



E A U A C NEWS

Newsletter of the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee

"Toward an equal and positive partnership between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal citizens of Edmonton."

Standing Their Ground At The Ancestral Burial Site

By Josie Cardinal

On July 31, about fifty people visited the Rossdale Site to demonstrate their continued involvement in this important issue at the Fort Edmonton burial ground. Various religious groups and Elder Pete Waskahat were on hand to say prayers and show their respect for those buried there. The Edmonton Historical Board hosted this event and invited interested stakeholders and community members. The timing for this event followed three months of work by Lifeways of Canada and their archaeological team, who have been responsible for attempting to "relocate" the four-corners of the Fort Edmonton burial ground. At the time of this meeting the archaeological team had found the northwest and southwest corners of what they considered to be the boundaries of the burial ground.

At previous meetings facilitated by the Edmonton Historical Board, members of the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (EAUAC), and the Aboriginal community, expressed the need for oral histories and ground penetrating radar to determine the extent of the burial site rather than rely on archaeological excavations alone. In a letter from Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of



photo by Josie Cardinal

Community members are given the opportunity to look at the archaeological site.

Community Development he stated that, "because the majority of the lands that contain graves lie on City of Edmonton property, and because city-owned utilities have created much of the disturbance in this area, I believe the City needs to be directly involved in the resolution of these issues." In his letter he outlines some priorities; "the first priority for the Rossdale Flats would be to investigate thoroughly the historical resources and human graves immediately to the north of the 105th Street Bridge and to the west of the Epcor property." The City of Edmonton has

made efforts to investigate and meet these needs and priorities.

Rocky Wells, a member of the Ground Penetrating Radar [GPR] committee, stated that Komex International Limited hired by the City of Edmonton, would be responsible for conducting the ground penetrating radar in early August. Geophysicists will send radio waves into the ground. The radio waves work like an echo to penetrate the ground to search for remains. The geophysicists will use the ground penetrating radar to check the west, south, and north, sections of the Rossdale traffic circle. "We hope to find all the human remains in the Rossdale flats" stated Wells, and to realize that there is a larger burial ground than what was assumed.

The costs of the two-day survey are being paid for by the City of Edmonton. Although it **continued on page 4**

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

By Valerie Kaufman
Chair, EAUAC



THE WORLD'S

Val, Martha with Rita Coolidge

Edmonton – was center stage to the international community as host of the IAAF World Championships in Athletics (August 3 - August 12, 2001). The city hosted athletes from over 200 countries in an event that will be remembered for many years to come. We are particularly proud to highlight the role of the Aboriginal community. Planning for this event preceded the World's by approximately a year and half. Several members of the Aboriginal community started the planning process that ensured Aboriginal people and activities would be included in this world class event. With cooperation from the Metis Nation of Alberta and First Nation's communities of Enoch, Alexis, Alexander, Paul Band, Ermineskin, Louis Bull, Montana and the Samson Cree Nation, the activities were coordinated by the "Aboriginal Community Committee." This committee was co-chaired by Ralph Bouvette and Victor Buffalo and included Elder, Christine Daniels, Martha Campiou, Donna Bedard, Irene Morin, Melanie Omeniho, Phillip Campiou, Ed Lavalee, Brad Cardinal, John Gladue, Trevor Prairiechicken, Josie Cardinal and Suzanne McLeod. The Aboriginal Community Committee and EAUAC recognize the Elders, Chief Ron Morin of the Enoch Cree Nation and Audrey Poitras, President of the Metis Nation of Alberta, for their support. Approximately 80 traditional dancers from the surrounding communities and the urban Aboriginal community of Edmonton performed in the opening ceremonies. In a highly

memorable opening ceremony the national anthem was sung partly in Cree by Eva Ladaceur. Asani and the River Cree Drummers of Enoch performed their music while dancers demonstrated their talents to the international audience and millions of television viewers .

In Sir Winston Churchill Square the daily events included activities in a **tipi village**. The focus was pre and post European contact and was captured through demonstrations, storytelling and children's crafts. Daily dance performances by both traditional dancers and Metis cultural dancers allowed the international visitors opportunities to experience elements of Aboriginal song and dance. The Elders, facilitators and performers helped to ensure their efforts made all those smiles for the cameras very worthwhile and created many memorable moments for the international guests.

