



AN AFTERNOON WITH ANNE STEVENSON 6 ▲



MEET BLAKE DESJARLAIS 7 ▲



ON THE EDGE COFFEE 8 ▲



HOTC PROFILE: MIKAYLA BORTSCHER 12 ▲

Boyle McCauley News

@BMCVIEWS @BMCNEWS FB.COM/BMCNEWS CIRCULATION 5000 • DECEMBER 2021-JANUARY 2022 BMCNEWS.ORG free

VOL. 42 NO. 5 PUBLISHED ON TREATY 6 TERRITORY VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1979

New Boyle Street Neighbourhood Playground

Grand opening scheduled for the spring of 2022.

ANITA JENKINS

The children of Boyle Street now have a wonderful new playground at the Boyle Street Plaza. "It is a great addition to the neighbourhood, one that was much needed," says Kathryn Hutchison, project manager, City of Edmonton.

Hutchison oversaw a community engagement process that involved the Boyle Street Community League and the YMCA of Northern Alberta (which occupies a major portion of the Boyle Street Plaza building). A team of community representatives led by Joelle Reiniger worked with the City to choose a location and select a design. The construction contract was awarded to GrassChopper Landscaping, the equipment contractor was Playquest, and the playground equipment was supplied and installed by Questic Contracting.



A rendering of the new Boyle Street playground. Courtesy of City of Edmonton

Features of the playground include the traditional equipment for sliding, climbing, swinging, and bouncing, along with a rubber pour-in-place surface, good lighting, and seating for family members and caregivers.

Reiniger met Nicole Morin when their children were playing together in front of Boyle Street Plaza. Morin lives in the YMCA Village (Melcor), just across from the site of the new playground. So when Reiniger mentioned the project, Morin's eyes lit up. Did Morin, who is Indigenous, have

some ideas? Yes she did. Thanks to Morin's participation, the playground features signage depicting the seven sacred teachings: love, courage, respect, truth, humility, honesty, and wisdom. It was also Morin's idea to have a tandem swing, which accommodates a child and adult swinging together.

"The team was involved in selecting the equipment," Reiniger says. "We asked for a place that children will return to, day after day, and one that serves older as well as younger kids.

There will be a barrier to protect users from 103 Avenue traffic, and clear sightlines. We think it provides a respite within the downtown environment."

A grand opening is planned for the spring of 2022. This event will celebrate a community space that is significant for many reasons. First, it is a safe place in an inner city, urban environment. Also, it is a neutral public open space where parents and children can socialize and hold events. This is especially important in an area where

many families live in apartments and do not have back yards. "A surprising number of children live in Boyle Street and downtown," Reiniger says.

Perhaps the most significant fact about the project is this: it is the second new downtown playground in recent years. (The McKay Avenue School site was first.) "Something that had not happened for decades," Reiniger says.

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



McCauley: Active and Connected

■ PAGE 7

RENEWING COMMITMENTS

“Caring for ourselves and our loved ones by making time and space for rest feels more important than ever right now.”

■ PAGE 4

SUMMER SOCCER GOLD

“It was a heartening and beautiful way to spend a summer evening.”

■ PAGE 4

A BLOCK CARRIER REFLECTS

“I've enjoyed witnessing the little changes that would take place in between the delivery of each issue.”

■ PAGE 9

High Quality Child Care Spaces Available in McCauley

INSIDE THE EDMONTON INTERCULTURAL CENTRE (Former McCauley School)



INTERCULTURAL CHILD & FAMILY CENTRE

- Small class sizes in large rooms
 - Highly trained educators
 - High staff to child ratio
 - Hot lunches & snacks included
 - Inclusive & language-rich environment
 - Age-appropriate curricula
 - Stimulating materials & outdoor spaces
-
- Children 12 months - 6 years old
 - Full-time & Part-time options
 - Open 6am - 6pm
 - Subsidies available

Intercultural Child & Family Centre
 9538 - 107 Avenue NW
 Edmonton, AB T5H 0T7
www.icfc.ca
 CALL: 780-441-1443
 EMAIL: info@icfc.ca

Top 40 Under 40 Recipients Have Boyle Street and McCauley Connections

PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff

Congratulations to Lynsae Moon, owner of The Nook Cafe, and Vikki Wiercinski, *Boyle McCauley News*' Designer and Advertising Coordinator, who were named to 2021's Top 40 Under 40 list by *Edify Edmonton* magazine in November. The prestigious annual awards are given to individuals making Edmonton a better place to live.

Moon has a deep commitment to social justice. She started Alberta's first registered Suspended Coffee program, where customers can purchase buttons kept in a jar. Anyone can redeem a button for food and drinks at no cost. Despite The Nook Cafe's location in Boyle Street being closed at the moment, she continues to care for her customers and community. The Nook currently has a booth at the Downtown Farmers Market on weekends until Christmas.

Wiercinski received the award for her work supporting local artists and other creatives by organizing the Royal Bison Art & Craft Fair. The event pivoted to an online fair due to COVID, and has continued to be hugely successful. She is also known for her textile and stationary design work sold through her own business, Mezzaluna Studio.



Lynsae Moon with her partner at the awards ceremony on November 8th. Supplied



Vikki Wiercinski. Cooper & O'Hara

Bissell Centre is proud to be a part of the Boyle McCauley community for over 100 years.

For decades, we have supported individuals and families through the toughest times of their lives and remained steadfast in our commitment to building and strengthening our community. This holiday season is no different!

In our Community Space we will be serving thousands of home-style meals, handing out tons of warm winter clothing, and connecting willing participants to life-changing mental health supports, employment programming, housing services—and much more.

We will also be supporting dozens of families with quality, accessible childcare, family counselling, provisions of basic needs, as well as providing free toys and gifts through our annual Festive Giveaway event.

However, we need your support to make this happen! If you have the means to give, please consider the following opportunities at Bissell:

Donate Funds / Donate New Toys / Volunteer / Start a Fundraiser

Visit bissellcentre.org to get involved!

Happy Holidays and warm wishes from your neighbours at Bissell Centre!

