

Edmonton Street News

ESN

Volume 8 Issue 11 2011



Vendors pay 50 cents per paper

Community Groups that offer Meals

Bissell Centre

10527-96 Street
780-423-2285

Inner City Pastoral Ministry

10527-96 Street
Lunch (sandwiches, fruit, veggies and desserts) Sunday noon to 1 p.m. after the church service.
Monday to Thursday
10:30 a.m.–sandwiches
Tuesday and Friday
noon–hot lunch for women
Friday 9:45 a.m. – sandwiches

Christ Church

12116-102 Avenue
780-488-1118
3rd Saturday of the month 5:30 meal

House of Refuge Mission

10339-95 Street
Daily 5:00 p.m. snacks
8:00 p.m. meal

Lighthouse Ministries

3010-119 Avenue
780-423-1277 or
780-474-8086
Wednesday and Sunday
1:00 and 7:00 p.m. meal

Hope Mission

780-422-2018
Daily 7:00-7:45 a.m.
breakfast
Noon-lunch
5:00 tp 6:30 p.m. - supper

All Saints' Anglican Cathedral

10035-103 Street
780-428-6323
Thursday 12:45 p.m., Lunch
Friday 7:30-9:30 am.,
Breakfast (November-March)

Marian Centre

10528-98 Street
780-424-3544
Daily except Wednesday
12:00-12:45 p.m. meal
Closed from the 27th of each
month to re-open the 1st of next
the month

Mustard Seed

10636-96 Street
780-426-5600
Monday to Friday 7:00 to 8:00
supper
Zero tolerance of alcohol

Operation Friendship

9526-106 Avenue
780-429-2626
Monday to Friday
9:00 a.m. breakfast
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon lunch
5:00 p.m. supper for seniors 55
and over only

Red Road Healing Society

4225-118 Avenue
780-471-3220
Tuesday and Thursday
5:00 p.m. meal
Frida -12:00 to 1:00 soup and
bannock

Robertson Wesley United Church

10209-123 Street
780-482-1587
Second Saturday of each month
5:00 p.m. meal

Sai Sadan

9619-101 Avenue upstairs
Wednesday 6:00 p.m. meal

Salvation Army

9620-101A Avenue
780-242-9222
7:00-9:00 p.m. lunch
Monday and Friday
83 Avenue & 104 Street (parking
lot |)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

9606-110 Avenue
780-426-1122
Tuesday, Wednesday and
Thursday
7:00-9:00 a.m. breakfast

St. Faith's Anglican

11725-93 Street, parish hall
780-477-5931
Thursday 12:30 p.m. soup
Saturday 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.
breakfast
3rd Friday of the month 7:00
supper

Victory Café and Soup Bar

13411 Fort Road
Monday 5:30-6:45 meal

Edmonton Orthodox Reformed Church

11610-95A St.
Info: Pete Wright 780-479-1860
www.orcurc.org
Thursdays 6:15 Soup & Study

B's Diner

100 Street & Whyte Avenue
Wednesdays 1-3 p.m.meals

Jasper Place Health and Wellness Centre

15210 Stony Plain Road
meals
Tuesdays 6-7 p.m.

Boyle Street community Services

7:00 a.m. daily, breakfast
11:30 daily, lunch

Edmonton Do Likewise Society

Wednesday 7:00-9:00 p.m., lunch

Important Notice

Edmonton Street News is published by the Edmonton Street News Society, a registered society in the province of Alberta. The paper is published monthly, and is sold on the streets of Edmonton and Calgary. Edmonton Street News is a member of the North American Street Newspaper Association and of the International Network of Street Newspapers. Edmonton Street News is not in any way connected with Homeless Organization of Canada.

Linda Dumont, Managing Editor,
Edmonton Street News



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EDMONTON STREET NEWS

Edmonton Street News
Volume 8 Issue 11 2011

Edmonton Street News is an independent publication produced by volunteers and sold by vendors on the street.

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Mission

Edmonton Street News Society provides a voice, employment and social support to those who need these, and communicates perspectives dealing with poverty and social justice, by education and communication activities, including publishing a street newspaper

Values/Beliefs/Guiding Principles

- We believe in being inclusive and encouraging
- We believe that human rights are fundamental to living together
- We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to earn and control their money
- We believe in journalistic and organizational professionalism and integrity
- We believe the public needs to know about issues around poverty and social justice
- We value community and connecting with others
- We value passion and determination
- We believe everyone deserves the opportunity to learn, develop and use communication skills

The views presented in this publication are those of the writers.

Editorial

Why does money mean so much? (And people mean so little?)

For months the soap opera of a new arena for downtown Edmonton has filled the media. Underneath the sometimes ridiculous details of this story is a question we do not want to address. Why has economic wealth come to be the all-important measure of power, success, value as a human being?

This has not always been the case in history or across the planet. Our wisest voices from every time in history and every culture have consistently said the real measure of the strength and health of a community is the treatment of the weakest and poorest people in our midst. Sitting in religious services our leaders solemnly assent to this, but once in action in the everyday world they consistently listen most closely and give first place to those who have the fattest bank accounts.

What about the arena? We have a city council desperately doing every twisted manoeuvre it can to find some way to make Daryl Katz happy. They do not want to offend this billionaire who will be disappointed if hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayer money is not delivered to make his personal pet project a reality. Sure, their efforts are cloaked in the bureaucratic gobbledy-gook necessary to make it look like there has been careful analysis and investigation of every detail of this deal so they can seem responsible when they move forward.

But the time and effort given to this project demonstrates what really matters. Let's make sure a man who already has so much he could buy more nice things in a week than almost all the rest of us could buy in the rest of our lives can satisfy yet another of his appetites. Let's commit large amounts of public money (in one way or another) to an entertainment palace where single tickets to most of the two-hour events there, sports or musical, will cost more than poor people in the neighbourhoods around have to spend for food for a month, to let a lot of moderately wealthy people have their fun and games.

