

Public School Board hikes rent

Rental increase in schools a concern for local non-profit organizations

ROB BERNSHAW

The Edmonton Public School Board (EPSB) recently announced that rent will be raised 200% to 300% in empty schools that non-profit organizations are currently leasing for their programs and services. According to EPSB Trustee Dave Colburn, given the \$46 million dollars deficit the program is running (out of a \$900 million budget), meant that the EPSB administration had to make up the shortfall by charging more rent.

Non-profit organizations have leased these empty spaces for many years now at a lower than market value rate. These lower than market rates allowed these organizations to provide the much needed programs and services for the local community that may otherwise have fallen by the wayside.

According to Colburn, the school board didn't vote on the rent increases, leaving that decision up to the superintendent and administration.

"This is an area (in managing spaces) that we as a board

do not involve ourselves in," says Colburn. "However, if a matter came to the attention of the board that there was a significant community concern about, the board or individual trustees would consider it. And if a number of trustees wanted to consider it, then it would become a matter of the boards attention."

Neither EPSB Chair Sarah Hoffman or Superintendent of Schools Edgar Schmidt responded to numerous interview requests.

Edmonton public has 200 schools, 80,000 students and a superintendent who oversees over 700 staff members.

Recent financial cutbacks from the Alberta Government to school boards has placed many school systems in a tough financial bind. According to Colburn, the rental increases are a result of insufficient funding from the provincial government.

Cheryl Whiskeyjack is the Executive Director of the Bent Arrow Healing Society, a non-profit organization that currently leases rooms in Parkdale School and run their Head Start Program out of



Parkdale School is home to many non-profit organizations. >> ROB BERNSHAW

Sherwood Elementary School. She says the rent increases will affect them after their current lease expires.

"The utilities is where we are really paying," says Whiskeyjack. "We are really paying to keep the lights and the heats going in Parkdale school."

She estimates her organization is paying around \$12,000 a year for rent, and \$80,000 a year for utilities.

"One of the reasons that

Edmonton public is in such a pickle is that they have all these empty schools where they have to keep the lights and heat on, but nobody is necessarily in these schools," explains Whiskeyjack. "So another thing the school board is looking at is selling off some surplus schools they have."

The question of how high the cost of utilities will go in an unregulated electricity market such as Alberta is a concern for organizations moving ahead.

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Tony Caterina to run for third term

DARREN BOISVERT

Two-term councilor Tony Caterina has announced that he will be standing for a third consecutive term as the Ward 7 city representative. The former businessman says he is enjoying his time as a councilor and opening mused about running for many more years to come.

He joins the election race, to be held on October 21st, in which journalist Mimi Williams and Edmonton School Board trustee Dave Colburn have already declared their candidacy.

When asked about the

possibility of running for a federal seat in the event Conservative MP Peter Goldring steps down, he answered a categorical "no".

"The reason I'm in municipal politics is that I'm independent," says Caterina. "It's where I can serve the city I love. Edmonton has been good to me and my family."

As for why Ward 7 residents should return him to city hall, his message was simple, "I can move the money."

He cites his efforts behind the scenes to force council to spend on Borden park (\$20 million) who were seeking his vote on

Terwillegar improvements. He includes funding for the Alberta Avenue revitalization to the recent decision to allow Norwood Avenue to access city neighbourhood funds as contributions to the improvement in the area.

Although he also admits, local businesses are still paying off the levy to pay for the gigantic bat on the corner of 97th Street and 118th Avenue.

"I'm the most experienced person to work through city hall," says Caterina. "I've shown great ability to move money to our end of town."

He also cites his fiscal

experience as a good reason to re-elect him in the upcoming poll. He was one of the few councilors to vote against the downtown arena, citing the unbalanced funding formula as tipping his vote into the "no" column.

"The budget terms (on the arena deal) stunk. It stunk and will continue to stunk," says Caterina. "I could not tolerate the risk on this project for the city for years to come." He continues by saying that there is still no master agreement (with terms and obligations clearly spelled out) between the City and the Katz group.



"Most people who voted for this project would prefer the agreement to come out after the election," says Caterina.

With three candidates already in the race, the October election is shaping up to be a tightly contested election. Other interested candidates have until September 21st to file their nomination papers.



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RUSTI L. LEHAY

Our ceramic tile table sits between plush leather sofa-esque chairs adorned with pillows and trendy multi-colored leather Parson chairs. A cross between a comfy living room and casual dining room, the plain exterior tucked back from the avenue hides an ultra-chic comfortable interior that invites great conversation. Absolutely Edibles is a welcoming place.

Operated and privately owned, Brenda Dutton and Bjorn Cochran prove their dedication to prepare items from scratch, with healthy fresh ingredients using as much local and Canadian product as possible. We three adults wonder how the Absolutely Edibles chef will respond to dietary restrictions that shred my confidence in the kitchen. Imagine my panic and even grief when a beloved addition waltzes into our family with an allergy to not just onions and garlic but also peppers.

Once told that Buddhists avoid onions and garlic, I lost interest in learning more about

the practice. They don't eat onions, garlics, chives, shallot, and leek because it excites their senses. These cancer-fighting vegetables are also referred to as "the offensive vegetables."

If your taste buds stand at attention when the aroma of onions, garlic and pot roast waft through your kitchen, you likely share my belief that cooking starts with garlic and onion. If people dislike these heroic vegetables full of flavor, cooks I know often adopt the mince and hide technique, and refuse to admit or divulge their culinary secrets.

When David requested a specialized, non-allergic meal, our waitress questions the chef and returns with diverse yet tasty choices. After she takes his order, he jokes, "Yes, bring me the meal without flavour." Previous to this nephew addition, I was of the 'mince-and-hide' camp, disbelieving scrumptious food could be prepared without these essential ingredients. However my niece's meals still arrive at her table with flavor and appeal. She admits it took effort and exploration.

The poor guy waited hungry through the appetizers the rest of us thoughtlessly ordered. Only the beet ginger spread of the nine Edible dip sampler dishes from their Big Bites

Small Plates, offered a risk-free experience. Regardless how enticing the rich purple beckoned from the middle spot of the Sudoku-style serving platter we all agreed it failed to leave a lasting impression or urge a second taste. Served with baked and soft pita chips, the favourites were the spinach/artichoke and feta/jalopeno spread followed by the black bean chipotle hummus.

When his Scallop and Tiger Prawn in a lemon buere blanc sauce arrived, David discovered a creamy delectable dish with subtle flavours and offers a sample. My tastebuds defined his meal as the quintessential comfort food. Never a fan of fruity salad dressings, David was impressed and surprised by the raspberry vinaigrette on our plates that danced an agreeable tango of mild rice vinegar and tart raspberry juice on our tongues. Magdalen gave a thumbs up for the gourmet mushroom pesto pizza she shared with her sister, Virginia, who offered a seven-year old silent swoon minding her manners with her mouth full. Jennifer and I ordered the Wild Mushroom Ravioli and Polpette. Surprised by the taste that matched the delightful presentation with salads beside deep scalloped bowls on funky plates.



Dishes presented with style at Absolutely Edibles. >> RUSTI L. LEHAY

The chocolate pecan pie was rich enough for the three adults and two girls to sample and enjoy a sweet finish to the meal. What was even more astounding was the final bill was more than reasonable for the quality, ambiance and service. (The seafood dishes ranged from only \$18-22.00 and other meals ranged from \$12 and up, nothing higher than \$22.00.)

When they finish treating your body good, their

biodegradable doggie bag and containers show care for the earth as well. If you want tantalizing meals absent of chemicals, preservatives and pre-made ingredients, you will find them at Absolutely Edibles on 118th Avenue. Allergies or not, with or without the pungent "offensive" vegetables, your senses will be excited and you will leave satiated and without breaking your entertainment budget.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Goldring cleared of all charges

DARREN BOISVERT

Member of Parliament Peter Goldring has been found not guilty of refusing to provide a breathalyzer test in a decision handed down last month. In his ruling, provincial court Judge Larry Anderson said that he did not believe that Goldring intended to avoid the breathalyzer.

After the decision, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that Goldring was readmitted to the Progressive

conservative caucus in Parliament.

Goldring has long been an opponent of roadside sobriety tests, claiming they are an infringement on civil liberties.

The decision ends the year-and-a-half case that has dogged the MP since December 2011, when he attended a fundraiser and stopped into a bar for a quick beer. An obviously bouyed Goldring left the courtroom musing about a possible run for the City of Edmonton Mayorship.



The Old Cycle Building was torn down last fall. >> DARREN BOISVERT

Artshub project

DARREN BOISVERT

The proposed community arts hub project was relaunched this month with a community meeting held on June 6th at the Alberta Avenue Community League. The Office of great Neighbourhoods, along with Arts on the Ave and ArtsHab, were seeking community input for the proposed new building. Over thirty people showed up to present their ideas.

Originally slated to be open this year, the community arts building project has been beset by a host of problems. City inspectors failed to identify structural deficiencies which led to the demolition of the old Cycle Building, and excavation of the substructure revealed contamination in the soil. The city has promised to green the space until future plans are finalized.

