

Boyle McCauley News

FREE (in Boyle Street & McCauley)

Dec. 1997 / Jan. 1998

McCauley artist creates shrine to Mary

Story and Photo by Kate Quinn

Take a walk along 92 Street just north of 107A Avenue and you'll see an unusual sight.

Since the summer of 1996, I have watched chunks of broken concrete turn into a beautiful rock garden. This past summer, I saw the concrete chunks begin to rise up out of the garden and I wondered what this would be. McCauley is now home to a grotto, or shrine, in honour of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Crisman Abenojar is a sculptural landscape artist originally from the Philippines. He and his family moved into McCauley a year ago when Habitat For Humanity built two houses on a vacant lot next to the Clarke Stadium Meat and Grocery Store.

The Abenojar family owns the front house, while the Buck family owns the back house.

"I built this grotto," says Abenojar, "because I want to touch the feelings. This house was built by many people, volunteers for Habitat For Humanity. My family can't have this house without God's help and their help. I want to show our gratitude."

He also hopes the presence of the grotto will comfort those who are afraid of violence or crime or anything that troubles them. For people of the Catholic faith, Mary is the mother they can turn to in times of sorrow, sickness and fear. "An artist has to have im-



McCauley resident Crisman Abenojar built this beautiful grotto in honour of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Crisman and his wife Cecila and daughter Venus and son Clayborne are seen here with the grotto.

agination," he says.

He told me how he took concrete that was torn up during the street renovations and hammered it into smooth rocks. With leftover paint donated by Habitat For Humanity, he gave colour to these rocks. He added plants and flowers, both real and artificial, to his creation. A small pool of water beneath a statue of Mary makes the grotto complete.

Crisman used to live in the centre of Manila, the capitol of the Philippines, where he had his own business as a sculptural landscape artist. He came to Edmonton in 1990 to join his family.

Later, he met Cecilia, who was working as a nanny at that time. They married in 1993 and have two children, Clayborne, age 4, and Venus, age 2. For the past few years, Crisman has worked the night shift at a laun-

dry on the southside. Next year he plans to start his own business again.

He's already made a good start. He has built grottos for Filipino families in Millwoods, Castledowns and Oxford. He created a backyard waterfall in McLeod. He makes sculptures and wood carvings for inside and outside display.

Crisman also creates Michelangelo (Italian) style garden sculptures.

"I want to encourage churches to build grottos", he says.

Families may also like to have one in their yards, as they do in the Philippines. Many have grottos in the front and back of their houses. To learn more of his work, contact Crisman at 425-3184.

BM News is back!

After a few months hiatus to shuffle tasks and allow for some professional training, your neighbourhood newspaper is back. We're also in incredibly good financial shape after a successful casino fundraising effort.

Plan on receiving this paper regularly once again for all your community news and advertising needs.



McCauley teen loves modern dance

by John Zapantis

In October, McCauley teen Naomi Giroux auditioned and was accepted to join the Classical and Contemporary Dance I.N.C. This Edmonton-based modern dance company is under the direction of Debbie Onufreychuk.

Naomi, a grade eight student at McCauley Junior High, lives in McCauley with her

parents and older brother Shawn. Shawn, a dancer himself, influenced Naomi's preference for modern dance and ballet.

Naomi and the rest of the dance company are currently practising hard for two upcoming dance performances. Naomi enjoys her hobbies as well, such as drawing.



Naomi Giroux practices for her two upcoming performances.



Playing nurse with home I-V



by Linda Dumont

Gone are the days when one went to the hospital for lengthy recuperations or for active treatment of disease. It has become a major achievement to get admitted to hospital. More and more, treatment takes place elsewhere.

Emergency has become an active treatment area where people check in at regular intervals to be plugged into IV poles. There they sit on hard chairs waiting for the drip to end.

Homecare treatment turns our homes into yet another active treatment area, and family members get crash courses in home nursing.

