

Boyle Street Community Centre Opens



The new Boyle Street Plaza and park. Candas Jane Dorsey

CANDAS JANE DORSEY

November 19 was a chaotic and happy day. Packing material flew and equipment was checked off on clipboards as the Boyle Street Community League took possession of the new Boyle Street Community Centre.

It's a real change for the BSCL board members, staff, interns, and volunteers to move from spending time in meeting rooms, up to our ears in paperwork, to finally be in the Community Centre's rooms, up to our ears in packing materials!

"Back in 2009 it was a dream," said Thim Choy, president of the BSCL board. "In 2010 it was a historical moment when we did the sod turning. Now in 2012 it is a reality. And it's really nice to see it come to the reality!"

The BSCL has worked with the City and the YMCA to make this project special. It's a type of collaboration that hasn't been done before, and sometimes it seemed that we would never see an end. However, there we were, our voices echoing in the huge, bright Flex Hall, the adaptable Multi-Purpose

Room, the kitchen, the two cozy function rooms, and the attractive, welcoming foyer.

Ah, that new-building scent - how delightful! Community members will have a sniff of it on December 12 from 4-6 p.m., when 95.7 Radio broadcasts from the building as part of their Twelve Days of Christmas series and the community is invited to drop in and see the centre come alive. Programming will start in January. Also, watch for notice of the Grand Opening early in 2013.

Almost three years in the making, the new Centre was built by the City of Edmonton and is leased by BSCL on a long-term lease. The design of the Centre was based on years of community consultation. By the use of moveable walls, the architects created incredibly adaptable spaces from large to small.

The big Flex Hall welcomes community activities ranging from sports to festivals, as well as private events rentals. Its moving east wall opens to the glass-walled gallery and eventually to the outdoor amphitheatre and park. A giant projection system obtained by a Living Local grant will project a 30' long by 10' high

art project onto the outside of the flexible wall.

The Multi-Purpose Room is equipped as a little theatre, and it too has a moving wall, which will allow it to be used as a stage for a larger audience or as part of the Flex Hall for a festival, sports event or function. Two smaller meeting rooms which can be opened up into one, and a kitchen and bar with a hatchway into the Flex Hall, complete our current function spaces, all served by a spacious foyer with a welcome desk. Space exists for a future recording studio in the basement (fundraising for that starts as soon as the dust settles!)

The Boyle Street Community Centre shares the Boyle Street Plaza building with the Shirley Stollery YMCA Day Care Centre and the YMCA Family Resource Centre. The Plaza is part of Boyle Renaissance, Phase 1, which also includes the Melcor YMCA Village, a 150-suite apartment building. Between them is a park to be completed next spring, including an outdoor amphitheatre and a community table and artwork.

The result is a warm, welcoming heart for the Boyle Street community to use and enjoy.

Inside THIS MONTH

DRUM BEATS

"Life is wonderful. Embrace it with a vengeance and live it to the fullest.

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AROUND THE RINK

"By the time this issue of the paper comes out in early December, I can guarantee you the ice will be ready for skating. So come on down to the rink, lace up your skates and enjoy the winter with your community.

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GET THE
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No Holiday Pressure



PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff

McCauley Musings

Like taxes, Daylight Savings Time, and report cards, the holidays is a time of year that happens annually, whether we like it or not.

For some, this is indeed the most wonderful time of the year. The air crackles with excitement and the decorations, music, and presents all add to the anticipation. For others - not so much. The lack of long hours of daylight, loved ones, financial problems, or a host of other woes make this time of year dreaded.

Seasonal issues with the weather and light certainly play a part for many. However, one does not have to have Seasonal Affective disorder or be going through a major crisis to view the holidays with a hint of cynicism.

First of all, despite our society's

best efforts at being politically correct, when we think of the holidays, we invariably think of Christmas. The decorations, music, and parties all scream Santa, regardless of whether or not we are forced to say "Happy Holidays" in our workplace rather than "Merry Christmas."

Pretending this time of year reflects much else in terms of official holidays is denial. Christmas is a statutory holiday here. It is one of the few days of the year where pretty much everything shuts down. New Years - according to the Gregorian calendar - is the other one.

People who don't celebrate Christmas invariably feel left out. And those who do may feel an overwhelming sense of having to make sure everything is perfect for that one day of the year when we are supposed to put on a happy face and spread joy to the world.

My advice? Relax. It's just one day. Yes, it can be a day filled with screaming children, unexpected relatives, and burned cookies, but what day is ever perfect?

Happy holidays to all of our readers!

PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff

Editor's Notes

Welcome to our annual December/January Holidays issue! By the time this paper hits the streets, we will have held our AGM. We will have a few changes to our Board and Editorial Committee. Due to our printing schedule, we will have a full report about that in our February issue. Be sure to check out our website and Facebook/Twitter to learn about all of the up to date information.

We have quite a bit of holiday-themed content in this issue of course. We also have news

about some of the goings-on in the area, as well as some feedback concerning a controversial article that appeared in last issue. I definitely want to encourage feedback, whether it is positive or negative, about anything published in the paper. It's always great to connect with our readers, and we appreciate constructive criticism.

You can contact me anytime at editor@bmcnews.org. Don't forget to visit our website at bmcnews.org and connect with us on Twitter (@bmcnews) and Facebook (fb.com/bmcnews).

Happy Holidays - see you again in February!

Our Next Issue. . .

Our theme for the February 2013 issue is "Winter Survival." How do you get through these long, cold, dark months of winter? What are your favourite winter activities? Articles should be around 500 words and accompanied with photos if possible. Send your work to editor@bmcnews.org.

Letters to the Editor

Do you have a gripe? A compliment? A question? Share your thoughts with a Letter to the Editor. In two hundred words or less, tell us what made you smile or frown, or what you would do to change something if you could. Send your letters to editor@bmcnews.org. Letters may be edited for length or clarity and publication is not guaranteed.

Boyle McCauley News

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

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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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.

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Report Gang Activity • (780) 414-4567

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REACH Edmonton website • www.reachedmonton.ca

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reportadrughouse@police.edmonton.ab.ca

Sara Coumantarakis: A Real Contributor

PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff
Our Volunteers

Sara Coumantarakis is one of our newest contributors as well as a recent resident of McCauley.

Sara moved to the neighbourhood in the fall of 2010. “I had been living at Cameron Avenue Co-op but needed more space when my family expanded,” she says. “I like this part of town and couldn’t afford Riverdale, so here I am, a five-minute walk from the Italian Centre.”

She became a volunteer with **Boyle McCauley News** through the encouragement of Gary Garrison, a long-time contributor and community member who also happens to be Sara’s partner. “Gary seemed to be having so much fun being involved with **BMC News**. Then he invited me to a volunteer pizza night and I felt like a fraud because I hadn’t volunteered so I asked him what I could do.”

What she has been doing is writing articles on a variety of topics. She is also very involved with the writing and researching for the booklet currently in produc-



Sara Coumantarakis. Yuet Chan

tion about McCauley’s history. “I am having a great time getting to know McCauley better by researching and writing about Church Street for the McCauley History Project. It’s a great way to get to know more people in the neighbourhood and I happen to like history.”

In addition, Sara is also the secretary on the board of the McCauley Community After School Care Association. “I am so impressed with the warmth and care that the people there lavish on the children. And I like the fact that

it’s not for profit, is community centered, and affordable. And yes, there are some spaces available,” she adds.

Some people may recognize Sara as one of the Raging Gran-nies, who perform their songs at a variety of social justice events around the city. “I’ve wanted to be a Raging Granny from the first time I heard them,” Sara says. “I was impressed by how they can fit such good social analysis into old tunes. So, when I retired last fall and ran into a Granny at a peace event, I joined. It’s great to

have fun while trying to bring attention to the issues we face.”

Tying in with her interest in writing, Sara is also a member of the Canadian Authors Association, Alberta Branch and has served on its board. Apart from writing and social justice, Sara is interested in issues concerning Alberta’s farmland. “I was raised on a farm in central Alberta and try to visit it as much as possible. I’m worried about the loss of farmland not only in Alberta but world-wide so I’m interested in learning more about and trying to live sustainably.”

When asked what she likes most about contributing to **BMC News**, Sara is honest about her aspirations, with a dash of humour. “Dare I confess that I’ve always wanted to write but kept putting it off due to earning a living, raising kids, and such,” she explains. “So, it’s a real kick to see my name in print and pretend that I’m a real writer like those other contributors.”

Thank you Sara for your interest in adding interesting and relevant content to our paper. We find your contributions very real indeed!

Flipping for Our Volunteers



Many of our volunteers at BMC News enjoyed delicious pizza at Tony’s on October 15. We often hold our volunteer appreciation events at Tony’s and appreciate their attentive service and great food. Here’s Sal tossing pizza dough in the kitchen, while curious children watch from the viewing area. Paula E. Kirman

Embracing Life at Christmas



CLARA GLADUE

Drum Beats

I am not a lover of snow. As a Canadian, I expect cold, wintry days. I can't imagine the days when our grandparents or even out parents had to trudge through knee-deep snow just to survive.

