

TABLE OF CONTENTS

311.... Absolutely Everything You Need To Know!	2
A Peculiar People	6
Nothing But Surprises	7
Saying 'Goodbye', 'Hello' And Some New Information	8
Neither Hail Nor	18
From The Editorial Staff Via The Piano Room To Your 'Reading' Room....	20
It Seems To Me It's Only Fair.....	22
Highlands Landscaping And Snow Removal	22
J. Keshy Clothing Store.....	23
A Strong Man Faced With New Ventures.....	24
Maybe George Planted Them	25
Local Pharmacists Bring New Life To One Of The City's Oldest Pharmacies.....	25
No One Said It Would Be Easy.....	27
Park Named After Local Champion Golfer	28
Your Mini Mart	30
Pizza 73	31
Sinner...Repent.....	31
The Edmonton Journal Delivers.....	32
The Holy Spirit Reshapes At The Potter's House	33
Recant Or Face The Consequences.....	34
What Is A Baptist?	35
Sandlewood Spa And Wellness Centre	36
Tasers And The Police.....	37
Crimes Of Police Officers.....	38
Dear Mr. Editor:	39
Hello Green Drop.....	40
Church Report.....	40
Policeman:Faith Takes A Beating.....	41
Rank Cuts No Ice.....	42
Hostile Workday World	43
Christ A Man's Man	44
Police Fellowship Tunes In To Misfits	44
Some Suggestions	46

311.... Absolutely Everything You Need To Know! By John Tidridge
(the author is indebted to Sharon Gingara, Corporate Services,
Communications, for her help in providing the basic information)

Garbage all over the place, weeds metres high,
barking dogs... &, an untidy yard... among other thing
& all at one address....what to do... it's easy... but first!

Weeds a metre
high, and more

At the request
of City Council

At the request of City Council, the 311 system was brought into existence in December 2008. It is not unique to Edmonton: 311 contact centres are in municipalities across North America - the complexity of the system is different between each location - some include 911 - others just act as a transfer service, transferring you to the correct department. City of Edmonton 311 agents are able to provide information (including Transit) & process registrations, book inspections & other services.

There were no public meetings held prior to the initiation of the service on the topic. Initially, the public experienced longer than anticipated wait times, however, wait times have significantly improved & service options have expanded. The public is generally pleased with the service.

No public meetings

Some members of
the public think

Some members of the public feel they are being prevented from talking to the people who are actually doing the field work: However - in many cases they didn't really have this option before. If there is a need for the public to speak directly with a department/service the agent will do what they can to connect the citizen with the appropriate department. In many cases, the City amalgamated the existing contact centres (Transit, Planning, Community Services Drainage, etc & brought them together. By doing this, the agents could answer calls on all subject matter.

Although situated in the Edmonton City Centre there is no public access: 152 Agents make up the unit with as many as 100 agents being on duty at peak times. Many of the agents worked in other city call centres before they came to 311 - they may have been Transit Information agents or have worked in Planning & Development. An ability to listen carefully to

No public access

determine what the citizen is looking for, a pleasant telephone manner, & good customer service skills, are prerequisites for an agent.

All agents receive customer related training

All agents receive customer-service related training as well as training on specific department-related material - such as Transit trip planning - when a citizen calls, the agent refers to a "script" prepared by the department in order to answer the question or perform a service. Agents only provide information to a citizen which has been approved by the department & can be found on using online scripts: If there is no script information, the agent will contact the department - which may mean calling the citizen back with the correct answer/information.

While 311 has both phone-in & e-mail options, the large majority of callers use the telephone. (The author prefers the e-mail option as one has a record of the original call and the responses received) The Edmonton.ca website has a 311 online feature which is very popular & hosts a number of self-service features.

Both 'phone & E-mail connections

Accepts calls related to bylaws

The 311 system accepts calls relating to City Bylaws, & request for service, for example for the removal of graffiti, filling of pot holes, etc. It does not accept 911 calls or calls related to private companies, for instance Shaw cables down on the road. No bylaw receives an ordinate number of calls although the 'weeds' & 'snow on sidewalks' bylaws do, 'in season'.

Any councillor who wishes any information related to calls received has access to up to date information.

Frazzled parents & students

With the end of summer comes the back to school rush with frazzled parents & students looking for binders, backpacks, & Transit information. 311 agents received 84,623 calls in just two weeks at the end of August & beginning of September. This year's call volume was up 15% over the number of calls received during the same period last year.

Grant Kay, 311 call centre manager, lists back to school as one of the busiest times for 311. "Not only are folks looking for Transit information, but fall program registration for swimming & other activities is in full swing which means an increase in calls." He also noted that callers can now "press 1" for Transit information or "press 2" for information on attractions or recreation programs & services. This system streamlines callers looking for specific information & allows agents to address calls more efficiently.

Registration for swimming and other activities

So the answer to the question posed at the start of this article is, "Call 311" be patient, keep the file number you are giving an call back to see what is happening!

ADDITIONAL USEFUL INFORMATION (some of the earlier information maybe be repeated)

Going online is on-the-rise!

Citizens have really taken notice of the City's website! So far this year, www.edmonton.ca has had over 6.3 million visits – a 28% increase over the same time last year & it's easy to see why!

Not only does the City's website provide a variety of information on everything from City services & job opportunities to attractions & recreation, there's 311 Online! This online link gives citizens the freedom to register for programs, book tee-times, pay for permits, plan their Transit trip & more – all at their convenience.

What else you should know the City of Edmonton's 311 service.

About 311

Citizens can call 311, 24 hours a day, every day of the year for access to City of Edmonton information, programs & services.

Non emergency calls only

311 **does not** replace 911. Anyone requiring fire, ambulance, police emergency assistance must call 911 for emergency assistance.

Dialing 311

Callers will be greeted by a 311 agent who is trained to provide service directly to the caller. A majority of callers to 311 will find that the agent is able to assist them with their call through to completion. In

other cases the details of the call will be forwarded to the appropriate department for completion of service i.e. pot hole repair.

Services available from 311

General information, service requests, Transit information, program registration, facility schedule information & more is available from the 311 agent. Citizens can also book a City of Edmonton inspection or golf tee-time. Citizens may also register a bylaw complaint by calling 311.

Numbers not included in 311

Citizens are encouraged to call 311 for all City of Edmonton information & services with the exception of DATS.

DATS registrants will continue to call DATS directly to book DATS service 780-496-4567.

Edmonton Transit's automated BusLink service is still available 780-496-1600.

Emergency services call 911

Utilities – EPCOR, TELUS, ATCO etc. are not part of 311.

Special assistance

Non-English speaking callers may request the assistance of an interpreter. The 311 agent will connect with an external interpretive service to assist with the call. The interpretive service offers assistance in more than 150 languages.

Deaf & hard of hearing callers can reach 311 using TTY 780-944-5555

Reaching 311 from outside of Edmonton

Residents of neighbouring communities interested in City of Edmonton information & services can call 780-442-5311 to reach a City of Edmonton 311 agent. Each telephone service provider has defined their own specific "city limits" which may vary from one provider to the next.

Department specialized counter services still open

311 is a contact centre only & does not offer in-person service

Edmonton Transit lower level Churchill LRT Station,

Planning & Development, 5th Floor, HSBC Bank Canada Building,
10250-101 street
City Hall, Main Floor City Hall
Taxation, Main Floor City Hall
& all other locations previously offering in-person service are still open
during regular business hours.

Other Canadian cities with 311

Edmonton joins Calgary, Laval, Gatineau & Montreal, & several other smaller centres which also offer 311 service. Vancouver & Toronto are preparing to offer 311 service.

Citizens are encouraged to check out www.edmonton.ca where many great self-service options can be found.

A Peculiar People.... John Tidridge (not published)

Pastor John Burrill, my friend, invited me to his church to speak about the Community Newsletter and how it was an out ward expression of my faith, no matter how slight. The fact John invited me says a lot (of good things) about John. The Highlands United people treated me kindly. I remarked in passing that 'they' (Highlands United people), looked no different than those attending the Neighbourhood (Baptist) Church.

