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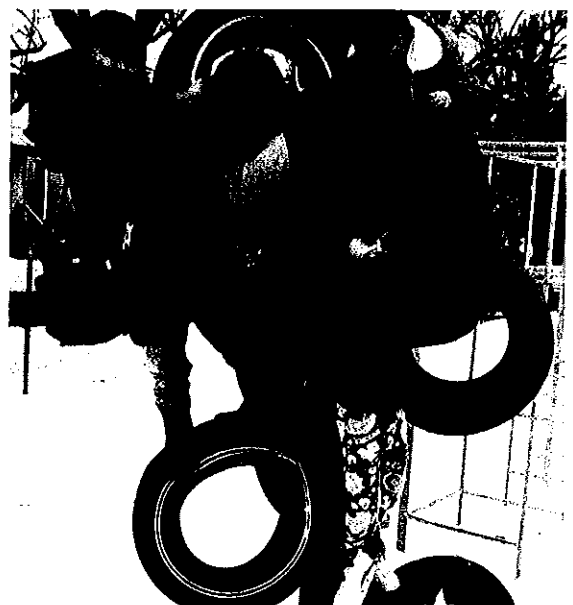
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## Inner City Realities



**INSIDE: Fire...Victimized Seniors...Growing Up In The Inner City...**



First Reading is published six times a year by the Edmonton Social Planning Council. The Council is an independent, not-for-profit organization, whose activities include social research, policy analysis, and advocacy.

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# Inner city boards lack native representation

By Sheila Kushniruk

There aren't many natives sitting on boards in the inner city. In fact there are two out of a total 75 seats with six inner city agencies.

For some, it's a sore spot. Inner city agencies serve a high percentage of natives, but they're not in on the decisions that can really affect them.

"There needs to be a recognition of the high user groups. It would just make sense," said Anne Manyfingers, native liaison for the Children's Advocate Office.

Jackie Fiala agrees. She is the native program co-ordinator at Edmonton Young Offenders Centre.

"If you're servicing that many aboriginal people, then surely there should be some input."

Over the years there has been some effort made to get natives on boards and that's positive said Fiala.

"There's a little bit of movement, but let's see if it's really going to be there for any length of time. For us it is not a fad."

Fiala sees the problem as a lack of effort by the boards and agencies to get natives involved. She said they don't understand Indian and Metis cultures and aren't sensitive to the differences. Instead she said the same natives are getting asked over and over again and it results in burnout.

Both Manyfingers and Fiala agree there is no better way to deal with issues and problems than to have someone with experience give their

input and help make decisions. "I have a hard time understanding why some of those people are on the boards when they've never experienced poverty. How can you advocate for it when you've never experienced it," said Manyfingers.

"We continue to think we know what other people need for whatever reason. We're blinded by the fact we've never been in their position or know what they feel."

Fiala said programs would be more successful if only natives were in on the decision making. "By getting them involved you are empowering people, doing it with them in partnership rather than doing it to them."

Carolyn Pettifer thinks it's already too late to get natives involved. She is the Metis Nation sector advisor for social services. She said it's time natives begin delivering services for natives, rather than band-aid solutions where agencies go from crisis to crisis.

"I'd like to see them acting as a resource for us and not us for them," said Pettifer. "It's a little bit late in the game to go out and start recruiting natives for the inner city boards. They've (the agencies) done a hell of a job, but it's not meeting the needs of natives."

But Richard Simaganis disagrees. He is native services specialist for Alberta Social

Services. He said some integration is needed. "We can't always go to native agencies for native services."

He said stock must be taken to find what's missing and what is needed and then move ahead.

"We don't need people banging their sabres. I get tired of these people and would like to see people with innovative ideas who are willing to turn over when things don't work and change when they're going against a strong flow or at least review their position," said Simaganis.

He believes agencies should redefine their roles and make the public aware of their goals and needs. Natives on the board must

find good people they'd do things such as sending notices home with school kids.

"Look at the expertise of these people. They know the issues. They've lived them...But instead we always have to prove ourselves."

She said the first time she served on a board was four years after she'd arrived in Edmonton. Up to that time she believed boards were political appointments. She said others on the board treated her like she just came out of the bush, some patted her on the head, some ignored her, but only one person treated her like a human being. She wishes people would see people as people and not just the color of their skin.

and Family Services child welfare program manager. He said natives walk away from boards because their ideas are not accepted. He said it takes a sensitive chairperson and agency director to effect a change. "We don't want to be just tokens. We need to be strong enough to go in there and say 'Hey, we're not going to take it.' Our people have to stand up."

Eva Bereti agrees. She has sat on many boards and she said she has often felt insecure. "If I know I'm doing some good and I'm not just there as a token Indian, then I want to do some good."

Barb Budesheim is an outreach worker at Boyle Street Co-op and she said the clientele is about 70 per cent native. She agrees there should be natives on every inner city agency board so the agency can understand the people it's dealing with.

"They have to reach out. The Co-op is putting a lot of effort into it and I wish other agencies would do the same."

Boyle Street Co-op has one native person on the board of nine. Hope Hunter is the director and she said there's obviously not enough natives on the board, but the Co-op looks for a balance on the board: an in-road to the power structure (meaning people familiar with accounting, legal fields, government and business) as well as links to the community where people have experience with the issues such as poverty.

"I don't think any board can say they have the right representation according to their user groups," said Hunter.

She said board members must also be apolitical and must follow the current mandate of the



*Christmas celebrations at the Boyle Street Co-op included a native drum ritual. Photo courtesy of the Boyle Street Co-op.*

be vocal, but be careful not to get outspoken.

Thelma Chalifoux has sat on many boards and she said the fact there are so few natives serving is probably not a deliberate attempt to keep Indians or Metis from the boards, but it's a lack of information. She said there is not enough advertising when a board position is vacant. She said if an agency was really determined to

Suggestions for change include making boards less rigid and trying to make natives more comfortable. This can be done by having more than just one native and by making it clear exactly what the position involves, what is expected of them, and whether the appointment is a paid position or not. The appointment must also be respected by other board members so the natives have equal say and input.

Brian Fayant is the Metis Child

detectors and smoke alarms. He knew they worked because when it got really hot in the summer, the alarms would go off. He remembers the escapes to be clear and easy to get to, which is often not the case in some of the inner city rooming houses.

Edmonton Fire Department Chief of Investigations, Dave Townsend, said the alarms worked and the building wasn't in that bad a shape other than being old and having barbed wire strung up over the windows when the investigators went through it.

The Exco was just one of the many rooming house accommodations in the inner city. James has lived in many of the other rooming houses. He said a lot of the places he lived in had no smoke detectors whatsoever. If there were detectors they were often too damaged to work. Fire escapes were even padlocked so a quick exit was impossible. He said he was never scared.

"If you live down here you become used to it. Your life doesn't mean much to you down here," said James.

He said about one in 10 rooming houses were all right. He doesn't mind mice because 'You can play with them,' but he doesn't care too much for the cockroaches which inhabit a majority of the inner city rooming houses. "You can't play with the cockroaches."

He said the heating systems are either not maintained or they are shut off, so in the winter it's freezing inside and out. The plumbing also leaves much to be desired. He said the water coming from a few taps is undrinkable.

James was kicked out of one place because he drew attention to the deplorable conditions. He was

tired of having the landlords cleaning up the places only when they were tipped off on an impending health inspection.

"You can complain to them (the landlords) all you want. They just say go live somewhere else if you don't like it."

Michael Cairns is the mental health worker at the Boyle Street Co-op. He said the fire hazards are cause to worry. "I don't know what people can do. I think we've been lucky so far."

In the Boyle Street area alone there were 17 fire-related injuries since 1989. In McCauley community there were 16 fire-related injuries and two deaths since 1989, compared to Brander Gardens in southwest Edmonton which had no injuries or fatalities in the same period.