Organizers were pushing the idea of a four-storey

building with a mixture of retail, artist space and living quarters. Many of the artists in attendance were excited by the possibility of music and visual art spaces.

The city has already spent approximately \$3 million on the project (to purchase the building and lot, demolition and excavation) and there were no firm commitments on future funding. The goal is to put together a business plan and present to City council later this year.

The issue of who would manage the building was raised in the meeting and many suggested a community board to support this 'community-led' initiative.

"I think it would be detrimental to the community if the building wasn't run by representatives from all community organizations along the Ave," said Cora Shaw.



Heartbreak alley at St. Faith's and St. Stephens the Martyr. >> HANNAH CAQUETTE

It's all about love and loss

At Bridge Songs, a two-day community arts event

HANNAH CAQUETTE

The Bridge Songs Festival, run by the Bleeding Heart Art Space, held their seventh event in June. It left many, including myself, astounded by the talent and creativity of the many artists. I was delighted by the warm and intimate atmosphere they had created via lamps, candles, and small tables dispersed around the room, facing a local musician playing softly in the background.

Later into the evening we were ushered into the main

auditorium, where we were delighted with a collection of songs put together by the New Eyes band. Delicious refreshments were provided along with wine for an additional five dollars (who wouldn't want to enjoy a glass of wine while listening to some inspired artist?). The money from the event, including the additional price for wine, all went towards the future care of volunteers for this year's upcoming Kaleido Festival.

It was a night of cheer, inspiring talent, creativity, artistic display and songs

that moved the audience; a night enjoyed by all ages of individuals from in and around the Ave.

I left the event inspired. Who would think that such a grievous topic as heartbreak, could be an excuse to bring a community together. We all have a common thread of similarity, heartbreak; so why not come together, share our stories, our journeys, and inspire one another. I have no doubt that this is one of Edmonton's hidden treasures, and that once discovered, will blossom into a sold-out kind of event.

REBECCA LIPPIATT
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WHAT'S ON

Dance on the Ave

Bringing people together

LARISSA SWAYZE

Dance is the “sometimes overwhelming experience of becoming,” says Amber Borotsik. At the Avenue’s Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts—a creative place for people of all abilities—Borotsik sees this ‘becoming’ on a regular basis as facilitator of the Nina Haggerty Dance Collective. For Borotsik, “becoming is the confusing and delightful experience of evolving into something new.”

Recently, while preparing for a performance, a Nina Haggerty dancer who normally uses only her hands for movement got out of her wheelchair and Borotsik decided they weren’t going to rehearse anymore. Instead, they were just going to “explore the moment,” because such moments are evidence of a shift in an artist’s perspective as to what movement is and what dance can be.

Borotsik, who has been involved with dance in Edmonton for years, has experienced a shift in her own perspective. Though she admits the community has “had its share of struggles,” she now believes “there can be beauty in these struggles.” When discussing the 2005 closure of Grant MacEwan’s dance program—an event that many considered a death knell for Edmonton’s dance scene—Borotsik’s response is introspective, but straightforward. “I’ve thought about these things for a long time, but I’m kind of at the point now—like, who cares? Everyone who is creating work is inspired and excited . . . and that’s enough for me.”

Borotsik sees this excitement on the Avenue itself. “There’s an intention here to create something special.” And, with the Nina Haggerty Centre’s location, all the collective has to do is venture outside their doors to become a part of the communal creativity. On Alberta Avenue, “people are interested in sharing with each other.”

Denise Leclair, owner of Bedouin Beats and recent Women of Distinction nominee, has witnessed—and been a part of—the Avenue’s own transformation. Eight years ago, she came across an article in the Edmonton Journal about the Avenue’s efforts to move past its label as a “bad neighborhood,” which encouraged her to begin attending community meetings. She admits her studio is located on what was once known as “the most notorious corner in the city, but I was very inspired by what was happening here.”

The combination of the performing arts scene and the “uprising of community spirit” convinced her the Avenue was the best place for her business. The inclusiveness that initially drew her to the Avenue is the same approach she takes with Bedouin Beats. In belly dancing “everything is okay. It’s okay if you’re big, it’s okay if you’re small. It’s okay if you’re old, it’s okay if you’re young.”

“You can choose not to dance because you don’t want to, but you cannot tell me you can’t dance because you’re too old,” says Leclair.

She believes dance opens doors by being accepting, creating a community of belonging that has the potential to change how people feel about themselves. Leclair’s students are of all body types and all ages, extending past the stereotype that dance is only for a certain type of person.

Even for those who don’t participate in the classes, the idea of belonging still applies. Leclair has seen members of the Avenue’s diverse community come into Bedouin Beats and browse through the costumes, clothing and jewelry she sells there. “They enjoy the music. They don’t always find something that’s appropriate for them to purchase, but I think the experience of just coming into the store is a great one for them.”

She notes that many of



It's easy to balance fun, movement and community engagement with dance. >> REBECCA LIPPIATT

her patrons have moved to the Avenue from different countries and points out the isolation that often accompanies immigration. However, when it comes to crossing cultural barriers, “one of the first levels you’re going to connect on is music and dance” because the majority of cultures share these artistic expressions. Seeing something recognizable in an unfamiliar place “helps lessen isolation a little bit . . . the most important communication is the kind that breaks down differences.”

Bobbi Westman, Executive Director of the Alberta Dance Alliance, agrees that dance’s ability to connect is its strongest attribute. It has the power to communicate, perhaps more than any other art form, because “if you have the ability to move a finger, you can dance.”

Like Leclair, Westman believes dance reaches across cultures. “The body is a

universal instrument,” she says, “and people are able to communicate through movement even when they don’t speak the same language.”

Still, the challenge—as with all art forms—is getting individuals who aren’t directly involved to feel included. She admits that “sometimes, the dance community doesn’t go far enough to invite people in.” There’s a history of the public viewing dance as inaccessible, but it’s up to those already a part of the scene to reach out and embrace others.

According to Westman, the way to achieve a sense of belonging is through trust. In a performance, artists “are sharing their souls and people are able, for a few seconds, to have a special place in that.” The trust comes from the expression of a very basic human emotion—the desire to say something and, hopefully, have someone say something back in return.

But how can the dance community engage with the public before this trust is even built? “If we had that answer,” Westman says, “we’d have a lot more dance.” The struggle between art and public engagement will likely always be there, but Westman has hope that the constant presence of accessible dance—either through programs such as the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts, studios such as Bedouin Beats, or through public performances—will help people feel they are a part of something.

“Yes, there’s a place for dance as high art,” she says, “but there’s also a place for dance for everyone.” And this place is one of community. You don’t have to appreciate dance directly to appreciate what it stands for—the drive to create new ideas, ideas that have the potential to invite people in, connect and, possibly, transform perspectives.

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WHAT'S ON

Pupusa Festival

Set to unfold for the 13th year

HANNAH CAOUILLE

Pupusa? What the heck is a pupusa? It is a traditional Salvadorian dish made of corn tortillas stuffed with cheese and often meat or refried beans. Or you could say it's like a mini stuffed pancake. Ok, so what do pupusas have to do with Edmonton? Well, Edmonton's El Salvadorian Society is hosting the annual, La Pupusa Festival, this summer down on the Ave. Probably for many Canadians, like myself, we assume we are well informed about other cultures. After all, we are known to be the world's mosaic of many cultures living together under one banner, one nation. Statistics Canada's latest poll reports that nearly 13,330 Latin Americans are said to be living within Edmonton alone. We have an unbelievable advantage when it comes to experiencing the Latin culture first hand; an advantage that for many of us goes unrecognized, is overlooked, or is just plain turned down. Opportunities such as La Pupusa Festival, offer our community a chance to put aside our assumptions and experience El Salvadorian culture first hand.

Francisco and Gladis Rodas, are Public Relations Directors for the Edmonton's El Salvadorian Society and key players in the upcoming La Pupusa Festival. As Francisco Rodas put it, "Our similarities strengthen us, and our differences enrich us." Each and every culture has something unique to bring to the table, and there is an importance within every community to retain the old ways, while adapting to the new culture. Gladis Rodas strongly believes that "sharing beliefs and cultural values lead to stronger families and ultimately stronger communities."

This year's La Pupusa Festival, put on by the El Salvadorian Society of Edmonton, will be their 13th year. You can enjoy a rich cultural experience without the ridiculous prices through

a travel agency, booking time off work, or worrying about accommodations. Just pop on by the Alberta Avenue Community League on July 21 anytime between 11am and 8pm for a little authentic experience of El Salvador close to home. And because it's a free event- bring the whole family and their large appetites. There will be plenty of El Salvadorian live music, contests, dancing, and of course El Salvadorian dishes and most famously the pupusas. On top of it all, the proceeds from the pupusa sale will go towards a good cause; helping the underprivileged communities of El Salvador. In the opinion of Gladis Rodas, who oversees the lengthy preparations that go into making nearly 5000 handmade pupusas, the rewarding part comes in seeing the community come together, share with one another; bridge the cultural gap, and having a good time.