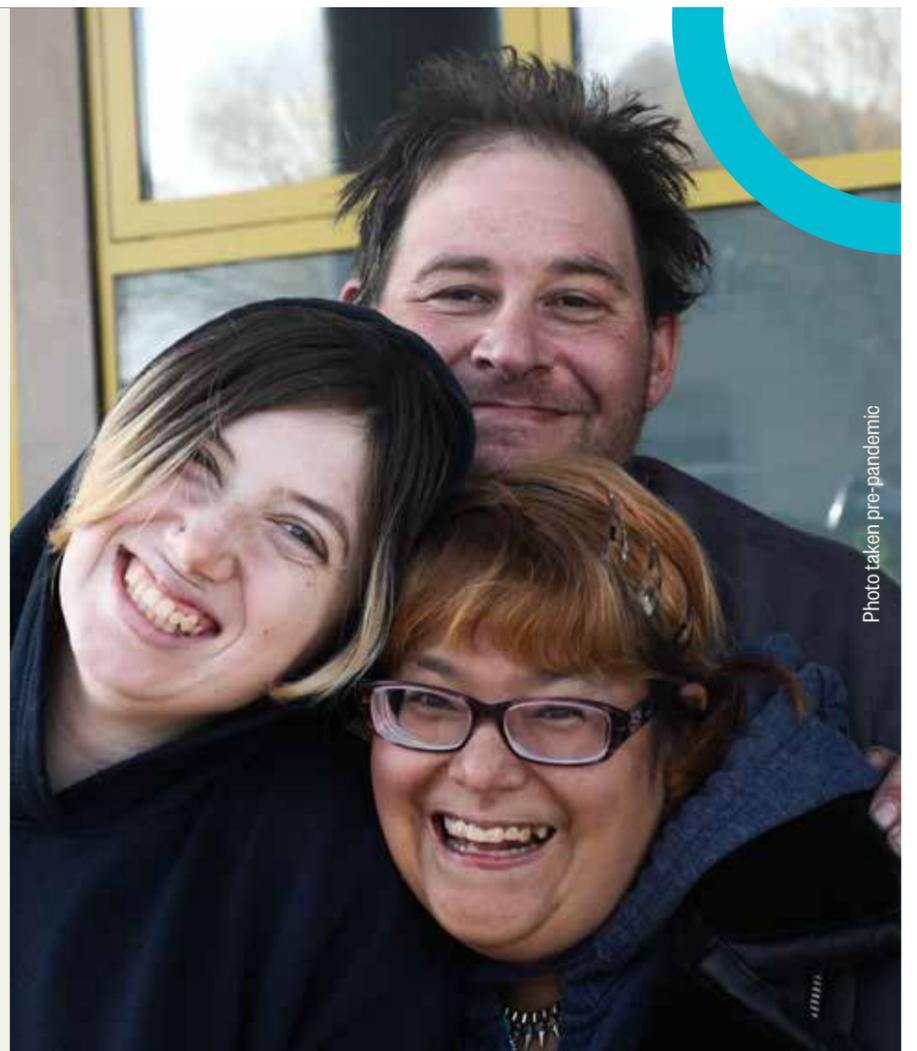


Photo taken pre-pandemic



Community Connections



PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff

MCCAULEY MUSINGS

Back in September I began filming a series of short videos to share on social media. The videos feature a variety of local residents, business owners, and other stakeholders talking about the importance of *Boyle McCauley News* and why people should support the community newspaper in the quest to be sustainable and keep publishing.

One statement that kept coming up over and over again was how the paper is a connector. It connects people with places, events, and each other. Through its coverage, *Boyle McCauley News* promotes local businesses and performance venues. We promote local events, many of which are not covered

elsewhere. We also feature notable people doing incredible things.

But we also provide a connection to the community for many people who lack internet access or computer skills. For some, *Boyle McCauley News* is the only way they find out about what is happening in their own neighbourhood. This is why we are committed to continuing to publish print editions, even as more and more publications are going completely online. We put a lot of time and effort into our website and social media as well, but our focus as a grassroots community newspaper means that we want to continue to reach the demographics that other media may be neglecting.

The paper also connects people in the community through volunteering. We're always looking for writers and photographers, Block Carriers (in McCauley) and Apartment Ambassadors/Condo Connectors (in Boyle Street). Interested? Contact me any time at editor@bmcnews.org.

Boyle McCauley News

Boyle McCauley News is a non-profit newspaper published eight 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.

Circulation 5000 • Since 1979 • www.bmcnews.org

VOL. 42 NO. 5 • DECEMBER 2021-JANUARY 2022

9613 – 111 Avenue NW, Edmonton AB, T5G 0A9
P: (780) 425-3475 E: info@bmcnews.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Megan Elizabeth, John Gee, Anita Jenkins,
Karen Matthews, Alan Schietzsch, Mike Siek

THE BOARD MAY BE CONTACTED AT
BOARD@BMCNEWS.ORG

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada

OFFICE 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
PROOFREADERS • Karen Simons, Rosalie
Gelderman, Colleen Chapman
ACCOUNTING • Rosalie Gelderman
THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

BLOCK CARRIERS, APARTMENT AMBASSADORS & CONDO CONNECTORS

Sandra Barnes, Anna Beaulieu, Greta Lynn
Bernard, Brockman Family, Michelle Cumming,
Barry Daniels, Corine Demas, Larry Derkach,
Mary Gullivan, John Gee, Rosalie Gelderman,
Rich Gossen & Anne Fitzpatrick, Anita Jenkins,
Ann-Marie Johnson, Layna Johnson, Barry
Marienhoff, Bob McKeon, Richard Nguyen, Phil
O'Hara, Antonio Pagnotta, Kate Quinn, Joelle
& Maddy Reiniger, Mike Siek, Ruth Sorochan,
Kelley Stein, Marta Travnik & Jakob Kolaric,
Pharrell Waititu, John-West Family, Ian Young

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Richard Andrew Kennedy

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

Much of our energy this year behind the scenes at *Boyle McCauley News* has been occupied with keeping the paper sustainable.

Many of you have been helping us achieve that goal through our Toss Us Your Toonies donation campaign where you can donate as little as \$2 monthly. More information is at bmcnews.org/donate. Some of you also responded to our plea for help in our previous issue, as well as our public service announcement videos that have been running weekly on our social media.

The paper has been in this situation

before, and we have survived. I am optimistic that we are going to turn a corner and make it through until our next casino - which now is scheduled to happen in the spring of 2022 - and beyond. We are going to continue fundraising full force with raffles, events, and other ways to make sure we hopefully never find ourselves in this position again. Your help is contributing to this goal, and for that, we thank you.

Remember to follow us, like our posts, and share our content on social media: @bmcnews on Facebook and Twitter, and @bmcviews on Instagram. We also post fresh content at our website: bmcnews.org.

Thank you again for your continued support.

OUR NEXT ISSUE. . .

Volume 43, Issue 1 will be published February 1, 2022. Articles and photos concerning community news, events, and opinions are welcome. We also accept submissions of poetry and cartoons. Deadline: January 12th, 2022. Send submissions to: editor@bmcnews.org. Articles should be 400 words or less and accompanied by photographs (JPG, in high resolution) whenever possible.

