



SUMMER WITH INNER CITY REC & WELLNESS 6



FAREWELL TO THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN 7 ▲



HEART OF THE CITY POP-UP EVENT 8 ▲



PASSING THE TORCH 11 ▲

# Boyle McCauley News

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VOL. 42 NO. 4

PUBLISHED ON TREATY 6 TERRITORY

VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1979

## Your Community Newspaper Urgently Needs Your Support

*A Message to Readers, Community Members, and Potential Donors and Sponsors.*

ALAN SCHIETZSCH

The pandemic has had a negative effect on many non-profit organizations - and that includes *Boyle McCauley News*.

Much of the hardship stems from the closure of casinos (70% of our annual budget) during the pandemic. We were supposed to have ours in the second quarter of 2021, but the backlog is about a year and a half long, which means we may not get a casino until the first quarter of 2023. We also missed a year of community festivals where we raised money by doing things such as selling raffle tickets.

We already had to shut down the print edition for the summer. During our current fiscal year (which goes from September 1 to August 31), we have enough budgeted for six print editions. However, unless things turn around in the near future, we are on the brink of shutting down forever. We risk losing this 42-year-old newspaper, which has been published regularly since 1979. Each issue has 5,000 print copies distributed, along with 3,000 to 5,000 visitors monthly online at our website.

*Boyle McCauley News* connects our unique inner city community. It is the only place where you can find many of these stories about what is happen-



*Boyle McCauley News*' Editor Paula Kirman (left) and Volunteer Coordinator Colleen Chapman at Resource Connect (organized by REACH Edmonton) in 2019. File Photo

ing in your neighbourhood that are not covered by regular media.

As the Chair of *Boyle McCauley News*, I am amazed by the hard work and dedication of the staff and volunteers. They write, photograph, edit, design, proofread, assemble, and deliver each issue and maintain the website. They manage the budget and keep financial records. They find ways to thank

the volunteers and raise funds.

Please consider donating, sponsoring, or supporting us in any way you can to ensure that this great work continues. And, if you know of individuals or groups who would like to support our efforts, please encourage them to help. Details of how you can contact us and/or assist us financially are provided on page four.

I am confident that this unique community can do this! We have a stellar record of volunteerism and support for each other.

Alan Schietzsch  
*Boyle McCauley News* Board Chair

■ TURN TO PAGE FOUR TO FIND OUT HOW TO SUPPORT THE NEWSPAPER TODAY >>



### Dining Out

CHINA MARBLE RESTAURANT

■ PAGE 2

### SADNESS PAST AND PRESENT

“The number of lives lost to murder has declined - thankfully - but the number of lives lost to overdose and illness has increased.

■ PAGE 6

### MCCAULEY SOCCER SCORES!

“McCauley's soccer program is free and accessible to all, regardless of background, economic means, or age.

■ PAGE 7

### A VISITOR'S "INTERESTING" SUMMER IN MCCAULEY

“We came together, coordinated our efforts, and saw great success.

■ PAGE 9

# Remembering Barbara Ann Johnson



Music and a display at Barbara Ann Johnson's funeral on July 17th. Ann-Marie Johnson

Barbara Ann Johnson, a longtime community member, passed away on July 12th. Her funeral took place on July 17th in Giovanni Caboto Park. Over 50 people came out to honour Barb.

Condolences from all of us at **Boyle McCauley News** go out to Barb's daughter, Ann-Marie Johnson. Ann-Marie is one of our volunteer block carriers.

## Music in the Park



A jazz band performed in Giovanni Caboto Park on the evening of August 4th. The event was supported by the Edmonton Arts Council and City of Edmonton to bring free music to parks throughout the summer. Betti Brockman

# A New Face in an Old Space



Shrimp on eggplant with green peppers. Alan Schietzsch

## DINING OUT

### China Marble Restaurant

10566 97 Street NW  
780-760-2808

### ALAN SCHIETZSCH

With our local Chinatown losing the long-beloved Pagolac Restaurant - remember the "7 Courses of Beef"? - our community has experienced a bit of a foodie hole. Missing the comfort of that delicious (if a little well-worn) eatery, I'd often wondered if something would come along to fill the hole.

Good news! I recently noticed that the exterior had been repainted with spectacular red, yellow, and green multi-coloured bricks, and a bright red sign put up to announce the new home of China Marble Restaurant. It was time to make a dinner date and check out the new place.

The exterior isn't the only thing that is all spruced up. While being seated, we could see that care was taken to make the interior experience lovely too. The space seemed both comfortably familiar and yet new, with freshly painted green trim, tiled floor, and traditional Chinese decor on the walls. Tables and chairs were all decked out with elegant golden covers, all the better to set the stage in hopeful anticipation of food that's been prepared with as much care as the setting.