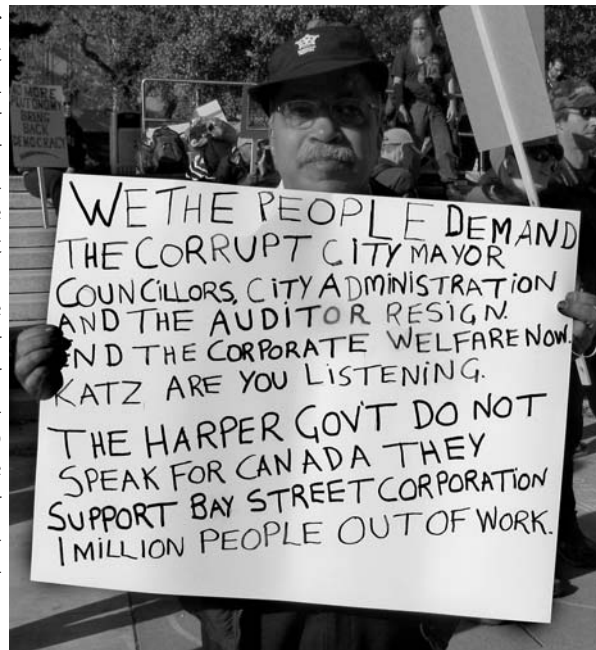
Meanwhile, the provincial government won't find a couple of million dollars to continue a rent subsidy program that means more than 700 Edmonton families are able to hold onto modest little apartments that would otherwise be unaffordable for them in the rising rent market and would perhaps fall into homelessness. Meanwhile the number of people who have lost their lives this year because of homelessness is on track to be higher than ever. Meanwhile the latest report is that food bank use is at an all-time high with children making up a significant portion of those living on peanut butter, tuna and pasta instead of a good healthy diet. Meanwhile, funding for English classes for well qualified immigrants who could be doing valuable jobs if they just had language skills, are being cut. Meanwhile rich Alberta remains one of only three provinces that do

not even have a plan to try to eliminate poverty.

The probable final announcement that a downtown arena is a go draws ever nearer. The eagerness of too many of our elected leaders to make that project a reality—while finding ways to ignore or downplay the desperate needs of the poorest and most challenged members of our community, needs that would cost a tiny fraction of what the arena project will cost—must be seen as the shame it is, and not just business as usual.

The Occupy movement this fall invites us

to think about important issues. Is a good life measured by the amount of comfort and luxury we can grab for ourselves as we scramble to be part of the privileged King of the Castle group? Or is it measured by the efforts we make to have fairness so that each and every person, regardless of "merit" has enough to have a modest, decent life? Jesus told us the love of money is dangerous. Gandhi told us the Earth does have enough for everyone's need, just not for everyone's greed. But in Edmonton alone the family incomes of those



Occupy Edmonton rally participant Adil Pirbhai carries a sign sharing his response to proposals for the city to help pay for a downtown arena.

in the poorest postal code are one-quarter of those in the richest postal code. Does that have implications for me?

Mark your calendar

Salvos Prelorenzios Peace Award presentation

Edmonton Room, City Hall

7:30 p.m. November 8, 2011

Marion Garneau will receive the 2011 award. Garneau is a well-known and respected part of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry team that works out of Bissell Centre with people struggling with difficult lives in the urban core. Aboriginal community leader and activist, Lewis Cardinal, will be the guest speaker.

The Salvos Prelorenzios Peace Award was established in 1996 as a tribute to an Edmontonian who never forgot the horrors of war that he experienced as a soldier during the Second World War. It is managed by a committee co-ordinated by Project Ploughshares Edmonton. The annual award goes to individuals in the Edmonton area who have made a significant contribution to peace, disarmament and human rights.

Thank you for your support

In October, Andrea Wolf Leg traveled from Calgary to the NASNA conference in Nashville by bus, and will report on her experience next issue. Thank you to those who donated towards her expenses: NASNA for giving her a scholarship to cover conference fees and expenses in Nashville, Linda Dumont for paying for her passport expenses, and Bonnie Hoffman for her donation.



ESN is on the internet

Visit our web page at edmontonstreetnews.com

Become a Facebook fan by clicking Like on our page at Edmonton Street News

Follow us on Twitter @EdStNews

Please help us serve our community and our readers by posting and sharing news, views, photos, videos, and links on poverty, homelessness, and social and economic justice challenges and opportunities.

A house is not always a home



Phyllis Sinclair has been nominated as Best Female Artist by the 2011 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, and her album, Dreams of the Washerwomen, has been nominated for Best Folk Acoustic Album.

Following a performance at a media launch for Homefest 2011 (see sidebar), folksinger-songwriter Phyllis Sinclair talks to Edmonton Street News about negative circumstances and positive personal outcomes of living Aboriginal and poor in a big city.

Phyllis Sinclair: My name is Phyllis Sinclair. I'm Swampy Cree, originally from Churchill, Manitoba. I currently live on a farm outside of Redwater, Alberta.

Edmonton Street News: You sang a song called Main Street. What's the background?

Phyllis Sinclair: After I got into songwriting, I decided to record because I felt that stories like Main Street needed to be told: to show that you can always find something positive to glean out of negative circumstances to make you a better person. Main Street is about my family's experience mov-

ing from a small-town Aboriginal community in northern Manitoba to Winnipeg, where my mother was forced to go to find work after the army base closed down in Churchill.

We found ourselves struggling to find a place, struggling to find a home, struggling to find a sense of identity and a sense of belonging in the city. We didn't know any Aboriginal families; we didn't know too many people, period. There was just the five of us: my mother, my grandmother, myself, my brother and my sister. We found ourselves supporting each other in trying to belong.

