

# RAT CREEK PRESS

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## Local park development to honor MMIWG

Partners work to develop four unnamed Alberta Avenue parks



The Park committee, from left to right: Stephanie Harpe, international advocate for Murdered, Missing, Exploited Indigenous Peoples (MMEIP), Liz John-West, community league board member, Shauna Richards, neighbourhood resource coordinator, and Jim Wood, Ojibwa Curve Lake First Nation from Ontario. | Rusti L Lehay

### RUSTI L LEHAY

Naming a park requires much thought, possibly even more than naming a child. Liz John-West, Alberta Avenue resident and community league board member says, “The City of Edmonton came to us one-and-a-half years ago. They were aware we have four to five unnamed parks in our neighbourhood.”

One of the many early ideas when looking at naming the parks was to “honour the women who have been taken from our neighbourhood.” John-West says, “These women have lived, played, and worked in our community. They had a whole lot of life before they were taken from our neighbourhood. We want to honour that life.”

Once the committee decided on naming the parks for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), they reached out to additional groups and agencies to better understand the issues.

Early committee members talked with Kate Quinn at Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE),

Kathy King from Missing Cara and April Eve, and Medicinespiritdancer from Stolen Sisters & Brothers. Out of these conversations, the Park committee was formed with Alberta Avenue community league board members, local residents, individuals involved in the MMIWG movement, and the City of Edmonton.

“The committee needed to represent diverse voices,” says John-West.

Project co-chairs are John-West and Stephanie Harpe, international advocate for Murdered, Missing, Exploited Indigenous Peoples (MMEIP). John-West says, “The genesis of the project sits at the community league. As more voices come to this initiative, the project will grow and evolve to what it needs to be.” The committee knows this project is meaningful to everyone, especially to the families who have lost loved ones. They are paying attention.

“The project will involve blessing of Elders, as well as community consultation with business leaders and neighbours of the identified park area.”

In addition to inviting diverse voices, the committee sought to create partnerships between the league and other Indigenous leaders before moving forward with any plans. The committee agrees it is paramount to connect with Elders and include partner groups in the ongoing project.

The project will include developing four area parks to honour MMIWG. The main park is located at 121 Avenue and 90 Street, and the remaining parks lie along a path to the west. Some of the groups met at the park in the summer. This very new project, only months old, has already generated a lot of interest.

Bigger ideas evolved as new voices came to the table. The plan is now for a three- to five-year project costing around \$750,000. John-West says, “We want to honour Indigenous voices, not just women and girls. There are many non-Indigenous women that have also been taken from us. We want to walk gently and purposefully forward in this initiative.”

Venturing out to tackle this

very fluid and ambitious project, John-West says, “We’ve transitioned from naming a park for the women taken from our community to ‘Can we make space within the park to inform the public about the women? Can we make a gathering space for those working in the field as a place for reflection?’”

The project went above and beyond creating a name for a park sign. To find out more, to donate or participate in this project, and to learn about the park blessing ceremony planned for June, visit the MMIWG+ Park page at the league website [albertaave.org](http://albertaave.org).

This diverse committee of stakeholders with subcommittees still need volunteers. If you are interested in getting involved, email [mmiwg@albertaave.org](mailto:mmiwg@albertaave.org).

*Rusti has been writing professionally since 1999. Her favourite word activities are coaching writers and offering online writing stay-treats.*

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# Local organization nurtures art & community

CreArt mentors future community leaders through the arts

## CONSTANCE BRISSENDEN

Eight years ago, a small group of volunteers created a community-based organization to promote accessible art and community spaces. Two years ago, CreArt Edmonton took the next step and became a not-for-profit organization.

CreArt Edmonton remains energetically involved in community projects. Activities focus on people who may have barriers to artistic involvement, be they youth, newcomers, artists, or musicians. Volunteers run all the programs.

Sebastian Barrera, one of the organization's founders, details an impressive list of projects and programs to take CreArt to the end of this year, all on a budget of \$4,000.

"Last year, our budget was \$1,000. We did all our programs

on a shoestring," says Barrera. Looking to the future, he would like to see an annual budget of \$70,000. A fundraising campaign will soon kick in. "Watch for it," he says.

