

Cromdale Hotel bash draws hundreds

Community celebrates the end of a difficult struggle to demolish crime-magnet building.



No trouble near the rubble. It's been many decades since the site of the Cromdale Hotel was safe enough for children to play. The celebration marked the final reclamation of the area for all community members. The afternoon was filled with excellent music from several local bands, including (left picture) Dave Von Bieker and Matt Halton. Pipefitters Union Local 488 provided the barbeque grill and volunteers to cook the hotdogs.



DARREN BOISVERT

DARREN BOISVERT

In the shadow of the pile of rubble that used to be the Cromdale Hotel, hundreds of community members gathered to celebrate the demolition of the former iconic building. On a bright Sunday afternoon (September 16th), people ate free hot dogs and cake, children played games, and the crowd listened to live music while strolling down memory lane through a historical display presented by the Rat Creek Press.

Community leaders and local politicians also lined up to share their experiences in the long road to close down the Cromdale Hotel.

"It's a great day to see that dump gone," said Mayor Mandel to the enthusiastic crowd. "[We need to] make sure that what we've done doesn't go backward. Continued support for the arts and culture, continued support

for maintenance and ensuring if there is someone who wants to invest, that we make sure they're not discouraged, they're encouraged."

Ed "The Hammer" Gibbons, a former councilor for the community, had promised long-time anti-Cromdale Hotel activist Sheila Bowker (now deceased) that he would take a few bricks down when the building was finally demolished. Appearing on stage with his sledgehammer, Councilor Gibbons fulfilled his promise by taking a few whacks at some rubble and noted the positive change in the community over the years.

"I remember when every third door on the street was an open business," said Gibbons. "Now you walk down the street and the Avenue has only gotten better."

While the rubble will take several more months to clear, Shopper's Drug Mart plans to have its 10,000 square-foot building completed by June 2013. District Manager for the company, Keith Bulger, said



It's "Hammer Time" for Councilor Ed Gibbons.

he had "goosebumps" as he mingled with the crowd.

"There were a lot of hoops to jump through to get where we are today," said Bulger. "But Shopper's is honored to be here and to help however we can with the revitalization of the area."

The destruction of the building caps two decades of political and legal wrangling. First built in 1954, the Cromdale hotel was once a classy establishment for the community. It hosted weddings and meals of celebration, and housed people building Edmonton Northlands. Years of neglect, however, led to it being a magnet for drunken fights, commercial sex work, and drugs.

Highlands-Norwood MLA and NDP Leader Brian Mason said he had been advocating the

building's demolition since 1989 when he was a city councillor for the area.

"It shouldn't have taken so much time and effort on the part of the community to deal with a major nuisance like the Cromdale Hotel," said Mason. "I think the system failed the community in that regard. I think that we need to strengthen the legislation and make sure that these kind of things don't happen again."

Also looking forward with hope was Parkdale Cromdale Community League President Martin Bundred who is trying to encourage his community to be proud of the name "Cromdale" without the stigma of the hotel dragging the community's reputation through the mud.

"What we want to try to achieve from this day on is to make people proud that they live near the Cromdale, or they're from Cromdale (area)," he said.

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A year on *The Avenue*

REVIEW: *THE AVENUE*
BY JAIMIE CLEMENTS
EVOLVING EPIDAURUS FILMS

DARREN BOISVERT

How do you change the social fabric of a neighbourhood? A daunting task for any community, and a difficult topic to explore as a documentarian. From September 2009 until October 2010, Jaimie Clements followed the activities of local activists as they reclaimed their streets, pressured businesses to stop selling weapons and drug paraphernalia, and organized community festivals to encourage civic engagement.

The end result is *The Avenue*, a 90-minute snapshot of social activism in a community beset by derelict housing, violence, and social decay. It's an impressive first documentary by local resident Jaimie Clements that should be required watching for anyone moving into the community.

The documentary follows members from Community Response to Urban Disorder (CRUD), Arts on the Ave (AOTA), Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE), and adds an international perspective with Jim Diers, Author of *Neighbor Power: Building Community the Seattle Way*.

"I hope it makes people think about how they create communities in their own lives and what that means," says Clements. "If

they want to change things in society -- they can -- if they have enough determination."

Clements, who moved into Parkdale in 2008, had lived in other parts of Edmonton, but was attracted to the revitalizing energy and cheap housing prices in the area.

"I think I had the same perception as everyone in Edmonton," says Clements. "118th Ave had a negative connotation. My partner and I had visited the area a few times with friends, and they had mentioned how community focused it was."

With a background in theatre arts and a camera waiting to be used, she headed out in the community to explore the activity around her. She followed the CRUD dog-walkers, attended Kaleido Festival, and interviewed Kathleen Quinn, Executive Director of CEASE, to get the perspective of the commercial sex workers strolling the street.

While she accurately and methodically gathered material on the activities underway in the community, *The Avenue* provides more of a survey of action rather than stripping away at the assumptions (and most critically, the reasons) behind the revitalization efforts. The documentary would have been stronger if she had followed commercial sex workers on the street, perhaps interviewed a derelict house owner, or discussed weapons

sales with a business selling knives. Without more of these voices in the documentary, the reasons for *their behaviour* and the actions of the community *in response*, leave the viewer without the full appreciation for all that has been achieved to date. It also lightly touches upon the dangers of too-much gentrification, an idea that will need further discussion as the community proceeds forward.

That being said, the documentary includes many nice touches, including the creative use of animation provided by Chris Wulff from Studio Post (inspired by Michael Moore's documentary *Bowling for Columbine*), as a way of portraying activity she was unable to shoot. It also has good interviews with community activists, and it is itself, a creative and useful addition to the revitalization in the area.