The only place that we could go to find people in the same situation who could relate to us was Main Street, between Logan and William. If you're familiar with Winnipeg, that is the deep, dark part of the city. But during the day, it was a place where we could find other Aboriginal people, shopping at places like Mall Foods. There were restaurants there like the Exchange Cafe, where Aboriginal people would gather. So it was through going down to Main Street that we found a sense of belonging.

We had a difficult time. My mother didn't find work right away. We often found ourselves going to the Salvation Army Harbour Light for Sunday dinners, because we either couldn't afford supper or it was a place to meet other Aboriginal families and support

each other that way.

My mother struggled in the city. There was a lot of alcoholism. My mother found herself succumbing to that, before she decided to hit the Harbour Light Mission and turn to God for salvation. That helped us find our way out of Main Street, because my mother quit drinking, and we were able to have a new direction.

ESN: In your introduction, you talked about encounters on the way to school.

PS: We didn't have much money, and the only place we could find housing was in the core area of the city. While it was fine during the day, it was a scary place at night or late afternoon. There would be predators driving around, looking for teen, child prostitutes. We were raised by a very devout Anglican grandmother, and she protected us quite well. We had the good sense to know that this was not something to participate in. Nonetheless, when you walked to school, you always had to have a wary eye.

Believe me, there were some strange people in that neighbourhood. It was the kind of neighbourhood that children should not be forced to live in. Children should have a home in a neighbourhood that is safe; where they can play without fear, where they know their neighbours, and where they feel a sense of safety and belonging. It took us a while to find that place. But when we first got to Winnipeg, we had to contend with all the things that go with living in a poor neighbourhood, where there's crime. We had to contend with violence.

Allan Sheppard

Richard Wagamese to headline Homefest 2011, November 6

Homefest 2011 Sunday, November 6

TransAlta Arts Barns, 10330-84 Avenue

Doors open 12:45pm for stew & bannock

Performances 1:30-5 p.m.

\$20 at Tix on the Square, 3 Sir Winston

Churchill Square

Homefest is a project of the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (ECOHH). It is a creative means of educating and mobilizing Edmontonians to get involved in demanding the human right to housing for every person.

Homefest 2011 will focus on the theme of

“home” and highlight the gifts of the Canadian Aboriginal community through music, spoken word, artwork, song, and agency displays.

This year's event features **Richard Wagamese** (Ojibway author of One Native Life)

Local trio Asani

Drummers Lyle Tootosis and Carol Fraser

Musicians Phyllis Sinclair, Jay Gilday and Jason Leo Tate

Displays of local artwork.

—Information supplied

Art From the Unknown celebrates Edmonton's diverse arts community

October marked the annual event, Art From The Unknown art show, from October 21 to 23 at the Old Strathcona Centre for Performing Arts. The show provides free gallery space for new and emerging artists to market their work and connect with community patrons. This year's show was hosted by Rachel Notley, NDP MLA, for the district of Strathcona, who believes that only in helping and supporting our communities can we build connectiveness. “We are what matters,” said Rachel Notley.

The gallery provides free space for new and emerging artists to market their work, and provides them an opportunity to connect with other artists, the community, and potential buyers. This year the number of artists doubled; where last year they had 30, this year there were 60 artists in total. Some of the artists were represented as part of a community support group, others were independent. There were three groups there this year, including L'Arche association of Canada, Edmonton Japanese art club, and Out of the Shadows. The L'Arche Association of Canada provides homes, and day programmes as well as clubs for the disabled who need to have a creative outlet. The Out of the Shadows artists collective is a creative arts program for adults living with mental health concerns.

The opening night reception for Art From

The Unknown was from 6 pm till 9 pm., Friday, October 21. The gallery was catered by a Lebanese restaurant, Café Beirut. The manager Tabet and his wife, and his helpers, Sarah Hopkins, Taryn Boos, and Tianna served the meal. Their café is located on 10812 82nd Ave, and they will be opening another café at 112 St. and Jasper Ave at the beginning of November. There were also musicians playing background music; from 6-7:30 p.m. there was La Rive Gauche, who played classical music; two cellos, and an accordion, and from 8-9 p.m. Brian McLeod played acoustic guitar with vocals. The symmetry of the art and the food and the music created an elegant grand opening for the Art from the Unknown.

Many of the artists attended opening night at the gallery. One such artist was Axcella Zelenstoa, who spoke animatedly about her art pieces, Wine and Cheese, Shades of Green, and Lime and Gin, all watercolours. She joined Out of the Shadows three years ago and has found her life more fulfilled. It has given her a creative outlet she might not otherwise have had.

Linda Dumont

Axcella Zelenstoa, one of artists showing with Out of the Shadows, stands with her display of water color paintings. Photo by Angelique Branston



Rachel Notley, MLA, takes time out to speak to an artist about his paintings at Art from the Unknown. Photo by Linda Dumont



Stolen Sisters Awareness Walk and Vigil



Photos Allan Sheppard



Statement from Amnesty International and the Native Women's Association of Canada calling for a national plan of action

(An excerpt from a joint statement read by Charlene Scharf, of Amnesty International)

The Native Women's Association of Canada has documented more than 600 cases of Aboriginal women and girls who have been murdered or who remain missing.

This violence has touched the lives of almost every First Nations, Inuit and Métis family and community. And it has moved Canadians from all walks of life to demand action. Violence against Aboriginal women is a national issue, one that must concern us all.

