

Kaleido a joyous success

Sixth annual Kaleido Family Arts Festival breaks attendance record

DARREN BOISVERT

"It was like I was dreaming," says an obviously pleased Kristy Morin, Executive Producer of the Kaleido festival. "It was exactly as I had always hoped it would be."

The Edmonton Police Service estimated the weekend attendance (September 9-11) to be over 17,000, making the sixth Kaleido Festival the largest ever. Hundreds of artists and performers entertained the crowds with visual spectacles, aural excellence and creative energy.

"It was the first year we drew in the out-of-community crowd," said Morin, explaining the larger than expected attendance.

It also surprised many local residents and those who work on the Ave. Anna Gillis, a pharmacy assistant at Nolan Drugs, had never heard of Kaleido Festival before. "It is kind of eye-opening. You hear of Alberta Avenue and think of crime and prostitution, but this was amazing."

Invited by her friend Laura MacGillivray, also a first time attendee, they especially enjoyed the belly dancing

and watching Nathan Phillips create intricate glassware.

"I'm blown away by the glass blowing," said MacGillivray. "It's so neat to see what everyone does here on the Ave."

Proving once again that the artistic community creates economic success, many businesses along the Ave stayed open throughout the festival and said it was their busiest weekend ever. From African artwork in front of stores, to the restaurants showcasing food from around the world, to Bedoiun Beats hosting their own belly dancing stage for the first time, the business community

had a chance to shine like never before.

The Carrot Cafe, the

second home of Kaleido festival organizers, also had a successful weekend. "We had a neat flow of customers this weekend," said Irene Yauck, who runs the cafe. "With the entertainers switching

every hour, it's like we have a revolving door to the place."

A well-run show

There were very few problems reported during the weekend. One cellphone was stolen, but quickly recovered by the Edmonton Police Service. A few cars were temporarily 'trapped' when the City was erecting the vehicle barricades along 91st to 94th streets.

Morin credits the 150 "stellar" volunteers and organizers who gave tirelessly to the festival. Even after an exhausting weekend and little sleep, teams of volunteers managed to clean up and dismantle the entire site in two hours.

Not bad for a tiny festival that, according to Morin, almost died after the first three

years.

"I was ready to let Kaleido die. The festival back then didn't have a personality. But the idea to use the Avenue and the space it gave us, was what ultimately brought it alive."



With warm weather and huge crowds, Kaleido Fest 2011 was a crowd success. From September 9 - 11, over 17,000 people enjoyed the music, artwork, performers, and the pancake breakfast. Now in its sixth year, organizers say this was the year that Edmonton as a whole discovered the festival.



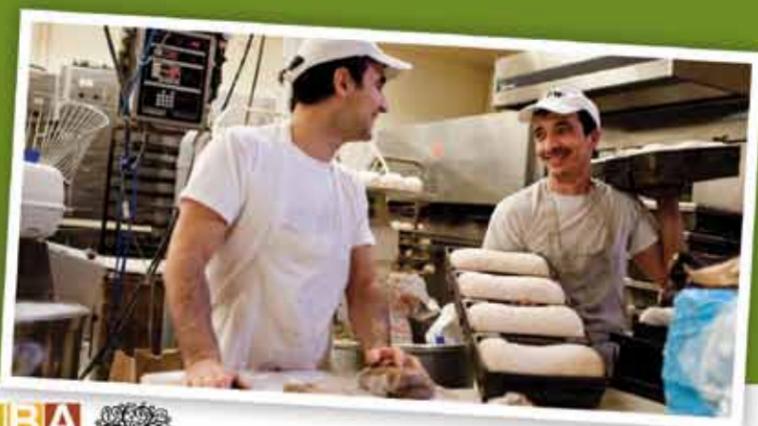
The *Under the Sea* fish were definitely a pedestrian favorite. It was impossible not to touch the artwork as it walked by.

More coverage of the 2011 Kaleido Festival can be found on pages 6 & 7

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Bedouin Beats

A community within a community

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Paula Gillis

People attending Kaleido on the weekend of September 10th most likely stood to watch, or at least passed by, a series of belly dancers displaying their talents and their beautiful costumes. These dancers are members of classes held at Bedouin Beats, the store and studio located on the corner of 93rd Street, next to where the stage was built for the festival.

All weekend long there were performers moving to the beat of drums and other music; swaying and moving with intensity and pride. No two dancers looked alike; neither their costumes nor their physique. What they had in common was the joy reflected in their eyes and faces as they showed off their skills to the crowds that were gathered around them. They were awe-inspiring to many in the audience.

Bedouin Beats is as unique as it sounds. The small store carries a wide variety of scarves, dresses and baubles; most of which are designed to be worn by the Belly Dancers. Three hundred women and one man participate in the classes that are offered in the studios located behind all of these vivid and wonderful items of clothing. There are thirty classes held throughout the week and skill levels range from beginner to advanced levels.

"We are a community within a community," remarks Denise LeClair, the owner and one of eight instructors at the studio. LeClair states new participants in her classes are quickly swept up in the welcoming atmosphere that is created by the members.

The women come from all walks of life. Some are part of the sandwich generation, caring for both parents and children. They are there because they feel the need to carve out a bit of time for themselves. Other women



John Seniger

have recently left bad relationships and are in the process of rediscovering themselves. Moving their bodies in such a fun filled and energetic way helps members feel better about themselves. Other women are there because they wanted to try something fun. They find that at Bedouin Beats.

"We are not training women planning to go on to become Las Vegas showgirls" says LeClair. The women are there to rediscover themselves, to find a new comfort in their own skin and to have fun. New members quickly bond when they join the classes. If one was to walk into a class as dancers are arriving, they would find the people inquiring about each other's life events, individual mountains that they are climbing, and health issues the members themselves or their families are struggling with.

Often a group of them

will travel across the street to The Carrot for a special coffee and more special time together after their class is over. Being part of such a caring group is what keeps everyone coming back. This bonding is part of what makes the dance studio successful. In a world where people get lost in the crowd, these women find companionship, mentors and someone to laugh with; things that everyone needs in their lives. They find a place where they are accepted and can be themselves no matter whom they are or where they come from.

LeClair stated that her membership has increased slightly since the members performed for Kaleido. Women came into the studio and commented that they had been all over town looking for a place to dance. After watching the performers and checking out the store they found what they were looking for -- a community to dance with.

City shuffles Avenue staff

DARREN BOISVERT

Various departments with the City of Edmonton have recently announced changes to staffing for the Alberta Avenue area.

Judy Allen has ended her temporary position with Community Strategies Branch and is returning to her previous position as the Neighbourhood Revitalization Coordinator. She is replacing Veronica Drodz, who has spent the past year in the position.

Julianna Shulz has accepted a secondment and will no longer be the Community Liaison Officer from the Community Standards Branch in the area. She has been replaced by Brent Craig.

Kris Andreychuk, the Community Capacity Builder with the Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (NET), has been seconded for four months to the Boyle-McCauley area to work on a short-term, intensive intervention project. No replacement has yet been named to work with Constable Steve Sharpe with the Edmonton Police Service on the area's NET Team, but according to the City, a new person will be hired in the next few weeks.

