



EIC CULTURE DAYS 5 ▲



CECILY MILLS: MY LIFE IN BOYLE STREET 6 ▲



GOODBYE TO THE BIG RED HAND 7 ▲



BOYLE STREET COMMUNITY LEAGUE UPDATE 11 ▲

Boyle McCauley News

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VOL. 41 NO. 8 PUBLISHED ON TREATY 6 TERRITORY VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1979

Germantown YEG: A History to Preserve

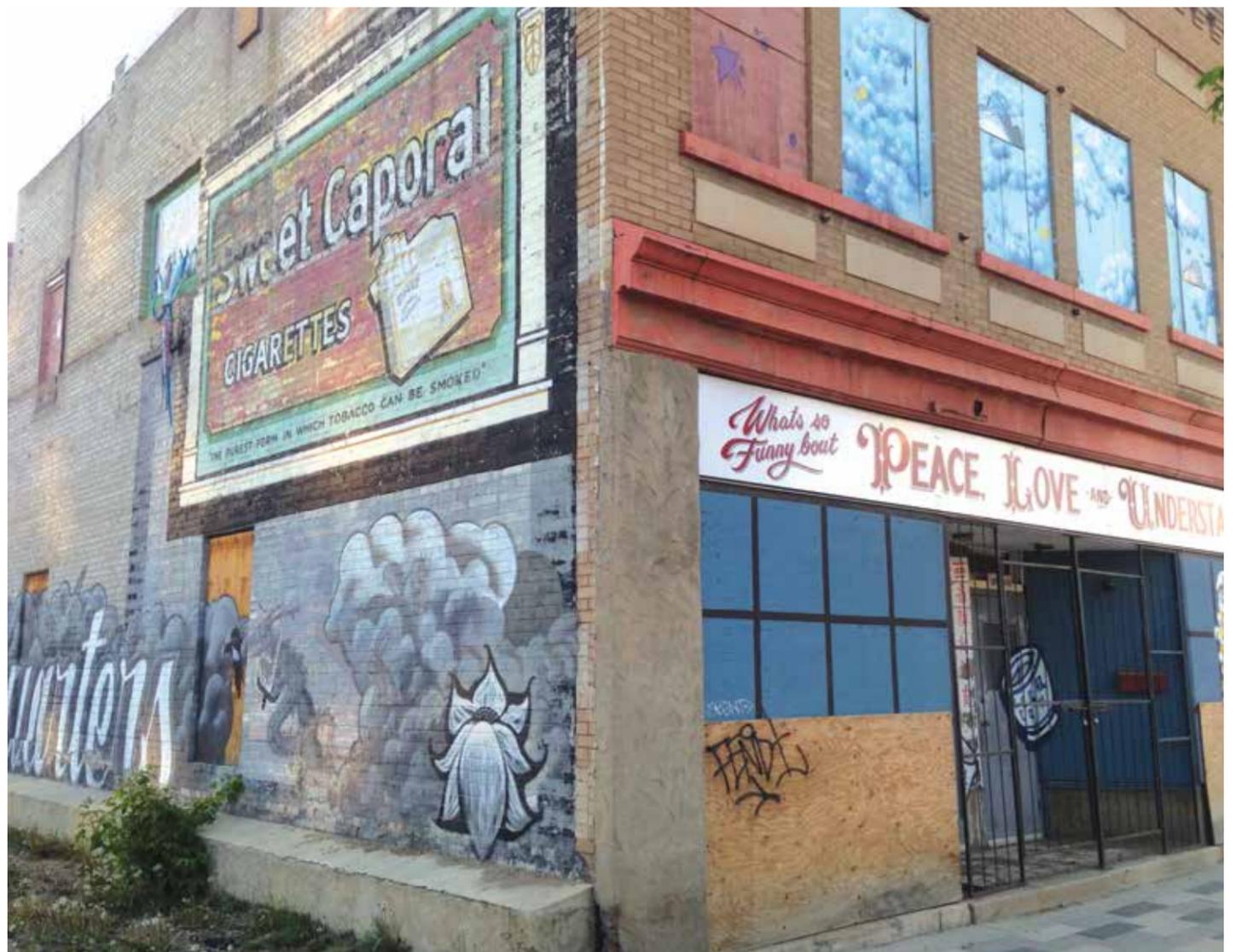
Before World War I, the Koermann Block was at the centre of a large German-speaking community.

ANITA JENKINS

The historic Koermann Block (10234 – 96 Street) is sitting forlornly, all boarded up and waiting for word about its future. In 2011, Arts Habitat announced a plan to develop a building with 60 units featuring live/work units for artists. The façade of the proposed building was to include two of the Koermann Block’s exterior walls, similar to the design of the Brighton Block/Ernest Brown building on Jasper Avenue. This project died recently because the required matching funds from the provincial and federal governments did not come through.

The fading but still-attractive Koermann Block is named for Gustave Koermann, who built it in 1911 to house his thriving newspaper business, the *Alberta Herald*. Founded in 1903, the *Herold* was the first German-language paper in Alberta. It served a large number of German-speaking immigrants who lived in the area, many also operating businesses such as grocery stores, meat markets, blacksmith shops, barber shops, restaurants and cafes. As well, there was a German law firm, a German doctor, a German social club called the Edelweiss, and several German churches (see page four).

Much of the community’s German language, business, and cultural activity declined suddenly in 1914, when World War I began. The newspaper was classified as an enemy alien, suspected of pro-German coverage. This



The Koermann Block. Kate Werkman/Germantown YEG

atmosphere made it difficult to obtain advertising, and in May 1915 the final issue of the *Herold* was published.

So, the Koermann Block is no stranger to change and an uncertain future.

The City of Edmonton has plans to put the property up for sale again. “Our desired outcome is to have the Koermann Block incorporated into a new development,” says Mary Ann Debrinski, Director, Urban Renewal.

Regarding the future of the Koermann Block, Sylvia Herting of the Germantown YEG Facebook page says, “We need to keep this.”

>Continued on page four.



HOTC Artist Profile

GERRY MORITA/MILE ZERO DANCE

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SAFER MCCAULEY

“2020 has been a busy year, marked by a move towards addressing more complex, city-wide issues.

■ PAGE 4

ABILITY & COMMUNITY

“Our gatherings may be smaller, but our hearts can be big!

■ PAGE 9

EMPOWER U

“You see an improved future, and you reach for it.

■ PAGE 11

I Tried . . . Singing

LINDSAY BROMMELAND

I Tried . . .

