



Idle No More stirs local residents

“You might say we were passive, but INM has changed that now.”



From the birds overhead to the trees down below, all is at risk say First Nations people who have risen up to protest the destruction of the environment and the denial of their treaty rights. Protests are continuing across the country and in the city.

RUSTIL LEHAY

Rob Calhoun is a local First Nation's visual artist who often works quietly on his pieces at the Carrot Cafe on 118th Avenue. However, in between strokes of his pen, he has a few things to say about the Idle No More (INM) movement that is continuing across Canada.

“Natives don't do something for nothing. If they get stirred up, it's like kicking a hornet's nest,” says Calhoun. “Natives aren't just fighting for themselves. Canada will lose a lot of land and preserved parks will lose their protected status.”

The movement began last year with four Saskatchewan women: Jessica Gordon, Sheelah McLean, Sylvia McAdams and Nina Wilsonfeld, who were infuriated by Prime Minister Stephen Harper's tabling of Bill C-45, also known as the second omnibus budget bill. At a hefty 400 pages long, it attempts

to enact radical changes to the Indian Act, Navigation Protection Act, and the Environmental Assessment Act. The women were concerned the Bill would also erode indigenous rights and organized an event in Saskatoon on November 10th.

The protests took off. The most visible and contentious action was led by Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, who began her fast on December 11, 2012 and ended it on January 23, 2013. Her demand for a meeting with both the Prime Minister and Governor General (as representative of the Crown) were not met.

Vernon Wishart, a retired pastor and author of *Kisiskaciwan (Saskatchewan): Tracing My Grandmother's Foot Steps* agrees, “There is a growing awareness among Canadian citizens that Idle No More has exposed what is at stake is not only an undercutting of Native rights but an eroding of the

democratic process itself.”

For months now, roads and rail lines have been sporadically blocked in many provinces, and there have been sympathetic rallies in both Australia and Europe supporting the movement.

Charles Ward, a Cree Indian born and raised in Prince George, says, “Mainstream doesn't get the INM movement. The government has created a red herring -- scapegoating the First Nations -- ‘Look at them, never happy.’ When you look at the territories the pipelines are going through, it is all sacred land that has remained untouched. People aren't aware of the destruction that will follow. Bill C-45 allows [the government] to bypass environmental impact studies and rape the land.”

At stake, say protestors, is the future of our country. From millions of protected waterways to only hundreds,

the Navigation Protection Act no longer requires major oil and power developers to prove they won't damage waterways unless it's on a list prepared by the Transportation Minister. The INM protesters say the amendments remove environmental protection for 99.9 per cent of the lakes and rivers in Canada.

James Atkinson, Vice-President of the Métis Regional Council (IV), has an office a few blocks away from the Carrot Cafe. He says the protests have led many local groups, like the Native Friendship Centre, to close their doors for a day to participate in events.

“You might say we were passive,” says Atkinson. “But INM has changed that. We have to be proactive now. It really assembled a lot of people quickly and many organizations are willing to support it.”

Carmen Loiselle, a local resident, is supporting the protests. “I feel strongly that the treatment of native peoples in Canada by the government has been so dismal, but the other themes of the Idle No More movement are also really important, such as chipping away at services. These are things that affect all of us as Canadians and why I try and get out to events when I can.”

With no end in sight to the protests, and many First Nation's people still demanding a treaty discussion with the Crown of Canada, it looks to be a long struggle. It is inflaming tensions that have been simmering for decades, mostly to do with the rape and abuse many First Nation's people suffered while in the residential school system.

But where the national dialogue ends, says Tina Bernard, an Eagle Head Staff Carrier and Mi'kmaq of the East Coast, is still very much unresolved.

“The Idle No More movement appears to be about land, but under the surface we must recognize it's a spiritual war,” says Bernard optimistically. “INM is not white or native. It's potentially time for great spiritual discussions to happen. When everybody's children are your children, the world can change.”

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Community News

Wing's serves up steaming hot service



FOOD REVIEW

WINGS SPORTS BAR AND GRILL
8541 - 118TH AVENUE

RUSTI L. LEHAY

In search of perfect poutine and crispy wings, we walked into Wings Sports Bar and Grill. Katelan, the smiling server, may not have known the name of the house wine, but she promptly brought a small sample glass for both of us. Although at a mere \$5.00 a glass, when you have a hankering for pub food, who needs to be a sommelier?

The menu, expansive for a pub, was split into First Period for soups and salads, Second Period for appetizers with plenty of selections, a Third Period for steaks and chicken. Overtime was dedicated to pizza, sandwiches and burgers. Post Game offered three desserts. We were mildly disappointed to be denied the homemade soup offered at the top of the menu.

It was 20 wings for \$5.00 and \$4.75 pint Tuesdays, and the beer selection was limited to domestic and imports, and with no microbreweries to sample, my cohort enjoyed a well-drawn



Local bar and grill makes the grade as a comfortable and relaxing place for good food and great service.

Canadian. Excellent with the salt and pepper wings that were indeed crispy. The teriyaki and barbecue were difficult to distinguish from each other both visually and taste-wise, perhaps due to the lingering burn that progressively robbed the others of identifiable flavours. The honey garlic wings were delightfully drenched in a sweet garlicky coating; all were hot enough to take your breath away and they were all delivered in a cloud of steam.

Arriving hungry with a license to taste-test multiple items is like grocery shopping hungry - a no-no. They both thwart good choices. However, the comfort food aspect of poutine is always a good choice when done right. Drenched in

gravy with a generous amount of cheese (mostly melted), it delivered taste above anything a bucket could deliver. If the cheese had been perfectly melted, this poutine might have rated a 95% from my tastebuds.

Ken, a regular, walks by just as all the food is spread across the table, and stops to ask, "You're going to eat all that?!" He's quick to add, "They do a helluva good job on their food."

His favourite is the lasagna, which he rates as highly as the Coliseum Steak and Pizza down the avenue.

The sounds of the patrons' laughter mixes in with the tunes that varied from alternative, punk to country and all over the music map. Loud enough

to enjoy without straining the voice to overcome. Even though it is a sports bar, it isn't overdone with TV screens everywhere allowing patrons to find a corner to relax in at the end of a day. The high tables and bar stools with backs and footrests were super comfy. The bathrooms were clean (although stalls were bereft of good lighting that made them feel somewhat dingy). The hot water tap took a long time to run warmer than ice.

A half hour later, the table still laden with food, we are forced to agree with Ken that we were foolishly confident in our stomach capacity. We needed three people to eat the food we ordered and three people could have eaten for less than \$20/

person (including tip). My red meat loving companion might have had more to take home if I hadn't surprised myself by scarfing down the chunk she forked onto my plate. It was tender and tasty. A former short-order cook and the expert at barbecuing steak at our family functions, she checks her medium rare steak with three cuts and it receives a "done perfect" and a look of bliss at the first taste.