The cheerful server let us know that there were two different menus. China Marble offers a Westernized "Chinese" menu for eat-in or fast-food take-out, and for the real thing, their proper Chinese menu has an extensive three-page list, with dozens of different hot pots, fried and Chow Fan noodles, rice dishes, seafoods, meats, soups, Lo Meins, vegetables, and congees, as well as a "Chef Choice" section.

The "real" Chinese menu looked fascinating and with such variety, we wanted to find out what the "Chef Choice" category had to offer. For a new experience, we chose the China Marble Bitter Melon Chicken as our first item. Bitter melon was an unfamiliar taste, so we were intrigued to find out that this was

more of a vegetable than what we typically thought of as "melon." It has a deep, earthy flavour with the bitterness being reminiscent of broccoli, kale, or endive, and it paired well with the stir-fried veggies and sauce.

We also wanted to try the seafood, so our next and equally large dish to arrive was shrimp on eggplant with green peppers. We could hear it as soon as it left the kitchen, presented on a sizzling-hot cast iron platter. A mouth-watering aroma rose up from the bubbling sauce, promising gentle sweetness, saltiness, and super-moist shrimp.

Both the dishes had portion sizes that were very generous, and it was clear that China Marble's dishes are sized for sharing among several diners. This would be a great spot for work groups or family-and-friends gatherings, and there was plenty of room in two sections to arrange tables for convenient seating, as well as tables for couples or singles.

To complement all of the protein and veggies, we ordered a bowl of steamed rice, which my partner thought was slightly firmer than she liked. I didn't mind that and thought perhaps it was done that way so that it can go into soup or soak up flavourful sauces.

We also wanted to try the drinks, so I ordered a Hong Kong Milk Tea, while my partner enjoyed sipping the traditional Chinese tea. These were a perfect dessert after the substantial feast, with so much food that we were able to take home the rest for a tasty lunch the next day.

Service was pleasant and attentive, with genuine interest in the customers' enjoyment of the food, and without being intrusive. A chat revealed that China Marble started on the south side, and that the new 97th Street location was staffed by very experienced chefs.

We'll definitely be back, for both the comfort food and when we want to try something new, or when we have a large group. It's great to have a new spot in the neighbourhood.

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

## ADVERTISE WITH US!

BMCNEWS.ORG/ADVERTISE

REACH 5000+ READERS MONTHLY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

# Turning Things Around



PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff

## MCCAULEY MUSINGS

It is a beautiful mid-August afternoon and I am sitting inside writing down my thoughts. Things are supposedly getting back to normal. I have actually socialized with people in person for the first time in a year and a half.

But how "normal" things will continue to be remains to be seen. The effects of the last while are still resonating. A very concrete example is the very newspaper you are holding in your hands (or reading on your screen). Pandemic restrictions, while important and necessary for our health and safety, have decimated the non-profit sector. We should have had a casino in the spring, but it has been delayed.

As a result, we have had to reduce the number of print issues we publish, and if things don't turn around soon, may have to stop publishing altogether. This would be a devastating blow to the community. For some, the print edition of the paper is a lifeline, a way to stay connected.

Others here in McCauley and Boyle Street have dedicated years, and in some cases, decades to the paper. Long-term friendships have been forged through the connections made by volunteering.

Until things turn around for *Boyle McCauley News*, asking for help is going to be a regular thing. The quickest, easiest way to help is to take part in our Toss Us Your Toonies campaign. More details are here: [bmcnews.org/donate](http://bmcnews.org/donate). More information on how to support the paper is on page four.

*Boyle McCauley News* has been around for 42 years. Together, we can make sure it's still around for its next milestone birthday.

# 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.

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

## WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

Betti Brockman, Mark Davis, George Ellis, Jim Gurnett, Ann-Marie Johnson, Hermina Joldersma, Paula E. Kirman, Alice Kos, Yumna "Moose" Moussa, Darcia Parada, Kate Quinn, Alan Schietzsch, Mike Siek, Ruth Sorochan, Kate Werkmann, Ian Young

## EDITOR'S NOTES

We're back - for now. Our financial situation is still not looking good. At the time of writing, it is looking like our casino won't happen until the first quarter of 2023.

As a result, our publishing schedule now looks a little different. During our current fiscal year (which began on September 1st and ends August 31, 2022), we will be publishing only six issues, including the one you are currently reading. We will publish again on December 1st. In 2022, we have issues scheduled for February 1st, April 1st, June 1st, and August 1st. We will reevaluate our situation next summer to determine what the

2022/2023 fiscal year will look like.

You can help. Our "Toss Us Your Toonies" micro-donation campaign allows you to donate as little as \$2 monthly. Head to [bmcnews.org/donate](http://bmcnews.org/donate) for more information.

Updates to our website and social media are as frequent as ever. Please follow us, like our posts, and share our content. We're @bmcnews on Facebook and Twitter, and @bmcviews on Instagram. We also have an e-newsletter that highlights new print and web content. You can sign up on our website: [bmcnews.org](http://bmcnews.org)

Thank you for your continued support, whether financial, as a volunteer, or simply well wishes.

