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Boyle McCauley News

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

Bissell Harvest Catering Elevates

Something good is cooking at Bissell Centre through its latest social enterprise.

GAIL SILVIUS

Bissell Centre launched Bissell Harvest Catering, the newest of the agency's social enterprises, in June. In development since 2023, the downstairs kitchen in the Bissell East building (10527 96th Street) has been expanded and modernized. Meal preparation capacity has been increased from 36,000 meals per month to 50,000. The expansion provides capacity for the social enterprise to offer catering services to the general public.

According to the Bissell Harvest catering website (bissellharvest.ca): "... when you choose our elevated cuisine for your next event, you're not just indulging in a fantastic meal - you're also helping to elevate the lives of people right here in Edmonton. It's like a meal with a side of good karma!"

Prasanna Peddireddy, Manager of Food Services, has been part of Bissell's Food Services for seven years. He brings more than 23 years of culinary skills and international experience to the project. He is equally comfortable putting together bag lunches for 300 community members who come to Bissell for programs and services as plating such dishes as honey garlic chicken with creamy mashed potatoes and crisp vegetables. He envisions the development of the catering business as another tool for sustaining the long term viability of Bissell Centre. Peddireddy states, "We have the skills and capacity and are excited to be developing a new business that gives back to our community."



Left: Herb Crusted Salmon. Right: Kitchen staff with Bissell Harvest Catering plating Seared Scallops and Truffle Arancini. Emily Parr

The catering menus feature a holiday dinner with Citrus and Herb Crusted Salmon and Classic Roast Turkey, along with side dishes. Among the offerings for hors d'oeuvres are gluten and dairy free options, such as southeast beef salad rolls that are tortilla wrapped, or vegan salad rolls in rice paper.

Price ranges are from \$5 for an appetizer to \$45 for a full formal meal. A minimum order of 15 servings is required. At this time, alcohol service is not offered.

The food service team at Bissell Centre, in addition to preparing healthy snacks and meals for users of Bissell Centre's programs, is using its skills to develop a viable and sustainable business model

for this catering venture. All profits return to the organization to further the agency's goals.

Sustainability and care of the environment is another component of Bissell Harvest's mission. Ingredients are locally sourced as much as possible, with any food waste being composted.

This is a further step towards reducing the organization's carbon footprint and strengthening its financial position through lowering operating costs. In recent years, Bissell Centre has installed solar panels on the Bissell West building, as well as at the Bissell Thrift Shop on Alberta Avenue.

Bissell Centre is no stranger to social enterprise. Its Thrift Shop functions as a social enterprise providing employment, low cost clothing, and household supplies to its customers, while returning any profits to the agency. It has been in business since 1959. In addition, Bissell Centre operates Moonlight Bay at Wabamun Lake as a retreat centre.

Bissell Centre was founded in 1910 as a Methodist mission, and incorporated as a stand-alone charitable society in 1977.

For more information about Bissell Harvest Catering visit: bissellharvest.ca.

Gail Silvius is happily retired and living in McCauley.



ROB'S FAMOUS FRIED CHICKEN
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FINDING WARMTH IN THE WINTER
"As winter settles in, I encourage everyone to stay connected with the many City services that support our communities."
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A CHAMPION FOR NEWCOMER FAMILIES
"... MFRS creates spaces where newcomers are not only supported but celebrated."
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STANDING UP AND SPEAKING OUT
"Keep speaking out, keep showing up, and keep staying hopeful."
■ **PAGE 11**



Winter Season in McCauley

The McCauley Community League is glad to continue connecting neighbourhood residents. We want a friendly, safe place for children, teens, and adults.

Look for more information at the community league space (107th Avenue and 96th Street - main entrance at 108th Avenue and 96th Street)

Our rink will open as soon as weather permits for skating.

English as a second language classes are Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. to noon at the rink.

WECAN Food Basket will begin distribution from the rink space in December (third Thursday of the month). See the article elsewhere in this issue.

A Christmas party and New Year's Eve fireworks watch party will be hosted by the Community League. Information will be posted on our website and Facebook.

