



A train runs through it

League to hear from City how proposed southeast LRT line will affect Cameron Avenue homes

By Bill Moore-Kilgannon,

Riverdale Community League, President

The next league meeting on December 6th will feature a presentation from City Transportation department representatives about the routing of the South East LRT and how it may affect Riverdale.

Our League board had the opportunity to meet with two transportation officials last week at a meeting along with some of the people who live on Cameron Avenue, as they will be most affected.

We have learned that the SE LRT is proposed to go underground after it crosses 96 St along 102 Ave and will go under Jasper Avenue as it heads south down 95 St.

The problem is that we do not yet know what impact this is going to have on the buildings, in particular, Cameron Avenue Coop.

I will be writing to City Council to raise our concerns about the potential damage this may cause and the concerns about the lack of consultation.

I have also been asked to make a presentation to the transportation committee on December 8th.

I am sure that many people in Riverdale will be interested to learn more about the issues of the LRT as it will also mean that a new bridge will be built right where the current foot bridge is. This will still include a pedestrian bridge beneath the LRT, similar to the one over to the University.

We hope that people will be able to come out to this special league meeting on December 6th at 7 p.m.

As the December league meeting will be focussed on the LRT, we have decided to postpone the approval of the annual budget to the January 10th meeting.

The draft budget will be posted on the League website so that people will have a chance to review it well before the meeting.

Please note that due to the holidays, we will be meeting on second Monday in January (the 10th) not the first.



Photo by Allan Shute

The Dawson Bridge rehab project is nearly complete, but how long will it take to reopen? The stated date was November 26th, but this photo was taken three days prior and there was still a lot yet to be done. Latest word from the City was that it has been rescheduled to open end of December. More details on page 3.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful and well deserved break over this holiday season and that we remember to support those who are struggling with health issues or who in live in poverty.

More info on the proposed LRT line on pages 6 and 7.

Last of a dying breed of rink rats, Gordon MacGregor dead at 82

By Allan Shute, Riverdale Historian

Last Saturday morning, the sun dimmed over Riverdale House when the most colourful character of the 'Dale, Gordon MacGregor — 82 years young — ascended to the Great Skating Rink in the Sky.

The mark he left on his adopted district is still vividly evident. Even if they never met him, Riverdaliens enjoy Gordon's passionate legacy each time they use the rink or attend a do at Riv's spiffy "rink palace."

Although he was avidly engaged in hockey and the rink much earlier, Gordon's reign as godfather of the rink began in earnest during the summer of 1989 when he read a scare headline in the June newsletter: "City locks hall doors, confiscates bank accounts."

Continued on page 10

Riverdale Community League

**Special Meeting
Monday, December 6th
7 p.m.**

**To discuss the S.E. LRT and its
impact on Riverdale.**

**Presentation by
City Transportation officials.**

*Riverdale Community League Hall,
9231-100 Avenue*

SOCIAL NOTES

• A slightly belated welcome to **Denis** and **Corrie VanderWekken**, who moved into the River Grande in August from the north end of town. Avid walkers, they had happened upon this happy vale more than 20 years ago and bought ice-cream treats at **Connie So's** little store on 90th.

By and by, they found themselves down here again and, while passing the condo, ran into a friendly soul who invited them in. It turned out a unit a floor up was available, and the rest is history. They're happy they made the big move to the valley and we're glad they did.

• 101A Avenuer and Green Egg chef extraordinaire **Eric Filpula** shares his killer recipe, Chili Your Mom Warned You About, in the *Journal's* Grey Cup Extra.

Just reading the ingredients makes the eyes water. Apparently its secret ingredient is two bottles of a Quebec dark beer called Maudite, a French adjective normally associated with an antonym for 'blessed.'



• *The Riverdalian* sends its best wishes on behalf of the community to **Jan Hargreaves**, our 308 and 309 community bus drive for over 10 years. She is a grandmother again! **Adrian Gabriel Hargreaves** was born October 15th, 2010. Shown above with his big brothers **Morgan**, 7-and-a-half and **Tristan**, 2-and-a-half.

Badminton

Wednesday evenings, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Riverdale School. It's free, racquets supplied and all ages welcome. Sponsored by the Community League



Flute Lessons

Suzuki method flute instruction for children from 4 years of age.

Teens & adults learn to read music & to play by ear with patient, experienced instruction.

Tami Cooper, B.Mus., Certified Suzuki Teacher, has over 25 years of experience teaching ALL ages and levels. Studio located in University area.

780-430-0724



Missing floodpole marker, apostrophes puzzle passersby

By Riverdale Historian Allan Shute

Signage in Riverdale has either gone missing or is missing grammatical bits and pieces.

The floodpole information plaque under the north side of the Dawson Bridge is no longer there. Its pathside post remains with a gaping hole.

For me, it was an eyebrow raiser as I was involved in the Riverdale historical markers as part of the City's Neighbourhood Improvement Project in the late 1990s.

This autumn James Rockey of North o' Rowland and Rocky Feroe of 87th began an inquiry to the City into its absence.

Was it removed as part of the bridge reno or was it stolen?

James is quite certain it was gone before the Dawson Bridge rehabilitation project began. So did a regular commuter cyclist who stopped when I took a photo. He figured a year and a half.

James and Rocky asked Shannon Murray, our community recreation coordinator, and Tariq Aziz, the construction project manager of the bridge reno, and their records show it was still standing for their 2008 inspection.

They assure us the historical marker will be replaced.

Upon request, I provided the City with the interpretive text, a detailed photo of its design and the name of the contractor who did the installation.

If the artwork needs to be redone, it would be a good opportunity to update the flood data since it was posted.

In other sign news, there has been have been questions from *Riverdalian* readers regarding the district's two new "Welcome" markers at the bottom of Cameron and just east of the uptown bus stop on Rowland.

They were funded by the League's greening budget and cost \$11,000. Minor flaws consist of a few missing apostrophes and an S, plus a puzzling repetition of the motto: "Riverdale: The city garden".