## OUR NEXT ISSUE. . .

Volume 42, Issue 5 will be published December 1, 2021. Articles and photos concerning community news, events, and opinions are welcome. We also accept submissions of poetry and cartoons. Deadline: November 12th, 2021. Send submissions to: [editor@bmcnews.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 November 12th, 2021.

# 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](mailto:mark.davis@reachedmonton.ca)
- **Illegally dumped junk - free pick up (in McCauley only):**  
[Gregory.Brandenbarg@edmonton.ca](mailto:Gregory.Brandenbarg@edmonton.ca)
- **Litter/Graffiti:** 311; [capitalcitycleanup@edmonton.ca](mailto:capitalcitycleanup@edmonton.ca)
- **Report a Problem Property - search:** Edmonton Report a Problem Property
- **Report an Encampment:** 311; [Edmonton.ca/homelessness](http://Edmonton.ca/homelessness)
- **EPS McCauley / Quarters Beat Officers:**  
[Corey.Grant@edmontonpolice.ca](mailto:Corey.Grant@edmontonpolice.ca)  
[Greg.Quirke@edmontonpolice.ca](mailto:Greg.Quirke@edmontonpolice.ca)  
[Steven.Lawn@edmontonpolice.ca](mailto:Steven.Lawn@edmontonpolice.ca)  
[Andrew.Jarvis@edmontonpolice.ca](mailto:Andrew.Jarvis@edmontonpolice.ca)
- **EPS Chinatown BIA Beat Officer:** [david.chow@edmontonpolice.ca](mailto:david.chow@edmontonpolice.ca)
- **For persistent issues at specific locations:**  
[CommunityEngagement@edmontonpolice.ca](mailto:CommunityEngagement@edmontonpolice.ca)
- **EPS Non-Emergency:** (780) 423-4567
- **EPS Non-Emergency mobile access:** #377
- **EPS Emergency:** 911
- **EPS website:** [edmontonpolice.ca](http://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](http://safermccauley.ca) and on Facebook @safermccauley

# How to Support *Boyle McCauley News*

CAN YOU DONATE?

\$5? \$20?  
\$50?

CAN YOU DONATE?

10% of the cost  
printing one  
issue?

\$110.00

CAN YOU DONATE?  
Total cost of producing  
one issue of the  
BMC News?

\$4275.00

\* Includes printing, editing, volunteer  
coordination, layout/design,  
distribution, bookkeeping.

CAN YOU DONATE?

10% of the cost  
of producing one  
whole issue?

\$427.50

CAN YOU DONATE?

The entire cost  
of printing one  
issue?

\$1100.00

CAN YOU DONATE?

Annual  
communications  
costs (Internet,  
telephone)?

\$1500.00

**No donation is too small.** It all adds up and helps us towards our goal of financial sustainability. However, if you are in a position to contribute a substantial amount, here are some numbers to guide you. These estimates are calculated for a 12 page issue.

## 3 EASY WAYS TO DONATE TO YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER:

1

### DONATE ONLINE AT [BMCNEWS.ORG/DONATE](https://bmcnews.org/donate)

You can donate online via PayPal.

Your donation can be one-time, or you can set up a monthly donation schedule.

2

### SEND AN INTERAC E-TRANSFER

Simply send an e-transfer to [accounting@bmcnews.org](mailto:accounting@bmcnews.org)  
Please put "BMC News Donation" in the "message" field.

3

### WRITE A CHEQUE

Send your cheque, made payable to  
"Boyle McCauley News" to:  
9613 111 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5G 0A9

\*Please note that we cannot provide income tax receipts for donations.

## What is *Boyle McCauley News*?

- To be a vehicle, through which community organizations can inform local residents of their services and activities, providing opportunities to be involved in the neighbourhood.
- To be a voice for residents who wish to express their concerns, interests, and ideas.
- To report on local issues and events in the community or are of community interest.
- To work cooperatively with the local businesses regarding advertising services and points of interest.
- To be a community-based newspaper that strives towards financial self-sufficiency and which functions through the use of volunteers.

**DONATE TODAY AND  
HELP US STAY IN YOUR  
COMMUNITY!**

## 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)
- 95 Street & Jasper Avenue (North by the CIDEX Hat at Five Corners)
- 86 Street & Jasper Avenue (by Riverside Towers)
- 90 Street & Jasper Avenue (bus stop by Highlands building)
- 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](mailto: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.)
- The Nook Cafe (10153 97 St.)
- On The Edge Coffee 9641 102A Ave. (in CO\*LAB)
- Mint Health + Drugs (10631 96 St.)
- Off Whyte Spa (10863 96 St.)
- Natural Path Clinic (10869 96 St.)
- 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](mailto: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](https://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

