

Parkdale school lease raises concerns

Edmonton Public Schools chooses Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society as anchor tenant



After one hundred years of history in the neighbourhood, local residents remain fiercely protective of the Parkdale schools' role in their lives.

DARREN BOISVERT

The use of community school buildings after they have been shuttered by Edmonton Public Schools (EPS) has once again become a source of debate and irritation in our community. On April 1, 2012, EPS announced that the Parkdale School at 11648 - 85 Street, shuttered two years previously, was to be the new home of the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society (BATH).

While the building has been used in a limited fashion by a few community organizations in the past few years (it has been the home of the Impact Bugle Corps), the lease signed by Bent arrow with EPS means that most of the space will no longer be available for local community use.

According to Martin Bundred, President of the Parkdale Cromdale Community League, there was only one meeting in 2011 between EPS and the community around the school, and that the core message of local residents wasn't properly taken into account.

"Parkdale school is an institution with a hundred years of history in our district," says

Bundred. "Leasing it to Bent Arrow basically means it isn't available for our use anymore. It will only be useful for a small segment of the population."

According to Bundred, the community league was only notified of the decision to lease the school to BATH on March 30, and after the acrimonious debate over the decision to close the school, this lack of communication left a bad feeling in the community.

"We're tiring of hosting drug and rehab related services," says Bundred. "Our main request was that the school remain an educational institution with services available for local residents."

It's a message that Loren Parker, Managing Director of Planning, Property Management and Transportation with Edmonton Public Schools, says was taken into account in the decision

to lease to BATH. Citing challenges in finding anchor tenants in the old buildings, Parker says that the community concerns were respected.

"We felt that the decision fell within the parameters set out by the community and reflected the wide spectrum of support that Bent Arrow has in the community," says Parker.

Caught in the middle of this dispute is an organization with decades of experience assisting First Nations people dealing with the aftermath of the physical and sexual abuse suffered in the Catholic and Anglican run schools in the 1950's and 60's.

Cheryl Whiskeyjack, Executive Director of the BATH, says she is aware that as an organization they need to integrate with their neighbours in their new home at Parkdale School. In addition to providing dozens of programs for First

Nations people, she insists that the doors to the school will be open to all members of the community.

"We are hosting an Open House at the school on June 21st (National Aboriginal Day) as a way of introducing ourselves to local residents," says Whiskeyjack. "We want to be good neighbours and find ways of coordinating programs for everyone."

While the community is unhappy with the decision, Bundred says they are committed to moving forward in a creative and positive manner. Inspired by a First Nations legal course he just completed at the University of Alberta, he sees opportunities for integration.

"We hope BATH will offer some history courses for us," says Bundred. "It should also be part of the healing process, because white people need to know this history and we aren't taught this in school."

"There's no going back on this decision now. Hopefully we can arrange with BATH some community programming, native art courses and opportunities for sharing cultural traditions."

**Parkdale school
Open House
scheduled
for June 21st
(National
Aboriginal Day)**

Farmer's Market re-opens on the Avenue



PAULA GILLIS

With the spring season finally here the Alberta Avenue Farmer's Market will be re-opening on June 7th in the parking lot of the Community Centre. The market had closed down in December due to lack of community attendance. The decision was made by organizers to find ways to encourage more visitors. Vendors are looking forward to setting up their tables again and customers will see many of the old favorites returning to the Farmer's Market this year. Some of these include: Dargatz Family Farm, Rosie's Wildflower Honey, Joanie's Ukrainian Foods, Dauphine Bakery (formerly known as Queen of Tarts) and Birds and Bees Winery. Some of the new vendors that promise to be interesting are Bannock Burger Hut and Blue Bird Hills Farm Soap (made with goat's milk).

The slogan for the market is 'Make it. Bake It. Grow It. Raise It.' and the purpose is to give local food producers the opportunity to sell their wares. It has been in operation for about four years. Although the emphasis is on food, there is plenty of opportunity for other types of artisans such as craft makers to rent a table and market their creations. It also gives the public a chance to buy products that are locally made and freshly picked, baked or grown. The market will run - rain or shine - every Thursday from 5 to 8pm.

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Gazing at glass through the blazing heat of a 'glory hole'

DAVE VON BIEKER

Sometimes I get questions about our choice to raise a family in "the inner city". Sometimes the questions are spoken with words, other times with raised eyebrows and pursed lips as the friend reaches for a tactful comment.

It would be naive to say there are no challenges living in our neighbourhood. Sometimes the questions come from me. But then something happens that is so unique to this community; something so special and beautiful and life-giving that those questions vanish like Vlad's Village pig. Dancers on a wall. An orchestrated cacophony of car horns in the street. A hay ride down 118. A heartfelt or humorous poem from Michelle or Bernice at The Carrot open stage. My number finally getting called at the Italian Centre deli. Christmas carol singing in a pawn shop. Blown glass in a back alley.

This spring my kids and I visited Keith Walker's glass studio, Blow In The Dark. Glass blowing had been an art form veiled in mystery. Most of us have held a paintbrush, but few have shaped molten glass into shimmering sculpture. It turns out glass blowing is not as tough as it looks. In fact, children can get a pretty firm

grasp on the process, simply by watching Walker's alchemy in action on a Tuesday evening, when he hosts open community nights.

After only two such Tuesdays, my daughter Lucie had observed and collected the secrets of glass blowing.

"I'd never have discovered this treasure had we not moved into this neighbourhood"

"First you dip a stick in a jar of liquid glass," describes Lucie. "Then you put the stick of glass in a thing that makes the glass hot. That's called the glory hole. And then you roll the stick with glass on it on a pole on a bench. And if you want a design on it then you put it on a table that has glass on it and you roll the stick with glass on the table and then you put it back in the glory hole and wait a second.

And then you take scissors

that have a little circle at the top and then you put it on the glass and you pull the glass and it stretches. And then you take big tweezers, and if you want bumps on it, then you take the big tweezers and put it in the glass four times and then you put it back in the glory hole. And that's how you blow glass."