There can be no piecemeal solution to a tragedy of this scale. We are calling for all levels of government to work with Aboriginal

women and representative organizations to establish a comprehensive, national plan of action to stop violence against women. Such a plan of action must:

- Ensure Indigenous women's access to justice, including effective and unbiased police response to all cases of missing and murdered women and new investigations of cases where police misconduct has occurred;

- Improve public awareness and accountability through the consistent collection and publication of comprehensive national statistics on rates of violent crime against Indigenous women;

- Provide adequate, stable funding to the frontline organizations that provide culturally appropriate services such as shelter, sup-

port and counseling for Indigenous women and girls and their communities;

- Address the root causes of violence against Indigenous women, including by closing the economic gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people;

- Eliminate inequalities in the services available to Aboriginal children, in particular, through the child welfare system.

—Text supplied by AI and NWAC

Hearing the community's stories

On Saturday, October 8, about 100 people representing many organizations or attending as individuals gathered at Alex Taylor School to remember and honour the more than 600 Aboriginal women and girls—known as the Stolen Sisters or the Sisters in Spirit—who have disappeared or been found murdered in Canada and whose cases remain unsolved. After a short ceremony, participants walked down Jasper Avenue to the Shaw Conference Centre, then returned to Alex Taylor School for an open mic session.

Charlene Scharf, a representative of Amnesty International read a joint statement from Amnesty and the Native Women's Association of Canada that concluded with this passage:

"(W)e acknowledge that families must take the lead in this movement. Their stories need to be heard, and their initiatives supported. Relationships must be nurtured and further strengthened with other families, as well as with grassroots women and men, organizations, and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities across Turtle Island." (See sidebar for more of the Amnesty/NWAC statement.)


Edmonton Street News supports this objective and, in keeping with our mandate of providing a voice for people in need, we have chosen to transmit the views and statements of participants as they were given, rather than to report and in so doing interpret them. This coverage of the 2011 Stolen Sisters Awareness events has been lightly edited to conform to a modest degree with standard newspaper style, but with allowances for personal expressions of feelings and concern.

Allan Sheppard

Message from Tootsie Vivian Tuccaro: "This is a parent's worst nightmare..."

MISSING!

AMBER ALYSSA TUCCARO



AMBER ALYSSA TUCCARO
Last seen and heard from in around NISQU, Alberta
August 18th 2010
She is 20 years old, 5'7", Weight 165 lbs
She has brown hair with blonde streaks
She might be wearing a BENCH sweater (color unknown)
Amber likes to dress in all black

(Ms. Tuccaro is the mother of Amber Alyssa Tuccaro, who has been missing for more than a year. She sent a message from her home in Fort McMurray to be read by event organizer April-Eve Wiberg.)

"I would like to thank everyone on behalf of my family for the ongoing support for my missing daughter Amber!! **"SOMEBODY OUT THERE KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT MY MISSING DAUGHTER AMBER..PLEASE I BEG YOU TO CALL THE RCMP, 911, CRIMESTOPPERS OR MYSELF @ 780-750-5003!!!**

"How have I survived this without going insane is beyond me. This is a parent's worst nightmare, not knowing where your child is, is she safe?

"Is she being prevented from calling home or having contact with her family? Is she dressed for the weather. Is she eating, and the list goes on and on. But my biggest fear is 'Am I ever gonna see my baby girl again?' I have the most horrible dreams, have scary thoughts which I just push away. But I can't ever give up hope that my baby girl is out there somewhere and will be calling soon or better yet for her to COME HOME!! This is the most painful thing that I've gone through in my life, this was never supposed to happen!!! There are no words to describe the pain. All I want is my daughter back home with us. That's not much I'm asking for is it??"

"Jacob needs his mommy, it's not fair to him, he still talks and kisses her picture, that's the most heart breaking thing to watch *tears*."

"There are many what-ifs. I should've done and said this. Lots of guilt. But if I dwell on those things, then I will definitely go crazy, so I just think of all the good times which are plenty!! I have to keep HOPING, because that's all I have right now!! Please, if you're reading this and know anything about Amber please call, so that Amber can be home with her son and family!!!"

Statement supplied by April-Eve Wiberg

Words of Nicole Gladu: "Putting unity back into community"



"I have two nieces that were—well one definitely, we know, was—found murdered, and we buried her last year. One is still officially missing. She's been missing for seven years. Her parents still hold out hope that a miracle will happen and she'll show up. It's been extremely difficult for them, because they're in advanced age now, in their 80s. But they still hold hope that their daughter will show up.

"Of the 22 granddaughters that my parents had, two have been taken from us. Last night I downloaded their pictures from the internet. I cried, just because of the loss that the young people have, of not knowing their mothers as they're growing older. The moth-

ers who are deceased will never know their grandchildren. And I was thinking that it's more or less like a wake-up call, for me anyway. Like, what can we do now? And who is doing what? How can I join? How can I help in any way? These thoughts come.

"I like to see signs and people showing unity: coming to this walk, coming to these talks, showing their support, gaining more knowledge and information, and not feeling alone. That's putting unity back into community, something that we often stray from, because of work duties or other responsibilities that we have to do.

"But at some point, I felt I myself would take responsibility and start working with

young girls. If they're going to be at the wrong place at the wrong time, for whatever reason that they are there, how can we keep tabs or at least know who their friends are and what places they frequent? What problems do they have that drive them onto the streets late at night? What can we do? What can I do to put my understanding of the word unity out there? And I just thought, well, I've got to go out there and be with the people who are working hard.

"Like I said, the tears come and go, and and the questions and feelings, and the thoughts. That never really goes away. But in saying that, I would like to think more of what I can do as my share of prevention of this continuing. So there's a big question of what do I do from here on, and and I want to look toward the ladies who are actually working hard. And I really appreciate you letting me talk."

