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Boyle McCauley News

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VOL. 46 NO. 4 VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1979 PUBLISHED ON TREATY 6 TERRITORY FREE

Heart of the City a Wrap for 2025

Even a windstorm could not stop the show from going on.

CORINE DEMAS

This year's edition of Heart of the City happened on May 31st and June 1st, a weekend earlier this year than the traditional first weekend of June. While the team of organizers of this year's festival was small, we were mighty. The weather held for most of Saturday, though there were some moments when we thought we may have to shut down the main stage and open the flaps on our tents in a big windstorm. After consulting veteran sound tech Mike Tully, the show went on.

We were able to bring two days of music, spoken word, visual arts, and workshops to our neighbours in Giovanni Caboto Park. Jacqueline Duttonhoffer and her mother Le Anne Whiting, Rachael Roberts, and I (Corine Demas) worked hard on the logistics and pre-festival organization. This year we hired Isaac Friesen to help us coordinate the logistics as the festival unfolded. He also ran the music stage. We heard around 20 musical acts at the main stage, including Stella Johnson, Bobbi-Jo Starr, and Funk Cove. Some notable emcees on the main stage were Margaret Smith (our Neighbourhood Resource Coordinator), Anne Stevenson (our City Councillor), and local comic Matt Chaney, who really stepped up and put in a lot of time helping us fill in unbooked time slots.



Seeds performing on the Saturday main stage. Paula E. Kirman

The Beat Spoken Word Stage was coordinated by Dani Zyp this year. Dani programmed all of the poetry sessions including the popular word and music session where poets were invited to read to music. Dani helped scout musicians as well. We held a well-attended comedy show at 8 p.m. on May 31st. We were impressed with the turnout as the show happened in a windstorm. We heard family friendly comedy from Harshan Gill, Matt Chaney, Steven Darnell, Daniela Zenari, Erin MK Hill, Kamal Alaeddine, and Dalbir Sehmbly. We were particularly impressed with the comedy of newcomer Aldrick Dugarte. Kamal Alaeddine and his team (Katie Yoner and Ross Zimmermann)

showed us what improv can be in a fun and interactive session at the Beat Stage.

On Sunday, June 1st, we held our 6th annual Story Slam which was hosted by Kamal Alaeddine. The \$300 prize was split by co-winners Leif Oleson-Cormac and Dalbir Sehmbly.

We need to thank the organization 4B Harm Reduction who came to help us with harm reduction and community outreach. Their team was amazing and we hope that you seek them out to table at your next community event.

On Friday, May 30th we set up the park. We were so impressed

with the number of people who showed up to help us, in particular Keith and Dylan. As they do every year, the folks at Zocalo brought us beautiful flowers to decorate the main stage. Breanna, a new volunteer, stepped up and took on many roles and filled in gaps. I want to give a big shout out to Nathan Hupka. He was integral in setting up the park on Friday. He showed up and stayed to help from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and stayed until the park was totally shut down on Sunday night. Our volunteers always show up to help us and we wish to give them many thanks.

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DINING OUT: PIZZA 42 AND DONAIR

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WE CAN FOOD BASKET SOCIETY RELOCATES

“ The premise is simple: pool money and buy meat and produce in bulk to lower food costs.

■ PAGE 5

E4C COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE CLOSES

“ The little office at the back of McCauley Apartments holds so many stories, so many characters, so much joy and wonder.

■ PAGE 11

WELLNESS CENTRE EDMONTON ENDS

“ . . . there are still a number of peer focused programs available in Edmonton.

■ PAGE 12

Stepping Up for Community



PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff

MCCAULEY MUSINGS

Neighbourhoods are defined by more than just names and geographic boundaries. They are defined by the people within them: people who live, work, and volunteer while making their community a better place.

Mike Siek (who you will read more about on page five of this issue) is someone who embodies all of these things.

Whether giving of his time and talents with the Heart of the City Festival, volunteering at numerous events at the rink, helping facilitate programming at McCauley Apartments, and even spending some time on the board of this community newspaper, Mike is someone whose

impact resonates throughout McCauley and beyond.

Like many, I was sad to learn the news that Mike would be leaving this summer. However, time moves on and lives change. Nothing - and no one - lasts forever.

Mike's journey will leave gaps that will provide opportunities for others in the area to step up and fill. Sometimes the most valuable volunteers are people who simply emerged when needed.

I know many who have been inspired by Mike's unwavering commitment to the community. It is my sincere hope that some of them will rise to the occasion, if they haven't already. No event or organization should rest entirely on the shoulders of one individual. We all need to share the work. That way, when it comes time for someone to move on, there will always be others to carry the torch.

Boyle McCauley News

Boyle McCauley News is a non-profit newspaper published six times yearly by the Boyle Street McCauley Community Newspaper Society. The Society is made up of the 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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Circulation 5000 • Since 1979 • www.bmcnews.org

VOL. 46 NO. 4 AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2025

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Our goal is to report issues fairly and provide a variety of perspectives on issues affecting this community. The opinions expressed in Boyle McCauley News are those of the people named as the authors of the articles, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Board, staff, or Editorial Committee of the paper.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to the August-September 2025 edition of Boyle McCauley News.

I always use this space to make a call for volunteers, and this time is no different. We're always seeking writers and photographers, and have a few routes available for Block Carriers. Our fundraising casino is also coming up on December 30th and 31st of this year at the Century Casino on Fort Road and we have numerous positions available during the days and nights. Contact me at editor@bmcnews.org and I will connect you with Colleen Chapman, who is coordinating our casino volunteers.

Have you visited our website

OUR NEXT ISSUE. . .

