

# SPANN

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Serving the communities of Britannia-Youngstown, Canora, Glenora, Glenwood, Grovenor and West Jasper Sherwood

Published on Treaty 6 Territory

Circulation 10,000

www.stonyplainroad.com/SPANN

Spring 2024 Volume 5, Number 1



## Revolution Square Closure

*Tenants Forced to Temporarily Close or Seek Alternatives*

When Brandon Schatz opened his email on the morning of Wednesday, January 24th, his heart sank.

“Good morning,  
If you have not already done so, we would like to ask you please get in contact with your insurance company as soon as possible and inform them of the flooding incident that has occurred.”

Turning to his partner Danica, the two skipped breakfast to race to their shop, *Variant Edition Graphic Novels & Comics*. They find water being pumped from the space directly below theirs, the result of a catastrophic flood that filled the basement level of the entire *Revolution Square* complex with several feet of water.

Two primary tenants in the basement, *Longshotz Golf* lounge and *Wolfhouse MMA* boxing studio, were immediately forced to close due to the situation. While main floor tenants were initially allowed access into their shops, by February 1st the entire building was sealed to protect tenants from potential environmental concerns, preventing them from accessing anything in

With Revolution Square tenants guaranteed several more months of waiting, the time is now to support them in their hour of need. Take a look at their websites and follow their social media handles, and stay tuned for more info from these local SPR businesses!			
BUSINESS	WEBSITE OR PHONE	FACEBOOK HANDLE	INSTAGRAM HANDLE
Power Lounge & Afro Grill	(780) 884-5042	Power Lounge and Afro Grill	@powerloungeandafrogrill
Variant Edition Graphic Novels & Comics	variantedmonton.com	Variant Edition Graphic Novels & Comics	@variantedmonton
Longshotz Golf	www.longshotz.ca	Longshotz Golf Edmonton	@longshotzgolfedm
Revolution Cycle	www.revolutioncycle.com	Revolution Cycle	@revcycleeg
Wolfhouse MMA	wolfhousemma.com	Wolfhouse YEG	@wolfhouse_yeg
Anker tattoo	anker-tattoo.business.site	Anker Tattoo	@katiebeeart
Neo Juicery	www.neojuicery.com	Neo Juicery	@neojuicery
West End Shoe Repair	(780) 484-4015	N/A	N/A
King of Tarts	kingoftarts.ca	King of Tarts	@kingoftartsyeg

the building.  
On February 20th, tenants were informed that substantial repairs to the electrical system will take months, dashing the hopes of many business owners for a return to normalcy.  
**Pivot, pivot, pivot.**  
Jeff Funston owns and operates *King of Tarts*, a plant-based bakery

that only moved into the complex in 2023. Detailing his experience via social media posts, it's clear the situation has had a negative impact on his business and day-to-day concerns. Locked out from using his commercial kitchen, he is limited in what he can make at home, not only due to a lack of equipment, but also due to regulatory requirements for food

destined for commercial sale. Regardless, he has soldiered on, creating and selling what he can at locations such as the *Old Strathcona Farmers Market* and *Felice Cafe*, while keeping his customers informed on social media.  
At *Variant Edition*, Brandon and Danica have also tried to adapt.  
*Continued on page 2*



# Revolution Square Closure

Continued from front page

They’ve been regularly taking comic book orders online and offering delivery services to their customers, while working with their neighbours for creative solutions, such as moving a previously scheduled comic book artist event to *The Gilded Rabbit Art & Framing* on 10104 149 Street. When independent game store *Pe Metawe Games* offered some spill-over space in their store at 11805 94 St NW in the Alberta Avenue business improvement area, they graciously accepted, with the added benefit of a shared audience with many of *Pe Metawe’s* patrons.

These stories emphasize the lived realities of small business owners, who must respond to the needs of their businesses with every ounce of effort and attention they can muster during this transition.

### Not everyone can pivot.

For some, temporary closure is the only option. *Longshotz Golf* is currently encouraging customers to sign up for tee-times at their Sherwood Park location, while *Wolfhouse MMA* recently announced some of their evening classes will resume at a southeast Edmonton location.

Initially, *Neo Juicery* made the decision to close for the month of February, requiring both their equipment and production space to create their cold-pressed juice products. However, at the time of writing, owners Kareema and Ala recently announced online that current signs point to an

indefinite closure, stating: “With much of this situation being outside of our control, we will be taking this time to strategize, dream and put down the building blocks of a new and renewed *Neo Juicery* for when we can return.”

The loss of brick-and-mortar destination businesses negatively impacts the surrounding area as well, further reducing foot traffic in an area already experiencing stressors.

### “We can’t seem to catch a break at any point.”

For Mosa Adekunle at *Power Lounge & Afro Grill*, the flood is yet another obstacle in a long series of barriers which *Revolution Square* tenants have had to face. “We can’t seem to catch a break at any point,” he says, emphasizing the existing disruption that businesses have endured during Valley Line West construction. He laments the loss of his “beautiful tree lined space” and the closure of the intersection at 152 Street. He states that detours and access issues confused drivers for UberEats and DoorDash, further impacting his ability to sell their menu options.

Headway was being made before news of the flood and a halt of operations, which now has Mosa feeling like he is back to square one. With his staff forced to find alternative employment, he questions whether reopening is worth the risk with the current challenges on Stony Plain Road: “We’re unable to build, expand, or even maintain any sort of consistency (for our business) here. It was already a struggle before the flood.”

### What's under our feet?

The flood also brings into focus another issue important to the area - the age of the infrastructure beneath Stony Plain Road. Many of the existing buildings and their buried services date back to the years before the Town of Jasper Place amalgamated with Edmonton. Existing and future developments of all types will need to grapple with upgrading and potentially replacing existing infrastructure that has degraded over decades, often with outdated coding that requires transitioning to today's standards at considerable cost. The process can add unexpected costs for both property owners and developers, and can contribute to increased project timelines and higher rents for tenant businesses.

Brandon states that property manager *Property Masters Group of Companies* has been responsive to the situation, although the floating timeline does not provide particular comfort. *SPANN* was unable to discuss this situation with them prior to going to print.

### Supporting local where it matters.

The situation at *Revolution Square* serves as an example of the numerous considerations for the future redevelopment and urbanization of the Stony Plain Road area. LRT service, coupled with Edmonton’s City Plan, aims to create density around transit hubs that serve a networked community. But that community requires a healthy collection of local businesses that serve it, symbiotically.

## Investing in Edmontonians

Randy Boissonnault, MP

Dear Neighbors,  
Here in Edmonton, we’re not always sure when we’ve seen the last snowfall of the season, but in keeping with this month’s theme of *Spring Into Savings*, I’d like to share how our government is investing in Edmontonians and their futures.

We are laser focused on keeping Edmonton’s housing market affordable and accessible. Just last month, the Prime Minister and I announced \$175 million in federal funding for the City of Edmonton to build 22,000 new housing units, including social affordable housing, through the Housing Accelerator Fund.

We’re tackling climate change with the Canada Carbon Rebate which is deposited directly into your bank account every three months. Currently, a family of four in Alberta receives \$1,800 each year in rebates (+20% if you live in a rural area). The Canada Carbon Rebate ensures that big polluters pay their fair share, and returns the money collected to hard-working Canadians, especially lower-income and middle-class families.