Learn about the variety of interesting shops on the Avenue and great places to eat. www.alberta-avenue.com

Univer Bottle Depot set to reopen in October

DARREN BOISVERT

The Univer Bottle Depot, located at the corner of 111 Ave and 91 Street, is set to reopen in the first or second week in October. According to the business's voicemail message, repairs are underway to lay a new foundation after being closed by the City for building code infractions.

In the past few months, the owners of Univer, Paul and Jaswinder Punian, have applied for a city permit to tear down their building and erect a new building. Area residents have been fighting this redevelopment, citing ongoing problems associated with the business.

"I took some pictures that show garbage around the facility including on the roof," says Cris Basualdo with the Alberta Avenue Community League (AACL). "(There's) graffiti on the front of the building, the alley is completely blocked by pallets, shopping carts not arranged in an orderly fashion, as well as other issues such as people who appeared to be using drugs on the

adjacent lot. How can a business operate in this fashion for so long?"

According to a letter to the AACL, the Punians are resisting calls to relocate away from its current residential location to a more industrial area.

"Relocation will not occur.



Therefore, it is in the benefit of the community and the owners of Univer Bottle Depot to work together to improve the existing facility then to filibuster and frustrate each other. Without redevelopment it is impossible to meet many of the community's current concerns. It is hypocritical for the Alberta Avenue Community League to refuse redevelopment at the same time as blaming and critiquing the building and the owners for the current problems."

With the Quasar Bottle Depot on 95 street and 105 Avenue slated for closure when the Quarters development gets underway next year, area residents are concerned that the increased business at Univer will only increase traffic and problems in the neighbourhood.

Not everyone is hoping the business stays shut. Robert

Clayton Beaver lives a block away from the facility and wants it to reopen soon. He collects bottles and scrap metal six days a week. He says he makes 10-12 dollars for a full day of work.

"The owners are pretty good, but the workers are not so kind. They have thrown bottles at me and underpaid me," said Beaver. "But with Univer shut, I have to go along way (Castledowns) to get a fair price for my bottles."

He says that he understands why people may find him a 'nuisance' to the community, but he says he's only recycling garbage and trying to improve his lot in life.

"When I was young I got into trouble a lot," says Beaver. "That's why I collect bottles now. It's not much of a living, but it's better than doing crime."

Troll-ing on the Internet

MARIE FLANAGAN

Any time spent on the Internet will result in a jarring introduction: you will meet an Internet troll. A troll is a real person who uses the Internet (blog comments, message boards, social networking sites) to anonymously -- and deliberately -- antagonize other people.

Trolls are easy to identify, you will find them lurking on the edges of complicated conversations. The troll's favorite subjects include (but are not limited to) religion, politics, racism, feminism, and every circumstance of disaster or extreme personal loss. Trolls bait their targets with incendiary comments, and feed off the resulting emotional volcano. The provocative stance and arguments of the troll are insincere, the troll's singular motive is to elicit anger.

Imagine visiting a community blog and reading an upsetting anti-revitalization article. You decide to make a comment. You carefully outline your opinion on the effectiveness of revitalization, including a personal story about your grandfather getting robbed. That night, you are excited to see how people have responded. You check, and see a comment that says: "Re: yr first world problem. Old moneybags deserved to get hit." You feel your heart race and the sudden burst of adrenaline. But, before you reply, take a step back. You've become a victim of a troll.

Trolls often claim they are simply subversives: challenging their communities to reconsider their perspectives. But the

important difference between subversive figures and trolls is that subversives always have a vested interest in the issue and community. Subversives want change because they belong to the community and intend to stay. Trolls don't stick around to rebuild the communities they've torn apart.

A troll is someone who suppresses our growth, who penalized anyone for daring to cross a bridge, for daring to step a little further. Trolls used to exclusively live under bridges, only hassling people brave enough to cross from one piece of land to another. Now trolls are everywhere. Trolls are among us, unmaking all our communities and planting dissent and distrust.

But trolls are a part of our community and the answer is not to lock them up or silence them. They came from us and we need to understand them, if only to understand ourselves. Trolls hate expression because they feel that they can't express themselves. Trolls are frustrated, and want to challenge us, but don't know how to do it in a productive way.

Which brings us to another mythological figure who is due for a comeback: the trickster. Like the troll, the trickster also upsets people, and turns things on their heads. But while the troll smashes our world to bits, the trickster flips things around, turning ideas inside out and subverting the way we see our world, revealing a new perspective and allowing us to see mistakes before they come to fruition.

Polar bear comes down



After 35 years of watching over the Ave, the polar bear mural on 94th Street and 118th Ave has finally been laid to rest. The Polar Bear Water store has joined the Alberta Avenue Business Association's Facade program and is replacing the iconic sign. According to owner Wanda Bradbury, the polar bear mural had been created by Ray Bidner, an auto detailer by trade. The three panels were first erected in 1975 and had simply been worn away by the elements.

While the facade replacement is underway, she is currently soliciting artists to create a new masterpiece. All those interested in the challenge of creating a new mural is requested to visit the store and pitch their idea to Bradbury.

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Editorial

Reasons to hope in times of trouble

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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.

DARREN BOISVERT

For the past five years, members of this community have worked tirelessly to improve this neighbourhood. The streets are safer to walk down at night. Businesses have moved into the community and begun to prosper. Artists have found an environment where they are supported to create unconditionally. Residents have improved their homes and alleyways.

More remarkable is that one of the poorest communities in the city is so passionate about sharing its wealth. Month after month, we throw massive parties and invite all Edmontonians to join us. We celebrate arts, culture, music -- even dogs.

Like many others, I moved into this community because I was attracted by the effort of ordinary citizens to improve their world. I found a second home at the Carrot Cafe. I made friends with people who believed so strongly in the possibility of positive change that they were able to create better lives for each other.

Alberta Avenue is an inspiring community of people.

Most days, I lack the words to truly express how incredible and rare this faith

in humanity is to find in the world. For many years, I travelled and reported in countries convulsing with natural disasters and torn apart by war. I visited many refugee camps where dreams for future change were irrevocably lost in the desperation of hunger. I met people who had been so damaged by despair, they thought strapping explosives to their chests was an expression of hope.

As all travellers know, returning home can be the hardest part of their trip. Pictures and stories are poor cousins to the actual experience of living another reality. We may live in a global world, but all experiences are personal and local.

It's this 'lost in translation' phenomenon that contributes to our lack of understanding of how events around the world can affect us in our Alberta Avenue community and in our homes. How does Greece, Ireland, and Iceland defaulting on their loans affect

us here? Why should we be worried about the revolutions sweeping the Middle East? How could we possibly influence the deep political paralysis gripping the United States?

Predicting the future is a mug's game, but only a fool would look at current world events and see our collective future improving any time soon. The western world is broke, Japan is struggling under the fallout of a nuclear catastrophe, governments throughout the Middle East are falling apart, US politicians are talking about enlarging the war in

“Predicting the future is a mug’s game, but only a fool would look at current world events and see our collective future improving any time soon.”

Afghanistan by attacking Pakistan, and the tension between the Israelis and Palestinians is one violent act away from sparking an all-out war.