Despite last year's rainy event, nearly 700 Edmontonians, mostly from in and around the community, came out to enjoy an afternoon of festivities. After a lengthy preparation, it is rewarding to see so many people come out and enjoy the festival.

Both Alberto and Cecilia Hernandez, the executive director and secretary of Edmonton's El Salvadorian Society, are involved with the planning that goes into the La Pupusa Festival. Cecilia Hernandez is grateful for the willing support and feels that, "without the 50 or so dedicated volunteers, it would not be possible."

For Francisco Rodas it's all about, "building a legacy with the community as a whole, where their El Salvadorian roots are remembered and where cultural differences are celebrated."

The Pupusa Festival will be held on Sunday, July 21st, from 11am to 8pm at the Alberta Avenue Community Hall (9210 118 Ave). It's free for the entire family.

GRAND OPENING ON THE AVENUE



The new bright and airy Shoppers Drug Mart is now open on the corner of 118th Avenue and 82nd St. They held their Grand Opening on Saturday, June 15th, treating customers to cake and colorful balloons. The new building replaces the old boarded-up Cromdale Hotel. >> REBECCA LIPPIATT

Making a mosaic mural

Art project pieces together community

DARREN BOISVERT

Piece by piece, the image is starting to come together. A dozen pairs of hands cut glass, hunt for perfect sizes, and glue each piece onto a board. A face appears. Then a colorful background. A better metaphor for this community could not be imagined.

The Community Mosaic Project is a multi-organizational effort by the Avenue Initiative Revitalization, Parkdale-Cromdale Community League (PCCL), Norwood Neighbourhood Association (NNA), and Community Response to Urban Disorder (CRUD) to bring residents together in creating artwork. No special skills were required during the two weekends of June where a dozen people painstakingly constructed a mural that will beautify the Parkdale-Cromdale Community League Building (11335 85 Street).

There will be a community BBQ and unveiling on Sunday, July 7th at the community league.

The project started to come together when Michelle Hayduk, local artist, community activist and CRUD organizer, met mosaicist Theodora Harasymiw at Victoria School. A mosaic project there encouraged Hayduk to bring the idea to Parkdale/Cromdale.

Harasymiw and Heidi Oshry, who are just completing work on a 370 foot exterior mosaic for the St. John's Institute off Whyte Avenue, were hired to lead the effort. They brought their tools, materials, and after a brainstorming session to gain



Many hands make light work. >> DARREN BOISVERT

ideas, laid the groundwork for others to fill.

"I was always drawn to mosaics from travel," says Harasymiw, who has been creating mosaics for four years. "I travelled from Mexico to the south, saw walkways in Rio and Brazil. It's all decorative, something that North Americans have yet to appreciate."

It's an artform that has been around for thousands of years. The Forbidden City in China has thousands of small mosaics that have stood the weathering of millennia. In India, rulers would construct grand palaces with small pebble mosaics for the flooring. In the summertime, they would flood the floor, and the evaporation from the ground proved to be a highly effective form of air-conditioning. Turkey and Greece are famous for their black and white stone courtyards. The gold glass mosaics from the time of Constantinople are still not to be missed in modern day Turkey.

"It's all in how you use the

tile -- if you are going to use the tile" say Harasymiw. "Is it going to be static or full of movement? The options are endless."

As are it's applications. Harasymiw and Oshry approached the City of Edmonton to create mosaic columns in Churchill Square. The durable nature of mosaics make them perfect for beautifying concrete public squares. They were turned down, but hope to continue to place their artwork into public spaces throughout Edmonton.

Like Cromdale/Parkdale. In the hall, children and seniors gather together to create something that will last for hundreds of years. A gift of creation from one era to the next. One piece at a time.

"It will beautify your community forever," says Harasymiw.

Join the mosaic team for the unveiling of the panels on Sunday, July 7th at the Parkdale/Cromdale Community League Building (11335 85 Street).

EDITORIAL

SUBMISSIONS: EDITOR@RATCREEK.ORG

Leaving the campground intact

DARREN BOISVERT

After two-and-a-half years as the Managing Editor of the Rat Creek Press, it is with some sadness that I wish to inform the community that I have resigned my position. This will be my last issue.

As I step aside to allow Karen Mykietka (our publisher) to oversee editorial content in the newspaper, I am confident I have followed the old campground rule: leave the place in better shape than when you found it.

However, being a guest in the wilderness is no different than being an editor on the page. You want to take credit for 'discovering' untouched beauty, hope you don't destroy it on the way out -- and in the end have to admit -- the brilliant view was already there before you visited.

When I was hired, the RCP was thousands in debt and struggling to make ends meet. The fact that we are now the only community newspaper in Edmonton to pay it's writers is the result of Karen Mykietka's many hard hours of financial wrangling. We donate many free spaces to local community groups. As a financially strong newspaper, we have been able to support events with free advertising. Karen has done an amazing job.

I may have picked up the plaque, but our Avenue History Project was created with the hard work of actors, photographers, a brilliant sound technician (thanks Aaron Macri), and of course, our many residents who shared their stories and lives with us.

The Norwood History Walking Tour is the result of tireless work by Jonathan Weller. A recent graduate, Jonathan has written comprehensive features for the paper and left a historical legacy for the community. I cannot speak more highly of his independent work spirit and the top-quality of his work.

As for the editorial content in this newspaper, my role was often laying out three blank pages at the beginning of every month and asking our contributors to fill it. I asked people to get involved with the newspaper. And people responded.

All of our staff and writers work at other jobs and take the time out of their lives to share their perspective with their neighbours. Lee Robinson builds laser-light arenas during the day, and take great photos as night. His recent photo hunt (see pages 8-9) will encourage you to see the community anew.

Rusti Leahy is a building manager, but also an editor, writer and food reviewer. Her mind sparkles with ideas. Rebecca Lippiatt captured the essence of our history project one face at a time. I am in debt to her for every late photoshoot I sent her on. And it has been fun to work with Sara Naimian, our political cartoonist, who is looking to enter graduate school.

The list seems endless to me; my debt load heavy. John and Margaret Larsen carried the load (and the papers) as they volunteered their time to hand out newspapers. Henri Yauck provided helpful columns and

more-helpful personal advice. Mari Sasano returned to the newspaper to write articles -- a generosity of spirit that should not go unremarked. Paula Gillis captured the heart of this community through unrestrained empathy.

“ being a guest in the wilderness is no different than being an editor on the page ... in the end you have to admit the brilliant view was already there before you visited.

I've enjoyed reading Dave Von Bieker's series on parenting unfold in our pages. A community organizer, musician and parent, his insightful articles on his children allowed us to see ourselves more clearly. A writer to watch in the years ahead.

And I must pass along a special thanks to Michelle Hayduk. Every month we meet to hammer my disjointed

articles into a coherent and easy-to-read newspaper. This is a brilliant woman who can see the whole from the pieces, not only on the graphic page, but in our community as well. Her years of organizing with CRUD and AOTA has proven to be an important bedrock upon which I could bounce my ideas off. Her logical and perceptive critiques made my editorials and articles better. Every editor needs an editor. She was mine.

This community has as many brilliant people as it does important stories. This was true before I became editor and will remain so in the months and years ahead. I step aside knowing that the newspaper is the people who created it. That will not change.

I have been fortunate to use my position to have conversations with many people in this community. Journalism is the grease that gets me out my front door and into the lives of others. I thank everyone who responded to my messages and shared their point-of-view with me.

It has been a pleasure for me to be this newspaper's editor. I resign with many regrets.

When I was hired I made a deal with the board of directors. I would run the editorial side of the newspaper - independently - until they lost confidence in my leadership. By deciding to consolidate editorial control into the position of publisher/board member, I felt I was left with few good options. I wish to thank the board for allowing me 30 months of freedom. Not once did they censor any article, something I can't say

after my time with the CBC. It's more than I expected.

Without a doubt, my illegal election campaign donation story and investigation into soil contamination along the Avenue put a great deal of pressure upon our volunteer board. Pressure primarily from Christy Morin, through calls of 'concern', (about the 'appropriateness' of my journalism), public comments about my untrustworthy character, and arguments about my lack of connection to the community, should also not go unremarked. In my view, community leadership should not include trying to limit discussion about important topics and credible points of view.

I take full responsibility for my words and actions. I remain proud of my contribution to constantly expand the debate here in this newspaper. I have received far more in return than anything I have contributed. It's been fun and rewarding. Thank you all.

Letter to the editor

RE: ANOTHER CANDIDATE ANNOUNCES FOR WARD 7

The upcoming Civic Election will be held October 21, 2013, not "the 2013 Edmonton Civic election will be held in September this year."

Andrea Wadsworth

RAT CREEK PRESS ASSOCIATION 9210 118 AVENUE, EDMONTON, AB T5G 0N2 | T: 780.479.6285

ABOUT US

The Rat Creek Press is a non-profit community newspaper in north central Edmonton serving the communities of Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park, Parkdale, Spruce Avenue and Westwood.

COMMUNITY, COMMUNICATION, CAPACITY

The Rat Creek Press goals are to help connect residents with what is happening in the community, provide a forum where information and ideas can be exchanged, and help individuals learn new skills, acquire experience and develop leadership.