I am sure that all church goers that take time to think about it have some views on 'those other church goers'. Oh, come on, sure you do! What about the stories of Baptist ministers from the United States who burn books of another faith or who stand around courthouses hurling unkind remarks at others; or any of the other outlandish remarks by outlandish church groups.

Of course, we think we are not peculiar... but as an outsider looking in, what about.... Hmmm!

But what if we could swallow all of our peculiarities and actually 'unite' (careful with that word!) for church services? What if all the pastors left their uniforms at home and got together and arranged a Christian church service at first, at St. Mary's, or St. Elia's or All Saints or St. Clare's and even at Highlands and the Neighbourhood Church?

Conversation after reading the above...

Person 1 If the pastors couldn't, how about lay...

Person 2 No. nada... of course not

Person 1 person do it, surely...

Person 2 No, they couldn't

Person 1 lay people are capable of arranging such a thing...

Person 2 No, they couldn't

Person 1 Why not...

Person 2 because that would be sort of peculiar... wouldn't it?
November 2011

Nothing But Surprises.... **John Tidridge**

The voice on the 'official' answering machine is just that, very official... the voice left on my answering machine was much more, hmm, friendly, in person; the voice was animated and very friendly; as was the Archbishop.

Metropolitan Archbishop Joseph (Royer), (more about the parentheses later!) met me in the basement of his church at All Saints Orthodox Cathedral dressed in a casual jacket and shirt, jeans and running shoes... I had expected (dreaded?), full regalia.

Fifty-six years of age, coming from a family of nine with a French and Ukrainian connection, Joseph knew what he wanted to be (a priest) at the age of five, and he pursued that vocation arriving at his present position twenty-nine years later...

It seemed logical that, worshipping with his family at both the Roman Catholic and Ukrainian Catholic Churches, he should join one of them. After some fourteen years, finding his first post required him to be untrue to what he actually believed he converted to the Orthodox Church. The archbishop holds three degrees: General Arts, Divinity and Church Law.

Our wide ranging conversation, not only for this article, showed how much alike and yet so different are the major Christian faiths.

As Metropolitan Archbishop he is responsible for several churches here and in the United States; his duties are mainly administrative. However, the mainstay of his ministry is the day-to-day duties at All Saints Orthodox Cathedral.

About one hundred families make up his local congregation; and while he would really like to get involved in social issues in the neighbourhood, often lack of people and resources make this almost impossible. He does believe though, that the local church (any church) should be the beacon in the neighbourhood and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus.

He regrets that his does not meet with the local pastors; he does feel, however, this would be a method where common concerns are discussed and some possible solution arrived at.

Like all the other church leaders interviewed the archbishop has a burden for those outside of the church.

Brother Joseph makes every effort to have his congregation involved in the work of the parish... he also believes he should lead by example, so don't be surprised to see him raking leaves!

The parentheses around the surname indicated that person 'has left family (the name) to follow Jesus.

Saying 'Goodbye', 'Hello' And Some New Information.....John Tidridge

Our Editor thought it would be a good idea to say 'goodbye' to T/A/Sgt Cathy Ruskin, our former Community Liaison Constable and 'hello' to her replacement Constable Ryan Katchur and our new Beat Officer Brian Cross, and their supervisors. This looked to be a simple task: just look in the latest edition of the H-B Magazine and make a few phone calls or send a few e-mails.

Several phone calls were required and e-mails by the... well.... Never mind.

And as an aside; FOR NON-POLICE CALLS expect the unexpected when you call listed names for City departments, people move,

departments are reorganized. My strong recommendation is to call by phone: 311 or by email: 311@edmonton.ca and make sure you keep a note of the file number you receive and FOLLOW UP ON YOUR CALLS!!! But, I have digressed, again!

Turns out I had forgotten about protocol... so it was a while before I made contact with Cathy. She provided the story that follows:

Constable Cathy Ruskin (Cathy has not been demoted as a T/A Sgt is a temporary ranking)

Cathy says farewell with this piece:

"I have worked for Edmonton Police Service for 20 yrs: Prior to that I worked 10 years for Alberta Government, Economic Development and Trade.

During my Police career I have worked as a patrol officer, a School Resource Officer, and as a Community Liaisons Officer. I also spent time in Child Abuse, Vice, Spousal Unit, Crime Stoppers and Human Resources.

I enjoyed my 4 years as Community Liaison in District 2 and made many friends along the way. Some of my memories include acquiring back lane lighting for 118 Avenue, painting the ice rink at Highlands, and being involved with projects such as 'Route 66'. There were many great events and functions that I shared with community members, volunteers and other agencies. I have been very fortunate to have met so many interesting, caring and resourceful people within District 2.

Now as a CLC in District 4, I look forward to the challenges that lay ahead of me. I have already been engaged in social events with community members who are committed to making their neighborhood a safe and a crime free place to live. I am looking forward to more proactive events within District 4 and getting familiar with more of the communities members who support our efforts as police to work with them.

I wish you all (H-B people) a wonderful summer and hopefully are paths will cross again. My time in District 2 will never be forgotten, and thanks again for all your support, good times and your commitment.'

Now we move along to the new people! It's complicated so your full reading attention is required! It was determined that Sgt. Wilde is the Officer in Charge of the **COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS** for Highlands-Bellevue. And his brief biography follows:

Sgt. Eric WILDE

I have been a member of the Edmonton Police Service since 1991. I started my career in the old "Londonderry Police Station", that was located on 66 street and 137 avenue. From there my career took me to a variety of Units and secondments including, West Division Patrol, West Division Beats, Communications/911, Downtown Division Patrol, School Resource Officer at Amiskwaciy Academy, Gang Unit, Robbery Unit, Children at Risk Response Team (CARRT), and others. Currently I am one of the two "Community Liaison Sergeants" in Northeast Division. Working alongside the Community Liaison Officers, Cst. Katchur and Cst. Slemko. On a personal side, I enjoy camping, riding my motorcycle, and being with friends and family.

You will note that there is no phone number; so, read on for an explanation.

Sgt Wilde has moved to the Criminal Investigation unit for a special assignment. He still remains in charge of the unit but **Sgt. Kim Clark, 780-426-8100** is now the active supervisor. Hey, who said it would be easy. Kim tells us she is in her 20th year with the Edmonton Police Service and currently supervises the Northeast Community Liaison Unit. Her career began as a patrol officer in North Division; then she worked as a community officer, and managed a community station. Specialized assignments have included working in Crime Prevention Unit; Missing Persons Unit; Vice Unit; Spousal Violence Unit including a Joint Forces Provincial Unit which conducted Threat Assessments on High Risk Domestic Violence Situations; Professional Standards Bureau, Major Case Management; and Criminal Investigations Section.

Her passion is working with the community and addressing issues of concern from a proactive Crime Prevention perspective. She looks forward to her continued work with Northeast Division Communities in the future.

'Our' constable is: **Constable Ryan Katchur, 780-426-8157**. Ryan's intro is as follows: 'I have worked in the Edmonton Police

Service for 5 years, and have been in a Community Liaison Constable for about a year and a half. I began as a CLC in the Sector 4, Castledowns area and believe I made some positive changes in the area impacting crime and working with various agencies and stakeholders.

I have been moved to take over from Cst. Ruskin in the Sector 2 area, which encompasses from the east City boundary to Wayne Gretzky Drive, and from the River valley to the Yellowhead Trail. I again look forward to engaging with the community, and working to reduce crime with other officers, other agencies and the stakeholders within the area.

I enjoy proactively targeting the area and working in collaboration with the Neighborhood Foot Patrol by striking out on foot and on bicycle. I am also the Northeast Division Graffiti coordinator investigating graffiti mischief and having the vandals held accountable for their actions.

I have a wife and two children and family always comes first. I enjoy cycling and archery on days off'.