Look for details on MCL's website (mccauleycl.com) or updates on Facebook (@mccauleycommunityleague)

MCCAULEYCL.COM

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Celebrating a Professional Milestone



When Paula Kirman isn't editing Boyle McCauley News, she does a variety of freelance media work. One such project is photographing and filming local protests, rallies, and other events for an independent media website (radicalcitizenmedia.com) she founded, which celebrated 20 years online in September. MLA Janis Irwin presented Paula with a scroll to commemorate this anniversary on October 14th during the Boyle McCauley News volunteer appreciation party at Tony's Pizza. Supplied

Go Ahead: Meet Your Heroes



PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff

MCCAULEY MUSINGS

A common piece of advice is to never meet your heroes. The belief is that meeting a well-known person in real life will be disappointing because that person will not live up to the idealized version existing in one's imagination.

I have had the privilege to meet some of my favourite entertainers over the years. Yes, during these experiences I often had my heart in my mouth and had to be careful not to get tongue-tied. However, the experiences have been positive in that I have been able to make some wonderful memories while also telling the people in question how much their work has meant to me. As an artist myself, few

things feel better than for someone to compliment your work.

One of my favourite musicians recently died. I met this person twice and have photos to prove it. I feel grateful that I was able to connect and now be able to share those memories with other fans. Another recent experience was meeting a musician I have been a huge fan of since my teens. Finally meeting the person was literally a dream come true and worth the wait.

I realize there are stories out there about people meeting a celebrity and it not going well. A good way not to be disillusioned is to remember that everyone - including people we admire from afar - are at their core, just regular people living their lives. Don't avoid meeting someone you admire if the opportunity arises simply out of fear the person may not be as perfect as you hoped. You may be pleasantly surprised. You also may never get another chance.

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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PO Box 34024, RPO Kingsway Mall, Edmonton AB, T5G 3G4
P: (780) 425-3475 E: info@bmcnews.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Corine Demas, John Kolkman, Richard Nguyen, Rachael Roberts, Alan Schietzsch, Deborah Stewart

CONTACT THE BOARD AT BOARD@BMCNEWS.ORG

STAFF

EDITOR

Paula E. Kirman
editor@bmcnews.org

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Colleen Chapman, Paula E. Kirman
volunteer@bmcnews.org

LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Vikki Wiercinski
design@bmcnews.org

ADVERTISING

Vikki Wiercinski
ads@bmcnews.org

ACCOUNTING

Rosalie Gelderman
accounting@bmcnews.org

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Colleen Chapman

ASSISTANT DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Barry Marienhoff

WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

Edmonton Intercultural Centre, Dan Hempel, Janis Irwin, Paula E. Kirman, Emily Parr, Rachael Roberts, Alan Schietzsch, Gail Silvius, Ruth Sorochan, Anne Stevenson, Harvey Voogd, Ian Young

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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 our final issue of Volume 46. Depending on when you read this, it is either the end of 2025 or the beginning of 2026. Either way: Happy New Year!

At our AGM in November, we welcomed a couple of people to our Board of Directors. Rachael Roberts is also involved with Heart of the City and recently began writing for us. Alan Schietzsch is a name that may be familiar: he writes our Dining Out column but also served on our board for a number of years and was our board's Chair for a while. We are happy to welcome him back to the board. We also said farewell to Diana van der Stoel who completed her term on the board. We thank her for her time and wish her all the best.

OUR NEXT ISSUE. . .

Volume 47, Issue 1 (February-March 2026) will be published February 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: January 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.

You can apply for a free membership at our website (bmcnews.org/membership). Members occasionally receive information and have a vote at our AGM.

At our website we also publish exclusive content, extra classifieds, an events calendar, a searchable archive of back issues, and the chance to sign-up to receive our free e-newsletter.

Call-out for volunteers:

If you are interested in writing, photographing, or delivering the paper, please let me know at editor@bmcnews.org.

Follow us on social media:

we are on X (formerly Twitter) as [@bmcnews](https://twitter.com/bmcnews) and Bluesky at [@bmcnews.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/bmcnews.bsky.social).