What if one of the references said: Where the past sustainably meets the future.

It shouldn't be that difficult to have the errors fixed by the company who made the signs and they probably wouldn't even charge.

If anything, the League and Val Hillerud's greening committee should be commended for making the welcome and worthwhile effort to mark the district's entrances.



Photo: Riverdale Collection

A closeup of the missing plaque taken in 2004 reveals screws and tacked-on trim which would be easy to get around for the public-sign-loving thief.

If anyone knows where the stolen plaque is, a prompt no-questions-asked return to the Tree Frog mailbox would be gratefully appreciated and would save the City time and expense.



Photo by Allan Shute

The snow-capped three-dimensional letters provides a seasonal touch to Riv's warm welcome. In this sign by the bus stop on Rowland, the S is missing in the motto in the Riv tree logo. On Cameron, an apostrophe is missing in the bottom line.

Dawson Bridge re-opening delayed

From ETS leaflet

The Dawson Bridge re-opening has been delayed and the anticipated opening date is now end of December.

As a result, routes 1 and 88, and school routes 721, 764 and 830 will remain on detour until further notice.

Route 308

Route 308 will continue its extended service hours until the bridge opens.

Please visit www.takeETS.com for updates on the bridge re-opening.

Routes 1 and 88

With routes 1 and 88 continuing on detour, buses will not be able to maintain their schedules. However, the affected bus routes will maintain their scheduled frequencies of service.

Customers traveling between Capilano Transit Centre and Downtown could continue to encounter delays of 5 to 10 minutes in their trip time.

If you are making connections, it is suggested you consider catching an earlier bus until the bridge opens.

School routes 721, 764 and 830

The arrival and departure times at the schools will be maintained for these routes.

The re-opening of the bridge was an important part of the winter service changes scheduled for the end of November.

The winter schedules were based on buses traveling on the Dawson Bridge and Rowland Road. Buses will not be able to meet published schedules until the Dawson Bridge is open.

Phone 311 or go to the City website: <http://www.edmonton.ca/transportation/roads-traffic/roads-and-traffic-updates.aspx/?i=1>

Birth Source now up by IGA

By Katherine Shute

Since the bridge closed, I haven't been to the Gold Bar shopping centre often, but did discover recently that Birth Source had relocated to 5024 106th Ave., 780 758 2525, just east of the Gold Bar IGA (Sobey's). It's a great place packed with everything for babies and new moms.

As a grandmother, I was sourcing things online but discovered I can find those products close to home with no shipping costs. And once the bridge reopens, it'll be easier to get to

Murals will brighten Riverdale House

The Riverdale Community League Board of Directors are pleased to announce that two artists have been commissioned* to paint murals on the west and south walls of Riverdale House.

The artists are **Pedro Rodriguez de los Santos** and **Karen Blanchet**. In order to have input on the murals that will be produced.

Riverdadians are encouraged to come out and meet the muralists.

Pedro Rodriguez de los Santos will attend the afternoon January 2, 2011 "New Years family event" party at Riverdale House.

He will bring art supplies and a tape recorder in order to capture audio recordings of stories about Riverdale and visual representations of these stories.

Pedro will also be gathering input for his mural from parents and students attending the Family Party at Riverdale School on the evening of December 9. He also hopes to meet with seniors, early in the New Year, at the Sundance Seniors Apartment.

Muralist **Karen Blanchet** (www.karenblanchet.com) will attend the January 10, 2011 Community League meeting to present the initial design for her mural.

She will solicit feedback from community league members on this preliminary design of 'Riverdadians through the decades'.

Based on the input she receives at the League meeting Karen will do a final design.

After the various community engagement meetings, the artists will work in their respective studios to paint the murals on thick fabric.

In June 2011, after a fresh, smooth layer of stucco has been applied to the west and south walls of Riverdale house the completed murals will be adhered directly to the walls, and an anti-graffiti coating will be applied.

Riverdadians will be invited to celebrate the completion of the murals on Canada Day, 2011!

For more information on the mural project contact **Lorna Thomas** at lortho@live.com

* Over the past year and a half the members of the "Riverdale Mural Committee" (Lorna Thomas, Gillian Austin, Loraine Johnson, Stephanie Grossman) worked to raise funds for the two murals.

Winter Family Festivals

Join us for exciting outdoor games, crafts, and winter activities. Most importantly, all of our leaders are certified specialists in FUN!

For All Riverdale Families

December 27, 2010 and January 2, 2011

12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

At Riverdale Rinkhouse
(92 Street 100 Avenue)

FREE

City of Edmonton staff are on site to lead the families in winter games, crafts and activities

Come dressed for the weather!

We will be outside!!!

Program subject to cancellation due to extreme weather.



The committee was successful with their fundraising, put out a 'call to artists,' and selected the artists with guidance from muralist **Ian Mulder**.

Funds for the murals were received from: The Edmonton Community Public Art Grant (administered by the Edmonton Arts Council), Capital City Clean Up-Graffiti Management Program, The Parent Advisory Committee of Riverdale School, and the Riverdale Community League.



Casino workers thanked

By Diana McIntyre, Casino Manager

Hats off and a hearty thank you to all the Riverdadians who volunteered at our casino on October 6th and 7th.

We can be justifiably proud of a fantastic crew who came to support this event, which provides us with so many of the community benefits we all enjoy!



As a pleasant segue to Pub Night on Nov. 26th in Riverdale House, Tegan Martin-Drysdale, left, introduced Raising Spaces principals Jessica Kyca, centre, and Valentyna Olynyk as part of the RCL Sustainability Speaker Series.

The dynamic duo outlined how to avoid overblown “greenwashing” claims in advertised products and services, and gave practical tips on packaging, home appliances and building materials.

They were a wealth of knowledge when it came to finding ecological-minded professionals, Peter Amerongen’s Habitat earning high points with them for technical excellence and craftsmanlike attention to design and detail. Contact these representatives of the green home improvement movement at www.raisingspaces.com.