Carol Junck is a housing worker for Operation Friendship. She said she has seen the worst the inner city has to offer. She remembers one place where a toilet was leaking into the floor below. The water from the toilet was

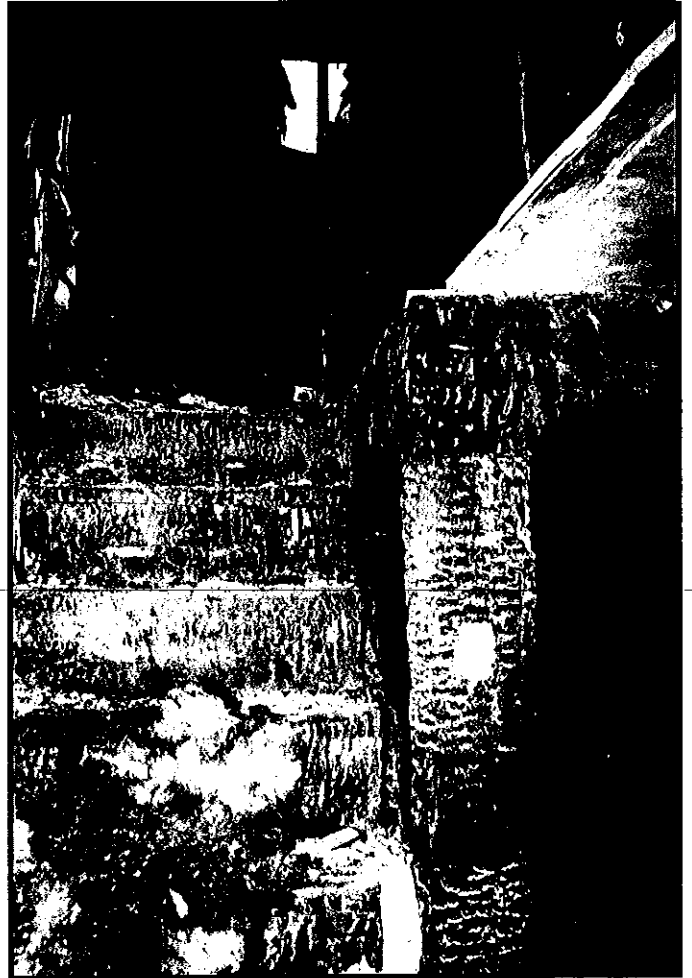
dangerously close to the light socket. She said a number of the places have bars over the windows to scare away thieves, but it can also block someone's fire escape.

"I think they're (the landlords) coming around a bit because there are quite a few buildings that have been

condemned just lately," said Junck.

The inner city is one of Edmonton's oldest areas and because it contains a large number of old rental accommodations and rooming houses, the buildings are often not up to standard codes and fire safety equipment is not adequate or not maintained.

Out of the 128 rooming houses in the inner city, 22 are



*A fire in this inner city home left several people without a place to live. Photo by Sheila Kushniruk*

unsatisfactory according to the Safe Housing Committee. The committee is made up of inspectors from the board of health, the fire department, building standards, social services, heating and venting, licensing, electrical and gas companies. The group was formed

to identify problems in the inner city, come up with strategies and implement and enforce their decisions.

Their first inspections occurred early January 1992 on three of the 22 unsatisfactory units. The landlord has appealed the decision which outlined numerous changes which had to be made or the buildings would be condemned or partly condemned. The appeal decision is not yet known.

Captain Tim Vandenbrink of the Edmonton Fire Department said at least half of the total 128 are acceptable if minor changes are made and about one-third are marginal and would require a few changes before they can be cleared.

He said the Safe Housing Committee gets together two days per month to go through the worst of the units. He said some of the same landlords are cropping up again and again, but the committee does not want to be interpreted as going after certain landlords, because they are eventually going to go through all the rental accommodations. "We're out to enhance and increase the overall wellness of the community," said Vandenbrink. "We didn't want to put a number of people out into the street or condemn buildings."

What they are finding are problems with fire detection systems. Some have been shut off, had batteries removed, or been ripped right off. Vandenbrink said there are often false alarms so that when a real alarm goes off tenants aren't quick to exit.

Chief of Investigations, Dave Townsend said other finds include windows broken or missing, ceilings caving in, no wash-rooms, no shower rooms, cockroaches, mice, no emergency lights,

no heating, no venting, carbon monoxide gas and no shut offs on gas devices. They have also come across people who padlock themselves into their suites and areas where there are excessive amounts of garbage.

Another alarming problem is exits which have been boarded up and aren't usable in an emergency.

Often the rooms are too small to permit a stove so hotplates are used for cooking and even as a heat source. This can also be a fire threat as the hotplates get old and over used.

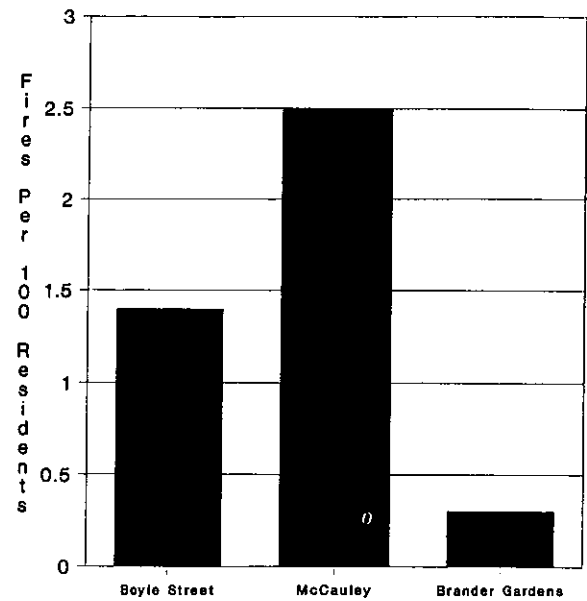
With all the clothing, bedding and day-to-day essentials packed into one room it provides the perfect fuel to feed a blaze.

Some tenants experience problems with excessive alcohol consumption, smoking, and/or substance abuse and are therefore more likely to fall asleep with a cigarette in hand. The scenario makes fires more likely said Vandenbrink.

But of all the causes, arson is the leading culprit in fires in the inner city.

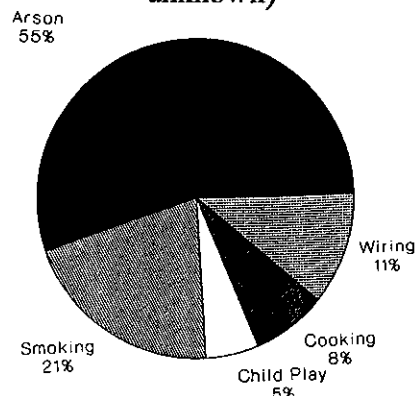
Other than the Safe Housing Committee, there are other initiatives underway. The fire department has a

### Fires in three Edmonton neighborhoods (per 100 people)



person on staff to liaise with the inner city communities to find out if special needs exist such as having fire safety information be made available in different languages. They are also participating in community events such as fairs to establish a better relationship with neighborhoods, instead of always being seen as the authorities who have buildings shut down and tenants displaced. Life safety is the priority.

### Causes of fires in Boyle, McCauley neighborhoods (excluding miscellaneous and unknown)



# The neighborhood

By Mark McCallum

Edmonton is often called the Gateway to the North, but it also introduces a lot of people to a new way of life that has little to do with the North.

My family arrived in Edmonton in the mid-70s from a sleepy, little community called Conklin, a remote Metis hamlet in northern Alberta only accessible by aircraft or train in those days.

I was still feeling the ill effects of the biggest move I had experienced so far in my 11 years. It would mean a lot of adjustments and I'd have to start over again, go to a new school and make new friends.

I thought it would be a good idea to start slowly and stay indoors for a while. Maybe, I thought, I should give my new unfamiliar and unimpressive home something special. Maybe, I told myself, I should give it a part of me so it will welcome my family.

I began unpacking. First my clothes, then my comic books, the extra parts of my bike, my slingshot and soon I was finished. But my new home was still a stranger.

