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Boyle McCauley News

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VOL. 47 NO. 4 VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1979 PUBLISHED ON TREATY 6 TERRITORY FREE

Introducing Sanctuary of Peace

Inner City Pastoral Ministry rebrands with a new name and the same mission.

GLEN ARGAN

For 48 years, Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM) has been a place where unhoused and low-income people in central Edmonton have come to lay down their burdens. It is a place of Christian worship intermixed with Indigenous traditions.

Nearly two years ago, the ICPM board began searching for a name that better reflects its ministry. Earlier this year, we began operating as Sanctuary of Peace.

A sanctuary is a place where something precious and holy is held. It is a place of safety where people can grow, free of violence and drugs. Together, we sing, pray, smudge, share communion and hear God's word. Many experience the love of Jesus, and the Spirit slowly transforms their lives.

On Saturday, May 23rd, community members and supporters of Sanctuary of Peace gathered at Bissell Centre to celebrate the "re-branding" of the venerable inner-city institution. About 70 people attended a program, while another 300 enjoyed hamburgers outside the building.

Two members of the worship community spoke during the program.

Jesse told of quitting drinking five years ago. He lost his drinking buddies and his job as a bartender.



Pastor Quinn Strikwerda speaks at the Sanctuary of Peace launch on May 23rd. Background: Pastoral Associate Maria Kruszewski. Paula E. Kirman

"The worst thing I lost was karaoke. I was really good," he said, recounting his act that ended with seven minutes of "Stairway to Heaven."

"You can't do that stone cold sober. You look ridiculous; you feel ridiculous."

One Sunday on the street in Edmonton, a friend encouraged Jesse to attend the ICPM church service. Not only did he get to sing again, but he felt united with his nookum (grandmother) who attended every religious ceremony she could.

"My nookum would have loved

this place. I know I make her ghost happy when I come here. I love the community, and I really appreciate the work Pastor Quinn [Strikwerda] has done here and the example he sets for all of us."

Mike, another community member, said, "We spend all week trying to get through a lot of negative stuff. We see the level of rage and anger in some of the people. They have no way to deal with that level of hurt in a way that helps them and helps lift them up."

He too came to Sanctuary of Peace. "I arrived here by accident,"

but soon felt, "I am supposed to be here; I don't know why."

Mike said the messages delivered in the homilies by Pastor Quinn and Maria Kruszewski, the pastoral associate, seem tailored to him and his experiences. He asks, "Did you follow me all week? How were you able to tailor this to me and give me sustenance for my soul, for my head, for my heart?"

Now his life has purpose. Every morning, he rises determined to do what he can to help other people.

Strikwerda, an Anglican priest, has been pastor at Sanctuary for six years. Kruszewski has been pastoral associate for a year and a half.

Sanctuary of Peace is sponsored by the United, Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic churches. Every year, more than 60 churches, synagogues, mosques, and other groups provide the bagged lunches distributed after the 9:15 am weekly Sunday service.

Sanctuary also hosts men's and women's groups, a weekly Bible study, an annual retreat and a street ministry that includes handing out donated clothing on Tuesday mornings.

Glen Argan chairs the Sanctuary of Peace board of directors and is a proofreader for Boyle McCauley News.



DINING OUT: THE HEART AND PLATE

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CONNECTING COMMUNITY IN BOYLE STREET

“While some people also mentioned feeling isolated in the community, others celebrated how connected they feel.”

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VOICES WITHOUT BARRIERS

“For those with physical disabilities, barriers are common in performance venues.”

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REFLECTING ON COMMITMENTS

“Friends, I know that we have a long way to go towards building an equitable, kind, and supportive province for all Albertans.”

■ **PAGE 11**



Summer in McCauley

The McCauley Community League is glad to continue connecting neighbourhood residents. We have a friendly, safe place for children, teens, and adults. **Look for more information at the community league space (10755 96th Street - entrance at the NE corner).**

WECAN Food Basket Society distribution from the rink space on the third Thursday of the month. For more information visit wecanfood.com.

McCauley Community League hosts events at the community rink space:

English as Another Language class:
Fridays 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Garden Club:
Wednesdays 5:30-7:30p.m.

Treaty No. 6 Recognition Day (bannock and jam):
Friday, August 21st (4-6 p.m.)

Community Cafe:
Monday, August 31st (4-6 p.m.)