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 with a Letter to the Editor. Send your letters to editor@bmcnews.org. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and may be edited for length or clarity. Publication is not guaranteed. The deadline for letters for our next print issue is January 12th, 2022.

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
- **Free sharps container and/or litter clean-up kit:** mark.davis@reachedmonton.ca
- **Illegally dumped junk - free pick up (in McCauley only):**
Gregory.Brandenbarg@edmonton.ca
- **Litter/Graffiti:** 311; capitalcitycleanup@edmonton.ca
- **Report a Problem Property - search:** Edmonton Report a Problem Property
- **Report an Encampment:** 311; Edmonton.ca/homelessness
- **EPS McCauley / Quarters Beat Officers:**
Corey.Grant@edmontonpolice.ca
Greg.Quirke@edmontonpolice.ca
Steven.Lawn@edmontonpolice.ca
Andrew.Jarvis@edmontonpolice.ca
- **EPS Chinatown BIA Beat Officer:** david.chow@edmontonpolice.ca
- **For persistent issues at specific locations:**
CommunityEngagement@edmontonpolice.ca
- **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

Renewing Commitments

JANIS IRWIN

Dear friends,

As our beautiful fall transitions to winter, many of us are hunkering down, getting cozy, and taking some time to reflect. I know that this time of year is often seen as a time of rest. Caring for ourselves and our loved ones by making time and space for rest feels more important than ever right now.

As we move toward the new year, let's get a head start on renewing some of our other commitments:

To students, teachers, and school communities, that we'll keep doing our best to make sure that they can learn together safely.

To healthcare workers, that we'll show our gratitude for their ceaseless hard work in the face of incredibly daunting challenges by respecting and supporting the work that they do, and their right to be protected while doing this work.

To our community, both individual members and the whole, that we will speak up for each other, protect each other, and keep each other safe and healthy as best as possible.

As we've returned to the Legislature this fall, please know that I'm continuing to work hard to fight for my constituents here in Boyle Street and McCauley and throughout Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood. By standing up for public healthcare, supporting a strong education system with a modern, relevant curriculum for students, fighting for workers, pushing for access to harm reduction, housing and other vital ground-level supports, and much more, I'll continue to be your voice at every opportunity.

I hope that you are all healthy, safe, and finding joy and connection wherever possible. While our constituency office remains closed to visitors at this time, we are available via phone and email, and are working hard to stay in touch with all of you. I am here to help, so if you need anything, would like to share your thoughts or feedback, or if you'd just like to say hello, please reach out!

And, of course, 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
Twitter / Facebook: @JanisIrwin
Instagram / TikTok: @Janis.Irwin

Summer Soccer Gold

RUTH SOROCHAN

An amazing thing happened this summer. My daughter, age nine, had the opportunity to play free, community, non-competitive soccer in our beautiful Giovanni Caboto Park. It happened because many folks came together, with a generous amount of drive from neighbour Allan Suarez. This was a chance to create real connection and build neighbourhood friendships between children and families through sport and play.

Allan saw a need and was uniquely placed to make it happen in this season of COVID community spirit. It was with his passion for the game and the skills that he could offer coaching for kiddos from ages 4 to 14. His dedication included bringing equipment and goal posts and soccer balls and pinnies every week, and then doing it again. Allan would come out early and stay late, setting up real goal nets on the goalposts and generally pouring his heart into helping kids have fun and gain skills, both physical and social.

Also, a shout-out of gratitude for new McCauley Community League board members Regan Gee and Alice Kos for the important work to get the program started, and to neighbours Dave and Krista Williamson who showed up so often to help prepare and for safety field checks. There

were many other folks who were able to help, and it all meant that this chance to play soccer could actually happen. We are so lucky.

I loved seeing the littles and the bigger kids at the field in the sunshine come and play together. I loved seeing children, including my daughter, come running up to and circling Allan and calling him coach, so genuinely happy and interested in playing the game. I loved seeing the older kids and teenagers coming early to the park while littles were having their lessons and then hanging out and playing together. It was a heartening and beautiful way to spend a summer evening. I was always glad to help.

It was a hopeful and happy program, even more so because it continues this autumn and into the winter at the old McCauley School (now the Intercultural Centre), with the support of parent and community volunteers. Soccer games and skill-building continue weekly on Saturdays. Alan is not a rare soul in this community. There are many such generous spirits, though it is important to admire and acknowledge and support each other and offer gratitude for such beautiful happenings. Thank you, Allan Suarez.

Ruth lives in McCauley with her partner and daughter.

Get the paper...in your email!

**SIGN UP TO OUR EMAIL NEWSLETTER
AND GET THE LATEST ON YOUR
COMMUNITY IN YOUR INBOX.**

bmcnews.org/newsletter

Where to Find Boyle McCauley News

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

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

NEWSPAPER BOX LOCATIONS

- 10844 95 Street (near Sorrentino's)
- 86 Street & Jasper Avenue (by Riverside Towers)
- Boyle Street Plaza (by main entrance)
- 97 Street & 103 Avenue (near Farmers Market)
- 97 Street & 107 Avenue (near Lucky 97)

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.

BUSINESSES

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

- Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St.)
- Panini's (8544 Jasper Ave.)
- The Moth (9449 Jasper Ave.)
- Lucky 97 (10725 97 St.)
- Tony's Pizza (9605 111 Ave.)
- Italian Centre (10878 95 St.)
- Zocalo (10826 95 St.)
- Boyle McCauley Pharmacy (10817 95 St.)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE THE PAPER IN YOUR BUSINESS?

If you have a business in (or near) the area and would like papers dropped off, contact us at editor@bmcnews.org.

Enjoying pictures of your neighbourhood?
Loving stories about your community?
We need your support to continue publishing
Boyle McCauley News in print and online.



bmcnews.org/donate

Micro-donate just \$2/month to keep Boyle McCauley News going strong. That's less than the price of a cup of coffee!

If only 15% of the 5000 people who read this paper gave a tiny amount every month, we'd be in great shape!



MCCAULEY NEIGHBOURHOOD REVITALIZATION COORDINATOR
GREGORY BRANDENBARG • 780.496.4178 • GREGORY.BRANDENBARG@EDMONTON.CA

MCCAULEY REVITALIZATION STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATES

SEASON GREETINGS AND HAPPY NEW 2022

On behalf of the McCauley Neighbourhood Revitalization project and the Neighbourhood Resource Coordinator program, we want to wish you a joyful pandemic altered Holiday Season and a more prosperous pandemic free 2022. The very best to each and every resident and business in McCauley.

