Community Matters

 $N_{ovember} \ 2012 \ Edition$

Proudly serving Patricia Heights • Rio Terrace • Quesnell Heights

Living on the RIGHT side of the freeway.

Let it Snow, Let it Glow, Let it Grow...

Good bye glorious flowers, lustrous green leaves and fascinating horticultural embellishments...

'cause it's WINTERTIME! Yes, there IS a lot of beauty in our community that becomes veiled in white this time of year - but fortunately when the scrapers, shovels and snow blowers come out, so does a magical majesticness that can only be found in seasoned neighbourhoods such as ours. One only has to wander south of the Rio Terrace Church on 151st street to catch a glimpse of this marvel; picture perfect roads lined with mature stately spruce trees cloaked with a warm and cozy layer of snow on every bow. Many become glowing works of art as their branches are tastefully lit by adoring homeowners whose front yards adjoin the city property upon which these mighty trees were planted so many years ago. Yet sadly, some of these gallant soldiers that guard our streets have become fallen heroes and their absence is wistfully noted. Whether they have succumbed to the powerful winds that have been known to sweep through this area, or a homeowner's passion for something more disparate in character or purpose, it is truly the city's veterans who remain, permitted to grow to their greatest potential, that make this neighbourhood truly magnificent this time of year...

Whatever way you choose to celebrate the season ahead, we wish you a blessed one and look forward to greeting you in the new year!

All our best.

Carlene and Dawna-Lynne

IOB OPENING AT THE COMMUNITY HALL

Rio Terrace Community League is looking to hire a Rink Attendant.

If interested, please contact Tony at 780.487.3964 or Lance at 780.906.5277 for more information.





A word from our new Community League Social Co-ordinator!

Hello everyone! In an effort to have some more socials organized in our community I have stepped forward and volunteered to be the Social Co-ordinator for the Rio Terrace Community League, however I am looking for some fun loving event planning folks! I am happy to steer the ship but need some crew-members to join me!

My thinking is that many hands make for light work, so I am looking for those of you that could spare a few hours either to assist with the planning of an event, working at the event or doing some of the behind the scene stuff that makes an event such a great success. My hope is that a committee is created each time we have an event so that the "commitment" is not daunting and the idea is for ALL of us to share the load and volunteer what time we can.

My plan is to organize a Family Day event (Feb 2013) and would love for you to forward any ideas you may have for this event to my email address. If you are interested in joining the "Family Day Committee" please feel free to email me at boileau4@shaw.ca.

I look forward to an outpour of support (it's always good to be optimistic)!

Thanks everyone... Captain Ally

LEAGUE MATTERS



Community News

Editing & Advertising:
Carlene Nohas & D-L Duffy Power
Distribution: Shirley Bellrose

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Proudly serving the neighbourhoods of Rio Terrace, Quesnell Heights, and Patricia Heights.

> 15500 76 Avenue NW Edmonton, Alberta T5R 4L8 780-487-0610

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League Membership Rates 2012-13

Single/Couple: \$20 Single-Parent Family: \$20 Family: \$40 Single Seniors: \$5 Seniors: \$10

Memberships can now be purchased at Mac's (9am-5pm)

Newsletter Advertising Rates 2012

Business Card: \$20 Quarter Page: \$35 Half Page: \$60 Full Page: \$120 Back Page: \$135

Classified ads also available. Contact one of our co-editors for more information or to book your ad.

