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Boyle McCauley News

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VOL. 46 NO. 1 VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1979 PUBLISHED ON TREATY 6 TERRITORY FREE

Atonement Home Demolished

Memories still haunt many who stayed there as children.

KATE QUINN & PAULA E. KIRMAN

Juanita Murphy was always haunted by bad memories when she passed the Atonement Home on 92nd Street and 110th Avenue on her way to medical appointments. December 20th was different. The building was being demolished. Old wounds ripped open as she could see into the bowels of the structure.

“I suffered various forms of abuse at the hands of nuns and priests, all in the name of ‘God,’” she recalls. “I am grateful that it’s over, and my inner child is safe. I am glad to see it go, but the memories will always linger.”

Atonement Home was a Catholic boarding school opened by the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement in 1928. It became a temporary residence for children aged three to 12 while they awaited either return to their families or placement in foster care. It closed as a children’s residence in 1988.

Atonement Home was not added to the list of residential schools recognized by the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement because it was not federally funded. Alberta Children’s Services was responsible for placing children there.

After 1988, the Franciscan Sisters Benevolent Society operated a number of programs, including a day care



Demolition work at the site of Atonement Home in late December. Paula E. Kirman

and Head Start program. The building later became known as the Franciscan Centre.

Catholic Social Services acquired the land in 2024 with plans to expand housing supports for vulnerable Albertans.

The demolition came as a surprise to many in McCauley and beyond. On December 28th, activists April Eve Wiberg and Stephanie Harpe organized a “flash rally” at the site for survivors, their children, and supporters. Stephanie was 10 when she and her brother were taken to the

Atonement Home. “As they break this place and as it crumbles, I let it do that to me for a short while but I took back my healing, I took back my power. I took back my place. I ignited my home fire, my spirit,” she said.

“I choose not to be that rubble. Today I take back that hurt. Today I take back my spirit, and that’s all that matters. It’s a beautiful, powerful day.”

Clinton Marty spent seven years at Atonement Home. “We were all children, innocent children,” he said.

“There is a lot of hidden history here. There’s neighbours here who never knew what happened in this building. The memories will live with me. My children and grandchildren will always remember to tell the stories of abuse.”

April Eve Wiberg’s siblings spent time at Atonement Home. She said, “I’ve seen the lifelong harm. It ends here with us. We have to get these stories out.”

Catholic Social Services provided an email statement to *Boyle McCauley News* explaining it did not make a public statement in order to protect the safety and security of clients and staff in nearby programs. The transfer of the property was marked in a gathering with an Elder and CSS staff where the Elder guided reflection on the aspirations for vulnerable Albertans who will be served by the new facility. CSS envisions the new building as a vital community resource, providing 33 suites and access to wrap-around services.

Kate Quinn lives in McCauley, a few blocks from the former Atonement Home. She is one of many neighbours who did not know what happened inside until she and Juanita Murphy worked together at CEASE (Centre to Empower All Survivors of Exploitation and Trafficking).

Paula E. Kirman is the Editor of Boyle McCauley News.



DINING OUT: GOLIS EAST AFRICAN RESTAURANT

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MLA UPDATE

“ There are countless folks in our communities and across this province who are dealing with unaffordable, inaccessible, and unsafe housing.

■ PAGE 4

ABILITY AND COMMUNITY

“ ... some good news is that the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) is helping make dental care more affordable for eligible Canadian residents.

■ PAGE 9

THE PPI: TWO YEARS IN REVIEW

“ From January 2023 to December 2024, the PPI conducted more than 14,000 inspections at over 1,800 unique properties.

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The McCauley Community League is Working To Build a Vibrant and Inclusive Community

Together with residents and partners, we work to build a vibrant, inclusive neighbourhood. We do this by creating opportunities for people to enrich their lives through civic engagement, community programs, and celebrations.

Annual Family Day Celebration

February 16th, 2025
McCauley Rink (10750 96 Street)
 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 Sleigh rides, hot dogs, snacks, and hot chocolate!

If you want to be more involved with your neighbourhood and community, start by getting your McCauley Community League membership card. Your membership in the Community League is available at no cost to you. Through the support of municipal and provincial grants, sponsorship, fundraising, and our big-hearted volunteers we offer community-based activities, events, initiatives, and programs to our neighbourhood and communities.

To learn more about our league and the various benefits of becoming a member, please visit our website:

MCCAULEYCL.COM
league@mccauleycl.com | 780-224-5087

Winter in Little Italy Activates The Piazza



Winter in Little Italy has become an annual tradition in McCauley. This year, the event was once again organized by the Viva Italia District Association (VIDA) and featured activities at The Piazza including horse-drawn wagon rides, free hot chocolate, entertainment, and outdoor fire pits. As well, Amici Italiani was roasting chestnuts for sale outside the Italian Centre. The event on the 15th also featured an indoor market. Pictured here is Umberto entertaining the audience in the indoor space. *Paula E. Kirman*

What it's like at Coldest Night of the Year.

Turning an evening stroll into an unforgettable experience.

Putting together a team of walkers, coming up with a brilliant name (sorry, Walk for Bissell is taken), and collecting donations is only the start. There's a whole evening planned at Boyle Street Plaza (9538 103A Ave.) on February 22!

There will be treats, time to meet other teams (with some notable faces), and even a warm-up before we walk — with rest stops along the way giving toasty delights. But nothing beats the warmth and cheer you feel knowing you helped raise funds for critical programs and services that help individuals and families from your community to move out of poverty.