Become a member for free online at mccauleycl.com

Look for details on MCL's website (mccauleycl.com) or updates on Facebook (@[mccauleycommunityleague](https://www.facebook.com/mccauleycommunityleague))

MCCAULEYCL.COM
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NIPD at Bissell Centre



Drummers with Adrian LaChance and the Running Thunder Dancers perform at Bissell Centre's National Indigenous Peoples Day (NIPD) celebration on June 19th. Bissell Centre



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Documenting History



PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff

MCCAULEY MUSINGS

A primary function of a community newspaper is to provide a way for residents to take an active role in reporting news affecting their area. Community media is also a way to document neighbourhood history.

Boyle McCauley News takes an active approach to documenting local history. Our content is heavily geared towards coverage of events and news from a uniquely local perspective.

We also make sure that copies of the paper are accessible to anyone, even if they live outside of the area the paper covers. Every year we send copies of the paper to the City of Edmonton Archives to be added to our collec-

tion there. This started around 2009 when we went through our office and donated a copy of each issue of which we had a physical copy.

As well, we have an extensive archive of back issues on our website at bmcnews.org. The older issues are in PDF format, while the ones posted since around 2010 (when our website went live) are in website format with clickable articles and photos, and also as PDFs that are exactly like the print edition, ads and all.

We also have an electronic archive of searchable PDFs at Newspapers.com, providing another access point for researchers anywhere.

Our archives are not complete because we simply did not have a copy of every issue of the paper, particularly older editions. However, we have most of them. Hopefully our efforts will bear fruit for researchers of the area.

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.

Advertisements from political parties and politicians are paid for. *Boyle McCauley News* does not support or endorse any political party or viewpoint.

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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

The August-September 2026 edition of *Boyle McCauley News* is here. Whether you are flipping the pages of the paper in your hands or scrolling through the issue at our website, thank you for taking the time to read this independent community newspaper.

Speaking of our website, that is the place to go if you want to enjoy more of the paper between issues. At bmcnews.org there is exclusive content, an archive of back issues, the opportunity to sign up for our free e-newsletter, and more. On social media you can follow us on X (formerly Twitter) at [@bmcnews](https://twitter.com/bmcnews) and Bluesky at [@bmcnews.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/bmcnews.bsky.social).

Do you want to get involved

OUR NEXT ISSUE. . .

Volume 47, Issue 5 (October-November 2026) will be published October 1st, 2026. 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, 2026. Send submissions to: editor@bmcnews.org. Articles should be 400 words or less and accompanied by photographs (JPG format, in high resolution) whenever possible.

with *Boyle McCauley News*? Our writers, photographers, proofreaders, and Block Carriers are all volunteers. If you want to learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact me at editor@bmcnews.org.

Another way to connect with the paper is by becoming a member. Residents of McCauley and Boyle Street (and active volunteers with us anywhere) can apply for a free membership at our website. Members occasionally receive information and have a vote at our AGM. For more information: bmcnews.org/membership.

By the time you read the next issue, autumn will have arrived. Until then, take care and enjoy the issue!

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 200 words maximum, may be edited for length or clarity, and include a full name and contact information. Publication is not guaranteed. The deadline for letters for our next print issue is September 12th, 2026.

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:

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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

Crime Stoppers: 1-800-222-8477

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

Stay informed & get involved: safermccauley.ca and on Facebook @safermccauley

UPDATE FROM CITY COUNCIL

Connections Make Us Stronger

ANNE STEVENSON

One of my favourite parts of serving as your City Councillor is seeing our neighbourhoods come alive with people connecting, celebrating, and simply enjoying being together.

That is exactly what I experienced at Heart of the City. I spent the afternoon there with my daughter and friends, and it was one of those days that reminded me why community matters so much. The music, art, local vendors, activities, and treats were all so delightful, but events like this do more than entertain. They strengthen relationships, create new connections, and remind us that our public spaces are places where we belong together. In a world that can feel divided or disconnected, these shared moments matter.

Equally as important as these individual events, so too are the spaces where they take place. It's been wonderful to see neighbourhood renewal come to Boyle Street and McCauley and I'm keen to see these investments continue. We've started conversations about our four-year budget and maintaining our current public spaces has been a big priority. I'm pleased that repairs and maintenance to the Giovanni Caboto Park washroom building was noted in the City's initial four year capital budget, and I'll also be advocating for funding for upgrades to existing parks and playgrounds to help keep these community assets in the best shape possible.

