



Community Connections

'Porch'raits - Capturing the Human Spirit during Physical Distancing

Steve Ricketts, a local photographer, is using a creative and fun way to exhibit the resiliency, strength and humour of families and individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Porchraits tells a story while making a difference. Each photo taken is different and I encourage the individuals to bring their own personalities and experiences.”

- **Steve Ricketts**

The Greidanus Family (pictured above), call their porchrait “Outside Wish-itiiviites”. They are a very active family and wanted to reflect activities they love to do. With the closure of rec facilities and parks mixed with the necessary measures to keep the community physically distanced and safe, their outside activities have changed. The Greidanus family happily jumped at Steve Ricketts’s offer as a fun way to stay socially connected and support their local food bank.

Steve does not accept any payment for his porchraits, instead, he encourages those that are able to, to donate to their local food bank. The objective is to have fun and be goofy while promoting and adhering to the COVID-19 AHS policies.

If you are interested in having your porchrait taken, contact Steve Ricketts today.

Steवरicketts.ca

P: (780)982-6055

steवरicketts1@gmail.com

[@steवरickettssp](https://www.instagram.com/steवरickettssp)

“Neighbourhood Services was able to host Cormac Russell in our City on March 11 & 12th, providing our citizens and staff with an interactive experience of workshops and conversation that revealed vibrant, caring communities are all around us. Unfortunately, a key public opportunity was cancelled due to the COVID-19 precautionary measures. We do hope to have the opportunity to have Cormac Russell back at some point in the future.”

- Chantile Shannon, Director Neighbourhood Services

Together Apart: Community Life in Times of Crisis

Monday March 23, 2020 -- Cormac Russell Blog

The reality of COVID-19 is sinking in. This pandemic is likely to be a long and drawn-out one. It also is reasonable to assume that it will not be the last of its kind. Nevertheless, it is encouraging to see that critical public health messages are getting through regarding hand-washing, physical distance, limits on congregation and the need for self-isolation both as a preventive and recovery measure. [Read more](#)

Connecting in Your Neighbourhood

As we support each other during this time of change and uncertainty, we are reminded that while physical distancing is needed to protect our health, not being social is challenging.

In fact, social connection is critical to our wellbeing and feelings of safety and security. Edmontonians seem to get this. Neighbours around our city are reaching out to one another on their block to strengthen connections amongst each other and build new ones.

'[YEG Community Response COVID-19](#)' is a Facebook group that was created in early March to help Edmontonians connect for support and help one another. Since then, the group has grown to over 17,500 members and has been a wealth of community-level information.

Stay home, connect with your neighbours, family and friends via phone and other ways. [Read more](#)

Bag-Half-Full YEG - Promoting Community Health & Accessibility

Medical students from the University of Alberta launched a community initiative to bridge the gap of accessibility to groceries and household items for the elderly and immunocompromised populations within the Edmonton community. [Read More](#)

Maximize your Groceries: Food Waste Prevention Tips

Take advantage of your time at home right now with creative ways to make the most of your groceries, waste less and save more!

Simple steps to prevent wasted food

- Plan ahead and buy only what you need
- Store correctly to avoid food going bad
- Use it all
- Repurpose what you don't eat right away

Ways to make the most of your groceries

- repurpose food scraps using online [food waste resources](#)
- incorporate food waste prevention into at-home learning with [family-friendly educational resources](#)
- turn what you can't eat into [nutrient-rich compost](#)

For more fun, recreate your [restaurant favourites at home](#)

Visit edmonton.ca/foodwaste for more information

Speed Limits in School & Playground Zones

Please slow down. Speeding increases the risk and severity of collisions.

Playground zone speed limits still apply.

With families more likely to be home during the day, they may be using outdoor spaces. EPS and the City have noticed a significant increase in speeding over the past week. Enforcement will continue throughout the city to keep our streets safe.

Office of Traffic Safety: Questions & Answers

Q: Why are you using automated enforcement?

A: Automated enforcement is an important tool to remind drivers to slow down and drive safely. Presence will be prioritized at locations that have seen an increase in speeding. We are paying attention to what is happening on our streets and adjusting our approach to best support everyone's safety.

Q: Why are you telling us right now to slow down? (week of march 25)

A: The Edmonton Police Service and the City of Edmonton have noticed a significant increase in speeding over the past week, particularly at extreme speeds. We are reminding citizens to please help us keep our roads and each other safe by slowing down.

Q: Is photo radar necessary? Couldn't EPS just enforce on their own?

