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Models of community spirit

George and Michelle Earl show how everyone has something to contribute

JESSICA KIMMERLY

Anybody who has visited The Carrot Arts Coffeehouse during the past year may have met George or Michelle Earl. They are often at The Carrot—Mrs. Earl even says it “has become my second home.”

Meet Mr. Earl

Walking into the Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse on a Tuesday evening, customers are greeted by volunteer baristas George Earl and Mat Halton. Halton takes the order, while Earl hustles to start making the drink. They work as a team. Halton rings in the order while Earl pulls the shot of espresso at the machine, then Halton grabs and pours the milk and Earl steams it. Earl pours the drink and hands the customer her coffee. It’s nearly impossible to tell that Earl is blind.

George Earl started helping at the Carrot by manning the sound board at Saturday night open mic. “I mentioned I did sound and asked if they had any need for a sound man,” says Earl. He has been doing sound ever since.

But at the beginning of 2008, Earl started to take an interest in The Carrot’s espresso machine. “I’ve always been fascinated with fancy coffees,” says Earl. “I think that started when I ran into a little place in the University area called ‘Café



GEORGE AND MICHELLE EARL HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEEHOUSE SINCE IT OPENED ONE YEAR AGO

a la Carte’ back in 1993. Since then I’ve been interested in brewing coffee.” When Earl found out that The Carrot baristas are volunteers, he met with Darcy Morin—a friend on The Carrot committee—and asked if he could learn how the machinery works. “He was dogged in his persistence,” says Morin, who trained Earl how to make drinks at The Carrot.

“I’d never worked with a blind person before, but we trusted each other. Most importantly, he trusted me.” Morin describes the training sessions as “intimate.” “It was a close experience . . . guiding his hands and physically showing him where

everything is.” Morin was impressed with how well Earl learned the barista skills, and decided to slot him in Tuesday evenings with Mat Halton.

Halton has been working with Earl for the past couple months, and the two have learned to problem solve together behind the cramped service counter. “The only difficulty was getting all the liquids poured, because he can’t see when the cup is full,” explains Halton. “So we brought in some measuring cups—we’ve got a system for each kind of drink—and he uses his liquid level detector to fill the cups.” The liquid level detector is a small device that clips onto the side of a cup. Two tiny metal rods extend inside the rim, and when the liquid reaches the metal rods, it completes an electrical circuit and makes a beeping noise.

Earl can make everything on the menu, and is work-

ing on learning the register. “It’s totally done by memorization because I can’t read in the traditional sense,” says Earl.

Meet Mrs. Earl

Michelle Earl is an artist, and has been equally involved in the Carrot since it opened a year ago. Her paintings were displayed during the month of May—a show that sold more than any other art show at the Carrot to date. In total, Mrs. Earl sold five paintings and received a commission for one that had already been sold. Like her husband, she was born with visual impairments. Mrs. Earl is blind in her left

eye, and has tunnel vision in her right eye. She wears tri-focals to help her see.

“I try to paint the world in motion,” says Mrs. Earl. However, some of her pieces are political. Her painting titled “It’s Your Choice” was inspired by this past provincial election. “It’s Your Choice” was one of the paintings that sold while on display at The Carrot.

While Mrs. Earl has been drawing all her life, she has only taken up painting in the last five years. She was

worried about the high cost of art supplies, but finally got her start after a church ladies’ retreat. Every lady on the retreat received a set of paints and brushes. From there, Mrs. Earl realized that being an artist doesn’t have to break the bank, and has enjoyed working with acrylics ever since.

“The Carrot is a godsend,” says Mrs. Earl. “I have a place I can read my poetry. And it’s an answered prayer as to how I could get out in the art field. The Carrot is a way to do that.” Mrs. Earl is a member of Arts on the Ave., and can be found reading her poetry at open mic on Saturdays.

How The Carrot changed their lives

Halton says it was a typical “Carrot” experience, when he walked home with Earl after their barista shift and discovered that they lived across the alley from each other. “The Carrot is a portal into the community,” he says.

“I love the way people are coming together and starting to accept people for who they are,” says Mrs. Earl. “Ever since being here, I’ve gotten involved in so many things.” “Volunteering here has expanded me . . . being a barista has added a deeper sense of purpose, added a spark to my life,” says Mr. Earl.

If there is one thing to learn from the Earl’s and from The Carrot, it’s that everybody has something positive to offer the community. You never know what you can learn from your neighbour.



GEORGE EARL MAKING COFFEE AT THE CARROT WITH THE HELP OF HIS LIQUID LEVEL DETECTOR



MICHELLE EARL’S PAINTINGS WERE DISPLAYED AT THE CARROT DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

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EDITORIAL
WITH JESSICA KIMMERLY

Summer thunderstorms put life in perspective

I happened to be walking past a school playground during lunch break when a colossal roll of thunder hit. It wasn't raining yet, so the prolonged, earth-vibrating boom of the thunder was even more of a surprise. Immediately, the school children started screaming and running back to the building. They evacuated the park of their own accord.

Running and screaming for your life is the natural way for children to respond to thunder storms. As a teenager, I used to baby-sit, and was often in charge of young children when a summer storm hit. Boy or girl, kids are scared of roaring skies that reverberate the ground. And I don't blame them.

What I don't understand is why people seem to lose their fear of storms as they grow older. Most people I know are actually fascinated by them, and enjoy watch-

ing storms from the window. I suppose it is reassuring that we live in large, stable and weatherproof homes. Plus we know that thunder is just noise and can't hurt us. But that has never changed my mind about thunderstorms. We might be safe, but witnessing 30,000 amps of energy jolting through the air is frightening.

In school, we may (or may not) have learned that thunder is caused when lightning heats the air, making it expand. When the air quickly cools, it contracts and forces a movement of air. Somehow, this movement produces a wave of sound—thunder. Scientists still don't know exactly how lightning happens, though they know it has to do with clouds becoming electrically charged. Admit it, it is kind of scary that scientists can't figure out how millions of volts of electricity can materialize from seemingly harmless cloud puffs

in the sky.

The "millions of volts" statement is not just a paranoid overstatement either. I did my research. The temperature of lightning is 54,000 degrees Fahrenheit. (29,982 Celsius.) You could do more than bake a cake with that kind of heat. Sure, it's impressive. But it's a show I'm willing to miss while hiding under my bedcovers.

Seeing those children running from the playground reminded me of a time I had to run from a storm. My sisters and I were playing in a park situated in a field, a distance away from the car. The skies grew dark. I don't remember thunder, but I remember our mother saying, "Run!" and then peeling across that field

like our lives depended on it. We could see the sheets of rain and hail approaching like a falling blanket, just behind us. Thankfully, we made it to the car before the full assault of the storm. But I'll never forget the feeling of being chased through a field by a force not

controlled by humans. I think there is something to be learned from children's inherent fear of thunderstorms. Not necessarily that we should be terrified of lightning flashes and rumbling thunder, but to respect it as an incredible feat that has nothing to do with us. Even though storms still scare me, I appreciate them as a reminder that we don't have as much power as we like to think.

Running and screaming for your life is the natural way for children to respond to thunder storms.

Immigrant Women's Student Award

As part of our efforts to increase the education level of those women who have immigrated to Canada, the Faculty of Extension, at the University of Alberta, is offering a student award. This award will provide opportunities to six women per year to participate in programs offered by the Faculty of Extension. (The programs include: Human Resource Certificate, Management Development Certificate, Supervisory Development Citation, General Interest Business Seminars etc.)

Our goal is to increase learning opportunities in professional development to immigrant women so they can play a significant role in the workplace and community at large.

If you have questions about the award, or are interested in the Business Programs offered by the Faculty of Extension at the University of Alberta please visit our web-site at www.extension.ualberta.ca.

About the Faculty of Extension

The Faculty of Extension is responding to the life-long learning needs of adults. We make effective use of learning technologies, flexible scheduling, and collaborative programming to reach and to serve an expanding audience, which increases access to the resources of the University of Alberta.

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Happy Birthday! The Carrot Turns One

JENNA HOFF

On a recent Friday evening, The Carrot, which bills itself as a “Community Arts Coffeehouse,” was hopping with live music as musician Will Preville took to the stage. As Preville sang his heart out in front of an intimate crowd, it was evident that The Carrot is a place that is both artistic and welcoming.

Located at 9351-118th Avenue in Edmonton, The Carrot is a local hangout for anyone who desires a delicious cup of coffee, as well as free spirited artists and writers alike. In addition to featuring live entertainment on Friday evenings, The Carrot hosts an Open Mic Stage on Saturday nights. During the week, its relaxed and artsy atmosphere makes it an inviting place for friends to meet over a latte, or for special interest groups (such as a Thursday morning writing club) to gather. The Carrot’s walls are decorated with colorful exhibits from monthly Featured Artists.

Entirely run by volunteers, The Carrot began in June of 2007 by Arts On The Ave (AOTA), which is a group of artists comprised of those living and working on and around Alberta Avenue. “We wanted a place where people can come together, a place that is welcoming to people of all ages, generations, and cultures,” says Christy Morin, President of AOTA. Reflecting back over the past year, she says that The Carrot has enjoyed “huge success” and has been warmly welcomed by its surrounding community. As for future plans, they plan

on building on the success of the first year. Morin says with a large smile on her face that they “expect to be here for many more years.”

As The Carrot marks its first year anniversary, Morin says that it is a time to thank all those who have been a part of The Carrot. “We want to say thank you to the residents and community of Alberta Avenue,” adding that the contributions of all are appreciated. “There is no small piece to The Carrot.” They celebrated by hosting a “big birthday party bash” on Saturday, June 21, complete with exhibits, performances, and birthday cake in the evening.

As he set up his music equipment in preparation for his recent Friday evening performance, Will Preville summed things up well by saying, “I think every neighborhood should have a place like this. It offers so much to the community.” It was a sentiment echoed by Dave Von Bieker, who has volunteered at The Carrot since it first opened. “It’s a place to

go, hang out with family, and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere. I’ve been wowed by the amount of creativity here.”

Indeed, The Carrot has much to offer. It has been a great first year, and it will be exciting to see the growth that The Carrot experiences over the coming years. Warmest first birthday wishes are offered to what is certainly one of Edmonton’s most unique meeting places.



