

John Janzen Nature Centre celebrates 40 years of River Valley fun

August 28, 2016

John Janzen Nature Centre, located in the heart of the river valley, first opened its door to the public in 1976. On August 28, 2016, Edmontonians gathered at the Centre to celebrate the past four decades of learning and adventure.

Councillor Andrew Knack, alongside Dr. Bob Turner, Edmonton-Whitemud MLA and Don Hussey, President of Edmonton Nature Centres Foundation provided greetings during the anniversary celebrations and spoke to how the John Janzen Nature Centre has shaped the river valley.



"The John Janzen Nature Centre has been a staple in our community for 40 years", says Councillor Knack. "As a highlight of our remarkable river valley landscape, we are proud to celebrate this tremendous achievement and commemorate 40 years of Edmontonians growing their appreciation for nature."

The nature centre was a project of the late John Janzen, Superintendent of Edmonton's then-named Parks and Recreation Department from 1966 to 1972. Janzen played an integral role in the vision of today's river valley and Edmonton's many parks. Today, the Nature Centre still offers similar courses that were available 40 years ago including junior naturalist activities, living displays and workshops.

"Today was a celebration of exploring, learning and growing with nature in our own backyard," says Denise Prefontaine, Director, John Janzen Nature Centre. "We look forward to a future of continued excellence in programming and building awareness of the wonders of nature."

Special activities throughout the day's event included children's entertainment, nature crafts and bannock-making by the fire pit. Drop in programming including Trail Tales, the new partner program with the Edmonton Public Library, was also available for visitors to explore the surrounding nature through storytelling.

For more information:

edmonton.ca/johnjanzen

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