They love answering emails.

Pub Night was 50% work, but 100% fun

By Natalie Visselsnuff, *Social Columnist*

Pub Night on the last Friday of November began with a useful, entertaining talk on sustainability, courtesy of two women from Raising Spaces and the sponsorship of the League.

The gardening committee took the opportunity to pore over two of their latest plans for the area connecting Riverdale House and the Hall parking lot.

One architectural rendering resembled a design from Victoria’s Secret while the other featured fewer circular sitting spaces.

The difference between the two approaches was a movement to less concrete and geometrical design to a more organic approach.

Suggestions heard included a request to use the spare fill from the excavations to create a permanent Mount Graeme to save Graeme the time, effort and expense of building a sledding hill out of hay bales every year.

Riverdale School Council “Call to Artists”

The Riverdale School Council is looking for local Edmonton artists to submit proposals to produce artwork for the school’s promotional materials.

The Riverdale School Council is looking for a bright, colourful artist’s rendition of Riverdale School showing the neat rows of homes behind it and highlighting the Edmonton city skyline in the background. The photograph right is the right concept — but we are hoping an artist can improve it so that it really captures people’s attention.

Our budget for original artwork is \$1,200. The artwork can be created in any medium provided it can be reproduced by the school council on 6x8 postcards to promote the school to downtown commuters and digitized to enhance the school’s website.

Entries:

The winning submission will be chosen by members of the Riverdale School Council through a one-stage artwork selection process on December 15th.

Proposals must be submitted by Dec. 12th and the artwork must be completed by Jan. 31st, 2011.

All decisions of the Selection Committee are final.



Riverdale School

The completed artwork is to become the sole property of the Riverdale School Council with no restrictions on its reproduction or distribution.

Entries should include a written description of the proposed artwork; proposed cost; preliminary rendering of the proposed artwork; CV detailing experience as an artist and other relevant information; as well as previous artworks which illustrate a related body of artwork to the proposal (include a maximum of 10 images.)

In order to qualify for consideration in the competition artists are invited to submit entries to:

Kevin Minaker (VP Riverdale School Council) at 10169 – 93 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 1W8. Phone: **780 452 6127** Email: kminaker@telus.net



The latest details on the LRT impact to Cameron Avenue were shared, some of which have found their way into this issue.

It seems that it’s very possible that Cameron House and the little house next to it could be expropriated upon implementation of the City’s southeast LRT extension to Mill Woods.

Even though the 2017 Expo pressure is no longer on the City for a fast-tracking, Council is intent on holding finalizing sessions in December and January.

What’s the rush? Sheesh.

There was lots of juicy gossip, but our upscale *Riverdalian* readers are certainly not interested in that.

A big thank-you goes to Loraine Johnson for her gracious, efficient hosting and making sure everyone got home okay from Riverdale House ... and to the late stayers who helped clean up. See you next time!



Riverdalians enjoy direct communication with each other (as opposed to email) while they partake of a drop of the golden amber, plus snacks such as veggies, cookies, chips and cheezies. The cheezies were organic, right?

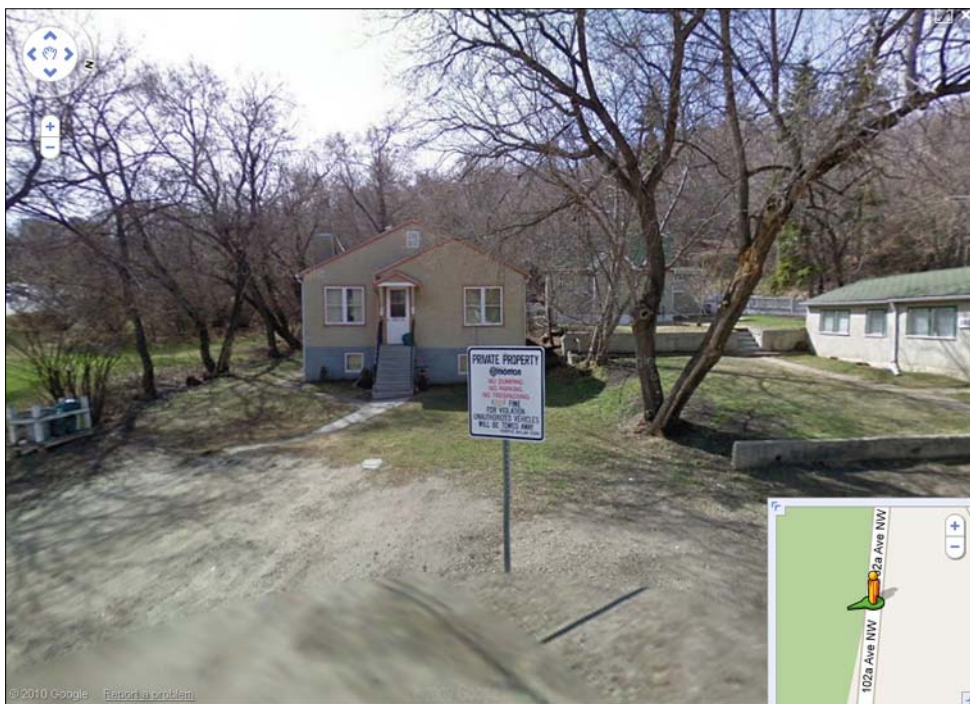
Riverdale School Family Christmas

The students, staff and parents at Riverdale School are busy with preparations for a fun Family Christmas Event for the evening of Thursday December 9th, between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m..

Some of the activities will include a horse sleigh ride, crafts (chocolate candy-making, candle-making and more), a roaring bonfire and for the price of a Festive song everyone can share in a warm mug of hot chocolate and homemade seasonal snacks.

If there are families who are considering Riverdale School for their children in the future please consider this an invitation to come out experience the fun and spirit of our community school.

RSVP to Madeleine.Smith@shaw.ca prior to the event.



