

Boyle McCauley News

FREE (in Boyle Street & McCauley)

July-August 1999

Land Trust renews derelict housing and provides dream homes

by Kate Quinn

McCauley residents Irma Favero, Anna Bubel and Bob McKeon along with other members of the Central Edmonton Community Land Trust (CECLT) cheered when City Council gave the final go ahead to a unique project. The Land Trust was granted \$440,000 from the City's Low Income Capital Assistance Program to purchase derelict houses in McCauley and Alberta Avenue. Renovations will be partially funded through a RRAP (Rental and Rooming House Renovation Program) contribution of approximately \$240,000. The end result is that 16 properties will become homes for 20 households.

Irma Favero hopes to be approved for one of the houses. She and her son, Ali, have lived in McCauley all of their lives. Irma always dreamed of owning a home, but this seemed out of reach on her income. "I'm one of the working poor," says Irma, "I can pay for monthly housing costs, but I can never save for a down payment."

The Land Trust works for people in Irma's situation. The Trust will own the land and families will own the houses or units. "When I was at my lowest point and had all but given up hope, Bob McKeon came to me in a dream. His hands were open and he said, "Irma, don't cry anymore. We believe in you. There's hope

still. We'll find you a house." After that dream I felt peaceful and had hope again," she said.

"City Council also gets my thanks", Irma said. "Especially Councillors Brian Mason and Michael Phair. I feel they are working for people like me and my community. By approving this project, they have given us all hope."

This project responds to two important issues for our neighbourhoods", said Anna Bubel, a board member of the Land Trust. "Dealing with derelict housing through renovation and increasing our community's ability to control property. We can curb land speculation by taking away power from absentee landlords and putting decent housing into the hands



Terry from Wyser Contracting "lifts" an old house to new heights to house more people. A new foundation and other renovations will create 11 self-contained units with 1 bedroom, full bath and kitchen. Total project cost is around \$200,000, including \$99,000 from the RRAP program. Look for the re-opening of this historic house at 9315 108A Avenue on October 1. Photo by Kate Quinn

of ordinary folks."

Bob McKeon, also a board member, agrees, "Another benefit is that this will keep families like the Faveros in the neighbourhood and attract new families, too. This means more children for our local schools. Our neighbourhood becomes

stronger when there is a mix of people of all ages and cultures. Helping people own their own homes means they don't have to move so often looking for decent, affordable housing"

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Mid-summer wheels tune-up



Three-year-old Joshua waits while his tricycle is repaired by one of the volunteer bike mechanics at the second Bike Repair Fair at the Sacred Heart Park. Photo by Linda Dumont

The Bike Repair Fair, Sunday, July 25, attracted a crowd of inner city residents to the Sacred Heart Park at 108 Avenue and 96 Street. Participant came not only to have bikes repaired, but also to learn skills to keep their bikes in working

order, and to purchase second hand bikes. "The idea with this project is to provide a needed service to residents in this area, as well as build community and have some fun," said Svea Rawe, one of the event organizers. "A lot of people (in the

inner city) ride bikes - for a lot of people it's their primary form of transportation. Unfortunately, many don't have enough disposable income to afford proper repair and maintenance. Seven bike mechanics volunteered their time to

repair the bikes using donated parts. Mechanic Roy Kok, who works as a mechanic at a bicycle shop, was kept busy repairing bikes at the rate of about one every 15 minutes. Many needed their brakes fixed, or other adjustments. Another mechanic worked solely on fixing flat tires. For some people the Bike Repair Fair was an opportunity to have a "tune-up". James May brought over a bike he bought two weeks ago at a police auction to get

checked out. He said he rides his bike all the way to Mill Woods for his baby-sitting job. May had to replace his bike because his bikes tend to get stolen. Albert Bernard came to the Bike Repair Fair not only to have his bike repaired, but also to buy a bike for his daughter. He was able to buy one of the used bikes on sale for \$5 each, then have it checked over by the mechanics. A similar Bike Repair Fair was held in May.

City award given to two inner city activists

Two members of the Boyle Street- McCauley community were honoured with Edmonton's Salute to Excellence Award on June 3. Mayor Bill Smith presented framed pictures and framed certificates to Dr. Joe Clouthier and Kate Quinn in a ceremony at the Winspear Centre. Salute to Excellence is a citation award for community service. In the next issue of the Boyle McCauley News, Kate Quinn and her community service work will be featured. On page 11 of this issue Joe Clouthier's story is told.

Catfishing



by Tom Hind

It was a summer pleasure for the cats to go fishing. Billy Balls, the male, liked to search the shallow waters along the bank of the North Saskatchewan River for crayfish that hid under rocks. Beatrice, the female sister, liked chasing schools of minnows that came into shore to feed on the algae instead. This particular day, cloud-streaked and windy, they were having trouble hunting up playfish and crayfish.

The tawny cats had searched the shallows for hours. Now, at 9 a.m., all they found was a fisherman named Cal Kennedy, who was looking for bigger fish. But the goldeyes and pickerel and pike were not biting this day. It seemed that when the wind was a souther and caused the water to ripple and tinkle and giggle with frothy wavelets the fish hid on the bottom or deep water and were disinterested in food — even the wiggliest worms. Billy Balls and Beatrice decided to sit in the bushes and watch this Cal for a while. Maybe there was something to be learned about fishing from humans.

