

## Governor General's History Awards honour historians from across Canada

DARREN BOISVERT

On December 9th and 10th, historians, teachers and public officials gathered in Ottawa for the 2012 Governor General's History Awards celebrations. The awards are Canada's top honors in the field of history and heritage.

Rat Creek Press Managing Editor and (former) Ave We Had History Producer Darren Boisvert was in attendance to receive the Community Programming "Honourable Mention" award on behalf of the project team.

"It was an incredible honor to accept this award on behalf of the many people who participated and created this historical project," says Boisvert. "But best of all, I had a chance to present our community, our seniors, and our revitalization work to the nation."

The two-day event started off at the Canadian War Museum with the 5th Annual Enbridge Canada's History Forum, where attendees discussed ways to commemorate the upcoming 100-year anniversary of The Great War. The discussion ranged widely from how to engage people in Canada's history to future ideas for commemorating our nation's military past.

Blake Seward, a teacher from Smiths Falls, Ontario, who won the 2006 Governor General's for Excellence in Teaching, was a guest panelist who shared his ongoing experiences as the founder of the Lest We Forget project. Started in 2001, he asked his students to research the lives of the names etched onto the World War One cenotaph. The information gathered has been published online (including interviews with family members) and his students have made subsequent visits to France to find the graves of the soldiers they have come to appreciate.

"It's my firm belief that Canadian students don't like Canadian history because they are told what to think instead of deciding what is important to them," said Seward. "We



His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston congratulates Rat Creek Press editor Darren Boisvert at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. The Ave We Had Project was a finalist for the Governor General's History Award for Community Programming.

MCPL DANY VEILLETTE, RIDEAU HALL (2012)

should encourage students to ask the historical questions instead of being told 'what happened'."

The day's discussion ended on an appropriate note, with Jonathan Vance, professor at Western University and author of *Death So Noble: Memory, Meaning and the First World War*, sharing his thoughts on war commemoration and historical legacy.

He noted that there are over 7,000 Great War memorials across Canada, including cenotaphs, tributes, books, films, flags, and scrolls. It took decades for them all to appear in towns and cities across Canada, and surprisingly, had little in common with our current passion for telling a national war story.

"Commemoration is a test for the living," said Vance. "The whole point of commemorating the First World War was local -- it expressed local grief and loss, not as a tribute to national loss."

Recipients and organizers

gathered on December 10th at Rideau Hall, the official residence of Canada's head of state. The Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston presided over the event, and was quite visibly enjoying the day's events. Not a man wedded to the extreme protocols of state, he took time to interrupt his formal entrance to greet an old friend on the way down the aisle.

In his opening speech, the Governor General explained his support for the History Awards. "As an educator for much of my career, I would ask my students to consider the historical perspective behind any event. And as Governor General, I often draw insight from Canada's history in my speeches and remarks across the country and abroad.

"Canada did not happen by accident, and that is why I am so delighted to celebrate your efforts to study and share our history. Each of you is a storyteller, who knows

that stories—true stories, well told—can sharpen our sense of history."

After the ceremony, the guests were invited to a lunch reception, and the Governor General graciously allowed the guests to wander Rideau Hall to view the incredible collection of Canadian paintings, sculptures and installation pieces. Most guests ended up in the three greenhouses attached to the residence, where they spent time looking for the large number of plastic dinosaurs hidden in the foliage. According to the greenhouse gardener, the grandchildren of the past three Governor Generals have created and added to this paleontological collection.

The weekend ended with a gala dinner inside Canada's War Museum, hosted by National Post columnist Andrew Coyne, where recipients and guests were treated to a fine meal and a musical presentation of 400 years of Canadian music.

### THE AVE WE HAD HISTORY PROJECT

The Ave We Had History Project began as a Rat Creek Press and community effort to gather and preserve the stories of the people who grew up along 118th Avenue in Edmonton, Alberta. It brought together actors, historians, journalists, a photographer and community organizers who went out to document and interpret the collective history of Alberta Avenue. These stories, combined with archival research, have been the basis for an interpretive performance, publications in the Rat Creek Press newspaper and the creation of an online digital archive. The Ave We Had project is continuing with a community historical calendar (on sale now), and is currently assembling an interactive historical walking tour. All community members are encouraged to contact the Rat Creek Press to participate in (or pitch their own) historical projects.

#### PROJECT TEAM

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 Rico Potestio  
 Silverio (Sly) Sirianni

## Community News

# We Freeze Deeply here in Ye Ol' Wild West

MARI SASANO

As the Deep Freeze Festival approaches its 6th year, Artistic Director Christy Morin shakes off a layer of snow as she enters the Carrot cafe. A sure sign of the festival's success, the festival has grown the need for a festival producer: introducing Cadence Konopaki, Morin's new deputy in this year's Wild West-themed event.