The Beat personnel are (in the writer's unbiased and non-professional opinion) different. There is a hesitation to share too much! A hint of suspicion is always present whether talking or writing to the officers. This is understandable as the people they deal with are not always first class citizens. Having said that our **BEATS** sergeant is **Sgt. Jason Altmiks, 780-426-8121**. Jason is a 12 year member with the Edmonton Police Service. Starting in West Division as a patrol constable, he also worked there as a Beat Officer along the 124 Street area. He spent time as a Patrol Sergeant on the south side, and has been the Beat Sergeant for Northeast Division for the past 2.5 years. He presently supervises the 11 beat officers in various communities in North Division.

When not working he enjoys many activities, mostly anything outdoors. When he gets the chance, he likes to spend time hiking, camping, and fishing. Spend time on his motorcycle when in the city is another of his likes. He enjoys 'BBQ'ing' and most weekends his backyard smells like a smokehouse. he makes a pretty tasty pulled pork sandwich and has even cooked a full sized turkey on his bbq (very carefully).

Constable Brian Cross, 780- 920- 0366 is our beat constable. and gives this description of his time on the Beats. 'I have worked in north division for the past six years and in the neighborhood foot patrol for just under the past two years, specifically in H-B for just under one year'.

The information that follows will give readers an idea of the 'work requirements' of our Community Liaison Sergeant and Constable, our Beat Sergeant and Constable.

Community Liaison Constables and Sergeants

Community Liaison Sergeants and Constables are in place within every district to plan and coordinate directed activities based on crime, disorder, and repeat calls for service. Together, they coordinate activities and strengthen partnerships, finding effective and proactive initiatives to maintain a safe community.

Community Liaison Constables (CLCs) get to know leaders, businesses, school administration, community league members, associations, and groups to begin understanding specific issues. The CLCs act as a hub of information between the community and police organization.

What is a "Beat Cop?"

A "beat cop" is a police officer who walks, rides, cycles, or drives in a specific neighbourhood known as a "Beat." - Urban Dictionary

"Beat cops," or neighbourhood foot patrol officers, provide a unique problem-solving approach to preventing or solving crime.

"Beat cops" regularly patrol in the same area, so they get to know the neighbourhood well, and also become well-known in the neighbourhood – creating a positive relationship between law enforcement and the community.

At first the public may be alarmed or surprised to see a police presence, but often feel reassured when they learn that this is part of effective community policing. Residents and businesses often comment "we feel safer knowing the police are out and about."

"We tell citizens that we need them as much as they need us," said Constable Brad Medwid, EPS Neighbourhood Foot Patrol. "Community members are the eyes and ears of the neighbourhood, and often see or hear something they think may be trivial, but may be critical information required by police."

The EPS Neighbourhood Foot Patrol is active along 118 Avenue and surrounding area helping to prevent crime, keep the peace, address issues of public safety, and respond to community needs.

The officers are stationed out of the Beverly Community Station and regularly "walk the beat," talk to residents and businesses, and get involved in community initiatives.

Contact the officers if you have any concerns about crime in your community such as ongoing neighbour disputes, graffiti / vandalism, drug dealing / drug houses, or other disorder issues. They will be happy to help out.

Footnote: This author served 18 years with the Edmonton Police Service, with a number of 195. The officers he speaks with now have numbers over 2000. He continued in another law enforcement capacity for a further 20 years.

Take time to speak to these men and women in blue or black! Give them time to look you over mentally to determine what your aims are! After all... well you know what I mean! It is but a thin black line that separates us from anarchy.

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COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFCERS

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Constable Ryan Katchur 780-426-8157

I was provided Constable Katchur's name by Sgt. Kim Clark after initial contact with Sgt. Wilde.

Ryan's intro is as follows:

I have worked in the Edmonton Police Service for 5 years, and have been in a Community Liaison Constable for about a year and a half. I began as a CLC in the Sector 4, Castledowns area and believe I made some positive changes in the area impacting crime and working with various agencies and stakeholders.

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BEATS

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Constable Brian Cross

780 920 0366

Finding Brian was a little more difficult but in the end Brian made contact:

Brian gives a brief description of his time on the Beats.

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Take time to speak to these men and women in blue or black! Give them time to look you over mentally to determine what your aims are! After all... well you know what I mean! It is but a thin black line that separates us from anarchy.

Neither Hail Nor.... By John Tidridge

And you thought I was going to quote the poem allegedly the motto of either the U.S. Mail Service or Mail deliverers in general... but I am not and, it is not! But I digress!

Our own unique magazine, Highlands-Bellevue Highlights, Canada Post mail, and daily newspapers, like the Edmonton Journal, appear in our mailboxes as if by magic: And, I guarantee most of us never give it a thought unless the aforementioned article does not appear when we think it should! Right?

Much information was provided by Ms. Teresa Williams, ABC, Manager Media & Community Affairs, Canada Post, Edmonton relating to the mail carrier function.

Mail arrives from 'outside' and is delivered to the Main Depot at 121 Avenue and 149 street, the initial sorting leaves letter and parcels 'bundled or bagged' for depots spread throughout the city. These smaller 'bundles' are then delivered to the depots, and again sorted into routes. The Postal Depot for our area is #1 at 117 Avenue and 82 Street.

Your local carrier now becomes involved and he sorts the mail by address by a set pattern as devised by the Post Office. Mail is placed on a table which has a pigeon holed back board. Carriers develop

Loca
well
some
in'
clean,
Check

remarkable speed when sorting. These pigeon holes are also used to deliver 'messages' to the carrier... change of address slips, watch for the dog, don't deliver letters addressed to so and so... Carriers are permitted, as they become familiar with their route, to 'sort the way it best suits them'. The standard is in place to accommodate vacation and sickness replacements. Routes are timed, that is, for every possible movement by the carrier, such as turning at an intersection, walking up steps, the number of apartments: This results in walks of 'equal in size' and should take the full shift to deliver the mail. Depending on the speed of the carrier, routes can be finished in less time.

A 35 pound bag of mail is the loaded first for the carrier to take with him; anything in excess of this is bundled and then delivered by a driver to the grey relay boxes located on the route.

Williams said walks gain their own reputations for ease or difficulty of delivery. Carriers 'bid' for the walk of their choice and selection depends on union seniority.

'Not just a deliverer of services but a member of the community', is how Williams described the mail carrier. They are extra eyes for Police, Fire and other emergency services. They have reported cases where mail has been piled in the mail boxes and the resident is found to be either ill or deceased. They keep their eyes open for those activities sometimes associated with criminal activities.

Should you tip or give a gift to your carrier? Why not!! However, this practise seems to be dying...It would be appreciated though. Williams said one carrier received an electric toothbrush.

Routes are determined by the first three parts of your postal code. The Highlands-Bellevue Postal Codes are T5W and T5B. A map of the T5W area appears on this page. Just picking one at random, Route LC 0182, this would be one of the smaller routes; however it still has 289 residences, 58 apartments and 3 businesses for a total of 350 possible deliveries. To save the carrier work; If you don't want junk mail simply put a sign to this effect on your mail box.

And, even if 'neither hail nor...' is not the appropriate poem... the carriers do deliver!

From The Editorial Staff Via The Piano Room To Your 'Reading' Room....
By John Tidridge

Contributed stories arrive at the desk of the Editor of the Highlands-Bellevue magazine; each one is read with a preliminary edit conducted. This is to determine structure and flow, along with correcting obvious grammar, spelling and punctuation errors. Once all the stories are in, the editorial and advertising pages are combined to determine the approximate size of the magazine.

The layout person places all the ads in the template and the editor slots in the stories. This couple, working in unison, fit the stories and ads into the space available. Pictures that are supplied or that have been located on the web at no cost, are added, along with space allowed for information relating to the pictures and headings.

A preliminary proof is established for each page, making any corrections that might have missed. PDFs (Portable Document Format) are made and sent to the first proof reader. The neat thing about PDFs is that they can be opened and read but not altered by the recipient. The recipient must make a reply thereby enabling the suggested changes to be verified before editing takes place. Necessary corrections are made, new PDFs created and sent to a second proof reader for a final proof. Any errors noted are corrected: the Editor gives an 'eagle eye' final viewing. The final PDFs are then sent by email to the printers.

