



## Did we elect a kinder, gentler City Council?

Riverdale got its wish to return hard-working Michael Phair to his Ward 4 seat and so did almost 30% per cent of those who voted. The race to replace Jim Taylor was fierce, with 17 other candidates on the ballot. Jane Batty rose above them all with a comfortable 16% of the vote.

Although Jane ran a pro-business campaign, she also spoke to the need to preserve inner-city neighbourhoods. Voters no doubt appreciated her vow to hold the line on taxation while giving the police adequate resources to do their job. Her experience working for former Alderman Lyall Roper was a plus no doubt as it may allow her "to hit the ground running," as her literature promised. We could very well expect to see a reasonable, balanced friend to Riverdale in Jane Batty.

Although at least six pro-community candidates ran for the remaining seat, it was a more conservative sentiment that gave Batty, Debby Leung and David Starko second, third and fourth spots respectively. Combined they took 37% while runners-up Myles Kitagawa, Ben Henderson, Doug Meggison, Peter Rowe, Bob Whyte and Hank Muirhead shared 24%. Hank, of Cameron Avenue, drew 800 votes, which is respectable given his late start. His spirited we-paid-for-the-neighbourhood campaign spoke much of Riverdale's recent experience before Council.

The mayoral race went to incumbent Bill Smith with 44%. Contesting councillor Robert Noce drew 32% while outsider, reform-talking Mike Nickel saw 20%. Noce will return to his legal career.

Early indications are that Edmonton's new City Council will listen more to communities than did the last one. Progressives such as Michael Phair, Dave Thiele, Bryan Anderson and Allan Bolstad are joined by former Liberal MLAs Karen Leibovici and Ed

THE RIVERDALIAN deadline for the December issue is Friday, Nov. 22.

Gibbons and former school trustee Janice Melnychuk, giving a possible 7 of 13 votes. This reverses the 7-5 pro-corporate balance seen during the last year of the former Council. Dave Thiele's sudden illness will shift the balance to 6-6 until he recovers.

This is not to say they will vote as a predictable bloc, nor should communities write off possible votes from returnees Bill Smith, Larry Langley and Terry Cavanagh, former alderman Ron Hayter, and rookies Jane Batty and Stephen Mandel. The almost even split guarantees that issues will be more vigorously debated; being heard at Council is a possibility once again.

The citywide voter turnout of 35% was slightly smaller than in 1998 and considerably so than the 50% of 1995. When our local poll closed at the Hall, only 476 of an estimated 1280 Riverdale voters bothered showing up. Our 37% was only slightly better than the rest of the city.

The *Riverdalian* congratulates the new councillors and wishes them all the best.

- Ace political reporter Allan Shute

Congratulations also to our neighbours and friends in Rosedale on winning the fight to prevent the expansion of the Epcor Power Plant in the river valley.

- Ed.

## Road closures cause confusion, traffic congestion on 93rd St

The erratic placement of no parking signs and closure of streets at the corner of 92nd St. and 100th Ave appear to be simply for the convenience of construction crews. Rumour has it that if you move the barriers at night, the roads can be used in a normal fashion. This is a new twist on rolling up the sidewalks; it is more like rolling up the roads at dawn - they can't be used again until night. Mail trucks have been seen driving over curbs and sidewalks in their attempts to maintain normalcy. In the meantime, traffic congestion on 93rd St is becoming a problem. Trucks are using alternate routes because the dirt road is closed. Riverdalians are

using 93rd St. because 92nd is closed. While the urgency of moving this project forward while weather permits is recognized, is alienating the existing community really necessary? Check the Tree Frog window or [www.riverdalians.net](http://www.riverdalians.net) for the latest closures.

## Will there be a hockey rink this year?

With no water at the site, residents are concerned that our popular neighbourhood gathering spot and winter recreational opportunity may be lost for this season.

## United Restructures

After an unsuccessful effort earlier this year to boost share prices and interest, United Inc. is being de-listed from the TSE. As a privately owned company United will no longer be required to disclose any financial or operating decisions.

Will there be any impact on the Brickyard?

## Edmonton Journal Correction

A recent *Journal* article mentioned that the Little brick house had been donated to the community. It has not. The report confused the brick house with our new rink shack.

- Ed

## Riverdale Community League

### MEETING

Monday Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m.