CHRISTY MORIN AND HER DAUGHTER, ALLISON, SINGING “HAPPY BIRTHDAY” FOR THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE



THORIN (FRONT) AND GALA FREEMAN PETERS ENJOY CAKE AND SNACKS AT THE CARROT'S FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY

Take 5: Jim Hole's Top five quirky plants that grow in Edmonton

Plants are endlessly fascinating and some are downright strange

1. Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*)

It grows in boggy areas around Edmonton and is carnivorous, feasting from time to time on a variety of insects.

2. Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)

It is a transgendered plant, meaning it is capable of changing genders depending on the suitability of its growing environment.

3. Indian Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*)

This plant is ghostly white and is one of the few plants in the world that does not require sunlight. It has no chlorophyll and, much like a mushroom, derives its energy from decomposing organic material in the soil.

4. Dwarf Mistletoe (*Arceuthobium americanum*)

This parasitic plant attacks the trunks and branches of trees in the pine family, causing the trees to grow in a distorted fashion. Its mature seeds “explode” off the plant.

5. Gas Plant (*Dictamnus albus v. purpureus*)

This plant gives off a combustible gas when the conditions are just right. Holding a match near a bloom on a warm, humid, calm evening can cause the gas to ignite with an audible pop.

From: *Edmonton Book of Everything* By Mark Wells

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Dawg Father serves American-style hot dogs

Tom Sefura is the owner of a new restaurant—called “Dawg Father”—located on 118th Ave. (8654 – 118th Ave.) It’s two doors down from Handy Bakery.

Sefura moved from the States and brought with him recipes from all over the country. Each hot dog on the menu is named for a city, and contains toppings that are traditional to those cities. You choose from New York City, Chicago, Coney Island, Kansas City, Baltimore and Tex

Mex Dogs. There is also the “Dawg Father” hot dog made with Italian sausage, and “Dawn Father Beans.”

Your order comes with “Ruby” fries and coleslaw. Sefura guarantees all hot dogs are made with real meat, and there are no “mystery dogs.” The sausages are all nine inches long, and are available in chicken dogs as well as Halal dogs.

Dawg Father is open Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday 11 am. To 7 p.m. Closed Sunday and Monday. —JK



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The Computer People

The Computer People (9566 – 111 Ave.) can repair computers or build a brand new one for you.

This new business specializes in custom-built PCs, meaning you get to pick your own parts and features. To make an appointment, contact the owner Simon Shum at 756-1103, or stop into the store during business hours.

The store is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Closed Sundays. —JK

TDS Wholesale Flooring

You have likely noticed the new TDS Wholesale flooring business on 118th Ave in the former Alberta Cycle location. The grand opening was May 31 and the store has been fully operational since then. TDS Wholesale is a family-run business and the owners have over 30 years experience in the flooring business. TDS stands for Top Discount Store and this is what you will be guaranteed when purchasing from them.

TDS specializes in bulk orders of laminate, ceramic, hardwood, slate and porcelain flooring and various styles of carpeting. They carry a vast array of

flooring to suit your taste and they can order in many other varieties within a two week period. Every order comes with a raincheck guarantee for two week delivery to the store, or, it’s free delivery to your door.

Quickstyle, NaturLock, Gold Leaf, and Berber Kangahide are a few of the brand names available. Cork and bamboo flooring are also available for the environmentally conscious renovators. Adhesives, underlay, and molding are available for purchase at TDS Wholesale. Area rugs are sold at TDS. You can purchase them individually or in a set of four sizes for \$129. This is a deal, because the manufactured suggested retail price (MSRP) is over \$500. TDS presently carries Armstrong no-wax tiles at \$17.95 a box where the (MSRP) is from \$45 to \$74 a box.

Need to install your newly purchased floor? TDS can give you recommended names and numbers of installers to help you with your renovation project. When you are thinking of renovating, take a trip to TDS Wholesale at 9131-118th Ave. Open from 10 a.m. till 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and Sunday they close at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday are by appointment only by calling 474-8375. —DL

AABANOTES

Graffiti Free Zones and Property Owners CITY OF EDMONTON, Capital City Clean Up

As of April 1, 2008, enhanced legislation under the City of Edmonton Community Standards Bylaw (Bylaw 14600) requires residents and businesses to keep their private property clean of litter, garbage, weeds and now graffiti. Failure to do so could lead to a fine.

The new bylaw goes hand in hand with the City’s new 2008 Graffiti Management Program, which has created six Graffiti-Free Zones in the city, including Stony Plain Road, Alberta Avenue, Old Strathcona, Downtown, Mill Woods and Inglewood. “These Zones have been targeted for enhanced graffiti clean-up and support,” says Sharon Chapman, Graffiti Project Manager. “Property owners in these areas who participate in the program may qualify for assistance in removing graffiti on their property, including one free professional graffiti site cleaning (a site equals 50 square feet), a free graffiti removal kit, and access to wipe-out events and graffiti squads.”

Priority listings of graffiti sites are being compiled in each Graffiti Free Zone by the local Business Revitalization

Zone (BRZ). Lists are being forwarded to Capital City Clean Up (CCCU), Graffiti Management Program and will be used to maximize the benefits of funding available. Selection for participation in the program will be based on properties with recurring graffiti incidences on highly visible locations. Property owners must agree to keep their properties graffiti free for one year. Priority will be given to properties that cannot be painted or are difficult to clean, such as:

- Historic buildings/Raw brick/Raw stucco
- Very rough surfaces (not easily painted)
- Vinyl/metal siding or plastic surfaces
- Combination surfaces (example some raw & painted brick)
- Second floor or higher or awkward places

“This is a prime example of how the City can work with both the Business Revitalization Zone (BRZ) and property owners to get

positive results, and that’s why it’s important,” says Joe Holtz, Executive Director of the Alberta Avenue Business Association. “The new enhanced legislation makes graffiti everybody’s issue but there are programs in place to help make Edmonton graffiti-free.”

To find out if your building has been identified or how to participate in the Graffiti Management Program contact your local BRZ office at 471-2602 or call Capital City Clean Up at 442-5302.

Do You Want to Make a Difference ?

The Alberta Avenue Business Association is looking for business owners interested in serving on our Board of Directors.

You will be taking part in the many exciting and upcoming plans and developments for our 118th Ave Business Revitalization Zone, which will benefit both existing and new businesses planning to establish on the Avenue.

To find out more about this exciting opportunity please contact: Joe Holtz, Executive Director @ 471-2602.

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Affordable Rental Housing

KEN NICHOL

The housing crisis is a hot topic these days, particularly for low to modest income people struggling to make ends meet. The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) say housing shouldn't cost more than 32 per cent of your income, including utilities. 32 per cent of \$30,000 is \$800 per month. For that you get a one bedroom dwelling, inadequate to raise a family. A modest income family is \$32,000 to \$52,000 according to Habitat for Humanity. Eastwood average family income is \$35,000. 70 per cent of residents rent, 30 per cent own, which goes against provincial and national realities. Add vacancy rate of less than one per cent. Tight rental market.

The average house in Edmonton is \$380,000, far beyond affordability and means for most. On this house, a mortgage would be \$2100 per month, which would demand an \$80,000 family income. (20 per cent down payment, seven per cent interest over 35 years.)

The problem in the market is limited supply and strong demand. Owners and developers aren't building rentals because of high cost of land, materials, labor and capital. As landlords, they find lower income people who may be unemployed, unemployable, hard to house, subsidized and volatile, and not worth the risk or reward. Therefore, they convert to selling condos for \$130 to 150 thousand. This reality is going to take a long time to solve and affects cities all over

North America. Rent control will exacerbate the problem when you interfere with free markets. It won't open up any spaces. Prices go down when supply goes up—Economics 101.

We have the social issues of poverty because of insufficient income to pay the bills and have a reasonable lifestyle. Finishing high school, getting a trade and post secondary has produced the Alberta average of \$788 per week (\$41,000, about \$20 per hour.) How many younger people have goals and ambitions to do that? Few want retail service or labor jobs at \$10 per hour.

What about attitude—the need to be self-reliant and self-sufficient without Big Brother looking after you and calling the shots? Transitional housing,

subsidization, social assistance are okay until you can become independent and stand on your own two feet, if you're healthy and able-bodied. Those who are mentally ill, physically ill, addicted to substance abuse, and disabled need our taxpayer-funded support. 3000 people in Edmonton, including 500 seniors on low fixed incomes are waiting for subsidized housing, according to Laurie Blakeman, Liberal House Leader. She wonders what the government is doing to create subsidized spots. Try a few carrots to increase the risk/reward ratio for private developers. Government is not known for its management and decision-making prowess, but it is good at handing out our money to NGOs to build expensive social housing. An unsupported roof

over the head doesn't cure the social malaise of lack of education and training, related poverty, low-income and social issues. It gets back to attitude and motivation which comes from role models, good parenting, connectivity and community support.

Prognosis? Positive. Let's collaborate as a community and work to develop the whole person. Specific segments of society—youth, the working poor, single moms and seniors. This means, housing, healthcare, daycare, community policing and justice, education, training and development, employment, mentoring. That's what quality of life is about. Now to act and implement. That's the difficult part. That takes teamwork.

Book Review

The shocking true story of a woman who lives in our neighbourhood

JESSICA KIMMERLY

Usually, autobiographies belong to a niche reader's market. Unless the autobiography happens to be of somebody universally famous, like Britney Spears, people mostly assume that autobiographies can't be as interesting as a good book of fiction. The novel *Curveballs*, by Catherine A. Mardon, flies in the face of this logic.

Despite the title, *Curveballs* is not about baseball. The main character is on the receiving end of many of life's metaphorical curveballs, and she throws a few curveballs herself.

The novel begins with a background history of the main character—the author. She was born and raised in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This detail was gleaned by reading the author's biography at the back of the book. If you don't read the biography first, quite a few chapters pass by before it is

clear exactly where the story is set.

The story transitions smoothly from the author's youth to her career as an attorney. She represents farmers struggling to keep their farms. While doing her job, she comes across a dangerous man who invites her to his farm to practice her shooting skills. What she finds at his farm is not what one would expect from a traditional farm. Instead, the author finds herself inside some kind of training camp.

From this point in the story, the plot continues uphill and maintains a high level of suspense. The author decides to testify against the man she learns is running a white supremacist training camp, and must endure his revenge. But the book isn't just about action—there are plenty of distinct characters you will quickly learn to love.