Volume 46, Issue 5 (October-November 2025) will be published October 1st, 2025. Articles and photos concerning community news, events, and opinions are welcome for both our print and online editions. We also occasionally accept submissions of poetry and cartoons. Deadline for the print edition: September 12th, 2025. Send submissions to: editor@bmcnews.org. Articles should be 400 words or less and accompanied by photographs (JPG format, in high resolution) whenever possible.

(bmcnews.org)? We publish exclusive content, extra classifieds, an events calendar, and a searchable archive of back issues. You can also sign up to receive our free e-newsletter.

At our website you can also sign up for a free membership. This helps support the paper by building our membership numbers. Members occasionally receive information and have a vote at our AGM. More information is here: bmcnews.org/membership.

For those of you on social media, we are still on X (formerly Twitter) as [@bmcnews](https://twitter.com/bmcnews) and Bluesky at [@bmcnews.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/bmcnews.bsky.social).

Enjoy this issue and the rest of the summer. We'll be back in print in October.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you want to respond to something that you read in these pages or that is going on in the community? Share your thoughts and opinions with a Letter to the Editor. Send your letters to editor@bmcnews.org. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and may be edited for length or clarity. Publication is not guaranteed. The deadline for letters for our next print issue is September 12th, 2025.

BOYLE STREET AND MCCAULEY CRIME & SAFETY RESOURCES

24/7 Crisis Diversion: Call #211 + press 3 when you see a person in distress

Needle Debris (public property): 311

Needle Debris free clean-up on private and public property:

Boyle Street Ventures: (780) 426-0500

Sharps Containers: free sharps containers:

Radius 780-422-7333 or Streetworks 780-424-4106

Litter/Graffiti: 311 or capitalcitycleanup@edmonton.ca

Problem Properties: To report a problem property call 311, contact 311 online or use the confidential reporting form at edmonton.ca/problemproperties

To report an unsecured vacant property:

Call 311 or email: communitypropertysafetyteam@edmonton.ca

EPS Healthy Streets Operation Centre (HSOC) teams are regularly and proactively patrolling several downtown neighbourhoods to combat crime and disorder.

Citizens are encouraged to speak with officers in person when they are available.

EPS Non-Emergency: (780) 423-4567

EPS Non-Emergency mobile access: #377

EPS Emergency: 911

EPS Website: edmontonpolice.ca

EPS Crime Prevention: Facebook [@epscrimeprevention](https://www.facebook.com/epscrimeprevention)

Crime Stoppers: 1-800-222-8477

Report Gang Activity: (780) 414-GANG (4264)

Stay informed & get involved: safermccauley.ca and on Facebook [@safermccauley](https://www.facebook.com/safermccauley)

MCL UPDATE

AGM Recap and Summer Rink Programs

CORINE DEMAS

The McCauley Community League held its AGM on June 14th at 2 p.m. in the Alumni Room at the Commonwealth Rec Centre. Despite the fact that we sent emails to our membership and put posters up around the neighbourhood, we struggled to make quorum. We were able to make quorum after a few phone calls to members and some folks ran over to the meeting.

We passed a motion to accept the financials and elected new board members. Holly Payne, Justine Dyck, Dylan Morgan, and Nathan Hupka will be joining us. Christa Ferland and I, Corine Demas, were reelected. Imai Welch, John Gee, and Ruth Sorochan stand in their second term. In a later meeting, I was voted in to remain as President. Vice President is Justine Dyck, the Secretary is Holly Payne, and remaining in the position of Treasurer is John Gee.

This summer we held a tea and visit with our City Councillor Anne Stevenson on July 19th and will hold another on August 16th from 2 to 4 p.m. at the rink (10750 96th Street). The purpose of these meetings is to give our neighbours a chance to talk to Anne about their concerns regarding city planning, infrastructure, and services.

On Thursdays through August, Gail and Ruth will open the rink shack for an informal drop-in. Kids can play basketball, help plant and maintain the flowers, and do crafts. Adults are welcome to come and sip some tea and talk with neighbours. For more information about our summer programming and beyond, check our ad on page two of this issue.

Corine Demas is the President of the McCauley Community League and is on the board of Boyle McCauley News.

NIPD at Bissell Centre



Fiddler Wyatt Schiefelbein performs at Bissell Centre’s celebration for National Indigenous Peoples Day (NIPD) on June 20th. The event featured traditional music and food, as well as performances, dances, and other activities. Paula E. Kirman

NEW TO BOYLE STREET OR MCCAULEY?

Do You Have Your Stadium Parking Permit?

Call 311 or email RestrictedParkingPermits@edmonton.ca for annual Stadium parking permits, or ParkingAssets@edmonton.ca for temporary parking permits. Or, visit edmonton.ca and search “parking permits” to apply online. Save yourself, and your guests, the pain of a very expensive parking ticket and possibility of being towed.

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LINKS TO NEW STORIES DIRECTLY TO YOUR INBOX!

Where to Find Boyle McCauley News

Boyle McCauley News is delivered by our volunteer Block Carriers (in McCauley) and Apartment Ambassadors/Condo Connectors (in Boyle Street) to approximately 2500 homes in the area.

If you do not receive the paper at your home, there are numerous places where you can pick up a copy:

NEWSPAPER BOX LOCATIONS

86 Street & Jasper Avenue (by Riverside Towers)
97 Street & 103 Avenue (by former Farmers Market)

BUSINESSES

We also drop off copies at a number of businesses in and around the area:

Little BonBon Ice Cream (9660 106 Ave.)	Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St.)	Boa & Hare (10520 97 St.)
Tony’s Pizza (9605 111 Ave.)	Felice Cafe (10930 84 St.)	Zocalo (10826 95 St.)
Italian Centre (10878 95 St.)	Panini’s (8544 Jasper Ave.)	Paper Birch Books (10825 95 St.)
Lucky Supermarket (10725 97 St.)	The Moth (9449 Jasper Ave.)	Van Loc (10648 98 St.)
		Kim Fat Market (9905 107 Ave.)