WRAPPING UP THE 2021 CLEANUP SEASON

As most of the cleanup projects came to a close on October 31, 2021 at least \$100,000 was spent in 2021 towards cleaning up litter and needle debris, illegal junk dumping, defecation and urination. The biggest non-City player was definitely the Chinatown BIA which partnered with the City's Local Economy and Investment section worth about \$50K.

About half was committed to litter and needle debris cleanup carried out by the very competent SeedWorks social enterprise cleanup team (from Mustard Seed). The other half focused on Boyle Street Ventures social enterprise (also called Hiregood from Boyle Street Community Services) who were contracted to do pressure washing throughout Chinatown mostly around storefronts and main sidewalks.

McCauley Revitalization and the McCauley Community League partnered with Capital City Cleanup for a \$35,000 contract with SeedWorks to clean up the rest of McCauley. We were able to move their cleanup team off their regular route to go to problem spots with only 24 hours notice. SeedWorks also contributed significantly to both cleanup programs.

In Chinatown, because of the pandemic, almost all of the Hope Mission meals had to be given in takeout fashion and so Capital City Cleanup committed extra resources to cleanup in Chinatown for 7 days a week throughout most of the year.

Capital City Cleanup and Revitalization piloted some winter cleanup with SeedWorks in McCauley last winter but we found it very hit and miss as it was not full time so if it snowed on a cleanup day it was near impossible to clean up. We are now anticipating the new Special Waste Control team from another section of the City to try some new cleanup methods this winter.

LITTER BLITZ SUCCESSES THIS YEAR

Safer McCauley had a banner year coordinating 10 litter blitzes including 3 in Chinatown in partnership with the Chinatown Transformation Collaborative and the Chinatown Safety Council which brings together many of the key stakeholders in Chinatown.

There were 299 volunteers including the newly minted MP Derek Desjarlais, MLAs Janice Irwin and David Shepherd plus Metis Councilors Scott McKeen and the new Anne Stevenson. At least 252 bags were picked up and Lucky 97 was very helpful to accept all the bags collected in Chinatown.

If you haven't joined in on a Litter Blitz yet please consider it. There's lots of safe camaraderie and a positive feeling of cleaning up with others. It doesn't hurt that the weather has been great and that there is often something yummy to eat afterward.

Safer McCauley, McCauley Community League, E4C and Revitalization partnered with Boyle Street Ventures to complete 4 Community Cleanups picking up the equivalent of 156 pickup truck loads of illegally dumped junk and unwanted large items.

NEW NAMES FOR REVITALIZATION GRANTS

For people wanting to apply for Revitalization funding there have long been 2 different tracks. Small Sparks is now called Micro-Grants but still looks to quite simply grant up to \$350 for new ideas and projects in McCauley. No match is required for that grant. Here is the link: https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/funding_grants/micro-neighbourhood-grant

The old Matching Fund is now creatively called Macro-Grants and you can apply for up to \$20,000 for all types of projects that meet the Revitalization outcomes. Matching is no longer required so this allows all and any groups and organizations to apply. Businesses in most cases are still required to match. If you happen to have a project in mind that requires more than \$20K please speak to the Revitalization Coordinator who you can find through the McCauley Community League or Safer McCauley. Here is the link: https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/funding_grants/neighbourhood-revitalization-macro-grant

THE SALE OF SACRED HEART SCHOOL

The 64,000 sq. ft Sacred Heart School on 96 st. and 108 ave has come up for sale by the Edmonton Catholic School District and offers an unparalleled opportunity to make the best of a considerable asset in McCauley. The Edmonton Community Development Company (ECDC) has submitted an offer to purchase the School with clear conditions. Many in McCauley appreciate this strategic step ECDC has taken to better understand what opportunity exists if the property was purchased.

The Woody Superpowers of Trees

DUSTIN BAJER

What if I told you that trees have superpowers? That sounds strange, but trees prevent floodings and drought, filter the air, decrease extreme temperatures, and increase nearby property values. As we increasingly feel the effects of climate change, trees provide a host of abilities capable of making our homes and communities more resilient.

With this in mind, in 2014, I started growing trees in my McCauley backyard. I quickly accumulated hundreds of fruit (apricot, plums, mulberries), nut (walnut, hazelnut, and oak), and ornamental (Maple, Kentucky Coffee, and American Beech) trees. What am I doing with all of those trees, you ask? Ideally, getting them into the hands of local school and community partners - which is why I created Shrubscriber.com.

Shrubscriber, pronounced "Shrub-Scriber," is a community of passionate Edmontonians growing climate-resilient communities through tree donations. Members fund 3, 6, or 12 trees for local school and community projects while connecting with like-minded folks, classes, and events.

By Matching a Tree's Superpowers With Local Needs, We Can Grow Healthier Communities.

Let's take a look at some of these superpowers:



Students planting Shrubscriber trees at W. P. Wagner School. Dustin Bajer

The Food Grower - Trees and shrubs that produce edible fruits, berries, nuts, or leaves and contribute to community food security year after year. Eg.: Plums, Walnuts, Mulberries

The Air Cleaner - Plants that tolerate urban pollution and are good at removing particulates from the landscape - letting us breathe easier. Eg.: Silver Maple, Honeylocust, Pine, Yew

The Storyteller - Plants with a local historical or cultural connection. Eg.: Holowash Tree, The Latta Maple, Stark Oak, Chinatown Goji

The Shade Caster - Shade trees reduce extreme heat by up to 10-25°C, reducing energy costs. Eg.: Walnuts, Honeylocust, Oak, Ginkgo

The Native Guardian - Well-adapted to our historical climate, native plants have relationships with local birds, animals, and pollinators. Eg.: Black Poplar, Tamarack

The Biodiversity Builder - Trees that increase our urban forest's biodiversity and resilience by decreasing susceptibility to pests,

diseases, and climate change. E.g.: Walnuts, Honeylocust, Oak, Catalpa

The Beautifier - Trees species selected for their colour, flowers, or pleasant growth habit. Often flowering, these plants have been shown to increase mental well-being and property values. Eg.: Flowering Quince, Catalpa, Locust

Visit Shrubscriber.com to learn more about community tree planting. If you know of a group that's looking for trees, send an email to dustinbajertrees@gmail.com.

Dustin lives in McCauley.

An Afternoon with Anne Stevenson

IAN YOUNG

I recently had a brief afternoon video chat with our newly-elected City Councillor for Ward O-day'min, Anne Stevenson. Our time together was delightful, comfortable, and gave us a chance to speak about our community.

Anne brings an abundance of experience and knowledge to her position. Anne's background is as an urban planner with a passion for building an equitable city that serves all residents. She holds an undergraduate degree in international development and economics, as well as a Master's in city design. After 10 years of working and traveling abroad, Anne returned to her hometown of Edmonton in 2012. She spent seven years at the City of Edmonton and was working at the Right at Home Housing Society prior to the election.

