ECONOMIC woes you say?
People still want that $300K Rolex

8th Annual Social Calendar

Plus...
CKUA/Holger Petersen/Party pics • White hat hacker/Gazin • TV Spats/Forbes

Our City, Our News
THAT WAS THE DECEMBER THAT WAS

"Penultimate director of the Citadel Theatre, Joe Shotter loves his scotch. He asked the bar at the Citadel to hold a bottle of Chivas Regal for him for opening nights. Three years later, he's still working on the same bottle."

— Maureen Hemingway

"Anne Bilisika… the soft-spoken proprietor of Wales's Kitchens Kloset… offers the following: 'Men who own their own tuxedos have better social lives.'"

— Lois Bridges Business Profile 1991

"Art Jones… lauds Connie for her work as a member of the Board of Governors of the Edmonton Realtors Foundation which is committed to community service and philanthropic activities."

— Lois Bridges Entrepreneur of the Year—Connie Kennedy 1992

"When Children Sing… recording of Christmas Classics by 44 members of the St. Albert Children's Theatre is a terrific gift, a fundraising effort for the Friends of the St. Albert Children's Theatre Society."

— Fred Kreating Arts and Entertainment 1993

"The Effort Auction, now in its 26th year, is THE society gathering… Alberta's most successful one-night charity auction; this year's event grossed $100,000 in support of beneficiaries in the arts and health science fields."

— Faces photo feature 1994

"Caritas Chair Marilyn Kane hopes to see $3 million raised this year by the Hospital Foundation."

— Drake McHugh Edmonton General Hospital 100th Anniversary 1996

"750 of Edmonton community and business leaders came together to hear Barbara Bush, Larry King and Mike Duffy. The event raised funds for the Alzheimer Centre. Eva and Peter Pocklington dropped $5200 for a replica of the desk used by Larry King, and $2500 for the signed oil of the talk show host and Barbara Bush. Who else?"

— Leaders Summit photo feature 1996

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— A Classic Evening photo feature fundraiser for Edmonton Symphony and Beth Shalom Synagogue Arson Restoration Fund 1997

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— Muggsy Forbes Funny Pompous & Unfair 1998

"December 7th: You could support the Children's Health Foundation at their Snowflake Family Gala at the Shaw… lots of fun and all for a good cause."

— Eva Marie Clarke Calendar Cogitations 2000

"The highlight of the Public Library Ball was when Stan Milner presented a cheque for $500 thousand… John Pode provided the project with $50,000, which helped the library hit its target of $1,350,000."

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Slam night at the Blue Chair Cafe, during Story and original stories Marina Michaelides shared a bite by James’ band. Get your album will be played from stem to night of Rumours at the Havens Vriend town, go see him. You won’t in this column.

Ted Kerr, the former artist in residence or, as HIV Edmonton calls the position, Artist in Red. By the way, Ted was Edmontonians Sizer in 2007.

The year of celebration will wind up with a gala that should be a dandy Years ago, my band—The Big Breakfast Band—played a few HIV Edmonton galas, then called the Black and White Affair. If the 2010 gala is anything like those, it should be quite the night.

She’s still not sure why they were Edmonton business champs were invited but she was impressed with Silicon Valley where she and other stores, just returned from a trip to luxurious, TV and PR expertise to the creative team at the award-winning, full-service marketing, branding and communications company.

The television industry is required to be the consummate broadcaster for local TV; their problems in the television and cable industry in Canada. In fairness, I should point out that there consumers such as: $467 million in federal subsidies and grants and virtually all major CTV/Global/A/Channel/CITY TV channels became available through what the industry called time-sharing subscriptions.

The consummate volunteer is known for building bridges between businesses, academic institutions, government and the arts.” David served as the president of Edmonton’s Fringe Theatre Adventures and oversaw the redevelopment of the TransAlta Arts Barns. The Civic Buzz writer says he was “overwhelmed” by the honour. v

The 25th year will feature various legacy projects. A permanent installation, such as a garden or a grove of trees, will be created. “Something green and living,” says Michael. As well, there will be a special coffee table book published. Award winning photographers Dale Roth and Michelle Ramberg have given their time and talent to shot the faces of HIV/AIDS in Edmonton. The project will be led by Ted Kerr, the former artist in residence or, as HIV Edmonton calls the position, Artist in Red. By the way, Ted was Edmontonians Sizer in 2007.

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Marina recently left her life as senior producer at CTV, and has taken on a new role as director of business that also affect their bottom line.

NVE… Heard about a great New Year’s Eve event. Singer/songwriter James Murdoch will lead a crack group of musicians such as Anne Fried and David Aide through a night of Rumnors at the Havens Social Club. The Fleetwood Mac album will be played to stem by James’ band. Get your tickets now.

Marina Michaelides shared a bite and a laugh at the Blue Slam night at the Blue Chair Cafe, with good friend and Italian business princess, Teresa Spinelli. Marina joined the Story Slam board given her pedigree as a TV producer from Europe where she covered stories for the BBC and all the major networks. Here in Edmonton, the wordsmith applied her craft to a book on smart and sassy Canadian women, Renegade Women of Canada, and also printed a best-seller most often read in the washroom, the Bathroom Book of Alberta Terriers. Terena, owner of the Italian Centre stores, just returned from a trip to Silicon Valley where she and other Edmonton business champs were entertained at Microsoft headquarters. She’s still not sure why they were invited but she was impressed with all the gadgets of the future they got to play with.

Marina recently left her life as senior producer at CTV, and has taken on a new role as director of business that also affect their bottom line.
To begin the survey, respondents were asked whether they, or someone in their household, had traveled outside Canada within the past year. More than half (58 percent) of all respondents reported they had, while 32 percent indicated they had not. Those who traveled outside of Canada most frequently indicated they went with family (55 percent) or friends (21 percent). Of the remaining 24 percent, seven percent left the country with a travel group, while the remainder traveled alone (17 percent).

DO YOU PLAN TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE CANADA IN THE NEXT YEAR?

Next, respondents were asked whether they or someone in their household is planning to travel outside of the country within the next year. The majority (59 percent) indicated they are, while 39 percent are not, and two percent are unsure.

Of those planning to travel abroad, 83 percent considered health issues (i.e. H1N1 virus) in destination countries an important consideration when making their travel plans. Seventy-seven percent of those planning to travel also considered security issues (i.e. political unrest, crime, etc.) an important factor when deciding whether or not to travel.

WHERE DO YOU GET INFORMATION?