After watching this Cal-man for a few minutes the sun suddenly burst through the black, swollen cloud-bellies. The wind died and the river became calm. Of a sudden Cal's rod took a mighty dip and the little tinkle-bell he had attached to the tip of his rod chimed crazily. The rod took a few more dips as the snared fish tugged for its life. As the rod came to life, so did Cal. He ran the few feet to the rod and, grabbing it, gave it a huge, hook-setting pull. Billy Balls and Beatrice watched avidly and raptly all the motion that was going on. They wondered why the rod that was

stuck in the mud was jumping up and down and what the strange bell noise was.

It took Cal a few minutes to bring in the fish, a six pound catfish. At the shore the fish thrashed and splashed and finally gave up the struggle.

Cal flipped the line hard and the fish took a leap in the air and landed by the feet of the surprised Billy Ball and Beatrice. It flopped miserably and gasped for air. Between gasps the fish managed to mew out between its large, curled whiskers: "Please help me. This big, bad fisherman has me snared in the mouth. And I don't want to die today. Besides, I am the water variety of you land cats and that makes us kin of a sorts. Please help me."

Cal came into the long grass where he thought the fish had landed. By now Billy Ball and Beatrice had time to smell this water-cat and to console him in his grief. They telepathically told the fish, who they found out was named Herman, that they'd set things straight.

As Cal bent down and picked Herman up by the gills and dislodged the hook Billy Balls took a great leap at the rump bent over in front of him. He landed on Cal's behind with all claws set to hook and disengage the enemy.

"Yahhh!" yelled Cal as the sharp claws penetrated his ample flesh. In a reflex action he tossed Herman. The pleased fish landed in the tepid bank water and slowly finned his way out to the deeps. As Cal had been bent over when Billy Boy had gouged him he had not seen the cat. As soon as Billy had Herman free he jumped off Cal and made his way into the bush with Beatrice. They were laughing as they galloped away.

Later, when they were resting down by the beaver thatch house, Beatrice said to Billy: "Teach that human to play around with cats, eh? Land or water variety." They chuckled insidiously and gleefully at the morning memory.

To this day Cal still scratches his head wondering what in the blazes had stung him on the bum. It'll likely remain a mystery forever. One good thing, though, Cal swore off catfishing for food and practises a catch and release program with them. Maybe there is some justice in the world.

Land Trust and dreams



A bulldozer finishes the job on a derelict house on 92nd Street. This house was a source of problems for neighbours and the scene of a major fire in October, 1997. A new duplex is rising on the site of this old eyesore. Photo by Kate Quinn

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The Central Edmonton Land Trust began with a dream about five years ago. McCauley residents and potential homeowners joined with members of the Immigrant Neighbourhoods Planning Group, the Menonite Centre for Newcomers, Communitas Group and Edmonton Community Services staff from the Central and River Valley services area to work on affordable housing projects. One way to do this is through a land trust. There are many successful land trusts in other provinces, the United States and developing countries. The Edmonton dream became a non-profit society with a vision and by-laws and then it was time for action.

McCauley and Alberta Avenue and other central neighbourhoods have been struggling with the burden of derelict houses for years. Affordable housing is another major concern. When the federal government put more dollars into the RRAP program, the CECLT proposed that derelict houses could be renovated and sold to families. The dream became a reality with City Council's decision on July 6. The houses will be renovated by the fall and families will settle into their new homes. Edmonton can be proud of this unique project. The good news is that this is just the beginning. The CECLT will look for more houses and more members will achieve their dreams.

A long-term effect will be increased community stability.

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After school care subsidy freeze causes waiting list

by Phil O'Hara



Kaeley Thompson, whose father works at the Bissell Store, "has a blast" working as a volunteer helper at the Bissell Centre Child Care. Child care staff say she does a great job with the little ones. Photo by Linda Dumont

One local low-income family is waiting for a space to free up at the McCauley Community After School Care after the city imposed a waiting list for its after-school care subsidy.

By the fall, there may be five or six more people on the waiting list, cautions Molly Platts, executive director of the McCauley program. Currently, 34 of the 36 children are subsidized with one family not qualifying for the subsidy and the other on the waiting list.

"Whether it's five kids or 70, for the individual families, it's very anxious," Platts said. "There isn't a level playing field for low-income people because they don't have the option to go to a private after-care program. Basically, they're waiting for someone to move or a child to graduate to grade six and leave the pro-

gram."

Ana Diaz, mother of three elementary school children and a board member of the McCauley program, was on a waiting list in 1997. A hotel housekeeper, she couldn't afford the full price for out-of-school care. "Where I was working, all the money I had to pay for the day care was more than I earned." Then, as now, Social Services covers the subsidy of families on the waiting list.

More than 4,000 children throughout the city are in out-of-school care, with about 2,240 of them in subsidized spaces. The city is subsidizing 200 more spaces a month than its \$5.5 million annual budget can handle according to Cathy Barnhart, a community services branch manager.

The waiting list was imposed in June and will stay in place until the department is satis-

fied the program won't go over budget for the year, Barnhart explained.

Under the program, low-income people who are working or going to school pay about \$55 towards the \$280 monthly cost of caring for an elementary school-age child before and after classes.

