

A Tale of Two Houses

by Kate Quinn

A new house is rising from the ashes of a burned down house at the corner of 92 Street and 107 Avenue. The first fire in September, 1997 was started by children and the house was boarded up. A second fire in December, 1997 was started by people who broke in. This fire completely destroyed the house and damaged the one next door so badly that it, too, had to be boarded. The burned site was an eyesore for the neighbourhood and a safety hazard for children. Community action got the City to put up a fence and the cost was added to the taxes. Later, the site was cleared by a new owner. Now, a third owner is building the house. This is good news for the neighbours and a positive sign of hope for the community.

The boarded house next door is still a problem. It sits ugly and forlorn. Its owner and an insurance company have not yet come to terms. While they work it out, the neighbourhood suffers. The Safer Cities Sub-Committee on Derelict Housing is working to create better ways for the City and community to deal with such houses. There will be a public meeting in June to report on positive actions.



Photo by Kate Quinn

Inner city housing breaks ground

by R.H. MacLachlan

Six on the way, over 1250 needed. Those are the numbers in Edmonton's ongoing battle against homelessness.

In a brief ceremony April 30, the Edmonton Inner City Housing Society (EICHS) broke ground for the six-unit row-house project at 9342 101A Avenue - its tenth project to date. The other nine contain 28 family units.

Four of the new units will contain three bedrooms, while the remaining two will have four.

Some money for the project was obtained through a special disbursement from the Rice Endowment Fund managed by the Edmonton Community Foundation. The Edmonton Community Lottery Board contributed \$579,991.

Taking part in the rain-dampened sod-turning ceremony were Gene Zwozdesky, representing the Provincial government (Community Development), Lawrence Tymko (Edmonton Community Lottery Board); Ronald Odynski, (Edmonton Community Foundation); Pam Barrett, MLA for Edmonton-Highlands; Calvin

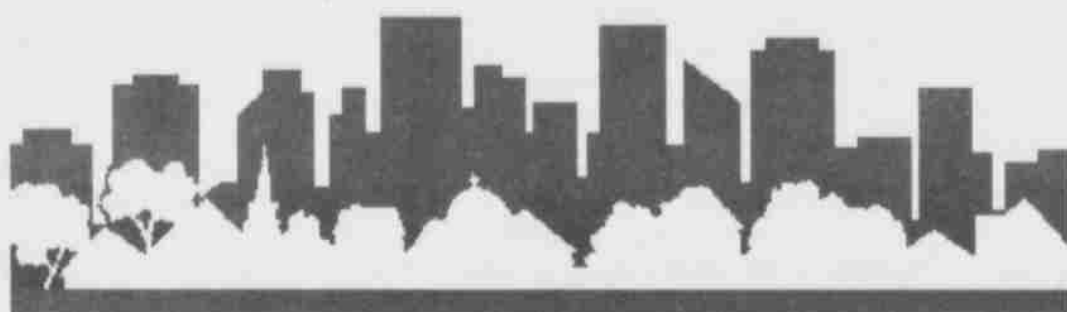
Kennedy (tenant at one of the existing EICHS projects); and Bob Kennedy (the Society's current President).

The building was designed by architect Larrie R. Taylor, with project management by Habitat Studio and Workshop Ltd.

Edmonton's four suppliers of affordable housing list requirements for about 1250 units - EICHS: 38 families, 96 singles, two year wait; Capital Region Housing Corporation: 400 families, 400 singles, up from zero ten months ago; Canadian Mental Health Association: 52 singles; Handicapped Housing Society of Alberta: 114 families, 297 singles.

Because of client confidentiality rules, it is impossible to compare these lists and eliminate duplication of names between them. The City of Edmonton Non-Profit Housing Corporation does not keep a list. Instead, it refers clients to the resident managers of buildings it contracts with on an as-come, as-served basis.

The six units being constructed by EICHS will be ready for occupancy by November.



Boyle McCauley News

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May 1999



A ground-breaking ceremony was held April 30 to mark the beginning of construction of the Inner-City Housing Society's 10th community housing project. Photo by Ron MacLachlan



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Living poetry



by Tom Hind

I have known Henry Bosscha for about three years. A couple of years ago Henry confided to me that he wrote poetry. As a matter of fact, he's been writing since he was six years old. So I told Henry to show me something, maybe get him into print. But getting into print wasn't a major goal for Henry.