I decided that if I was going to find any friendship, I would have to leave the family dwelling and get to know my neighborhood. It was a big decision, I thought, admiring my ability to handle the situation. This would, after all, be my first outing in the new neighborhood.

I learned quickly that I wasn't the only one who needed some friends. The buildings and apartments in my new

neighborhood were run down and needed a coat of paint badly. The sidewalks were dirty and the air smelled terrible. This was not the welcome I was looking for.

Moving to a new neighborhood or town was nothing out of the ordinary for my family. Once, I estimated we moved a dozen times in a six-year span. But, the North was just a dream now and I was growing lonely for friendship.

about my age were playing on a balcony that joined our two apartment suites. I was hungry for companionship, and grew restless watching them play and poke fun at each other. My only playmate since the big move had been my sister, who was barely out of diapers. I should introduce myself, I thought.

It took a moment to build up my courage, but I was confident.



*Growing up in the inner city is just like living in any other neighborhood - kids find playmates and try to keep out of trouble. Photo by Sheila Kushniruk.*

I returned home wondering what kind of people would want to live in a place like this. Were they all lonely like me? Did they have friends and family that they left behind, too? Were they dirty and smelly like everything else seemed to be in this foreign land?

I was still mulling over these questions later at home when I caught my first glimpse of our next door neighbor. They didn't look much different than my family. Could they be from the North too? I wondered.

Two young ones, a boy and girl,

I knew how to make friends—that was something moving around a lot prepared you for.

I poked my head out of our balcony door and the rest of my body followed reluctantly. The boy and girl immediately stopped their teasing and clowning around. I had their attention. I should say something clever, I thought. No, I decided, I'll impress them with my knowledge of Cree.

"Tansi?" I asked and waited for a response. I had already

deduced that they were obviously natives like me, and all native people know the answer to this universal question. Even the Chipewyan kids I met on the train that transported my family to Edmonton knew the answer.

"What did you call us?" said the boy, who made no attempt to disguise his suspicion. The girl just looked at me like I was from another planet.

"Nothing bad," I reassured them and translated. "How are you?"

"What is that? What kind of word did you use?" the girl asked.

"It's Cree," I said. "It's an Indian word."

"Are you an Indian?" the boy said. I nodded but said nothing.

What kind of stupid Indians are these anyway? I asked myself. Even city Indians know what Tansi means, I thought.

"We're from Chile, we speak Spanish," the girl said. "And my dad says we are part Indian, too."

We settled in our new home for some time and the boy and girl next door became my friends. In the years to come people from many different lands would move into the neighborhood. My friends were South Americans, Polish people, Italians, Vietnamese people and other Native people from the North.

We didn't have much in common at first, except that we all lived in the same neighborhood. Our neighborhood was the inner city.

*Mark McCallum is editor of Native Network News, newspaper of the Metis Nation of Alberta.*

The Edmonton Social Planning Council  
invites you to brown bag it with us  
February 26 at noon for

## Anywhere but here: Where should low-income housing be?

Alderman Brian Mason and developer Susan Barry will tackle the timely topic and field questions following.

Discussion will begin shortly after noon and will wrap up by 1 p.m.

So brown bag it with us

February 26

at 9912 -106 Street

in the third floor boardroom.

There is no charge.



## Order your copy today!

The 1992 Family Budgeting Guide will be available at the Edmonton Social Planning Council office within days.

The guide should serve as a tool for professionals to determine family budget needs.

The guide was produced in consultation with the Edmonton Board of Health and other potential users. It is an update to previous guides published in 1985 and 1987 which are now out of date due to inflation and cost changes.

### Family Budgeting Guide



Edmonton 1992

# Home is where the heart is

By Ken Lees

I grew up in the inner city otherwise known as the Boyle Street and McCauley communities. This area is situated between 82 and 101 Streets and between Jasper Avenue to 111 Avenue. My family

the Bissell Centre.

While I was growing up in the inner city, the area was populated mostly by native Canadians. There was also a wide variety of people of different ethnic origin living there. Like most cities, the inner city was where immigrants would settle. I remember

course street hockey. Every kid in the neighborhood was forbidden by his or her parents to go into the river valley (the bike paths had not yet been developed) but we did spend much of our time exploring. The terrain was rough and it was a real magnet for us. One of the many times I wound up down there I fell through the ice near the bank and sunk up to my waist in ice water. My mom gave me heck for that one.

I also remember a few street gangs. The "Boyle Street Angels" and another "The Tribe". These gangs were mostly older teens so younger kids avoided them.

I still run into a kid from my past. Billy was a couple of years older than me. I knew of him because he was such a talented artist. He'd do native free-hand drawings in ink or pencil and they were always good. Now he sells a drawing here and there just to live and support his habits. I'm still close to a couple of other guys who I grew up with. We all managed to stay out of inner city crisis and a couple of us even stayed in the community to work.

About 1975 the Bissell Youth Program opened and it provided us kids in the area with new recreational activities. At the time there were not many youth programs available except for the Boys and Girls Club in McCauley. I remember the staff being fun and taking us on outings like swimming and rollerskating or providing summer camps. These activities were all free except camping, but



*Young children enjoy the chance to play with friends, regardless of race, religion or economic status in life. Inner city children are no different. Photo by Sheila Kushniruk.*

moved into the area in 1974 and we lived in an apartment called Highland Court, which had about 200 to 250 units and a whole bunch of kids. Most of my childhood memories are associated with the inner city as I lived there from when I was six to when I was 12. I have many memories of my experiences in the inner city, but the two things I remember the most are the people who lived there and

when I was about 10 years old I got to watch a Chilean dance in our community. The costumes were very colorful and the dancing was great.

I recall that many families were on social assistance at one time or another. There was a number of single parent families, there were also more children in the neighborhood than there are now. Our favourite activities were bike riding or organizing our own games like football or baseball and of



that didn't cost much. The programs gave us opportunities to do things we would normally not be able to do. We also met new people and developed life-long friendships.

The inner city has changed a lot in the last fifteen years. The biggest change is the number of apartments. There are more now than there were then. Now the trend is to build expensive condominiums. Folks in the inner city cannot afford to buy condominiums. There seem to be more latch-key kids now too, kids who go home when there is no one else at home. My brother and I were latch-key kids, but now there's more programs where the kids can go after school. Another change is the development of the river valley park system. I wish it was there when I was a kid.

Some things never change. The kids back then were exposed to substance abuse and prostitution. The kids would always avoid these people.

The inner city is a very diverse and dynamic community. People living here come from all walks of life. The problems of the inner city are magnified because the problems of other communities are behind closed doors. I find the inner city more interesting than appalling. I see more life and character in this part of our city than in any other area.

*Ken Lees is a youth outreach worker for the Bissell Centre.*



# Inner city seniors prey for muggers

By Sheila Kushniruk

Pay day. It's usually a great day, unless you get beaten up and robbed.

For many inner city seniors the end of the month causes stress - stress from fear of being rolled for their money or from having their kids show up and take what they want, often abusing the parent.

The problem is most apparent in the inner city because there are twice as many seniors living there than in any other area of the city and because there are many socio-economic problems which contribute to the violence.

A 1988 study (*Forgotten Pioneers*) by Operation Friendship found about 67 out of 100 seniors had

*"A person don't have to be mean, but show you have no fear. If you show you have fear and begin to back away, you're beat," said Lou.*

been victimized in some way and staff estimated the actual percentage to be a lot higher as a number didn't care to admit to being abused.

Gordie LaRocque is co-author of the *Forgotten Pioneers* and he said the problem is very prevalent. "It's a constant thing seniors have to deal with - either someone taking something from their person or from their rooms."

He has had seniors tell him they are afraid to walk down their rooming house hallways to get to the public

washroom in case someone robs them. If they do venture into the halls they are afraid to leave anything valuable behind in their rooms.

Security is a problem in many of the accommodations. Inadequate locks on doors and windows make it easy for thieves, and seniors are most vulnerable because of decreased health. The two combine to make inner city seniors prey.