PUBLISHER

Karen Mykietka

MANAGING EDITOR

Darren Boisvert

LITERARY EDITOR

Rusti L. Leahy

PHOTO EDITOR

Rebecca Lippiatt

DESIGNER

Michelle Hayduk

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE

Bettyann Dolata

info@ratcreek.org

editor@ratcreek.org

lit@ratcreek.org

photo@ratcreek.org

design@ratcreek.org

ads@ratcreek.org

CONTRIBUTORS

Rob Bernshaw, Darren Boisvert, Rusti L. Leahy, Michelle Hayduk, Hannah Caouette, Larissa Swayze, Michael Kalmanovitch, Lee Robinson, Henri Yauck, Darlene Taylor, Rebecca Lippiatt, Marlene Salmonson, Wolfgang Carstens, Jade O'Riley, Nicole Girard, Carissa Halton, Jonathan Weller, Rebecca Burney

DISTRIBUTION

John Larsen, Margaret Larsen, Arlene Kemble, Cantelon Family, Bettyann Dolata, Karen Mykietka

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 at editor@ratcreek.org, or 9210-118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5G 0N2. Mail may also be dropped at the address above.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Space is available to non-profit groups for event and program listings as well as volunteer opportunities on a first-come first-serve basis and will be printed as space permits.

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SUBMISSIONS: EDITOR@RATCREEK.ORG

Join the Rat Creek Press

Community newspaper seeks board members

The Rat Creek Press is a volunteer-directed paper that relies on community input to shape its tone and content. Two long-standing and valued members of our board of directors have recently stepped down, so we are putting out a call to welcome new faces to the table.

Our neighbourhoods comprise some of the most interesting and enjoyable businesses, attractions and shops in the city. Our people represent cultures, cuisines and interests from around the world. As a community paper, the Rat Creek Press wants to share the stories, highlight the events and promote the activities of every group. We want to bring the people of our area together to eat, laugh, celebrate and enjoy our similarities and our differences.

When there is a real need for community action, we want to give our readers the facts and suggest ways to become involved. We want the Rat Creek Press to be the voice of our residents; a single source for information that

you cannot find in today's splintered electronic media buffet. When our paper hits 12,000 mailboxes each month, we hope it contains the information you need to become an informed and active member of your community.

And this is where you—as a volunteer board member—can help. We welcome new ideas, new concerns, new opinions, new enthusiasm and new wisdom. Do you have an initiative you'd like to propose? Do you have a viewpoint that is not being addressed? Would you like to champion a project or make a proposal? Do you have expertise to share? Most importantly...do you want to share your passion for your community?

The time commitment required to sit on the board is not extreme. At minimum, we need you for a two-hour meeting every month. Board members are not responsible for the day-to-day operations of the paper; we rely on the expertise of a paid publisher, editor, designer, advertising salesperson and local writers

for the heavy lifting. Board members are responsible for the tone and direction of the paper, financial issues, community outreach and the overall sustainability of the paper. As a committee member you are free to take on projects or initiatives, join or start a committee, submit articles, suggest stories, provide feedback or contribute to our website or Facebook and Twitter accounts. The opportunities are as diverse as the members around the table.

A community paper can succeed only when it represents community voices, events and concerns. It requires reader input to remain relevant and interesting, and it requires a strong cross-section of community members to provide the direction. We invite you to our next board meeting to sit in, join the discussion, ask questions and perhaps put your name forward for nomination. It's that easy. Hope to see you there!

For more info: info@ratcreek.org

RCP BOARD MEMBERS

Caitlin Hickey, Wes Bellmore, Shannon Clarke, Jason Scott and Henri Yauck.

INTRODUCING RCPS NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

Henri Yauck. Henri's career history includes; Regional General Manager of an International Management Consulting firm, Marketing/Human Resources Director of several retail co-operatives (shopping centres and department stores), Advertising Manager of the 2nd largest diamond merchant and jewelry retailer in Canada.

Currently, semi-retired consults with small businesses, web page design, copy writing, and writes The Lemonade Stand for the Rat Creek Press, plus business related articles for several online Ezines.

FREELANCE YOUR SKILLS TO THE RCP

We are looking for contributors for the paper - writers, editors, photographers, illustrators, etc.

Join our freelance team. The pay may not be extravagant but we are now paying our contributors. We especially need people willing to take on news writing assignments.

With 16 pages to fill, we also have room for features.

Pitch us your ideas!

Go to www.ratcreek.org and fill in the contributor contact form. We'll add you to our editorial list. We hope to have quarterly brainstorming sessions as well.

Please note that as a community newspaper we give priority to our local residents.

Defying the democratic deficit

How to make our city healthy, vibrant and balanced

MICHAEL KALMANOVITCH

It is great to see a newspaper put out a rallying cry for people to get engaged in shaping the future of the next city council. When city governance is decided by one out of every three city of Edmonton citizens it speaks loudly of a disenfranchised citizenry.

Not only do we have a democratic debt but ones of infrastructure, ecological, social and spiritual. Most councillors/politicians will basically say what they need to, to get elected. What we need are people to run and be elected that do the unpopular but the right things - for present and future generations.

Yes - future Edmontonians will be burdened by the costs of the legacy of the last city council with the money that we will have to spend for the new downtown arena.

I believe we are more than a hockey team, a football team, etc - these are not what defines us a good/great/number 1 or a 'city'. We can be a city of champions and a champion that does not have to have a trophy. Our city can be a

good and honest collection of people that share the physical space that is our city and we work together to make this a healthy, vibrant, ecologically balanced, engaging, compassionate, diverse/inclusive, safe and fun. Such a city is not apathetic.

It is the collective spirit of the citizens of a place that creates an excellent place to live and raise a family, have a home, live, love, work, have a business. Cities are full of citizens and the rights of the citizens are balanced by responsibilities. We too often forget about the responsibilities that we have as citizens and I don't mean only showing up at the election booth every four years. It is "being the eyes on the street", knowing some of your neighbours, being involved in your community league, shopping local - injecting money into the local economy, phoning/writing to your elected officials and corporate leaders where needed, helping strangers, helping friends.... it is a collection of many acts that make a community and by extension a healthy city.

Democracy is using the voice of the people to create

something. The idea that if enough of us participate in this process the end result will be a blend of all those ideas, dreams, desires, ideologies, etc. BUT if only 34% of our city's population decide then it can get a little skewed.

It is the responsibilities of elected officials to manage the collective wealth (tax income) wisely and provide the infrastructure that provides the basis for the community spirit to flourish. When they fail to direct this wealth correctly they are squandering our money.

City elections is the purest form of democracy in Canada - no parties to overshadow a candidate and electors have to think about the candidates because they are individuals. Who will best serve your wishes of creating the community/city you want to live in and do it with integrity and wisely?

I echo Bob Bernshaw's call for people to get involved in the outcome of the next election. We deserve better!



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Avenue Scav

By Rusti L. Lehay and Lee Robinson

Are you seeing the Avenue clearly? Do you want to see what you

The Avenue Scavenger hunt asks you to find the 24 images you see on the avenue east to west from the Coliseum to NAIT. The few that are south of 118 and should be (roughly visible from the Avenue).

Please use the submission form below. Three prizes will be awarded: \$100, \$50 and \$25. A bonus prize for identifying photo #24. If there are multiple photos or ties with the most identified, prize recipients will be chosen by drawing.

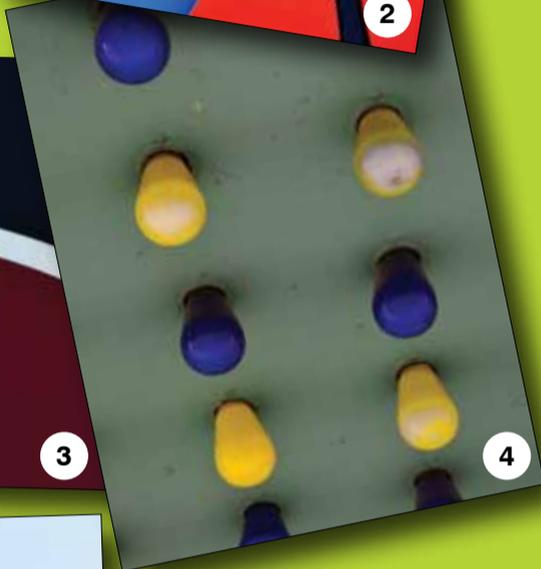
Hint: It's all about perspective.

Think small sections of a bigger image. Explore the community art you will discover the images.

Winners will be announced in next month's edition with the full list of names. While you are form wandering around looking puzzled, say hello, team up, trade ideas. If your submission wins, the team will share the prize.

The Rat Creek Press reserves the right to withhold contest prizes.