The author includes little

sub-stories, such as her disastrous entry into the dating scene, and the purchasing of her first firearm. These incidents keep the story moving, and ultimately give it the feel of a well-researched and nicely paced novel.

The story is in fact non-fiction, and only the characters names and places have been changed for the sake of safety. Occasionally, the reader will be hungry for a more detailed introduction of the auxiliary characters. But it has to be overlooked, since the author must tread carefully. The training camp is still in operation.

Curveballs is not available in bookstores. You can purchase a copy at VanCafé (8232 – 118th Ave.) or contact the publisher directly. (aamardon@yahoo.ca.) The book costs \$35, and the proceeds are going to help publish books written by people with schizophrenia.

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Edmonton Inner City Housing Society celebrates 25th anniversary

TARYN PAWLIVSKY
AND HARVEY VOOGD

With new buildings going up on 118 Avenue across from the Alberta Avenue Community League and on the east side of 97 Street just north of 122 Avenue, Edmonton Inner City Housing Society's (EICHS) 25 years of housing success continues to grow.

On June 14th, EICHS officially celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Since it was founded, the society has completed 15 housing projects. These provide safe, secure and affordable housing to over 260 people, including 60 families and 115 singles in central Edmonton.

EICHS' first housing project was a five-bedroom house for single adults with mental illness which opened in February 1984. It was followed by a 10-suite rooming house. Remarkably, these were completed without government assistance.

"It is stable and supportive housing that helps people achieve success in other areas of their lives," says Phil O'Hara, President of EICHS. "We have seen how residents, once they have a place to call home, contribute to and give back to the community as their health and well-being vastly improves."

Amy Nguyen Burns, a former tenant, spoke at the Anniversary celebration of the importance of a safe and affordable place to call home. She and her mother arrived in Canada in 1993 from Vietnam.

In February 1995, when she was twelve years old, Amy

and her mother moved into the first family units EICHS built in Boyle Street. Since then, Amy graduated from high school, completed her BA and today continues her studies at the University of Alberta as a Master's student. Last Christmas, after getting married, Amy moved with her husband close to the University of Alberta.

In spite of today's land and construction prices, EICHS continues to build. The apartment building that is currently under construction on 97 Street will cost almost two and a half times as much as a similar building that the Society opened just five years ago.

The 118 Avenue building is a creative new venture and collaboration for the society. The main floor of the building will be the new home of the Nina Haggerty Arts Centre, which is currently at 97 Street and 11 Avenue. Atop the main floor will be two floors of condominiums.

In addition to government support, EICHS has persevered and prospered by working with partners such as Arnie Gable of Vinterra Properties. Arnie was honoured at the anniversary celebration for his gift to forego any profits and build units for the society on a strictly cost basis. To date, Mr. Gable's partnership has resulted in over 50 units being built.

With 25 years of experience, credibility and community connections, EICHS continues to look at new approaches and solutions to the creation and management of safe, secure and affordable housing.

Community Action Project (CAP) –Evolving with the times

CARLA RUGG

CAP will be holding their AGM this July 22 at the Alberta Avenue Community League (9210 – 118 Ave.) at 7 p.m. All are invited to join.

The Past

10 years ago, a group of concerned mothers who participated in programs at the Norwood Community and Family Resource Centre noticed a house that was notorious for drug traffic and prostitution. These mothers decided that they should get involved in shutting this problem property down. This experience showed people that they can make a difference.

Over the past 10 years, CAP has worked to create safer and more vibrant communities through its efforts to address derelict properties and problem properties that create disorder in the community. CAP worked with residents to achieve successful outcomes in such high profile examples as The Cloisters (which is now a family friendly Habitat for Humanity project), the Locke apartments, and most recently, a property known as the "Castle."

The Present

Edmonton is now taking a much more aggressive approach to derelict properties and the Avenue Initiative is in full swing to revitalize our area. CAP is fully supportive of these groups and will continue to work with them and

the Community Leagues.

CAP's present membership has decided that in order to continue to be a relevant organization, we need to grow!

The Future

CAP will always be available to train leaders in the community to take actions on problem properties. We are also looking at celebrating the successes of our neighbour-

hood. We envision being part of the movement to foster pride in where we live and celebrate successes. We have titled our next challenge "50 Small Victories". How can we encourage our neighbourhood to become green, celebrate the revival of prideful properties, and strengthen the relationships that we have all grown in the community? Some of the ideas that have been suggested are to hold gardening contests, create calendars of the beautiful properties in our area, host family friendly bicycle parades, create our own Klondike Heritage day, and

COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, July 22
7 PM

At the
Alberta Avenue Community Centre
9210- 118 Ave

We look forward to seeing you for your ideas and input

For more information call 780-264-669

hood. We envision being part of the movement to foster pride in where we live and celebrate successes. We have titled our next challenge "50 Small Victories". How can we

build on the snow angel program to include leaf raking. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM for your ideas and input.

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Stantec maintains community standards with WCB land redevelopment

A case study in urban revitalization

KATHERINE GNATIUK

In 2002, Stantec planners and engineers demonstrated the strengths of urban revitalization by completing the redevelopment of the Workers'



THE BELGRAVIA REDEVELOPMENT IS A SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE OF NEW HOMES BLENDING IN WITH THE NEIGHBOURHOOD'S CURRENT, MATURE ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

Compensation Board (WCB) land in the Belgravia community. New, single family housing was integrated into the mature community just south of the university. Stantec provided the public consultation, urban planning and engineering services for this project.

The key to the success of the Belgravia redevelopment was the planners' ability to create new homes that blended with the community's current architectural style. To do this, collaboration needed to

occur between the developers of the land and members of the community. Originally, multi-family housing was proposed by the planners. However, through public consultations, planners learned single-family lots would

better suit the demographics of the community.

The rezoning of the WCB land for residential use came with a few conditions. Belgravia is regulated by a Mature Neighborhood Overlay (MNO). The MNO states that all new construction in these designated areas must conform to the community's development scale and traditional character. Also, Belgravia's proximity to the University of Alberta, Whyte Avenue and many of Edmonton's parks, as well as

the design of the established sidewalks in the area, required planners to allow for high volumes of pedestrians when designing the streetscape.

The lots were developed together to maintain continuity between new and original construction. Once the community's architectural characteristics were maintained, the lots were sold individually to allow buyers to personalize each home and allow each house to be distinctly different from the next. These are not cookie-cutter homes.

To ensure the architectural characteristics of the lots themselves and not just the homes built on the lots, careful attention needed to be paid to existing landscaping. Stantec planners maintained the inventory of mature trees already

located in the area and instated architectural control rules in the rezoning and subdivision stages of the redevelopment. These architectural control rules ensured the new construction respected the established spatial and urban patterns of the Belgravia community. Some of these patterns included six-meter long front yards, two-storey housing and rear-facing garages.

The Belgravia redevelopment is a great example of urban revitalization done well. Extensive planning allowed old land to be revitalized by new construction without compromising the integrity of Belgravia's established architectural charm. Though the new homes may be a very recent addition to the community, they fit into the landscape as if they had always been there.



WHEN REVITALIZING URBAN AREAS, ARCHITECTS USE SIMILAR COLOURS, FINISHES AND DETAILS TO THOSE USED BY EXISTING BUILDINGS IN THE COMMUNITY

Breathing new life into communities through urban revitalization

KATHERINE GNATIUK

Living in the urban parts of Edmonton often involves living in some of the older sections of the city. As most cities grow from the center out, communities developed in the centre face some very unique problems. Planners face the exciting challenge of determining how to update and renovate these communities without losing the style and charm of the original urban neighborhood.

Architects and planners solve these problems through smart urban revitalization. Urban revitalization entails updating older communities while maintaining the neighborhood's architectural character and vernacular. Older houses are rebuilt or renovated in a way that fits in with the rest of the neighborhood. The new construction uses similar colors, finishes, and architectural details to those used by the rest of the homes in the community.

The need for urban revitalization reflects the changes that occur in the demographics of a community as it ages. Neighborhoods generally have a 40 to 50 year life cycle. The cycle begins when young couples and young families move into

a community. Younger families have children that attend the local schools and participate in community sports groups. They are also more likely to support their community league through volunteering and donations.

The cycle continues as families become more established. The children grow up and move out of the community. At this halfway point, adults begin to outnumber children. The end of the neighborhood life cycle is characterized by many seniors moving out of the community to live with their children or in seniors' complexes. At this point, younger families begin to purchase the homes the seniors have left and the cycle begins anew.

Architects who focus on urban revitalization find communities that have reached the end of the neighborhood lifestyle. Older homes are rebuilt or renovated in a way that is attractive to younger families. Updates made to attract these young buyers may include refinishing hardwood floors, rewiring old electrical, or simply changing the kitchen cabinets and floor coverings. These updates are not meant to change the original architecture or personality of the home. Many

younger buyers are looking for the character of an older house with the conveniences and décor of a more contemporary home. The goal of urban revitalization is to attract those younger families so as to restart the community's life cycle and bring new children into the neighborhood.

Those who live in older communities and are looking to update their homes should look around their neighborhood. They need to ask themselves some questions. Do the homes have front or rear-facing garages? How long is the distance from the houses to the sidewalk? Do 100-year-old elms line the streets? Are most of the homes finished in stucco or brick? These questions help home owners determine the character of their neighborhood and give home owners guidelines to help maintain that character in their homes.

The key to urban revitalization is celebrating the unique characteristics urban communities possess while making homes that are attractive to contemporary, young buyers. Architects need to be very careful with new construction so none of these unique characteristics are lost.