(About a week after Gladu spoke at the Stolen Sisters Awareness event, RCMP in Prince George charged 21-year-old Cody Alan Legebokoff with the murder of Gladu's niece, Cynthia Frances Maas (35), and and two other women, Jill Stacey Stuchenko (35) and Natasha Lynn Montgomery (23). Legebokoff was already in custody for the murder of Loren Donn Leslie (15) and, according to reports on the CBC and other media, RCMP are looking into possible connections between him and other women who have gone missing or been found murdered in the Prince George area.)

Statement transcribed and edited by
Allan Sheppard

Delia Quinney: "If I don't hear from my loved ones in a couple of days, I have to go out and look for them"

(Delia Quinney is the mother of Rachel Quinney (19), whose remains were found in a wooded area near Sherwood Park, on June 11, 2004.)

"It's nice to be here today to see all these wonderful people, brothers and sisters, grandchildren. I lost my daughter in 2004. It's very hard, day to day. Sometimes I get very lonely. Sometimes I go out to go look for her. And as soon as I hear something on the news about a missing woman, or man, or children, kids, it's scary to think about things, when these things happen when they're young, to our loved ones. If I don't

hear from my loved ones in a couple of days, I have to go out and look for them. My daughter, my son-in-law, my husband, my brother, sisters, friends. It's very hard. Every day I think about my daughter, and I think about the rest of the girls that went missing. It's very painful. There are times that I can't sleep at night, still waiting for her to come home. Still waiting for her to phone me. I'm here today to support the walk and be with everybody. We all walk in spirit today with our loved ones."

Statement transcribed and edited by Allan Sheppard

About the Stolen Sisters Awareness Walk

April-Eve Wiberg is the spokesperson for the Stolen Sisters Awareness Walk. She describes herself as a volunteer, activist and founder of the Stolen Sisters Awareness Walk and Movement. She says the Stolen Sisters Awareness Walk is a yearly event that honours and raises awareness to the hundreds and hundreds of missing and murdered Indigenous-Aboriginal women nationwide. This is a statement of her informal organization's mandate:

"We are a grassroots movement of united citizens.

"We recognize that all cases of missing and murdered women are important, but the fact is, nationwide, in our communities, there are predators among us that are specifically preying on our women and children.

"We want the violence to end...

"We want the missing to be found...

"We want justice and accountability...

"We want to walk with safety and dignity in our communities!"

Contact: stolensistersawareness@hotmail.com

Information supplied by Stolen Sisters Awareness Walk



Hugh MacDonald, MLA Edmonton-Gold Bar



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Read more ESN on the web

Read more ESN stories on our website: [Edmonton Street News.com](http://EdmontonStreetNews.com). Due to lack of space in the newspaper, we will be serializing our longer, personal stories on the web instead of in print, and placing extra photos on the web.

This month we have the next chapter of Sharon Spencer's story, Mama's Chickens, and we begin Rhonda Summers's story. She was a regular writer for Our Voice in the past, with a column titled Help Me Rhonda. She is currently living in a PIN house in the inner city, and has been writing her memoirs.



Occupy Wall Street movement inspires Occupy Edmonton offshoot

On October 8, Edmonton joined the growing Occupy Wall Street movement as close to 1,000 people demonstrated their concerns about the political power of wealthy corporations by rallying in Sir Winston Churchill Square to Occupy Edmonton. They later marched as a group through the downtown Boyle Street area and some eventually moved on to set up camp in a park at the corner of Jasper Avenue and 102 Street. The Occupy movement began in a park in New York's Wall Street area on September 17, 2011. According to Wikipedia, the occupiers were inspired by an e-mail, circulated by the Canadian web site Adbusters, that "proposed a peaceful occupation of Wall Street to protest corporate influence on democracy, address a growing disparity in wealth, and the absence of legal repercussions behind the recent global financial cri-

sis." Similar October 8 events were held in hundreds of cities across North America and almost 2,000 cities around the world. The occupy movement has so far been peaceful, non-violent and respectful of property. But occupiers who camp in parks in Edmonton and other cities technically break trespass laws and are subject to eviction or arrest at the discretion of landowners and police. Cold weather may also become a factor as winter sets in. As this issue of ESN went to press, the Edmonton camp was still in place, with around ten tents, 50 occupiers and many day visitors who come to show support and take part in study groups and general assemblies to discuss their concerns. Story and photos by Allan Sheppard For more photos on Occupy, Edmonton go to our website: [Edmonton Street News.com](http://EdmontonStreetNews.com)



Pink army of runners and walkers raise \$1,609,916.42 in the annual Breast Cancer Foundation's Run for the Cure

The CIBC 20th annual Breast Cancer Foundation's Run for the Cure on Sunday, October 2nd at Churchill Square, Edmonton, gave many breast cancer survivors more to focus on than just thinking about getting on with their lives and thinking about number one. Their victory in helping to defeat breast cancer has given them a new purpose in life. Along with thousands of others, who have been more fortunate, they took time out to help themselves, as well as others living with breast cancer, during the annual run.

The event was celebrated along with the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's 25th anniversary in honouring the contributions of its many employees and volunteers who have helped to make a big difference in the breast cancer community.

Title sponsor, CIBC, was also a part of the celebrations while at the same time celebrating its 15 years of participation as a title sponsor for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's CIBC 20th annual Run for the Cure.

One of the many breast cancer survivors who gave Edmonton Street News an interview was Gisele Yaceyko, 59. She was participating in her 10th year as a one-kilometre walk participant. She raised \$900 in pledges for the cause.

Yaceyko was once employed as a home care support aid and worked in the home care field for 12 years. Various forms of cancer run on her side of the family, and a number of her relatives have recovered through cancer surgery and other treatments.

