

NEWS FROM OLD STRATHCONA

PUBLISHED BY THE OLD STRATHCONA FOUNDATION
#401, 10324 WHYTE AVENUE, EDMONTON, AB T6E 1Z8
PH. (780) 433-5866; FAX 431-1938; E-Mail osf@telusplanet.net

Volume 6 Issue 2 Summer 2000

President's Message

I came across a research paper called "*A Study of Commercial Blight and the Function of Whyte Avenue, Edmonton.*"

The paper is by Norah Chow-Li and Denis Johnson and was published in 1972 by the Department of Extension and the University of Alberta. It describes the urban degeneration of the commercial strip of Whyte Avenue as typical of older commercial ribbons in competition with shopping centres. It describes blight as deterioration which can effect a single dwelling or an entire neighborhood. It can be caused by aging structures, poor maintenance, overcrowding, faulty land use, air pollution and excessive traffic. It is typical in areas of substandard living conditions and characterized by stagnation and deterioration. Chow and Johnson cite increased mobility and consumers taking their purchasing power to the suburbs as a major reason for the abandonment of traditional main street shopping areas. This rush to the planned new shopping centres left older arterial commercial districts like Whyte Avenue "*without the excitement that is characteristic of successful areas.*" Thus creating the "ribbon of blight" that was Whyte Avenue of 1972.

We have really come a long way since 1972. The Old Strathcona Foundation grew from The Strathcona Historic Group, which began shortly after this paper was published. The work of both groups and their many dedicated volunteers are responsible for reversing the urban blight that

once was Whyte Avenue into the thriving business and recreation area it has become. It is ironic that many of the planned new shopping centres are being abandoned as shopper return to the main streets for a more positive experience.

We are proud of the success of this reversal of fortune on Whyte but we need to continue to be vigilant about the planning and social issues we face on a daily basis. It is the mixture of businesses and attractions that make us unique and our Area Redevelopment Plan ensures the rules are to be followed by all who wish to do business here. We do not want to return to the urban blight that once was Whyte Avenue.

Judy Berghofer, President, OSF

In This Issue:

President's Message.....	Page 1
Planning and Development Update.....	Page 2
Silly Summer Parade.....	Page 2
Community Greenways.....	Page 3
Art Walk 2000.....	Page 3
Holy Trinity Anglican Church.....	Page 4
Who was Tipton?.....	Page 4
National Aboriginal Day.....	Page 5
For a Culture of Peace.....	Page 5
What's Happening.....	Page 6

Planning & Development Update

By Sandy McLeod

Varscona Cinema Appeal

On June 9, 2000 Donna Reid of Emery Jamieson will appear before the Alberta Court of Appeal on behalf of the OSF. We are looking forward to hearing Ms.Reid and to a positive outcome. Fundraising for this legal challenge continues.

Alberta Energy and Utilities Board Preliminary Hearing – April 17, 2000

(Epcor expansion - ATCO High Pressure Pipeline Project)

There has been no decision from the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board with respect to the commencement of hearings or the numerous applications for intervenor status from affected parties. The hearings have been delayed and will not start on May 24, 2000 as scheduled.

The OSF presented information to the Board about our interest in the Queen Elizabeth Pool redevelopment project, requesting both a delay of proceedings and status at the hearings.

A copy of the multi-volume ATCO pipeline application is available at the OSF office. As well, there are numerous newspaper clippings about the power plant expansion and the archeological and historical importance of the Rosedale site.

WANTED

PARADE ENTRIES

FOR

SILLY SUMMER PARADE 2000

"A BLOOMIN' PARADE

THE RETURN OF FLOWER POWER"

July 1st, 2000

For parade package or more information

Please call OSF Event Hotline

@ 439-8990

Silly Summer Parade

A Bloomin' Parade

∩ The Return of Flower Power ∩

by Mark Bystrek

Whyte Avenue will explode with "Flower Power" during the 13th Annual Summer Silly Parade on Saturday July 1, 2000 at 12:00 noon. The theme of this year's parade is "A Bloomin' Parade – the Return of Flower Power". We are anticipating that this parade be the biggest and silliest summer event of the year! Klondike Kate will be singing the National Anthem. It will be a great way for families to celebrate Canada Day together.