I try to count my blessings as I stay in my home nice and toasty warm. I sure love some nice hot apple cinnamon drink or peppermint tea. For me, spending chilly cold days inside can lead to cabin fever, so I still try to get

out to things I enjoy like meetings and church services.

With Christmas time just around the corner again and another birthday of mine it is time to do some planning for a family dinner. I may put up some decorations after I do some wall washing and dusting. I like to see my kids' eyes light up with the idea of helping out.

I had a Christmas tree set up last year for the kids and it was great. This year I just want to set the decorations up with no tree. Our new place is quite small but very cozy. I'd like to see what new ideas we can brainstorm this year in setting the atmosphere.

My gift to others is to pray and

spend time with them. I was watching a movie online the other night and noticed one scene with a young family out at a skating rink just having fun. It triggered a memory of when I was a child in the little town I lived in and my older brothers used to take us skating at the local arena. It was so much fun.

As a child growing up, we always had hard times. I didn't have much to speak of materialistically but I had my family whom I loved. I try to show my kids love in many ways every day. Be-

ing a blessing to another is what counts. What matters the most is family even if it is not just people related to you. Other people can become family.

Life is wonderful. Embrace it with a vengeance and live it to the fullest. And remember: Christmas is a tradition the world enjoys once a year, but God is the same today, yesterday, and forever. God Bless and Merry Christmas!

Clara lives in McCauley.

Christmas Cookies and Family

NHAN LU

Pacific Notes

Even after 35 years in Edmonton, the holiday season is a time of year that can bring about feelings of sadness, loneliness, and anxiety that often occur at this time of year.

I would indulge in high calorie foods such as chocolate that I do

not eat when I am feeling well. I had a headache because I was unable to sleep, and was also unable to budget financially for gifts for family members and friends.

One day a customer ordered 20 boxes of my special coconut Ladyfinger cookies. She told me that her friends love it. She wrapped the boxes with red ribbons for Christmas gifts. This

wonderful idea stayed with me. I now make a lot of cookies for customers and for my friends who are here and for those who are far away.

I feel happier, have more time to take care of myself, and keep my gift giving within a reasonable budget. A simple gift can bring happiness. Also, this brings back great childhood memories of when I was in Vietnam celebrating Christmas. My

grandmother, mother, and aunts used to make cookies and new clothes for the children.

"I'll Be Home for Christmas" is a classic song about longing to be home with the ones we love. Christmas is celebrated with the sounds of music, the scent of food cooking, and the bright colours of decorative lights. It is a time for family and friends to gather together and celebrate.

Ambrose Place to Go Ahead

The McCauley Community League lost its fight to prevent Ambrose Place from continuing its development at 9629 and 106 Avenue. On October 30, the Alberta Court of Appeal declined to hear the League's appeal to stop the 42-unit apartment, which is aimed at homeless Aboriginal adults with addiction issues, mental illness, or physical disabilities. The League argued against the development due to the over-concentration of social housing in the area and zoning issues.

Ambrose Place is a project of Nignan Housing ventures, a non-profit society which began construction on the development in 2010. Last March, the construction was suspended after a court ruling that

the MCL was denied the opportunity to fight the development permit. The city issued a new permit which the MCL was trying to fight, but the presiding judge with the Court of Appeal did not believe the case would be successful.

Construction was set to resume shortly after the ruling. On the evening of the Court of Appeal's decision, the MCL posted this statement on its Facebook page:

"We are disappointed, but as determined as ever to continue conversations about the spatial concentration of poverty, the need for balance in our community, and the necessity of *real* community consultation, wherein we actually get listened to."

Moratorium on Social Housing Passes

On October 31, City Council passed a moratorium on city-funded non-market (social) housing for three years in five central neighbourhoods: Queen Mary Park, Alberta Avenue, Eastwood, Central McDougall, and McCauley. The moratorium is shorter than the neighbourhoods were originally going to receive. Queen Mary Park, Alberta

Avenue, and Eastwood were to get five years. Central McDougall and McCauley were to get ten years.

The pause is intended to give residents time to deal with the concentration of social housing in their neighbourhoods and the resulting concentration of poverty in those areas.

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CST. SAMUEL SANSON • EPS CLC
Cop's Corner

All good things must come to an end. Unfortunately, December means the end of my time in the Community Liaison Constable position. The good news is that I will be replaced by a better version and that I will remain in the area as a Beat officer. De-

cember also brings holidays and shopping. Here are a few things to remember during the holiday season.

When parking at the shopping mall, choose a well-lit area. Do not leave your vehicle running and unattended. Lock the doors and close the windows to your vehicle. If you must leave packages in your vehicle, place them out of sight. Place shopping bags in the trunk. If you have an SUV, cover your property with a blanket. Do not make yourself vulnerable by carrying excessive amounts of bags. Re-

member to check the back seat before entering your car.

It is also important not to leave your credit cards in your vehicle. Do not have more credit cards than needed and always know where they are. Make sure that you do not leave your PIN number with your cards. Make sure not to share your PIN numbers and remember to change it often.

Keep your PIN secure by shielding the pin pad when you type it in. Keep the card in sight when it is being used so that it is not swiped twice. Examine the pin

pad in order to make sure that it has not been tampered with.

If you lose your card, contact the card company and police. Remember to notify the credit bureau so that they can flag your account and prevent fraudulent charges to your card. Check your statements to make sure there are no suspicious charges.

Enjoy the holidays and stay safe. I look forward to working with you once I am in my new position as a beat officer. I will still be available at samuel.sanson@edmontonpolice.ca.

Zocalo Expands



The grand opening of Zocalo's new indoor growing area was on October 26. The greenhouse-like area features a variety of plants, merchandise, and the espresso table, which has moved there from the back of the main area. There are now also tables for coffee inside the main entrance. Paula E. Kirman

Rink's Ready!

DAN GLUGOSH
Around the Rink

It's mid-November at the time of writing this, and we've started flooding the rink. This is most unusual. In all my years, I have never been able to start until the end of November and sometimes, not until mid-December. For some, winter has come too soon. However, cold weather in November only means that we will be opening for skating much sooner.

For us ODR (Out Door Rink) enthusiasts, we can't wait to strap on the skates and get out on the outdoor ice. My two boys and a few neighbourhood kids keep asking, "When's the rink going to be ready?" By the time this issue of the paper comes out in early December, I can guarantee you the ice will be ready for skating. So come on down to the rink, lace up your skates and enjoy the winter with your community.

The McCauley community skating rink has been accepted into the Aviva Community Fund competition which contributes \$1,000,000 to create positive change in communities across Canada. The idea came from Jack Basterash from Challenge Insurance who submitted it to Aviva. A big thank you goes out to Jack for helping bring attention to the rink and our community. I also would like to thank Al Hamilton and Lyle Kulchisky (Sparky), for bringing the attention of local media to help get the word out. As of today, we are in the third round of qualifying and would like to have your votes. Please go to www.avivacommunityfund.org, search for McCauley Rink Project, and follow the link to vote.

We are also in the middle of picking a day for the McCauley Cup (December 27 or 28), which is the Edmonton Beat Cops hockey game with the community. Please watch for a flier or posters in the neighbourhood, or you can contact me at (780) 729-4363.

The rink hours are: M-T-T-F 4:30-9:30 p.m.; Wed 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Sat 1-8 p.m.; Sunday 1-8 p.m.



Boyle McCauley News

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Make sure you get enough sleep. Adequate rest, especially REM sleep, allows for healing and rejuvenating the body. Taking short naps or resting is also beneficial.

Stay focused in the present moment. This helps transform your history into your Higher Story. Give yourself the Gift of the Present.

Get out of your own way – release self-imposed limitations. Having self confidence and creativity creates miracles and unlimited opportunities. The good news is that we can change our beliefs at any moment.

Open your heart and breathe. Laugh often. Smiling is as important as fresh air. Be compassionate.

Be sure you eat healthy.

Intention is everything. Focus on what you want – don't give energy to what you don't want.

Hold a higher vision for humanity and sustainability.

Remember that all things are connected. The number one principle of naturopathy is "everything is connected to everything." If there is stress or imbalance in any area of your life, it affects your whole being.

Janice Zubin, RMT, is a certified health consultant. Appointments can be made at (780) 686-6883 for her Little Italy office.

Ukrainian Book Store Closing

The historic Ukrainian Book Store at 10215 97 Street will be closing its doors in mid-December after serving the Ukrainian community in Edmonton and beyond since 1914.

