



**Heritage,  
Innovation &  
the Liveable  
City**

EDMONTON  
HERITAGE  
COUNCIL

Community  
Symposium  
2010

October 1-2  
Edmonton, AB

Sutton Place Hotel  
10235-101 Street  
Edmonton, AB

# Welcome!

## To the Edmonton Heritage Council's first community symposium

"Heritage", "innovation" and "livability" are terms not often used in relation to each other. To many people, interest in heritage seems contrary to the spirit of innovation and has little currency in the pace of urban life.

But for many others, heritage is fundamental to social and cultural renewal— a contemporary activity with a vitalizing and far-reaching effect on people, their communities and the city.

Heritage embraces a wide range of activities and expressions in the Edmonton region and is an innovative force at the heart of creating a shared culture, a unique identity and a genuine dialogue about this city and region.

This inaugural symposium brings together community members, heritage organizations and engaging speakers to explore how Edmonton's unique heritage has shaped—and is shaping—the city and region.

The symposium aims to explore the innovative role of heritage in the work of groups and individuals. Some of these may not see their work as heritage-related, but clearly draw upon cultural memory, community traditions and historical experience in their work and concerns. The symposium is an opportunity to explore heritage as integral to the work of city building.

## Join us

As we explore these guiding questions:

How is heritage an engaging and enriching aspect of life and experience in Edmonton?

What is it that historically, culturally and physically defines Edmonton as a city?

What innovations have emerged connected to "heritage"?

How does this activity make Edmonton a unique place?

What could be next for heritage activity?



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# Program at a Glance

Date & Location	Session	Title / Theme
Friday Oct. 1 7:00 - 9:00 pm	Opening Reception, Aboriginal Blessing, & Keynote	
Saturday Oct. 2 9:30 - 10:15 am	Morning Address & introduction to panel sessions	
10:15 - 10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30 - 11:50	Panel Session I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evolving Heritage, Changing Identities</li> <li>• Aboriginal Edmonton: Urban Culture Through the Contemporary Lens</li> <li>• A Northern City</li> </ul>
12 - 1:15 pm	Lunch	
1:15 - 2:30	Panel Session II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage, Community Development and Social Action</li> <li>• Religion in the City</li> <li>• Edmonton's (Lost) Spaces, Places &amp; Neighbourhoods</li> </ul>
2:30 - 3:00	Coffee Break	
3:00 - 4:30	Panel Session III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Heritage of Local Food</li> </ul>
4:30 - 6:00	Symposium Wrap-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary Remarks</li> <li>• Cocktails, appetizers and conversation</li> </ul>

## Panel Presenters

**Linda Goyette** is a writer and journalist with a strong interest in oral history and contemporary storytelling. Following her work at the Edmonton Journal as a reporter, columnist and editorial writer, she worked on *Edmonton In Our Own Words*, a new history of the city based on first-person stories and memoirs. Her work includes *Kidmonton: True Stories of River Kids* and *The Story That Brought Me Here: To Alberta From Everywhere*, a collection of newcomers' stories. Her new book, *Northern Kids*, is a collection of historical and contemporary stories about childhood from northern Canadians of all ages.

**Ken Tingley** was recently chosen as Edmonton's first Historian Laureate. From Edmonton's aviation and military history to its neighbourhoods and buildings, Ken has a rich and vast knowledge of Edmonton's history. In addition to his work as a public historian, researcher and writer, Ken has served with the Edmonton and District Historical Society, Old Strathcona Foundation, Edmonton Historical Board and many other local museums and heritage groups as a board member, volunteer and supporter.

**Alice Major** was born in Scotland, grew up in Toronto and moved to Edmonton in 1981. She was named to a two-year term as Edmonton's first poet laureate in 2005 and her writing is very much focused on her home city – its geology, history and mythology. Her latest (and ninth) collection of poetry, *Memory's Daughter*, was published in spring 2010 by the University of Alberta Press. Alice has served as president of the League of Canadian Poets and the Writers Guild of Alberta and as chair of the Edmonton Arts Council, and she received the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award at the Mayor's Celebration for the Arts.

# Session Descriptions

## Panel session I 10:30 – 11:50 am

### Evolving Heritage & Identity

The identity of all citizens and communities of the region is layered by memory, history and experience. This panel will explore the layers of identity and experience of particular cultural communities and how this has been imprinted culturally, socially and physically on the city and region.