Next Issue: Febraury 2013
Submission Deadline:
January 25, 2013

Rio Terrace Community League

Executive, Board of Directors & Organizational

President Tony Andrzejewski 780-487-3964

Vice President YOUR NAME HERE

Secretary Diane Harrington 780-453-1091 Treasurer Auriana Burns 780-444-6684

Membership YOUR NAME HERE

Newsletter D-L Duffy Power

dlpower@shaw.ca
Carlene Nohas

carasen@telusplanet.net

Newsletter Circulation Shirley Bellrose

rbellrose@shaw.ca

Social Allison Boileau 780-443-1261

boileau4@shaw.ca

Programs Samantha Gullekson 780-463-2958

sll4@ualberta.ca

Preschool Anna Wiles 780-484-8588

awiles@shaw.ca lessica McLean

iaji@live.ca

Sign Peter Wong 780-487-7099

Maintenance Lance Burns 780-444-6684

Rinks YOUR NAME HERE

Hall Rental Carrie Anne Doucette 780-757-9399

Soccer Coordinator Perry Wynn

director@rioterracesoccer.ca

Scouts/Cubs Peter Wong 780-487-7099 Guides/Brownies Dana Ferguson 780-486-2642

Directors Helen Kukurba <u>kukurbah@shaw.ca</u>

 Rhonda Holterhus
 780-443-4624

 Peter Wong
 780-487-7099

Jen Osmond jenosmond@remax.net

COMMUNITY MATTERS

COULD IT BEYOU?

The following board positions are open for a 2 year term: Vice-President, Membership Director If you are interested in joining our fun board please contact Tony (President) at 780–487-3964

· @ 713.

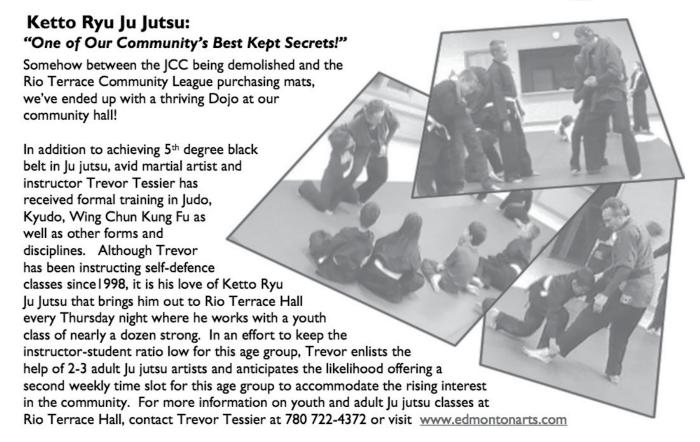
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR:

- ✓ Be responsible for the organization, timing and completion of the annual Membership program
- ✓ Keep a record of and maintain the membership lists and other records pertaining to membership.
- ✓ Ensure compliance with EFCL Code of Ethics with respect to selling membership.
- ✓ Prepare an annual budget for membership and submit it to the treasurer
- √ Review and prepare policy and procedures with respect to membership
- √ Report monthly to the Board of Directors.

VICE PRESIDENT:

- ✓ Preside at any meeting the President is absent from
- √ Assume any duties from the President as required
- ✓ Act as a signing authority
- √ Responsible for the annual review of the Bylaws, Policies and procedures
- √ Is a member of the executive committee
- √ Responsible for Casino











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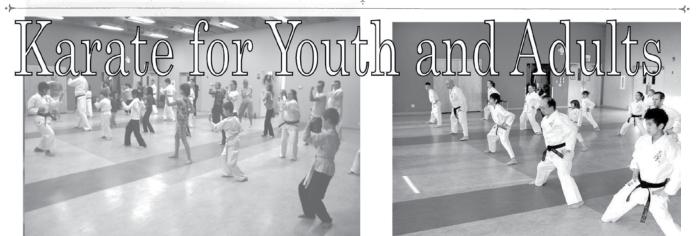
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Our popular dojo is part of the respected province wide AKF network and has been running continuously since 1984.

Our club is proud to be celebrating over 28 years of unbroken karate training in Edmonton.

We welcome participants from as young as 8 years of age and have no upper age limit.

We are proud to have parents joining their sons and/or daughters in our classes.

The next session of classes start on Monday Jan. 7 or Thursday Jan 10 2013, from 7:00 - 8:45. and run to April 25 Session fees are \$90 for one night or \$140 for both nights.