This pattern is similar to one any print media follows, whether it's a daily newspaper or a magazine. There is a common rule in print media that only when the issue is finally printed do you see every mistake. So no matter how often the Highlands-Bellevue staff read the drafts, the odd mistake still slips by. This, in part, is because each article is required to be read several times...the eyes of the staff simply do not see the error. Anyone who has ever proofread knows this to be true.

Over one hundred hours of free time was given by the staff for the last issue of the magazine. Kudos to Barb Martowski, Laura England, Linda Shave, Christine Bremner, Shauna Larkin & Arie Jol (and probably others!) for their splendid effort. The total number of hours does not include time spent by contributors to the magazine...

And then...

Just imagine.... Twelve hundred copies of the Magazine (Highlands-Bellevue Highlights) hopefully bundled, delivered to the Pick residence, by Scope Printers. They are taken (by Matt) to the 'piano room', untied and then Matt. sorts into 12 smaller bundles. Sorted again so that each deliverer has a map of the route, and, the appropriate number of magazines to ensure everyone on the route gets a copy. This is part of the process to get the magazine from the editors to the printers to your door.

Matthew Pick, the coordinator, takes no credit for setting up this process; credit, he says, belongs to Anita Jenkins and Meghan Pick, his sister: This couple drew the maps, and decided on payments, making the task so much easier for Matt. Of the approximately 2250 copies of the magazine to be delivered, Matt and his crew are responsible for 1200. Each deliverer handles an average of 120 magazines. (You will have noticed the transition of the newsletter to magazine status ... imagine 120 of these altogether!! And the steps to be climbed, the strides to be walked, mail boxes to be opened... anyway you get the picture.)

Matt has twelve volunteers, some of whom receive an honorarium and some who simply donate their time. When the magazines have been sorted he calls his deliverers and they pick up their bundles and begin the task of deliveries. The sorting and calling task takes from 3-5 hours, spread over, perhaps 7 days.

Depending on the person and the speed at which they 'work' it takes from sixty to ninety minutes to deliver all the magazines. With the exception of one route all routes are 'made on foot', this exception is where an automobile is required. This is for business deliveries. The final 'route' is the 'mail out' route handled by one person. And, remember this procedure is repeated four times a year!

Matt's crew is as follows: Arie Jol, Shauna Larkin, Travis Weiss, John Ma, Wendell Gelderman, Gloria Sanford, Dave Gillespie, Meghan Pick, Rebecca Kresta, Sandra Fulton, Anita Jenkins, Shauna Larkin & Susan Chin. Matt. (after much prodding) tells me he is 17 years of age, attends McNally High School, and is in a International Baccalaureate program and he has nothing but praise for his crew and reminds readers help is always needed: his e-mail address is: matthewwhpick@gmail.com Think of the exercise you will get!

You now have some idea of the procedures followed to get the Highlands-Bellevue to your 'reading' room.

It Seems To Me It's Only Fair..... John Tidridge

'Is religion needed or not'? This question was posed to the churches serving the Highlands-Bellevue area: So it seems it's only fair that I try to answer the question as well.

My initial response is: I have no experience with 'religion' but I have experienced the Christian lifestyle, with hopefully some improvement, for about 70 years. Without the influence of the Christian faith I would not have learned to know and how to trust God. I would have lacked understanding on how to fellowship with others of the same mind and yes, even differing minds; and to operate within society in a manner to bring honour to him by trying to improve that society. Also learning from the scriptures how to treat my wife, family, friends and fellow believers; this information is available to all those who elect to follow the Christianity lifestyle.

Those that know me well will say, "But, but..." I did not say Christianity would make me perfect, but it provides necessary guidelines for me to follow; and, the means to get back on track, without condemnation, when I blow it... to follow a dependable leader and to have a hope of eternal life.

Ah, yes, Easter... (St.) Paul tells us that if Christ did not rise from the dead we are of all men most pitied! It would mean that everything associated with Christianity has been wasted. Martyrs died in vain, the persecuted should have recanted, and all the churches, clergy, vestments, icons and incense are all nonsense... 'Hallelujahs' and 'Praise the Lord' just wasted efforts; prayers are merely 'scotch mist'...as the professional atheists would have us believe! The whole Christian 'industry' would be a fraud. Surely it is not so... I chose to believe Jesus rose again!

Highlands Landscaping And Snow Removal
(Joel)
11405-71st
780-850-3469, or 780-250-4121
highlands.landscaping@gmail.com

Highlands Landscaping and Snow Removal (HLSR) specializes mostly in lawn maintenance. Services include weekly mowing and trimming of your entire property. Owner Joel Kjearsgaard has 4 years of golf course grounds maintenance experience, as well as 3 years running this business part time in the neighborhood. This experience helps HLSR keep your lawn looking its best! In the winter the business offers snow removal services for sidewalks and driveways.

Besides general lawn and snow maintenance HLSR is able to perform many odd jobs around the home and yard, as well as offer handyman services. In the past HLSR has maintained and been responsible for the maintenance of both commercial and residential properties for over 2 years.

Kjearsgaard and his wife, Rachel live in the Highlands on 114 Avenue and 71 Street and he is recent graduate from Concordia University College of Alberta with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and English. Kjearsgaard and Rachel will be parents, 'very soon'.

HLSR promises bring to the table a personal relationship with customers which allows it to provide the best service possible. Kjearsgaard believes strongly in serving others; getting to know his customers and meeting new people from the neighborhood.

The 'small town' feel of Highlands/Bellevue, a close knit community, make this the place to live. The people in this neighborhood truly make it what it is: the best neighborhood in the entire city.

Kjearsgaard looks forward to meeting you and serving many more people within this wonderful community and can't wait for your phone call and the chance to meet you!

J. Keshy Clothing Store by John Tidridge
5809-118 Avenue
Edmonton, Ab.
T5W 1E5
Telephone: 780-758-0608
janebjuana@yahoo.ca

STORE HOURS

Monday – Saturday 7.30 a.m.-9.00 p.m.

Sunday 11.30 a.m. -7.00 p.m.

Tucked away in the Park Annex strip mall (58 St. and 118 Av.) is a new store: J Keshy Clothing Store. The owner/operator is Betty Juan. Now, most people would immediately jump to the conclusion that Betty is Spanish... well, she is, sort of! Betty came from Uganda 11 years ago via Saskatchewan (one year) and then the last 10 in Alberta. Her many times great grandparents were Spanish. Betty is Sudanese.

For Betty, educated at the Canadian College, this is her second venture in the clothing store business. The first one was in Beverly close to where she lives in Abbotsfield.

The store which includes both new and gently used clothing has styles for all ages. She helps people in her community and her clothes are affordable... \$1.00 and up... and, you can have a coffee as you shop.

Confirming what most of us already know, Betty has found the people of Highlands and Bellevue very friendly.

A Strong Man Faced With New Ventures... by John Tidridge

Born in Vernon BC, educated in many places including Hawaii (High School), UBC (University of British Columbia) and Regent College, British Columbia, 40 year old Rev. Kevin Green B.A., M.Div., pastors the Neighbourhood Church, with sites at 5347-112 Avenue NW and 6712-Delwood Rd N.W. Kevin, a personable man, with a ready smile, married to Cindy since 1995; they have three children, Ben (7), Caleb (9) and Charif (12). Their home is in the Delwood community.

Pastor Kevin, who regularly competes in strongman competitions, which allows two things: release of the stress from his day time job, meeting people of all, or no faith, in friendly competition, appears to have the vitality for the pastoral job with its many challenges!

Having to 'mentor' two sites has its challenges! He has to balance his personal liking and knowledge of his own community but also realizing he has to get a feel for the Highland-Bellevue area. These two areas have differing segments within the same area. He hopes 'his' church will rise to the challenge of meeting the needs of all communities in which they serve.

The Neighbourhood Church congregations are, like most churches, in the need of more people! Pastor Kevin rejects the idea that young persons are the church of the future. He emphatically states that all those attending both sites are members of the present church and we must move ahead together.