VOLUNTEER TO DELIVER THE PAPER

Would you like to volunteer to help deliver the paper to your block or building?

Contact editor@bmcnews.org for more information.

Farewell to Mike Siek

Volunteer and community builder will be missed.

ANITA JENKINS

For more than 15 years McCauley has been the place where Mike Siek wanted to be. “McCauley is my small town,” he says. “If I go out on the street, I see at least one person I know. I chose this community in 2008, in part for budgetary reasons, but also because it is closer to the action and more community-oriented than other places I have lived.”

And Mike has lived in more than a few places. “I am not a huge plan maker,” he says. “I am more of a leaf on the wind, just following my heart.”

This past May, the time came for Mike to move on once again. In a post on Facebook, he wrote, “This will be my last summer in Alberta. I have such a great community (deep roots) here in Edmonton, and I will miss you all more than even I can imagine, but it’s time for a new chapter! I will be heading to New Brunswick to be closer to my siblings and extended family, and to help my folks live in their beautiful home as long as possible, as they get close to 80!”

Many people know Mike through his work roles. At the time of writing



Mike Siek at Boyle McCauley News’ 40th anniversary gala in 2019. Leif Gregersen

this article, he was a community developer at e4c. Before that, he was a recreation facilitator at Boyle Street Community Services. He has also been the production manager for the late *Vue Weekly* newspaper. Mike’s versatility and flexibility is evident in that he began his work life as an auto mechanic.

Others know Mike as a musician. He

plays guitar and has been a member of several Edmonton bands, most recently Funk Cove. “I have been playing guitar from the age of 12 or so,” Mike says. “I got to love it and started to become connected with the music folks. I have been doing live shows in various bands since my early 20s.”

Perhaps the place where most

have met (or witnessed) Mike is in his volunteer roles. He has been the production manager and president of the annual Heart of the City music and arts festival. He has done communications for the McCauley Community League. His other volunteer involvements have included McCauley Revitalization, Friends of Church Street, and the board of *Boyle McCauley News*. Mike is also everywhere that a community event is happening, quietly helping to move tables, rescue falling lanterns at the CO*LAB Spring Lantern Parade, putting away chairs after a meeting, and doing anything that needs doing.

The operative word in the previous sentence is “quietly.” When being interviewed for this article, this humble guy says, “I am not all that big on talking about myself.”

The last word goes to Colleen Chapman, a neighbour, friend, and fan: “I hope the fact that there are so many of us who will miss him touches his heart! He deserves to know how very special he is.”

Anita Jenkins is a retired writer and editor who lives in Boyle Street.

94th Street Extravaganza



The 94th Street Extravaganza is an annual grassroots event by and for our Norwood and Alberta Avenue neighbours. Each year, we get together to connect, celebrate, and showcase our community’s generous, resilient, and vibrant spirit.

More than just a block party, the 94th Street Extravaganza connects and champions our neighbourhood strengths inclusive of all neighbours: the residents, businesses, organizations, and all folks who frequent the neighbourhood. We aim to create a radically welcoming, mutually supportive network throughout the neighbourhood that leans into our community’s strengths for placemaking

and community building. We’re here for each other, so come as you are to be welcomed with open arms!

When: Saturday, August 30th
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Where: 94th Street
from 112th Avenue to 115th Avenue

- What to Expect:
- Art Walk & Artisan Bazaar
 - Yard Sales
 - Buy Nothing Market
 - Community Business and Organization Tables
 - Live Music and Performances
 - Hot Local Food and Snack Vendors
 - Arts and Crafts
 - Games and Activities
 - Kid’s Activities

Stay tuned for vendor, performer, and activity announcements as they arise: facebook.com/94thStreetNeighbours. You can also visit our website: 94streetextravaganza.square.site. Send us an email for more information or if you want to get involved: 94thStreetExtravaganza@gmail.com.

Information submitted by your 94th Street neighbours.

WECAN Food Basket Society Relocates

GAIL SILVIUS

In July, the WECAN Food Basket Society McCauley Depot moved back to the Boys and Girls Club at 9425 109A Avenue.

The WECAN Food Basket Society was formed in 1993 by a couple of social workers engaged with women in the Abbotsfield community to address “empty fridge syndrome.” As money was tight near month end, families were faced with a lack of healthy food. The Food Basket was welcomed as an alternative to charity and the use of food banks. The premise is simple: pool money and buy meat and produce in bulk to lower food costs.

A monthly newsletter includes recipes and price comparisons. Since its inception TGP has been the preferred supplier for the society.

Over the years, the society has

grown from 150 members to over 700 and has depots around the city. Meat orders (with a non-pork option) are \$20. Produce orders are \$15. There is no limit on the number of orders a household can make.

An annual membership is five dollars. The WECAN Food Basket Society is based on its ability to leverage the power of bulk purchasing. Often seen as a resource only for lower income people, all are welcome to join. More members and orders increase the purchasing power of this nutritious food buying club.

The same hours are kept: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pickup is usually the third Thursday of the month (depending on holidays).

For more information: wecanfood.com

Gail Silvius is happily retired and living in McCauley.

Eclectic Menu Offers Great Taste and Value

Pizza 42 and Donair features flavours from different cultures.