Speaking of important community assets, Council recently gave the go-ahead for further work on the Residential Parking Permit Program. I know last time this was reviewed, many of you had concerns about the one-size fits all approach and missing details at the local level. City staff are

going to develop a proposed program that will come to Council for approval in early 2027. This will lay out a process for implementing the Residential Parking Permit Program in individual neighbourhoods, which will involve many opportunities for residents to provide feedback and make sure the program is the right one for the area. I will keep you posted on opportunities to be involved in the future!

Also on the parking front, City Council has taken steps to address surface lots in The Quarters. Many of these parking lots are currently unlicensed, and the City gave property owners a year to obtain the required permits. That grace period has now expired and the City will now start enforcement to ensure these sites are properly maintained and operated. We've already seen some positive turnover in these unlicensed lots, with properties being put up for sale that we hope will go to new owners who can get them developed.

Our communities are strongest when we come together. Whether it's through festivals, parks, housing, or neighbourhood events, every investment in connection helps build a more welcoming and vibrant Ward O-day'min. There are as always a host of great events happening in McCauley and Boyle Street in the coming months - like Felice Café Block Parties, with the next one happening on August 12th. I encourage you to check it out and hope to see many of you there!

Anne Stevenson
City Councillor
for Ward O-day'min

Email:
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Phone:
780-496-8333

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 UPDATE

The City of Edmonton has discontinued permitting privately-owned newspaper racks on City property following a review of its Newsrack Program, as well as community feedback. If you have a business and are willing to be a distribution location for the paper, please contact us!

BUSINESSES

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

Tony's Pizza (9605 111 Ave.)	The Moth (9449 Jasper Ave.)	Kim Fat Market (9905 107 Ave.)
Italian Centre (10878 95 St.)	Betty's Corner (9208 Jasper Ave.)	Little BonBon Ice Cream (seasonal) (9660 106 Ave.)
Lucky Supermarket (10725 97 St.)	Boa & Hare (10520 97 St.)	Earth's Refillery Coop (10831 95 St.)
Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St.)	Zocalo (10826 95 St.)	Chai Coffee Day (9665 101A Ave.)
Felice Cafe (10930 84 St.)	Paper Birch Books (10825 95 St.)	
Panini's (8544 Jasper Ave.)	Van Loc (10648 98 St.)	

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

Contact editor@bmcnews.org for more information.

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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MCCAULEY COMMUNITY LEAGUE UPDATE

Summer Successes

RUTH SOROCHAN

Summer is a time to keep on going to maintain good habits and good work, but also to take moments to appreciate and enjoy our accomplishments.

The McCauley Community League's AGM in June was a success. We had some folks leaving the board and I would like to recognize their good work and efforts. John Gee was Treasurer for four years. Thank you, John, for your steady work and for putting your love of numbers to the benefit of the community.

Justine Dyck was a board member who stepped up to be Vice President last year with so much good cheer and practical lovely energy, but has now stepped down. She hopes to become an active community member and volunteer. Justine, we thank you for your good work and will be glad to work with you in the future.

Corine Demas, who has shepherded the League through a lot over the past four years, stepped down as President but will carry on in her determined and creative way as Events Director.

There are still opportunities for

community volunteers and room on our board for more members. If you would like to work alongside us to make this community better, you are welcome to join. Thank you to the good folks at the Santa Maria Goretti Centre for hosting our meeting.

Thank you to all who participated in the clothing swap in June. It was a successful and fun event. There were over 40 people who came out to exchange clothing and find a few new things for the season. Thank you for who organized and helped make it a success.

August and September will be still busy, but I hope that there will be enough time for you to enjoy the gardens and parks of McCauley and meet your neighbours. There will be plenty of opportunities to meet together at the McCauley Community Orchard or the community rink space or at a festival at The Piazza.

Website: mccauleycl.com
Email: league@mccauleycl.com
Facebook: [@mccauleycommunityleague](https://www.facebook.com/mccauleycommunityleague)

Ruth Sorochan lives in McCauley with her family and is the Communications Director with the McCauley Community League.

Celebrating Mary Burlie Day



Mary Burlie Day was celebrated on July 13th with two events. People had a chance to see the progress of the renewal of Mary Burlie Park on 97th Street in the morning with family members, local MLAs, and representatives from community organizations (top). The afternoon had a gathering in Kinistinâw Park including sports, performances, haircuts, face-painting, and a barbecue. Bottom: family member Richard Sanders cooks hot dogs. Mary Burlie Day celebrates the life and legacy of Mary Burlie, a social worker who dedicated her life's work to caring for people of the inner city. Paula E. Kirman

Connecting Community in Boyle Street

KIM SMITH

If you are looking to become more involved in your neighbourhood, now is a great time to start! Boyle Street Community League has welcomed me, Kim Smith, to the team. My role is to build up the community league, deepen the richness of neighbourhood life, and help residents feel more at home.