Joe Rokovetsky lives in a rooming house and has five locks on his room door. The locks weren't even tampered with the last time Joe was robbed. Someone with a key came in and took all his groceries, leaving him with a jar of pickles and a bit of cod fish to last him two weeks. He was forced to borrow money to restock his fridge.

Joe has been robbed three times for his money and he has three scars on his head to prove it. On one occasion he had just got his cheque and had \$420 on him when he was rolled. The police caught the robber and recovered \$375.

Another time Joe was knocked to the ground by a man and a woman, and they made off with \$3, leaving a \$20 bill on the ground as police gave chase.

His third robbery and third cut on his head came when a robber made off with about \$80 one night. In Joe's case all the robbers were strangers and all were caught. He has also had his ribs broken when a big fellow broke into his room and beat Joe as he lay sleeping - all for

money.

The incidents have scared him from going out at night. "You don't wear no neck tie on this street and you don't walk at night," said Joe or Rocky Baby as his friends call him.

Lou Kisfaluty lives in his own home in the inner city. He has been cheated out of \$540 from a supposed friend. This friend used to come every day to visit him, but when Lou was sick with pneumonia the man went to where Lou kept his money and took \$500 to add to the \$40 he had earlier borrowed. That was the last time Lou saw the man.

He has been approached by thieves and threatened, but with the aid of his cane he has managed to escape injury and robbery. "I'm not a violent person, but I have no fear from anyone as long as I have my cane... I won't attack anyone in my life, but I won't back away from no one," said Lou. "A person don't have to be mean, but show you have no fear. If you show you have fear and begin to back away, you're beat."

Jake lives in the inner city too and has been robbed twice - once where he was beaten so badly he was in a coma for 18 days. "I'm never scared. If they catch me a third time they'd better do a good job," said Jake.

Many seniors have taken to carrying weapons to try and protect themselves. "The problem is it's a futile attempt. They're not able, most of them to use a weapon in their defense. It ends up being used against them and they get hurt," said LaRocque.

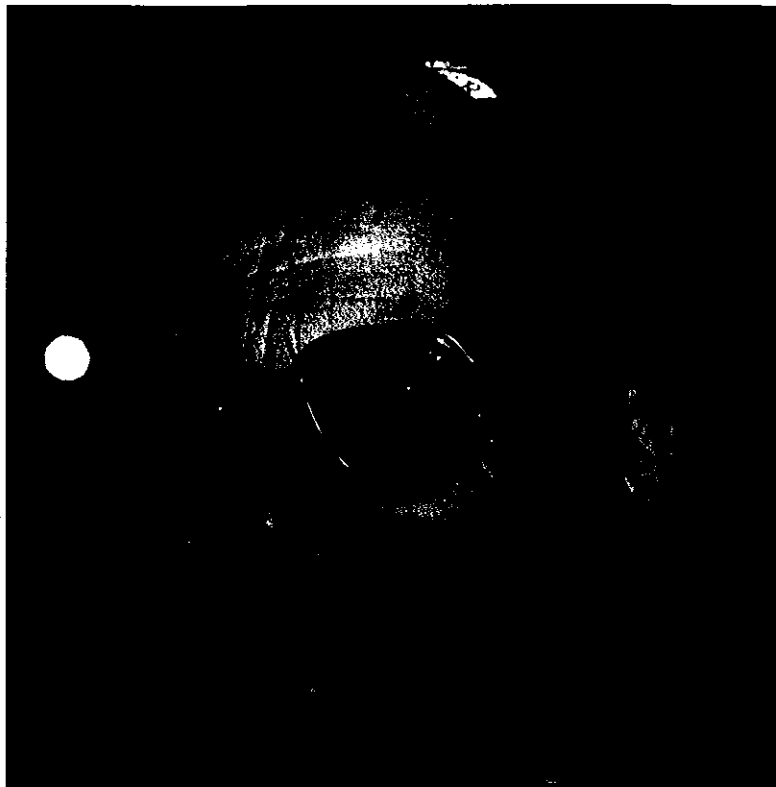
Oscar Vargas is the rooming house manager at Operation Friendship and he said he has confiscated two to three weapons a week, mostly knives. Both Vargas

and Rosalie Gelderman, an outreach worker at Operation Friendship, said many seniors will continue to carry large amounts of money with them even though they've been robbed. Alcohol and other substances sometimes play a part, as well as failure to take required medications.

The thieves are most often young people who are also victims of many socio-economic factors in the inner city.

Some agencies and landlords will assist seniors with budgeting or will keep their money in a safe place if they are requested to do so. The Bissell Centre even runs a small banking program in conjunction with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. However many seniors still choose to maintain their independence and manage their own affairs.

Dorothy has had a trustee take over her money to keep her kids from robbing her. One son admitted to police he had taken \$2,400 from his mom's hiding place. Dorothy said she had taken money out to buy one of her kids a car and before she was able to get the money back to the bank it was all gone. Five hundred dollars subsequently went missing and the son has never admitted to it even though he was the only person



Lou Kisfaluty owns his own home in the inner city and has had thieves attempt to roll him. Photo by Jonathan Murphy

who knew where the key was.

"I don't hold a grudge against him. It's just the idea of him stealing and not asking for it," said Dorothy.

LaRocque said the end of the month brings cheques and unwanted visits from family members looking for money.

For now inner city agencies have taken to setting up services to help seniors with their money, such as the banking program at the Bissell Centre. Efforts made to break the cycle of abuse in the home, more education on alcohol in the schools and better safeguards in rooming houses are also ways of approaching the problem.



**United Way**  
OF EDMONTON AND AREA

# Celebrating Canada's first urban native church

By Sheila Kushniruk

Over 300 inner city native people now have a home, a church home.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church at 10821-96 Street is now a native parish and it's the first real church for a congregation which started about 13 years ago in a school gym. By 1984 the Native Pastoral Centre had outgrown the school and moved to a warehouse where it could have weekly masses and some office space.

The move to Sacred Heart Catholic Church was officially made last fall, even though the Bishop offered the church two and a half years ago.

Chinese, Croats, Portuguese, Ukrainian and Spanish peoples have called the church home over the years until they grew in numbers to be able to sustain their own separate churches. Today it is the Indian and the Metis people and it is the first urban native church in Canada.

"I'm glad for the native people here in the city, not just the inner city, but the whole city," said

Marlene Durocher. She plays the guitar and sings gospel songs at masses.

"It's hard for them to go into a white church. I'm happy for natives in the surrounding area, that they have a place to go to praise God."

People of the First Nations and the Metis Nation celebrate inter-tribal rituals. There are Cree hymns on the

Every Sunday there is smudging of the sweet grass which summons native ancestors to pray together with the congregation and calls upon the creator to bless the ceremony. Offerings are placed on a blanket at the front of the church, allowing everyone from the children to the elderly to participate and give what they can. Coffee and fellowship follow each service.

To Lucienne Meek, director of pastoral services, the church is a place where natives can feel comfortable among their own people. "Sometimes you feel isolated if you are the only native in the church. You're more comfortable

with your own people. There is a sense of belonging and family.

"A lot of the congregation are poor and feel uncomfortable in a church where everyone is all dressed up."

Sacred Heart is different from traditional churches. It is not a stern, quiet place where crisp people sit and doze during long sermons. It's a joyous place where people meet, share and show signs of peace to



*Sacred Heart Catholic Church was officially recognized as a native parish at Sunday mass Oct. 27. The event was celebrated by Edmonton's Indian and Metis people. Photo by Paul Dolphin.*

occasional Sunday, but there are six peoples represented from time to time in the prayers: the Blackfoot, Chipewyan, Cree, Slavey, Dogrib and Metis. The services are in English and the odd Sunday will have English gospel music. Each service is different. Another Sunday may have drums, chants and sacred songs handed down from generation to generation. A Round Dance follows the drum mass.

one another. Music and the odd child's outburst fill the building and there's a genuine warmth, even if you're the only non-native person there.

