, chicken fried rice and sweet and sour pork balls. Yet, it's this honest charm and entrepreneurial spirit that made the experience so comforting.

Visiting Szechuan Garden brought back memories of times out for dinner with family or the experience of a visit to one of the many family-run Chinese-Canadian restaurants found in the small towns of Alberta. It was comfort food at its best. We decided it was best to opt for one of the Choice Dinners. For \$26 + tax, you can select three of the most popular items on the menu along with a serving of chicken fried rice and spring rolls. The food that arrived was hot, delicious and ample. We had enough left over for both of us to have at lunch the next day.

By the time we had finished our meal, we observed that people had started to trickle



A popular Chinese-Canadian cuisine restaurant that ships a lot of take-out meals to the community. A good place to get a big meal at a reasonable price.

in and even more had been in-and-out the door to pick up their meals. We had also been joined in the restaurant by a lone family out for a late dinner.

Despite its appearance, the appeal of Szechuan Garden

comes from its relaxed attitude and no frills approach. This is a place you can enjoy at your leisure in the company of good friends or if you prefer, in your pyjamas with a box of take out while watching your favourite shows.

Blue trees that sparkle in the night



Christmas decorations light up the trees in front of the NAIT HP Centre at Princess Elizabeth Avenue and between 104 - 105 Street. Laura Kalakalo, 15, from Delton once again submitted this winning photo contest picture.



PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East



CADETS: A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR YOUTH

The largest federally-sponsored youth program in Canada is directed to young Canadians aged 12-18, giving them the opportunity to participate in a variety of fun, challenging, and rewarding activities while learning about the sea, army and air activities of the Canadian Forces - and uniforms are provided free.

The Royal Canadian Sea, Army and Air Cadets work to develop an increased level of self-confidence, self-esteem and self-awareness in Canadian youth, as well as motivating the participants to improve their physical fitness, work harder at their academic studies and give back to the community through volunteerism.

Cadets are encouraged to become active, responsible members of their communities. They make valuable contributions to Canadian society on a daily basis in terms of environmental, citizenship and community activities. Cadets also learn valuable life and work skills such as teamwork, leadership and citizenship.

While Canada's army, air and sea cadets are given an appreciation of Canada's military history and traditions, the goal of the program is not specifically to recruit new military members but rather to develop young people, to help them transition to adulthood -- and have a good time in the process. Sea Cadets, for example, learn seamanship skills while Air Cadets learn the principles of aviation and may possibly receive some pilot training. There is also the opportunity to take part in cadet bands, practice marksmanship, officiate at veterans' functions and participate in biathlon events. Some notable former cadets include astronauts Chris Hadfield and Marc Garneau, Senator Terry Mercer, singer George Canyon and Afshin-Jam Nazanin (International human rights activist and Miss World Canada 2003).

You can find out more about all three branches of the cadet corps at www.cadets.ca. I think the cadets are a great organization for young people. What do you think?

780-495-3261

www.petergoldring.ca



Jesus. He walked the earth as a man.

Some say he was a great prophet, some say a great teacher, others a healer or philosopher. What do you think?

Interested in exploring this topic but not necessarily into religion? Perfect!

Come join us for some good coffee or tea (bring a little \$) and hopefully some good discussion!

WHAT: 9 interactive sessions on the person of Jesus (it's not necessary to commit to all nine sessions)

WHEN: Monday nights from 7:30-9:30pm, starting January 16th, 2012

WHERE: Local Coffee Shop, 9351-118 Avenue

For more info call Wayne at 780-716-6823

Go to www.albertaave.org for info on yoga classes, the Women's Wellness Fair and other upcoming events.

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

SURF'S UP STORY SHARE

Create a miniature book or even an exciting e-book at the Deep Freeze Festival and then exhibit your masterpiece in the library! Drop in to the Surf's Up Story Share workshop at the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts on Saturday, January 7th from 12:00-6:00pm. Display your book at Sprucewood Library after the festival.

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

CHILDREN'S JAZZ DANCE CLASSES

Parkdale Cromdale Community League will be offering jazz dance classes for kids 5-12 years old beginning January 18th. 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- phone 780-477-1171 or email mpetryk@ualberta.ca.