DINING OUT

Pizza 42 and Donair

8930 Jasper Ave. NW
780-421-4242

ALAN SCHIETZSCH

Pizza 42 and Donair, nestled in the Boardwalk Centre on lower Jasper Avenue, is a paradox of charm, flavour, and inconsistency. For such a generically-named eatery, it offers an eclectic menu that ranges from classic pizzas and donairs to Indian biryani, curry, and paneer dishes, and it has earned both loyal patrons and the odd skeptic.

The food is very good. Local regulars rave about the juicy beef donairs, BBQ chicken pizza, and generously portioned poutines. Many customers mention the warm hospitality from staff members, who have a reputation for being welcoming, friendly, and even generous - sometimes offering free samples or drinks with large orders. The biryani and samosas, a nod to the restaurant's South Asian roots, get a lot of praise for bold flavour and authenticity. That curious mixture drew our group of five.



Chicken Biryani. Alan Schietzsch

With hours extending well into the early morning, the focus is as a take-out business, but we ate in and took advantage of the many booths for up to four, framed by the enormous and varied menu boards. It even has a well stocked bar behind the long counter!

Starting with the namesake pies, we noticed one pizza that was not so ordinary: the Punjabi. The crust impressed me first, with a bubbly edge and a soft chew perfectly in the middle between Italian and North American styles. Toppings

were very generous and full of flavour, with red onion, black olives, and bright red and yellow banana peppers, backed up by ginger, cilantro, and mushroom – delicious!

From the Indian menu, one highlight was the Tandoori Fish, with huge chunks of red snapper seasoned with a lemony onion-ginger-masala paste on a bed of salad. A few of us don't eat fish, so went for the the Chicken Biryani, a rich meal with four chicken drumsticks grilled after being marinated in Indian spices and

yoghurt. The bright red legs were served on a deep bed of biryani - a basmati rice dish seasoned with masala spices. We also enjoyed the Goat Curry, which is a seasoned gravy with cubes of goat meat, eaten alongside naan bread to soak up the savoury liquid. If you're a "dipper" this is real comfort food. Any of these three could be an entire meal in itself.

To wash it all down, we enjoyed the Mango Lassi, a sweet and tart Indian classic similar to a smoothie or milkshake - a great dessert. We were pleasantly surprised when a complimentary dessert arrived - Gulab Jamun, which are doughnut-like cake balls, soaked in a cardamom honey sauce - divine! We left smiling for under \$100 including tip, which is less than \$20 a person - wow! And so many choices to come back for.

Pizza 42 is a quirky neighbourhood gem that delivers on flavour and friendliness with an unexpected combination of items and great value. It's a place with soul and really expresses the mosaic of cultures and tastes that makes our neighbourhood - and country - so special.

Alan Schietzsch lives in McCauley. He is the former Chair of the paper's Board of Directors.

Peace Walk Bridges Cultures



The third annual community Peace Walk through Chinatown led by Elder Lorette Goulet from Mamawi Nipawiwini Standing Together (centre, holding banner) took place on June 22nd. The event builds friendship between the Chinatown and Indigenous communities. Following the walk, cultural performances and a feast with multicultural food from a number of area restaurants happened by the McCauley Community Garden on 107A Avenue and 95th Street. The event was organized by Kat Luu (left, by the red lion) of the Chinatown Business Association with support from the Chinatown Transformation Collaborative Society and REACH Edmonton. Pictured above are organizers and participants with Lion Dancers from Jing Ying Martial Arts. Paula E. Kirman

Van bLoc Party Energy



Dance group RGX performs on June 7th, the first day of the second Van bLoc Party hosted by Van Loc on 98th Street and 106th Avenue. Paula E. Kirman



TONY'S PIZZA PALACE AND ITALIAN RESTAURANT
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Sunset Clause for Shelter Extended to 2027



The Mustard Seed Central. Paula E. Kirman/File Photo

It was a long day in City Council Chambers on June 9th where zoning issues for many neighbourhoods were debated. I was there with three others from McCauley along with staff from The Mustard Seed and Radius Community Health and Healing for a rezoning hearing to remove the sunset clause approved in 2023. Rezoning would allow The Mustard Seed Central shelter to operate indefinitely as a permanent shelter.

The building was originally operated by Operation Friendship as a seniors' drop-in with supportive housing for 40 seniors. This housing was lost when Operation Friendship closed the building due to safety concerns for staff and residents largely due to the drug trade. The Province then funded The Mustard Seed and Radius to operate a shelter and health services for 124 people. This meant cots and bunkbeds. Shelter guests are awakened at 6 a.m. so main floor cots can be packed up to make room for breakfast at 7 a.m. and health

services throughout the day. The good work of The Mustard Seed and Radius is not the issue. In a six month period, 123 people moved from the shelter into housing. Many others were supported to seek health services, detox, treatment, and other programs. The concern is that over 80% of the permanent shelter beds in Edmonton are located in McCauley. Rather than adding another permanent shelter, the focus should be kept on creating more options for unhoused community members.

I advocated that the sunset clause be extended for two more years then return the building for use as supportive housing. I was not the only one. Councillor Anne Stevenson proposed this amendment that carried 9-4: "4.3. Any Development Permit for Community Service in the form of a Year-round Shelter or Seasonal Shelter must be temporary and expire on July 1, 2027."

Kate Quinn is a McCauley resident.

Heart of the City 2025

>Continued from page one.

One volunteer we need to acknowledge spent the weekend helping us with set-up and tear-down -and who also played in several bands at the festival. This was Mike Siek's last summer in Edmonton and the last time he will be able to volunteer for Heart of the City. We thank Mike for his tireless support and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

It is important to us to thank our sponsors which include **Boyle McCauley News**, Paper Birch Books, Listen Louder Productions, Island Spice

Food Truck, Edmonton Folk Music Festival, artsvest, City of Edmonton, FreeArts, McCauley Community League, Boyle Street Community League, BGC Big Brothers Big Sisters (BGCBig), Print Machine, Native Youth Sexual Health Network (NYSHN), Otipemisiwak Métis Government, I.A.M. Indigenous Artist Market Collective, 4B Harm Reduction Society, and the Edmonton Arts Council.