The world is on the verge of a political and economic convulsion that occurs once a

century. No one will be unaffected, not even in a place as remote as Edmonton. The only thing left to ordinary people will be the struggle to maintain a sense of hope in a time of war and desperation.

It's within this context that the true strength of the Alberta Avenue community will express itself fully. Simply put, the past five years have never been about festivals and cleaning the streets. The revolutionary idea that took grip in this neighbourhood has been the commitment to the idea that we are stronger working together than by acting alone. Like the gleam of a candle in the night, our sense of humanity can only be truly appreciated in the contrast to the gloom that is engulfing us.

Whatever may happen in the future, the people of this community have five years of shared experiences to convince them that the future is ours to create. We have incredible community leaders who encourage us when we are down and can convince us into taking one more hesitant step into the future. We have exercised our faith in others, set an example for our children, and will face what comes with the courage of our convictions.

We have reason to hope.

Opportunities with the Rat Creek Press!!

This great not-for-profit community newspaper is in need of both staff and board members. We are sad to say that Leanne McBean, our designer, is moving out of our community and also leaving the paper. And Laurie Tod our advertising rep left in September. We wish them well in their endeavors.

BOARD MEMBERS

Our small board needs more members. Give 2-4 hours a month to help us support the growth of a strong, vibrant, well-connected community. Come to our annual general meeting on Monday, November 7 at 7pm at The Carrot Coffeehouse (9351 118 Ave). Email board@ratcreek.org for more information or interest.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

We need someone who is proficient in Adobe Indesign to design a few ads and layout the 12 page paper each month. The bulk of the design work happens during the third week of the month. Contract pays \$500/month. Email info@ratcreek.org.

ADVERTISING

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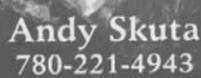
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“Thanksgiving, to be truly Thanksgiving, is first thanks, then giving.” ~ Unknown

Speaker's Corner

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

Art therapy to heal the spirit

JEAN TAIT

The new Art on Earth Community Studio opens Wednesday, September 28th, 2011 at St. Faith's church on 93 Street, immediately south of 118 Avenue. The studio will every Wednesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon.

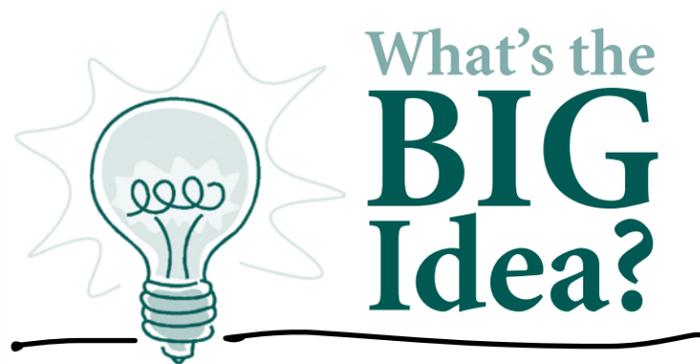
Adult participants will have the opportunity to investigate a myriad of materials available, from pastels to collage, watercolour and acrylic painting. The approach of the open studio is not to offer instruction in artwork in any formal way, but to allow for an attitude of exploration and expression. Participants will be encouraged to have input as to how they would like to shape this studio to fit their artistic needs.

The thrust of the community art studio model is to use art to build community and increase personal self-esteem, while laying a foundation for hope and resilience among individuals, while having fun playing with art materials.

St. Faith's is looking at Art on Earth Community Studio as a positive way to do outreach with the objectives of creating hope and connection between people who share time together in the studio environment. Everyone is welcome. There is no charge for attending.

I am a Professional Art Therapist in private practice in Spruce Grove and I have facilitated several community art studios over the past few years, including one at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral in downtown Edmonton, Spruce Grove and Stony Plain Public Libraries, and at my own studio.

Art can heal. I hope to see you there.



And the vegetables come alive

ERIC PENTLAND

The North American Vegetarian Society introduced World Vegetarian Day celebrations in 1977 in the hopes of promoting "the joy, compassion and life-enhancing possibilities of vegetarianism." Since then the celebration has been endorsed by the International Vegetarians Union and has become a truly global event. This year the Vegans and Vegetarians of Alberta (VVOA) are partnering with local businesses to bring the celebration to Edmonton.



On the first of the month – World Vegetarian Day – there will be a Vegetarian BBQ at Earth's General Store (9605 82nd Avenue) from noon until 4 p.m. with fare promising to please even the most ardent omnivores. The live music scheduled for the event includes Edmonton folk legend Bill Bourne, Locution Revolution and up-and-coming deejay Orlesko.

World Vegetarian Day is also the kick-off of the VVOA's month long "VegePassport" competition boasting prizes such as a lifetime VVOA membership and gift certificates from local businesses such as 118th Avenues' Absolutely Edibles: a veggie friendly restaurant that takes "pride in preparing items from scratch, with healthy fresh ingredients and using as much local and Canadian product as possible." To get started you can pick up a passport at the BBQ on October 1 or print your own from the VVOA website at www.vofa.ca. The more businesses you visit and events you attend the greater your chance of winning a prize.

World Vegetarian Day is only the beginning of World Vegetarian Awareness Month: after the main day of celebration has passed the VVOA will be screening four amazing films and hosting four demonstrations to help answer any questions you have had about vegetarianism ranging from personal health to the global environment. The films include 'Food Matters,' 'Forks Over Knives,' 'Food, Inc.' and 'Processed People,' and run each Thursday at Edmonton Public Libraries around the city. The full calendar of events is available online at <http://www.vofa.ca/category/events/>.



For more information, contact Jean Tait at 780.916.6615 or by email: jean@artcanheal.ca or Arthur Dyck, Community Liaison for St. Faith's at 780.477.5931 or by email at stfaiths@telusplanet.net.



PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East



NDP Part-Time Citizens, Lifetime Pay Cheque

The Official Opposition may have changed after this year's election, but the attitudes have not changed. In the past Parliament the Liberals wanted to change Old Age Security regulations to give a pension to people who had been in Canada just three years over a 20-year period.

Now it is the NDP, who on June 6, 2011 introduced Motion M-141 to do the same - at a cost to Canadian taxpayers of a billion dollars and give tax-payer funded benefits to those who might never have paid any taxes in Canada.

Our Old Age Security pension benefit qualifiers are designed to strike a balance between the many years of contributions of individuals to our society with publicly paid benefits received in their old age. It is reasonable and more than generous to expect someone to at least reside in Canada for a minimum 10-year period before being granted this benefit.

The NDP has now joined with the Liberals in asking the government to reduce the residency requirement, meaning someone who arrived in Canada 20 years ago but returned to live in their home country would receive Old Age Security and a Guaranteed Income Supplement by spending only three years in Canada applying for citizenship, with occasional visits over a 20-year period.

Our Conservative Government is opposed to this costly and irresponsible Liberal-NDP scheme.

When the previous Bill was introduced I received many letters from Edmonton East residents urging me to vote against it. I assured that I am completely opposed to such irresponsible and costly schemes.

This proposal would cost a billion dollars at a time when Canadians can least afford it. I think it is offensive to Canadians who work hard and pay their taxes, and goes against Canadians' deeply ingrained sense of fairness and fiscal responsibility.