Just before the snow fell last month, crews removed two houses just north of Rowland along 102A Avenue. They were the last two residences standing next to the hill which rises towards uptown. No word as yet on whether the land will return to parkland or be sold off.



Photo supplied

At least five trees on 92nd Street and several along the bus route were used as bulletin boards for recent posters.

While *The Riverdalian* lauds the free dissemination of information, it respectfully reminds everyone that each staple used to post these temporary messages will be a continuing hole for bacteria and invasive larvae to enter the tree's delicate cambium layer where new growth occurs.

Google has 218,000 hits on the subject and the consensus is that "Trees are living things that can be permanently damaged when signs are attached to them, especially when stapled. Please help protect the City's trees."



Daycare kids adopt trails

The Riverdale Out-of-School Daycare has "adopted" a portion of Riverdale.

They clean the trails working from the school, east to the river, south around the bend in the river, and west to the Community Hall. They have worked this stretch of the River valley for a few years now cleaning up every spring and fall.

The Riverdale Out-of-School Daycare also helps attend to the needs of the school naturescape.

Thanks to Mira and Kazia and all the kids of Riverdale out-of-school Daycare for keeping our neighbourhood well cared for and beautiful.

Photos supplied



LRT threatens Cameron

By Rob McLaughlin

Edmonton's southeast LRT will go right along the top of Riverdale diving underground to cross the North Saskatchewan River at the Louis McKinney footbridge, according to the current transit plan. There will be no stop near Riverdale.

The footbridge will be closed for the duration of construction and a new pedestrian crossing will be built into the LRT bridge.

If Riverdadians want to use the new LRT – running from downtown to Mill Woods and also west to Lewis Estates – they will have to catch it at the closest downtown stop – just east of 97 Street – or walk to Cloverdale and catch it by the Muttart Conservatory.

These plans are not final, but they will go before City Council's Transit Committee Dec. 8 and then to council for final approval Jan. 19. Transit planners explained this at several recent meetings including a meeting of the Riverdale Community League executive where 95 Street neighbours of the LRT line got their first view of plans for the line.

Among the most worried people were residents of the Cameron Avenue Co-op whose triangular building atop the avenue has been targeted for possible expropriation.

Edmonton transit representatives Eva Cheung and Michelle Chalifoux also attended the meeting but could not assuage the fears of residents of the hilltop Co-op.

They said that a timeline on construction of the line depends on allocation of funding and a decision on the fate of the Co-op building depends on construction plans and a geotechnical analysis of the site.

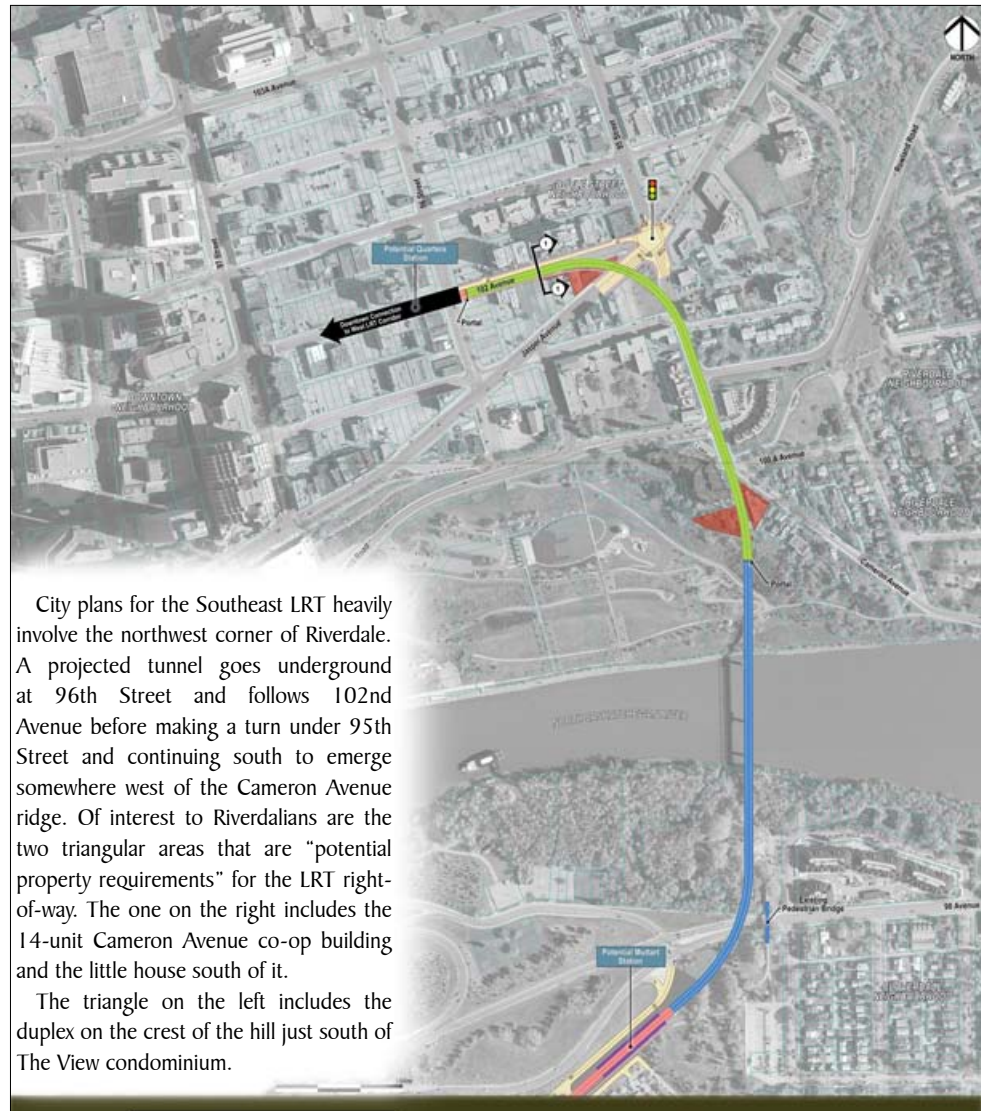
They could not answer what effect the plans will have on the building or on The View condo development across the street.