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A Heritage Inventory of the Alberta Avenue neighbourhood

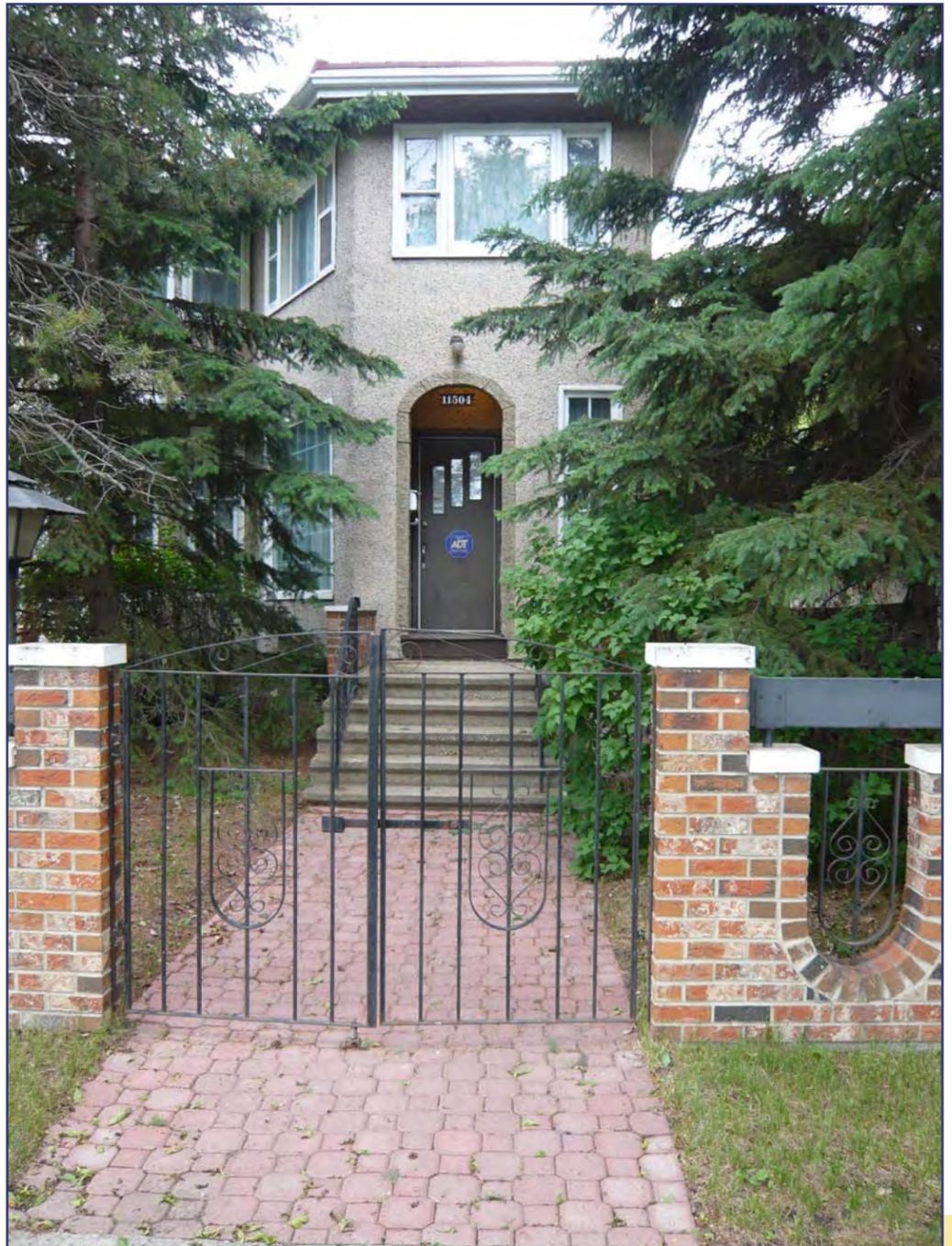
JESSICA KIMMERLY

In this feature you see photos and profiles of historically interesting buildings from our area. For this information, we must thank the Heritage Collaborative Inc., and especially Robert Buckle, for preparing and submitting a “Heritage Inventory.”

The Heritage Inventory is a survey of potentially significant buildings, as well as a list of buildings that meet the criteria for “significance and integrity.” (Meaning, historically important and not compromised.) The survey spans from Wayne Gretzky Drive to 106th Avenue, and between 116th Avenue and 120th Avenue.

While this project is exciting, it is still in draft form. In total, 109 sites were selected to be recorded with architectural information and basic historical facts. Of these, 50 buildings were recommended for the inventory, which means they are eligible for designation. If the property owner agrees to designation, the building will be protected as a heritage site.

So far, the Heritage Inventory remains a draft and cannot be released. Once the 50 inventory buildings are approved, there will be an open house to educate those home owners about the incentives available to have their properties designated and restored. The notification likely won’t happen until late this fall or early in 2009.



11504 - 81 St.

Can you help us learn more about this building?

- Built in 1944
- If you have any information on this house, please give us a call at 479-6285 or e-mail at editor@ratcreek.org.



11738 – 96 Street

PROFILE

- Completed in 1915
- During the time, Norwood area was home to many professionals like doctors and lawyers
- The building has uncommon design features, such as the corbelled chimney, round sculpted boxed eaves, wooden shingles and clapboard siding.
- Now the home of Paul Parth Accounting



Elisha East Residence 11708 - 95A Street

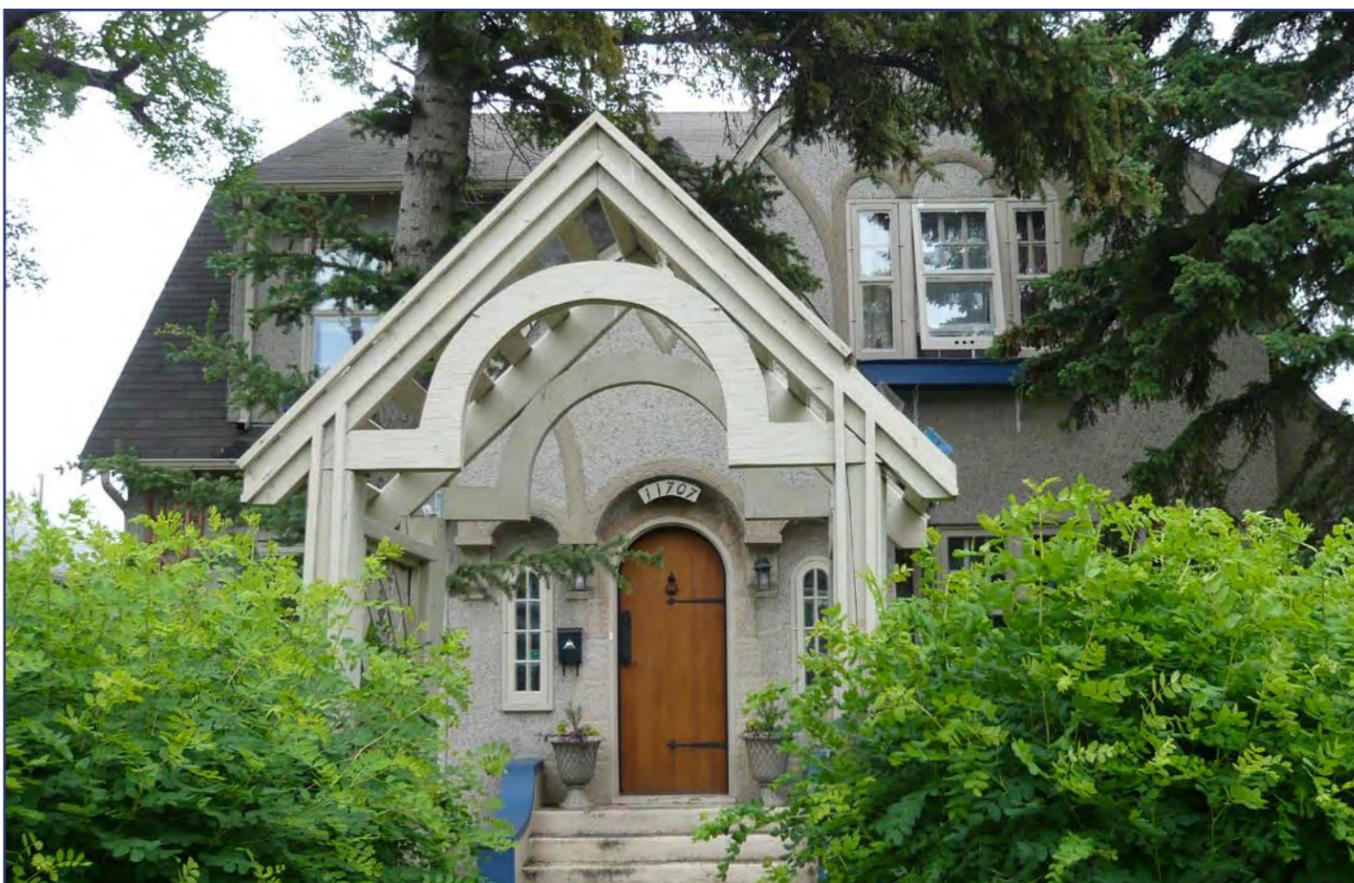
PROFILE

- First owner was Edmonton Alderman Elisha East
- East occupied the house from 1927 to 1942
- East sat on council from 1935 to 1939, and his brother James East served as dean of City Council at the same time
- East was a past president of Alberta Social Credit League, and founded the Alberta Avenue Community League

11602 - 95 Street

PROFILE

- Built in 1924
- Was a grocery store from 1924-1960
- 1924-1935 owned by grocer Paul Turko
- 1950 called "Purity Grocery" and owned by John Kruk -1960 called "Kruk's Super Foods" and owned by Mrs. Kath Kruk
- Continued as a convenience store in the 1960s and 1970s
- Sometime in the 1980s, it was illegally converted to a rooming house and an addition was built on the back
- In 2005, two tenants died in a fire
- The building has been closed ever since



11707 - 88 Street

PROFILE

- Inside the Parkdale community
- Built in 1935
- Has distinctive Tudor influenced design features
- First owner was businessman Meyer Sheckter, who also owned the Alberta Bakery on 11735 - 90th Street.
- Sheckter lived at 11707 - 88 Street from 1936 to 1966
- In 1966, Dr. Samuel Sheckter took over residency

How to research like a pro at the Edmonton Archives

JESSICA KIMMERLY

Though the Internet is very convenient, there are some things Google just can't find. Like who lived in your house in 1968, for example. So if you're looking for some local history, or your eyes are burning from staring at a computer screen too long, here are some tips on how to navigate the archives.

1. Find a newspaper article on microfilm

"Microfilm" sounds like something the bad guys from James Bond movies use to store their evil secrets, but at the archives, it's perfectly safe. They have microfilm of the Edmonton Journal dating back to 1903, and microfilm of the Edmonton Bulletin all the way back to 1880.