Anyone already receiving the subsidy won't be affected by the waiting list and it will also cover new siblings of children currently in the program. When faced with similar funding shortfalls in the past, the McCauley program asked parents to pay what they can, Platts explained, but the program can't take in 10 new children without subsidies.

Barnhart suggested the waiting lists at the 150 sites in the city might swell to a couple of hundred people in the fall when the demand typically increases.

Federal funding for these types of programs has dropped for the past three years while demand has risen. In the past, Edmonton has topped up the program and used one-time provincial grants to meet the demand, but this time, additional money has not been allocated to make up the shortfall.

Platts said the current subsidy problem reflects the lack of commitment by all levels of government to provide adequate resources for quality childcare.

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Pocklington scholars at McCauley School



Despite his ongoing legal problems, Peter Pocklington attended Awards Day at McCauley Elementary-Junior High School on June 25 where he awarded scholarships to 14 Grade 9 graduates. The Pocklington Scholarship Award pays for \$2000 in tuition for every year the student is enrolled in secondary education at any college or university.

Back row - Angie Ly, Naomi Giroux, Derek Parent, David Tran, Dean Madge, Lynette Tran, Peter Pocklington.

Front row: Trung Tran, Sam Mah, Chheun Kot, Linda Nguyen, Bonita Lau, Mai Lam, Navy Lim, Irene Liang.

Marathoners to run through "enchanted" inner city

At the end of August over two thousand runners will be jogging and running through Boyle Street and McCauley.

The start and finish of the Edmonton Festival Marathon is moving from its usual spot at the Kinsmen Centre to Commonwealth Stadium on Sunday August 22nd. The move is in preparation for the 2001 World Track and Field Games. The course the runners will follow is being proposed for that championship.

The marathon route includes Stadium Road, 82nd Street, Jasper Avenue, 97th Street and 107A Avenue. Long distance runners (those running 21 and 42 kilometres) will start at 7 in the morning and finish two or more hours later. A mini-marathon of 5 kilometres will also be run that morning.

A magazine for runners, *Runner's Times*, describes our neighborhood this way: "the marathon will lead its participants through the scenic and ethnically enchanting neighborhoods surrounding the Stadium."

CORRECTION: In an article in the June 1999 issue - "Developer finds attitudes towards Boyle-McCauley discouraging" - we state "to qualify (to purchase a house under the CHAP program) a family had to have a yearly income of \$30. That figure should have read \$30,000. We apologize for any confusion.

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Neighborhood cleaned up; stuff recycled

by Svea Rawe

On June 19, McCauley celebrated its fourth annual Community Clean Up, and the event could not have been better. "It was way more successful than expected", commented one volunteer. "Considering that it only took a few hours, we sure got a lot done."

This year's garbage round up brought in a record amount of waste from the community, and it was the first year that the McCauley Community League organized a "large item pick up" in conjunction with the usual street clean.

You might have noticed the large garbage bin outside of the McCauley Apartments on that particular weekend. (Sorry it was out there so long!) That bin was completely filled with old couches, broken appliances and other large junk which volunteers generously gathered from resident's backyards and front porches.

Not everything was junk, however. Anything collected that was still of use was redistributed to other residents. It was an afternoon of Do It Yourself recycling. People were constantly coming and going from the tables beside the bin, to enjoy coffee and juice, check out the free stuff, and take clothes and household items away with them. "It [the clean up] was a nice exchange, and it was really social," remarked

Niliema Karkhanis.

Karkhanis, a volunteer at the event, said she especially enjoyed the clean up because of how great it was to see everyone out participating. Judging by the positive community response and by the amount of garbage collected, a needed service was definitely provided.

But the work is not done. The clean up is an ongoing community project. The next effort will involve extending the clean up to include private properties in the area. Landlords and property owners owe it to the community to keep their respective areas clean and safe, not only in the name of beautification, but also for the health and wellness of their tenants and neighbors. There will be an ongoing commitment by the community league to ensuring that they fulfill this duty.

If you would like more information about the McCauley Community League and our summer projects, or would like to volunteer your time, contact Svea at 604-4359.



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Boyle McCauley News

Vol. 13, No. 5

July-August 1999

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.

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Inner city wins one



The former Golden Harvest Theatre has been sold, but plans to turn it into a sports bar have been rejected by the city. *Photo By Bob Whyte*

by Bob Whyte

The city has rejected an application to turn the former Golden Harvest Theatre on 10425-95 St. into yet another bar.

An unnamed company, hiding behind the numbers 678371 Alberta Ltd., applied to the city to convert the former Golden Harvest Theatre into a 52-seat bar for "lonely seniors singles".

The application was seen as

undesirable by a number of people.

Brian Middleton, an innovative inner city housing developer, said such a pub-bar would be detrimental because of the area's social problems and would be against the city's plans to rebuild Boyle McCauley.

Joe Clouthier, president of the Boyle Street Community League, said he can already see numerous drinking spots from his office window.

McCauley Seniors' Group, McCauley Community League and Edmonton Seniors One Voice Association (ESOVA) made resolutions and wrote letters to the city regarding the area's problems with alcohol, prostitution and traffic. In his letter, ESOVA president Bob Whyte said a nearby sports pub area has become known for thefts, assaults, and intimidation.

City Development Control rejected the bar application primarily on the basis of inadequate parking.