I'll have to add another hat to my collection. This past week, I learned how to hook up an IV.

It all started when my husband, Glen, went to emergency with an infection of his shin. IV therapy was prescribed and he had to check into the hospital every eight hours.

The car broke down, so he was walking to the hospital, sometimes in the middle of the night. After a week, Glen got too tired to walk to the hospital every eight hours.

It doesn't sound too hard - check in every eight hours, go home, then back again in eight hours, but there's a catch: there's a wait at the other end.

Once at emergency, Glen sat for an hour waiting to get hooked up, then a half hour while the drip was administered. On the days when he needed a dressing change for his infected leg, that took another hour. The walk there and back consumed at least another 30 minutes, leaving him with about five hours of down time between visits.

As one day followed the next, Glen became progressively more tired. He started sleeping through his IV appointments.

Then the hospital came up with a solution - home IV therapy.

Glen was all for it. He brought a bag of goodies from the drug store: swabs, syringes, saline solution, and small intravenous bags with antibiotics, tubing, tape, and gauze. There was also a guide book on how to use the set up.

He had an IV site on his arm with a plugged end where the syringes were to go, all securely taped in place.

"A nurse will be coming at 9 o'clock to teach us how to use this," Glen said with a smile.

He was happily anticipating a pretty young nurse to brighten his convalescence. Promptly at nine, the door bell rang. I ushered in a tall, young man. He must have been well over six feet and solidly built.

"I'm your nurse," the young man introduced himself.

Glen's face fell.

The nurse set to work with a no nonsense attitude, showing us how to swab sites and inject saline solution, how to hook the IV bag onto a coat hanger and hang it up, and how to change the IV tubing and the needles on the syringes.

The main things to remember are that needles are to be kept sterile, air bubbles kept out, and the drip set to about one drop per second. Most importantly, the antibiotic solutions had to get into the vein.

The next morning, I got to play nurse.

I forgot a few of the minor details and had trouble getting the needle properly into the syringe. Glen was a little leery about my ability to get all the air bubbles out of the saline solution, but we managed to get the contents of the bag into Glen's arm.

How long will the treatment take?

We don't know. What we do know is that Glen won't be admitted to the hospital anytime soon.

Over 600 people enjoy Thanksgiving feast

by John Zapantis

Rev. Linda Dumont of the Christian Love Ministry and 50 volunteers served 36 turkeys and all the fixings to more than 600 people during a Thanksgiving Day Dinner held at the Mustard Seed Church on October 11, 1997.

An opening prayer got the night off to a good start followed by several musicians who performed gospel songs throughout the three hour supper.

The Mustard Seed Church received donations from generous people consisting of 36 turkeys, potatoes, turnips, salads, juice, etc.

Inner city resident Warren Miller thanked the church for hosting the event and all the people who contributed and served the food.

"It gives people who are down and

out a hot meal. A lot of people really have a hard time making ends meet."

Volunteer Jacques Boule took a moment from serving food to give God credit for his participation as a volunteer. "I wanted to do volunteering nine years ago, but I was depressed and suicidal and I didn't know who to turn to, and I found the Lord."

Rev. Dumont wasn't surprised with the number of hungry people. In fact, she quipped: "We were expecting a few more people, so we were left over with a lot of leftovers."

About the same number of people also enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal on Thanksgiving Day at the Boyle Street Co-op.



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Circle of Friends a dream come true

by Betti Brockman



Betti Brockman (right) with Marion Garneau and David Peacock

"You live in such a wonderful community of folks that would give such support. You are lucky!"

That is what my co-workers said to me about McCauley! And I am lucky! I really feel blessed.

They shared my excitement as I talked about my dream and the love and encouragement of friends around me. That dream has become "Circle of Friends".

It all began in January, 1997. About once a month I gather in my home with close friends for what we call a "Gathering of Stories". In the spirit of Christmas, our theme centred on celebrating birth in our lives; the birth of an idea, something we were working towards, etc.