One of the first steps, says Barrera, is to increase CreArt's free membership from 69 to 200 members. To join, visit [www.createdmonton.com](http://www.createdmonton.com) and click on Membership.

This year's goals are exciting and well underway.

### Free online workshops

Every week, CreArt develops seven hours of free online instruction, including how to play the guitar, ukulele, and violin. The goal is to reach 340 hours of workshops this year.

### Heart of the City - CreArt Edmonton Youth Stage

From June to the first week of August, an online youth stage will offer mentorship to emerging artists. Youth run the entire

program, from creating the bright and engaging poster on the CreArt Edmonton website to organizing the one hour of performances held every week. A youth host will introduce two performers weekly. Applications to perform are being accepted until April 21 through the CreArt website.

"We want young people in the community to grow into community leaders," Barrera explains. "We want our members to become mentors to others and encourage them to become community organizers."

### KinnArt Ravine Mural Project

Anyone walking Kinnaird Ravine will notice and enjoy the murals placed along the path to the river valley starting at Sheriff Robertson Park. This year, due to weather damage, 20 of the original CreArt-created murals will be replaced by September. New images will once again be

done by people who have never created art before. Professional artists will act as mentors.

### Short film festival

One of CreArt's missions is to introduce the idea of free education in arts and community development to a wide range of Edmontonians. Four short films will reflect four newcomer communities through the eyes of an artist. The films, no longer than 10 minutes each, will be presented by the end of 2021 in four Zoom events, each featuring a filmmaker talking about culture and inspirations.

"The CreArt goal is to mentor youth today who will be the community mentors of the future," says Barrera. "Anyone can join through our website. Everyone is a potential mentor. And we do it all without charge to anyone."

### Support CreArt

There are several ways to

support CreArt. In-kind donations of space to set up activities, events, and workshops are welcome, as are donations of art supplies, mass media equipment, and computers. CreArt also accepts donations of musical instruments.

Lastly, a monetary donation, however small, allows CreArt to achieve its goal of providing access to creative programming across Edmonton.

*Constance's writing and editing career spans more than 40 years. She lives in Parkdale-Cromdale.*

CREART EDMONTON

[www.createdmonton.com](http://www.createdmonton.com)

[createdmonton@gmail.com](mailto:createdmonton@gmail.com)



CreArt spearheaded the creation of the mural set along Kinnaird Ravine. | Supplied

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### ABOUT US

We are a non-profit community newspaper serving Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park, Parkdale-Cromdale, Spruce Avenue, and Westwood. Published on Treaty 6 Territory. The opinions expressed in the paper are those of the people named as authors of the articles and do not necessarily reflect those of the board or staff.

### GOALS

Build Community, Encourage Communication, Increase Capacity.

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### CONTRIBUTORS

Our writers vary from trained journalists to community residents with varying backgrounds. We strive to be a place where individuals can learn new skills and acquire experience—whether in writing, editing, photography, or illustration. We welcome letters, unsolicited submissions, and story ideas.

### COPYRIGHT

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### CIRCULATION

Serving 12,500 community members.

### DELIVERY

The paper is delivered by Canada Post to all houses, apartments, and businesses in the seven neighbourhoods listed above including those with no unaddressed mail notices. For the most part, delivery begins on the last Wednesday of the month.

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RCP

# Get bannock and more at Tee Pee Treats

Enjoy contemporary Indigenous food on the Avenue

**STEPHEN STRAND**

Alberta Avenue is home to restaurants offering food from a variety of cultures, and now residents have one more: Indigenous food from Tee Pee Treats.

Curtis Cardinal opened Tee Pee Treats at the beginning of March to offer takeout and delivery out the back of St. Faith's Anglican Church. But this isn't the first time people have been able to enjoy the cuisine at Tee Pee Treats.

"For catering, we started it two years ago. I licensed the company two years ago," Cardinal explains. "For delivery and pickup, we just started last Tuesday [March 2]."

Although Tee Pee Treats was only open a week at the time of the interview, there had already been significant buzz. The catering company has already been featured on the news and talked about on social media. Cardinal also put up a video on YouTube on how to make bison burgers on a bannock bun.