Lucie recalls these steps unprompted. Jack draws details from our visit that I've already forgotten. The two stood staring through oversized safety glasses for over an hour as Keith Walker melted, inflated and stretched hot glass. It beat TV or video games. I stood nearby, watching them. I reflected on how strange and special an opportunity this was. I was seeing glass blown for the first time at age 31. My daughter witnessed this before her 7th birthday.

Keith Walker is one of many neighbours offering moments of wonder to our community. His little studio would feel at home on Granville Island, but here it sits, in an unassuming Parkdale alley. I'd never have discovered the brightly painted treasure had we not moved into this neighbourhood. I am so glad we did. Hearing Lucie recount all she's seen makes me proud to be a father on the Ave. My kids get some pretty special neighbours. With friends like these, who needs suburbs?

RAT CREEK PRESS photo OF THE MONTH CONTEST



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"A human face on a national tragedy: the murders and disappearances of an estimated 500 Aboriginal women in Canada"
JULY 11 @ Sprucewood Library

THE AVENUE
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The Avenue film is in post-production. Its availability for this date is tentative, and another film may be shown on this date.

JUNE 21 JULY 5 JULY 11 JULY 17

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Editorial

Submissions: editor@ratcreek.org

A community's history: one life at a time

DARREN BOISVERT

After six months of hard work, it's time to party. We encourage all local residents to join the Rat Creek Press on Saturday, June 9th (see our stories on page 9-10 for details) as we celebrate the history of our community.

This free event is open to all, and it's a great opportunity for current residents to meet and chat with some of our elders who helped build our community and have seen the changes over the decades. In an effort to incorporate our history in with our present reality, we will also be presenting a theatrical presentation by local actors who have interviewed our seniors to document their lives along our Ave.

We have learned a lot. Despite the initial insistence of our interviewees who said "I don't

know that much", they have all proved to be an incredible resource of local stories and details. None are superheroes, but there is much to learn in listening to their words. Taken alone, these testimonials tell of one life lived. Taken as a whole, these stories present a tapestry of ourselves.

Several have pointed out Borden Park as being a centre of community gatherings -- at least until the Commonwealth Stadium was built. The bandshell there was a hangout spot for hippies and the park was filled on the weekends with young families. Before that, the local skating rink and the Avenue Movie Theatre were the venues of choice for young adults.

In deeper interactions, these stories tell of a large European immigrant community that

arrived after the Second World War, with new arrivals struggling to find work, build a house, and raise their families. Our interviewees tell of a 'United Nations' of co-workers in many low-end jobs. The mix between local Albertan farm kids and refugees from Vietnam highlight the incredible mixing that has occurred in our community.

Some struggled with children who became addicted to the drugs that flooded our community in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Others, like Louis Grimble, went from local paperboy to founder of Stantec, one of the largest and most respected engineering firms in Edmonton. Many went to war. Many stayed behind to work in factories. Many families opened businesses that still exist today.

It has been said before that a community without a sense

of history is a community that can't embrace its future. Here along the Ave, embracing the past will ensure a brighter future.

This paper strongly endorses the idea of designating part of our community an Edmonton Heritage District (see story on page 8). Instead of shiny new condos and high-rise apartment buildings, retaining the small bungalows along our streets will ensure that we remain local, street-level, and hopefully, a tighter-knit community.

More importantly, for a community that has been seen as old and tired, a place for the poor and the homeless to gather, we can embrace our history and encourage a sense of pride in having some of the oldest residences in Edmonton. The Ave had used to be the brightest place in the city. It can be again.

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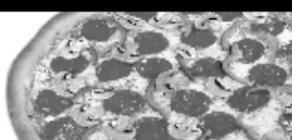
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One long road: the fight for mental health help

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Paula Gillis

Catherine is a single woman who works in the Rat Creek neighbourhood. She found her job with the help of an agency that works with people who have disabilities. As a result of childhood trauma, Catherine has been diagnosed with Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), formerly known as Multiple Personality Disorder. Catherine is not a mass murderer or pedophile, like people with DID are so often portrayed on shows like CSI or Criminal Minds. She is like most people and if you sat next to her on the LRT you would not notice anything unusual about her. She is just a quiet person who would like a simpler life with some friends who understand her.

During the recent Alberta elections, Catherine stated that she just laughed at the promises of change made by every party. "It was like watching a paintball fight" she said. "People raising flags of varying colors taking potshots at each other from behind their respective podiums. In the end they all make the same promise; that they will meet the needs of the people they represent. The future plans never include people like me."

With the Tories locked firmly

into place as the government, Catherine is passionate about holding Alison Redford and her cohorts to their promises to make life better for those with health conditions. Catherine is 'people' and she wants a better life where she can get a full time job and walk away from AISH. In order to do this she must have help.

such a condition even exists. So Catherine copes as best she can. Every cent of her part-time job goes to pay for her therapy through a private agency.

"People with DID are human beings just like people with other conditions that require treatment and support. The difference with us is that we don't get the support because

plan for when things would be "fixed".

"I could be dead in five years and I am so tired of fighting," scoffs Catherine. "Or I could be yet one more person who sleeps behind heaters and spend my day as part of the extremely competitive pop can collectors union."

Catherine did her civic duty

first Premier to take an interest in the gaps in the mental health? Catherine hardly thinks so.

"People die from cancer and heart conditions," Catherine acknowledges. Many doctors and nurses view suicidal people as just more people abusing the system – not all professionals, but too many. There is a common belief that suicide as an act of cowardice rather than the end of a long illness like someone whose heart fails physically. In many cases, Catherine believes that these people's hearts have just failed emotionally because the right amount of help and understanding is not available.

Recently there was a news release that made Catherine feel less alone in her fight for help. Rather than feeling good about this, Catherine felt sad for others who have to join her in this fight for treatment. Soldiers returning from Afghanistan who have varying degrees of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder are being put on a wait list for support. They will fight the same fight that Catherine does; nightmares, flashbacks, drinking to cope. Professionals are aware of the fact that the earlier a person receives treatment after the traumatic events they faced, the sooner they recover. It is all about money though.

"The people who were supposed to help us have backed off their promises; and all of us who suffer from mental illnesses are left to deal with it alone."