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 January 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:

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)

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

PROOFREADERS

Glen Argan, Colleen Chapman, Rosalie Gelderman

UPDATE FROM CITY COUNCIL

Finding Warmth in the Winter

ANNE STEVENSON

As the snow begins to blanket our city again, I feel both grateful and excited. I'm so honoured to have been re-elected to serve the incredible communities of O-day'min for another four years. I'm thankful for your trust and support, and I look forward to continuing to work together to build a city that works for everyone.

A key priority as the weather turns colder is to ensure that everyone has a warm place to be. Council recently approved one million dollars to expand the number of day shelter spaces offered throughout the city. Not only will this help keep Edmontonians experiencing homelessness out of the cold, it can also help relieve pressures many businesses and residents feel when folks have nowhere else to be but on our streets, in our yards, or in front of businesses. I also moved a motion earlier in the fall asking the Province to come up with a plan to relocate some of the shelter space from the Hope Mission and Herb Jamieson to other locations across the city. I think this is the best approach to help reduce pressure on the core while making sure essential services can still be provided.

Despite challenges we continue to face, there is much to be hopeful about this season. I'm excited for the upcoming holiday celebrations – events that remind us of the warmth, creativity, and community spirit that make O-day'min such a special place to call home.

As winter settles in, I encourage everyone to stay connected with the many City services that support our communities. From libraries and recreation centres to public transit and community grant opportunities, there are many ways to get involved and find support. My team and I are always here to help, and I love hearing from residents about the ideas and concerns that matter to you.

Never hesitate to reach out to my office, and if we cross paths at an event or around the community, please be sure to say hello.

Thanks for reading!

Anne Stevenson, City Councillor for Ward O-day'min

Email: anne.stevenson@edmonton.ca

Phone: 780-496-8333

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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.)

Panini's

(8544 Jasper Ave.)

Paper Birch Books

(10825 95 St.)

Italian Centre

(10878 95 St.)

The Moth

(9449 Jasper Ave.)

Van Loc

(10648 98 St.)

Lucky Supermarket

(10725 97 St.)

Betty's Corner

9208 Jasper Ave.

Kim Fat Market

(9905 107 Ave.)

Sprucewood Library

(11555 95 St.)

Boa & Hare

(10520 97 St.)

Little BonBon Ice Cream

(seasonal)
(9660 106 Ave.)

Felice Cafe

(10930 84 St.)

Zocalo

(10826 95 St.)

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.

MCCAULEY COMMUNITY LEAGUE UPDATE

Seasons of Community

A look back and a look ahead in McCauley.

RUTH SOROCHAN

McCauley is a neighbourhood of many: many different people, events, and happenings. There is always something going on. This season we hope as a community league to continue being a link for residents to municipal government and a connector of community groups.

In the summer and autumn the Community League continued to host monthly community cafes at the rink space. Community resident Dustin Bajer, from Cultivate McCauley, established a forest nursery at the rink space. Look for it in the spring for more information.

The Sustainable Food Edmonton McCauley Orchard and the McCauley Community League (MCL) connected to host Kids in the Orchard. One of the fall projects was fixing and repainting the communal sheds at the orchard site. Also there were two tree pruning workshops cohosted by orchard gardeners and the MCL. Look for more opportunities to be involved in the spring.

The Community League Day party was at the Rhema Chapel this year with face painting and crafts. It was a good Saturday afternoon in the neighbourhood.

Halloween was a smashing success this year. There was warm and spirited fun at the rink. An unofficial count of 52 children of all ages, as well as their adult folks, came through the rink space while the music spilled down the street. Thank you to all the folks who came to sort candy, set up, and clean up at the end of the night.

A new venture at the rink space this fall has been offering English as an-

other language classes on Wednesdays and Fridays. These classes have been successful and more folks are welcome. It is free and drop-in.

There have been many successes in the past season. The debris around the rink was cleaned up, something which will improve maintenance and improve the rink's appearance. Look for new projects in the spring to upgrade and beautify our shared space.