Public Meeting to discuss the Impact of 2001 games

by Linda Dumont

In August of 2001, Edmonton will proudly host the 2001 Track and Field Games. Many facilities throughout the city have to be upgraded to accommodate this event well. Two of the key facilities are Clarke and Commonwealth stadiums are both located in our neighborhood. C.S.N.A. (Commonwealth Stadium Neighborhood Alliance) is made up of representatives from the Alberta Avenue, the Boyle Street, McCauley, Parkdale/Cromdale Community Leagues and the Norwood Neighbourhood Association. This group has been meeting with representatives of the City administration and with the 2001 organizers to address issues and looks at opportunities connected to the games. A public meeting is being held for community members living near the stadium to inform them about opportunities for them to become involved and to inform them of issues that may arise both during the games and as a result of upgrades to the facilities. The meeting will be held in Commonwealth Stadium's Green and Gold Room on August 9, 1999 at 7:00 PM.

Both stadiums will be improved leaving a legacy for the City for the future. New running tracks will be installed with the east grandstand at Clarke stadium being removed to make room for the track. Replacement of the natural turf with artificial turf in Clarke Stadium to allow more frequent use is being considered as an option. Upgrades include VIP and media seating at Com-

monwealth Stadium and new scoreboards and sound systems at both stadiums. A Press Centre and International Broadcast Centre will need to be built, and the existing tennis courts have been suggested as a potential site for these.

While these improvements will leave a positive legacy for the community, living under the shadow of two stadiums, people in many parts of Boyle Street and McCauley are aware of the impacts of the stadiums' proximity. C.S.N.A. is working to minimize impacts on the community that stem from the events at the Stadium, both regular events and the Edmonton 2001 World Championships. They have identified concerns involving the site design for Edmonton 2001; traffic and parking issues, garbage and recycling difficulties and our neighbourhood image. The Alliance is working with the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton 2001 Committee to alleviate these problems, both in the short term during the Championships in August 2001 and over the long term with the stadium events that continue throughout the summers.

Opportunities will be available to participate with representatives from both the City of Edmonton and Edmonton 2001 in small groups to address identified areas up to and beyond the start date of the World Championships in Athletics in August 2001

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SCOOP THIS:

School Lunch Program needs volunteers for summer snack program



Candace Furneaux (left) and volunteers prepare snacks for this summer's Snack-In-The-Shack program
Photo by Alan Hak

Portrait of a McCauley musician: John Phillips

by Michelle Karasinski

John Phillips is a Celtic musician who has lived in the McCauley neighbourhood for nine years.

He grew up in Wales and is part Irish, so he has been around Celtic music most of his life. He started playing folk guitar as a teenager. In the last few years he has rediscovered Celtic music and started playing it seriously.

Phillips plays the harmonica as well. He also plays the pennywhistle, as do other members of his group, The McCauleys.

The McCauleys include Phillips' wife, Valerie Phillips, Margaret Amerongen-McKeon, Kate Quinn, and Rosalie Gelderman, all residents in the Boyle McCauley community. They have

played at many weddings, parties, and coffee houses but not at large venues. However, in June the group played at the 97th Street Farmers' Market, and will play there again August 28.

Most of the group's work is traditional Celtic music. Some of the songs are Phillips' own compositions. Phillips has no trouble writing music; he says it just comes to him. When asked why he enjoys playing Celtic music, Phillips answered, "Music feeds my soul. It feeds my spirit."

Phillips is also a high school English teacher. He enjoys his job and hasn't considered music as a career. "I don't know about a career (in music). ...I'll just let it unfold."

by Bonita Lau

The Edmonton School Lunch Program (ESLP), which prepares snacks for many summer playground programs and lunches for 12 schools during the school year, is in need of volunteer help and funding.

The ESLP was formed in 1992 by a group of parents who were concerned about the lack of food for children. Its mission is to provide elementary students with hot lunches for a fee of a dollar a meal or whatever the children's families can afford.

The School Lunch Program is only available at 12 high need schools: McCauley, Norwood, Eastwood, St. Patrick, Rundle, Sacred Heart, St. Francis, St. Michael's, McDougall, R.J. Scott, Prince Charles, and Sherbrooke.

While the ESLP serves a large

area, it does not have enough funding to operate in all high need schools. Unstable funding from community businesses makes it near impossible for the ESLP to expand.

"We need more stable funding in order to expand and to address all the schools and children that are at high risk," says Candice Furneaux, the ESLP Family Liaison.

The ESLP also runs the Snack in the Shack program at 18 parks throughout the city. It provides children with a snack while they enjoy Community Services' summer drop-in programs. Volunteers are needed this summer to prepare snacks for the over 400 children in this summer's Snack in the Shack program.

For more information about the ESLP, or to volunteer, call 424-5408.



John Phillips sits in his backyard reflecting on his passion: music.
Photo by Tony Vo

SCOOP THIS is a summer journalism workshop for youth. It is funded through a federal government STEP grant and by training dollars set aside by the Boyle McCauley Community Newspaper Society.

SCOOP THIS 1999 was developed, supervised and edited by Cameron Hoffman.

Contributing writers and photographers (for this issue) were: Joseph Guziak, Alan Hak, Michelle Karasinski, Bonita Lau, Vinh Luong, Suong Trieu, Kevin Truong, Tony Vo.