A highlight of the World's entertainment component was the **Festival of the World's** held nightly in Kinsmen Park. This free, nightly entertainment saw approximately 220,000 people attend the concerts for an average of 27,500 per evening. Aboriginal night showcased the talents of 40 traditional dancers, the River Cree Singers, Homer Poitras and his band, Creeland Dancers, Nathan Cunningham, Jess Lee, Eldon Weaselchild, Priscilla Morin, Lorrie Church and Rita Coolidge. The two time Grammy winner lit up the stage with her presence and her singing was a gift to an extremely appreciative audience. The evening ended with a pyrotechnics and lighting display choreographed to music to form the "Northern Lights".

EXAM NEWS

FALL 2001

Editor:

Josie Cardinal

Contributors:

Valerie Kaufman
Chris Andersen
Heather Smillie
Robb Campre
Heather Froese
Terry Lusty
Lewis Cardinal

CONTACT US AT:

Edmonton Aboriginal
Urban Affairs Committee
c/o City of Edmonton
Community Services
5th Floor Revillon Building
P.O. Box 2359
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2R7
Phone: (780) 496-4936
Fax: (780) 496-4929
Website:
www.aboriginal-edmonton.com

 COMMUNITY SERVICES

EAUAC extends our thanks and appreciation to all those who volunteered 1000's of hours in this the International Year of Volunteers to ensure and share Aboriginal culture at an event of this magnitude. Thanks also go to the many sponsors who generously provided financial support. It was truly a job well done by people who deserve our thanks so ... if you know someone who participated give them a pat on the back for a great effort! Well done!! ✨



Civic Election Coverage

By Chris Andersen



Hello Folks, it's that time again in Edmonton - that's right, election time! On October 15th, Edmontonians head to the polls to decide who we want to lead our city for the next three years. As politicians, the candidates are required to be knowledgeable on diverse issues. As members of the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee, we thought that you should know where the Mayoral candidates stand with respect to Aboriginal issues that affect not only the Aboriginal community, but all Edmontonians.

In this spirit, we tracked down some of the front runners for this year's Municipal Civic Election. The incumbent Mayor Bill Smith, Councillor Robert Noce and Mike Nickel were each asked to provide a brief description of what they felt was the most significant issue facing the Aboriginal community in Edmonton, as well as explaining the steps to resolve these issues.

Mayor Bill Smith *- The provision of safe, decent and affordable housing*

My highest goal for Edmonton is that it becomes a city where every citizen can realize an outstanding quality of life. This is especially important for low-income people, of whom Aboriginal people make up a disproportionate amount. To this end, the provision of safe, decent and affordable housing for low-income people will continue to be my top social priority. During my present tenure as Mayor, I have already taken important steps to address this issue, through the Community Plan on Homelessness through the Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing, and the Edmonton Trust Fund for affordable housing needs. As Mayor of Edmonton, I will continue to work with Aboriginal people on a civic, provincial and national level to assist them in taking a hold of their destiny.

Robert Noce *- Ending homelessness*

As a two term City Councillor and now as a candidate for Mayor, I have had the opportunity to see first hand the issues facing the Aboriginal community in Edmonton. I would count homelessness as one of the top issues. The right to safe and affordable shelter must be a basic tenant of our society; as important as education and unemployment issues are, it is important that we deal with life basics first. To that end, the Edmonton Joint Planning Committee, with representation from three levels of government and numerous other organizations, has called for an investment of \$49.3 million over three years, beginning in 2001. It is the mandate of this committee to provide safe and affordable housing to those in need in the Aboriginal community and others looking for shelter.

The Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee would like to encourage you to attend ward or campaign meetings in your neighbourhood to ask the potential City Council representatives the issues that most interest or concern you as a member of the urban Aboriginal community in the City of Edmonton.

And remember to make time to get out and have your voice heard in this municipal civic election... VOTE ON OCTOBER 15th! If you have questions about where you can vote contact the Municipal Election Office at (780) 496-8008.



Mike Nickel

- Cleaning up bad neighbourhoods

I think the single greatest issue facing the urban Aboriginal community is substance abuse, poverty, and other social ills that stem from it. While this is not an area of municipal jurisdiction, the City has made the problem worse by essentially declaring certain neighbourhoods as zones where substance abuse and its byproducts will be tolerated and condoned. Coddling abusers does not help them recover. By being permissive the City is assisting these people in their self-destruction thus making it harder for those who want to change their lives. As Mayor I would actively press to clean up these neighbourhoods and end the "acceptance" of this problem. ✨

Standing Their Ground...