I am 100% talent-free, so I have great admiration for those who can sing, draw, play an instrument, or throw a ball accurately. These are all things that elude me. During a discussion regarding an upcoming family event that would include karaoke (needless to say, this was pre-COVID), a family member insisted that, in theory, with some training anyone can learn to sing. Being willing to try anything, my father and I decided to sign up for vocal lessons and, most likely, prove the theory wrong (my father is even less vocally gifted than I am, if such a thing is possible).

We were upfront with our instructor about what had made us sign up. He was willing to help us get to our modest goal: the ability to sing a song or two without everyone running for the exits. We weren't expecting to become Aretha (or even Britney) in 12 weeks. We got to work. The first few sessions consisted of making bizarre, ooo/ahh, high/low, and loud/quiet sounds while working on our breathing.

The key to being a good singer is confidence. Wobbly, stumbling vocals come from hesitation and fear of embarrassment. If you have ever noticed you are a much better singer after a couple of drinks, there is a good reason: you are not as self-conscious as you normally would be. Of course, knowing you are a bad singer means you have no confidence to sing, so you get no practice and will remain talent-free forever. Starting out making embarrassing noises and faces got the awkwardness out of our systems, and made singing actual words a relief in comparison.

The songs we were singing had to be both Lindsay and Dad-friendly, so we chose an Eagles song, an Aerosmith song, and an Elton John song. We learned that Albertans tend to speak in a lower register using the backs of our throats. You can hear this in the low ummm sound we make when thinking of what to say next. By contrast, eastern Canadians make ooo sounds from the front of their tongue, and speak in a slightly higher register. As good Albertans, our instinct was to sing every song as deeply as possible without letting our natural singing voices emerge. For me especially, our instructor kept reminding me to sing a couple of keys higher so I wasn't straining my voice. It felt very unnatural, but made some sense - though it didn't get us anywhere near the high notes Steven Tyler hits (tip: do not attempt an Aerosmith song when first learning to sing).

Staying calm, confident, and breathing properly keeps your voice clear and stable. This is more easily achieved when singing slow songs, so the Eagles and Elton John were more our speed. After 12 weeks, we could both just about sing "Desperado" and "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" well enough to not be noticed in a crowd. When karaoke day came, the talent vs. training theory was still unsettled, but we had improved from our original talent-free status.

I am still not a good singer, but at least now I know why!

Lindsay Brommeland is a McCauley resident of 14 years who will try anything once.

Joey Moss Tribute in McCauley



Artist AJA Loudon created a mural to honour Joey Moss at the graffiti Free Wall near 95th Street and the LRT tracks. Moss died on October 26th. AJA Loudon

New Novel from Candas Jane Dorsey Influenced by Boyle Street

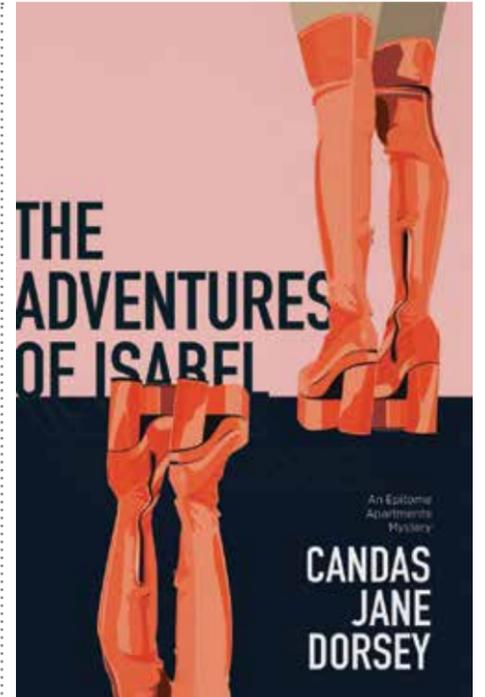
PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff

Candas Jane Dorsey's novel, *The Adventures of Isabel*, was published by ECW Press on October 20th. Promoting a new book during a pandemic is proving to be a challenge for the Boyle Street resident. However, Dorsey has been doing online Zoom events, as well as turning to social media to get the word out about her work.

And word got out swiftly. *The Adventures of Isabel* has received a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*, as well as great reviews in the *Globe and Mail*, *Ottawa Review of Books*, and *Kirkus*. The book is heading for an international readership, with German rights sold to Suhrkamp Verlag and UK rights to Pushkin Press.

The Adventures of Isabel is a post-modern mystery set on the gritty streets of an unnamed Canadian city. When a downsized social worker helps a good friend deal with the murder of her beloved granddaughter, she and her cat are thrust into a world full of sex, lies, and betrayal. She faces these challenges with intelligence and witty humour. However, what at first appeared to be a simple street killing, is just the surface of what is actually a complex and dark set of criminal schemes.

At the novel's centre is a queer, nameless, amateur detective. The story is set to the framework of the Ogden Nash poem, from which the novel gets its title. "The nameless protagonist developed fairly early, partly as a nod to many nameless detectives back through 80 or 90 years of the modern noir mystery novel. I really can't remember when I added the overarching frame of the children's poem, but



it seemed to fit the tone. Nash was always rather sly about mixing the adult edge even into his children's poems," says Dorsey.

Boyle Street, where Dorsey has been a resident for 18 years, had a definite influence on her work. In fact, local readers will recognize the city in which novel is set as Edmonton. Many of the locations are either loosely based on or can be found in the Boyle Street/McCauley area.

"I love living here and I respect my neighbours a lot," she says. "Our lives are sometimes very different but we are able to support each other in our own ways, and that's the essential part of community right there. In these books, as soon as the lead character lived in the city core, certain elements of her life were going to be determined by her neighbourhood, no matter what."

Parts of this article were published in the 2020 Fall/Winter online issue of Prairie Books NOW.

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PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff

MCCAULEY MUSINGS

I spend more time than ever online. Prior to the pandemic I spent quite a lot of time in front of a screen also, mostly scrolling through my social media feeds. Now, I participate in my meetings, social events, and entertainment via a variety of online platforms, most often Zoom.

I am truly thankful that I live in a time when technology allows me to live my life as normally as possible. I am equally thankful for being privileged enough to have regular access to the Internet and devices that keep me connected to it. Finally, my personality type is such that I enjoy time spent on my own. The need to socially isolate doesn't

cramp my style or affect my mental health in a bad way.