Young Writers Report

Providing for people in need: the WECAN Food Co-op



Lottie Dombrowsky organizes food orders for the WECAN Food Co-op.
Photo by Bonita Lau

Summer fun for McCauley kids: drop-in playground pro- grams

by Vinh Luong, Joseph
Guziak, and Kevin Truong

The City of Edmonton
Community Services department
(formerly Parks and
Recreation) is continuing its
summer drop-in recreation
programs at Sacred Heart
School and Giovanni Caboto
Park.

The programs and field trips
are free. The programs run
from 10am to 6pm, except
Mondays, when the program
runs from 2pm to 6pm.

An average of 20 kids per day
come to the Sacred Heart
playground for the programs,

says Joanna
Gallivan-Smith, one
of the McCauley
neighbourhood's
summer recreation
leaders.

"This is my fourth
year actually being
on site," says
Gallivan-Smith. "The
kids here mostly
like painting."

Children in the
drop-in programs
can play all sorts of
games, like
dodgeball and
basketball. They do
painting and crafts
and play tag games.



Joanna Gallivan-Smith, Community Services playground leader, in front of her green shack at Sacred Heart School. Photo by Suong Trieu

SCOOP THIS story meet-
ing in progress. Cameron
Hoffman (2nd from right)
leads some of his young
scribes through the news-
making process. The light-
hearted moment captured
here was not typical of the
serious nature of these two
week workshops.



community, when people there
realised the need for a service
that provides food not provided
by the Food Bank. The WECAN
Food Co-op provides its
members with monthly orders of
fresh fruit and vegetables, a
variety of meats, and a starch
product - usually potatoes.

Campos says that members of
the food co-op get a choice of
what they want. They pay a
yearly membership fee of \$5
and \$15 for each food order
they need.

This past month, Campos and her
assistant Lottie Dombrowsky,
along with a group of
volunteers, organised all sorts
of food. They made sure all
food orders were of equal size.
They put together different
kinds of meat like steak and
ground beef. They also put
plums, mangoes, cantaloupe,
potatoes, broccoli, and green
peppers in bags for the food
co-op members.

Food orders are usually
organised and ready for pick-up
sometime during mid-month.

by Alan Hak

Each month the
WECAN Food Co-op
provides food for
people in need at St.
Peter's Lutheran
Church.

"Anyone who can eat
can join," says Gail
Campos, who works
for the food co-op.

Campos is the
organiser of the food
co-op for the
McCauley community.
Her responsibilities
include collecting
food co-op
membership money
and buying food from
local wholesalers.
She has been working
with food co-ops in
different
communities for 10
years.

The WECAN ("we
can") Food Co-ops in
Edmonton started in
the Abbottsfield

Minister hears from homeless

by R.H. MacLachlan

Federal Minister of Labor Claudette Bradshaw, who co-ordinates the federal government's programs on homelessness, had an opportunity to hear from Edmontonians experiencing the problem, as well as those trying to deal with it, at a town hall meeting held at Alex Taylor School July 8. It was the second of 15 visits to communities experiencing a homelessness problem this summer.

Calling the meeting to order, moderator Divona Herzog said the purpose of the meeting was more to hear constructive solutions than to re-state the problem. She said she wanted to hear "Your experiences, your solutions, your success stories."

Speaking on behalf of Edmonton Community Services, Joyce Tustien summed up the key findings of the recent joint provincial-municipal task force on homelessness, to the effect that on one evening, March 18, 1999 836 persons, 112 of them children, had no permanent place to live on that date. Of these, 523 were in shelters, while 313 were "on the street". The count was made by checking with the shelters to see how many people were registered and by walking throughout the downtown area, asking people "Do you have a permanent place to live today?" and "Do you know anybody who does not have a permanent place to live today?" This figure is probably low, as the researchers (on the advice of the Edmonton Police Service) did not enter condemned buildings to seek homeless people, and had no way of finding people who were staying with friends or relatives temporarily.

Long range research by the task force included a variety of focus groups representing various stakeholders in the issue, and a literature search of the projects underway in other communities worldwide. These findings were presented to Mayor Bill Smith and to Community Services Minister Dr. Lyle Oberg and Municipal Affairs Minister Iris Evans on May 14 in a report titled "A Call To Action". Copies are available at Edmonton City Hall.

In her opening remarks, the Minister stressed the importance of all levels of government, as well as the community and private sectors, working in partnership. Then the floor was open for discussion.

Despite Herzog's initial request that the discussion focus on constructive solutions, the bulk of the speakers focused on re-stating the problem—that homelessness exists for many reasons—unemployment and unemployability, family breakdown, substance abuse, mental and physical disability, conflict with the social services system, and so forth. Other speakers put forth concepts that have been heard before, but without constructive details. Some of them were "turn the child tax credit system into a guaranteed annual income", "there are enough street people with brains who can figure out ways to get houses without government", "a house is not a home, just to provide shelter is not enough", "tear down the condemned houses owned by the City of Edmonton and construct low-income housing", and "use existing surplus government buildings (notably the old Federal Building and the Charles Camsell Hospital) for low income housing."

One novel idea presented was to move surplus housing from closed military bases and other Federal installations to areas where homelessness exists.