"I work closely with Christy for everything," she says, laughing. A veteran of some of Edmonton's summer festivals (she has worked with the Fringe, Improvaganza, and the Free Will Shakespeare Festival), Konopaki is excited about taking on her first winter event.

"I'm going to be annoyed in one of two ways: it's either going to be +10 and our snow sculptures are going to be melting, or it's going to be -40 and snowing and I won't be able to get cars through," she says. Indeed, both extremes played out in the past two years, but didn't stop the local residents or Edmontonians from attending. Konopaki herself is a 'southsider' who is thrilled to be a part of our area's arts scene.

"I know quite a lot about Arts On The Ave because I used to work in this area, and I'm a big advocate for arts in the



An ice sculptor makes the chips fly at the Chisel and Chainsaw Ice Carving Competition during the 2012 Deep Freeze Festival.

community; it's a great tool for revitalization and engagement."

With the demise of the City of Edmonton sponsored Winter Light Festival, Deep Freeze has become one of Edmonton's marquee winter festivals, along with Silver Skate and Ice on Whyte.

"We never really thought about it when we started that we'd be one of the real champions of winter," says Morin. "But now people are looking to us to see what we're doing and what works with our

programming and why. We're really enjoying the phone calls from people saying, "How do we get this going? How did you come up with this idea?"

The existing programming has certainly expanded: there are going to be more street hockey rinks to accommodate demand, and the ice carving competitors will be working with larger blocks of ice for their gallery beside the Alberta Avenue Community League. In addition to the ice sculptures, the event will also be hosting

snow carvers from Holland.

Also returning are the free skate rentals and curling, and the second annual Deep Freezer races, with a special fireworks tribute Saturday night to one of the race's founders and well-loved festival scene supporter, Don Snider.

As usual, the first day of the festival is dedicated to French culture in Canada, which includes the traditional cabane a sucre, log-sawing, and special guests from Montreal Bande Artistique performing on the

festival's indoor main stage at the Avenue Theatre.

Saturday night's dance party will have an Acadian flavour with the sounds of the multilingual band, Le Fuzz and the foods of Newfoundland. Sunday's events will be Ukrainian-themed with lots of Ukrainian music, dance, and food.

New additions to the 2013 line-up include a screening of the short film Silk Cyclone, a stunningly beautiful dance piece that features Margie Gillis, one of Canada's premiere dance artists, on the east wall of the Nina Haggerty Centre. Also new is the Thaw Hut competition is a partnership with MADE in Edmonton, and it will be an architectural and engineering marvel set up on the site of the now-demolished Old Cycle Building. Successful entries will create warm-up areas that will be judged and awarded on Sunday.

As Edmonton's winter festivals mature, it's ideas like the Thaw Hut that ensure that a vibrant winter culture is viable.

"It's about getting out, but understanding that we do need to warm up to keep ourselves going so we can go out again," says Morin, adding that the festival has a good mix of indoor and outdoor events.



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## City Arts Centre Outreach @ Commonwealth Community Recreation Centre

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### Adult programs

<b>Hip Hop Dancing</b>	<b>\$100</b>
Each class will build on choreographed moves creating a funky routine. 475962 Sun Jan 13 - Mar 24 3-4 pm	
<b>Breakdancing</b>	<b>\$100</b>
Try breakdance moves and have some fun. 475963 Sun Jan 13 - Mar 24 1-2 pm	
<b>Guitar 1</b>	<b>\$125</b>
Working together in a group learn the basic chords to get you quickly on your way to having fun. 475969 Thu Jan 24 - Mar 14 7-9 pm	
<b>Acrylic Painting 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>\$105</b>
Learn acrylic basics and work on a personal project week to week. 473621 Tue Feb 5 - Mar 12 6:30 - 9:30 pm	
<b>Adult Art Studio</b>	<b>Facility Admission</b>
Create unique art projects in the fun drop-in class. Includes all supplies. Thu Jan 31 - Mar 21 7-9 pm	

### Child/Youth/Family Programs

<b>Footlights &amp; Fancy Feet (Ages 3-5)</b>	<b>\$80</b>
A creative dance class that also develops co-ordination, body awareness and imagination! <b>Ages 3-4</b> 482081 Sun Jan 20 - Mar 24 9:45 - 10:30 am	
<b>Ages 4-5</b> 482082 Sun Jan 20 - Mar 24 10:30 - 11:15 am	
<b>Dance Combo (Ages 6-10)</b>	<b>\$125</b>
This class focuses on the basics of ballet and jazz in a non-competitive environment. 482083 Sun Jan 13 - Mar 24 11:15 - 12:30 pm	
<b>Break-dancing (Ages 11-16)</b>	<b>\$75</b>
Master your pop rock dance skills and perfect your hand glide! 475963 Sun Jan 27 - Mar 24 2-3 pm	
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# News Briefs

## GOLDRING LOSES PRE-TRIAL MOTION

Edmonton East MP Peter Goldring lost his pre-trial bid to have the police release all radio transcripts for the night he was arrested for refusing a breathalyzer test. The judge ruled that while the discussions may have been relevant to Goldring's case, there was no evidence to suggest there was any relevant information.