I also want to also express that



Randy Boissonnault

the comments made by Danielle Smith and Pierre Poilievre against 2SLGBTQI+ youth here in Alberta is distressing and dangerous. They are directly and deliberately putting trans kids in danger at home, in their schools, and in their community.

Let me be clear.

95% of parents are lov-

ing role models who will accept their kids when they decide to come out and be their true selves. That, luckily, was my story. But not all parents are accepting and it’s our young people that suffer because of it. The statistics show that 2SLGBTQI+ youth experience homelessness and are more likely to commit suicide than their heterosexual peers. Make no mistake. Danielle Smith’s attack on Trans Rights is an attack on human rights, and this Bill must never reach the floor of our legislature.

As your representative, I will continue to stand up for Edmonton’s progressive voice in Ottawa and here in our province. Thank you my friends and I look forward to seeing many of you out in the community.

Randy Boissonnault, PC, MP  
780-442-1888

randy.boissonnault@parl.gc.ca

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# Shared Spaces Create Community

**Todd Janes, Executive Director, SPRBA**

A few things happened in the early part of 2024 that have caused me pause. On 23 January, a lone person entered City Hall and fired multiple shots and also threw a Molotov cocktail from the second floor. It is important to note that no one suffered physical harm.

For me, City Hall has always been a place to gather. In a city with limited recognized public spaces, it is the symbol of our local government and also a site that I associate with a number of celebrations. A place that has always been welcoming; and especially welcoming for new Edmontonians and visitors. Its architecture is open and celebrates the great amount of sunshine we embrace in our growing city. I also believe that currently our city, and frankly our continent, is experiencing conflicts of space and this greatly affects safety and community wellbeing and how we try to navigate our shared and private spaces.

Along Stony Plain Road, I believe we are all keenly aware of our physical surroundings - especially within the larger construction zone that we are currently part of. As the Executive Director of our business association, I am very interested in how we create spaces for people of many different walks



**Todd Janes**

of life - That they feel safe when entering our district; and that they view us as an attractive place to spend time amongst thriving businesses, gathering to meet friends and enjoy the area. With all the elements that contribute to this equation, at times it can be a lot.

Like City Hall we are trying to refocus how we envision gathering spaces in and along SPR. We are driving the work of We Belong In Jasper Place as an important part of community building and economic development. I would encourage you to checkout the current eleven funded projects - all driven by leaders within our collective community - at [www.webelonginjasperplace.ca](http://www.webelonginjasperplace.ca) and engage how you belong within our collective communities

Within our community we are concerned by the significant damage that Revolution Square has experienced, and our hope and best wishes are with each tenant business impacted by this incident. We hope the repairs will be expedient and successful and that this important plaza will be again filled with strong businesses that contribute to our community. The building owners have done good things to contribute to place-making in the area with murals and introducing us to great businesses and as a site to gather. I was also struck by the warm concern and

Stony Plain Road and Area News Network
FREE

SPANN

Serving the communities of Britannia-Youngstown, Canora, Glenora, Glenwood, Grovenor, and West Jasper Sherwood

Volume 5, Number 1 Spring 2024

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SPANN is published by the Stony Plain Road Business Association.

It is a print and online communications platform intended to connect communities and enhance a sense of place. It seeks to engage area stakeholders (residents, business owners, and agency representatives) with news and information about the area in a way that positively presents Stony Plain Road/Jasper Place as a location that is desirable to live, work, attend events, dine, and shop.

The opinions expressed in SPANN are those of the people named as the authors of the articles, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Stony Plain Road BA. Any submissions may be subject to editing for length and suitability.



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Twitter @thespannjp



desire of many other businesses and customers to do what they can to help these businesses during a truly difficult time. It underscores the bonds of our community and our resilience.

I would ask you to engage with our association and our board directors to have conversations

with us around what belonging means to you and how we can collectively build a stronger local economy and community. I can be reached at [director@stonyplainroad.com](mailto:director@stonyplainroad.com).

*Todd Janes, Executive Director  
Stony Plain Road Business Association*

## Spring Marks Renewal!

**Justin Keats**

2024 marks SPANN's fifth year, and we're excited to use this milestone as an opportunity to retool, reformat, and reimagine!

1. To accommodate a new production schedule in 2025 that better aligns with seasonal and area happenings, we're shortening SPANN's run in 2024 to three issues:

- Spring (March-May)
- Summer (June-Aug)
- Fall/Winter (Sep-Dec)

Don't worry - *SPRBA's Holiday Gift Guide* will



**Justin Keats**

also make a return in November 2024!

2. Spring Into Savings on page 4 with some simple and reasonable tips to keep your spending in line. With world events and inflation impacting our global and local marketplaces, every cent saved counts!

3. You'll find a QR code on page five (5) that will take you to our reader survey, where you can vote on new content ideas or submit your own!

4. Our cover story chronicles some of the experiences of *Revolution Square* tenants, who are reeling from the impacts of a flood and the extensive work required to repair the electrical on site. The situation underscores how precarious a position small business owners can find themselves in on the best of days, and how large capital projects like Valley Line West must strive to not disrupt the economic landscape for

business owners and the numerous obstacles they already potentially face.

2024 is already hinting to be a challenging year - Alberta prepares for an intense wildfire season, and while economic indicators are improving, anxiety remains. Issues on both sides of the political spectrum are more polarized, often misconstrued into soundbytes appealing more to emotion than distinct and particular context. We see this divide south of the border as well, and ramping up in both countries with incoming election cycles. Our media sphere is intense - Take time to nurture yourself in this environment, and remember that the emotional appeal of rhetoric is tempered with real data and inconvenient truths.

I hope you enjoy this issue of SPANN, and the opportunity to connect with your local community a bit more.

# Spring Into Savings: Budget Tips

*Necessity may be the mother of invention, but you don't need to rethink the wheel!*

Justin Keats

Do you remember the television show *Til Debt Do Us Part?* Running from 2005 to 2011, the show was hosted by Gail Vaz-Oklade, who challenged young couples to get serious about their spending habits and start saving. Gail champions personal responsibility of one's finances, accounting for every cent spent by going back to a tried and true system: Paying for as much as possible with physical cash.

With the last five years being particularly stressful, personal and household budgets are on the top of our collective minds. Check out these tried and true tips to wrestle back control in your spending, and start saving today!



**1. Leave your plastic cards at home**

It's easy to scan your card and make a purchase - Too easy.

Where cash requires us to physically handle and count the money we spend, cash-free purchases discourage us from thinking about what we spend in the moment we do! Opt to leave your cards at home somewhere safe, perhaps frozen in a block of ice in the freezer!



**2. Create a \*detailed\* monthly budget and tracking ledger**

You can't start saving until you know exactly how much you are earning and spending:

- a. Confirm your average / fixed monthly income.
- b. Confirm your fixed (non-negotiable) budget items and average costs - Rent, internet, power, car insurance, etc.
- c. Confirm your variable (negotiable) budget items - Food, entertainment, clothing, smoking, etc.
- d. Confirm your debt amounts and repayment schedule

Once you've identified all incoming and outgoing dollars, determine how much money you have for your weekly variable expenses

- e. Think percentiles: Ideally, we shouldn't be spending more than 35% of our income on housing, no more than 15% on debt, and 10% on savings. If this is not the case now, can changes be made, or a goal made to meet those targets?