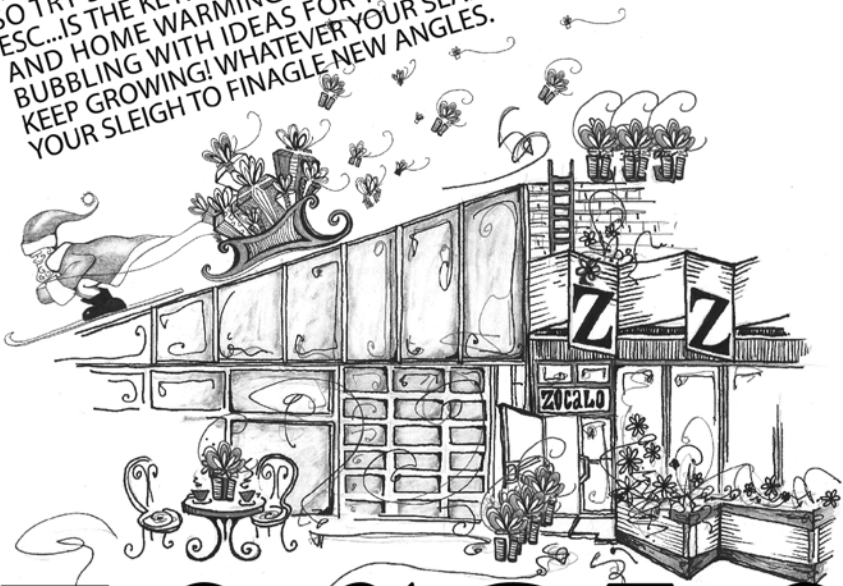
In addition to Ukrainian language books, the store sells dance wear, supplies for Easter eggs, and music. It does a great deal of business from its web site, which is also going to be shutting down after all stock is sold.

Reasons for closing include people not reading Ukrainian, downloading music online, and ordering directly from Ukraine on the Internet.

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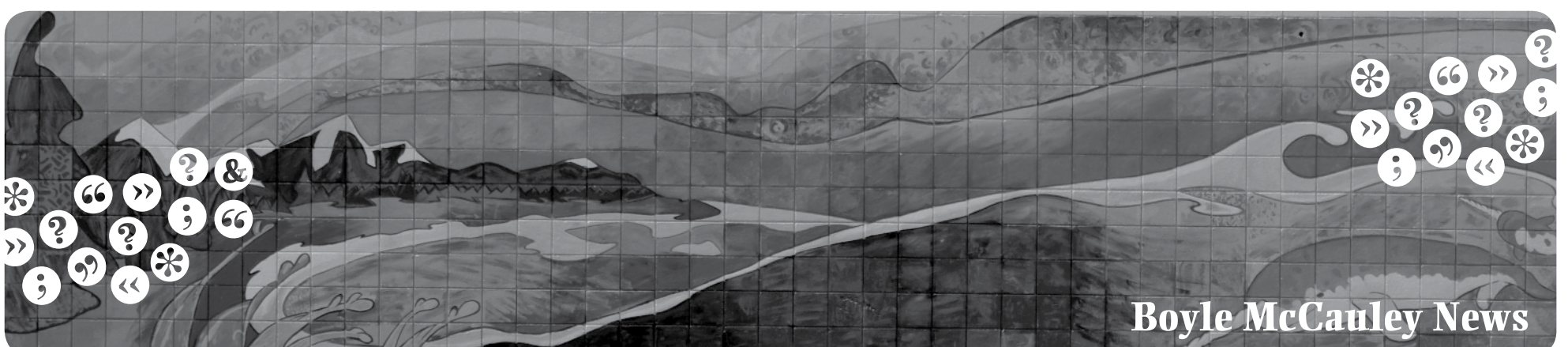
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Boyle McCauley News

Letter to the Editor

Structural Inequality and Critical Thinking

Dear Editor,

I am writing this in response to the article in the last issue entitled "Opinion: Enough Negativity!"

I agree that McCauley is a hotbed of politics on social justice issues and that the street I live on has improved in the last few years (but not everyone is so fortunate). Finally, I agree that crime is a city wide issue. However, the housing branch has identified "distressed communities" and I disagree with the proposition that because other communities suffer from high crime, that that is *less of a problem* for us or for them. (I witnessed a man being taken to task at the last Church Street meeting for daring to comment about safety issues on 96 Street!)

I disagree that the League has been opposed to the museum, arena, and the EPCOR Tower projects. If there have been criticisms of particular aspects of those designs it is in an attempt to reap the most net *positive benefits* of those projects specifically for McCauley.

The concept of "structural inequality" (often based on race, ethnicity, gender, and/or economic status) is useful to understanding "deliberate harm" or "incompetence." To grossly over simplify, structural inequality is inequality that is built right into the core of society - into laws, actions, policies, and the power structure. This inequality cannot exist without the beliefs and thoughts that support and continue to reproduce that inequality and to defend it. Some academics maintain that perpetuating inequality is conscious and intentional; others say that it is not. So powerful are the thoughts and the messages that some people, agencies, and government who claim to be helping the poor, for example, support policies that benefit other dominant classes at their expense. Thinking that people or communities who reject more concentrated poverty are THE NIMBYS in the city is an example of that socialization.

The concept of "critical thinking" is important here. This is *not negative thinking* but about the ability to mentally weigh pieces of information

to see if they make logical sense. Propaganda, misinformation, and conflicting messages are everywhere. Part of critical thinking includes the power to face unpleasant facts rather than resorting to the defense mechanism of denial (a situation where certain facts are rejected despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary).

When I first moved to McCauley I encountered an informal and entrenched code of conduct that apparently I inherited when I got my mortgage. Some of the principles seem to be: a) you must be positive; b) you must conform to a specific version of political correctness; c) you must work together with City committees. In talking about "challenges" d) you can never really critique what has gone on in the past; e) you can barely talk about what is wrong in the present; and, f) suggestions about how to do things differently are quickly rejected. Coming from a university environment, I find this quite odd and troubling. I believe we have a mild version of what Orwell captured in his

book 1984. This, in the language of "Newspeak" where negative terms like "bad" are no longer allowed, is "ungood."

I agree that we live in a democracy, but I disagree with the passive depiction of how to participate in that democracy. Opposition parties and concerned citizens, often labelled "troublesome," serve key functions and roles. Democracy is about more than "going along to get along" and about more than agreeing with "the spin." Open free speech and freedom of expression and its defense are absolutely required.

After attending many pointless and unproductive meetings, and as the former President who wrote thoughtful positive letters to the folks in power, based on reason, I conclude that "catching flies with honey" doesn't really work that well. Rather, most of the time, it seems like the "squeaky wheel gets the grease."

Sincerely,
Wendy Aasen

Facts on Opinions

PAULA E. KIRMAN • BMC News Staff

Here at Boyle McCauley News, we have an editorial mission to present the best of what the area has to offer. The purpose, to a large degree, is to provide an alternative to the portrayals of the area only as dangerous, a hotbed of crime, and generally a place one would not want to visit, let alone move or work here. This is the mission of the paper as set by all those who have worked with the paper in years' past and was inherited by the current crew.

At the same time, we want to be honest about the challenges facing the area and present news and opinions on these issues - hopefully ones that are solution oriented. In other words, we want to provide a vehicle by which people in the community can have a voice.

Sometimes those voices can be controversial. They can differ from those of community organizations, the City, and even the staff and board of the newspaper. This is why we have the disclaimer at the beginning of every issue:

The opinions expressed in Boyle McCauley News are those of the people named as the authors of the articles, and do not neces-

sarily reflect those of the Board, staff, or Editorial Committee of the paper.

Opinion pieces are very different from news items. They are often one-sided, presenting the point of view of the person writing them. In the November issue of BMC News, an opinion piece was written by a community member taking issue with her perception of the tone and content of the McCauley Community League updates that appear in every issue of the paper. Several people have since contacted me, who strongly disagree with what was written in that article.

First of all, it was clearly stated in the headline that this was an opinion piece - not a news item. It was published on good faith that the writer was only taking issue with the tone and content of the MCL updates, based upon her interpretation of the information

being presented within - not the MCL itself as an entity. Some people obviously read it differently.

Second, if the paper is to be consistent with its mission and goals, we have to publish a variety of voices, including controversial ones. That being said, nothing is ever published in BMC News with the intent of offending or shocking our readership. As Editor, I don't always agree with everything that appears in the paper, but I also don't want to silence anyone either.

What can we do when we disagree? We can use the paper as a forum for dialogue and discussion. We can respectfully disagree while trying to find common ground upon which to build solutions for the many issues our area faces. Dissenting views can make us reflect upon our own beliefs and question them, and in doing so, bring greater insight into our lives and community.

WE CAN USE THE PAPER AS A FORUM FOR DIALOGUE AND DISCUSSION.

we can respectfully disagree while trying to find common ground upon which to build solutions for the many issues our area faces.

The Moon

Moonlight brighter than the heavens in the skies.
Glimmer of a star falling from the sky.
Moonlight air still as the sky.
Clouds rushing by like the winds in the sky.
Space and time as still as the sky.
Moonlight lightness fills the sky.
Meteor destroying the moon surface and flying through the sky.