### FUND YOUR IDEAS WITH MCCAULEY REVITALIZATION

Funding your ideas, initiatives and projects through Small Sparks and Big Sparks (aka. Matched Fund) through McCauley Revitalization

- if you have an idea or a project that would advance or improve how McCauley works or gets along, consider applying for Small (\$350) or big Sparks funding (Matched Funding).
- remember that Matched Funded applications no longer need one-to-one matching (except businesses) so you can do a lot with your efforts and initiative more easily

### CLEANUP COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

- Chinatown BIA and 3 City of Edmonton partners; Capital City Cleanup, Local Economy and Investment, Revitalization plus Safer McCauley, McCauley Community League and E4C have teamed up with 2 social enterprises to clean up the litter and needles in McCauley. At least \$100K is being invested in McCauley working together with Mustard Seed's social enterprise called SeedWorks and Boyle Street Community Services social enterprise called Boyle Street Ventures (also known as Hiregood)
- The SeedWorks team is cleaning up in McCauley M/W/F and Boyle Street Ventures is almost everyday in Chinatown
- It is no secret that the increase of the actual homeless population rose from about 1600 to at least 2500 during the pandemic causing strains on all types of businesses and systems including prepared meals prepared by social service agencies

### CITY OF EDMONTON REVITALIZATION AND RENEWAL

The countdown for the City of Edmonton's Renewal process - the replacement of all McCauley and Boyle Street non-arterial roads, sidewalks and street lights - is on for 2023/24. It is hoped that this Renewal process will contribute significantly to revitalizing McCauley and Boyle Street. Some have expressed frustration that during the Renewal feedback meetings the City Renewal process does not respond to anything outside of their limited scope. In those cases we need to look and decide what other work, like NRC Community Development work or Revitalization perhaps, might collaborate with concerned McCauleyites to get other things done, things outside Renewal's scope.

### THE SHAPE OF MCCAULEY - PRINCIPLES OF NEW URBANISM

What does McCauley want to look more like, to further become? Principles from new urbanism seem to line up with what many in McCauley are saying is important to them and many things we already have.

#### 1. WALKABILITY

- most things within a 10 min walk,
- pedestrian friendly street design,
- pedestrian streets - free of cars in special cases

#### 2. CONNECTIVITY

- interconnected street grid network disperses traffic and eases walking,
- a hierarchy of narrow streets, boulevards and alleys

#### 3. MIXED-USE AND DIVERSITY

- a mix of shops, offices, apartments and homes
- mixed-use within blocks and buildings as well as the neighbourhood
- diversity of people - of ages, income levels, cultures and race

#### 4. MIXED HOUSING

- a range of types, sizes and prices in closer proximity

#### 5. QUALITY ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN

- emphasis on beauty, aesthetics, human comfort and creating a sense of place - special placement of civic uses and sites within neighbourhood
- human scale architecture and beautiful surroundings nourish the human spirit

#### 6. TRADITIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD STRUCTURE

- discernable center and edge
- public space at center
- importance of quality public realm
- public open space designed as civic art - contains a range of uses and densities within 10 min walking distance

#### 7. INCREASED DENSITY

- more buildings, residences, shops and services closer together for ease of walking, to enable a more efficient use of services and resources
- create a more convenient, enjoyable place to live

#### 8. GREEN TRANSPORTATION

- pedestrian-friendly design that encourages a greater use of trains/LRT, bus, bicycles, scooters and walking as daily transportation

#### 9. SUSTAINABILITY

- minimal environmental impact of development and its operations
- eco-friendly technologies, respect for ecology and value of natural systems - energy efficiency, less use of finite fuels, more local production
- more walking/biking, less driving

#### 10. QUALITY OF LIFE

- taken together, these add up to a higher quality of life and create places that enrich, uplift and inspire the human spirit

# I Was A Summer Student With Inner City Rec and Wellness

*Experiencing the inner city creates a new perspective.*

## YUMNA "MOOSE" MOUSSA

When I got the job to be a summer student with the Inner City Recreation and Wellness Program with Boyle Street Community Services, I was unsure what to expect. I have always wanted to help my community and be even a small part in helping those around me. I witnessed a significant amount of trauma growing up, and the idea that I would be a person who just sits on the side lines has never been acceptable to me. That being said, I also come from a place of privilege. Growing up I have never had to worry about money, addiction was not something I witnessed in my life, and life was relatively stable. I worried that I would be too much of an outsider, unable to connect to the world I was entering. Frankly, I come from a world that teaches me to be scared of what I don't know, and to turn the other way and not bother.

What I've learned from coming to Boyle Street and gaining first-hand experience is that even though I've resisted these notions, they have still affected how I act and see the world. I have been trained to think the inner city is a scary place. Instead, what I have witnessed is a vibrant, rich community. What has been described as "run down" has a mural at every corner, art centres such as iHuman, and CO\*LAB. There is a helping hand everywhere I turn, whether at Boyle, Bissell, or any-



Yumna painting the sidewalk outside of the Boyle Street Community Centre. Mike Siek

where else. When I drive to work the skyscrapers I once loved loom behind me, feeling colder and disconnected, quickly replaced by the warmth in the inner city.

