

Alternative-energy buffs flock to the Riverdale NetZero open house in November.

Solar home demo warms hearts of Riverdalians, lights up their minds

Commentary by Allan Shute

On a sunny Saturday in November, I dropped in on an open house of the partially completed Riverdale NetZero Project— Peter Amerongen's space-age duplex designed to be so energy-efficient that each side can be heated by the equivalent of four toasters.

The power necessary is supplied by an array of solar and thermal panels. What I saw made me feel optimistic about the future. Maybe we won't end our days either fried or frozen or blown off the face of the earth.

Thanks to Pete and his team of energy pioneers, Edmonton's first "net-zero" solar home is being built right here in Riverdale. And, if their plans work out, its power bill over the course of a year will add up to nothing, hence the term "net zero."

While high-tech energy systems boggle my peasant mind, the secret to the project's expected success lies in common-sense home construction which Pete has been fine-tuning since his early days of barn building.

The 16" walls are thicker than those found in the average house, with an insulation value of R56. Add seamless vapour barriers and quadruple-glaze windows and you make a living space so easy to heat that expensive technology such as geothermal is unnecessary. Even a natural gas line has been deemed redundant.

"Is this the same as getting off the grid?" I asked one presenter, using a phrase burnt in to my aging hippie DNA. "Not at all," came the reply. "We need the power grid to 'bank' electricity."

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Walk the winter labyrinth

Begin your new year with a few moments of quiet reflection. We invite you to join us for the Annual Winter Labyrinth Walk, on Saturday, January 12th. Drop into the Riverdale community hall, (9231-100 Ave), between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The Walk is open to all ages. Children are welcome! A donation is appreciated.

For further information, please call **Jean** at **424-8339**.

Babysitters wanted for New Year's eve at Riverdale Hall!

If you are 14 or older, have completed a Babysitter's Course and would like to make extra cash on New Year's Eve, please contact **Rhea March** at **426-3758** or email **rhea.march@ckua.com**.

Hours will be from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Pay will be \$12.50/hour - plus tips!

You will be required to assist in the supervision of several children in kids craft and activities room in the small room at Riverdale Hall.

New Year's Eve party, a stellar event!

7:00 pm Skating Party & Bonfire
(Skating party is FREE - All Welcome!)

7:30 pm Doors & Cash Bar

8:30 pm The JUICE!

10:00 pm The OFF WHYTE Band!

Midnight Buffet

Champagne at the stroke of midnight

Tickets available at the Door or reserve tickets by calling Rhea at 426-3758.

\$25.00 per adult

\$10.00 per teen (12yrs to 18yrs)

(Kids 12 & under and accompanied by an adult are FREE! A supervised Kids Craft Room in the small room.

The Off-Whyte band has been playing and hosting old-school hall parties, just like our upcoming New Year's Eve party, for the past 5 years.

They give everyone a wonderful opportunity to extoll the value of friends and neighbours, dancing and celebrating together.

It builds community, and that we treasure. The Off-Whyte band play music that is basically a typical CKUA playlist of roots/blues/r&b and rock n' roll.

They have played the sacred Riverdale Hall twice. The fiddle/guitarist/singer David Callahan lives in Riverdale and the keyboard guy works there.

They are pumped to play this upcoming New Years Party and together bring in 2008!

Riverdale Community League
Monday, January 7th,
7 p.m.

Motion:

That the Riverdale Community League approve up to \$3,500 to purchase sweeper for ice maintenance.

Winter play for all young teens

Drop by the Riverdale Winter Playground for a fun-filled winter school break!

Join the exciting outdoor games, crafts, music, drama and winter activities.

Most importantly, all of our leaders are certified specialists in FUN!



Dates: January 2nd to 4th, '08
When: 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Who: Children age 6 to 12
Cost: Absolutely, 100%, free!

Riverdale Community League Hall
9231-100 Avenue

Come dressed for the weather!
We will be OUTSIDE!!!

Program subject to cancellation due to extreme weather, or staff availability.