2. Ask to see a clipping file

If you are looking up a specific school, organization or person, ask the reference archivist if there is clipping file on your subject. Clipping files contain the articles over the years that were printed about a specific person or place. These files are stored out of public reach, so you'll have to ask a staff member to fetch it for you.

3. See the city by aerials

For your visual information, head for the shelves of books containing aerial photographs of the city. These photos are done every year, and are useful for finding out what kind of land (or water) is underneath buildings. You can also see the stages of construction as Edmonton was being built.

4. Find names and addresses

with the Henderson Directories

These books can tell you who was living where and when. You can either look up a name and learn where that person resided at the time, or look up an address to see who lived there. These books are fascinating, but are not guaranteed to be complete. Apparently some houses were missed from time to time.

5. Pull out old photographs

There are two steps to this process. First, look up your subject or location from the drawers of alphabetical index cards. The card with your subject name will also have a number, which you will use to look up your photograph. It sounds complicated, but it's actually much easier than trying to find a specific book at a library, because all the photos are stored in one large cabinet of drawers.

6. More helpful hints

To look like you know what you're doing at the archives (even if you've never stepped foot in one before) remember to sign in at the front. Leave your belongings in a locker by the front desk, and remember to bring a pencil. Pens are not allowed inside. But if you forget your pencil, just ask one of the staff. They are friendly and helpful, and will assist you in everything from retrieving city records to tracking genealogies.

Now that you know a thing or two about the city archives, go forth and research! One final word of warning—make sure you have plenty of time. When researching, one thing often leads to another, and before you know it, your day is history.



Resident Profile
WITH HARVEY VOOGD

The Edgar Young Residence (11601-96 Street)

Some people talk about love at first sight, but Michele Hurlburt knows this isn't always the case. Her first impression of 11601-96 Street was based on a drive through of the area in February 2000, and she wasn't impressed. "I initially wrote off the house because it was a wreck," says Hurlburt.

A few weeks later, she was in a real estate office in Devon and read a write-up of an old house in Edmonton with hardwood floors and other heritage value. Hurlburt was intrigued enough to ask her real estate agent to set up an appointment to see it.

"It wasn't till I pulled up for the viewing that I realized it was that falling down heap of a house that I had written off," says Hurlburt. "I was too embarrassed to tell the real estate agent and so did a tour of the house."

"You have to understand the house hadn't been painted in 20 years, the back pantry was falling off and there were garbage bags full of lath and plaster lying around the yard," remembers Hurlburt.

"Then I walked in and realized the foyer was as big as the living room of my Millwoods condo. The previous owners had upgraded the electrical and plumbing and replaced most of the lath and plaster with dry-wall."

"I immediately fell in love with a house I knew was going to be a lot of work," says Hurlburt. "But I was drawn in by its features, such as the original pocket doors between the living and dining rooms."

Hurlburt took possession of the house July 1 of 2000, not knowing that she had bought a heritage house registered with the City of Edmonton that was known as the Edgar Young Residence.

"My interest in the house's heritage was sparked by my interest in history, but also by the mail that was coming addressed to the Edgar Young Residence," says Hurlburt.

"I understand that during the early 1980s, alarmed by the massive loss of heritage buildings throughout the 1970s, the Edmonton Historical Society along with the City conducted drive-through surveys of older neighbourhoods to create an inventory of heritage homes," says Hurlburt. "This was how my house became registered as a historical resource."

The City of Edmonton has two heritage streams, the A list and B list. Buildings are placed on the B list based on the architectural purity of their exterior

bell slope coming down from the peak.

"I went to the City Archives and learned that a permit was issued on December 15, 1913 to Edgar Young for the land and building for an estimated value of \$2,000" says Hurlburt. "The house is listed as being on the corner of York and Oak Streets."

"Mr. Young only lived in his new house till 1917 or 1918; it's hard to tell as the 1918 directory is missing from the Archives," says Hurlburt. "Young seems to have worked



look. The look must reflect the style of the period. A building can then be either registered or designated. If a house is designated then there are civic dollars to help with repairs, but then all renovations and changes must be pre-approved by the City.

The Edgar Young Residence, which is registered on the B list, has three key features. It is a four-square, meaning there are four even sized rooms on the main floor. The upstairs is the same with the addition of a hallway. It has a balloon frame, which refers to how the interior studs and posts are framed. And it has a bellcast hip roof, which refers to the shape of the roof with a peak in the centre and a gentle

with cattle. His occupation is listed over the years as follows: 1915 a traveler; 1917 a live-stock buyer; 1923 a dairyman; and 1925 a stock buyer."

"The 1919 directory lists the owner as Jones and his occupation as grocer, with four locations listed throughout the city," says Hurlburt. "I don't know if he owned these four stores or just managed them. I have information on all the house's owners till 1969 and know that the longest anyone lived there was 13 years."

This Canada Day, Michele Hurlburt will have lived eight years in the Edgar Young Residence. Not the longest owner yet. But she hopes to be there for the house's 100th birthday in six years.

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Artist Trading Cards



Throughout history, artists have looked for creative ways to promote their work. Portrait and other miniatures have enjoyed popularity at various points in history and during the Impressionist era, many artists created miniature works of art that were designed as a sort of business card.

In 1996, Zurich artist M. VÄNÇI STIRNEMANN came up with the concept of Artist Trading Cards, a modern version of the Impressionists' business card, but with a twist. Artist Trading Cards (ATCs) are miniature works of art created on a 2 1/2" x 3 1/2" field and they are meant to be traded hand to hand. There are only three simple rules: no money is to be exchanged in the transaction, cards must be 2 1/2" x 3 1/2" and cards must be signed and dated. Some artists title their works, but this is optional. Beyond that, the sky's the limit for how you can create your cards.

While most cards are created on card stock or matte board, artists have chosen just about any media you can think of: wood, clay, metal, fabric and even glass. Materials used on the cards range from conventional artists' materials such as paints, inks and pencils to threads, found objects, dried flowers, old dictionary pages, photographs, tree bark, buttons, ephemera and even old bottle caps. Techniques range from directly painting or drawing on the card surface to collage, image transfer, sewing, stamping, embossing, carving and imprinting. Some artists create original works of art on larger fields (such as canvasses) and transfer these to ATCs to create miniatures or a series, either in lithograph or digital format.

I attended my first Artist Trading Card session in 2005 and found it to be one of the most creatively freeing experiences of my life to that point. The group I worked with included professional fibre artists, art teachers and some who had never done anything "artistic" before.



One of the cards I treasure the most from that session was created by a woman who had spent her entire life devoted to her family, and who hadn't

had the time or resources to devote to personal creative interests. On the day we traded cards, this woman who had entered the session filled with various fears

about not being "artistic enough" laid out an array of beautiful cards, each one reflecting a different part of herself. I was very moved by the fact that she came to this workshop with little confidence in her artistic ability and left with a sense of pride and confidence, as well as plans to continue finding time for creative pursuits.

This is an experience shared by many at Artist Trading Card sessions, and for those who have always wanted to do something creative but who don't know where to start, ATCs are worth considering. There is a group that meets in our community, every second Saturday of the month at The Carrot and we are always welcoming new participants, from experienced artists to those who say they don't have "an artistic bone" in their body.

There is no obligation to

trade, in fact I often hold on to some of my favourites for a while before I decide to trade them. I have some cards that I will probably never trade, and others that I am a little embarrassed about, and of course there's often that nagging fear in the back of my head "but what if no one likes my cards?...what if no one wants to trade with me?" These fears are a natural part of the creative process and I think every artist has them from time to time. In actuality the process is very gentle and there is no pressure to trade or share until you're ready to do so. And after your first trade, you will probably be hooked and you might even start a collection and before you know it, you'll be out buying binders and trading card protectors to store your cards!

If you would like to join in on one of the sessions, please contact either Becky



Pickard at 435-3499 (or email her at peacebeadz@hotmail.com) or Cindy Burgess at burgessc@shaw.ca. You can also check The Carrot website at www.thecarrot.ca for updates on the next workshop. Sessions are typically on the 2nd Saturday of every month at The Carrot at 9351-118th Ave from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. (August's ATC event is on the 16th so we won't conflict with the Folk Fest weekend.) Supplies are provided but you are welcome to bring your own to share.

Safe in the Doghouse



dog talk
WITH DARLENE TAYLOR
OWNER OF K9 BEHAVE

Now is the time of year our pets spend more time outside, whether breathing in the fresh air, sunning themselves or chasing after butterflies. Here are a few things to keep in mind whether your pets are spending time at home or in the campground:

Pets need access to fresh water. If your dog will be drinking rainwater, check that the receptacle is free of harmful germs and bacteria.

Shelter from all sorts of weather and animals must be readily available to your pets, even if they don't always use it. They must have access to shade when they get too hot, access to shelter when the wind is too blustery, the rain too hard or just to relax in. Remember, some birds such as magpies can often harass pets without shelter or retreat.

Whether you tether, use a dog run, or give total access to a yard, make sure your pet is safe from being teased by other animals, passers-by, or even traffic. Also check the area is clear so the dog (or cat) does not get caught up in weeds, plants, debris, or stored items. Check often to ensure your dog is safe and stress free.

If your dog is wearing a collar or harness make sure

it is correctly fitted and in proper repair so it does not get caught on yard items or trip the dog when running, rolling and playing.

Some dogs when tethered or even in a dog run can become frustrated at the restriction if distractions such as playing children or dogs being walked come by. You may need to train the animal to ignore such activities, supervise and protect your animal from teasing, or bring them into the house or more secure area during high traffic times of day.

Use training and barriers to keep your dog from areas of the yard you do not want them to have access to. There are many decorative fencing designs available to protect gardens from pets that dig or damage. If there are many areas that need barriers, then a dog run and supervised outings may be required to prevent the damage from occurring. Prevention is the best training tool an owner can use.

Watch out for their safety and be aware of their particular habits that may lead to injury so you can prevent any tragedy. For example, if the dog likes to jump the fence you may need to add an angle into the yard trellis or other fence top border to prevent this.

Have a wonderful summer with your dog and other pets.



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PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

Canada Day: Time to Reflect and To Celebrate

As Canada turns 141 on July 1 and as we celebrate across the country, Canada Day offers us a time to reflect on what it means to be a citizen of this great nation, a country chosen time and time again as the best place in the world to live.