Yet for many, the exact opposite is true. As the pandemic rages on, they feel more and more isolated and crave companionship other than talking heads on a screen. And, quite frankly, sitting in my room scrolling, posting, liking, livestreaming, and doing whatever other verbs didn't exist prior to the digital age (or that now have different meanings) is getting old. I realize how much I took for granted doing simple things like sitting for hours in a coffee shop writing, then meeting friends for dinner and going to a concert.

We all have to do our best in keeping ourselves and each other safe. For some, including me, this means staying home as much as possible. Yet connecting with others is necessary for mental health. Online togetherness is better than nothing. Until we come out on the other side of our current situation, it's virtual hugs and video chats.

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.

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Germantown YEG, Ian Young

EDITOR'S NOTES

Our inevitable first snowfall of the season happened a few days before I wrote this short message. While the world currently seems in a state of flux, Edmonton's winter is always something upon which we can depend.

You can also depend upon community news and information at our website, bmcnews.org. We have been publishing more online content than ever before, particularly time-sensitive news that happens in between print issues. We always share on our social media whenever we publish something new on our website. Follow us @bmcnews on Facebook and

Twitter, and @bmcviews on Instagram.

We are in need of some volunteers, especially Block Carriers (in McCauley) and Apartment Ambassadors/Condo Connectors (in Boyle Street) to help us get the paper to readers. It's a great way to volunteer and connect with your community. Contact me for more information (editor@bmcnews.org).

If you can, please help keep the paper sustainable by taking part in our micro-donation campaign. As little as \$2 each month can help keep us publishing. Head to bmcnews.org/donate for more information.

Happy and safe holidays to all of you!

OUR NEXT ISSUE. . .

Volume 42, Issue 1 will be published February 1, 2021. Articles and photos concerning community news, events, and opinions are welcome. We also accept submissions of poetry and cartoons. Deadline: January 12, 2021. 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 issue is January 12, 2021.

BOYLE STREET AND MCCAULEY CRIME AND 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.Brandenburg@edmonton.ca
- **Litter/Graffiti:** 311; capitalcitycleanup@edmonton.ca
- **Report a Problem Property - search:** Edmonton Report a Problem Property
- **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)

Germantown YEG

>Continued from page one.

In addition to the Koermann Block, here are some other German locations of note.

Edelweiss Club and German Churches

Edmonton's Edelweiss Club, a German Canadian social centre, was founded on April 24, 1905 and officially incorporated in 1906. Gustav Koermann, publisher of the *Alberta Herald*, was its first president. The first location of the club was 9568-101A Avenue, now the site of the new Double Tree by Hilton hotel. The second club building, constructed in 1928, still stands at 9663-101A Avenue, near Canada Place. It is currently a restaurant.

In 1905 and for several years following, the Edelweiss was the largest gathering place in Edmonton; it was used for many social and political events organized by

other groups besides the German membership.

The German churches in the neighbourhood include the building that is now the Mustard Seed, originally a German Baptist church, and St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 9606 - 110 Avenue. St. Peter's was "a spiritual home for German immigrants, offering relief services to new arrivals in the 1930s and broadcasting German services over CFRN radio until 1951" (*Churches of Edmonton's Church Street* booklet, which you can download at bmcnews.org).

Koermann Block Replica in Fort Edmonton

Fort Edmonton's "Ukrainian Bookstore Building" is a reconstruction of the Koermann Block as it looked in 1919, when the bookstore occupied its lower floor.

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

Just Two Seasons Here in the North

LEIF GREGERSEN

Huddled up in a cocoon, covered by blankets and quilts
In the cool winter night, I lie still, in hope of a rest.
My head is full of images of what summertime will bring
Because during these long winter nights
My feet feel so rheumatic and cold.

In sweet summertime among those lush green fields
I can run like a machine, and drink deep of sport.
But in trade I must understand
That it won't be so easy to sleep
Sweating, covered by only a sheet.

And even in winter as the wind screams,
The cold bites any bit of skin you expose.
Like how in summer the mosquitos do,
But there is always a golden tree-lined path
Through the darkness to warm, safe rest.

You can't find it while sleeping alone.
Someone you love must be near enough to hold and...
And love you back enough to be held.
Without that, there is little to do but to lie in the night
Trying to conceive of the perfect insomnia poem.

Leif lives in McCauley. You can learn more about him and his work at edmontonwriter.com.

Safer McCauley Reports Back to the Community

MARK DAVIS

In 2017, REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities hired a McCauley Coordinator to support the neighbourhood in addressing safety concerns. A McCauley resident was hired for the position, with other community members involved in the hiring. Safer McCauley began convening, connecting, and activating stakeholders to identify and address priority issues.

2020 has been a busy year, marked by a move towards addressing more complex, city-wide issues. REACH is receiving an increasing number of requests for support from other neighbourhoods. The McCauley Coordinator is now the Program Manager for REACH's Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative.

Safer McCauley would like to provide you with our Annual Community Report Back (September 2019 to December 2020). Highlights include community-driven actions, strengthened collaboration between stakeholders, increased support for Chinatown, and breakthroughs on problem properties, needle debris, and garbage.

Please visit safermccauley.ca for the full report back about the following:

Neighbourhood Safety Councils

REACH is supporting the establishment of local safety councils in diverse Edmonton neighbourhoods. REACH sees the potential of a network of councils sharing best practices and resources.

Community Directions

REACH is increasing its capacity to support neighbourhoods through its Community Directions initiative. New online tools deploy surveys to identify neighbourhood priorities and create a shared vision for neighbourhood safety.

Community Project Guidebooks

REACH is partnering with community members on a catalogue of Community Project Guidebooks: stories about successful community-driven safety initiatives in diverse neighbourhoods.

McCauley Dog Walkabout

Several community-driven initiatives have been activated to promote safety, connectivity, and vibrancy in McCauley. Dog Walkabouts are a fun way to get exercise, explore the community, and meet neighbours!

McCauley Litter Blitzes

This activity brings volunteers together to address litter. Six events have brought out 120 people and collected 98 bags of litter. 96 Litter Kits were also distributed to community members this season.

McCauley Clean-Ups

COVID-19 dictated an adaptation to the traditional community clean-up. McCauley Revitalization, McCauley Apartments, E4C, Boyle Street Ventures, McCauley Community League, and Safer McCauley collaborated on three clean-ups to remove 42 loads of illegally dumped junk and unwanted large items from the neighbourhood.

Safer McCauley Community Conversations

Community meetings build and reinforce relationships, help identify priorities and solutions, and connect stakeholders to information-sharers.