Before they were based out of a church, Tee Pee Treats was located in the Westmount area, but ended up moving.

"During the pandemic, it hasn't really been great for catering. Our first year was really good, actually, for catering," explains Cardinal. Then COVID hit. "2020 was just a write off," Cardinal says. But despite the physical distancing requirements and restrictions, Cardinal still wanted to bring his food to people.

Tee Pee Treats offers contemporary Indigenous food.

"All of our foods come with bannock or are infused with bannock. Like bannock burgers. Bannock donairs. Bannock hot dogs. We offer salads. Different types of desserts," Cardinal says. "That's basically what our com-

pany is and what kind of food we serve." They also make a lot of soups.

"Most of the recipes come from my mum, because that's

food."

Cardinal explains powwows have bannock and different types of food, and he is wanting to offer that food to different

mum was a cook all of her life," explains Cardinal. He grew up around kitchens and helped his mother at her restaurant across from his school. "Just cook-

truck downtown. By 2019, he started catering.

It may seem unusual for him to be working out of a church, but he was having trouble finding a kitchen.

"Someone I knew from the community reached out and said, 'Hey! Why don't you just rent this kitchen? It might not be like a restaurant kitchen, but it's like a kitchen that people can come in through the back,'" says Cardinal. The kitchen is located at the back of the building, with a hallway leading to the main part of the church.

For the past year, Cardinal had taken a job outside of the food industry, but thought that he should take a chance on himself. "I wasn't sure about quitting my job and it's kinda risky during a pandemic. But, then I thought, 'What if it does work? What if we start selling out?'" says Cardinal. "People are missing the comfort food right now. Going through this pandemic, mental health wise, people can't handle very well. Our food is bringing comfort."

For more information, visit [teepeetreats.com/](http://teepeetreats.com/) or find them on social media.

*Stephen works in broadcasting and writes for fun. He can be seen walking through the neighbourhood.*



Curtis Cardinal prepares food out of St. Faith's Anglican Church. | Stephen Strand

how I learned how to cook was from my mum," says Cardinal. "It's a unique food experience for people. And right now people are missing the powwow, like powwow circuits. So, people want that powwow

cultures in Edmonton.

He says he always knew he wanted to do something with cooking, he just wasn't sure what it would be.

"I've been cooking since I was very young, because my

ing in general, my family has been doing it for many years. I wanted to do it at a young age."

In 2010, Cardinal began selling bannock from a backpack at powwows. In 2013, he began helping a friend with a food

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**Happy Easter From The Rat Creek Press**

# Enjoy the simple pleasure of good food

Belge Café offers desserts and Ethiopian fare

## CONSTANCE BRISSENDEN

Belge Café is a true café, as defined on the Internet: “a small restaurant selling light meals and drinks.” My definition includes: a neighbourhood oasis for a drop-in visit or take-out. Simple and unpretentious, Belge Café is a place to relax, check emails on free Wi-Fi, and then dig into a sweet treat or a satisfying meal.

Opened during a hiatus in pandemic restrictions in July 2020, Belge Café was soon forced to close. On March 8, it reopened, to the relief of its proprietors, Belge Yimenu and Abiy Andeyhun, a husband-and-wife team.

Yimenu sighs. “Being closed was very difficult,” she recalls.

In the display case is Yimenu’s baking. After coming to Canada from Ethiopia 10 years ago, she continued her culinary career, working for three years as a cook at Chateau Lacombe.

The café offers a slew of Yimenu-baked sweet choices, including eclairs, tiramisu,

lemon slice cake, baklava, chocolate cake, and muffins. Two vegan options, icing-topped cupcakes and carrot cake, were tempting. I chose a cupcake with pink icing, although vegan is not my usual choice. It was melt-in-the-mouth yummy.

Specialty cakes are a main feature. Weddings, birthdays, graduations, and more deserve

and he uses Ethiopian beans. Grown in the south, the beans are known for their rich flavour. In addition to a variety of coffee drinks available on-site, customers can buy the high-quality roasted beans in bright red packs for \$22. I bought one and gave it to a coffee-loving friend as a gift. A month later, he went back for more.

flowing with sauteed vegetables. A vegan sandwich is also available. “We’re going to have more breakfast and lunch dishes soon,” says Andeyhun.