THE CITY OF EDMONTON, IN COOPERATION WITH OUR COMMUNITY LEAGUE

For more information please call 496-1901



Volunteers add the icing for our community cake

From Rocky Feroe

Pictured below is a glimpse of a child, assisted by more experienced skaters at the Rink. But one picture can never tell the whole story, and off in the distance are many other people who volunteer making the whole thing possible.

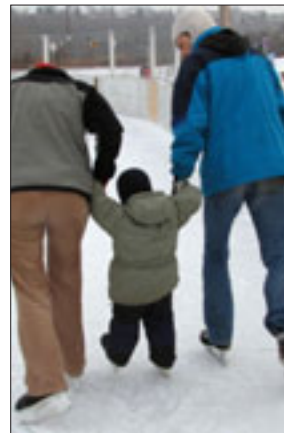


Photo by Gillian Austin

Sometimes around 6:30 a.m. and then 9 p.m. on a Saturday night, you can see many a Riverdalian putting on their

winter clothes and heading off to the rink to make ice.

There's Julie Fisher, Aileen Quinn, Judy Davidson, and Dorothy Hennevel. Also, Michel Kelly, Eric Filpula, Eric Gormley, Ted Farqhar, Graeme Parker, as well as many others.

They spray cold water over 100 times, until they have built up a nice smooth surface.

You can also see Ben, Jerry and their parents repairing and repainting rink boards. Gord Coxson and company are in the picture too, spending long hours on rink shack maintenance.

Laura Marvan and her gang are shown in the distance working on fundraising and visioning to keep this scene alive.

Stay-at-home moms share a free weekly playgroup

Sometimes, being a stay-at-home mom can become a very isolating experience. One of the best ways for new moms in Riverdale to meet others in a similar situation is the Riverdale playgroup.

On Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., children and their caregivers are invited to drop in at the community league hall, 9231-100th Ave, for a free cooperative play group. Everyone is welcome. Come Play!

It's run by a group of volunteers who take turns opening and closing the hall each week. It's unstructured play, toys are out for everyone and kids do what they want. Sometimes an art centre is run.

There is always snack time, where everyone brings a snack the size their kid would eat (like an apple or a few crackers) and it's put on a plate in the middle of little table to share.

For more information, please call **Laura** at **424-8116** or email **lauramarvan@hotmail.com**



Maddie, Ali and Amber help change light bulbs at the hall.

Increasing our affordable housing stock

From Ben Henderson, Councillor, Ward 4

I hope you are all enjoying the holiday season, and I know that in a city and province with a massive affordable housing problem, this is not easy for everyone. Too many people live in sub-standard housing or places they can't afford, so when they do pay their rent or mortgage, they have little money left over for food and clothing, let alone holidays!

Last week in Council we passed a bylaw which I hope will be one small step toward increased supply of affordable housing. Bylaw 14750, will allow secondary and garage suites in some parts of the City.

The rules have been relaxed so that more people can be housed, more affordably. This is an important step that will make a big difference in some people's lives.

Secondary suites include basement suites or parts of a house, and also garage suites. This is being applied in a two-stage process, now it applies to newer parts of the city and to areas near industry or apartment buildings.

Next year Council will be revisiting this and consider extending that permission to all areas of the city.

An estimated 10% of homeowners may take advantage of this to provide more housing in the form of a small suite in their existing property. I argued that we should apply this to owner-occupied dwellings only, but this did not pass. Council decided both rental properties and owner-occupied properties can have secondary suites.

Some also argued that approval of suites should be discretionary, and that neighbours should have a right to appeal granting permission for a secondary suite. This also did not pass, as the majority of Council felt it was important enough to increase the affordable housing stock to leave it as non-discretionary.

However, building codes and other regulatory standards will still apply, and substandard housing is not encouraged. In fact this will allow us to ensure that many of the sub-standard unofficial suites can be brought up to code.

I know this is only one step toward more affordable housing, and that we need a far larger involvement of our federal and provincial governments, but with this step the City of Edmonton has taken one important step that will bring some results.

To you and yours, all the very best for an enjoyable and safe holiday season and new year! You can contact me at **ben.henderson@edmonton.ca** or phone **496-8146**.