After that pub food night, I sneak back in to try a healthier choice. Once again, I was disappointed it was a no-soup day. I tried their Greek salad, and felt lucky I got Katelan as a server again. A plate arrives piled high with romaine hearts, chunks of tomatoes and peppers, a generous coating of feta cheese, and their 'famous Greek house dressing'. It is flavourful yet allows the subtleties of the other tastes to shine through. Katelan was more than happy to oblige the request of no black olives or onions.

The key to this Cheers-like bar is the server. Two guys walk in and before they can order, she is at their table with a Kokanee and a Bud. This place deserves a return visit. Maybe I'll become a regular.

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Community News

Air One to Alberta Avenue

INTERVIEW

SGT. CHRIS BARBAR
EPS COMMUNITY LIAISON SERGEANT,
DOWNTOWN DIVISION 1

DARREN BOISVERT

Q: What is your background and when did you begin your new role?

A: I've been with the Edmonton Police Service for 22 years. I've previously worked patrol duties in the west-end and south-side, walked the beat at West Edmonton Mall, communications, covert surveillance and recently left the Air One (helicopter) unit after 8 years as a pilot/officer.

I started with the community liaison division on December 3rd. I haven't been in a patrol uniform since 1999, so it's slowly getting back into the community, talking to people, being more involved in their lives, whereas before, it was seeing the city from a thousand feet.

Q: What are your responsibilities in this community?

A: Each district has four constables (and Neighbourhood Empowerment Teams) that I oversee. One of my jobs is to monitor crime trends and come up with a solution. There are 8 crime signifiers that I track and figure out what resources we have with the police to tackle this and engage the media and community groups to assist.

Q: What's your assessment of the recent spike in break-and-enter crimes in parts of our community?

A: It comes in waves. There are transient neighbourhoods with people moving in and start doing crimes. Perhaps certain B&E people have left jail, so we do a check on who was recently released. But downtown is doing good. We are on par with other communities. At the end of last year, there was a reduction of crimes by 5% over 2011, which was the goal of the police service. Change takes time.

Q: There's been a visible decrease in commercial sex workers on 118th Avenue the past few years. How has the EPS been involved?

A: Officers on the street are getting more involved. If they see a working girl, they get their name, let them know they are not welcome, and ask them to move along. Where before, only our very small vice unit would be working. The working girls are much more comfortable working with the police and willing to report things. A few years ago, it was: "If I talk to the police, I will get arrested."

Q: What can you tell us about the rumours the Eastwood detachment will be closed soon?

A: (Senior officers) are looking at closing a few community stations around the city, Eastwood being one of them. They are looking at replacing it with an online reporting system. We should know more in a couple of months.

Q: If this happens, how will it affect the community?

A: I think a certain level of face-to-face interaction between people and police will be lost. But Eastwood is basically a reporting station; no one is deployed from there. Cst. Lucas and I (and the beat officers who patrol) already work from the downtown detachment. The community should not be concerned by the impact this will have upon the police service in their district. There is still discussion ongoing about the scope of how it will work.

Q: What's your plan for the next few years as our Community Sgt.?

A: I want to find innovative ways to reduce the major crime in the community and to keep it at a lower level. It's challenging and very fluid, but achievable. There will be spikes in crimes. I also want to encourage the community to get involved, to report crimes, to be a good witness, not to turn a blind eye. I think they would be surprised how the smallest detail may help solve a crime.



Westwood loses a committed leader

IN REQUIEM

HONOURING LORNE LARSEN

A speech given in eulogy for his friend and longtime associate on the Westwood Community League Board.

ROB HAUCK

I was asked to say a few words about Lorne and the work he did for the community where he resided in Edmonton.

I got to know Lorne and the Larsen family about twenty years ago when we both joined the executive of the Westwood Community League.

Lorne became president of the community league because no one else stepped forward, and to him the loss of the league and what it means to this neighbourhood was something that could not be allowed to happen. He often talked of the days when he was a child in Westwood, and all the great times he had at the hockey rink or on the ball diamond.

When Lorne took over, his first job as president was to straighten out the mess with how the league was being run. As president he attended to many issues; the Champ and Indy races, the sale of H.A. Gray school and its subsequent redevelopment, park land redevelopment, street traffic studies, land rezoning, group homes in the community, the 118 Avenue and airport re-developments, dealing

with the everyday business of the community league, and answering the everyday questions and concerns of the citizens of the community.

In addition to attending to the hall and its running, Lorne could be seen behind the scenes at many functions throughout the year. He took time to stop by and see how the summer park program was doing every year, making sure the children were taken care of. He volunteered many, many hours taking care of these and other programs.

Lorne was the point man for Westwood, never afraid to stand up and be heard, ready to make the argument for the betterment of the community he called home.

He did not often come out on top, but he also did not often lose, as the final decision in many cases was a compromise of positions. Without Lorne speaking up and leading the fight, the final decision may have been even more in opposition to the community than what was rendered.

Lorne's belief in community was passionate and his passion was contagious to others. He wanted Westwood to be a great place to live, and the Westwood community league to be its center. He succeeded.

Westwood community league survives to this day, largely because of Lorne. We will miss him for who he was and what he did for us. Thank you Lorne for your passion for Westwood.

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EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

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

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Environmental stewards no more

DARREN BOISVERT

The first person to contract Minamata disease was a five-year-old girl in Minamata City, Japan, who in 1956 was suffering from severe convulsions and an inability to either walk or talk. Doctors were puzzled by this central nervous disease, until people began noticing the cats and dogs in the city stumbling around as if they were drunk and then abruptly dying.

It turned out that the Chisso chemical factory in the area had dumped large amounts of methylmercury into the water supply. Nearly two thousand people died and many more were disfigured and hospitalized. After decades of lawsuits and protests, the Chisso Corporation was forced to admit it wasn't a disease, but toxic poisoning, and paid compensation to the families.

In the 50's and 60's, an Ontario pulp and paper factory also polluted the local waterways with mercury, and the people of Grassy Narrows, Whitedog and Chippewas First Nations began to lose control of their bodies, lost feeling in their hands and feet, and got so dizzy they couldn't stand straight.

I think of these stories when I consider the Idle No More movement across Canada in 2013. For over fifty years they have been poisoned, forced off their lands in order to protect their children, and dismissed as complainers by successive governments. The only surprising thing about the protests is that it took so long to organize nationally.

Perhaps not so surprising given their communities were literally ripped apart when children were forcibly removed from their parents' care and interned in residential schools. Where they were abused, raped and subjected to mental

cruelty. When after being released, many turned to drugs and alcohol to try to forget.

I have travelled in many conflict zones around the world, where abused minorities have resorted to picking up guns to defend their interests. I am amazed -- absolutely gobsmacked -- this hasn't happened here in Canada. For this gift of peace, every person

same air, eat the same food, drink the same water. They are angry we cannot see that sacred land (in our language, pristine wilderness) is for all people to enjoy and retreat to when we need a long walk in the woods to clear our minds.