At the Annual General Meeting for the Boyle Street Community League in July, I invited everyone present to chat with each other about what they love about the neighbourhood, what they would love to nourish in Boyle Street, and what they want to nourish in themselves as community mem-

bers. The conversation was just a small taste of the type of questions I'll be bringing to Boyle Street over the next few months.

In that conversation, people expressed their love for the multicultural nature and diversity of the community. They appreciate that the neighbourhood is rich with relationships, and that it is easy to walk to many interesting nearby attractions.

While some people also mentioned feeling isolated in the community, others celebrated how connected they feel. Some long-time community leaders said they would like to step back from their leadership roles and

help to mentor a new generation.

I will be inviting all interested Boyle Street residents to join us in more of these types of conversations until the fall. To ensure we have as many people as possible involved, in the first phase of the work I will connect with current Community League members, those who respond to the posters and handbills delivered around the neighbourhood, and people other neighbours connect me with. We are looking to connect with anyone who lives in the neighbourhood and cares about it! You can chat with me without committing to any long-term involvement.

Once we have spoken with a good

number of neighbours, we will host some fun workshops sharing what we love about the neighbourhood, what we would love to nourish in the neighbourhood, and how to ensure this work supports us as whole humans. We would love to have you involved!

After that, we'll make a plan to do the things we've identified and head into the next phase of nurturing Boyle Street as the beautiful place we call home.

I'm excited to meet people in the neighbourhood! If you are a Boyle Street resident and would like to be involved or learn more, contact me at community@boylestreetcl.com, or fill out this form: tinyurl.com/5cu5c58h

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A New Local Breakfast Destination

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DINING OUT

The Heart and Plate

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ALAN SCHIETZSCH

Breakfast restaurants seem to fall into two categories these days: chain operations with long line-ups and premium prices, or small neighbourhood spots that quietly go about serving good food without much fuss. The Heart and Plate belongs firmly in the second category, and that's exactly what makes it such a welcome addition to the area.

From the moment we walked in, it felt comfortable and inviting. Booth seating lines the large front windows, while tables with polished black granite tops fill the dining room. We were fortunate to grab a spot by the window, making it easy to watch the neighbourhood wake up while enjoying breakfast.

The service set the tone immediately. Rather than simply taking our order, our server carefully asked how we wanted everything prepared, from egg preferences to toast choices. It was a small detail, but one that demonstrated a genuine commitment to getting breakfast right.

Our table sampled a variety of dishes, including the Smoked Salmon Benny, Avocado Toast, Chocolate Dream Pancakes with bacon, and the Canadian Breakfast with ham.

The Smoked Salmon Benny delivered everything one hopes for from a classic eggs Benedict varia-



Chocolate Dream Pancakes with bacon at The Heart and Plate. Alan Schietzsch

tion. The rich hollandaise, perfectly prepared eggs, and generous portions of smoked salmon were combined into a satisfying breakfast that felt indulgent without being overpowering.

The Avocado Toast showcased the restaurant's attention to quality ingredients. Fresh, colourful, and thoughtfully prepared, it offered a lighter option that still felt substantial.

One of the surprises of the morning was the fruit garnish accompanying several dishes. Every piece tasted perfectly ripe. There were no woody melon chunks, no over-ripe berries, and none of the disappointing fruit that often appears as an afterthought on breakfast plates. It was clear someone in the kitchen cared about the details and had hand-selected their ingredients.

My brother-in-law's Chocolate Dream Pancakes quickly became a table favourite. The pancakes

themselves were exceptionally fluffy, while the chocolate flavour was present without becoming overly sweet. They struck a balance that would satisfy both children and adults. Alongside them came crisp bacon cooked exactly as bacon should be: crunchy, savoury, and not under or over-salted.

The Canadian Breakfast with ham delivered the kind of hearty, traditional breakfast that remains popular for good reason. It was generous, well prepared, and comforting without trying to reinvent anything.

What impressed us most about The Heart and Plate was how effortlessly it competes with Edmonton's more celebrated breakfast destinations. The food quality easily rivals any of the city's default brunch spots, yet the atmosphere feels relaxed and approachable. There is something refreshing about enjoying an excellent breakfast without

navigating crowds, complicated menus, or inflated prices.

