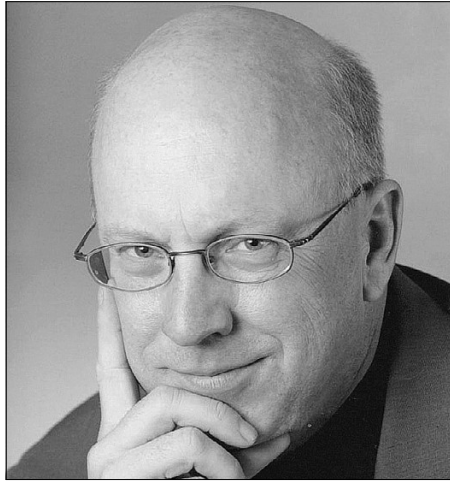
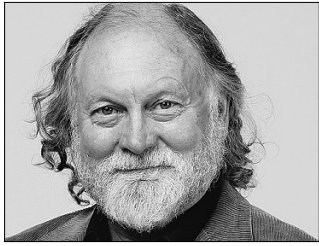


# Helping develop a great future

Greg Christenson a tireless builder, volunteer

Nick Lees



Greg Christenson is co-owner of Christenson Developments.

There was **Nguon Nguyen**, the chief of taxation services when Ho Chi Minh City fell, who came to Edmonton and created classes that have helped other immigrants.

There was **Henry Mah**, who arrived in Canada in 1948 and built an extensive network of resources to help Chinese newcomers.

And there was Indian-born **Zora Singh Jhaji**, who arrived here in 1993 and has helped amateur athletic events, Sikh academic scholarships, long-term-care facilities and inner-city services.

"Edmonton has a great future," says developer **Greg Christenson**. "It's all about attracting the right people, people such as this. We don't need just yuppies."

"These people came to our city looking for an opportunity. We must globally embrace them. They see Canada as a bastion of freedom and enterprise."

It was hard to tell who was the more excited Wednesday at the fifth annual Sage Awards honouring the outstanding achievements and contributions of seniors in our community.

There were the eight recipients, their families and friends — and there was Christenson, honorary chair of the Sage Awards and president and co-owner of Christenson

Developments, one of Edmonton's leading developers of active adult condominiums and urban villages.

The developer was genuinely excited about being in the Sutton Place ballroom with people he said had "broken new ground and built a better world" for our community.

He knows all about building. For eight years, from 2001 to 2008, his company was named the Canadian Home Builders Association, Edmonton Region, Multi-family Builder of the Year.

His award-winning projects include:  
 • Railtown on old railway lands;  
 • Creekside on the former Gainers meat-packing plant in the Mill Creek area;  
 • Devonshire Village on Rabbit Hill Road;  
 • Centre on the Park, a partnership with Strathcona County; Citadel Village in St. Albert and the new Bedford Village in Sherwood Park.

Christenson, 55, winner of many other top building awards, probably has building

in his genes. His grandfather, **Andrew Christenson**, came from Norway at the age of 17 and built houses and barns with his brother. Christenson's late father, **Lloyd**, got his first taste of carpentry at age 16 and later ran a successful construction business.

Christenson graduated from the University of Alberta with a civil engineering degree in 1979 and followed his father into the building business. He designed and built more than 1,000 rental units and then considered himself fortunate through the recession of the early 1980s. "When Alberta real estate had its downturn, we went into the property management of foreclosed and investor-owned properties. Today, we now manage more than 3,000 units."

In 1989, Christenson and **Peter Dirksen** formed Christenson Developments to create new adult bungalow and apartment communities.

His day often begins with a business or charity breakfast before he goes at breakfast speed until evening, when he is often at a fundraising event.

Christenson is president of the CHBA Alberta and past president of the national body.

He is also a past chair of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce and chairs the Stick It to Alzheimers Pro-Am Hockey Tournament.

A few of the many other organizations he helps include: Habitat for Humanity, NAIT, MacEwan University, NorQuest College, Festival Place, Pilgrims Hospice, Art Gallery of Alberta, Catalyst Theatre, YMCA, Realtors Foundation, the Indy-car race and Zin on the River.

Says Christenson: "Here in Canada, we have already won the lottery. We have good people of many nationalities. We need to work together and think long term."

nlees@edmontonjournal.com

**Sudoku Classic**  
 Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.

	5		8					9
7					9	4		
				1	2	6		
1							4	
6	2		7		9		8	
	8							7
		4	5	3				
		3	1					4
1					8		3	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Sudoku solution E7 / Mind Games D11

## STRAW VOTE

Should the city boost parking fines by \$25 to help cover the cost of licence plate searches?

- ▶ 43% — No, this is an obvious cash grab by the city.
  - ▶ 22% — Yes, those plate checks are important.
  - ▶ 31% — No, the city taxes us enough. When will it end?
  - ▶ 4% — I don't have a car.
- There were 615 votes.

To vote in our online polls, go to [www.edmontonjournal.com](http://www.edmontonjournal.com)

David Staples' Cult of Hockey  
[edmontonjournal.com/blogs](http://edmontonjournal.com/blogs)

# 'My instinct says he is out there, needs help'

Missing soldier loved his job, mom says

JULIANNA CUMMINS  
 Journal Staff Writer  
 EDMONTON

Before he enlisted with the military, Master Cpl. Richard Curnow wanted to train as an actor at the Vancouver Film School.

"Acting was his first thought after school," said his mother, Susan Curnow. "I could see that he likes to work with people together, in a team."

However, his love of camaraderie also made a military career appealing. While Susan was "gobsmacked" by her son's decision, she took him to a recruitment office to enlist with the Canadian Forces.