**3. Use the cash jar spending system**

The jar system allows you to visualize and track your weekly spending! While it takes a bit of getting used to, transitioning to cash allows you to better track your weekly spending, with each dollar going out physically handled by you!

- a. Collect, clean, and label five jars: Transportation, Food, Entertainment, Clothing & Gifts, and Everything Else.
- b. At the beginning of the week, go to the bank and take out the exact amount for each jar - This is what you are limited to for your weekly spending!



**4. Grocery Tips**

This regular errand often ends up costing us more, without even realizing it! Consider these tips:

- a. Try to visit the grocery store twice a week. This creates regularity and keeps you better aware of what's in your pantry and how prices fluctuate.
- b. Price compare your favourite stores and products - You may be surprised how things change on a weekly basis!
- c. Plan your meals before you go, versus at the store, to clarify your objectives.
- d. Don't go to the grocery store hungry - It's the easiest way to spend past your budget!



**5. Lower the cost of existing services**

Various service providers often offer great deals to "new" customers - Often that threshold is six months without service from them! Keep this in mind when discussing your bills - It might make more sense to swap providers! Your existing provider may offer you a deal to keep your business, versus lose you to a competitor! For any service, ensure that you price shop, and mention what you see out there. If a provider knows that you've done your homework, it's harder to defer your concerns or emphasize the value of their services at the existing price!

## Margaret Chappelle: An Original Stony Plain Road Superhero

Doreen Hayes, local resident

Her name was Margaret Chappelle, and we can thank her for the existing state of the McKinnon Ravine. Some of us old-timers can remember reading in the newspapers almost daily of the newest adventures of Margaret Chappelle. Her fight with City Hall and bulldozers to protect this precious green space is legendary!

Born in 1915, Margaret married Dr. Gerald Chappelle, and they lived on a massive lot at 14625 Stony Plain Road. She was educated at the University of Alberta studying her passion for art.

While an accomplished artist and nature lover, some of Margaret's most unique personality traits could be said to be a mixture of both the mythical Robin Hood and conservationist Sir David Attenborough.

Under the 1964 Metropolitan Edmonton Transportation Study (METS), the proposed plan to solve traffic concerns was to construct

major freeways through local ravines - which Margaret otherwise dubbed as "cement canyons". When the city started infrastructure work by uprooting trees to prepare for the six-lane Jasper Freeway, Margaret formed the Save Our Parks Association and boldly protested with signs saying: "Treeways-NOT Freeways!" She was a force to be reckoned with, working tirelessly on getting her petitions signed and gathering protesters to picket at City Hall.

For 18 years Margaret advocated for the preservation of the natural flora and fauna of the river valley and to stop the construction of the proposed freeway from Stony Plain Road down the MacKinnon Ravine to the downtown core. Instead of finding her fight exhausting or ineffective she found it invigorating!

However, in December 1983 Margaret was finally able to hang up her combat boots when the city threw out plans for major roadways

in the river valley. Margaret passed away in 1992, leaving her estate to the SPCA. Today, the City of Edmonton announces to the world "As the largest urban park in Canada, with more than 160 kilometres of maintained pathways and 20 major parks, the River Valley is a natural wonder for all Edmontonians to be proud of."

When the light is just right walking in the ravine, I think I do see a hint of Margaret's work with the simmer of the North Saskatchewan River, the swish of the trees in the wind and the squirrels chasing their tails. We may dodge some cyclists, runners or hikers but never vehicles ... All thanks to Margaret Chappelle!

**Sources:**  
<https://citymuseumedmonton.ca/2021/11/02/margaret-chappelle-the-artist-who-saved-the-mackinnon-ravine/>  
<https://www.grovenor.ca/margareтчappelle.html>

**About the Author**

Doreen first moved to Edmonton from the Maritimes in 1975, immediately falling in love with the ravines that cut through our otherwise mostly flat landscape. She recalls her favourite restaurant "Goonies" that was propped up on stilts in a portion of the ravine that is now the Riocan Jasper Gates shopping development on Stony Plain Road and 19th Street. Doreen now lives at the Summit Village retirement home, across from both MacKinnon Ravine and Jasper Gates. She views Margaret Chappelle as the same sort of trailblazer such as Alberta's Irene Parlby (1868-1965), who was a strong advocate for womens' property rights, extended dental and medical services, and a minimum wage for women workers.

*Do you have something to say? Contribute on the next issue of SPANN: [spanneditor@gmail.com](mailto:spanneditor@gmail.com)*



# News From the Ledge



**MLA Lori Sigurdson**

Member for Edmonton Riverview  
Critic for Seniors and Housing and Critic for Mental Health and Addictions  
Ph: 780-414-0719  
[Edmonton.Riverview@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Edmonton.Riverview@assembly.ab.ca)

Sarah Hoffman is running to be the next Leader of the Alberta NDP!

I am very excited to be supporting her campaign because I know she will be an excellent leader – and Premier!

Sarah has won five elections in a row by working hard and staying true to our NDP values. I'm very pleased to see her campaign focus on three key themes: Health, Climate, and Housing.

Many of you know Sarah as the MLA for Edmonton-Glenora, but she's originally from a small rural community called Kinuso, between Slave Lake and High Prairie. Her father was the school principal and her mom taught kindergarten.

Sarah told me when she was a kid, during the brutal cuts of the Klein years, her father had every other lightbulb in the school removed to try and save enough money to save a teacher's job.

She planned to follow in her parent's footsteps and came to Edmonton to train as a teacher.

In 2010, when Conservatives were pressuring the Edmonton Public School Board to close neighbourhood schools, Sarah decided to run for the board.

She ran against a well-known incumbent, a former principal and assistant superintendent.

But Sarah worked so hard, she won the seat with 70 per cent of the vote!

While she was at the school board, Sarah kept neighbourhood schools open, protected jobs, and helped bring in policy to protect 2SLGBTQ+ students and staff. She was elected Chair later in her first term.

Then in 2015, Sarah left the school board to run for the Alberta NDP provincially. We'd never won in Edmonton-Glenora before, and she was going up against a well-known cabinet minister. Sarah's hard work won the seat. Rachel Notley named her Deputy Premier and Minister of Health.

We accomplished so much in our first NDP government. We built or modernized hundreds of schools. We cut child poverty in half.

As Minister of Health, Sarah brought stability and strong leadership to a system in turmoil. She built the new emergency room at the Misericordia Hospital here in Edmonton, she built the Calgary Cancer Centre, and she kept rural hospitals open.

Sarah changed the law to protect Albertans from harassment outside abortion clinics, and made sure we fully funded the abortion pill and PrEP. She connected more Alberta parents with midwives than ever before, expanded labour and delivery and NICU services, and dramatically shortened breast cancer surgery wait times.

Sarah's hard work and experience leading large and complex organizations are what we need to solve the problems Albertans are facing today,

like healthcare, climate response, and the housing crisis.

Our healthcare is in a mess. Every day we see new stories about Albertans travelling further and waiting longer to get the help they need, and hundreds of thousands of Albertans can't even find a family doctor.

The effects of climate change are all around us. We're looking at severe drought and unprecedented wildfires this summer. We must take urgent action to reduce the carbon emissions that drive these disasters.