STOP MOTION ANIMATION

Learn the basics of stop motion animation. Create a character and make it come to life. This workshop uses basic material that you may already

have at home. Thursdays, 4:00-6:00pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). Register online, in person or by calling 780-496-7099.

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

FAMILY STORYTIME

Share stories, songs and games for the whole family. Saturdays, starting January 14th from 2:30 to 3:00pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

TEEN GAMING

Come to the library to play some great games! Hone your Guitar Hero or Dance 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.

BOOK TALKS BOOK CLUB

Share your love of reading. Come to this unique book club to talk about the book you are reading and listen to others talk about books they are reading. Wednesday, January 25th from 7:30-8:30pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

DROP-IN TIME

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

ART ON EARTH

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

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. On Friday, January 27th at 9pm.

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.

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.

PARKDALE-CROMDALE SENIORS GROUP

Seniors bingo takes place every Monday from 10am to 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).

PARENT & TOT PLAYGROUP

Drop by Eastwood Hall (11803 86 St) on Thursdays between 9am and 11am to hang with other parents and let the kids play.

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.

COMMUNITY MEALS

Breakfast: Saturday, Jan 8 and 22 from 8:30 to 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.

SPORTS/REC

CITY OF EDMONTON'S LEARN TO SKATE

8 week program starts Saturday, January 14th at Parkdale Cromdale Community League rink (11335-85 St). \$15.00 to register (with membership!). 4-6 years from 11:00-11:30am and 7-12 years from 11:30-12:15pm. Bring your helmet and skates and come dressed for the weather!! Call 471-4410 or e-mail info@parkdalecromdale.org to register.

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. Mondays evenings: 6:30pm in front of St. Alphonsus Church (11828 85 St). Walk is cancelled if below -15 degrees.

VOLUNTEER

PARKDALE POSITIONS

Looking to get involved? Add to your resume? Learn new things? Volunteer at Parkdale Cromdale Community League. We are currently looking to fill our secretary/treasurer and bingo/casino positions. All required training provided. Contact us at 780-471-4410 or info@parkdalecromdale.org.

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 Ave) and gain experience for employment/education, meet new people, learn new skills, have fun and give back to your community. Check out www.norwoodcentre.com 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.

DRIVE A SENIOR

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

CLASSIFIEDS

RINK MANAGER NEEDED

Parkdale-Cromdale Community League is looking for a dedicated, responsible person to fill our paid position of Ice Rink Manager for the upcoming season.

Contact us at 780-471-4410 or info@parkdalecromdale.org.

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

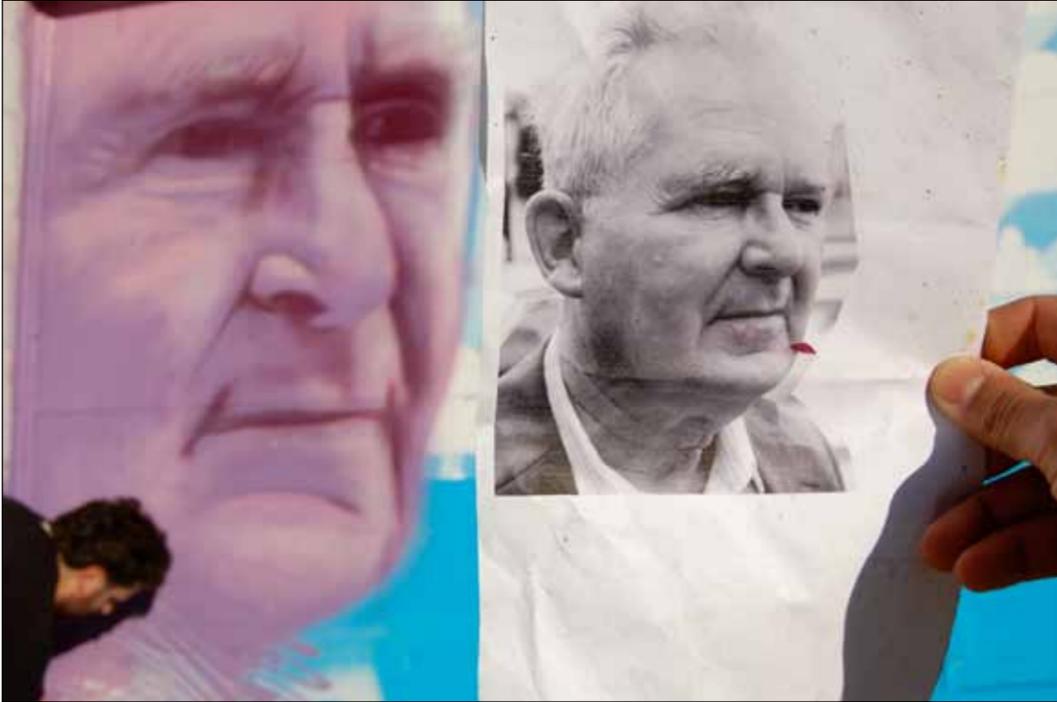
We would like to thank the Norwood Neighbourhood Association for sponsoring the Rat Creek Press Community Calendar.