McCauley COVID-19 Support

Online channels, including the Facebook group McCauley Connect & Share, the Facebook page @SaferMcCauley, and reachedmonton.ca have supported the distribution of information related to COVID-19.

Collaboration in Chinatown

REACH is facilitating a process that brings together Chinatown BIA stakeholders to address their safety concerns.

Chinatown and McCauley Safety & Cleanliness Resource Guide

Collaboration in Chinatown and McCauley has produced enhanced services to address safety and cleanliness. New "who to call" resources will soon be available.

Problem Property Initiative (PPI)

A Safer McCauley meeting triggered several events, contributing to the new Problem Property Initiative and its more aggressive action plan. Positive outcomes are evident, including the identification of properties for purchase and redevelopment.

Problem Property Initiative, Community Oversight Committee

In developing the PPI, the City consulted directly with community members affected by problem properties - and a Community Oversight Committee was formed.

Needle Debris

REACH is promoting collaboration to build a more robust and coordinated response to needle debris in Edmonton.

Needle Collection Data Integration Project

REACH and City of Edmonton are coordinating the adoption of a shared data collection process to track needles and improve efficiency in resource deployment.

McCauley Crime Statistics

Safer McCauley is monitoring crime statistics and investigating correlations with environmental factors, and possibilities for improved resource deployment.

Bridging Community & Enforcement

REACH is engaged with EPS and Community Standards to investigate possibilities for strengthening relationships between front-line enforcement and community members.

Resource Connect

Resource Connect 2020 brought together 93 organizations and drew over 550 visitors to McCauley.

THANK YOU to everyone who contributes to well-being in McCauley. Please visit safermccauley.ca and Facebook @SaferMcCauley. Don't hesitate to share your ideas with me directly at mark.davis@reachedmonton.ca.

Mark is REACH Edmonton's Neighbourhoods Convener.

He can be contacted at mark.davis@reachedmonton.ca.

A Fun and Safe Halloween Party

SHELLEY HOLLINGSWORTH

It was a beautiful day out for the 25th Annual Inner City Children's Safe Halloween Party on October 31st. Thirty-five children participated in carnival games for tickets to get candy. There was a fire pit for people to stay warm courtesy of Viva Italia, as well as burgers and hot chocolate.

I would like to thank the following people for helping to make the party a great success:

- Lily Mounma: Thank you for looking after the COVID-19 part of the party.
- Ruth Alexandra Sorochan: Thank you for the Facebook promotion.
- Taro Hashimoto: Thank you for the design of the poster and checking to make sure I was not overwhelmed.
- David Prodan and e4c: You went all out for us. Thank you for making our flyers and posters, and for all the PPE stuff.
- Mike Siek: The music was great.
- Terry and Cindy: Thank you for the use of your big truck to bring in the wood and other things.

• Thank you also to Rebecca Kaiser and the Inner City Rec volunteers, and McCauley Apartments, especially Chris Leclair and Trina Segalbaum.

For donations, thank you: McCauley Community League, Tyson Reaney, Forsaken Souls RC, C-Ment Concrete Services, Boyle McCauley Dynalife Medical Lab, Boyle McCauley Dental Clinic, Momma and Poppa Bear, King Ring Nancy, Sandra Mackenzie (your special donation made me cry), Carol Sayer, Sandra Bear, Dee Conley, and Beth and Joe.

A special thanks to everyone who came out and volunteered to set up and look after the different stations. Without you, there would have been no games for the children. Thank you for making the 25th annual Halloween party a very special event.

See you all next year!

Shelley lives in McCauley. To see photos from the event, see page seven.



Above: Basak Unsal and her winning design. Brad Vince

Below: Maryna Prokhorenko won second place. Brad Vince

Winners of EIC'S Alberta Culture Days Event

SIM SENOL

Edmonton Intercultural Centre has been working hard to become more than just a facility manager for the old McCauley School in the last year. Since EIC's foundation, it has mostly been the 10 tenant organizations spearheading the activities, events, and workshops in the building. Gathering restrictions due to the pandemic have limited most of the in-person activities in the building, but haven't stopped the new administration team at the EIC to think of ways to bring the community together.

Earlier this fall, while the weather still permitted outdoor events, EIC served as an Alberta Culture Days Host Site for the first time in its five year history. Twenty-five local artists representing 21 different cultures got together (mostly outdoors) to give the old trash cans of the McCauley School a cultural makeover. After a safely distanced weekend of painting and networking, local artists of all ages took the cans home and brought back their finished projects at the end of the month for an exhibition.

The original location for the exhibition was planned at the Edmonton City Hall, but the continued closure of the space to the public in September resulted in a last-minute change. The cans were on display at the Kingsway Mall for almost two weeks. The multi-day event, called "Show Your Colours," involved a competition component. Kingsway Mall visitors and many people who visited the EIC website got a chance to vote for their favourite designs.

In the end, more than 4,200 votes were cast, and a winning design was crowned. Young local artist Basak Un-



sal won the \$1,000 winning prize with her design highlighting Turkish Culture. Crimean artist Maryna Prokhorenko won second place and \$500. EIC will put up some of the trash cans up for auction this holiday season to raise funds which they hope to use as seed money for similar cultural events in the future, and also to provide small honoraria to all the artists who graciously donated their time and talent for this amazing event. If you are heading over to the EIC these days, make sure to ask for an art-walk map for the building so you can view the amazing artwork up close.

Sim Senol is the Executive Director of the Edmonton Intercultural Centre.

Surviving COVID-19

A view from a McCauley senior.

JOANNE MCNEAL

As a senior, surviving COVID-19 is a challenge, as there is far less contact with other human beings. Since the beginning of the pandemic last February I've had some symptoms, but I've been tested twice and the results were negative. What I miss most is seeing other human beings. To be safe, I keep in touch with others through e-mail, phone, and Facebook. I always wear a mask when going to the store, because we all know that COVID-19 is a serious threat to all of our lives.

My own family is afraid of giving me the virus because I am in the highest risk group. Last month for my birthday, my family took me out for lunch. We sat far apart, couldn't hug each other, and we could hardly have a conversation. That was hard, but it was very nice to see them all. I miss talking with old friends, my daughters, and grandchildren. But since that is taboo in person, we keep in touch occasionally with phone calls or e-mails. I really miss "SEE-ing" them. Last month my older sister died suddenly, and her children put together a virtual memorial service via Zoom. That was wonderfully creative across many miles!