Right across the province, Albertans are struggling to make ends meet, and the single largest household expense is housing. Sarah and I are proud to support our colleague Janis Irwin's Bill 205, the Housing Security Act. This bill includes temporary rent caps, and we also need the province to start building new affordable housing stock.

These are some of the reasons I'm supporting Sarah Hoffman to be the next leader of the Alberta NDP and the next Premier of Alberta. Check out [sarahhoffman.ca](http://sarahhoffman.ca) to learn more!



**MLA Sarah Hoffman**

Member for Edmonton Glenora  
Critic for Education and Deputy Leader  
Ph: 780-455-7979  
[Edmonton.Glenora@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Edmonton.Glenora@assembly.ab.ca)

## What is a Community Currency?

**Justin Keats**

The concept of "legal tender" is familiar to most of us, as it appears on our currency. Currency systems operate both regionally and globally, serving national and international contexts. But what about the hyper-local level?

Community currencies, which have been popular for decades, complement existing monetary systems by adding an additional layer of value. For instance, Switzerland's WIR, the world's longest-running currency credit system, was established in 1934 during the war in response to widespread unemployment. In simple terms, the WIR's acceptance as an alternative currency by multiple merchants has maintained its perceived value. Even today, over 50,000 Swiss businesses (17%) continue to accept the WIR in its current digital form.

Young Giant Big Bucks are a community currency created by the Stony Plain Road Business Association, offering additional value to both consumers and

merchants. During promotional "Big Buck Days", shoppers can receive a \$3 Big Buck when spending \$10 or more. These vouchers can be used like cash at participating merchants, with one \$3 voucher redeemable per \$10 spent. By collecting and spending Big Bucks locally, consumers can save up to 30% on their local purchases while supporting the local economy that the neighbourhood relies on. Importantly, SPRBA redeems merchants for the Big Bucks they accept, ensuring that the value provided to customers does not come at the expense of the merchants' bottom line.

Amid the impacts of COVID-19 and current Valley Line West LRT construction, Big Bucks serve as another tool to support local businesses and provide consumers greater value for their hard-earned money. Explore the Big Buck Merchants in your area (scan the QR code on the back of this issue!) and inquire with your favorite local shops about when they might start accepting Big Bucks, too!

# SPANN

## Have your say!



Take our survey, rank our new content ideas, or submit your own!

<https://forms.gle/PJnZaTSQiW56YFMNA>





**Glenwood (163 Street West)  
Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal  
Community Feedback on Draft Design**

**REFINE**  
April 8 – 29

Take the online survey

- + Available from Monday, April 8 to Monday, April 29

**Meet the Project Team**

- + Online registered workshop
  - + Thursday, April 25, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- + In-person (drop-in)
  - + Saturday, April 27, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- + Glenwood Community League, 16430 97 Ave NW

To learn more and to sign up for project updates for Glenwood (163 Street West) Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal, visit [edmonton.ca/BuildingGlenwoodWest](https://edmonton.ca/BuildingGlenwoodWest) or call 311.

**Glenwood (163 Street East)  
Alley Renewal  
Learning and Exploring Opportunities**

**ADVISE  
REFINE**  
April 15 – May 6

Take the online survey

- + Available from Monday, April 15 to Monday, May 6

**Meet the Project Team**

- + In-person (drop-in)
  - + Saturday, April 20, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- + Glenwood Community League, 16430 97 Ave NW

To learn more and to sign up for project updates for Glenwood (163 Street East) Alley Renewal, visit [edmonton.ca/GlenwoodEastAlleyRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/GlenwoodEastAlleyRenewal) or call 311.



**2024 Annual  
Easter Egg Hunt**  
**March 30**  
Starts at 1:00 PM SHARP  
149 St and 104 Ave.  
A free family event - Come out and join us in hunting for colourful eggs and visiting with friends and neighbours.

**Canora  
Park  
Watch**

**Annual  
Mini Carnival**  
**May 26**  
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
St Anne Park, 153 St and 102 Ave.  
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# Projects for Belonging

## Dallas Curow, We Belong In Jasper Place

Projects for Belonging, a grant program created by the We Belong In Jasper Place initiative, began in the fall of 2023 with the goal of fostering a stronger sense of community in Edmonton's West Side.

In putting out the first call for proposals, the grant program's application process encouraged community members from the Jasper Place area to submit ideas for projects that would explore how we as a community might strengthen our sense of belonging.

Applicants could propose ideas that engage the community, develop a community resource, repurpose something that already exists, host an activity or event, or develop a short-term pilot program or initiative.

The call for proposals resulted in the program receiving 22 project proposals from community members located across Jasper Place. A review committee of local community members came together to assess the proposals, and We Belong In Jasper Place was able to fund 11 of them, distributing almost \$50,000.

Community facilitator for the project Lindsay Humber expressed her excitement for the array of innovative community building ideas.

"The whole project team was absolutely delighted about the creativity we saw from community members, and we were all thrilled about the range of themes and activation opportunities."

## Streamlined access to funding supports community initiatives

The project has appreciated hearing feedback from many recipients who were excited to learn about the availability of the grants, particularly for the funding's potential to assist them in moments of transition.

Adam Bentley, producer of the International Festival of Winter Cinema (IFWC), first heard about the program through an advertisement on Facebook. The festival was going into its seventh year as part of the larger Silver Skate Festival, but due to construction in Hawrelak Park, the festival would need to cross the river, relocating to Wilfred Laurier park. He applied for the grant to help with the transition to the new west side location.

"We decided to really take advantage of the space instead of seeing it as a temporary location, and we had a new opportunity to include people in the West End of Edmonton and Jasper Place area who truly don't get a lot of winter festivals. So this was an opportunity to really engage with that community."

## Several recipients noted the simplified, approachable nature of the application process.

"In terms of grant application notes, it

*Continued on page 8*

## Meet the Projects for Belonging grant recipients

### Jasper Place Community History Portable Display

A portable display will be developed that will share the stories and histories of the different cultural communities in Jasper Place. Jasper Place History will be working with different communities to collect stories and co-design these displays.



### International Festival of Winter Cinema: Belonging in Winter Film

The International Festival of Winter Cinema (IFWC) recognizes and celebrates local and international cinema with winter, alpine, and polar themes of any style or genre. This year they hosted their festival for the first time in Sir Wilfred Laurier Park in collaboration with Silver Skate Festival.

### Black History Month Garth Prince Jasper Place Community Concerts

JUNO Award Winner Garth Prince hosted two free family friendly concerts celebrating Black History Month in Jasper Place. A promotional singing workshop was also held free for children to attend prior to the concerts and learn the songs to sing along to.

### Playing with Blocks

The Playing with Blocks (or block socials) initiative will facilitate community building one High Park block at a time. This project aims to develop block leaders that will engage with their neighbours to understand their needs and talents they would like to contribute to the community.

### Freedom Dance Scholarship Program

The Freedom School of Dance is committed to breaking down barriers and providing opportunities for children from low-income families to explore the world of dance. Freedom Dance School will be awarding scholarships to children designed to remove financial barriers and create a level playing field for children who may otherwise be unable to access quality dance education.

### Crestwood/Jasper Place Nordic Walking for Older Adults

The Crestwood Community League is offering a Nordic Walking program for adults, improving community social bonds and providing a physical outlet for exercise. This initiative encourages opportunities to enjoy nature while forging connections between existing and new members of the community alike!