Pointing out that providing shelter is not enough, one speaker noted that while there has been a proliferation of group homes for the mentally handicapped in recent years, there are no standards for the quality of service, and "most other people in Edmonton don't want those kind of people in their neighborhoods."

Perhaps the best comment on the issue that services and shelter must go hand in hand was given by one mentally ill middle-aged gentleman who said "I have to get into trouble with the law and go to jail to get the help I need."

Owning a home is "heaven" for the Shorten family



It's an older home in the inner city, but for the Shorten family, this is a dream-home. The Shortens moved into their new home on 96 Street and 106 A Avenue July 15. Deana said they had been waiting to buy a used home through the Central Edmonton Community Land trust (see page 1) but "we had to move - we couldn't wait that long." Fortunately, they were able to manage the down-payment with help from a friend.

Photo by Linda Dumont

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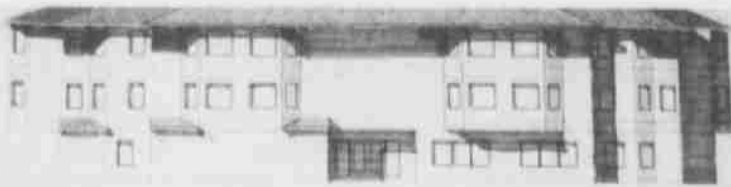
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Sun. 3pm-1am

McCauley Community League plans community centre/residential complex



1. Design A - FRONT ELEVATION



2. Design B - FRONT ELEVATION

This is an artist's rendering of the building plan chosen for the McCauley Community League.

Photo by Ron MacLachlan
by R.H. MacLachlan

The McCauley Community League, in association with the Handicapped Housing Society of Alberta, is planning to replace the present McCauley Community Hall and associated skating rink with a modern 3-story structure that will house a variety of community programs and services on the main floor and 20 housing units for mentally handicapped individuals on the second and third

floor.

Earlier this year, a number of representatives from organizations and agencies as well as representatives from the community along with project architect Larrie Taylor toured a number of community halls and noted their likes and dislikes about each. These comments, as well as copies of the plans for these buildings and photographs taken during the tour were presented to community representatives during

a four-hour public meeting Saturday, June 5.

The purpose of the meeting was to "brainstorm" and come up with possible programs and services to be offered at the center. The meeting broke up into two groups, and each group produced a list of ideas. Everyone got back together again to attempt to determine which programs and services were already being offered elsewhere in the community, which ones could be (and prob-

ably ought to be) offered elsewhere, and what priorities should be placed on those ones the center might offer. Finally, the limiting factors were considered.

The biggest limiting factor, Taylor said, was the fact that city bylaws require that seven parking stalls be provided for the residences, plus an additional twenty stalls for the hall. If all these stalls were to be provided on-site, as well as a small skating rink, the amount of actual space for the building would be limited.

While the consensus of opinion was that retaining a skating rink—no matter how small—was a must, it was felt

that the parking problem could be solved by entering into long-term parking agreements with other buildings in the area.

At the July 22 meeting of the McCauley Community League, a design was chosen from among three presented by architect Larrie Taylor.

The facility will contain a community hall with a capacity for 150 and a lounge seating about 50 as well as recreational and activity rooms and offices for community agencies. There will also be a residential housing units for mentally challenged individuals. The residential portion will consist of 20 bachelor suites with its entrance separate from the community facility.

Issues being faced with advent of 2001 games

continued from page 5

The four currently identified areas are

- 1) Site design
- 2) Neighborhood Image /Garbage and recycling
- 3) Traffic and parking
- 4) Economic Development / Volunteer Opportunities.

Information about how you can become involved will be

available at the August 9th meeting.

For immediate information, please contact: Gary Tonic, Director, Competition & Facility Development, Edmonton 2001 World Championships in Athletics ph (780) 414-2001, FAX (780) 414-6677

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Seniors Housing Forum

by Bob Whyte

Dr. Don Weideman PhD, Chair of the Greater Edmonton Foundation (GEF), Edmonton's leading housing agency for seniors, and Peter Goldring, MP for Edmonton East, were guest speakers at the Edmonton Seniors One Voice Association (ESOVA) meeting July 5 at McCauley Community League Hall.

Dr. Weideman noted recent changes to larger more efficient complexes and the change at McCauley Seniors' Lodge to a facility for hard to house seniors. Although some GEF seniors' residences were always full and had long waiting lists, other, like McCauley Seniors before the change, had persistent vacancies. McCauley Seniors' Lodge now has a waiting list.

He gave a breakdown of how finances are divided be-



Bob Whyte, re-elected chair of Edmonton Seniors One Voice Association (centre) with Dr. Don Weideman, Chair of the Greater Edmonton Foundation, and MP Peter Goldring. Goldring and Weideman were guest speakers at the seniors housing forum July 5. Photo by Bob Whyte

tween the city and the province, and the disparity between rural and urban funding. Weideman said quality of GEF governance has increased as

citizen representation increased and councillor representation decreased.

Goldring questioned the unseemly difference between the

costs of different residences, and stated that at least mat space must be provided for all who need shelter.