Please register with us at the Crestwood Community League (14325 - 96 Avenue), at class time

www.akfkarate.com

For further information please call Edna (780) 481-3153 / egchan@shaw.ca

GREEN CORNER MATTERS

Community Matters Green Corner with Sandra Gangel

It happens every year, doesn't it? Winter.

If you're a bear or a frog or even a ladybug or a snake, this means you get to snooze your way through some very chilly, long, dark months. If you're reading this, you're probably human, so that means you can't just crawl under the covers and sleep until March. So, let's talk winter.

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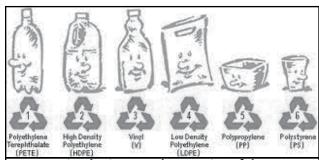
Any chance you've got children skating or playing hockey this winter?

If so, I'm sure you've already sourced helmets, skates, etc. Still, I'm going to write out an answer to a query from Allison M., a friend and neighbour in Patricia Heights, who wondered aloud to me about the recycling possibilities for her son's hockey helmet. I'm going to add something to my original answer to you, Allison: look on the helmet for the recycling symbol with a number. The City of Edmonton will accept plastics numbered I, 2, 4 or 5 for recycling. So, if the helmet in question has one of these numbers, then yes, it is possible to send that helmet to the curb -- in a blue First, you've got to take out all that foam padding and cut off the straps. Do your best; I know the glue on that foam can be tricky.

If the helmet (hockey, skiing, biking, etc.) does **NOT** have a recycling symbol on it, and it's still within its 'safe use' date, then you can take advantage of the many sports equipment stores in the city that accept used helmets in trade. This is also a popular system for skates, skis and snowboards.

These programs require you to purchase another helmet (or skates, skis or snowboards) at their store, with the trade-in value being applied to your final total. You can apply the trade-in value to new or used stock. The only issue here becomes finding the right size and fit; this is especially difficult, in my experience, with used skates. So, often, you end up

having to purchase something new. It's an imperfect system for those of us who value true recycling and re-use, but it's better than nothing. Plus, it makes 'trading in' and 'buying used' viable



a visual primer on the meaning of those numbers on plastic containers

considerations. Other options to upgrade your winter gear with used items can be accessed through sites like kijiji or ebay or something like Mountain Equipment Co-op's Online Gear Swap. Online resources like these are a great alternative, especially for families with children who seem to outgrow everything in two months! Do your own due diligence; research the seller (ebay and other sites will have user ratings); talk to them over the phone; and get comfortably confident that you will indeed be getting what you pay for.

Is travel an annual winter rite for you?

Most hotels nowadays have options for exchanging bath towels and bed linens on a daily or non-daily basis, in order to conserve water and power used in laundering. Some chains have a "no-waste" policy at their properties. For example, every room will have a waste bin, a recycling bin and a composting bin, with instructions on what items go in them, for the uninitiated.

Many properties around the world participate in the "Green Key Eco-Rating" program. (You can search for properties through the website www.greenkeyglobal.com.) This rating is based on a self-assessment by property management, so we're really depending on the property to be honest when answering the questionnaire. The resorts, motels, and hotels that participate in the Green Key program may not have a perfect environmental record, but their participation is meant to be seen as a commitment to becoming ecologically sound establishments. You can use the Green Key

continued on page 9

COMMUNITY MATTERS







You are Cordially invited to attend the Rio Terrace Community Preschool Silent Auction on Friday November 16 at 7pm at the RioTerrace Community League Hall, 15500 76 Ave.