The World Theatrical Premiere of the *The Avenue*, takes place Wednesday, October 24th, 2012 (doors open at 6:30 pm) at the Metro Cinema (8712 109th Street). This premiere will feature live music from the local band Where's Lula? and calzones from Battista's Calzone Company. Director, Jaimie Clements, will be in attendance for a Q&A following the film. General admission is \$10 at the door. For more information, contact Contact Jaimie Clements at tjclm@telus.net or visit www.theavenuemovie.com.

No 'guys' in Texas, only politeness

DARLENE TAYLOR

When talking to Canadian's who have travelled the world, I get the impression that we are treated with respect due to our good reputation. Some of that treatment may stem from Canada's activities in the World Wars. I know visitors who have commented to me, "Canadians are so polite".

I recently came back from a trip to Texas and I worry about our Canada's, and even Edmonton's reputation. Everywhere I went I was greeted with a smiling face and a "Yes, ma'am". My first day in Conroe,

I was very tired after a long flight and almost as long a taxi ride (we got lost and couldn't find the hotel) so had to seek out a restaurant and a real meal. Applebee's was across the road and I placed my order. The waitress would check on me often and even sat down and visited with me for a few minutes from time to time. She and other waitresses would visit with the patrons especially those who sat alone.

Another day, another meal, a different waitress but the same treatment. I felt very

comfortable and welcome.

I spent the week in the Houston, Texas area because I was preparing and facilitating a course. After one class, several of us met at Willie's (a restaurant in Houston) to enjoy good company, talk about the day, and get to know each other better. Again, we were treated very well. It was surprising how many Canadians were working in the area and they agreed that Texas was very polite and treated everyone

with respect. It was "ma'am" or "sir". I was often referred to as "Miss Darlene". One friend, John, mentioned that it was common to see one person open a door for another. It was not just resort or tourist areas.

Canada's reputation for politeness is being challenged, I think.

It was definitely a reality adjustment when I returned to Edmonton. I opened my own doors to the restaurants and was greeted with "What can I get you guys?". When one waitress was asked, "Why are you calling us 'guys'" she replied, "I'm being friendly. I want to make you, guys, feel comfortable."



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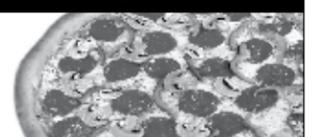


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Thank you to all the fantastic volunteers who helped make Kaleido Festival a huge success again this year!



THE LEMONADE STAND

The Rat Creek Press is pleased to present a new column on setting up a new business in our community. 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.

We welcome Henri Yauck to our pages. He has used his 'architecture' in doing multi-million dollar turn-a-rounds, in building a successful franchise, and in helping many entrepreneurs in Western Canada, Western and Midwestern USA. He is also an expert author for an online eZine writing business and health related articles.

The architecture of business success

HENRI YAUCK

Late one evening, a little over a year ago, four young friends met in a bar. They were graduates from the same school. In some ways they were very much alike. Jake, Tim, Susan and George were friends. What they had in common was that they were chefs. Each with the dream of running their own successful restaurant. Each following their passion.

Recently, these four young people met again. They were still very much alike. Although three of them seemed a little disenchanting, their future did not seem as bright as they had hoped.

George borrowed heavily on his home mortgage, he was going to set up his business just right. Susan, together with savings and money she

borrowed from friends and a relative, had high hopes too. After all, as in the movie... "If you build it they will come." Jake, together with a good credit record put together just enough money to open his business and stay open for several months. He was sure his restaurant would pay its way within the first month or so.

Tim, was the only one of the four that was still in business by the end of that first year. (For every 20 businesses that open, only 19 make it past the first year). His three friends were among the 19 that didn't make it past the first year.

What made the difference?

Just west of 118th Avenue, in the last five years, 4 different individuals followed their passion. "They built it... but no-one came." The

facility, that appears to have a good location is empty. What went wrong?

A few years after opening his business, in the jewellery industry, a gemologist made the largest purchase of emeralds in all of North America. In 2009 his business grew by 38%, while during that same year a large number of others closed their doors. His firm now has 400 employees.

An artist, located in what could be called the badlands of Alberta, makes a good living selling his paintings from an old abandoned church. He has since purchased two more old churches that he uses as his studio and galleries.

The successful entrepreneurs are very similar to their peers that didn't get past the first year. They all had a passion for wanting their own "lemonade stand".

You may wonder what makes this kind of difference in people's lives. It isn't native intelligence or talent or dedication. It isn't that one person wants success and the other doesn't. The difference seems to be found in what each person knows and how he or she uses that knowledge. We call that knowledge, the architecture of business success.

In our next article, I will outline that architecture, and in subsequent articles will fill in the details as well as describe the 3 biggest mistakes you must avoid to run your own successful lemonade stand.

Henri Yauck is available to answer all of your questions regarding setting-up a business. He can be contacted at info@henri.ca.




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

For information call Judy Allan 780-496-1913
avenueinitiative.ca



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PHONE: 780.479.6285

WEB: www.ratcreek.org

PUBLISHER: Karen Mykietka
info@ratcreek.org

EDITOR: Darren Boisvert
editor@ratcreek.org

DESIGNER: Michelle Hayduk
design@ratcreek.org

ADS: Bettyann Dolata
ads@ratcreek.org

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.

Editorial

Submissions: editor@ratcreek.org



DARREN BOISVERT

Every Christmas Eve, my father would rouse my brother and I out of bed at 5:00 am, and we would spend the next several hours driving around Sherwood Park picking up turkeys from the homes of bleary-eyed volunteer cooks. We would stack the steaming birds in our van and take them to an industrial warehouse that had been transformed into a meat-carving operation.

Dozens of additional volunteers would arrive with their carving knives, and in several short hours, there would be trays of turkey and buckets of gravy ready to be served Christmas afternoon for the Boyle Street Dinner.