But we want to make money. Lots of it. Here in Alberta, we bulldoze the land, dig up oily sand, leech

years ago, an Environmental Site Assessment identified an underground storage tank in our neighbourhood. In one sample, they found benzene and ethylbenzene levels over 168,000 times the recommended limits set out by the Alberta Government. Contamination had spread across the street. Only now is the City testing to see if this pollution is affecting human health. Plans are in currently in place to drill into the site of the Alberta Avenue Community League (AACL) garden to check for contaminants, but officials would not commit (during a presentation to the AACL board last month) to follow the recommendations outlined in January 2009 to test north of the parking lot where residential homes are located. We hope the roll of the dice worked and there is no health risk, but what a gamble they made without notifying the residents about the stakes at play.

Delay. Deny. Dismiss. For the past 8 years, these words have been rejected by the people of this community. After decades of decay, residents finally said 'Enough!', rolled up their sleeves, organized, and addressed the serious social problems of street prostitution, derelict housing, weapons in stores, graffiti, junk in alleyways, and empty storefronts. It took years overcoming resistance from entrenched interests. It took committed leadership to reclaim this community.

Once again, residents are faced with a difficult decision: do we face the contamination under our feet, or wait in the belief the problem will solve itself?

For inspiration and guidance, perhaps we need to look to the First Nations people for a bit of wisdom in this regard.



in Canada should be thankful to the leaders of the First Nations for their steadfast commitment to nonviolence.

Viewed this way, the people of this country should also be extremely grateful for the Idle No More movement. Hidden under the trees that block our roads and rails, is the idea that the First Nations people are not just protesting against undemocratic government policies, but protesting for the health of all Canadians. They are shouting at the top of their lungs: we breathe the

it with chemicals, and release our waste into the land. The problem with pollution is it never stays in one place. It travels like a disease, infecting the water and soil, killing our animals and destroying people and communities. We remain committed to the common engineering phrase: 'The solution to pollution is dilution'.

Kicking problems under the rug only lasts so long. Here in our community, this approach has paid a meagre dividend. Over ten

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Community News

Have opinions? Great let's hear them!

Submissions: editor@ratcreek.org

INTRODUCING OUR 2013 RAT CREEK PRESS BOARD MEMBERS

As the Rat Creek Press enters its 15th year of publication, we continue to add new staff and board members to our team. The 2013 RCP Executive is already hard at work overseeing the governance of our newspaper. We have two new members, and offer one last tip-of-the-hat to outgoing member Dale Youngman (PageMasters), who provided us with valuable advice on publishing issues. We thank him for his contributions and wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors. The RCP board is always available to hear your concerns and comments on our newspaper. They can be reached at board@ratcreek.org.

HARVEY VOOGD, *Chairperson*

He has served on the board for over 4 years. He has lived in Delton since June 1998. Harvey works as a Business Agent for Civic Service Union 52 and his office is at the corner of 95 Street and 113 Avenue, which has the large mural of former Lt. Gov. Lois Hole holding a basket of flowers. His office gives Harvey a front row seat to the commercial and residential development that is being built on 95 Street. He'll also soon have a front row seat to the Delton neighbourhood improvement program which begins this spring. He's looking forward to all the changes underway in both the community and newspaper.

CAITLIN HICKEY, *Vice-chairperson*

This is Caitlin's second year on the board serving as the vice-chairperson. She has lived in Alberta Avenue for four years now. She is passionate about the revitalization efforts and loves the community's festivals, culture and diversity. She is in her second year of law school at the University of Alberta and enjoys reading, running, and snowboarding in her spare time.

ARTHUR DYCK, *Treasurer*

SHANNON CLARKE, *Secretary*
She has been the Community Librarian at the Sprucewood Branch of Edmonton Public Library for past two years. She is currently on maternity leave from this job, enjoying spending fun times with her first baby. This is Shannon's third term as secretary of the Rat Creek Press board.

WES BELLMORE, *New Member*

He has lived in Delton since 2007, when he bought an untouched 1940s house and renovated it inside and out. His professional background is in corporate/media communications, marketing and public relations. A few years ago, he made a complete departure from the corporate world and donated all his suits and ties to the Bissell Center, and became a youth correctional services worker. In his free time, he assists with the unending community revitalization process as well as his home renovations and landscaping. He brings to the RCP his experience volunteering on several community boards and looks forward to the challenges and opportunities in store with the Rat Creek Press.

JASON SCOTT, *New Member*

He has been a resident of this neighbourhood since 2010, and has quickly become involved in many organizations and initiatives along the Avenue. He is on the executive of the Norwood Neighbourhood Association and a member of the Alberta Avenue Community League, and now joins the RCP team as a board member. He works at the Service Alberta Ministry in the Information Management division and has a BA (honors) degree in English from the University of Alberta.

THE LEMONADE STAND THE ARCHITECTURE OF BUSINESS SUCCESS

Here is the sixth in the series on building a successful business. Our neighbourhood is filled with freelancers, entrepreneurs, independent artists, and cottage industries run from homes. We hope that by presenting the challenges and hurdles faced by many independent business owners, along with sensible advice for success, will encourage others to consider following their dream of independence.

HENRI YAUCK

"Entrepreneurs may be born, not made. But businesses are built, not born."

Everyone dreams of being his/her own boss (or having their own Lemonade Stand), yet few people realize their dream. It is important to understand how to build a business using systems, strategies, and tactics that will get a product or service into the hands of a large enough group of customers to sustain your enterprise.

It takes planning to succeed in business.

However, some entrepreneurs doom their businesses to failure because they do little to no planning. In our first five articles we touched on some of the basics of a successful

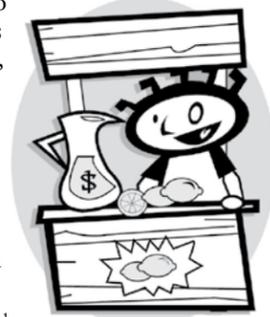
structure, using a three legged stool, as an illustration. If you followed those articles you may have noted that this illustration outlines setting up a system.

This is the secret sauce of franchise businesses success. Systems. Over 70% of franchise businesses owners succeed.

The owner purchases a proven system, then manages the system. An owner/manager makes sure each employee carries out their duties as part of the system.

In short, managing a system ensures the business runs the business -- giving customers consistency in

quality and service. In this way, you can create customer satisfaction and loyalty, while drawing in more new customers from a large predetermined market base.



EDITOR'S NOTE

The Rat Creek Press had promised many people that we would write a follow-up feature on our "Contamination on Alberta Ave" story. We also committed to publishing 16 pages this issue. We discovered many troubling details that require much consideration and research. We ran out of time and could not responsibly publish at this time.

We understand the possible negative ramifications of printing this story on this community, and to address this, we also expended considerable effort liaising with other groups to find a common response. We offered to share all our research with them. In the spirit of transparency, we have decided to make all our research available to any person in the community.