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is too early to speculate about whether there are more graves than originally thought Wells stated that he would like to see the information compiled and presented to other Aboriginal and community groups. A report should be prepared in September. Wells states that, "Everybody should be involved in giving input on recommendations, instead of a few select groups," he adds that, "the Elders should be given precedence in the situation."

Recently, Epcor agreed to move its western fence line that extended into the burial ground so that the entire area could be available for proper commemoration, emailed Tim Boston of Epcor. Previously, the City of Edmonton had held in trust the area where the burial site was located for Epcor. The company removed it's name from the agreement to make it easier for the City of Edmonton to move forward with the official designation of this area dependent upon the recommendations of the stakeholders workshop group.

EAUAC will continue to support this initiative to gather input and recommendations on commemoration of the burial site with support from the City of Edmonton, Community Services Department. This is an important issue for the Aboriginal community of Edmonton and EAUAC will continue to follow any advancements. ✨

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR CITY!

The City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee invites you to serve on a civic advisory board or committee!

Each year new volunteer members are recruited, based on vacancy, to actively participate on the EAUAC Committee and a variety of other City of Edmonton civic advisory boards. As a volunteer committee member you will be able to consult and give guidance to City Council and assist in municipal agency operation. A listing of the current vacancies and application forms

are available now from the Office of the City Clerk.

We encourage anyone interested in a position on a civic board or if would like more about the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee please contact the Office of City Clerk, 3rd Floor City Hall at (780) 496-8178 or visit the City of Edmonton website at www.edmonton.ab.ca. The application deadline for the 2002 recruitment of new civic board members is September 28, 2001.

EAUAC NEWS

The Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee Youth Awards 2001

By Heather Smillie

The Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee is pleased to invite nominations for the third annual EAUAC Aboriginal Youth Award. The Youth Award is designed specifically to reward students in grades eight through ten who have shown commendable effort and achievement, often in the face of adversity. Grades eight to ten were chosen as the target age group because, statistically, these years exhibit the highest drop-out rates among Aboriginal students. It is our hope that by recognizing strong effort and achievement at this stage among students who may not normally receive such recognition, we will encourage students to stay in school and complete their studies through high school and beyond. This award seeks to recognize and applaud the efforts of young students who have taken the long way around but have found the right path and have committed themselves to following it. This award does not necessarily recognize top students or top athletes, but students who have given it their all in the face of adversity and achieved more than they may have thought possible.

In the past, the award has gone to students who have put

an extra effort into sports, volunteerism, extra-curricular activities, academic achievement, and just plain amazing effort in whatever they have encountered. A committee of EAUAC members and previous Award Recipients will follow a list of criteria and review all the completed nomination packages, then come to a consensus before selecting this year's recipients. As in past years, every nominee is deserving of recognition and all are invited to attend the Award Ceremony and be applauded.

The award will be presented to four Aboriginal youth this year, two boys and two girls. Each recipient will receive a financial prize that EAUAC hopes will help contribute to educational costs in the future, and ensure success in school years to come. It is also our hope that by recognizing the students nominated, other students will be encouraged to give 110% in their own future endeavors!

Nominations may be submitted by teachers, friends, family, and community members. Nomination forms are available by phoning (780) 496-4936. The Nomination deadline for the 2001 award is October 1st. Please nominate a Youth or Student this year! ✨

Winnipeg to Host the 2002 North American Indigenous Games

By Robb Campre

Now that the World Championships in Athletics has ended on a spectacular note, with athletes from all around the world showcasing their athletic abilities, so too will our Indigenous athletes at the 5th Annual North American Indigenous Games in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Organizers and volunteers have been busy over the past year preparing for the games which will take place July 25th to August 4th, 2002, with athletes and teams representing their respective Aboriginal communities from all over North America. There will be approximately 8,000 to 10,000 athletes, coaches and officials, as well as 3,000 cultural performers and 5,000 volunteers. As the host city, the City of Winnipeg hopes to make this event the best ever multi-sport and cultural gathering in Canadian History. So come on Edmonton let's get our Aboriginal athletes involved!!

