

Angels seize the moment

By Jeff Cummings
21 April 2008 01:23

The founder of a controversial crime-fighting group says Edmontonians need to help stop assaults rather than just call police to report a violent crime.

Commenting on the slaying of Edmonton senior Hans Albert Wednesday afternoon, Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa says people have to be vigilant because in a booming Alberta, random attacks will become more common.

"This guy was attacked when people were all around," Sliwa told Metro yesterday before the Edmonton chapter's graduation ceremony. "People just don't know what to do other than to call police, but that's not good enough.

"In this case, the wife fought back to defend her husband, so why didn't others step in?"

The Guardian Angels, which has a seven member chapter in Edmonton, along with chapters in Red Deer and Calgary, is a New York-based street patrol group known for their red berets and matching red jackets. Each Angel is trained in CPR, first aid and self defence.

After unveiling its new headquarters in Edmonton yesterday, local Angels were seen

patrolling the crime scene at the strip mall on Stony Plain Road and 149 Street.

Witnesses say Albert was helping his wife into the car when he was stabbed multiple times by an attacker.

Police have charged a 23-year-old man in connection with Albert's death. Haldane Alexander Jensen-Huot was arrested in Regina and charged with second-degree murder. The motive for the attack is still unknown, police said.

Several disturbing entries were seen on the accused killer's public Facebook webpage, including a post that was recorded about six hours after the attack.

"Haldane cries a lot ... not as much as the last few years though," wrote Jensen-Huot at 11:05 p.m. April 16.

-jeff.cummings@metronews.ca



ben lempers/metro edmonton

Curtis Sliwa, founder of the Guardian Angels, speaks yesterday about the need for citizens to take action, at the Edmonton chapter's new home at 89 Street and Yellowhead trail.