### Aboriginal Edmonton: Urban Culture through the Contemporary Lens

With thousands of years of presence in the region, Edmonton's Aboriginal population is one of the largest and fastest growing of any urban centre in Canada. With this presence comes the growing influence of the artists and cultural/media organizations rooted in the urban. Panelists will discuss this growing presence and its role in both the Aboriginal and larger community.

### A Northern City

Tagged as the "Gateway to the North", Edmonton has also been described as "a northern city of art and ideas". Yet its northernness is often overlooked as essential in understanding the city and region, as well as its connection to the "south" and other northern places. Presenters will discuss this significant aspect of Edmonton's past, present and future.

## Panel sessions II 1:15 – 2:30

### Heritage, Community Development & Social Action

Heritage is a key element of many community development and social action initiatives. Panelists will address their heritage-related work as it connects with people and organizations towards creating positive change and encouraging individual and community growth.

### Religion in the City

Edmonton's "interfaith" heritage was established long before the term came into common usage. Edmonton has been defined by the presence of different religious traditions and practices which have co-existed with occasional tensions, but have equally cooperated and resulted in a creative presence in the local milieu. This panel will explore the unique past of traditions, the points of contact and the emerging texture of religious life in the city.

### Edmonton's (Lost) Spaces, Places & Neighbourhoods

Edmonton could be described as a city in the habit of remaking itself. As a result, historic spaces and places (including locations of significant events) are obscured, lost or ignored. These places might otherwise contribute to a cityscape that is more redolent with Edmonton's history and experience. Panelists will discuss this heritage of "remaking" and what has been ignored, overlooked or misunderstood and how it might be reclaimed.

## Panel session III 3:00 – 4:20 pm

### A Heritage of Local Food

How might the history of local food production and marketing in Edmonton relate to people's contemporary interest in local food? This session will discuss how this history connects to current concerns and developments on sustainable food systems.



# What is the EHC?

The Edmonton Heritage Council is a not-for-profit organization that supports and promotes heritage in Edmonton. The EHC was formed in 2009 as a key recommendation presented in The Art of Living, the City of Edmonton's cultural plan (2008-2018). The EHC is currently initiating programs and projects to meet its objectives.

## Partner Programs & Projects

### Edmonton's Historian Laureate

With the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Historical Board, the EHC helped launch the Historian Laureate program. In a two-year term, the Historian Laureate will present aspects of the city's rich and diverse history, as well as generally encourage heritage activities in the general public.

**Artifact Centre & Archives Storage Strategy**  
EHC is working with the City of Edmonton on long-term preservation and development of the City's artifact and archival collections as well as ensuring interpretive and research access to these collections.

**Developing the Concept for a City Museum**  
Working with other community organizations, EHC will help develop a museum concept that focuses on Edmonton as a unique place and provides a forum for interpreting and discussing the city's diverse and complex history.

## Programs in the Works

### Heritage Online

People, places, events, exhibits, maps and more- [www.edmontonheritage.ca](http://www.edmontonheritage.ca) will be the portal to the region's heritage, highlighting heritage-related organizations, events and developments.

From the personal to the public, our shared heritage connects people in making the city and region a beloved home and place to live. The Edmonton Heritage Council is committed to initiating partnerships and projects that:

**Provide** a forum and a voice for heritage issues & interests in the Edmonton region

**Connect** heritage to a wide-range of civic and regional interests

**Promote** the preservation & presentation of greater Edmonton's unique heritage

**Support** the work of heritage organizations and promote effective heritage practices and heritage programs

### Speakers Series

EHC will bring knowledgeable and engaging speakers into a public forum to address heritage-related issues and interests.

### Heritage Research & Consultation

EHC will gather information on heritage practices and programs to support heritage initiatives and partnerships to benefit the public.

### Organizational & Individual grants

Financial and partnership support for research, documentation, interpretation, programming and publication about Edmonton's history and heritage.

# Presenters

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**Gurchuran Singh Bhatia** helped found the Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation and was co-founder of the Human Rights Education Foundation, which became the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights. He is a recipient of the Order of Canada and received an Edmonton Citation Award for his contribution to multiculturalism. He was a member of the Canadian Human Rights Commission from 1989-2005, served as a citizenship judge from 2000-2006 and is currently president of the International Association of Citizens for a Civil Society.