I wrestled for many days, but I

kept coming up with a blank. As the gathering date approached, I was getting anxious to find an idea to share. And then the dream started to unfold. The more I talked with friends, the more the dream came into focus. I was able to see the steps to be taken that would make it a reality.

It would be a safe place where people could share the stories of their lives; through song, even for those who say they can't sing, but love to sing; a place to dance; a place to tell stories. As I spoke about the dream out loud and explained in detail how it could work, the response was, "So what's the problem? What's stopping you?"

Something that I had thought was an impossible dream, I was told could

really happen. It was too unbelievable! I was ecstatic, but somehow still felt unsure.

And then the following week, I got the call. "So when's it happening? What's the date and place for the music night?" They really believed that it could happen.

That's when the work began.

With great enthusiasm, we searched for the right place, non-smoking please; comfortable, coffee house style with little round tables. After some searching, we had some doubts.

And then, First Christian Reformed Church came through, saying they would be willing to give us a try. Our first Circle of Friends began in February with our featured artist, Rosalie

Gelderman. Ever since then, there has been no turning back.

We have had an Irish night, complete with Irish song and dance, featuring Kate Quinn; a Remembrance Day Celebration, featuring John Phillips with the song "The Green Fields of France" and Betti Brockman performing "And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda"; and a blue grass band featuring Tim Senger.

The evening includes a time to socialize, meet with friends and neighbours, to share a bit of food and drink (potluck munchies, beverages provided), to sing together, to enjoy some fine entertainment, to share a bit of ourselves with each other.

Please join us at First Christian Reformed Church, 10956-96 Street, at 7:30 pm, on the following Saturdays: January 17, February 14, and March 14.

Street Poetry Book Sales Top 850

by John Zapantis

Sales have risen at a steady pace since the "Songs of the Street" poetry book launch was held August 15 at the Mustard Seed Church in McCauley.

The poetry book launch was instrumental in promoting the work of local street poets. Michael Walters, co-editor of the book and organizer of the poetry launch, reports that about 850 copies have been sold in Edmonton and Calgary by Our Voice street vendors.

Steve Garfin, a writer-poet whose award winning poem is included in the book, estimates he has sold between

30 and 40 poetry books while selling Our Voice. "I think displaying the book, showing people that you have it, has encouraged sales more than any publicity," he feels.

Linda Dumont, also a regular contributor to Our Voice and the Boyle McCauley News had a number of winning poems published in the poetry book. She commends the book for enhancing her prospects as a recognized writer.

"It gives you a bit of recognition and credibility as a poet to have your poetry in a book," she explains.



SEASON'S GREETINGS

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Casino volunteers raise \$40,000 for BM News

Our cheques have arrived! As a result of the work of 30 volunteers at our casino on August 25 and 26, the Boyle-McCauley News is \$41,216.90 richer. That is an incredible amount of money for our little publishing enterprise, and thanks go to all of you who helped out. This makes the newspaper financially stable for at least the next few years.

In our agreement with the gaming authorities we had committed ourselves to spending the money in the following ways:

60% (\$24,730.14) to offset the paper's ongoing printing and publishing costs

30% (\$12,365.07) for new equipment such as computers and printers

10% (\$4,121.69) for training

That kind of money allows for all kinds of possibilities in operating the paper. For one thing it frees us up to consider paying for some of the major tasks that up to now have been done by volunteers. For example, the desk top publishing which can take 20-30 hours per issue and requires some professional expertise, the bookkeep-

ing-administration which also requires some expertise and time, and tasks like the editor and coordination of delivery which both require big amounts of time. This "windfall" also allows us to purchase our own computer equipment for the first time. And we can pay to have people trained to run aspects of the paper and develop marketable skills. However, in moving in this direction we need to recognize that it makes us dependent in the future on big fundraisers like the casinos.