By Christopher Leclair



Boyle McCauley News

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2012 MCCAULEY REVITALIZATION UPDATE



The McCauley Revitalization is forging ahead with a new Chair, Todd Janes. Todd has willingly accepted the position upon the resignation of Joe Simons. We thank Joe for his last three years on the committee and wish him the best with the extra time he will now have to do more writing. Todd is genuinely committed to furthering the work of the committee by a review of the past year's work completed through the dedicated volunteers in McCauley. In December of 2010, the McCauley Strategy was approved by City Council and at that time residents voiced their areas for improvement, including the Community League representatives who helped to mastermind the direction of strategy goals needed for McCauley. The strategy focused on listing the key areas and emphasized that time would be needed to work on the short term issues and longer term goals. The direction from the community through meetings and surveys were identified with the McCauley Revitalization strategy as short term (3-5 years) as listed below:

- AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT (IN THE WORDS OF MCCAULEY RESIDENTS)**
1. Less crime, less vandalism, less gangs – more police presence.
 2. Need clean up programs, less litter, more sharps containers, cleaner community, recycling.
 3. Create an entry way into Chinatown, a plan for Mary Burlie Park, more festivals. Establish gathering places, coffee houses, community hubs, community liaisons, open markets.
 4. Better traffic control, more bus runs, transit stop on 95 Street, more walking

- and bike paths, improve walkways and walkable areas, wheelchair accessibility improvement.
5. Better rec centre with a pool, more parks and gardens, more trees.
6. Rid community of dealers, prostitution, and addiction issues.
7. Public washroom needed.
8. Affordable housing/apartments, more home owners, duplexes.
9. More businesses to fill empty buildings such as restaurants, bike shop, coffee places.
10. More trees, flowers, and community gardens.

- VISION:**
1. More targeted police presence and a bylaw officer to deal with issues.
 2. McCauley will be a clean neighbourhood with improved services, mural, art, and streetscaping updated.
 3. McCauley has a profile as a cultural destination. McCauley would have an entry way into Chinatown that the community can be proud of. More festivals, stores, and markets. There would be a connection between Chinatown and Little Italy, a community hub, and more stores in the area such as a drug-store, hardware store, and a coffee/tea shop.
 4. Improved pedestrian paths, and plans for an LRT transit station.
 5. Commonwealth has more community usage and a pool. There are more parks, playgrounds, community gardens.
 6. A plan to reduce the number of agencies in the area; find shelter for those on the street.
 7. Public washroom to deal with issues in the community.
 8. No subsidized housing, mixed and affordable housing - more home owners
 9. More businesses moving in (restaurants, bike shop, drug store) less vacant businesses.
 10. Trees and flowers, more community gardens on vacant lots.

- URBAN DESIGN NEEDS TO HAVE:**
1. Improved safety, lighting, cleanliness, and visibility.
 2. Streetscape cleanliness, services, and access improved for storefronts, sidewalks.
 3. Create an entry way to Chinatown, plan for Mary Burlie Park (long term).
 4. Improve the bike path, LRT access, walkable areas.
 5. Commonwealth has greater community access, pool.
 6. Develop a plan to work with agencies to transition.
 7. Public washroom: plan to address issues.
 8. Greater mix of housing, affordable only, develop the historical areas, concept plan for an artists village, create a teahouse to promote culture.
 9. Increase anchor businesses in area, marketing strategy to promote cultural identity, increase signage, increase retail opportunities, more grants, develop incentives for businesses to move in, create murals, art work.

2012 MCCAULEY REVITALIZATION UPDATE CONTINUED FROM THE NOVEMBER ISSUE:

4 THE POTENTIAL FOR AN LRT STATION IS STILL BEING REVIEWED

as there is an existing station under the Remand facility and no decisions have been made to date. Consideration is being given to further development of extension of the bike path, but much of the planning will be dependent on the outcome of the plans for all the surrounding development that includes the arena, the museum, the performing arts centre, and the Remand centre.

5 COMMONWEALTH STADIUM RENOVATIONS WERE COMPLETED IN MARCH 2012.

The facility opened up again to a welcoming community. The state of art design is a magnificent addition to McCauley. Daren Dwernychuk, who is the program manager at Commonwealth, continues to do an outstanding job of creating a multi-usable facility. Projected usage is estimated at over 300,000 on an annual basis where prior to renovations the highest usage was estimated at 190,000. New opportunities will provide a fitness program for Asian seniors/Ukrainian seniors and a program for kids who live in McCauley to have free swimming lessons. Daren is also working on a cultural art project with residents who live in houses east of Commonwealth.

6 THE OUTREACH PROGRAM WITH THE BOYLE STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES

has tackled the issue of those living on the street in full force by hiring six outreach workers who are focused on the homeless population. In reference to McCauley, there have been over 29 people who have been housed out of the area. The team of staff continues to work on goals of reducing numbers further with placement outside of the McCauley area. Recent development with the proposal for livability in South Chinatown determined that City Council directed staff to develop a strategy for transitioning agencies in the community of McCauley. program for kids who live in McCauley to have free swimming lessons. Daren is also working on a cultural art project with residents who live in houses east of Commonwealth.

7 DEVELOPMENT OF A PUBLIC WASHROOM IS STILL BEING REVIEWED

as the two year pilot has been completed and results are being tabulated for future recommendations. The one remaining port a potty is located at Bissell centre due to need in the area.

8 ONE OF THE HOUSING PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN

the move of The Works into the historical

Paskin house located on 95 Street and 106a Avenue. They renovated the building meeting all historical requirements and expanded with the bright red gallery building attached. The Works is now in negotiation for leasing the bunker located on the site for storage use. The tender for the housing on the remainder of the City owned block is projected to go out to the public in late December. The hope is to have successful interest in market housing for the block.

9 MCCAULEY HAS A NEW BIKE SHOP

which is located on 111 Avenue and is the second shop of the bike commuters of Edmonton. The Director hopes to stage a bike event in 2013 for local residents. McCauley now has a new drug store (Pharmasave) located on 95 Street in the old tile shop next door to Santos restaurant where the new owner has renovated Santo's into a great new place to eat in McCauley. McCauley's vacant lots and businesses are starting to be eliminated as the potential is being seen by builders and developers. More emphasis needs to be placed on promoting the positives in the area in order to attract those who will move their business to the area. The grant program through the Sustainable Development and Planning has had success in McCauley with businesses such as Taipan Cafe and Zocalo successfully applying and renovating their store frontage. There are currently five other businesses taking advantage of the Façade program.

Home owners will buy in McCauley if they see the positive attributes of the area. McCauley residents who promote the strengths of McCauley will ultimately attract new desirable businesses and people to the area. Economic growth will take place but it takes time to illustrate that the neighbourhood is viable, and a great destination to live, work, and play.

10 A TREE ASSESSMENT DETERMINED GAPS IN THE COMMUNITY AND FORESTRY IS ADDING MCCAULEY

to the schedule for planting. The recent plantings took place on 106a Avenue and on Church Street (96 Street). There will be more to come as the urban design includes more trees.

Trees Please and the BIG DIG increase and develop more investment of trees into McCauley. The goal was to plant 100 trees a year and that goal has been achieved as the total to date is 107 since the start of the BIG DIG in 2011. Garden projects have increased in the community as two have started up in 2012. One garden is community run and will have the installation in 2012 with a start up in 2013 located at McCauley School. The second garden project is located on a vacant lot which will also have an install in 2012 and start up in 2013.

There are many community run initiatives and projects that will be listed in greater detail on the McCauley Revitalization web site by the end of December. Highlights include: updates on the coffee houses, teahouse, community hub, art projects, murals, historical projects, and façade projects. Stay tuned and keep positive.

The Revitalization Steering Committee continues to meet as it has for three years on the last Wednesday of each month (except in July or August). If you would like to attend, please contact Jane Molstad: jane.molstad@edmonton.ca or call (780) 496-6887.

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2012-2013

Frostival

McCauley Festival of Winter Activities

December, 2012

Every weekend

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire

1 - 3 pm Ital Grocery

January, 2013

date TBA

Skating Event

6 - 10 pm

at McCauley Rink

January - February, 2013

Saturdays 1 - 5 pm

E4c sponsors skating

Weekdays Hockey from 4 - 5:30 pm

at McCauley Rink

February, 2013

Lunar New Year at Lucky 97 site

noon at Chinatown

March 9, 2013

Winter Festival

Saturday, 2 - 5 pm

Sleigh rides, music and hot chocolate

at Giovanni caboto park

LATITUDE 53

Contemporary Visual Culture

Italian Centre

Shop Local

E4c

CHINATOWN & LITTLE ITALY

Business Association

Edmonton

2013 MCCAULEY SAFETY PLAN			A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH FOR SAFETY SOLUTIONS		
1.	EPS has focused efforts with CPTEDS and analysis of statistics.	new	• Annual plan completed with EPS	• Blitzes / raids / plan for disorder and as-saults.	
2.	Bylaw emphasis on vacant lots & absentee landlords.		• Eyes on the street initiated.	• BRZ to assist with wrap of garbage bins and EPCOR boxes.	
3.	N.E.T. Team has focused work on map-ping the community.		• Annual Plan is completed.	• Assessment of high incident areas.	
4.	United McCauley Crime Council sets goals.		• Businesses are engaged.	• Residents map out high incident areas.	
5.	Businesses are engaged in crime reduc-tion efforts.		• Events planned.		
6.	Residents assist in reclaiming the lanes.		• Clean and green program is extended over winter.		
7.	Good neighbour agreements are completed by social agencies.	new	• Social agencies negotiate good neighbour agreements with the community.		
8.	“BE INFORMED” education safety sessions are provided to residents and businesses.	new	• Panel discussions are coordinated by local residents.		
9.	Lighting assessment completed for McCauley community.		• Transportation provides assessment and schedules.		
10.	Know Your Neighbour	new	• Know your neighbour program involves businesses with residents.		