Belge Café also offers Ethiopian fare. I tried quanta firfir (\$14.99), a traditional breakfast meal. Topped with a boiled or scrambled egg, quanta firfir includes beef, sauteed

seeds give it a smoky, barbecue-like flavour. My salad was “all in” (\$7.99), a refreshing mix of romaine lettuce, boiled potato, lima beans, cherry tomatoes, avocado, corn, and mango, topped with a homemade balsamic vinegar.

As a bonus to my visit, Yimenu offered me her specialty tea (\$3.99), a blend of ingredients guaranteed to fortify the constitution. The mix of hot tea, orange juice, fresh ginger, honey, and a dash of liqueur left me yearning for another tasty glassful.

*Constance’s writing and editing career spans more than 40 years. She lives in Parkdale-Cromdale.*



Belge Yimenu (front) and Abiy Andeyhun (back) serve a vegan cupcake specialty at Belge Café. | Constance Brissenden

a cake made by Yimenu. My favourite was a white two-layer cake, topped with swirls of cream, ready for decoration. Call ahead to order.

Andeyhun is the coffeemaker,

In true coffee shop fashion, quick meals and snacks are on the menu. Four small tables and a coffee bar with tall seats provide seating. Try the café’s beef sandwich on a bun, over-

onion, and tomato. A vegan version is on the menu. The hearty dish is spicy, and perhaps not everyone’s ideal breakfast dish, but can be ordered with less heat. Coriander and black

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# When the greens come in, the blues go out

Dig into gardening for therapy and a sense of satisfaction

**NAZREENA ANWAR-TRAVAS**

I had always thought of gardening as an activity only meant for people who have a real flair for plants and time to spare. When my husband gifted me with a pothos plant last spring, I was annoyed. To me, plants represented something temporary and replaceable. A fortnight later, a paralyzed uncle who could have received more affection passed away. His death changed my perspective.

My eyes fell on the pothos plant whose leaves were drooping sadly. I was overcome with a sudden determination to help it live and grow. My pothos was now my new green roommate and I wanted to know more about it. I browsed the Internet for tips and joined social networking groups of gardening enthusiasts. Weeks later when a tiny leaf appeared, my joy knew no bounds. The realization of having helped a plant live filled me with a sense of control in a world that seemed to be falling apart. I was ready to have more green roommates.

I was not alone. Gardening had equally positive effects on Sabreena Thabasum and Jennifer Halliday, who were depressed after losing high-paying jobs.

Thabasum started gardening last year. “Colourful flowers make me happy,” she says, showing off her pretty blooms. “I love propagating new plants by using stem cuttings to ensure new plants are genetically identical to the parent plant.

Gardening filled me with purpose and helped me focus better on upgrading job-related skills that helped me get employed again.” Thabasum also grows vegetables. “I am more likely to eat them if I grow them,” she laughs. “More importantly, I eat them fresh and have more control over fertilizers used.”



A new leaf can signify positivity in a world falling apart. | Supplied

Halliday has always had a garden. “It is certainly an engaging activity that distracts you from worry as well as a great way of showing children how food is grown,” remarks Halliday. “Newbies to gardening must start small. Do not get discouraged. Ensure tips given are relevant to Canadian temperatures. Keep in mind certain indoor plants like geraniums emit [a] strong fragrance.”

Plants differ in their watering, fertilizing, and light needs. Both overwatering and underwatering can have disastrous effects. Although some plants like tomatoes need lots of light, they still need protection against harsh summer sunrays.

“Homegrown tomatoes taste so much better,” says Ali Hammington, who

lines. It is difficult to grow plants under evergreens like a Spruce tree. Evergreens have shallow root systems, so it’s hard to dig when planting new plants. Besides, rain or sunshine hardly reach plants under the tree. Everyone adores tulips, but remember, rabbits love them too!”

It’s a good idea to buy plants from experienced gardeners in order to be assured the plant is well rooted and healthy. Remember, indoor plants also need extra care as seasons change. In winter, even a short walk from the store to your car can damage a plant. And if you have children or pets, be sure to choose plants that aren’t toxic to them.