When asked where they would turn for information about passports, travel visas, currency rates, and other related issues before leaving on their trip, the majority of respondents reported they would use the Internet (95 percent). Respondents also frequently said they would use the Government of Canada website (17 percent), a travel agent or agency (15 percent), AMA Travel Services (nine percent), newspapers/newspaper)TV (seven percent), or find it out by word of mouth (five percent).

HAS THE ECONOMIC RECESSION AFFECTED YOUR TRAVEL PLANS?

One-third of respondents (34 percent) indicated the global economic recession has had an effect on their travel plans. Of these respondents, financial constraints (35 percent) and reduced income due to unemployment (15 percent) were most frequently mentioned as ways in which the economic recession has affected travel. Twenty-one percent of total respondents also indicated the value of the Canadian dollar has affected their plans. When asked how the value of the Loonie has impacted their travel plans, the strong dollar was most frequently mentioned as being a travel incentive (38 percent), followed by exchange rates being a factor in general (24 percent).

Finally, respondents were asked if any other factors have impacted their travel plans. While 24 percent indicated no, nine percent cited being too busy, six percent mentioned the general expense of travel, five percent stated personal health issues, four percent indicated having young children, and three percent referred to their age as other factors that have impacted their travel plans.

Monthly Poll Station Online Question

Want a question included in the Edmontonians Poll?

Contact Linda at 780.451.4444 or e-mail lbanister@edmontonians.com.

Linda Banister is a certified management consultant and the owner of Banister Research and Consulting Inc., a full service provider of market research and program evaluation services. Visit www.banister.ab.ca.

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ADVERTISING

Marcy

Al Rysko of Swedish Jewellers

21%

75%

7%

15%
EDMONTONIANS ANNUAL SOCIAL CALENDAR

Compiled by Maria Jose Politto

december 2009

Faculty of Arts Winter Solstice & Silent Auctions 5
Join us at the Faculty Club for this splendid cocktail reception between 5:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. An opportunity to mingle, sip on a glass of wine and bid on one-of-a-kind silent auction items. Visit www.christmasbureau.ca for updates.

Realtors® Association of Edmonton Annual Christmas Auction 6
Realtors and guests are invited to join together to raise funds for the Edmonton Realtors’ Charitable Foundation at Northlands AgriCom. Santa’s auction provides a wonderful array of live and silent auction items, plus a Holiday Raffle, 50/50 Draw and Diamond Mine. Contact Jill Didow at 780.455.9343 for more information. Visit www.ereb.com and follow the links.

Rock for Santa Charity Concert 5
A group of local rock bands have joined together to bring a huge event to The Pawnshop on Whyte Ave. Catch some of Alberta’s best independent acts and help feed families at Christmas. Contact lookingeast@live.ca for more details.

Share the Spirit Open House 6
Celebrate the holiday season with friends and supporters of Pilgrims Foundation at Northlands Agricom. Share the Spirit Open House provides a wonderful opportunity to mingle, sip on a glass of wine and bid on one-of-a-kind silent auction items. Proceeds go to support and generosity of patrons is more important than ever.

Spread Christmas Cheer 7
Whether they are black tie and ball gown or high-end casual chic, we are happy to support the efforts of thousands of volunteers who contribute to the vibrancy of our community.

The Edmontonians Annual Social Calendar has become a staple reference for individual and corporate patrons who plan their participation and support of charitable events, as well as for organizers who want to avoid conflicting dates for their fundraising events.

Keep the print version on hand… and make a habit of checking Edmontonians Annual Social Calendar for additions and revisions, or to submit updates or new events using our on-line form. Enjoy yourselves and keep on giving.

WANTED 15 Edmonton Women Who Love Chocolate

D cane... dance... donate. Edmontonians love to have a great time while making a difference to others in the Capital Region. Every year, millions of dollars are raised in support of charity and nonprofit societies. In the current economic climate, the continued support and generosity of patrons is more important than ever. Edmontonians proudly offers its readers with the most comprehensive guide to galas and balls with receptions, silent and live auctions, dinners, entertainment and diverse events that support health and research, education, the arts and social programs. Edmontonians Annual Social Calendar

January 2010

New Year’s Day Levee 1
Join the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, the Honourable Norman Hawco, at Government House in this traditional celebration of the New Year. The annual New Year’s Day Levee is open Friday afternoon to the public for light refreshments and tours of Government House. For information call 780.427.7243. Visit www.lieutenantgovernor.ab.ca for updates and event times.

From Tears to Laughter 12
A tribute to the Chicken Soup of Life. Donations to support of Doctors without Borders. Visit www.christmasbureau.ca for more details.

New Year’s Eve Gala 17
This festive evening offers in support of Doctors without Borders. The Edmonton Marriott Grand Ballroom. Tickets $140. Call 780.486.9506 or visit www.christmasbureau.ca (must be purchased in advance). Visit www.christmasbureau.ca for more details.

COPPER JACKET LUNCHEON 18
A spectacular evening of entertainment in support of doctors without borders. The Edmonton Marriott Grand Ballroom. Tickets $140. Call 780.486.9506 or visit www.christmasbureau.ca for more details.

Silent Auction 19
A silent auction to benefit the Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters. The Law Show 2010 will be donating proceeds from ticket sales and the silent auction to the Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters. The Law Show is a recipient of the U of A Governor’s Awards of Distinction which recognizes individuals and groups who make outstanding contributions to the community. Learn more about new approaches to health and groups who make outstanding contributions to Public Health. The 28th Annual FMC Christmas Bureau Breakfast. Join the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, the Honourable Norman Kwong, at the Meridian House. Tickets: $55-$65 by phone 780.428.1414 or online www.winspearcentre.com. Visit www.fmcchristmasbureau.org for more details.

Happy New Year!!

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march 2010

Bennett Jones LLP Fundraising Breakfast

The Bennett Jones LLP Fundraiser for Zambia Child Protection Centre. Held at The Sutton Place Hotel. Tickets: $75.00 Call 780.488.2413 or e-mail cfd@bennettjones.com.

The Alzheimer Benefit Dinner of Maclean-Moriaty from Asia

Escape the winter blues and join the Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories at The Crowne Plaza for their formal evening to support research, education and services. Guests will enjoy a five-course Asian meal. Celebrity waiters will be on staff to earn tips for research. Live and silent auctions, and comedy entertainment will complete the evening. Tickets: $125, or $95 for a table of five. Visit www.alberta.ab.ca or call 780.488.2266.