This winter the Community League will be working with the Friends of Mary Burlie Park for a sports initiative called Little Champs Community Sports, offering noncompetitive sports programs in the new year for neighbourhood children and teenagers. If you are interested in more information or would like to volunteer, please contact the League.

The rink will be opened as the weather allows, thanks to the good work of returning Rink Manager Dan Glugosh. Look for more information on Facebook or online at the **Boyle McCauley News** website or via your email. There will be a Christmas and Solstice season party and a fireworks watch party on New Year's Eve.

In the middle of the dark winter we hope to light up the neighbourhood with the 15th annual McCauley Cup. Please contact the League through email or at the rink space if you can help with any of these events. The community rink space is located at 10755 96th Street (main entrance at 108th Avenue and 96th Street). These community events are good traditions to foster a sense of belonging and connection among neighbours.

Thank you to volunteers and organizers of past events for their efforts



A volunteer helps clean up around the rink. Ruth Sorochan

in the past season. including: Justine Dyck, Kat Phong Luu, Maia Amee Scheffer-Sorochan, Ash Ferland, Gail Silvius, Shelley Hollingsworth, Holly Payne, Dylan Morgan, and Cass Clutchey. Welcome to our new board members, and we invite others who may wish to serve on the board.

We encourage you to reach out to the League to volunteer or help organize community groups. Please attend and participate in any or all of the up-

coming events in order to continue building a strong and vibrant community.

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

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

McCauley WECAN Food Basket Depot Moves Again

The McCauley WECAN Food Basket Depot is moving to the McCauley Rink in December.

The move increases accessibility because the rink space includes a ramp. Ramp access will make it easier for members who use a rolling cart to collect their groceries. Members who use a walker can avoid the stairs.

Thank you to the McCauley Community League for making the space available.

The rink address is 10750 96th Street (main entrance on 108th Avenue and 96th Street). Pick up hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., third Thursday of the month.

The WECAN Food Basket Society is a food buying club, with more than 700 members. Produce orders are \$15 and meat orders are \$20. Annual membership is \$5. Membership is open to all who eat.

For more information on the WECAN Food Basket Society: wecanfood.com

Live Music Between Bookshelves



Jyn-Ting Ying performs at Paper Birch Books on October 17th as part of the Chinatown Live Music Series. Paula E. Kirman

Big Flavour, Small Space, and a Lot of Local Buzz

Rob's Famous Fried Chicken has earned its name.

DINING OUT

Rob's Famous Fried Chicken
8540 Jasper Avenue NW
587-873-4707
robsfamous.ca

ALAN SCHIETZSCH

You may smell Rob's Famous Fried Chicken before you see it. The warm, spicy aroma drifts across lower Jasper Avenue, pulling in passersby and condo residents like a cartoon scent trail. The shop itself is tiny. Two tables, a counter, and a steady stream of take-out bags has quickly earned this little storefront a big reputation among local fried chicken fans.

Rob's is next door to Panini's Italian Cucina (under the same ownership), and like its neighbour, it's built on simple food done really well. Inside, the vibe is relaxed and playful, with a comic book theme to the décor. It's a pickup counter, not a dining room, but when warm weather returns the river valley outside would make Rob's perfect for an al fresco picnic.

There's no question what you're here for: the chicken is always the star. The menu focuses almost entirely on fried chicken: sandwiches, drumsticks, jumbo strips, and "Famous Fries."

Portions are generous. Two "jumbo" tenders can easily pass for a full chicken breast, and the coating



A selection of items from Rob's Famous. Alan Schietzsch

delivers that all-important crunch even after the short drive or walk home. The meat inside stays juicy and flavourful, helped along by Rob's signature Hollywood Sauce, a tangy-sweet, mildly spicy dip that is like "mayo, Cajun, and thousand-island had a baby" (to quote a review from Google). Heat levels range from Plain to Original Nashville (all flavour, only a little fire), to Hot, Extra Hot, all the way up to "Cluckin' Hot," which is certain to make you sweat. Those who love true Southern spice will find their match here.