Its location also makes it surprisingly convenient. Residents from nearby neighbourhoods will appreciate having a dependable breakfast destination close to home. For commuters coming from Highlands, it would make an easy stop on the way to work, while visitors from other parts of the city can reach it with a short walk from Stadium LRT Station. It's also near The Yards and across from the Norwood Legion.

Most of all, The Heart and Plate feels like the kind of restaurant every neighbourhood hopes to have: welcoming, comfortable, and consistently good. Sitting by the windows with a cup of coffee and a hearty breakfast, it was easy to forget about the rush of the day outside. In a city increasingly filled with corporate chains and "designed" destination brunch spots, The Heart and Plate proves there is still plenty of room for an "ordinary" restaurant that isn't ordinary: it simply does everything well. For local residents, that's a welcome bonus indeed.

The Heart and Plate serves breakfast until 11:30 a.m. on weekdays and until noon on weekends. After that, the restaurant switches to an extensive menu featuring lunch and diner items including salads, burgers, paninis, Italian dishes, and a variety of other entrees. We can't wait to go back later in the day and see what their evening dining is like!

Alan Schietzsch lives in McCauley and is a member of the paper's Board of Directors.

Magic at Chinatown After Dark



Magician and circus artist Jay Flair performs at Chinatown After Dark on June 27th. Organized by YEG Chinatown RE:VITA, the event had to be moved indoors to the Pacific Mall due to weather conditions. Chinatown After Dark also happened on July 25th. The rest of the dates for this year are August 29th, September 19th, and October 10th from 6-11 p.m. in the area of 106th Avenue and 98th Street. Paula E. Kirman

Walking for Peace and Friendship Again



Elder Lorette Goulet (centre) led the fourth annual Peace and Friendship Walk on July 12th. The walk began and ended in the McCauley Community Garden and included cultural performances and food. The event is a partnership between Māmawi Nipawiwini Standing Together, the Edmonton Chinatown Business Improvement Area (BIA), and other community groups. Paula E. Kirman

A Love Letter to Giovanni Caboto Park

Park holds many dear memories for McCauley resident.

LEIF GREGERSEN

I first came to McCauley in mid-winter and was ill-equipped for it. To go anywhere, I had to cross through deep snow in Giovanni Caboto Park. I inevitably ended up with cold, wet feet. However, I also ran across my first random act of kindness.

Someone - I never learned who - used a snowblower to make paths through the park. They didn't simply clear sidewalks - someone took the time to discover the most used foot paths across the park and cleared them. This made the park much easier to navigate. It made me feel at home in a new and unique place.

Giovanni Caboto Park has meant many things to me. The park's shining star is when the Heart of the City festival happens. When I first became involved in the event, I got to be friends with the then-President, Charity Slobod. We have stayed friends for years



Giovanni Caboto Park in May 2026. Paula E. Kirman

now, and I recently visited her on the West Coast.

Another of my fondest memories was to be the instructor for "Poetry in the Park," an event e4c encouraged me to facilitate which ran for two summers. It

was so relaxing and entertaining to express my love of the English language through poetry in such a beautiful place and to meet others who love poetry as much as I do.

Giovanni Caboto Park has a

long and diverse history. For me, the park is all about the wonderful people who live here or love to visit. I have a close friend who would often bring his son all the way from Old Strathcona for gelato at Spinelli's Bar Italia. Afterwards, the kid would beat me in a game of basketball across the street or act up as only young boys can, while making short iPhone movies to later show his mom.

Once, I was chasing a pristine butterfly in the park. It stopped for just one moment, and I got the perfect shot of it. I could have made a coffee table book of the squirrels, blackbirds, crows, woodpeckers, bluejays, and insects that abound. But mostly I am happy just to sit among the majestic trees and soothing sounds of the fountain in my favourite park.

Leif Gregersen lives and writes in McCauley.

Heart of the City Jam

One-day event filled the park with sweet melodies.

RACHAEL ROBERTS

For more than 20 years the Heart of the City Music and Arts Festival has taken place in Giovanni Caboto Park as a free, family-friendly celebration of music and art. Instead of a two-day festival, this year the organizers opted to run a music jam during the afternoon of Saturday, June 5th. Participants and volunteers were given a t-shirt and enjoyed bannock from Tee Pee Treats and Caribbean food from Island Spice Food Truck. A small art tent hosted crafts and kids were encouraged to join the fun with drums, shakers, ukeleles, and whistles. The weather held and not a drop of rain fell from the sky, despite a rainy forecast.