Contest open to area residents only. Entries from Rat Creek Press will be accepted. Submit your entry by scanning your form or entering it into the contest online. Dropping it off to the Alberta Avenue Community League at 921



Avenue goes to the dogs festival

Saturday & Sunday
July 13-14, 2013
11:00 - 4:00pm

www.facebook.com/AvenueGoesToTheDogs

Avenger Hunt

ou've been missing?

u see here. Most of these pictures are visible as you walk
at are found off the avenue are less than a block north or

arded as follows: contestants over 18, contestants under
ultiple correct entries of the bonus photo, identifying all 24
ecided by a draw.

, history, colour and wishes found along the avenue and

photos. If you see someone else with a submission
ade answers or form a team with some pals. If a team

es should no appropriate responses/entries be received.

ess staff, writers, and their families are not eligible.

body of an email and emailing to info@ratcreek.org or by
10-118 Ave. Deadline July 10, 2013.

AVENUE SCAVENGER HUNT ENTRY FORM:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 20. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 22. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 23. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 24. _____ |

PRIZES:

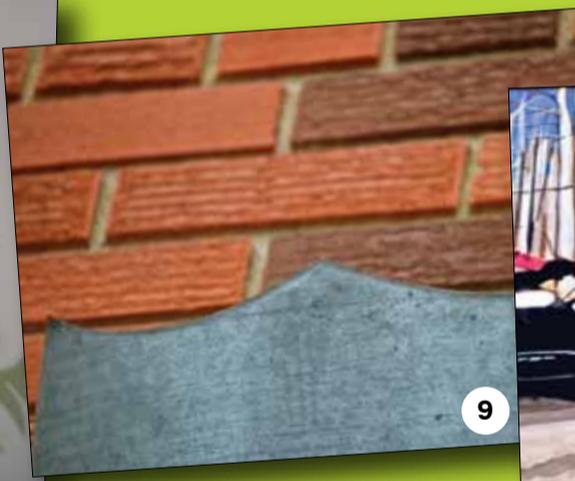
18 and Over: 4 Single Admissions to
City of Edmonton Rec Centre
Under 18: 2 All-day Ride Pass for K-days
Bonus Picture (#24): Family Pass to
the Edmonton Valley Zoo

CONTACT INFO:

Name _____
Phone _____
Email _____



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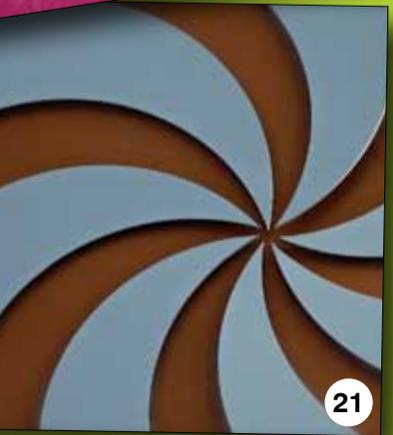
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16



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21



22



23



24

EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

THE LEMONADE STAND

Managing your business

The architecture of business success

HENRI YAUCK

Here is the 10th in the series on building a successful business. Our neighbourhood is filled with freelancers, entrepreneurs, independent artists, and cottage industries run from homes. We hope that by presenting the challenges and hurdles faced by many independent business owners, along with sensible advice for success, will encourage others to consider following their dream of independence. This series is dedicated to helping these entrepreneurs succeed.

You now have your business set up and running. Good location. In-demand product or service. Targeted marketing. Customers are coming in and everything is moving along just fine.

Suddenly, little bumps occur. They turn into potholes. The highway turns into a dirt road. You've read the latest stuff

on management, "The seven laws of effective management", studied the characteristics of top management as described in the books and courses you've taken.

What gives? Nothing seems to work. O-o-oh, maybe you are just not meant to be a manager. How did you get yourself into this mess anyhow.

Much of the guru-originated stuff was written to sell books or courses. Let's get back to the basics. Not very sexy, but that's how things work in the real world. Simple principles that work even for the non-manager.

There are only four principles you need to apply to manage almost anything. Including your business.

1) Decide what needs to be done to get the results you want. This is *planning*.

Keep it simple and straightforward. Determine, for you and your business, what the expected results should look like, and how long it should take to get those

results, with the task at hand. Determine a time frame.

2) Decide who will do it. Even if it's you, this is important. Here you also need to decide what is needed to do the task effectively. What resources or materials you will need, when they will be needed to help you or your employee's meet the deadline efficiently and effectively.

3) Motivate yourself and employee's to carry out the plan. If you and your employee's can't get even a little excited about the end result of your plan it may not happen efficiently or effectively in the required time frame.

4) Inspect what you expect. If the task will take several days or more, establish benchmarks along the way, so your employee's can enjoy little successes or achievements as the work progresses towards the objective.

Once you have carried out or completed principles #1, and #2 you will quickly realize that all work is really a three step



JOB POSTING

The Norwood Neighbourhood Association (NNA) is seeking an Executive Assistant to manage the organization's administrative work. Duties will include but not be limited to:

Prep for 4-5 meetings/year, updating the NNA website, checking the e-mail and regular mail, writing advertisements, administering the NNA grant process, acting as the casino coordinator, basic bookkeeping and financial reports, drafting letters of support, and managing NNA's records.

Applicants must be willing to commit to a two-year contract of approximately 80 hours/year with compensation of \$1750/year. Resumes can be submitted to nna@albertaave.org or dropped at 9210 118 Ave. Deadline for applications is July 15th. More info: www.albertaave.org/nna.html

process. 1. get ready, 2. do, and 3. put away. This applies whether the work is a two-minute telephone call or a 10 year project to put a man on Mars.

Don't make it more complex. You will be amazed at the results you get and how quickly you get them.

Now for the final kiss in this article. Keep It Simple Stupid.

Do you have a start-up business in mind that is about ready to roll? Then it's time to contact editor@ratcreek.org and get your name and business on our first contact list.

You may qualify for short-term free rental as a local entrepreneur, as well as marketing and business building guidance from our team.



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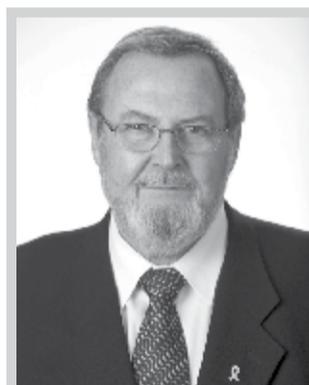


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JUST THE TRUTH

Much has been written, wrongly exaggerating details and severity of possible outcome of my recent regrettable legal interaction. The circumstances of being the subject of robo-calling earlier in the day, to the very unusual discussions in the evening, to the targeted event were very suspicious. I therefore was on high alert to stand up for my rights.

Our society grants police officers special powers, and with that comes the responsibility to ensure that the process is conducted properly. The court record is very clear. The trial was not about impairment. No witnesses claimed to observe symptoms of impairment. The truth is that I challenged the demand to test immediately because I had just consumed one drink, I was proven right.

There has been a cost to my standing on principle, both personal and political. The whole process, lasting over 18 months has been extremely unpleasant.

The easy way out would have been to allow the police to not follow proper procedure. But someone has to stand up for the rights of individual Canadians, not just for my rights but for your rights too - and if a Member of Parliament will not, then who will? I absolutely will not run from a fight when I have "just the truth" on my side.

Additionally, it is very disturbing how easily simple hand written recollections of police evidence regarding times and events can be manipulated. Most modern police forces are equipped with readily available audio-visual recording devices. Their evidential testimony quality benefits greatly at far less cost than the expensive fleet of Segways that the Edmonton police force chose to purchase instead. Perhaps it is time that the Edmonton Police Services upgrade their technology to better protect both police and individual rights, while saving vast amounts of court time.

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EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

Pity the Kitty

A day in the life of your furry feline

DARLENE TAYLOR

Cats and especially kittens are a fascinating species. While many have an independent nature, there are those that are quite social. Either way they each have their own personality; just like dogs; just like people. They are as individual as we are. But just like us they have certain instincts and more specifically, routines that give them satisfaction with daily life.

Let's take a day in the life of a cat. Waking up from a sound nap and having a good stretch they begin to explore their surroundings. Then, what's that? Instantly, the cat crouches down. Ears twitch to pick up every sound. Eyes alert detecting every movement. The tail flicks back and forth ready for action. Legs are folded underneath, periodically adjusting, ready to spring at any moment. False alarm, that happens often when hunting in the wild. The cat continues to make its rounds and check out its "territory".

Suddenly, he spots a favored toy, maybe a roommate, crouching down he measures his next move. He leaps into action pouncing onto his target. Cats love to play or tease their target, whether it is a feather at the end of a stick, a crinkle ball, or even the household dog or other cat. The game is on.

Just as suddenly as the game started it is over,

time for a meal. Of course, after every meal the act of grooming begins. The variety, thoroughness and extent of the grooming is very specific to each cat. Once all has been checked out a nap is in order.

This cycle has been pinned down as hunt, catch, kill, eat, groom, and sleep by Jackson Galaxy, star of *My Cat From Hell* broadcast on Animal Planet also author of *Cat Daddy: What the World's Most Incurable Cat Taught Me About Life, Love, and Coming Clean*. Through the episodes Jackson has outlined what is the order of daily life for a cat or kitten.

So the conclusion is that if your cat is misbehaving then either one of these steps are missing or out of order.