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If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact me:

Karen Leibovici Councillor, Ward 5

2nd Floor, 1 Sir Winston Churchill Sq., Edmonton, AB T5J 2R7 Phone: **496-8120** Fax: **496-8113** Email: karen.leibovici@edmonton.ca



Rio UI4 Win Gold

The Rio Terrace under 14 Girls had an amazing outdoor soccer season this year. They won the Gold Medal at the annual Slurpee Cup Tournament in June and they ended up on top of tier 6 at the end of regular season play, but were asked to challenge for the tier 5 final. They won the zone final for tier 5 and then won the city championships the following week, completing one game in the pouring rain. As city champs, they travelled to Calgary to compete in the inter-cities and we were again victorious, winning all three games to capture the gold medal.

The team consists of:

Mikayla Arnstein Kaicee Baronsky
Breanna Bautista Emma Haggett
Jillian Harrington Samantha Heuft
Sydney Hildebrandt Sarah Kondor
Magbed Jardon Luevano Alexie Lutz
Maaike Kuypers Nicole Manson
Amanda Mertens Nadia Shaben
Iohanna Shaw Nora Smith

Zoe Testrow

Samantha Mowbray-Johnston

Coaches:

Mark Mertens Shelly Manson Gary Hildebrandt



COMMUNITY GARDEN MATTERS



Rio Gardens! Community Garden

Congratulations to all of our community gardeners on a successful first harvest!

These photos were taken on a beautiful Autumn evening at the start of September.

Our garden beds were literally bursting with zucchini, Swiss chard, tomatoes, potatoes, lettuce, herbs, onions, and much, much more.

During the winter months, we'll be continuing the fun together, preparing materials for our new slate of ten garden beds. (*Spring Bed-Building Bee, anyone?*)

We'll also be planning for workshops in 2013 that will be open to all neighbourhood community members. We hope to see you there.

Please contact us at **780.487.2211** for general information about Rio Gardens!, including how to become a member. We are located at 15108 76 Avenue (behind Rio Terrace Moravian Church) and we'd love to have you.

Just think of what **you** could do next garden season!

Sandra Gangel for Rio Gardens!
 'Community building and sharing through gardening'







Senior in need of snow removal

A senior in the neighborhood would like help with snow removal on the driveway.

For more information call

Sophie at 780 487 2757.



Annual Christmas Coffee / Wine Party

Coleen and Marlene cordially invite you to their Annual Xmas Coffee / Wine Party Thursday, December 6th, 7 PM 7317 - 156 Street 780-444-0014

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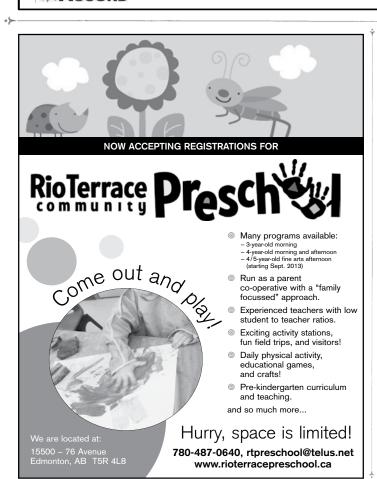
Felicia Dean 780.289.6670

Jen Osmond 780.289.6671



feliciadean.com

ienosmond@remax.net



Another Perfect "Pie in the Park"

Over 600 pieces of pie, 12 buckets of ice cream and almost 3 dozen cans of whipped cream were consumed under the gazebo at the Rio Terrace Playground... all thanks to a couple of community minded local realtors. It has been 3 years since realtor Felicia Dean and, her now business partner, Jen Osmond served that inaugural piece of "pie in the park" on what was nothing less than a perfect fall Saturday this Thanksgiving weekend. Always attracting a host of neighbours and friends, this "new" Rio Terrace Thanksgiving tradition continues to weave its way into the fabric of our

And that's not all... In an effort to stay in contact with their many friends, neighbors and clients, as well as patronize our local pub, this charming duo has begun another tradition; kibitzing at Uncle Glenn's (who, by the way, is also a strong supporter of community activities) on the 2nd Friday of every month and everyone is welcome to join them!

community.

SWEATER SALE OPEN HOUSE

Windsor Park Community Hall 11840 - 87 Ave.