But View resident Agnes Zukowski, who works on the LRT project, said at an information meeting Wednesday, Nov. 24 that residents there have been kept up to date through regular updates that she has provided as a member of the condo board.

The meeting, on the southeast LRT corridor, addressed traffic and noise concerns on the Southeast LRT route. Planning for the route goes from Mill Woods to 96 Street downtown.

Zukowski could not say whether or not the Cameron Avenue Coop would be expropriated, but a noise consultant who was at the Wednesday meeting at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel near Argyll Road and 75 Street said he was told to do his noise projections on the basis that the Coop building would not be there.

Steven Bilawchuk, of ACI acoustical consultants, said his firm was contracted by the city and one of the places where a noise sampling was done was on a balcony at The View apartments.



City plans for the Southeast LRT heavily involve the northwest corner of Riverdale. A projected tunnel goes underground at 96th Street and follows 102nd Avenue before making a turn under 95th Street and continuing south to emerge somewhere west of the Cameron Avenue ridge. Of interest to Riverdadians are the two triangular areas that are "potential property requirements" for the LRT right-of-way. The one on the right includes the 14-unit Cameron Avenue co-op building and the little house south of it.

The triangle on the left includes the duplex on the crest of the hill just south of The View condominium.

Bilawchuk reassured neighbours of the new train that the light rail, low floor technology being considered for the southeast corridor would have minimal impact on the soundscape of the Riverdale, the LRT corridor, or the river valley.

The reason for that is that engineers are planning to bore a hole down 95 street beginning just north of Rowland Road.

The portion of the construction project at 95 and Jasper and east where it turns a corner onto 102 Avenue will be a "cut and cover" operation, which is much less costly than boring a tunnel.

Longtime Edmonton residents will remember the cut and cover project on Jasper Avenue for the current LRT line.

Residents of The Chadwick, on the west side of 95 Street were among those LRT neighbours to find out about LRT plans at the meeting of the Community League executive Nov. 22.

Chadwick condo board member Judith Paquin listened with interest as city representatives described the LRT line that will run past her front door.

She expressed shock at how far plans had progressed and suggested the community league contact residents of The View to warn them of the planners' progress.

Paquin was unaware that one of the projects engineers – Zukowski – is on the board of The View.

Other LRT neighbours who face direct impact from the LRT line are residents of the Hecla block and other residences east of 95 Street.

How many residences along 95th street will be impacted? Hecla low-income walkup? The Chadwick? The Summit?

Advocates for Chinese Elders who live on the 102 Avenue residence north of Jasper are worried it will be more difficult for them to get in and out of their building with a trench along 102 as the LRT drops from street level to go under Jasper Avenue.

One advocate at the Nov. 24 meeting on the south side pointed out that often even a one-block excursion for lunch necessitates buses for many of the frailer Chinese elders.

If we spend some time now on a better design, we won't regret it forever.



Photo by Allan Shute

Shown is the affected area of the southeast LRT extension that emerges from a portal halfway up the hill on the riverside of Cameron Avenue. The City's proposed plan sees the portal just below the Cameron Avenue Cohousing Co-operative, the pointy building, centre, with the spruce trees. It would head directly towards where this photo was taken.



Map Courtesy of CM2MHill and City Of Edmonton

Continuing south from the planned LRT bridge just east of the present footbridge, the route passes fairly close to the riverside condo in Cloverdale, then skirts the residential area of Riverdale's sister community to stop at the Muttart. It follows Connors Hill at grade up to 95th Avenue and east on its way to Mill Woods.

These maps are subject to change.

Two Trees

By Rocky Feroe

Arboreal relatives of those that died in Fraser's Mill soldier on, protecting the edges of our valley. They stockade us from winds. Remind us of our roots. Manitoba maples cool our homes.

Tamaracks drop cones for winter crafts. Saplings serve as wispy carbon sinks and retired snags provide shelter to pileated woodpeckers. Riverdale's timber takes many forms.

Two Riverdale specimens have received designation as Heritage Trees.

One grows on 90th street. It is a white rebel among an arch of elms: A big burly birch, its truncated plaque reveals it was planted in 1927. The family that lives there could tell you more. It is likely the tree is celebrated as part of their family history.

The other tree (a group of pincherries) stands in the Riverdale School yard west of the labyrinth.

The pincherries flower sweetly in spring and provide food for many species of bird in the fall.

Despite their magnificence, many argue the pincherries are merely shrubs and, at four years old, you might wonder how they came to be rare heritage trees.

Janice Modesti, one of the many gifted teachers at Riverdale Elementary, and 89th street author Linda Goyette held a story-writing workshop soon after the trees were planted.

They invited students to write about "who they might be if they lived as a tree."

Their writings became the final chapter in the popular book, *Heritage Trees of Alberta*. The school's saplings were one of only a hundred trees selected for the book.

A bunch of young shrubs have been honoured as heritage trees. Where better to plant the heritage trees of tomorrow than in a schoolyard?

Visit the trees of Riverdale on your next walkabout and make sure you take in the two heritage trees.

End your trip at the schoolyard; it is a wonderful place to watch both our trees and our children grow strong.

The League and Riverdale School thank Val Hillerud for all her efforts on the tree plantings at Riverdale School.

Send social notes, announcements, news, ads and details of your events to [The Riverdalian at theriverdalian@shaw.ca](mailto:theriverdalian@shaw.ca) or leave a message at 780 633 6683



Riverdale School Harvest lunch event

On October 22nd, a beautiful fall day, the students and staff of Riverdale School as well as many parents and Riverdale community members gathered together at our community hall to break bread and enjoy a variety of homemade soups and cookies to celebrate the season.

Nearly 100 folks gathered for this event where warmth emanated from the soup and from the hearts of those who came by.