To do this efficiently, and to engage the community, we are considering a hosting a public meeting/symposium in April, invite city officials to attend, and any experts we can line up. We believe that everyone should have an opportunity to present their point of view.

We would like to hear from you about this idea of discussing 'Contaminated Gas Tank Sites/Brownfield Redevelopment' as an overall topic. Any other suggestions? Please contact editor@ratcreek.org.

Next month, we will give you a website address where you can download a free PDF eBook, The Architecture of Business Success, giving you seven chapters of actionable information, including the forms you will need to successfully structure your marketing and business. In addition you will have free access to several video tutorials, guidelines, and other materials to help you succeed in setting up your own successful "Lemonade Stand."

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A Bedouin Beats Belly Dancer entrances the crowd, and local residents will have a chance to see more gyrations this month. The skirtsAFire, her arts festival runs on the Avenue from March 7-10.

A SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN

DARREN BOISVERT

Ambitious. Creative. Inclusive. Add in an impressive amount of passion and a touch of nerves, and you have the makings of the newest festival to hit the Avenue.

The first annual skirtsAFire, her Arts festival that kicks off March 7-10th is the brainchild of a group of artists who shared a bottle of wine and a bowl of popcorn over a year ago, and decided to showcase the talents of performing women artists. I met up with several of the organizers in Popular Bakery to ask them why they would take on such a project.

"At our second meeting we went around the room and each of us explained why we wanted to do this," explains actor Annette Loisel. "It was going to be a lot of work, and it meant sacrificing time with our families. We were honest about our selfish motivations along with our generous reasons."

The common thread between all the answers was a desire to promote the women in the arts who have long been under-represented as directors, producers, produced playwrights, and actors on stage. Loisel pointed out that in contrast, there are more females who work in the performing arts than men, and more women attend performances across Canada. Women, according to these organizers, aren't seeing their stories told to themselves.

Their 'selfish' reasons were to provide themselves with work, and to produce a comprehensive festival that could become a mainstay in the Edmonton arts scene for years to come. But most of all, they are inspired to build a stronger community of female artists.

"I have been out of the theater community for many years," says Holly Turner, who spent 30 years practicing as a lawyer. "This group of women is terrific and I want to get to know other women more, and to have the opportunity to renew my theatre connections through community involvement."

Unlike Turner, Sharla Matkin has been working hard as a professional actor for 20 years. She is a past winner of an Alberta Sterling

Award for *Best Actress at The Fringe*. Even with these credits to her name, her eyes light up when she talks about the possibilities of being a producer.

"I find it exciting and rewarding for others, not just myself, when I can call my friends up and say 'I have money, lets put on a show!'" enthuses Matkin. "I find that thrilling. And to think all of the great plays we may take to the stage in Toronto, Montreal, New York, maybe publish an anthology of playwrights..."

Her ideas, it's clear, are endless.

It's an ambitious start to their festival careers. They have convinced an incredible array of well-known artists to join the festival. In addition to theatre, they have a program filled with music, dance, literature, spoken word, and visual art.

To expand their repertoire, they brought Julie Robinson on-board. A familiar spoken word artist here in Edmonton, she brought her rolodex of fellow female performers to the table and her passion for poetry.

"Poetry is easy, you can always present your 2 minute poem on stage and get feedback

from the community," says Robinson. "There is an ethic of sharing work, and stories need to be embodied, and when voiced, they are embodied again. It's an important part of telling stories."

And that, for all the women, is the true motivation behind the festival.

"A spotlight will be focused on us as playwrights, actors, producers, and artists," says Matkin. "The festivals that are successful are the ones that have an audience. But if you are around people who share your attraction to the events, you can bring people together."



FESTIVAL VENUES

Alberta Avenue Community League, 9210 - 118th Avenue

Nina Haggarty Centre for the Arts, 9225 - 118 Avenue

Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse, 9351-118 Avenue

SPONSORED BY:

Avenue Initiative Revitalization

Brewery Workers Local CAW 250

Health Sciences Association of Alberta



Festival Line-Up:

CABARET & MULTI-DISCIPLINARY WORKS

GWG: PIECE BY PIECE

March 7th at 8:00pm | Alberta Avenue Community League

Created by Maria Dunn in collaboration with Don Bouzek and Catherine C. Cole, Piece by Piece is a video ballad that celebrates the self-reliance and grace of immigrant women working at the GWG factory over its 93-year history.

BODY LANGUAGE

March 9th at 7:00pm | Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts

Blending spoken word and music, this collaboration features poetry created and performed by outstanding women who bring a broad range of experience and backgrounds together into a celebration of voice and story, while complementing the poetry are songs of peace, freedom and equality sung by Edmonton's own Notre Dame des Bananes Choir.

A PEEK UNDER OUR SKIRTS

March 8th at 8:00pm | Alberta Avenue Community League

Packed with talent from across the Edmonton Arts Scene, this cabaret celebrates International Women's Day in a raucous extravaganza of song, rap, dance, comedy and improv, featuring, Booming Tree, Kate & Bridget Ryan, Beth Portman, Dana Wylie, Rapid Fire Theatre, Zephyr, Tzadeka, Bedouin Beats, Patricia Zentilli and Bridget Jessome.

BILLY KIDD: A MAGICIAN OF THE FEMALE NATURE

March 9th at 8:00pm | Alberta Avenue Community League

A high energy show filled with mind reading, a hilarious routine based on Houdini's straight jacket escape, lots of audience participation and one of the oldest magic tricks in the world. Watch as Billy turns paper to money, finds a card while dangling from a trapeze, or reads your mind in unexpected ways.

THEATRE AND STORIES WITH IMPACT

SHE SPEAKS: A STORYTELLING CIRCLE

March 8th at 7:00pm | Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts

A remarkable way to recognize and honour International Women's Day, five strong women from different backgrounds shares their personal stories. Join us to experience these womens' unique journeys, featuring: Starla, Tiffany, Juanita and Bernice.

THE PHOTOGRAPH

March 9th at 4:00pm | Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts

A staged reading presented in partnership with Theatre of the New Heart, by Dana Rayment, characters Gina and Mark lose their baby in a stillbirth. They cope by resorting to their most comforting ally: their camera and their battery of photographs.

HER STORY

March 9th at 9:00pm | Alberta Avenue Community League

Blindfolded and bound in a barn in rural Alberta, as she tries to escape, Ash is forced to face her demons and uncover her own self worth. Her story takes us on a journey of pain, addiction, street life, abuse, surprise, love, hope, loss and forgiveness, created by Nadien Chu and Annette Loisel.

PEEP SHOW

March 10th at 2:00pm | Alberta Avenue Community League

Glimpse the future of SkirtsAFire and the Edmonton arts scene through a tease of new plays presented in partnership with Alberta Playwrights Network, four exciting new plays by four fantastic female playwrights.