He agreed the business side of church life turns some off; feeling there was a need to simplify proceedings and still maintain a high degree of integrity in the processes. It would require some give and take from those on either side of the spectrum to achieve a better understanding of the legal requirements.

In order for both sites to remain active and effective in the community, drastic actions would be required, requiring the cooperation of all who attended the church. He was confident on both fronts. Kevin would not speculate on future plans other than to say, they were in 'the making'.

Maybe George Planted Them..... John Tidridge

If you walk along 113 Avenue between 61 and 62 Street and check out the Community League grounds you cannot fail to notice the garden of flowers and the pots of flowers that grace the grounds at the south entrance.

Over the years much work has gone into the plantings... may be there is a committee that plans this...if there is a big 'thank you': If it is a group of individuals... 'thank you!' The garden of flowers has been especially spectacular this year.

Local Pharmacists Bring New Life To One Of The City's Oldest Pharmacies... John Tidridge

The Medicine Shoppe
6525-118 Avenue
T5W 1G5
780-479-2077

I could not have said this better and didn't! This was the headline on the press release by the Medicine Shoppe group for the official opening of the Medicine Shoppe at the former Imperial Drugs, 66 Street and 118 Avenue. The release was produced by Holly Roy, Pumpkin PR Inc, and given to this reporter by Karla Horan of the Medicine Shoppe. Permission to use parts of the press release was given.

A goodly crowd of dignitaries, local business persons and customers, past, present and probably future, gathered to witness the official opening of the new store. The ribbon was cut (primarily!) by Michelle Vander Molen, the manager & co-owner, although she had a lot of help. A cake, cookies, and liquid refreshments were provided and there was an air of expectation as people gathered around the area and checked-out the 'new environment'. They seemed to be well pleased.

There were the customary speeches by executives from the Medicine Shoppe Corporation. The high standard set by Urban Bogusz, former owner/manager was mentioned. It was also obvious that Vander Molen and Reay are held in high esteem by the corporation and it was reiterated they would maintain the high standard expected.

New owners, Laurie Reay and Michelle Vander Molen have undertaken extensive renovations to update and modernize the operation. "It is quite amazing for a pharmacy to have such history," said Laurie. "Many customers from Highlands and surrounding neighbourhoods have known Urban for almost 40 years. Some of their children and grandchildren travel back to this neighbourhood just for his services. We have big shoes to fill!" Urban is passing the baton to Laurie and Michelle, but not hanging up his lab coat just yet. He says he has lots of energy and wants to keep practicing pharmacy as long as he's able - which is just fine with Reay and Vander Molen.

The pharmacy will be offering health screenings throughout the year

and a number of valuable Medicine Shoppe programs, including the Accu-Pak service for people on three or more medications and home visits if needed. The pharmacy will be an immunization centre and Vander Molen also a Certified Asthma Educator.

Reay was pleased to see Mark Stephenson, Apollo Propane and Dale Schmidt, Beverly Boston Pizza drop by, along with Executive Director Cornel Rusnak, from the Beverly Business Association... Cornel was so impressed with the pharmacy he is claiming that the business is actually located in Beverly.

The welcome and necessary Canada Post service will still be available. The same dependable services will soon be available in their entirety.

The Neighbour Beat constables, Constables Brian Cross and Jeffrey Eichmann dropped in to keep an eye on the proceedings, both are camera shy! Their presence was appreciated, their services not required.

As always... support your local business people

No One Said It Would Be Easy....John Tidridge

Getting on track...

"At university as I was running I was thinking of painting and as I painted I was thinking of running...over time, well, overtime, the running receded and the painting proceeded". So says Kim Vos.

Changing lanes...

Our 'resident' artist, born, raised in the Highlands, attended the Highlands schools: Mount Royal, Highlands Junior High and Eastglen Composite High. Then, leaving the city Kim headed, on a Sports Scholarship, to Wakeforth University, Winston-Salem in North Carolina, USA. Where she intended to become a Physical Therapist, but now her aim is to complete her master's degree in Occupational Therapy.

Making a good first showing...

Turning to art she was well supported by that faculty and it sponsored her first 'showing'.

Running the course set out...

Kim specializes in 'abstraction' as opposed to "realistic' art. She has accepted the criticism levelled at her as part of the artist's lot. The criticism relates to the 'abstractness' of her art: Some people want to be able to recognize what they are looking at.... However, she quickly adds she can carry out realistic art... it's just not her favourite, and she can express herself better through abstraction.

Early training was a benefit...

Growing up Kim was always interested in crafts and the use of different material for creating items. This skill has been kept as she uses many different items as substitute for brushes to create different surface and textures. She mentioned, among other things, kitchen utensils.

Nothing comes without cost...

Painting and associated materials are expensive so she finds her knack of being able to substitute, as not only valuable but money-saving.

Showing where it counts...

Kim has an exhibition planned for January-February-March at the Paint Spot 10032-81 Avenue, and potentially another in the fall in Vancouver. At present she is working on a commissioned piece, both large and challenging.

www.kimvos.com is the site to visit: examples of her paintings are exhibited here. Kim can be reached at voska6@gmail.com

Park Named After Local Champion Golfer
By Ted Smith (used with permission)

The park which overlooks Highlands Golf Course at 68 Street and Ada Boulevard was officially opened September 18, 2011.

More than 100 people were in attendance at the opening with representatives from the City of Edmonton, Councillor Tony Caterina,

the Highlands Golf Course president Mark Wenger, the Honourable Allan H. Wachowich, the former Chief Justice, and Karen Rackel, the current president of the Royal Canadian Golf Association, all paying tribute to Betty Stanhope-Cole for her lifetime of accomplishments in honour of her golf and curling achievements.

Outstanding Athlete

The bronze plaque unveiled at the park lists her many achievements over the last 60 years. Stanhope-Cole was the Edmonton Amateur Champion a staggering 25 times before going on to win the City Senior Championship nine times.

Also a six-time City Junior Champion, Stanhope-Cole was named Edmonton's outstanding athlete in 1957 and was the No. 1 ranked amateur player in Canada in 1974 and 1976.

She competed on Canada's World Amateur Team on three occasions (1964, 1974, 1976) and was a member of our Commonwealth Team in 1971. Nationally, she won the 1956 Canadian Junior Girls Championship, the 1957 Canadian Ladies' Championship and the 1967 Canadian Ladies Close Championship.

Inducted into the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame for both golf and curling, she also is in the Canadian and Alberta Golf Halls of Fame as well as the Edmonton Sports Hall of Fame. A winner of the Alberta Ladies Amateur 16 times, Stanhope-Cole also has four Alberta Senior titles.

In 1980 she gave up competitive golf to devote her time as a volunteer for the Canadian Ladies Golf Association and the Alberta Golf Association.

In addition to her golfing success, Stanhope-Cole also skipped three Alberta Championship Teams, placed second in the 1978 Lassie and won 13 zone and Edmonton Championships.

Still Golfing

Long associated with the Highlands Golf Club and a long-time resident of the neighbourhood, Stanhope-Cole has brought prestige and attention to the club and the community through her accomplishments and support of amateur sport.

Stanhope-Cole still golfs a few times a week at Highlands, walking the Highlands and enjoying the course she has played for the past 60 seasons.

Please take time to drop by the park , admire the view and, while reading the plaque marvel over the golfing accomplishments of Betty Stanhope-Cole

Your Mini Mart by John Tidridge
5811-118 Avenue
Edmonton AB.
T5W 1E5
780-471-5631

Fifty-nine hours a week! How many of us work that many hours? Unheard of. I imagine, however, that is the work week of many small-store operators. Richard Teo, originally from Sarawak (Borneo) via New Zealand, arrived in Canada about 20 years ago. Richard opened his present store 13 years ago. It is situated in a small shopping mall that has, unfortunately, seen better days.

Known as the Park Annex Shopping Centre it once housed Park Annex Pharmacy, Park Annex Food Mart, Mary's Beauty Salon etc. It is now down to 2 stores, Richard's and a recently opened used clothing store.

