

Krampusnacht? Group wants to add European flare to Christmas tradition

Whyte Avenue will soon see some above-average scary characters as a group of volunteers parade around dressed as a Christmas devil Thursday.

A group of Edmontonians will be dressed up as part of Krampusnacht, an ancient German Christmas tradition in which Krampus — the Christmas Devil — punishes children for being bad.

"He can be as tame as putting coal in bad kids stockings to kidnapping the children," said Rebecca Reid, one of the participants.

The tradition dates back to when German and Austrian village men used to dress up in hand-carved wooden masks, parade local streets and "scare children into being good," said Reid. The Krampusnacht Edmonton plan to do a similar parade on Dec. 5 (the traditional date), equipped with masks and costumes is only one of two



An ancient European tradition called Krampusnacht.

COURTESY OF KRAMPUSNACHT EDMONTON

groups who mark this Christmas tradition in Canada. This is the second year the group will participate, with hopes of making this European tradition a staple in Edmonton.

"We're hoping to raise a little more awareness so people know who he is lumbering down the street," said Reid.

The group will start at 8 p.m. Thursday at Wunderbar at 8120 - 101 Street.

STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO



Edmonton's roadway maintenance director said the city's neighbourhood snow plowing includes clearing approximately 6,100 kilometres. METRO FILE

... Call Mr. Plow?

'Huge undertaking.'
Snow plows completed neighbourhood clearing yesterday, two-and-a-half days behind the city's goal

LEAH GERMAIN

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When Edmonton resident Trevor Kiers went to back out of his driveway Monday morning, he was left in a frustrating position — a windrow of snow from the previous night's plowing efforts had left his car

high-centred and stuck.

Roadway Maintenance director Bob Dunford said situations like Kiers' are what makes snow removal in Edmonton a huge undertaking for the city.

"It's not an easy task by any means," said Dunford, who added the city has 6,100 kilometres of residential roads to clear during a neighbourhood plowing.

With a goal to plow all neighbourhoods within five days, the city took an extra two-and-a-half days to complete its latest effort.

"This year, we finished up at noon on (Dec. 3), which is halfway into day eight and not a desirable thing, but circum-

Snow removal budget

The city of Edmonton budgeted approximately \$51 million for snow removal in 2013.

stances dictated that," Dunford noted, adding that the city has to approach plowing slightly different than other municipalities due to the way roads are constructed. "The problem we have in Edmonton opposed to many other cities is most of our city — and particularly the residential (areas) — are built with curb-lined sidewalks."

As a result of the curbs, snow is stored on streets, which often leaves a windrow

in front of residents' driveways, like the one Kiers experienced.

The city tries to keep the height of those windrows 30 centimetres or less, Dunford noted.

"As long as the windrow is no more than 30 centimetres, it is the homeowners' responsibility."

With a roster of 50 operators, the city rotates workers on eight-hour shifts day and night. For heavy snowfall, operators will be switched to a 12-hour shift with an overlap between the day and night crew of four hours.

"It's a huge undertaking," Dunford noted. "I don't think people realize we work 24 hours a day."

South of Edmonton

Two men arrested over fight with Mountie

Alberta RCMP have arrested two people following an investigation into a fight where a Mountie fatally shot a man and wounded another on Aug. 3.

Police say Lawrence Cutarm, 63, is charged with assaulting a peace officer with a weapon and other charges.

Laron Cutarm, 28, is charged with assaulting a peace officer and police are still looking for Lee Cutarm, 42, who is wanted on the same charge.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drumheller

Institution locked down after escape attempt

A federal prison in southern Alberta is in lockdown after an inmate was caught trying to escape.

The Correctional Service of Canada says the man suffered minor cuts Sunday when he was caught by guards as he tried to break out of the medium security Drumheller Institution.

An official said the inmate was being treated in an outside hospital for his injuries. Details of the escape attempt, which is under review, were not released. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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