A BELLY TALE: BELLY DANCING WORKSHOPS

March 10th at 2:00 & 3:30pm | Bedouin Beats

These workshops are 2 roots of the same tree as women share their own histories through music and dance. What is your story? Let us draw the veil; begin the drumbeat; light the light.

ART

SUBSTANCE OF SPACE: A VISUAL ART SHOW

Opening Reception March 7th at 4:00pm and runs throughout the festival | Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts

This group visual art show features recent work by Nika Blasser, Alysha Creighton, Megan Hahn and Claire Uhlick. Through a variety of styles and perspectives, these artists consider the concept of physical and emotion 'space' in two dimensional visual media.

MUSIC

GIRLS! GIRLS! GIRLS! SINGING GIRLS!

March 9th at 2:00pm | The Carrot Community Arts Coffee House

Man oh man do we have girls who can sing...and play...and write. These smart, soulful and talented musicians inspire audiences with their original songs and stories, featuring Andrea House, Paula Humby and Laura Metcalf (The Duets), Ariane and Adrienne Salmon.

COLLEEN BROWN FESTIVAL FINALE

March 10th at 4:30pm | Alberta Avenue Community League

A budding Canadian musical inferno, Colleen Brown writes music that takes on the subjects of love, work, disappointment, and the many facets of humanity. She is often compared to Joni Mitchell and Carole King. SkirtsAFire ends with a bang as Colleen Brown brings the festival to a close.

STITCHING LIVES TOGETHER



PREVIEW:
GWG: PIECE BY PIECE
 PERFORMANCE BY
 MARIA DUNN, WITH
 SHARMILA MATHUR AND
 JEREMIAH MCDADE
 IN COLLABORATION
 WITH DON BOUZEK AND
 CATHERINE C. COLE.
 THURSDAY, MARCH 7,
 2013 AT 8:00PM
 ALBERTA AVENUE
 COMMUNITY LEAGUE

“From the time I discovered folk music in a serious way, I was drawn to the stories of real history, real people,” explains Dunn. “I visited the factory before it closed and joined Catherine on some of her interviews. The women of GWG were willing to sacrifice for their children, leave more prestigious jobs back home, to come and work in a clothing factory because their english didn’t allow them better opportunities.”

Ironically, since the company closed it’s factory after 100 years in operation, its contribution to labour rights in North America is gaining more respect and a bit of prestige for the women who fought for the rights of all workers. The company was the largest fabric manufacturer in the British Empire before WW1. Its Local 120 union, powered by courageous immigrant women, was the first to negotiate an 8 hour day/40 hour week contract in North America. It pioneered safety in an industry plagued by fires and disasters. And when it closed its doors in 2004, it was the last large-scale fabric manufacturer in North America -- and the most efficient.

For the past year, Dunn has been on a union-sponsored tour of the province celebrating the factory and the women in it. Singing labour songs. Talking history. Honouring immigrants.

“I suppose there are people who want to escape their day-to-day experiences, or feel that their experiences aren’t that interesting,” says Dunn. “But folk music always has been about the fairly ordinary experiences that have filtered down from hundreds of years -- like working in a coal mine. There are ordinary details in these songs.”

But as the women of GWG have shown, not so ordinary people.

DARREN BOISVERT

Halfway through my telephone interview with Maria Dunn, I looked at my watch to see if I still had time to ask the questions on my list. In fifteen minutes, we flew from her family’s history during the Irish Famine, to the labour movement, to immigrant women, to the music scene in Edmonton.

Then it dawned on me. This wasn’t just another rambling interview with an unfocused guest. The breadth of the conversation was her point. Some artists just don’t fit into the 3 minute format on commercial radio, and some topics deserve context and time to stitch it all together.

There is no better example than her upcoming performance of *GWG: Piece by Piece*. In a seamless hour-long performance on the lives of the immigrant women who worked at the iconic Great Western Garment factory, there will be music, video/picture production by Don Bouzak, and oral testimonials gleaned from the interviews by author/historian Catherine C. Cole.

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(Left to right) Shannon Johnson, Maria Dunn, Sharmila Mathur perform *GWG: Piece by Piece*.

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As a little girl I realized that I had psychic abilities, as everybody has, it’s a matter of developing and accepting it! Most people listen to their “gut feelings,” somewhat. Then something happens and it’s like, oh my God, why didn’t I listen to myself. Trusting our own intuitions and developing our psychic abilities has not been nurtured. In fact, it is given labels and misconceptions and what a huge injustice this is to mankind. My psychic evolution has been very spiritual. Spirituality is total love for the universe and connection to the universe. This spirituality includes all religions.

In nearly 50 years, I have helped a lot of people. I have found ten missing people, dogs, cats, a parrot, jewellery, keys, etc. What I do is very rewarding and I love it totally! Along my journey I have produced six TV shows, taught meditation classes and have made and sold many “Power Rods.” These Rods have miraculous healing energy by relieving stress, providing relaxation and improving the energy circulation system. I also appreciate and dabble in art.

You need to book now because I travel early spring and late autumn throughout Western Canada and the Prairies on my “working vacations.”

OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

A school is more than just its students

A profile of Edmonton Public Schools Delton Elementary

REBECCA LIPPIATT

Children's artwork lines the hallways in colorfully framed pieces. A poster reading "Welcome" in 20 different languages and scripts is prominently posted to the front office door. The secretaries look up and smile. Children rushing in are greeted by name as they collect their late slips. Delton school feels warm and inviting.

This is the atmosphere Principal Nancy Webber wants to cultivate.

"Delton is a positive, welcoming place to be -- by staff and students," says Principal Webber. "The students are fabulous, motivated and keen to get involved in clubs and leadership activities. That is the kind of (future) citizen you want to get involved in your community."

And these lessons of community involvement are part of daily life in Delton School. Principal Webber stresses the importance of children attending school with their neighbourhood friends. Going to a local school, within walking distance of their homes, helps create a sense of community where they live, and helps encourage parents and other residents to get involved.

"That is what public education is about," says Principal Webber.

Because of the Edmonton Public School Board's open



"The inside of the school is colourful and vibrant, with good energy, and we want to make the outside of the school match it," explains Principal Webber. Nestled behind trees and in the community, Delton School is well-placed for students.

boundary policy, Delton also has students who come from outside the neighbourhood. There is a daycare on-site for younger children and they also provide after-school care.

It's a comprehensive philosophy: a welcoming environment, open-door programming and encouraging the students to connect with their peers after school hours on site.

Currently, Delton School is working to make the outside of their school as welcoming and bright as the artwork that graces the inside of the school. It was an idea generated when she was approached by a community

member whose child plays in the playground and will attend the school when she is old enough.

"The inside of the school is colourful and vibrant, with good energy, and we want to make the outside of the school match it," explains Principal Webber.

The current playground is fairly old and is often in need of repair. This lack of repair lends itself to vandalism. As such, the school plans to create a unique, imaginative playground and combine this with greening the grounds. She hopes to involve as many community members as possible in this rejuvenation,

creating a sense of pride for everyone involved.