The afternoon began with youth performances hosted by the Well Network, a local social enterprise with a mission to coordinate creative programming. Heart of the City alumnus and McCauley darling Stella Johnson delivered an amazing show while jammers signed up to secure their spot on the lineup. After dinner was served, local band Tiger Coffee performed.



Audience members groove to the sounds of Tiger Coffee at the Heart of the City Jam on June 5th. Paula E. Kirman

Next was the sing-along, and songbooks were passed around the crowd. In the booklets were the lyrics to six pre-selected songs. Jammers were invited to sing and play along. During the next half hour, the sweet and joyful sounds coming from the collective voices of the participants filled the park with harmonies. Following the sing-along, the musicians who had signed up

for an open mic spot got their chance to perform. Finally, at 10 p.m., Heart of the City wrapped up production after a successful show.

Heart of the City was reduced to a one-day event this summer, but the organizers are planning on delivering more programming throughout the year, and we need your help. If you would

like to volunteer with the festival, visit our website at heartcityfest.com.

Rachael Roberts is a board member with the Heart of the City Festival, where she has volunteered since 2013, and recently joined the board of Boyle McCauley News. She is a mother, a teacher, and a lifelong Edmontonian who loves this community.

Okîsikow (Angel) Way Day Proclamation



Mayor Andrew Knack presented the Proclamation for Okîsikow (Angel) Way Day to Shawna Hohendorff (left) and Liz Callingbull-Taylor (centre) from Kindred House on June 9th at a ceremony in City Hall. Kindred House is located along Okîsikow (Angel) Way. Formerly known as 101A Avenue, this stretch is now a designated Canada Post address Okîsikow (Angel) Way, book-ended by the Women’s Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC) on 96th Street and Canada Place on 97th Street. Kindred House is a program of Radius Health. It’s a safe space for women and gender diverse people to seek support and counselling to heal from the traumas of violence, sexual exploitation, homelessness, poverty, and discrimination. Kate Quinn

Stretching Towards Spring



People take part in chair yoga in Giovanni Caboto Park during Festa Primavera on May 23rd. The event also included food, children’s crafts, music, and more in The Piazza’s outdoor space. It was organized by the Viva Italia District Association (VIDA). Paula E. Kirman

Tourism Award for Dragon Food Tours



The Chinatown Transformation Collaborative Society’s Dragon Food Tours won the Culinary Tourism Award at the 2026 Edmonton Tourism Awards. The awards were presented on June 5th. Larry Wong

Housing is a Human Right



Jim Gurnett holds up a protest sign during his talk at Housing is a Human Right: Celebrating 40 Years of ECOHH on June 13th at the Alberta Avenue Community Hall. The event commemorated four decades of the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, a volunteer-run non-profit that advocates for solutions to homelessness. Gurnett is a longtime member of ECOHH and social justice advocate. Paula E. Kirman

A Song for Blue Jean Jacket Day



Jay Gilday performs during Blue Jean Jacket Day on June 6th at the Central Lions Seniors Recreation Centre. Blue Jean Jacket Day honours missing and murdered Indigenous men and boys. Now an international movement, the local event was co-founded by musician and activist Stephanie Harpe, and Indigenous leader Cameron Alexis. This year’s Blue Jean Jacket Day in Edmonton was led by men. Michelle Lori Ewoniak

Lives Honoured at Homeless Memorial



Attendees of the 2026 Edmonton Homeless Memorial on June 4th place flowers on the Homelessness Memorial Sculpture located between 99th and 100th Streets north of 103A Avenue. This year's memorial honoured 349 people who died in 2025 as a result of not having adequate housing. It was organized by the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (ECOHH). Paula E. Kirman

Canada Day Celebration in Chinatown



Acrobats Daniel Craig and Jayme Nickel perform at the Chinese Benevolent Association's "Canada Day Celebration 2026 - Together with You!" event on July 1st at the Edmonton Chinatown Multi-Cultural Centre. Hundreds attended the event, which included a variety of performances. Bernard Chui

Voices Without Barriers

IAN YOUNG

ABILITY AND COMMUNITY

"If music be the food of love, play on." -William Shakespeare (from the comedy Twelfth Night.)

Music is universal and can be of any language (even for those deaf and hard of hearing). Different abilities can mean different interpretations when it comes to music.