A long road

When a psychiatrist first diagnosed her with DID, she searched for help in the free public system referred to as Edmonton Mental Health. There she was told that she would not be provided with the help that she needed. There were also mumblings of False Memory Syndrome; or make believe. Seeing no point in trying to work with someone who did not believe in her, Catherine moved on.

Treating a person with DID is not that tough according to Catherine but many professionals are too afraid to try or they refuse to believe that

people prefer to believe that we are the rare, side-show types," says Catherine.

Catherine advocates for herself as there is nobody to do it for her; a common occurrence among those with mental illness. She wrote previous Ministers of Health and received replies that were basically a brush off. The MLA for her district promised to look into things and get back to her. That was a year ago.

One government official that responded to her cries for help had added a handwritten message to his letter filled with political terms and promises. It said "We are working on this!" It also referred to a five-year

and marked a spot on her ballot just like 50 percent of eligible voters did on April 23rd. She is educated enough to know that she is fortunate to live in a country and in an era where women can vote.

"It felt like I wasted my day though," she said without disclosing whose name she marked. "It will change nothing for me. Nothing does. What does one do when they try everything from self-advocacy to banging on hospital doors and nobody listens?"

Premier Redford is already shifting gears and cabinet members as she settles into her first full term. Will she be the



PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East



A NECESSARY CHANGE

The Federal government has proposed changes to Old Age Security (OAS) which include raising the age of eligibility from 65 to 67 starting in 2023. The change is needed to preserve the OAS system due to Canada's changing demographics.

We have two important programs that provide financial support to older Canadians: CPP and OAS. CPP is funded through premiums that working Canadians pay, and is on a secure and sustainable path with no need for change. OAS is funded primarily through taxes on working people and is unsustainable on its current course. When OAS was first introduced in 1927 it began at age 70. That was reduced to age 65 over a four year period, 1965-69.

In 1975 there were seven working taxpayers for every senior. Today there are only four working-age Canadians for each senior. By 2030, the number of seniors will nearly double, leaving only two working-age Canadians for each senior. Canadians are also living longer, healthier lives than when the OAS program was established. Due to these changing demographics, the annual cost of OAS is projected to increase from \$36 billion in 2010 to \$108 billion in 2030.

If the Government does nothing, OAS will become too expensive and unsustainable. Many other developed countries, such as Germany, have made similar changes to ensure future viability of their OAS programs. If the Government did nothing to protect OAS it would put the financial security of our seniors at risk. This decision is balanced and responsible action to ensure OAS remains sustainable for future generations of Canadians.

Personally, I am disappointed that the opposition would rather play on the emotions of seniors for political gain rather than take prudent action to ensure the future viability of OAS.

I think this change will benefit us as a nation. What do you think?

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Bikeworks North will open its doors and welcome the community into its spacious new workshop on the northside. Bicycle repair classes and biking advice will be available to all biking enthusiasts and casual riders.

New local bicycle resource to open doors in June

JONATHAN WELLER

Edmonton Bicycle Commuters (EBC) takes another step forward in its long history of supporting bicycling in the city in June, with the opening of Bikeworks North, a new workshop located at 9305-111 Avenue.

The move comes as the realization of a long term desire by EBC, as Christopher Chan, the Executive Director of EBC notes, "We first came to the area with the Spoke program a few years back, which was being held in the old Alberta Cycle building...and we really got a good feel of the excitement in the community about us being there and realized that there is so much life going on in the area right now."

The Bicycle Commuters has been quite active in the downtown area for years. "A lot of our events are downtown and in the area," citing the Deep Freeze festival, and "we have been doing free inner city bike repairs for years."

However, being a cycling advocacy organization, it is only natural that the majority of the transportation for events is done by bicycle. With trail-

ers and volunteers, EBC travels around the city to provide workshops and various other services. Therefore, Chan says, a North side location, "being physically closer to where we are going, just makes it easier for us."

Beyond simplifying the logistics of providing cycling services across the city, the new location will better serve individuals. "We can see from our membership that a lot of the people who use our shop are people who live quite close to the facility on the South side. So we knew that if we opened something up on the North side, residents would be able to access our services."

Concerns over stability also factored into the expansion to a second location. As both locations are rented by EBC, the potential for being evicted always exist and has in the past forced the workshop to change homes throughout the city.

"Our south side location is always at risk of being sold for condos," says Chan. "So having a second location gives a lot more stability."

The new location began as an old warehouse space that had been essentially gutted. While

this proved to be a great deal of work to renovate the space into a welcoming bicycle workshop, the opportunity to start fresh has allowed EBC to design the space the way they have always wanted.

Since March, volunteers have contributed hundreds of hours and one staff member has worked nearly full time to get the shop up and running.

Technically the floor space is not much larger than Bikeworks South, but with a more open plan, the room provides a spaciousness that those familiar with the previous locations will really enjoy. Each workstation has its own bench and set of tools, and there is a customer desk to welcome new arrivals and handle all transactions.

The new location will offer the same services as the first, including access to the fully equipped workshop and volunteer mechanics to assist individuals with repairs and maintenance, the sale of refurbished bikes, new and used bike parts and courses on various aspects of cycling.

As well, Chan hopes that the trend on the South side toward lifestyle oriented events, such as family movie nights, bike art