I ordered the chicken sandwich, which was likely the thickest burger I've eaten in my 60-plus years. Garnished with pickle and sauce on a brioche style bun, it

was a delicious challenge! My sweetie chose the Korean chicken, which was outstanding. She was impressed that white meat could be so juicy and moist, yet cooked evenly through, with a crisp non-greasy batter that held the tangy sauce. Mom enjoyed the drumsticks, which she complimented as beautifully seasoned (and she's picky, having farmed chickens for many years!). All these meals included a big heap of seasoned fries.

Because every order is cooked fresh, expect a bit of a wait - typically 15 to 30 minutes during busy hours. I recommend calling ahead for takeout. Service gets glowing marks: the staff is warm and good humoured, and they have great

communication, texting when your order is ready for pickup. Parking can be tricky on the service road, so why not walk?

Prices are roughly \$15 to \$18 for a sandwich or tender meal, but portions are huge, and you're getting quality food. They also offer 10% off if you follow them on Instagram or TikTok.

Rob's Famous Fried Chicken has earned its name. Crispy, juicy, and proudly local, it's a small business with big flavour. Bring your appetite and patience, and definitely get some extra Hollywood Sauce.

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

Mid-Autumn Festival Music

Echo Ensemble performs at the Mid-Autumn Festival on September 27th at the Edmonton Chinatown Multi-Cultural Centre. The event was presented by the Chinese Benevolent Association of Edmonton. Paula E. Kirman

Shopping and Grape Stomping at The Piazza

The Piazza was buzzing on September 21st with Hello Market featuring vintage goods, a DJ, and refreshments. At the same time, the Viva Italia District Association (VIDA) was celebrating Festa dell'Uva (festival of grapes), which is an Italian festival of the harvest of grapes and of wine season. Melice is one of the people who tried grape stomping, which is part of traditional wine making. Paula E. Kirman

Remembering Richard Auclair

Former McCauley resident and newspaper volunteer was kind, generous, and talented.

HARVEY VOOGD

Former McCauley resident, Richard Auclair, died September 10, 2025 in Dawson City, Yukon, at the age of 79. He lived in McCauley for 31 years before he moved to the Yukon in 2012.

Richard was an active volunteer with the **Boyle McCauley News** for 17 years (from 1989 until 2006) writing articles and letters, and bundling each issue for delivery to carriers. But he is best known for coordinating the paper’s delivery in McCauley and delivering each issue to homes.

A volunteer profile in the October 1989 issue stated, “Richard has been regularly delivering the paper to 5 blocks this past year. Sometimes, when we are short of paper carriers on other blocks due to people being sick, out of town or having quit, Richard has pitched in to deliver up to 8 blocks of papers.”

I met Richard in the summer of 1985, at his rooming house residence, while doing a door-to-door survey on behalf of the McCauley Community League. We quickly became good friends.

Richard was born in Chambley, Quebec, and moved to Edmonton



Richard Auclair (left) and Harvey Voogd during a visit in 2018. Supplied

in May 1981. He told me, “I came by bus to Edmonton from Calgary, and as soon as I saw the river valley and the city skyline, I liked it.”

Due to various health problems, Richard was on a limited income through Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH). He liked that McCauley had a couple of grocery stores and everything he needed was nearby.

Richard’s volunteer involvement coincided with his move to a new affordable, safe, and secure housing project at 9532 107A Av-

enue. He lived there from the day it opened until he moved to the Yukon. The building, owned by Right at Home Housing Society, is now known as Auclair Manor.

A visit to his place was evidence of his love of painting and the artist Picasso, as his own reproductions lined the walls of his home. Richard was known for his hospitality and generosity.

An email from the lodge where he lived the last 10 years said it best: “He was just the kindest soul with the most wonderful

eccentricities and so thoughtful. The team is forever thankful that your visits gave us a glimpse of who Richard was before he had to come into care: the artist and music lover. If there is an afterlife, I’m sure he is engaged in conversation or singing with the music.”

Harvey Voogd lived in McCauley from October 1984 until March 1997 and was involved with the paper as a board member, writer, and carrier. He lives in Delton and is the Executive Director of Edmonton Youth Justice.