Millions of new immigrants to Canada have found it to be a land of opportunity, a destination of choice in escaping poverty, war and despotism. For them this day is indeed a very special day and a good reason to celebrate.

Since Confederation it is the people who have made this country great.

More than two million men and women have served in uniform to protect our freedom and lifestyle. More than 115,000 of them paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives.

Not that long ago the CBC asked Canadians to choose the 'greatest Canadian.' I think it's a reflection of who we are as Canadians that of the top 10 (out of 140,000 people nominated!) four were politicians with truly nation-changing legacies (Tommy Douglas, the father of Medicare, Lester B. Pearson, the father of peacekeeping, Sir. John A. MacDonald, father of the nation and Pierre Trudeau, who gave us the Charter of Rights and Freedoms).

The others? A sports star (Wayne Gretzky), a medical researcher (Sir Frederick Banting), a cancer crusader (Terry Fox), an environmentalist (David Suzuki), a broadcaster (Don Cherry) and an inventor (Alexander Graham Bell). Each one of that final 10 had an impact on our nation. However, while they may have topped a poll saying they were 'the greatest,' it is the veterans, unsung heroes, seniors, all citizens of this country that have made and continue to make Canada a great nation.

What do you think?

495-3261

www.petergoldring.ca



LAW AND ORDER
WITH CST. MIKE RUSSELL

Well, summer is here and that means that we (the Police) get busier. It seems that with the nice weather, all the problems seem to "grow" in some way. I want to take this time to talk of some successes we have had in our district and speak of some of the processes for dealing with what seems to be an increase in certain types of crimes.

Report A Drug House

I want to speak on the success of the Report A Drug House Program and the hard work of the community and Constables. In the area I am responsible for (if you read the Rat Creek Press, you are most likely in it!) we have had 77 reported drug houses. Each Patrol Constable is assigned a drug house to work on and each Constable is given a loose direction on how to complete the task at hand. These drug houses have been reported since January first and we have successfully concluded over 44 of them already. If the house you have reported has not yet been worked on, don't worry, each time a Constable concludes a house, a new one is assigned.



Day Trips
WITH MICHELLE EARL

If you like history, then you'll love Fort Edmonton Park. Fort Edmonton Park is situated in the river valley just off Whitemud Drive, and once you get off the bus and start to walk toward the park, the sounds of the city start to fade.

Admission is \$13.75 for an adult, \$10 for a youth or senior and \$6.75 for a child. If you have a family (two adults age 18 or over and any persons under the age of 18 living in the same household) the cost is \$40 for the day. If you have a leisure access pass, admission is free.

Once you pay your admission, you have your choice of how you'd like to enter the park. You can take the train, which will let you off near the fort, or you can walk across the tracks and take the streetcar. Of course, you can walk right into the park too. If you have a disability and want to take the train, there is a place for wheelchairs in the caboose, thus making a way for everyone to be able to ride the train. I myself prefer to get off near the fort and start by walking to 1885 street.

There are three streets in Fort Edmonton Park; 1885, 1905, and 1920 streets. I'm a big fan of the pioneer era, and that's 1885 street. On 1885 Street, you can stroll and see each of the stores and buy old fashioned candy from Daly's Drugstore. My favourite place to visit is Egge's stopping house and farm. The Egges provided a

Miscellaneous thoughts from a busy Cop

This process will continue until we make it known that this area is not a place to do their business. If you have a drug house on your block and want to report it, call the Report A Drug House Hotline at 426-8229.

Graffiti

Graffiti continues to be a problem throughout Edmonton. Many of these "tags" are ways for groups of individuals to mark their territory (I know, it sounds like I'm at a dog lecture). These tags tend to be very crude and will often be simple words or a small symbol. Although the graffiti in our area seems worse this year, the whole city is battling this problem. If you encounter graffiti on your business or residence, follow the rule of the three Rs:

Record: Take a digital photo of the graffiti.

Report: Go to your local police station with your printed picture and obtain a file number.

Remove: Make sure to get

it off within 24 hrs. If you remove within 24 hrs, it is unlikely to return (the "artists" want the work to be seen).

License Plate Thefts

Theft of license plates continues to be a problem throughout the downtown area. The criminals will often steal a vehicle and scout out a new license plate (that is not yet reported stolen) that matches the vehicle they are driving. We have approximately 10 of these thefts a week in the Downtown division. A great way to combat this is to install security bolts for your plate. You can get these bolts from the NET (Neighborhood Empowerment Team) at Eastwood Community Station. You can install them with a regular screwdriver, but you need a special tool to remove them (also available for use at Eastwood Community Station.)

Don't forget, keep an eye open for your neighbors and report any and all suspicious activity to police at 423-4567 (Non-emergency) or 911.

Fort Edmonton Park Take a Trip Back in Time



place to stay for those travelling along the Athabasca Trail. I love to look at the horses there. (Here they keep the horses they use for the stagecoach and wagon rides.) If you want a little something for a picnic, Lauder's Bakery has baked goods.

1905 Street houses such things as Ramsays Greenhouse, Reeds Bazar, and Gyro Park. My favourite is Reeds Bazar, for its wares. Mr. Reed specialized in imports, and he brought in Edmonton's first "Santa Man" to promote his products.

In 1920 Street, the last of the three streets, there is a lot to look at and to do. For winding down with a grand dinner, go to the Selkirk hotel. For more old-fashioned candy, go to Bill's confectionary. My husband's favourite place was

the motordrome because of the old cars.

Of course, you don't have to go to all the places I mentioned and buy things. There are activities like the picnicking, miniature golfing, and the midway. For more information visit www.fortedmontonpark.ca

Here's how to get to Fort Edmonton Park with ETS: from 94 Street & 118 Avenue, take the eight or five bus to the Coliseum LRT Station. From there, take the LRT to the university station and take the four West Edmonton Mall bus from HUB. The number four will take you to Fort Edmonton Park Road. (It's the first stop after the Whitemud Equestrian Center.) Step off the bus and follow the signs to the park. All parts of the route are wheelchair accessible.



The Daring Diner
WITH ANGIE KLEIN

I heard there was a new Ethiopian and Eritrean restaurant that opened at 9515 – 118 Ave. (where Renato's used to be) so we headed over for our second Ethiopian experience in as many months. The restaurant still had a definite Greek feeling about it, with all the stately and Greek pictures still adorning every wall, the exception being the booths that had been draped to provide a cozy desert feeling. I'm sure in time the ambiance will be as aesthetically pleasing as the food.



A WAITRESS AT HABESHA, NUNU, HAS LIVED HERE FOR FIVE YEARS AND LOVES CANADIAN WINTERS

We were greeted and given menus. The first thing we were told was that the restaurant was no longer Renato's. Nunu—our waitress—seemed genuinely surprised to hear that we knew that already. Habesha is owned and operated by two very gracious hosts, our *Matre d'*, Semere, in the front of the house, and Sini who prepares sumptuous meals in the kitchen.

It smelled divine, and though it was early on a Wednesday evening, the restaurant had several full tables. We were given water and told that

we would probably need it! Jeff asked what was good. Nunu suggested a mixed platter, a little sampling of several dishes, but feeling confident in our new found knowledge of Ethiopian cuisine we ordered our own combinations.

For those of you that may have missed my last column, Ethiopian/Eritrean food is served on a communal platter with injera. (Spongy teff flat bread very high in nutrients.) You tear a small piece of injera off, and use it to pinch a taste of the dishes on the platter.

My daughter Tyra thought it was great that she got to eat with her hands!

We ordered a half litre of the amusing house wine, and tried to narrow down the choices.

Habesha has a very extensive menu, so it took a while. Jeff decided on the *Doro Fir Fir*. The dish is a spicy mix of chicken, served on a bed of chopped injera topped with delicious homemade cottage cheese, soaked in a spicy sauce, very much like tandoori with flavors that only slow cooking can bring

out. I ordered the *gomen*, a cooked spinach dish that I had enjoyed so much the last time and I was not disappointed. This was even better! Tyra decided to have *Beef Zil Zil*—tender little strips of steak in a dark rich sauce that is not too spicy. All platters are served with green salad; this one had a nice simple homemade oil and lemon dressing with plenty of sliced jalapeño peppers adorning each dish. Rounding out the platter was a common cabbage and potato wot, and a yellow lentil or pea dish that I just adore. I think it is called *Kike Alidre*. Semere thought that we should try a very popular and fun dish called *Cha Cha*, a beef dish served in its own little briquette oven filled with oil simmered spicy cubed beef. Jeff loved the beef, and although I was very impressed with the presentation, I found the meat too chewy. Not an oversight on the part of the chef mind you, that is just the way the beef is prepared.

We would definitely return to Habesha again. The whole experience was a delight.

The washrooms were clean, the service friendly and the food was great. The *Cha Cha* was served to us compliments of the house and they also graciously included our wine, but it would have been very affordable either way with most dishes in and around the \$10 range.

Until next time . . . Happy Eating.

Grilling fish on a plank



BACKYARD BISTRO
WITH SHAWN BAERT

Plank-grilling gives food a rich smoky flavor, infuses it with moisture and enhances the flavor of almost any meat, poultry, or seafood. Be adventurous!

I'll start you on your plank-grilling adventures with this easy and neat recipe for salmon that eliminates the mess of grilling fish.

Cedar Planked Salmon

1 cedar cooking plank, soaked for 1 to 4 hours
2 cups dark brown sugar
1 tbsp of your favorite seafood seasoning
½ cup Dijon mustard
1 cup dark rum
1 large fillet of salmon, 4 or 5 lbs

Combine 1 cup of brown sugar and rum in a container with the salmon, then marinate for 2 hours.

Preheat the grill on medium-high for 5 to 10 minutes or until it reaches 260 C. Cover the grill and heat the plank for 4 to 5 minutes or until it starts to smoke and crackles lightly. Reduce the heat to medium-low; place the salmon on the plank. Using pastry brush, paint the top side of the salmon with the mustard and sprinkle with the remaining 1 cup of sugar. Cook for 20 to 25 minutes or until the fish has an internal temperature of 57 C.

Be sure to use cooking grade cedar planks. They are available at almost any grocery or hardware store that carries barbeque supplies.

As an added bonus you can serve your masterpiece on the charred plank as it is sure to impress.