What do you think?

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A Kaleidosco



A conversation between equals?

Edward Allen



Dehli 2 Dublin rock the Ave with their high-octane show. 2,500 people danced to the final act on Saturday.

Ian Jackson



Gareth Phillips, age 7 practices his stilt walking prowess.

Valerie Parr



Life Cycle wins second place in the lampost decoration contest. Congratulations to Leila Sidi and Kim Smith.

John Senger



Cileen Romelle



Ken Kachmar and the winner of the 2011 Show and Shine contest. A surprising coup considering he was a late entry and didn't even wash his car.

Mar Halton



Eye candy for the soul. The weekend was filled with wall to wall belly dancing and juggling. All the belly dancers were definitely winners of the best dressed contest.

Edward Allen

pe of Kaleido Fest 2011



The drumming tent was a welcome refuge during the brief rain on Sunday.



The un-dead showed up in mass numbers to perform Michael Jackson's Thriller. It goes to prove Kaleido Fest is so much fun, it can even wake the dead.



Head over heels for Kaleido?



Nathan Phillips mesmerized the crowd with his expert glass blowing skills. From vases to bottles he performed the magic of turning sand into art.



The best brass section in town proving that high school band class can lead you to become the coolest kats in town.

An interesting variety of talks happening during the market. Thursdays from 6:30-7:30. www.abavenuemarket.org

Climbing the investment ladder

FINANCIAL ADVICE

Dalena McLean

In times of uncertainty people tend to gravitate to what they know and feel certain about. Like a drowning person they will cling onto what they can grasp. Market volatility and the recent drop in markets have people worried. Will I have a job, can I pay my debts, am I safe in my investments?

People may have a tendency to not vacation, not to spend money, or will look at investing in guaranteed investments. (Guaranteed products provide a guaranteed lower rate of return compared to a product that may have potential for a higher rate of return that provides NO guarantee. Examples of guaranteed are GIC's, segregated funds, and bonds).

A professional and qualified financial advisor should do a holistic review and establish your personal risk tolerances and investment options. One

method of investing they may discuss with you is 'laddering' your guaranteed investments.

Laddering works like this: you choose the amount of money you want to invest. Divide this initial amount into five smaller guaranteed investments. Then pick different terms and maturity dates for each of these smaller investments.

Here's an example:

Your initial investment is \$10,000. Divide this amount into five separate investments of \$2,000 each. Invest \$2,000 each into a one-year, two-year, three-year, four-year and five-year term.

When your first investment matures after one year, you reinvest that \$2,000, plus

the interest you've earned, into a five-year term investment

Each year, one of your investments will mature. You would then reinvest in a five-year term, possibly benefiting from a higher interest rate and continuing the laddering process.



How can laddering benefit you?

It minimizes interest rate risk: by investing in regular intervals, you can reduce your investment risk. Only a portion of your portfolio comes due at any one time. This strategy can limit your exposure to possible fluctuating

interest rates.

It maximizes the long-term rate of return: if you convert your maturities to five-year terms, you can take advantage of the possibility of higher interest rates. Longer-term investments typically offer

better interest rates than short-term investments.

It provides the comfort of guaranteed returns: you're secure with the knowledge that your investments will grow at a constant interest rate, with a guaranteed return at the end of the term.

Laddering can also allow you to respond to interest rate changes. You'll have access to 20 per cent of your investments every year. If the interest rates are higher, you can invest in longer-term investments. If interest rates drop or temporarily flatten out, you can minimize your risk because only 20 per cent of your investments are maturing at any one time.

Each year a part of your investment matures and you'll be able to spend it if that's what you need to do. You also have the opportunity to make new investment decisions. You can have specified investments mature when you need money for a large purchase or special occasion, such as college or

wedding expenses.

Financial literacy is a must for a financial advisor but not a necessity for the investor. When I go to a client's home and discuss their financial plan, many people are grateful not to learn even the most basic financial terminology or methods. It's just something they cannot or do not want to understand. The laddering method is one that anyone can put into place.

One of the downfalls of 'do-it-yourself investing' is that people quite often fail to do a complete plan that is incumbent of taxation, the uncontrollable, proper risk tolerance, timeline, product availability, product understanding, creditor protection, ownership, legality, and loss or gain potential. So please seek the advice of a qualified professional and may your investing be prosperous.

dalena.mclean@sunlife.com

Did you sneeze?

DOG TALK

Darlene Taylor

Every year it seems I develop a new allergy. Dust, oranges, MSG, the sun -- the list goes on -- but thankfully pets are not on that list. My sister was around ten years old when she developed an allergy to cats. Later dogs were added to her list. Then asthma entered the scene along with a few other issues -- the thought of my sister going to the hospital, again, became common. The medications she has to take, the situations where she visits with someone with pets, and even if she works with someone that might trigger an asthma attack are commonplace in her life.

Recently, when coming back from Houston, I could not get out of my head the health alert regarding the person with measles. Looking at some of the people in the line ups and looking at the questionnaire regarding where we've been, I wonder what people carry onto the plane. A couple of my flights were packed. The one flight had a flight attendant with a mixture

of scent and body odor that surprised me but also made me turn green with each passing.

So now another possible hoop to jump through when flying -- the Canadian Medical Association voted in favour of banning all pets -- excluding guide dogs and other service animals from the cabins of Canadian airplanes in August. According to reports, there were a measly three complaints from people with cat allergies.

An airline spokesman, Peter Fitzpatrick, wrote in an email to the Toronto Star, "Over our 70 year history we have had an infinitesimally small number of allergen-related medical emergencies." Westjet said that 58,000 pets were flown in cabins in the last 18 months.

When are we going to stop punishing the many for the sake of the few? Three people out of 58,000 in less than 2 years. And that is just one airline. I think the Canadian Medical Association has a lot better things to spend time on.

Several years ago I helped with training a 'snow bird' couple that purposely got a

teacup poodle that would easily travel in a case that fit under the seat of the plane. So this couple with a breed that many allergy sufferers do not react to would be on this ban.

More and more I meet people who rely on the companionship of their animals. Even my sister has a dog. Yes my asthma-inflicted allergy suffering sister. Yes, we went through many breeds to find one that she did not react to but she felt that a companion animal needed to be part of her life. There is a growing number of people who feel the same way.

When I visit a senior with my English Springer spaniel and see them hug, and talk to, and even cry as they interact with her (and often she will hug them back), give a modest kiss or lay on their feet for a while; the idea of banning and restricting breaks my heart.

Dogma, my first English Springer, travelled to New York but had to ride in cargo because he was too big to fit under the seat. But the idea of him being in the apartment while I fulfilled that contract was priceless.



DAILY SPECIALS

LUNCH SPECIAL & DOMESTIC PINT
\$9.95

1 LB. WINGS & DOMESTIC PINT
\$8.95 (2PM-7PM)

STEAK SANDWICH & DOMESTIC PINT
\$12.95

HIGHBALLS: \$3.25 (2PM-9PM)

2 LARGE 2 TOPPING PIZZAS
\$21.00

2 LASAGNA ORDERS
\$14.95

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Learn. Write. Publish....in a night.