Anyway, two years later he finally came to my place and he gave me 'Living Candle'. "Personally, Tom, I write for my own healing," says Henry. "But at age 41 I am ready to come out of my shell, and I trust you."

As I see it, poetry is a sacred work that should be given to the world, so others in pain, joy, laughter or tears might share in the healing of the poet

and the insights of the poem.

Anyway, "Living Candle" is Henry's coming out poem, coming out of the seclusion and mystery from which it was born.

Enjoy, folks.

LIVING CANDLE

by Hendrix Christian Bosscha

*Insidious whisperings, all enticing pain,
Endless urgings to play my dirty game
Loaded with a gun of guilt
Wrapped in a shroud of shame.*

*My hunger is a prison binding,
blinding
My anguish so indiscreet —
A self-destruction
Knowing no retreat.*

*So insightful — yet
Unable to see
This very engulfing
And fractured reality.*

*I am a living candle
Consumed so others may see
The many things to be learned
In the light of my agony.*

Our Voice - on the street for five years



Vendors were served a meal of chilli at the Fifth Anniversary Celebration for Our Voice Newspaper.
Photo by Linda Dumont

by Linda Dumont

Vendors and key players from Our Voice shared a meal of chilli, buns and juice at City Hall to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Edmonton based street newspaper. For five years, vendors have been selling the paper at locations scattered throughout the city, in Saskatoon, and in Winnipeg.

Our Voice, the spare change magazine, is still "helping people to help themselves"

It started in 1993 when Spare Change was brought in from Vancouver and sold on the streets of Edmonton with an insert of local content. By the following year, with the help of Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation (E-4C), Edmonton's own street newspaper was born, and christened Spare Change after the Vancouver pa-

per, a name which was changed to Our Voice two years later.

Vendors are entrepreneurs who buy papers at an office at the Bissell Centre for sixty cents each for less than 50 papers, 55 cents each for 50 to a 100, and 50 cents for 100 or more papers purchased. The papers are sold for the price of a donation. Anyone can become a vendor. All that is required is \$3 to purchase a tag and money for a few papers.

Keith Wiley, who worked on the editorial staff of Our Voice since a month after the Edmonton paper hit the streets, following Phill O'Hara's brief appearance as the first editor, gave a farewell speech during which he announced his resignation from Our Voice.

continued on page 7

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The Way of the Cross - a call to prayer

by Linda Dumont

The Good Friday Way of the Cross was a call to pray for our community. This year attendance was estimated at around 1000 people. Singing, they walked through the community, with those representing the different groups taking turns carrying the large wooden cross. At each of 11 stops, they prayed.

"The purpose is to take prayer out of the four walls of our churches into the streets," said Linda Winski from the Social Justice Committee. "Essentially it's to witness to the public that our faith is social faith. We act on the principles of taking our faith into the community"

Now in it's 19th year, the Way of the Cross originated from the vision of three groups, the Social Justice Commission, Development and Peace, and the Franciscans.

Although the original groups were from the Catholic faith, the Way is now attended by people from widely diversified church backgrounds.



Community Chaplain Myron Cross speaks to the crowd stopped outside The Mustard Seed on Good Friday. Photo by Linda Dumont

Stop before you trash that plastic milk jug



by Linda Dumont

Don't throw that plastic milk container in the garbage, it's worth money as recyclable plastic, and should be put in

your new blue bag.

Bob Whyte (pictured above) of the McCauley Seniors Action Group (MSAG) became interested in plastic milk containers as another way of providing additional revenue for those who pick cans and bottles.

"Why not have a deposit on them the same as on pop bottles," he asked.

Feb. 11, 1999, Bob Whyte prepared an educational tabletop demonstration on plastic recycling. He invited Michael Lohner, personal assistant to Environmental Protection Minister Ty Lund, and Pat Kane, Chief of Actions on Waste to see the display at the drop-in of Operation Friendship.

The demonstration started with the No. 1 "PET" which is used for 2 litre plastic pop bottles now being recycled into long lasting carpets. This type of plastic makes up 10% of all plastic packaging and has a market value of around 25 cents per pound.