While growing up we never talked about the centres that are there to help people. We only ever talked about the struggle and devastation, not the amount of programs dedicated to helping with housing, bringing back ceremonies to Indigenous peoples, and providing recreational programs to strengthen our community. They go almost as fully under the radar as the people in need of their services, and

it's sad how little I knew before coming here.

Boyle Street is a community like I have never seen. It is making space for people to be heard. Every time I have a painting session at the Boyle Street Community Centre, help at the pet food bank, or take a trip to the Lady Flower Gardens, I hear a new story and make a new friend. People here are truly paying attention to those around them. Where I come from you avoid the person sleeping in the corner. Here, everyone stops to make sure they are breathing and looked after. I have gained so much from

being here and am honoured to be taking part at all.

That is not to discredit the difficulties of everyday life that I witness. There is so much struggle and never enough help. I have watched many singular people do the work of ten, trying to help anywhere they can. Despite that, I have never been treated better in my workplace in my life. I have received more calm and patience trying to help someone get housing than I have received from customers in fitting rooms while working retail. I have had more discussions about mental health and self-prioritizing here than at any of those previous retail jobs. It seems odd to me that at a job that is essential for other people's survival, where I could most rationally be worked the hardest, I have been met with more understanding and compassion than at the capitalist corporations I have worked at.

In short, here in the inner city I have witnessed a lot of sad and devastating things. However, I have also witnessed more compassion, friendship, community, patience, and understanding than anywhere else in my life. I feel really lucky to be a part of it.

*Yumna "Moose" Moussa, age 25, was a summer student with Boyle Street's Inner City Recreation and Wellness Program. They are currently a Child and Youth Care student at Norquest College.*

# Sadness Past and Present

*Searching for hope through gardens and memorials.*

## KATE QUINN

I learned about the passing of Betty Nordin several days after the CEASE Annual August Memorial. This year, for the first time since the first Memorial was held August 14th, 2000, we had to move the date to August 17th. The Community Garden and Hall generously provided by the Alberta Avenue Community Centre were not available on the 14th. Betty died on August 14th. Somehow, it seems fitting that this year, the 14th was a day to remember her alone.

Betty attended the memorials in the early 2000s. In 2003, she proposed to CEASE (then known as PAAFE) that we should create a garden in memory of the women who were murdered and missing. The horrific news of the women murdered by Picton in B.C., coupled with the number of women disappearing from Edmonton streets, was heavy on our minds.

We approached e4c and were welcomed by then CEO Martin Garber-Conrad to create the Memorial Garden on the Alex Taylor Grounds. In 2004, Ken Bregens-

er and his team from Zocalo designed the garden. We gathered there for many years, until one year the hall wasn't available on August 14th. Alberta Avenue welcomed us to gather in their community garden space and the Annual Memorial has been held there ever since. The folks at e4c continue to tend the little garden at the Alex Taylor site.

Each year, the names of those whose lives were lost to murder, suicide, overdose, or illness are read. Prayers, poems, and honour songs are offered. The common thread is sexual exploitation and trauma. The number of lives lost to murder has declined - thankfully - but the number of lives lost to overdose and illness has increased.

In July, several women dropped into the CEASE office, feeling trapped in the net of opioid use disorder. Our team feels as helpless as they do. There are death-dealing drugs, theft, and threats from others in the street life, and few safe spaces to rest or to live. Who would rent to a person active in opioid use? Residents in Boyle



Betty Nordin (front right), Kathy King (second from left), and others at the blessing of the Memorial Garden in 2004. Kate Werkmann

Street and McCauley are all too familiar with seeing people hunched over, lying down, or suffering other drug-induced reactions. Many calls are made to 911 and 211. Neighbours of drug houses live in fear. It feels overwhelming.

It's true, there are now more detox beds at Spady and Poundmaker's. There is easier access to naloxone kits, and soon nasal spray kits will be available at more sites. There are street outreach teams working to reach people and prevent deaths. There are frequent headlines calling for more strategic and coordinated action on

the opioid crisis as the deaths mount.

In the meantime, we can offer kindness, water on a hot day, and naloxone kits. We can gather at annual memorials, remember and honour lives lost, and continue to advocate for short-term responses and long-term solutions.

I wonder what poem Betty would write now?

*Kate is the Executive Director of the Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE). A tribute to Betty Nordin is on page 11.*

# The Children's Garden: Dreams Fulfilled

*Saying goodbye to a place that brought the community together.*



The colourful fence (bottom) and interior of the Children's Garden. Paula E. Kirman

## RUTH SOROCHAN

The closing year of the Children's Garden is bittersweet. The property will be redeveloped with new housing, which is important revitalization for a neigh-

bourhood that often has good houses torn down while empty lots and dilapidated houses sit empty or underused. For my daughter and me the garden has been a lovely and cheerful destination in the neighbourhood. For many

more folks it has been a place of safety and rest.

