

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

Aug. 15, '86

Cash for Centre in city plan

There will be changes at Carnegie if the city gets approval for the \$582,000 it has budgeted for renovations to the Centre. The plan will go to the voters for a yes or no vote in November, but the Capital Plan, which contains provision for the money, will be reviewed by City Council in meetings beginning soon.

Max Beck, Director of Social Planning for the city urged the Carnegie Centre Association Board, at their last meeting, to send representatives to Capital Plan meetings, and this will be done. The Capital Plan determines the way in which city funds will be allocated for 1987-90.

There has already been a lot of discussion about the way the money could be used if it is approved. Main concern is use of the space we have to the best advantage. Talks have revolved around findings in the Cates Study which

suggested that the lounge, library and coffee room consistently carry more people than there is room for, with other areas, such as the pottery room and child-minding being under-used.

Proposals include structural changes-continuing the spiral staircase into the basement, for example; increased lounge and coffee space, more storage and office space and so on.

The Cates Study said that 54% of our patrons live within the neighbourhood, and 46% come from outside. And more than two-thirds take part in quiet socialising activities, such as sitting and relaxing, visiting the library or playing quiet games.

The Newsletter would like to know what changes you think should be made - in the physical set-up or to programs. Write and let us know - we'll print the letters.



Well, it's not fancy, but this is the first issue of a new paper for Carnegie people - by Carnegie people. We have no money, but that's okay. What we do have are people .. the best kind of people, nearly 150 of you using the place every hour of every day. One hundred and fifty stories an hour. A goldmine. When we get rolling it'll be the best little paper in town.

A lot of people in this place will tell you everybody wants something. Right! What we want are stories. You can write them down or come down to the Newsletter office in the basement and have us write them. We'll put them in your words, or we'll help you find the words. Bring art work, poems, cartoons, photos.. whatever you have. And we'll try very hard to make this newsletter worthy of the people who come to the Centre. Meantime have a real good day. My special thanks to the contributors and volunteers who put together this first issue.

ALAN METTRICK
Newsletter Co-ordinator



EVERYBODY SHUT UP! ..How many times have you felt like screaming that when people are arguing about the financial aspects of the programs and various activities at Carnegie.

We've had problems in the past and since then various systems have been set up to keep tabs on what money is spent and where. What burns me is that too many people are being called thief, when the main trouble is that no one really knows, amid

the mass of receipts, bills, meetings, minutes, records and on and on..

It is not hopeless, and new people are being serious and responsible in putting the mess in coherent order. It will take time but the more precise we are the better. This mess must be dealt with at the same time as all the daily and future financial matters must be co-ordinated and planned.

In the meantime, please, let's stop looking for scapegoats and calling each other names. Okay?

PAUL TAYLOR

Small stone sacred to Eddie

The Carnegie Centre's Eddie Eagle Base doesn't need expensive jewellery or necklaces -- instead he has a stone that is special to him, that he polishes and wears.

The best rocks - sacred rocks he calls them - come from places where the native Indians used to make pilgrimages, says Eddie. But anyone can harness the magic of rocks with a stone that is special to them, perhaps because it comes from a special place or has been given as a gift by somebody special.



"Sometimes you walk on a beach and see a special stone. Keep it and use it" he said. "You can use it to meditate.. close your eyes and look at the sun or the ocean or birds. Hold the stone or just keep it with you - just like a Christian cross - and it will turn into joy we call The Ultimate. It is open to anybody who wants to make it work. The stone

will keep you from faslling off track in your life, keep you permanent as a rock.."

The 45-year-old Dene was originally from Yellowknife - but says that Carnegie is a home for him when he is in town. He has his own sacred stone, a piece of smooth Argolite.

"The key thing is to follow the sacred path of Mother Earth and feel the presence of rocks, trees, sky."

Eddie has just come back from a long trip, and he hopes sometime soon to start a healing qworkshop using sacred stones, light touch massage and spiritual training.

Call Sheila for advice

Free welfare advocacy available from Sheila Baxter at the Downtown Eastside Womens Centre, 217 Main Street.

Sheila told the Newsletter that women who need help can reach her at the Womens Centre on Mondays from 1-2pm, or Wednesday and Thursdays from 1-3pm - or 'phone her at 681-8480. Men who need help should telephone.

Learn how to work in wood

If you like to work with wood or you have a project you would like to undertake, the Community Woodwork Shop is the place.

The Shop is in the basement of Carnegie Centre and is for the use of downtown eastside residents. Co-ordinator Kel Baker is available to advise, and help anyone do a home project.