<https://webelonginjasperplace.ca/projects-for-belonging/>



"I think that's what most of us have been looking for—a place to play in the world."

# Projects for Belonging grant recipients

continued from page 7

## Jasper Place Spring Spirit Festival

The Jasper Place Spring Spirit Festival will bring together artists, musicians, cultural groups and businesses to celebrate Jasper Place in the springtime. This one day festival will uncover and highlight the hidden talents that exist in the communities of Jasper Place.

## Block Party Blitz in Meadowlark Park

The Meadowlark Community league will be offering block party microgrants to community members through this initiative. The league hopes to spark inspiration and build capacity in community members to promote and host block parties.

## West End Hot Club Duo at CH Cafeteria

This project will present a series of four Saturday afternoons of jazz for clarinet and guitar at CH Cafeteria. Donald William Ross and his fellow musicians hope to bring in community members and strengthen bonds between CH Cafeteria and the communities it is part of.

## North Glenora Human Library

This project will be an opportunity for community members to connect and learn from each other. Community members will be invited to become a "book" which can be "checked out" by a neighbour—giving community members an opportunity to talk to people they may have never connected with before.

## Art Within Us

This is an addition to the Red Road Healing Society's food security program and a collaboration with the Art Mentorship Alberta Society. A sense of community will be built through an arts program which will be offered to patrons of the food security program.

<https://webelonginjasperplace.ca/projects-for-belonging/>  
or Scan the QR Code



Continued from page 7

was actually pretty friendly," noted Faridae Mody, executive director and head dance educator at Freedom School of Dance.

An easier process lowers barriers to entry, making it easier for often-overwhelmed small business owners and volunteers to submit their proposals.

Bentley recalled the application process as being very straightforward.

"The simplicity was very helpful, especially for the amount of money that was given out because sometimes some grants have very significant application requirements for not that much money, so we appreciate that. And we got a decision fairly quickly, and disbursement was prompt as well."

Nora Shea, organizer of the Crestwood/JP Seniors/Older Adult Nordic Walking Program, commented that she found the grant application process to be seamless.

"The Stony Plain Road Business Association and its consultants and project staff were also all very helpful."

## Projects for Belonging already creating change

After only a few months into the project, the infusion of funds into the community is already having a noticeable effect.

Shea explained that the grant has helped her group kickstart its Nordic Walking program.

The project has made a difference by, "funding the purchase of poles, offering a low cost program, and the potential to develop more programmes following this successful pilot project. We also want to expand outdoor programming to include hiking and cycling for older adults after this."

Mody pointed out that receiving a grant has allowed Freedom School of Dance to further exemplify its core values.

"Our mission is based around making arts accessible for families. And, of course, a large part of that is finances. So this is the first time that we've actually been able to offer any type of scholarship, and that in and of itself is huge. We really look forward to families taking advantage of it."

According to Bentley, *Projects for Belonging* has significantly shaped the scope of IFWC's approach and programming this year.

"With funding, we were able to host—for the first time ever—daytime film programming in our heated tent. We extended the hours, and we were able to hire an Operations Coordinator to oversee an outdoor winter Film Festival in the midst of a park and extra requirements that necessitates. It also covered hot snacks for attendees and volunteers and it'll also cover our thank you party to our volunteers, as well."

## Fostering a sense of belonging

Many of the grant recipients have already been

reflecting on how their projects are stimulating feelings of connectedness.

"I mean, having a place where we feel comfortable, not even just welcome, but where you really belong. You come in and have no doubt that you belong. That's what we want to create," explained Mody. "We call our whole

studio one big dance family. And we really want everyone to be a part of that. So we are always making sure that everyone really feels that they are a part of it, and that there's no sense of imposter syndrome there. They really do belong.

I think that's what most of us have been looking for—a place to play in the world."

Similar progress is already being made with Shea's group.

"Already after four sessions, participants have been exchanging phone numbers, inviting new friends to participate in community activities they did not know about before such as the Crestwood Curling Centre's free Trivia night, discovering new cafés like CH. Cafeteria and new businesses like Grin Dental Hygiene Clinic in the Stony Plain business area," Shea reported.

Bentley feels that events such as the IFWC encourage belonging by reminding people what it feels like to be part of a genuine community in real life, particularly after the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's so easy to become isolated," he said, "so to really stay engaged with the community helps you to realize that there's people out there who care for each other. And that the disinformation you see on social media is not reflective of reality. Most people are good, kind, caring people. And it's important to match that."

## Exploring what makes Jasper Place special

A common theme that has come from discussions of the initial rollout of some of the Projects for Belonging is that they are already illuminating the positive aspects of life in Edmonton's West End.

Shea pointed out that her fellow Nordic walkers have been happy to explore together and rediscover that, "everything is in walking distance—especially now that we have new friends who are developing the fitness skills to be able to walk around the neighbourhood."

While west Edmonton has a remarkably diverse community and range of businesses, what unites the various areas and groups of people is what Bentley described as "a really high level of social capital, which is a more academic way of saying feeling like you belong, whether it's our higher than average voter turnout, or turnout to events and stuff like that."

Whether it's festivals, concerts, art installations, displays, or block parties, community-minded projects play an essential role in revitalizing neighbourhoods and reinforcing a sense of place.

As Bentley mentioned, the role of these events, "is really to act as those gathering points, either in person, or virtual gatherings. Ultimately, those are really special and important opportunities to really feel that sense of belonging and adventure."

The entire Projects For Belonging team is so excited about the possibilities these projects are creating for our community.

## Connect with Projects For Belonging

To learn more about the We Belong in Jasper Place project, including full details about all 11 grant recipients, visit <https://webelonginjasperplace.ca>

As these projects move forward, we'll also be looking to the community to help us dream up ideas of how to keep this work moving forward.

If you are interested in getting involved with any of these projects – perhaps volunteering your time or support – please get in touch! Contact Lindsay at [hello@tiliaconsulting.ca](mailto:hello@tiliaconsulting.ca)

Sign up to receive our emails to stay in the loop. And of course follow We Belong In Jasper Place on social media.



# Love Is In the Air!

## SPRBA Valentine's Date Contest Recap and Upcoming Events

Deanna Eng

In February, the Stony Plain Road Business Association hosted its second Valentine's Date Contest! The contest featured three different categories, and participants had the chance to win exciting dates. The response was overwhelmingly positive! Entries poured in through both Instagram and Facebook, and winners were selected from both platforms.

A huge congratulations to our **"Date for Two"** winner, Kelsey (Facebook), who won a dinner for 2 at *Olive Garden*, a gift card to *Just for Fun Video Games Ltd* for some Nintendo Switch games, and a gift card to *Winners* for some snacks to end off their perfect date!

Our **"Pet Date"** winner, @bissellshelly (Instagram), is treating their pet Maggie to food &

treats from *Pet Planet*, toys from *Pet Valu*, and a brand new winter coat from *Winners*!

Last but not least, our **"Solo Date"** winner, @no\_my\_worth (Instagram), definitely knew their worth when entering! They've chosen to have a small business-themed solo date with a massage from *Bounce Right Back Massage*, treats from *CH. Cafeteria*, and flowers from *TwinFlower Studio* - All Young Giant Big Buck Merchants!

We would like to once again thank all participants for their submissions. We hope that everyone enjoyed magical dates filled with love and unforgettable memories. Congratulations to our lucky winners! We look forward to many more contests and events in the upcoming months!