It was my first lesson in civic volunteering and a great example of how to run a non-profit organization. This initiative has been underway for roughly 40 years, and there has always been a long list of wanna-be cooks and corporations willing to donate turkeys. Key to its longevity and success was the firm decision by the organizer to refuse any donation of more than several turkeys. He would often

Creating strong festivals one turkey at a time



receive -- and refuse -- offers of dozens of turkeys from any one source. His argument was that large donors could change their mind about donating, or go out of business, leaving the charity work in trouble.

It is a smart strategy that the City of Edmonton would do well to consider. Proof of this was the announcements this month concerning the demise of Indy Car racing and the Winter Light Festival here in Edmonton.

Announced as a pilot-project in 2008, The Winter Light Festival was funded by the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Arts Council to encourage residents to celebrate the long winter months. Attempts to transition from a City-funded festival to a non-profit organization proved too much for organizers, and with that funding no longer available, the festival is no longer part of our January event calendar.

The Indy Car race, funded through the city and Edmonton Northlands, also failed to develop broad-based support in both the business community and with residents in general. Poor attendance and a lack of

funding from many sources led to massive financial losses and a racing track in need of cars.

Add in the ambivalence Edmontonians have had in recent years to Capital Ex (once again K-Day), and the constant (and increasingly hard-nosed tactical negotiations) surrounding the city-funded proposed new arena, and a pattern emerges of grand initiatives that flame brightly until they crash and burn.

It's not hard to find examples of success in our Edmonton's rich festival scene. The Fringe festival started out with a bunch of actors staging plays in alleyways and abandoned buildings, and with City funding, expanded into the second largest fringe festival in the world. The slow organic growth of the Folk Festival led to an almost fanatical volunteer base, and sold-out events for decades.

Closer to home, one only has to look at the steady progress of Kaleido, Deep Freeze, Avenue Goes To The Dogs, and the many smaller community league festivals to see that success in community events comes from the community, not from City-led initiatives.

Instead of pouring millions of dollars into pre-packaged ideas, a far stronger approach would be for the City to increase their support for the ideas generated by the community. It would be exciting to see what the Deep Freeze organizers could do with an additional \$100,000 to promote this locally-supported project as the City's signature winter festival. The 118th Avenue used to be home to the Klondike Days parade, but except for our community being used as a carpark, there is little interplay between local residents and K-Days. It would take many years, but finding a way to bring the local Alberta Avenue, Highlands and Beverly communities (with their proven commitment to festivals) into planning for Northlands events would produce a festival that would make the city (once again) home to a widely-supported summer fair.

Some ideas just don't fly. Neither do turkeys. But harvesting what you need from many people is a smarter way to feed the community, and a better way to create festivals that grow into can't-miss City-wide parties.

Do you want to be part of the best community newspaper in Edmonton?



In the past year, the **Rat Creek Press** has grown at breakneck speed. We launched the **Ave We Had: A Living History** project to celebrate our past and future, and are continuing with a historical photographic show at the Nina Haggerty Gallery, planned historical walking tour and community calendar. We've expanded our news coverage to include fearless investigative features, hard-hitting news stories, and continue to showcase the incredible energy and initiatives throughout our community.

We remain committed to being the premier forum for all opinions and debates that affect residents. If you have a voice, we have the space for your words. Everyone is welcome: photographers, writers, designers, computer technicians, history buffs, people to join the board of directors, and political activists. We're making a difference and the Rat Creek Press team invites all community members to join us at our Annual General Meeting on the final final evening of our **Ave We Had Gallery Show** at the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts. Come hear what we have planned for the next year, and suggest your own ideas.

RAT CREEK PRESS ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, November 5, 2012 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts, 9225 - 118 ave

For more information contact Harvey Voogd (chairman of the board) at board@ratcreek.org or Darren Boisvert (Managing Editor) at editor@ratcreek.org.

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Speaker's Corner

Have opinions? Great let's hear them!

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Letters to the Editor



RE: HELICOPTER HELL IN DELTON (AUGUST ISSUE)

Yes Air One is useful for monitoring crime. However, I think the helicopter and military jets are often used simply to announce local sports events. Canada Day or other significant celebrations aside, I think the jets and copters are used to demonstrate testosterone, not safety.

Previous indie races and a recent football game subjected our neighbourhood to low

flying jets, creating enormous noise and stress. (The dogs didn't like it either.) And the cost involved must be significant. Who pays for this noise spectacle: the event organizers or the taxpayers?

I am one of the nearly 70% of the population who believes that professional sports are given far too much importance. The new arena and the noisy boy toys create resentment in

me because they cater to a minority who think they speak for the majority.

And I disagree with the person who suggested Ms. Leontowicz should move instead of trying change a wrong. I grew up in this neighbourhood, I have a right to change things that infringe on my rights. So does everyone else.

M Zap

THE ORIGINAL 'HELICOPTER' AUTHOR REPLIES

My husband, our dog and myself moved to Delton for a variety of reasons: affordability of housing, the proximity to a culturally rich community, and to leave the growing crimes in the neighbourhood we were living in – often very violent ones.

Two people were stabbed behind our garage, a gentleman blew up an apartment, killing himself and another, and a young lady was found dead underneath the Mill Creek Bridge - all this in 1.5 years. We researched neighbourhoods and found crime rates in Delton were lower and far less violent. We didn't perceive Delton as a "crime ridden" neighbourhood at all.

I do understand and respect police ground patrols in the neighbourhoods. The patrols are unobtrusive with a police presence that is approachable and effective. My intent was not to negate the ground

forces disrupting drug deals, prostitution or providing a safety net for the community. The point of the article was, "who is responsible for the unfounded noise pollution?"