A year after receiving my first plant friend, I discovered that I have a green thumb after all and I now have five green roommates.

*Writing has always been Nazreena’s biggest passion besides crocheting and breeding birds. Having changed nine schools as a child in different countries, cultural tolerance and flexibility to adapt to diverse environments come naturally to her.*

## GARDENING RESOURCES

Community gardens in Edmonton:

[www.edmonton.ca/communitygardens](http://www.edmonton.ca/communitygardens)

Planting tips:

[cvc.ca/howtoplant](http://cvc.ca/howtoplant)

Gardening basics:

<https://tinyurl.com/b7awnmmf>

# The future of urban core neighbourhoods

The Edmonton CDC is working towards improving inner-city areas

**SHAREE ALUKO**

The revitalization of some inner-city neighbourhoods has been underway for more than a decade, and the Edmonton Community Development Company has been at the forefront.

This non-profit organization, under the leadership of executive director Mark Holmgren, has joined forces with others on this revitalization journey.

“The Edmonton CDC, often referred to as CDC, was born out of the Mayor’s Taskforce to End Poverty, which has now evolved to End Poverty Edmonton,” says Holmgren.

The organization’s goal is to actively address some of the disadvantages associated with urban core neighbourhoods such as Alberta Avenue, McCauley, and Eastwood. The CDC also has a mission to strengthen capacity building

through actions such as land development, business development, and renewal projects to increase the vibrancy and socio-economic profile of those neighbourhoods.

Holmgren states, “Capacity building is how you provide a group of people who are interested in similar things with collective capacity to do more. They want organization, engagement, and community planning, hence our trajectory on capacity building includes helping groups who want to access best practices around those things. There is also a need to grow knowledge for the neighbourhood. To provide access to information, we have published a dashboard which delves into the characteristics of all these disadvantaged neighbourhoods. We were able to highlight data on old housing stock, problem properties, derelict abandoned housing, as well as specific details about non-

market housing.”

He adds, “Capacity building is also a means to develop skills, take initiative, and to be in control of your own future.”

Capacity building is so important that the organization introduced a 10-week Social Enterprise bootcamp. “It is a forum to learn how to create social enterprises, business planning, market research, financial modelling, and best practices. There were four bootcamps this year.”

Project 10 is another important initiative and is a priority due to the slum houses, drug houses, and abandoned derelict properties, all of which cause problems for the community. “To alleviate the problems, CDC has been buying dilapidated property and is converting them to market housing. These neighbourhoods want more market housing. They want to attract more families into the neighbourhood.”

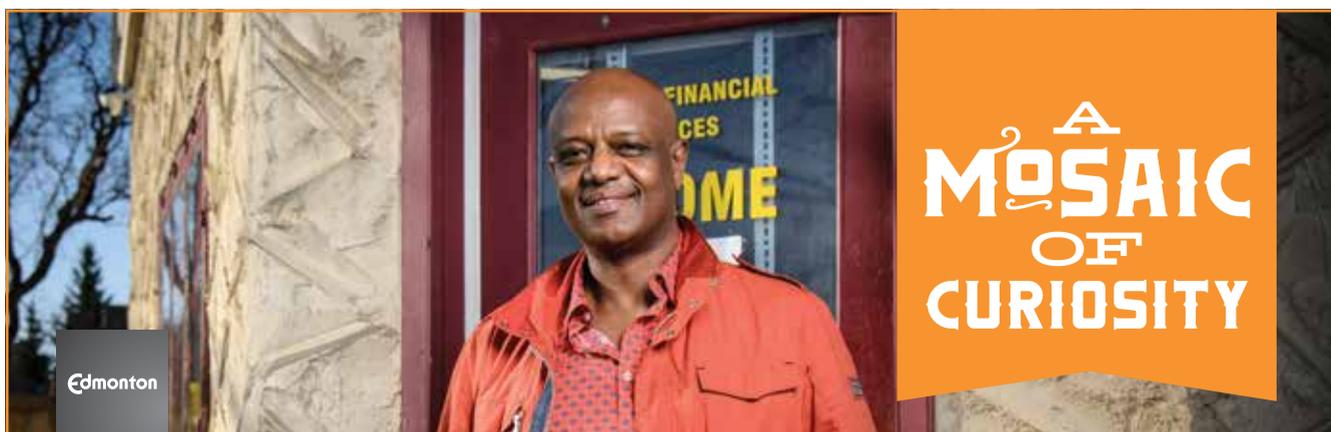
The organization has garnered support from others who share the same vision. The CDC is demonstrating its commitment towards furthering this revamping process through its mandate and has committed significant cash and debt financing to make Project 10 a reality.