Your Mini Mart is small but packed to the gunwales (nautical term) with groceries of all description. Richard says if you need anything just drop in and he will secure it for you if he doesn't have it on hand.

Richard who is a member of the New Zealand Institute of Management was trained at the New Zealand Technical College in Business Management.

He finds the Highlands people are friendly and the area for the most pleasant and clean to be in. Richard lives with his wife and 2 children in north-west Edmonton.

The store is open during the following hours:
Monday-Saturday 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Sunday 10.00 a.m.-5 p.m.

Drop in and say hello... and buy something!

Pizza 73 by John Tidridge
5003-118 Ave
Edmonton
T5W 1B8

780-473-7373
gsidhu034@pizza73.com

Securing information from Rani Sidhu, the operator of this particular Pizza 73 has been, to say the least, a bit of a challenge. Two or was it three misplaced questionnaires, computers that did not correspond too well together... however!

Pizza 73 continues a tradition of pizza 'parlours' at this location; Rani's business being here since the mid-nineties, not too long after the opening of this strip mall. The residents of Highlands-Bellevue are provided excellent, friendly service and Hot Fresh pizzas. Pizza 73 strives to continually please their wide and diverse customer base with an ever widening menu selection, and late night hours to serve you better!

Always active in the community be it through our school lunch offering or Minor Soccer sponsorship, Pizza 73 is a brand name that is synonymous with YOUR Community.

Rani is from the Ludhiane district in the Punjab which according to 'google' is in the centre northern part of India. She came to Canada around 25 years ago.

Rani, who is married to Gurtej (TJ), has 2 children and lives in South Edmonton, finds the resident of Highlands-Bellevue nice, caring people forming a unique customer base. She would like to thank her customers for their support over the years. It makes it a pleasure to come to work every day and put smiles on people's faces! She is proud of the fact her business is open late to serve the community better.

Support your local businesses.

Sinner...Repent by John Tidridge

Seventy-seven mentions of the word sin or sinning or sinners in the NIV concordance. So the words are used frequently in the Bible... about thirty mentions of the word 'repent' or its various forms. A fair smattering...

To most Christians the words go together.... As in, "Sinner...Repent". A good exhortation not heard very often these days... too bad!!

"Sin" is said to be falling short of God's mark... "Repent" means to turn from one direction and to go the other... as in turning from a bad life to a better, God oriented one.

Here endeth the lesson!

The Edmonton Journal Delivers.... By John Tidridge

Bingo! Well not really, but where bingo is played, the ENEBA hall, is where you will see, on a daily basis, approximately 6100 Edmonton Journals delivered for residential customers. The newspapers have previously been sorted into bundles of 20-40 papers, depending on the size of the days' paper, by the Journal's Eastgate plant.

These deliveries are scheduled, among many others, for the T5B and T5C delivery areas. You will recognize the postal codes; these are used, it would seem, by everyone who delivers material to homes and businesses.

Soon, about 70 people (carriers) will arrive at the location to pick up their newspapers for delivery. A bundle of approximately 80 papers is set aside for each delivery person. These carriers are all adults, and the gender mix is about 50-50. Each deliverer has a vehicle and the delivery time is about 3-4 hours. Routes are designed by the Journal but those that deliver are allowed to modify the route to suit their needs.

The route the carrier follows in the area of 60 Street and 113 Avenue is as follows: 111 Avenue 60 to 65 Streets, 112 Avenue 62 to 65 Street, 113 Avenue 58 to 61 Street, 118 Avenue 57 to 59 Street, 50 Street and 127 Avenue... (hmm, that would shock you if you didn't plan!) from 58 Street to 66 Street in the 110 and 111 Avenue blocks and Ada Boulevard from 60 to 66 Street.

Early morning delivery of newspapers started in the mid-eighties and there were some complaints about noisy delivers. (The author received some as a supervisor in the bylaw services section of the City of Edmonton.) The practice has now been fully accepted and any noise heard would be just one of those things that go bump in the night. Bylaw reports no complaints have been received in the past year.

The Holy Spirit Reshapes At The Potter's House... John Tidridge

The answering machine talked about carpet cleaning: Either a wrong number or a mixed message... at least that's what it seemed when I arranged to interview pastor Les. Theiss. It turned out to be the correct number... but with a mixed message.

Later, meeting with Theiss, the pastor at the Potter's House Church, it is obvious there is no mixed message, at least not at 'his' church. More about that later.

Theiss, I learned was an army brat, born in Winnipeg but spending most of his life in Alberta with atheistic parents. He is married to Debbie, with an 18 year old son, Levi, and 15 year old daughter, Angela.

In Christian circles, being converted at 32 is a bit of a rarity, but this was Theiss's experience. It was a dramatic conversion and was coupled with an equally dramatic physical healing. He firmly believes that his lack of any church experience gives him an edge when dealing with others who know nothing of the established church ...he knows what it is like to come in from the cold, as it were!

Being an active participant in the Potter's House Church means that you have accepted the premise this means to preach, to serve, to heal, and to be mission minded, all the fundamental beliefs of the Church. The fledgling pastor was mentored by a senior minister in the teachings of the church. The church believes that this way of education protects the beliefs of the church being either watered down or changed by teaching removed from the actual church scene. It is their way of protecting what they believe and ensuring the message is properly taught to pastors.

Carpet cleaning for 20-30 hours a week allows Theiss to spend approximately 30 hours working at regular church activities. He is responsible for the operation of the church. Church attendance can vary from 15 to almost 50. There is a service mid-week and two on Sundays. There is outreach into the area, and a youth program.

His schedule has not allowed him to meet with any of the local church leaders but he supports the view of unity within the Christian Church but is aware that some of his church's views could not be compromised.

Theiss struck me as a man's man, with a handshake of iron... he gave the impression of a man on a mission who firmly believes that Jesus is the answer! His stress reliever is prayer! He firmly believes that it is Jesus' wish that he preach and he is sure that his message is right on and relevant. I have no doubt about that either!

Recant Or Face The Consequences....John Tidridge

SOME older folks will shudder at the word 'underground'. It conjures up images of times not too long ago, where going 'underground' meant danger, deadly danger. Underground movements come about to change what is viewed as a hostile and corrupt ruling power. Subversive actions against the ruling power structure are all part of the scenario. A slip of the tongue could result in torture and death. One did not join such a movement unless dedicated to the cause, or was a traitor. This is a quick overview of the secular 'underground' movement.

This is a quick overview of the Christian 'underground'. One does not join an 'underground' church unless one is committed to the cause, and a slip of the tongue could mean torture and death. So why do people join the 'underground' church in countries where there is already an approved State Church? Quite simply; because the state church does not allow Christians the absolute freedom to worship as they see fit. Freedom to worship without government intervention is one of the many freedom-giving principles that true Christianity advocates.

Operating in many countries these 'underground' churches have done so since Christianity first came under persecution. Christians in Rome, living and meeting in the Catacombs, speak volumes to this

persecution. New victims, gathering in all sorts of buildings and structures, seek to understand the Bible more thoroughly, the way they should live as Christians, and how to reach their neighbours. There is no fooling around...

So why this story... we Canadian Christians need to be vigilant to stop the erosion of any restrictions placed on the Christian message. If we don't, in time it will be banned, even in Canada. The church will then go 'underground'....

Some may say that the Book of Romans says Christians should obey the current rulers, and this was written when the Christians were being persecuted. However, the Book of Acts does say when the legislation is against what God says then one must stand and be counted. Perhaps we should try the standing bit now....

What Is A Baptist? By John Tidridge (not published)

Ask one, there are 110 million of us! So you are going to get 110 million plus one answers!

*Only 110
million*

*The
Neighbourhood
church*

However, to narrow it down some... I thought I would base my answer on those I have met at the Neighbourhood Church, still known as Highlands Baptist Church to some of us, where I have been a member since January 1958.

We come in all sizes, ages, height, weight, skin tones, ethnic backgrounds, professions, and are either male or female.