For many in the Sacred Heart congregation it is a chance to heal old wounds. The Roman Catholic Church has long been involved with natives, but it is only recently the church has opened its doors to the cultural beliefs and rituals which are so important in native spiritual journeys.

"People today are realizing you don't have to be a European to become a Christian," said Father Garry LaBoucane. He said the first missionaries thought Christianity meant denying anything natives inherited from their traditions.

"There's a healing process through them talking to each other about what happened, but there are also people who appreciate the good work of the church," said Father LaBoucane.

At Sacred Heart nothing is imposed on the congregation. It is a blend of spirituality and Catholicism, a marriage of sorts.

The programs of the church are run by natives for natives. The fact the church is located in the inner city has influenced some of the programs, such as the one for parenting. A youth program has recently started to help kids aged 11-17 know how to get along in the world. The program has a holistic approach to body, mind and spiritual needs and deals with topics such as peer pressure and self esteem.

A living skills program shows natives what's available to them such as where to go if you're looking for a job or going back to school.

*Continued on page 24*

## June Sheppard Writes

# Poor must benefit

The centre of the city is often referred to as the "core", the "hub", or "the heart".

There's more than a little irony in the use of the word "heart" when you consider how heartless the inner city can be in many ways and in many places.

After World War 2 there was a heyday of city development. Some of the ideas were progressive, to be sure. But unfortunately, one result was a "ghettoizing" - a word whose original meaning has broadened to suggest divisions imposed on city residents according to their social and economic positions.

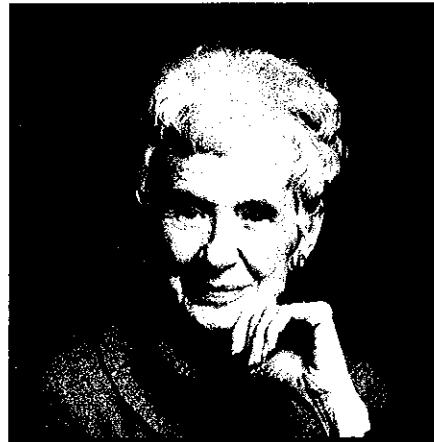
The inner city, existing close to the border of the metropolitan downtown area, became home to the poor, the low-income, the jobless and often the truly desperate in a neighborhood marked by a deteriorating environment in which housing was decayed, crime, vandalism, broken families were prevalent.

Although it can provide some sense of comfort and strength when neighborhoods are much alike in the inner city with similar backgrounds and origins, it can also raise the threat of racial discrimination as residents

bunch into segregated groups.

"Revitalization" has an exciting ring to it as part of the plans for urban development. All

too often, however, decaying areas and deteriorating housing don't qualify for such attention. Or if there is some upgrading and some new housing put up, for the poor and low-income households it



*June Sheppard*

means being "revitalized" into having no place they can afford - and in a tight housing market, no place to go.

Revitalization also meant the demolishing of many old, out-of-style buildings not considered suitable to the "new" look of the metropolitan area. In the past they often provided cheap accommodation in the upper rooms and lofts.

I look at 101st Street north of Jasper Avenue today and recall all the small-scale buildings with the low-cost living accommodation above the street-level store or office. All have been demolished. Where did those one room dwellers go? Where did those displaced from their cheap lunch counters

# from urban renewal

downtown find an affordable breakfast again?

The Zellers, the Kresges, the Woolworths, the Metropolitans have left. They provided clean, cheap meeting places each morning

the head of the Edmonton Transit system made his home a few doors from the coal truck driver; the manager of a downtown bank was neighbor to a professional teacup reader in a Jasper Avenue cafe; the fellow with the bread-

as well as a real need for subsidized housing.

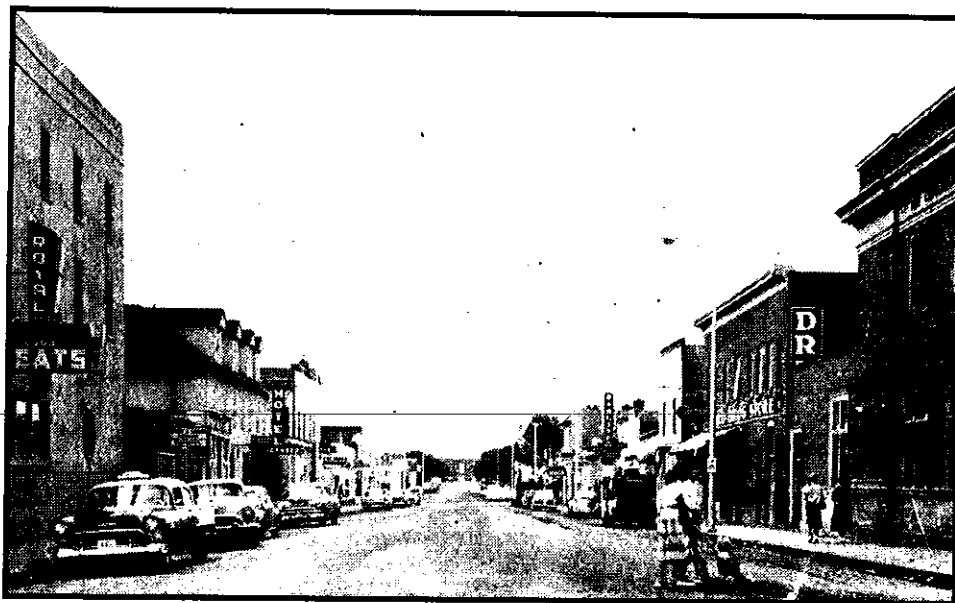
The inner city is also an illustration of the kind of exclusionary policies that marked the post-war development process in many places.

But is it not too optimistic to say that something more hopeful is beginning to happen. The awareness of need and more people in the area to help; agencies volunteer more practical services along with a caring presence.

Advocates area raising voices about issues such as absentee landlords and their indifference; explaining to the public and public officials alike what causes neighborhood deterioration; calling for native people to be represented on agencies working in the inner city.

Successful revitalization needs organization from inside the inner city together with committed co-operation from outside its borders.

It has begun to happen but still too many don't want to believe an inner city exists and turn their heads the other way.



Looking north on 96th Street in 1968. Photo from the City of Edmonton Archives.

as well as good cheap coffee for many with little change in their pockets. Where did these daily customers take themselves? A reasonable guess is to the "inner city".

In the Norwood area where I lived the first two decades of my life, except for the very rich and the very poor, homogeneous neighborhood didn't exist. We hadn't been revitalized yet!

The manager of Swifts' plant lived close to the garbage collector;

delivery route was directly across from a very well-known concert pianist. And so on!

Segregation became the new neighborhood pattern starting in the 50s. Indeed, social position and approximate financial worth could be accurately gauged by the type and location of a person's neighborhood.

And the words "inner city" came to take on a meaning all their own, standing for poverty, for the homeless, the unemployed, for hunger, for crime problems, for food banks and shelters,

# Inner city bids adieu to Rossdale



By Jonathan Murphy

Great mounds of earth flanked by monster houses and fancy condos are all that remains of the once vibrant working class community of Rossdale. Apart from a few forlorn little old houses waiting for the bulldozer, it's classic Edmonton suburbia. Huge tacky places with too many brass-plated fixtures, built on lots better suited for the 600 square foot hand-built houses they replaced. It seems like a sad end for one of Edmonton's most beautiful and historic neighborhoods.

Back at the turn of the century, Indians used the Ross Flats to trade with the first white settlers. Then, as the trading post turned into an established town, many of the prominent citizens built their houses down in the valley. Rossdale could easily have turned into a fancy neighborhood, had it not been for the flood of 1915. Their homes and business badly damaged, the wealthy retired gracefully to the top of the riverbank, leaving the river valley

to the riff-raff who couldn't afford a room with a view.