For those with physical disabilities, barriers are common in performance venues. To address this, Voice of Albertans With Disabilities Society (VAD) is presenting Voices Without Barriers, Alberta's first fully accessible indoor music festival.

It takes place Saturday, September 26th, 2026, from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. at The Westin Downtown Edmonton. From VAD's website:

This inaugural festival is being built from the ground up with accessibility as its foundation. It will bring together music, community, connection, and belonging in a welcoming indoor environment where Albertans with disabilities, families, artists, advocates, and supporters can gather and celebrate together.

About the Festival

Voices Without Barriers is more than a music festival. It is a first of its kind initiative in Alberta that is redefining what accessibility, inclusion, and community engagement can look like in live events. The festival will prioritize Albertans with disabilities and intentionally uplift Indigenous artists with disabilities, while ensuring fair and equitable compensation for performers.

The event will feature accessibility focused supports and inclusive design elements, including:

- Silent market
- Sensory friendly space
- Tactile features for attendees who are hearing or visually impaired
- Accessible venue design
- Inclusive music and arts experiences

Festival planning also includes supports such as tactile transducers, live captioning, sensory friendly spaces, and other accessibility features that help remove barriers to participation.

For more information, including ticket prices (and how to purchase them) and sponsorship opportunities, visit <https://vadsociety.ca>.

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



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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
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bissellchildcare.com

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okimaw peyesew kamik
10740 99 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5H 1N7
Hours: Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Ph: 780-424-4106

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.

SANCTUARY OF PEACE
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
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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.

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Sundays: 1:30-4:30 p.m.
Fridays: 8:15-11:15 p.m.

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

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MLA UPDATE

Reflecting on Commitments

JANIS IRWIN

Friends,

And just like that, it's August! What a wonderful summer we've had so far (even with the very rainy days). I've deeply enjoyed spending as much time as possible outdoors in the neighbourhoods I'm so proud to represent in the Alberta Legislature. Whether I'm attending festivals, holding walking meetings with constituents, or knocking on doors, being outside in our beautiful community is so restorative for me, especially when I'm able to connect with so many of you.

As I've said a lot, representing Boyle Street and McCauley is such an honour and a privilege, and as we near the start of a new school year, I've been reflecting on the commitments that I've made in my role as your MLA:

- My commitment to students, teachers, parents, and school communities; that I'll keep doing my best to advocate for learning environments that are safe, well-funded, and inclusive.
- My commitment to health-care workers and public health care; that I'll show my gratitude for the ceaseless hard work of those on the frontlines by advocating for appropriate funding, respecting their expertise and service, and by doing everything I can to protect our public

- health care system so it's there for everyone, no matter who they are or how much money they have.
- My commitment to our constituency, our province, and our country; that I'll always speak up for you, for your safety, for your human rights, for our democracy, and for our beautiful country of Canada. We are all Treaty people, and this reminder grounds my work every single day.

Friends, I know that we have a long way to go towards building an equitable, kind, and supportive province for all Albertans. I will keep advocating and I will keep listening, and I'm so honoured to continue this work together with you.

I hope that you are all finding joy and connection wherever possible. Please remember that I am here to help, so if you need anything, would like to share your thoughts or feedback, or meet with me, please reach out!

And, as always, please continue to take care of yourselves and each other.

*Janis Irwin, MLA for
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood*

Email:
*Edmonton.HighlandsNorwood
@assembly.ab.ca*

Phone: 780-414-0682

Bissell Centre Sparks Conversations about FASD with Red Shoe Walk



Participants in the 2024 Red Shoe Walk. Bissell Centre

The Red Shoe Walk initially kicked off in 2013 when RJ Formanek wanted to start a conversation about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). As an adult who has FASD, he thought educating people and showcasing his diverse skillset and reliance was important. And the Red Shoe Walk was born.

RJ figured he should stand out – red shoes did the trick. With his crimson kicks, RJ took to the street in his Ontario hometown, stopping to talk with anyone willing to learn about FASD. Formanek's initiative took off and has been adopted across the country, with Red Shoe Walks taking place in major cities across Canada each year.

Bissell Centre, in partnership with Unlimited Potential - Open Arms, is holding its Red Shoe Walk on Wednesday, September 9th, 2026. It starts at noon, departing from Sir Winston Churchill Square and strolling through downtown Edmonton helping to spark conversations about FASD.

Bissell Centre's programs and services are largely informed through a strengths-based lens to better support people with FASD. This includes programs specifically catered to people with FASD such as the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum of Services (FASS), the permanent supportive housing site Hope Terrace, and the new supportive recovery house Den of Willows. These programs help work towards Bissell Centre's vision to eliminate poverty in the community.

