

## SCHOOL NOTES

### Trettler honoured

A dedicated St. Albert trustee and historian received one of her profession's highest honours today, posthumously.

The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta gave the Dick Baker Legacy Award to the late Joan Trettler today during its spring general assembly in Red Deer. Accepting the award (a plaque) on her behalf was her widower, Ron.

Trettler was a teacher, administrator, trustee, and board chair with St. Albert Public for some 44 years and an active volunteer with the board after her retirement. She died Jan. 4 at age 75.

PSBAA director Carol Picard said she knew Trettler through the latter's many years of work with the association, which included four years as its president.

"Joan took so much of her own time to help the newbies," Picard said, referring to Trettler's efforts to mentor new trustees, and was always the voice

of reason and intellect at the PSBAA.

"She was a ferocious advocate for public education and students," she continued, and crisscrossed the province in defence of both.

The Dick Baker award recognizes a trustee who embodies the values of integrity, compassion, respect, and leadership in their support of public education, Picard said. This is only the second time it has been awarded.

"For us as public trustees, it's the highest award you can get," Picard said.

The St. Albert Public board nominated Trettler for this award due to her dedication to children's and public education, said chair Glenys Edwards. "She was a real model of what leadership is."

Trettler also established and chaired the Historical Foundation for School District 6, which organized a series of displays on the history of the St. Albert Protestant district in a room at St. Albert Public district office.

Edwards said that the St. Albert Public board agreed earlier this year to

designate that room the Joan Trettler Heritage Centre, which would officially happen in a ceremony this September.

Speaking prior to the award ceremony, Ron said that Trettler helped establish the Dick Baker Award and would have been proud to receive it. "I'm feeling happy for Joan and sad she's not alive to receive the award."

### Demko open house

St. Albert's newest school will open its doors to the public for the first time this Wednesday.

St. Albert Public Schools is holding an open house for the new Joseph M. Demko School this June 5. It's the first time that the general public will get to see the school's interior.

Located at 200 Jensen Lakes Boulevard next to Sister Alphonse Academy, this K-to-9 school has been under construction since roughly 2017 and is set to open this fall. It was supposed to open last September, but was pushed back by weather delays.

"As you know, construction is never

on time!" joked principal Les Kirchner. Still, the school is all-but complete at this point aside from some finishing touches and the rooftop solar panels, he continued. The school's logo and team name (the Demko Stars) are in place, and the furniture is on order.

"If you walked into a classroom, you'd actually think it's ready to go."

Guests will get to do just that at about 6:30 p.m. this Wednesday during the open house, which will be preceded by a fundraiser barbecue for the school's playgrounds.

Joe Demko, the school's namesake, said he last saw the school's interior two months ago and planned to be at the open house.

"I think the school is probably one of the best schools that's being built in the province right now," he said, joking that he might be a little biased towards it.

The open house runs from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., with tours starting at 6:30. Call Kirchner at 780-218-2497 for details.

[kma@stalbert.greatwest.ca](mailto:kma@stalbert.greatwest.ca)

## Impacts of smoke *Continued from front page*

Dr. Kathryn Koliaska, a medical officer with AHS, said the impacts of the smoke haze really depend on the individual and which way the wind is blowing.

"People who are healthy and aren't typically bothered as much by breathing smoke particles may be fine at a moderate Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) level of five or six but then have some runny eyes or a burning throat if the Air Quality Health Index goes a bit higher to seven or eight," she said. "Whereas little kids who have higher breathing patterns and smaller lungs and smaller bodies or may be asthmatic might have symptoms at a lower number than somebody who has a different health status. So it really does depend."

The shift in air quality also coincides with the annual International Children's Festival of the Arts, which started Tuesday and wraps on Sunday. Koliaska rec-

ommended parents keep a sharp eye on the forecast option for whatever air quality monitor they are following and plan their day accordingly.

"You might say 'oh, well the morning (forecast) is better than the afternoon forecast' or vice versa, whatever that looks like," she said. "You can plan your day accordingly around that. I remember that there were indoor activities as well as outdoor activities. So if the smoke is really bad, indoor air will have some filtration. So taking a break in a cleaner air place is something else people can consider."

To better track the city's air quality, St. Albert opened its first monitoring station in June 2016 at Salisbury Park next to the Sturgeon Reservoir. The station measures a number of components including particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide and ground-level ozone. The station

provides hourly reports online.

Christian Benson, the city's manager of the environment branch, explained the city generally sees spikes in air quality twice a year – once in the spring due to wildfire smoke and the other during the winter.

"We're very familiar with wildfire smoke, it has a direct impact on AQHI (Air Quality Health Index) for St. Albert," he said. "During the winter inversions ... you have those periods of very stale air, low movement in the city. So we also see high AQHI as a result of winter inversions."

He added that St. Albert's air quality is generally good, often in the low-risk range.

As of press time, there are no fire bans or restrictions in place in St. Albert. Residents are encouraged to visit the city's website or AlbertaFireBans.ca for updates.

[jlabin@stalbert.greatwest.ca](mailto:jlabin@stalbert.greatwest.ca)

St. Albert Public Schools

# Discover Demko



## Welcome to our newest school, Joseph M. Demko School

We offer English and Logos Christian programming for students in Kindergarten to Grade 9

Join us on  
**Wednesday, June 5**

Playground BBQ Fundraiser	5:30-6:30 pm
Administrators' Welcome Message	6:30 pm

**Tours to follow**

Everyone is welcome to come and see our beautiful new school!

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**Joseph M. Demko School**  
Principal: Les Kirchner  
[les.kirchner@spschools.org](mailto:les.kirchner@spschools.org)  
[jmd.spschools.org](http://jmd.spschools.org) • 780.218.2497





St. Albert

PUBLIC SCHOOLS




District Administration Office, 60 Sir Winston Churchill Avenue  
780.460.3712 • [www.spschools.org](http://www.spschools.org)