So how do I cope? I hug my dogs

and I am grateful for their company. I have an Italian neighbour who occasionally asks me to take her to the store and bank, and that is nice - we have a short visit. But most days, even when I walk my dogs 12 blocks, I rarely see another human being. Even my choir has suspended rehearsals, but my orchestra has now resumed rehearsal with safe distancing. At our first rehearsal after many months of not seeing each other, it was a real joy to play violin again!

I also keep busy in my 1910 house and yard, even in the winter: snow shovelling, fixing things, cleaning, sorting through a lifetime of papers, sewing, and doing artwork now and then. A lifetime of teaching and helping others is now reduced to the occasional message via e-mail, phone, or Facebook. I do put almost daily thoughts and ideas on my Facebook page. And I know I watch way too much TV. So if someone you know lives alone, like your grandma or grandpa, please take the time to reach out by phone or email to let them know you miss them. It would probably be the highlight of their day, as it would be for me.

Joanne McNeal, McCauley senior resident for 14 years.

My Life in Boyle Street

The experiences of a longtime resident.



Cecily Mills accepting the Polovnikoff-Mokry Lifetime Service Award from Project Ploughshares Edmonton in 2015 for her decades of contributions to peace. Paula E. Kirman

CECILY MILLS

When Anita Jenkins suggested I write an article for the *Boyle McCauley News*, I hesitated. After all, although I have lived on Jasper Avenue, on the very edge of the Boyle Street, for the last 21 years, my contacts have been mostly limited to walks through the area.

But all this free time with COVID-19 took me back to 1982 when I joined the teaching staff of Caritas High School, a private high school founded by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Toronto. The first year Caritas received only grade 10 students. In 1983, we received both grade 10 and 11 students. For these first two years, we rented space at St. Alphonsus School on 82 Street and 116 Avenue. We were welcomed by the community and participated in many of the events in the community. Some of our students did their weekly volunteer work in the area, and we held memorials, family days, and celebrations at Sacred Heart Church. In 1984, we leased a larger vacant school from the Separate School Board to have lab space, gym and auditorium. Nevertheless, our connections continued with the Boyle Street and McCauley neighbourhoods well after the Caritas school closed in 1990.

In 1990, I left Edmonton to do volunteer work in a women's shelter in Seattle, leaving most of my belongings in John and Val Philips' basement. John was a colleague at Caritas. I returned to Canada after 18 months and again enjoyed their hospitality. I admired their commitment to their neighbourhood: the evening walks to discourage johns, the maintenance of the rink and ball park, the picking up of litter, the window signs to direct children to safety and John and Val's friends. I appreciated their hospitality yet again; it enabled me to have a home away from home while I spent four months at language school in Guatemala, and finally three years in Nicaragua with Witness for Peace.

When I returned to Edmonton in September of 1995, I rented an apartment on 81 Street near Jasper Avenue. It was a busy year as I made plans to go to Guatemala with the Volunteer Missionary Movement. I left on September 20, 1996 and returned on December 20, 1998. I rented an apartment at the same place but with a new owner. I resumed volunteer work in Edmonton, mainly teaching English as a second language. One of my students was a young Korean woman with two children, whose husband and four other Korean tech experts had been hired by IBM to figure out how to avoid a meltdown when the year 2000 chimed in. In early June, they were invited to lunch at the Hotel Macdonald, congratulat-

ed for their excellent work, and told they were done! My student's husband had meagre English. He put me through to his employment insurance contact to whom I explained the situation. He was able to get employment insurance as the other four had. Now, I had a new ESL student and someone who could install my first computer, and later, assemble my new furniture.

Because my first apartment owner had bought a condo in the neighbourhood, every time I met her she would encourage me to do the same. One Saturday morning, the *Edmonton Journal* listed a condo in her building. I was lucky. The real estate agent was bound and determined to get me the best price, but she also wanted me to be sure that I had seen other condos. The two we visited were full of sublets and not well maintained. I refused to see the third one.

I can't believe I have been in this condo 21 years! Well, I did spend a year away. My companion in Guatemala had returned to Guatemala to become Volunteer Missionary Movement's volunteer coordinator. A couple to whom she introduced Chahal, the isolated village where we had spent two years, said they couldn't live in a place full of spiders and scorpions. A replacement was needed. I was ready to go. That year, John Philips came to the condo once a week, emptied my mailbox, and paid the bills. I had a great year in Guatemala. Since 2001, I have often been asked to accompany delegations to Central America to provide translation as well as translating for guests invited to Canada. The best of these "reverse" delegations was accompanying two women from Nicaragua's "sweatshops" to three regions of the United Church Women. These were three intense and memorable weeks.

In 2002, when I had settled back in Edmonton, I was elected to the board of Change for Children whose office was situated at St. Peter's Catholic School. We were advised that we would meet right away after the AGM, where we were informed the organization was bankrupt. I chose to stay. I worked as a volunteer every day in our tiny office and loved the contact with the staff and students. You will note a memorial to the school that was demolished to make way for St. Teresa of Calcutta school. There is also a bench honouring Hank and Tillie Zyp, who founded Change for Children, whose office was at the school for around 20 years. When St. Peter's school was demolished, CFC operated out of Sacred Heart School for a long time before moving to its present location at 10808 - 124 Street. I did not run again for the board, but after 20 years I am still a volunteer at Change for Children.

Cecily lives in Boyle Street.

Waving Goodbye to the Big Red Hand



Artist Nickelas Johnson atop his piece, *Ripp'd Off & Red*, during installation in The Quarters in 2012. Supplied

In the summer of 2012, the Edmonton Arts Council engaged Kendal Henry (now the Director of the Percent for Art Program in New York City) to curate a transitory (short-term) public art installation to reflect and explore the revitalization underway in The Quarters/Boyle Street area. Known as Dirt City :: Dream City, the project featured 14 works by local artists that ranged from a community garden to live performance to large-scale installations.

One of the most impactful of these works was *Ripp'd Off & Red* by Nickelas Johnson. Also known as “the big

red hand,” the artwork has been a fixture in the community since its installation as part of Dirt City :: Dream City. Originally located at Jasper Avenue and 95th Street, the artwork has been sited at 96th Street and 104th Avenue for some time.

While public support for Dirt City :: Dream City as a whole was strong, *Ripp'd Off & Red* was a particularly resonant piece for the community. In recognition of its impact, the City of Edmonton purchased the artwork in order to keep it installed in the area after the temporary Dirt City :: Dream City project concluded.