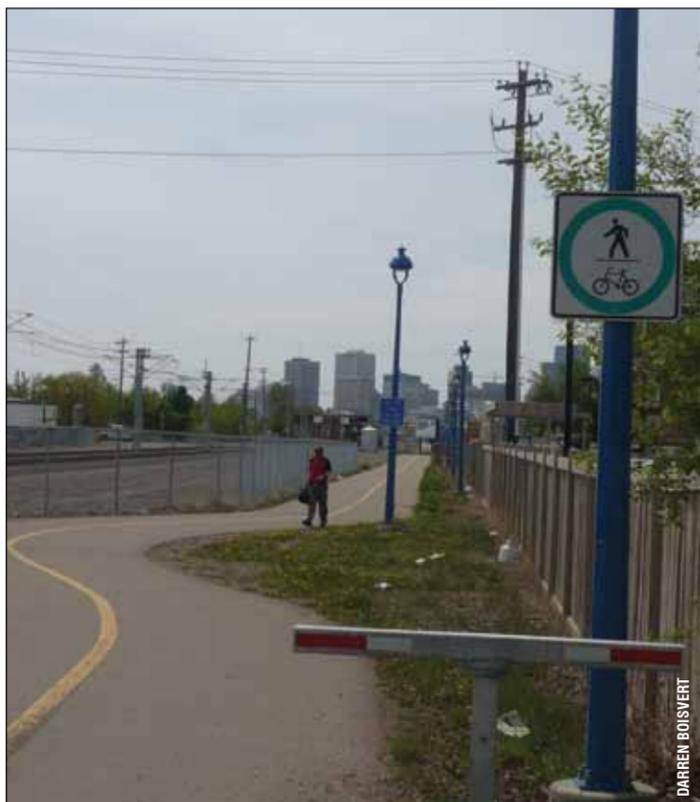
nights, parties and a wide variety of workshops and classes, will continue.

In the past, questions were raised about the possibility of a more permanent home in the old Alberta Cycle Building which is currently being renovated. While Chan mentions this possibility is still open in the years to come, the amount of work that has gone into the new location has been substantial and EBC is committed to the location.

"We are always looking for volunteers to help out," says Chan. "There is no need of

mechanical experience, we can teach people if they want to learn, but we also need people to help introduce others to the shop and show them around. One of the amazing things about coming into Bikeworks is that sense of strong community, even if you don't know anyone, even if you're not a cyclist."

If you interested in becoming involved, individuals are welcome to stop in during workshop hours or at events, as well as sign up for workshops, all of which can be found online at www.edmontonbikes.ca



City bike plans for only one path through our community

JONATHAN WELLER

The signs are being dug in and the paint is coming out this spring as the City moves forward with 15 km of new on-street bike routes. This pushes the total mileage up to 101 km of the 489 km (21%) that the City hopes to install over the next two decades.

This year's construction plans will only be seen on the outskirts of our community. A new East-West route on 121st will be installed from Wayne Gretzky Drive east to Abbottsfield Road. City of Edmonton Project Engineer Andrew Siggelkow notes that this route will be a strong connection and will tie in

future plans, "We are building an extension of the LRT shared use path. The existing one goes from about 118 ave and 77st south into downtown and we will be extending that north along the LRT lines to 66st and Fort Rd. That construction will be going ahead this year."

Few public projects are without their challenges; logistically narrowing roadways to accommodate bicycles can be difficult and often comes at the cost of parking. A loss which some citizens are worried will affect their daily lives. However, at the same time Siggelkow notes "there are a lot of people who are excited about these routes."

This plan was laid out in

the 2009 Bicycle Transportation Plan which grew out of the consultation process on the City Vision and the Transportation master plan. Project Engineer Andrew Siggelkow explains that during this period, "Edmontonians said that they want to shift our transportation modes ... they want better connected transit, more opportunities to walk, more opportunities to cycle, we don't just want the motor vehicle as our only means of transportation."

A 2004/05 bicycle user survey supported this shift; 73% of respondents said that improved routes would be a change that would lead to them cycling more.

A serious biker has more fun

JONATHAN WELLER

“You need to see this part,” he said. “Huh?” I said looking up from my notepad where I was scribbling details from the last story. As I gaze up I hear a wet clack and his front tooth drops down, hanging from a plastic attachment. “Did an endo on the corner of Bernard and Pandosy in Kelowna in 1984. I was riding and trying to make a light, it turned yellow and I tried to stop. The next thing I remember my girlfriend was driving me to emergency. I think the tooth went through my lip.”

Meet Robert Clinton, a 59-year-old drama instructor at the University of Alberta. A false tooth is not the only memento he holds from a lifetime of biking: a broken collar bone, scarred hands, but also a lifestyle that not many can claim.

“You know how much work you don’t have to do if you don’t have a car. There are all sorts of things I could do with my life as a theatre worker that I can afford to do. I can sit and play guitar all day because I don’t have to do a job that day

so I can pour gasoline into a car. That’s just a choice I made a long time ago. There are other things I’ve had to give up but you find the richness in life where ever you make it.”

“The next thing I remember my girlfriend was driving me to emergency.”

Clinton began ‘serious’ biking in 1980 when he moved to Edmonton. Serious meaning, he has never owned a car; that means year round, all purpose, ‘serious’ biking. He used to live near Whyte Avenue but says that moving to the Alberta Avenue area has made biking far better. “It’s just a more interesting place to ride.” As well, connectivity

is not concern, despite having to commute to the University for work, he figures that with delays and the walk the LRT takes as long if not longer.

The only issue that arises is that he admits to not having much interest in mechanics, “I’d rather play guitar” he quips. It causes problems as there have been no bike shops within walking distance for repairs. However, that is changing now with the expansion of the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters to the North side.

“That is ground zero for major changes in the city,” he says, and commenting on the new workshop, “I was just there for the first time the other night for volunteer orientation and it’s already fabulous and it’s only going to be more fabulous.”

With a birthday coming up in July, Clinton is already preparing, he has begun calling himself 60 several months in advance; “it’s like training wheels.” But do not expect age to add a few more wheels to this life anytime soon. “Guys in my family are usually dead by my age. I owe all that completely to a beat up purple bike that’s tied up out there.”



As helmet for his head, gloves for his hands and a bike for his health, Robert Clinton prepares to enjoy the fine spring weather and put his winter biking routine to rest for a few more months.

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Teaching an old dog chicken tricks

DOG TALK

Darlene Taylor

There are many methods of training that come under the heading of "positive". I said training methods -- not "dog" training methods -- because most of these methods are used to train horses, parrots, chickens, dolphins, whales, elephants, giraffes, black and grizzly bears, gold fish, cats, and pot belly pigs. Yes, a fish, a cat, and a chicken can be trained! The chicken camp -- where people learn how to "clicker" train chickens to teach them to identify shapes -- square, triangle, circle and colors red, green, and yellow. They teach the chicken to walk around two cones -- if it is one color they walk around both, if the cone is another color the chicken weaves between the cones.