THE BACKYARD BISTRO CHEF'S GRANDCHILDREN, JARETH AND MIKAILA GROSS, ADMIRING THE PRESENTATION OF HIS CEDAR PLANKED SALMON

avenue initiative revitalization

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



**For information call
Judy Allan 496-1913**

Thanks!

Thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make the Spring Events a huge success.

A special thanks to the lead organizers:

Christy Morin (*Avenue In Bloom Garden and Art Show*), **Karen Mykietka** (*Large Item Pick Up*), **Jo Ann Siebert** (*Avenue Goes To The Dogs*)

All the events were a great success and would not have been possible without the help of the volunteers who donated 100's of hours.

Open House

Mark September 18th on your Calendar!

An Open House will be held to unveil and get input on Phase II of the Streetscape.

Neighbourhood Matching Grant

We are looking for projects that will enhance, beautify, create a sense of community or improve safety. The Neighborhood Matching Fund will match your volunteer time or donations in kind to make your project a reality. You can apply for up to \$20,000 for large community projects.

SMALL SPARKS funds up to \$250.00 for local neighborhood events such as block parties or fence painting. For an application and more information go to www.ratcreek.org or email judy.allan@edmonton.ca www.avenueinitiative.ca Submission deadlines are the 15th of each month.

The news versus advertising

DESMOND PARENTEAU

Perhaps a more elegant way is needed to explain the failure of the mainstream media as part of the democratic construct in which we Canadians think to reside. It is not secret to any who lends their mind to the consideration of facts, that the filtration system of which all “news” must navigate to reach the mainstream, is subject to the prejudice and interests of those business or individuals who operate the medium. These are the individuals who are connected to it with the strongest financial ties, be it television, radio, paper or otherwise, namely the owners, editors, advertisers, sponsors, etc.

Straightforward statistical analysis can tell us much about the standard protocol for time and space allocation within our most formal media outlets. The New York

Times—though obviously not a Canadian convention, but nonetheless one of the most important templates for North American newspapers—for the better part of the past century, is a ready made example. The Times consistently produces a daily paper that fills its pages with 60% advertising and 40% news. News, which in this case, includes all information which is not directly paid for by an internal or external agent, thus systematically including as “news” full page pinups of Paris Hilton or soccer scores from Nigeria; doubtless of interest to some, but hardly qualifying as hard hitting news that will have any substantial impact of the well-being of the reader. Canada’s own CBC television affords as much as 16 minutes of every hour to advertisers, followed closely by CTV at 12-14 minutes. Both stations

allocate average time samples to advertisements in comparison to other radio and television stations.

One can begin to draw a line to some of the reasonable conclusions that might result from this type of process, though it is rarely addressed with obvious reason. Simply put, if your station is supporting itself exclusively on funds gained from advertisement sales to Brand X, then it is likely that the aforementioned filtering system will impede the circulation of any “undesirable” information regarding the institution with the reins on your budget. This is not an unreasonable conclusion to make and yet conveniently overlooked as a discussion piece by the news outlets themselves. Demonstratively so when it is not considered unusual or of ill consequence when entire segments of our evening news are brought to

us by Kraft, Coke, or a barrage of other easily recognizable industry giants.

Is it possible that we should begin to consider the production of our media without the influence of corporate advertising agendas? Often this question is met with the response that papers, radio and television support their activities with money garnered from advertising, as if stating that the obvious means by which the system is currently functioning is equal to presenting the reason, by its very nature of existence, for being correct. As one would expect, one of the current roles of the media is to instill and shield these very assumptions from dissent.

A question that comes immediately upon discussion of these ideas follows a predictable pattern; how does one support the news outlets without the inflow of dollars

from advertising? It is following this line of questioning that we then focus our energies almost exclusively, and not without reason when one takes into context the monetary framework in which we, as a society are participating in, but nonetheless stifling an effort at creative thought in a different direction.

It is here that a far more important question is overlooked, or in the least, is relegated to a considerably lower status; how would we see our media manifest itself if we removed all the overlooked constraints imposed upon it by the agendas of the corporate and financial sectors? An infinitely more important line of questioning when we take into consideration that the quality and freedom of our media to inform the public correlates undeniably to defining the very nature of the quality of our democracy.

On wee, ickle bugs

the Gardening Diva
WITH CHERYL WALKER

Dear Readers, The Garden Diva (TGD) respects all forms of life. (Even certain politicians.) But she must confess, she does struggle with at least some of the wee, ickle bugs. You see, dragon flies are pretty. Lady bugs are cute. But honestly dear reader, there is nothing cute about an earthworm. Nothing. They are a pallid shade of grey, and they are slimy. And dear readers, there is nothing aesthetically appealing about the nasty and horrid green worm that ate all of TGDs delphiniums!

Many of the questions TGD receives are about insects. Accordingly, TGD does pledge to stem her revulsion, and tell you all about the bugs that you are likely to encounter. It is important to recognize that all gardens have insects, and a single insect does not create an epidemic. Generally speaking, your garden will be able to balance out bugs; the good bugs eat the bad bugs. It is when the environment allows things to get out of control that we find the bugs eating more of things than one might call their fair share. This month, TGD will talk about the garden good guys.

The Good Guys

Ants

Ants represent the single largest group of questions TGD receives. Most often, when her dear readers are accosting her in the grocery store, they are asking about the ant problem. Put simply, dear reader, our neighbourhood does have more ants than would seem reasonable. But, invariably TGD is asked, “What should I do?” The answer dear reader is “nothing”. The ants are not hurting anything. In fact, they are aerating your soil. Ants actually move more dirt around than earthworms. And moving dirt is hot sweaty work. Let the ants do it. Having said that, TGD does understand that the wee ickle ants sometimes choose inconvenient locations for their homes. There are three ways to discourage ants – by using water (a good blast of water every day), by disturbing their homes (hoe or kick them over, every day) or by using a mix of boric acid and icing sugar. A quick google search will get you the proportions. Save your dollars on the ant powder—it doesn’t work. The other downside of ants is that they sometimes cause aphid problems, which TGD will talk about next month.

Lady Bugs

Ladybugs are phenomenal little carnivores. Honestly. They are the bug eating machines of

the insect world. And, they are attractive. Many gardeners have been importing ladybugs for their gardens. TGD applauds the environmental sentiment, but the imported ladybugs are not indigenous to Alberta, and are actually wiping out our native populations. It remains to be seen if this will harm anything, but for now it might be best to simply encourage the local ones by not using chemicals, providing pollen, and a few aphids, their favourite snack.

Bees and Wasps

Yes dear reader, TGD understands that both bees and wasps sting us and cause pain, but bees pollinate our flowers, and wasps eat all manner of bugs that do harm in your garden. Truly, dear reader, if you have a nest or hive in your backyard, use a commercial spray to rid yourself, as they can be a danger. If you are eating outside, it might be prudent to have a wasp trap handy (Lee Valley sells a good version), but if you are looking out the window at a bee or a wasp, please just wave as it cruises by.

TGD lives and gardens in Parkdale, with the tres wonderful gardening diva husband and the non-gardening dogs. She believes that all bugs are loved by their buggy mums, even delphinium worms. Next month she will discuss bugs gone bad.

Meet our new summer programmer!

Sprucewords
WITH CONNIE HARGREAVES

Come out of the sweltering summer heat and cool off at the library. The Sprucewood staff is ready to tickle your funny bone with our Summer Reading Club programs.

- The star of our comedic endeavors is Anya Tan, Sprucewood’s new summer programmer. She is a fourth year Education student at the University of Alberta and is excited to be showing off her skills in programming, puppetry, and storytelling. Please welcome Anya to the neighbourhood!
- For the summer months, Sprucewood Library is pleased to offer free children and family outreach programs for local community organizations. For more information, please contact Anya at our branch at (780) 496-7099.
- Sprucewood is also hosting three guest performers. On July fifth, for the program Legends

and Lore, the library welcomes storyteller Denise Miller. Her stories, which draw upon her mix of Cherokee, Mohawk, and Celtic roots, are sure to leave children spellbound. On July 12, for the program It’s Magic!, Brian Lehr brings his magic show to the library. On July 21, the library invites all little ones to join Dawn Bissett for Music and Movement. She will entertain you with guitar, rhymes, dance and much more.

- Bring you silliest puns, gags, and jests to Goof Off on July 19, and have a side-splitting good time with Luella Broder. On July 26, make a craft sure to incite uncontrollable giggles and laughs with Wendy Howie in Craftastic!
- Do paper creases excite you? Do Japanese cranes intrigue you? Contact Gail Rydman at our library at (780) 496-7099 for more information about our new origami club.

Connie Hargreaves is the manger of the Sprucewood Library. Email her at chargreaves@epl.ca. For info on programs and more, go to the Community Calendar Page or online at www.epl.ca



ANYA TAN IS EXCITED TO BE AT SPRUCEWOOD LIBRARY AS THE SUMMER PROGRAMMER



Ed Gibbons City Councillor
Caring for Communities

Enjoy your summer and drive carefully. My constituency office will be open for you all summer. Please contact me with any questions, comments or concerns you may have.

(780) 496-8138

ed.gibbons@edmonton.ca

City of Edmonton 2nd Floor, City Hall

1 Sir Winston Churchill Square Edmonton, AB T5J 2R7

www.edmonton.ca



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEND US YOUR EVENTS & NOTICES - IT'S FREE!

Email editor@ratcreek.org or call 479-6285. Events & notices printed in the paper as deemed appropriate by the editorial team and as space permits.

ART & MUSIC



ARTIST TRADING CARDS

Saturday, July 12 from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). Artist Trading Cards are miniature works of art created on 2.5 X 3.5 inch card stock or mat board. They are originals, small editions, and, most importantly, self-produced. Anybody can produce them. The idea is that you trade them with other people who produce cards at the sessions. The workshop will include samples, ideas on how to get started and some materials (but please feel free to bring some of your own to keep costs down.) To register call Becky 435-3499.

ARTISAN MARKET

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

PIANO LESSONS IN YOUR HOME

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

MUSIC LESSONS

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

MUSICAL NOTES

Extremely affordable piano lessons for beginners 5 to 11 years. Using the John Thompson series only. References available. Call 479-4054.