Art & Entertainment Charity Affair

Support the Black Gold Health Foundation with this evening of fine art, fine entertainment and fine food with a touch of class. Held at McNally’s for the Performing Arts in Leduc. funds raised are used to enhance health services at the Leduc Community Hospital and area public Health Centres. Contact Lorraine. Popik 780.890.4536. Visit www.blackgoldhealthfoundation.com or call Pat Rodenburg at 780.765.2698.

53 Ways to Leave Your Lover

A first-class evening of dining and dancing with live and silent auctions. Proceeds help support the Shelter for Women and Children to provide a place of safety, opportunity and permanency for women and children impacted by domestic violence. Tickets: $100. Visit www.suttonplacehotel.ca. Contact Theresa Jenkins 780.909.4237 or sputashe@mcmaster.ca.

Spring Podge Fashion Show & Luncheon


Edmonton Opera Gala

An elegant black-tie evening begins with a cocktail reception, followed by a four-course meal. Security Select will provide each guest with a different wine selected by a featured sommelier. Held at Edmonton Hotel MacDonald. Tickets: $550. Call 780.488.2413 or e-mail cfd@bennettjones.com.

Hats off to the 25th annual Mad Hatter’s Tea Party!

Hats off to the 25th annual Mad Hatter’s Tea Party to benefit the Preditors and sandwiches for Grant Place/Edmonton University students. Tickets are available by calling 780.440.2300. Contact 780.457.5171, or visit www.edmontonmomsplus.ca. The Mad Hatter’s Tea Party is organized by The Meadows Foundation. Contact Carmella Bata @ 780.917.5235 or bbaticketing@bennettjones.com.

Laughing for Cancer

This gala raises money in support of Alzheimer’s care and education. This elegant black-tie evening begins with a cocktail reception, followed by a four-course meal. Security Select will provide each guest with a different wine selected by a featured sommelier. Held at Edmonton Hotel MacDonald. Tickets: $550. Call 780.488.2413 or e-mail cfd@bennettjones.com.

Flavours of Portugal Wine Tasting and Fundraiser

An epic wine-tasting event! Come and join the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Held at Westmeat Centre. Tickets $42.25 per person (tax receipt issued for a portion of the price)! Call Westmeat Box Office 780.428.1414 or 1.800.563.5081 for more details.

Laughing for Cancer TBA

Whyte. Tickets are $50 each at tickets.fringetheatre.ca or visit www.winningharness.com. Contact Carmella Bata @ 780.917.5235 or bbaticketing@bennettjones.com.

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here’s a lot of quiet money in this town,” says Al Rysko. He should know. He’s waiting for a client to pick up his special-order $300,000 Rolex.

Rysko has been surrounded by watches and beautiful jewels since the age of four. He’s now the owner of Swedish Jewellers, which is currently celebrating its 60th year of operation. His dedication to perfection is reflected in countless precisely cut and set precious stones that grace the store’s expansive downtown location in the historic Moser Ryder Block.

Swedish Jewellers is known for bringing the Rolex brand to Edmonton in the early 1950s. In the late ’70s, Rysko’s uncle, Ted, who had worked as a watchmaker, took over the business. And since that time, Rysko has been fascinated with the inner workings of watches; he started fixing clocks when he was 11 under the tutelage of both his uncle and father, Anatoli. As a teenager, he worked with smaller timepieces and enjoyed “turning a dirty old watch into a new masterpiece and seeing the joy on a customer’s face.”

After years of learning from his mentors, Rysko became Swedish Jewellers’ owner in 1992 and expanded it three times in three different locations, culminating in the current 10,000 square foot space. He’s gone from working with small timepieces with 50 to 75 parts to complicated Rolex watches with upwards of 200 components.

Over the years, Rysko has seen many repeat customers whose children eventually became patrons as well. Some were just a few years old when they first accompanied their parents to the store and now, this second generation also enjoys marking special occasions with a purchase from Swedish Jewellers. “I am a third generation businessman and I’ve seen the generational transition with my customers. The service we provide is more than just monetary. It’s amazing to serve these customers and know that someday their children may become customers of my children.”

Rysko’s eldest daughter, 17-year old Carissa, is showing serious interest in becoming part of the family business upon completing an international business degree from the University of Alberta. He’s is proud and excited by his daughter’s involvement. With five other daughters ranging in age from three to 14, he muses: “Perhaps, we’ll have six locations of Swedish Jewellers eventually.”

From her father, Carissa is learning the importance of dedication and persistence through both the good and the bad times. As with any business, Rysko says, Swedish Jewellers has experienced both economic highs and lows through the course of its 60 years in operation. However, throughout it all, the business stayed strong, something he credits to consumer attitude.

“Edmontonians have resilience.” Rysko recalls the early 1980s when Albertans were still reeling from the NED-induced recession. “I was working with my dad and started a new retail store in a mall in 1983. I didn’t even feel the recession… those were our best years. By 1989, the store was debt-free, my house was paid off, and I treated myself to a very expensive car.”

Recognizing that the Alberta retail sales figures are flat, Rysko points to his August fiscal year-end figures. “We’re down one percent from last year… that’s pretty good. Our clients remain the force of power… they are extremely loyal.”

Overall, he attributes Swedish Jewellers’ success and longevity to being dedicated to fine workmanship and personalized service. “Because I am a trained watchmaker, I appreciate the quality of craftsmanship we produce here. The sense of pride that’s attached to the work is valued by our customers.” It takes a full year of exacting materials and production to complete one Rolex timepiece and to perfect the oscillator movement, the heartbeat of every Rolex. The store carries an impressive selection of Rolex watches, ranging in price from $5,000 to $60,000.

Since its inception, the business has added nearly 50 renowned brands, with pieces reminiscent of the jewels that bedeck Hollywood celebrities and adorn models on the runways of New York and Paris. Along with carrying internationally recognized, prestigious brands like Hearts on Fire, Chopard and Asscher, known for their precisely-cut diamonds, the store creates custom designed pieces limited only by the customer’s imagination.

Rysko recalls a particularly stunning necklace, containing over 200 diamonds and a ruby centrepiece. The necklace was a gift from a husband to his wife in celebration of their fortieth anniversary. He says it was an honour to be part of such a milestone in their lives. “They are a great couple and, since I’ve known them for several years, it was amazing to create something to celebrate such an important occasion.”