From your diary to memoir writing. Learn how to translate your personal experiences into writing that entices all.

Jocelyn Brown, writer-in-residence at the Nina Haggerty Arts Centre, will be holding a memoir writing workshop at the Carrot Cafe. She'll provide instruction and guidance, and then you'll have time to begin writing your personal essay.

The Rat Creek Press will then take all the essays and publish them in our We 'Ave Words literary section in the newspaper.

Everyone welcome. Admission is free.

Bring your computers and notepads. Bring your friends.
Bring your ideas.

For more information contact
lit@ratcreek.org.



7:00 - 9:30 pm
Tuesday, October 18
Carrot Cafe
9351 - 118 Ave

"Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way." ~ First Nations saying

We 'Ave Words

A showcase of poetry and prose from Edmonton's finest writers

Page editor: Michelle Earl

Submissions email: Lit@ratcreek.org



Tyler Enfield

Novorapid is based on the author's experience as an English teacher in Phnom Penh during the Cambodian civil war in 1994. He is currently transforming the poem into a short-film, with production scheduled for Cambodia next January. Tyler Enfield is a photographer, a poet, and the author of the multi-award winning children's novel, *Wrush* (www.TheSecretWorlds.com), the story of a girl in a wheelchair who uses a magic pen to write her way into faraway worlds. The book's sequel, *Tabetha's Last Task* was launched at Greenwood's Bookshoppe on Sunday, September 25th. www.TheSecretWorlds.com

Novorapid

It is Sunday. We ride on Sundays. Marco with his sad, sallow eyes and implacable accent, Ben and his barbarian red hair. John is gaunt like a blowtorch as he straddles the Honda and Christa holds his chest from behind. Sunday is when we ride, wind licking the salt from our intelligent skin, running its fingers through sun-hot hair. We are wind-driven, dust-crunching deities on motorcycles, devouring the sugar in our own blood with bright humid teeth because nothing is meaningless in a civil war, nothing tedious or grey when it rattles the pipes, comes sniffing about with its tungsten-bright nostrils, little gas-lights whirring in its eyes. Always chattering! Chattering like a dog at our backs but we are fast, too fast for death because we are alive and riding motorcycles in Cambodia.

We fly over Wat Thal Bridge going the wrong way on a one-way street. Traffic cop blows his whistle, white glove glows in the air and we fly, we roar, we avalanche past him

hooting and shrieking in the ecstatic, vulcanized rubber rage of life. We are English teachers! We do mountains of drugs! We are ex-pat Caucasians with honey in our veins, and we live and we play and we clamor for speed in this bomb-gutted country too shattered for laws because death is sexy when you are twenty-one, when you are invincible, when your skin is electric with the glory of youth and you are clueless, vital, assured. We are the New Tourist. The one the world has been waiting for.

Phnom Penh recoils with its French colonial ruins and crutch-wielding beggars, one-legged beggars—Knom sraline America! Just one dollar please! — this crutch-clacking-one-legged-man capital of the world and we slingshot out into a pulsating countryside of palm trees and landmines and luscious red fruit and it is Sunday. If we could, we would launch it with a kiss over these peeling-paint walls if only to sweat the hundred kinds of sweat that is life.

From the first, I knew it was dead. Boy or girl, I couldn't yet tell. I only knew it was a baby floating there

on the lake, spongy dark skin, wet-feather hair, sun savage and buzzing as it pounded the water into cheerful sequins of light.

I was walking the train tracks on the banks above Lake Boeung Kak when I heard the mother cry out. I turned down to the water as she howled again, a voice like the sun, luminous with grief. Looking out onto the dock where the women pound laundry, I saw this one laying flat, one arm plunged to the shoulder through a gap in the planks as she clutched wildly at the floating child.

And so it goes. That's everyday life in this neon-desolation of laughter and cook-smoke, gutters fizzing with joy and then death lunges up with a tentacled wet slap, just reaches right up and grabs hold of a child exactly smaller than a missing plank in the dock.

Now I make my way down to the water and slip into the crowd. Mostly children staring with stupefied indifference, a few men, shirtless, mahogany chests, the baby now flat on the planks. A circle of faces

presses in close, acknowledges death, then dissipates like a smoke ring. There are pots to clean. There is mending. The honest vinegar of one child's cry is enough to turn eyes back to the living, and so no one touches this infant. Water beads in the heat. Rolls down baby-fat folds.

A barefoot, bare-chested man in red shorts and a stethoscope appears out of nowhere. He pumps on the belly, belching up water, blows desperate air into its mouth. The baby has doll's eye, dull eyes, the eyes of sturgeon on ice, vaporous enameled pods that click around in its head as the doctor pumps water from its lungs. Its hands are open, listless, and I am reminded of a great man who said: "Man is born into this world with hands squeezed tight, but dies with them open and empty. The vanities he clings to in life forever elude him in the end."

The child's hands are open, listless, and in them I see kilometers of joy, endless tomes, a toy, a life-line whorling, a million handshakes that might have been but now flee fast from this life with glittering precision

as the doctor grabs hold of the ankle, flips the child upside down, and cataracts of liquid pour forth from its mouth, buckets of water, barrels of it, algae-rich and shrieking with microbes, water enough to knock boats from their moorings, to water parched crops, to seep deep into the earth which swells up like a sponge and then wrings itself free of remorse. The doctor waves a hand in hopeless disgust, lays the baby back down, he is finished, stands up to leave, slings his stethoscope like a stole and lights a cigarette and the baby cries out like thunder. A nuclear spasm. Solar flares snapping. A row of toggles is thrown somewhere back of the eyes and floodlights pop, a deafening buzz, everyone squints at the impossible light and the air is too scorched to breathe.

The mother rushes in so I lose sight of its face. Nor do I see it latch onto her breast or the synaptic explosions, or how a mother's tears turn to vapor in the heat because I am watching its hands. The baby's hands I am watching. And I see two little fists that will never let go.



Anthony Goertz

Anthony Goertz is an Edmonton-born writer, filmmaker, artist and poet. A former illustrator for the U of A's Gateway newspaper

and UBC's Ubysey, Anthony continues to draw, write and make films. His work has been published in the Globe and Mail, screened at the Garneau and Metro Theatres in Edmonton, and won local competitions. He is currently studying Film and Women's Studies at the University of Alberta and lives in Parkdale, Edmonton with his partner Sarah, and their two dogs, Arbutus and Crake.

The Arbutus Tree (When We Were Younger)

Dedicated to my brother.

When we were younger we believed our fathers arms could stretch Wider than the North Saskatchewan, Where, in the time before we knew the sun was dangerous, We would lay on its silty banks And let ourselves wander over the treetops to the farthest reaches Of the known world: Calgary, Nazareth, or Phoenix. Wondering why adults never ate sand Or cared so much about plans. We didn't wonder about joy Or building monuments so high they'd scrape the belly of the sky.

When we were younger we were pilots. Pilots without social insurance numbers We flew X-wings and ladybugs We had guns that healed our comrade's wounds Swords to fight for love and glory We drew boats big enough to fit all the animals Should those rivers ever rise.