2013 MCCAULEY CLEANS UP PLAN

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH FOR KEEPING MCCAULEY CLEAN

1. DOWNTOWN PROUD	new	Contact David Berger at (780) 423-3122 April to Aug pick up of syringes/litter.
2. CLEAN AND GREEN RECLAIM THE LANES	new	Contact (780) 426-5600 Clean back alleys with residents. June to September
3. PICK IT UP		Call (780) 496-6778 Large items from back alleys. May to October.
4. BRZ CLEAN UP		Contact Ratan at (780) 423-2625 Cleans business area of the BRZ. June to August.
5. CAPITAL CITY CLEAN UP		Contact (780) 944-5470 Clean up of items, syringes, litter, and graffiti.
6. BYLAW ENFORCEMENT		Contact Bylaw Officer Brent Craig at 311 Accountability to businesses and homeowners.
7. BIG BIN EVENTS		Contact Capital City Clean Up at (780) 944-5470 May and September at Commonwealth Stadium.
8. BIG CLEAN AND COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY	new	Contact Capital City Clean Up at (780) 944-5470 Spring clean up of the area by citizens.
9. CLEAN STREETS	new	Contact Jane Molstad at jane.molstad@edmonton.ca Power washing streets in the spring.
10. COMMUNITY SPOTTERS		Contact Ray Bailie at (780) 424-6433 or info@efwc.org Everyone in the community can help out by spotting items that need to be taken out of the area. Please contact the appropriate person on the list.

A Multicultural Christmas



IAN YOUNG

Ability and Community

Living in Boyle Street and McCauley we have the advantage of so many cultures and it is interesting to see how each culture celebrates their traditional Christmas or other winter holiday. We have so many diverse cultures in our neighbourhood, with Chinese and Italian two of the most prominent ones.

The Christian children of China decorate trees with colorful ornaments. These ornaments are made from paper in the shapes of flowers, chains, and lanterns. They also hang muslin stockings,

hoping that the "Christmas Old Man" (Santa Claus, known also as *Dun Che Lao Ren*) will fill them with gifts and treats. The Chinese Christmas trees are called Trees of Light.

The non-Christian Chinese people call this season the *Spring Festival* and celebrate with many festivities that includes delicious meals and paying respect to their ancestors. The children are the main focus of these celebrations. They receive new clothes and toys, eat delectable food and watch firecracker displays.

The Christmas season in Italy goes for three weeks! It starts eight days before Christmas, known as the *Novena*. During this period, children go from house to house reciting Christmas poems and singing. In some areas, shepherds bring musical instru-

ments into the villages, and play and sing Christmas songs. In the week before Christmas, children go from house to house dressed as shepherds, playing pipes, singing, and reciting Christmas poems. They are given money to buy presents.

A strict fast is observed for 24 hours before Christmas Eve, and is followed by a celebration meal, including a light Milanese cake called *panettone* as well as chocolate. Presents and empty boxes are drawn from the *Urn of Fate* which always contains one gift per person. By twilight, candles are lit around the family crib known as the *Presepio*, prayers are said, and children recite poems. At noon on Christmas Day the Pope gives his blessing to crowds gathered in the huge Vatican square.

In Italy, the children wait until Epiphany, January 6, for their presents. According to tradition, the presents are delivered by a kind ugly witch called *Befana* on a broomstick. It was said that she was told by the three kings when Jesus was born, but she was busy and delayed visiting the baby. She missed the Star, lost her way, and has been flying around ever since, leaving presents at every house with children in case Jesus is there. She slides down chimneys, and fills stockings and shoes with good things for good children, and leaves coal for children who are not so good.

As for me, Christmas will include spending time with loved ones and my favourite part: LEFTOVERS!

Season's Greetings to all!

No Christmas Presents for Seniors



SHERRY MCKIBBEN

Catch 66

I recently experienced two events that again reminded me that seniors do not merit attention from this government. As a result, their stockings will be filled with coal.

The first event was a meeting of the Seniors Task Force of Public Interest Alberta (PIA) with Health Minister Horne. There were about 20 representatives from various senior organizations: local, provincial, and national. The first item for discussion was the critical need for nursing home beds in Alberta. There are approximately 500 seniors currently occupying hospital beds waiting for nursing home placement. This is a provincial wide problem. In some smaller communities up to half the hospitals beds are occupied by seniors needing this level of care. Keeping seniors in hospitals cripples the

whole health care system by using highly trained hospital health care workers to provide this non-acute care and backs up emergency wait times.

So the very first question the committee asked was: "Is the government going to be building additional nursing home spaces (as promised in the election and in previous statements)?" The Minister's answer was that the government is not going to be building many or enough.

What the minister actually said, was that they are committed to building 1000 private assisted living units per year for seniors over the next five years. These units will include the capacity to provide up to nursing home care premised on the principle of "aging-in-place." Sounds good, doesn't it? If I translate this, it means the government is going to arrange for 1000 units per year to be built privately and there will be some nursing home capacity. Optimistically there might be three to five beds in each facility or say 50 additional beds per year. It is going to take a long time before the backlog of seniors in

hospital beds changes. Many of them will die first.

The second event relates to Alberta Seniors Benefits. Alberta Seniors Benefits (ASB) is a financial assistance program for low income seniors. When a senior moves into a nursing home, their ASB subsidy increases by about \$300/month to cover the additional cost of that level of care. My mother was eligible for this subsidy but when I checked her records, this subsidy for which we had applied had not been given. It was only given after I advocated on her behalf. This week, I was visiting another person who had recently moved into this level of care and when I checked her paperwork, she also did not get the additional subsidy. So I phoned again! Would other seniors and/or their family members know that they should be receiving this subsidy and know that they have to follow-up and advocate?

This is only one of the many problems in dealing with ASB. Their service is terrible. I regularly have to wait on the phone a long time before actually getting to talk to a representative and that only after the ubiqui-

tous, "If you want...press 1, if you want...press 2" which many seniors have trouble hearing and navigating. The application process for special needs coverage, particularly for additional drug costs, requires some bureaucratic skill to maneuver. There are other easier options such as increasing Blue Cross coverage so the extra costs are covered in the first place. And, as happens in Ontario, all seniors could be sent information about this program so everyone is informed.

In talking with the other delegates from the various senior groups (at the PIA meeting), we all agreed that ASB was complicated, making it inaccessible for many seniors. Is this a purposeful money savings strategy? Many seniors I encounter don't even know this program exists.

I can't help but conclude that our government does not really care for its senior citizens. If you are a senior, my advice is that you cultivate a friendship with someone who can be an advocate or that you start educating your children, grandchildren, or nieces/nephews so they will be there to help you. You will need them.

*Happy Holidays
from all of us at
BMC News!*

This is Christmas?

KERI BRECKENRIDGE
Keri's Corner

I can hear them in the distance. I do believe those are jingle bells jangling just over yonder. It's either that or my seasonal psychosis is taking effect. It means the same thing either way. It must be Christmas time.

Now, I feel that I may have misrepresented myself in previous holiday articles. I don't hate Christmas. I enjoy the idea of having a space of time cut out of the year to spend with family and friends. I enjoy buying obscure presents that people will spend the rest of the year trying to figure out. I enjoy indulging in all the sweet stuff.

I don't hate Christmas. I hate all commercialism that we've come to associate with Christmas. I loathe hearing holiday muzak playing in the malls the day after Halloween. I despise that countdown of shopping days left until Christmas. I detest the commercials trying to goad me into buying more stuff than I can afford because if I don't spend obscene amounts of

money the people in my life won't know that I love them. Really, is this all necessary?

When exactly did Christmas become this great overbearing beast? When did this time of peace turn into a stress headache? I suppose it all happened when someone figured out how to make a buck off of it. What's supposed to be a time of serenity enjoyed with family and friends has turned into a monster of corporate proportions. This in turn establishes Christmas as one of the high stress times of the year.