Mistakenly, I blasted Air One with the sole responsibility of initiating that noise pollution. Through follow-up conversations with Sergeant Ron Koshowski, I was able to understand better the air traffic coming through the neighbourhood. I will continue to direct this issue with the appropriate people. Based on the Sergeant's research, Air One patrols were a very, very miniscule part of the helicopter traffic I documented. Thank you Sergeant for being so collected, informative and non-negating of a community member's voice. I appreciate it tremendously.

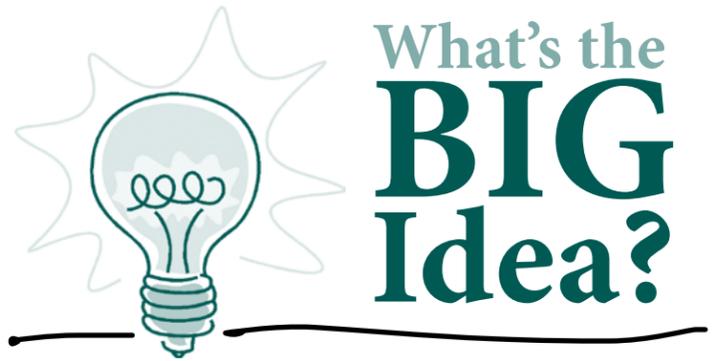
I pose a question to the community: How do community members feel now

that it's been identified that Air One and STARS are NOT the cause of the air noise? Is it still acceptable to have low flying helicopters and continuous flyovers that have nothing to do with community policing – but just regular "air traffic"?

To me, it's still not acceptable. It's still intrusive and disrespectful. A sense of tranquility in my backyard is too high of a price to pay for traffic updates and unaware people.

Thank you for Darren Boisvert for the informative article written in the Rat Creek Press regarding the work of Air One. As you said, it did open dialogue in the community - the response was great. Concerned people's voices have been the only thing that has ever changed communities – here, as well as across the country.

Nina Leontowicz



Healthy communities for healthy children



ASHLEY CARD TUSNADI

Since 1963, Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre has been supporting children and families within the Norwood and surrounding communities. The Centre provides a place where families from all backgrounds feel welcome and connected to other families and their community. The vision at Norwood is to promote healthy children, healthy families and healthy communities. Norwood offers programs that nurture healthy child development and provides opportunities for parents to learn and improve their skills so they can help their children reach their fullest potential. All of our programs are, as always, 100% free to families who need them.

In addition to our work with the children and families at Norwood Centre, we also extend our reach into the community. Norwood has been involved in many community initiatives over the years, including the Norwood Neighbourhood Association, the Community Action Project and the Alberta Avenue community League. We continue to play an active role in our community's healthy development.

As of September 10th, 2012 the Norwood staff, along with many dedicated volunteers, have taken to the streets to hear the stories and share the experiences of families living

in this part of Edmonton. A survey has been developed that looks at what is important to families raising children, what programs and services are accessed that assist in their child's development and what challenges they face raising children in this community.

Experience and research shows it takes a community to raise a child and we want to know from families how well their community is supporting their children. Our purpose is to ensure that families living here are receiving the programs and services they want and need to raise healthy, happy children.

Share with us your joys and struggles of raising children in the North Central Edmonton communities. We recognize that many neighbourhoods in North Central Edmonton have their own unique features that make living here unlike anywhere else in the city; and, while each neighbourhood within this area is different from one another, many similarities are also shared.

Our hope is to make this the best community to raise children, but we can't do it without the help of parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and concerned residents. We need your voice, your stories, your experiences.



There are many ways you can share your voice. Visit our website at www.norwoodcentre.com to complete a short survey about your experiences raising children in your community. Email or phone us with your thoughts and stories to ashleyc@ncfrc.ab.ca or (780) 471-3737. Ask for Ashley. Attend a meet and greet in the community. Dates and locations can be found on our website.

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LA-Z-BOY

SIMMONS Beautyrest

This Ave ain't dead

The 7th Annual Kaleido Family Arts Festival (September 7-9) was once again a grand success. Tens of thousands of people attended the three day event under beautiful skies and warm weather.



With so much to see and do, it was impossible to take in every act that performed. Our roving photographer, Rebecca Liappit, captured some of the scheduled and improptu performances on the Avenue.

Fuzzfly aerialists forced us to look up...way up to catch them in action. From flies on the wall to intricate wall aerobatics, these guys added that extra 5th dimension to the entire festival.

The sheer physicality of Kalabante, a montreal-based troupe of aerialists and acrobats, wowed the crowd on the street with their high-energy performances. With their gravity-defying flips and rhythmic dancing, they were a sight to see.

The trolls of from The One-Eyed Troll and Selke found many friends over the weekend, as they walked the Avenue. Bringing magic alive, they welcomed their audience with stories and the sheer genius of their costumes. If only the monsters in our imaginations were as friendly as these ugly creations.

Congratulations to the Arts of the Ave production team and the hundreds of volunteers who pulled off a near-flawless festival for the entire city to enjoy.

The stellar line-up of actors, musicians, dancers, poets, visual artists, and acrobats performed to large crowds and enthusiastic response. We hope to see many of them return next year.



Even the dead rose from their graves to attend the festival. Thrill The Ave expanded their showing over the weekend and left many wondering why a hearse was driving through the venue. The dance of the deceased was a love-story gone dead wrong...



Adding a splash of colour



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is home to two new murals. In recent years they have opened their doors to both community groups and different congregations as a way of connecting with all people on the Avenue.

MICHELLE HAYDUK

The official unveiling for the Youth and Community Mural Project took place on Friday, September 21st in front of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (8715-118 Avenue). The celebration was held in conjunction with Community Response to Urban Disorder's (CRUD) last Community Gathering of the season. Over 90 people came out to celebrate the community's newest mural, listen to live music, and enjoy a free slice of Hollywood pizza.