The events include traditional Aboriginal sports and 13 non-traditional sports. They are as follows: 3-D Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Boxing, Canoeing, Field Lacrosse, Golf, Rifle Shooting, Soccer, Softball/Fastball, Swimming, Tae Kwon Do, Volleyball, Wrestling (Freestyle). Special Olympic Sports

include Athletics and Swimming.

Teams will be required to pay their own travel to the games and each athlete will pay an entry fee of \$150.00 to participate. Accommodation for the athletes is located at the Red River Community College and surrounding high schools where two meals will be provided per day, along with transportation to and from the competition venues.

If you are interested or would like more information about the 2002 North American Indigenous Games please call Ted Hodgson at (780) 444-7833. You could also call the organizers directly at 1-877-682-2002 or by fax at (204) 927-2099 or email at 2002naig@mb.aibn.com

The Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee encourages all our readers to sponsor an individual or team to attend this event to help make youthful Aboriginal dreams a reality! ✨

Upcoming Events

125th Anniversary of Treaty No.6 Commemoration

September 5 - 9, Fort Pitt, SK
Contact: (780) 944-0334

Crystal Kids Youth Centre Street Dance and BBQ

Enjoy a BBQ, Edmonton Metis Cultural Dancers, Ballcatter (East Coast Celtic) Rusty Reed, Clowns, Klondike Kate, Face Painting, and Vehicle Show and Shine
Sherbrooke Community League,
13008 - 122 Avenue
Sat., September 15,
Noon - 11:00 p.m.
Contact: (780) 479-5283

Canadian Native Friendship Centre

For more information on programs
Contact: (780) 479-1999

Wagon Tours at Fort Edmonton Park

Horse-drawn guided tours-enjoy fall in the River Valley.
Tours begin September 4,
Mon. - Sat. 11 a.m., Noon, 1, 2, 3 p.m.
Contact: (780) 496-8787

Prairie Music Week and Awards

Outstanding Aboriginal Recorder Award
Winspear Centre, Edmonton, AB.
September 27 - 30
Contact: Kirby at (780) 426-5961

Canadian National Competition Powwow

Edmonton Garrison, Namao, AB
October 5, 6, & 7
Contact: (780) 944-0334

Dreamcatcher 2001 - Aboriginal Youth Conference

Grant MacEwan College -
Downtown Campus
October 12 - 14
Contact: (780) 497-5188 or
www.dreamcatcher.gmcc.ca

Ben Calf Robe Society

For program information
Contact: (780) 477-6648

Boo at the Zoo

Valley Zoo after dark!
Costumes, treats and fun!
October 20, 4 - 9 p.m.
Contact: (780) 496-8787

Farmfair International 2001

Northlands Park, Edmonton, AB
October 28 - November 11
Visit: www.farmfairinternational.com

Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society

For programs in operation
Contact: (780) 481-3451

Canadian Finals Rodeo

Skyreach Centre, Edmonton, AB
November 7 - 11
Visit: www.canadianfinalsrodeo.ca

National Addictions Awareness Week

'Join the Circle Rally'
Kick off at City Hall (Nov. 19)
November 18 - 24
Contact: Nechi (780) 459-1884

Canadian Aboriginal Festival

Toronto International Powwow and
the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards
Toronto, ON November 23 - 25
Visit: www.canab.com

Bright Nights Festival

Hawrelak Park, Edmonton, AB
November 23 - January 6

Candlelight Christmas

Celtic music by the McDade's,
apple cider, and a magical atmosphere.
John Walter Museum (9100 Walterdale Rd.)
December 13 - 15, 19 - 23, 26 - 27
7:30 p.m. Contact: (780) 496-8787

Edmonton's First Night Festival

Downtown Edmonton - Various
locations December 31

Free Public Skating

The Kinsmen Club and the City of
Edmonton offers free public skating at
an arena near you.
Call 496-4999 for dates
and times at your local arena.

Adult Shinny Hockey

Drop-in at your local City of Edmonton
arena for shinny hockey.
Call 496-4999 to register
or for more information.

Swimming Lessons

City of Edmonton Leisure Centres offers
lessons for everyone! Call 496-SWIM
and make a splash in programs and
public swim times at a pool near you.

If you would like to include your community event or program please fax the information to (780) 496-4929 or call (780) 496-4936.

EDMONTON NEWS

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THE CITY OF
Edmonton COMMUNITY
SERVICES