“No one else is doing this the way that we are, because to deal with common issues like asbestos in old houses and other problems inherent to old buildings, it will be very hard for conventional developers to make a profit. We are working with builders and people who will do pro bono work like lawyers, real estate agents, and engineers. We have bought two properties and two more are waiting to finalize the sale. The goal is to develop 10 properties by next year, while working on a strategy to go to Project 30 or Project 50 within three or four years,” says Holmgren.

Low-income tenants have also felt the positive impact of CDC’s work in the community through affordable rental properties. “We bought an 11 unit micro-unit apartment building to take it off the market and ensure we could maintain low rents for the tenants.”

The future of inner-city communities is on the verge of transformation. With core funding and parcels of land already gifted by the City, there will be a greater possibility of attracting new residents that will enable an economically diversified mix of residents. There will be a significant difference in the economic profile of these neighbourhoods in the coming years.

*Sharee Aluko has a Masters in Business Administration and is passionate about sharing information.*



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## OPINION

# Enjoying the outdoors will cost more

Increases in fees may mean camping is out of reach for some Albertans

## VICTORIA STEVENS

The warming weather and sunny skies have everyone eager for summer. Many of us are looking forward to the smell of a campfire, the sound of wind rustling through the trees, and the taste of roasted marshmallows. These are all sensations many Albertans have experienced and enjoyed. Get ready to pay more for that experience this summer.

The Alberta government has introduced an increase in user fees for campsites for 2021. According to a *Global News* article from March 4, “In the Alberta budget tabled Feb. 25, the province is raising camping fees by \$1 to \$3 in 2021-22.” A *Daily Hive* article notes, “As outlined on the Alberta Parks’ website, camping fees vary by site and services. There is a \$12 non-refundable booking fee for every reservation in addition

to nightly costs. Basic sites run from \$8 to \$29 per night, while hookups such as water, sewer, or electricity each add another \$8 per night.”

After a year that has put a strain on nearly everyone’s income, an increase of even a few dollars will be heavily felt, and it will be felt the most by low-income Albertans who will see one of the few low-cost activities get more expensive. This comes at a time when record numbers of Albertans are unemployed or recovering from lost work due to the pandemic. Insurance rates have increased, cost of living has increased, and the prospect of even more job losses is on the horizon.

As a kid, camping was one of the few family activities we could afford to do as a family because my mom single-handedly raised two kids. I treasure those camping memories when we were able to get out of town together. We couldn’t afford

long hotel stays or plane tickets, so all we had was camping. I remember a summer when the fees for camping had increased. My mom didn’t know about it ahead of time so when we arrived, she was upset. When you are a low-income household, even a small increase makes a big impact on your budget. My mom told us we could only stay three days instead of five. We were justifiably upset, as kids can be, that our one summer vacation trip was being cut short. I remember the pained look on my mom’s face as she told us the news, her eyes slightly watery from tears.

Raising camping fees without a way for low-income Albertans to offset the extra cost is a slap in the face to many Albertans already dealing with reduced incomes due to the pandemic. The justification is increased maintenance costs, but that doesn’t fly when a government can fund a “war room” to pro-

tect the oil and gas industry, and spend another \$1.5 billion in preferred equity investment, with a \$6 billion loan guarantee on a pipeline gamble they lost. It is hard, then, to accept this government can’t find a way to keep camping costs at the same rate.

The UCP are estimating the increase in camping fees will bring in an additional \$20 million in 2021, but the numbers don’t add up, even when factoring in the exceptionally high use we saw in 2020. Many provinces offer discounted camping rates for low-income residents. Our neighbouring province, British Columbia, offers lower rates for seniors and those with a disability. We should be offering a similar program here, not increasing costs. The Leisure Access Pass program gives low-income Edmontonians access to the city’s recreation centres and pools at a discounted rate. This could be used as a framework

for all low-income Albertans, including seniors, those on disability support, and single parents like my mom.