Standing Together in McCauley



The annual mâmwai nîpawiwin – Standing Together Orange Shirt Day Community Walk took place on September 30th to honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (also known as Orange Shirt Day). The community walk through McCauley finished at Giovanni Caboto Park with lunch and cultural performances. The event was supported by REACH Edmonton, the City of Edmonton, the Chinatown Transformation Collaborative Society, and Quilts for Survivors. Paula E. Kirman

Community Potluck Picnic



On September 30th, an Every Child Matters Community Potluck Picnic was held at Kinistinâw Park. Organized by Bear Claw Beaver Hills House, with support from the Pride Centre of Edmonton, the Tawaw Outreach Collective, and We Together Strong (local postal workers doing community outreach), the event featured a new trailer offering both food and harm reduction. More than 300 people were fed throughout the day. Clothing, blankets, and footwear were also available. Paula E. Kirman

Porch Concerts Continue



AV & The Inner City’s annual porch concert happened on October 5th - but this time instead of at AV’s (McCauley resident Ann Vriend) porch, it was held in the back alley and yard at The Works’ headquarters on 95th Street and 106th Avenue. The porch concerts began during the COVID-19 restrictions as a way for people to enjoy music and connect safely outdoors. The porch concerts continue annually as a community building event. The concert featured performances by AV & The Inner City (pictured) as well as other local artists. Paula E. Kirman

Kathryn Luu Receives Daughter of the Year Award



Kathryn (Kat) Luu (centre) was one of 10 women to be named a Daughter of the Year at the annual Daughters Day celebration on September 20th at City Hall organized by Canadians for a Civil Society. Luu, who co-owns Kim Fat Market, was recognized for her work as a community builder and advocate for Chinatown’s revitalization, including being in a leadership position with the Chinatown BIA (Business Improvement Area) and organizing many events in the area. She is pictured here with award selection committee members and presenters Harriet Tinka (left) and Dr. Vivian Abboud. Dan Hempel

Tree Pruning Workshops



Participants at one of the tree pruning workshops at the McCauley Community Orchard this past fall. The workshops were cohosted by the McCauley Community League and orchard gardeners. Ruth Sorochan

A brown paper shopping bag with the "ITALIAN CENTRE SHOP" logo is filled with groceries like a stuffed animal and a bag of rice.

*More than
a grocery store!*

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EDMONTON INTERCULTURAL CENTRE

A Champion for Newcomer Families

Celebrating the Multicultural Family Resource Society.

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.

At the Edmonton Intercultural Centre (EIC), we are proud to be home to a diverse range of community organizations that embody inclusion, collaboration, and cultural understanding. Among them, the Multicultural Family Resource Society (MFRS) stands out as a vital force supporting newcomer families and helping them thrive in Edmonton. Since its founding in 2005, MFRS has worked to address the poverty, isolation, and systemic barriers many immigrant and refugee families face, while fostering a strong sense of belonging and wellbeing across cultures.

As a member tenant organization of EIC, MFRS enriches the our community through its collaborative approach and commitment to intercultural learning. The organization leads parent and youth programming that empowers families to build confidence, develop new skills, and connect meaningfully with others. As one staff member explains, “Our programs provide a place for participants to belong, to voice their concerns, and share hopes and dreams. It’s a place where they can feel safe and connected when language and cultural barriers make life challenging.” Through English classes, youth programs, adult groups, and parent-child initiatives, MFRS creates spaces where newcomers are not only supported but celebrated.

The English Classes at MFRS go beyond language learning: they help participants build confidence and friendships while strengthening their integration into the commu-

nity. The MFRS’s Youth Programs give young people opportunities for leadership and community service, fostering civic engagement and resilience. Meanwhile, Individual Support Services use a cultural brokering model to guide vulnerable refugees through settlement, employment, and wellbeing challenges. Whether through Adult Groups that encourage social connection or Parent-Child Groups that nurture confidence across generations, MFRS demonstrates the power of community-based support to transform lives.