"He served his country and he loved doing it," she said.

Curnow, 25, disappeared on the morning of May 5 while jogging along the North Saskatchewan River near Emily Murphy Park.

He was training with eight other soldiers for the Canadian Death Race, a 125-kilometre race in late July through the mountains near Grande Cache.

He was last seen during the first few kilometres of the run, which started near Hawrelak Park.

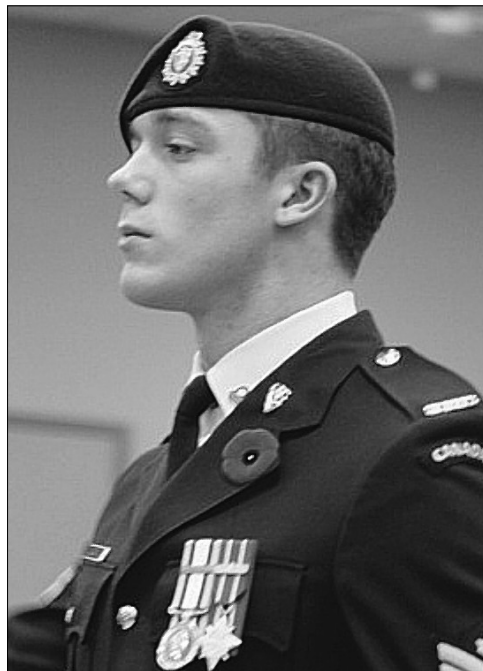
"My mother's instincts, if you like, are saying that he's out here and he needs help. Because there is no way in hell that boy would voluntarily leave his daughter, or us, or the army. That is not in his mindset."

Until Curnow was 11, the family lived in England, where Susan grew up. Her husband is from British Columbia and wanted to move back to Canada. The family settled in Carstairs, north of Calgary.

While her son's decision to become a soldier surprised her, he was not the first person in his family interested in a military career. His older brother wanted to join the army, but a medical condition prevented him from doing so. His grandfather also served in the military.

Curnow joined in April 2004 and served two tours in Afghanistan. He most recently worked in the counter-explosives unit.

The family can now only wait for word about



Master Cpl. Richard Curnow, shown at a Remembrance Day ceremony in Carstairs, has been missing since May 5.

his whereabouts.

"He doesn't have anything with him, and the one phone number he would remember would be ours," his mom said.

On Friday, a group of Curnow's friends and family will search the river valley again. A police and military search for the soldier found no clues.

Justine MacKenzie-Curnow, Richard's estranged wife, said everyone is running on hope. "We just can't believe that we may have lost him."

As soon as MacKenzie-Curnow woke up Thursday morning, she realized it has been a week since the missing soldier was last seen.

"It's just seven days of being raked over the coals, again and again."

jcummins@edmontonjournal.com

# Mentally ill man not responsible in father's death

Calgary Herald  
 CALGARY

A Calgary man who bludgeoned his father to death because he believed demons had taken him over has been found not criminally responsible, because of a mental disorder.

Court of Queen's Bench Justice Sandra Hunt McDonald cited the expert testimony of two psychiatrists who concluded that Ranjit Singh, 31, was suffering from schizophrenia and was psychotic when he struck Harinder Singh, 60, in the head as he slept on Dec. 7, 2009.

"I'm convinced the Crown has established proper foundation to make the finding that Ranjit Singh was not criminally responsible for the death of Harinder Singh by virtue of a mental disorder," said Hunt McDonald.

She ordered that the man, who had faced a charge of second-degree murder, be transferred to Alberta Hospital in Edmonton and be assessed by the Mental Health Review Board within 45 days.

Postmedia News

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## WORD of the DAY

**ensconce**

\in-SKAHNSS\ (verb)

**DEFINITION:** to establish or settle firmly, comfortably, or snugly

*Robin called home to say she was happily ensconced in a new job.*

POSTMEDIA/  
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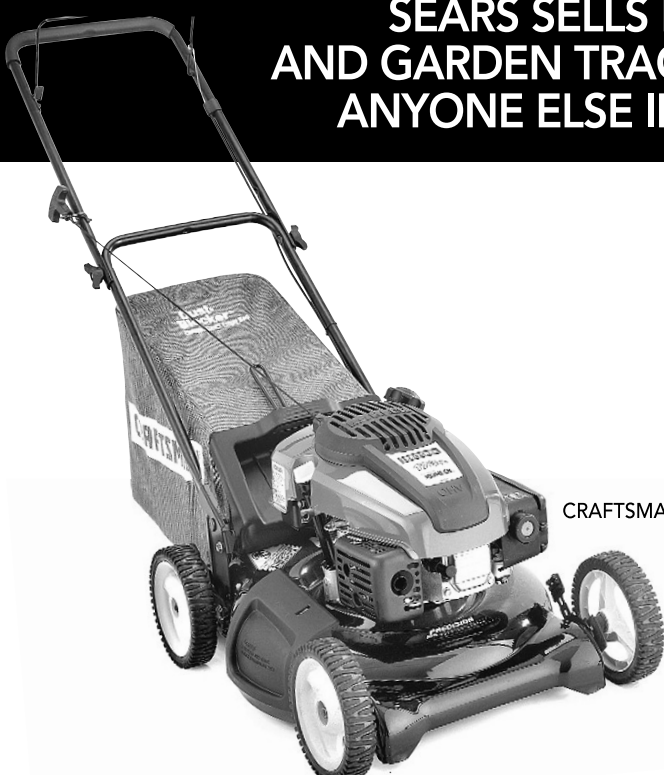
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