Gisele was diagnosed for two types of cancer at age 47 in 1998: ductal cancer and cancer in her lymph nodes. She had seven cancerous lymph nodes removed from a total of 10 during a mastectomy surgery. She also received chemotherapy treatments to completely remove the seven lymph nodes. Before being diagnosed for breast cancer the married woman led an active lifestyle while rais-



Gisele Yaceyko is dressed in trademark pink colours, symbolizing the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's will to defeat breast cancer. She is a block away from the starter's line during her one-kilometre walk along 102 Avenue, approaching 96 Street east-bound, during the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's CIBC 20th annual Run for the Cure on Sunday, October 2nd, in Edmonton. Photo by John Zapantis

ing three children.

Her problems originally started with feeling sharp pains in her right breast. During that time, she also lost 20 pounds. Before her excessive weight loss she weighed 100 pounds, standing at around 4 feet, eight inches. Very concerned about her spiraling health, she checked with her family doctor, who recommended she receive an ultrasound to determine if breast cancer was the problem.

At first the results of her tests came back

negative, though the physician still had doubts about the test due to her deteriorating physical appearance, so she was referred to a surgeon who administered a needle biopsy, which detected positive for cancer cells along with the symptom of an inverted nipple that had turned inside, instead of facing outside.

Yaceyko was then sent in for surgery and had a complete mastectomy on December 18th, 1998. She continued with various treatments after that from January 1999 until the treatments were completed at the end of that year. To this day, she continues to take medication, once in the evening, which helps to physically stabilize her.

She recalls the day when she became emotionally upset after her diagnoses had returned positive for breast cancer, but when she realized that she wasn't alone, along with thousands of other Canadians experiencing breast cancer surgery, that made all the difference in her approach to life and family responsibilities.

Yaceyko said, "I was very disgusted, but I had a family. I kept my head up. I said, 'Other people have had it. I can fight it as well.' I just kept going and went through the treatment and I wasn't babying myself. I was still making meals and taking care of my home regardless. I kept a positive attitude."

She has strong words of advice for any woman or any man who may be experiencing problems similar to those she first started experiencing, just before being diagnosed for breast cancer. Yaceyko said, "Live each day to the best of your potential. Don't take things for granted. If you suspect there's something wrong, go get checked, don't wait, because sometimes it can be too late."

A morning opening stage ceremony was hosted by CTV television news anchor and Edmonton honorary chair Carrie Doll, who acted as MC, introducing several keynote speakers to the stage, while raising public Continued next page

Run for the Cure

continued from page 6

awareness about breast cancer and its impact on the breast cancer community

Keynote speakers included Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation Prairies/N.W.T. regional board member Shirley Forrest, CIBC marketing vice president Mark Galbraith, Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation spokesperson and breast cancer survivor Madena Reimer and Mayor Stephen Mandel, who gave his greeting while also presenting a proclamation to the City of Edmonton proclaiming October 2011 Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Edmonton.

Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation Statistics confirm both men and women are afflicted by breast cancer. Breast cancer is the most common cancer that will afflict 23,400 women and 190 men for 2011.

Estimated number of new cases of breast cancer for Canadian females by age in 2011 alone: 6,500 females 70 and up, 6,200 cases in women 60-69, 6,300 cases in women 50-59, 3,500 breast cancer cases confirmed for women 40-49. 965 breast cancer cases confirmed in women under 40. For men it's estimated that in 2011 alone, 190 men will be confirmed positive for breast cancer. It's known that men with breast cancer remain a little under one percent of all breast cancer cases.

Madena Reimer was also one of several keynote speakers who gave her emotionally empowered presentation, while making her point about having a new purpose in life. Midway through her long presentation, Reimer said, "It will be my permanent reminder, because now I can look at the scar and be proud of the battle that I have fought and won. Little did I know the day that I thought I was going to die, was the day I had actually started living. Cancer does not define me, but how I live and fight the cancer does. Every day I challenge this cancer and survival is a victory for me -- a victory for all of us. Cancer has made me brave. It's made me a mentor and made me a part of a lasting legacy. It made me want to fight for the cure."

Marjorie O'Conner provided a musical warm-up just before runners and walkers left for the starter's gate, located at the Chinese Gates at 102 Avenue and 97 Street. After the warm-up ended to get runners and walkers ready to leave for their respective routes, runners lined up at the Chinese Gate and left for their five- and one-kilometre run at 10 a.m., while walkers left the starter's line at 10:20 a.m. to walk a five- or one-kilometre walk.

John Stanton is a well known prominent Canadian business owner of 115 Running Room stores throughout Canada. He also promotes fitness and healthy bodies and was running for a friend who passed away from breast cancer. He's been a proud national sponsor for this event since it first started. In an interview with Edmonton Street News he elaborated on his passion in getting involved in making that difference. Stanton said, "I'm in my sixties. I pushed my granddaughter in

a stroller today. She's three years old. So grandpa was out there today with four of our grandchildren. Grandma was there running with her sister. I'm running for a friend that I lost and miss very dearly. We're all here for a particular reason. More importantly we're all here to show support for the survivors that are out there, but also to raise awareness for early detection. That's such an important message, because then we can create nothing but survivors."

Right after the ending of the run and walk, an awards ceremony was held awarding the top fundraising individuals and teams representing their schools in the local area.

Many of those who received awards were more concerned emotionally about friends they were running for, such as Karen McGowan who ran five kilometres with her team called Kelly's Law, while honouring the passing of her late friend, Kelly Mah, who passed away from breast cancer on September 19, 2011.

In an interview with Edmonton Street News she spoke proudly about her friend who died for all the right things. McGowan said, "Kelly Mah lived right. She did everything right. She didn't smoke. She wasn't a heavy drinker. She was of good weight and good age. This shouldn't have happened to her. It just goes to show that breast cancer attacks anybody, whether they're big or small, fat or skinny, smoker or non-smoker. Doesn't matter -- it affects us all."

Lorrie Becher and her teammates raised \$23,400. She and her team ran the five km run on behalf of breast cancer survivor Kristen Snow, who survived breast cancer treatments.