A: Automated enforcement is an important tool to remind drivers to slow down and drive safely. It helps enable the Edmonton Police Service to prioritize its efforts to support response to COVID-19, and it provides an enforcement option that helps support social distancing in that no human contact is required.

Q: What increase have you seen? (week of March 25)

A: Even though there are less vehicles on our roads, speeding has increased across the board. Most concerning is a 30% increase in speeding more than 20 km/h over the speed limit. The number of violations where drivers have been more than 50 km/h over the speed limit has more than doubled in the past week.

Q: Where have you seen the largest increase in speeding?

A: Speeding has increased at locations across the City, but we're seeing examples of extreme speeds on some of our larger roads, such as the Henday, Whitemud, and Yellowhead.

Q: Will photo radar be enforced in new locations?

A: The City of Edmonton will not be present in any locations that have not been previously approved for automated enforcement. We are paying attention to what is happening on our streets and adjusting our approach to best support road safety. Locations that have seen an increase in speeding will be prioritized.

Q: Are you increasing the amount of photo radar?

A: No. We are adjusting our existing deployment schedules to make sure we're prioritizing locations based on where we're seeing an increase in speeding.

Q: Have you considered decreasing the amount of photo radar?

A: Given the increase in speeding over the past week, we are not decreasing automated enforcement presence at this time. We are adjusting our existing deployment schedules to make sure we're prioritizing locations based on where we're seeing an increase in speeding.

Q: With less vehicles on the road, shouldn't you decrease the amount of photo radar?

A: Even though there were approximately 30% less vehicles on our roads in the last week, speeding has increased significantly. Automated enforcement is an important tool in reminding people to slow down and drive safely and will continue throughout the City. Presence at locations that have seen an increase in speeding will be prioritized.

Q: How are you working with EPS on this issue?

A: We work very closely with EPS to keep Edmonton's streets safe. That partnership is as important as ever, and we are in frequent communication about where we are seeing an increase in speeding and how best to collaboratively respond.

Q: Is this just a way to increase the City's budget?

A: No. All automated enforcement fine revenue received by the City is held in the Traffic Safety Automated Enforcement Reserve. This reserve is used to fund traffic safety improvements throughout Edmonton.

Q: Given the economic pressures that citizens are facing, is it insensitive to send out traffic tickets right now?

A: As always, Edmontonians are completely in control of whether they receive a speeding ticket - if you're being a responsible citizen and following the law, you will not receive a fine.

Q: Will people have more time to pay their fines?

A: The Government of Alberta sets timelines and regulations related to paying automated enforcement fines. The City of Edmonton does not have the ability to change these timelines.

For more information, email Laura Henderson at laura.henderson@edmonton.ca.

City Epark Fees Suspended

The City of Edmonton has temporarily suspended parking fees in curbside EPark zones and City-owned EPark parking lots to ensure safe movement for Edmontonians who are out for essential reasons.

Parking patrols are still ongoing and compliance timeframes may be extended for non priority infractions. Parking Enforcement Services are evaluating all parking complaints on a case-by-case basis and priority is given to safety related matters, including the blocking of emergency access routes and accessible parking stalls.

For more information, call 311.

Animal Care & Control Centre (ACCC) - Change in Services

At this time, the Animal Care & Control Centre is unable to accept healthy animals until further notice. We are asking that citizens attempt to find the owner of any healthy stray or lost animal they find.

If you find a lost cat or dog that is healthy we would ask that you:

- Look for a City of Edmonton tag and call 311 to see if they have contact information for the owner
- Bring the animal into a veterinary clinic to check for a microchip (you may wish to call first)
- Walk the animal around the neighbourhood and talk to residents to see if anyone recognizes it.
- Place Found Cat or Dog Posters around the neighbourhood and in mailboxes
- Use online platforms like Facebook, NextDoor, Communibee or Kijiji to find the owner
- Visit edmonton.ca/lostpets

We are still accepting animals that are injured, sick, or in distress, by appointment only. Please call 311 to book an appointment:

- Wounds, limping or bleeding
- A thin or emaciated body
- Physical weakness
- Discharge from the animals eyes or nose
- Inability for the animal to care for themselves (ie. young kittens (under two months of age with NO mother and the finder can't care for them or pups without a mother)
- For a list of more tips on what you can do to reunite pets with their owners and templates to make your own Lost Cat Poster or Paper Collar, visit edmonton.ca/scheduledintake.
- Very pregnant (imminent birth)
- Exposure to cold temperatures -20 or below

We appreciate your understanding and support.

Additional Resources

[City of Edmonton- Public Information about the COVID response](#)

[COVID Information for Albertans](#)