I guess if the paycheque is motivating enough any species can learn. Once the behaviour is learned it doesn't have to be paid for every single time. Just like when you start a new job, you learn the basics, but in order for you to continue employment you have to learn more until you perform all your duties, dare I say tricks, on a consistent basis. When you excel after a period of time you may get a raise or a bonus.

A pet is no different. If we expect the animal to lay around all day and entertain themselves

and then they get food (paid), then that is what we will get in return. But if we humans train in them a new duty, then after a period of time, the pet will perform what has been requested of them.

For example, many people want their dog to retrieve a ball or Frisbee but complain that the

dog never brings it back. If we have the dog on a six foot leash which we are standing on and drop the ball the dog will pick it up. We show the dog a piece of food -- kibble, treat, whatever -- the dog will drop the ball. Since the dog is less than 5 feet away we should be able to pick up the ball. Give the dog another bit of food.

Repeat this a few times and the dog will bring the ball back to you so he can get the treat. After a few days you can change

it up a bit, for example, position your hand under the ball as you offer the food so the ball drops in your hand. Once you have the timing then you can only give food for a dropped ball in hand -- if on the ground -- no food.

You can then start using a longer leash and toss the ball a couple feet -- the dog grabs the ball -- you call the dog and show the food. If the dog drops the ball too far away -- no food. The leash is only so the dog doesn't decide to run off with the ball and decide he would rather play a game of "catch me, catch me, chase me". If the dog is too excited about the ball and won't eat the food (no matter how tasty it might be) or if the dog suddenly becomes more interested in the food and begins to ignore the ball then use another ball as the paycheque. I would have 4-5 balls and then toss one to Dogma and he would catch it -- I would show him another ball and when he brought the first one back, I would toss the second.

Sometimes I would just keep tossing balls and he would be tossing them back to me. Tons of fun.

I will talk about this more at the upcoming Avenue Goes to the Dogs or if you are interested in a class on how to teach your dog to retrieve please email me at k9behave@presplus.onza.net

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EDMONTON

Play and Save Summer Day Camps for Low Income Families

The following fun filled day camps will be running in the Central-Downtown Area this summer!

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- Move and Grove
- Creating with Color
- Community Heroes
- Multi- Sports
- Outbound Adventure
- Teen Chefs
- Quest for Adventure
- Circus Circus
- Creative Café
- Kinder Sports
- Surviving Summer
- Swinging Safari
- Super Tots
- Just for the Girls
- Splash 'N' Dash
- Wee Adventure
- Around The World in Five Days

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Spruce Avenue
Westwood

PLAY AND SAVE!

Summer Day Camps for Low Income Families

	Week 1 July 3 - 6	Week 2 July 9 - 13	Week 3 July 16 - 20	Week 4 July 23 - 27	Week 5 July 30 - Aug 3	Week 6 Aug 7 - 10	Week 7 Aug 13 - 17	Week 8 Aug 20 - 24
Half Day 9am - 11:30am		Hop To It Ages 4 - 6 \$18.00 452320 Westwood		Circus Circus Ages 3 - 5 \$16.00 452323 Parkdale/ Cromdale		Swinging Safari Ages 3 - 5 \$15.00 452370 Bellevue	Swinging Safari Ages 3 - 5 \$18.00 452371 Queen Mary Park	
Half Day 1:30pm - 4:00pm		Move & Groove Ages 6 - 10 \$17.00 453571 Westwood	Community Heroes Ages 4 - 6 \$16.00 452325 Elmwood Park	Kinder Sports Ages 4 - 6 \$16.00 452423 Queen Mary Park		Super Tots Ages 3 - 5 \$13.00 452431 Riverdale		Wee Adventures Ages 5 - 7 \$18.00 452425 Oliver
Full Day 9:00am - 4:00pm	Around The Word In Five Days Ages 9 - 12 \$27.00 452581 AB Ave	Creating with Color Ages 6 - 9 \$34.00 453029 Delton	Multi Sports Ages 7 - 10 \$31.00 452429 AB Ave	Surviving Summer Ages 7 - 12 \$30.00 453032 Riverdale	Creative Café Ages 9 - 12 \$34.00 453040 AB Ave	Just For Girls Ages 7 - 12 \$25.00 453042 Eastwood	Splash 'N' Dash Ages 9 - 12 \$30.00 453041 Parkdale/ Cromdale	Quest for Adventure Ages 8 - 12 \$31.00 453044 AB Ave
			Outbound Adventure Ages 9 - 12 \$38.00 453036 Queen Mary Park		Splash 'N' Dash Ages 9 - 12 \$30.00 453039 Oliver			

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Present
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Community Center
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June 9th 3:00pm

Upcoming Events

Carrot 5th Birthday Party
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Kaliedo Family Arts Festival
Sept 7, 8, 9

Large Item Pick Up
September 15th

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HISTORY DISTRICT

When old becomes new again

JONATHAN WELLER

As you walk through the residential areas of Alberta Avenue, you may notice the mature trees lining the roads or you may take note of a few houses that make you think 'oh, that would sure be a nice place to live.' If you have an eye for architecture you may notice the wonderfully modest craftsman style bungalows nestled between a somewhat grander foursquare design. You may notice the intricate woodwork of a gable end; or marvel, with something less than envy, at the intricate

ings, while it has merits, is not wholly adequate, it is often the surrounding context, the sum of the buildings, that makes an area unique.

As David Holdsworth, the City's principal heritage planner explains, "As part of the process we also asked the consultants to look at what areas may have potential to be heritage areas or character areas."

This led consultants to recommend three areas which are now being considered for the possibility of developing a further level of protection in the guise of a heritage area.

opposition may not be strong, but many questions would need to be answered for home owners both within and outside of the proposed area.

"I think [a heritage designation] would give it some prestige, Westmount is definitely known for that, and if its something this neighborhood could be known for then, yeah, I think people would buy in here for that reason," says Litwyn.

Twenty years ago when she began selling homes in the area, the main buyers were young first time buyers who were drawn to the area because of prices.