**Lewis Cardinal** is a small business owner, educator and consultant. His extensive public service includes work with the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism, the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee and Aboriginal Voices Radio Network. He recently received the National Aboriginal Achievement Award for public service.

**Catherine Cole** is a heritage consultant based in Edmonton. Her consulting work includes research and planning with a wide range of organizations, including recent work in shaping Nunavut's heritage sector. Her work has included research on Edmonton's garment manufacturing industry, on mail order catalogues in western Canada, and on Alberta inventors and inventions. She has served as president of the Heritage Canada Foundation.

**Tyler Dixon** is an Edmonton-based intern architect with ziola newstudio architects. His architectural thesis, *Exodus: the disappearing of Alberta's rural heritage*, explored the connection between landscape and built form. He has worked locally and internationally on a wide range of design, research and public awareness projects and is a participant in the Reclaiming Lost Spaces project, based at City Region Studies Centre, University of Alberta.

**David Holdsworth** is one of the two Heritage Planners with the City of Edmonton's Planning and Development Department managing the Historic Resources Management Program. He mostly spends his time trying to persuade others to save or successfully incorporate their heritage structures when new development pressures arise.

**Junetta Jamerson** is a vocalist, producer and community organizer as well as the Youth Program Manager for the Centre for Race and Culture. She established the Keshotu Leadership Academy, a performing arts and leadership development program for African Canadian youth. She has been recognized as one of Edmonton's "Top 40 Under 40" and received the Big Miller Award for musical excellence.

**Kathryn Chase Merrett's** work *The History of the Edmonton City Market, 1900-2000*, explores the relationship between Edmonton's agricultural values and the civic aspirations of city officials. She has edited architectural, dance, film and theatre articles for the *Canadian Encyclopedia* and is currently researching and writing on the social and cultural history of gardening in Edmonton.

**Patricia Myers** is a writer and historian living in Edmonton and has published in women's history, aviation history, and the visual arts. She was the food columnist for *Legacy* magazine, and contributed a chapter to Alberta's centennial history, *Alberta Formed Alberta Transformed*. Patricia collects Canadian heritage cookbooks and food literature and can be found prowling around antique malls and shows for gems to add to her collection.

# Presenters

**Mark Nuttall** holds the Henry Marshall Tory Chair in the Department of Anthropology. He has worked extensively in Greenland, Alaska, Canada, Scotland, and Finland. He is the author and editor of several books, including the three-volume *Encyclopedia of the Arctic* (Routledge, 2005). His latest book projects are on indigenous peoples and oil and gas development, and the anthropology and political ecology of global climate change.

**Jessie Radies** is the founder of Live Local Alberta (live-local.ca), a not-for-profit company that operates the local food related enterprises Eat Local First, the Good Food Box and Original Fare. She is the mother of two school-aged children and partners with her husband in the Blue Pear Restaurant.

**Frances Swyripa** is a professor in the Department of History and Classics at the University of Alberta. She is the author of *Wedded to the Cause: Ukrainian-Canadian Women and Ethnic Identity, 1891-1991* and *Ukrainian Canadians: A Survey of their Portrayal in English-Language Works*. Her latest work, *Storied Landscapes: Ethno-Religious Identity and the Canadian Prairies* examines the evolving identity of ethno-religious immigrant groups in the Canadian West.

# Registration

## Register Online

& discover more about the symposium & Edmonton Heritage Council here:  
[www.edmontonheritage.ca](http://www.edmontonheritage.ca)

EHC Members.....\$25

Students.....\$15 (includes EHC membership)

Non-members.....\$40 (included EHC membership to June 2011)

\*Fee includes opening reception, morning & afternoon refreshments, lunch and closing reception/wrap-up.

## Register by Mail

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address & Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Tel \_\_\_\_\_

EHC Member (\$25)     Non-Member (\$40)     Student (\$15)

Send to:

Edmonton Heritage Council  
2nd Fl, 10441 - 108 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5H 3Z9

\*Please enclose cheque (preferred) or cash  
Cheques can be made out to: Edmonton Heritage Council



## **Thank you!**

Many thanks to all of the people whose efforts made this event possible.

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