

SPRING 2017

LEGACY ACTION

EDMONTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

p6

SISTER ACT

How six siblings pay it forward



ENDING THE CYCLE

p9

Community groups unite to tackle homelessness, addiction, and mental illness

STORIES FOR THE SESQUICENTENNIAL

p12

Anthology project commemorates Canada 150

Celebrating *family.*

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Cover photography by Cooper & O'Hara

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

EDMONTON
COMMUNITY
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Welcome to the spring issue of *Legacy in Action*, where we're highlighting some of the incredible contributions that women in our lives have made to the community.

In the cover story, we visit the Goon family—six sisters who moved to Edmonton in the 1970s. Although they didn't intend to stay in Alberta for long, the sisters quickly fell in love with their new city and put down roots. Today, they give back to the community through the Goonchen Family Fund.

On page 6, you can read about how their fund is supporting several charities in the city, and how they honour their parents who instilled in them a vibrant sense of philanthropy.

On page 5, we visit The Maggie Tree, an all-female theatre company that is producing Heather Raffo's play *9 Parts of Desire* in collaboration with Azimuth Theatre. Following the lives of nine Iraqi women between the first and second Gulf Wars, this poignant work touches upon several issues very much alive in society today.

To help capture an accurate portrayal of Iraq, the play's producers used funding from Edmonton Community Foundation to hire two cultural consultants, including author and poet Jalal Barzanji. Barzanji was the executive director of the Ministry of Culture in Iraqi Kurdistan in the 1990s. ECF is honoured to have Barzanji also as a contributing author for our forthcoming *High Level Lit* project.

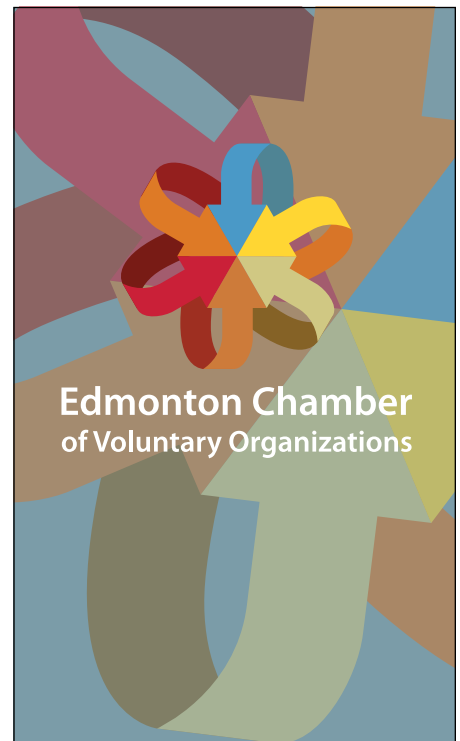
ECF is commissioning *High Level Lit* as a Canada 150 legacy project that will see 12 authors contribute essays and poetry that examine Canada's sesquicentennial through an Edmonton lens. The collected works will be published as an anthology, and will be released in partnership with *Eighteen Bridges* magazine and LitFest in October. You can read more about this exciting initiative on page 13.

These are just a few of the highlights you'll find in this issue of *Legacy in Action*. We hope you enjoy reading, and happy International Women's Day to all.



Martin Garber-Conrad

Martin Garber-Conrad



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CULTURAL AUTHENTICITY BRINGS 9 PARTS OF DESIRE TO LIFE ON EDMONTON STAGE

A grant from Edmonton Community Foundation is helping Edmonton theatre producers in their understanding and portrayal of Iraqi culture

BY: CAROLINE BARLOTT

When Vanessa Sabourin went in search of a new play for her Edmonton theatre company, The Maggie Tree, she remembered a script she'd come across many years before. Written by American playwright and actress Heather Raffo, *9 Parts of Desire* details the lives of nine Iraqi women of diverse backgrounds — including an artist, communist, and doctor — between the first and second Gulf Wars and Occupation. The story felt perfectly relevant to the current political climate.

“It just seemed to be the seed of the world we’re living in right now. At the time, Trump was still running for president and there were conversations about Syrian refugees coming over,” says Sabourin, who directs the play in collaboration with Azimuth Theatre.