#### AGENDA

Bylaw revisions

(see [www.riverdalians.net](http://www.riverdalians.net) for bylaws)

Committee Reports

Development Implementation

AT THE HALL

## Bus schedule changes

The 308 bus is keeping us on our toes. We all know the handy-dandy Riv detour up 92nd Street and back on 90th because of the B-Yard. At the other end, service to Grant McEwan, London Drugs and Safeway is only available Saturdays and midday (twixt 9:25 a.m. and 2:25 p.m.). Outside of those hours, it's just downtown and back. The visual clue is whether the bus sign reads Downtown or Oliver Square. If you want to visit those locations during rush hours (6:22 to 8:52 a.m. and 3:25 to 6:25 p.m., weekdays), you'll have to take the No. 1 at Rowland and transfer to the No. 2 in front of the CIBC Bank at First & Jasper.

- Allan Shute, Commuter-at-large

## New Bylaws for Riverdale Community League

It has been many years since the Riverdale Community League bylaws were revised. The current bylaws are showing their age and no longer accurately reflect the practices or the needs of the community. At the Annual General Meeting in September, the executive was charged with revising the bylaws.

The proposed bylaws are posted on the web site: [www.riverdalians.net](http://www.riverdalians.net). They will be discussed at the November 5 League meeting and are scheduled to be adopted at the January 7, meeting.

The format of the bylaws was adopted from a model provided by the Edmonton Association of Community Leagues. They are very generic and are in most ways consistent with our

current operations. There is one major exception. Currently, every attending member may vote on any issue. Thus, each and every monthly meeting is a General Meeting. This procedure allows full participation of every member, on every issue. There is however, the potential of misuse by interest groups voting for a particular issue or financial commitment, then leaving the executive to undertake whatever assigned tasks and financial obligations fall from this decision. Further, decisions might be made without the awareness of the full community.

To reduce this possibility, the League adopted a policy that, while motions with financial implications over \$500 can be tabled at any meeting, they are not voted on until the next meeting, after notification in the *Riverdalian* - thus allowing wider debate.

The proposed bylaws call for a different decision making process, one in practice in most other leagues and nonprofit societies. The elected board is empowered to carry out League business, subject only to the responsiveness to the will of members as expressed in special General Meetings or the Annual General Meeting. If we adopt this arrangement, our monthly meetings would become board meetings at which any member could speak, but only elected Board members would be able to make a motion or vote. Members could call a special General Meeting (with 30 days notice in the *Riverdalian*) and the League could hold two regular General Meetings a year at which all members could vote and make motions if they choose to do so.

The advantages of this method are

that the board is given more fiscal control and capacity to manage the affairs of the League, without undo influence from any single member or group. Further, it makes election to the Board a more serious and responsible commitment. Although not fully committed to either approach, as operationally it will probably make little difference, I do believe an empowered board may serve our interests more effectively and provide greater continuity.

I trust that members will take the time to review the proposed bylaws and attend the meeting on November 5th to share your views with your neighbours.

- Terry Anderson, Bylaws Committee

## RCL Membership Salespeople

When you've completed the membership drive, please give the money to Pam Taylor at 424-6927 and registrations to Allan Shute at Tree Frog. Contact Susan Anderson at 425-5950 if you have unsold cards. Thanks to everyone for helping out.

-Steve Richardson

## Bingo Coordinator Wanted

The League is still looking for someone who will contact bingo workers and be the liaison with the bingo association. Please call Rocky at: 421-0975.

## Safety on the Streets

Thanks to those who responded to the plea in the newsletter last year, but there are still some folks driving too fast through the neighbourhood. As a result, signs are being erected at 101st Ave and 92nd St. saying, "Give Our Kids a Break" and advising drivers to slow down.

- Ed.



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RCL Vice-president Rhea March recently interviewed Riverdale's web master Doug Elves:

*RM: My hat is off to you for developing our site. What other web sites have you developed?*

DE: I created my first web site four years ago, for my own poems (edmontonians.net/elv). A few others I have done are cupwedm.net and concert pianist Stephane Lemelin's stephanelemelin.net. I did The Gramophone record store's site and am upgrading it now gramophone.ca

*RM: What moved you to take on this project?*

DE: About a year ago the League asked me to develop the site. It took a lot of time to determine what should be on the web site, and required hours of fussing with code, designing and a little hair-pulling, but I can now ignore it and let others update it with a straightforward interface.