For the next half century, the river valley was home to those who didn't have enough property to worry about floods. Near the water, it also proved a good location for sewage treatment and power generating plants. The neighborhood only made the headlines when the clouds of smoke and ash from the power station became so bad that laundry hung to dry quickly blackened, respiratory and eye problems reached epidemic proportions, and the rink had to be closed. The Journal's Art Evans put it this way in a 1949 article:

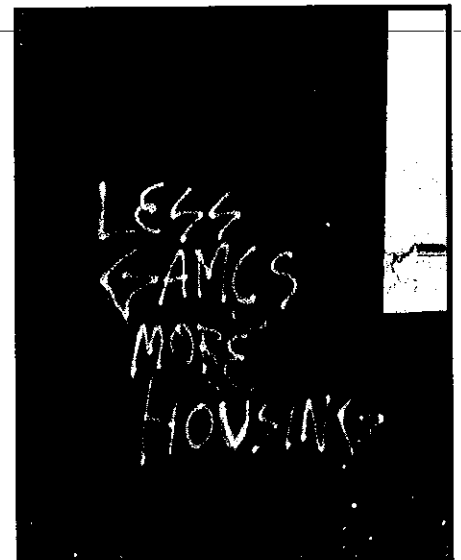
*"the rink is silent because it is closed and the reason can be read in the snow underfoot. The pure clean quality of whiteness is hidden underneath a dirty mantle of soot and fine cinders wafted from the belching smokestacks of the nearby city powerhouse. Clear a spot on the rink surface itself and underneath you'll find ice the color of ink."*

Rossdale was a nuisance to the bureaucrats. The little houses didn't contribute much in property taxes, pollution controls at the generating station cost money, and worst of all, the neighborhood was standing in the way of progress. Progress back in the fifties and sixties meant only one thing - cars. With cars came suburbs, and with suburbs came freeways. The river valley with its ravine system was the perfect place to pave over with concrete and tarmac.

Council decided to destroy Rossdale. Houses were to be acquired gradually through purchase and expropriation. What land wasn't needed for the freeways would be

converted to park space. The plan proceeded slowly but inexorably for almost twenty years. Meanwhile, roads were driven through the area, bisecting the community. Rossdale community hall was in the way of one of these projects, so the power was turned off without notice. Government was too busy to consult with the powerless.

The City expected Rossdalians to give up, to move to some of the beautiful new low-income housing being constructed for them in Abbotsfield and Jasper Place. After all, with incomes only 70 per cent of the city average (*Statistics Canada, 1971*), a preponderance of East European immigrants and Natives, and low



Inner city graffiti reveals the frustration felt by residents.

educational attainment (*City of Edmonton Planning Department, Community Profiles, 1971, 1987*), they would surely accept their fate.

As rulers more mighty than

Edmonton City Council have discovered, poor is not synonymous with stupid. The community league re-organized in the early 1970s, and enlisted the support of the new breed of reform aldermen who were replacing old-timer Mayor Hawrelak and his cronies. Bettie Hewes, Percy Wickman, and Jan Reimer represented a new vision for Edmonton. A city where people were not judged by the size of their garages.

They yuppied phenomenon was also on the rise. Yuppies wanted to live in quaint but sanitized surroundings, close to nature and not too far from theatres and bistros. The river valley was a perfect spot, as long as the west-enders didn't pave it over before they could move in.

The community activists and the yuppies seemed to have a convergence of interest. By 1983, they had a majority on Council. The policy of destroying Rossdale and Cloverdale was overturned. Alderman Lance White declared victory for preservation: "I can't understand how keeping some communities can be construed as a detriment to the river valley ... the degradation of the river valley, the paving over, will cease. I'm very proud to be a part of this today"

(*Edmonton Journal, December 15th 1983, B1*).

At last, it seemed that Rossdale activists had won. Percy Wickman spoke warmly of the need for social housing, and small scale infill development to replace the houses which had already been bulldozed (*Edmonton Journal, August 25 1983, B1*). But not everyone on the victorious



Old homes in the Rossdale community are being overshadowed by new monstrous houses.  
Photo by Jonathan Murphy

side saw things quite the same way. Alderman White, always forthright, welcomed the prospect of a "small scale" real-estate boom: "a river valley bylaw will do nothing but good things to the value of these properties" (*Edmonton Journal, November 2 1983, A1*).

Few listened carefully to veteran alderman Ed Leger's prediction that "when there's development in the river valley and we've sold off all the land to developers ... people will realize what's been done today and will criticize this council"

(*Edmonton Journal, December 15 1983, B1*). Most thought was all just sour grapes on his part.

The fiction of community preservation was kept alive a couple more years. In 1986, city planner Ken Johnson lauded the work of the community design architects: "they dealt with the community first as a community. They didn't

try to impose some grand scale project on these communities. They tried to ensure first that the communities were stable, viable, and then they enhanced them"

(*Edmonton Journal, June 9, 1986, B6*). Ominously, though, no restrictions were put in place to stop property developers and investors from simply buying all the available

land and houses for redevelopment.

Soon after, Alderman White's prediction of a real estate boom came true. The city-owned lots were auctioned off, fetching twice what had been predicted. Developers moved in and started building model monster homes. Too late, community activists like Pat Burkette and Rudy van Impe realized that their 'victory' was pyrrhic. They had defeated one enemy only to find themselves abandoned by some of their allies. "We have mainly very small

houses, bungalow style," said van Impe, "and I don't think those (new) houses fit in. Not only are they extremely large, but they're extremely expensive. We're going to get a completely different community now, only people that have lots of money can come in" (*Edmonton Journal, February 20 1988, B1*). As always, Burkette was less tactful: "we fought for years to save this community and we want it accommodated. Instead of encouraging residents to restore or upgrade their houses, the city demolishes homes and shoves tenants, the elderly, and low-income families out of the neighborhood to make way for developers" (*Edmonton Journal, February 29 1988, B2*).

It wasn't long before Burkette and her allies were silenced. She was replaced as president of the community league. Her successor, Jill Ross, soon revealed her plans for the area. She heard benches were to be installed "right across the street" from her new house, and "residents won't be able to confront suspicious characters sitting on the park benches even if they're staking out their homes waiting for an opportunity to commit a break-in," she complained. Alderman Hayter echoed the distaste many felt at the insular attitude of these newcomers: "next thing they'll be wanting is a big fence around it to keep out citizens from other parts of the city" (*Edmonton Journal, August 12 1988, B1*).

In 1989, one of the reform aldermen, Jan Reimer, became mayor. Perhaps stung by criticism which had been levelled at her by Burkette, Reimer pushed hard for

some of the remaining city land to be reserved for subsidized housing. All hell broke loose when the city planners visited Rosssdale to explain the new scheme: "Residents of Rosssdale and Cloverdale turned out in force Tuesday night to tell the city they don't want to live beside poor people" (*Edmonton Journal, October 30 1991, B1*). And the new residents found support from their aldermen, something that had been missing all those years when Rosssdale was just another poor neighborhood. Alderman Binder worried for the underprivileged who might be moved into Rosssdale: "the two communities don't have the facilities required by low-income families, like social service agencies or schools" (*Edmonton Journal, December 18 1991, B1*).

How ironic. Poor people built that neighborhood with their own bare hands, protected it against the freeway freaks, fought for healthy air for their kids, only to have it bought out from underneath them. Now they're not welcome any more. For their own good, of course.

In Edmonton, money talks. Loud. Very, very loud.

### Plans for improved services

Council Executive Director Jonathan Murphy is working with consultant Jack Sklofsky on a federally-funded project to plan improved services for aboriginal people in the inner city.

Jeannette Sinclair will be assisting the Council. Jeannette has a number of years experience working in the aboriginal community and is currently completing a degree in Native Studies.