Marriage is common among us as is being born, and dying... Usually, once married, having children seems the norm... some families are small, others, well not so small. Our children seem to be as good or as worrisome as other children... their parents worry about them about the same as everyone else.

*Marriage
is common*

*Make good
neighbours
& friends*

Your local Baptists tend to make good neighbours and friends. Wild parties would not occur....but, perhaps, a noisy, enthusiastic gathering might happen. They love to eat!

In a service, tNC Baptists raise their hands or don't, shout "Praise the Lord" or don't. They generally sing well, either the good old fashioned hymns or the new choruses. They are opinionated, but will & can see the other person's point of view, usually!

Holy Books of another religion would not be burnt; the folks would not wave placards or forecast coming events, but would affirm one particular one will happen.

*Books not
burned*

We believe in God, His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit. That Jesus was born of a virgin, was crucified, died and was buried and rose again, that he returned to heaven and will return again: And, of course, baptism by immersion, hence the name.

Recognizable?

How would you recognize a Baptist on the street... unless he or she is wearing a sign, you wouldn't....

Sandlewood Spa And Wellness Centre by Tracy Willcott

Nestled in the heart of Historic Highlands, Sandlewood Spa and Wellness Centre (11209 65 street) offers customers a warm, comfortable and unique environment housed in a charming post war home. Opening in 2000, owner Tracy Willcott launched a full service day spa offering the finest in esthetics, massages, hair fashion and body treatments. Renee Christianson, manager of the Spa, and Cassandra, esthetician, complete the Sandlewood team. Tracy and Renee have recently launched an exclusive, professional facial product line.

To book an appointment for esthetics, body treatments, and teeth whitening call Sandlewood Spa at 780-479-8302.

In her effort to empower women in business, Tracy expanded to include independent business women, whose services support her philosophy and vision, turning Sandlewood into a full-service Spa and Wellness center. They are:

Roses Remedies	Hydro Therapy & Wellness	780-406-0680
Jeni Christinson	Master Designer Stylist	780-819-3623

Allyson Gauthier	Registered Massage Therapist	780-238-6075
Michele Tarnawsky	Registered Massage Therapist	780-996-2036
Dr. Wanda Polzin	Codega Counselling	780-266-2751

Sandlewood Spa and Wellness Center is an indulgent, yet affordable escape from every day stress where trained qualified staff care for the body, mind and spirit.

Tasers And The Police (letter to local journalist)

Sept. 2008

Hello Scott

Enjoyed your article on Tasers and police officers. I believe you are indeed correct when you mention the animosity between the police and the media; the misunderstanding of the ability of police officials to carryout their work correctly, and that there are some bad apples in every occupation.

I am a long time removed from the Edmonton Police Service, 1978 to be exact, but it is systems that change, and not people!

When I was a police officer we had a small baton, a lead ball, leather covered with a handle about 8" long that was to be kept in a pocket in the trousers. It was permissible to allow the leather strap handle to show... by the time I left officers had truncheons... long and very American looking, and they were in full display. Now it's Tasers!

The problem is, of course, not what the police officer carries but the perception that most have that people would never dream of being rude to a police officer even when being arrested! They cannot and do not believe people (read: the guy next door, in the next cubicle at work etc.) have no respect for authority. Unfortunately, they also believe that a police officer is (magically?) equipped to handle the 'vilest offenders' no matter how large or dangerous that person might

be! As you well know there are some people who cannot be persuaded by either patience, good manners, tact or legal force!

I believe the problem between the police and the media is a two way street. Back then the police did not like the media because they thought any story would be slanted against the police, and the media disliked the police because they, the police, would not give the full story, or talk to them. I think the police thought (me included!) that the media... and there were not many in it at that time, were all left of centre politically and had some kind of ax to grind because of police mistreatment of them as university students!

I was in an office in the police department where Eddie Keene would call and I would know that the man he was calling would never talk to Eddie...and after several calls, without anyone getting back to him... you can guess the results! I had little to do with the media while in the police service but later in my city career had plenty to do with it! I quickly learned there was no 'off the record' comment with some reporters.

Bad apples were present then too, but usually the man (and there were few women on the force then) having committed some serious offence (criminal or otherwise) was simply asked to resign or be charged. Personally I find the publication of the internal police 'trials' nauseating... but would find it easier to handle if the odd lawyer or doctor or yes, even media type, was hung out to dry like police officers. I do not support a civilian tribunal as they have "not been there and done that"... they have no idea of the expectations placed on police officers, nor do they have any idea how normal, respectable and respected citizens respond under pressure. I'm beginning to believe you have!

Best wishes,

John Tidridge

Crimes Of Police Officers

February 4, 2009

The Editor
Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I in response to the recent article in the Journal detailing the 'crimes' of a police officer for booking off et al: The Journal seems to have deteriorated into a 'rag' in this particular area.

When the Journal publishes the names of reporters/staff who commit the same type of 'crimes' (one wonders if there is an actual checking system at the Journal) such as using 'there's' in three different contexts in one article, or using the American system for 'quotes, periods and commas' or when the article is cut off, or where there are creases across the page, then I would perhaps, see some reason for the public lashing of officers who are doing a commendable job under the most trying circumstances. A much more different task from the ones performed by Journal reporters/staff who are, for the most part, safely ensconced behind their computers/machines.

Be fair... you may need that police officer.

Dear Mr. Editor:

Re: Mr. Engel's last.

I always find Mr. Engel's letter 'interesting' but, finally, I think I know what he has in mind: To make the Police perfect.

But I wonder if he has considered the consequences? If all Police achieve perfection, then that will rub off, surely, on the Crown, who will ensure the correct section is selected for prosecution.....

As they reach perfection, surely, they will insist their colleagues in the law writing departments of the provincial and federal governments, write perfect laws without loopholes...

Criminals will only be prosecuted when they are as 'guilty as sin', and consequently, in this world of perfection, they will plead guilty, be sentenced, serve their time and leave prison, reformed...

But, where have all the defence lawyers gone.....

Oh, happy day!

Hello Green Drop: December 9, 2009

We would like for 2010:

Spring starter	49.44
Intensifier	49.44
Summer beautifier	49.44
Sub-total	148.32
Aeration (spring)	90.00
Sub-total	238.32
5% seniors discount	11.92
Sub-total	226.40
8% Pre-pay discount	18.11
Grand total	208.29

Cheque enclosed.

Some comments...

I remind you that the cost includes the boulevards front and rear... and the man needs to go to the ends of the boulevard (!) ☺

I thought that last year the last two feedings were too early i.e. the weeds were not growing when the mixture was applied resulting in a recall, and the second application again was too early... the grass was in need of a feed before summer's end. I think I know why...but I wont go there!

Overall we were pleased with your services, the responders were polite, well dressed and carried out their duties effectively.

Regards,

John Tidridge

Church Report

Hello Cam, Dave & Kevin,

I found your presentation helpful this morning.

I have some concerns though: The questionnaires and the report were mentioned a couple of times, and I think perhaps too much emphasis is being put on both! Let me hasten to explain.

According to the report 16 questionnaires were returned to be included in the report. Twelve were from Highlands and 4 from Delwood.

According to reliable sources between 45 and 50 questionnaires were handed out... That's either a 35 or 32% return.... That's hardly overwhelming when the questionnaires were handed at to (supposedly) committed persons.

So when someone might say that 25% of respondents said.... That only represents 3 people at Highlands and less than 1 person from Delwood who completed the questionnaire.

Blessings,

John T

Policeman:Faith Takes A Beating

By SHIRLEY HUNTER
Of The Journal

Husband and wife squabbles, Speeders. Car accidents. Youth gang-ups. Brawling drunks. Thieves. Drug addicts robbing to finance the next "fix" . Murders.
People in trouble.

People who populate the policeman's working world. Most aren't happy to see him.

And most of them a policeman can't trust says Sgt. Tidridge, 39, a sergeant charge of a 10.-man Edmonton, City police sector patrol, , and president of the Christian Police Fellowship. finds that the only respect which being a committed Christian doesn't square with being a policeman.