Corine Demas lives in McCauley where she is the President of the McCauley Community League and the Executive Director of the Heart of the City Festival.

SunRise Mural Achieves World Record



The mural "The Land We Share" on the north side of the SunRise apartment building at 10609 101st Street was unveiled on May 27th where it was also revealed that the mural has been certified by Guinness World Records as the largest solar panel mural in the world. The mural is 85-foot-tall (26 metres), has 2,000 solar panels, and features representations of the Seven Sacred Grandfather Teachings from Indigenous culture on the left and the 12 animals of the Chinese Zodiac on the right. Pictured above is Lance Cardinal, the Indigenous artist who designed the mural, speaking at the unveiling event.

Kat Luu from the Chinatown Business Improvement Area (BIA) was invited to speak as a representative of Chinatown. "This mural will not only beautify the space but also honour the rich heritage and diverse voices that make our community unique. It serves as a vibrant expression of the values and stories that define us," she said in her speech. Caption: Paula E. Kirman. Photo: Kat Luu.

Mary Burlie Day Unites Communities



Mary Burlie Day celebrates the life and legacy of Mary Burlie by bringing together her family and the greater community in the area where she, as a social worker, dedicated her life's work to reaching people where they were at with dignity. This year's celebration on July 13th took place at Kinistinâw Park, as the park named after her on 104th Avenue and 97th Street is currently being renewed. Pictured above are two of Mary Burlie's daughters, Stephanie Burlie (left) and Katherine Sanders (right), with David Shepherd, MLA for Edmonton-City Centre. Paula E. Kirman

Four Decades of The Works Commemorated



MLA Janis Irwin presented a commemorative scroll on May 31st to recognize 40 years of The Works Art & Design Festival. The presentation happened at The Works International Visual Arts Society’s headquarters in McCauley at 106th Avenue and 95th Street. Pictured above (from left): MLA David Shepherd (Edmonton-City Centre), Amber Rooke (Executive Director, The Works Art & Design Festival), MLA Janis Irwin (Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood), and MLA David Eggen (Edmonton-North West). Caption: Paula E. Kirman. Photo: Alan Schietzsch.

New Apartments and Public Art at Stadium Yards



Lewis Block, the newest phase of Stadium Yards, was unveiled in mid-June. Located at 8450 106A Avenue, the apartment complex includes a new piece of public art. “The Steersman” honours Joseph Lewis, one of Edmonton’s earliest documented Black fur traders, after whom Lewis Block is named. “A highly accomplished canoe man with the Hudson’s Bay Company in the early 1800s, he was praised in records as a reliable and steady steersman,” reads the interpretive plaque accompanying the 21-foot-long sculpture commissioned by Rohit Group and created by local artist Slavo Cech. Paula E. Kirman

RE-ELECT

ANNE STEVENSON

for Ward O-day'min

Over the past four years, we've navigated unprecedented challenges as a community.

I'm proud of the progress we've made on problem properties, increased transit service, and building more affordable housing - and there's more work to be done.

I'm running to build on our successes and continue investing in:

- Core services that Edmontonians rely on
- Affordable and attainable housing for all
- Safe and connected communities

On **October 20**, join me in continuing to build O-day'min stronger, smarter, together.

Get involved at AnneStevenson.ca

Flowers to Remember, Honour, and Grieve



June 5th was the 20th annual Edmonton Homeless Memorial. It was organized by the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (ECOHH) and took place at the Homeless Memorial Plaza at 103A Avenue and 100th Street. In addition to songs, prayers, and speeches, participants laid flowers on the Homelessness Memorial, where butterflies were also freed. In 2024, 381 people died as a result of not having adequate housing. Paula E. Kirman

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EDMONTON INTERCULTURAL CENTRE

Ribbon Rouge Foundation

Providing research and support to ensure health equity for African, Caribbean, and Black individuals.

The Edmonton Intercultural Centre (EIC) is a community full of love, caring, and support. In this and future articles, we will inform readers of the non-profit organizations operating in the EIC facility in order to bring light to their many good deeds.

The Ribbon Rouge Foundation is a grassroots organization committed to advancing health equity and social justice through the arts. By using storytelling, community-engaged art, and intentional dialogue, Ribbon Rouge helps raise awareness, shift public perceptions, and foster meaningful social change. Their work centres on uplifting the voices of those facing racialized health disparities - especially African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) communities - and tackling the intersection of race and gender in health outcomes.

Health disparities remain a pressing concern. In 2014, the rate of new HIV infections among ACB communities in Canada was approximately six times higher than among the general population. By 2017, nearly half of all new HIV diagnoses among women were among Black women. These figures highlight not only a public health crisis but also a systemic failure to address the broader socioeconomic and cultural forces contributing to these inequities.

To combat these challenges, Ribbon Rouge launched the Black Equity in Alberta Rainforest (B.E.A.R) initiative: a socially innovative, research-driven effort focused on dismantling systemic barriers to health for ACB communities. Guided by an ACB Leadership Caucus, B.E.A.R works collaboratively with academic partners to generate

data, produce 13 interdisciplinary reports, and develop multimedia tools that inform and support long-term policy and community solutions. The initiative includes nine sub-projects targeting health inequity measurement, justice mapping, community development, and arts-based engagement.