This ambitious mural project (two, 126 square foot sections) was a collaborative effort by at-risk youth, community residents, and local professional artists. The intent of this project was to help beautify public space, foster community pride, and encourage proactive community involvement from local youth. The mural project was conceived as an opportunity for local artists to

work with vulnerable youth and community residents to produce a meaningful work of art. The artistic development and organization of this project was led by community residents and artists: Lorraine Shulba and Michelle Hayduk.

The theme for the Youth and Community Mural Project delved into the notion of what community means to each of us and how we, as community members, can support each other. The mural project began with a visioning session with youth (from iHuman) to garner their thoughts, feelings, and impressions through words and visual depictions on what community means to them. These ideas were compiled and distilled to form a cohesive image by the organizers. Over the summer months, both youth and community members worked alongside the artists to complete the mural. The process provided new opportunities for social

interaction, artistic expression, and developing community connections.

The mural project was meant to complement and enrich the current renewal activities: ensuring that the neighbourhood's environment reflects its inhabitants and positively echoes who they are. It was the hope of organizers that through the artistic detailing of public space the mural will help solidify a fresh identity for the community -- something that will inspire, create hope, and encourage community members to be agents of change in their own neighbourhood.

The public unveiling event celebrated the Youth and Community Mural Project and its' artistic and community achievements. The mural project was made possible by the support of Avenue Initiative Revitalization, iHuman, CRUD, and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.



Pizza for all. Community members listened to music in the shadow of two, huge new murals that will grace the Avenue for years to come. Artists Lorraine Shulba and Michelle Hayduk unveiled the murals on behalf of all the youth who contributed their time and skills to make the community a much more beautiful place.




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Local poet becomes Bard of the Ave

HARVEY VOOGD

Marlene Salmonson, a woman who has been writing poetry all her life, is our first Bard of the Ave. Her role is to write and perform poetry that reflects the life of the area's seven neighbourhoods.

She began her two-year term on September 1 and will serve in this role until August 31, 2014. Her first public event was judging the recent Words From The Ave poetry slam, which was part of the Kaleido Family Arts Festival. "I was totally impressed with the level of poetry," said Marlene. "To read your own stuff and have the guts to put it out there is awesome."

Marlene will receive an honorarium of \$1,000 a year and produce at least two original works each year. The Bard will also initiate one legacy project during her two-year term. As the Bard, Marlene will be available for any community activity, be it a local festival, Community League event, or other community functions.

Marlene's ideas as the Bard include doing a piece on restaurants on the Ave, getting a feel for all the neighbourhoods she'll serve and reflecting the change that is underway. The challenge, the diversity of the area, her love of the community and the struggle to change its image led Marlene to apply to be the Bard.

"I want to positively reflect what is happening in

the community, but also be realistic," said Marlene. "My house is next to the 111 Avenue Fire Hall, on the Norwood Trail to Universal Bottle Depot. When people talk about the Avenue, no one knows better than I do. Nobody has to tell me what it is like living here."

An early start

"The first poem I remember writing was at seven-years-old," remembered Marlene. "It was about the love of my life, Cleopatra my Siamese cat, who always slept on my bed."

As a teen in an advanced high school English class, instead of doing critiques she would write a poem. "My teacher said they were good and that was the first time I realized poetry could be part of my studies," said Marlene.

Later while studying Pastoral Clinical Education, instead of reflections, Marlene would write poems. Her experience in hospitals was extensive because Carly, one of her daughters, has schizophrenia. Her first published poem "The Other Side of Glory" was written out of the experience of one of her

daughter's hospitalizations.

Writing brought Marlene thirty-five plus years ago to Alberta from her hometown of Halifax.

She responded to an ad in the now defunct Alberta Report Magazine.

"The publisher, Ted Byfield, sent me a plane ticket and that's how I ended up here and met my first husband," said Marlene. "He was one of the founders at the beginning of the Report and I did lithography, photography and some proof reading."

After a move to Thorhild, Marlene became a writer with the weekly Westlock Hub newspaper, which at that time had a circulation of 30,000. Marlene has fond memories of her three years as a writer and columnist.

"I wrote a column called Namapi River, after the only real river that runs through the County of Thorhild," said Marlene. She did commentary on politics, school boards, things in her family, and the church, but had carte blanche to write on whatever she liked.

"I totally loved the job," said Marlene. "And usually

had something funny in my column. At times flights of fancy would get into my column because of the need to comment on meetings where you think you're going to die because you're so bored."

Her husband always wanted to be self-employed, so they bought an old-fashioned metal type letter-press business. "We did specialized printing, like bossing to create unique business cards," said Marlene. Our three girls were brought up in the business which we had for eighteen years."

Marlene moved to Edmonton seven years ago to support Carly with the birth of twins. During the pregnancy, for the health of the babies, her daughter had to go off the schizophrenia medication. As a result, she remained hospitalized after the birth.

"My son-in-law and I were exhausted," said Marlene. "The babies ate every two hours. We slept on the couch and snoozed when they slept. Their church family brought the noon meal for the first couple of weeks, otherwise we would have starved. Several of these folks were nurses, which was important because the babies were premature."

Marlene is currently finishing her Master of Theological Studies thesis at St. Stephen's College, which includes poetry, and will spend her time in the community as Bard on the Ave sharing those experiences with residents.