When we prayed We prayed for a peace we didn't know the opposite of,

We prayed for Lego, And serenity To accept the things we could not change When we meant to say the things we could not control, Like our tempers.

Like our parents.

And after that we'd part gently to sleep And curl in on ourselves like leaves, Believing our bellies were magic caves where food went to change into muscles or shit. I always hoped I was the food that was turned into muscles. And maybe it was just a fear of drowning, But maybe it was fear of becoming that shivering elm when I could have been the Arbutus tree, Clinging myself to the parting cracks and holding there through whatever Minerals or nutrients I could siphon from the skin of this cliff, And on that moment before the seed spills into nothing That's where I'll live, where life lives, suspended over death like a water beetle.

When we were younger a neighbourhood kid told us about Chinese water torture, And we laughed at how silly those Chinese were Until we tried it And then thought, how evil, Imagining China in our ears, All twinging harps and doomsday gongs, Where war rape didn't blow out the knees out of entire cities, And where everyone was the same type of immigrant.

Maybe that's where homeless people come from, They couldn't come from here. They must be from some

More colourful verb than fail, Like fuck, bruise, disappear.

When we were older we wore our passports Like shoes we were afraid to take off We were nomads, living on a principle of change Fueled by sex and by rage Like barely-legal Bedouin penned in only by the sea and our shallow pockets, penning our way through life-sized itineraries, knowing that borders are just lines painted by men who don't paint.

Knowing that the sun could burn you if You weren't careful So we turned a blind eye but had to look somewhere, So we looked to where the leaves were pound into the gutter, The arteries of this city, where those leaves, mulched by weather Were carried to sea. And to this day I think rotting leaves is the Second most beautiful smell on earth next to Sarah's Gilded arms after a summer sweat.

The arms that showed me strength Wasn't made of muscle tissue But of tender, tiny hairlets That glow in uncertain dark.

That truth and pure expression, and maybe perfect art

Was possible. But that trying to make perfect art Was as impossible as Trying to build a ladybug out of an old Cow patty: some shit just won't fly.

When we were younger We didn't wonder Why the man who built those cloud-cutting skyscrapers Held the barrel of bourbon to his lips and shot The bullets, or why some girls Got stuffed in plastic bags before He gasolines the curtains Why assassins in oil slick suits Claim our dignity to sell it back to us. They put your soul in a vice grip, Lipsticked blondes selling a tight grip, It's bullshit, they'd mine your heart if it was worth it.

And I'm not trying to disturb you, Not even trying to convert you, I'm just trying to make my point that sometimes anger Is a virtue. And if that hurts you, Fine, but we don't have time to not accept That we're in this short mess for each other, And that anger has a brother

Kid's Korner

Forget the fridge. Post your artwork here!

Do you like to draw? Take photos? Got a short story or poem you have written? Do you tickle your friend's funny bone's with your cartoons and jokes?

If you got the time, we've got the space for you.

The Kid's Korner is hoping to receive and publishing work by our younger readers. Everyone is encouraged to submit. All creative ideas will be warmly welcomed.

So send us your best work. We want your stuff!

Email us at editor@ratcreek.org. Mail us at 9210 - 118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5G 0N2. Drop it off at the Alberta Avenue Community League building at 9210-118th Ave.

Halloween Color Me!



My Bird

By Bernice Caliguiri

Fiddle dee dee, and fiddle dee dumb,

I had a little bird that missed his nest

And flew into a tree.

Poor little bird layed on the ground upside down,

Kicking his legs up and down.

He flapped his wings, but couldn't get up,

Until I came by and flipped him over,

and picked him up.

Fiddle dee dee, my little bird is

Fiddle dee dee dumb

Clothes pin craft

by Bernice Caliguiri

1. Wash and dry a baby food jar.
2. Take some wooden clothespins apart.
3. Use wood glue to attach two 'halves' upright onto the top lip of the jar.
4. Glue around the jar until it is completely covered. Use a rubber band to hold them until they dry.
5. Glue on the roof.

With wooden clothespins you can create anything. Stretch your imagination!



REVITALIZATION of the old cycle building on Alberta Ave Continues!

Arts Habitat + Arts on the Ave along with the City of Edmonton, our Community Advisory Committee and consultants Shelterbelt Architecture are making significant progress towards our vision of an exciting community arts hub on 118 Avenue.

Work on the building has finally begun! Inside, old clutter and hazardous materials have been removed in preparation for construction this fall. Those renovations will include a new front entry, brand spanking new washrooms, complete new sprinkler and mechanical systems, and a clean "white box" interior. As many of you know, we can't meet the required number of parking spots on-site. We are currently working on a variance for that, and are optimistic for positive solutions.

Our improved space will be ready in the spring of 2012 – YAHOO! Arts Habitat + Arts on the Ave are looking forward to providing great studio, performance, gallery, office, meeting, classroom, and rehearsal spaces to artists, cultural industries and social enterprises! This will be for short-term use until the future renovations for Phase 2.

Speaking of which ... Our design team heard the excellent feedback you the community offered at our spring Design Charette, and is working to incorporate it into a complete design vision for the Phase 2 redevelopment. Stay posted for more on that!

Arts Habitat Association + Arts On the Ave thank the City of Edmonton for its ongoing commitment to the project through the building purchase and essential building code upgrades. We also thank the Government of Alberta and the Alberta Lottery Fund for their contribution through the Community Facility Enhancement Program for additional program-specific renovations.

Why don't skeletons ever go out on the town? Because they don't have any body to go out with...

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

ENTERTAINMENT

COMMUNITY PUB NIGHT

Come enjoy an evening with friends and neighbours. Campfire, music, games and food! Sorry no children. Friday, Sept 30 starting at 8pm at Alberta Avenue Community Centre (9210 118 Ave). Membership required from any league (can be purchased on site). More info: info@albertaave.org.

PAWS FOR A STORY

Read a good tale to a furry friend with a real tail! Children enjoy a 15-minute reading session with a dog from the Pet Therapy Society of Northern Alberta. Saturday, Oct 23 from 2pm-4pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Share in stories, songs and finger plays. This family-friendly program is fun and will help your young child get ready for reading. Saturdays from 1:30-2pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

KARAOKE WITH CRUD

Tune up your vocal cords and join us down Green Frog's Pub (9349 118 Ave) for another hopp'n good time of socializing and singing. Friday, October 28 at 9pm.

THE CARROT OPEN STAGE

Thursdays for folks 55+ 1:30-4pm
Saturdays 7pm-10pm
9351 118 Ave, 780-471-1580.

EVENTS

YOUTH PRESENTATION

Please join CRUD and Streetworks on Saturday, October 1 at 1:00pm at Eastwood Hall (11803 86 Street) for a presentation on youth addiction and harm reduction. This is an open and informative event with a hotdog BBQ to follow.

AUTHOR VISIT - RICHARD VAN CAMP

Richard Van Camp, an internationally-renowned storyteller and bestselling author will talk about his new book, *Nightly Night: A Bedtime Song for Babies*, a lullaby that both babies and parents will enjoy. Thursday, October 6th from 11:00am-12:00pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

TALKS AT THE MARKET

Starting the end of September is a series of talks & activities in the lounge at the community centre during the farmers'

market. Talks are free. Sept 29 - fall gardening, Oct 6 Off the grid, Oct 13 - for the kids by EPL, Oct 20 Homeopathy Demystified, Oct 27 - Edmonton Paranormal Society. Come learn and participate on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30. Go to www.albertaave.org for more. And don't forget to shop at the market.