Woodwork Shop members have unlimited access to the shop during the hours it is open for a annual fee of \$10. They must pass a safety and skill test. A nominal user fee is charged to non-members, to cover the cost of maintaining the equipment. Lumber and materials should be supplied by the user, although the woodshop may purchase the required materials on a prepaid basis.

If you want to build something in wood but can't decide what sort of project to tackle, Kel has plenty of plans and ideas to help out. and if you don't know how to start he'll be happy to teach you how to use the equipment and tools safely.

Hours of operation:

10am to 6pm - Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday and
Friday.

2pm to 10pm - Thursday

Noon to 8pm - Sunday

The shop is closed on
Saturdays

If you have any questions
you can 'phone 665-2222 or
drop in during the hours
listed above and talk to Kel.

Scrap hardwood - maple,
walnut, mahogany, teak,
etc., needed by woodshop.
Donations would be
appreciated; any length,
any dimensions.

Give Robin a welcome!

Robin Sobrino is Carnegie's
new community programmer. Dan
Tetrault will be taking some
courses in the Fall, but will
continue to work here part-
time.

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Aug 15-16: City workers will
be at Carnegie, in the main
lounge, to register voters
and explain the new
computerized voting machines.
Times: 12-8pm and 10-6pm

Aug 31: Music Guild Concert
at Firehall Theatre. 8pm

Small change spells success

Nickels and dimes are adding up to a big success story for Carnegie Centre seniors.

The money they make on the cups of coffee they sell has left them with a decent bank balance, and opened the door to a lot of outdoor activities.

Twenty three seniors went to Capilano Camp in July for three days - fished, played cards, and enjoyed beautiful scenery. And they have regular summer trips to various lakes.

And behind it all is the coffee they sell ... with a dose of compassion.

"If a man is sick and broke we might give him free coffee. He'll come back next day or the day after and say the seniors were nice to me, and he may give us a dollar" Seniors president Danny Korica told us.

"People are sure we're going to be on the main floor selling coffee and cookies every Wednesday, and they're not afraid to be five or ten cents short."

Television is the main attraction in the lounge, especially when the news is on, or for football games. Right now, with the good weather, there's

usually room for everyone, but when winter comes Danny expects it to be standing room only. "The lounge is used much more than people imagine", he said..over the clatter of nickels and dimes.

Freight cars still danger

Like a long freight, the issue of dangerous chemicals being transported through the area goes on and on..

Tora reports a recent sighting, mid-afternoon July 29, of two black railway tank cars marked Sulphuric Acid, and two similar cars marked Sulphur Dioxide, along with five numbered but unmarked black tank cars of the type which commonly move dangerous substances. The cars were moving east from Canada Pl past Crab Park.

A city study made public last year said the area right up to Georgia Viaduct and Venables Street would be affected by a chemical explosion from a rail car on the waterfront. And the downtown Eastside and Chinatown would be prime targets.

Cut-price deal for newcomers to pool-room

There's a cut-price deal for people who like to play pool on the second floor. From now until the end of September \$2.50c will buy a membership.

New cards will be issued October 1 at the usual \$5, full year price.

With more than 200 members and money in the bank the pool room is a busy, thriving place. And it's such a nice room - with a view of the busy Main, Hastings junction - that some people pay the five dollars just to be able to visit, says president Paul Taylor.

"We have a solid nucleus of ten or twelve members who voluntarily put tips on cues, brush the tables down and so on" he said. "Having something to do contributes to the community feeling for them, as it does for me."

The big pool table has been recovered recently at a cost of nearly five hundred dollars and the smaller one will be done within a month or so.



Food Bank's big bonanza

Tons of produce are being shipped from the Okanagan to help feed Vancouver's hungry.

Six weekly loads of fruit and vegetables will leave Oliver, bound for the Food Bank, courtesy of the upcountry growers.

"Our bottom line is feeding people" farmers spokesman Graham Nelson told us. "Sometimes, with all the talk of markets and so on, we lose sight of that."

The growers link with the Food Bank here is a former church minister who knows the farmers well but now lives here and serves on the Food Bank Board.

ONE VIEW OF CARNEGIE

By PAUL TAYLOR

Living in the downtown eastside or living in the area of town known as Skid Road; it depends on your own point of view. When talking to a person from elsewhere, you may use both terms and be right in both ways, but living here yourself it's clearer to choose one term for your own peace of mind.

The Carnegie can grow on you. Skid Road brings things like bars, fights, theft, drugs, end-of-the-road and almost futile survival/existence.

Almost always this lifestyle is carried out on somebody else's terms: Welfare, Police, landlords, etc...