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Kudos to past editor

Editor's Note: The Boyle McCauley News is indebted to the work of its many volunteers. Special acknowledgement is given here to Phil O'Hara who was editor of the paper for the past five years.

by Kate Quinn and John Pater

Phil O'Hara has an infectious laugh, a laugh that would break up those tense moments in board meetings or editorial gatherings. Whether it was the divisive debate over the newspaper's move to getting casino money, or an intense discussion over how to cover a certain story, Phil's sudden laughter would ease the tension and enable us to move on. Such a personal quirk was just one of the things Phil brought to the Boyle McCauley News during his 5+ years as volunteer editor and board member.

Phil became editor as a response to a call for help at a time of crisis in the production of the newspaper. For a few years, the major work had fallen on the shoulders of Malcolm Archibald



and Tuggy Curran. Several events in their lives made it difficult for them to continue putting in the volunteer time required to get the newspaper out. They offered to help train people to take on the different tasks.

Thus began another chapter in the wonderful story of the Boyle-McCauley News. Phil gathered writers monthly in his home to review the previous issue and talk about what was happening in the neighbourhood for the next

issue. Phil's patience stood out, as he allowed us a certain amount of space to rave on about our latest passions and interests and agendas. We would be encouraged by the intense expressions on his face as he probed all sides of a story or issues. And yet at some point he would call us to the task of putting out the next issue of the newspaper, and helped us agree to what should be covered and in what way.

Phil spent countless hours and weekends at the computer, either writing stories or editing the work of others. While he was working away, writers would furtively slip up to his door at night or early in the morning, to drop-off computer disks and written stories way past the deadline. He helped the writers develop their skills through encouragement and feedback. He challenged people to look at the tough stories and the good news stories. Phil inspired people to do their best.

He also engendered the confidence of a leader who knew what the newspaper was and what its role was in the

community. He had an innate sense for what needed to go into this community newspaper. He was aware of what might be divisive and not helpful, and yet he didn't shy away from covering tough issues.

As a board member, Phil was a steadying voice. He brought the experience of one who lived in the community and who was involved in other community organizations. He was aware of the diversity of responses people had to neighborhood issues. He listened well and you knew your view was appreciated and understood. He always wanted to work toward consensus if at all possible. This didn't stop Phil from making his own strongly felt views known, and he consistently and persistently pushed his views on small and large matters.

Overall, Phil's volunteer commitment to the Boyle McCauley Newspaper springs from his passion for sharing the stories of the people and the events which shape life in these neighbourhoods.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

PRODUCTION:

Editor: Linda Dumont
Writers: Kate Quinn, Ron MacLachlan, Tom Hind, Linda Dumont, John Pater, Reny Clericuzio, Gail Campos
Photography: Kate Quinn, Ron MacLachlan, Linda Dumont
Layout & Design: John Pater
Proof-reading: John Pater
Accounting:
Advertising: Erwin Seeger

DISTRIBUTION:

McCauley Coordinator: Richard Auclair
Boyle Street Coordinator: Linda Dumont
Bundling and Mailing: Richard Auclair
Bundle Delivery: Richard Auclair
Block Carriers: Lyle Grant, Diane Jeffery, Shari Mati, Kathleen Quinn, Glenna Roper, Rosalie Gelderman, Sr. Christina Marie, Gallivan-Smith family, Brent McDonough, Richard Auclair, Ele Gibson, Aline Roulston, Walle Deering, Caroline Stuart, Margaret Lammeren, Ewen Nelson, Merv Knapp, Rick Warren, Barb Johnson, Sandra Barnes, Pedro Schultz, Jason Brown, Mary Amerongen, Cam MacDonald, The Sisters, Harvey Voogd, Erwin Seeger, Val & John Phillips.

Boyle McCauley News

Vol. 13, No. 3
May 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.