Discover more about how supporting people in your community can be as easy as taking a walk in the neighbourhood.



bissellcentre.org

It's Who You Know



PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff

MCCAULEY MUSINGS

One of my favourite things about editing *Boyle McCauley News* is meeting people from different organizations, businesses, and walks of life. Many chance meetings have turned into relationships that have lasted years. I would likely not have met many of these fine folks had I taken a different career path.

Neighbourhoods are defined by boundaries of streets and avenues, but it is the people who live and work there who build communities. People return to shop or dine at a local business in part because they develop relationships with people who work there, as well as other customers. One of the reasons why some residents of McCauley and Boyle Street have lived

here for decades is because of the bonds formed between neighbours.

I honestly believe people are more likely to stay where they live, work, worship, and take part in recreational activities if they have quality friendships. I witness this in action in various settings, like people having coffee at Zocalo or the Italian Centre, attending numerous events in the area, or even just going for walks together.

An involved and connected community is a healthier one. Isolation can contribute to the decline of mental and physical health. Getting out and getting involved in something - an event, a cause, or even just visiting people and places - can have a tremendous impact on one's quality of life, as well as on the community as a whole.

The bottom line is, when it comes to quality of life and building community, it's not only what you are able to contribute: it's who you know.

Boyle McCauley News

Boyle McCauley News is a non-profit newspaper published six times yearly by the Boyle Street McCauley Community Newspaper Society. The Society is made up of the people who live and work in the Boyle Street and McCauley neighbourhoods.

Opinions expressed in the newspaper are not necessarily those of the Board of Directors. Any submissions may be subject to editing for length and suitability.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Corine Demas, John Kolkman, Richard Nguyen,
Deborah Stewart, Diana van der Stoel

CONTACT THE BOARD AT BOARD@BMCNEWS.ORG

STAFF

EDITOR

Paula E. Kirman
editor@bmcnews.org

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

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

LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Vikki Wiercinski
design@bmcnews.org

ADVERTISING

Vikki Wiercinski
ads@bmcnews.org

ACCOUNTING

Rosalie Gelderman
accounting@bmcnews.org

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Colleen Chapman

ASSISTANT DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Barry Marienhoff

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

While February may seem a little late to say this: Happy new year! This year marks our 46th year of publishing *Boyle McCauley News*.

This is the first of our six print editions for 2025. For even more stories and photos in between our print issues, you can visit our website at bmcnews.org to check out some website exclusives. At our website you can sign up to receive our free e-newsletter, which is published with each new issue and contains links to exclusive website content.

Those of you who follow us on social media know that we are still on X (formerly Twitter) as [@bmcnews](https://twitter.com/bmcnews). We're

also now on Bluesky at [@bmcnews.bsky.social](https://bsky.social). Please give us a follow as we would love to build our audience over there.

I'm always encouraged when I receive emails from folks who would like to volunteer with the paper. If you want get involved with the paper you can volunteer as a contributor or block carrier - find out more by contacting me at editor@bmcnews.org.

Finally, you can become a member (it's free) and help support the paper by building our membership numbers. More information is here: bmcnews.org/membership.

Thanks for reading and I hope you enjoy the issue. See you again in April.

OUR NEXT ISSUE. . .

Volume 46, Issue 2 (April-May 2025) will be published April 1st, 2025. Articles and photos concerning community news, events, and opinions are welcome. We also occasionally accept submissions of poetry and cartoons. Deadline: March 12th, 2025. Send submissions to: editor@bmcnews.org. Articles should be 400 words or less and accompanied by photographs (JPG format, in high resolution) whenever possible.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you want to respond to something that you read in these pages or that is going on in the community? Share your thoughts with a Letter to the Editor. Send your letters to editor@bmcnews.org. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and may be edited for length or clarity. Publication is not guaranteed. The deadline for letters for our next print issue is March 12th, 2025.

BOYLE STREET AND MCCAULEY CRIME & SAFETY RESOURCES

- **24/7 Crisis Diversion:** Call #211 + press 3 when you see a person in distress
- **Needle Debris:** public property: 311
- **Needle Debris:** free clean-up on private and public property:
Boyle Street Ventures: (780) 426-0500
- **Sharps Containers:** free sharps containers:
Radius 780-422-7333 or Streetworks 780-424-4106
- **Litter/Graffiti:** 311 or capitalcitycleanup@edmonton.ca
- **Problem Properties:** To report a problem property call 311, contact 311 online or use the confidential reporting form at edmonton.ca/problemproperties
- **To report an unsecured vacant property:**
Call 311 or email: communitypropertysafetyteam@edmonton.ca
- **EPS Healthy Streets Operation Centre (HSOC) teams** are regularly and proactively patrolling several downtown neighbourhoods to combat crime and disorder. Citizens are encouraged to speak with officers in person when they are available.
- **EPS Non-Emergency:** (780) 423-4567
- **EPS Non-Emergency mobile access:** #377
- **EPS Emergency:** 911
- **EPS Website:** edmontonpolice.ca
- **EPS Crime Prevention:** Facebook [@epscrimeprevention](https://www.facebook.com/epscrimeprevention)
- **Crime Stoppers:** 1-800-222-8477
- **Report Gang Activity:** (780) 414-GANG (4264)
- **Stay informed & get involved:** safermccauley.ca and on Facebook [@safermccauley](https://www.facebook.com/safermccauley)

MLA UPDATE

All Albertans Deserve Housing

JANIS IRWIN

As I write this, we're sitting under a thick blanket of snow, and the weather has turned very cold.

When you read this in February, we'll be that much closer to spring (optimism, am I right?) and I'll be preparing to head back into the legislature with my colleagues.