The children who attend the school will be asked to envision what the front and side of the school could look like. There are currently lovely old, big trees and the children will be asked what else they would add. This may be as simple as allowing the children to create artwork on benches or adding paint to existing structures to freshen them up.

Principal Webber and Delton School are looking forward to working with parents and community members to create a beautiful space for the community to use.

DID YOU KNOW?

March is enrollment month for school children. To assist parents, the Rat Creek Press has compiled a list of elementary schools in the Alberta Avenue district (see page 9).

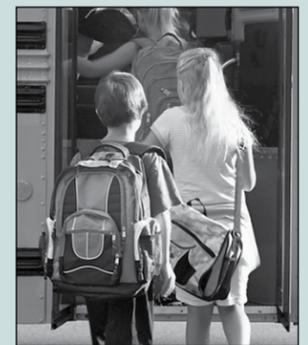
Both Edmonton Public School Board (EPSB) and Edmonton Catholic Schools (ECS) have an open boundary policy, meaning that children can attend a school outside of their district, so long as the spaces are not filled by district children. To find schools in your neighbourhood visit:

EDMONTON PUBLIC

www.e-psb.ca
Follow the links: Publications/District Map/District Map and School listing/Schools/Find school tool.

EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

www.ecsd.net
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WHERE: Delton Community League (123 Ave and 88 St)

WHEN: Saturday, March 9th at 10 am-Noon

Please note that teams may fill quickly-so register EARLY to ensure that your child has a spot on a DELTON team.

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If interested in Coaching or Refereeing please attend the registration or contact Laura at 780-982-5823 or 88delton@gmail.com.

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OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Local Neighbourhood Schools:
(Top to bottom) Norwood School,
St. Gerard School, St. Alphonsus
Catholic School.

ST. GERARD SCHOOL
12415-85 Street

Ph: 780.474.5208
www.stgerard.ecsd.net

OPEN HOUSE: THURSDAY, APRIL 4TH FROM 6:30PM-8:00PM

Offers the 100 Voices program (children 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 years old) and has become a Leader In Me School, where students learn about Covey's 7 Habits. This focus will provide opportunities for students to see themselves as agents of positive change. The school offers both a breakfast program and snack program.

NORWOOD SCHOOL
9520-111th Avenue

Ph: 780.477.1002
www.norwood.epsb.ca

PARENT TOURS ARE BOOKED BY APPOINTMENT.

Norwood School has a commitment to sustaining strong school communities and with a focus on literacy. It's a Partners for Kids school, with strong community connections that work within the school to provide supports for students and their families (family centre, Big brothers Big Sisters, E4C.)

DELTON SCHOOL
12126-89 Street

Ph: 780.477.8742
www.delton.epsb.ca

PARENT TOURS ARE BOOKED BY APPOINTMENT.

Their goal is to ensure that all students have 21st century literacy skills, and encourages students to be critical thinkers, problem solvers, collaborative team members, and digital learners. Student learning is enriched through field trips, access to artists-in-residence, author visits, and cultural activities. Students have daily physical activity and a healthy lifestyle is promoted.

ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL
11624-81 Street

Ph: 780.477.2513
www.stalphonsus.ecsd.net

PARENT TOURS ARE BOOKED BY APPOINTMENT.

St. Alphonsus offers year-round schooling for K-9 (with after-school programs) so students and their families can maintain familiarity with friends, staff and other school community members. This partnership facilitates growth in faith, hope, and love through a purposeful focus on core values and student learning.

SPRUCE AVENUE JR HIGH SCHOOL
11424-102 Street NW

Ph: 780.474.1715
www.spruceavenue.epsb.ca

OPEN HOUSE MARCH 17-23 OR APRIL 2-5.

Spruce Avenue believes all students can experience success, has a literacy focus, and uses the Spartan Way (a character education program). They are encouraged to have perseverance, compassion and empathy. Students' learning is supported by school partners: Family Centre, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Aboriginal Youth and Family Well Being and Education Society, and the Kiwanis Club.

ST. BASIL ELEMENTARY/JR HIGH SCHOOL
10210-115 Avenue

Ph: 780.477.3584
www.stbasil.ecsd.net

PARENT TOURS ARE BOOKED BY APPOINTMENT.

St. Basil's is comprised of both Jean Forest All Girls Leadership Academy and Jan Pawel II Polish-Bilingual Program. These programs allows students to learn Catholic values and leads to high academic achievement.

The girls' academy (Grades 7-9) provides French as a second language and English second language assistance. Jan Pawel II offers a Polish bilingual program, (K-9), an all day kindergarten program, French as a second language (grades 4-9), and English as a second language assistance.

NORWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION GRANTS

The Norwood Neighbourhood Association (NNA) is accepting applications for our early 2013 granting period and it closes March 12, 2013. The NNA's Vision is to support good projects and activities that benefit the neighbourhood. Visit NNA at <http://www.albertaave.org/nna.html>. NNA is accepting grant applications to support neighbourhood non-profit projects and events. Information required includes:

Proposed project description (including commencement and completion, location, fit within a larger organization). How will this project benefit the neighbourhood? Proposed budget (NNA prefers that groups find matching funds so that NNA can spread its budget across more activities and groups). How will your organization report the project back to the neighbourhood?



OPEN HOUSE Thursday, February 21st at 7pm

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The Ave We Had

www.avenuehistory.org

Fighting for the “sanctity of our house homes”

The second in a two-part series on the long history of prostitution in our community

This is part-two of a story we began in the February issue of the RCP. In part one, the Village of North Edmonton (our area) and Old Town (now McCauley) had gained a reputation of being the place where single young labourers went to enjoy the pleasures of the ill-fame houses. The North West Mounted Police had maintained a hands-off approach to the nightlife, but residents in Edmonton began to push for these establishments to be shut down, led by Mr. L. Norman, publisher for the Edmonton Bulletin. For a full reading, visit our Ave We Had webpage at www.avenuehistory.org.

JONATHAN WELLER

Interestingly, in a turn of events that is reminiscent of controversial issues today, the Norwood residents did not go unopposed. A counter petition drawn up and signed by 97 citizens, was presented to Council the same day calling for no action to be taken on the ill-fame houses.

“...at present such resorts are under surveillance and to a certain extent, control of our police, we consider, if the council compel the removal of such houses it will not abate the alleged evil or nuisance,

but have a certain tendency to scatter it broadcast over our city and beyond all civic or police control.”

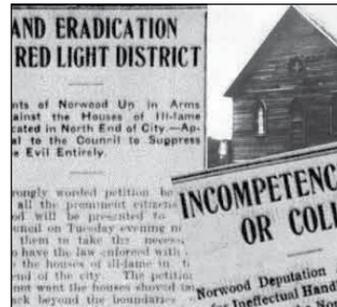
Fortunately for Norwood residents, the Mayor and Council were of like mind and this petition was duly filed, but with a rider added that noted the Council went ahead with ordering the police to clear the neighbourhood. In short, it was roundly rejected.