A business, according to Rysko, “needs to have balance; business owners should be dedicated to their craft and also dedicated to customers and the community.” The company is involved in numerous charities throughout the year. And, in honour of Swedish Jewellers’ milestone anniversary, he donated a portion of November sales to children in need. “As a father, I have a kind heart towards children, especially since there are those in the world that are ignored or abused. So, it’s our endeavour to do what we can.”

“Just watch me… Just watch me…”
Yellow Ribbon Gala Dinner and Silent Auction
The 9th Annual Gala Dinner is the venue for this prestigious event in support of the Edmonton Garrison Military Family Resource Centre. It features a seven-course dinner and special guest speaker. Funds raised support the programs and services of the military community.
Contact: info@e-military.org; Contact Poika Smith 780.973.4011 ext 6350.

Junior Achievement Alberta Business Hall of Fame
2010 celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Alberta Business Hall of Fame. This event honours business and community leaders and is hosted by Junior Achievement of Northern Alberta & NW. Shaw Conference Centre.
Contact: Jay Fall at 780 428 1421 ext 221

Dance-A-Thon Fundraiser

Eternal Chopin 9
Flamenco! 4

Flamenco! 4

Poetry Slam 2

Poetry Slam 2

Flamenco! 4

Poetry Slam 2

Poetry Slam 2

Poetry Slam 2

Poetry Slam 2

Poetry Slam 2

Poetry Slam 2
Edmonton Meals on Wheels  
8th Annual Celebrity Box Social  
Canadian Western Bank and Edmonton Meals on Wheels present the 8th Annual Celebrity Box Social. Enjoy a decadent chocolate dessert buffet while bidding for the company of high profile Edmontonians in live and silent auctions. This event is also supported by local restaurants that donate gift certificates for meals to help raise funds for the000 best motives for Meals on Wheels and their celebrity guests. For more information visit www.mealsonwheels.edmonton.org. Call 780.422.209 or email info@mealsonwheelsedmonton.org for tickets.

Fowl and Cave Gala  
TBA  
"Fowl for hounds" is a charity hosted by Coventry Homes in support of the Edmonton Humane Society. This event raises funds and awareness for helpless animals in need. Evening consists of silent auction, dinner and endless entertainment. Visit edmontonhumanesociety.com or www.coventry-homes.com for updates.

"Olive the Gift" Dance for 18th Gala  
TBA  
Enjoy this fantastic fundraising dinner and dance gala which will feature a sensational dance showcase by several dance stars from across Canada including performances in hip-hop, contemporary, ballroom, Latin, belly dance, classical Indian dance, disco and much more. All funds raised at this event go to The Kidney Foundation of Canada, Northern Alberta & The Territories in support of raising awareness of organ and tissue donation. Ticket reservations, log on to www.kidney.ab.ca. Contact Theresa Jenkins at tjenkins@kidney.ab.ca or 780.451.6900 x227.

Grandparent’s Award of Distinction Gala Banquet and Silent Auction  
TBA  
The Edmonton’s Swan Social Care Foundation celebrates the contributions of grandparents to family and society. It recognizes individuals nominated for the Award of Distinction by their grandchildren. Funds from the dinner and silent auction support programs for seniors. Contact Bernadette Swan 780-761-0881 or berni55@yahoo.ca.

Duncan & Craig Laurel Awards  
13  
The 16th annual Laurel Awards recognize and reward creativity and innovation in not-for-profit organizations. Held at The Westin, tickets are available by invitation only. For information and nomination forms, visit the link at www.dolp.com. Contact Neil Bullinger 780.541.4310.

5th Annual Courage Award  
Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital and Edmonton Health Care Foundation present the 5th Annual Courage Award. This event recognizes those remarkable donors who rebuild their lives. The evening also recognizes those remarkable donors who face challenges in their determination to make a difference for the better. It also features the profiles of award winners featured annually in the September issue of the magazine. Nomination forms are available at www.edmontonhealthcarefoundation.com and close on May 15th. This is one of Edmonton’s "IT" parties! Contact info@edmontonhealthcarefoundation.com.

Stalking Twenty under 30  
16  
Edmontonians and Lenora of Edmonton host the 6th annual hot soiree at the dealership. Invited guests celebrate and toast 20 individuals under the age of 30 who have demonstrated true entrepreneurial and community spirit. Profiles are featured annually in the May issue of the magazine. Nomination forms are available at www.edmontonians.com and close on May 15th. This is one of Edmonton’s "IT" parties! Contact info@edmontonians.com.

Rainfall of Pine Chips  
TBA  
This is the 22nd annual ultimate experience in multi-course gourmet dining where teams from 25 establishments prepare Alberta products supplied by members of the Alberta Food Producers Association. The event showcases the talents of chef and Alberta foods and beverages to help raise funds for the Stan Ballard Apprenticeship Fund. Silent and random auctions. Tickets go on sale in the spring. Visit www.alpa.ca. Contact 780.443.2272 or 405.201.3657 ext. 21 or email info@alpa.ca.

FASHION WITH COMPASSION  
TBA  
Fashion with Compassion presents Gala in support of Sorrentino’s Compassion House. This top的形式 show will take place at the Shaw Conference Centre on this day— luncheons and evening shows. Visit www.compassionhouse.org for updates. Contact 780.425.7224.

Kode Round-Up Dinner  
TBA  
This annual gala dinner with live and silent auctions is sponsored by Ducks Unlimited Canada to support the preservation and conservation of wetlands. Visit www.ducks.ca for updates. Contact Tracy 07h88 at 780.444.2354.

Minerva Dinner  
TBA  
The Minerva Foundation’s mission is to assist the personal growth of individuals and families by providing financial assistance to Edmonton based charitable organizations. The evening features an entertaining and inspiring keynote speaker. Guests also hear success stories from past Foundation recipients who describe how support from Minerva has changed their lives and enriched the community. Visit www.minervafoundation.ca.

Edmonton Eskimos Post-Game Gala  
47th Annual Dinner  
A celebration of the Edmonton Eskimos and their contributions to the community. Individual tickets or tables of 10 are available. With the purchase of a table of 10, you may request a player as your 10th guest. Proceeds from the dinner go toward the Eskimos’ Champions in the Community programs. Visit www.eals.ca for updates.

18th Annual Scarecrow Festival  
TBA  
Exciting changes are in the works for the 2010 Scarecrow Festival… but we’re not telling you here. The focus still remains raising funds for the ABC Head Start Program which works with low-income families and pre-school children to achieve success in learning and life. Northerlands AgriCom. Visit www.scarecrowfestival.org. Contact Bernice Gorysteo at 780.484.3242.