I'm very proud of the work our Alberta NDP did over the last legislative session, and you've got my commitment that I'll keep working hard as your local MLA and as the Shadow Minister for Housing. Among other issues, housing will of course be at the top of my mind, and my list of priorities, as we return to the legislature.

Once again this winter, I've been hearing from so many of you that, as times get tougher and temperatures drop, the safety and well-being of our unhoused neighbours continue to be of utmost importance to you. I want you to know that this is true for me too.

And I know that we have a long way to go, and a lot of work to do, to meet the needs of these community members. We must ensure that we are *all* able to live safely, that we are *all* treated with dignity and respect, and that we *all* have access to community care and support.

We are in a housing crisis in Alberta. There is broad consensus of this fact among municipal leaders, academics, frontline workers, and struggling Albertans.

There are countless folks in our com-

munities and across this province who are dealing with unaffordable, inaccessible, and unsafe housing. And data clearly shows that there are currently record-breaking numbers of unhoused Albertans sleeping on the streets, in encampments, and in shelters. And we see this clearly every day in our neighbourhoods of Boyle Street and McCauley.

This is unacceptable. You deserve far better than this. You deserve action.

Please know that my colleagues and I will keep fighting for what *all* Albertans deserve - safe, affordable, and accessible housing.

We'll also keep fighting for *everything* we need to build a strong, resilient province. We'll keep fighting to protect your hard-earned pensions, to defend our environment and beautiful natural spaces, to rebuild and strengthen our public healthcare system, and to ensure that our kids receive the education that they need and deserve.

I know that we have a lot more work to do together and, as always, I want to hear from you. Please reach out, and know that I'm here to listen and to work alongside you as we build a great province for *all* Albertans.

Take good care of yourselves and each other.

*Janis Irwin, MLA for
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood*
Email:
*Edmonton.HighlandsNorwood
@assembly.ab.ca*
Phone: 780-414-0682

NEW TO BOYLE STREET OR MCCAULEY?

Do You Have Your Stadium Parking Permit?

Call 311 or email RestrictedParkingPermits@edmonton.ca for annual Stadium parking permits, or ParkingAssets@edmonton.ca for temporary parking permits. Or, visit edmonton.ca and search "parking permits" to apply online. Save yourself, and your guests, the pain of a very expensive parking ticket and possibility of being towed.

Get the paper...in your email!

Sign up to our email newsletter and get the latest on your community in your inbox.

bmcnews.org/newsletter

Where to Find Boyle McCauley News

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

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

NEWSPAPER BOX LOCATIONS

10844 95 Street (near Sorrentino's)
86 Street & Jasper Avenue (by Riverside Towers)
97 Street & 103 Avenue (by former Farmers Market)

BUSINESSES

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

Sprucewood Library (11555 95 St.)	Little BonBon Ice Cream (9660 106 Ave.)	Zocalo (10826 95 St.)
Felice Cafe (10930 84 St.)	Tony's Pizza (9605 111 Ave.)	Paper Birch Books (10825 95 St.)
Panini's (8544 Jasper Ave.)	Italian Centre (10878 95 St.)	Van Loc (10648 98 St.)
The Moth (9449 Jasper Ave.)	Lucky Supermarket (10725 97 St.)	Kim Fat Market (9905 107 Ave.)

VOLUNTEER TO DELIVER THE PAPER

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

Contact editor@bmcnews.org for more information.

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Boyle McCauley News

Italian Bakery Closes 97th Street Location

Closure marks the end of an era.

PAULA E. KIRMAN

On January 4th, Italian Bakery announced via social media that its location at 10644 97th Street was permanently closing. “Today we close the chapter on an era. Today we say goodbye to our Downtown 97st store. It wasn’t an easy decision, but sadly the one that had to be made,” said the post on Instagram (@italianbakery) and Facebook (@italianbakeryedm).

The Chinatown location had been rebuilt and reopened in October 2023 following a fire that burned down the original building in 2020.

However, co-owner Rosaly DeVenz told *Boyle McCauley News* via email that since reopening, the business has struggled with “high property taxes, lack of foot traffic, people’s perception of our neighbourhood, [and] lack of municipal support.”

“I’m so sorry to hear about the closure of the Italian Bakery; it’s a huge



The Italian Bakery building on 97th Street following its closure. Paula E. Kirman

loss for the community,” said Anne Stevenson, Councillor for Ward O-day’min, in an emailed statement to *Boyle McCauley News*. “The bakery’s closure speaks to the urgent action we need from Provincial and Federal governments to resolve the housing and health crises we see playing out on our streets, and that

disproportionately impact Chinatown and McCauley.”

She added, “I’m committed to ensuring the City continues to support Chinatown, including investments like the \$480,000 in annual vibrancy grants, over \$10m in infrastructure upgrades for public realm improve-

ments and the new Mary Burlie Park, ongoing enhanced cleaning, and safety initiatives through EPS funding and City Peace Officers.”

DeVenz, whose parents founded the Italian Bakery, says that the immediate plans for the property is listing it “for sale/lease and see[ing] what happens.”

Many people posted their memories of the Italian Bakery after the social media posts went live. The 97th Street location was the bakery’s original one, having opened in 1960.

“I know this decision affects us all and I would love to thank the community for all their amazing support over the past 64+ years,” said DeVenz.

Italian Bakery’s second location, in the Beverly neighbourhood at 4118 118th Avenue, remains open for business.

Paula E. Kirman is the Editor of Boyle McCauley News.

MP UPDATE

In 2025, it’s the People’s Time

BLAKE DESJARLAIS

I’m wishing you and your loved ones a Happy New Year!

I will be fighting hard to make 2025 a year of big change.