Isn't that silly? This year let's do ourselves a favour and re-think our holiday priorities. Let's spend more time with the people in our lives then out shopping for them. Let's laugh more and stress less. Let's overindulge in those sweets with our friends and forget how to calculate calories. Let's just chill out and make a point of actually enjoying ourselves.

Outrageous idea? Well that sounds more sensible than spending too much time in the mall and getting more and more frustrated by your inability to find a

gift that expresses your feelings about a person. A material thing can't express your feelings about someone - it's inanimate! That sort of gift does not exist. You spent years trying to find it and it continually eludes you because it isn't there! So why don't you just go spend time with that person and tell them what you feel? Have a coffee, go for a walk, or just give them a call. Get out of the shopping mode and into the friendship mode and let the people in your life know your regard for them.

It's is time to revolt, people! Get out of the stores and into the streets! Put down those charge cards and pick up placards and let them know we aren't going to take it anymore! There's no sense in plunging yourself into debt over the spending frenzy that is the holiday season. Revolt! Revolt!

Okay, don't revolt but take it easy this season and remember to slow down and enjoy your loved ones.

Keri lives in Boyle Street. We hope her Christmas is filled with tidings of comfort and joy.



ISABELLE FOORD
Something Funny

Donald Trump declined to run for the U.S. Presidency because his hair was declared unconstitutional.

I'm tired of missing the bus because the walk lights at busy intersections take so long to come on. I'm positive the City of Edmonton has a special think tank devoted to finding ways to frustrate transit riders.

Isabelle is a writer who was a long-time resident of McCauley.



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TERESA SPINELLI
President
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Thim Choy, President of the Boyle Street Community League, received a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal on October 11. He is pictured here with The Honourable Donald S. Ethell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta. Supplied

Homelessness & Potholes in 1913

GARY GARRISON

I was snooping around the Edmonton Archives doing research for the McCauley historical walking tour booklet when I ran across an exchange of letters from 1913 that seemed remarkably topical a hundred years later.

The first is a letter from a concerned homeowner to "the hon. City Commissioners." It reads, in part:

Gentlemen,

This is to call your attention to the unsanitary condition of a half block of shacks and tents located on Sutherland (106 Ave.) between Ottawa (92 St.) and Syndicate (95 St.) Ave. There are approximately sixty families residing upon no more than ten lots. This is in the heart of the city. Will you be so considerate as to have your Medical

Officer of Health thin out this congregation and ascertain why that Department permits such a condition to be brought about. About one year ago residents of this particular locality found it necessary to make a violent complaint re this same place as the Medical Officer will well remember...

THE MAJORITY OF THESE RESIDENTS ARE *probably living here either because they cannot afford to pay the present high rents of houses or because they are unable to obtain a house sufficiently low in rent to suit their finances.*

[The writer goes on to complain about the street surface being] "defaced and punctured by the Department in charge of boulevards... Will you kindly have the holes so made refilled"...

Signed, D.H. Morin

The reply to the City Commissioners, signed by T.H. Whitelaw, Medical Officer of Health, says:

I visited this locality and personally inspected it and find the conditions not by any means so bad as Mr. Morin's state-

ment would lead me to expect. Only 24 tents or shacks are located on these 10 lots and one was unoccupied. Nine are occupied by bachelors who are absent during the day. Forty-eight adults and twenty-three children constitute the total number of persons living here, or 71 in all. . . Some of the closets were in a state of disrepair and steps are being taken to rectify this at once.

The majority of these residents are probably living here either because they cannot afford to pay the present high rents of houses or because they are unable to obtain a house sufficiently low in rent to suit their finances, if they are able to obtain a house at all.

Mr. Morin and his neighbours who are living in modern houses however have, it must be admitted, some justification for their objections to this colony. . .

In view of the high cost of living and the present precarious state of the labour market I am not in favour of taking any drastic action to compel these shackers and tenters to move so long as they continue to keep their premises in sanitary condition.



Boyle McCauley News



GARY GARRISON

Golden Orchid Restaurant
Vietnamese
10626 97 Street
(780) 497-8280

The Golden Orchid Restaurant is a bright and cheery addition to McCauley's restaurant scene. When I went there for lunch with two friends, the temperature had just settled into minus double digits, and there was a foot of new-fallen snow on the ground. The sky was a deep, dark gray, and so much snow was falling that we couldn't see downtown from 97 Street and 106 Avenue.

When we entered the Golden Orchid, the contrast with the outside was dramatic. The walls were a bright sunshine yellow with orange trim. The tables and chairs were black and red. The floor was brown ceramic tile, and everything was shiny, new, and clean, including the washrooms.

The menu was full of choices, 69 in all. My second friend is a vegetarian, so she asked about vegetarian options. The waitress said they had none, not even tofu. After we'd placed our orders, the three of us looked through a menu and confirmed that meat is in every meal and appetizer, with the exception

Pho Warms Up a Cold Day



A table full of food at Golden Orchid. Gary Garrison

of the green onion cakes. That was quite a disappointment, especially since this is where Padmanadi - one of Edmonton's few vegetarian restaurants - used to be.

I had the Beef Brisket and Beef Flank Pho, and my two friends had the House Special Rice Noodle Soup and the Grilled Shrimp with Vermicelli. My pho was hot and tasty, especially once I added a few leaves of fresh Vietnamese basil and a squeeze of lemon. The beef was very tender and in large, long, thin strips. It was tricky to handle with chopsticks, but the flavour

was quite pleasant. I was so hungry I managed to eat the whole large bowlful, even though it was chock full of beef and noodles. Normally, I would eat half this much and take the rest home for the next day.

The House Special also had plenty of noodles and was loaded with pork, shrimp, chicken, and squid. The friend who had it was impressed with the quantity and quality of meat and noodles and with the blend of flavours. My second friend said the peanut sauce she got was very good, and spicy too, "The way I like it." She commented that

the eight good-sized shrimp on her plate were more than she remembered getting at any other restaurant, and they were good too.

The service was prompt when we ordered our food, and it came quickly. But we had to wait a long time and then had to go to the counter to get our bill. In fact, the waitress didn't bother to come back to ask us if we wanted anything else or to give us the bill, which we all thought was odd since most of the other tables were empty. Nonetheless, it was an enjoyable and satisfying lunch, and it only cost \$9 per person.

McCauley Community League Update

ASCC Concerns

ROB STACK • President

“A ‘No’ uttered from the deepest conviction is better than a ‘Yes’ uttered to please, or worse, to avoid trouble.” - Gandhi

Happy December to all! Your friends and neighbours of the McCauley Community League executive wish you all the warmest and happiest in the Holiday Season and for the New Year.

October/November was another busy period for the League. We are exploring new options for our website and communications; slowly working on Block to Block; working with local business owners/developers on several proposals; working on policy for our rink and recreation programs; our children’s dance program; and much more.

A quick note on consultation and public involvement: having concerns over a consultation process or even urban planning, design, or architecture aspects of proposals is not opposition to a proposal. Once plans are approved or a building is completed it is too late. Many volunteer hours from members of community leagues throughout the city have been spent attempting to encourage high quality urban design, architecture, and public consultation. These are individuals who see their responsibility in society as an ongoing one and not a “set and forget” activity that is done once every three or four years at election time.

An important meeting was consultation on the concept of an Assessment and Sobering Care Centre (ASCC). This idea was publicly suggested by the Chief of Police in September as a new use for the Remand Centre. The meeting content was very general and at a conceptual level with no building, location, or even operational model clearly identified. Driving this is recognition by the EPS that the current model of service delivery for those in serious need requires improvement, that the situation is damaging individuals and neighbourhoods, and that it is inappropriately tying up EPS, Fire, and EMT resources.

There seems to be acknowledgement and acceptance that repeating or expanding what we have always done is not the solution and that locating services and housing in a small number of concentrated locations is not a good idea. That is reassuring but I don’t think many of the community volunteers who attended the meeting left feeling too com-

fortable with the ASCC concept.

There is a kernel of a good idea here but it could also go very wrong. The idea of efficient and coordinated assessment, access, and integration of service delivery is a must but it is also an idea that has been repeatedly funded, discussed, and processed to death without realizing the fundamental changes required. Even though EPS represents new leadership on this issue they will not run or establish the ASCC (whether virtual or physical) which likely leaves that to the same players who have failed to act on these identified in the past. It could be easy for this to eventually be yet another body added on, rather than be the systemic change needed.

Location and concentration remain major concerns. Even though over-concentration and lack of city wide service seemed to be well recognized, the conversation returned to the idea of a single point (city wide) and the false logic of supplying the service where the existing services are (the chicken and egg argument). When asked, “isn’t this already being done or what existing service providers say/are funded to do?” it appeared that almost all of this is already funded and under the purview of existing organizations, thus creating another level of bureaucracy and expenditure.

