

# CITY CENTRE enVOY

## Snack in the Shack celebrates its sixth summer at its new location



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CHURCH CORPORATION

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Future G.I Jane chows down

Snack in the Shack, a program of Edmonton's School Lunch Program, capped off another successful summer for children on August 14, 2002 at their new home Alex Taylor School by feeding over 350 children.

The event, aptly named "Celebrating us," brought together children, City of Edmonton recreation technicians, dedicated volunteers and some of our generous donors to celebrate another summer of feeding the our cities' hungry children.

Mayor Bill Smith joined other special guests in welcoming the children to the sixth year of the summer feeding program wind-up. Edmonton's 15th Service Battalion provided a mobile kitchen and cooked over 700 hamburgers as well as provided face painting-camouflage style.

John Berry and a culinary team served children and leaders a hearty lunch of over 100 lbs of fruit and vegetables, burgers, juice as well as a variety of tasty deserts all prepared by staff and some of our core of volunteers.

Other guests included a group from T.D./Canada Trust and the Nutrition Month Committee who were on hand to present monetary donations.

A special thank you goes out to the Make a Wish Foundation and Scholastic Books for a very generous donation of reading materials which were distributed to the children and their families.

Snack in the Shack fills the gap left for children by the absence of school breakfast, snack and lunch programs. A volunteer core of over fifty people prepared snacks over the eight weeks in July and August with food donated by several businesses and organizations.



A new kind of "mess hall" line up at this year's event

This year 1,686 children registered for Snack in the Shack at 31 City of Edmonton Green Shack summer playground programs. Both programs are free and welcome children to participate for the seven or eight weeks that each park is open.

# ECCCC moves to a new home!

With extensive renovations completed ECCCC moved into Alex Taylor School in June. The historic school, which was also a home and sanctuary to inner city children until it closed last June, is now home to ECCCC's administration office, Edmonton's School Lunch Program, Crossroads and the Kids in the Hall Bistro workshop. Through out the summer we also welcomed our community colleagues to share this wonderful facility. Our goal is to continue to provide services to children and their families in the community.

ECCCC Executive Director, Martin Garber-Conrad says, "We are delighted with the Muttart Foundation's support for this innovative project. Consolidating our own operations in one place is something we have been looking forward to for some time. But the really exciting part of this is sharing space with other organizations serving similar needs. We can only begin to imagine the possible benefits of this community of work."

## Early Head Start

Early Head Start is an early intervention program that provides support, information and services to families who have children up to five years of age. The program is free, voluntary and has a positive focus that builds on the family's strengths.

Early Head Start provides visits to the home, a family playgroup and a parent group. It is a time for adults and children to have fun together and for the children to "learn through play." This is a time for parents to meet together, share information and talk about issues that are important to them. Parents plan the agenda in partnership with staff. Childcare is provided. Using a family guided approach, staff will support families in reaching their goals on home visits.

"We are thrilled to be moving into Alex Taylor because it means we will have a permanent home. The welcome we have received is wonderful," said Early Head Start manager, Lynn Lemo

"Alex Taylor is a big step for our agency-bringing together program staff and central services in one place. But the more interesting dimension is sharing space with other people working in the same community-exploring program intersections and opportunities for learning from each other."

"We hope this will be more than just sharing space in the same building. We are already beginning to understand some other agencies better and see ways in which our work might connect. The opportunities for serious innovation are still ahead. That, I believe, is the importance of the Muttart Foundation's generous grant.

Please join us in celebration at our Open House on Wednesday September 18, 2002 at Alex Taylor School between 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

## BSBB

Big Sisters & Big Brothers (BSBB) of Edmonton and Area is a community-supported, mentor-based organization committed to the healthy development of children in need and their families through provision of quality, one-on-one volunteer relationships and other related programs.

Every young person will have a positive ongoing relationship with a caring adult.

Big Sisters Big Brothers of Edmonton and Area dates back to 1972 when Big Sisters of Edmonton was established. Big Brothers of Edmonton began matching boys with Big Brothers in 1980. Ten years later in 1990 Big Sisters and Big Brothers merged.

BSBB moved its Group Mentoring Program (TEAM) as well as its In School Mentoring Program along with its Fund Development staff and Volunteer Recruitment staff to Alex Taylor School which will now serve as a satellite office for BSBB Edmonton and Area.

The In-School Mentoring program matches adults, on a one-to-one basis, with elementary school

students. The mentor meets the child at the school for one hour a week, during the school year, to read, play word games, and do other literacy-based activities. Its E-Mentoring program involves getting to know a child through weekly email contact via secure monitored website. The program complements the Alberta curriculum, with a focus on science and technology.

## ACWS

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) is an umbrella organization representing 38 women's and seniors' shelters in the province. We provide training opportunities for shelter workers, support to individual shelters and address issues relating to shelters and family violence on their behalf. We believe in a world that is free from violence and abuse.

"We moved to Alex Taylor as it offered us an improved and affordable space, lots of conference room, a great location but the special treat has been all of great people that work in the building," said Jan Reimer the Provincial Co-ordinator of Alberta Council of Women's Shelters  
Website: <http://www.ultimatesites.com/acws/>

## Second Transitional House opens



With the second stage of the Transitional Housing Program completed ECCCC was honoured by a visit from the Hon. Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Coordinator for Homelessness who toured the new facilities and spoke at length with both the staff and residents.

During the tour Kate Quinn, left, PAAFE director, surprised Martin Garber-Conrad by presenting him with a saved framed "Fortress" building fragment to commemorate the great change from drug den to safe refuge. On hand during the presentation were the Hon. Bradshaw, Anne Milne, HRDC manager and Crossroads

manager, Kourch Chan.

The second duplex was completed mid July with its first resident moving in early August. Since the completed of both houses 14 young men and women have been provided safe home and support. "I know this house has prolonged lives, said Crossroads manager Kourch Chan. "It represents hope, hope for people that have had no other place where they could go.

The program completion was significantly helped by the volunteers of the Holy Spirit Lutheran Church who donated both time and resource to beautifully landscape the yard.

# AGM caps off a year of change

ECCCC capped off a year of change and expansion by holding its AGM at a wonderful new location. And the significant number of guests who attended emphasized the great ongoing support ECCCC has received over the past 31 years of providing services to Edmonton.

Dr. Jeff Bisanz, Director for the Centre for Research in Child Development at the University of Alberta gave a thought provoking speech on the importance of research, especially for increasing our understanding of child development that will lead to positive changes in the children's environments.

Also included in the evening's festivities were the presentations of long-term service awards to staff, as well as awards to donors and supporters to express our heart felt thanks and appreciation.

Executive Director Martin Garber-Conrad said, "This year's annual meeting was more

exciting than most because of where it was held. Meeting in our new space, for the first time, allowed us to celebrate the work that made the move to Alex Taylor possible, as well as significant results from agency programs during the past year."

"The Board's leadership during this past year was worthy of celebration. There have been significant expansions and enhancements to our programs, as well as the risk involved in developing the Alex Taylor project."

"The place and occasion for celebration was our new home at Alex Taylor School. But the real reason for the celebration is the opportunity to serve more people in our community better—as a result of program developments during the past year. Board, staff, volunteers, and members all contributed to this effort."

**Dr. Jeff Bisanz shows off a work of student art presented to him after his speech**



## Women's Reintegration Chaplaincy work will continue

ECCCC is excited to announce that the Women's Reintegration Chaplain pilot project has been extended to a three more years.

In January 1, 2001 Rev. Coleen Lynch was contracted by Correctional Services of Canada to help women leaving federal prison to fit back into society.

Since then Rev. Lynch has made 482 contacts reintegrating women either by phone, mail or in person and 381 contacts with volunteers. She has performed 56 speaking engagements and spoken to over 3000 people about women's reintegration.

The project has a non-denominational community prayer group of volunteers (20 individuals plus an entire congregation) - The Prayer Warriors - prays daily for women and their families as well as staff at Edmonton Institution for Women and Edmonton Area Parole.



Many volunteers help women in the mental health house at EIFW with cooking and budgeting, meet with women while incarcerated and continue to befriend them in the community as well as provided tutoring. A donation fund helps women needing books for courses, clothing, recreation, and until recently, printed the newsletter Faith and Courage which goes out to 1,300 members of the community.

ECCCC provides opportunities for employment for women on parole and many community churches offer volunteer opportunities for the women.

"As an example to our success the program's assistant is herself on parole and works with me as graphic artist, peer counselor for women, and clerical assistant," says Rev. Lynch.

Beginning in September the project will have a hotline phone number and a Peer Support Plus team of successful paroled women helping other women on parole.

Reintegrating women need meaningful opportunities for employment and for volunteering. If you, or someone you know, are willing to hire a reintegrating woman, please call Rev. Lynch, the Women's Reintegration Chaplain at 495-5793.

# ECCCC launches ArtStart

To help launch ECCCC's new program, ArtStart, two exciting events are being held this October – a benefit concert and a fundraising dinner. We hope these events will create both interest and support for this new and innovative program. Through choral, dance, visual art, drama and instrumental exposure, ArtStart will explore imagination and expression; youth in an energetic style; foster ideas and emphasize FUN! We believe (that) all children deserve an opportunity to develop their talent!

In partnership with Cantemus Canada and Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation, the benefit concert is being held on Friday October 4th at 7:30 p.m. at McDougall United Church - 10025 -101 Street. The evening's entertainment will comprise of movements and the solo piano parts played by two of Canada's leading young pianists Joanne Luk and Yelin Nam, and the

performance will be conducted by Troy Lamoureux. The event will also include poems by Ogden Nash, which will be read by various Edmonton personalities. As a unique treat the audience and performers will be joined by "residents" of the ESPCA. An exciting evening to be sure! Tickets in advance are \$8 adult/seniors and \$ children, and can be ordered from Tix on the Square (420-1757). Tickets will also be available at the door at \$10 adult/seniors and \$5 children.

The second event, ArtStart-up, will be a delicious buffet style food extravaganza and will be held on Saturday, October 19th, 6:30 p.m. at Alex Taylor School. Tickets are \$30/person (\$50/couple). Participants will be exposed to musical performances from Haywire Productions and an art exhibit sponsored by Harcourt House Arts Centre.

For more information please call 424-7543

## Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation

### Open House

Alex Taylor School  
9321 Jasper Avenue

Wednesday  
September 18, 2002

Refreshments and Tours  
2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Speeches and Presentations  
2:30 pm

Please join us to celebrate  
this special occasion!

## Gold Nugget Suites opens

The Gold Nugget Suites, ECCCC's latest housing project opened its doors this August and was filled immediately.

On August 26 the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund held a news conference on site to mark the Gold Nugget opening as well as announce upcoming projects and reaffirm the need for low cost housing in Edmonton.

"The project we are at today is a shining example of innovative ways to use existing buildings to meet the needs of low income individuals in Edmonton," said Debbie Saidman, Executive Director of the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund. The Trust Fund receives funding from three levels of government and is administered by an independent board of trustees to serve as a funding vehicle for affordable housing.

The event was attended by such government representatives as; MP Anne McLellan, MLA Stan Woloshyn, and Edmonton City Councillor Jane Batty where it was announced the ECCCC will be receiving \$62,000 to purchase a four bedroom house for its mental health housing program.

"A low vacancy rate and rising rents are making it nearly impossible to find housing" said Martin Garber-Conrad, Executive Director of ECCCC. "Another 5000 low-cost housing units are still needed for the city's low-income citizens."

The new facility is a great start to filling the housing need in Edmonton, as well as a skilful utilization of an inner city land mark by renovating the former Gold Nugget Café to hold ten attractive self-contained bachelor suite for low income single.



## 6th Annual Spring Gala showcased talented chefs and youth servers

Once again the Kids in the Hall Spring Gala was a huge success. The event held on Saturday June 22 was sold out and we were honoured to have Howard Sapers as our guest speaker.

Executive Chef Darcy Torpe created a culinary masterpiece with Maple Gravlax, Forest Mushroom Ravioli, Roast Rack of Veal and Caged Chocolate Pate. Our Sous chef, youth staff and trainers did an exceptional job of showcasing the incredible talents of the Bistro team.

This years' silent auction included a new item which also the biggest bid. The winner Al Sauve, will have "An evening in the Bistro" in which he will be able to create and cook for himself and 7 guests at the Bistro's expense.

Bistro Manager Gina Wigston says the event is an opportunity to provide a big thank you to the many supporters of Kids in the Hall as well as demonstrate the skills and expertise of the youth in the program.

This years' proceeds will pay for the new hot dog stand used at Edmonton City Hall's wading pool this summer.