THE OTHER SIDE OF GLORY

By Marlene Salmonson

*I kiss you good-bye,
And leave you there amid
the hospital linen,
Your face ashen,
Awaking only to the drugs,
the banging of the door,
The end of another bad
dream,
I leave you.
I leave you to fight your sad
nightmares,
Where you wear your bright
armour,
And brandish a sword of
steel.
Oh, Joan of Arc, so meek
and mild,
You often lose to the
ungodly foe,
And where you go I cannot
follow- so I wait.
In the parking lot
I stare in silence at your
window,
The snow falls round
It's so quiet here.
But inside you fight on,
I think I hear your sword
whisper through the air-
Another miss.
Down here at night
It may seem strange to see
my shadow
Standing, staring.
From afar,
Someone might think I'm
only wishing-
Just wishing on a star.*

The Bard of the Ave is an initiative of the Rat Creek Press and Arts on the Ave. Funding has been generously provided by the Norwood Neighbourhood Association. As the Bard, Marlene will be available for any community activity, be it a local festival, Community League event, or other community functions. Contact Marlene at bard@ratcreek.org to invite her to write or perform a poem at your event.



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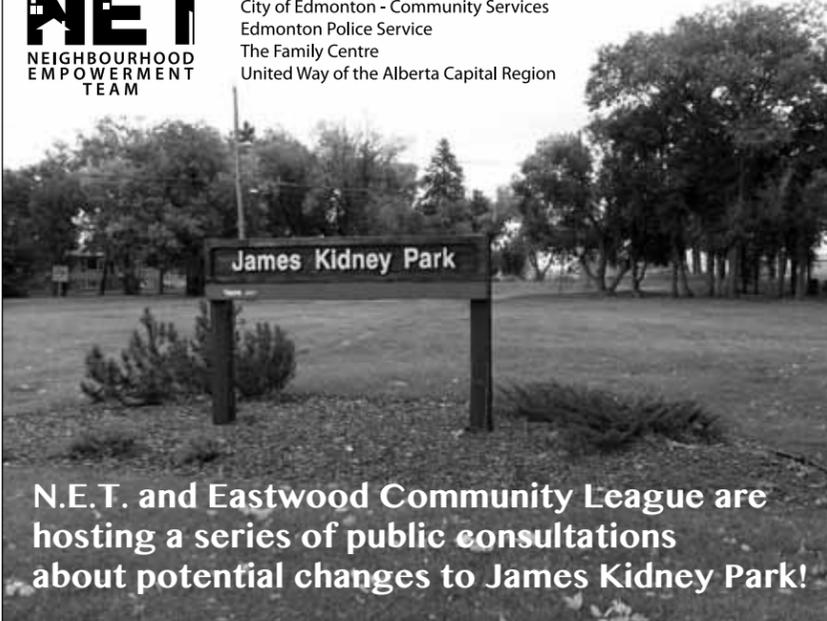
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N.E.T. and Eastwood Community League are hosting a series of public consultations about potential changes to James Kidney Park!

Join us and have your say on how we can make James Kidney Park a welcoming place to visit.

All consultations will be held at Eastwood Community Hall (11803-86 Street) at 6:00 p.m.

- 1) October 10th (youth only)**
- 2) October 17th**
- 3) October 21st**

Find us on Facebook



Purchase your 2012-13 membership from your local community league. Go to efcl.org to find contact info.

2012 POETRY SLAM

The Rat Creek Press is proud to present the 2012 Poetry Slam winner from the event held during the Kaleido Festival on September 9th. In the next several months, we will be profiling the artists who placed in the top three during the event.

We want to thank all the poets who presented. The poems were uniformly excellent, and we are pleased to see the incredible skill level present in our community. Congratulations to all the participants.

And the winners are:

- 1st Prize - \$300 - Rachel Lindley, Lessons in Wood's Craft
- 2nd Prize - \$150 - Kevin Lotsberg, The Sandwich, the Seagull and the Nude Beach
- 3rd Prize - \$50 - Leah Pauls, The Tale of a Runaway Toenail
- Honourable Mention - Anthony Goertz, Call to Arms

Rachel Lindley began reading poetry to recover language comprehension skills involving the understanding of symbolism, which were damaged after brain surgery to remove a tumour. She soon developed an abiding love of the craft, along with a compulsion to write her own work. Since then, she has had both dramatic and light verse published in numerous reviews and anthologies in Canada and the United States. She has won the Alsop Review Best Poem Prize, was a finalist for the MARGIE American Poetry Journal's Marjorie J. Wilson Best Poem Competition, and has been shortlisted for the 2006 CBC National Literary Award in poetry and the 2011 Montreal International Poetry Prize.



POETRY

LESSONS IN WOOD'S CRAFT

By Rachel Lindley

Pick your subject like you plucked the hazelnuts on Wychwood Hill: climb the weathered rungs to the spot where treeseed bundles bob and tease your palm. Lean against the bark for balance; let it prick your skin so you can stretch and snatch the plumpest one, the one you pointed out to me below

where I remain. There is danger in the lean, in the thievery of sapblood. The roots remember. My father's friend could puzzle wood to mind his grip, exfoliate the layers, peel the meat and seal the blooded flesh in riddles, glue and lacquer. He tricked the boards to bear the weight of country kitchens and bedrooms, until a highwayed Jack pine cracked his skull.

Every read's a risk; if you wish to teach me how a numbered page can hold the oldest forest, first you have to break the spine. Do it then, but gently cup the husk to ease the sting. Next, rub each leaf between your thumb and finger. You will feel the veins and smell the needled pine within the flattened pulp. One last thing –

there are craftier ways to ken the rings. Let me show you. I will skipswipe my heels on sheened hardwood and sway in pliant kinship. A splinter will slip inside my arch and work its way upward, not to worry through the brain, but to wind its root around my hips and trunk my vertebrae. When I am treed, the seeded nerves will be as supple as a bough of yew, and I can soothsay you within my circled limbs.

KALEIDO FESTIVAL: DECK OUT A LAMP POST

- First prize - "Random Access Memory Lane"
Team members: Christian Whitty, Megan Woodsmith, Shayne Woodsmith
- Second prize - "Cat-venue of Champions"
Team members: Kristi Gurski & Bronwen Black
- People's Choice - "Cat-venue of Champions"

12FOOT12 INSTALLATION CHALLENGE

- Winner - "Kaleidoscope of Sound" Marta Larsen and family
- People's Choice - "Kaleidoscope of Sound" Marta Larsen and family

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Commonwealth Pool and Fitness centre will remain open during football games but parking will be unavailable.