When asked in an interview about her friend's recovery, Becher said, "She's been a true inspiration and continues to be."

CTV television personality and MC Carrie Doll took some time off the stage in giving Edmonton Street News her views on breast cancer patients, either struggling or adapting to the idea of coming to the event. Doll said, "This is my tenth year hosting the run for the cure. I think for so many people that I've talked to, that some of them have told me there's no way some of them can come down here. I've talked to breast cancer survivors. They say it's too difficult. It brings up too many raw emotions. Others say they find comfort being with the masses. It gives them hope that there is a future without breast cancer. So you're going to see perspectives from all ends of the spectrum. Today I think that at the end of the day, people who do participate realize how powerful it can be. It brings a lot of hope out for them in the end."

Altogether 9,318 runners and walkers raised a total of \$1,609,916.42¢ at this year's event. 95% of the revenues raised will go to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's national office. The other 5% of those revenues will be used for the local foundation's programs, services and research.

Editor's car totalled in accident

My car was totalled in an accident on Saturday, October 8. I was proceeding through a green light when a truck drove right in front of me, going through a red light. Since I was driving a small Pontiac Tempest, there was substantial damage to my car, and his large rental truck was just scaped along the side. The police arrived, and called an ambulance thinking I would surely be seriously injured, but I suffered only a banged up shoulder and minor whiplash. I'm still in regular physiotherapy and getting nasty headaches.

The accident was traumatic enough, but when I called the insurance company, a cheerful voice said, "I hear we ran a red light." The other driver had lied to them to avoid consequences. I told them to look at

police reports, and their final conclusion was to rule it a 50/50 responsibility for the accident which means I get no compensation even though I did nothing wrong.

The other driver was a man from Grande Prairie driving a large 350 Dodge Ram. He had his wife with him to back up his statement. I wonder what kind of a person he is to hide behind lies to avoid taking responsibility for his actions. Does the man also lie to his wife about affairs or lie on his income tax and everywhere else he can to avoid consequences in his life? Does he also appear to be a good neighbour, give to the poor, and volunteer at his local church?

Linda Dumont



There continued to be a high prevalence of breast cancer survivors this year, along with the high turnout of runners and walkers and the 200 volunteers and generous local and national sponsors, who all united as one big pink army in the fight to beat an enemy called breast cancer.

John Zapantis



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PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

REMEMBERING AN EXEMPLARY CITIZEN

On November 11 at 11 a.m., Remembrance Day, Canadians take time to remember, to pay tribute to the more than two million who have served this country in uniform since Confederation, especially the more than 116,000 of them who lie in foreign graves, forever young. By honouring them we show respect for their legacy: our country - our freedom.

One of those two million, who served with distinction, was Bill Lesick, who passed away in September of this year. His story, from humble beginnings, says a lot about just what it means to be Canadian.

Bill was born in 1923, in Spedden, Alberta in the Smoky Lake district, of immigrant Ukrainian parents. He contributed to his province and to his country with great distinction, in a way that can best be described as truly honourable.

As a member of the Canadian Army he served in World War II, in Europe, helping liberate Holland with the 4th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards. After the war he owned and managed the Beverly Pharmacy.

Bill Lesick believed in public service. He was elected and served as Member of Parliament for Edmonton East, then served as Citizenship Judge. As a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Norwood Branch Bill was known to all as he chaired the Remembrance Day Parade at the Beverly Cenotaph for many years.

William George Lesick was a War Veteran, a Member of Parliament, a Pharmacist, a Citizenship Judge, a recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal and a Friend.

Like so many Canadian veterans, Bill Lesick was respected for his service to his country in war and peace. He will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends, especially on Remembrance Day each year. This year, pause for a moment, remember those who served Canada for the freedoms we enjoy today.

We must not forget.

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Private Agreement

Minister Catherine Edith Flamond has a private agreement with the following men and women acting as Chief of Police for the City of Edmonton, the Minister of Transportation for the Province of Alberta, the Mayor for the City of Edmonton, the Premier of Alberta, the Solicitor for the City of Edmonton and the Justice Minister/Attorney General for the Province of Alberta to view this agreement go to: <http://allcreatorsgifts.blogspot.com/2010/10/minister-catherine-flamond-gets-private.html>

Rob's Corner



Just memories

Memories. I hope I never forget. Memories of the good times and the bad. Memories of the people I've met and made friends with, memories of the first time I stepped onto a street corner with my very first street paper here in downtown Calgary, some 17 years ago. To say the least I was very scared and nervous. Memories of all the friends I've had over the past 50 and some years. Memories of Vancouver, born and raised, memories of my first rock concert back in 1972. Memories of all the good times I had in the pubs I used to hang out at! Memories like that are sure real and vivid to this day. Memories of my first high on pot. Memories of my first love or second love.

Celebrating another year with a coffee

I'm celebrating my 17 year as a street paper vendor here in Calgary and my first with Edmonton Street News, celebrating being with the same wonderful person, my partner Lorna, for the past 34 years; also celebrating that she put up with me so long. I'm

celebrating the fact that I made so many friends over the years, new and in the past, partly due to having a street paper to sell.

The Last Say

Just wanted to say how much I appreciate having another street paper to sell. It helps me and my common-law wife, Lorna, to get through each and every month. Also, being in Calgary housing sure helps out a lot, because without those two factors we couldn't make it -- having the paper and being in low-income housing. I'm pushing 61 now, don't have a vehicle, just use a bicycle and Lorna sometimes takes the bus to her doctor's appointments. Also, having a paper enables me to educate people, to let them know there is another world out there, and also gives me the opportunity to make new friends and to keep independence.