Over the past eight years, the Edmonton Arts Council's Public Art Conservation team has done maintenance to increase the lifespan of the artwork. Though originally created as a transitory piece, EAC has addressed coatings, drainage, sealants, and structural reinforcements as part of the regular maintenance of the City's collection. However, the staff determined that repair and reconstruction were no longer feasible, both from an aesthetic and structural perspective. For public safety, a fence was constructed around the artwork, and it was removed from the site in late October of 2020.

Artist Nickelas Johnson provided the following reflection about the project:

After spending an immersive week learning about the history of The Quarters from community leaders and Elders, I elected to build a massive red hand, severed at the wrist. The hand was intended to symbolize a community cut-off, ignored yet vibrantly visible on the side of the road. The gesture, an open palm, communicated both an offer to help and a desire for the same.

The on-site installation proved to be a moving and inspiring experience. There was a constant flow of welcome interruptions from folks on the street inquiring about the sculpture and telling me what it meant to them. One houseless fellow named Crusty spent the day silently observing the installation, then approached and volunteered to protect the tarped-in sculpture overnight until it received its protective coating of paint. We arrived the next morning to find Crusty smiling triumphantly beside the sculpture, proud to have protected it from the elements or interference. We shared a breakfast cradled in the palm of the hand.

Many residents of The Quarters com-

munity expressed gratitude and appreciation for a sculpture that spoke to them. Ultimately, the City of Edmonton offered to purchase Ripp'd Off & Red, to remain installed in The Quarters.

Since that time, there has been some online controversy about the intent of the piece, some of which I initially addressed but ultimately chose to let the art continue to speak for itself. The overwhelming feedback from community members has been humbling and galvanizing to me as an artist. It has helped me understand that art is as much an ear as an object.

I'm grateful to the Edmonton Arts Council and the City of Edmonton for facilitating this experiment and allowing it to age, as was the artful intent, for as long as was safe for the public."

When asked about the deaccessioning – the process by which a work of art is permanently removed from a collection – EAC Director of Public Art & Conservation David Turnbull explains, “The process is one that can be initiated for several reasons. In this case it was necessitated by the condition of the artwork, but deaccessioning can also be recommended in cases where the site of the artwork has changed.

As part of this process, the artist is contacted, and once the work is deaccessioned, the rights and artwork revert to the artist. “This artwork held an important place in the community, and we want to honour that by ensuring that the public understands the reason behind this decision,” says Turnbull. “Deaccessioning is actually indicative of a healthy, living collection.”

Article reprinted with permission from the Edmonton Arts Council's blog (yegarts.tumblr.com).

A Fun and Safe Halloween Party



Some scary scenes from the 25th Annual Inner City Children's Safe Halloween Party. For more about the event, see the story on page five. Taro Hashimoto

SPRING 2020:

FALL 2020:



PROJECT 10

TRANSFORMING ABANDONED PROPERTIES INTO NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSETS

Project 10 is an initiative of the Edmonton Community Development Company to buy 10 abandoned or derelict properties and to redevelop those sites into market housing.

Learn more about Project 10 at: www.edmontoncdc.org/project10.



EDMONTON CDC
People First Community Development



BOYLE STREET
COMMUNITY LEAGUE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

BSCL 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)

Enjoying pictures of your neighbourhood?

Loving stories about your community?

We need your support to continue publishing Boyle McCauley News in print and online.

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



bmcnews.org/donate

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



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Trying to Be Better Open Your Heart

MANON AUBRY

BOYLEBITS: A VIEW FROM BOYLE STREET

"No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it." - Albert Einstein

We've all been learning to think outside the box. The last little while has had many of us on "reset." I didn't want to write about the pandemic because we're all worn out - at least, many of us are. However, I felt a pressing need to share a lesson I am learning because of this time.

It was self-entitled thinking that got us into this mess. Yesterday, the way we used to live, is a thing of the past. Tomorrow will be different as we've had to reimagine our lifestyles. We've had more time to think than we normally do in our busy lives. If we don't make every effort to improve how we live for the rest of our days, then the death toll will be for naught.

Yesterday, I failed as a human. An Instacart order came and several items were missing from the order. I got billed for things I didn't receive. I went back and cut the delivery person's tip in

half. Now I'm ashamed of myself. That delivery person went to a grocery store, had to be around numerous people, and drove to my home - but I had a hissy fit because they made some errors. I failed to think about the extreme privilege I have to be able to type an order into my iPad and get the things I needed delivered to my door. Maybe the person who did my shopping was stressed at being out in public so much. Maybe she was tired from working two jobs. I feel sorry that I didn't appreciate what this person did for me, however imperfect it was.

It's sad that I was reminded of my need to be kinder and more tolerant of imperfection at the expense of someone who provided this much-needed service. The fact that I'm in a position to even use this service should humble me. I failed to think before I complained about a minor issue. It might be a cliché, but I'm going to remember to think next time before I speak up: Is it True? Is it Helpful? Is it Inspiring? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind?

Manon is a resident of Boyle Street and an active volunteer in the community. This column contains her own opinions, and is not affiliated with the Boyle Street Community League.

IAN YOUNG

ABILITY AND COMMUNITY

"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts." -Janice Maeditere (American Writer)

This holiday season will be different in terms of how we traditionally celebrate. Look at it this way: the best gift you can give is love, respect for good health, and caring for others. Our gatherings may be smaller, but our hearts can be big!

If you are in need of assistance, the Christmas Bureau of Edmonton has been a mainstay of support during the season. From their website:

At the Christmas Bureau we are a connector of over 85 social service agencies providing those in need a one-stop application process for Christmas services. The client information is compiled by the Christmas Bureau into a centralized client database to deliver food hampers or food gift cards. The client list is also used by 630 CHED Santas Anonymous for the delivery of

toys to children age 0 to 12 years and to provide gift cards for teens aged 13 to 17 through the Christmas Bureau Adopt-A-Teen program, sponsored by The Edmonton Sun.

Due to present restrictions, food hampers are not being delivered. However, gift cards for Safeway/Sobeys are being mailed out. You can visit the website www.christmasbureau.ca, email mail@christmasbureau.ca, or call (780) 421-9627. If you are not in need but would like to help, donations are always accepted.

Yes, things will be different this year. You may not be able to physically embrace loved ones, but you can hug them within your heart, and communicate your care from a distance. Let the new normal be looking out for each other!

To all of the readers, volunteers, and staff of Boyle McCauley News, I wish you a pleasant, safe holiday, and that we approach a New Year with safety and confidence. The best to you all.

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.

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*buy 10 loaves for \$20
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marketdrugsmedical.com **422-1397**



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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@icpmedmonton.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 50 participants for the Sunday Masses

and we request the people to register before they arrive.