Housing is an issue in every community, but in ours affordable and accessible housing has been an issue for a while. Another major issue is residential upkeep of our streets and safety. Anne believes our city can do more, and she plans on keeping these concerns in the spotlight. Issues can be brought forward to Anne by members

of the community. Anne understands the importance of community members in the decision-making process, so your ideas and concerns are encouraged.

Anne's campaign office was located in the Piazza in McCauley, so she spent a lot of time here and was able to witness a lot of the area's character. She spoke to me about diversity, getting aging and closed buildings assessed, and attracting new neighbours and businesses.

Anne struck me as a very good listener, and as our interview was done via video, her smile was abundant. When asked about highlights of our community, she mentioned many favourites: Giovanni Caboto Park, The Italian Centre, and Sorrentino's.

Welcome Anne! We look forward to many pleasant and enriching encounters in our community.

Anne can be reached by phone at 780-496-8333 or by email at: anne.stevenson@edmonton.ca

Ian is a columnist with the paper. He lives in the area.



Anne Stevenson. Supplied

McCauley: Active and Connected

MARK DAVIS AND ALICE KOS

Between the two of us, we've lived in 13 different Edmonton neighbourhoods. McCauley stands out as the most active and connected - by far! Here are just a handful of examples why.

October 31st marked the 26th anniversary of the Annual Inner City Kids Safe Halloween Party. The event attracted more than 120 kids and their families to the McCauley Rink for games, candy, hot apple cider, prizes, and a DJ spinning spooky tunes.

September 18th was Edmonton's Community League Day. A party took place at the McCauley Rink, attracting 409 people. The event featured a bouncy obstacle course, balloon art, kids crafts and performances by DJ Creeasian, the ESO Brass Quintet, Prince Charles Métis Fiddlers, Ging Wu Martial Arts, and Manny Valencia's Esquina Latina. Three hundred hot dogs, 400 beverages, and 100 pastries were given away - as well as 60 litter grabbers and 25 sharps containers!

2021 has been a very successful year for the McCauley Community League Soccer Program, with 70 kids registering to take part in weekly practices and non-competitive games at Giovanni Caboto Park. For the colder months the action continues indoors at the Edmonton Intercultural Centre. Kids are coming from across Edmonton to participate.

Litter Blitzes are regular fixtures on the McCauley calendar. Ten events have attracted 299 volunteers to remove 252 bags of litter from our neighbourhood. Four of these events have dovetailed



Children lined up to play a game at the Annual Inner City Kids Safe Halloween Party on October 31st. Paula E. Kirman



People dancing to the live music at the Community League Day party at the McCauley Rink on September 18th. Paula E. Kirman

with McCauley Clean Ups which have removed 156 pick up truck loads of illegally dumped junk and unwanted large items from the neighbourhood.

Dog Walkabouts are a fun way to

meet neighbours, get some exercise, explore new areas of the neighbourhood, and be a positive presence on our streets. Four events have attracted 44 people to walk and talk with their neighbours.

The Piazza project brought nearly 100 investors together to solve a chronic commercial problem-property issue in the heart of McCauley. And now neighbours are coming together to explore the future of the Sacred Heart School - and to ensure that it becomes a community asset rather than a piece of real estate that exacerbates existing issues.

The list goes on: the Children's Garden, front porch concerts, cooking classes, writing classes, ball hockey, cycling clinics . . . with the promise of much more on the horizon.

Credit and appreciation to the individuals and organizations for leading the way on these initiatives, including but certainly not limited to: Shelley Hollingsworth, Mike Siek, Coach Allan Suarez, Leif Gregersen, Ruth Sorochan, Ann Vriend, Albert Bernard, Kevin Jones, Yasushi Ohki, McCauley Community League, McCauley Revitalization, Safer McCauley, Viva Italia District, **Boyle McCauley News**, E4C, Edmonton Intercultural Centre, Chinatown Safety Council, Chinatown Transformation Collaborative, Boyle Street Ventures, McCauley Development Cooperative, Edmonton Community Development Company, Ever Active Schools, REACH Edmonton, MP Blake Desjarlais, MLA Janis Irwin, and Councillor Anne Stevenson. And, of course, to all McCauley neighbours for showing up for each other and our neighbourhood!

Mark is the Program Manager for REACH Edmonton's Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative. Alice is the President of the McCauley Community League Board.

Meet Blake Desjarlais

Edmonton Griesbach's new MP brings renewed energy and representation to the area.

PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff

Blake Desjarlais was elected Member of Parliament for Edmonton Griesbach on September 20. His election is a political turning point in the area, as he is with the NDP after the area being a Conservative stronghold for years. As well, he is the only Indigenous MP from Alberta and the country's first openly Two-Spirit MP. He considers his representation as Indigenous and Two-Spirit "a tremendous honour and one I hope begins to shed light on the importance of inclusion and diversity in Canada."

Desjarlais, who is Métis and in his late 20s, both represents the area and is part of the community. "As a resident of Boyle Street I know first hand how beautiful, unique, and wonderful our community is.

But I also understand many of the poverty issues we are currently experiencing and want to play a meaningful role to ensure all persons who call our neighbourhood home feel safe, secure, and dignified."

He wants "to ensure we look at strengthening our social supports while maintaining our communities diversity and community members, whether through partnering with some of our amazing community organizations or working with my federal colleagues in Ottawa to ensure faster, more robust, solutions that tackle poverty, mental health, and addictions with care and compassion."

The abundance of public art in the area is one of Desjarlais' favourite things about McCauley and Boyle Street. "I truly believe art has



Blake Desjarlais. Blake Loates

the power to make us stop in our tracks, reflect on the path we take, and offer us the chance to continue or correct that path," he says.

"My favourite art piece in our neighbourhood is the 'Water Is Life' Mural at iHuman by Issac Murdoch and Christie Belcourt. The simple and beautiful teachings of the importance of water and land come together in this deeply powerful

and loving piece."

Desjarlais describes the area as "a proven champion of compassion, community, and love. We come together for those who need shelter, food, or a human to chat with. We have tremendous heart that I know will influence Canada to also be better. Thank you, *hiy-hiy*, *Kinanaskomtin*, Boyle Street and McCauley for being you."

share - create - give - sip - savour - enjoy - cultivate - grow

GROWING COLOURFUL IDEAS EVERYDAY



**pots
gifts
plants
flowers
tabletop
cafe**

Zocalo

OPEN:
WEDNESDAY TO
SUNDAY 11-5

Zocalo

IN EDMONTON'S LITTLE ITALY 10826-95 STREET, EDMONTON, AB

(780)428-0754 @ZOCALOEDM ZOCALO.CA info@zocalo.ca

On the Edge Coffee

Another community-oriented business enriches Boyle Street.