Some of these new possibilities and implications need to be discussed by the broader community. Some of these are changes in direction for the paper in that the original vision emphasized that this be a volunteer driven community enterprise. A visioning workshop was held at the beginning of December to begin to grapple with these matters. A new board was also elected to begin to enact some of the changes.

This is an exciting time for the Boyle-McCauley News. Please consider getting involved and/or providing your ideas to help us chart a future direction for the paper.

Thank you to the following volunteers who worked the BMNews Casino:

Margaret Amerongen-McKeon
Sara Amerongen-McKeon
Richard Auclair
Larry Brockman
Ping Chen
Simon Chen
Reny Clericuzio
Shirley Damatas
Mary Gullivan
John Gee
Rosalie Gelderman
Ele Gibson
John Kolkman
Bob McKeon
John McLean
Sharon McLean
Phil O'Hara
Doris Oleniuk
John Paradowski
John Pater
John Phillips
Val Phillips
Kate Quinn
Courtney Smith
Caroline Stuart
Chris Thompson
Kimo Trent
Michelle VanDerMolen
Heidi Veluw
Harvey Voogd



Married to McCauley

by Marie Butler

The Happy Couple: Marie Butler and Harvey Voogd

The day was to be held in the heart of McCauley, Giovanni Caboto Park, the sun warming our bodies and the wind soothing our beings.

But it was flippin' cold out there on August 16th, so to Bellevue Community League Hall we went.

Though disappointed in our dream not being manifest outside, the day was all I could ever hope for, because what we intended to receive from Mother earth, the representatives from the community of

McCauley did instead.

Each brought the sunshine and delicate wind to us with their gifts of time, music, art, insight, and most of all, their incredible love. I am eternally grateful for the creation of a most memorable wedding.

I have married McCauley, not only by committing my life to Harvey Voogd, but knowing that here I have found a sacred place. I have never been more at home within myself.

Thank-you McCauley.



Boyle McCauley News
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December, 1997

The Boyle McCauley News is a non-profit newspaper published monthly by the Boyle Street McCauley Newspaper Society. The Society is made up of people who live and work in the Boyle Street and McCauley neighbourhoods. Opinions expressed in the newspaper are not necessarily those of the Board of Directors. Any submissions may be subject to editing for length and suitability.

Board of Directors: John Pater, Ah Mui Cheong, Erwin Seeger, Larry Brockman, Harvey Voogd

The office of the Boyle McCauley News is located at 10631 - 96 Street, Edmonton, AB T5H 2J1. Phone 424-6117, Fax 424-0796, E-mail: bmnews@compusmart.ab.ca For advertising, call Erwin Seeger: 475-8492

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A HAPPY 1998

OUR VOLUNTEERS

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Residents design small projects to improve their health

People know what will improve their health and the health of their communities.

Based on that belief, Action for Healthy Communities is a project that encourages residents in Edmonton's central communities to take a hands on approach to improving their health and that of their communities.

By working together people can make great things happen at a level that's both meaningful and has immediate impact on health.

"Residents are invited to think about health in a broad way, name issues they see, and come up with ways that they can address those issues," says Project Coordinator and McCauley resident Mary Gallivan.

"We can connect people to others who share the same concern, and link them with whatever is needed to make their action or project happen, including grants of up to \$1,000. This approach to community health puts the decision making power and the resources back into the hands of the residents.

"It has incredible potential for both improving the health of people and strengthening communities."

Over the past two years, 55 projects have been supported. The wide range of projects have included a bicycle repair project, senior's foot care, collective kitchens, a babysitting course for youth and a senior's sewing course. In 1997/98, schools are the focus to encourage children, youth and parents to get involved.

Twice a year, a Resource Committee made up of residents and others interested in community health receive and review applications from groups of residents, connect the groups with resources, and allot grants.

Boyle Street resident Bunny Plashka has been involved with the project since it started three years ago. Serving as the Chair of the Resource Committee, she assures the process of receiving applications from the community and allocating the resources and funds runs smoothly.