Goldring's lawyer, Dino Bottos, has suggested that the defense will file a Charter of Rights challenge and argue that the Edmonton Police service unfairly targeted the member of parliament who is well known for arguing Checkstops are an infringement on the public's freedoms. The trial begins at the downtown law courts on January 17, 2013.

## NEW COMMUNITY OFFICER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Sgt. Chris Barbar was recently named as the new community Sergeant for Downtown District One. He will be replacing Sgt. Chris Hayduk as our community police representative, who has moved on to the Behavioural Assessment Unit where he monitors high risk offenders who have been released into the community.

Sgt. Barbar was recently a pilot for the police helicopter Air One, and will now be on the ground and available to answer the public's questions regarding police service in our community. Sgt. Barbar will be introducing himself to the neighborhood on both January 8th and 15th from 10am to 11:30am at the Carrot Cafe (9351-118th Avenue).

## EASTWOOD COMMUNITY POLICE STATION STAYING PUT

Rumours that the Eastwood Community police station will be moved or closed in the coming months are unfounded, according to Lisa Sobchshyn, Communications Advisor with the Edmonton Police Service.

She said that Rod Knecht, who replaced Mike Boyd as the EPS chief of police in April 2012, is currently reviewing the plans and services for the department, but stressed this is normal practice for any incoming police chief.

There has been no discussion around moving or closing the Eastwood Station.

## BATTLING THE BOTTLE ONE MORE TIME

Despite losing its bid to gain a liquor license last year, Arden Food Mart at 114 Ave and 95 Street has reapplied for a liquor store license. Under the liquor bylaw, all applicants are allowed to re-apply after 6 months.

The original application was denied as Arden Food Mart is within the 100 metre exclusion zone of a park. Concerned citizens will once again be given a chance to argue for or against the new application in the new year. The hearing date is still undetermined.

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**Help celebrate Literacy Day in Edmonton  
on Saturday, January 26th.**

**Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre will be hosting their "Fifty, 15 Minutes Activities program" to help encourage families to get reading.**

**The day will include a free book giveaway, an opportunity to play some of the 50, 15 minutes activities and a complimentary lunch will be provided.**

**The entire event is free, but registration is limited. Please contact Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre to register. (780) 471-3737.**



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### Find Out More

### HOPE Program Information Sessions

Citizens are invited to attend one of three information sessions to learn more about the Housing Opportunities Program for Edmonton (HOPE). This new pilot program will offer funding to qualifying low-income homeowners in priority neighbourhoods to complete essential home repairs. The program is similar to the former Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP).

The same information session will be offered three times in different priority neighbourhoods. Residents from any of the following neighbourhoods can choose the date and location that is most convenient for them to attend.

<b>Central McDougall/ Queen Mary Park Location</b>	<b>Thursday, January 24th, 2013 from 5 pm to 8 pm at the Queen Mary Park Community League, 10844 - 117 Street</b>
<b>Alberta Ave/Eastwood Location</b>	<b>Tuesday, January 29th, 2013 from 5 pm to 8 pm at the Alberta Avenue Community League, 9210 - 118 Avenue</b>
<b>Boyle/McCauley Location</b>	<b>Wednesday, January 30th, 2013 from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Boyle Street Plaza Flex Room, 9515 - 104 Avenue</b>

Drop in to pick up a brochure, enjoy a coffee and talk to the program coordinators. No formal presentation is scheduled. For more information: [edmonton.ca/hope](http://edmonton.ca/hope)



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**EDITORIAL POLICY:**

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

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

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## Editorial

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# The contorted fools of city council

DARREN BOISVERT

It's hard not to be impressed by the negotiating skills of Darryl Katz. He understands that the primary goal of preliminary negotiations is to determine how low your opponent will stoop to make the deal happen. On December 12th, Edmonton City Councillors voted to re-open negotiations on the downtown arena, showing both Katz and the residents of Edmonton that they are masters of the limbo.

How much did City Council lower the bar on themselves?

In October when negotiations were suspended, city council demanded to have access to the Oilers books as a precondition to resuming talks. That didn't happen. Instead, they accepted Katz Group executive vice-president John Karvellas's proposal for an Arena Reserve Fund as a reasonable starting place for negotiations.