With a federal election looming, Canadians will have to choose between Conservatives’ cuts or the NDP’s plan to make CEOs pay their fair share, to lower prices, and to fix health care so we can deliver real relief to the working class.

The last year has shown that when you send New Democrats to Ottawa, we get results. We added dental care for millions of Canadians while expanding drug coverage for diabetes and birth control, ensuring Canadians will get the care they need, while preventing Conservatives from cutting and privatizing our health care. We are building over 700 affordable housing units in Edmonton Griesbach, putting people ahead of developers and corporate landlords so more people can find an affordable place to call home. We are standing up against Conservative attempts to take away your Canada Pension Plan and workers’ rights. We delivered a tax holiday on groceries

and children’s clothes, footwear, and diapers, and New Democrats want to remove it from your monthly bills like home heating, internet, and cell phone bills. That’s real, permanent relief.

Canadians are sick and tired of governments that do nothing but help CEOs and the ultra-wealthy – and so are we. Everyday people must stand together to stop the Conservatives. If you oppose callous Conservative cuts; if you oppose the rich getting richer while everyone else falls further behind, stand with the NDP.

Canadians deserve a government that acts to lower prices and fix health care. We deserve a government that puts people first. Big corporations and CEOs have had their governments.

In 2025, it’s the people’s time.

“Dream big dreams, my friends, never little ones” – Tommy Douglas

Blake Desjarlais
Member of Parliament,
Edmonton Griesbach

Phone: 780-495-3261
Email:
Blake.Desjarlais@parl.gc.ca

HEART OF THE CITY'S 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HOTC invites you to our 2025 AGM! Connect with fellow community members, learn about our past year’s accomplishments, and discuss the exciting plans for the future of Heart of the City Music & Arts Festival. Light refreshments will be available.



Friday, March 1st, 2025
Doors @ 12PM | Meeting begins @ 1PM
Stanley Milner EPL | 7 Sir Winston Churchill Sq NW

Questions? Contact us @ hello@heartcityfest.com



TONY'S PIZZA PALACE AND ITALIAN RESTAURANT
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A Home for Students at The Hive

New student housing project coming to Boyle Street.

ANITA JENKINS

Jean Bruce Koua, co-founder and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Elev Homes, plans to offer affordable housing for Edmonton post-secondary students, with an emphasis on communal living and social interaction.

The project was made possible through an agreement with architect Gene Dub's Five Oaks Inc., which owns the building (see sidebar). Koua and his business partners will manage rentals and the operation of a total of 120 rooms, with 60 becoming available in 2025 and the rest at a future date. All post-secondary students in Edmonton are eligible to apply, including students at NAIT, NorQuest, MacEwan, and the University of Alberta.

Koua says The Hive is different from on-campus dorms, which can be expensive. He and his two partners, recent graduates of the U of A, personally encountered challenges in finding housing, and they know many others who have had similar experiences.



The founders of Elev Homes. From left: Kevin Mpunga, Jean Bruce Koua, and Kwasi Boateng. Michel Feist/Ampersand Grey

Students with limited funds from outside of the province or country often live in sub-standard spaces with excessive rental fees. Some have paid in advance via the internet, only to find that the room or apartment was not as advertised. In some cases, the address did not even exist.

Another common problem is not having a credit rating or rental history. Elev Homes will consider a potential tenant's financial status using non-traditional methods such as

savings and student loans.

In addition to offering affordability and livability, Koua wants to give residents an opportunity to meet students from other institutions and to form a community where they can share housekeeping tasks and information about local resources.

House rules will of course be necessary. Elev Homes will have a resident assistant living there (possibly Koua) to ensure problems are resolved and

• **THE HIVE**, described on its website (elevhomes.ca/thehive) as "Canada's first ultra-affordable student community," is located next to the Quarters stop on the Valley Line LRT at 9611 102 Avenue. The fully renovated building was formerly the Salvation Army Centre of Hope (supportive housing). The design features small single rooms furnished with a bed, desk, and closet that maximize the small (75-square-foot) space. Residents share dormitory-style bathrooms, a social room on each floor, and a study area. Small storage lockers are also available.

Plans are to charge a rental fee of under \$600 a month, including utilities and Wi-Fi.

shared spaces used appropriately.

The company surveyed students' needs and wishes before designing the renovated space. They plan to continue receiving input through student focus groups. "We want to understand what works and what doesn't work, with a view to making life in the building as free as possible," Koua says.

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

GOLIS East African Restaurant Overflows With Flavour

New restaurant offers huge portions and excellent service.

DINING OUT

GOLIS East African Restaurant

10708 98 Street NW
780-249-3119

ALAN SCHIETZSCH

When I saw the sign for a new restaurant on 98th Street, just south of busy 107th Avenue, I wondered what the name meant. I googled "Golis" and learned about the Golis Mountains in Somaliland.

GOLIS serves cuisine from this area, which is a state within Somalia. The menu is a single sheet, offering a full meal with juice and soup for \$20. The choices start with beef, and there are various options for goat, lamb, chicken, and seafood. There's a wide choice of sides, including spaghetti (from Italian colonization), rice, ugali (cornmeal porridge), and jabati/sabaayad (a lovely Somali flatbread, similar to a paratha from India).

For \$20 per person in our party of five, we decided to try everything. Between us we ordered the whole fish, the BBQ chicken, the goat, chicken "steak", and the beef. They're out of beef, their most popular



A full table of food at GOLIS East African Restaurant. Alan Schietzsch

item, so I go for the lamb. While the kitchen gets busy, our host brings everyone bowls of a vegetable-beef soup, which are quite filling.