15th Annual ADF Gala and Fashion with Compassion  
TBA  
Support vital diabetes research at the Alberta Diabetes Foundation’s ‘A Night to Remember’ Gala and Auction at the Westin Hotel. Join event sponsor, Colliers’ International, in raising necessary funds for research at the Alberta Diabetes Institute at the University of Alberta. Visit aldga.com for more information or call Angela at 780.492.6702.

13th Annual ADF Gala  
TBA  
The event showcases the talents of Alberta Food Processors Association. The event recognizes individuals nominated for the Award of Distinction by their grandchildren. Funds from the dinner and silent auction support programs for seniors. Contact Bernadette Swan 780-761-0881 or berni55@yahoo.ca.

Edmonton Scarecrow Festival TBA  
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Fashion with Compassion presents Gala in support of Sorrentino’s Compassion House. This top-form show will take place at the Shaw Conference Centre on this day—lunches and evening shows. Visit www.compassionhouse.org for updates. Contact 780.425.7224.
research at the Glenrose offers hope for an improved quality of life for those with disabilities and health conditions. Held at the Shaw Conference Centre, Hall D. Visit www.gleneaglesfoundation.ca for details. Contact 780.735.7912.

Edmonton Ladies Dinner TBA

This is the annual fundraising dinner and auction, sponsored by BMO Unlimited Canada in support of wetlands, preservation and education. Contact www.ducks.ca for updates, or visit www.Town and Country-Fine Furniture and Art, Stony Plain, Sherwood Park, Fort Saskatchewan, Beaumont, St. Albert, Spruce Grove, Leduc, Devon and Anns Rassen. Contact Tracy O’Neil at 780.444.2354.

World Stone Jade's Ice Wine Gala TBA

This event is a "fashion show for baked goods", local celebrities, chefs, sponsors and actors from the cast of Big Bang Theory. The evening will be a fun and safe family Hallowe'en event where everyone dresses up in similar events in Stony Plain, Sherwood Park, Park, Fort Saskatchewan, Beaumont, St. Albert, Spruce Grove, Leduc, Devon and Anns Rassen. Contact Tracy O’Neil at 780.444.2354.

Spotlight on Research

Start the day off at this educational breakfast event. The Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation/Capital Health offers an opportunity to learn how

Volvo for Hospice

Support the Hospice Foundation Society at the Winspeare Centre for Music. Details for this benefit concert and art auction are available at www.philmlimfoundation.ca. Contact 780.413.9849.

Concordia's 10th Annual Grande Maitre Gala TBA

Experience an evening of elegance and fine dining in support of students and a distinctive education at Concordia University of Alberta. This is one of Edmonton's most attend black tie events! Fairmont Hotel Macdonald. Visit www.concordia.ab.ca. Contact Catherine Bithell at 780.479.9247.

Northern Lights Classic Ballroom Dance Competition 6-7

Attracting top Western Canadian dancers to Edmonton, the 7th Annual Northern Lights Classic Ballroom Dance Competition will be held at the Falls Hotel. Tickets: $35-$55. This event will undoubtedly raise the profile of Edmonton's ballroom dance. Contact Theresa Jenkins 780.435.5232. Visit www.nthlclassic.ca.

Christmas on the Square TBA

Holiday Light Up

The Downtown Business Association and City of Edmonton present the light up of the massive Christmas tree in Sir Winston Churchill Square and anniversary fireworks show. Enjoy arts and crafts, mascots, moving entertainment, shopping, activities with the Art Gallery of Alberta, live performances on stage and Santa Claus himself. Spread the holiday cheer by bringing a donation for the Edmonton Food Bank or Santa’s Anonymous. Visit www.edmontondowntown.com. Contact the Downtown Business Association at 780.424.4085.

Denim & Diamonds TBA

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation as it hosts the 11th annual Denim & Diamonds evening to raise funds to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research. A dazzling event with big name entertainment. Held at Shaw Conference Centre. Visit www.jdrf.ca for updates. Contact edmonton@jdrf.ca.

Volunteer Recognition Gala TBA

The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues is rolling out the red carpet for neighbourhood volunteers. Each year we honour specific projects in communities around Edmonton at a successful recognition event. Visit www.efl.ca for up-dates.

Poor Boy's Lunch TBA

Join the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the University Hospital Foundation. Shaw Conference Centre. By invitation only. Sponsored by the Scriptor International Foundation. Tickets: $35 - $55. This event will undoubtedly raise the profile of Edmonton's ballroom dance. Contact Theresa Jenkins 780.435.5232. Visit www.nthlclassic.ca.

Twas the Night 26

This 13th annual fundraiser promotes art and culture in Alberta. Proceeds go to the Alberta Craft Council. Tickets: $25. Contact Roger Taylor at 780.909.4332. Visit www.northernlightsclassic.ca

Edmonton's must attend black tie events! Visit www.edmontondowntown.com or call 780.718.2655.

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In 1994, CTV Edmonton established its own registered charity, the Food Neighbour Fund. The Fund assists people in Edmonton and Northern Alberta who have fallen on hard times. The Poor Boys Lunch is the group’s major fundraising event. Visit www.goodfoodandfundraiser.ca for details. Contact 780.486.9215.

Home for the Holidays TBA

Enjoying a viewing tour of private homes dressed in their holiday best. Local designers, florists and many volunteers will join together to decorate “Homes for the Holidays”. Funds raised will support Junior League of Edmonton and Kids Help Phone. Visit www.homesforthefolidays.com for updates.

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During a recent educational presentation on wireless security to a group of IT professionals at the Canadian Information Processing Society’s annual ICE Conference in Edmonton, it didn’t take long for Brad Haines to give the attendees what would amount to an enlightening wake-up call.

“If your consultants say your system is secure, they’re lying.” His boldness caused even those busy texting on their Blackberrys to stop and take notice.

Over a 50-minute period, Haines wowed delegates by illustrating how insecure things really can be.

But Haines is not your average presenter. Often billed as a security expert or chief researcher at RenderLab.net, he’s also known as RenderMan. “I’m first and foremost a hacker… a security enthusiast and consummate geek who is curious and loves knowledge.”

And while his fedora is black, as is the rest of his signature attire, RenderMan is a white-hat hacker—one of the good guys. Black-hat hackers are typically out for personal or financial gain.

Haines has a strong penchant for discovering and reporting on systems vulnerabilities and ensuring that people are aware of them. His issue is with consultants’ declarations that imply “secure from now on and forever”. While perhaps true at that moment, he’d prefer they rephrase them as “vulnerabilities not yet found”.