*RM: How much time do you spend maintaining the site each week?*

DE: Some weeks no time at all. When I post the newsletter, there is a bit of work, but I will set up a system so it can be posted by someone not familiar with HTML, in much the same way that we now post messages. I have set up the Sports page so the Soccer Coordinator can post notes himself. The calendar can also be updated by others.

*RM: One of the highlights for me is the panoramic shot of our community. How did you do that?*

DE: I took several pictures of the panorama with my digital camera, and then used a graphics program to stitch the pictures together.

*RM: Do you keep track of visits to the site?*

DE: There is a counter on the opening page below the menu, under "Tour" in a faint blue colour. I wanted it handy but not obtrusive, so I faded the text a little. About 1000 people have visited the site.

*RM: Could someone link another web site to Riverdale's and be listed on the "Links" page?*

DE: If it is a genuine Riverdale web site, or a useful resource on League or City issues, they can send a message

to admin@riverdaliens.net and I will put the link up.

*RM: What is the Party Line?*

DE: The Party Line is a real-time chat site. Just log in and you can chat with whoever happens to be in the chat site. It is unlikely that you would find someone else there by chance, but I set it up to allow for preplanned informal meetings - a committee could chat online if they wanted to, instead of gathering everyone in the same room.

*RM: Is it possible for someone to advertise on our site?*

DE: I try to post the *Riverdalian* classifieds on the scrolling notes section of the opening page. That process is a fiddly, time-consuming one though. I might come up with a simpler way of doing it.

*RM: How do you think Riverdaliens could benefit from our web site?*

DE: I'll let Riverdaliens work on that. Someone wondered about a babysitting supply/demand matching feature. Would others like to see that? I think I could work up a system. The History section of the site is still not done. Allan Shute said I could use information and photos from the history book, and I've been collecting photos through the seasons for the Walking Tour which will be up soon.

*RM: Thank you Doug, for all your work on this site. I am very proud of our community and you have given a sense of what it is like to live here. Bravo!*

## Playground Committee Update

The Playground Committee has requested funding from the Neighbourhood Park Development Program (NPDP). The NPDP has funds reserved for each community to use toward park development and upgrades. These funds are available upon City approval of the playground project, if the community can provide matching dollars. Thanks again to the League for providing \$40,000 and to the Riverdale Playgroup for their donation of \$2,000 to put toward the matching dollars. The Committee has identified other possible funding sources and fundraising initiatives.

A craft sale will be held at the school December 6th from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m.. It's the same day as parent teacher conferences and the Scholastic Book Sale so we are hoping to see many parents. We ask that other community members make a special effort to attend and support the playground development.

We would really appreciate donations from craftspeople. If you have an item(s) that you would like to donate, you can drop it off at the school office or email me at dborutsk@planet.eon.net. Thank you for your support.

- Diane Hives, Playground Committee

### Sunday Afternoon Free Swim

Hardisty Pool 1:15 - 2:45 pm

Bonnie Doon Pool 3:30 - 5 pm

Show your membership card.

## Christmas Party?

### Make-Up and Hair

\$60 Long

\$45 Short

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## SCHOOL NEWS

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The new year has begun well at Riverdale school. We are pleased to welcome 104 students for the 2001-2002 school year. These students have a positive outlook and a commitment to their studies. New registrants are welcome. Our Kindergarten class has only 13 students, so if you know of anyone in the area who has a kindergarten-aged child not yet enrolled in a school, please encourage them to check out our outstanding program.

Our instructional focus this year is writing. Special attention will be paid to all aspects of writing as it applies in all subject areas. Teachers from grades K through 4 are involved in a series of Balanced Literacy and Reading Recovery in-services to train them in strategies for teaching reading and writing. This is a very exciting opportunity to improve teacher skills and enhance student performance.

Our lunchroom program is very busy and support there is always needed. If you have an interest in a paid one-hour per day position, please contact Ms Schaaf at 425-7600. Regular and occasional positions are available.

### Playground Alert

We appeal to our neighbours to be on the lookout for weekend users of school property. Empty beer bottles and cigarette packages have been left in the playground, and Shooter containers shattered and scattered on the teachers' parking lot. Strewn garbage of this sort is not only unsightly, but puts our students at risk. Anyone seeing inappropriate behaviour on school property is asked to contact the police at 421-2125. Calls of this nature may be made anonymously.