"Everything you learn as a Christian teaches you to trust people," says Sgt. Tidridge. but as a policeman, you in you can't trust people farther than you can throw."

Trust in Members

The tall, rawboned sergeant – he's 6 foot 3, with hands to match, and the carefully gentle handshake of a big who does know his own strength - says that's one of the reasons he values the Christian Police Fellowship.

There is trust between its members, and openness in the sharing their problems and doubts, because of their shared religious belief.

There's an instinctive trust between all city policemen regardless of religion, he is quick to point out.

"You know if you call for help, they'll be there."

As well, he feels a special attachment to his own squad, who patrol the sector of Edmonton between 97th and 82nd Streets, from 111 Avenue north to the city limits.

They're a good squad."

Rank Cuts No Ice

But Sgt. Tidridge says members of the Christian police group he heads have found, because the people a policeman must deal with often are violent or foulmouthed - or both - "unless we have some Christian fellowship, your faith takes a beating by the end of the week."

There are 17 active members in the Christian Police Fellowship, with about 40 more informally connected. Rank doesn't cut any ice; and it's non-denominational, and open to all local police, including the RCMP and CNR, although present members all are city policemen.

Fellowship members are called upon to live their Christian faith 24 hours a day, says Sgt. Tidridge. Often, that's not easy.

It means, when someone is attacking you, using as just force as possible to subdue him. Or even trying to talk him out of fighting.

"You can beat somebody in a fight, but not accomplish anything," says the sergeant. "But if you can talk him out of it he can't say, 'I had real battle with a policeman. And maybe you've accomplished something.'"

And because police often see people at their worst, it would be too easy to become cynical.

"Policemen aren't invited for a piece of cake at a youngster's birthday party. But you pick up a kid when he's high on drugs, and has just shoved a gun in a cabdriver's face, to get money for more.

Can't take sides

"And we don't get invited to celebrate a couple's 25th wedding anniversary. We're called when he gets drunk, and tries to beat her up with a baseball bat."

They're summoned to pick up children neglected or abused by their parents, and to deal with husbands and wives - often both drunk - engaged in bitter verbal, if not physical battles.

And police officers sometimes feel, because they're required to keep their 'cool in every situation, and not "take sides", most people think they have no feelings.

"People probably feel they wind us up at the station and send us out for eight hours," says the sergeant.

Hostile Workday World

He doesn't believe it's necessary to be a Christian to be a good policeman. but he does feel the Christian Police Fellowship, even when only one or two members get together for a cup of coffee in the station cafeteria, has definite value for Christian policemen trying to live their faith in an often violent and hostile workday world.

They can openly talk about how they feel, regarding some of the

decisions they must make.

"When you stop a fellow driving an old clunker that isn't safe, you know if you only warn him he likely won't get it fixed. And you know if you give him a \$10 ticket, he probably can't afford it, either. But if you don't get him off the street with his car in that condition he's going to have an accident."

And at Christmas, he says, "you pull in a drunken driver and he's a father who should be home with his family. But you have to take him in because he might kill somebody".

Sgt. Tidridge says he that he believes in the death penal for murder, and that the Bible supports this belief. But he never killed anyone, himself "I haven't had to make that choice, nor have most of the men on the force."

Christ A Man's Man

The Christian Police Fellowship is open to policewomen but none have applied to join he says. It's also open to Christians of all denominations, but at present has no Catholic members.

"I suppose I'd have to say most of us at present were fundamentalists," says the sergeant, who's Baptist.

Quiet-spoken, he become: emphatic When he says "Most people think to be Christian you have to be an old fuddy-duddy.

"And if you go to some churches they have pictures of Christ where he looks like a wishy-washy fairy.

"That's not the Christ who chased the money-changers out of the temple, and stood up to political leaders, and died on the cross for me.

"He was a man's man."

Police Fellowship Tunes In To Misfits

One objective of the Christian Police Fellowship is to "understand and listen to those people who are considered odds and ends of our society"

"These are people like the Jesus Freaks," Const. John Tidridge, president of the fellowship, said. "We want to invite some of them to speak at our meetings."

Twenty-two policemen were inducted into membership of the fellowship last week by Rev. James Kruger of Augustana Lutheran Church.

Although the fellowship was initially formed in February of 1970, it was not until now that a covenant of beliefs was agreed on.

"Although all the men recognized that Christ is their leader, most of them had different approaches," Const. Tidridge said, "so it took us a while to agree on our covenant."

It also took time to establish certain business procedures and the formal organization, Insp. David McHarg, a member of the fellowship, said.

Insp. McHarg said various speakers at the meetings can give policemen something to stimulate their thinking and acting as far as Christians are concerned.

"Our primary aim is to witness on and off *the* job as policemen," Const. Tidridge

We hope to show those whom we come in contact that God is the answer to all problems."

Members of the fellowship have spoken to youth groups and have taken part in a few church services, Const. Tidridge said. They give their views as Christian policemen.

"We're not a corps of do-gooders within the police force," Insp. McHarg emphasized. "We don't want to say we're much better than others ... and that other officers should come up to our standards."

Almost every faith is represented in the fellowship except for Jewish, Const. Tidridge said.

The Edmonton group eventually hopes to join the International Christian Police Fellowship but "the international fellowship first has to determine we qualify," Const. Tidridge said.

Part of the covenant of the Christian Police Fellowship reads: "We engage ... to walk together in Christian love and to strive for the advancement of this fellowship ... to promote its prosperity and spirituality.

"We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion, to educate our Children religiously, and to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances. To walk circumspectly 'in the world; to be just in our dealings; faithful in our engagements;" and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling,' backbiting, and excessive anger and to be zealous in our efforts to advance God's kingdom here on earth-

Some Suggestions

From: "John Tidridge" <jtidridge@interbaun.com>
To: Fpo.ontario@gmail.com
Subject: Story and suggestions!
Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2010 4:02 PM

Hello Mr. President

Preamble to the bad part!

I joined the Edmonton City Police in 1959 and left in 1978. During the 1970-72 period I was, along with several others, instrumental in starting a Christian Fellowship among the members. We had been encouraged by a newsletter from the British Society.

We had, perhaps, 6-8 members who met regularly. I believe it was still functioning when I left the service in 1978.

In 1978 I left the service to become the Security Officer for the L(ight) Rail T(ransit). I later added Industrial Safety to my duties.

In 1983 I moved to Bylaw Services as the senior supervisor and stayed there until I retired in 1994.

After a rest-period of 18 months I contracted out to Leduc County as an Assistant Development Officer, and spent the next 7 years thoroughly enjoying myself.

I lost touch with the Police Service, one does, even though one's blood is blue. But I joined the Fellowship years ago. I noted that Edmonton now had/has a chapter. The only name familiar to me then was Glenda ?.

I am retired now... apart from gardening, writing for whoever will read my material, doing some church and community work.

Married to Maureen for 52 years, with 4 children, 11 grandchildren and rumours are rife that I will be able to add a another g next year...

And now...the bad part.. I have been told I have the gift of administration... and, in particular, proofreading... other peoples work!

So here goes...

I read the Application for Membership and have a couple of suggestions to make:

In the line beginning... I subscribe to the... there is a double 'I' immediately after 'and'..

In the line beginning ... Testifying to the lovewould promote read better than promoting....
there is an unwanted space between the 'f' and 'fellowship'.

In the line beginning... I am an active.... officer not officers

In the line beginning... I am a retired.... same change.

In the line beginning... I am an auxiliary... same change

Line beginning Spouses... should it not be Spouse's

Where the statement of faith is stated... should there be spaces between FCPOSTATMENTOFFAITH

First column, first item... The Bible... the paragraph needs to be fixed by removing the spaces between 'original' and 'writings'.

Third column... last Item... I believe we Canadians spell Judgement without the 'e'.

I know that you will scrutinize my letter for any errors... and rightly so... but I must add that my proofreading only applies to other... :)

I have read Merv's article and I hope I have not transgressed!!

Blessings,

John T

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