In her view, the script gives a voice to people experiencing the terror of war in a way that news broadcasts can't. “Raffo wrote this as a way to bring the humanity back to the people,” she says. While writing the script, the playwright interviewed several Iraqi women and created characters based on her research. The result is a diverse cast of characters that range from a nine-year-old girl interested in American popular culture to an elderly street peddler selling items from destroyed buildings.

It was important to Sabourin and her co-producer, Kristi Hansen, to produce the script as authentically as it was written, especially as Sabourin hails from Edmonton and Hansen from Saskatchewan. The duo successfully applied to Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) for a grant to help them accurately portray Iraqi culture and do justice to the script.

With the funding, the producers hired two cultural consultants, including contemporary Kurdish writer Jalal Barjanji, to help the cast and producers understand Iraqi traditions and the historical context of the play. “Sometimes there are references that are a tip of an iceberg

that they can fill us in so that we have a deep and clear understanding of what the characters are talking about,” Sabourin says.

The support has also allowed the producers to hire the play's diverse cast. In other productions of the play, one actor typically portrays the roles of the nine different women; Maggie Tree producers opted to hire different actresses from a variety of backgrounds for each role. Sabourin believes this diversity helps make the story universally relatable.

Actress Amena Shehab agrees completely. She plays one of the main characters, Layal, an artist from Baghdad. In the play, Layal endures horrible trauma, including sexual assault and witnessing the execution of a friend, but her strength is inspiring.

Some aspects of the emotionally challenging role are familiar to Shehab, who came to Edmonton three years ago with her husband and children after fleeing Syria when the war broke out. “I jumped from the cliff and I didn't know where I was going. I was feeling this in my stomach, a high then low feeling, like an airplane landing,” she says. But Shehab has thrived—not only is she starring in *9 Parts of Desire*, she's also writing a play about a girl fleeing Syria.

She believes *9 Parts of Desire* has the potential to deeply affect audience members. “Each one of the nine stories will touch something in you. I want you to take it with you like you take your purse, like you take your wallet or jacket,” Shehab says. “In *9 Parts of Desire*, you don't just see the blood, you smell it; you don't just hear the war, you feel it. And you can't forget: If we put money into art, we'll stop producing weapons.”

9 Parts of Desire opens in April at the Varscona Theatre in Edmonton. The ECF grant has also allowed the producers to immerse audience members in Iraqi culture before and after the show. Iraqi visual artists Fordos Lateef and Madhi Hasan have been hired to display their work in the theatre lobby, where musicians will also play Middle-Eastern music. ■

A \$40,000 Community Grant from ECF helped support Azimuth Theatre and The Maggie Tree's production of *9 Parts of Desire*. To learn more about applying for a Community Grant, visit ecfoundation.org.



GLOBAL FAMILY, LOCAL LEGACY

BY: LISA CATTERALL
PHOTOGRAPHY: COOPER & O'HARA

*For the Edmonton-based Goon sisters,
charity begins at home.*



From left to right:
Liuting, Liuyoon, Eleanor,
Liushien, Siauping, and Jacqui.

Life in a family of 10 siblings is seldom boring, and it's certainly never lonely.

For sisters Liuting, Liuyoon, Liushien, Eleanor and Jacqui Goon, and Siauping Goon Yeung, family gatherings are lively affairs. Whether everyone is in the same room, or even the same country, their family

ties run deep.

Gathered around Liuting's dining table on a sunny Saturday morning, the women chat excitedly about their family.

"We've got siblings in Malaysia and in Singapore as well," says Liuyoon, the third-eldest child in the family. "There are 10 of us altogether, and six of us ended up living in Edmonton."

There's rarely a moment of silence as the women, who have lived in Edmonton for more than 40 years, bounce between topics, discussing everything from their most recent family trip to Florida to their volunteer work, their shared history, and their hopes for the community. They finish each other's sentences, laugh, and talk over one another.

"Our events can get quite big, especially when our extended family joins us," says Liushien.