I asked if there were any vegetables that could accompany our meals and was told, "Yes, I'll bring you some, no problem!" When our group of five's order popped

out of the kitchen, sure enough it was accompanied by a big plate full of cauliflower, pea pods, Brussels sprouts, carrots, and bell pepper slices. They were very lightly steamed, with plenty of crunch.

Somali cuisine reflects a combination of traditional agricultural practices, influences from colonial Italy and Britain, and

trade routes with India and the Middle East. This was reflected in the BBQ chicken, which was the standout hit of the night. Coated with a savoury seasoning rub, not at all hot, the flavours make the mouth water as does the moist chicken.

The chicken "steak" is a flattened, well-cooked chicken breast. Love seafood? The whole fish is a substantial meal with a crispy skin that breaks open to reveal plenty of tender meat inside. The goat is the "meatiest" choice of all. If you are a steak lover, do try the goat. And the lamb? It came out on tender shanks, perfect for those who delight in gnawing on a bone medieval-style.

Because our table was overflowing with all the meats and their side dishes, the kind server brought over a small side table which held the pitchers of a lemonade and a mango drink, as well as room for our bones. And we needed it, because this was a mountain of food. We had three full containers left to take home. The food was bountiful, tasty, and the people were welcoming, kind, and happy to help in any way they could.

GOLIS East African Restaurant is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week.

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

Edmonton Intercultural Centre Celebrates 10 Years

• The Edmonton Intercultural Centre (EIC) celebrated a decade on December 21st. During the day people could enjoy a craft market, food, and various activities. The evening featured a gala for ticket holders with cultural performances and special presentations, including from the Province and City.



Brad Vince, EIC's Operations Administrator, at the daytime craft market. Paula E. Kirman



Singers with the Filipino-Canadian Saranay Association of Alberta. Paula E. Kirman



Representatives from EIC member tenant organizations with elected officials, board members, and staff. Paula E. Kirman



Dancers with the Ugandan group Embuutu Drum and Dance Group. Supplied by EIC



Performance poet Abigail Ameley Quaye created a new performance specifically for the event. Paula E. Kirman

MCCAULEY COMMUNITY LEAGUE UPDATE

Warm Winter Updates

CORINE DEMAS

We've all settled into the remarkably warm weather of this winter. The McCauley rink has been a big success this season. Dan Glugosh, our rink manager, reports that 818 people visited the rink in December. While the warm weather is lovely, it's hard on the ice, so closures may happen more often this season.

On December 22nd we held a Christmas party, where Santa came by and gave stockings stuffed with treats and small gifts to the kids. We also had a fireworks watch party at the rink on December 31st. These events were sponsored by the Christian Labour Association of Canada (CLAC) labour union. We wish to thank CLAC for its generosity.

At the time I was writing this, the League was busy planning the McCauley Cup, our annual game between Edmonton Police Service beat officers and the kids who skate at our rink. By the time you read this, the event will have happened on January 25th (weather cooperating). We will have more about the McCauley Cup on our Facebook page (@mccauleycommunityleague) and in the next issue of the paper.

The rink is operated out of a trailer donat-

ed to us by ATCO 15 years ago. The current board of the McCauley Community League is committed to building a rink pavilion. We have made progress and, as of the time this article was written, we were about to publish a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a project manager. The RFP will be published on our Facebook page and website as well as other outlets. If you would like more information, please email us at league@mccauleycl.com.

Former Edmonton Oiler Al Hamilton has done wonders over the years to raise funds and awareness of the McCauley Rink. We are grateful for his passionate and continued support. Mr. Hamilton recently donated an Edmonton Oilers jersey signed by Stuart Skinner. Watch our Facebook page and check our website (mccauleycl.com) as we will be raffling off the jersey this winter in support of the new rink pavilion building.

Looking ahead, we will host our annual Family Day party on February 16th from 1 to 4 p.m. Do you have any ideas for community events or programming? Please email us at league@mccauleycl.com.

Corine Demas is the President of the McCauley Community League and is on the board of Boyle McCauley News.



People watching the early fireworks from the ice at the McCauley Rink on December 31st. Dan Glugosh

New Art at Italian Centre's Distribution Centre



A series of new murals appeared on the Italian Centre's Distribution Centre this past fall. They were created by Theodora Harasymiw, who also did the mural on the north side of the Italian Centre Shop, as well as the small murals that adorn the pillars around Giovanni Caboto Park. The murals feature faces that represent the diversity of the area. You may even recognize Italian Centre Shop owner Teresa Spinelli on one of them! Funding for the artwork was through the Viva Italia District Association (VIDA). Paula E. Kirman

Area Advocates Receive Awards



Two people making an impact in the McCauley and Boyle Street area received prestigious awards in November. Top: Yvonne Chiu (right) was presented with the King Charles III Coronation Medal by Senator Paula Simons. Yvonne has led the Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op for more than 25 years. The organization helps support the health and well-being of newcomers. Bottom: Emily Chu was named one of the Top 40 Under 40 for 2024 by Edify magazine. In addition to being an artist she is a community organizer who has been involved with numerous initiatives to promote and encourage vibrancy in Chinatown, including founding the Together Chinatown Arts Festival. Top photo: Supplied. Bottom photo: Paula E. Kirman.

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EDMONTON INTERCULTURAL CENTRE

Changing Together: Empowering Immigrant Women in Edmonton

The Edmonton Intercultural Centre (EIC) is a community full of love, caring, and support. In this and future articles, we will inform readers of the non-profit organizations operating in the EIC facility in order to bring light to their many good deeds.