Saturday, December 8, 2012 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

hand knit scarves, hats,



vests, sweaters, (custom orders available)

PRICES \$25.00 - \$350.00

Minkha is a women's knitting cooperative.

Save the Children Canada volunteers assist the Bolivian knitters by marketing the sweaters on a non-profit basis.

Linda Haswell (780) 436-5732

www.minkhasweaters.com

Fun And Frolic With Ladies Sports Nite

Basketball for women 18 to 108 Thursday evenings -6:45pm to 8:00pm

Lynnwood Elementary School

(15451 - 84 Ave)

\$50 for year covers gym rental costs.

Non-competitive (we don't keep score) and lots of fun.

Bring non-scuff runners.

Call Jay (780-484-2482) for further information. We'd be pleased to see you!

Try it once or twice free to see if you like it.

Green Corner continued from page 5

rating as a jumping off point. Calling the property or reading up online about their environmental policies is the best way to make your choice before you book. Before you know it, an environmental assessment will become a regular part of your travel research.

And if you find yourself somewhere that could do with some environmental upgrades, don't be shy about asking them about any plans to do just that. I've found that most hotels, resorts and restaurants are happy to listen to customer requests for more eco-friendly options. Let's face it: we have power as consumers, so let's use it for good.

As always, please contact me with questions, comments or suggestions for future columns at rpqgreencorner@gmail.com.

Enjoy the winter season, everyone! (It sure beats complainin' about it!)



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in Rio Terrace 15108-76 Ave

Open House and Registration

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

5:30pm-7:30pm

For more information Please contact:

3 Year Registrar Sarah-758-8062

4 Year Registrar Heather-433-5220

Or visit our website: www.wecp.ca



HISTORY OF RIO TERRACE DISTRICT

(as compiled by residents of the district)



Early records indicate that in 1911 the land area presently known as Rio Terrace and Quesnell was owned by a Mr. P. Anderson. Because of the land boom, the area was subdivided in 1913; the name Quesnell Heights was given to the eastern portion and the land west of Quesnell Heights was called Connaught Crescent. Connaught Crescent was named after the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada from 1911-1916. Although the land was subdivided no development took place and in 1923 the property was cancelled back into farm land.



Mr. & Mrs. Colin Case bought eighty acres and later on owned 123 acres. The Case family broke and cleared the land. The four children, Madeleine, Ted, Horace and Hazel remember picking roots all day for 25 cents per day and the promise of a weiner roast at night with their friends. People came from miles away to pick raspberries down on the bank of the river. While plowing up the land, Mr. Case came across many of the original survey stakes. Originally Mrs. Colin Case had the oil rights for the farm, but it was never drilled on for oil. The Parker Drilling Company owned the land where the school now stands; an airplane was kept on the property from time to time, and other planes occasionally landed on the field. Row Crop Farms had their building just north of the present school site. Some of the early families that lived in the area before it became known as Rio Terrace were the Findlay MacDonalds, Morris Hunters, the Riddles, The Daweduik's, and the Woodsides. The Voyageurs Club had a cabin on one of the terraces on the north river bank. Other people built cabins for weekend retreats. Great crops of wheat were grown on the Case farm until it was sold to Engineered Buildings Limited in 1959. A replot was made and the name "Rio Terrace" was chosen because of the togographical relationship to the North Saskatchewan river.

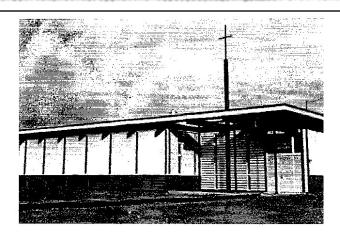
The building program began in 1959 and by the end of the year approximately ten families had moved into the area. It is believed that the Bob Wharton's at 7608-152 Street were the first family to move into Rio Terrace.