The City of Edmonton is gauging community support to designate part of our neighbourhood as a Heritage District. The goal is to celebrate the houses and businesses that were once served by City trolley cars such as the one that ran along 95th Street in 1939.

stonework someone devised to house an oval window; or perhaps you will just walk quietly past, enjoying the atmosphere.

These are all a part of what the Sustainable Development department is hoping to conserve with a new heritage area designation which will be discussed at 6:30pm on Thursday, in June 21 at the Alberta Avenue Community League.

In April 2010 the City commissioned the McCauley/ Alberta Avenue Heritage Inventory project, with the goal of assessing these two communities to gather information about what heritage resources exist.

Currently the planning department is working on bringing approximately 46 new buildings from the Alberta Avenue area that were identified through this project onto the city's historical inventory. The inventory designates structures as ones of particular historical interest, whether it be for their unique architecture, high quality of preservation, association with significant historical figures or other aspect.

While this designation provides no legal protection, it does allow the property owner the opportunity to access City support in the form of shared costs for the maintenance or restoration of the buildings' historical features. This further step of accepting assistance places structures on the Historical Register, which provides legal protection against demolition and a commemoration, generally as a plaque provided by the Edmonton Historical Society.

However, the City recognizes that protecting individual build-

These are: 96th street from 111 Ave south, which is more descriptively known as 'Church' street, a southwest portion of McCauley and a residential section of Alberta Avenue stretching from 94th to 97th St and 111 Ave (Norwood Boulevard) to 116 Ave.

A Heritage District is not a novel idea, currently three such areas exist in Edmonton: Westmount, Whyte Avenue and 104 street (downtown).

"What we don't want to do is go into to the community and say we are going to rezone it as a heritage area because we think it's a good idea," explains Holdsworth. "We need to know that it is something they are supportive of and what they see as the heritage of the area and what's worthy of protecting."

Therefore, the different areas have different modes of protection. Westmount for example, has a set of guidelines, rather than direct regulations, to promote development that is in keeping with the architectural character of the area. This is the result of some opposition to the plan when it was developed in the 1980s.

While he admits his bias, Holdsworth does not see much reason for opposition, noting that what negative feelings do exist "tend to be the feeling that there is a restriction on their development opportunities.. [however], the very thing that makes these places attractive [to development] in the first place is the character that we are protecting."

Local realty agent and resident of the proposed Heritage Area, Roxanne Litwyn, agrees that

Today there is a greater mixture of people coming and the draw is in many cases the older character homes and a desire to be a part of the revitalization of the area. It is a vision of the future that draws people in, but that vision is well served by a strong connection to the past.

"It provides a type of certainty, you know whatever gets built in the area will be done so within the character," Holdsworth notes. "So from an investment perspective, if you are going to buy and settle into the neighborhood you know someone is not going to come and move in next door and knock it down and put a huge high rise or something that may not be appropriate."

Certainty comes with a price. Property values in designated areas, when they do change, tend to rise or hold their value through the cyclic nature of housing markets.

As Edmonton's municipal development plan, which provides the foundation for all these efforts, explains, the value of heritage preservation is 'to encourage a sense of local identity and create connections to the city's cultural and historical roots.' Understood in this way, preservation may not be simply holding onto what came before, but holding onto a foundation from which to firmly step forward.

For more information about Edmonton's Heritage Districts, contact David Holdsworth at Edmonton Sustainable Development at david.holdsworth@edmonton.ca or 780-496-5281.

INTERVIEW

Molly Ehmann



As part of the Avenue History Project, Holly Cinnamon, one of our participating actors, interviewed Molly Ehmann about her life and her recollections of the Avenue.

Molly was born in 1926 in Poland. As a young teenager, she experienced great hardship in Germany during the Second World War. With few life options, she chose to migrate to Canada in 1951. What follows is a brief excerpt from her interview and how she came to start her life in Edmonton.

H: What was your experience on the ship?

M: Nice. Good food. How the ship go...we had to hold the plates and our chairs. You know how the ships, the wave go forth and back. It took ten days on the ship. Today you go with a plane and it takes one day.

H: What did you bring from Germany?

M: Just two suitcases. Some clothes that's all. Nothing. (laughs) And now we got to give up eh? I had so much and had to give up. People want more and more and more, but after when you get old, you need less, less, less huh?

H: Was there a lot you were giving up, to take that risk and come here?

M: Not that much. I was a young girl like you. I had nothing. The few clothes you had. You can replace again.

H: What did you expect to find in Canada?

M: I don't know. Freedom. A new life. You don't know nothing eh? Yeah, my uncle paid 350 dollars for the ship fare and he want to keep me on the farm for a while to work for one year. But I didn't like it. I didn't earn much money. Then I came to Camrose and worked for Chinese restaurant. They paid me a week 29 dollars. It was good money at that time. And then three or four months, I paid 350 dollars back to my relatives and then I came to Edmonton. Because here, lots of people came to Edmonton. You had a better social life, you know.

H: Do you remember any of your first experiences here in Edmonton?

M: I think first I had a newspaper, a German newspaper and there were names and a German church so I was going there, but there were lots of newcomers to meet. I joined the choir. You know, found a room, found a job. I worked in the laundry. 95st street 110 Ave. And the theatre close by on 95th street. But it is no more there. They put houses. So I worked there and then I got married you know.

H: How did you meet your husband?

M: I met him at a dance hall. But I didn't make a good choice. Because we got a divorce. But anyway, I still had four children with him. It was not like today with the protection pills, there was none of that.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Listings for free events and programs as well as volunteer opportunities. Email your listings to info@ratcreek.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

THE CARROT OPEN STAGE

Thursdays for folks 55+ 1:30-4pm.
Saturdays 7pm-10pm Open mic. Great time to share your newest tune, poem or comedy act! Free for all ages. Minimum \$1.25 charge. 9351 118 Ave. More info call Irene at 780-471-1580.

IN THE STOLLERY GALLERY

Gallery Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am to 2:30pm; Thursday 4:30-8:00pm; Saturday 1:00-3:00pm.

EVENTS

ADULT BOARD GAME NIGHT

Adult board games and socialization. Free! On Friday, June 8th at 7:30pm at Parkdale-Cromdale hall (11335 85 St).