Jodine Chase (right) with son Morgan Chase. Jenny Graham

ANITA JENKINS

If you are a regular customer at On the Edge Coffee in the Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market, you will quickly get to know Jodine Chase. She is the cheerful and lively “ambassador” of this family-owned and socially conscious business.

Over the years Chase and her husband Rob McLauchlin (along with several adult children) found themselves regularly talking about opening a coffee shop. Chase, whose career for decades has been public relations and communications, was surprised to find that she was really interested in making this pipe dream a reality.

The first catalyst occurred when Chase, who is of Icelandic origin, and members of her family began taking trips to Iceland, the “homeland.” On their visits, they noticed that a prominent cultural quality (one the Chase-McLauchlin family already had) was a habit of constantly serving coffee. More often than not, the coffee was an essential element of any gathering for visiting and chat.

But each time the coffee business idea came up, it was put aside. Some of Chase’s children had worked in restaurants, so they were well aware of the enormous effort such a venture would involve. Getting up at 5 a.m. comes to mind, along with many other such taxing activities.

Then the Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market opened on 97th

Street “We contacted the market,” Chase says, “and asked some questions about costs.”

Chase’s family went ahead with the coffee kiosk at the market, but then the pandemic threw them for a loop. “We had to pivot so many times in so many ways,” Chase says. “We were dizzy.”

New ideas kept surfacing. The family Airstream trailer was put into service on Saturdays when the market bloomed outdoors during the summer. The trailer has also been showing up this summer at various outdoor events.

On the Edge will soon be roasting its own coffee on site at the market. “New technology allows us to have an electric roaster with zero emissions,” Chase says.

The company’s website, ontheedgecoffee.ca, states, “We believe coffee is one of life’s necessities. Brewing and selling coffee is a natural extension of our passion for the beverage and its ability to bring people together . . . We work with roasters who source beans ethically and pay farmers enough to help them earn a decent living.”

The Boyle Street community continues to grow and thrive. True, the movement often seems excruciatingly slow. But things are happening. On the Edge Coffee is a part of this.

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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Join the Boyle Street Community League in making our great neighbourhood even better!

BSCCL volunteers work together to build a more vibrant, connected community. As a community league we rely on the time, talents, and community spirit of our neighborhood residents to make this vision a reality. No contribution is too small!

Go to boylestreetcl.com and click on the 'volunteer' link or send us an email at info@boylestreetcl.com.

VISIT US ONLINE AT BOYLESTREETCL.COM
EMAIL US INFO@BOYLESTREETCL.COM

[/boylestreetcommunityleague](https://www.facebook.com/boylestreetcommunityleague) [@boylestreetcl](https://twitter.com/boylestreetcl)



TONY'S PIZZA PALACE AND ITALIAN RESTAURANT
9605 111 AVENUE • (780) 424-8777 • TONYSPIZZAPALACE.COM

A Block Carrier Reflects

JESSE ORJASAETER, MSW, RSW

Since 2015, I've had the privilege of delivering *Boyle McCauley News* to a couple of blocks around 93/92 Streets, between 107A and 106A Avenues. With new opportunities coming up, sadly I've now had to give up the routes, which got me reflecting on my experience as a Block Carrier.

I've enjoyed witnessing the little changes that would take place in between the delivery of each issue. A new mailbox installed. A new front porch stairwell. A broken gate. The seasonal changes of the old Green Ash trees shedding beautiful leaves in the fall and streams of sunshine and shadow through the branches onto the street and sidewalks.

Delivering papers along these streets, I'm always torn between the sense of community I can see and feel there and the stigma McCauley holds in the minds of many Edmontonians. I would see many indicators of challenges, such as a house with its front gate locked at the sidewalk so you can't walk all the way up to the door. One house got some press in 2019 after being featured on CBC's investigative podcast, *Slumtown*. Shortly afterwards it burned to the ground, taking a neighbouring home along with it. An old boat sat nearby, seemingly abandoned on a vacant lot.

At the same time, I've also been greeted with kindness by residents working on their front lawn and chatting with friends on the porch. I saw a vacant lot get transformed into an integrated community garden.

When I had extra papers I would offer them to people walking through the neighbourhood, people who at first glance may be unhoused. From my time volunteering in McCauley as a block connector with the Abundant Community Edmonton (ACE) program, it was clear that for meaningful change to take place, community has to be defined beyond people who own and rent. There are others in the inner city who spend their time accessing meals, supports, and services in the area. *Boyle McCauley News* is a resource for these community members as well. In this way, the Block Carrier truly serves the community as a whole.

Thank you to the 92/93 Street - 106A/107A Avenue residents for the valuable time I've spent walking your sidewalks. And I wish all the best to *Boyle McCauley News* and its amazing team. Thank you for creating a community newspaper that is meant for *everyone* in Boyle Street and McCauley.

If you are interested in becoming a Block Carrier, contact editor@bmcnews.org to find out what routes are available.

Explore the Library

IAN YOUNG

ABILITY AND COMMUNITY

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library." - Albert Einstein (Theoretical Physicist, 1879-1955)

We are approaching 2022. While we look back on what we have come through and learned, the libraries have been slowly, safely reopening.

We have the Edmonton Public Library's main branch, the newly-renovated Stanley A. Milner Library, very near us. Located at 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square, the library was built on that site to commemorate Canada's Centennial in 1967. In fact, it was known as the Centennial Library until 1996 when it was renamed after Stanley Albert Milner. He was someone who held many diverse positions in many fields, even making a run for mayor in 1963. Milner

was the chair of The Edmonton Library Board until 1968.

Libraries can be information centres, pleasant places to relax and browse books, hubs of resources, and sources of entertainment. The Milner library contains much more than books. It boasts many new, fully accessible areas, with services such as Wi-Fi, public computers, printing, photocopying, scanning, and study rooms. In addition, there is now a larger Children's section and a space for gamers! Another very cool part of this library is the Makerspace, where you can record music, do book binding, print things in 3D, and do a lot of other interesting things.

Like most public places at this time, mandatory masking and capacity regulations are in place. For more information, visit <https://www.epl.ca/locations/EPLMNA/> or call (780) 496-7070.

Ian is a columnist with the paper. He lives in the area.



"IF IT'S NOT ITALIAN BAKERY, FORGET ABOUT IT!"