Carnegie is like an oasis in a desert. Coffee is 30¢, a sandwich is 75¢, soup is 60¢, membership cards are \$1/yr for games, sports equipment, films; pool is \$5 a YEAR!! There is one of the best small libraries anywhere. Sober and straight people are welcome.

Staring at walls or getting sucked into watching TV for days or weeks at a time would drive anybody to drink. The diversity of activity at Carnegie is both positive and progressive. There is nothing worse than to stand at a bar

for nothing but that the time passes quickly so you don't go insane (quietly or otherwise).

When I first arrived in Vancouver, the longest time to be here was set at one month. That was in 1982!!! My physical disorder is a cumulative effect. The causes: starvation, malnutrition, poison, malnutrition, dysentery, malnutrition. If you're aware of the difference, then replace starvation with fasting. There are two clinics on the planet, one in West Germany and one in Sweden; help may be available. In '82, the idea was to win a lottery or be given enough money to continue. Waiting for a chance has been hard but if a bunch of people in the downtown eastside/Skid Road hadn't been adamant in creating this haven and keeping life ALIVE, I would be either completely nuts or dead.

Busy..Busy..

During July, an average of 147 patrons used Carnegie every hour of every day. Information fielded 2030 enquiries during the same month. Busy place!

Tourney date is changed

Bruce Jackson, a former Carnegie volunteer, is pinch-hitting as kitchen co-ordinator, after Murray Jamieson left to take a job as Manager of the Fraserview Golf Course Clubhouse.

Fifty or sixty women are passing through the doors of the Downtown Eastside Womens Centre every day. The Centre is at 217 Main Street.

A fundraising concert for the Centre Music Guild is planned for Subnday August 31 at the Firehall Theatre. Five or six bands will perform, and admission will be around \$3. To support the Guild - and have a good time - get your tickets from any Music Guild member.

The provincial division of TB Control is continuing to hold two X-Ray clinics a month in the downtown Eastside, and has asked local agencies to try to persuade residents to go in for an X-Ray. Physicians in the area are being made aware of all aspects of the disease. The impact of these measures is expected to be significant after several years.

Seventeen teams will be competing in the Centennial Slo-Pitch Tournament Sept. 13-21/86. The time was changed due to lack of funds from the Centennial Foundation.

The games will be played in 3 fields, two fields being in Strathcona Park and one field at Oppenheimer Park.

The List of Teams that will be in this Tournament: Nonames, Blue Demons, Bullets, Braves, Co-op, Cougars, Dragons, Panthers, Performers, Royals, Rowdies, Scorpions, Spartans, The Edge, Thunderbirds, Evictors and the Wolverines.

CRAB festival

It's a big weekend at CRAB and Oppenheimer parks in the Downtown Eastside. The third annual Water of Life Festival kicks off Saturday and there will be games, entertainment, public speakers - all in celebration of water. There will be canoe races Saturday from CRAB beach, and plays and public speakers as the weekend progresses. Monday is kids day at Oppenheimer.

A flame will burn in Vancouver until nuclear disarmament is a reality. A Peace Flame Monument was announced during Hiroshima Day ceremonies recently, to be located in Seaforth Park at the south end of the Burrard Street bridge - gathering place for participants in the annual Vancouver Peace March.

The Carnegie Centre's Dave Maconnell wrote the following poem for the Newsletter on the Nuclear issue - and the difference between where most of us want to go and where we actually seem to be headed.

It wasn't the fault of the Robin,
Nor of the Eagle;
But man had an arms race,
And a nuclear power race.

Are they rushing to see
Who can blow us up the fastest?

Poor sky: strange particles and distortions,
And the nuclear waste in lands and waters.
Did someone say stop!
Didn't we?

But the arms and the nuclear race goes on,
And still, it wasn't the fault of the robin
Or the Eagle.

Eagle..hesitate..
Won't you take me with you,
(It's harder for me to travel, you see)
Over to the Land in ancient Galilee,
Where life is still so simple,
In its' fierce complexity.

Eagle, hesitate..
Won't you take me with you?

At one time love meant caring;
And doing things together,
And nights of touching, healing, soothing.
Did something go wrong that I didn't see?
Eagle.. hesitate.

Two seats open on Board

There will be elections in September to fill two seats on the Carnegie Centre Association Board.

One of the gaps was created when Bharbara Gudmundson left the Board after a complicated procedural wrangle during last week's Board meeting. It began with her non-confidence motion in all members of the Exec. except for Richard Rooley (Tora) -- and ended after lengthy debate when she handed her Association card over to President Harvey Bowers.