# Global

*"I will tell the story as I go along of small cities no less than of great. Most of those which were great once are small today; and those which in my own lifetime have grown to greatness, were small enough in the old days" - Herodotus.*

The inner city, skid road. It means a lot of things to different people. To proponents of redevelopment, it is an eyesore to be eliminated. In its place, new development is proposed



Looking south on 101 Street in 1961. Photo from the City of Edmonton



# trends sap community vitality

which is believed to represent new commercial and economic vitality of the city. But the issues are more complex than that. Social disadvantage, unemployment, discrimination and poverty cannot simply be bulldozed away. Actually solving these problems will require a different perspective, one which recognizes the role of the inner city and seeks to restore the four square miles that make up the heart of Edmonton.

Some of the city's major arteries are integrally linked with the local history. Kingsway led to the St. Albert Trail up to Athabasca, Lesser Slave Lake, Peace River and on to the great northern river system.

inner city.

Hotels and rooming houses developed in the area to serve the men and women who made up the labor force for the northern and western resource

expansion. A service and retail sector especially geared to the demands of this group, including dry goods and hardware, blacksmiths, and the original Farmers' Market were also estab-



*Looking north on 96th Street in 1963. Photo from City of Edmonton Archives.*

Every city has an inner city. It is typically the oldest part, and its history reflects the roots and traditions of the city. A bit of Edmonton's history should put Boyle Street and McCauley into perspective.

A number of communities in Edmonton today were originally small towns near the city. Jasper Place was a farming community, Calder - railroading, Beverly - coal-mining, and Strathcona - the end of the rail and the base for the area river traffic. While not a town, Boyle Street was a coal-mining community and the early business district. McCauley was an early residential area.

Stony Plain Road led to the farming districts of Jasper Place. This road was also the trail of the trappers and traders of Jasper and the Yellowhead. The Calgary Trail was the link to cattle country and the CPR mainline; Fort Trail to the farming community of Fort Saskatchewan. The river linked Edmonton and Winnipeg via the York boat.

Edmonton has always been a gathering and distribution centre, serving northern Alberta and the Territories, and the trading link to Eastern Canada. From the time of the first trading posts, miners, trappers, prospectors, bush workers, railroaders, farmers, adventurers and flyers moved through what is now Edmonton's

established. The boom and bust nature of the economy is reflected in the historical development of this community. Early boom years at the turn of the century meant hundreds of new settlers from Eastern Europe. The war years brought the building of the Alaska Highway, and the oil boom that followed Leduc number one in 1948.

Each new cycle brought with it expanded roads into communities that were once only accessible by water and plane. This led to dramatic changes in these communities, the impact of which is still being felt.

During the seventies and early

eighties, people in large numbers came to Edmonton from reserves, Metis settlements, farms and small villages. Expanding urbanization, which triggers expanding economies, fundamentally altered the North, and that change is reflected in the composition of the inner city.

Today as we struggle with the internationalization of capital, the texture of the inner city is changing to reflect our growing ties to the Pacific Rim. Over the years, the inner city has been a staging ground for a wide range of economic migrants.

Newcomers to Canada and Edmonton settled in this area because there was affordable accommodation and cheaper, older commercial space to start up businesses. They built neighborhoods like McCauley, and raised their families here. The inner city is a transitional neighborhood. It is home to people who, for whatever reason stand on the edges of the mainstream.

Over the years, many have struggled and succeeded in gaining a foothold. But these days far too few

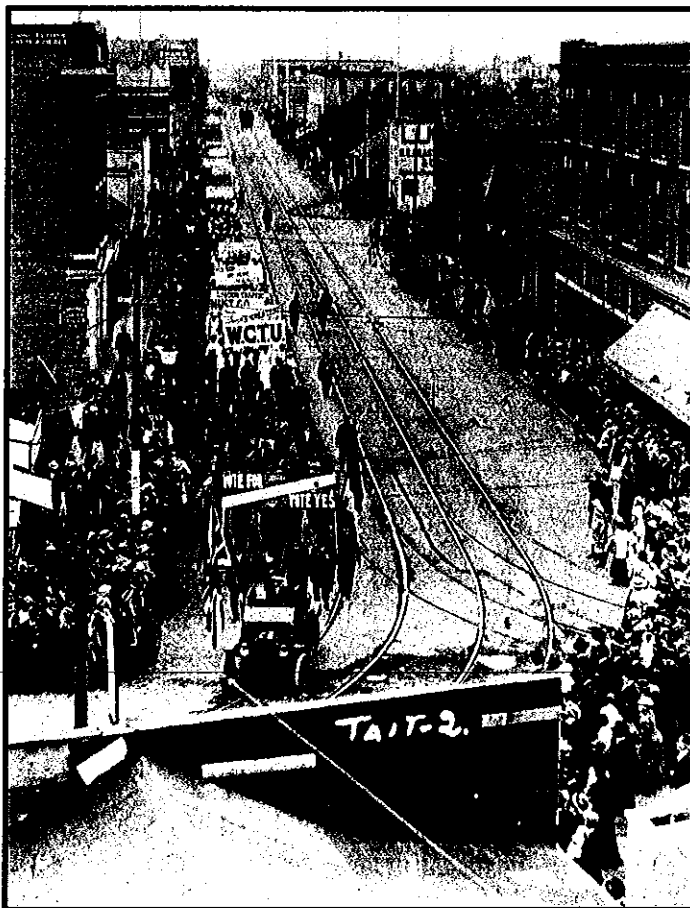
seem to be able to get ahead. No longer sufficiently valued for our ability to supply cheap raw materials, and unable to compete in the new valued-added world economy, our capital assets are rapidly depleting, and our physical and social infrastructure is

social problems.

The working people of the area are few and far between, their numbers diminished in comparison to the "clients", "ex-patients", and "ex-inmates" whose numbers only seem to grow. In many ways the inner city is a microcosm which magnifies the overall impact of the changing global economy.

The future of the inner city should not be determined by the wrecking ball. It should be determined through planning which recognizes and builds upon the historical link this community has with Edmonton and Western Canada. Only by confronting the issues of our failing ability to compete in a global economy, to make the labor adjustments required, and to resolve the role large urban centres play in relation to the surrounding areas, can we come to terms with the inner city.

*Alice Hanson and Nancy Kotani have worked on inner city issues for a combined total of 30 years.*



*Prohibition in 1915 was cause for a parade on 97th Street. Photo from the City of Edmonton Archives.*

eroding. The once affordable housing is now decayed beyond repair, and welfare and unemployment have replaced the resource sector jobs that were once the mainstay of the local labor force.

Commercial hotels, flats, and rooming houses give way to shelters and hostels, and jobs give way to a proliferation of social service agencies struggling to deal with complex and dumbfounding

## **Sharing Power in Edmonton: Taking Action**

A community empowerment conference will be held April 25 at the Centre for Education.

John Sewell, Mayor of Toronto will be the guest speaker.

For more information contact the Edmonton Social Planning Council at 423-2031.

# Milk for moms

Milk is vital for children, even before they are born. Expectant mothers are encouraged to drink milk especially if they may not be eating properly. For some inner city women it can mean the difference between having a healthy baby or not.

A new program is starting in the inner city - Health for Two: Mother and Child. It will provide milk coupons to expectant women who are in a high risk category for delivering low birth weight babies.

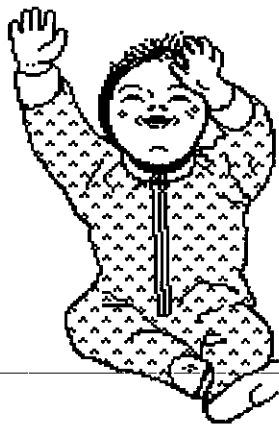
The Edmonton Board of Health is acting jointly with the Bissell Centre, the Boyle Street Co-op, the Boyle McCauley Health Centre, Terra and Safe House to provide the coupons to women. The coupon can be redeemed for a two-litre carton of milk at any IGA or Mac's store. Up to three coupons are given per week.

The pilot program will run to March 31, 1992, involving about 50 women. Nancy Kotani, director of health promotion for the board of health, said she hopes the program will be extended beyond March providing all goes well.