In a nutshell, the Arena Reserve Fund would be the tax surpluses paid by new arena district businesses to the city, and then handed over to a private citizen living in British Columbia. It's not just a horrible economic idea for the city; it borders on unconstitutionality.

Let's break it down.

This idea would effectively give every Katz business in the area a hard tax cap that would never rise over the course of the agreement. Any tax increase would be diverted to the Arena Reserve Fund, and then given back to Katz as revenue. If any other business or resident went before City Council to demand a 35 year tax freeze, they would have been laughed out of chambers. But not the Oilers.

It gets worse.

The main purpose of any municipal government is to collect and redistribute

tax revenue. City Council is obligated to represent city residents interests and spend their money responsibly. Signing an agreement with a private corporation to share tax revenue would give the Katz Group an unelected seat at the tax table. But most importantly, since Katz is not a member of council, all discussions regarding raising the tax rate and redistributing those monies will most likely be conducted in private as part of a bilateral business agreement.

Any business in the area would -- in effect -- be agreeing to pay taxes not just to City Council for the public good (road repair, snow clearing, etc.), but to Darryl Katz. This idea doesn't just open the door to influence peddling; it hands the keys to the vault to an unelected citizen.

Much has been written about

Darryl Katz's "tin ear" when it comes to public relations, but this analysis ignores the fact that he is negotiating away the political capital of City Council -- not his own. Katz has already determined that City Councillors are desperate to make a deal before the next election. By agreeing to discuss sharing tax revenues, the majority of city council have shown they are willing to corrupt their basic political *raison d'être* to get a deal signed.

Katz has broken the back of City Council; they are no longer negotiating on behalf of city residents, but are dancing like contorted fools to the Edmonton Oilers theme song.



## Letters to the Editor

### RE: RAT CREEK PRESS HONORED WITH GOVERNOR GENERAL'S HISTORY AWARD

How wonderful that your "The Ave We Had" history project received richly-deserved recognition from the Governor General. You, your staff, and your many volunteers and contributors deserve congratulations and commendations.

Christine Bremner, District G Representative  
Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues

You guys deserve praise for this project, which truly took a lot of effort and perseverance! Good work. I think this award will gain the project even more interest....and a part II, III and IV are in order.

Martin Bundred,  
President of the Parkdale/Cromdale Community League

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## THE LEMONADE STAND THE ARCHITECTURE OF BUSINESS SUCCESS

Here is the fourth in the series on building a successful business. Our neighbourhood is filled with freelancers, entrepreneurs, independent artists, and cottage industries run from homes.

We hope that by presenting the challenges and hurdles faced by many independent business owners, along with sensible advice for success, will encourage others to consider following their dream of independence. This series is dedicated to helping these entrepreneurs succeed.

# A simple story sells your business idea

HENRI YAUCK

In the last article we found that you needed to ask yourself two important questions about your new potential business venture, and make a list of the answers for each of the questions. The reason; these answers will become the backbone of your marketing, and the story that will reach your potential customers, turning them into customers and supporters (word-of-mouth marketers for you).

Consider this. A best selling author checked the reviews on Amazon and was amazed to find that about half of the readers gave the book a five star rating, along with a glowing review, while the other half gave the same book a one star rating, and literally vilified the author,

the writing, the author's lifestyle, and even the people that liked the book.

Why the diametrically opposite points of view?

The book didn't really generate the various points of view. People took the opportunity to express the biases they had, even before they cracked the book open. *The point is people don't want to change their personal world view. They like it, they embrace it and want it to be reinforced... validated.*

A personal world view (or micro-world view) is the lens used to look at every decision an individual makes. However, it would be naive to think that millions of people have millions of different micro-world views. These views are 'groupy', that is, there are common memes that group strangers

together.

The secret to many of the most successful marketing ventures is *the desire to do what people we admire are doing is the glue that holds societies together.*

As a marketer, if you are observant, you will understand that people like being in sync with their peers, you will find out those that believe your story will work hard to share it with their peers. No story or micro-world view equals no demand for your product, service or business. You need a story that is easy to spread, and if those that accept the story believe it is worth spreading, you will generate demand, sales and a growing customer base.

However, there is only a small subset of the population that spread the

word of mouth messages. Call them buzz-agents, early adopters, sneezers or thought leaders; these are the people you must attract at first. This means you must have a good story that makes a noise like cheese to catch a lot of mice.

### OPPORTUNITY FOR A NEW LOCAL START-UP BUSINESS

Do you have a start-up business in mind? Contact Darren Boisvert at [editor@ratcreek.org](mailto:editor@ratcreek.org) and get your name and business on our first contact list as we move into the new year.