When asked what keeps her involved, Plashka explains: "I like watching people realize their dreams and their potential while making something positive happen."

Ann Goldblatt, Community Developer at the Eastwood Public Health Centre

and a new Society member, says "This project is exciting because it puts resources and money where people have been talking about for years: on addressing a broad definition of health and supporting citizen action.

"People see all kinds of things in community life that contribute to health. With a personal, simple process, residents are supported to put an idea in place that they decide will make a difference for their community."

Alice Hanson, former MLA for this area, is Chair of the Society's Board and brings many years of experience working in Edmonton's central communities.

"Action for Healthy Communities connects people, creates an opportunity for active involvement and provides residents with a chance to influence health issues in their communities," says Hanson.

Action for Healthy Communities is a project of the Edmonton Healthcare Citizenship Society and is active in the communities of Boyle Street, McCauley, Norwood, Central McDougall, Spruce Avenue, Alberta Avenue, Parkdale, Cromdale and Eastwood.

For more information, call Mary Gallivan at 944-4687.

Swimming back from deep water

by Councillor Michael Phair



A petition signed by 1,000 residents made a difference on September 15, 1997, when the "Outdoor Pool Strategy" was sent back to City administrators for more consideration.

The report suggested outdoor pools be closed once they become too costly to repair. This solution may have seemed simple, but it would have hurt a lot of people. It ignored the fact the City has not meticulously maintained these facilities over the last 30 years.

I believe the City can't just keep taking things away from people.

If the pools were closed, we would lose beautiful sites that bring a lot of joy to children and families. I also believe things like pools for families are what keeps our downtown core community attractive and viable places to live.

Besides, as was pointed out by Ian Baker, whose company has been hired to operate the pools

each summer, attendance isn't the problem, poor upkeep is. Over 101,000 swimmers used the outdoor pools in 1996.

We're not out of deep water yet on this issue, but I'm confident the motion I made in September will make a difference. The motion asked the Community Services Department to develop an outdoor pool plan that involves local communities in the planning, has a long term maintenance plan, looks at other partners, and outlines an aggressive marketing strategy.

The "Outdoor Pool Strategy" along with the responses to my motion will return to the Community Services Committee in March, 1998.

If you would like more information, or want to get involved in this issue, call either Evelyn Ehrman, Director of Leisure centres, at 496-4746, or call me at my office at 496-8146.



"Looking forward to 1998 and beyond, the Board, Staff and Members of the Edmonton Inner City Housing Society wish you and yours a safe and happy New Year."

**Edmonton Inner City Housing Society
#209, 10010 - 107A Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5H 4H8
Telephone: 403-423-1339
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Report from Ottawa

by Peter Goldring, MP for Edmonton East



As the Reform Party critic for Veterans Affairs, I was invited to attend ceremonies in November for the Newfoundland Beaumont-Hamel Memorial and the Vimy Memorial in France to commemorate Canada's war dead. We participated in the unveiling of National Historic Sites plaques at both memorials.

Needless to say, it was a very moving and emotional experience.

July 1, 1916 is considered to be one of the bloodiest days in World War I. In Beaumont-Hamel, of 57,000 men, half were attacked, killed, wounded or captured - 30,000 of them in the first hour alone.

On that disastrous day, 790 men of the Newfoundland regiment began to walk toward the

German lines. In just over half an hour, more than one-quarter of these men were dead. More than 400 were hit, but survived. The regiment had virtually vanished and not a yard of territory was taken.

In Vimy, Canadian soldiers did what tens of thousands of soldiers of other nations died trying to do. They took Vimy Ridge. Capturing this citadel was a defining moment for Canadians. Many said it was a battle that turned Canada from a colony into a nation.

In total, more than 1.5 million Canadians served during the two World Wars and the Korean War, and over 110,000 were killed.

As well as veterans, military personnel and government offi-

cial, Canada's youth were also represented in the delegation, including Michael Rozsko, an Edmonton university student. I think this was especially important because the young people of today will be instrumental in assuring veteran's legacies are preserved and the lessons of war remembered.