There remain the downstream problems of lack of detox space, scattered site housing, and an outmoded locational service model (rather than client/home delivery). The City and Province need a full plan and a new model that is clear, goal oriented, acknowledges potential impacts, and is empowered by the will and leadership to make real changes. We are encouraged that the conversation has started by someone other than us, and mentally preparing for the ongoing processes, meetings, and lobbying in which we will have to engage. As always, we are in the conversation for the long haul and willing to engage in the difficult conversations needed to achieve great outcomes.

Help your neighbours make your neighbourhood a greater place to live, work, and play. Join the League and volunteer. Visit us at McCauley. info or on Facebook at McCauley Community League. Contact us at info@mccauley.info, or (780) 428-5332. We would love to meet you!

Boyle Street Community League Update

We’ve Arrived!

MELISSA MILAKOVIC

It’s been a long and winding road. Some might say we took the scenic route but regardless of the road we took to get here, we have officially arrived.

The Boyle Street Plaza officially became the new home of the Boyle Street Community League (and the YMCA) in late November and programming is set to begin on Monday, December 3, 2012. This, of course, is very exciting not only for the league but also for our neighbours. The vision for the plaza is to become a hub of culture, art, and family where people from all walks of life feel welcome and have an opportunity to contribute to building a healthy and vibrant community.

With the holiday season approaching, it is fitting that we should be preparing to open our doors to our wonderful community in Boyle Street and Edmonton as a whole. The plaza is a symbol of hope and a new path for the future of Boyle Street. We have an opportunity to do something different, to take an innovative approach to building community from the inside out. This building can be a way of looking at old problems with fresh eyes, a space for creativity and humanity, for physical and emotional well-being, for people

to come together with a common goal of rebuilding and nurturing our diverse neighbourhood. The Boyle Street Plaza belongs to all of us. It is our responsibility to care for it and to breathe life into it in a way that will shine so brightly that we can truly stand in the heart of our fair city as a beacon of hope, a model of change and innovation, and an honourable example of what it means to be a community.

December will be a chance for us to get acquainted with our new home and for our community members to visit the plaza and try out some of

our programming. Consider the month of December a “soft open” and after we ring in the New Year, we will be running in full form. There is an opportunity to come check out the space and to take part in free programming on Wednesday, December 12 from 4-6 p.m. when local radio station, Lite 95.7, will be broadcasting on location as a part of their “12 Days of Christmas” event. Be sure to come by for a cup of

tea, some Christmas goodies, and a chance to participate in what is sure to be a bustling space. See you then and see you soon.

Happy Holidays from the Boyle Street Community League.

Melissa is the Program and Membership Administrator for the BSCL.



Casino Volunteers Needed!
April 19th and 20th.

It’s fun, social, and a great cause.
Email, phone, or Facebook to get registered.
We would love to meet you!

McCauley Community League

info@mccauley.info 780-428-5332



BMC News Editor Receives Peace Award

SARA COUMANTARAKIS

When the prophet Isaiah imagined a world in which people would “learn war no more,” I’m sure he never suspected that thousands of years later, humans would still not have figured out how to live in peace.

We haven’t, so thank goodness for people like Paula Kirman, 2012 recipient of the Salvos Prelorenzios Peace Award presented on November 6. The award is presented annually to an often-unsung hero who is making a significant contribution to peace and justice in Edmonton. The award is named for Salvos Prelorenzios who experienced the horrors of war and became a lifetime pacifist.

Paula joined sixteen past recipients of the award, many of them known to the people of Boyle Street and McCauley including Sr. Marion Garneau, Michael Phair, Jim Gurnett, Mike Tulley, Michael Kalmanovitch, Toh Swee Hin, and Change for Children. In accepting the award, Paula said that as a young child she pleaded with her parents for a camera and a guitar. Little did they know that



Paula holding her Salvos Prelorenzios Peace Award. Poushali Mitra

Paula would combine these with social media to connect groups and individuals “committed to bringing about a world of peace and justice.” She added video production and songwriting to keep the peace community connected. She believes it is her personal responsibility to choose between peace and war and show peace in her daily living.

The evening began with Prem Kalia receiving the Polovnikoff-Mokry Lifetime Service Award. Kalia didn’t speak about his life-

time of peace work as a classroom teacher, activist, and the person behind many peace initiatives in Edmonton. In his unassuming way, he was too busy congratulating others for their work.

Keynote speaker David Climenhaga (albertadiary.ca) spoke of the need for a media not dominated by “the bullies in the town square,” the name he has given to the right-wing conglomerate that controls most media in Canada. He even had a name for this proposed “paper:” *The*

Chinook, to bring a breath of fresh air and “give headaches to the ‘right’ people.” He described how the Internet has laid waste to the old business model of media and opened the doors for a progressive voice to be added to the public square. What is needed is money, persistence while a readership is built, and courage to hire good journalists to provide news instead of commentary.

Singer Terry Morrison, a well-known voice from the inner city, shared three songs in her low melodious voice, closing with a song about how words can “wing their way to freedom in a song.”

I saw the glow of smart phones as people checked discreetly for updates on the election taking place that evening, no doubt hoping that the winner and leader of our powerful neighbour to the south would join the “peace plot” the world needs and Paula exemplifies.

The event was organized by Project Ploughshares. For more information, visit www.ploughsharesedmonton.org.

Darkness and Light North of 60

JOANNE MCNEAL

Although our winter days in Edmonton are shorter than our summer ones, we take our daily light for granted. But there are places above the Arctic Circle that do not get light at all for a number of days or weeks in the winter. In the summer, they get 24 hours of sun. For people who live in the Arctic, the sun and its light and warmth, are important parts of their lives, legends, and traditions.

When I lived in Inuvik, Northwest Territories, for more than a year, I experienced the 24 hour darkness and sun first hand. In the winter, the sun does not come up from around Dec. 6 to January 20. At first, there is an eerie half-light around noon, but the very darkest days of total darkness come around Christmas. Those six weeks of darkness seem really long. When the sun finally comes up over the horizon, the people of Inuvik have a Sunrise Festival to celebrate the return of the light and warmth of the sun.

In the summer above the Arctic Circle, there are about six weeks of 24-hour sun. It was amazing to me to find children playing outside at 3 a.m. in full daylight. It is hard to sleep - the light programs our

“days” more than we recognize. Yellowknife has a Festival of the Midnight Sun in late June. In Inuvik, the sun goes around in a little circle in the sky, never going down below the horizon for six weeks.

I lived in Yellowknife, NWT, also during the winter/summer, and in Mayo, Yukon. Both are located a couple of degrees south of the Arctic Circle. In both places the sun comes up above the horizon for only a couple of hours during the winter days. There is a kind of blue half-light that one gets used to, but when I took photos, I was surprised at how blue the photos really were. In the summer it is the opposite - there are only a couple of hours of darkness, and it is not really dark, just dusk-like. In Yellowknife, the half-light of winter, as the sun barely rises over the horizon, created incredible red skies.

These facts of light and darkness

may seem strange to those of us who live in Edmonton. But to the First Peoples living North of 60, traditionally Dene and Inuit, there

THESE FACTS OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS MAY SEEM STRANGE TO THOSE OF US WHO LIVE IN EDMONTON. *But to the First Peoples living North of 60, traditionally Dene and Inuit, there are many stories and legends about how and why the light happens.*

are many stories and legends about how and why the light happens. These are woven around facts of a sun cycle that people all around the world experience every year to different degrees. As we enjoy this coming holiday season, note the importance of light in many of the stories and traditions from Canada’s North and other countries.

Dr. Joanne McNeal is a McCauley homeowner, who lived and taught in several Arctic communities between 1989 and 2006. She assisted the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik for 12 summers. Her doctoral research focused on Western Arctic Women Artists. She is preparing an exhibit of Arctic artwork for the Education Library at the U of A in January and February, 2013.



Boyle McCauley News

Community Classifieds

NEIGHBOURHOOD RESIDENTS GET FREE CLASSIFIED ADS! EMAIL 5 LINES OR LESS TO EDITOR@BMCNEWS.ORG



WECAN FOOD COOP
\$15/meat order, \$10/produce order. Annual Membership is \$5. Upcoming deadlines for payments are Friday, December 7 and Friday, January 4. Call David @ (780) 424-2870 for more info. Next depot dates are Thursday, December 20 and Thursday, January 17 at the McCauley Boys & Girls Club (9425 109A Ave.)

START WRITING!
Instructor – Dyan Semple
Drop in program for adults focusing on creative writing. Everyone welcome. Tuesday, December 4, 11
Location: Sprucewood Library (11555 - 95 Street)
Time: 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Cost: FREE
Please contact David at (780) 424-2870.
Sponsored by E4C, the Learning Centre and ECALA (Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association)

FREE HOCKEY AND SKATING LESSONS AT MCCAULEY RINK (10750-96 STREET)
Hockey for Kids – FREE lessons, skills and drills, and shinny games for kids ages 5-12 every Wednesday 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. from December until March.
Saturday Skate – FREE skating lessons for beginners of all ages every Saturday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. from December until March. We are also still seeking a few volunteers to teach skating and hockey lessons this winter! To get involved and for more information please contact David, (780) 424-2870.