Complementing this, the Intersectoral Action Fund (ISAF) initiative builds cross-sector partnerships to address key social determinants of health including education, employment, income, and mental health. Through an advisory board and three working subgroups, ISAF works to strengthen community capacity, encourage evidence-based planning, and implement targeted equity-focused action plans. The goal is to share these findings and models at regional and national levels to scale impact and inspire broader change.

Ribbon Rouge is proud to be a member tenant of the Edmonton Intercultural Centre (EIC), a community hub that supports collaboration among non-profit organizations working to build inclusive, empowered communities. As part of EIC's diverse network, Ribbon Rouge benefits from a shared space that fosters connection, resource sharing, and intercultural dialogue -further strengthening its ability to serve ACB communities across Alberta.

To learn more about Ribbon Rouge Foundation's work and upcoming initiatives, visit www.ribbonrouge.com.

Information provided by the Edmonton Intercultural Centre, which is located at 9538 107th Avenue.

Taking Transit for Lower Incomes

IAN YOUNG

ABILITY AND COMMUNITY

“Knowledge is like money: to be of value, it must circulate, and in circulating it can increase in quantity and, hopefully, in value.” - Louis L'Amour, American writer of novels and short stories, 1908-1988.

Summer in Edmonton has many annual festivals like the Edmonton Heritage Festival, Edmonton Folk Music Festival, and the Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival.

Parking can be scarce at these festivals, so travelling by ETS or DATS is recommended.

Did you know that people with lower incomes (such as some people with disabilities) may be eligible to get an Arc card with a reduced cost?

The website www.edmonton.ca/ets/subsidized-transit has information about the Ride Transit Program. It says:

With Arc, instead of paying a monthly rate upfront, participants pay for transit as they use it. You can load as little as \$4 or as much as you need.

Once you reach a daily cap (\$10.25) or the monthly Ride Transit fare cap (\$36 or \$51, depending on your eligibility), you can ride transit for free for the rest of that day or month.

The site suggests you call 311 if you have questions about Ride Transit. You can also apply for the program through the website.

Taking transit is a cost-saving way to travel, and I find the Arc card accessible. ETS drivers are knowledgeable and can assist. I have also mentioned in previous columns that the Valley Line trains are very accessible.

It will soon be autumn, so enjoy the remaining summer days!

Ian Young is a columnist and Block Carrier with the paper. He lives in the area.

Tea and Treats With a View



Dozens of people attended the Mother's Day Tea on May 24th on the rooftop of the Hull Block. People got to sample different kinds of tea (and listen to a talk about tea) as well as an assortment of sweet and savory items from Chinatown bakeries and restaurants. The event was organized by the Chinatown Transformation Collaborative Society. Paula E. Kirman

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CHURCH AND AGENCY SERVICES

ANSGAR DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
9554 - 108A Avenue
Sunday Service in English: 10:30 a.m.
Join us for worship and fellowship. Pastoral services available on request.
Tel: 780-422-8777

BISSELL CENTRE
10527 96 Street
780-423-2285
We have been serving the downtown community for more than 115 years with our mission front of mind: working in community, we remove barriers and support people as they move out of poverty.

Office hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Housing program services are available Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Free tax clinics are open at Bissell East (10527 96 Street) every Monday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (except in February).

BISSELL CHILD CARE
780-429-4126
9331 105 Avenue
Full-time and part-time child care services in downtown Edmonton for only \$10 a day. Plus, free respite care one day a week. Call to discuss what child care options will work best for you.
bissellchildcare.com

RADIUS COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HEALING (Formerly Boyle McCauley Health Centre)
10628 – 96 Street
Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Dental: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY
10527-96 St. NW
(780) 424-7652
Pastor: Quinn Strikwerda
Associate Pastor: Maria Kruszewski
Sunday Service: 9:15 a.m.
Take-away snack bags Sunday at 10 a.m.
Visits and other pastoral services on request. Contact us for information about conversation groups, Bible study, and individual support at info@icpmedmonton.ca or (780) 424-7652

THE ROCK OUTREACH
11004 – 96 Street NW
Phone (780) 426-1122
Breakfasts: Tuesday to Thursday 7-9 a.m.
Kids Club: Fourth Monday of the Month

THE SALVATION ARMY Edmonton Centre of Hope
12520 140 Avenue
(780) 244-2962
Transitional Housing, Addictions Recovery, Stabilization, and Supported Housing.

Transitional Housing for Downtown
9304 103A Avenue
(780) 428-4405
For more information: salvationarmyedmonton.org

HOPE MISSION
9908 106 Avenue
(780) 422-2018
HOPE MISSION MEALS:
Monday - Friday
Breakfast 7:30 - 8:15 a.m.
Lunch 12:00 - 12:45 p.m.
Supper 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.
Weekends & Holidays
Brunch 10:45 am - 11:30 a.m.
Supper 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.

HOPE MISSION SHELTER:
Men, Women, Youth
Doors open 8:30 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

HOPE MISSION COMMUNITY CHURCH:
Sunday: 2:00 p.m. Hope Mission Centre
9908 106 Avenue
7:00 p.m. Herb Jamieson Centre - 10014 105A Avenue

HOPE MISSION HEALTH CLINIC:
Hope Mission Health Centre
Family Doctor Monday to Friday
Walk-in: 9:00-3:00 p.m.
Psychiatrist Monday to Friday
by Appointment only - call 780-422-2018 Ext. 278

NEW DESTINY CHURCH
10605 - 96 St.
780-424-6422
www.newdestinychurch.ca
*Tuesday - 7:00 p.m. The Alpha Course-Introduction to Christianity and/or General Bible Studies
*Wednesday - 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group
*Sunday Morning - 10:00 a.m. Worship Service. Also available on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/newdestinychurchedmonton>
Street Level Outreach - Once a month on Saturday from 12 noon - 2:00 p.m. Sandwiches, clothing personal items, and prayer (front of church).