The Alberta Avenue Community Centre celebrates the holiday season with a forest of lights. The RCP staff and volunteers hope that everyone had a fantastic holiday and will join us in spending the new year making our community even brighter.

Have questions for the police? Concerns on your block? Call our Community Liaison Cst. Paul Pilon at 780.421.2602

BACK ALLEY HEROES



As we turn the page on another year, and you turn the final page on this issue of the Rat, we would like to pay tribute to an art project (2010-11) that honours leaders in our community. Arts on the Ave, Sharon Chapman with the City of Edmonton Graffiti Management department, and artist Josh Klassen dreamed up the idea of making larger-than-life leaders in our community, well, larger-than-life. If you haven't had the chance, we encourage you to take a walk down the back alley behind the Old Cycle Building and the Carrot Arts Coffeehouse (94th to 92nd street and 118th avenue) to see the pioneers of community building in our neighbourhood. They're big, they're beautiful, and they're in full technicolor. They are:

Henry Butte, *long-time business owner of Butte Travel*
 Henry and Verna Stainthorpe, *long-time residents, community contributors and ice makers*
 Maria Fung, *Quick Bite For Lunch*
 Helmut Barkowitz, *long-time resident and community contributor, fruit tree grafter and birdhouse maker*
 Olympio Soares, *long-time business owner of Popular Bakery*

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 RECOGNITION

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

For further details contact CRUD.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO URBAN DISORDER
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 www.crudedmonton.org

absolutely edibles
 9567 A - 118 Avenue
 Edmonton, Alberta
 www.absolutelyedibles.com
 780-477-2971

PAMPERED COOKING CLASSES

All students will enjoy the relaxing atmosphere in our professional kitchen. Hands on learning with Brenda working on preparing food items. We will discuss technique, proper food handling and address any questions or concerns students have. All students will enjoy the relaxing atmosphere in our professional kitchen while being pampered by our staff. Enjoy a glass of wine and learn. All products and tools required are included.

STUFFED CHICKEN BREAST January 16 + 23, 2012
 In this class students will learn how to properly pocket a chicken breast, make various filling for the stuffed breast. We will also cover safe food handling, proper cooking time, the right side dishes to serve with each type of chicken breast.

WORKING WITH PHYLLO January 30 + February 06, 2012
 In this class students will learn not to be afraid of working with phyllo pastry. Students will learn a variety of appetizers, main course items such as salmon wellington, chicken, goat cheese, sun-dried tomato and spinach wrapped in phyllo. We will also cover some easy dessert items such as apple strudel and pear chocolate bundles.

MAKING SAUCE February 13 + 27, 2012
 In this class students will learn the art of making Alfredo and marinara sauce and how many items we can make from this one sauce, such as chicken cacciatore, eggplant parmesan, lasagne, chicken parmesan, rose sauce, chicken fettuccini, and seafood lasagne.

Cost of each class is \$195.00 and students must pre-register, space is limited. You can register either in person at 9567A - 118 Avenue or on line at absolutelyedibles@hotmail.com. Debit and credit are acceptable methods of payment. All Alberta Avenue residents receive a 15% discount.

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