We are presently looking for Sponsors, Volunteers and Parade Entries. If you can help us out, please contact Mark at 439-8990.

The parade will run east on Whyte Avenue from 107 Street to 104 Street, south to 78 Avenue, then east and will finish at United Cycle.

There will be live music, Canada Day birthday cake, and other family fun activities in the United Cycle parking lot directly after the parade. The honorary Lord Mayor of Old Strathcona elections will also take place at this time. Votes can be bought for this election by donating food, sport equipment, or cash to the Food Bank, Sport Central, or the Old Strathcona Foundation respectively. You can bring your donation to United Cycle on Parade Day or the Foundations Farmer's Market booth prior to the Canada Day Celebrations.

Bring the family and your favorite flowers. Come and see who will win the grand prize for the most outrageous entry!

For more information, contact our Parade Hotline at 439-8990.

The 13th Annual

Community Greenways

For A Living City

by Tim Nolt

Imagine a linear park and multi-use trail system (something like the one in our river valley) stretching throughout Edmonton. Safe green spaces to play, recreate, and rejuvenate. Multi-use trails that will let you travel, explore, go shopping, or meet with family and friends. Easy and close access to recreation for a large number of communities in the city.

We can build this network and make Edmonton an even better place to live, by rehabilitating abandoned railway lines, utility corridors, right of ways, and other available spaces.

Using this innovative technique we can accomplish what the world's leading urban planners strive to achieve (e.g. profile on Andres Duany, Scientific American, March 2000). Imagine a city that is people friendly and has a high quality of life, making Edmonton a preferred place to live or visit.

Historically the building of greenways has enhanced local economies and improved nearby property values, both residential and commercial. As well greenways are cost effective to build and maintain (much less when compared to the cost of regular roadways).

Community Greenways would also give people the opportunity to use non-motorized transportation, which is not only promotes health, but is nearly 100% free of pollutants and greenhouse emissions. A true legacy to leave our children.

**A WORTHWHILE PROJECT LIKE THIS
CAN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT COMMUNITY
SUPPORT.**

PLEASE CONTACT US AT 423-4003

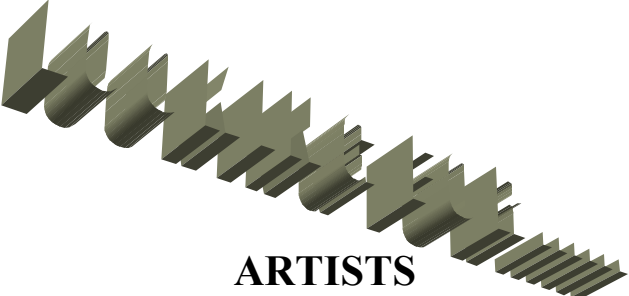
Art Walk 2000 July 14, 15 and 16th

by Tim Nolt

Once again one of the largest street celebrations of the visual arts in Canada happens as Old Strathcona is transformed into a living art studio for three days. Come visit and enjoy as the artists take to the streets to display and create their masterpieces in this historical district.

It's a delightful opportunity to talk to the artists as they perform their creative skills in this huge open air studio. It is a great chance to see a wide array of visual art in an afternoon's stroll. The diversity is astounding: watercolours, pastel, oils, sculpture, furniture, caricature, portrait, and much more in a variety of styles. And it is a good time to purchase some unique pieces at reasonable prices, so don't forget to bring your wallet.