In search of unseen details, I uncover a man worth noting

JONATHAN WELLER

Not many people today can claim to have nearly drowned in Rat Creek, and it will likely be a long time before the opportunity presents itself again.

It was a cool day, early in winter, the leaves were gone and the ice covering the creek was deceptive, not yet thick enough to support even the weight of a young Stuart McKay. Fortunately, another young man was nearby that day to retrieve the wet boy from his unlikely situation.

It may not have been a life changing event, but it is one of those small stories, the unseen details of a spot, that adds something intangible to an ordinary place. In this case, perhaps it adds an extra degree to a subtle smile during an early morning walk through the Kinnaird Ravine.

This is what makes community history so interesting to me, the addition of thin layers of story and depths of understanding to the places we live. Sly anecdotes and moments of memory are the subtleties that transform an ordinary spot into something just a bit more.

Working on this history project has brought me in touch with many people with whom I share an interest in

these little details around us. People whose quiet dedication to collecting stories is a gift they happily share.

Stuart McKay, last seen trudging home wet from the creek, is one of these people. He grew up in Cromdale in the 1950's, eventually moving



away with his family and later building a life and a career elsewhere within the city. Despite many years of living away, he still holds a special interest in the area where his family settled and lived for so many years.

While he admits that genealogists have a tendency to annoy, especially to those members of the family who may not share the passion, he has maintained an interest in his family's history since he was thirty years old. Sometimes,

it helps to have an interesting family to learn about, such as his uncle, the media theorist Marshal McLuhan.

Like his noteworthy uncle, Stuart's interests are broad and he has a dedication to his work that is enviable. For years Stuart has worked on building timelines on various topics from the history of sound recording to chronological coverage of a local radio personality.

I stumbled onto the website that he has built while researching the history of the area. Among his many subjects is an collection of timelines and photos dealing with the history of Cromdale and Parkdale.

With a quick look one could pass off Stuart's website as a mixed collection of thoughts and ideas gathered into chronological order, but for one that shares his passion, it is clear he is someone who also sees the importance of the details. He is one of many people in our community whose dedication and interest has helped us to remember our history and add that extra meaningful layer.

If you would like to see Stuart's work visit his website at www.infoese.ca. Or perhaps you are someone who also shares an interest in the details? It would be a pleasure to hear from you. history@ratcreek.org.

HISTORY PROJECT
www.avenuehistory.org



Cromdale 1958, Stuart and Cathy.



Cromdale 1960 in front of 11044-83 Street (from left) Stuart Mackay, Sandra Pocock, Cathy Skutle, Pat Walker, Spike, Crystal.

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ARE POLLSTERS TO BE BELIEVED?

Are pollsters to be believed to be right 19 out of 20 times as they claim they are? As Canadians breathed a sigh of relief upon the results of the 2012 Quebec Provincial election, it seems pollsters are overwhelmingly wrong in their forecasts for at least the second time this year. In Quebec, pollsters managed to whip up Quebec sovereignty sentiment to near all-time highs on the shoulders of the feisty Parti Quebecois leader, Pauline Marois. Seeking sensationalism, national columnists shamefully jumped on the unity crisis bandwagon.

Numerous polls were done within Quebec to attempt to gauge how Quebecers were feeling. Not surprisingly, reports done on the polls in Quebec were inflammatory and sensationalist. Poll after poll came back showing Marois' PQ had a majority government lined up. This is illustrated by a September 2, 2012 EKOS poll which had the Parti Quebecois with 36% of the popular vote and the Quebec Liberal Party with 23.3%. The September 4th election results, just two days later, gave the PQ only 32% of the popular vote and a bare minority government, while the QLP received an unforeseen 31.2% to become the Official Opposition.

Does this story sound familiar? You may recall the Alberta provincial election this past spring, where an April 11th, 2012 Abacus poll had the Wildrose party emerging with a majority government with 46% of the popular vote whereas the Progressive Conservatives were projected with 29%. In that case, the Wildrose party only received 34% of the popular vote in the April 23rd election and came in at a distant second to the Progressive Conservatives who won 44%.

In the recent case of Quebec, contrary to what pollsters and columnists reported, the vote thankfully was indeed for change, not separation.

What do you think?

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What do you think of rezoning a section of Alberta Avenue as a heritage area? Let us know at 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.

ENTERTAINMENT

THE CARROT STAGE

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

THE AVE WE HAD GALLERY SHOW

Running from October 4th to November 5th at the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts Stollery Gallery (9225 118 Ave). Gallery Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-2:30pm; Thursday 4:30-8:00pm; Saturdays 1:00-3:00pm. Gala Opening: Thursday, October 11th from 7-9pm. Closing reception/Rat Creek Press AGM: Monday, November 5th from 7-9pm. www.avenuehistory.org

EVENTS

WORKSHOP: YOUR RIGHTS AS A TENANT

This workshop covers what to consider when moving in, living in, and moving out of a rental unit; the acts which govern you and your landlord when you are renting, such as the Residential Tenancy Act, Mobile Homes Act, etc. This session also covers things a tenant must always do no matter what the circumstances, landlord rights to enter the premises, and when your landlord is acting in violation of your rights as a tenant. Wednesday, October 17th at 7pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CIRCLE

Drop in and join others who also want to practise their English. English Conversation Circle is part of Catholic Social Services' Learning and Community Enrichment (LACE) program. Call Catholic Social Services at 780.424.3545 for more information. Monday, October 22nd at 7pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

ABORIGINAL FAMILY STORYTIME

Join us as we share songs, stories and rhymes inspired by the Aboriginal culture.