The first street to be completed was 78 Avenue from 152 Street to 154 Street. Among the early residents were the Dewhursts, the Annetts, the Lomows, the Hutchings, the Taylors, the Crowle's, the McPhees, the Duthies and the Andersons.

There were no paved streets the first year and 78 Avenue was impassable much of the time, this meant cars had to be parked on 154 Street. A small access road led from 149 Street and the only telephone in the area was a booth at 152 Street and 78 Avenue placed there after Christmas in 1959. Children attended Lynnwood school and crossed a small footbridge over the ravine. Many houses were built during 1960 but occupancy was slow. Rowcrop Farm was situated from 156 Street to 154 Street and from 76A Avenue to 79 Avenue. Farmers brought their vegetables to be washed and bagged here. People pastured their horses there and it was very picturesque.



HISTORY MATTERS



A Parade of Homes was built along 75 Avenue and Engineered Homes won the Chatelaine Award. The street was paved and Rio Terrace began to take on a refined look. In the late fall of 1960 a skating rink was built on city land just west of the site where the church now stands. Community spirit was high and volunteers soon had the rink in order. Engineered Buildings Limited supplied a temporary rink shack. The first social event of the district was a "dance" on the rink followed by a chili feast.

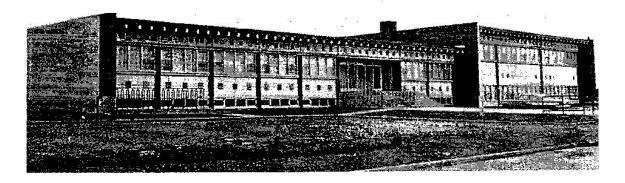
In the spring of 1961 the first official work on a Community League building began. Men in the district signed notes to raise money for the building. A fireworks display in May of 1961 is remembered by the early residents. A playschool for pre-schoolers opened in the fall of 1961. During the summer of 1961 the Rev. Floyd Peterson and Rev. Percy Henkelman conducted a religious survey in the Rio Terrace area. The results were favorable. With no other church in the area plans were made to establish the Rio Terrace Moravian Church. In November of 1961 Reverend Henkelman and his family moved into the manse at 15106-76 Avenue. Sunday School began at Christmas time. Sod turning for the new church was held on June 9, 1962 with the dedication on September 23, 1962. The Charter for the congregation was opened on Palm Sunday 1963.

In the spring of 1962 the West Jasper Place School Board with Dr. Peter Bargen as Superintendent, made plans for a Rio Terrace Elementary School and construction of a high quality, spacious building began. In September of 1962 the classes from Rio Terrace were held in Jasper Place Composite High School, and students were transported by Diamond bus. Although the classes began at Rio Terrace in November, the official opening of Rio Terrace School took place on Friday, April 23. The first teaching staff was Mr. W. Wetter-Principal, Mr. M. Tymchyshyn-Vice-Principal, Mrs. A. Lowe, Mrs. M. Haluschak, Mrs. M. Derksen, Mrs. B Ellingson, Mrs. W. Bradbury, Mrs. I. Nepstad, Mrs. M. Dixon. The guest speaker for the occasion was Dr. J. W. Chalmers from the Department of Education: Board Chairman was Mrs. E. Lake. Dr. Bargen became Superintendent of Edmonton Public School on January, 1963 therefore Dr. A.E. Hohol, Superintendent of West Jasper Place School Board was in attendance at the Rio Terrace School openings.

Until 1967 an Indian family lived in an old house of P. Andersons located in Quesnell Heights. This area was opened for city housing in 1964. Some of the early residents of Quesnell Heights were the Prices, the Conradis, the Campbells, the Snells and the Salmons.

By 1970 each of the original buildings, the Rio Terrace Community League building, the Moravian Church, the Elementary School have all had additions built to them. One member of the Case family is living in the district-Mrs. R.J. Mackenzie (nee Madeliene Case) also Mrs. Kent Lee and Mrs. Bob Coyle (nee Gale and Iune Jamieson) are daughters of the former Hazel Case.