The story of MFRS began with a small group of parents from diverse backgrounds who came together to share the challenges of raising children between two cultures. What started as a parent-child program of 30 participants has grown into a vibrant organization now serving around 25,000 immigrant and refugee families each year. This incredible growth has been made possible through the dedication of staff and volunteers, alongside support from the City of Edmonton Family and Community Support Services; Edmonton Community Foundation; Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada; and the Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association.

The Edmonton Intercultural Centre is honoured to share our space with an organization whose work so perfectly aligns with our mission of intercultural understanding and community connection. To learn more or get involved with their programs, visit the Edmonton Intercultural Centre (9538 107th Avenue), the MFRS’s website (www.mfrsedmonton.ca) or contact MFRS directly at info@mfrsedmonton.org.

Information provided by the Edmonton Intercultural Centre.

Courage, Inspiration, and Celebration

IAN YOUNG
ABILITY AND COMMUNITY

“Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.” - John F. Kennedy (May 29, 1917-November 22, 1963. 35th President of the United States of America.)

On November 4th, the 20th Anniversary of The Glenrose Award of Courage took place at the Dr. Bill Black Auditorium, located in the Glenrose Hospital. This event is held annually to recognize the power and bravery of those who move forward and inspire despite having succumbed to a life-changing setback. There have been recipients of all ages, from children to seniors, who have faced setbacks with strength.

Another significant date is December 3rd, which is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD). The date was proclaimed in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly. At the time of writing, there was an event planned to take place at the Legislature on December 3rd but I could not get specific details prior to our print deadline. The online version of this article will be updated if possible.

We then move on to the holiday season and welcome the year 2026. May we all appreciate the season, respect the diversity of traditions, and have a good, safe New Year’s.

Ian Young is a columnist and Block Carrier with the paper who lives in the area. He received the Glenrose Award of Courage in 2007.

Round Dance at Sacred Heart Church




Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, join hands in unity during the Round Dance on September 30th. Alan Schietzsch



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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.

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
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.

ADULT ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASS
Wednesdays 10 a.m. to noon.
Community Rink 10750 96th Street.
Come and practise your English.

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS/ ACTIVITIES/ SERVICES

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MLA UPDATE

Standing Up and Speaking Out

JANIS IRWIN

Dear friends,

Winter has arrived and with it comes festive times of celebration and tradition, but also time for reflection and stillness as we anticipate the start of a new year and new possibilities. This time of year can be hard for many. For me, I am reminded of how important it is that we reach out to our friends and neighbours and find joy in community.

My Alberta NDP Caucus colleagues and I headed back to the Legislature at the end of October. On the first day of debate, the UCP government rammed through Bill 2, the Back to School Act, which forced teachers back into underfunded and overcrowded classrooms and removed their right to collective bargaining. Bill 2 also included, for the first time in Alberta's history, preemptive use of the notwithstanding clause to bypass charter-protected rights of Albertans.

With a government so willing to trample on human rights, it is fair to say we are living in a new alarming reality in Alberta. We are living under a government that has openly defied charter rights and abused its legislative power. We are living under a government that has overtly valued power over human rights, prioritized control over dialogue, and has demonstrated once again, that public education is not a priority.

And while the legislative action of the government was shocking and

unprecedented, the saddest part was watching students and teachers return to the same broken system. Alberta students are still the lowest funded in the country. There are no class size caps and not enough space. There is virtually no support for students with special needs, and teachers continue to shoulder the burden of this chronically underfunded system. None of this is okay.

But what gives me hope is the response of Albertans. I've witnessed so many of you here in Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, and across the province, rise up like never before. Students are organizing and people are attending enormous rallies at the Legislature. My inbox is flooded with hundreds of emails every day advocating for education, access to healthcare, human rights, and affordable housing. So many Albertans who've never been involved in politics before are reaching out for the first time.

Keep speaking out, keep showing up, and keep staying hopeful. Because kids deserve better, our teachers deserve better, Albertans deserve better. And better is possible.

As always, please reach out at any time. I can't wait to see you around the community. .