On another note, support is growing to put a statue on Parliament Hill honouring the achievements of the "famous five". Nellie McClung, Emily Murphy, Henrietta Muir Edwards, Louise McKinney and Irene Parlby (Alberta's first women cabinet minister), fought to have women declared as persons under the law in the 1920's. Naturally, all five women were Albertans.

Congratulations to Edmonton sculptor Barbara Paterson for her fine work crafting the statue.

And finally, a bulletin from Ottawa: "Are you prepared for the biggest tax hike in Canadian History?"

cont'd on page 6

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

by Timm Gaudet

Submissions for the Community Calendar must be received by the last Wednesday of the month. Phone 424-2870 or fax 424-2668.

Boyle-McCauley Health Centre 10628 - 96 Street



New Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9 am to 9 pm
 Fri. and Sat. 9 am to 4:30 pm
 Immunization Clinic for Children
 Mon. 1-3 pm
 Foot Clinic: Wed. 1 - 3 pm
 Lab Hours Mon. - Fri. 9 am to 4:30 pm
 and Sat. 9 am - noon
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Operation Friendship

9526 - 106 Avenue
 McCauley Seniors Drop-In:
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Wecan Food Coop

Pick up at St. Peter Lutheran Church
 9606 110 Avenue
 on Dec. 19 3 - 5 pm
 Monthly Schedule for 1998:
 Jan. 22, Feb. 19, March 19
 (Pick-up day changed to Thursday)

New members welcome.
 Call 424-2870 for information

McCauley LET System



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Salvation Army

9611 - 102 Avenue
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Boyle Street Coop

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 Wed. 1 - 4 pm

Boyle Street Community League

9515 - 104 Avenue
 Bingo Sat. & Sun. Doors open at 11 am; starts 1 pm

The Rock

c/o St. Peter Lutheran Church
 96 Street & 110 Avenue
 Community Breakfast
 Tues. & Thurs. 7:30 - 9 am
 Kids Club Mon. 6 - 7:15 pm

Martial Arts Jeet Kune Do 15 yrs. +, Sun. 6:30 - 8 pm

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 Cost is \$2 per person for four meals.
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Circle of Friends

A gathering of song, dance and stories
 Sat. Jan. 17 & Feb. 14 at 7:30 pm
 (See story on page 3)
 First Christian Reformed Church
 10956 - 96 Street

Pot luck munchies. Suggested donation \$2/person

Bissell Centre

10527 96 Street
 Women's Self-Defense Thurs. 1:30 - 3 pm
 Native Circle Wed. 7 pm
 Movie Night Thurs. 7 pm
 Women's Lunch Fri. Noon - 1 pm

McCauley Community League

If you want to join the McCauley Community League, call 425-8883. There is an excellent package of useful information for new MCL members.



Report from Ottawa cont'd

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation says that the planned 73 per cent hike in CPP premiums will suck a total of \$48-billion extra from the pockets of employers and workers by the year 2003. The Reform Party opposes the federal Government's Bill C-2, an Act to amend the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security Act.

If you have any questions or concerns about these, or any other issues, please give me a call at 495-3261, or write to me at 9111-118 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 0T9.

Christmas in the community

Operation Friendship

9526 - 106 Avenue
 Community Christmas Party Wed. Dec. 17 2 - 5 pm
 Family and friends welcome!
 Entertainment and lots of goodies to celebrate the holidays.
 Fri. Dec. 19 - Southminster-Striehauer United Church host their annual Christmas lunch at Noon in the drop-in

Boyle Street Christmas Dinner

Sacred Heart Parish Church
 10821 96 Street
 Thurs. Dec. 25 11 am - 3 pm

New Year's Day Dinner

Boyle Street Community League
 9515 104 Avenue
 Thurs. Jan. 1 11:30 - 2:30 pm
 Sponsored by the Bissell Centre

Boyle Street Co-op Celebrations

10116 105 Avenue
 Community members party
 Dec. 15 lunch
 Kids Party Dec. 20
 (For registered children and Stepping Stone)
 Teen School Events Dec. 19, Christmas lunch

JIM TAYLOR
 COUNCILLOR
 WARD FOUR



Season's Greetings
 Please call for assistance with civic issues.