HEART OF WINTER COFFEEHOUSE
Saturday December 15
FREE EVENT
7:00pm, Pacific Cafe
10876 97 Street
Featured performer is **Sebastian Barrera**.
Open mic segment for local musicians, songwriters, poets, comics and more! Coffee, tea and refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited. To sign up for open mic, or for more information please call David, 780 424 2870

MCCAULEY COMMUNITY GARDEN GROUP
Join us for a meeting to discuss design and allotment for neighbourhood gardeners interested in having a plot at McCauley's brand new community garden!
When: Wednesday January 16, 5:00 p.m.
Location: McCauley Apartments, Suite B08, 9541 108A Avenue
The new garden is located at McCauley School. Raised beds will be built in spring 2013. For more info call David, (780) 424-2870.

CHURCH AND AGENCY SERVICES

BISSELL CENTRE
(780) 423-2285
Adult Cooking Classes: First 3 Wednesdays of the month January – June 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Movie Night: First 3 Wednesdays of the month 5 – 7 p.m.
Haircuts: Tuesdays 1 to 3 p.m. (sign up at 12:30, first come first serve)
Victorian Order of Nurses: Thursdays 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Early Childhood Intervention: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. (reservations preferred) Drop-In: Monday – Friday 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Women's Lunch: Tuesdays and Thursday at noon
Parenting Classes: Mondays at 11 a.m.

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 Drop-In, Wed. 4-7 p.m. Adult Drop-In, Thurs. 4-8 p.m. Lunch: Monday-Friday at noon. Free repairs for eyeglasses every Monday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY
10527-96 St. NW
(780) 424-7652
Pastor Rick Chapman
Pastoral Associates: Sr. Marion Garneau, Linda Winski
Sunday Service: 11 a.m. - noon
Sunday Lunch: Noon - 1 p.m.

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
9606 – 110 Avenue
(780) 426-1122
The Rock Community Breakfast
Tuesday to Thursday 7 – 9 a.m.
Kid's Club. Monday 6 – 7:30 p.m.

SALVATION ARMY
9611 – 102 Avenue
(780) 429-4274
Men's Residence, Anchorage Addiction & Rehabilitation Chapel.

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
Evening Meals (Mon. – Fri. 7-8 p.m., Sat 5-6 p.m.)
Food Depot (Tues. and Thurs. afternoons 1-3 p.m., Wed. evenings 8-9 p.m.).
Drop In Coffee: Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Fri afternoons 3:30-6:00 p.m.
Evening Drop In (Mon-Fri: 8-10 p.m., Sat: 8-11 p.m.)
Community Support Centre (PAC) (10568-114 Street) Mon.: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tues.: 5 p.m.-8 p.m.
Closed Wednesday
Thurs.: 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
Closed for lunch: 12-12:30 p.m.
For more information call The Mustard Seed, at (780) 426-5600 or visit: www.theseed.ca

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
(780) 422-3052 for further info on anything listed here. Eucharist is held each Sunday at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Bimonthly programs available to prepare parents for their child's Baptism, First Communion and Confirmations. Traditional Native Wakes, in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit traditions. AA meets in the Parish Hall. Eating Disorder Group meets each week. White Stone Project and Edmonton Inner City Children's Project Society run their programs in conjunction with Parish programs. Gospel music festivals, dances, youth dances, pancake breakfasts and Feasts are held in the hall throughout the year.

THE LEARNING CENTRE LITERACY ASSOCIATION is seeking volunteer tutors to help adults develop reading, writing and/or math skills. Volunteers participate in group learning, tutor one-to-one, or assist drop-in learners. Skills and Experience: High school level reading, writing and/or math skills. Openness to tutor and learn with adults with various life experiences, including living with homelessness. Two locations: Boyle Street Community Services and Abbottsfield Mall. Contact: Denis Lapierre, Coordinator 780-429-0675 or email: dl.learningcentre@shaw.ca

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED
SATs is recruiting volunteer drivers to take low to middle income walking elders, age 75 and older, to important appointments. Call (780) 732-1221 or email info@satsofedmonton.org for more information.

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.

PARENT TALK, A PROGRAM OF BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS OF EDMONTON Weekly peer support group offers you the support, tools, and information to more effectively parent your children. Drop in, no cost; light meal and child-care provided. Transportation assistance available. McCauley Youth Centre, 9425 – 109A Avenue, Tuesday evenings 6-8 p.m.. Call (780) 481-1292 for more information.

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

NEIGHBOURHOOD PAINTING
Randy, 25 years experience, \$12/hour. Offering Indoor (year round) and/or Outdoor (seasonal). Some of the work I have completed is taking care of all the painting needs at The Rock/Breakfast Club. To contact me, please leave a message at (780) 426-1122.

WIRELESS NETWORKING
Are you tired of your street using you wireless Internet connection? I can set up your Wireless

Router and increase your network security. Call Kevan at (780) 983-5343.

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

MCCAULEY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (780) 428-5332
INFO@MCCAULEY.INFO

FREE GUITAR LESSONS
Instructor – Steven Johnson
Drop in lessons for all ages and skill levels. Everyone welcome.
Monday December 3, 10
Location: McCauley Boys & Girls Club (9425 109A Avenue)
Time: 8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Cost: FREE
Please contact David at (780) 424-2870
Sponsored by the McCauley Community League.

COMMONWEALTH COMMUNITY REC CENTRE ACCESS
All Amenities, Saturdays 5-7 p.m., FREE for members.

RINK HOURS
M-T-TF 4:30-9:30 p.m.
Wednesday 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Saturday 5-8 p.m. and Sunday 1-8 p.m.
FREE for members. In partnership with E4C and the City of Edmonton

CASINO FUNDRAISER
April 19-20, 2013: volunteers needed.



PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

RESPECTING TRADITION

December is a month of anticipation within our culture, leading up to Christmas on December 25. Everywhere we are inundated with 'seasonal' music and decorations, frequently designed to encourage people to spend money on gifts.

But there's more to Christmas than commercialism. Christmas refers to the birth of Jesus Christ, who is accepted by Christians as the Son of God, born on Christmas Day, crucified on Good Friday and resurrected on Easter Sunday. The holiday is tied to a specific event in history that is celebrated in December. There are many who don't believe Christ is God, believing instead he was a prophet or wise man, but there is no dispute he is the reason for the season.

There are other holidays in December of course, such as Hanukkah, but they have not had the same impact on our society as Christmas. Our tradition of gift giving began with the first Christmas and the gifts of the Magi and continued through the work of St. Nicholas (Santa Claus) in the fourth century to our Christmas gift-giving today.

That is why it seems well-meaning but rather misguided to replace the sending of Christmas cards with 'holiday' cards, or to wish someone 'happy holidays' or 'season's greetings' instead of saying 'Merry Christmas.' It looks like an attempt to avoid the fact that Christmas is about Christ, as if bringing his name into it somehow makes many people uncomfortable.

The message of Christmas, of 'peace on earth and good will to all' remains just as universal today as when it was first proclaimed. There is no reason to remove Christ from Christmas. Save the 'happy holidays' for a different time of year.

What do you think?

Please join us for our Christmas Open House at 9111-118 Ave. Wednesday, Dec. 19th, 3-7pm.

780-495-3261 www.petergoldring.ca

Candles for Chanukah



Chanukah, the Festival of Lights celebrated by Jewish people annually around the world, begins this year on the evening of December 8 and runs until the evening of December 16. Each evening after sundown, a candle is lit on the *menorah* until all eight candles are ablaze on the final evening (nine counting the middle candle, which is used to light the others). The holiday celebrates the triumph of the Jewish people over their enemies. When rededicating the Holy Temple, there was only enough oil to keep the lamp lit for one day, and the flame miraculously lasted for eight days. In addition to lighting candles, small presents are sometimes exchanged, songs are sung, and games are played with a spinning top called a *dreidel*. This photo shows two different styles of *menorahs* fully lit. Paula E. Kirman

Lighting Up the Square



The 72 foot (22 metres) tall Christmas tree at the northwest edge of Churchill Sqaure shortly after it was lit up during the Downtown Business Association's Christmas on the Square Holiday Light Up on November 17. Paula E. Kirman

BRIAN MASON, MLA

Office: 6519 - 112 Ave Phone: 780-414-0682



I want to thank everyone who joined me in pressuring the government to open new facilities in the East Edmonton Health Centre.

Thanks to your help, the centre's urgent care and family medicine centre are now open providing our neighbourhoods with more options for health care.

So thanks for standing with me to help our community!

Connect with Brian Online

Facebook.com/BrianMasonLeader

Twitter.com/BMasonNDP

Edmonton.HighlandsNorwood@assembly.ab.ca

www.BrianMason.ca

Councillor Jane Batty

WARD 6



“Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season.”

E: jane.batty@edmonton.ca

P: (780) 496-8140



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