Our community enjoyed a Vegetarian Lentil soup, two types of Chicken Noodle Soup (one of which was flavoured with lemon), Pam Rayment-Evans's Chicken and Barley soup (with vegetables cut out into lovely shapes to encourage not just enjoying your soup but playing with it too)!

A Red Pepper and Tomato soup topped with cilantro and yogurt scored high on folk's palettes.



Photo supplied

This past Halloween, the bus journey up the hill was made only slightly scarier thanks to the wonderful decorating effort of Denise, one of the regular 308 bus drivers. She also handed out halloween candy to her bemused and bleary-eyed commuters.

And let's not forget the Roast Beef and Barley soup or the Vegetable soup that Kim our preschool leader made with vegetables from her own garden.

Finally everyone's appetites were satisfied with a wide variety of cookies made especially for the event by many parents at the school.

If you are interested in these recipes check some of them out on the Riverdale School Web page at www.riverdale.epsb.ca.

Please consider them a gift from our Soup Chefs to keep you warm-hearted through the winter months.

A very big thank you to Mr. O'Hara, the Riverdale School Parent Committee, all the volunteers who contributed to this event and Rocky Feroe who made a generous donation to support the lunch.

Riverdale Rink

By Donna Koziak

Thanks to indispensable volunteer **Ron Reddekopp** (with help from **Glen Resler**) the annually-necessary repairs to and maintenance of the rink facility and equipment are taken care of for this season.

We hope you like the changes to the players' boxes — they will improve sight-lines, and make snow-removal much easier.

Flooding started on November 18th, with Riverdale resident **Evan Stahl** contracted as master ice-maker.

Last year Evan worked on ice-making and rink supervision under the direction of his older brother, Christian. This year he is in charge.

Weather permitting, we hope to have skatable ice ready for the school holidays, with some supervision hours during that time as well.

Schedules will be posted at the rink and on the website. To repeat, though — the rate at which skatable ice can be prepared is dependant on weather conditions.

We are investigating the cost of a speaker and amplifier system for the rink.

Questions, suggestions, and (especially) offers to volunteer with any aspect of rink operation should be directed to **Donna** at **780 424 2915**.

*Best Wishes and
Enjoy the Magic of the Season*

Councillor Jane Batty
Ward Six

Phone: 780-496-8140
Fax: 780-496-8113
Email: jane.batty@edmonton.ca



*Thank you for your support.
I look forward to working with your community
over the next 3 years*

In Memoriam

Delbert Paul Thompson 1923 - 2010



Gone from North of Rowland is a true friend, husband, father, grandfather, officer and a gentleman.

In the early morning hours of November 12th, surrounded by his loved ones, Del passed gently after 87 healthy years.

He is survived by his loving family: Marion, his wife of 62 years; his daughter Kim (Bill); his sons Bruce (Alicja) and Chris (Anna), and his beloved grandson Fraser; as well as family pets Squid, Chip and Silly.

Del served overseas as a Halifax bomber pilot and loved aviation his entire life.

A forward-thinking dreamer and seeker, Del inspired an entrepreneurial spirit in others in his own quiet way.

His easy smile and unassuming manner always made people feel comfortable and welcome. Yei Yei loved food and family gatherings (especially when Fraser played the piano) and was home for Marion's birthday dinner three days before his passing.



In August 2003, Del Thompson heard a knock at his door. It was Richard Woffenden whose family used to live there until 1936 before they left for England, and later Australia. Always the gracious host, Del invited him in for a visit and took him around to see the sights of his childhood district, such as the former Rundle Church where Richard's grandfather had been the choirmaster.

He was a caring man, generous to those less fortunate, and we are all richer for having known him.

The family would like to thank the staff of 12Y at the Edmonton General for their compassionate care.

In place of flowers, Del would have appreciated an act of kindness to someone in need.

Please join us to celebrate his life on Saturday, December 11 at 1 p.m. at the Alberta Aviation Museum, 11410 Kingsway Avenue.

Nora Wisheu 1929 – 2010



On Remembrance Day, a wonderful Riverdale matriarch was taken from us at the age of 81 years. Nora Wisheu had sparkling eyes and an irresistible smile.

Born in Dresden as Nora Helga Gabriel, she came to Canada in 1956 with her husband Josef and infant son Joe Jr. The young family moved to Riverdale in 1959, soon building a lovely home on 89th Street and making lifelong friends.

Neighbour Linda Goyette posted this note on the Edmonton Journal's website guestbook under Obituaries: "Nora and Joe were good neighbours, and it is difficult to look out my front window this evening and not see Nora's light in the window across the street."

She was well-liked by all of her Riverdale neighbours, and we will miss her smile and friendly wave."

Nora is survived by two sons and three daughters, Josef (Amanda) of Kelowna, B.C., Simon (Tannis) of Edmonton, Helga (Rick) of Vancouver, B.C., Irene (Michel) of Montreal, QC, and Vicky (Derek) of Edmonton.

She was predeceased by her husband, Josef. Her funeral service was held November 18th and she received one of the best eulogies ever heard, with Pastor Wayne Key officiating.

Nora will certainly be missed in Riverdale.

The Riverdalian was sad to learn of the passing of Leonard Austin, the father of Sundancer Gillian Austin and the grandfather of her daughter Willow.

Leonard was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, England and immigrated to Canada in 1964.

He worked as a bricklayer until his retirement, but remained an active member with the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Union.

In his retirement, Leonard began as a swimmer, then a volunteer, and finally an employee of the Kinsman Sports Centre where he met many wonderful friends.

Leonard was an incredibly strong, giving, caring man with a keen sense of humour, who loved the ocean and took great pride in his family and friends.

He was an avid walker and bird watcher. Leonard Austin believed in living each day to the fullest.

Our condolences go out to Gill and Willow and their entire family.

Leslie Nielsen 1926 – 2010



Leslie Nielsen when younger

Hollywood Star and former Riverdale lad Leslie Nielsen died last Sunday at his place in Florida at age 84.

Leslie's dad Ingvard was a Mountie at the barracks up the hill

and they lived on Cliff Street (100th Avenue) in the 1930s.