Studies have confirmed, time and time again, that being in the outdoors and connecting with nature has huge benefits for our physical and mental health. We hear the constant refrain of how important mental health is and yet those very same people are making it more difficult to access one of the key things we need for that good mental health. All Albertans should be able to easily and respectfully enjoy the natural world at low to no cost. For those of us who live in the city, it is even more important to reconnect with the natural world. It is ours, and it is there for us to explore, experience, and enjoy.

*Victoria is an entrepreneur, roller derby player, and basset hound lover living in the Delton area.*



Accessing nature through camping should be accessible to everyone. | Image by LUM3N from Pixabay



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How we can rethink waste before it ends up in our garbage

ANDREW WADDELL & MELISSA GORRIE

In 2021, Edmontonians will experience one of the most visible, impactful changes to residential waste management they've seen in decades. Single-family households will move away from bagged garbage collection and receive separate carts for food scraps and garbage, putting Edmonton in line with other Canadian cities. More importantly, Edmontonians will finally have limits placed on the amount of waste they can put out for collection. Lifelong Edmontonians may be taken aback at the drastic changes to their door-to-door collection; other residents may celebrate the long-awaited arrival of carts. But everyone can use this spring and summer to rethink the waste they produce and how it ended up in their black garbage cart.

The City of Edmonton's own data reveals that significant changes to the waste management system are necessary, with the 90 per cent diversion target being grossly missed. In fact, we only diverted 21 per cent of our residential waste from landfill in 2019, down from 36 per cent in 2018. This is partly due to the fact that our current waste management system is a reactive one that does not focus on reducing the amount of waste produced, but focuses primarily on diverting waste once it has been created.

We also live in a society where unnecessary consumption and waste is normalized, and where there are many hurdles that make it challenging for citizens to reduce their waste footprint. For example, many corporations create products swaddled in layers of unrecyclable, non-

compostable, single-use plastic packaging or designed with planned obsolescence in mind, while municipalities and citizens bear the responsibility of disposing of them.

We need to do better. The City of Edmonton needs a proactive approach to waste management that prioritizes waste reduction instead of waste diversion. This includes creating systems and policies that ensure low-waste living becomes the default, not the exception. More needs to be done so that waste-free lifestyles aren't just a luxury only accessible to those with the time and resources to achieve it. The release of the City's Waste Reduction Roadmap this spring will hopefully lay out a plan for creating that broader scale change. In the interim, the cart rollout is an important step by the City that provides an oppor-

tunity for us to change the way we think about and manage waste.

Waste Free Edmonton is a volunteer-run organization committed to educating and supporting citizens in their personal waste reduction journeys. We know there are many ways for residents to adapt to the changes coming to Edmonton's waste management system and reduce their waste footprint, including composting at home, exchanging goods and tools with neighbours, and purchasing products with little or no packaging.

We also advocate for broader-scale policy and systems change, such as a single-use plastic bylaw and extended producer responsibility legislation, so that citizens don't have to bear this burden alone. But we invite everyone to join us in pushing for broader change. When you wheel your

cart out to the curb this summer, consider the big and small ways you can help: write a letter to your councillor, support businesses that provide low or zero waste options, or get involved in one of our waste reduction campaigns.

To prepare for the cart rollout, visit [edmonton.ca/waste](http://edmonton.ca/waste) for more information and [waste-free.ca/take-action](http://waste-free.ca/take-action) to learn how you can help reduce waste in Edmonton. Waste Free Edmonton can be found at @wastefreeeyeg on social media.

*Andrew and Melissa are Edmontonians and Master Composter Recyclers dedicated to preserving our environments and communities. Both Andrew and Melissa volunteer for Waste Free Edmonton.*



Starting this spring and summer, Edmontonians will use separate carts for food scraps and garbage. | Supplied

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May 7 - 9, 2021



### Walks Re-Imagined

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janewalksyeg.wordpress.com

Watch for in-person walks in September at EFCL Community League Day events.