NOTICES

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

The Rat Creek Press is in need of more board members. Annual General Meeting is Monday, November 7 at 7pm at The Carrot Coffeehouse (9351 118 Ave). Contact board@ratcreek.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 atinfo@crudedmonton.org.

COPS AT THE CARROT

Join EPS members every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 11 am 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.

PROGRAM / CLASS

LITERACY PROGRAMS

Attend a literacy program with your child at Norwood Family Centre (9516 114 Ave). Books for Babies Oct 6-Nov 3 from 1:30-3:00pm. Books for Toddlers Oct 4-Dec 6 from 10am-11:30am. Books for Preschoolers Oct 7-Dec 9 from 10am-11:30am. Call 780-471-3737 for more info.

COMMUNITY ARTS NIGHT

Free adult class for everyone whether first timers or accomplished artists. Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Nina Haggerty Centre (9225 118 Ave). Oct 4 - Draw a still life; Oct 11 - Impressionist landscapes; Oct 18 Lino Cuts; Oct 25 - Make your own felt. To register call 780-474-7611. More info: www.ninahaggertyart.ca.

NEEDLE FELTING WITH MIKE GERMANN

Learn the basics of felting. Materials supplied and tools will be on hand for those who don't have their own. Share ideas and techniques while chatting over a drink. The Second Saturday of the month at 1:30 pm at The Carrot Community

Arts Coffee House (9351 118 Ave). More info: info@artsontheave.org or call 780-471-1580.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CAFE

For those who need to practice their new found English language skills. Every Saturday 10-11:30am at Bethel Gospel Chapel (95 St & 117 Ave). Free child care provided.

SOCIAL

TEEN TABLETOP CLUB

Play board games and card games, and listen to some tunes. Join the club to meet new people or to hang out with old friends. Sundays, October 2, 16, and 30 from 2pm-4pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

BOOK TALKS BOOK CLUB

Share your love of reading. Come to this unique book club to talk about the book you are reading and listen to others talk about books they are reading. Wednesday, October 26 from 7:30-8:30 at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780-496-7099.

FREE DOG TRAINING

Free workshops for puppies and dogs of any level. Each session will address common training requirements as well as the management of problem behaviours like barking, jumping up, pulling, and not coming when called. For more info or to book a 1-on-1 call Darlene at K9 Behave at 780-915-0213. Every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 at the Parkdale Rink (11335 85 St).

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).

LI'L SPROUTS PLAYGROUP

Come by the Parkdale-Cromdale Hall (11335 85 St) with your little ones Fridays, 10am-12pm. Call the hall for more information. 780-471-4410 or parkdalecromdale.org.

CRUD COMMUNITY DINNER CLUB

Discover new flavours and restaurants while you explore a variety of wonderful cuisine along Alberta Avenue with friends & neighbours. Check CRUD's calendar at www.crudedmonton.org or Facebook for time and location of this month's feast.

SPORTS & REC

FREE INDOOR PUBLIC SKATING

Free Public Skating is offered at City of Edmonton indoor arenas year-round. Staff will be on site during all Public Skating times. Skate Assists will be available for Public Skating. Helmets are not required, however highly recommended. Equipment not permitted during Public Skating includes the following: strollers, sleds, hockey sticks, pucks, and balls. Three types of Public Skating programs at our indoor arenas: Family Skate, Parents & Tots and Senior Skate. More info: Call 311 or go to edmonton.ca (search public skating).

THRILL THE AVE

Classes to learn Michael Jackson's Thriller for performance at Kaleido and Thrill the World. Classes free, no dance experience necessary. For the whole family! Thursdays 7pm to 8pm at Alberta Ave Community Centre (9210 118 Ave). More info: Heather 780-454-9296, thrilltheave@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY SWIM

Free swim for Alberta Avenue & Parkdale-Cromdale Community League members. Sundays from 12pm to 2pm at Eastglen Pool (11410 64 St).

CRUD DOG WALKING GROUP

Meet neighbours and their canine companions while walking around the community. Mondays evenings: 6:30pm in front of St. Alphonsus Church (11828-85 St). Walk is cancelled if raining or below -15 degrees.

VOLUNTEER

HELP SOMEONE ELSE LEARN

The Learning Centre Literacy Association is seeking volunteer tutors to help adults develop reading, writing and/or math skills. Volunteers participate in group

learning, tutor one-to-one, or assist drop-in learners. Skills and Experience: High school level reading, writing and/or math skills. Openness to tutor and learn with adults with various life experiences, including living with homelessness. Two locations: Boyle Street Community Services and Abbottsfield Mall. Contact: Denis Lapierre Coordinator, Downtown Centre 780-429-0675 or email: dl.learningcentre@shaw.ca Susan Skaret, Abbottsfield Mall Centre 780-471-2598 or email: sskaret@telus.net

HELP AT NORWOOD CENTRE

Become a Volunteer at Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre (9516 114 Avenue) 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.

HANG AT A GALLERY

Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts is looking for individuals willing to share 2-4 hours a week as gallery attendants. Gain experience working in a gallery setting, while supporting your neighborhood arts scene! For more info, contact Anna at volunteer@ninahaggertyart.ca

BE A COFFEE BARTENDER

Learn how to be a barista and make lattes and other coffees, then hang out at a cool coffee shop for 3 or 4 hours and visit with the interesting people who stop in. Drop by: The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse at 9351 118 Ave, call 780-471-1580 or visit www.thecarrot.ca.

DRIVE A SENIOR

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

CLASSIFIEDS

ALBERTA AVE GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 11 at 7pm in the lounge (9210 118 Ave). Come meet the board and share your ideas.

GARAGE SALE AT NORWOOD SCHOOL

Books, toys, electronics, clothing and hot popcorn for sale! Proceeds towards the Artist in Residence Program Donations and volunteers welcome. Saturday, October 15 from 9am to 5pm and Sunday, October 16 from 9am to 3pm. More info email Rebecca_rml@shaw.ca

Church Services

Avenue Vineyard Church

A friendly, informal, non-judgmental and safe place to grow spiritually. Traditional Christian values in a non-traditional way.

8718 118 Ave (Crystal Kids building)

Sundays at 10:30 am
www.avenuevineyard.com

Bethel Gospel Chapel

A Bible-based, multi-ethnic fellowship

11461 95 St. 780-477-3341

Sunday meetings:

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

St. Faith's Anglican Church

St. Stephen the Martyr Anglican Church

Two Traditions - One Faith

St. Faith - (780) 477-5931 St. Stephen the Martyr - (780) 422-3240
11725-93 Street, Edmonton, AB

Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. Low Mass (St. Stephen)
9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (St. Stephen)
9:30: a.m. High Mass (St. Stephen)
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship (St. Faith's)
7:00 p.m. Evensong (St. Stephen)

St. Faith and St. Stephen invite all to worship with them. 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. Both churches are community-focused with St. Faith providing a hot breakfast the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month and supper the 3rd Friday of the month.