Once a secure technology, WEP (Wired Equivalency Privacy) protocol can now be broken in 60 seconds. “And if you didn’t know about that transition,” Haines says, “you’d think it still was.”

Wireless has changed the rules of the game. A network can physically be locked down, but adding wireless capability could be akin to using a megaphone to announce your presence to the world. “With wireless, we’re back to a shared medium. It’s easy to eavesdrop on communications.”

With readily available hardware—sniffers and analyzers and open source tools like Airpwn, Karma and Metasploit—hackers can monitor, intercept and modify transmissions resulting in the loss and theft of data. This includes private corporate information, personal info such as passwords, bank account and/or credit card numbers, and information leading to possible identity theft.

More than 25 percent of wireless networks in homes and offices are not even password protected. “Many are left at the (factory) default settings… unencrypted, unsecured, with an SSID (station ID) of Linksys.” Not only does this leave the access point vulnerable to attack, it presents an opportunity to an unscrupulous hacker to set up a trap when you take your wireless- and Bluetooth-enabled devices (laptop, PDA) outside to WiFi spots at cafes and airports.
Unfolding the mystery of misfolding PRIONS

By Cheryl Croucher

Just mention the term prion and you’ll draw a blank look from most people. But say mad cow, and you’ll get a reaction.

Mad cows have spongy brains. They fall over. And, if you eat their parts, you might get the disease, too. That’s what most people remember of the mad cow crisis that swept Britain in the late 1980s. Thousands of cattle were destroyed before the epidemic was contained.

The culprit turned out to be cattle feed which contained ground up sheep offal contaminated with scrapies, a neurodegenerative disease of sheep. Scientists eventually figured out misfolded prions were behind the infection that had crossed the species barrier from sheep to cows and, sadly, to humans. In humans, it is called Variant Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease.

In May 2003, Canada’s first official case of mad cow or BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) popped up on a farm in Alberta. Overnight trade borders closed, stifling a $4.1 billion dollar a year beef export business. While barely a dozen mad cows have appeared in the ensuing years, the BSE crisis has cost billions in lost trade and lost jobs.

The Alberta government responded with a $35 million fund to support research into BSE and prion related diseases through Alberta Ingenuity and the Alberta Prion Research Institute. The federal government poured support into PRIONet, a member of the Network of Centres of Excellence. The University of Alberta set up the Centre for Prions and Protein Folding Diseases.

Over the past few years, the scientists involved with these groups have collaborated on some of the most important prion research in the world. This year, I have had the opportunity to interview some of these scientists, thanks to a journalism award from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research.

What I find remarkable is the breadth of their research projects and the advancements they are making here. What started with one mad cow in Alberta has evolved into an intriguing investigation of a host of neurodegenerative diseases that impact all of us.

Two of the many talented researchers working in this area are Dr. David Westaway and Dr. David Wishart. Both are professors at the University of Alberta, although Dr. Westaway arrived from Britain via the University of Toronto. He is director of the Centre for Prions and Protein Folding Diseases. Dr. Wishart is a bio-informatics specialist and he was the lead scientist on the Human Metabolome Project. He describes prions as “small proteins that we all have. They’re in every living organism as far as we can tell, from yeast all the way to humans.”

The Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute has laid out a grid of 1656 points across the entire province, with each point 20 kilometres apart. The data collected from these sites gives scientists a measure of the changing state of biodiversity in Alberta.

When ABMI researchers collect samples from these sites, they check for various kinds of flora and fauna in the water, in the trees, on the ground, and in the soil. And it’s not uncommon to discover new species.

Of particular interest are mites, tiny invertebrates that play a big role in maintaining the health of our soils.

Jim Herbers, director for information for the ABMI, says: “We’re very proud to report that there are well over 100 new species to Canada that we’ve identified and well over 30 new species to the world.”

These mites are microscopic, but don’t let their diminutive size fool you. Herbers explains, “Some of them are like the grizzly bears of the soil world. They go around and they’re predators. Many of them are frugivores. Many of them eat fungus and mushrooms. And then there are a number of other species that live in the soil that break down the soil organic matter, making sure that it’s turned over and that the nutrients are available for plants to use.”

These new species of mites were identified for the ABMI when scientists at the Royal Alberta Museum analyzed soil samples collected from the grid points. ~ Cheryl Croucher

New Mite Species Discovered—Grizzly Bears of the Soil World

Jim Herbers

TEC Edmonton Searches for New CEO

Now that David Cox has left TEC Edmonton for a new post at Radient Technologies, TEC Edmonton is looking for a new CEO to take his place.

And, according to Pamela Freeman, the interim CEO, TEC Edmonton is looking for a very special leader. “That person would have experience working in the private sector… public markets, private markets, to raise capital for companies… and will also have a very strong and effective way of working with our research community. So we have retained a recruitment firm to help us find someone who can help take TEC Edmonton to the next level where we continue to expand our programs and services that reach out to the entrepreneurial community… for those who have a technology who wish to develop a company, and that can also interact effectively with our University community.”

Freeman says TEC Edmonton is continuing to build on three very successful years under Cox’s leadership.

New programs include TEC Source which provides free consults to technology based companies. And there’s the new regional alliance which sees five Edmonton incubators collaborating to provide “one-stop-shopping” for entrepreneurs and inventors. ~ Cheryl Croucher

BRIEFS

— Cheryl Croucher
The exact purpose of prions is not known, although they are thought to be a protective role. The normal or cellular prion protein is harmless. But sometimes things go wrong.

“Occasionally, if the protein has been mutated or if some external agent modifies the prion protein, it changes shape. Once it changes shape, it starts doing something bad. It actually starts self-assembling into what are called fibrils. And these fibrils, start filling up brain cells, leading to brain cell death,” explains Dr. Wishart.

His most recent work uses a variety of techniques, including magnetic resonance spectroscopy, mass spectrometry and circular dichroism, to observe the prion protein at a molecular scale. The point is to observe the folding process in real time and hopefully find a way to stop it.

“Prions are naturally helical, meaning they look like a bunch of springs stacked together. But, when they misfold,” Dr. Wishart says, “they turn from a helical to a beta sheet, they say that they convert or almost exclusively of beta sheets. So when prions go from helical protein to something that’s called a beta strand or a beta sheet, they produce this insoluble, circular dichroism, to observe the prion protein at a molecular scale. The point is to observe the folding process in real time and hopefully find a way to stop it.