SACRED HEART CHURCH OF THE FIRST PEOPLES
Address: 10821-96 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 2J8, and Tel: (780) 422-3052.

Daily Mass:
Monday to Saturday: 9 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples.

Sunday Masses:
Sunday: 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples. All are welcome.

For more information, please view our weekly bulletin, our webpage, and our Sacred Heart Facebook.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
10759-96 Street
Tel: (780) 422-0059
evjohn@telus.net

Sunday Services:
1st Sunday English at 11:00 a.m.
2nd and 4th Sundays German at 9:30 a.m., English at 11:00 a.m.

Videos available on YouTube and Facebook.

THE LEARNING CENTRE LITERACY ASSOCIATION is seeking volunteer tutors to help adults develop reading, writing and/or math skills. Volunteers participate in group learning, tutor one-to-one, or assist drop-in learners.

Skills and Experience: High school level reading, writing, and/or math skills. Openness to tutor and learn with adults with various life experiences, including living with homelessness.

For more information:
tlcla.org/get-involved-3/
780-429-0675

NETWORKS ACTIVITY CENTRE
780-474-3363, EXT. 302. Volunteer! JOIN OUR TEAM! Networks Activity Centre provides adults with brain injury a program that promotes an active lifestyle through opportunities for social interaction, physical activity, and community involvement.

Volunteering with Networks Activity Centre is a wonderful way to enrich your life and touch the lives of those we serve.

If you are interested in joining our volunteer team please call 780-474-3363 ext. 302.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME TO JOIN MCCAULEY CLUB
Kids from age 6 to 17 are invited to join after-school programs that run from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri., & from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thurs. Programs include arts & culture, physical activity, health & nutrition, academic support, life skills, and leadership. Drop in at 9425 109A Ave. or call (780) 822-2549 for details. Offered free of charge.

P.A.L.S. PROJECT ADULT LITERACY SOCIETY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS
Work with adult students in the ESL - English as a Second Language program. Training, materials, and supplies provided. Call (780) 424-5514 for more information.

BUILDING BRIDGES
Building Bridges All Nations First Nations Fusion Church Services Sundays, 3 to 6 p.m. at St. Faith's Anglican Church, 11725-93 Street.

BOYLE STREET PLAZA YMCA FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAMS
YMCA Boyle Street Plaza offers Sportball every Saturday! Visit bit.ly/sportballymca for more information and to register.

DROP-IN GYM
YMCA Boyle Street Plaza
9538-103A Avenue
Drop-In Fee: \$6.50

Badminton (ages 16+):
Sundays: 1:30-4:30 p.m.
Fridays: 8:15-11:15 p.m.

Pickleball (ages 16+):
Sundays: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Wednesdays: 12:30-3 p.m.
Fridays: 5-8 p.m.

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Email us at fortplumb@gmail.com

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MLA UPDATE

Sharing Concerns This Summer

JANIS IRWIN

Dear friends,

I hope you've had a wonderful summer so far! It's been so nice to have the opportunity to spend some time outside in the sun, and to join you in celebrating all that our Boyle Street and McCauley communities have to offer.

Since we've been out of the legislature, I've been spending my summer catching up with constituents across my riding. I've seen many of you at local community events, but I've also had the chance to connect with you at your doorstep to make sure that I've had the chance to chat directly with as many of you as possible, and hear your concerns.

I've received a lot of great feedback from you all about what you're seeing from the provincial government, and about what you would like to see in order to ensure a safe, fulfilling, and equitable future for all Albertans.

Many of you have shared your concerns with health care, including your experiences when you or your loved ones have needed to access care urgently, but have not been able to do so as the UCP government allows our health care system in Alberta to collapse. We've talked about the need for accessible and timely public health care for all Albertans, as wait times in hospitals and for surgeries continue to skyrocket. This isn't how it should be anywhere, let alone in a province as wealthy as ours.

Many of you have also told me that as you look ahead to the coming school year, you are deeply concerned about the quality of education for your kids. We agree that teachers and school support staff are absolutely doing their best to ensure that every student in Alberta receives the education they need to set them up for lifelong success, but that the UCP government is making this increasingly difficult as class sizes

balloon while supports diminish. Please know that I'll keep advocating for our students, teachers, and school support staff on these issues.

I also know that countless neighbours are struggling with housing insecurity, and that many are currently unhoused or are on the edge of becoming unhoused. This is truly a life-or-death issue, and it's a priority for me to continue to push the UCP government to ensure that all Albertans have access to safe and affordable housing. This includes the need for investments in permanent supportive housing, action on out of control rents, and more robust subsidies.

Finally, I continue to hear from community members who are alarmed by the separatist movement that has been stoked by the UCP government. I know that the vast majority of Albertans, and certainly the vast majority of Boyle Street and McCauley residents, are proud to be Canadian and are very serious when they say that Alberta must remain a part of Canada. You've got my commitment that I will keep being a loud and proud Canadian!

I've been outspoken and active on these issues and more throughout the summer, and I'm looking forward to bringing my voice back to the legislature in October. Please don't hesitate to reach out to share your concerns too, no matter what they are. You can call or email my office anytime. I hope to see you out in the community or on your doorstep soon!

In the meantime, as always, take good care of yourselves and each other.

Janis Irwin, MLA for
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood
Email:
Edmonton.HighlandsNorwood
@assembly.ab.ca
Phone: 780-414-0682

e4c Community Development Office Closes at McCauley Apartments

A former program manager shares some memories.

KATHRYN RAMBOW

After more than 25 years, e4c Community Development closed the office at McCauley Apartments on June 30th. As the previous program manager for eight years, I thought I'd share some fond memories.