We are looking for local entrepreneurs who are interested in a short-term, free rental location on the Avenue for a pilot project, and we will provide marketing guidance and exposure in the Rat Creek Press.



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*Best Wishes for a Peaceful, Prosperous and Happy New Year, 2013!*

*Kind Regards from the Rat Creek Press as well as Alberta Avenue Business Association*

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# The Ave We Had

[www.avenuehistory.org](http://www.avenuehistory.org)

## The Maple Leaf Gardens on 118th Avenue

JONATHAN WELLER

In the 1930s, the City of Edmonton decided to establish an outdoor rink on 118th Avenue between 96th and 97th Streets. Little remains as testament to this structure, like many rinks that were put up every year on empty lots in the neighbourhood, this one faded away with the summer and has been lost to all but memory.

The simple facilities of the rink were all that anyone in Edmonton at the time could ask for; it was above all an opportunity to play. What marks this rink as significant though is that it became home to the Maple Leaf Athletic Club.

Henry White, a paymaster for the CNR who lived next to Parkdale School, established the Maple Leaf Athletic Club in 1931. White was a prominent member of the community who was known for his active role in the Boy Scout movement and in organizing youth athletics. He encouraged the development of the Edmonton-based Maple Leaf Club as a source of potential enrichment for young men in Northeast Edmonton.

In 1948, they moved to a new building between 84th and 85th along 118th Avenue. The new building grew out of an old army hut that had been left unused following the war, but sported "fine hardwood floors and additional improvements" from their previous shelter.

They went on to win numerous leagues including a sweep of



provincial championships for five consecutive years between 1948 and 1953 at the bantam, midget and juvenile levels.

The teams graduated numerous professional athletes, the 1950-51 Midget 'AA' team for example had six of twelve players who would go on to impressive professional careers in the NHL including Hall-of-Famer Norm Ullman, one of the greatest centers to ever play.

However, as with other cities in the country, the post-war years were booming and Edmonton was growing particularly quickly following oil strikes in the Leduc area. The growing number of children in the city pushed the community leagues to begin putting together teams. These teams, unlike the athletic clubs, which played more competitive hockey and drew talent from all over, were made up of local neighbourhood youth.

This gave rise to competition for City-owned rinks. Complaints and conflicts arose as the rivalry between the leagues grew and in 1962 the City Recreation Department asked representatives from the hockey community to come together to resolve these issues. Following a year of heated debate the Edmonton Metropolitan Hockey Association was formed in 1963 and governed the sport in the city for a number of years.

Today, our Maple Leaf Gardens is covered over with houses, but kids still steal out on Sunday mornings to practice and dream of the big future in rinks across our neighbourhood.

## The Edmonton 'Boomer'



James Albert MacPherson was born in 1927 and grew up at 11831 97th Street. To the hockey world he was Bud, and to his fans, Boomer. At 6-foot-4 and weighing over 200 pounds, Boomer played the game in the way his name and his stature would imply. But before he became a defensive force, he was a kid slipping out the back door of his house to the north end of the Maple Leaf Gardens.

As Bud recalled in *Alberta on Ice* by Gary Zeman, "Early on Sunday mornings [my Brother Bill and I] would get on the rink and skate, pass the puck, and shoot. It

became an obsession with me to be able to skate as fast as my father."

He began playing for the Maple Leaf Athletic Club in 1940 and continued on to 1944, contributing to their city and provincial championships. In 1948, at 21 years old, he helped the Edmonton Flyers win the Allan Cup, a feat that earned him a three-game trial with the Montreal Canadiens. After turning professional, Boomer stayed on with the Habs through to 1957.

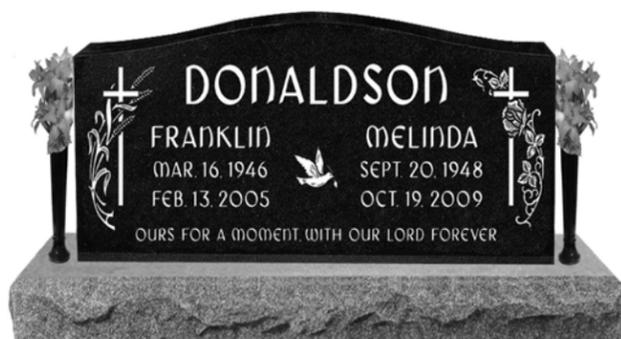
During this time, he maintained his role as a pillar of the blue line. He modestly argued in an interview in January 1982 that "I never was a great star, I was always trade bait." But it was a time when the game was defensive, his partner and roommate throughout his career was the legendary Doug Harvey who continues to be considered one of the best defencemen of all time and playing under well known coach Dick Irvin, who was often criticized for his 'goon' tactics.