Janis Irwin, MLA for
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood

Email:
Edmonton.HighlandsNorwood
@assembly.ab.ca

Phone: 780-414-0682

Volunteer Award for Michelle Cumming



Michelle Cumming is the recipient of the 2025 Garry Spotowski Volunteer Award. Michelle has been a Block Carrier with Boyle McCauley News for more than 20 years. Colleen Chapman, Volunteer Coordinator, says: "She has been reliable and willing to pitch in - and always with a smile that lights up the area around her." The award is given to long-time volunteers who have gone above and beyond in their service to Boyle McCauley News. We present the Spotowski Award to Michelle with pride and gratitude. Thank you Michelle! Paula E. Kirman.

Encouraging Volunteers of All Ages



At Boyle McCauley News we encourage volunteers of all ages. In our previous issue, you may have "met" Henry who is currently our youngest assistant carrier. He helps long-term volunteer Ian Young with Ian's delivery route. Henry attended our volunteer appreciation pizza party on October 14th with his mom and grampy. If you want to volunteer for a route, contact us at editor@bmcnews.org. Paula E. Kirman



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HEART OF THE CITY FESTIVAL SOCIETY ARTIST PROFILE SERIES

Norbert Topolski on the Poetic Nature of Life

"... there's so many seemingly purposeful things that are happening."

RACHAEL ROBERTS

Norbert Topolski creates, produces, and organizes music behind the scenes. His connection to Heart of the City Music and Arts Festival is multi-faceted. In 2016, he and his band, Boosh and the Dip (with bandmates Jordan, Bob, Chris, JP, J-reds, and Tyler), performed on the main stage, with Norbert rapping on the mic. He joined the organizing board in 2022 as the Music Director and Treasurer, positions he held until 2024.

Before HOTC, Norbert (or, Boosh), started a busker-style, grassroots festival called Streets Rise Up. The idea arose after a winter of busking: a street performance in a public space, performing for donations, all for Boyle Street Community Services.

"I had a little drum machine . . . and Jordan would be playing guitar. We would loop it, and I would rap the whole thing, and then we spent a winter or two just not having jobs and just busking . . . And then I just randomly called Boyle Street. I'd never been there,



Norbert "Boosh" Topolski. Supplied

I'd never talked to anyone there, I didn't know anything about Boyle Street."

Sebastian Barrera answered the phone and he encouraged Norbert to move forward with his idea. An event was created on Facebook, and it took off. "The first year the police threatened me; they said they were going to charge me with inciting a riot if anything went sideways 'cause I never got

any permits . . . and then the day before the event, it started getting a really big following online, like 3000-4000 people were saying they were going to the event . . . The second year the City offered their support."

The connection between Streets Rise Up and HOTC was obvious. "That's what linked me to Heart of the City because Sebastian kept hyping Streets Rise Up and was encouraging me to get involved [with HOTC]."

Boosh and the Dip has been compared to Rage Against the Machine in sound and musical perspective. Norbert goes on to describe the summer of 2019. "We had a little tour of festivals around Alberta and ended it at South Country Fair. We got to headline the Saturday night; it was quite a dream come true."

Their final performance was a private booking in St. Albert. "We really bombed," he says of their last show. "It was a real high and then that happened and then it just blew the wind out of our sails."

Norbert is currently working on his Master's Degree in Business Administration, in community economic development. "It's focused on non-profits and my focus is on housing." He works for the Bissell Centre as a Development Officer, coordinating grants. Before that he worked for Boyle Street Community Services.

"I started working there after Streets Rise Up. Working in the drop-in . . . and then I got into housing." He describes a project he is particularly proud of: "my first supervisor role when [bridge housing] launched at Coliseum Inn."

Norbert is still involved with music production companies, promoters, artists, and community organizers. "I still produce music, I don't really release it; my community involvement is trying to find money for the arts."

He is motivated by the stories people tell him. "The poetic nature of life. If you're . . . paying attention there's so many seemingly purposeful things that are happening."

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

Janis Irwin

MLA

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Happy Halloween at the Rink

People having fun at the 31st annual Inner City Kids Safe Halloween party at the McCauley Rink on October 31st. More than 50 children plus their adults attended. It was organized by former resident Shelley Hollingsworth in collaboration with the McCauley Community League and other area organizations and volunteers S. Paula E. Kirman