If you are an artist and would like to take this wonderful opportunity to gain great exposure and get your business cards out. Or if you just want to have fun then run to the phone and call the Paint Spot @ 432-0240



**ARTISTS
FOR
ARTWALK 2000
JULY 14 - 16, 2000
TO REGISTER OR MORE INFO
CONTACT KIM @ 432-0240**

Projects at Holy Trinity Anglican Church

By Reverend Dr. Eileen Conway

In the coming weeks one of Old Strathcona's characteristic churches will get a new look, or a "new old" look, as the present roof of worn asphalt shingles is replaced with a new roof of fresh cedar shingles, in keeping with the church's original design. This restoration has been approved and will be supported by the Alberta Historic Resources Foundation. Plans for this project include touch up painting of exterior woodwork on the "while we're up there anyway" principle.

Also during the year 2000, the parish will undertake an assessment of the historic and magnificent Ascension Window above the west doors of the church. This window, one of the original glories of the building when it was installed in 1913, was donated by several parishioners in memory of loved ones: by the Mellon family in memory of their mother, Emile Besler Mellon; by W.R. James in memory of his nephew the Rev. David Jones, who was rector of Holy Trinity for only three months in 1910 before succumbing to chronic asthma; and by Frederick and Bertha Grundy in memory of their son Fredric, who died in 1913 at the age of four. The large and elaborate window is due for restorations, a painstaking and expensive process. We hope to commence restoration of the window in 2001. The remaining stained glass windows in the church have recently been completely repaired and restored.



Who Was Tipton?

By Alex Mair

Tipton Park, located on 109 street and 80 Avenue, was named after a gentlemen called John Gaddis Tipton and if you are looking for a colorful character you don't have to go much further than John Tipton.

He was born at Fairview, Illinois, January 27th, 1849. He was educated at Abingdon, Illinois, studied science at Hedding College and was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of Illinois in September, 1874.

Tipton made his way to Edmonton in 1897, just before the major gold strike in the Yukon had its effect on this part of the world, and was admitted to the Alberta Bar in 1904.

Though he was a lawyer by profession, he made his mark through investments. A 1912 photograph shows his office with a sign over the door which tells us that he was into real estate, insurance, loans and auctions. He was President of the Tipton Investment Company, with offices located on Whyte Avenue, in Strathcona.

He became interested in municipal politics, and was an alderman from 1908 to 1911, the year of the amalgamation. He also served as Chairman of the Parks and Market Committee.

But perhaps his biggest single contribution to Edmonton and the development of the area was his active support for the amalgamation of Edmonton and Strathcona. He worked on the amalgamation committee and was instrumental in ironing out the terms of the final agreement.

He died in 1914, after a long fight with liver cancer and he was one of the early Albertans to see confirmation of the diagnosis at the Mayo Brothers clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

It is most appropriate that his name be preserved through a park and playground. The Tipton Park we know today at 109 Street and 80 Avenue is

(Who was Tipton - continued from page 4)

actually the second location for the recreation area. The original Tipton park is known today as Queen Elizabeth Park.

Tipton Park moved up to the top of the hill and in 1924 the Gyro Club of Edmonton took over the development of the park as a children's playground. The official opening ceremony took place on June 21, 1924, and was part of the broad program by the Gyros that they called Playgrounds for Children. Technically, this one was called Tipton Gyro Park #3. It became the third in a series of nine playground parks built in Edmonton by the Gyro Club.

The Gyro Club not only put the playgrounds together, but they also provided regular supervision and maintenance of the playground equipment from May 24 through to August 31.

In 1981 the Edmonton Historical Board recognized the significance of the Tipton name and the Gyro connection. It is likely that John Gaddis Tipton is looking down on his park today and he has a smile on his face.

National Aboriginal Day June 21st.

National Aboriginal Day is a chance for Canadians to celebrate the rich contributions Aboriginal peoples have made to Canada. In cooperation with national Aboriginal organizations, the Government of Canada chose June 21 for National Aboriginal Day because it is also the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. For generations many Aboriginal peoples have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day. Today, Canada is proud to recognize the unique achievements of Aboriginal peoples – in fields as diverse as agriculture and the environment to nation building and the arts – with a national day of celebration. **National Aboriginal Day is for all Canadians – so share in the celebration!**

For a Culture of Peace

A “*culture of peace*” which was launched ten years ago in 1989 by UNESCO, is an idea whose time has come. A culture of peace is first and foremost based on personal and collective values, attitudes and behaviour that foster peace.

The United Nations has proclaimed the year 2000 the *International Year for the Culture of Peace*. The year 2000 can mark the threshold of a new millennium in which war, violence, oppression and discrimination will yield to non-violence, tolerance, social equality, dialogue and solidarity as a way of life.

A culture of peace must begin at the personal and community level. It also requires a commitment by institutions, news media, governments and private enterprise. In addition to the declarations for a culture of peace proclaimed by municipalities and provincial/territorial governments, Canadians are invited to make a personal pledge by signing the Manifesto 2000. The Manifesto 2000 calls on women and men of all ages throughout the world to make a personal commitment to the values of peace, tolerance, sharing and solidarity, and to put them into practice in their daily lives. UNESCO hopes to collect one hundred million signatures for the year 2000. The Manifesto may be consulted and signed on the Internet at:

www.unesco.org/manifesto2000

And additional information may be found at the UNESCO web site:

www.unesco.org/opi/paix2000/index.htm



WHAT'S HAPPENING

National Aboriginal Day – June 21st - is a chance for Canadians to celebrate the rich contributions Aboriginal people have made to Canada. For more information visit the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development website: www.inac.gc.ca.

Silly Summer Parade – July 1st, on Whyte Avenue. Parade starts at noon. For parade entry information contact Mark on the parade hotline at 439-8990.

Tipton/Gyro #3 Park – July 1st, 2:00 pm - grand reopening of the park and unveiling of the new mural on Tipton Arena at 108 Street and 80 Avenue. For more information call 439-0567 or 944- 5406.

WHAM Art Walk – July 14, 15 and 16th
Experience the "Left Bank of Edmonton" in the cultural ambiance of Old Strathcona. For three days the streets of Old Strathcona will be transformed into a large outdoor studio. Everyone is invited to see artists at work. Call the Paint Spot at 432-0240 for more information.

Historic Edmonton Week
July 31st to August 7th. For more information or to volunteer contact Lawrence Herzog, event coordinator, at 479-8025 or visit the website: www.historic-edmonton-week.org

The Strathcona Plaindealer. The latest issue of the magazine is hot off the press. Copies available at the OSF Farmers Market Booth. **"The Best of the Plaindealer"** The Foundations latest book, edited by Ken Tingley, now available at the OSF Farmer's Market booth and local bookstores.

OSF Website– Browse our website at:
<http://www.osf.strathcona.org>
E-mail: osf@telusplanet.net
Webmaster: Vic Yanda

Save-On-Foods And Old Strathcona Foundation

Just in time for the Fringe, the Save-On-Foods Community Vehicle will be at the Old Strathcona Save-On-Foods on August 25th and 26th. Profits from the food concession will be donated to the Foundation. Spread the word! Come on out and show your support.

Farmer's Market - visit our booth at the market on Saturday's from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Specials include: Beanie Critters \$7.50, Travel mugs \$7.50, T-shirts \$5, Richard Dixon Strathcona prints, \$5, and a selection of local history books from \$5.

1999 International Directory of Telephone Museums, Issue #10

This new updated issue of the Directory is available at \$10 a copy from the Telephone Historical Centre, 10437 83 Avenue. To order call (780) 433-1010.
www.discoveredmonton.com/telephonomuseum
e-mail: thc@planet.eon.net

Help Wanted

Required immediately, person to coordinate volunteers for and to work at the Foundation's Farmers Market booth on Saturdays from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Small honorarium paid. For more information contact Liz at 433-5866.

Volunteer Newsletter Editor Needed

A volunteer editor for the Foundations newsletter is needed. The newsletter is published three times per year. Next issue is due in October. For more information contact Liz at 433-5866.

Next issue of Newsletter : October 2000 Deadline for Submissions: September 15, 2000 FAX or send your submissions to the Old Strathcona Foundation, Attention Newsletter Editor.
--