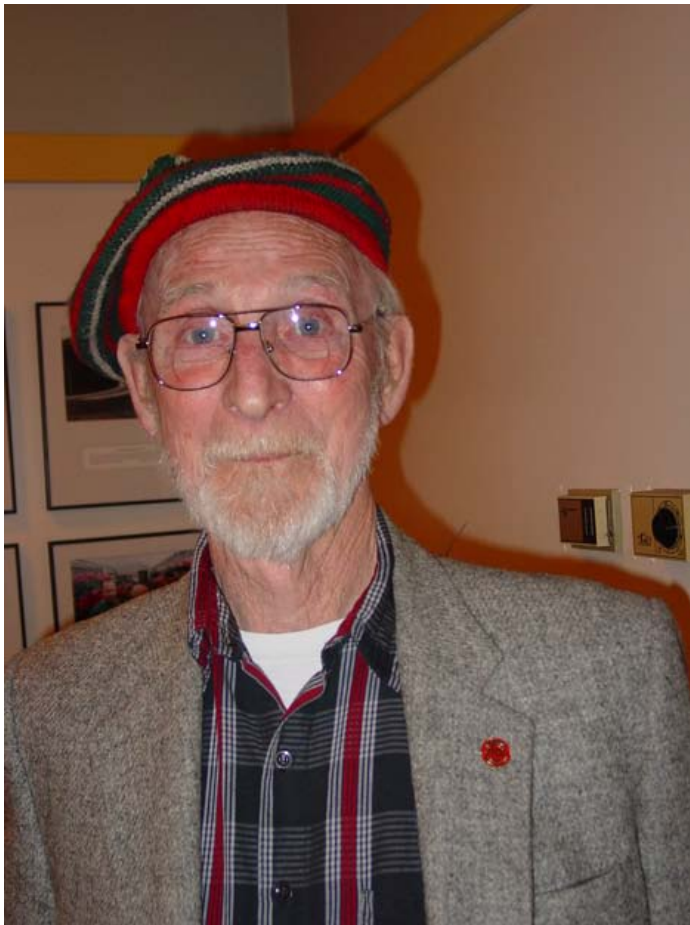
The former Riverdalian Frank Baer recalled him clearly.

"The last time I talked to Leslie Nielsen he was a fourteen-year-old kid standing right on that corner of Checker Lunch," said Frank.

"He was a nice-looking kid then. His hair was sort of a silver-colour."

No doubt Leslie got his acting start when he attended Vic Comp, the only high school with a professional-grade stage."





This is how most Riverdalians will remember Gordon, the godfather of rinkdom, complete with his Highland tam.

Gordon MacGregor, last of a dying breed of rink rats

Cont. from front page

The editors were taking a few liberties with the truth, of course, but the factoid remains the League executive at that time was stepping down and a mountain of apathy rushed in to fill the vacuum.

At a nomination meeting when everyone sat on their hands, Gordon held his up.

A dedicated and outspoken volunteer, President Gordon assessed the need for ongoing attention to the rink as a social and recreational treasure for Riverdalians of all ages.

He swiftly assembled a rink committee — some say rink rats — in the form of Gordon Coxson, Blair Malcolm, Dave Petrosky, Bob Bauer and the Mikes Sadava and Dreimanis.

Together they drank a lot of beer, patched and repatched the crummy old rink shack, flooded between the boards as soon as temps dropped, shovelled the ice surface with each snowfall and brought in scheduling to forestall fisticuffs twixt hockey players and pleasure skaters.

They even managed to get in a fair amount of jostling for the puck themselves and drink a lot of beer.

Gordon's reign as the 33rd League president was a triumph of populist politics.

Wearing his trademark highland tam and stroking his beard, he looked wisely over his spectacles and came up with a fast precedent to expedite the current topic on the floor.

Any motion for rink allocations passed speedily and efficiently. When he passed on the trappings of power in 1991, he and his rink-rat buddies continued to stick-handle rink-related improvements over the blue line and through the red tape.

When United developers in 2000 began clearing houses from the old Brickyard property right across from the rink for a subdivision of the

same name, the former Tenpas home up on blocks caught Gordon's eye. "Wouldn't that make a nice rink shack," he mused to his fellow conspirator, Gordon Coxson. Before you knew it, the Gordons had twisted the developer's arm to transfer it to the League at a good price — free.

"But," the developer cautioned, "you have to get it off our property pronto."

What transpired was the biggest move to League grounds since the former Hall was carted from Rowland Road and 90th Street in 1937 to where the present League parking lot is now.

With the able help of Able House Moving, the Tenpas residence was relocated atop a newly poured concrete basement (which housed the rink change rooms) and the blow by blow was captured for posterity accessible on the Riverdale website.

Over a decade which seemed like forever, the upper floor of the structure sat idle while the rink-shack component was well used.

Subsequent League administrations recognized the value and allocated casino funds to improvements until Brad Gable of the Dutch Settlement lent the final professional touch to create the cosy wonder now known as Riverdale House — a great place for pub nights and a budget-friendly rental facility for events too small for the Hall.

Sadly, one vision of his is still incomplete. From the start, Gordon insisted a second-floor deck and balcony was de rigueur to cap off the recycled glory of the rink palace, a place to take the air, puff on his pipe, follow the game or take in the passing parade that is Riverdale. To you, young rink rats, the MacGregor torch is thrown.

Born April 18, 1928 in Welwyn, Sask., of first-generation Scottish parents, Gordon Douglas MacGregor developed the mechanical survival skills so necessary on the prairies and had a talent for building complex designs from scratch and getting jobs done.

A latter-day Renaissance man, he held five trades certificates and had taken solid-state design courses from the University of Alberta. He was known for his inventions and had many patents for his ingenious designs. In the early 1960s he worked for Jaycopter Corporation developing a helicopter pilot trainer for the U.S. Navy.

Gordon had a major passion doing sound for live music, as he did for the Spirit River String Band, and he also was the house technician for Jasper's.