He had moved up from his early years at Edmonton's Maple Leaf Gardens, by the time he was playing at Toronto's Gardens, his home rink had likely been built over, but he still called Edmonton home.

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**PETER GOLDRING**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton East



## MCCAULEY HOCKEY RINK

Last November it was my honour and privilege to present a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal to Edmonton East resident Dan Glugosh, in recognition of his contributions to the community in promoting and managing the McCauley skating rink.

In 1999 there were plans to appropriate the full-size McCauley Community Hockey Rink (which is paved, allowing summer roller skating ball hockey), replacing it with rental housing by a social group intending to use "profits" from the "non-profit" housing to pay for social centre office space. Also proposed was to keep a rink so small as to be unacceptable for hockey, meant only to make the community believe that it would still have ice skating.

I was appalled at this callous social-centric takeover attempt. I felt it was important to save the hockey rink, the only such facility in the area. When I informed the community by mail out, people were aghast at losing the rink and spoke up. The social welfare project was cancelled and the rink was saved. Unfortunately the very sound community hall with washrooms was removed and now needs to be replaced. Fourteen years later the rink is still a community magnet in all seasons.

One of the highlights of the rink year is the now annual McCauley Cup where beat officers from Edmonton Police Service's Downtown Division take on McCauley community youth in a game of shinny. This gives area youth positive interaction with the police and allows stereotypes to be broken, for the benefit of the community.

I think facilities such as the McCauley rink are a treasure to all communities. We should be vigilant and rightfully suspicious of those that wish to appropriate them.

I think it's time for a skate. So drop by, thank Dan or maybe volunteer to help.

What do you think?

**780-495-3261**

**[www.petergoldring.ca](http://www.petergoldring.ca)**

Send a letter, suggest a story, volunteer to write, advertise. Check out the revamped website. [ratcreek.org](http://ratcreek.org).

# 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](mailto:info@ratcreek.org).

## EVENTS

### THE CARROT STAGE

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

### PARKDALE-CROMDALE 3RD ANNUAL SNOWBALL EVENT

January 26th from 1-5pm (11335 85 St.)  
Skate in the rink or take a wagon ride to Sheriff Robertson Park for some skating and snowshoeing! Bonfires, snow activities, crafts and more!  
Also includes a special chili cook-off competition. To compete or for more info email [info@parkdalecromdale.org](mailto:info@parkdalecromdale.org).

## NOTICES

### ARTS ON THE AVE CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month and we are looking for ideas and suggestions. If you have a fantastic idea for programming or other ways that we could highlight Black History Month on the Ave, please email Heather at [carrotassist@gmail.com](mailto:carrotassist@gmail.com)

### RINK ATTENDANT NEEDED

Alberta Avenue is looking for a responsible adult who enjoys skating and working with children to supervise our skating rink on weekday evenings from 4pm to 8pm and Saturdays from 1pm to 6pm over a 6-7 week period from approximately January 14th to March 9th. The individual will also run a basic concession, assist with snow removal from the rink and maintaining the ice. The position is 30 hours a week at \$10/hour. Email: [info@albertaave.org](mailto:info@albertaave.org)

### COPS AT THE CARROT

Join Edmonton Police members on Tuesday, January 8th or 15th from 10am to 11:30am at The Carrot Cafe (9351 118 Ave). Bring your questions and comments or just stop in and say hi. Can't make it?  
You can always call your Community Liaison Constable Christopher Lucas at 780.421.2602.

## PROGRAMS/CLASSES

### SING, SING, LAUGH AND LEARN

For children up to age three accompanied by a grown-up. Parents will learn strategies to engage their children and enhance their communication and development. Tuesdays from 10:30-11:15am starting January 8th at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St).  
More info: 780.496.7099.

### COLLECTIVE KITCHEN

Participants pay \$3 per portion of food made up to a maximum of 5 portions. The \$3 cost is matched by Dickensfield Amity House. Portion sizes are generous. Running once a month out of One World...One Centre 12050 95A St. on the third Monday of the month starting January 21st. For more info call Melanie 780.246.1742.

### TRIPLE P PARENTING

Free parenting Seminars for parents of children aged 3-12 years. January 9th: The Power of Positive Parenting, January 16th: Raising Confident, Competent Children, January 23rd: Raising Resilient Children. Participants can register for all three seminars or just one. Childcare available for children up to 6 years old. Location: St. Alphonsus School 11624 81 St. Call Melanie at 780.246.1742 to register.

### GUITAR LESSONS

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

### ABORIGINAL FAMILY STORYTIME

Join us as we share songs, stories and rhymes inspired by the Aboriginal culture. Friday, January 25th at 1pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St).  
More info: 780.496.7099.