Chatty, approachable and well-educated, the women were born and raised in Malaysia in a tight-knit and supportive family. Their father spent each day working hard at a coconut oil mill, while their mother stayed home taking care of the family. Both parents encouraged the girls to pursue further education and explore as many opportunities as were presented to them. The girls attended schools around the world — from Dublin to Montreal — before settling in Edmonton.

The first to move to Edmonton was Liuyoon, who came to Canada to begin her career as a doctor in 1970. "I came because I wanted to do my internship here but I hadn't planned on staying in the long term," she says.

However, her plans changed when her sisters followed in her footsteps. In 1971, Liuting moved to the city to establish her own career and, within five years, four more sisters were living in Edmonton. None of the women had planned to live in Alberta for long, but established roots in the city over time.

"It made sense for us to move here — there were lots of jobs available, lots of opportunity," says Eleanor. "And we really liked it."

"After a couple of years, a few of us were here, we all had jobs, and we became a part of the community," says Liuyoon, as her sisters nod in agreement. "We had

no reason to go anywhere else. We wanted to be here."

Three sisters entered the medical field, while the other three became teachers. They built their careers, married, had children, and became fully integrated in the community.

The sisters were raised in a compassionate, caring household. Each Chinese New Year, the family would donate to local charities, including The Little Sisters of the Poor home for the elderly. This generous and benevolent spirit created a strong sense of empathy in the Goon children that is evident now in their career choices and their philanthropic efforts.

"For years, we've seen our parents supporting various organizations in Malaysia," says Liuting. "We're used to seeing them giving, so now it's not even something that we have to think about. It's just something we do."

This charitable mindset is a family legacy that all 10 siblings proudly carry on. In Malaysia and Singapore, the Goon siblings have supported local and global causes, including the YWCA and the Rotary Club. Here in Edmonton, the Goon sisters still donate their time to local schools, hospitals and organizations, including the ASSIST Community Centre (supporting the transitions of new Canadians), Project Adult Literacy Society (helping adult learners with communication skills) and Catholic Social Services (offering a range of social services for all ages). Throughout their careers, the Goon sisters hosted newcomers to Canada, helped local adults improve their literacy, and supported the education of the next generation by volunteering in local schools.

In 2013, the sisters decided to start a family fund at Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) to give back financially, as well.

“ ”
WE'RE CONTINUING
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NEW LOCATION
“ ”

"For many families, a fund like this is a great option because it offers flexibility to support the community in a meaningful way," says ECF donor advisor Noel Xavier. "Families can spread out their support a little more than they might be able to do through in-person volunteer work."

The sisters say the Goonchen Family Fund was inspired by the two people who had instilled this philanthropic spirit in the family for decades — their parents.

"Goonchen is a combination of our parents' last names," says Liuyoon.

"We're continuing the tradition of giving that they had — just in a new location," adds Liuting. >

Now, the sisters meet annually to discuss which organizations they would like to support, exploring options based on current needs. The fund allows them to support multiple organizations, and they can change where their support goes each year. ECF facilitates the process by identifying organizations in need of support.

“

OUR FOCUS
IS ON SOCIAL
NEEDS IN THE
COMMUNITY

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“ECF is naturally connected to the charitable sector, and we understand what the emerging needs and priorities are,” says Xavier. “So when a family comes to us with their priorities, we can give them guidance as to where they may want to devote their philanthropy in any given year.”

In the first two years of the Goonchen Family Fund, the sisters have supported the Edmonton Food Bank and local women’s shelters.

“Our focus is on social needs in the community,” says Jacqui. “Last year, we decided to give to the Food Bank because of what happened in Fort McMurray, and we knew that they really needed the help.”

“If we can help in any way, that’s what matters. Helping even a family or two is better than helping none at all,” adds Liushien.

Although the family has only recently started their ECF fund, they’re positive it was the right choice for their current and future needs.

“What we like about it is even if we’re not here, the fund continues with our interests in mind,” says Eleanor.

Siauping adds, “My daughter may take an interest in it one day, but we don’t know. Right now we’re just happy that no matter what, the community support will continue, even if we’re not around.”

Even with their family spread across the globe, the women are clear on their dedication to the Edmonton community. Though they can choose to support organizations across Canada through their ECF fund, their interests are local.