Board of Directors: Larry Brockman, Phil O'Hara, Erwin Seeger, Caroline Stuart, Heidi Veluw, Harvey Voogd
The office of the Boyle McCauley News is located at
B08, 9541-108A Ave., Edmonton, AB T5H 4G8. Phone 424-2870, Fax 424-2868
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BOYLE MCCAULEY NEWS Notices

Writers meeting/
Staff meeting for next issue -
May 18,
7:30pm at new office:
B08, 9541-108A Avenue



Peter Goldring
Member of Parliament
Edmonton (Centre) East
495-3261

I take this moment to wish all Mothers a special greeting
Happy Mother's Day



Pam Barrett
M.L.A.
Edmonton
Highlands



Legislative Office:
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Constituency Office:
C104, The Highlands
10531 - 90 Street
414-0682

Spring blossoms at St. Michael's



Students at St. Michael School celebrate "New Life" as their theme for spring.

by *Reny Clericuzio*

Spring is the time of year where our entire world is surrounded with new life and new beginnings. The world comes back to life after a long sleepy winter. St. Michael School has taken this most beautiful time of year and developed a school wide theme of "New Life" for all our classes. A planning session was held for all staff to organize and develop ideas for this event. The teachers planned activities for their own classes as well as school wide events.

The staff have organized the

following educational projects. Our entire library is being developed into a "Nature Centre" where student can learn and explore about new life. The library will house the following centres: chick hatching, butterfly hatching, pond water with tadpoles and bug exploration.

We will also be involved in a variety of exciting projects such as planting flowers and plants, visiting Boyle Street Community Gardens and a special presentation from Mrs. Lois Hole where she will visit the school to talk to the students about new life and spring.

Our students are also taking this theme and integrating it across the curriculum. They will be writing journals about their learnings, as well as stories and poems about spring, and researching questions. A variety of children's literature will be read to reinforce and highlight this theme. We are looking forward to this innovative educational event.

Technology also has an important role to play in this project. Students will be researching "new life" topics on CD Roms as well as the internet. These special reports will be part of their Science curriculum.

In April the school organized a special "New Life" celebration where we thanked God for the beauty of our world around us. At this event each classroom thanked God for a specific object such as flowers, rain, pussywillows and sunshine.

As a Catholic Christian School that promotes gospel values the following scripture passage depicts the sentiments of this outstanding project:

*"Thank You for the earth's spring bounty
You visit the earth and water it,*

*You greatly enrich it;
The river of God is full of water;
You provide the people with grain
For You have prepared it.*

*You water its furrows abundantly, setting its ridges
Softening it with showers
And blessing its growth.
Psalm 65: 9-10*

An inner city recycling initiative

continued from page 3

Next was the No. 2 high density polyethylene (HDPE) contained in plastic milk jugs. This makes up 32% of all plastic packaging and has a market value of about 33 cents per pound.

He also showed No. 4 and No. 5 plastic containers manufactured locally at Wetaskiwin and St. Albert. These types are not under any mandatory recycling plan because of low market values.

Also on display were plastic lumber made by a Lethbridge company and a 3-ring binder both made from recycled plas-

tic.

To find out the grade of plastic contained in a bottle or milk jug, look along the bottom for a raised number.

The dairy industry was supposed to come up with a plan for recycling the plastic milk containers by the end of 1998. If not, the province would come up with a mandatory deposit and recycling plan. When they failed to meet that deadline, they were given a new deadline to formulate a recycling plan by April 1, 1999.

OLIVER BIKE ROUND UP

**SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1999
10:30 AM. - 4:00 P.M.**

**AT THE
OLIVER COMMUNITY LEAGUE
10326 - 118 STREET**

**Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society
invites you to drop off your surplus bikes
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repaired if possible. All working bikes will be
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metalparts will be recycled.**

**This event is co-sponsored by:
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Edmonton ASSET MANAGEMENT
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Egg cartons
Envelopes, unused
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Hair dye bottles
Jewelry
Jewelry boxes, small
Magazines

Magnets
Metal juice disks (dull)
Paper towel tubes
Plastic berry baskets
Plastic grocery bags
Plastic ice cream pails
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Puzzle pieces
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

by Gail Campos

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. Everyone is welcome. It features occasional guest speakers and workshops for people 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: 2pm
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 Street-works: open during clinic hours

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

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Operation Friendship

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McCauley Seniors Drop-in:
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Edmonton Family Worship Centre

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Sunday Worship and Children's Ministry: 10:30am & 6:30pm
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McCauley LETSsystem

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

Interested in theatre, dance and art? Join the **Inner City Cultural Society**. First meeting 7 p.m. May 25 at 9548-106a Ave., For information, call Linda at 428-0805.