Mon-Fri 7am - 7pm Saturday 7am - 5pm Sunday Closed

We specialize in European breads, pastries, torta, rye, sour dough/white sour dough bread, crusty buns and offer a full line of fresh Italian meats and cheeses.

ITALIAN BREAD
White or Brown Sliced
buy 10 loaves for \$20 and get 2 free

DELI
Great Selection
Cheeses & Coldcuts

ITALIAN SANDWICHES
Made Fresh Daily
Small for \$4 Large for \$8

4118-118AVE 780-474-2229

WE OFFER WHOLESALE PRICES DAILY

LINTON 10724-97 St.
(Across from Lucky 97)
DRUGS 424-6577

Prescription Drugs



MARKET DRUGS MEDICAL

Products for Health and Wellness

Edmonton
10203 - 97 Street

Across from the Winspear Centre
marketdrugsmedical.com **422-1397**

ADVERTISE WITH US!

BMCNEWS.ORG / ADVERTISE

REACH 5000+ READERS MONTHLY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Community Classifieds

NEIGHBOURHOOD RESIDENTS GET FREE CLASSIFIED ADS! EMAIL FIVE LINES OR LESS TO EDITOR@BMCNEWS.ORG
WE FIT AS MANY ADS HERE AS WE CAN. FOR MORE CLASSIFIEDS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT BMCNEWS.ORG.

PLEASE NOTE: THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES LISTED ON THIS PAGE MAY BE AFFECTED BY HEALTH REGULATIONS CONCERNING COVID-19.
PLEASE CONTACT THE SPECIFIC ORGANIZATION/AGENCY IN ADVANCE TO CONFIRM.

CHURCH AND AGENCY SERVICES

BISSELL CENTRE

780-423-2285 x 111 (General Inquiries)

Community Space: Closed to support operations at the Edmonton Convention Centre.

Bissell Centre Early Childhood Development Program

9331-105 Avenue Edmonton Alberta T5H 4E4

780-429-4126

Operating Hours: Monday to Friday full-time care 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Lunch provided by parents; centre provides a.m. and p.m. snacks

FREE Drop-in/respite spaces available Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Spaces are limited, please call ahead to reserve a space for your child.

BOYLE MCCAULEY HEALTH CENTRE

10628 – 96 Street

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Women's Health Promotion Evening: Thursdays (except the last Thursday of the month) from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. preceded by yoga class at 3:30 p.m. for one hour.

Foot Clinic - Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Dental - Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Streetworks during clinic hours.

BOYLE STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES

10116 – 105 Avenue

(780) 424-4106

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Youth night: Wed. 4-7 p.m. Adult Drop-In open all day – 8.30 – 4.30 . Lunch: Monday-Friday at 11.30. Free repairs for eyeglasses every Monday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; housing, family, youth, mental health and outreach programs available.

INNER CITY

PASTORAL MINISTRY

10527-96 St. NW

(780) 424-7652

Pastor Quinn Strikwerda

Pastoral Assistants: Jim Gurnett & Michelle Nieviadomy

Sunday Service: 11 a.m. - noon

Take-away snack bags Sunday at noon.

Visits and other pastoral services on request.

info@cpmedmonton.ca

THE ROCK OUTREACH

11004 – 96 Street NW

Phone (780) 426-1122

Breakfasts: Tuesday to Thursday 7-9 a.m.

Kids Club: Third Monday of the Month

THE SALVATION ARMY

ADDICTIONS &

RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

9611 -102 Avenue

(780) 429-4274

Men's Transitional Housing, Transformations Addiction Recovery Program, Community Support Services, Chapel Service, Volunteer Opportunities.

WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC

Located in the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre is open Monday - Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Closed on Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

THE MUSTARD SEED

10635 – 96 Street

(780) 426-5600

The Mustard Seed Church Food Bank Depot is open Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The drop-in is permanently closed.

For more information, call The Mustard Seed at (780) 426-5600 or visit: www.theseed.ca

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

NICOTINE ANONYMOUS

RICK (780) 474-5593

GWYNN (780) 443-3020

Support for smokers who are trying to quit.

Call Nicotine Anonymous.

SACRED HEART CHURCH OF THE FIRST PEOPLES

Address: 10821-96 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 2J8, and Tel: (780) 422-3052. Daily Mass is held at 9 a.m. from Monday to Saturday and on Sundays at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4 p.m. at Sacred Heart School Gymnasium and 7 p.m. Mass is held at Santa Maria Goretti Catholic Church. Currently, we are allowed to have 85 participants for the Sunday Masses and we request that people to register before they arrive.

Monthly Baptism preparation class is available to prepare parents for their child's Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmations. Due to COVID-19, the following programs are on hold until further notice: Traditional Native Wakes and Funerals in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit traditions; AA; and Edmonton Inner City Children's Project Society. (Our Sacred Heart Church is under renovation.)

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. Two locations: Boyle Street Community Services and Abbottsfield Mall.

Contact: Denis Lapierre, Coordinator

780-429-0675 or email: dl.learningcentre@shaw.ca

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 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.

FRESH ROUTES MOBILE GROCERY STORE

Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

YMCA Boyle Street Plaza, 9538-103A Ave.

Healthy affordable food including veggies, fruit, bread.

Cash, credit, and debit accepted.

Bring your own bags.

Open to all community members.

FREE COMPUTER LITERACY, DIGITAL SKILLS, AND INTERNET SAFETY WORKSHOPS

Drop-in sessions, Thursdays 4-7 p.m.

YMCA Boyle Street Plaza

9538-103A Avenue

For information call: 780-426-9265

BOYLE STREET PLAZA/YMCA FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE WEEKLY COLLECTIVE KITCHEN CLASSES

Tues. 1-3 p.m.

Wed. 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m.

Thurs. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Cost \$3/portion

U/G Parking \$1/hr - access on 104 Avenue between 95 Street and 96 Street

For information and registration call Jody at 780-429-5701

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

HANDS ON LTD. CONTRACTED SERVICES

Offers: Residential and office cleaning. Move ins and move outs and yard maintenance. Call Linda at (780) 619-4776.

DIRTY CARS NO MORE

Dirty car or filthy work truck? NINJATEC DETAILING is my small business and I can detail your vehicles either at home in the Boyle Street/McCauley area or out of my garage in the west end. Prices are about half of what you'd pay at those "other" shops, and I'm a lot more picky and thorough than they are because I do it the old fashioned hotrod way...BY HAND!! (780) 566-2871 anytime...NINJATEC DETAILING - Make sure you check out my Facebook page!