“Edmonton has been the place that we’ve called home the longest,” says Jacqui.

Siauping chimes in, “We travel quite a bit and we’ve got family in other cities, but we’re connected to Edmonton. I don’t think I could ever leave.”

“We’ve worked here, we’ve lived here, our lives are here,” adds Liuyoon. “This is our home.” ■



From left to right: Siauping, Liushien, Eleanor, Liuyoon, Liuting, and Jacqui.

HOPE FOR A NEW FUTURE

Edmonton's Heavy Users of Service Program (HUoS) helps people experiencing homelessness, addiction, and mental health issues get the care they need, while reducing costs to social services

BY: CAROLINE BARLOTT PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY BOYLE STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES



“THERE ARE A LOT OF SUCCESS STORIES, AND IT'S JUST REALLY HEARTWARMING TO SEE THE CHANGE IN PEOPLE”

A

Andy (not his real name) had a daily routine. Each morning, he'd wake up in his small camp in the river valley and head to a nearby convenience store to check the dumpster for food. Then he'd make the rounds to several other inner-city shops, dumpster-diving all the way.

“I had the nickname of the ‘7-Eleven Junkie.’ I'd visit each store seven times a day,” he says.

At the time, Andy was suffering symptoms of schizophrenia, which had appeared after a trip to Amsterdam. Once his mental illness took hold, he lost touch with reality and began self-medicating with street drugs. He lost his job and home, and began living in the river valley.

Owners and customers of the stores where he hung out were bothered by his aggressive panhandling and unpredictable behaviour. The police often detained Andy and took him to the Edmonton Remand Centre, but he'd always be released, only to return a few weeks later. In total, he spent a year and a half in police custody, but each time was too short for him to access any resources to help his situation.

“Everything is a hoop to jump through when you have addictions and mental illness; how are you supposed to jump through those hoops yourself?” asks Sergeant Tracy Ward of the Edmonton Police Service (EPS). Edmonton has a network of agencies that provide health care, mental health services, addiction services, housing assistance, and other social supports. However, it's an incredibly complex system to navigate when you don't even have a roof over your head, let alone a phone or the mental clarity to keep an appointment. ➤

A \$64,479 Community Grant from ECF helped support the Heavy Users of Service Program. To learn more about applying for a Community Grant, visit ecfoundation.org.

Rather than accessing services that can help appropriately, people like Andy may interact repeatedly with police or health care in unproductive ways. It's a frustrating cycle that Ward, along with others in the public service and inner-city agencies, hopes to end through the Heavy Users of Service Program (HUoS), which addresses the underlying causes of misuse of services, such as homelessness, addiction, and mental health issues.

In February 2016, Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) provided Boyle Street Community Services with a grant for more than \$64,000 for the operation of this program. The inner-city organization is a partner of the program, and hires two social workers and an administrative assistant to help run HUoS along with Sergeant Ward and two constables.

"We really value that support and the flexibility in how we use it. We can't do these programs without ECF and the people who give to the foundation," says Ian Mathieson, Director of Operations for Boyle Street Community Services.

The story of HUoS goes back to 2012, when EPS, the City of Edmonton, and REACH (Edmonton's Council For Safe Communities) met to discuss how they might bring the community together to reduce violence and help vulnerable people. Sixteen partner agencies were chosen to form the HUoS leadership group, which includes Ward, EPS constables, social workers, and an administrative assistant. The team works out of a former police station in downtown's McDougall neighbourhood, renamed the Navigation and Co-ordination Centre.

Including Andy, seven people have now successfully completed the program and are being monitored to ensure they maintain their progress; this has opened up spaces in the program for seven more clients, for a total of 15. Team members work together to directly address the client's barriers to health and social services. For Andy, this meant having someone pick him up in the river valley and drive him to appointments for anti-psychotic injections and housing services. Once he was housed and treated for his mental illness, Andy's improvement came remarkably fast, says Ward. He's now living independently without drugs and has a job.

Getting clients to a good place takes a huge commitment of time and resources, says Pam Coulson, director of Urgent and Intensive Services with AHS Mental Health and Addictions. She explains that HUoS helps clients with paperwork while advocating for them on all fronts — from financial resources and income, to finding homes and making appointments. "It's looking at what

they're struggling with today, and moving forward," she says.