The coupons will be accompanied by some helpful information and counselling to give the woman some support through the pregnancy. They will receive an easy to read resource kit about them and their developing baby.

"It will strengthen the woman's ability to carry to full term and have a positive pregnancy," said Kotani.

For now the program is being offered in the inner city where low birth weight is a factor. A child's health is determined primarily by the birth weight and because there are many problems such as poverty and substance abuse, birth weight is often low.



Kotani hopes the coupons will also bring the women into the various centres often enough to monitor their health and keep them informed about the changes they are going through and what they can do to get more assistance. They can be outfitted with clothing, get a place to live and get food through the various agencies involved.

"Let's try to ensure, as much as we can, that a woman's nutritional needs are met," said Kotani.

The Edmonton Board of Health is paying for the milk, while Nu-Maid prints the coupons and liaises with the stores.

## Wild Rose Foundation comes through for needy kids

For several years, the Social Planning Council has planned to produce a companion to its popular *Other Welfare Manual*.

The new publication will focus on the child welfare system, and will be written so it can be used by a wide variety of child welfare clients, from teenagers caught up in the system to concerned community residents.

After several unsuccessful attempts to have the project funded by the government, we were delighted the Wild Rose Foundation has now agreed to pick up the tab.

Tentative date for publishing the manual is early 1993.



An Alberta Government  
Foundation

## Intercultural Education and Race Relations Fair coming up

March 27 is a day to reserve on your calendar. It's a one-day Intercultural Education and Race Relations Fair day at the Centre for Education.

There will be films, panel and discussion groups focusing on race relations, racism and youth and multicultural/intercultural education.

You can register by calling Carlos at ESPC - 423-2031.

# Malnutrition stunting youngsters

By Dr. Amy Borkent and Sherry McKibben

The physicians and nurse practitioners at the Boyle McCauley Health Centre regularly see children whose health, growth, and development suffers because of malnourishment.

Bradley was referred to Dr. Borkent for attention deficit disorder by his teacher. She felt Ritalin was necessary to control his disruptive behaviour. Bradley was in grade two at the time; his single mother was attending night school. This meant Bradley would get up by himself in the morning often arriving at school late. His difficulties included a poor attention span, disruptive behaviour with other children and a general difficulty at managing the tasks in school. Because his mother attended night school he was also responsible for his own evening meal which often consisted of potato chips.

The only decent meal Bradley received was a school lunch and this only when he had money. Examination revealed no attention deficit disorder but hunger and malnourishment were the problems.

The recommended treatment was a muffin and a glass of milk when he came to school. This improved his ability to function in school.

Malnourishment is different than undernourishment. Children

who are undernourished do not receive enough calories; children who are malnourished do not receive the required nutritional components for

Children are at risk to the long range impact of undernourishment or malnourishment from before birth (prenatally) to approximately



*These girls are helping to serve the snack to their fellow classmates. The snack program provides 4,217 Edmonton children with a nutritious snack daily, through the City Centre Church Corporation.*

healthy growth and development. Low incomes often necessitate the purchase of the cheapest foods which are often high in carbohydrates but lacking other essential nutritional components.

The major long term dietary deficiency for children is protein shortage. This occurs partly because the loss of vitamins and minerals can be supplemented while the loss of protein cannot.

Protein deficiency can result in a number of health difficulties and has long term growth and development implications.

age 15. During these years critical brain development is occurring and chronic nutritional problems can lead to impaired growth and development.

In effect children who have nutritional shortages are doomed from the start. They could experience developmental delays and other difficulties including neuro-developmental abnormalities such as personality disorders, difficulty with intellectual tasks, seizure disorders, and behaviour disorders.

The short term impact of hunger or malnutrition are an inability to concentrate, irritability, hyperactivity and other behavioural or intellectual difficulties. These children are also more susceptible to infectious and communicable diseases such as impetigo, colds and flu.

Clearly if children's nutrition is compromised their capacity to function and learn over a long period of time may be impaired. Malnourished or undernourished children have more difficulty at school; and are likely to leave school early. They are then ill equipped for adult life and may not have the skills necessary to productively participate in adult life.

Young adolescent women present a special problem. The current ethos suggests that ideally women should be thin. This mean adolescent women often sacrifice their long term health to reach this ideal. This could impair their long term intellectual capacity, learning and general functioning. When these young women come from poor families their diet is further compromised. This could result in greater intellectual and learning impairment.

The poverty of children's parents complicated by insufficient information about proper nutrition contribute to the long term nutritional problems experienced by children.

Developing solutions to the problems of inadequate nutrition for children requires both the maintenance of an adequate income to assure that nutritional requirements can be met coupled with opportunities for parents with

the necessary knowledge and skills to acquire these. Such opportunities would need to assist parents with the tasks of budgeting their limited incomes and providing adequate nutrition for their children.

Community kitchens are a good example of such a program. School lunch and snack programs also provide an immediate relief for children's hunger.

It is the experience at the Health Centre that parents who live in poverty often have to deal with multiple problems. Their children's long term nutritional needs may well not be the top priority particularly when they do not know what good nutrition is.

Because these children are more susceptible to illness, the parents' attention often focuses around managing or dealing with the immediate presenting health problem.

For low income working parents, their children's illness can result in the loss of pay while they take their children to the doctor or stay home to care for them. This pay loss may further worsen their financial situation. Parents managing on limited incomes may not only have to cope with the ill health and behavioral difficulties of their children but with their own guilt and frustration at not being able to meet the immediate needs of children.

There are children living in the inner city whose growth and development is being impaired because of malnutrition. Sufficient family income to meet nutritional needs must

be assured. In addition, parents without knowledge and skills need access to programs which will increase their abilities. Interim measures such as school snack programs and the prenatal milk distribution program will help to



*Twenty one Edmonton schools participate in the snack program. Photo courtesy of City Centre Church Corporation.*

mitigate some of the immediate nutritional deficiencies.

If today's children are malnourished; tomorrow's adults will be limited in their capacities.

*Sherry McKibben is the health coordinator at the Boyle McCauley Health Centre and Dr. Amy Borkent is a physician at the Centre.*

TO:

From: Edmonton Social Planning Council  
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Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 1C5  
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Second Class Mail Registration Number 6390 i.d. 12/91

*Continued from page 14*

“We hope to empower people, focus on who they are and also on cultural things as well as healing,” said Meek.

Another youth program for teenagers over-17 is also part of the church’s outreach. People can come together, share life stories, prayers and gospel music and support each other.

Father LaBoucane also takes some volunteers out to the jail to visit with native prisoners and to hospitals as well.

All the programs are run by volunteers.

As the congregation steadily grows so does the faith. Outreach to people on the inner city streets will continue in the form of food offerings and a place to come where they can talk about their lives and get help if they so desire.

## Who's new at E.S.P.C.

Angela McKinnon has joined the staff at the Council. She comes with experience as a legal secretary. Angela teaches part time at the Career College and has a one-year diploma from Grant McEwan College in arts administration.

Angela is taking over from Kathie Sutherland who has left the Council to find work closer to her home in Fort Saskatchewan. We wish Kathie all the best.



**Angela McKinnon**

The Council also said good-bye to Diane Goodall, executive assistant. After three years with

the Council we are sorry to lose her. We wish her well in her own consulting business. We welcome Alison Roppel, who will take over for Diane February 24.

### Council awarded national research grant

Social Planning Council Board and staff were delighted to receive a rare bit of good news from the federal government. We have been awarded a major research grant from National Health and Welfare to assess the impact of employment trends away from full-time salaried work to casual and contract work.

Special mention to former planner Jennifer Hyndman who put in much of the work on the proposal.

### Don't forget International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 21 is a day Canadians remember the evil of racism and plan to eliminate it. Carlos Pilquil has been hired on contract by E.S.P.C. to co-ordinate our leading role in the March 21 activities.

Carlos is a well-known activist in the Edmonton Chilean community and has recently worked in Edmonton's inner city. Carlos was exiled in 1973 from Chile where he was a social development worker with the Mapuche Indian community.