

Edmonton Journal

Front-page flashback Early 1900s look based on medieval manuscripts

This is Day 2 of a weeklong series that will culminate next Tuesday, March 20, with a brand-new masthead — the title on the front page — and an array of new content.

Every day between now and then, we'll feature mastheads from different eras of our history at the top of this page. Today: 1912.

By 1912, *The Journal* had become the "Edmonton Journal" and its first masthead had been replaced with the one above, which is in a typeface called Cloister Black.

This particular typeface had been designed only eight years earlier, in 1904, by Morris Fuller Benton and Joseph Phinney, leading American typeface

designers. However, its look was based on handwritten illuminated manuscripts from Europe in the medieval period.

The Gutenberg Bible, the first major book produced on a printing press, had been set in similar type in the 1450s. So was the first edition of the King James Version of the Bible in 1611.

By the early 1900s, this kind of typeface was rarely seen except on the front pages of newspapers and on diplomas.

However, it had greater lasting power than any other "look" *The Journal* has yet had.

A version of it appeared on the front page for more than six decades, between 1912 and the mid-1970s.

ESTABLISHED 1903

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012

Rec centre reopens after \$110M facelift



JOHN LUCAS, THE JOURNAL
The Commonwealth Community Recreation Centre reopened Tuesday with a new 220,000-square-foot facility that includes this weightlifting area. The facility, at Commonwealth Stadium, closed in 2009 for the facelift, pegged at more than \$110 million. It also includes an aquatic centre, field house and fitness centre. To see more pictures of the Commonwealth rec centre, go to edmontonjournal.com/photos.

Premier made 'stupid move,' Mar's fundraiser chief says

KELLY CRYDERMAN
Calgary Herald
and TRISH AUDETTE
Journal Staff Writer
EDMONTON

The longtime Tory organizer who spearheaded this month's controversial fundraiser for Gary Mar says the premier made a "stupid move" when she suspended Alberta's Hong Kong envoy and called for an ethics investigation into the \$400-a-plate dinner.

John Chomiak, who served as finance chairman for Mar's unsuccessful PC party leadership bid last year, set up the Edmonton Petroleum Club dinner for the former health minister and about 120 supporters on March 1.

Premier Alison Redford placed Mar, her former leadership rival, on an unpaid leave as Alberta's top trade representative in Asia last week, say-

"I think it was a stupid move by the premier. She should have at least had a discussion with me."

John Chomiak, Tory organizer

ing she has serious concerns about whether the fundraiser was "appropriate" given Mar's government post.

"I think it was a stupid move by the premier," said Chomiak, a key fundraiser for former premier Ed Stelmach who has been active in PC party politics for decades.

"She should have at least had a discussion with me ..."

Redford last week asked the province's ethics commissioner to investigate the issue. But the premier's office said Tuesday it's not within

the legal purview of commissioner Neil Wilkinson to investigate.

"It's not within his purview, is what he's communicated to us," Redford spokeswoman Kim Misik said Tuesday. "Mr. Mar is considered a senior official, and so in that case, any alleged code of conduct violations fall under the Public Service Act, not the Conflict of Interest Act, which is the purview of the ethics commissioner."

The investigation now falls to the deputy minister of executive council, Peter Watson — effectively Redford's deputy minister.

"He's going to request an independent review outside of his scope, and that's underway right now, as we speak, finding the proper venue to go through ... so everything's transparent and independent, and so it's got credibility," Misik said.

See MAR SUSPENSION / A2

Ottawa ready to 'gut' laws protecting fish to clear way for pipelines, critics say

PETER O'NEIL
Journal Staff Writer
OTTAWA

The Harper government is planning to gut the powers in federal legislation intended to protect fish habitat, making it easier for projects such as Calgary-based Enbridge Inc.'s Northern Gateway pipeline to B.C. to clear federal hurdles, according

to a retired fisheries biologist who obtained the information from a government source.

Proposed new wording would prohibit activity that would cause an "adverse effect" on "fish of economic, cultural or ecological value," whereas the current law bans activity that results in the "harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat," according to the informa-

tion leaked to Otto Langer.

The changes, if enacted, would result in the total rewriting of the legislation to remove habitat protection provisions that have been in place since 1976, said Langer, a federal biologist for 32 years who later worked for the David Suzuki Foundation before his retirement.

See FISH LAWS / A2

'She just left them there to rot'

Father tells trial of finding children's bodies inside locked bathroom

JANA G. PRUDEN
Journal Staff Writer
WETASKIWIN

When Curtis McConnell got a phone call from Edmonton police saying that his then wife, Allyson, had fallen off a bridge, his first question was: "Where are the kids?"

Curtis McConnell drove straight to the family's bungalow in Millet, where he found the doors locked, the power out in several rooms, and the TV blaring.

He broke down on the witness stand as he described jimmying open the locked bathroom door with a butter knife and finding the bodies of his sons, Connor, 2, and baby Jayden, 10 months.

"I could smell their dead bodies," he said, his voice choked with sobs. "I just dropped to my knees and I reached into the water, and the water was so cold ... They were so cold and stiff. I had to pull them out."

"She just left them there to rot." He said he put the little boys on the floor, but had to look away because he didn't want to see their dead faces.

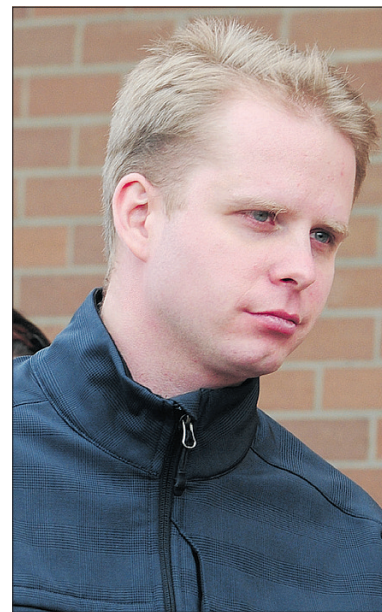
He then ran to a neighbour's house, screaming, "They're dead. Allyson killed them. My children are dead."

Several of his family members and other spectators in the courtroom wept during the testimony. His father, Jim, sobbed into a handkerchief.

In the prisoner's box, Allyson McConnell sat slumped and silent, eyes downcast. Her brow was furrowed and her jaw clenched as her ex-husband described finding the bodies, and she dabbed at her eyes with a tissue. It was the only visible sign of emotion she has displayed since her trial began Monday.

The woman, 33, has admitted to drowning the couple's two sons at the family home on Feb. 1, 2010, but has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder in the boys' deaths. The trial is examining whether she had the requisite intent to commit murder.

During the second day of the trial at Wetaskiwin Court of Queen's Bench,



CANDACE ELLIOTT, THE JOURNAL
Curtis McConnell says his marriage cooled after a trip to Australia in 2009.

edmontonjournal.com

To get updates on the trial throughout the day, go to edmontonjournal.com.

Father files lawsuit against ex-wife / A2

court heard that Curtis McConnell met Allyson Meager on his birthday in 2006, while the two were working at a B.C. ski resort. His future wife, originally from Australia, was in Canada on a working vacation, after travelling around the world.

The couple married quickly, and had two sons. Curtis McConnell said they seemed to be happy at first, but their relationship deteriorated during a visit to Australia after Jayden was born in the spring of 2009.

By that fall, he was living in the basement, and in December he moved out and filed for divorce.

His mother, Audrey McConnell, said the change in the relationship — and in her daughter-in-law — was obvious.

See MURDER TRIAL / A2

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Sunny, windy
High 4
Low -9
Details / D20



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Bridge

THE JOURNAL

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