This comprehensive approach seems to be working. Since the program launched in early 2013, EPS reports that the number of police interactions with clients like Andy has dropped by 58 per cent (from 670 to 273). There has also been a 51-per-cent reduction in inappropriate Edmonton Transit System interactions and a 25-per-cent decrease in unnecessary emergency visits.

The project has also helped illuminate gaps in service and find creative solutions. Mathieson explains that one of the biggest challenges is finding stable housing for clients, largely because they suffer from mental health issues and addictions. To help remedy the problem, Boyle Street Community Services worked with McMan Youth, Family and Community Services Association, Alberta Works, and Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) to rent a house in Mill Woods ("The Meadows House") where two clients currently live with



continuous supports. "Sometimes the existing systems won't work so we found ways to collaborate and move quickly. We want to do more of that in the future," says Mathieson.

This kind of approach is only possible because HUoS shares information about clients across agencies. Rob Sharman, Strategic Manager for the Edmonton Zone EMS, explains that before the initiative, case managers sometimes lost track of clients as they moved from one system to another (from hospital to jail, for instance). With HUoS, clients sign authorization papers so that they can always get the help they need, no matter where they end up.

"You know, it's not Disneyland for a lot of people at the end of the day," says Madeleine Smith, a representative of REACH on the HUoS Leadership committee. However, the program helps clients be as safe and healthy as possible — and helps them retain their dignity.

“

WE WANT TO REALLY ADDRESS WHAT OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS AND WANTS AND NOT JUST BE TOLD WHAT WE NEED BY SOMEONE SITTING BEHIND A DESK

”



Smith explains that REACH co-ordinates diverse organizations within Edmonton with the goal of making the city safer within one generation. Bringing together multiple resources for HUoS addresses gaps individual organizations wouldn't necessarily be able to bridge on their own, she says. The EPS, for example, has far more experience than non-profits do at navigating and co-ordinating with the justice system.

In order to facilitate this efficiency, REACH has developed an app for the 24/7 Crisis Diversion Program, which assists vulnerable people experiencing troubling, but non-emergency, events. If workers in the program encounter clients of HUoS, they can set an alert on that client's file to inform them if HUoS staff are looking to get in touch. This is important because case management work with clients can come to a sudden halt when they miss an appointment, court appearance, or other scheduled activity.

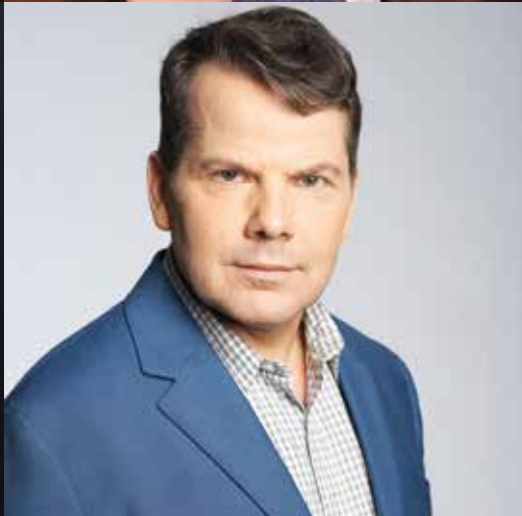
There are also benefits of the program to service providers, says Ward, particularly in terms of how well they understand clients. “Prior to the program, there were just so many different layers of barriers that I didn't understand. I would just think to myself, ‘Why don't they go to a shelter and get some help?’” she says. “But now, I know there are not enough workers, there's not enough housing, and there are capacity issues in every level of service. Not to mention what the people have experienced; not only do they have addictions, but they have trauma, many have disabilities, and no assistance from any family members whatsoever.”

However, with help, people can overcome these troubles. Ward explains that Andy's improvement happened remarkably quickly once he was housed and treated for his mental illness. Now, he's living independently, without drugs, and has a job. The drugs and mental illness masked an incredibly sharp wit and intelligence—for fun, he's studying quantum physics from a book some members of HUoS recently bought him.