- Susan Laudenclos, Principal

## SOCIAL NOTES

The **Bilinski family, John, Lisa, Taylor and Trevor**, would like to welcome **Claire Diane** to the world. She was born August 23 at 9:35 a.m. weighing 7 lbs 6 oz. Big brothers Taylor and Trevor are happy to have another girl around the house. The family would like to thank everyone for their help and support while they were adjusting. A special thanks to **Hazel Talbot** and **Alison Irwin** for all their help ensuring

Taylor was safe to and from school every day. Your kindness and assistance were much appreciated. Riverdale is a great place, with so many caring people.

**Lorna Thomas, Phil Haug** and children **Alex and Cayley** are heading to Nepal. Lorna is doing research for a film entitled "Going Back to Kathmandu," about Urmila Garg, a former Edmontonian, who is helping to improve the status of women in Nepal by training women in sericulture, spinning, weaving and literacy. The family will visit Chitwan National Park to ride elephants and take photos of rhinoceroses and do trek in the Annapurna region. For Christmas they will be on the beach in Bali, returning to Edmonton New Year's Eve. If there is another New Years party at the Hall they will be eager to share their stories with fellow Riverdalian!

**Jozel Campbell-Lemire** of 88th St. cleaned up at the Victoria School awards ceremony. As well as a Major Honours Award (Gr.12) and an Outstanding Service Award, Jozel was chosen to receive the Victoria Arts Society Award for Drama (Snr) and the Roy Edwards Participation Award for promoting a positive awareness of the school. Way to go, Jo!

**Larrie Taylor** and **Konnie Kranenberg** ran the Lions 5-Park Tough Guy run, a 22 km run through the river valley. Larrie took half an hour off his previous time and raised over \$3,000 for Camp Health, Hope & Happiness on Lake Isle.

**Pam** and **Larrie Taylor** attended the Lions Leadership Forum in Halifax where Pam was in a skit about the Lions Eye Health Program. Pam has posted some pamphlets at Tree Frog and encourages everyone to get a dilated pupil eye exam annually.

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## OBITUARY

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### Stanley Spotowski

On Thursday, Oct. 18, our gentle friend and neighbour Stanley Spotowski passed away at the age of 80. As well as nieces, nephews and friends, Stanley left behind many fond memories with those who knew him. He was a quiet fellow, but once you got to know him, he was thoughtful and pleasant

and took a keen interest in you. His particular joy was to follow the progress of Riverdale's many gardens. Another was to take his annual Hawaii winter vacation from which he always returned looking tanned and rested. His unselfish kindness came to the fore when his best friend and landlord Martyn Sykala grew sick in the mid-1990s. Stanley took good care of him, and Martyn passed away in the fall of 1997. Stanley continued to live in the house and keep up his bus rides and walks around the district. Although his lung condition made speaking difficult, Stanley Spotowski always had a kind word to say. Donations are suggested to the Alberta Lung Association, the Lamont Healthcare Centre or to a charity of your choice.

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## CLASSIFIEDS

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**Wanted:** Empty egg cartoons for a friend who lives in the country. Call Pauline at 424-6889 for pick up.

**For sale:** Champion Juicer; used only a few times; \$150 Call Pauline 424-6889

**For sale:** 1987 Dodge Caravan SE, maroon, 4 cyl., needs work- a fixer-upper or for parts, interior in great shape \$900 obo. Call 426-5961.

**Riverdalians desperately** looking to buy a family home in old Riverdale. Renovations okay. If you plan to sell, please call Philip or Ilse at 424-9289.

**Loving fun person wanted** to care for 9 month old child 2 days/week. Call Pamela 425-6067.

To place an ad call Adam 426-4384. \$1/ line.

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If you're interested in placing an ad, please contact **Adam Wisheu** at 426-4384, or email him at [rivrdaIn@telus-planet.net](mailto:rivrdaIn@telus-planet.net).

Thank you to those who contributed this month **Terry Anderson, Lisa Bilinski, Ross Campbell, Rocky Feroe, Diane Hives, Susan Laudenclos, Rhea March, Pam Taylor, Elaine Petrosky, Steve Richardson, Allan Shute, Lorna Thomas** and to **Al Skognes, Aaron Contois** and the delivery team.