Monthly Baptism preparation class is available to prepare

parents for their child's Baptism, First Communion and Con-

firmations. Due to COVID-19, the following programs are on

hold until further notice: Traditional Native Wakes in First

Nations, Métis, and Inuit traditions; AA; and Edmonton Inner City

Children's Project Society.

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

Abbott'sfield 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! Net-

works Activity Centre provides adults with brain injury a

program that promotes an active lifestyle through opportu-

nities 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 DETAIL-

ING - Make sure you check out my Facebook page!

WECAN FOOD CO-OP

WECAN Food Co-op is a great way to stretch your

food budget. The City Centre depot currently runs

out of the McCauley Apartments office: Suite B08,

9541-108A Avenue. To place an order,

call Kathryn at 780-964-3444.

EDMONTON INTERCULTURAL CENTRE

EIC (9538 107 Avenue) has reopened its doors to

activities under strict precautions against COVID-19.

The building is now open from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on a regular basis, with additional hours until 10:30 p.m. based on the specific needs of community groups using our facility. EIC has started accepting reservations for bookings. Masks are required in the building for all activities other than sports. We require groups to adhere to the 2 metre physical distancing rule, so we can only accommodate bookings for up to 50 people at this time. We have implemented strict sanitizing protocols that include sanitizing each shared space between usage by different groups.

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:

Programs are going online!

Please visit our Facebook page

@e4cwellness for a full schedule of ses-

sions and groups.

We also have resources for mental

health, links to local activities, and infor-

mation on food resources and other

supports.

COVID Support

You do not have to be alone during the

pandemic. Please visit our Facebook

page @e4cwellness, or contact Kath-

ryn at the e4c McCauley office at 780

424-2870. Email krambow@e4calber-

ta.org.

Lonely? Bored? Check out the Well-

ness Network: online courses are al-

ways being added, or meet in person

with a wellness navigator to help you

map out your wellness journey, FREE!

780-699-3253 or

wellnessnetworkedmonton.com

WECAN Food Co-operative is still

running! Purchase inexpensive meat

and produce for pickup once per

month at McCauley Apartments.

Visit wecanfood.com or call the e4c

McCauley Office at 780-424-2870

for help to order.

BOYLE STREET COMMUNITY LEAGUE UPDATE

Boyle Street Year in Review

JOELLE REINIGER

A glance back at the year 2020 evokes images of quiet streets, cancelled events, and an unprecedented need for resilience. As a community league, the COVID-19 pandemic emptied our meeting places, schedules, and expectations as we wondered what steps we could take, and when, in order to achieve our mission for a thriving neighbourhood. Yet, in this period of relative hibernation, there were many new signs of life in Boyle Street. In retrospect, 2020 also brought positive changes to our physical and human landscapes that will help us to thrive as we approach this new year.

New neighbours to welcome

Last year, the first residents moved into the long-anticipated tower at Jasper Avenue and 95th Street, known as The Hat at Five Quarters. We look forward to connecting with these new members of our community. This is one of several developments that picked up steam in 2020. Other projects include the revitalization of the historic Brighton Block on Jasper Avenue and the restoration of the Stovel Block, a heritage landmark on 97th Street and 103A Avenue. Eastward, the once-vacant Muttart Lands are quickly coming to life next to Stadium LRT station, while plans for the six-storey River Lot House on Jasper Avenue promise to bring more residents to Boyle Street.

New places to be

The construction fences are down and Kinistinâw Park on 96th Street is now accessible to the public. This

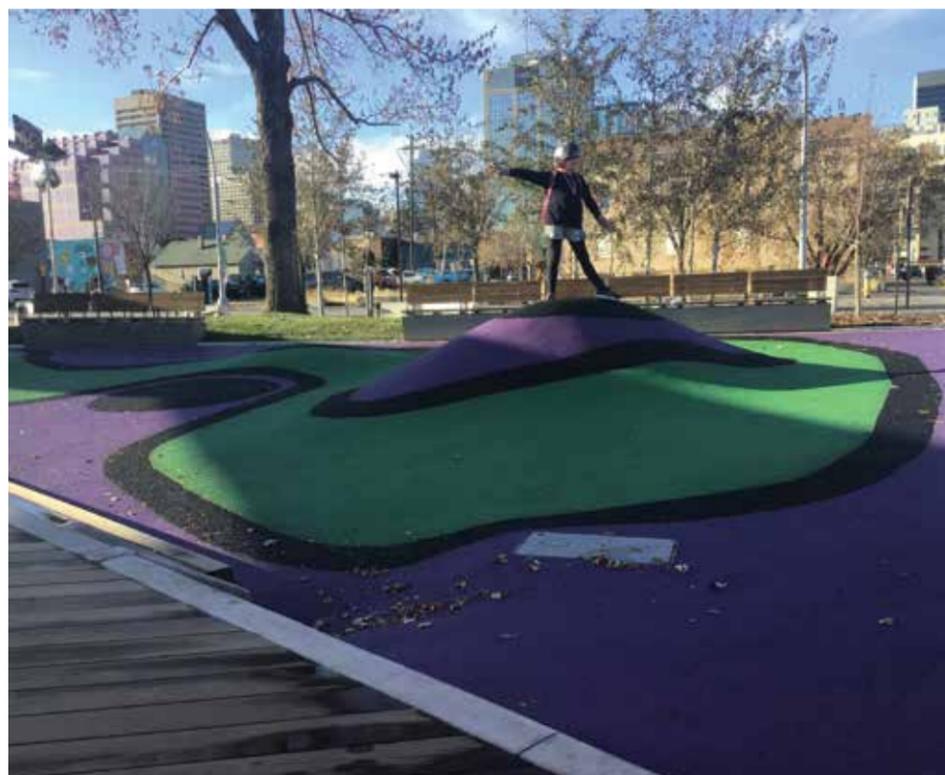
neighbourhood pocket park offers Boyle Street residents and visitors a thoughtfully designed space to unwind in the middle of the Quarters district. The park is sure to be a destination for events and festivals when COVID restrictions are lifted. It's also a stone's throw away from the Downtown Edmonton Farmers' Market. Despite a temporary slowdown due to public health restrictions, the market continues to attract new customers, establishing its reputation as a sustainable food hub in Edmonton's historic downtown.

New ways to connect

More than 100 Boyle Street residents signed up for Nextdoor, a hyperlocal social media platform that helps members connect with their nearest neighbours. Meanwhile, the Boyle Street Community League and *Boyle McCauley News* have recruited a team of Apartment Ambassadors and Condo Connectors to ensure our community newspaper and other important updates reach community members in Boyle Street.