“There are a lot of success stories, and it's just really heartwarming to see the change in people. [Andy's] improvement is off the charts; and it's exciting to know that with time we'll be able to help more people,” says Ward. ■

HUoS is a collaboration between the following organizations:

- AHS Mental Health & Addictions
- Alberta Human Services (Employment and Financial Supports)
- Alberta Human Services (Family Violence Prevention and Homeless Supports)
- Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
- Bissell Centre
- Boyle Street Community Services
- The City of Edmonton
- COE Housing and Homelessness
- E4C
- Emergency Medical Services
- EPS
- George Spady Society
- Homeward Trust
- Hope Mission
- REACH



EDMONTON'S LITERATI EXPLORE CANADA 150

Edmonton Community Foundation is collaborating with LitFest and Eighteen Bridges magazine on an anthology and salon series to mark Canada's sesquicentennial

BY: CAITLIN CRAWSHAW

In 1867, the Fathers of Confederation put pen to paper to draft a plan uniting the colonies into a single federation. Nearly 150 years later, Edmonton's literary community will pen new stories to examine this historic anniversary.

Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF), LitFest (Edmonton and Canada's only nonfiction literary festival), and *Eighteen Bridges* (a national literary magazine based in Edmonton) have joined forces to launch, "High Level Lit: 12 writers musing on YEG for Canada150." The project will involve the creation of an anthology, published alongside *Eighteen Bridges*, as well as a literary salon series, featuring the anthology contributors.

"We have this great community of writers who either lived here or still live here," says Fawnda Mithrush, LitFest's executive director. The project committee hand-picked 12 notable writers from the community to participate. "I think most people were intrigued by the project and excited to appear in an anthology like this, which celebrates Edmonton in the landscape of Canada's 150th birthday," she adds.

The list of contributors is diverse and includes stalwart Edmonton writers like memoirist Myrna Kostash, newspaper columnist Paula Simons, and former poet laureate Anna Marie Sewell, as well as well-known personalities like Rollie Pemberton (also a rap musician known as "Cadence Weapon") and Darrin Hagen (a well-known drag performer known as "The Edmonton Queen"). Readers may also recognize the bylines of Giller Award-winning novelist Lynn Coady (a former Edmontonian who now calls Toronto

home) and comedian Bruce McCulloch of *Kids in the Hall* fame (born in Edmonton, but now residing in L.A.).

Curtis Gillespie, an accomplished author in his own right and editor of *Eighteen Bridges*, explains that the anthology will explore some aspect of Canada's 150th anniversary as it relates to Edmonton, but writers will choose how they interpret the theme.

"We wanted to make it open-ended and leave it up to the ingenuity of the people on board," says Gillespie, adding that the contributions may be of any genre (including nonfiction, fiction, and poetry) and may or may not involve historical elements.

The project also involves four literary salons — public events in which writers read or speak about their work — culminating in the anthology's launch during LitFest, in October 2017. Informal events, salons invite readers to engage with their local writers — and one another.

Gillespie hopes the project provides an outlet for the "huge diversity of voices" in Edmonton and draws attention to the strength of its arts community: "For a city of our size, we punch well above our weight, culturally." And with the city evolving so rapidly, he hopes readers will come away with a deeper understanding of how Edmonton has evolved. "It really is

a much different place than it used to be," he says, "We need to start celebrating that."

The "High Level Lit" project debuts with the first literary salon on March 1, at 99Ten (located beneath The Common in downtown Edmonton at 9910-109 St.), starting at 6pm. Sarah Chan, affectionately known as the First Lady of Edmonton, will host the event featuring writers Nasra Adem, Malcolm Azania, and Jalal Barzanji.

Visit ecfoundation.org for more information. ■

From top left to bottom right: 1. Nasra Adem, 2. Malcolm Azania, 3. Jalal Barzanji, 4. Lynn Coady, 5. Jennifer Cockrall-King, 6. Darrin Hagen, 7. Myrna Kostash, 8. Bruce McCulloch, 9. Rollie Pemberton, 10. Anna Marie Sewell, 11. Paula Simons, 12. Richard Van Camp.