EDMONTON INTERCULTURAL CENTRE

EIC (9538 107 Avenue) strictly follows Government of Alberta guidelines for its operations. Our building is currently open for essential services only. Building hours are 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekdays. EIC accepts gym bookings only for one-on-one training with professional trainers and low-intensity training as of March 1st. Building hours may be extended for gym use under Stage 2 restrictions. Masks are required in the building. We have implemented strict sanitizing protocols that include sanitizing each shared space between usage by different groups. Contact us if you are in need of space for low-intensity fitness space.

COMICS WANTED

Disabled adult looking for unwanted comic book/graphic novel collections. In exchange will donate to a children's charity in your name and provide receipt. Some comics will also be donated where needed. (587) 920-8272.



e4c Community Development and Wellness:

Please visit our Facebook page @e4cwellness for a full schedule of FREE sessions and groups, open to all.

COVID Support

You do not have to be alone during the pandemic. Please visit our Facebook page @e4cwellness, or contact Kathryn at the e4c McCauley office at 780-424-2870. Email krambow@e4calberta.org.

WECAN Food Co-operative is still running! Purchase inexpensive meat and produce for pickup once per month at McCauley Apartments (9541-108A Ave.). Visit wecanfood.com or call the e4c McCauley Office at 780-424-2870 for help to order.

Winter Spark: a luminous journey through a sleeping winter garden! FREE! Join us for bonfires, lanterns, twinkling lights, and the spark of imagination at every turn. **Sunday, December 12, 4-7 p.m.** at Alex Taylor School Community Garden, 9321 Jasper Ave. Visit @e4cwellness on Facebook for details.

Online Writing Class with Leif Gregersen

Mondays 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 15 - Dec. 20 (we'll continue in January with a new schedule).
Visit @e4cwellness on Facebook for the zoom link or contact Kathryn at the e4c McCauley office.



Well
played.

Eleven-year-old flutist Grace is a proud member of the Youth Orchestra of Northern Alberta. With funding from Edmonton Community Foundation, YONA-Sistema is helping young people living in priority neighborhoods learn social skills, receive support, succeed academically, and gain confidence through music.

Donations to ECF inspire hope, create opportunity and enhance the Edmonton lifestyle. We work with our donors to give, grow and transform. ecfoundation.org hits all the right notes.

EDMONTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Charity begins at Home.

HEART OF THE CITY FESTIVAL SOCIETY ARTIST PROFILE SERIES

Mikayla Bortscher: Emerging as a Poet and Musician

CORINE DEMAS

Mikayla Bortscher is an emerging poet and musician who worked with Heart of the City, in conjunction with CreArt, to produce this summer's Heart of the City Youth Stage Live Stream Series.

I asked Mikayla how it went. She said, "We had a lot of really great performers. It went smoothly. It was great collaborating and meeting new people. I got to meet other Edmonton artists."

The inspiration for Mikayla to become a musician was natural. "Playing harp is something I always wanted to do. It's kind of just something that's in me. When I was very little I had a book called *Gwinna* which had a picture of a girl with a harp. I had a toy harp when I was 12. I saved up my whole life to buy it and I got a little help from my mom. It was only \$200

which is still a lot of money and it isn't a real harp. It only has 20 strings, but I used to play with it all the time. I would spend hours in my yard."

I asked her what gave her the courage to start playing harp seriously as an adult. "I was on this existential bent because I was entering my first year of university and I realized that I hadn't done any of the things that I had set out to do when I was a kid. I also realized that I should just go ahead and call a harpist."

She looked up harpists and found Terry McDade, whose CD she had when she was a kid. "I knew his style. I really liked learning from Terry. He is a great person and a great teacher."

Mikayla also performed poetry at Heart of the City's Beat Spoken Word Variety Show. "I write fairly



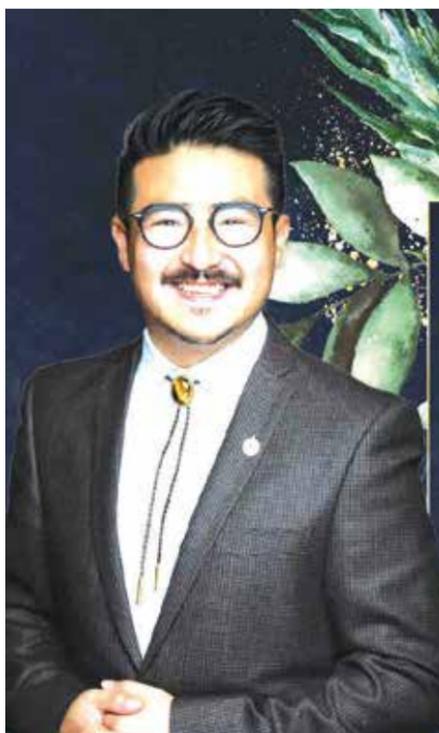
Mikayla Bortscher. Supplied

simple forms but I like to use big ideas in my poetry," she says. "I don't use big ideas in my songwriting. I have more complex poetry. I find that when people are reading poetry they really want to understand something or they want to learn or hear something, but when someone is listening to a song they don't always want a message. Sometimes they just want to lay back and listen to a tune."

In the future Mikayla plans to record an album of music and tour with it. She also says, "I want to teach poetry workshops. I'm hoping to do a Master's in poetics. I will probably never get a job teaching at a university but I will definitely run workshops around the city. I want to connect poetry and therapy."

Mikayla performed at the first Heart of the City Live Stream event in early June and was surprised at how many views it got after it was posted online. You can watch the Heart of the City Youth Stage Live Stream series by going to CreArt Edmonton's Facebook page or checking out @heartcityfest on Facebook.

Corine Demas serves as volunteer President and Spoken Word Director of the Heart of the City Festival Society of Edmonton. Corine is passionate about poetry, storytelling, and her city, Edmonton. She lives in McCauley.



Wishing you a wonderful Holiday Season and a New Year filled with Peace and Happiness.

Blake Desjarlais, MP
EDMONTON GRIESBACH

BlakeDesjarlais.ndp.ca Blake.Desjarlais@parl.gc.ca
 @BlakeDesjarlaisNDP @DesjarlaisBlake
 @blakedesjarlais 780-495-3261

10212 - 127th Avenue NW, Suite 102
Edmonton AB T5E 0B8



Janis Irwin, MLA
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood

[f](#) [t](#) JanisIrwin

780.414.0682
6519 112 Ave.
Edmonton.HighlandsNorwood@assembly.ab.ca



Where the language of love is great food



ITALIAN CENTRE SHOP
italiancentre.ca

Edmonton
LITTLE ITALY
SOUTHSIDE
WEST END

Calgary
WILLOW PARK

Grocery • Bakery • Deli • Café

ADVERTISE WITH US!

BMCNEWS.ORG/ADVERTISE

REACH 5000+ READERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY