

Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation announces its new Executive Director

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Michael Farris as the Executive Director of Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation.

Michael has been a long-time friend of E4C and active in the not-for-profit sector for many years. He served as our Interim Executive Director in 1997, while Martin was on sabbatical.

Michael has also served as a consultant to E4C on many projects, including Kids in the Hall Bistro, and generously offered his services as a landscaper to the Clareview Head Start Centre in north Edmonton.

Michael has extensive experience in the Edmonton not-for-profit sector. He held Executive Director positions at both the Youth Emergency Shelter and Terra Association. He founded award winning, innovative projects such as the United Way In-Kind Centre and developed in-kind programs such as “Coats for Kids” and “Tools for Schools” for the United Way. Michael and his wife, Helen have been dedicated foster parents for over 20 years.

Among other exceptional qualities, Michael brings to E4C his strengths in youth and housing—areas that the agency has been deeply committed to and will continue to develop and promote. Fortunately,



Michael already knows many of our program managers from his time as interim executive director and from working with them in the community. This, we feel, will allow for a smooth transition. He has a strong vision for the future—one that will enhance the outstanding work of E4C and one that will continue to bring recognition of this organization and the work we do.

Michael has many innovative ideas for fund development and is eager to strengthen the relationships we have with key funders and build new relationships with donors and new funders. He is committed to our values and demonstrates this in the work he does.

Michael has a master's degree in Child and

Youth Care Administration and training in fundraising and philanthropy. He is an articulate public speaker and is often a presenter at conferences such as the United Nations International Conference on the Homeless. He has demonstrated through his vision, leadership, credibility and strength in the not-for-profit sector that he is a key player who can take E4C into the future.

Michael is well respected by Martin as a friend and colleague and we look forward to his tenure with E4C starting on May 16, 2005



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Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation's 34th Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 19th, 2005

Dinner, long service awards & anniversary video

6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

AGM

6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Dinner & Celebration
St. John's Cultural Centre
10611 - 110th Avenue

Tickets \$35 each or two for \$60
(includes 1 free beverage)

Introduction of the new
E4C Executive Director

Please contact Sam at 424.7543
or email admin@eccccc.org to
reserve your seat.

Martin-Garber-Conrad Leaves Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation

Martin's wish was to say farewell to all E4C friends and supporters over the years. This is his final address as E4C Executive Director:

Dear Friends,

No question about it, E4C has been the most significant part of my professional life to date. We have accomplished a lot together and to thank everyone, even collectively—staff, volunteers, funders, partner agencies, contractors, consultants—would take more room than I have here. Nevertheless, thank you all!

Still, I do need to make some specific references in order to share a few stories about what I've learned through, and loved about, this organization for nearly 18 years.

The staff at WEAC taught me about homeless women—their challenges and their humanity—and the difference that simple hospitality can make in their lives. My fondest memories include sitting with the expert Scrabble players on night shift at the old WEAC (and talking and smoking with “the ladies,”) in the main stairwell, well after midnight, in the days when I was younger and out and about that late at night...

Then there was the donation from the First Baptist New Ministries Committee that started Crossroads. Now that surprised me! We've had a lot of exciting donations over the years but none more surprising than that one...

Or the phone call, completely out of the blue, from Bob Stollery—offering help to complete the Gibson Block as WEAC's new home. He asked what we needed to

do it right. There was no way he could have known how many weeks I had been agonizing over the final capital costs, having already approached every possible source—or so I thought. Almost as surprising as the previous case—but only because I didn't know Bob and Shirley's generosity as well then as I do now. And then he called again, just a few months ago, when WEAC faced another crisis...

And I could tell similarly heartening “funder” stories about The Muttart Foundation, Judy Padua, Levi's, Edmonton Community Foundation, and more than one anonymous donor...



Martin presents a gift to Bertha Lang and E4C at the end of his speech.

The Gibson Block project still sticks in my mind. The most moving part of the project was the night before the opening when Beckie and Kathryn got some of their professional women colleagues together for a sleepover, on

site—a symbolic act to show solidarity with homeless women and to demonstrate that the beds were good enough to sleep in. They each brought sheets and blankets and pillows and left them there for their sisters. In the morning, the men on the project team came over and cooked the women a gourmet breakfast—certifying that the kitchen also worked and was acceptable. Such fun...

In subsequent years, the fun was tempered with the sadness; the somber memorial services for WEAC residents who had died. Every time another plaque was filled (each one held 28 names) we'd gather and sing and pray and remember—many of the women all too young to be memorialized...

Centre: Martin shows off his gift from BBBS Edmonton
 Right: A violin player with ArtStart performs at Martin's Farwell



I have been moved, over the years, by special volunteers: the elder quilting bees making blankets for the women; the expert knitters making mittens for the kids; the ArtStart folks painting and dancing and making music *with* the kids—the joy on their faces as they perform so very well; the townsfolk in Chipman embracing the Home for Healing...

And the quiet pleasure of a Student Legal Services volunteer—now a successful downtown lawyer—coming back 15 years later as an E4C board member, still with her passion for the women and youth.

Or running into a girl who had served me espresso for months at Kids in the Hall, just walking down Jasper Avenue, on the way to her new job. A simple thing, really...

Holding tiny babies—my very favourite thing—in Early Head Start. And leading impromptu cheers with a gym full of elementary children, when a politician or donor comes to visit a School Lunch school...

Or getting to know and appreciate government bureaucrats—Anne and Deb, Bill and Maria—their willingness to take the risk of having coffee with me; of partnering with the community; of being *civil servants*...

And Beckie, beside me on this journey, listening patiently to my frustrations, writing ENVOY articles when we didn't have a communications person, editing my writing and proofing much more, to say nothing of sitting through a fair number of my sermons and all those fundraising dinners and silent auctions! Thank you, Bec...



Martin with Ross Lizotte and Jacqueline Biollo

At my side, in a different way, have been three other exceptional women—"right-hand persons" to say the least: Marie, in the old days (she bore up stoically for our first go at computerization); Danielle in the middle years—the pleasure of her company while she was with us, and then my delight in seeing her thrive at United Way when she left; and Jacqueline, now—giving new meaning to "2IC"—and she sings, too! You know I couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for your many kindnesses to me, and for your outstanding work for E4C.

I think about E4C board members over the years, and especially our presidents: Carl Sorensen and Anne Machin; Alan McLean and David France; Joan Ivany and Les Hurt; and, now, Bertha Lange—and the challenges we have shared over

the years. Thank you especially for your willingness to take risks even when not entirely comfortable, and to forgive me when I perhaps overextended us just a bit.

In short, for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime...

Still, it's not been all a bundle of joy. This last year has been particularly soul-destroying: seeing a program (Crossroad Duplex) that was not only innovative but effective—with outstanding results and amazing outcomes—go down because, despite best efforts, funding refused to come. That was hard. And that hasn't been the only senseless funding crisis that sapped energy and frustrated me no end...

On the other hand, seeing the community respond to hungry children—work that started long before I came and is still growing—that is quite wonderful. Tempered, of course, with the knowledge that there are probably more disadvantaged children in our community now, than when I started. (To refer to the legendary "rescuing babies from the river" story: we're getting better at "saving" them now, but we really must make time, someday, to go upstream and find out who keeps chucking the little ones into the water—and get them to stop.)

But back to the beginning: Myrtle Slack was there when I started—a board member serving as interim ED after Art Holmes left—welcoming me to the office and showing me the ropes. Pat Macdonald, forever member of the WEAC committee, and now a board member again. Muriel Stanley-Venne, teaching me about the needs of Aboriginal women and living out, herself, the power and possibilities thereof...

But if there's one person I would especially want you to remember if you knew him—or know, if you didn't—it would be Tom Millman. Baptist lawyer; visionary since the 60s; designed the "legal vehicle" that

“Co-workers, colleagues and friends, I thank you.”



Martin with Joan Joan Ivany and Mryna Howell.

died before Christmas. We talked quite a few times over the years. I still carry on the conversation in my mind. I have tried to steward his vision: Churches participating in the life of the city; people of good will gathering around a table to get things done; religious baggage, if any, left at the door; focusing on the *needs of the people* in the community—in *our* community...

Co-workers, colleagues and friends, I thank you. It has been a delight to know you and an honour to work with you! We have been able to accomplish much for many in our community—for children, youth and women, especially. You know there are still a lot more challenges out there. And you also know that “because we can’t do everything is no excuse not to do that which we *can* do.”

I hope I can make a small contribution towards that—in a different way—in my new role at Edmonton Community Foundation...

E4C was here before I came and will be after I’m gone. Sundari and Kourch and Jacqueline—the transitional management team—will be minding the shop until a new ED is in place. I have every confidence in them—and commend them to you.

I’d like to close with a few lines of the poet, Leonard Cohen, from “Anthem”:

Forget your perfect offering

There is a crack in everything

That’s how the light gets in.

I would invite you to reflect on these lines and celebrate this graceful feature of our collective existence. Thank you again—all of you—and very best wishes!

– Martin Garber-Conrad

Martin long-time friend, Peter Faid, was one of the guest speakers at the gathering. Here is an excerpt of his speech:

Just a few days before the farewell I had read a book entitled *Anyway: The Paradoxical Commandments, Finding Personal Meaning in a Crazy World*, by Kent Keith. They were actually written in 1968! When I read them I was amazed at how appropriate they were for Martin’s achievements and style. If Martin had written the ten commandments these would have been them! I can hear him saying them!

The Paradoxical Commandments

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.

Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.

Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies.

Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.

Be honest and frank anyway.

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds.

Think big anyway.

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs.

Fight for a few underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.

Build anyway.

People really need help, but may attack you if you do help them.

Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you’ll get kicked in the teeth.

Give the world the best you have and you will still be under appreciated.

Upcoming Events

Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation 34th Annual General Meeting & Dinner

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6:00 - 6:30 p.m. AGM

6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

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Tickets \$35 each or two for \$60 (includes 1 free beverage)

Introduction of the new E4C Executive Director

Please contact Sam at 424.7543 or email admin@ecccc.org to reserve your seat.

35 years

HELPING PEOPLE IN EDMONTON'S INNER CITY

A Dash of Appreciation

DATE: May 3, 2005

TIME: 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Kids in the Hall Bistro,

EVENT: Celebrity "Saucepan Challenge" cook-off.

In celebration of support for the Bistro training program, five local celebrities will team up with youth from the program and face off in a cooking contest. Each team will create a dish from a "Mystery Bistro Box" which will be unveiled moments before they are expected to start cooking.

A panel of high profile Edmontonians, and the Honourable Heather Forsyth, Minister of Children Services, will judge each team and their culinary creations. The dishes will then be available for purchase at the bistro throughout the month of May & June.

8th Annual Spring Gala

In support of Kids in the Hall Bistro

- Cocktail Reception
- Five Course Gourmet Dinner
- Silent Auction

We suggest you reserve early as seating is limited. Supporting youth-at-risk & creating stepping stones for their future.

Location/Time

Saturday, June 4, 2005

Kids In the Hall Bistro at City Hall

6:30 p.m.

Reception & Silent Auction opens

7:30 p.m.

Dinner seating

Tickets

\$135 (\$75 tax receipt)

or table of 8 for \$1000

Contact

Call the Bistro at 780.413.8060

fax 780.423.7959 or e-mail

kidsfinance@ecccc.org

If you would like to donate an auction item please call the Bistro at 780.413.8060

If you would like to make a monetary donation please call 780.424.7543 or visit us on-line at ecccc.org (Make a Donation)

E4C news in Brief

Crossroads

On January 29, Crossroads and community partners organized a candlelight vigil and procession along 118 Avenue and 95 Street to remember Samatha Berg, a 19 year old woman involved in prostitution, whose frozen body was discovered on January 25. Close to 200 persons marched to express their grief and anger at the tragic loss of yet another young life to the despair and violence of street prostitution.

E4C Right to Privacy Policy

Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation respects your privacy. We protect your personal information and adhere to all legislative requirements with respect to protecting privacy. We do not rent, sell or trade our mailing lists. The information that you provide will be used to keep you informed and up to date on the programs, services, donation opportunities and donation receipts that E4C is involved with.

If you no longer wish to receive the Envoy, or information about E4C you may call, write or e-mail us at the address below.

A copy of our privacy policy can also be obtained in this way or through our web site at www.ecccc.org.

You can contact us at the following:

9321 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB, T5H 3T7

Email: ecccc@ecccc.org
or phone 780.424.7543

Elizabeth House

Elizabeth House has been quite busy in our local community. Since the purchase of Elizabeth House by E4C we have become a member of our Community League. As well, we hope to be very involved in the city initiative to revitalize the Alberta Avenue area. This will include involvement of the program as a whole and the involvement of individual residents that embrace this area as their community and their home.

Home for Healing Landscape Project Donation Wish List

The Home for Healing (H4H) is a rural healing retreat for marginalized women who want to stabilize their lives and move forward. H4H was built last year on a six-lot parcel of land in a small community 45 minutes east of Edmonton. We invite you to help us transform this flat, barren parcel into a park-like setting that will complement the residences and beautify our rural community space.

We love volunteers – you will have fun & you won't forget our great hospitality or the lovely drive!

- Help plant trees (we have 25 to plant this spring!)
- Adopt a flower garden
- Plant a vegetable garden
- Donate your carpentry skills to build raised vegetable garden beds
- All help & ideas welcome!

Plants:

(Please be sure to pot and label your plants and keep well watered until pickup)

- Perennials
- Small trees
- Shrubs (especially lilac)
- Bedding plants (vegetables, annuals or herbs)

Gardening supplies:

- Peat moss (bagged)
- Compost (bagged)
- Top soil or loam (large quantity)
- Potting soil suitable for containers
- Large containers (at least 12" diameter pots) of any material like ceramic, clay, fibre, or decorative plastic
- Bone meal
- Garden fertilizers
- Lawn fertilizers
- Vegetable seeds

- Bamboo poles
- Garden twine
- Garden gloves

Tools:

- Leaf rakes
- Garden/gravel rakes
- Planting or transplant spades
- Shovels (round)
- Bypass pruners
- Secateurs
- Wheelbarrow

Landscaping materials:

- Railroad-style landscape ties, treated or untreated
- Rebar or other strong fasteners
- Untreated lumber for building raised vegetable garden box beds (2"x10", 2"x12" & 2"x4"s, at least 8' lengths)
- Deck screws (1 1/2", 2" or longer)
- 4"x4" or 6"x6" posts, prefer ≥8' lengths)
- Lattice panels
- Concrete mix
- Pea gravel
- Sidewalk blocks
- Allen blocks® or similar building materials

Garden furniture & ornaments:

- Picnic table
- Garden benches
- Patio table and chairs (prefer metal framework)
- Adirondack chairs
- Bird baths and feeders
- Gazing balls
- Obelisk

Please contact Helen Shook (Edmonton) at 477.0199 or Susan Campbell (Chipman) at 780.363.3744 to arrange for pick up of donations or to volunteer for one of our exciting projects

Items Needed

E4C is looking for donated items to assist their clients

- Infant/Toddler Car Seats and Cribs (CSA approved)
- Vacuum Cleaners
- Microwaves
- Disposable Diapers (all sizes)
- Baby Wipes
- Kitchen "starter" items (pots, dishes, can openers, etc)
- Freezer, Washing Machine & Fridge

ArtStart needs supplies such as:

- Dance slippers (ages 5-10)
- Art supplies
- Musical instruments (wind, brass, piano, etc.)
- White glue
- Scissors
- Plasticine

Tools:

- Hammers
- Screw drivers
- Wrenches
- Pliers

Please contact the E4C office at 424.7543 for more information or to make arrangements for a donation

Volunteers

Snack in the Shack

Needs volunteers to prepare snacks in July and August.

Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Call Arlene at E4C 424.5408

ArtStart • Clareview Head Start • Crossroads • Early Head Start • Edmonton's School Lunch Program • Elizabeth House • Gold Nugget Suites HHSAs Homes Project • Home for Healing • Kids in the Hall Bistro Program • McCauley Apartments • Nutrition Snack Program • Our Place Our Other Place 17 Unit Apartment Building • Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre • Women's Reintegration Chaplaincy