The whole family is invited to enjoy this entertaining program. Friday, October 26th at 1pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

FLICKS FOR KIDS

Watch movies especially for kids! This free family film series brings you the best in animated film from the National Film Board of Canada. Saturday, October 27th at 3:30pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

NOTICES

ICE SCULPTING CONTEST

Arts on the Ave presents... Deep Freeze: A Byzantine Winter Festival featuring the Sixth Annual Ice Sculpting Contest. 2013 Sculpting Theme: The Wild West. Saturday, January 12th at 10am, Sunday, January 13th from 10am-2pm January 13th at the Alberta Avenue Community League (9210 118 Ave). Grand Prize \$250, Second Prize \$125, Third Prize \$75. We invite all artists to participate in creating a gallery of ice sculptures for all of Edmonton to enjoy. More info: email deepfreezeproducer@gmail.com. Submission Deadline: Friday, December 16th, 2012.

COPS AT THE CARROT

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

PROGRAMS/CLASSES

CREATIVE PROSE AND WRITING GROUP

Tuesdays from 7-9pm at The Carrot. More info: Vivian at vzenari@gmail.com

FREE ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

Practice your English conversation skills every Saturday morning, 10:00-11:30am, at Bethel Gospel Chapel, corner 95 St and 115 Ave, starting September 29th. Classes are free, and child care is provided.

SING, SING, LAUGH AND LEARN

For children up to age three accompanied by a grown-up. Join us for singing,

rhyming and signing. Parents will learn strategies to engage their children and enhance their communication and development through repetition, visuals and movement. Tuesdays, from 10:30-11:15am at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

NEEDLE FELTING

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

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

FAMILY STORYTIME

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

TEEN GAMING

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

WOMEN'S AFTERNOON OUT GROUP

This group gives women a chance to get out and mingle with other women who like to work on crafts such as knitting, crocheting, card making, and more. Ladies are welcome to work on the project we are working on or bring their own.

Cost is \$1 drop in fee which goes toward the purchasing of materials. We also have a potluck snack. Every Monday from 1:30-4pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). For more info. call Michelle at 780.232.5822.

COMMUNITY MEALS

At the Anglican Churches of St. Faith's and St. Stephen the Martyr (11725 93 St) will resume in October. More info: 780.477.5931.

PARKDALE-CROMDALE SENIORS GROUP

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

SENIORS LUNCH

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

BABES IN ARMS

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

L'I' SPROUTS PLAYGROUP

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

CRUD COMMUNITY DINNER CLUB

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

SPORTS/REC

FREE QIGONG CLASS

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

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). Walks are cancelled if raining.

FREE COMMUNITY ACCESS AT THE NEW COMMONWEALTH REC CENTRE

Saturdays from 5-7pm there is a free community access time for community league members. Enjoy the pool or the fitness centre. All 7 area leagues are participating. Contact your neighbourhood league to get a membership. Note: Due to football games the October 13th swim is moved to October 14th.

THRILL THE AVE

Maybe you saw us doing Thriller at Kaleido and thought, "That looks like fun!". It is. We are continuing classes to learn Thriller to perform at events throughout the year. Classes are Wednesday nights 7-8 pm at Alberta

Avenue Community League (9210 118 Ave). Classes are free and no dance experience is necessary. We welcome people of all ages. Fun for the whole family. For more info. contact Heather at 780.454.9296, email thrilltheave@gmail.com or look us up on Thrill the Ave on facebook.

VOLUNTEER

HELP AT NORWOOD CENTRE

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

BEFRIEND A SENIOR

Provide much needed companionship to an isolated senior by assisting them with grocery shopping, sharing life stories, playing cards or completing crafts, going for walks or driving them to and from medical appointments. There are seniors in your community waiting for a volunteer right now. It could take as little as an hour each week! For more info call Carole at 780.342.4421.

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, 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.

We would like to thank the Norwood Neighbourhood Association (NNA) for sponsoring the Community Calendar. For more info about the NNA, go to albertaave.org/nna.html

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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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)

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

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

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

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.

REBECCA LIPPIATT

photographer

rmll@shaw.ca • 780.641.9417
www.dragonflyphotography.ca

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Cemetery
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Howard Johnson
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3619 - 118 Avenue

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New Seasonal Hours...Open Saturdays

Check our history website avenuehistory.org. It's a work in progress. Please add your stories and comments.

BOTTLE GUY HAS BIG HEART



REBECCA LIPPIATT

(Left to Right) Meagan Hight, Lon, and Sari Jarvinen.

Lon has been donating his recycled bottles for years to different individuals and organisations. His focus has always been on helping neighbourhood children, and this year, Lon donated \$124 worth of bottles to Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre.

One year he gave them to a lady across the back alley, and she was able to buy hockey sticks for her foster kids. He has a huge tab (from the cans) collection, that he wants to turn into a sculpture. Norwood Foundry said they would melt it down for him and now all he needs is an artist to do the work. Anyone interested can contact editor@ratcreek.org for further information.



DARREN BOISVERT

NO LONGER 'ONE OF A KIND'

Local community resident and regular fixture at the Carrot Cafe, Bernice Caligiuri, meets herself for the very first time. Richie Velthus, sculptor and instructor at the City Art Centre, has been working on a series representing people he meets from the community who inspire him.

"I respect Bernice," says Velthus. "She's a rare, true artist who creates her art all for fun. I was inspired by her. She's authentic." The 14" fired-clay piece will be included in an upcoming show sponsored by the Alberta Craft Council at the Discovery Gallery from March 20th - May 4th. Along with his other pieces, 'Bernice' will be on-sale to the public. While the original is priceless, we hope the smaller version is much more affordable.

ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL
10186-106 Street 780.488.6611

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