In the 1990s, e4c was invited by Capital Region Housing (now Cividia) to set up a presence at McCauley Apartments. It was a win-win: e4c gained an outreach space, and McCauley Apartments gained an on-site gathering space to offer social connection and tenant support.

As time went by, the tenants of McCauley Apartments became active contributors to neighbourhood life, sitting on the Community League board, volunteering at festivals and church events, supporting the McCauley Cup, and organizing the annual McCauley Safe Kids Halloween. Many neighbours will remember the McCauley Clean-Up, an extravaganza of garbage collection and litter cleanup,

hosted at McCauley Apartments.

We learned that - despite the challenges of poverty, mental health struggles, stigma, and isolation - we each have a deep well of love and connection and service and neighbourliness.

The little office at the back of McCauley Apartments holds so many stories, so many characters, so much joy and wonder. The music, the laughter, the food, the gardens, the community clean-ups and litter blitzes, the crafts, the chair yoga, the coffee, the puzzles, the sharing circles, the tie-dyed t-shirts, the poetry in the park, the ukulele lessons, the love and care and checking on each other.

May you continue to find each other despite many challenges.

Kathryn Rambow is a former program manager with e4c who has recently completed graduate school and is starting a counselling practice. She lives a block north of McCauley with her family.

Okîsikow Way Day 2025



Chancy Black Water (right), Indigenous Relations Office Consultant with the City of Edmonton, presents the City proclamation for Okîsikow Way Day on June 14th, 2025 to Elder Karen MacKenzie, a member of the original steering committee to establish Okîsikow (Angel) Way in Edmonton. Okîsikow Way Day raises awareness of victims of gender-based violence against women, children, and gender-diverse people, an issue disproportionately affecting Indigenous community members. The event was held in Churchill Square this year due to construction in the area of Okîsikow Way NW, which was officially renamed in 2024 and is located on 101A Avenue between 96th and 97th Streets. Okîsikow is the Cree word for "Angel." Paula E. Kirman



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Wellness Network Edmonton Services Ended

Alternatives are available for peer support services for those with mental health challenges.

CORINE DEMAS

Wellness Network Edmonton discontinued its services as of June 30th, due to funding changes. It provided peer support to folks with lived experience of mental health challenges through educational courses which were co-created and co-facilitated by people with lived experience and professionals, and was run by local social service agency e4c. While the Wellness Network will no longer operate, there are still a number of peer focused programs available in Edmonton.

David Prodan is Senior Director of Community Programs and Strategies at Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Edmonton Region. “Some of the areas I oversee are the community education and training areas, which is where the Wellness Network fits in,” he explained.

David shared with me some of the places folks can go to find peer support and education. “CMHA Edmonton has Recovery College which is similar to what e4c did with the Wellness Network, where we have those

psychoeducational courses that are recovery oriented that are co-created and co-delivered by people with lived experience. We have over 30 different courses in the Recovery College and through our partnership and work with e4c we are hoping to put on some of the courses they had as well.”

He spoke about another service he leads called Prosper Place, which is a mental health clubhouse for people with lived experience of mental health challenges. “Prosper Place is a great place for people from the community to make certain types of mental health connections and find social opportunities as well as education opportunities,” he said.

Prosper Place, which is currently located in the far west end of the city, will be moving this fall together with CMHA’s downtown offices into Centre 106. “It’s a much bigger space. We are going to be able to provide programs, both educational and drop-in. We are going to house our contact centre there - that’s through 211, 988, and the Distress Line and other connected support and help lines. We will have an office

with peer support workers who will be helping with things like systems navigation. We are excited for Prosper Place to move because it gives us more space to do drop in programs and focused arts and crafts, goal setting and leadership type programs that were part of the Wellness Network. We are going to continue to do that work,” David said.

Another initiative to promote peer support in the community is a Peer College which CMHA is developing. “Peer support specifically is one of the growth areas at CMHA. We are building on that concept of co-production and co-delivery,” he said.

“The idea with Peer College is that we will provide peer support training for people who want to work with peers. That could range from being a recovery college peer course facilitator to being a peer support worker or a peer leader of some kind in a community organization. There is a diversity of different peer roles that are starting to pop up in the community and it’s a worldwide movement really. The idea is that we want to prepare people with

lived experience to enter the workforce with the ability to use that lived experience to help others.”

CMHA is also building a website at together4cmh.ca. “It will be a repository or a hub to find out what kind of training is available in the city and in the province. We are keen to let people know what kind of training and help there is out there for mental health,” David said.

David pointed out that folks can also find connections to programming through 211, where community connectors can help you find programming and places to find social peer support.

“The spirit of the Wellness Network continues,” said David. “I know that there is a formal end through the e4c chapter but I do think that the programming that was happening is going to continue in the community in different ways.”

Corine Demas is the President of the McCauley Community League and is on the board of Boyle McCauley News.

Janis Irwin

MLA

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Blue Jean Jacket Day Builds Advocacy

Activist Judith Gale speaks at Blue Jean Jacket Day on June 6th at the green space on 96th Street south of Jasper Avenue. Blue Jean Jacket Day raises awareness of missing, murdered, and exploited Indigenous men and boys. Paula E. Kirman

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Activating An Alley With Martial Arts

Yan Khoo, an instructor with Ji Hong Wushu and Tai Chi College, teaches some moves at the first Chinatown After Dark of the season on May 24th in the alley at 97th Street and 105th Avenue. Chinatown After Dark is organized by YEG Chinatown RE:VITA. For information about upcoming events search YEGChinatownRevita on Facebook or @yegchinatownrevita on Instagram. Paula E. Kirman