Changing Together has been a vital resource for immigrant women in Edmonton for 39 years, offering a wide range of services aimed at enhancing their integration and success in Canada. A member tenant of the Edmonton Intercultural Centre (EIC), Changing Together is the only immigrant-serving agency focused specifically on the needs of immigrant women from diverse backgrounds. Over the years, the organization has evolved from a meeting place for women to share their experiences into a hub of support, education, and empowerment.

Changing Together provides a variety of programs tailored to help immigrant women thrive. These include English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, computer training, pre-employment programs, and family support services. The organization also offers specialized programs like the Volunteer Support Program, which helps women gain Canadian work experience, and a seniors' program designed to cater to the unique needs of older immigrant women.

One of Changing Together's key services is its family support, offering non-therapeutic counselling and

referrals to resources on legal, financial, and immigration matters. The organization also supports women experiencing family violence through partnerships with the City of Edmonton, providing a drop-in support group for abused women.

Changing Together is committed to addressing pressing issues affecting immigrant women. Through research, the organization has published studies on topics such as "Live-in Caregivers in Alberta" and "Trafficking Women and Girls to Canada," shedding light on the challenges faced by immigrant women in the community.

Changing Together's programs, including the Making Changes pre-employment program and computer training classes, help women develop essential skills, gain confidence, and build meaningful connections within the community. With a focus on holistic support, Changing Together plays an instrumental role in helping immigrant women achieve their personal and professional goals, thus contributing to a more inclusive and empowered society.

For all those interested in enrolling for the mentioned programs or classes in the new year, contact Changing Together at 780-421-0175 or visit changingtogether.com.

Information provided by the Edmonton Intercultural Centre, which is located at 9538 107th Avenue.

Getting Help with Dental Health

IAN YOUNG

ABILITY AND COMMUNITY

"He who has health has hope; and he who has hope, has everything." - Arabic proverb often attributed to Thomas Carlyle (December 4, 1795 - February 5, 1881), a Scottish essayist, historian, and philosopher.

Let's start 2025 off right by thinking of health, both physical and mental.

In pursuing better health, some good news is that the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) is helping make dental care more affordable for eligible Canadian residents.

I searched "Canadian Dental Plan" and found information on the Government of Canada's website. I discovered the process for application, received approval, and got my card. I never thought I'd ever say this, but I look forward to going to the dentist!

As stated on the website, the Canadian Dental Care Plan is currently offered to:

- Seniors aged 65 and over
- Children under the age of 18
- Adults with a valid federal Disability Tax Credit certificate for 2023

The website also says: "If you have dental coverage through a provincial, territorial, or federal government social program, you can still qualify for the CDCP. If you qualify, your coverage will be coordinated between the plans to ensure no duplication or gaps in coverage."

Most people living with a disability have low income, and the current Alberta support system is limited to what they fund. Therefore, this help is appreciated.

Dental health is essential. Dentists and dental hygienists offer great suggestions on how to maintain ongoing care of your teeth and gums between visits. I urge anyone who believes they qualify to explore this option.

Good health to you all!

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



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9554 - 108A Avenue

Pastor Lasse Hultberg

Sunday Service in English: 10:30 a.m.

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Tel: 780-422-8777

BISSELL CENTRE

780-423-2285 x 111 (General Inquiries)

Community Space: Monday to Friday

9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Intake door closes at 4 p.m.

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/respice 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.

RADIUS COMMUNITY

HEALTH AND HEALING

(Formerly Boyle McCauley Health Centre)

10628 – 96 Street

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dental: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Streetworks during clinic hours.

INNER CITY

PASTORAL MINISTRY

10527-96 St. NW

(780) 424-7652

Pastor: Quinn Strikwerda

Associate Pastor: Maria Kruszewski

Sunday Service: 9:15 a.m.

Take-away snack bags Sunday at 10 a.m.

Visits and other pastoral services on request.

Contact us for information about conversation groups,

Bible study, and individual support at

info@icpmedmonton.ca or (780) 424-7652

THE ROCK OUTREACH

11004 – 96 Street NW

Phone (780) 426-1122

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

Kids Club: Fourth Monday of the Month

THE SALVATION ARMY

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(780) 244-2962

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(780) 428-4405

For more information:

www.salvationarmyedmonton.org

HOPE MISSION

9908 106 Avenue

(780) 422-2018

HOPE MISSION MEALS:

Monday - Friday

Breakfast 7:30 - 8:15 a.m.

Lunch 12:00 - 12:45 p.m.

Supper 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.

Weekends & Holidays

Brunch 10:45 am - 11:30 a.m.

Supper 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.

HOPE MISSION SHELTER:

Men, Women, Youth

Doors open 8:30 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

HOPE MISSION COMMUNITY CHURCH:

Sunday: 2:00 p.m. Hope Mission Centre

9908 106 Avenue

7:00 p.m. Herb Jamieson Centre - 10014 105A Avenue

HOPE MISSION HEALTH CLINIC:

Hope Mission Health Centre

Family Doctor Monday to Friday

Walk-in: 9:00-3:00 p.m.

Psychiatrist Monday to Friday

by Appointment only - call 780-422-2018 Ext. 278

NEW DESTINY CHURCH

10605 - 96 St.

780-424-6422

www.newdestinychurch.ca

*Tuesday - 7:00 p.m. The Alpha Course-Introduction to Christianity and/or General Bible Studies

*Wednesday - 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group

*Sunday Morning - 10:00 a.m. Worship Service. Also available on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/newdestinychurchedmonton>

Street Level Outreach - Once a month on Saturday from 12 noon - 2:00 p.m. Sandwiches, clothing personal items, and prayer (front of church).

SACRED HEART CHURCH OF THE FIRST PEOPLES

Address: 10821-96 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 2J8, and Tel: (780) 422-3052.