## Mark Your Calendars for Fun This Summer!

The Stony Plain Road Business Association is thrilled to confirm our lineup of exciting summer events! Follow us on social media and stay tuned for:

### Music in the Park

Enjoy the sounds of summer at Music in the Park! Bring your family and friends for an evening of live music at Butler Memorial Park with local musicians.

### Let's Get Physical

Let's Get Physical is back for its third year this July with an all-new format! Lace up your runners for this event filled with fun and fitness!

### Annual Free Drive-In Movie Night August 18

End your summer with a bang at our Annual Free Drive-In Movie Night in August! Gather the family for a night of fun, laughter, and plenty of smiles.

## Are We Ready for It?

Councillor Andrew Knack

### 100,000 people.

That's how many people moved into Edmonton in the last two years with approximately 40,000 people moving in 2022 and 65,000 people moving here in 2023. That's the equivalent of Red Deer moving into Edmonton in two years.

Rapid population growth is exciting but if we aren't ready for it, it can create challenges. For example, do we have the necessary municipal and provincial infrastructure to support that rapid growth and has our provincial infrastructure funding kept up with the growth? To help determine our current state of readiness, I made an inquiry to get more detailed information on the following areas:

- Housing
- School
- Municipal Infrastructure
- Language and translation services

Changes in provincial infrastructure funding to municipalities over the years

City of Edmonton staff have already been doing a lot of work on the areas above but I felt it was important to bring together all of this information in one report so we can fully understand what we are facing.

**If we are being realistic, I don't think we are ready for this growth. At least not yet.**

Contrary to what some think, the property taxes we receive for new development outside the Henday do not cover the cost of the



Andrew Knack

infrastructure needed to serve those areas. Not only do we not get enough money to cover the construction of infrastructure, we then need to operate that infrastructure (ex: staff to clear roads, library staff, firefighters, rec centre workers, etc.) and that has an additional cost.

Since the new property taxes we bring in do not cover all of those costs, we have to increase property taxes to make up the difference.

That is never a popular option.

During the 2019-2022 budget cycle, City Council artificially kept property taxes lower than inflation because of the economic uncertainty created by the pandemic.

Over the years, groups like the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce have spoken during our budget Public Hearings and would often suggest that property taxes should increase at the rate of inflation plus population growth. I generally believe that is a good target but I also appreciate the tension that can create because that would mean that our property tax increases would have to be far higher each year for most of the last 10 years.

The rapid population growth means we need to respond differently. Almost every municipality in Alberta is experiencing rapid growth and we haven't seen the infrastructure funding keep pace.

We need to build and operate the necessary municipal infrastructure and provincial infrastructure to support this rapid growth. Provincially, there are a few more financial levers

that can be used to help with this. More people moving to Alberta results in more income taxes which have greater opportunity than property taxes to produce a net positive cash flow. We also know there is a significant provincial surplus and while Alberta should continue to pay down its debt, if that's all that happens and we don't at least try to stay ahead of population growth, that will only create a massive infrastructure deficit that we will all end up paying more for later.

So what do we do now? First, we get all of that information into a single report that can be easily understood by everyone. If we don't understand what the problem is, it's going to be hard to solve it. When that report comes back in a few months, we can learn what infrastructure and services will be needed to serve all Edmontonians (both new and current). It will also allow us to better understand the financial realities we are facing due to rapid population growth.

Seeing so many people choose Edmonton as their new home is something we should all be proud of. That means we are continuing to build a city that others want to be a part of. They see it as a place to raise a family, start a business, and enjoy an excellent quality of life. Now we need to make sure we can deliver on that for everyone who calls Edmonton home.

### Andrew Knack

City Councillor – Ward Nakota Isga

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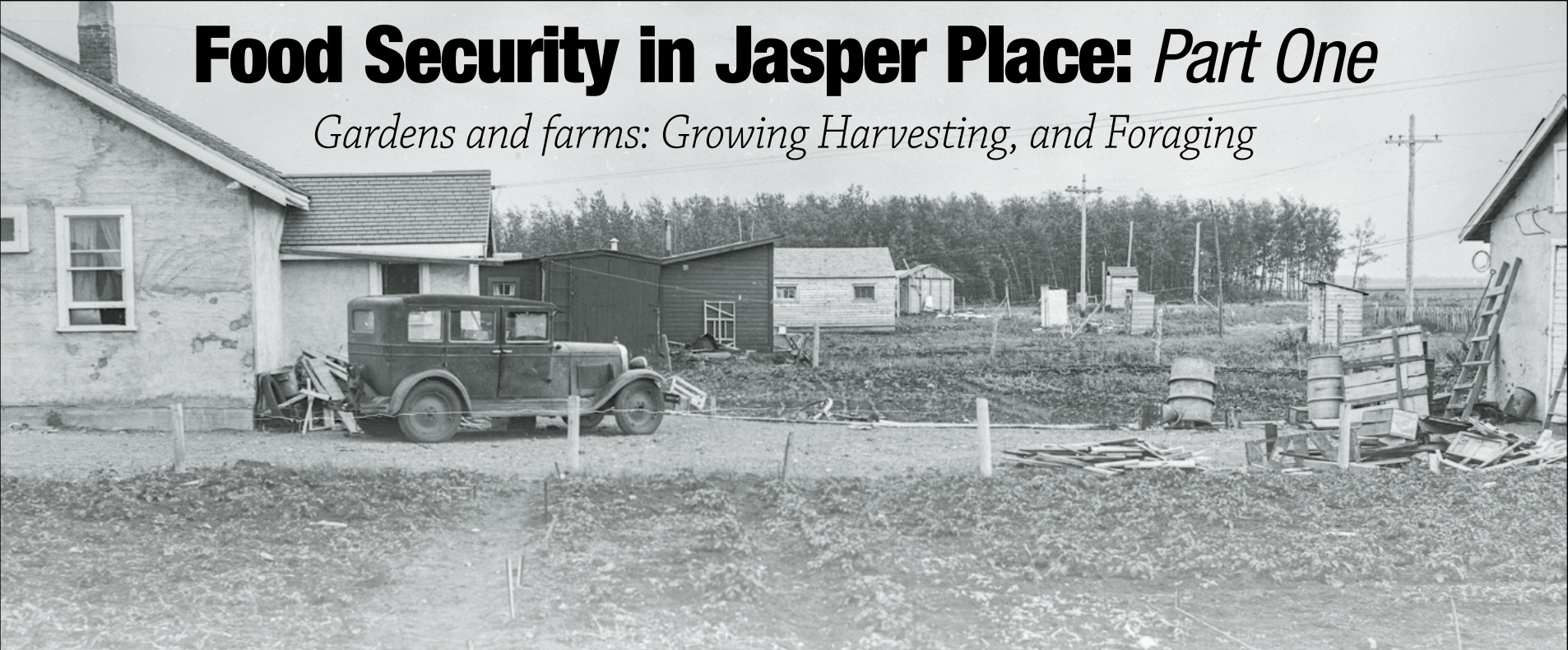
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Paula E. Kirman

Property at 9930 157 Street with large garden area, June 30, 1949. Courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Alberta, A17059.