On a Special Note

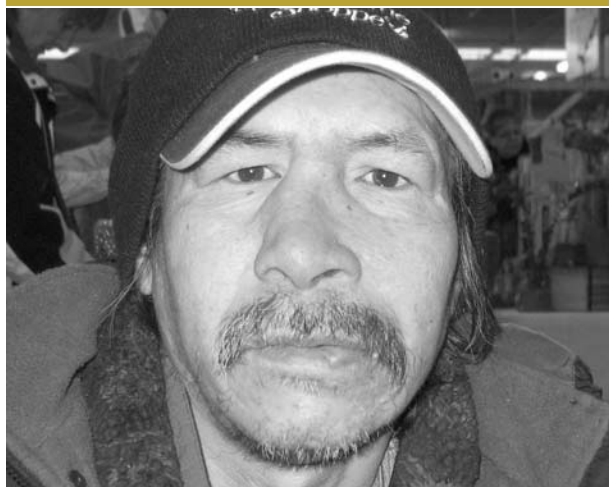
Just wanted to mention how much I appreciate having another street paper to sell. To me it doesn't really matter what it says on the front cover, as what is on the inside is what really matters. This is the fourth street paper I have sold here in Calgary. The first one for me was called Spare Change newspaper, based out of Vancouver, back in June 1994. Then in 1996 along came Our Voice Magazine from Edmonton, and in 1997 Calgary had its own Calgary Street Talk. Both non-profits gave up on the street papers, in Edmonton the Bissell Centre in 2005 and in CUPS in Calgary in July 2010.

Rob's say for the day

There are many ways to measure success besides owning a bunch of expensive material things.

Rob Champion

THEIR STORY: A Feature on Edmonton Street News Vendors



Victor

Victor Robillard sells Edmonton Street News every Saturday at the Strathcona Farmer's Market. He's been coming there every week for ten years.

Victor was born in Fort Chipewyan, Alberta in 1963. His family is Cree, and they moved to Edmonton when he was eight or nine. He had six brothers and two sisters, although three of them have now passed away. Victor doesn't know how they died. His parents are gone too.

Moving to Edmonton was a big change for the family, and he remembers that they didn't do anything but watch TV, until somebody taught them how to survive in the city. It wasn't a social worker that came to help them find a school and work. It was friends, who showed them to pick bottles and panhandle. It was friends who took them down-

town to meet others who survived the same way.

Victor is a self-professed alcoholic, and when asked if he preferred food or five bucks, he honestly asked for money to buy beer, or vodka, his favourite spirit. He figures he has been drinking every day since 1997, when his relationship with his common-law wife of eight years ended. He is homeless, camping close to downtown in the summer, using shelters in the winter. You have to be careful, he says, when you drink outside in an Edmonton winter.

To get by, Victor sells ESN, panhandles and picks bottles. Of all these, he makes the most from panhandling. He doesn't have to ask for money. He takes off his cap and holds it out. People know what he needs. Someone, he says, is helping him to apply for AISH and for CPP benefits, but it is difficult.

The Strathcona Farmer's Market is a busy place on a Saturday. Crowds shift, form, move. For the most part people ignore him. He blends in, standing quietly with his papers held out before him.

On this particular Saturday there is a table set up in front of the Youth Co-Op across the street. They are handing out cookies and pamphlets to promote a Racism-Free Edmonton. The pamphlet encourages everyone to learn about the history of racism in Canada, but history doesn't record the lives of people like Victor. Some would argue that ignoring the high number of First Nations people on the street is not racist. It's just, they would say, the way things go.

Eric Rice

Thanksgiving-Thank-you

October has past, and with it Thanksgiving, and Halloween. On the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, I went to the food bank and received canned ham and stuffing. Now, I know it was nice to receive anything, unlike those living in some countries that don't have such things as food banks, but if I were to rely on just that I would have had a very unabundant Thanksgiving. I feel very fortunate that I have people that regularly support me when I sell papers at the Farmers' Market, and it is because of their support and generosity (in spite of my accidentally falling asleep while selling papers at times because I have a hard time sleeping at nights due to night terrors) that I was able to buy a turkey, and all the fixings for that special day. We sat around the table and ate and talked and enjoyed each other as a family. We all felt very blessed. I realized that, if it weren't for your kindness, that day wouldn't have been possible. So I wanted to thank everyone for blessing me, and my whole family.

Sincerely, Angelique Branston.

Lawyers protest inadequate Legal Aid funding

Lawyers gathered on the east side of the Law Courts building on October 13 to protest inadequate Legal Aid funding and to advocate for increased and stable funding for the Legal Aid system.

Legal Aideprovides legal services for low-income people in Alberta. Due to the reductions in the Legal Aid budget, eligibility guidelines have been lowered to the point where even AISH recipients who receive less than \$1,200 a month to live on are often being turned away.

In our justice system, those who cannot afford representation still must have their interests protected to receive advice about their predicament and to receive legal representation. Inadequate Legal Aid funding means more unrepresented accused people appear in court (clogging the courts), much longer trials, and more miscarriages of justice with wrongfully convicted and imprisoned Canadians, more unfair settlements and the inability to pursue rights.

Marie Joki, the fighter

By Faidrah

She's always been a fighter, fighting for her rights,
Marching in life's battles determined to win the fights,
She stands up for her culture, she stands up for her race,
She won't back down for anyone, her enemies she'll face!
She remembers every beating; the physical scars are gone,
The emotional scars still remain with her, and she knows she must go on.
She's a very private person, a fortress she has built,
These walls are her protection, and she knows the feeling of guilt.
When her son committed suicide, she felt she couldn't go on,
Her close friends rallied round her, saying she must move on.
The doctor often told her, guilt you mustn't feel,
He was so determined to end his life; you must move on and live your life,
And I know your pain is real.
Try to be more trusting, this fight I know you'll win,
For you are still a fighter, unfair your life has been.