The Rock

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 Service: Wed. 1pm and Sun. 6:15pm
Community Food Services: Wed. & Fri. 3-4pm
Men's Clothing: Mon. to Fri. 11am
Phone 429-4274

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

Circle of Friends

Friday, June 11 & October 15: A gathering of song, dance, poetry and storytelling. Downstairs at First Christian Reformed Church, 10956-96 Street
Gathering starts at 7:30pm and music starts at 8:00pm
Pot luck munchies. Beverages will be provided.
Suggested donation: 2 toonies (\$4); students, seniors, low income: \$2; children 12yrs. & under: \$1

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11035-92 Street (near Stadium LRT- or bus routes 5 or 11) from 10:00am to 2:00pm
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For more info. Call Trish at 428-1776.

Wecan (City Centre) Food Co-op.

This is NOT a food bank, it is a co-operative which provides food at mid month for a 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.

McCauley Community League

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

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 third Sunday of the month, 5pm FREE dinner for women and children.

HIGHLAND DRUGS



9002 Jasper Avenue
424-8998

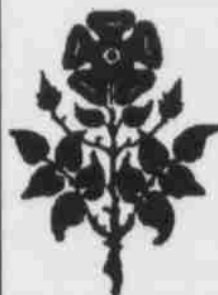
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9203 - 111 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta

Caremobile turns parking lot into an outdoor cafe for the hungry

by R.H. Maclachlan

Each of the dozen or so places for the hungry to get a meal in the inner city has a story behind it. This is one of them.

Each Saturday evening, during the summer months, a refurbished school bus pulls into a vacant parking lot on 96 Street near 103 Avenue. People from the area descend on it's rear doors, remove folding chairs and folding tables, set them up cafe style and wait as its occupants dispense whatever is on the menu. It's an outreach project of Red Willow Community Church spearheaded by Joan Jordan.

It all started in 1995 when Jordan, whose business often took her into the inner city, began asking her church's Bible study groups what they might do to help the less fortunate. An old school bus was purchased and refurbished with cupboards, counters and other equipment, and promises from the church members to allow their kitchens to be used to prepare the food.

On its first "run" in May

1995 the "Caremobile" carried 20 gallons of soup, 500 sandwiches, 20 gallons of juice and bread and pastries donated by a St. Albert supermarket. Without any advance publicity or advertising, that first evening attracted 200 people. Each person could eat as much as they wanted with leftovers to take home.

After several Saturdays, the menu was varied. Barbues were brought down, and hamburgers and hot dogs cooked. Again, with only word-of mouth advertising, the crowds increased. And so it snowballed.

One evening supplies were running low and customers were still coming, Jordan said, to the point where it became necessary to cut the hamburgers in half. She noticed a vehicle parked across the street, spoke with its occupant and invited him over to share "whatever we have." He responded by driving away and returning with a case of hamburgers which went a long way to keep the program open that evening. This individual had been "on the street" him-

self, Jordan notes, but had found a job and was now able to help others. This is only one example of the input from total strangers as well as community members we have, Jordan says.

Support from the community as well as her church's congregation is what keeps the program going, Jordan says. But money sometimes gets tight. She speaks of the generosity of individuals who wish to contribute anonymously-both cash and gifts for the annual Christmas Dinner, put on at The Innersity Mission. One individual purchased 300 pairs of men's work socks to be used as gifts, because that's what people said they needed. Red Willow also has helped with the Thanksgiving dinner at The Mustard Seed in 1997.

We are not there to preach, Jordan says, we are there to invite the people who live in the area to be our guests to have a good time. If they want to talk, we will listen. We try to help in other ways, if we can.

The program takes place

Five years of Edmonton's street paper

continued from page 2

Keith spoke about Gordon Poschwatta, the manager of Our Voice when it started, and the two part mission statement they hammered out back in 1994.

"To provide an income opportunity for economically marginalized people in our society while communicating about their issues to the public."

Gord Poschwatta left Our Voice a year and a half ago, and the vendors felt the loss. Gord was a people person who took the mission statement seriously - in short, he was there for the vendors. Whenever possible, he provided opportunities for vendors to work with him. On a personal note, when I had a problem with Employment Insurance, Gord took time off work to go with me to the appeal hearing. With his help I was able to have the

every Saturday evening during the summer months from about 5:00 p.m. until the food runs out.