He also recorded many of the sessions at the Hovel and other live venues for local musicians. He was instrumental in founding the society that produced the Wildrose Folk Festival.

Gordon came by his politics honestly. As an operator of several automotive gas stations, Shell gave him grief over hours. He responded by suing the megacorporation, eventually lost but not before making good points.

He eventually wound up at Alberta Transportation where he worked for 25 years until his 1991 retirement.

Gordon readily took to local politics and worked tirelessly on many New Democrat campaigns organizing the signs. A heavy steel sign puller-upper he designed that made this task much easier was celebrated in the Social Notes of the April 1989 Riverdale Historian that

noted: "Gordon's talent blossomed with the Pam Barrett campaign." *Cont. on page 11*



It's not hard to see how a young Jakalin was attracted to polished, debonair Gordon MacGregor.

Gordon MacGregor

Cont. from page 10

The custom-made spotlight billboard that graced their front yard was not only visible from Rowland Road, but a PWA pilot landing at the Muni once commented upon it. And the MacGregor Christmas tree stood out for folks atop Nichols Hill in those pre-Riverdale Pointe days.

Gordon & Jakalin moved to Riverdale in 1987 with their daughter Amanda, gaining possession of their house on the day of the tornado — a few weeks before their son Andrew was born.

Many neighbours and rink users fondly remember him and his 1952 candy-apple red Ferguson tractor for doing post-blizzard snow removal from nearby sidewalks and the rink.

These were the Camelot years of snow removal for Riverdale. But then City Bylaw reared its head, dictating he'd have to cover it up with a fitted tarp when he parked it in the alley, according to a 1994 Journal article headlined: "Urban ploughboy has pull in Riverdale."

Happily, Council intervened, freed him of the coverup and thanked him for his eight years of service.

Passionate about his kids and his kids' soccer games, the consummate soccer and hockey dad Gordon has the distinction of being banned from the sidelines for using Socratic dialogues with the refs over suspect calls. He was pretty good with faces and when he'd spot a new ref, he'd be back like a dirty shirt.

Gordon lived on 88th until the spring of 2010 when he became ill. Son Andrew reports he was still full of life and kept his spirits up right to the end, proclaiming he would live to 120, only to be shot by a jealous husband.

With bravery and good humour he successfully out-skated, deked out and hip-checked the Grim Reaper until November 27 when he finally breathed his last.

Good game, Gordon, and thank you!

Gordon leaves behind his cherished children, Amanda and Andrew, his ex-wife and friend, Jakalin MacGregor; sisters, Peggy, Jean and Michelle and brother, Larry and their spouses.

He also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews.

He had a special relationship with his nephew Gaye Delorme, the musician. Gordon was predeceased by his parents, Dan and Grace MacGregor, his ex-wife Marg, his sisters Connie and Kathleen and his brother, Don.

A celebration of Gordon's life will be held on Friday, December 3rd at 4:30 p.m. at the Riverdale Hall.



Memories of Gordon

By Gordon Coxson

I remember an old tractor that City bylaw had deemed an eyesore; but to Gordon's friends and neighbours it was a most welcome sight as it cleared alleys, parking lots and our skating rink.

I remember a bespectacled, tam-wearing old gentleman vociferously questioning a referee's judgment, eyesight, lineage et al. until finally he was banished from the sidelines while supporting Riverdale soccer teams at the city finals.

He was undoubtedly wearing his "I'm not the grandfather" shirt while passionately supporting Andrew and Amanda in their many endeavours. I remember a Halloween dance where an obnoxious drunk was causing concern.

That was Gordon; he had the obnoxious part down pat, but unlike so many of those present, I knew that he didn't drink and that the most convincing act was only that.

Four-year-old Amanda gets practical driver education from her dear old dad in their 90th Street backyard. Gordon is wearing his "I'm not the grandfather" T-shirt.

Best costume for sure.

I remember continuing to marvel at his mechanical ingenuity as, in a few short weeks, he designed and fabricated a machine to insert metal rods into NDP election signs provincewide.

Great bit of engineering, unfortunate choice of beneficiary. Heh heh, just kidding, and if you knew Gordon you knew that he had supported the people's party for almost 50 years.

I remember threatening to cut up his long extension ladder with a zip blade if I ever saw him set it up to change burnt-out rink lights.

Fortunately a truck with a bucket lift appeared shortly thereafter, courtesy of yet another fine Riverdalian, and that forestalled what might have been an empty threat.

I broke my shoulder a couple of years ago and while convalescing, who should appear at my door but Gordon, carrying a full coffee pot, mugs, and all the condiments.

He knew he had a captive audience.

Gordon MacGregor was a fervent supporter of many causes throughout his long life.

Only if one took the time to jackhammer through that crusty exterior could the solid gold underneath be mined.

This community and its continued improvement were of paramount importance to him.

His spirit will be sorely missed.



The crowning moment for rink conspirators Gordon & Gordon came in the year 2000 when they acquired the old Tenpas home for a new improved rink shack, later to become known as the Riv Rink Palace, then the poshly entitled Riverdale House, la de dah. MacGregor is the Gordon on the left.

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FROM THE EDITOR



I wish everyone a very peaceful holiday season. Hope you enjoy this December issue, and my thanks to all who helped out!

— Adrian Curwen,
Editor/Layout

Contact theriverdalian@shaw.ca or leave a message at **780 633 6683**

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The Riverdalian, The Riverdale Community League Newsletter, publishes each month except August, thanks to a wonderful team of dedicated volunteers. It is produced and distributed by community volunteers as a community service to all members of our community.

Deadline for January Issue Sunday, December 19th

Many thanks to everyone who helps put *The Riverdalian* together, and distribute it come spring snow showers, blizzards, plagues of locusts or bridge noise.

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Bonnie Owen
Your Riverdale Sales Representative
Residential Real Estate Services
#200, 15057 Stony Plain Road
Edmonton, Alberta T5P 4W1
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