Daily Mass:

Monday to Thursday and Saturday: 9 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples.

Friday evening at 7 p.m. Holy Mass and Adoration

Sunday Masses:

Sunday: 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples. All are welcome.

For more information, please view our weekly bulletin, our webpage, and our Sacred Heart Facebook.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

10759-96 Street

Tel: (780) 422 0059

evjohn@telus.net

Sunday Services:

1st Sunday English at 11:00 a.m.

2nd and 4th Sundays German at 9:30 a.m., English at 11:00 a.m.

Videos available on Youtube and Facebook.

THE LEARNING CENTRE LITERACY ASSOCIATION

is seeking volunteer tutors to help adults develop reading, writing and/or math skills. Volunteers participate in group learning, tutor one-to-one, or assist drop-in learners.

Skills and Experience: High school level reading, writing, and/or math skills. Openness to tutor and learn with adults with various life experiences, including living with homelessness.

For more information: <https://tlcla.org/get-involved-3/>

Call: 780-429-0675

NETWORKS ACTIVITY CENTRE

780-474-3363, EXT. 302. Volunteer! JOIN OUR TEAM!

Networks Activity Centre provides adults with brain injury a program that promotes an active lifestyle through opportunities for social interaction, physical activity, and community involvement. Volunteering with Networks Activity Centre is a wonderful way to enrich your life and touch the lives of those we serve. If you are interested in joining our volunteer team please call 780-474-3363 ext. 302.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME TO

JOIN MCCAULEY CLUB

Kids from age 6 to 17 are invited to join after-school programs that run from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri., & from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thurs. Programs include arts & culture, physical activity, health & nutrition, academic support, life skills, and leadership. Drop in at 9425 109A Ave. or call (780) 822-2549 for details. Offered free of charge.

P.A.L.S. PROJECT ADULT LITERACY SOCIETY

NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Work with adult students in the ESL - English as a Second Language program. Training, materials, and supplies provided. Call (780) 424-5514 for more information.

BUILDING BRIDGES

Building Bridges All Nations First Nations Fusion Church Services Sundays, 3 to 6 p.m. at St. Faith's Anglican Church, 11725-93 Street.

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Tues. 1-3 p.m.

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Thurs. 10 a.m.-noon

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For information and registration call 780-426-9265

CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

YMCA Boyle Street Plaza offers Sportball every Saturday! Visit bit.ly/sportballymca for more information and to register.

DROP-IN GYM

YMCA Boyle Street Plaza

9538-103A Avenue

Drop-In Fee: \$6

Badminton (ages 16+):

Sundays: 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Fridays: 8:15-11:15 p.m.

Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.

Pickleball (ages 16+):

Sundays: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Wednesdays: 1-3 p.m.

Fridays: 5-8 p.m.

Basketball (ages 16+):

Wednesdays 4-6 p.m.

For information call: 780-426-9265

YOUTH TRANSITIONS PROGRAM REC NIGHT

Ages 13-19

YMCA Boyle Street Plaza

9538-103A Avenue

Thursdays 3:30-6 p.m.

For information call: 780-426-9265

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msiek@e4calberta.org

The Problem Property Initiative: Two Years in Review



A property in McCauley that was redeveloped after being cleaned up by the PPI. Supplied by the City of Edmonton

Problem properties have been a long-standing challenge in Edmonton. They can have serious, harmful impacts on the communities around them and the people living in them. They often are in significant disrepair, are unlivable, or attract repeat criminal activity.

For years, concerned Edmontonians called for stronger measures to deal with problem properties. That's why the City of Edmonton developed a plan to address these places, in consultation with people impacted by them. In January 2023, the Problem Property

Initiative (PPI) was launched to clean up properties, secure or demolish unsafe buildings, and uphold housing standards at high-risk properties.

From January 2023 to December 2024, the PPI conducted more than 14,000 inspections at over 1,800 unique properties.

Cleaning Up and Creating Space for New Development

The City of Edmonton's focus on cleaning up and demolishing problem properties is contributing to neighbourhood vibrancy and paving the

way for redevelopment. By addressing neglected and unsafe properties, the PPI is helping to ensure that neighbourhoods continue to be desirable places to live.

The PPI has coordinated 394 property cleanups and 10 demolitions, removing 1.63 million pounds of debris and hazardous waste from Edmonton neighbourhoods. All costs related to this work are billed to the problem property owner.

Furthermore, tickets issued by PPI enforcement officers, along with a higher tax rate for derelict properties, are making it increasingly costly for owners to neglect their properties. Following interventions by the PPI, 379 properties were demolished by their owners. Of those demolished properties, 205 have since been redeveloped or have submitted applications for development permits.

Reducing Fire Risk in Neighbourhoods

Fires in unsecured vacant properties are a significant risk to the community and first responders. The PPI has a dedicated team to reduce this risk by securing - and holding landowners accountable for - unsecured vacant buildings that pose a fire risk to the surrounding community.

The team has inspected 927 properties that were known or suspected to be unsecured and vacant. Where needed, 366 properties were secured with the related costs billed to the property owner. Over 300 of these properties have since been demolished by their owners. This work has led to a significant

decrease in structure fires in vulnerable neighbourhoods.

Supporting Vulnerable Populations

The PPI is committed to ensuring housing standards are met at high-risk residential properties and that vulnerable tenants are supported. The PPI helped connect 156 vulnerable individuals or families to 123 different service agencies for financial, medical, mental health, or basic needs support. Additionally, 81 people, including 37 children, were successfully rehoused from unlivable properties.