Jordan says she, her crew, and the people they serve are

EI decision overturned.

Keith Wiley's resignation will also be felt. He showed himself to be willing to work with the vendors by using the talent available. One project was the production of art cards with original drawings by local artists. The cards were sold by vendors along with the papers.

Although some of the players have changed, Our Voice continues to provide income for marginalized people and to voice the issues surrounding poverty. It is now editor Michael Walters who has taken on the challenge of providing a paper which is both informative and interesting, and which will reach the largest possible readership.

Michael Walters, as poetry editor for Our Voice, edited the three volumes of *Songs of the Street*, the inner city poetry books sold by Our Voice vendors.

almost like one big family now. "One night I was feeling depressed," she said, "and one fellow came by and gave me a rose."

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Home invasion counterattack needed



by Peter Goldring, M.P. Edmonton East

It's a sad commentary on our society when the police must advise us never to open our door unless we can see who is knocking and unless we know who that person is. As the police reported in one Canadian home invasion case: 'The victim made that one mistake. He opened the door because he couldn't see who it was through the peephole.' Anyone at any time can be a victim of a home invasion. The elderly are described as the 'victims of choice.'

There have been at least five home invasions in Edmonton so far in 1999 resulting in serious injuries. They have terrorized the occupants, exposed them to traumatic experience or forced entry 'with intent' to hold the occupants hostage. People are the target of home invasions. They are tortured into giv-

ing up property.

The Reform Party with the support of other opposition parties are asking the federal government to study this growing problem as it affects citizens in what should be their safest place, their home. Reg Alcock, Liberal MP from Winnipeg said the idea was 'silly' and not worthy of government concern.

I would fully support any study that would help to ensure the safety of Canadians in their own homes and I would also remind Mr. Alcock that the last home invasion I read about took place in Winnipeg.

Police say we can combat home invasions by 'knowing our neighbour', since most home invaders are caught due to phone tips, but much more is needed now, not later. The criminal code needs to be amended to provide tougher sentences for people involved in home invasions, or even better, create an entirely new offence of 'home invasion'.

At present, most home invaders are charged with breaking and entering. Convicted criminals often don't go to jail. Multiple charges associated with home invasions are plea bargained-away or have sentences concurrently served with other charges. In short, no additional punishment is given for home invasion. Exceptional crimes require exceptional measures. We must raise the price for home invasions to properly reflect the heinous nature of the crime.

Edmonton Canadian flower champion

by Councillor Michael Phair

The past September, Edmonton won top prize of five blooms in the class of Excellence at Communities in Bloom's national awards in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The national award made special mention of Edmonton's urban forestry and environmental efforts.

This was the second year in a row that the city and its citizens' horticultural initiatives have been so highly honoured. This is national recognition of Edmontonians' commitment to saving elm trees and improving our quality of life through protection and preservation of our green spaces.

It's a real achievement for our employees and those citizens involved in the Partners in Parks Project. Over 100 community and business partners and 100 city workers have been active in beautification efforts through Partners in Parks.

In recognizing Edmonton's urban forest, Communities in Bloom said, "Edmonton possesses the largest Dutch elm disease-free American elm urban forest in North America. And Edmonton is harnessing the efforts of the entire community to protect this precious resource."

The Class of Excellence award highlighted Edmonton's environmental efforts by observing, "The city's efforts in environmental initiatives are advanced and visionary, leading the way in large-scaled naturalization, co-composting and recycling facilities."



I'm also delighted to report that in August 1998 the National Communities in Bloom Awards for the year 2000 were awarded to Edmonton and area. Over 500 people from across Canada are expected to attend this conference.

Communities in Bloom 2000 aims to have a wide variety of beautification programs and activities featured through tours and programs. This variety will ensure something of interest for everyone involved in the volunteer groups and communities that participate in Communities in Bloom.

If you would like to become involved in the Partners in Parks program or become a member of the year 2000 conference planning committee, you can call a member of the Year 2000 conference planning committee, you can call John Helder, Principal of Horticulture at 496-6997 or contact me by phone at 496-8146, e-mail: michael.phair@gov.edmonton.ab.ca or fax 496-8113.

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