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

Advertise in the Rat Creek Press!

Contact us at
ads@ratcreek.org
or 780-479-6285

www.ratcreek.org

Starting to Christmas shop? Plan to shop at The Carrot Arts Bazaar and Just Christmas on Nov 18 & 19.

Behind the Eyes on the Ave

RESIDENT PROFILE

Harvey Voogd

I see a garbage bin and think of trash, dumpster divers and even an eyesore, but certainly not a picture frame. But outside of his building, stands a bin doing double duty as a photo display of Dave Stasiuk's eyes, nose and brow.

"People recognize me on the street," says Stasiuk. "And ask is that your picture on the dumpster?"

Stasiuk's role in the Eyes on the Alley project (put together by the Neighbourhood Empowerment Team) has made him a local celeb-

erity, but it is his Ukrainian heritage that has unleashed his passion. He has become consumed with crafting Ukrainian-themed Christmas decorations, ranging from tree ornaments to ribbon angels. Stasiuk's passion began in 2008 and arose out of a desire to preserve some symbols and traditions of his heritage as a legacy for his two nieces.

"I get bored easily. I don't have children and thought it would be nice to create 20 Ukrainian-themed tree ornaments for each of them for Christmas," says Stasiuk.

With an eye to detail, he set to work making unique creations. Though the genre is similar, each ornament is unique, with none being duplicated. Ornaments may use the same pattern, but each one will have a unique trim or design.

Stasiuk only became aware of his artistic talent shortly before his early retirement due to medical problems ten years ago. He was working as a chef in the high-stress cooking profession. At an in-service on how to handle stress, an aptitude test showed he had an inclination to the arts.

He had always thought of his mom as the artist, not himself. But his mother had prepared him well as he grew up

on a farm halfway between Westlock and Athabasca.

"I had bad allergies as a child," says Stasiuk. "My mom said if the stuff outside bothers you, you'll learn inside stuff."

So he learned to cook, do laundry, clean and sew. These led to his career as a chef, which took him from Westlock, to Uranium City in Saskatchewan, Banff and even to Japan for two years where he set up a catering system for an international drilling company.

But Stasiuk's heart has always resided in the love of his Ukrainian heritage, and now finds full expression in his artwork. Though the first ornaments he created were meant for his nieces, it would be almost a year and hundreds of ornaments later before they got them.

Friends, who saw the ornaments, passed positive comments and convinced Stasiuk that he should make them available to the public. In 2009, he started selling his ornaments for \$10 to \$12 each at venues like the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village near Elk Island National Park.

He was inspired to create Ukrainian themed ribbon



Harvey Voogd

angels from a fellow vendor at the Andrew Garlic Festival and by 27 cases of wired ribbon from his cousin.

"The vendor gave me her blessing and I bought 3 of her angels for use as patterns," says Stasiuk.

These popular creations are bought by many people as memorials to love ones who have passed on. Not everything he sells is made by himself. He recently began selling Ukrainian candy.

"Last weekend, I made \$83 on candy, selling them for 50 cents each," says Stasiuk.

"Everyone is a kid when around candy."

During the day, Stasiuk works part-time as the manager for the 3-storey apartment building where he resides, but he is often up until 2 a.m. making crafts. At times it seems like his hobby is becoming a job, but he finds it therapeutic and extremely relaxing.

You can view Dave Stasiuk's creations at www.heritagetreasures.ca They are also available for purchase at Orbit Ukrainian store, 10219-97 Street in Edmonton.

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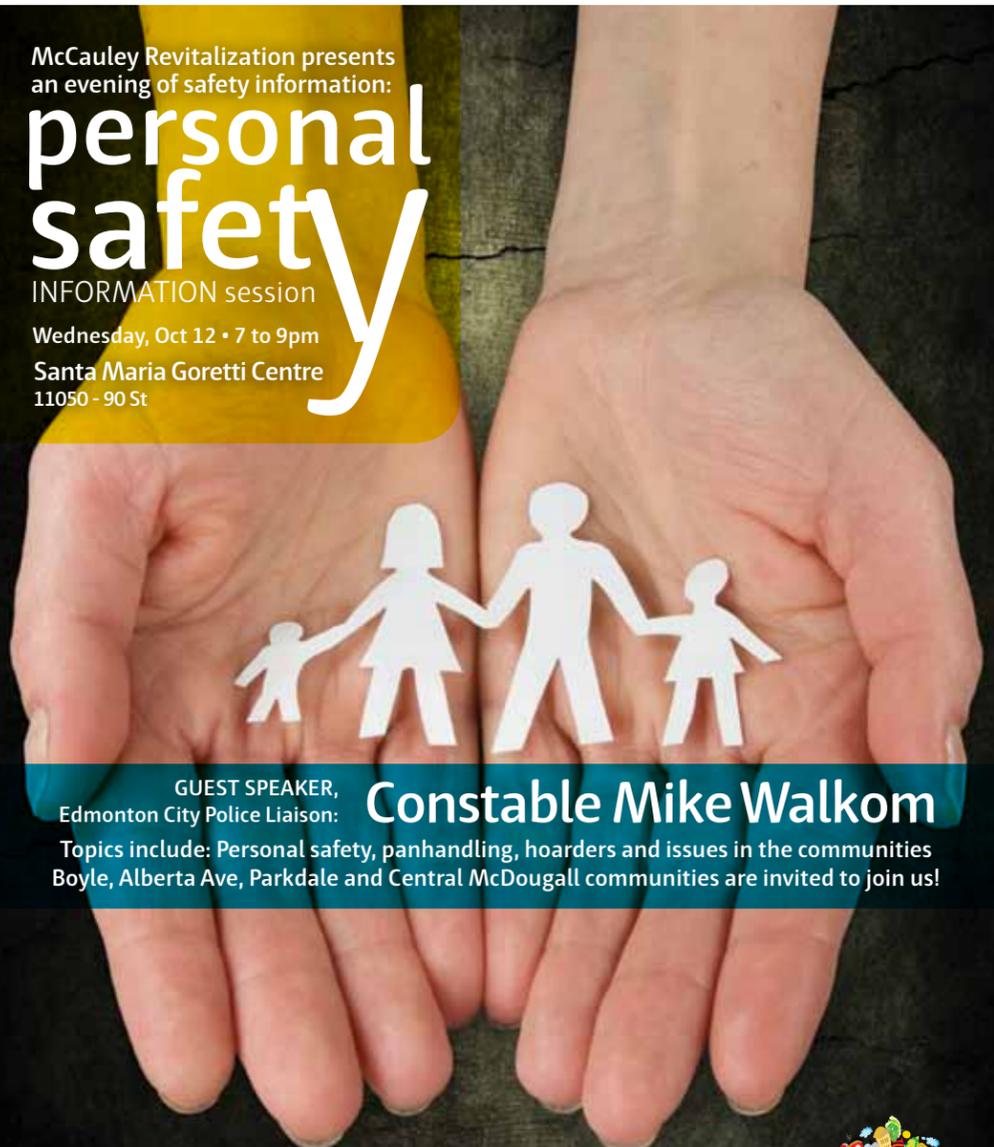
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