496-8140

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GROUNDS ESPRESSO BAR

A tall bean tale

by Tom Hind



Tom Hind and his giant pet bean plant Roger

It all started out as fun one early June morning when the sun was peeking from the east.

I had wet the soil thoroughly the night before, dispensing about 50 gallons on the area I

was going to plant. I took a small bag of creeper beans, and digging small holes in the soil, planted them tenderly, making sure they were banked with small mounds of moistened soil.

I never thought about the beans for a couple of rain drenched weeks that kept me out of the garden. One day, in early July, the sun returned to the sky and heated my beans with his rays.

The beans germinated and started to pop out of the ground. As soon as I could see them sprouting, I put stakes in the ground that they could creep up and readily flower on.

As a joke, I took a 10 foot long branch that had blown off a tree and staked one bean with it. I thought if the bean grew that tall, it would be the mightiest bean tree in the world. The branch I planted had many side arms to it, providing the bean with numerous choices about where to creep next.

Within a month, the bean had sprouted hundreds of long tendrils which vined their way to the top of the branch, flowering as it crawled in the night. Each morning I would go out to the garden and say good morning to my bean tree and splash it with a bucket of friendly water.

And it would grow and grow and grow.

On the 28th of July, I fol-

lowed my same routine: hello to the sun perched in the sky; hello to my plant, which I had become fond of, and in my head, thought of as Roger, a nice pet name.

When I looked at Roger to see how he'd grown in the night, I was totally aghast. Roger had taken off for the heights and now sat solidly twined to the telephone cable 20 feet above my head.

"My God," I thought, "what's happening here? Roger is turning into a giant!"

Two weeks later, Roger had curled himself around the house, leafing wildly. He had grown tendrils the size of octopus tentacles and was growing over everything. Roger's vines were three inches thick and fattening every day.

It got so bad that Roger blocked out the sunshine with its vine. Roger started creeping up the road, curling around any stationary object. He grew over houses. Up telephone poles. Around sign posts. On the sidewalk. Roger was everywhere and moving slowly up the street, engulfing everything in its path.

It got so bad that angry neighbours called City Councillors, complaining about my bean. They took up a petition banning

Roger from the area. In a phone call with Councillor Robert Noce, I was told in no uncertain terms to chop Roger down.

It was with much sadness I took my axe to Roger.

After all, he was a life form to be treasured, I thought. But City Council didn't see it that way. They told me Roger was a travelling hazard and had to go.

The sharpened axe that I took to Roger got sticky from Roger's blood. But finally, I chopped through his core and stole his life.

I sit in my house now and think angrily of City Council forcing me to kill my pet bean. But what can you do about it, eh? A bylaw's a bylaw. And Roger broke it.

Before burning chopped up pieces of Roger, I managed to take 700 bushels of beans off him, which I sold to the manager of Lucky 97 Grocery Store for a tidy sum. I figured I should share Roger with the community.

Beans, beans, good for the heart, the more you eat, the more you ...

*Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season
"Our Impression Will Keep You Smiling"*

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Mama Toni - A McCauley Gem

by Mary Gallivan



Mama Toni (left), Marie Butler, Caroline Stuart and Rosalie Gelderman at the wedding of Marie Butler and Harvey Voogd.

Living in McCauley for the past 41 years makes Mama Toni deeply rooted in the neighbourhood.

Antonia Pontieri left Italy in the mid-fifties as a 19-year-old on a trip paid for by her mother to visit relatives in Edmonton. Once here, she met Cesare Favaro and stayed to marry him in Sacred Heart Church.