He said that his party has

named him national spokesman on affordable housing and homelessness

He was involved in the opening of McCauley Lodge and has made visits to inner city housing including Urban Manor, the George Spade Centre and the Herb Jamieson Centre. He said surplus Griesbach land should not just be sold to the highest bidder; it should be considered for social housing and a veteran's clinic.

At the ESOVA Annual General Membership meeting, Bob Whyte was re-elected chair, Albert Opstad was elected vice-chair, Frank McGregor as second vice-chair, Margaret Szun as recording secretary, and Michael Mahoney as treasurer. The next ESOVA meeting, Mon, Aug. 30, will be about vacancies on city of Edmonton boards and agencies.

Your Y2K problem

by Bob Whyte

Y2K means "Year 2000" and in our computer based world, many older computers have nothing available after the end of the year "99". No one knows for sure what will happen to all actions which rely on computers. The world, especially in countries like India that rely on older model computers, has insufficient computer technicians to fix all the non-compliant computers in time.

Alberta Emergency Headquarters in Capilano will be part of the 9-9-99 (Sept. 9, 1999) National Y2K Emergency Test Day in preparation for this year-end starting Monday, Dec. 27, 1999 and continuing into the new year for an unknown period. The Canadian Red Cross encourages each person to take some basic responsibility for himself or herself.

If your medications expire from Dec. 15, 1999 to Jan. 15, 2000, you should consult your physician about getting the medications earlier, before Dec. 15. Also, set aside a week or more of food such as canned food, meat, fish and fruit. Have some jugs of water for washing, cooking and flushing, bottles of drinking water, a battery operated flashlight and radio, candles and waterproof matches, toilet paper and soap, copies of prescriptions and certificates. Keep a supply of cash out of the bank to use in case of an emergency, and if you have a vehicle, make sure the gas tank is full.

Finally, where would you go for emergency shelter and food if normalcy breaks down? Are the Sacred Heart Church, The Mustard Seed and the Boyle Street Community Co-operative, for example, prepared with a plan, supplies and personnel?

If you have prepared, you have minimized your problems. If you don't prepare, you could be responsible for your own problem and a problem for others.

Editors note:

*Don't panic yet!
I recently had a friend over to help re-program my computer. He set it so it's good until 2099. I told him it will outlast*

me. When I asked about problems with the year end and computers, he said older models like the 486's are the ones that pose problems. Many are still in use in third world countries, even for essential services.

Here in Canada, most essential services have already upgraded their systems. However, as Bob Whyte says, especially for those who are dependent on medications, it's best to be prepared.

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Reaching youth through popular theatre

by Linda Dumont

When asked about the city's Salute to Excellence Award he received on June 3rd, Dr. Joe Clouthier couldn't recall exactly what it was called. He said he had been to the Winspear Centre for a "plaque and a handshake" because some anonymous person had nominated him for the award. He appeared to be far more interested in speaking about popular theatre and his students than about his achievements.

Dr. Joe Clouthier is president of Boyle Street Community League and Principal of Inner City High, but he is best known for using popular theatre to reach inner city youth.

His work in the community started in 1980 when he was a volunteer helping with a woodworking program at the Boys and Girls Club.

In 1983, he went to university to become a teacher. Having grown up in an inner city environment similar to Boyle Street, he wondered how he could fit in at the university. He said he was very shy until he took a drama course. That proved to be a turning point in his life.

"It was like jumping in the deep end of the pool. Some people just blossomed in it," said Clouthier. "I thought it would be a good way to work with inner city youth." He said many of the kids close themselves off as a way to survive, and drama could help them learn to express feelings.

When Clouthier graduated, he had two field placements working as a student teacher. He was left feeling that



the teachers he was working with didn't have enough sensitivity to reach their inner city students. They didn't understand where the students were coming from.

Clouthier concluded he would be better suited to working in the community than teaching, so he started drama groups at Alex Taylor School and the McCauley Boys and Girls Club. Then, in 1987, he discovered popular theatre. He said it seemed to be the ideal tool to work with.

In popular theatre, real life situations are acted out. Using drama allows people who are inarticulate to speak through theatre and to build trust.

"Through dealing with issues the

youth usually never speak about, we would create scenes from their experience, happy or sad, and find the crucial moment," said Clouthier. Often the topics dealt with sexual abuse, violence, and substance abuse as critical moments.

"We had to deal with that, then create the scene before and after. After that we changed the first scene to what the student would like it to be. Through that they realized there are choices to be made."

Many of the students Clouthier was working with didn't have a permanent place to live, so he rented a house on 108 Ave. where the youth could have food and a place to live.

"Then they were able to look to the future, and saw education as important," said Clouthier.

From there, Inner City High began, first as a tutoring service, then, in 1992, in the Boyle Street Community League Hall.

"We explained we had no money, and they (the community league) were supportive," said Clouthier. "February, 1993 we opened as a certified private school with seven students from our drama group and two of their friends."

In 1995, Inner City High became associated with the Edmonton Catholic School Board. There are now 60 students and five staff members in addition to Clouthier.

The students of Inner City High have taken popular theatre throughout Alberta to cultural camps, social work conferences, The Fringe, The Mustard Seed, and other venues. Last winter they performed at the Poverty Amidst Plenty Conference at the University of Alberta.