What's next?

This year, expect to see new opportunities to help shape the future of our neighbourhood, through urban renewal projects and grassroots programming. Public consultation on Boyle Street's new playground project is in the works and construction could start as early as this fall. Stay tuned for opportunities to share your feedback. Boyle Streeters can also look forward to a closer collaboration with Quarters Arts Society as QAS animates its new CO*LAB performance space at 9641 102A Avenue.



A child enjoys the new Kinistinâw Park. Ruth Sorochan

Special thanks

The smooth running of the Boyle Street Community League in 2020 would not have been possible without these people:

- Bookkeeper Cheryl Teo, whose expertise, persistence, and hard work saved our sanity and got us across the finish line on some routine but vital tasks.
- Treasurer Karen Jackson, who magically conjured up the time to track down important records, keep our financial house in order, and set us up for success in 2021.
- Secretary Madeline Lawrence, whose organizational prowess, leadership, and tech support kept us on track throughout the year and online for our virtual AGM.
- Civics Director Jonathan Lawrence, whose urban planning expertise and strategic acumen led

the way in achieving meaningful civic engagement.

- Communications Coordinator Anita Jenkins, who diligently updated our Facebook page and kept you informed through her coverage in the *Boyle McCauley News*.
- Past president and award-winning novelist Candace Jane Dorsey, who repeatedly put down her pen to answer our questions and solve our administrative mysteries – none as interesting as her own nail-biter, *The Adventures of Isabel*, but eminently useful nonetheless.
- All our Apartment Ambassadors, Condo Connectors, and volunteers – past, present, and those yet to join our team as we take on 2021!

Joelle Reiniger is vice president of the Boyle Street Community League.

EMPOWER U

Opening doors to improved futures.

KATE QUINN

Imagine yourself with a pile of bills and not enough money to pay them all. You are not quite sure if you can make the rent, feed your children, plus pay off the phone bill, which is in arrears. You know you can turn to the Food Bank once a month, but that doesn't ease everyday worries. You needed household furnishings and didn't want the feeling of being poor to stare you in the face, so, you signed a "rent-to-own" furniture agreement and now you feel trapped. Your credit card is maxed out, and creditors are calling every day. Maybe one of those widely-promoted loans would help? One ad promised up to \$15,000 with

interest starting at 29.99%.

Sometimes the debt coupled with low income tempts you to turn back to the sex trade to pay those bills. You don't want to do this because you still live with the scars, but you can't see another option. You want help. A friend tells you to call CEASE and ask about the EMPOWER U program and other ways CEASE might be able to assist you. You make the call.

That call opens a quick window: a friendly voice, a listening ear, and food cards for immediate needs. Then a door to a path for longer term change opens.

EMPOWER U: Building Confident Futures is a city-wide col-

laboration to equip people, primarily women, with tools to go beyond just surviving on low incomes and drowning in debt. It's a financial literacy and money matching program taught by peer facilitators and a coordinator. The peer leaders are women who have walked the same path as you, and you feel comfortable because they know what it's like, and there is no judgement. Both of them now have jobs that provide a living wage for their families. They have restored their credit ratings and make positive decisions about their finances.

The United Way is the backbone organization along with the City. There are nine program delivery partners including CEASE, as well

as a number of supporting businesses, funders, donors, and financial institutions. You can save up to \$240, which is matched to \$480 for a total of \$720 towards an asset that will move you forward financially. The ATB assists participants to set up an account to deposit savings. Volunteer financial planners coach you how to deal with creditors and manage debt.

You see an improved future, and you reach for it.

For more information:
www.myunitedway.ca/empoweru
www.ceasenow.org/empower-u

Kate is the Executive Director of the Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE).

HEART OF THE CITY FESTIVAL SOCIETY ARTIST PROFILE SERIES

“The dance is happening inside you all the time” - Gerry Morita

CORINE DEMAS

I met Gerry Morita, the Artistic Director of Mile Zero Dance Society, at “Spazio Performativo” which their website calls, “A small venue/workspace, a hub of accessible, integrated performance creation, training, and presentation.” It is located here in McCauley.

I asked Gerry why Mile Zero chose to open the space in McCauley. She said, “I like the street because it’s basically like Sesame Street. It’s colourful, it’s a very active street, there’s a lot of foot traffic, and people of all kinds and ages. It’s a very dynamic mixed environment. Artists are usually stuffed in back rooms or attics or basements. We really took the risk to develop a studio in a storefront. Accessibility was a huge factor in that because we had been up two levels of stairs before, and we didn’t know who wasn’t coming to things. We are able to reach a broader range of humans by being on this street, visible, and by being easy to access.”

Gerry got involved with Heart of the City Festival several years ago. “We do these mass pieces with groups of people in costume. One year, Tony Olivares did a piece with a Butoh* dance. They danced with large pieces of white cloth, everybody had white paint all over them; it was a very sculptural piece. They crossed the road with cars honking at them. This year, we did magpies as a group piece, but because of COVID-19 we transferred it to a film.” You can watch the film *Magpies* for a limited time at heartcityfest.com.



Gerry Morita. Mat Simpson Photography

I asked Gerry to tell us a little about her background with dance. “My first formal training was Highland dancing and so I just jumped for hours. I was a jumpy kid. I was interested in the physical dynamic aspect of dance rather than the formalized shapes and perfection. There is mi-

sogyny in western dance. It’s a very problematic medium. I’ve just always been trying to break that down, trying to introduce bodies and people that you would never expect as a way to show the dancing message, because everybody dances and it doesn’t have to be a presentational

thing. I think it should be something that people do, and it’s more important to do it than it is to watch it. Dance has given me tools to be aware of the moment and to allow my body to do what it needs to do in a very simple, basic way.”

I was interested to know what Gerry thinks is the message of dance. “Life. Or death,” Gerry replied. “It’s something that you can only do through your physical body when you are alive. I find dance to be so positive because as long as people can breathe, they can feel the dance happening inside of them. It’s like the dance is happening inside you all the time. How you choose to express it is going to change throughout your entire life. Through times of sickness or health or ecstasy, your dance is always going to change. But your body as a vessel has a way of remembering everything you have ever experienced and has a way of sharing that with other people. I find that very magical.”

If you want to get involved with Mile Zero Dance Society, check out a list of events and classes on their website: milezerodance.com.

*A form of Japanese dance theatre.

Corine Demas serves as volunteer Vice 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.



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