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“The positive and negative charges interact with the water molecule and the protein molecule stays under control. It’s basically dissolved in water and everything is fine and dandy. But, in the context of disease, the proteins start to assemble into aggregates and very often this aggregation property is somehow linked to the fact that the non-water loving part of the molecule gets turned inside out. So, in chemical jargon, the hydrophilic, parts of the molecule, instead of being hidden inside, come to the outside. The hydrophobic parts of a molecule like to interact with the hydrophobic parts of other molecules. So you start to get an assembly where the contact between the molecules is a bit more like an oily interface that pushes water out of the way.”

This initiates a domino effect where the proteins build up on one another.

In his lab, Dr. Wishart has been exploring how the prion converts or misfolds and has identified that the tail end of the molecule seems to be the part that gets disrupted or unfolded first. “It aggregates first in what we call dimers or pairs, then in tetramers or sets of four and then, ultimately, in octamers, or groups of eight molecules. These aggregates are all hung together near the back end from last to about 70 residues. So they produce this insoluble, tightly massed core that can’t be cut... that can’t be broken down. Then these octamers eventually start forming fibrils or threads.”

Dr. Wishart goes on to say that it appears the tetramer and octamer, the groups of four and eight proteins, become highly toxic and form the principle seed that leads to infection.

“It’s an exciting discovery that opens up the door to developing a means of stopping the misfolding process. Dr. Westaway suggests that once you define the misfolding process in molecular terms, “then you can create an anti-molecule to stop it from happening. It’s what is called smart therapy.”

Over in his lab at the Centre for Prions and Protein Folding Diseases, Dr. Westaway has uncovered at least two important pieces to the prion puzzle. These are chaperone and shadoo proteins. Chaperones are helper molecules. Sometimes when proteins start folding into the right shape, they get stuck and something comes a chaperone to smooth it out so it goes into the right shape. This is well known in the science of cell biology for proteins inside the cell.

Says Westaway, “The field of chaperones is well known in the science of cell biology for proteins inside the cell. But prion disease is a bit more cutting edge because it seems there may well be chaperone-type activity involved in the wrong way, in helping a good protein go bad. Some of the usual events of refolding or misfolding may not be going on inside the cell. In fact, they may be going on outside the cell. This is an important frontier that will bear closer scrutiny in the coming years.”

A student in Westaway’s lab, Joe Watts, confirmed that this protein exists. It is quite abundant in the brain and has a very simple answer: that the shadoo protein starts to disappear when animals are replicating prions. It is what in monkeys that are all too common: Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and Lou Gehrig’s Disease.

The research of Westaway and Wishart goes a long way toward informing discovery on this front. A provocative article, published in the journal Nature in early 2009, suggests that normal prion proteins, thought to be the protectors of nerve cells, are involved in the killing of brain cells. It appears the misfolded protein aggregates that cause Alzheimer’s bind the normal to the prion protein to initiate the killing. Dr Westaway is adamant. “We’ll check that out, and other labs will check that and very likely some important new knowledge will come out of looking at those ideas with a fine tooth comb.”

www.pronet.ca
www.pronetcentre.ca

To hear more on prion research, visit www.innovationanthology.com

Cheryl Croucher hosts Innovation Anthology which is broadcast on CKUA Radio at 7:58 am and 4:58 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays. Or download the podcasts at www.innovationanthology.com

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Wheat Straw Panel Board Houses for China’s EARTHQUAKE ZONE

New homes in China’s earthquake zone will now be made from wheat straw instead of brick and cement. A Dutch company has licensed technology developed by the Alberta Research Council to make wheat straw panel boards—OSSB or oriented straw sandwich board—for the Chinese market.

According to architect Boerew Bisseling of Panel Board Holdings, the wheat straw panels are superior for this earthquake zone since they are framed with light gauge steel.

Says Bisseling, “First of all, the buildings are all made out of concrete and bricks. And the quality of these bricks and concrete is a little bit less than what we used to make it used in Europe and also in Canada. So if there is an earthquake, there is a big possibility that it just cracks because it is not flexible, and it comes down. Unfortunately, that happened a lot last year during the earthquake. And the light gauge steel is more flexible, so it can withstand an earthquake much better because it is not flexible, and it comes down. Unfortunately, that happened a lot last year during the earthquake. And this light gauge steel is more flexible, so it can withstand an earthquake much better than concrete and bricks. And together with our OSSB, we can use like a bracing element, it stands better in earthquakes than what they have right now.”

The wheat straw panel boards also come in an environmental break for China. ARC’s forest products technician Wayne Wasylciw says the OSSB panel boards make use of straw that in China would otherwise be burned. They also save agricultural land from being dug up for clay to make bricks.”

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Wheat Straw Panel Board Houses for China’s EARTHQUAKE ZONE

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On the HORIZON

DECEMBER

December 3
E Business Link Rising Big Smiles E Commerce Applications Suite 100, 10235-104 Street 851-105 since www.canada-business.ab.ca/brownbag.html

December 3
ACAMP 8th Annual Health and Medical Alberta Research Council Auditorium 7 am to 5 pm

December 15
novanAIT Innovation Speakers Series Practice Your Business & Success 12 – 1 pm

February 25
BC Tourism Business Plan Competition Deadline for Fast Growth Competition, November 1 for over $100,000 in prizes www.deced doom.
To effectively gain entry into the social media ecosystem as it continues to grow in importance, businesses must take many, not only here in the Edmonton area but around Alberta and the rest of the World. 2010 will be the year that social media alters behaviors by integrating certain social web practices into overall business processes across the enterprise resulting in a "social calibration" of the corporate culture.

Veterans of at least one social media campaign will refine their approach as the realization that social influence is reliant on certain nuances is a positive segue; thus, there’s an understanding of the difference between being a blogger and being a blogger with influence—which means that social media integration into the 2010 marketing and communications plan happens at the outset rather than as an add-on later. This change in process should drive support for internal policy development and a concerted effort to build social capacity.

Also, as decision-makers come on board, I see more I.T. departments benefiting. The enterprise remains protected while it enables social technologies behind their firewall by using open API authorization codes like "OAuth" as appropriate. This firewall by using open API authorization enables social technologies behind their firewall.

Continued from page 11

Getting attacked can be as simple as turning on your laptop. If your own computer may automatically connect. “Windows likes to automatically connect to recent networks it’s seen before.”

Haines can’t stress it enough: “There is no authentication process for free WiFi at hotels and gyms, for example, making it hard to determine if it’s real or fake. The transmission could be routed through an intermediary and all your data would be exposed.”