Wishing You A Safe And Happy Holiday Season

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



Councillor
Jane Batty
Ward 4

Phone 496-8140 or email jane.batty@edmonton.ca



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'Dalians minds light up, with solar demo

Cont. from front page

If we were off the grid, we'd have to store it ourselves." It turns out you can deposit power into the grid during hot, sunny days and withdraw it when needed on cold, dark stretches.

Pete and his crew fully embrace the power grid. Problem is, the grid doesn't exactly embrace them back.

It was in the net-metering presentation of engineer Gordon Howell that I detected a hint of frustration in his voice when he spoke of delays in approvals from the province. Permission from Alberta Energy is required before anyone can plug into the grid with a meter that runs both ways.

Gordon was the first local homeowner to set up such a power system and found himself facing costly and time-consuming hoops to jump through. "Noise" studies for instance.

Solar power is entirely silent and doesn't bother the neighbours, yet he had to have a study done.

Gordon has consulted on hundreds of similar projects, so is well versed in the drill, as one would expect the province to be by this time.



Peter Amerongen answers questions at his project's open house.

But why are there are still 60 levels of red tape to be unravelled? If the province is committed to a so-called "green" plan, why don't they make it easier for ordinary homeowners to fight global warming? There's something absurd about an energy-rich province subsidizing foreign corporations to extract our non-renewable resources at fire-sale prices while private citizens like Pete and his team are spending their own time and resources—with appreciated help from the feds—to develop residential energy systems designed to reduce the need to burn non-renewable resources. Initiative like this should be encouraged.

As we're pretty well guaranteed a provincial election between February and June 2008, it might be a good time to ask candidates who come knocking how they stand on updating Alberta Energy laws regarding net metering.

Do you know how many Riverdalians it takes to change a lightbulb?

From Rocky Feroe

If you missed the articles in the *Edmonton Journal* and *Edmonton Examiner* or if you didn't see the segment on Global TV, then let me tell you how many Riverdalians it takes to change a light bulb. By way of a clue let me first tell you they consumed the energy of 5 large pizzas before tackling the job.

Steve Talman, Bill MacKinnon and Paul Mckeown arranged to have the necessary tools and bulbs on hand.

They purchased 60 compact fluorescent bulbs, two motion detectors, outlet and switch insulators, and a 16 foot ladder all of the appropriate wattage and size for the job.

By the end of the night the Riverdalians had instituted most of 16 low cost and no cost efficiency measures aimed at reducing our halls high carbon diet by 9.4 tons. That is equivalent to the environmental savings of taking 6 subcompact cars off Riverdale streets.

The measures will save our league \$1392 every year herein and it only cost us 5 donated pizza's and \$300.

As an added benefit the Riverdalians that helped learned all about compact fluorescents and felt motivated and competent to start making changes in their own homes.

So, how many Riverdalians does it take to change a light bulb? Answer: The Riverdalians have to want to change the bulbs, and so in the end it takes us all! And with that, they have asked me to stop writing, so for more info and pictures go to **www.Riverdalians.net**.

Help lead Riverdale towards becoming the first Carbon Neutral hall in North America!

The Medicine Shoppe
100% Pure Pharmacy™
Just up the hill in Forest Heights

- Prescriptions and non-prescription medications with great service!
- 15% AMA Discount
- 10% Community League Discount (Ask for details.)

Conrad Lewandowski, 3rd Floor, Gateway
7915 - 106 Ave, Edmonton, AB
phone: 469-8222

SOCIAL NOTES

• Attracting rave reviews on the *Journal's* Cappies page, **Bonnie Ings** of Sundance delivered a spirited portrayal of Miss Adelaide in Harry Ainlay's production of *Guys & Dolls*.

"A standout," summed up one Louis St. Laurent critic, saying she delivered "every line with finesse and comedic timing." Strathcona was of the opinion that Bonnie "flourished" in her role and nailed "the Jersey girl dialect, maintaining it not only through her dialogue, but also through every song." Bonnie "added vitality and spunk to every spoken word and captured the sweet sass required of her character."

Yet another critic observed: "Bonnie Ings gave a spectacular performance as Adelaide, capturing the essence of the character, while still making Adelaide her own." A fourth noted Bonnie "surpassed expectations of high school theatre." Congratulations, Bonnie! Keep up the good work!