Expanding Efforts Across Edmonton

The PPI has a data-driven focus on the neighbourhoods most affected by problem properties. In 2023 and 2024, proactive resources were dedicated to eight core northside neighborhoods, like McCauley and Alberta Avenue. This year, 15 neighbourhoods will receive the same attention, including five on the south side. Community members from these neighbourhoods were informed of this expansion at a public meet-and-greet in October 2024.

To learn more about the Problem Property Initiative visit edmonton.ca/ProblemProperties. To report a problem property, visit edmonton.ca/ProblemProperties or call 311. To report an unsecured vacant property email communitypropertysafetyteam@edmonton.ca or call 311.

Information provided by the City of Edmonton.

UPDATE FROM CITY COUNCIL

Focusing on Our Strengths and Safety

ANNE STEVENSON

Happy New Year everyone! I hope your 2025 is off to a great start. The past few weeks have been filled with the annual Lunar New Year festivities across Chinatown. I'm always so impressed by the rich and vibrant events that bring us together and showcase this incredible community at the heart of our city.

The Lunar New Year celebrations have had me reflecting on how we at City Hall can continue to build on the strengths of the area. I am excited to share more about a number of initiatives. Most recently, City Council committed to continuing the Chinatown Vibrancy fund for the next two years. This will provide \$480,000 a year to support community initiatives in both north and south Chinatown. If you have an idea for an event, festival, public art, or programs to bring the community together, please be sure to apply.

We will also see a number of capital investments moving forward in 2025. In addition to the ongoing neighbourhood renewal project, the building of the new Mary Burlye Park will also get started. Construction on the new Chinatown Gate is also planned for 2025. I can't wait to see these investments come to life in our community.

I know safety is a top priority for Chinatown, and throughout Boyle Street and McCauley. The City is continuing to explore how we can best respond to the health and housing crises we see playing out in our streets. In addition to advocating to other levels of government to address the root causes, the City is looking at the tools we have to respond to our current challenges.

An important conversation coming up in that regard is our Public Spaces Bylaw. This bylaw seeks to

regulate behaviour in parks, transit, sidewalks, and other public spaces. It tackles questions of how the City will respond to things like open drug use, bikes on sidewalks, and large protests. We will debate this bylaw on February 10th. I encourage you to share your thoughts. You can call or email my office, or register to speak to Council. This will be a hard conversation with many viewpoints to balance, and the more input we have, the better able we will be to make the best decisions. I hope to find practical, evidence-based approaches that best meet the needs of all community members and support a safer city for everyone.

Thanks as always for taking the time to read and don't hesitate to reach out to my office any time!

Anne Stevenson, City Councillor for Ward O-day'min
Email: anne.stevenson@edmonton.ca
Phone: 780-496-8333

Christmas at the Hull Block



Christmas at the Hull Block, presented by the Chinatown Transformation Collaborative Society, happened on December 14. For the third year in a row, volunteers spent the morning filling brown bag lunches for community members in need. This year, they filled 1,500 bags. That afternoon people enjoyed activities, crafts, and food. People could take photos indoors with Santa, courtesy of McBain Camera. Another Santa was outside joining in on the horse-drawn wagon rides and visiting restaurants and shops in the area. Paula E. Kirman

HEART OF THE CITY FESTIVAL SOCIETY ARTIST PROFILE SERIES

Kamal Alaeddine: "I like to do the thing and I figure it out as it develops."

CORINE DEMAS

Kamal Alaeddine has been a fixture on the Edmonton street performer scene since he was a teenager, 20-odd years ago. Kamal also works as a stand up comic and entertainer, with notable appearances on The Gong Show and The Tonight Show. He also went on tour with the Jim Rose Circus. Over the years Kamal has gone by several performance names, including "Power Man", "Fat Matt", and "Matt Alaeddine". Kamal has done several one man shows at the Edmonton International Fringe Festival and other Fringes around Canada. His latest show spoke about the internal struggle he had with his name and identity, explaining his various name changes.

In 2024, Heart of the City worked with Kamal to produce a comedy workshop and he headlined our



Kamal Alaeddine. Photo: Supplied

Saturday night Stand Up Comedy show at the festival.

"I was quite proud to have facilitated a comedy workshop which was a great outreach initiative for community members. There were weather and hockey issues but it was great to walk around the park

and see artists of other disciplines. It was a positive experience," he said.

When I asked Kamal about what inspires him, he explained, "I'm inspired by thinking about things in different ways and sharing those viewpoints. I'm excited about sharing my thoughts."

"I'm a doer. I like to do the thing and I figure it out as it develops," he continued. "Some people find it more comfortable, or less nerve-racking, to write up their jokes in their entirety. Maybe even before trying stand-up comedy they want to organize their thoughts before they finally present them. They meticulously edit themselves before execution of the jokes. I tend to start with a single point and expand as I go, taking on other ideas and amalgamating them into one monolith. I don't like to sit down and write. I like to have ideas and present them and figure

out the wording on stage."

Kamal, who doesn't live in our area, says Giovanni Caboto Park is his favourite part of McCauley. "It is an amazing resource year-round. Even when it's cold I see the park activated. It's great to see that park being so well used. I also enjoy shopping at the Italian Centre and visiting my friends who live in Boyle Street and McCauley."

About the future Kamal says, "Recently I've started to do improv shows. There is always a new facet to discover. What keeps me going is how fortunate I've been and how lucky I am. The hardest thing is to get started, and luckily I got started a long time ago and the future has an infinity of opportunities."

Corine Demas lives in McCauley where she is the President of the McCauley Community League and a board member with Heart of the City.

Janis Irwin, MLA
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood

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