LOTUS QIGONG + LOTUS DANCE

Everyone on the Avenue welcome. Practice group starting soon. For more details call Astrid at 477-0683.

DROP-IN GROUPS & PROGRAMS

WRITERS' CIRCLE

The Carrot Writers' Circle meets every Thursday morning at 10 am at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). Writers of all ages, genres and levels of experience are welcome to join. Call Anna Marie Sewell at 432-6711 or email her at prairiepomes@yahoo.ca for more information. Or, just come on Thursday with your favourite pen and writing paper.

SENIORS DROP-IN

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

MOMS & TOTS

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

SCRAPBOOKING

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

BABES IN ARMS

Fridays, 10am-noon at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). Come and connect with other parents in the community. Call 471-1580 for more info.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

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

FALL HEAD START

The Head Start Program at the Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre is now taking registrations for 2008-09 school year. Children must be 3 1/2 by September 1st 2008. Please call 471-3737 for more information.

EDMONTON URBAN NATIVE MINISTRY

Drop In from Tuesdays to Fridays, 10am - 4pm at St Andrews church (8715 118 Ave). Coffee and snacks are available.

SALVATION ARMY

Edmonton Crossroads Community Church (EC3)11661 95 St, Ph 474-4324 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thur., noon to 4pm Fri., 7pm - 10pm

ST. FAITH'S

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

CRYSTAL KIDS YOUTH CENTRE

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

ENTERTAINMENT

PEOPLE IN PANTS IMPROV

First Thursday of the month at 8pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). Cost: \$5.

THE CARROT COFFEEHOUSE

9351 - 118 Avenue
FRIDAYS: Live music, 7:30pm-9:30pm \$5 cover charge
SATURDAYS: Open mic 7:30pm-10:00pm Music, spoken word, comedy

NNA CANADA DAY CELEBRATION

Tuesday, July 1 from 11am to 3pm at Norwood Square (95 St and 114 Ave).

OUTDOOR MOVIE

Thursday, August 21 at 8:30 pm at Alberta Avenue Park (92 St and 118 Ave). Don't miss this outdoor family movie event on a three story screen! The selected movie will be posted at www.avenuevineyard.com. This is a Community FUNtime event brought to you by Avenue Vineyard Community Church with funding assistance from the Avenue Initiative Matching Fund. For more information call Wayne at 660-0334.

SPORTS & REC



PICK UP SOCCER

Saturdays from 10am to noon, starting July 5 at Alberta Ave Community League soccer field (118 Ave and 92 St). Join us to play some fun, informal soccer on Saturday mornings throughout the summer. Kids of all ages welcome; parents are required to stay and play too! Call Dawn for more details at 454-7809.

FREE VBS & SOCCER CAMP

Tue to Sat, July 8 to 19 for grades K to 6. Vacation Bible School (VBS), free lessons, uniform, snack, songs, games, crafts, etc. Register at St.

Andrew's Church (8715 118 Ave) or contact Rev. Hoosik Kim at 477-1769 or eunmb@hotmail.com.

ALBERTA AVE FREE SWIM

Free swim for Alberta Ave community league members at Eastglen pool, Sundays, 12-2pm. Show your current community league membership to get in.

FREE TAE KWON DO CLASSES

Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-6:45pm for beginners. New students must be aboriginal or metis. Call Reverend Kim at 477-1769 or at hoosik@hotmail.com for more info.

VOLUNTEER



CASINO WORKERS NEEDED

Alberta Avenue Community League casino on Sunday, Sept 7 and Monday, Sept 8. Day and evening shifts. Contact Nancy Martin 479-5764 or email info@albertaave.org.

CASINO WORKERS NEEDED

Rat Creek Press is raising operational funding through a casino. We need numerous volunteers for Sat and Sun, Sept 27 & 28. Day and evening shifts. Call Verna at 479-8019 or email verna.stainthorp@shaw.ca.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Do you know what a Volunteer Driver is? It's a community member who can spare 3-4 hours once a month to drive a senior to appointments, banking and shopping. Gas reimbursed. Call Bev at 732-1221.

NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

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

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Arts Alive (September 26-28) will be needing numerous volunteers to make them a success again this year. You can be involved in the planning or give a few hours on the event day. Contact info@artsontheave.org.

THE CARROT COFFEEHOUSE

Learn how to 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. Stop in at 9351 118 Ave, call 471-1580 or visit www.thecarrot.ca.

SPRUCE AVENUE COMMUNITY RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Volunteers are needed! Please contact Laurie Cote at 474-5354 for more details.

NOTICES

RCP EDITORIAL MEETINGS

We will be planning our editorial via email over the summer. Contact us if you'd like to be on our editorial email list or just want to share your thoughts and ideas or something you've written or would like to write: editor@ratcreek.org or 479-6285.

DECSA—BRINGING SKILLS TO LIFE!

Are you an Alberta resident, 18 years of age or older, unemployed or marginally employed and ready for a quick entry or re-entry into the labour market within a three to six week timeframe? Are you legally entitled to work in Canada? Labour Force Solutions is an employment placement program that: Identifies employment opportunities of interest by matching job seekers with potential employers to find the best job placement fit Provides ongoing individualized and high quality customer service utilizing a variety of methods to meet specific job seeker needs Works with employers to develop supports and strategies to improve employee work performance and job retention For more information or to make an appointment contact: (780) 471-9627 Website: www.decsa.com.

GRAFFITI REMOVAL KIT

A graffiti removal kit is available for residents to borrow free of charge. Call Joe at the Alberta Avenue Business Association at 471-2602.

CHURCH SERVICES

ST. FAITH'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

11725 - 93 St. Ph. 477 - 5931 Sundays 8:30 am and 11 am Sunday School at 11 am Hall available for Rentals 477-5931

AVENUE VINEYARD

2nd Fl, 11726 95 St Sundays, 10:30 am Monthly Community FUNtime www.avenuevineyard.com

ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN

8715 118 Ave, Ph 477-8677 Regular service, Sundays, 11 am



Edmonton Public Library

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

CHILDREN

Aboriginal Family Storytime

11 a.m. Fridays, July 4 to Dec 19
Participation limit: 15
Presented by Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
Hey moms and dads! Bring your little ones and join us for an hour of Aboriginal songs and stories.

Summer Reading Club

— **Legends and Lore**
2 p.m. Saturday, July 5
Ages: 6 - 12 years
Participation limit: 30
Listen and watch as Denise Miller sings, tells stories and drums. She will leave you spellbound as she draws on her mix of Cherokee, Mohawk and Celtic roots.

Summer Reading Club

— **It's Magic!**
10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 12
Ages: 3 - 12 years
Participation limit: 40
Please phone 496-7099 to register
Brian Lehr brings his magic show to the Library. Join him for a special show with Benny the Bunny, floating kids and lots of laughter.

Summer Reading Club

— **Goof Off**
2 p.m. Saturday, July 19
Ages: 6 - 12 years
Participation limit: 20
Get goofy! No serious kids allowed. It is never too early to learn to laugh.

Summer Reading Club

— **Music and Movement**
10:15 a.m. Monday, July 21
Ages: 2 - 5 years
Participation limit: 24
Calling all little ones. Come

and listen to Dawn Bissett have fun with music. She will entertain you with guitar, rhymes, action songs, dance and much more. Brought to you by Look for the Rainbow Music.

Summer Reading Club

— **Craftastic!**
2 p.m. Saturday, July 26
Ages: 6 - 12 years
Participation limit: 20
Can't think of something funny to say or do? Come to the library and create a funny craft.

TEENS

Teen Advisory Group

6:30 p.m. Friday, July 4, 11, 18, 25
Ages: 12 - 17 years
Make your voice heard. Join a Teen Advisory Group. Share your ideas for teen programs, books, music

and movies. You will also have fun, meet other teens and gain valuable volunteer experience.

ADULTS

Stories from the Heart of the City - with Linda Goyette

1:30 p.m. Thursday, July 17
Drop-in, Free of Charge
All are Welcome!
Do you live in Boyle-McCauley or Norwood or along the Avenue of Nations? Did you move here from somewhere else, or did you grow up here? Come and tell your story, and hear stories about interesting people who lived here over the years. Writer Linda Goyette will host this session for story-lovers of all ages.

PUPUSA FESTIVAL

PUPUSA: A TRADITIONAL STUFFED CORN TORTILLA

SATURDAY, JULY 26

12PM TO 8PM

ALBERTA AVENUE PARK

LIVE BAND

GAMES FOR KIDS

SINGING CONTEST

PUPUSA EATING CONTEST

DANCERS

EL SALVADOREAN SOCIETY OF EDMONTON



THE Carrot
Community Arts
Coffeehouse

People in Pants Improv
\$5 cover, children FREE
July 3, 7:30pm

STOMP The Hood
Outdoor Percussion Workshop
FREE for all ages
Call 780-722-3733 to register
July 10, 7pm

Welcome to the **Carrot!**
The Summer Sonnet Soiree
by Joe Rosenblatt & Catherine Owen
July 17, 7-9pm

Please bring in this ad and
Buy one Latte, get one free!
Coupon Expires July 31, 2008

9351-118ave www.thecarrot.ca

Communities in Bloom

Help us recognize...

- Fabulous front yards
- Great gardens
- Beautiful backyards

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

Send nominations by July 31st

EMAIL: info@ratcreek.org
DROP OFF: at The Carrot Coffeehouse
(9351. 118 Ave)

MAIL: Rat Creek Press, PO Box 39024
Norwood, Edmonton, AB T5B 4T8

**Nominate yourself
or a neighbour...**

Send ADDRESS, RESIDENT'S NAME
(if known), CATEGORY (front yard, garden,
back yard), PICTURES of the yard/ garden
at its peak or call 479-6285 to have a Rat
Creek Press photographer come out...

Sponsored by the Avenue Initiative
and the Rat Creek Press.

www.avenueinitiative.ca
www.ratcreek.org

RAT CREEK PRESS



FREE! family-friendly
Outdoor Movie
on a three
story screen

Thursday, August 21

approx. 9pm • Alberta Avenue Park
118 Avenue and 93 Street

- Concession on site
- Movie selection to be announced



This Community FUNtime event is brought to you by Avenue Vineyard Community Church with funding assistance from the Avenue Initiative Matching Fund. For more info call Wayne at 780-660-0334.

**Proud to Live
In Ward 3**



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