Despite efforts to stop it, the original resolution had already provoked a response from police.

Notices had been served to all known houses of ill-fame demanding their immediate removal from the premises. But residents were not to be easily satisfied.

While this could have been the end of the story, Norwood residents, then as they are now, were a persistent lot. The following day a meeting was held to establish the Norwood Vigilance Committee, made up of L. Norman, W.D McPhail, Mr. Messrs, and C.W Leonard. These men undertook the task of ensuring their goals were accomplished by setting up a nighttime surveillance of known houses and monitoring the police's progress.

Over the next three weeks the debate became ever more heated. Following orders from the Mayor, the police undertook a raid early in April, but it appears the element of surprise was missing. According to the Vigilance Committee every residents of Norwood was aware



of the raid the day before. If that were not enough, L. Norman noted in a front page letter in the Bulletin, “Even if I hadn't known twenty-four hours before that it was going to be made, I would have known the night of the raid because of the flare of trumpets which preceded the police.” It seemed that the police could do no right by the Norwood residents.

More letters over the next week from L. Norman eventually elicited a response from Police Chief Beale who

adamantly defended the work of his department, noting that 32 women had been served notices and 25 of these had left the district. As well, he made a special point to remind the Norwood residents that four women subpoenaed based on allegations from the Vigilance Committee were released for lack of evidence.

A conclusion finally came on May 18th when the Bulletin reported that the ‘houses of ill-fame’, “which have been a source of annoyance for some time in Norwood, are being hauled to the district in the vicinity of the Swift packing plant.” At the time, houses were built without basements and as Tony Cashman said they “could be towed around Edmonton like flat-bottomed barges”. The houses that has caused such grievance were shipped out, beyond the reach of the law and away from the watchful eyes of the Vigilance Committee.

Unfortunately for the police department at the time the repercussions of irking Norwood residents had yet to be seen. In the Fall of that year, Police Chief Beale laid charges against Sergeant Detective Griffith on the count of informing the keepers and ‘inmates’ of certain

reputed houses of the forth coming raid that took place in early April. Miss Dorothy Drake, an ‘inmate’ of one of the houses, testified that Griffith had come to her and told her to go back to the keeper of her house and tell her to ‘cache the booze’ because a raid was coming.

In the end, one of the key witness developed an intriguing case of amnesia related to her prior testimony and the investigation committee who oversaw this trial acquitted Griffith. The disgrace and injustice of the situation was too much and a week later Police Chief Beale resigned his post.

It is unknown what became of the Vigilance Committee, they surely maintained their commitment to the neighbourhood, but reports of their actions no longer appeared. New causes were likely found to devote their energies to which did not require patrolling the streets at night, and warding off drunks in buggies. It is compelling though to believe that the legacy of their action lives on in the houses and neighbourhood they helped to build, spurring on new generations of citizens to keep fighting.



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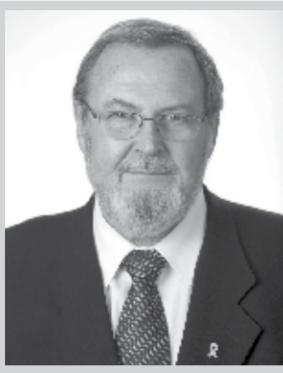
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REIN IN THE CORRUPTION FIRST, THEN ASSIST THE DESPERATE NEEDY

I visited Haiti in 2006 for election monitoring, but also to do a report on the effectiveness of the \$500-600 million of aid money given over the prior 10 years.

There was no progress. Haiti's economic status had actually declined. Haiti was strife with corruption and waste of aid funds then. Those in great need still were in great need while their leaders lived highly.

Then, in 2010, the earthquake hit. 200,000 Haitians perished while 1 million more became homeless, living under plastic tarpaulins. 1/2 million still live in these horrific conditions, despite Canada giving \$350 million in aid to Haiti since. Three years later the little new housing built are 12'x12' plywood shacks, portable because the land is owned by wealthy interests and is under dispute.

Don Cherry's questioning and outspokenness on the issue has much merit.

Why continue to send plane loads of money when the Haitian government corrupts this assistance from being transparently, accountably, and effectively managed?

We have great housing and social needs here in Canada, too. But why should we continue to send plane loads of money - \$104 million to Attawapiskat's 1,500 persons over six years - when their local government corrupts this assistance from being transparently, accountably, and effectively managed? Just like in Haiti, those in great need still are in great need today, while their leaders live highly.

Canada must learn to deal with those who are corrupting its assistance efforts in Haiti, Attawapiskat, and elsewhere before continuing to provide greatly needed assistance intended for those in desperate need if they are ever to see it.

What do you think?

780-495-3261 www.petergoldring.ca

Got any ideas on improvements for Norwood Square Park at 114 Ave and 95 St? info@albertaave.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

EVENTS

COPS AT THE CARROT

Join Edmonton Police members on Tuesday, February 26 and March 12 from 10am to 11:30am at The Carrot Cafe (9351 118 Ave). Bring your questions and comments or just stop in and say hi. Can't make it? You can always call your Community Liaison Constable Christopher Lucas at 780.421.2602.

THE CARROT STAGE

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

NOTICES

EPL CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Birthday party, cake, coffee, prizes. Wednesday, March 13th 3:30pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St).

RECYCLE YOUR COMPUTER ITEMS

The Electronic Recycling Association will refurbish used computers and IT equipment and donate to non-profit organizations. For info www.era.ca for more info.

THE CARROT GALLERY

Will feature work by Jennifer Noseworthy and Maria Pace Wynters in March.

NEW CARROT HOURS

Is now open all day on Fridays from 9am to 10pm. Join us for a coffee after work.

PROGRAMS/CLASSES

SONGWRITING WORKSHOP

Presented by skirtsAfire festival.

March 9th from 1pm-4pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave).

SPRING BREAK AT SPRUCEWOOD

Science of Flight (paper aircraft) 6-12 years, Monday, March 25th at 2pm. Lego 6-12 years Wednesday, March 27th at 2pm. Outdoor Space 4-7 years Saturday, March 30th at 11am. Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

GUITAR LESSONS

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

SING, SING, LAUGH AND LEARN

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

ESL GROUP

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

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CAFE

Practice your English conversation skills every Saturday morning from 10:00-11:30am at Bethel Gospel Chapel on the corner of 95 St and 115 Ave. Classes are free, and child care is provided.

CREATIVE PROSE AND WRITING GROUP

Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm at The Carrot (9351 118 Ave). More info: Vivian at vzenari@gmail.com

FELTING WORKSHOP

Learn how to needle felt with Mike. March 16th from 1:30-4pm at The Carrot

(9351 118 Ave). More info: info@artsontheave.org or call 780.471.1580.

COLLECTIVE KITCHEN

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

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

PARENT/CHILD PLAY GROUP

Every Saturday from 10am-12pm starting January 12th for children under 5 and their parents at Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre (9516 114 Ave). More info: Ashley at 780.471.3737.