### CREATIVE PROSE AND WRITING GROUP

Tuesdays from 7-9pm at The Carrot.  
More info: Vivian at [vzenari@gmail.com](mailto:vzenari@gmail.com)

### NEEDLE FELTING

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

### FREE ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

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

### ESL GROUP

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

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

### FAMILY STORYTIME

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

### TWEEN LOUNGE

Join other teens in the program room to play video games, make a DIY project, meet friends or just hang out. For ages 7-13. Thursdays at 3:30pm starting January 10th.

### TEEN GAMING

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

### WOMEN'S AFTERNOON OUT GROUP

For women to gather, socialize and bring their project to work on, whatever they are. Opportunities for starting new craft projects will be given occasionally as well as the opportunity to get out to a festival or some sort of event in the summer. Drop-in fee is \$1 per visit to go toward supplies and outings. For more info, call Michelle at 780.232.5822 or email at [heartsalive@hotmail.com](mailto:heartsalive@hotmail.com)

### PARKDALE-CROMDALE SENIORS GROUP

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

### SENIORS LUNCH

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

### LI'L SPROUTS PLAYGROUP

Come by the Parkdale Cromdale

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

### BABES IN ARMS

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

### COMMUNITY MEALS

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

## SPORTS/REC

### FREE COMMUNITY ACCESS AT COMMONWEALTH REC CENTRE

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

### FREE SKATING

At all community league outdoor rinks with your league memberships. Contact your local league. Info at [efcl.org](http://efcl.org).

### LEARN TO SKATE PROGRAM - FREE!

Learn the basics of skating with safety and fun in mind. Participants will learn basic skills like stopping, skating forward and backwards and will play fun games on the ice. (All participants must provide their own skates and CSA approved helmet, however Sport Central referrals are available from your Community League if you need help getting equipment for program).

Alberta Avenue Hall - 9210 118 Ave.  
Dates: Saturdays, January 19th to March 2nd. Ages, Times, and Code: Call 311 to register. Children 4-5 yrs 11:00-11:45am Code: 448440. Children 6-12 yrs 12:00-1:00pm Code: 448441.

Spruce Avenue Hall - 10240 115 Ave.  
Dates: Saturdays, January 12th to March 2nd. Ages, Times and Code: Call 311 to register. Children 4-5 yrs 2:00-2:45pm Code: 488437. Children 6-12 yrs 3:00-4:00pm Code: 488438.

### SKATING LESSONS

Starting Saturday, January 12th at Parkdale-Cromdale rink (11335 85 St). A 6 week program for 2 age groups! 4-6 year olds from 1:00-1:30pm and 7-12 from 1:45-2:30pm. Cost is \$30.00. To register call 780.471.4410 or email [info@parkdalecromdale.com](mailto:info@parkdalecromdale.com).

### LEARN TO PLAY HOCKEY - FREE!

Learn the basic rules and concepts of ice hockey. This program is for beginners ONLY! All participants must provide their own equipment, however Sport Central referrals are available from your Community League if you need help getting equipment for program. List of equipment will be provided when you register.

Alberta Avenue Hall - 9210 118 Ave.  
Dates: Sundays, January 20th to March 3rd. Ages, Times, and Code: Call 311 to register. Children 6-12 yrs 1:00 - 2:00pm Code: 448443.

### BALL HOCKEY TOURNEY

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

### DEEP FREEZE RACE

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

### FREE QIGONG CLASS

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

### THRILL THE AVE

Maybe you saw us doing Thriller at Kaleido and thought, "That looks like fun!". It is. We are continuing classes to learn Thriller to perform at events throughout the year. Classes are Wednesday nights 7-8pm at Alberta Avenue Community League (9210 118 Ave). Classes are free and no dance experience is necessary. We welcome people of all ages.

Fun for the whole family. For more info, contact Heather at 780.454.9296, email [thrilltheave@gmail.com](mailto:thrilltheave@gmail.com) or Thrill the Ave on facebook.

# CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

#### Sunday Services:

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

### 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](http://www.clifec.ca)

#### Service Times:

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

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

### BETHEL GOSPEL CHAPEL

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

#### Sunday Meetings:

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

### CARISMA CHURCH

Our vision is to EMBRACE a relationship with Jesus and share it with others. Come and experience a multicultural worship service in an informal, friendly environment.

8401-114 Avenue 780-477-1235  
[www.carismachurch.org](http://www.carismachurch.org)

#### Sundays at 10:00am

Kids Ministries for ages 2 to 12yrs.  
Come as you are. All welcome!

### ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

11828-85th Street 780-474-5434

#### Service Times:

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

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

### ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please join us for our diverse services. We offer regular Sunday worship services in German and English languages.

10759-96 Street (Corner of 108 Ave)  
780-422-0059 [www.stjohnsluth.ca](http://www.stjohnsluth.ca)

#### Service Times:

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

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

## NNA NORWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION



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Advertise your church here for only \$120/year. Contact [info@ratcreek.org](mailto:info@ratcreek.org)



# POETRY

We're pleased to run the last finalist from our 2012 Poetry Slam competition. Anthony Goertz has been a long-time participant at our slams and has consistently impressed the judges with his metre and mettle. This year, he won 'honourable mention', as the judges felt the poem was too-good to not be mentioned. Anthony is a poet, writer, and traveller from Edmonton.

## CALL TO ARMS *By Anthony Goertz*

To any of you who own  
Or can get your hands on  
A pen,  
This is a call to arms.  
To take those weapons in your closing  
hands and  
Set them to the page  
Like the needle of a record player.  
Write the songs they'll sing in the  
Soft stadiums of our ears  
When those saints come marching in.

This is a call to arms. To pen a wake-up  
alarm  
To sound just before the point where  
we've slept  
So long it's too late to wake us. Trust  
The opinions you put to the page, but  
Write them in pencil  
And say them with grace.

Lose the computer. Knowing  
That in a four-second depression of  
the backspace key  
You can remove accountability on  
account of some  
Doubted truth is proof that we've  
nothing to doubt  
In our right to write our own stories.  
Or write new ones.

I am a straight white male, a member  
Of the most notoriously  
overrepresented group  
Of people in the history of the world.  
But you can't reduce a life to a  
celluloid rectangle, can't be  
Squeezed into two-hour time-frames.  
The name  
On your passport is only an index of  
you.  
It's not something that needs to be  
known at all  
by those of us so close to knowing it  
we could write poems about how

much it suits you.

This is not for the little people.  
This is not for the overworked, the  
underpaid,  
The dog-tired or the bogged-down.  
The truth is,  
I am under-qualified to begin  
sentences with  
"the truth is." But I've got ideas, and  
a few loose sheets  
of loose leaf left so  
This is a call for the universal right to  
bear  
A pen. But to write it in pencil. To say  
it all  
A little more gentle. To wrap it in  
ribbons  
Of lead. To save it  
For whatever rainy day  
Or waking night  
Finds you lit up enough  
To take up arms  
And write.

## Bellydance Classes

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# avenue initiative revitalization

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

## Bring your idea to the community! The deadline for matching grants is the 15th of the month.

Do you have an idea that would make a difference in your community? We are looking for projects that will improve safety, create a sense of community or beautify the neighbourhood. The Neighbourhood Matching Fund will match your volunteer time or donations to make your project a reality. You can apply for up to \$20,000 for large community projects. SMALL SPARKS provides up to \$250 to fund a creative idea that connects the community such as block parties, small gatherings or programs. For an application and more information go to [www.avenueinitiative.ca](http://www.avenueinitiative.ca)

### Community Conversations on revitalization of 118th

The City has been working with and supporting the revitalization of 118th Avenue and the surrounding neighbourhoods since 2006 when the Avenue Initiative Revitalization Strategy was passed by Council. Throughout 2013 we want to check in and talk about what has worked and what still needs to be done. Watch for the dates in the Rat Creek, in your mailbox and at [www.avenueinitiative.ca](http://www.avenueinitiative.ca)



For information call  
**Judy at**  
**780-496-1913**



## Cromdale The Demolition

There were snow and walkers and a huge grill cooking hot dogs for 1000. There was a massive stage, dignitaries, live painting and a honey-cake. It had everything a good party requires, but this wasn't just any party or festival on Alberta Avenue.

The demolition marked the end of an era and beginning of a new one. It also represented hundreds of hours of work by residents and city staff, everyone eager to see vibrant activity on that corner of 82 Street and 118 Avenue.

Bundled bread in Paradise until he was six, when his family moved to the suburbs. Then, twenty-one years ago he moved back to the neighbourhood. "I got all my hair cut on 118 Ave as a kid. I remember when the Avenue was full of families going to church on to the bakeries, to the meat and butchers, it was so vibrant. Now that similar energy is returning to the Avenue and I hope that the momentum that is building will keep pushing forward. I hope that with the Cromdale Hotel gone, the Cromdale community can reclaim its name and that a new confidence in the area will attract new and old residents to healthy community."

### Watch for the 2012 Year In Review

A review of many great revitalization efforts that happened in 2012 will be delivered throughout the first few weeks of January. You can also read a copy online at [www.avenueinitiative.ca](http://www.avenueinitiative.ca)