• Riverdalian who shop at the Gold Bar IGA were saddened to hear that its personable grocery manager, **Dave Chelmick**, passed away suddenly last week from a heart attack at the age of 49.

• **Colin Woodcock** will be moving into Riverdale in December and will be living on 90th Street formerly occupied by **Jan Schmitz**. Jan is leaving Riverdale to move to the neighbourhood of Inglewood where she has bought a home. Jan has been living on 90th Street for the last 8 years and has often taken public transit back and forth to work downtown. We'll miss seeing her on the bus.

• **Maureen Knight**, wife of **Brian**, has just returned from 3 months in Australia. We wish her a belated happy birthday, and if you see her don't forget to comment on her tan!

• **Laura Marvan's** sister, **Adriana**, was a Canadian youth delegate at the recent United Nations conference on the Environment in Bali, Indonesia. She's been working hard on the issue of climate change and has inspired many a Riverdalian. A global petition was presented to key climate negotiators.

• The committee that is helping the city monitor the #308 bus extension during its trail run has been chosen by the City. Thanks go to **Rocky Feroe, Denise Cantor, Cathy Roy, Adam Rozenhart, Donna Koziak, Douglas Kowalczyk, Kathy Shute** and **Sue Stuparek** for being the volunteer liason contacts for the whole community to pass on related to the bus extension.

SCHOOL NEWS

November was a very busy month at Riverdale School. Thanks to all families who came to participate in our Parent-Student-Teacher conferences. We truly believe that conversations about student progress ensure future success. We also hosted a Book Exchange and Clothing Exchange. Many families went home with 'new' books and clothes, which in turn reduces our impact on the environment. Our amazing PAC organized both events for us, thanks to everyone who helped out.

All of the staff at Riverdale School would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. May the New Year bring you good health and happiness.

Lyndi Karbonik,
Principal, Riverdale School



Community volleyball at the league hall

Volleyball players needed

Volleyball continues in the school gym each Thursday evening at 8 pm starting January 10. We have lost a few regular players (lost as in moved to Syria) so are looking for new players to join the fun.

Free swimming at local pools

Free community league Swims are at **Hardisty Pool** from October to June on Sundays from 1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m., and at **Bonnie Doon Pool** on Saturdays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

CLASSIFIED

CLASSIFIEDS ARE \$2 a line. To advertise contact *The Riverdalian* by leaving a message on 633-6683 or email theriverdalian@shaw.ca

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CHILDCARE NEEDED? I offer part time and casual childcare. Please contact Niko at 965 6585

HOLIDAY RENTALS, SOUTH FRANCE. Medieval house and studio, 16th Century village of Montagnac, near Montpellier / Mediterranean. Web: www.sjevent.ca ; email: sjevent@shaw.ca

SNOW & ICE REMOVAL, clean up! Lawn care and fertilization, over seeding, leaves and debris, gardens, flowerbeds, call Sheldon, 242-4255

TAKE SOME TIME for yourself. Relax and enjoy a foot reflexology session. Call Suzanne at 428-8573 for an appointment.

ACHING MUSCLES? EMOTIONALLY overloaded? Feeling disconnected? Licensed and registered wholistic massage therapist, in Riverdale. Over 13 years in private practice. Connecting with you to promote healing, calming and renewal. Call Sue Stuparek (RMT) at 425-4411

From The Editor:

Seasons greetings from *The Riverdalian*, and the Riverdale Community League!

May 2008 be a year of joy, prosperity and peace for us all.

If you can spare a few hours a month, *The Riverdalian* would love to hear from you. We could always use more short article writers, reviewers, artwork, and stringers. Please email, or leave a message at **633-6683**

—Adrian Curwen, Editor/Layout

The Riverdale Community League Newsletter, *The Riverdalian*, publishes every month thanks to community volunteers. It is produced and distributed by a volunteer team, as a free service to all members of our community.

If you have news or an advertisement, please email Adrian at theriverdalian@shaw.ca or leave a message at 633-6683.

Deadline for the February issue is Sunday, January 13th, 2008.

Thank you to all those who help put together, organise and distribute and print *The Riverdalian*, come snow, sun or hail.