Food security is an ongoing issue throughout Edmonton. When it comes to Jasper Place, residents have had various ways to grow and acquire food. This first in a series of articles concerning food security in Jasper Place addresses gardening, preserving the bounty, and foraging for readily-available produce like mushrooms and berries a little ways out of the area.

A number of residents had family gardens that provided a source of fresh fruits and vegetables. Kelly\* recalls: “We had a huge garden behind our house on 159 Street. Lots of fresh vegetables and chickens from my grandmother’s farm.”

Says Colleen: “Of course we had a huge garden - most of our back yard was filled with potatoes (my Dad’s favourite), green onions, Swiss chard, beets (and their beet greens), radishes, green beans, peas - and weeds, lots of weeds! I hated weeding which never ended and included getting rid of wild horseradish (the worst).”

Vic remembers that “every second front yard had potatoes in Mayfield.” Vicki lived on 149 Street and 81 Avenue, and in the 1960s her family “had a large garden with all kinds of vegetables. Lots of raspberries and rhubarb.”

Joan’s family “always had a veggie garden [with] potatoes on one side of the yard. Carrots, peas, beans, tomatoes and onions on the other side. There was a hedge of raspberry plants and lots of rhubarb.”

In addition to enjoying fresh vegetables from the garden, some families preserved their harvest through canning. Says Jo, “We grew a big garden and canned most of it. We also had many family members on the farm for meat.”

Farms were common back in the day, as was poverty and subsistence living, which accounts for why gardening was so prevalent. As mentioned in the Jasper Place Historic Resources Inventory (City of Edmonton and Donald Luxton and Associates, Inc., February 2019), “Self-sustenance remained an integral defining feature of the community with residents constructing small houses on large lots to allow for generous gardens, space for an outhouse, and area to burn garbage” (p. 20).

Ken (Bud) Newman recalls his family’s farm in an interview with JPCHP. “We ended up on a farm with two cows, Betsy and Mary; they were milk cows; about a dozen or so chickens, with a very mean rooster that used to chase me as a little kid; a dog, Goldie, a nice cocker spaniel which had a litter of puppies during one period there.”

The Newman farm supplemented the family’s food security. The family also had a vegetable garden, which “always had lots of carrots and peas. Grew up loving vegetables, carrots and peas particularly. And some mint around one of the corners of the house brings back a memory there.”

Carl was part of a large family that “grew all our vegetables [and] bought most of our meat from local stores and butchers. Some we hunted ourselves. We grew our own crabapples, strawberries, and raspberries to can to make our own jams and jellies.”

These gardening successes were in spite of poor soil conditions. In an interview with the Jasper Place Community History Project (JPCHP), resident Chrystia Chomiak recalls the soil “had a lot of clay. So they brought in, and every year they would bring in, tons of horse manure. A truckload would come up, dump it, and my father would cart it out and they would break it up. So they really enriched the soil.”

As a result, her mother’s garden flourished. “The cucumbers were magnificent, the cabbage, the tomatoes – tons. She would can the tomatoes; she made her own ketchup. We were kids and we wanted to have French fries and ketchup. Beets, radishes, everything for borscht.”

In order to improve soil quality, Barrie Touchings’ father got peat moss from the area that is now the Meadowlark Health and Shopping Centre. “That area was full of peat moss, they were digging that peat moss out. My dad borrowed a single axle large dump truck from his older brother, and I remember he probably got 25 loads of this peat moss that they were digging out and brought it to our house and spread it in the back yard so we could continue to have a garden,” he says in an interview with the JPCHP.

Chomiak’s mother also enjoyed going on adventures outside of Jasper Place in the woods to pick mushrooms. “The goal was to hitch a ride with somebody and promise them that they’d take them to a place where there were good mushrooms, and off they would go and collect a variety of mushrooms.”

Barrie Touchings and his parents would head to Clyde, north of the area near Westlock, to pick blueberries. “We’d go blueberry picking every fall, we’d come home with three or four washtubs full of blueberries. [My mother] would freeze those, can them in the early days and then freeze after we got a freezer. My dad every fall would get a hundred pounds of sugar and a hundred pounds of flour, and that was to last us for the year,” says Touchings.

In general, gardening in Jasper Place tended to be fruitful. Sarah lived on 150 Street and 87 Avenue. “We had a huge lot and the garden was enormous - every vegetable imaginable, including gooseberries, red currants, dark currants, raspberries, [and a] crabapple tree,” she recalls.

“We stored huge tubs of carrots in sand all winter in the garage,” Sarah continues. “Mom canned beets, green beans, carrots, and fruit sent to us by train from relatives from Mission, B.C. [which] included sacks of plums, corn, walnuts, and sockeye salmon in ice - which she also canned. We picked fresh vegetables to eat [in] July [and] August, and owned a few acres which now is part of Edmonton Country Club. We planted more potatoes there.”

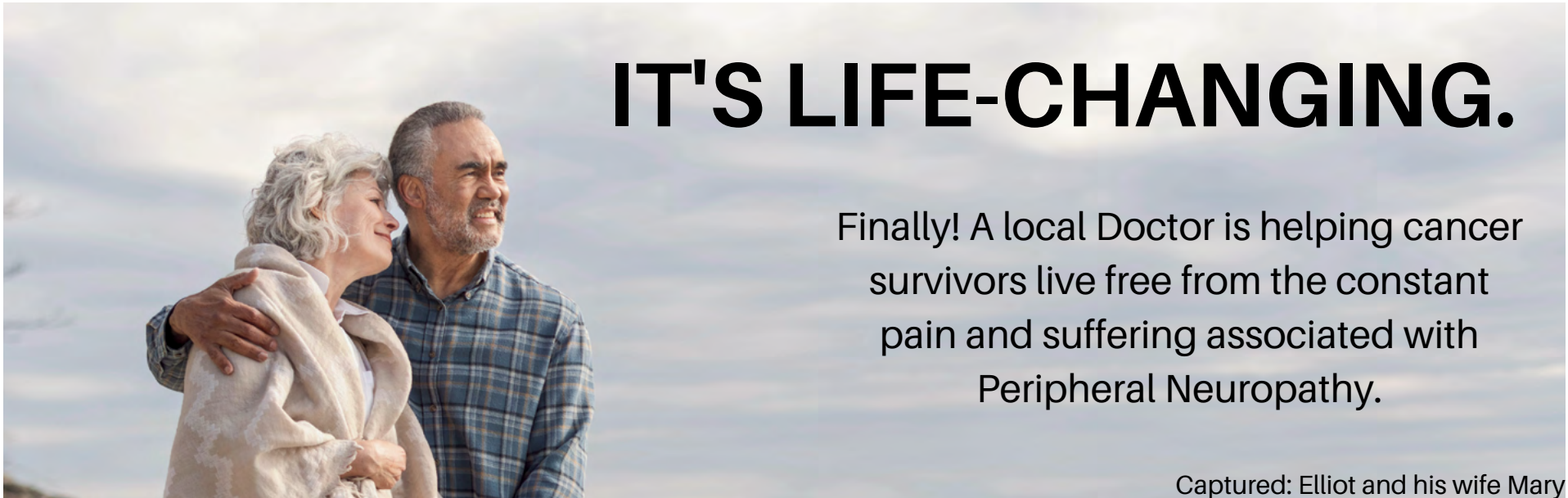
In part two of our series, we will look at food delivery services in Jasper Place.