For the past few years my daughter and I have cycled to the garden to rest and read on the tree plank bench my partner created and placed there from a large Manitoba maple that had been in our front boulevard - a lovely reuse. For me, this is a time to ponder my past experiences of McCauley, and for my daughter it is an opportunity to find herself at home here in the present. I love the creative childhood I have been able to give her to create such beauty and take care of a space that is not necessarily ours but is better because of us - a playful place that is free to everyone and not necessarily mediated or mandated by an organization or specific way to be within it.

The garden beds at 107A Avenue and 92nd Street were dreamed up in 2018 as a creative community project on an empty city lot previously owned by the parents of longtime resident Lily Mounma. Lily had recently sold Viphalay, a Thai restaurant that still thrives now as Noi, operated by Lily's uncle, in the heart of the city at 107A Avenue and 95th Street. Back then Lily wanted another project she was passionate about: giving children opportunities they might not regularly have and creating a stronger community as a whole. She created a garden because her daughter loves gardening and because she realized that there needed to be more beauty within our neighbourhood. It became a safe place we could go to and

connect with our community.

Lily wanted it to be a natural gathering space since McCauley doesn't have a community school to which all our children go. She wanted to honour the need for a place we could go and get to know each other. She also loved the idea of gardens: how you plant a seed and it can grow within weeks, giving our children the sense of the cycle between hard work and fruition of a plan. The garden space has depended on us doing the work and showing up the best we could in the moments we had for it to grow. This is an idea that is both empowering and magical.

During this past year of Covidian times the garden became even more important as a close and safe way to gather in community and with friends. It was an activity to help regulate our weeks when many previous schedules had disappeared and we had to build new ones. It was great to be somewhere where others were going through similar feelings and to share in tasks towards a common gentle goal, which meant mostly for the mothers to garden while children played together in the green space. The painted fence boards that circle the city lot come from an art project at a previous community garden in McCauley on 95th Street and will hopefully live on in future gardening opportunities. I am looking forward to the fall harvest and the Halloween festival for more sweet community happenings.

*Ruth lives in McCauley with her partner and daughter.*

# McCauley Soccer Scores!

## ALICE KOS AND MARK DAVIS

*"You have a kid from Iraq, a kid from Dubai, a kid from Ghana, and a soccer ball. They don't need to speak the same language. Soccer is the universal language." - Ricardo Casanova, founder of YEG Soccer Society.*

A Google search results in countless quotes about soccer being a universal language. It's become a bit of a cliché. But like many other clichés, it exists because it's true. And that truth has been on display this summer on the soccer fields of McCauley.

On a beautiful evening in July, 150 people were at Giovanni Caboto Park, with most of them there to enjoy the soccer program. By August, 70 kids between the ages of 2.5 and 14 were registered. Nothing reflects the vibrancy of a neighbourhood quite like children playing in a park while their families meet, make new friends, and share stories.

McCauley's soccer program is free and accessible to all, regardless of background, economic means, or age. The program features weekly Tuesday evenings for kids, and Sunday afternoons where adults and kids drop in to play together. And lending more meaning to the slogan "Meet Me in McCauley," the program welcomes participants from nearby communities like Alberta Avenue and Parkdale, as well as more distant communities like Lessard.

The driving force behind this year's soccer program is coach Allan Suarez, who also works with Free Play for Kids (formerly Free Footie) - the program that gave Bayern Munich superstar, Alphonso Davies, his start! Coach Allan's approach balances kindness and inclusion with the teaching of core skills. "Every child deserves a space to play with others and to explore movement, speed, and agility in a safe, inclusive environment," he says.

Logistical support from the McCauley Community League has allowed Coach



Children's soccer in Caboto Park. Ruth SoroChan

Allan to devote his attention to the kids on the field. And he has done so with passion and patience. "The children, youth, and volunteers have shown enthusiasm and hard work," he says. "The families and community leaders have been supportive as we look for ways to build a permanent program."

A permanent program is the direction in which Coach Allan and the McCauley Community League intend to go. They are exploring opportunities for the

program to continue indoors through the fall, winter, and early spring.

Coach Allan and the MCL Board extend their gratitude to all the parent volunteers who have helped make the McCauley summer soccer program a success.

*Alice is the President of the McCauley Community League Board.*

*Mark is the Program Manager for REACH Edmonton's Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative.*

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# Heart of the City Festival Pop-Up

Heart of the City hosted a day of live music, art, and poetry in a safe and socially distanced setting at CO\*LAB on August 21st.

PHOTOS BY GEORGE ELLIS



Angie and the iNkleiNs.



Rockzilla.



Dana Wylie.