Even with a secure login, the login may be encrypted but not the session.”

Haines shows the audience a picture of a suspicious looking van with “Free Candy” painted across it. “Users like free WiFi. Who wouldn’t? What’s advertised is not necessarily what’s inside.”

And it’s not just the network connection. Accessing a malicious site could cause you to get viruses, install spyware, and make modifications to your system. Browser exploits—codes that take advantage of bugs in your browser—could also cause unexpected results.

“Once you’re on someone’s site, you’ve given them a conduit to access your system,” concurs Ed Rusnak, CEO of ENC Security Systems and creator of EncryptStick (first in LinkedIn, November 2009). “When you leave the site, you could also be taking the infection with you back to your secure network.”

“How many of you will regret using the free WiFi?” Haines asks conference participants. At the end of his session—to make his point—he revealed that he had scanned all wireless enabled devices in the room and within range of his equipment.

Haines interest in network security started at W.P. Wagner High School in South East Edmonton, where computer teacher Don McDonald gave him the task of keeping their classroom network running.

“It was the most hostile network on the planet. Teachers weren’t always around. Kids wanted to play games during school hours.” He learned to thrive on the constant challenge of having to find new solutions to lock things down in an ever-changing environment. “It was a classic cat and mouse game. But it wasn’t until he attended his first DEF CON, the world’s largest underground hacking conference in 1999 where he says he met the most encouraging community of like-minded people, that he realized he was not alone on his quest.”

He’s now 30, “but going on 18”.

RenderMan fills his days working with his clients to advise them on securing their digital assets. He fills his nights finding new ways to subvert technology to do things it was never meant to do.

Haines prefers to work with small and medium-sized enterprises, smaller departments and professional services companies, acting as a resource for performance tuning and network security audits. “They can’t afford the big guys and often don’t know they need advice. Often their network expert is the son’s friend’s brother who happens to have a computer… so he’s their IT guy and this is a clinic.”

For Haines, it’s also a social obligation and a soft spot for the Mom and Pop enterprises. “Businesses shouldn’t go under because they used a crappy product and didn’t know better. How do you expect a guy who sells popcicles to know about security?” It’s not his business focus.

He’s also motivated as a user of these products. “I don’t want what I call a data hijacked—possibly by some people he knows.”

Haines speaks frequently at hacker and security conferences. Just prior to ICE, he exposed wireless vulnerabilities behind social media performance metrics. Reputation 2.0 and the ever present need for active brand management online becomes a reality for more decision-makers in 2010.

That said, this isn’t good news for lagging enterprises. “We need guys like him to make the public totally aware… someone to find these vulnerabilities. We have to work in this environment,” says Rusnak.

Interestingly, on a trip to the House of Parliament a few days after his Gatineau speech, RenderMan was single out of a tour group and asked to check his cell phone and hold it up because the Commons had a bug in a device they were testing. “We need guys like him to make the public totally aware… someone to find these vulnerabilities. We have to work in this environment,” says Rusnak.

As well, we’ll likely see more govern-ments (primarily municipal) embrace “open data” policies and concepts. And why not? Citizens are willing to contribute and pay for services for free. Participation in this area will continue to rise as access to public data truly becomes public. For more info on the open data topic visit eaves.ca

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Regardless of his audience, Haines preaches diligence about security and this is a clinic.”

"People don’t like what I do, but I do nothing illegal. If anything weird happens, I better keep my nose clean. I would automatically be one of the usual suspects.”

"I’m thinking that announcing my intentions at the conference probably led someone to think less of me—" Haines admits he finds the bad guys much more interesting. “The Joker always seems depressed.”

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"We need guys like him to make the public totally aware… someone to find these vulnerabilities. We have to work in this environment," says Rusnak.
You gotta believe these two have hatched serious plans together over the years. Holger Petersen and PR veteran Richard Flohil who came West to emcee his friend’s evening. Holger Petersen’s anniversary party, titled 40 Hours of Natch’l Blues. The party was hosted by CKUA Radio last month at Cook County Saloon.

CKUA plays alternative music, folk, rock, jazz and classical music, courtesy of the station’s network of 17 transmitters. Canada’s first educational and public radio started broadcasting in 1927 from the University of Alberta and went online in 1996. Listeners are fiercely loyal; they went to bat for the station when it was suspended suddenly in 1994. Fans rallied and created a foundation to help keep the radio and their favourite programming on air.

CKUA is where many listeners first heard the likes of k.d. lang, Corb Lund, Tegan and Sara, the Polyjuicers and Wendy McNeill. In an Internet world that promotes citizen journalism, everyone from farmers to politicians to scientists and business leaders have had their say on CKUA. They go to bat for the station when it was suspended suddenly in 1994. Fans rallied and created a foundation to help keep the radio and their favourite programming on air.

CKUA station manager from 1955 to 1974, former CKUA Board Chair Bud Steen. "Nobody loves music and radio more than Jack," according to Peter North.

Photos by Tracy Kolenchuk

Mayor Stephen Mandel congratulates Holger Petersen.

Photos by Rob Edwards from Victoria with Ken Regan, general manager of CKUA. Edwards performed with The Royal Family that morphed into Tanya with Rumor (Ron) Lukasewich and Michael Richards on drums. Psychodelic, baby Rolling Stone reviewed Troyka in its 1970 issue #58. Edwards is still looking for a copy and for the whereabouts of Richards.

Photos by Tracy Kolenchuk

Harold Wollin hosts the Story Slam monthly at his Blue Chair eatery with Lionel “Mac” McKernan. "Blues fans know real music when they hear it," notes music scribe Peter North, shown here with Phyllis Wooley who is not in the music business.

Photos by Tracy Kolenchuk

Former CKUA board member Linda Hall and Brian Dunsmore. Hall started the charming Home Routes concert series in her living room last year: world-class musicians, known and unknown, perform in private homes throughout Western Canada.

Photos by Tracy Kolenchuk

Royal LePage realtor and sponsor Frank Bawden (right) with Brenda Linton and Frank Klemen who produces the annual Nite of Blues that funds SIRENS (Support to Individuals at Risk in Everyone’s Neighbourhood Society).

Photos by Tracy Kolenchuk

Mayor Stephen Mandel congratulates Holger Petersen.

Photos by Tracy Kolenchuk

"I remember Holger from Bonnie Doon High School... used to sit in front of me," recalled the red-nosed retired radio mogul and Edmontonians scribe Marty Forbes with wife Kim. "He hasn’t changed.”
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