CARROT BIRTHDAY PARTY

The Carrot's turning 5 and we want to share this milestone with you! Join us Saturday, June 23rd at the Carrot (9351 118 Ave) for free hotdogs noon-6pm, buskers outside all day, musical performances throughout the day, 7pm cake cutting ceremony. Join the fun, thanks for making the Carrot what it is. Wear something orange!

THE AVE WE HAD: A LIVING HISTORY

A presentation from the Avenue History Project and Rat Creek Press Connect Awards on Saturday, June 9th at 3pm at the Alberta Avenue Community Centre. More info: history@ratcreek.org

CRUD PARK CRAWL KICKOFF AND BBQ

Join CRUD for our annual Father's Day Park Crawl Kick-Off and BBQ on Sunday, June 17th from 1-4pm at the Parkdale Cromdale Community League Park (8535 113 Ave).

NOTICES

PARKDALE GARAGE SALE

June 2nd and 3rd the Parkdale Cromdale Community League Hall will be hosting a Garage Sale from 9am to 4pm each day. Everyone is welcome to come browse or set up a table for the weekend! Tables are \$10 for members, \$15 for non members and boot sales outside at \$5 per day. There will be a concession.

THE RCP NEEDS CASINO VOLUNTEERS

Event to be held at the Baccarat Casino on Friday July 13th and Saturday July 14th. To sign up or for more info: call Verna at 780-479-8019.

COPS AT THE CARROT

Join EPS members every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 10:30am for open and direct access to the EPS members working in your community. Bring your questions and comments or come in for a visit and coffee.

BIG BIN EVENTS

Bring your large household items that cannot be picked up with regular garbage service to the City of Edmonton Big Bin Events and drop them for free! They are in our neighbourhood on Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 5pm on: August 25th and 26th at Northlands (112 Ave and 73 St) and September 15th and 16th at Commonwealth Stadium (112 Ave and 90 St). More info: edmonton.ca or call 311.

LARGE ITEM PICK UP

This years large item pick up will be in the fall on September 15th and 16th. Watch for details in the August and September issues.

CRUD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It's been another great year of engaging community. Please join us for our AGM and board elections on Sunday, June 3rd at 1:30pm at Alberta Avenue Community Centre (9210 118 Ave). Light refreshments provided. More info: www.crudedmonton.org

NICE NEIGHBOUR RECOGNITION

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

PROGRAMS/CLASSES

ARTIST TRADING CARDS RETURNING

Artist Trading Cards returns to the Carrot (9351 118 Ave). Come and create miniature works of art with your community and go home with collectable cards. No artistic experience required but you may leave inspired. Saturday, June 2nd from 1-3pm. More info: Cindy 780-270-2743 or Irene 780-471-1580.

ST ALS COMMUNITY HUB PROGRAMS

Our "Schools as a Community Hub" is St Alphonsus School, 11624 81 Street. The activities include cooking, crafts and sports. Tuesdays and Thursdays are Adult Cree Language Classes from 6:30-8:30pm to June 21st. Contact Reuben Quinn at 780-425-4644 ext. 111

or rquinn@frac.com to register. Cost is \$10.00. Koinonia Child and Youth also runs on Friday from 6:30-9:00pm and Sunday 1:00-4:00pm. Contact Rachel Wiebe 780-700-3475. It is free although registration forms must be filled out. They also have a free, drop in Zumba class Friday nights 7-8pm for all ages and fitness levels. Every month they also have a free event on a Sunday.

CREART

Creart is a project focused on young people between 12 and 20 years of age in Edmonton. Our mission is to deliver an integrated school of arts that allows them to explore in-depth a varied range of expressions, styles and ways of seeing the arts. The classes will be given by volunteers with knowledge in the areas of dance, theatre, music, painting, literature and event management. Held each Wednesday from 5:30-7pm at Parkdale Cromdale Community League. If there are any questions please call 780 878 8265 or e-mail creartedmonton@gmail.com!

PLAY RANGERS

Come explore the ravine, learn about nature, take photos, use a GPS, build a shelter and more! Program is for ages 7-12 year olds. Younger kids can attend, but must bring a parent or caregiver to join in. This is a free drop in program. Meet at Sherriff Robertson park Wednesday afternoons from 4:30-6:30pm from May 9th to June 20th.

GUITAR LESSONS

Every Saturday at Parkdale Cromdale Hall free group lessons will be offered to members. The teacher is directly apart of the community and loves to share his knowledge! The lessons run from 10-11am.

NEEDLE FELTING WITH MIKE GERMANN

Materials supplied and tools will be on hand for those who don't have their own. The Second Saturday of the month at 1:30pm at The Carrot Coffeehouse (9351 118 Ave). More info: info@artsontheave.org or call 780-471-1580.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

WOMEN'S AFTERNOON OUT GROUP

This group gives women a chance to get out and mingle with other women who like to work on crafts such as knitting, crocheting, card making, and more. Ladies are welcome to work on the project we are working on or bring their own. Cost is \$1 drop-in fee to purchase materials. We also have a potluck snack. Every Monday from 1:30-4pm

at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: Michelle 780-232-5822.

KARAOKE WITH CRUD

Now twice the fun! Tune up your vocal cords and join us down at Wings' Sports Bar (8541 118 Ave) on Friday, June 8th at 9pm and then at Green Frog's Pub (9349 118 Ave) on Friday, June 22nd at 9pm for more hopp'n good times of socializing and singing.

ART ON EARTH

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

COMMUNITY MEALS

At the Anglican Churches of St. Faith's and St. Stephen the Martyr (11725 93 St) will resume in October. More info: 780-477-5931.

ALBERTA AVENUE CHOIR

We are looking for new members. Visit us and make some friends. World Music. Garth Prinsonsky albertaavechoir@gmail.com

MAKE MELODY

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

FRIDAY NIGHT DROP-IN

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

PARKDALE-CROMDALE SENIORS GROUP

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

SENIORS LUNCH

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

BABES IN ARMS

A casual parent group every Friday 10am till noon at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave).

