



# 50 Buck: Traversing the Town for Sweetness and Light

This E-town weekend, I'll lavish my \$50 budget on chocolates, daffodils, and quality cinema

Published January 24, 2008 by Paula Cornell in City

\$10: Drop-in Life Drawing at Harcourt House

Friday night, after strolling across the High Level Bridge and meandering through the old neighbourhoods downtown, I'll make my way to Harcourt House for the "life drawing" sessions. I haven't made a lot of art since before Christmas when I was frantically crafting presents for family and friends, so a three-hour session at Harcourt will be a welcome revival of my skills.

## **\$2.50: Cupcake at The Whimsical Cake Studio**

Saturday morning I will ride the Number 30 River Ridge to one of Edmonton's finest cupcake shoppes, The Whimsical Cake Studio (14910 Riverbend Rd.). I will feast first with my nose, as I enter the tiny bright shop and take in the sweet, delectable scents of vanilla and chocolate that await my watering tastebuds. I'll enjoy the many beautiful colours and styles of cupcakes to be found in the front display counter, before perhaps selecting an old favourite—a fluffy white cake with sky blue coconut icing—or trying something new.

\$14: Daffodils at Eden Lilly

After savouring the sweet delight of my cupcake, I will make my way to Eden Lilly (10416-82 Ave.), one of Edmonton's newest flower shops. I discovered this little shop one day when I stepped off the bus right in front of the storefront. If there are any daffodils left I will buy two bunches (\$7 each) and head out with a bounce in my step to engage in a little random act of kindness by leaving one bunch on someone's doorstep—good karma points—and then head off to an old folks' home near my house to visit with the elderly and share the bright yellow cheerfulness with them. Double-good karma.

\$10: Movie at The Princess or Garneau

À la my favourite movie, *Amélie*, I will take in a show at one of Edmonton's independent theatres, snuggle into one of the creaky seats, and lose myself in the latest foreign film, environmental documentary, or indie masterpiece playing on the big screen. Perhaps I will look back into the dark theatre and peek at the faces of the other moviegoers like *Amélie* does!

\$8.50: Chocolate at the Italian Centre Shop

Sundays are the best days in my opinion. They are the days of sleeping in, long strolls in the Millcreek Ravine, curling up in bed with a good book, or going for coffee with a good friend. I will treat my friend Ellen to our favorite spot, the Italian Centre Shop (5028-104A St.). We'll walk down every row looking at all the different foods and taking in the smells of freshly baked breads, olives, and fine cheeses, pretending we're in Europe before we predictably settle on bars of Ritter Sport Chocolate: perfectly square bars of varying chocolatey goodness, some dark, some milk, and my favourite, filled with a light and flavorful coconut paste. Then we'll head to the university for our last adventure of the weekend.

\$5: Sunday Mass at St. Joseph's College

Sunday evenings at 9 p.m. I often make my way to St. Joseph's College (11325-89 Ave.) for mass. I think it's a nice way to end a good Sunday. Mass at the College is unlike other church services; there are few pews, the rest is open space where people young and old crowd to sit on the floor in front of the priest. I enjoy the music, and the sermon is thought-provoking and mind-enriching. I always leave with a new thought and light heart, so the remainder of my 50 bucks will end up in the collection basket before I call it a night and get ready for another work week.