If a Yearbook is published another year consideration should be given to writing a second chapter of history.



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JOS S S S

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND OUR **50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ON**

FROM 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

Did you work at, attend or have children who went to Rio Terrace School? Please join us to revisit the past five decades at our 50th anniversary celebration! Please drop in for light refreshments, music, reminiscing and fun.

RSVP to rioterrace@epsb.ca with subject title "50th anniversary".

Coats for Kids & Families

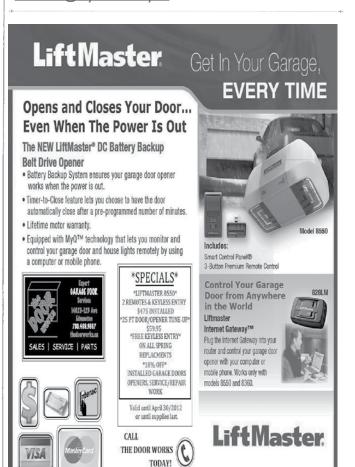
This program helps keep Edmontonians warm throughout the winter. The 2012 Coats for Kids campaign will run from Oct 23, 2012 to Dec 6, 2012.

To Donate a Coat: Drop off gently used coats at one of our Drop-Off locations. The JP Site (10030-167 St.) and PACS (11410-149 St.) have collection boxes.

Other Ways to Help: Monetary donations are used to purchase coats to meet specific requests. Cheques can be made out to "United Way of the Alberta Capital Region" and write "Coats for Kids & Families" in the memo line. Cheques can be mailed or dropped off at 15132 Stony Plain Road, Edmonton, AB T5P 3Y3.

You can also volunteer to sort and package coats so that they can be delivered to distribution centres. Contact Sophia Birchall at 780.443.8393

sbirchall@myunitedway.ca







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The Night Before Christmas Diet

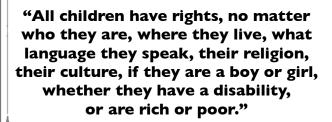
Twas the night before Christmas and all round my hips were Fannie May candies that sneaked past my lips. Fudge brownies were stored in the freezer with care in hopes that my thighs would forget they were there. While Mama in her girdle and I in chin straps had just settled down to sugar-borne naps. When out in the pantry there arose such a clatter I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the kitchen I flew like a flash, tore open the icebox then threw up the sash. The marshmallow look of the new-fallen snow sent thoughts of a binge to my body below. When what to my wandering eyes should appear: a marzipan Santa with eight chocolate reindeer! That huge chunk of candy so luscious and slick I knew in a second that I'd wind up sick. The sweet-coated Santa, those sugared reindeer - I closed my eyes tightly but still I could hear, "On Pritzker, on Stillman, on weak one, on TOPS a Weight Watcher dropout from sugar detox. From the top of the scales to the top of the hall now dash away pounds now dash away all." Dressed up in Lane Bryant from my head to nightdress, my clothes were all bulging from too much excess. My droll little mouth and my round little belly they shook when I laughed like a bowl full of jelly. I spoke not a word but went straight to my work ate all of the candy then turned with a jerk. And laying a finger beside my heartburn I gave a quick nod toward the bedroom I turned. I eased into bed, to the heavens I cry, "If temptation's removed I'll get thin by and by..." And I mumbled again as I turned for the night in the morning I'll starve ... 'til I take that first bite... Author Unknown

National Child Day November 20th

FREE swims are being offered at select City and YMCA facilities on Sunday, November 18th, 2012.

Please visit the Success by 6 website to find times and locations.

www.successby6edmonton.info/national-child-day/



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We will take your project from concept to completion with care, organization and attention to detail that home renovation and construction projects need and deserve.