They settled in McCauley and had a daughter Irma, and twins, Phillip and Philomena. Mama Toni and her husband also have one grandson, Ali, whom they are very proud of.

Speaking of her husband, Mama Toni says, "My husband is a very intelligent man. He worked with the police during

World War II, and was awarded a medal for his contributions. He also worked as a chef in France, Switzerland, Yellowknife, and at the Chateau Lacombe here in Edmonton. Cesare has been ill for the past 14 years and Mama Toni has cared for him in their home.

When asked how she got the name "Mama Toni", she shrugs her shoulders and replies "I don't know. Everyone calls me Mama Toni for 20 years or so. I walk down the street and everybody calls me Mama Toni. Even people I don't know!"

Mama Toni visits Sacred Heart Church every morning. The staff don't know how she got her name either, but they feel they

know why it stuck.

Parish secretary Kathleen Bellerose comments: "She's like a mother. She calls me 'Baby' and brings me Italian dishes and goodies."

Mama Toni loves living in

McCauley.

"People treat me good. I have no fear. Everyone is my brother and sister."

She speaks highly of her neighbours Rosalie Gelderman, Caroline Stuart, Harvey Voogd and Marie Butler saying "They are good neighbours. They make me happy."

Caroline says "Mama Toni

is the best neighbour I've ever had. She gives me cigarettes, she talks to me, and she tells me I'm beautiful."

Walking her Sheltie dog 'Lady' throughout the neighbourhood as well as the river valley keeps Mama Toni healthy and in touch with many people. She is truly one of the neighbourhoods' treasures, known and loved by many.

St. Michael SCHOOL Poetry

by Reny Clericuzio,
Principal, St. Michael Catholic School

The grade five class at St. Michael School have been busy settling into a new school year.

As part of the Language Learning Curriculum, the children have written poetry on their ideas and sentiments about returning to school.

We have included some of their writings for your enjoyment.

School is for kids to learn
Classes are so cool
Homework is wonderful
Out of the home to play
Outstanding school for kicks
Learning to spell is great!

by Nghi Nguyen

School is good for us
Cool stuff in school
Hot lunch is cool
Open our circle
Off to grade five
Learning is cool

by Aaron Wolfleg

School is cool
Canada's favourite school
Hot lunch tastes good
Outstanding kids
Outstanding teachers
Last year was cool too

by Charlene Martin

Super good math
Computers are good to work with
Hot lunch is very, very good
Open our circle is our school song
Outstanding school for all kids
Listen to the teacher

by John Le

Students are learning all the time
Cool students are celebrating
Hot lunch is so... cool!
Off to a great start
Open the doors to school
Lots of fun for everyone

by Jeffrey Tran

Students are so smart
Cool grades in school
Hot lunch programs are so awesome
Outstanding, awesome school
Out of school care is available
Lunch is so delicious

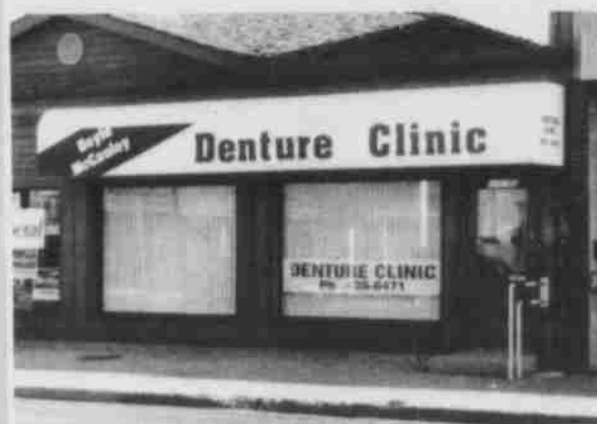
by Jenna Buck

School is cool
Cool games in computer
Homework is hard
Outsmart the kid
Outstanding kids
Learning new stuff

by Tuong Nguyen

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