FAMILY STORYTIME

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

TWEEN LOUNGE

Join other teens in the program room to play video games, make a DIY project, meet friends or just hang out. For ages 7-13. Thursdays at 3:30pm starting January 10th at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

TEEN GAMING

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

COMMUNITY MEALS

Breakfast: 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 8am-10am; Supper: 3rd Friday at 5pm; Women's fellowship supper: 2nd Thursday at 6pm; Drop-in Centre

Thursdays 10am-2pm at the Anglican Churches of St. Faith's and St. Stephen the Martyr (11725 93 St). More info: 780.477.5931.

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

LI'L SPROUTS PLAYGROUP

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

SPORTS/REC

DELTON SOCCER REGISTRATION

March 9th from 10am to 12pm at Delton hall (88 St & 123 Ave). More info Laura 780.982.5823. For fees and playing dates www.deltoncommunity.com.

SOCCER REGISTRATION

McCauley Community League Soccer Program Registration on February 27th and March 6th from 6-8pm at the Boys & Girls Club (9425 109A Ave). Fees and more info available at: www.mccauley.info/soccer.html

FREE SKATING

At all community league outdoor rinks with your league memberships. Contact your local league. Info at www.ecfl.org.

FREE SPORTS EQUIPMENT

All kinds of sport equipment to kids in need, including Hockey, Skates, Bicycles, Soccer, Softball, Rollerblades, Racquettes, Snow Sliders and more.

More info at 780.477.1166 or www.sportscentral.org. Also accept donations of gently used sports gear.

FREE COMMUNITY ACCESS AT COMMONWEALTH REC CENTRE

Enjoy the fitness centre at Commonwealth for free on Saturdays from 5pm-7pm with your community league membership. NOTE: The pool is closed until March 4th.

VOLUNTEER

ARTS ON THE AVE CASINO FUNDRAISER

Volunteers needed April 14th and 15th! If you are interested email Karin karinchampion@yahoo.ca

HELP AT BLOOMIN GARDEN SHOW

Volunteers needed for Saturday, May 11th. Help serve coffee and drinks, with children's garden activities, with raffles/silent auction, info, book/magazine exchange, perennial swap. Email: bloomin@albertaave.org or 780.477.2773.

NNA CASINO

Volunteers needed June 18th and 19th. If you can help out email nna@albertaave.org

HELP AT NORWOOD CENTRE

Become a volunteer at Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre (9516 114 Ave) and gain experience for employment or education, meet new people, learn new skills, have fun and give back to your community. Click the volunteer tab at norwoodcentre.com to view position descriptions or phone 780.471.3737.

VOLUNTEER AT THE CARROT

We need people to join our sound team for Friday and Saturday evenings. Baristas to host special events on Sundays and Mondays (daytime or evening). Contact Heather carrotassist@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

Sunday Services:

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

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

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

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

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

BETHEL GOSPEL CHAPEL

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

Sunday Meetings:

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

CARISMA CHURCH

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

8401-114 Avenue 780-477-1235
www.carismachurch.org

Sundays at 10:00am

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

ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

11828-85th Street 780-474-5434

Service Times:

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

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

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

10759-96 Street (Corner of 108 Ave)
780-422-0059 www.stjohnsluth.ca

Service Times:

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

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR SPONSOR

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780-455-2325

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

SCHOOLS AS COMMUNITY HUBS PRESENTS: ZUMBA FITNESS

FREE drop in classes held in the St. Alphonsus Small Gym (11624 81 St.) every Thursday from 7:00-8:00pm. For more info contact Melanie Kidder at 780.246.1742

EDMONTON URBAN NATIVE MINISTRY RISING EAGLE TAE KWON DO CLUB

Classes are held in the St. Alphonsus School Gym (11624 81 St.) every Friday. Grades K-6 at 5:00-5:45pm and Grades 7-9 at 6:00-6:45pm. For more info call 780.729.0759 or email: eunmb@hotmail.com

Free access to Commonwealth Rec Centre on Saturdays from 5pm to 7pm with your League membership.



BE PART OF THE SHOW

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.

Here's just some of the great northlands job perks:

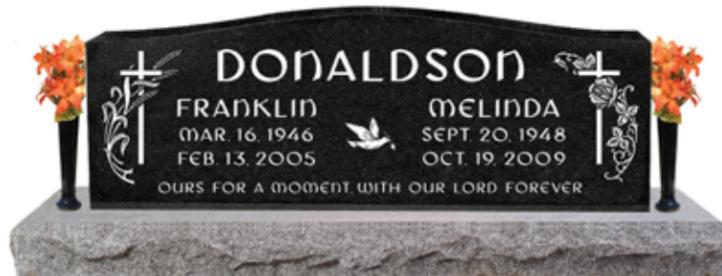
- Exciting and fun place to work
- Flexible shifts
- On-the-job training
- Generous benefits
- Pay increase incentives
- Opportunities for advancement
- Gain valuable experience
- Year-round employment available
- Staff incentive and recognition programs

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



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(780) 474 - 2025

AABA

Alberta Avenue
Business Association

www.alberta-avenue.com

Edmonton, AB - The Alberta Avenue Business Association (AABA) is thrilled to partner with Synergist Communications Inc. to continue to evaluate, enhance and increase the profile of the Alberta Avenue community. In 2013, they will be completing a strategic "Place Branding Program" which includes evaluating the existing image of the area, identifying stakeholder needs, and developing a shared vision that will help achieve community alignment. This partnership will equip Alberta Avenue with a new visual identity and a strategic marketing plan that will cultivate success.

All members of the community, including businesses, will be provided the opportunity and are encouraged to give feedback. "The first step of our Synergist® System place branding process is listening," said President Jeff Nixon. "We want to know what makes the area unique, what could be improved on, and what is most important to you." This research will aid in strategically positioning the area and will build a brand platform that increases awareness, investment opportunities and attracts new businesses and visitors to the area.

If you wish to get involved or would like additional information please contact:

Joachim Holtz, P.Mgr
Executive Director
Alberta Avenue Business Association
780-471-2602

or

Jeff Nixon
President
Synergist Communications
780-702-5236

About AABA

The Alberta Avenue Business Association represents 190+ businesses along 118 Avenue from NAIT to Northlands, with a mandate to enhance the economic well-being of the area and provide a unified voice on behalf of the area businesses.

About Synergist Communications

Synergist Communications is an integrated branding and communications agency that provides communities, including business improvement areas, with strategic direction, visual identities, and communication materials that personify and reinforce their brand. They have completed place branding projects for urban and rural communities, resort municipalities, ED/Tourism offices and BIA's/BRZ's across Western Canada.



that **Bloomin'**
garden show
& art sale

Saturday, May 11, 2013

Alberta Avenue Community Centre
9210-118 avenue

Call for garden-related vendors, gallery artists & artisans.
albertaave.org for details & to apply!

albertaave.org