It makes sense to me that any animal, and especially our pets, need both mental and physical activity on a daily basis to lead a balanced life. Providing food and shelter is not enough for anyone; it is not any different for our pets. Does that make sense?



CAPTURING A LITTLE SUNSHINE



With the help of his grade 5 buddy, Lachlan Lyons, grade 2 student Desmond Pearson prepares a hole for a shrub at Norwood School's recent school ground greening. Greening of the school grounds began this May and will continue into next year. >> REBECCA LIPPIATT

Strings sing again this fall

Music Enrichment Program continues

MICHELLE HAYDUK

After-school group lessons in strings and orchestra provided through the Music Enrichment Program will continue again this fall. A recent decision to cut the 50 year old Edmonton Public School Board (EPSB) program left students, parents and instructors in a state of shock. Fortunately, it did not take long before dedicated parents from the Edmonton String Players Association (ESPA) pooled their expertise to ensure that the program would not fold.

After many bewildering hours of number-crunching, four Chartered Accountants from ESPA's Finance Committee abandoned the figures provided by the School District. They went on to determine a more cost effective way to run the program. Getting rid of 'unknown' expenses, (monies believed to have gone back

into to the school's coffers) was the first to go. Tuition fees experienced a modest increase and a stronger emphasis was placed on fundraising will help to stabilize the program.

ESPA will maintain its steadfast focus on quality music instruction that is accessible and affordable for all students. Fees for both district and non-district students will now be equal which means a decrease for non-district participants. Group lessons will remain very reasonable, starting at \$320.00 for about 10 months of instruction and \$130 for Junior Orchestra.

Also, the much anticipated 2014 Singing Strings Orchestra European Tour is still in the works. This once-in-lifetime opportunity will allow young musicians to travel abroad and perform on international stages while representing some of the best of our local emerging talent.

Recently, ESPA and EPSB

reached an agreement that will help ensure continuity for the Music Enrichment Program. Lessons in violin, viola, cello and bass will continue to be hosted at 12 public schools. The School Board will provide refunds to those who previously registered for the 2013/14 season through the public schools. They have agreed to provide the strings music book and curriculum stockpile to ESAP once the materials are identified and segregated.

In addition, EPSB will 'gift' a large quantity of the current 998 string instrument inventory back to ESPA along with the music stands. In exchange, ESPA will continue to share its music stands with the hosting schools.

For more information or to register your child, please visit the Music Enrichment Program's website at www.musicenrichment.org.

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WATCH FOR PLAYGROUND REOPENING!

WORDS WE 'AVE CIRCUS

LIT@RATCREEK.ORG

Welcome to our literature forum

RUSTIL L. LEHAY

Never before has literature been defined in so many ways. Graphic novels, Shakespeare, fantasy, mystery, comic books, haiku, old form poetry, free verse, short stories, speculative fiction, creative non-fiction and more. Today, we should consider Facebook posts and tweets on twitter as literature. A television network bought one writer's tweets "Shit my father says..." turning it into a sitcom.

The Rat Creek Press plans to take back the verse on this page. You may want to try a villanelle. Juggle those

thoughts, trap them with pen in hand, in a font, in a genre, slip them onto the screen and shoot them through the lit@ratcreek.org or drop them off in person at 9210- 118th Ave.

The new Words We 'Ave Circus page is your forum for all forms of creative writing. All performers, novice or otherwise, are welcome to submit.

Here you never need apologize for abandoning the rules. You only need to write with meaning and intent.

The theme for the next Words We 'Ave Circus is "freedom." Freedom to break the rules, freedom to follow them. You choose.

UPDATE FROM MARLENE SALMONSON, THE BARD OF THE AVENUE:

Plans are underway for this year's Poetry Slam at Kaleido in September, which is proudly sponsored by the Rat Creek Press, where Marlene will be one of the judges. There are additional bardish activities and excitement planned for Kaleido. Stay tuned.

Ground Zero Revolution

Ground Zero Revolution isn't just a name, an event, or something catchy to print on a T-shirt, it represents the cultural revolution and revitalization happening right here in the streets of Edmonton.

Organized and hosted by Wolfgang Carstens, Edin Viso, and Kamille Mendoza, in addition to the monthly event that happens at the Naked Cyber Café & Espresso Bar on the last Monday of every month, Ground Zero Revolution brings spoken-word performances, music and art to the places in and around our communities that need it most. The missions, hospices, nursing homes, community centers, boys and girls clubs, libraries and schools.

For more information, current event listings,

or if you're interested in performing at a live Ground Zero Revolution event, booking a Ground Zero Revolution event, or attending a Ground Zero Revolution event, please check out www.groundzerorevolution.com.

Everything begins right here.

Ground Zero.

Boom, baby, boom!

Wolfgang Carstens is the author of *Crudely Mistaken For Life* and *The Abyss Gazes Also*; publisher at Epic Rites Press; independent distributor at Tree Killer Ink; and organizer and host of Ground Zero Revolution. More information about Wolfgang is available at www.wolfgangcarstens.com.

How to write the villanelle

JADE O'RILEY

Many famous poets have penned the popular villanelle. Robert Frost wrote, *The Road Not Taken*, Dylan Thomas, *Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night*, and Theodore Roethke, *The Waking*. The attraction to villanelle is the poem's ability to run on two rhymes and its interplay of repeating lines. Villanelle's 19 lines are made up of five, 3-line stanzas and a concluding quatrain. The 1st and 3rd lines in stanza 1 are alternately repeated throughout the poem. Villanelle requires no set number of syllables per line, though many famous ones use a count of 10 syllables.

Begin by writing the villanelle form on the margin of your page. Your first stanza is important, as its two "A" rhymes are the repeating lines; these 2 lines should withstand repetition by having flexibility in meaning. After you have written your first stanza make a list of rhymes. You'll need a minimum of five A and B rhymes. Try to find more rhymes than you need; having choice makes for more creativity. Have fun!

Jade O'Riley is an Edmonton poet and writer who designed the poetry and songwriting classes entitled: *The Poet Within* and *Poetry For A Song*.

DRIVE AWAY CRIME

AUTO CRIME PREVENTION EVENT

Come out and meet your community Policing team who will be sharing info on keeping your car and it's contents safe.

An afternoon of great info, giveaways, Free BBQ, MAC truck, Segway demo



JULY 7TH
TIME: 12:00 - 4:00 PM
LOCATION: 88 ST AND 118 AVE

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Join We Believe in 118, July 11th, 4:30pm
 118th Ave and 87th St. for the Launch of
 Shop Alberta Ave, Shop Smart!

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Find out whats happening on 118th ave

Young At Art Market, July 13th
 1 - 4 pm 94th Street and 118th Avenue
 Email carrotassist@gmail.com
www.artsontheave.org

Clothing Swap 10 - 1 pm
 94th Street and 118th Avenue
 Tired of your wardrobe? Swap it up!
 Email 118.clothing.swap@gmail.com

Cool off and get wet at Elmwood Park (75 St & 125 Ave) or Eastwood (86 St & 118 Ave) spray parks.



WORDS WE 'AVE CIRCUS

Select summer reads

- 1) *A Delicate Truth* John Le Carre (slow, but a page turner)
- 2) *Painter of Silence* Georgina Harding (wartime Romania)
- 3) *Life after Life* Kate Atkinson
- 4) *Solar and Sweet Tooth* Ian McEwan
- 5) *The Republic of Wine and Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out* Mo Yan
- 6) *Song for Arbonne* Guy Gavriel Kay (historical/fantastical)
- 7) *Bring Up the Bodies* (sequel to Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*)
- 8) *Persepolis* Marjane Satrapi (autobiographical graphic novel)
- 9) *Fun Home and Are You My Mother?* Alison Bechdel

Futile (Villanelle)

NICOLE GIRARD

My once organized life now lies in piles
 Of things to keep and others to discard
 Staying calm, at this point, totally futile
 Excited for my journey to the isle
 I see once cherished stuff as a junk yard
 My once organized things now lie in piles
 I hope this crazy move will be worthwhile
 My thoughts are blown into a thousand shards
 Staying calm, at this point, totally futile
 I filled my place with things that make me smile
 Loved it all with the passion of a bard
 My once beloved crap now lies in piles
 Good-byes to friends and family are a trial
 The sadness, love and loss I feel are hard
 Staying calm, at this point, totally futile
 My life journey compels me to be mobile
 Spend some time on inquisitive self-regard
 My once organized life now lies in piles
 Staying calm, at this point, totally futile



Back Alley Betrayal

Finalist in the CBC's Canada Writes Contest



CARISSA HALTON

A decade ago, my back alley was dotted with shelled sentries: rusted Buicks and sheds shrunk by fire. Fence posts leaned like wind-swept trees; the pavement cracks were filled with the deflated balloons of last night's tricks.

Today, most of the cars have been towed and sheds replaced with modest garages. Despite the upgrades, it is an alley where people still put out old furniture knowing it'll be gone the next day, but the furniture is different now. Lamps with silk shades and recently removed bathroom vanities have replaced stained mattresses hosting bloated bugs. Bottles now sit separate from the trash- put out in a friendly way, almost like

a tithe. Thankfully, it's an alley that still has grace for my overflowing compost pile and wild gardens: I like to think my cheery red garage door makes the stinking heap of veggies appear quaint and shabby chic.