*\*Quotes are from responses to questions posted on social media. Only first names are being used. Responses have been edited for length and clarity.*

*Did you live in Jasper Place prior to amalgamation? Did you have a garden to grow food? We would love to learn about your memories. Send us your stories: [jasperplacehistory@gmail.com](mailto:jasperplacehistory@gmail.com)*

*Paula E. Kirman is a freelance writer who grew up, and still lives, near the Jasper Place area.*





# IT'S LIFE-CHANGING.

Finally! A local Doctor is helping cancer survivors live free from the constant pain and suffering associated with Peripheral Neuropathy.

Captured: Elliot and his wife Mary

Irreversible is not a word you want to hear from your Doctor, but it's a common one if you've been diagnosed with Chemotherapy-induced Peripheral Neuropathy or CIPN.

Elliott S. of Edmonton, AB survived testicular cancer only to be living life in constant pain. He felt as though he were walking on pins and needles, becoming weaker and weaker every day. "I was beginning to be worried that one day I would be wheelchair-bound.

**Nearly half of the patients who undergo chemotherapy will develop Chemotherapy-induced Peripheral Neuropathy or CIPN.**

Chemotherapy meds travel throughout the body and attack cancer cells, sadly they can also cause severe damage to healthy nerves. CIPN can begin within weeks of starting treatment and can worsen as treatment continues. A high number of really unfortunate people will be forced to endure the symptoms associated with CIPN for months, or even years after they've completed chemo.

When asked how CIPN was affecting his quality of life, Elliot responded **"It was difficult to walk up and down stairs and do other things we usually take for granted."**

The most common symptoms include:

- Pain, tingling, burning, weakness, or numbness in arms, hands, legs or feet
- Sudden, sharp, stabbing or shocking pain sensations
- Loss of touch sensation
- Clumsiness and trouble using hand to pick up objects or fasten clothing
- Loss of balance or falling

For some, their nerves will recover over time. For most, the nerve damage is **'irreversible'**. Elliott had been told just that by a series of Doctors and specialists. Essentially, they could cure his cancer but couldn't fix the damage done by the drugs used to cure his cancer.

Then Elliot made a call to Dr. Melanie Morrill Ac. of Accessible Acupuncture in Edmonton. Dr. Morrill Ac. is using the time-tested science of Acupuncture and a technology originally developed by NASA that assists in increasing blood flow and expediting recovery and healing to treat this debilitating disease.

**After a series of treatments, Elliott was taking stairs with stride.**

We have a split-level house and it has a lot of stairs. "This morning I walked down the stairs and made breakfast." Elliott shared.

**"I remember thinking 'That's become mighty easy for me', I didn't have to hold on to the handrail or anything! It's life-changing to have my mobility back!"**

Again and again, we meet with patients who were once diagnosed as "untreatable" or "incurable" but after receiving Dr. Morrill Ac.'s treatments are now living lives free from pain and suffering. For over 5 years she has been reversing the effects of CIPN and other varieties of Peripheral Neuropathy, including that caused by diabetes without invasive surgeries and medications that come with uncomfortable side effects.

**If you've recently beat cancer only to find that you're living a life in constant pain and discomfort or you're struggling with the same symptoms as a result of either Peripheral Neuropathy or Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy, Dr. Morrill Ac. and the incredible team at Accessible Acupuncture can help!**

Dr. Morrill Ac. is once again accepting new CIPN patients. She is accepting 10 new neuropathy Chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy patients each month.

**Call (587) 879-7122 now to schedule you consultation and in-depth neuropathy assessment.**

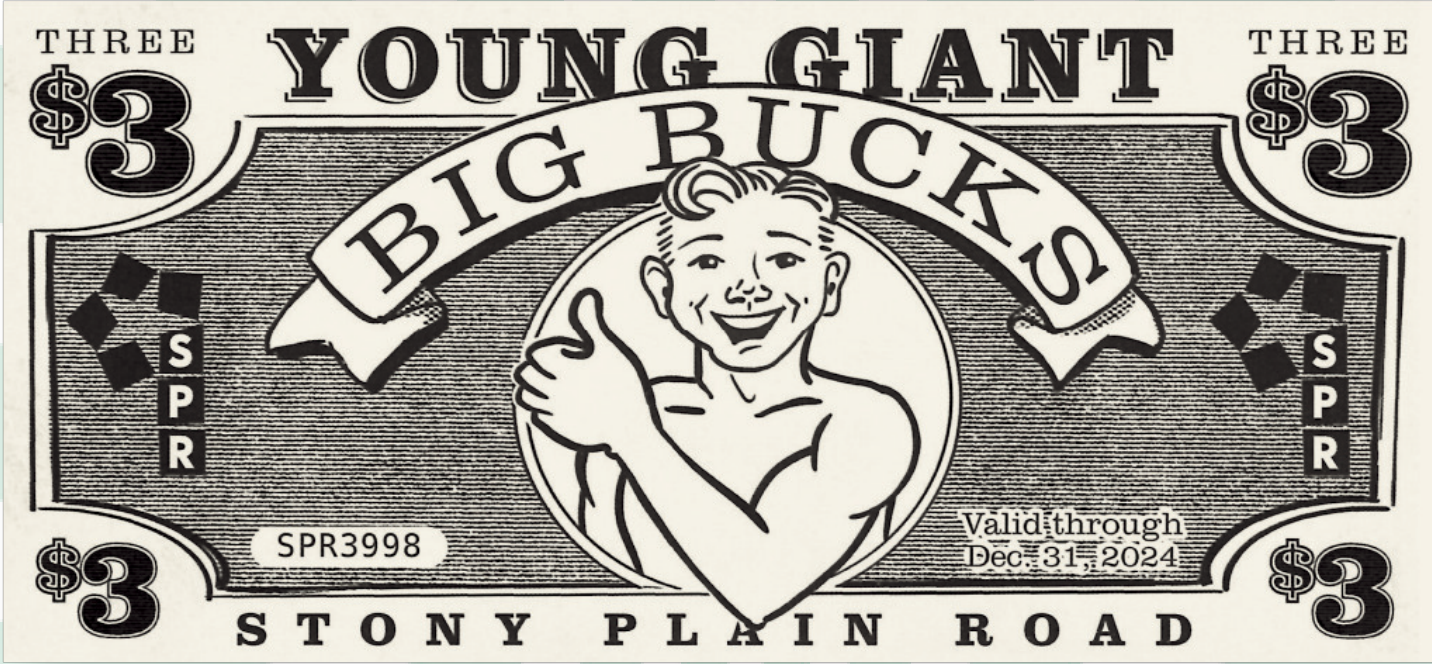
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**Peripheral Neuropathy?**  
**SCHEDULE a consultation TODAY**  
**CALL 587-879-7122**

**HYS Centre**  
**600, 11010 101 st NW Edmonton, AB**  
**AccessibleAcupuncture.ca**



# THEY'RE BACK!



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- 3 Spend your Big Bucks anytime!\*\* One \$3 Big Buck can be used per \$10 spent; that's like 30% off!



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Apr: 13th - 14th	Sep: 14th - 15th
May: 11th - 12th	Oct: 12th - 13th
Jun: 8th - 9th	Nov: 9th - 10th

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[www.stonyplainroad.com/the-young-giant](http://www.stonyplainroad.com/the-young-giant)