Clouthier said receiving the Salute to Excellence Award would never have been possible without his dedicated staff. Alexina Dalgetty is a trained play write who has worked with Clouthier since 1990. Elan Properzi came to work on a grant in her second year of university then volunteered her time. She has been with Inner City High for three years since graduating. Janice Fehr is the art teacher, Luis D'Elia teaches science, and Lance Marty, who was a drama group member, is the youth worker.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please fax your information for the community calendar to 424-2868 or call the office at 425-3475

August

If your organization or group has monthly meetings or gatherings they can be placed in this actual calendar in addition to the more detailed section below.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	September		October	

McCauley Community League (MCL) Summer Activities:

Registration and Information: call Svea at 425-8883

Self Defense Classes - August 9, 16, 23, 30; 6:30-9:30pm; \$20 members/\$25 non-members; McCauley Community Hall

Adults and Youth In-Line Skating Lesson: August 21

Sportin' Around: August 23-27; McCauley Community League Hall. Learn new sports.

Neighborhood Party: August 28. End of summer barbecue with entertainment; watch for posters for more details.

McCauley Community League

Board meeting (all members welcome): first Monday of each month @ 6:45pm, Community League Hall.

AIDS Network is looking for volunteers who could take on the following tasks:

- people who are HIV positive to join our speakers bureau
- aboriginal people who are HIV positive or negative to work with support services and health promotion
- young people to help us with a variety of new youth initiatives

Call June at 488-5742

Community Economic Development Network

This city wide group meets every second Wednesday of the month in the board room of the Boyle McCauley Health Centre. Meetings are bag lunch, from 11:30 - 1:00pm. For anyone interested in community economic development. Contact 424-2870 for upcoming events.

The Mustard Seed

Drop-In: Mon-Fri 9am - 3pm
Hot Lunch: Mon-Fri: Noon-1pm
Evening Drop-In: Wed & Fri 7-9pm
Sunday Chapel Service: 3pm
Sunday Meals: 3:30-4:30pm
Clothing Bank: Mon-Fri 9-3
Food Bank Depot: Tue & Fri 10-11:30am; 1-2:30pm

Boyle McCauley Health Centre

10628 - 96 Street
Mon. To Thurs. 9am to 9pm, Fri. 9am to 4:30pm
Immunization Clinic for Children: Mon. 1-3pm
Foot Clinic: Wed. 1-3pm
Dental Clinic and Streetworks: open during clinic hours

McCauley LETSystem

A neighbourhood barter society. Contact 424-2870 for information.

Women's Health Clinic

Thursday evenings at the Boyle McCauley Health Centre. Supper at 5:00 p.m. and guest speakers.

Edmonton Women's Health Network

Open to all women with an interest in good quality health care for women.
Call 421-7333 ext. 2511

Operation Friendship

9526-106 Avenue
McCauley Seniors Drop-in: Mon. To Fri.: 9am to 6:30pm
Sat. & Sun.: 10:30am to 6:30pm

Edmonton Family Worship Centre

10605-96 Street 424-6422
Sunday Worship and Children's Ministry: 10:30am & 6:30pm
Intercessory Prayer Tues. & Fri. 7 to 9am
Cell Groups: Tues., Wed., and Thurs.: call office for info.

Hope Mission Women and Family Centre

9908 - 106 Avenue
Every Friday: 1-3pm. Drop in for FREE clothes and some household items. For women and children only.
Every 4th Wednesday: Chapel/Luncheon 2-3pm

St. Peter Lutheran Church

9606-110 Avenue 426-1122
Community Breakfast
Tues. & Thurs. 7:30 to 9am (Porridge, toast, juice, and coffee)
Kids Club: Mon. 6 to 7:15pm
Martial Arts Jeet Kune Do 15 yrs.+ Sun. 6:30 to 8pm

Bissell Centre

Native Circle: Wed. 7pm
Movie Night: Thurs. 7pm
Women's Lunch: Fri. 12 to 12:30

Salvation Army

9611-102 Avenue
Men's Residence
Anchorage Addiction and Rehab Program
Chapel Services: Mon.-Fri. 8:15-8:30am and Sun. 6:15pm
Community Soup Line: Wed. 2:45-3:45pm
Men's Clothing: Mon. to Fri. 8:15-8:45am
Phone 429-4274

Freedom Metropolitan Community Church

Forum on Diversity, Fellowship and Worship, August 28, 10am-3pm; for information call 488-2085 or 454-3925. We are a Church for all people and play a vital role in addressing the spiritual needs of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community.

Community of Emmanuel: Worship Services, Sundays, 11am at the Bissell Centre. Followed by lunch

Collective Kitchen

We have lunch together and then take home three meals for eating when you want. We meet on the first Saturday of each month 11035-92 Street from 10:00am to 2:00pm \$2.00 for four meals- A great value for your money! For more info. Call Trish at 428-1776.

Wecan (City Centre) Food Co-op.

Food fee of \$15.00. Pick-up is the third Thursday of every month, 11:00 - 3:00pm at St.Peter's Lutheran Church, 9606-110 Avenue. Fee deadline is the first Friday of each month. Contact Gail at 424-2870.

Circle of Friends

Friday, October 15, 7:30pm: A gathering of song, dance, poetry and storytelling. Downstairs at First Christian Reformed Church, 10956-96 Street. Suggested donation: 2 toonies (\$4); students, seniors, low income: \$2; children 12yrs. & under: \$1