It is in this alley where my Italian neighbour introduced me to arugula and showed me the right way to mate a pumpkin flower (with another pumpkin flower, of course). Neighbours bond over gripes about city potholes and the growing army of tomcats. It's still an alley where strangers can become friends.

It's also a place, I realized too late, where friends can become strangers. The sky was darkly preparing to deliver a mid-afternoon thunderstorm and I hurried to strap the kids into their seats for a quick errand before the torrent. I was rounding the van to the driver's side when I saw him. The veins in his long, skinny arms popped out. Stretched like earthworms struggling for breath, they ended in balled fists that gripped black bags

of bottles. His gait was slow, broken, cautious. His eyes were the vacant moons of a cheap high. He didn't appear aware of me and I looked down to appear unaware of him. But I was hyper-aware of him. I knew him. I knew him from a place 600 kilometers away, from twenty years ago. Flashing behind my downcast eyes, I remembered another alley behind our elementary school. I was the new kid, but he stood out: the only boy with braids. We acknowledged each other tentatively then. We would grow to know and like each other. We would finish school and go separate ways until this one day, in the middle of the big city behind my grown-up home, we would pass each other without visible pause. My heart beat with discomfort in this alley where dust rises from bumping cars and is trampled back down by the feet of bottle pickers and school children. All along the road, the fences are being rebuilt. Just now, they are all a little higher and a little tighter than they were before.

EDMONTUNES

Edmontunes is a grassroots internet radio station for independent, unsigned musicians and spoken-word artists in and around the Edmonton area. Edmontunes brain-child and director Larry Travis is applying "Think globally, act locally" to the Edmonton music scene. The result was Edmontunes -- a free venue for local artists to showcase their original material on a global stage.

Edmontunes is commercial free and no revenue is generated or received by broadcasting an artist's original work. If you're interested in your work appearing on Edmontunes, audio files can be sent to tunes@edmontunes.com in MP3 format with a minimum quality of 128 Kbps. Listen to Edmontunes at www.edmontunes.com.

AVE GOES TO THE DOGS FESTIVAL

A festival for canines and their families

Sunday, July 14th

12 noon until 4 pm

Free for everyone!

Eastwood Community League
 (11803 86 Street)

Your voice in
 Alberta Avenue,
 Delton, Eastwood,
 Cromdale, Parkdale
 and Elmwood Park



Brian Mason, MLA
 Edmonton Highlands - Norwood

Connect with Brian

6519 - 112 Avenue

Phone: 780.414.0682

Fax: 780.414.0682

Edmonton.HighlandsNorwood@assembly.ab.ca

www.BrianMason.ca

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 SEE THE DIFFERENCE
 YOU CAN MAKE.**

780.429.2020
mealsonwheelsedmonton.org



Green Shack Playground Programs

Look for the Green Shack Summer Playground Program at neighbourhood league parks

THE AVE WE HAD

THEAVEWEHAD.ORG



The grand opening advertisement for the Avenue Theatre.



Fourth Edmonton unit of the theatre chain operated by Odeon Mid-Western, Ltd., the Avenue theatre on 118 ave. at 91 st., will officially open Friday. This modern building, fitted with the finest of audio-visual equipment and stressing customer comfort

throughout, is certain to please discriminating film fans. Care has been taken to ensure quiet within the theatre. A special "crying room" for wailing children permits parents to view the screen and hear the spoken word while soothing their ruffled offspring.

Theatres on the Avenue

JONATHAN WELLER

In 1913, Lindsay Harvey and Glenn Shirtcliff started a real estate business on the Avenue at 9420 118th where the Tiara building stands today. Shirtcliff lived in the back of the business and Harvey nearby on 95th Street. However, the real estate business never grew and by 1917 Harvey had moved away and the Rose Picture Palace had been established.

The Rose Theatre remained for the next twenty years with Shirtcliff living in the back of building. Early residents recall going on Saturday mornings to the Rose Theatre where they would play serial cartoons and movies for 5 cents.

That was a vast sum for many children during the Depression. One which was often scrounged through ingenious methods - or alternatively, hard work.

“ At New Years Eve, they always had a movie that started about 9 o'clock. You'd go to the movie and after they'd have prizes for you, they'd have a draw, you'd get a toaster or an iron or a set of dishes. And boy, everybody in the neighbourhood went, because everyone was hard up. But to go out for an evening like that and come home with a prize was really something. - Binnie Engley

One example was a stick equipped with chewing gum that would be used to reclaim lost coins dropped carelessly between cracks in the wooden sidewalks that lined the Avenue.

More than movies though, the Rose Theatre was a community hub. It hosted traveling lectures on subjects as diverse as the benefits of milk and the necessity of prohibition. It also served as a forum for candidates and citizens during municipal elections.

In 1936, Shirtcliff sold the theatre to R. Shacker but continued to live in the building until his death in 1939. When it was sold, Shacker changed the name to the Avenue Theatre and continued to run the business at the same location until 1951 when it was moved to its present location under the new management of Samuel Binder.

Now showing: A cinematic history on the Avenue

JONATHAN WELLER

'Lantern' shows - where images were projected off a glass slide with candle light - were the earliest form of motion picture entertainment in Edmonton, making their debut in the second half of the 1880s. By the turn of the century these had fallen off as moving picture shows gained ascendance. The first of these were short silent clips of nature or current events, which were unable to stand alone as a feature presentation so they were used as part of the vaudeville or variety shows which travelled across the country.

Prior to the First World War, full length motion pictures grew in popularity. Theatre owners in Edmonton renovated their make-shift buildings to accommodate showings and over the next decade the variety show was pushed out to make room for the rising popularity of films. By 1928, when the first talkie was introduced, motion pictures were well established as an affordable and respectable leisure time pursuit.

However, the acceptability of the motion picture was not unquestioned. In response to

pressure from moral reformist and other concerned parties, the Alberta government instituted censorship in 1911. It was believed that censorship was required to protect the ideals and morality of the population, especially the easily influenced youth.

Theatres were more than houses of film though. Prior to the establishment of community leagues, many community and political events were held at neighbourhood theatres making them a locus of these developing areas.

In the end, the importance of movies for the development of this frontier culture was great. In part through the spread of American movies, Edmonton was becoming more connected with the rest of the continent. As historian Donald Wetherell explains, "New models of dress, behavior and personality [were presented to audiences]" offering a growing challenge to the dominant culture's authority over the social realm. Theatres then, as the homes of these influential films, were a foundational element of communities in the city and despite the loss of many of these treasures over the recent years, many have found new life as valued community institutions today.

Today the Avenue Theatre has seen a renewal as a live music venue bringing in a wide assortment of excellent performances. Learn more about upcoming shows at <http://avenuetheatre.ca/>.



TheAveWeHad.org
A LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF THE AVENUE

Join the Rat Creek Press in celebrating over 100 years of history with the inaugural presentation of the interactive Norwood Historical Walking Tour.

Hear the stories of people and places that make up our collective past.

Tour will be guided by Jonathan Weller, The Ave We Had History Producer.

When: Saturday, July 6th 2013
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Where: Alberta Avenue Community League
9210-118th Avenue

Attendance is free. Complimentary hot dogs and refreshments will be served directly following the walk.



NORWOOD HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sponsored by the Norwood Neighbourhood Association whose vision is to support good projects and activities that benefit the neighbourhood.

For the communities of Alberta Avenue, Delton, Eastwood, Elmwood Park, Parkdale-Cromdale, Spruce Avenue and Westwood.

EVENTS

WESTWOOD MARSHMALLOW ROAST

Come enjoy a few gooey marshmallows and meet some neighbours. Wednesday, July 3rd from 6pm-8pm at the hall (12139 105 St). 2013-14 league memberships available with bonus Alberta Avenue Community League associate membership for the summer which will give you access to the outdoor pools for free!

NORWOOD WALKING TOUR

Celebrate over 100 years of history with a guided tour on Saturday, July 6th at 11:00am starting at the Alberta Avenue Community League (9210 118 Ave).

COMMUNITY BBQ AND MOSAIC MURAL UNVEILING

Join us for a BBQ on Sunday, July 7th from 12:30-3:30pm at the Parkdale Cromdale Hall (11335 85 St) to celebrate the unveiling of our community's newest mural.

EPL CENTENNIAL BBQ

Wednesday, July 10th at 5pm. Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St).

YOUNG AT ART MARKET

Saturday, July 13th from 1-4pm. If you are under 18 and have arts and crafts that you would like to sell at our one day market contact Heather at carrotassist@gmail.com

NFB FILM CLUB

Mondays at 6pm at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). July 8th: Payback (86 min), July 15th: Wiebo's War (93 min), July 22nd: Grace, Milly, Lucy -- Child Soldiers (73 min), July 29th: The Bodybuilder and I (86 min).