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ILLUMINIGHT 2012 SUNDAY, DEC. 16

5:00-11:00 PM A Rio Terrace Community Event

On Sunday Night December 16th, homes throughout Rio Terrace will once again set out luminaria as an expression of hope and community

Shine a Light on Poverty! Proceeds to Benefit Jasper Place Health and Wellness Centre

Purchase your Luminaria kits and set them out in front of your home, lighting them from 5:00 until 11:00 PM.

Cost: \$10.00 per kit

Each Kit contains: 10 white bags, 10 votive candles, & sand

ILLUMINIGHT Open House at Rio Terrace Church

Between 6:00 - 9:00

FREE HORSE-DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES!

Carols and Activities for Children!

Fair Trade Crafts for sale!

Hot Chocolate, Coffee and Cookies!



Return For	rm Below to Rio Terrace Church by Dec. 6 (cheques payable to Rio Terrace Church)
	YES! PLEASE INCLUDE OUR HOUSEHOLD IN ILLUMINIGHT 2012
Name:	
Address: _	
Phone:	Email:
#	Of kits @ \$10.00 per kit Total Enclosed
I saved my	sand from last year, so I just need candles and bags
I am willin	g to help volunteer for ILLUMINIGHT:
	Assembling kits (on Sat. Dec. 8 from 10:00-noon) Other tasks as needed: between Dec. 1 and 16. On ILLUMINIGHT:
Contact	: 780.487.0211 www.rioterracechurch.org email: rioterracechurch@shaw.co

COMMUNITY CHURCH MATTERS





Welcoming...Relevant...Progressive!

(no need to check your brain at the door... questing and questions welcome!)

Worship: Sundays: 10:30 am - children are welcome!!! Study Groups: Mondays 1:30-3:00; 2nd Wed. Book Club 7:00 PM Upcoming in 2013: Youth Events; Concert Series, and more!

Drop in anytime for a talk...we've got great coffee!

Web Site: www.rioterracechurch.org Email: rioterracechurch@shaw.ca

Come Home to Christmas

With the culture around us pushing merchandise and the "Christmas Spirit", some of us have already begun our preparations for the upcoming holidays -baking or storing up food, sending cards, buying or making gifts and thinking about where you will make a special donation. There is a bit of a frenzy around the season; a busyness which for some is fun, for others stressful, and for many, downright painful.

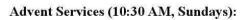
In the church, the four weeks leading up to Christmas is called Advent, a reflective, waiting time when we are invited to look beyond the material to some very important spiritual realities, namely Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Just as we prepare our homes for the festivities associated with Chirstmas, and the so we are given the chance-and challenge-during the season of Advent to prepare our hearts and our spirits for the possibility that hope, peace, joy, and love can be born again into our lives.

At Rio Terrace Church, we make the season of Advent extra special! During the four Sundays of Advent, each of our worship services focuses on one of the four themes. We light an Advent Wreath, we listen to a message relevant to our lives, and sing distinctive music.

We also offer a reflective service in December, called a "Blue Christmas" gathering, to acknowledge that, for many people, the season is not merry, but instead can intensify a sense of emptiness, loneliness, grief or loss. This year's Blue Christmas service will take place on Dec. 19 at 7:30.

On Christmas Eve we pull out all the stops -- singing familiar carols, embracing the Christ child, all children, and the child within! Each person is given a candle, which we raise as we sing Silent Night, to signify hope, and the light that shines in - and in spite of - the darkness!

This year, "come home" to Christmas: come home to a great story that can touch and change lives; come home to the church in your community; and come home to the true gifts of the season: hope...peace...joy...and love!



Advent Services (10:30 AM, Sundays):

Dec. 2 "Hope" Dec. 9 "Peace"
Dec. 16 "Joy" Dec. 23 "Love"

Blue Christmas Gathering: Dec. 19, 7:30 PM
Christmas Eve Services:

4:30 PM Lovefeast and Candle Service for Children
6:30 PM Traditional Candlelight Service
8:30 PM Traditional Candlelight Service