"These conversations about FASD are important because of how widespread this condition can be," says Sophia Mejia, Manager of Specialized Services at Bissell Centre. "Approximately four per cent of people in Canada have FASD — that's more than autism, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome combined. It's a highly misunderstood condition and no two people with FASD are alike."

FASD affects people differently depending on when alcohol was introduced to their fetal development. Alcohol slows down development, both physically and mentally. How FASD affects a person is highly individualized and often requires individualized programs and supports.

"Everyone has unique strengths and our wraparound supports programs help individuals with FASD uncover their strengths and lean on them to find their stability," says Mejia. "The Red Shoe Walk is meant to spark conversations about FASD and demonstrate how wraparound supportive living can help so many people live with dignity and find opportunities to play a meaningful role in their communities."

Join us on September 9th for the Red Shoe Walk and help spread better understanding about FASD. Visit bissellcentre.org to learn more about FASD and Bissell Centre's supports for people with FASD.

Information submitted by Bissell Centre.

Van bLoc Party Expands



The 2026 Van bLoc Party took place on June 6th and 7th. It was hosted by Van Loc and took place in the area of the sandwich shop in Chinatown (106th Avenue and 98th Street). As in previous years it featured live performances such as the traditional Korean group HanBeat Samulnori, DJs, a market, and, for the first time this year, volleyball. Paula E. Kirman

HEART OF THE CITY FESTIVAL SOCIETY ARTIST PROFILE SERIES

Woonson Lam: Inspired By Playing Live

"It was the 'say yes to everything' mentality."

RACHAEL ROBERTS

Woonson Lam, or Chris as some people know him, has been playing music for most of his life. As a young child in Edmonton and student of music, Woonson dutifully performed piano pieces at recitals, not realizing he was preparing himself for a lifelong vocation in music. "My mom was very old school; she always put me in suits; she always put me in these little competitions," he recalls.

As a teen his friend showed him the first riff of Metallica's "Enter Sandman," and he soon figured out that the skills he learned reading sheet music and practicing technique would apply to a guitar. Thanks to his sister's recommendation, he was asked to play bass in a Salsa band. "It was a hard lesson in syncopated rhythm, and it was like having a metronome," he says.

He ended up playing with that band for 12 years. He says of his early days of gigging around Edmonton, "I had an original band at that time. I played around the city. I was asked to do a lot of different things musi-

cally. I always had multiple projects, always had multiple bands, just always been really busy with music."

Woonson describes his early years playing in bands and raising a young family. "I was burning the candle at both ends. It was tough, but there were times where the extra money I earned from gigs definitely got me through tough times." He recalls a local scene at the Crown Pub, a live music venue in McDougall that hosted open mic nights and local bands. "I remember they had a little battle of the bands, my band won, and they named a burger after our band, The AmazariA Burger."

His connection to the Boyle Street-McCauley area runs deep. Woonson's dad was involved with the Chinese Association, Kwan Ying, which no longer exists. "I did a lot of different things in the Chinatown area my whole life. My dad would be spearheading events, dinners; we would volunteer. I also did Lion Dancing."

Woonson credits his mom for his connection to Latin music. "She's Colombian and associated with a lot of Latin bands, lots of festivals."



Woonson Lam. Julien Constantin

The first time Woonson played at Heart of the City was in 2019 with an original Latin band called Angelitos. He says of that time, "I was going to say yes to everything that comes across my plate, all these opportunities before COVID, and without much effort I got really busy. It was the 'say yes to everything' mentality."

During the COVID restrictions, Woonson found Ann Vriend's Porch Concerts in McCauley and was able to keep playing. "It was literally on the porch of her house, people would come and sit outside. It became something for the time."

Currently, Woonson plays with four bands: Angelitos, Andansas, Curt Young and the Healers, and C-Y-A. He does solo shows and attends jams around the city. "I find the jams always to be a good place to practice making your mistakes while you're on stage, to play a tune or two and have fun doing it."

He says inspiration comes from playing live. "Having fun, trying to make everybody have fun with you. And it's symbiotic, right? You get it from the crowd, you give it back."

Rachael Roberts is a board member with the Heart of the City Festival, where she has volunteered since 2013, and recently joined the board of Boyle McCauley News. She is a mother, a teacher, and a lifelong Edmontonian who loves this community.

Janis Irwin

MLA

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