THE CARROT STAGE

9351 118 Avenue. More info: 780.471.1580. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate the Carrot's 6th birthday and to all our volunteers, artists, and patrons who keep us going! Thursdays: Zoomers open mic is taking a break for the summer. Fridays: Live music 7:30-9:30pm. Go to thecarrot.ca for line up. \$5 at the door. Saturdays: Open mic 7:30-9:30pm. Great time to share your newest tune, poem or comedy act! Free for all ages. \$1.25 minimum charge.

NOTICES

COPS AT THE CARROT

Join Edmonton Police members on Tuesday, July 9th from 10am-11am at The Carrot Cafe (9351 118 Ave). Bring your questions and comments or just stop in and say hello. Can't make it? You can always call your Community Liaison Constable Christopher Lucas at 780.421.2602.

KALEIDO OPPORTUNITIES

Kaleido has creative calls out for artistic projects: deck out a lamp post or create a 12x12 installation. Cash prizes for 1st place! Email Annie at kaleido.intallation@gmail.com. Kaleido Car Show: Got a classic or unique car that you'd like to show off? Be part of Kaleido's "Show & Shine." Email Gerard at kaleido.cars@gmail.com. Exquisite Corpse: Kaleido is looking for visual artists (painting/sketching) to participate in this project. Email Monica kaleido.exquisite@gmail.com for information.

BIG BIN DATES

Dispose of your unwanted household furniture, appliances or electronics on these weekends between 9am-5pm. August 24th and 25th, and September 21st and 22nd at Northlands. For details and other dates/locations search "Big Bin" at edmonton.ca

PROGRAMS/CLASSES

EPL SUMMER PROGRAMS AT SPRUCEWOOD LIBRARY

11555 95 Street More info: 780.496.7099
Island Adventure, ages 6-12, Wed, July 13th at 11am. Bon Voyage, ages 3-6, Fri, July 5th at 2pm. Jungle Journey, ages 6-8 years, Mon, July 8th at 2pm. Clown Cartel Magic Show, ages 3+, Sat, July 13th at 11am. Photo Madness, all ages, Wed, July 17th at 11am. Totally towers, ages 6-8, Fri, July 19th at 11am. Car, trains and planes, ages 3-6, Mon, July 22nd at 11am. Valley Zoo (3 smaller animals visit the library), ages 3+, Thu, July 25th at 2pm. Kaybridge Puppets, all ages, Mon, July 29th at 2pm. The great puppet adventure, ages 3-12, Wed, July 31st at 7pm.

FREE MUSIC LESSONS BY CREART!

Running continually every Saturday at Parkdale Cromdale Hall (11335 85 St) free group lessons will be offered to members. The teacher is part of the community and loves to share his knowledge! Singing lessons run from 9-10am and Guitar lessons from 10am-12pm. Play and meet others. Contact Chantal at 780.669.3272

SING, SING, LAUGH AND LEARN

For children up to age three accompanied by a grown-up. Tuesdays from 10:30-11:15am at Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

CREATIVE PROSE AND WRITING GROUP

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

FELTING WORKSHOP

Mike is taking a break for the summer. Needle felting will be back in the fall.

ESL GROUP

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

SUMMER PROGRAMS AT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

11908 132 Avenue. Senior's Tea August 2nd from 10-11am. VBS Camp August 19th-23rd for K-Gr.6. Cultural Dinner August 29th in support of Karen refugees. Call Nadia 780.454.1347.

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.

TWEEN LOUNGE

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

TEEN GAMING

Come to the library to play some great games! Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 pm for ages 10-17. Plus Friday, July 12th and August 9th after hours lounge from 6:15-8:30pm. Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St). More info: 780.496.7099.

WOMEN'S AFTERNOON OUT GROUP

For women to gather, socialize and bring their project to work on. Opportunities for starting new craft projects as well as getting out to a festival or event in the summer. Drop-in fee is \$1 per visit for supplies and outings. More info: Michelle at 780.232.5822 or email heartsalive@hotmail.com

PARKDALE-CROMDALE SENIORS GROUP

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

SENIORS LUNCH

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

BABES IN ARMS

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

L'I'L SPROUTS PLAYGROUP

Come by the Parkdale Cromdale Community Hall (11335 85 St) with your little ones Fridays from 10am-12pm. More info: Chantal 780.669.3272.

SPORTS/REC

FREE COMMUNITY ACCESS AT COMMONWEALTH REC CENTRE

Enjoy the fitness centre at Commonwealth for free on Saturdays from 5pm-7pm with your community league membership.

Date Changes: Due to no parking availability during Edmonton Eskimo games the community time is moved from Saturday to Sunday on the following dates: July 13th to 14th, August 24th to 25th, September 14th to 15th and October 5th to 6th. There will only be pool and fitness access on these dates.

FREE QIGONG CLASS

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

VOLUNTEER

GET INVOLVED WITH AVENUE GOES TO THE DOGS 2013!

July 13th and 14th. We need volunteers to: set up/take down, assist the dog organizations set up their tents, cook hot dogs, set up the off-leash area, etc. If you would like to help out, please email avetothedogs@gmail.com

KALEIDO VOLUNTEER INFO NIGHT

Come learn about how you can be involved with Kaleido this year and then sign up to join the team! Dinner provided. Tuesday, July 16th, 5pm-9pm at Alberta Avenue Community Centre.

VOLUNTEER AT THE CARROT

There are daytime and evening shifts at the Carrot which we need volunteers for. More info: Heather at carrotassist@gmail.com.

HELP AT NORWOOD CENTRE

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

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! More info: volunteer@ninahaggertyart.ca

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

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

Sunday Services:

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

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

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

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

Service Times:

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

AVENUE VINEYARD CHURCH

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

8718-118 Avenue (Crystal Kids building)
www.avenuevineyard.com
Sundays at 10:30 am

BETHEL GOSPEL CHAPEL

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

Sunday Meetings:

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

CARISMA CHURCH

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

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

Sundays at 10:00am

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

ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

11828-85th Street 780-474-5434

Service Times:

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

English Classes & Collective Kitchen (seasonal - call for info)
St. Vincent de Paul Food Help Hotline: 780-471-5577

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Service Times:

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

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

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SUMMER FUN

Green Shack Playground Programs



This summer, your child can make new friends and have a blast right in your own neighbourhood! Come drop by one of your local Green Shack Playground Programs.

Children aged 6 to 12 are welcome to join the games, sports, crafts, music, drama and special events. Children under the age of 6 are also welcome but must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times.

The Green Shack Playground Program is free to participants.

You'll find a list of upcoming activities and special events posted on the side of the Green Shack each week. If there's a game or activity that your child would like to play, they can just ask our Green Shack staff. They're there to make your child's summer a fun one!

For more information, call 311 or visit www.edmonton.ca/playgrounds.

Programs begin July 2, 2013.



> GREEN SHACK PLAYGROUNDS

ALBERTA AVENUE
(Spray Pole - closed most of July)
9210-118 Avenue
Mon. thru Thur. 12:30 to 8 pm
Fri. 1:30 to 5:30 pm

NORWOOD
9516-114 Avenue
Mon. thru Thur. 10 am to 5 pm
Fri. 1 to 5 pm

DELTON
12325-88 Street
Mon. thru Thur. 10 am to 5:30 pm
Fri. 1:30 to 5:30 pm

EASTWOOD (Spray Deck)
11803-86 Street
Mon. thru Thur. 10 am to 5:30 pm

EASTWOOD SCHOOL
12023-81 Street
Fri. 1:30 to 5:30 pm

ELMWOOD PARK
Spray deck but no Green Shack
125 Avenue & 75 Street

SPRUCE AVENUE
10240-115 Avenue
Tues. & Thur. 12:30 to 8 pm

SHEILA BOWKER (Parkdale)
11335-85 Street
Mon & Wed. 10 am to 5:30 pm
Fri. 1:30 to 5:30 pm

SHERIFF ROBERTSON PARK (Cromdale)
111 Avenue & 82 Street
Tues. & Thur. 10 am to 5:30 pm

WESTWOOD
12139-105 Street
Mon. & Wed. 12:30 to 8 pm
Fri. 1:30 to 5:30 pm

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ROCK IN'

ON KOODONATION STAGE

- Burton Cummings July 19
- Carly Rae Jepsen..... July 20
- Dallas Smith & Chad Brownlee... July 21
- Down With Webster..... July 22
- Classified July 23
- Colin James July 25
- Matt Mays & Arkells..... July 26

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- Advance gate \$10

Pick up your passes at participating **save on foods** & **Mac's** locations*.

*K-Pass and R.A.D passes on sale at participating Mac's locations. R.A.D passes & gate admission on sale at participating Save-On-Foods. Available June 14-July 18, 2013.



Habitat for Humanity is mobilizing to build affordable housing and promote homeownership to break the cycle of poverty. How YOU can help: Donate, Volunteer to build (no experience needed) or provide lunch for volunteers, or Support our Restore home improvement store. For more information contact us at (780)-479- 3566, visit hfh.org, [Facebook.com/HabitatEdm](https://www.facebook.com/HabitatEdm), or follow us on twitter @HabitatEdm