Volunteer Jack Delong (left) and Spoken Word Director and Heart of the City's President Corine Demas sit at the poetry stop.



Angelitos.



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](http://boylestreetcl.com) and click on the 'volunteer' link or send us an email at [info@boylestreetcl.com](mailto:info@boylestreetcl.com).

VISIT US ONLINE AT [BOYLESTREETCL.COM](http://BOYLESTREETCL.COM)  
EMAIL US [INFO@BOYLESTREETCL.COM](mailto:INFO@BOYLESTREETCL.COM)

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# A Visitor's "Interesting" Summer in McCauley

HERMINA JOLDERSMA

When I asked my old college roommate if she had a room for me for the summer, I never thought I'd be signing up for one of the most interesting summers of my life!

There is a lot to love in McCauley – friendly front-porch culture, magnificent trees, great access to transit (I put a lot of miles on my monthly bus passes), national and ethnic diversity, kindness towards those in need, the Italian Centre and Caboto Park, proximity to restaurants of world cuisines, passionately loyal long-term residents, and committed and engaged citizenry. I – a white woman in my late 60s – felt personally very safe. It's a great neighbourhood.

And then there's the other side of "interesting." My arrival in late April coincided with the widely noted spike in the opioid crisis, and our house was in the thick of it. Almost immediately, while I was enjoying a coffee or beer on the lovely veranda, it became obvious that one house was generating an unusual amount of foot traffic and that in our area there was a disproportionate number of overdoses and attendant EMS calls (and garbage). Neighbours across two blocks connected and started to act. Over the next weeks we kept track of numbers, setting up an "incident reporting" spreadsheet on Google Drive. With so much drug use happening on our block, we inevitably had to call in suspected overdoses. When we did, we had conversations with EMS, fire folk, and police about the broader opioid issues facing our community. Anytime anything went down, we knew about it and shared the information.

My neighbours also developed a plan to contact the services which could address problems. Collectively we liaised regularly with EPS, especially McCauley's "beat cops." We also kept Mark Davis (REACH Edmonton), the Revitalization Committee, the Community League,

and the Problem Properties Initiative in the loop. We contacted our City Councillor, met with our MLA, and filed many 311 complaints and reports with SCAN.

We came together, coordinated our efforts, and saw great success. In early August the main problem house was shut down - emptied, boarded up. Though the process took time because service providers and civic/provincial authorities are bound by laws and procedures, it was worth it.

My lessons learned:

- Help the authorities with concrete information – keep a written record of dates/times/incidents.
- Thank them for their services when you can – they're people doing their best.
- Talk to your neighbours – there is strength in numbers.
- Be patient – let the legal process evolve but stay in touch with the enforcers.
- And, be VERY determined.

Thanks, McCauley, for a really great summer!

Important contact information if YOU have a problem property to report:

- Mark Davis, Program Manager for REACH Edmonton's Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative: mark.davis@reachedmonton.ca.
- SCAN: Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods: 1-866-960-SCAN (7226). There's also a reporting form on the web.
- The City's 311 number is also an option, though they have been very busy this summer!

*Hermina Joldersma is a retired academic currently living in Yellowknife pursuing fibre art and other adventures in Canada's North. She's always had a soft spot for Edmonton generally and McCauley specifically.*



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# Be Kind and Be Proud

IAN YOUNG

ABILITY AND  
COMMUNITY

*"We don't even know how strong we are until we are forced to bring that hidden strength forward. In times of tragedy, of war, of necessity, people do amazing things. The human capacity for survival and renewal is awesome."- Isabel Allende (Chilean writer)*

The most serious pandemic in the last 100 years in Canada has been a topic of discussion since the first Canadian case of COVID-19 was recorded on January 25th, 2020 in Toronto.

Here we are, over a year later, and we are still learning. As regulations lift and many closed businesses are re-opening, we still should ease back at our own pace and be understanding of others. If you still want

to follow the protocols, that is fine. What I noticed throughout this time was the strength and kindness of many in the community, from offers of rides to vaccination centres to assistance with deliveries. The contributions of neighbours helping any way they can for those who need assistance makes me feel proud and secure.

Everybody contributes in their own way. A simple hello can make a difference in one's day! I have witnessed many acts of kindness. This is a very diverse community, but our common bond is support.

A good source for information is: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Be proud, neighbours - I sure am.

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

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**DRUGS 424-6577**

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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 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

Abbottfield 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 DETAILING - 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) strictly follows Government of Alberta guidelines for its operations. Our building is currently open for essential services only. Build-

ing 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:

Programs are going online!

Please visit our Facebook page

@e4cwellness for a full schedule of sessions and groups. We also have resources for mental health, links to local activities, and information on food resources and other supports.

#### Women's Wellness Party

Online gathering for mental health, self-care, crafts, and connection, facilitated by Sissy Thiessen Kootenayoo. Fridays 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Zoom: weekly link available on the @e4cwellness Facebook page.