LI'L SPROUTS PLAYGROUP

Come by the Parkdale-Cromdale Hall (11335 85 St) with your little ones Fridays, 10am-12pm. More info: Chantal 780-669-3272.

CRUD COMMUNITY DINNER CLUB

Discover new flavours and restaurants while you explore a variety of wonderful cuisine along the Ave with friends and neighbours. This month we will be at Donair Express (8523 118 Ave) on Tuesday, June 5th, 6-8pm. All are welcome! Please RSVP to Bert or Alice at bertg@telusplanet.net

SPORTS/REC

THRILL THE AVE

The Thrill the Ave zombies will be performing Thriller again at this year's

Kaleido festival. Classes are Mondays from 7-8 pm at Alberta Avenue Community Centre (9210 118 Ave). Classes are free and no dance experience necessary. We welcome people of all ages. Fun for the whole family. We will also be learning a hip hop routine this year. For more info. contact Heather 780-454-9296, email thrilltheave@gmail.com or Thrill the Ave (group) on facebook.

FREE QIGONG CLASS

YiXue Lotus practice (Lotus Qigong) for a calm, stable heart and overall well-being. Thursdays 7-8:30pm, No Fee. Call Astrid 780-477-0683.

FREE ZUMBA CLASS

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

CRUD WALKING GROUP

Join us for a nice stroll around the neighbourhood. Wednesday evenings: 6:30pm in front of the main doors of the Alberta Avenue Community Centre (9210 118 Ave). The group walks west to 95th Street, heads south towards Norwood School, and then loops back.

FREE COMMUNITY ACCESS AT THE NEW COMMONWEALTH REC CENTRE

Saturdays from 5-7pm there is a free community access time for community league members. Enjoy the pool or the fitness centre. All 7 area leagues are participating. Contact your neighbourhood league to get a membership.

CRUD DOG WALKING GROUP

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

VOLUNTEER

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Kaleido Family Arts Festival is looking for fantastic volunteers to help make this year's festival be better than ever! Come and see what's happening this year, and how you can be involved at the Kick-Off Dinner on Wednesday May 30th at 6pm. Info/RSVP: kaleidovolunteers@gmail.com

HELP AT NORWOOD CENTRE

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

BEFRIEND A SENIOR

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Anglican Churches of St. Faith's and St. Stephen the Martyr

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

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

Sunday Services:

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

Bethel Gospel Chapel

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

Sunday Meetings:

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

Christian Life Center

Our Vision is to be a growing community of believers who are woven together by the love of God for support, fellowship and prayer.

10123 Princess Eliz. Avenue
780-471-2250 www.clifec.ca

Service Times:

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

Avenue Vineyard Church

A friendly, informal, non-judgmental and safe place to grow spiritually. Traditional Christian values in a non-traditional way.
8718-118 Avenue (Crystal Kids building)
www.avenuevineyard.com
Sundays at 10:30 am

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church

11828-85th Street 780-474-5434

Service Times:

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

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

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

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

For more info about the NNA, go to albertaave.org/nna.html

Help us write features such as housing, education, gardening, immigrants or pitch your idea to editor@ratcreek.org



The 6th annual Bloomin Garden Show & Art Sale was a great success with approximately 1500 people attending the event. Twenty-five vendors and info booths filled the Alberta Avenue Community Centre with flowers, plants, garden accessories, artwork and artisan wares. Shoppers were treated to soothing classical music, fantastic food by Elm Cafe and coffee by The Carrot Coffeehouse. The compost sale of the City of Edmonton Second Nature compost was a hit and was sold-out in the morning. Thank you vendors, volunteers and the organizing committee for a fantastic event.

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- Kids Bellydance
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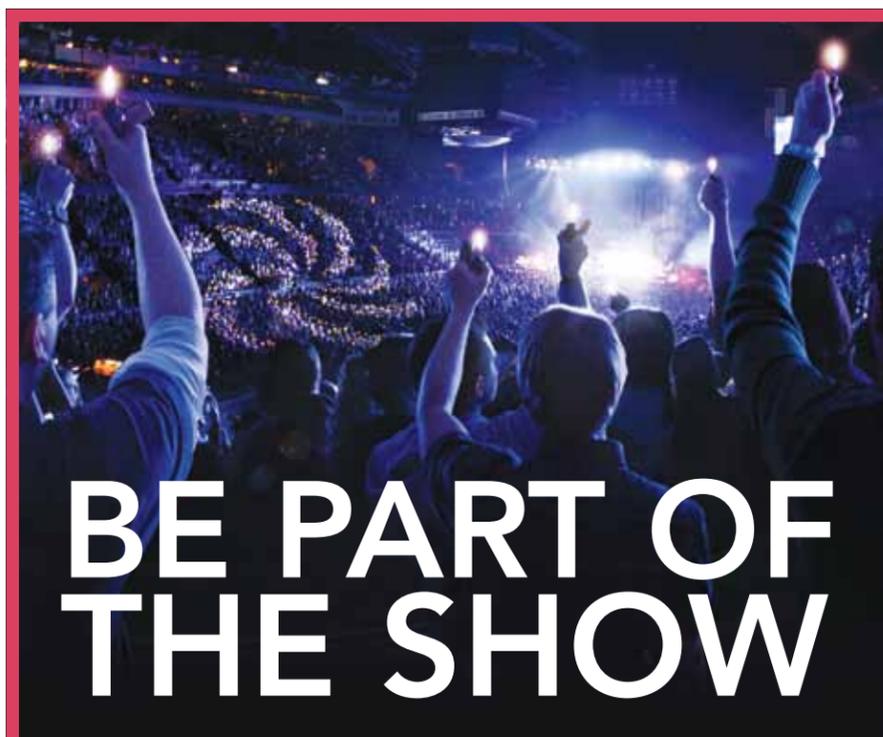
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If you want a job that's exciting, rewarding, and entertaining, all at the same time... that's what awaits when you join the show at Northlands. Be part of the team behind the best events in entertainment, business, agriculture and horse racing. Come share your enthusiasm and commitment to excellent customer service. Be an ambassador for one of the greatest facilities in the world, known for its outstanding spirit and volunteerism.

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

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