The basic issue was the food program at Oppenheimer Park, and a concern expressed by the Parke Place Cafe that it was unfair competition. The Cafe wanted to take over the program, and members of the Exec. who supported this had suggested that statistics might be kept by Cafe staff so that any parental negligence could be exposed to the Ministry of Human Resources. Tora opposed this, charging it was "a rather nasty thing which could erode the confidence of the people of the community in the Board and the Centre.."

Gudmundson agreed and said it was "disgusting" that the Board would even consider passing on data collected through the free food program.

Those who supported the plan said they were only trying to create a statistical base to prove to MHR that certain children in the Downtown Eastside need extra help. No names would be collected or passed on.

It ended when President Bowers ruled Gudmundson ineligible to vote because there was, he said, some question over whether she was a legitimate member of the Association. Her regular place of employment was said to be the issue.

In any event the City's Director of Social Planning, Max Beck, who attended the meeting, had a letter read which indicated that effective immediately the city, through the Centre, would re-institute the food program, providing beverages and snacks at Oppenheimer. He said it would not be practical or effective for Parke Place Cafe to run the program on a tax concession basis.

There will be an interim meeting of the Board on August 21 - with the regular meeting the first Thursday in September.

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In the month of June 138 volunteers contributed 4316 hours of service to Carnegie.

As a regular feature, we'll offer space to Carnegie Centre patrons to tell us their stories, however simple or complex. Don Hodgson, 53, who used to help police Oppenheimer Park for the Centre, and is a nice guy, kicks it off.

I went East at the end of April, to visit some relatives in Saskatchewan. I stopped off in Calgary and got on a bus and there was a Chinese bus driver wearing a red Stampeders sweater, and he told me where to go for a decent haircut in Chinatown. I was the first customer of the day and this Chinese barber gives me a cigarette, puts on the coffee and then he gives me a haircut. He didn't do a bad job, and it was nice..the cigarette and the coffee, and I guess I lost my head. His price was four dollars and I gave him five.

I walked around looking at the tall buildings. I found that in Calgary they put all their tall buildings in one place. I thought; how foolish - one bomb and they're gone. They should spread them out the way we do here.

Altogether I travelled four thousand miles by Greyhound. I didn't want to have anything to do with the Expo opening. After Calgary I caught a

night bus, sat up front by the driver and was wide-eyed all the way to Saskatoon. Once when we had a stop I got off, got a cigar and smoked it. I stayed a week with a cousin in Rosetown. He's a seed farmer. I couldn't help him much because I don't understand farming any more, now it's all mechanised. I walked along the river, looked at a few monuments. I met a Cree woman with dirty moccasins. I went to the YMCA to take a shower for a dollar fifty. There was a serviceman there with two rings and braid on his cap. I said what does that make you? He said a captain. I was in the navy, and in my day I told him you had to have four rings. Then I went to visit my other cousin 24 miles east of Saskatoon. He lives in an old pool room, converted. He changed the windows on the front, sealed up the front door. You go in the back door. There was a noticeboard outside the village hall and it was full of auction sales..

people selling out. I visited with some farmers I know. Always got there at mealtimes. That's the way the bums were in the thirties. I had to watch my money. I didn't fool around in Calgary on the way back, but I stopped off near Cranbrook and got a job working for an old farmer. He was 81 years old. He paid me minimum wage, \$3.65. and I put in his garden, built fences for him. He had three ducks, black with red beaks. There was an old bathtub laying there and he figured the ducks needed water. There was a hole in the tub but he plugged it up, put some boards up to it, and sure enough they walked up on it and dunked right in the water. He had quite a menagerie. He lived in a trailer with big blocks and wheels he had built underneath. He said he could move his trailer with this contraption to face any way he wanted, but it never moved while I was there. He sat on a barrel and watched me work. I was there about a week and one day a young guy in a pickup with a canoe on top drove in and I figured, here's another

applicant for the job. The old guy really wanted a welder and as soon as I saw the new guy I said I guess I'd better get the bus for Vancouver. Now I'm back and I got a volunteer job with Meals on Wheels. They said they might pay me a couple of bucks too.

TB figures

by Lyle Nystrom

There are fewer cases of tuberculosis in the downtown Eastside.

A report on the North Health Unit's case-finding program gives the number of new cases for the first half of this year as 13 - compared with 26 a year earlier. There were 17 cases on preventive treatment a year ago, but only nine from Jan. to June this Year.

The reason for the drop is still not clear, says the report, issued by Medical Health Officer Dr. John Blatherwick. It could be because of increased public health work in the area - or it could just be a population shift. The study area is bounded by Burrard Street, Clark Drive, Water Street, and Terminal Avenue.