#### 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.

**Lonely? Bored?** Check out the Wellness Network: online courses are always 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.

**GARDENERS:** Alex Taylor School Community Garden has lots of plots available for the 2021 season, starting in early May. Book now! Call Kathryn at 780-964-3444 or krambow@e4calberta.org

# Passing the Torch

*A fond farewell to our McCauley home.*

## DARCIA PARADA

In mid-July, we filled a U-Haul truck with our (too many) possessions and drove across the Canadian plains and shield to our new destination.

It was fitting that our journey's pit stops were accompanied by sights and sounds of the strangest summer Olympics on record. The drive around the Great Lakes is Olympian in scope.

Why did we move to New York, North America's early epicentre of the pandemic, one might ask?

Our answer: we can idly stand by or we can continue to move in the direction of our dreams set in motion pre-Covid.

While the fifteen-plus years spent in McCauley were beyond enjoyable, the last year in the dwelling affectionately dubbed Casa Rosso had been the most fulfilling and magical of all.

Covid provided an opportunity for transformation. An average duckling of a house became a beautiful swan. We lost dark chocolate lab Koco and found white chocolate Abby. Our adult son moved in with us after a

break-up and it deepened our relationship. We started a jazz band and performed a series of backyard shows. These culminated in a farewell concert attended by Casa Rosso denizens past, present, and future.

When we decided to sell we said, "We want the house to go to people who will appreciate it and value its charm." Enter Sarah and her artistic daughter Olive who felt the juju. Captivated, they understood the quirks and challenges of being new pioneers of McCauley's chrysalis.

When I first moved back to Edmonton from New York City, I knew I wanted to reside where I would feel at home, and McCauley was it: Chinatown and Little Italy side by side - just like Manhattan - with ringing church bells, Giovanni Caboto Park, great shops, walkability, and a diverse community. We made friends here whom we know we'll miss and remember fondly. The neighbourhood we called home will always remain in our hearts and memories. We also know that in passing the torch to Sarah and Olive, the love on the block will increase in Olympian fashion.

*Darcia Parada, writing from Brooklyn, New York.*



From left: Nella Bruni, Darcia Parada, Boris Derow, Sarah Noelle Pearson, and Sarah's daughter Olive. *Leanne Koziak*



The last family photo taken on Casa Rosso's deck before handing the keys over. From left: Darcia, Boris, Dominic, and Abby. *Supplied*

# Remembering Betty Nordin

*February 8th, 1946 - August 14th, 2021*

## JIM GURNETT

When Betty Nordin wrote the words of her poem "Nobody sees her" in 2002, she was sharing her own painful experiences and calling for readers to pay more attention to the lives and dangers of women trying to survive homelessness and life on the streets. It was a deeply personal sharing, like each of the poems she wrote.

She had no idea it would be handed out on the street in Vancouver during the Picton murder trials or shared even further by Amnesty International. She had no idea her moving poetry would lead to her being honoured with an Esquao Award. She just knew too many women, who could have been her, had died or been profoundly damaged, and no one had noticed or cared.

Betty Nordin died in August at the age of 75, after many years of poor health. She was laid to rest in a green burial, as she chose, a dream catcher made of elk points that she



Betty Nordin. *File Photo*

created tucked in the shroud with her. After smudging with sweetgrass, those gathered at the grave listened to "Women's warrior song" by Sawt Martina Pierre, sung as she was buried. But for those who knew her over her years living in Boyle Street and McCauley she will

be remembered for her hard work on behalf of murdered and missing women, a strong supporter of the Prostitution Action and Awareness Foundation of Edmonton (now CEASE) in its work to end sexual exploitation, and as a vendor for the *Our Voice* street newspaper, on

the street in every sort of weather with a welcoming smile for each one who passed by.

Even when poor health confined her to her apartment she still cared for others. Each year in November she would have a box set up in the building's lobby and ask all the residents of the facility to donate socks to go to Bissell Centre for giving to those in need.

During her life, she had four collections of poetry published. She believed she was led to writing by God and that it was a path for her from the life of struggle on the streets to a new stability and peace, although she had to work hard to find that new life. At her funeral service one of her poems was read, with some lines that say, "My life is like a Phoenix/ Hope which rose from the ashes/ of loneliness and despair, anger and frustration/ . . . But today this is all behind me/ . . . For I have/ risen like a Phoenix from the ashes."

*Jim works with Inner City Pastoral Ministry and is a former Boyle McCauley News board member.*



Safe neighbourhoods, great transit, a vibrant downtown, and an end to homelessness. Anne has the knowledge and experience to make this vision a reality.

Let's build our community stronger, smarter, together.

On October 18, vote Anne for O-day'min.

**CAMPAIGN OFFICE NOW OPEN**  
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Tuesday/Wednesday 10am-2pm

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**ANNE STEVENSON**  
for Ward O-day'min

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