PADDLING THROUGH TIME

Recreation of historic canoe route one of dozens of projects to receive ECF grants for Canada's 150th birthday

BY: LISA CATTERALL PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY MARK LUND

As Edmontonians dig out their Canadian flags and fire up barbecues on July 1, a flotilla of boats will be making its way down the North Saskatchewan to commemorate Canada's sesquicentennial in Edmonton's lush river valley.

Paddling in the wake of Canada's Indigenous peoples, explorers and settlers, the Fort Edmonton Canoe Brigade will re-enact and celebrate the history of travel along the North Saskatchewan, connecting Edmontonians to the region's historical roots.

"It's a part of our history that we just don't interact with often enough," says Chris Thrall, outreach manager for the River Valley Alliance. "Celebrating our rivers is a big part of Canada 150 for us. It was the travel network that connected European settlements with Indigenous populations across the country in our early stages as a country."

Held over the Canada Day long weekend, the five-day paddle will begin near the Genesee Bridge southwest of Edmonton, and follow the river north to Devon, Edmonton, and Fort Saskatchewan, before wrapping up in Victoria Settlement, south of Smoky Lake. The brigade will include at least 10 replica Voyageur canoes – a specific style of canoe used during the fur trade – each carrying a crew of 10-12 paddlers. The Fort Edmonton Canoe Brigade is one of about 30 initiatives receiving special grants from Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) for Canada's 150th anniversary.

According to event organizer Mark Lund, chair of the 2017 Canadian Voyageur Brigade Society, the grant will allow brigade participants, along with the public, to enjoy special events and activities over the course of the five-day journey. This will include community-hosted meals in Devon and Fort Saskatchewan,

interactive paddling demonstrations, and even an old-time supper featuring live entertainment and traditional Voyageur dancing.

Lund is no stranger to traversing Canada's wilderness by river. Over the past 40 years, he has organized large-scale paddling events across the country, participated in historical brigades and re-enactments, and written a guidebook for Alberta paddlers. Now, he's using his vast experience and passion for paddling to help others celebrate Canada's history, and understand the nation's roots.

"Some of the crews and paddlers thought we should go big for 2017. We thought about paddling into Ottawa, but ultimately, I'm really

looking forward to the trip down the North Saskatchewan," says Lund. "It's a very social experience —we're expecting over a hundred paddlers in the Voyageur canoes and close to 2,000 spectators over the five days."

Lund hopes to see many Edmontonians join in the festivities, from experienced paddlers committing to the full five days to those joining for an afternoon at Fort Edmonton Park.

"For two sections of the journey we're inviting smaller paddle craft, including canoes, kayaks, and even stand-up paddleboards, to join us. It's a great opportunity to connect with the 150th celebrations, and teach people about the history of Voyageurs and Indigenous groups," he says.

The brigade has set aside funds to support the participation of an Indigenous crew in one of the Voyageur canoes. Though the spots haven't yet been reserved, Lund is optimistic that the right group will come along in time for the event.



"What we hope to create is a connection with our history and with our river network," says Thrall. "With at least 10 Voyageur canoes expected, and dozens of day paddlers joining us, it's going to be an amazing moment. There's not going to be a Canada Day like this anywhere else." ■

A \$14,130 Community Grant from ECF Fund for Canada's 150th helped support the Voyageur Canoe Brigade. To learn more about applying for a Community Grant, visit ecfoundation.org.



Proud to be a real estate **investment** advisor to the Edmonton Community Foundation

Canadian Urban has brought real estate investment advice to life for foundations, endowments and pension funds in Canada, Europe and the USA. From nationally diverse, core pooled funds to opportunistic turn arounds, our seasoned team provides a passionate perspective to all that we do. Our returns are consistently ranked in the first quartile, however our greatest satisfaction comes from helping our clients achieve their objectives.



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Jeff, Megan, Matthew & Samuel Wagner

Greater *impact.*

We chose Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) to manage our fund as we wanted greater impact over time. We want a community where no one should have to worry about how they will feed their family!

Our belief is that by investing in our community today through our fund at ECF, there will be a brighter tomorrow.

Give. Grow. Transform.

Call 780-426-0015 or visit our website
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