

FREE - donations accepted.

# Carnegie

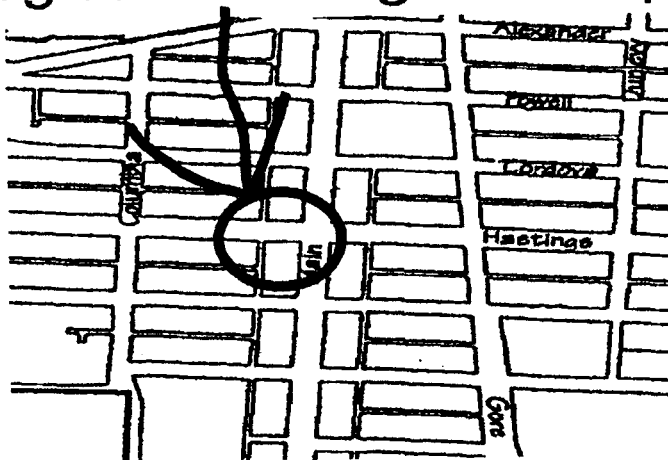
## NEWSLETTER



JUNE 1, 1999.

401 Main Street, Vancouver V6A 2T7 (604) 665-2220

**Carnegie AGM**  
**Thursday, June 3**  
**at 6:30pm**  
registration begins 5:30pm



### President's Report

Wow, the year has come and gone. A lot happened during this year - turmoil and emotions pounding the streets of our community and walking the floors of Carnegie - but we rose above it all by keeping our efforts in the public eye and including as many people as possible.

My term as President gave me the opportunity to work with many people on different levels on the board, with staff and City officials.

Filling this position would not have been possible without the support of both staff and the majority of the board. Each board member contributed in one way or another.

Our Board took a beating this year. Some of my board members were verbally attacked and given the silent treatment. When push came to shove we took the high road -

- By attending workshops,
- By making suggestions at the committee meetings
- By listening to volunteers at both committee and board meetings.

This is called communication and cooperation.

As you will see through all the reports, we kept busy trying to maintain safety in our community and fulfilling the needs of our members. I would like to thank:

- the board members who gave support during the difficult times.
- all the staff involved with committees and attending board meetings
- the volunteers who put countless hours into keeping our Centre open.

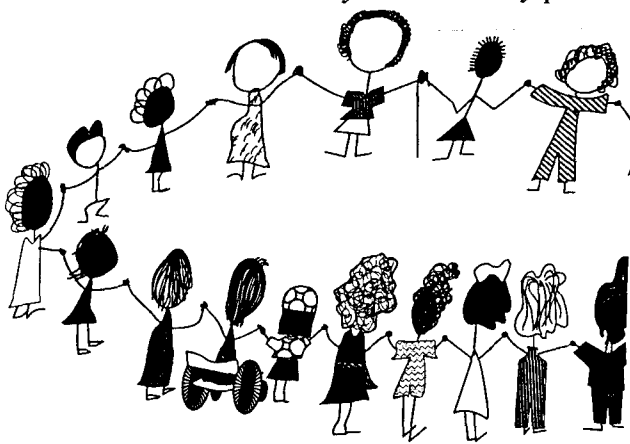
— *your support is appreciated!*

**FLASH!!** The Annual General Meeting of the Carnegie Community Centre Association is on **Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**, in the Theatre at 401 Main. **Registration: 5:30; Meeting: 6:30.**

As Margaret Prevost says in her President's Report, a lot happened over the past year. Reports are made by each committee of the Board on all manner of issues, events and programs in the centre and our community. Financial statements are presented, and questions are welcome. In fact, everyone is welcome!!

This is the meeting where the Board of Directors is elected, so all the reports are given while ballots are being counted.

- In order to vote, you must have been a member for at least 14 days immediately prior to the election. In order to run for a position on the Board, you must have been a member for at least 60 days immediately prior to the election.



people who applied to the federal CPP program and began receiving regular supplements to income. This became taxable and a liability for many. What MHR has done is make a one-time adjustment to alleviate this tax liability. They are sending a letter to over 8000 recipients and figure about 1400 are eligible for this money. People who think they qualify are then to meet with their worker, bring their T4A(P) received in 1999 and their Notice of Assessment - the confirmation of the 1998 income tax return most people get in May or June - and go from there.

\* **The Haven** is a shelter on E.Cordova. It was set up as a 40-bed, overnight place for men only. The facility's founder/operator is the Salvation Army, and they describe The Haven as "an overnight

### ***Neighbourhood News***

\* A news release from the Ministry of Human Resources has some good news for seniors. It may seem complicated, but it has to do with many

emergency shelter that enables homeless individuals to get off the street, have a place to shower and enjoy warm overnight accommodation in a safe, secure environment." The idea was to provide this as a needed service and to reduce the overall risks to homeless men in terms of safety and health.

So why is this "neighbourhood news"?

The Haven was set up for a 6-month trial to see if it would 'work' and it has. The Salvation Army has made an application to the City to have whatever needs to be changed changed so The Haven is a permanent facility. The City asked for community input and lo and behold the Gastown nitwits are crying about all the terrible things such a facility will do to them and theirs.

The Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee is appointed by City Council; there were 6 people at a meeting and, in a 4-2 vote, they passed a motion to condemn the Sally Ann's proposal. This is the kind of sick situation that other community stuff gets mired in - four people in Gastown claiming some kind of superiority use an old-boy vested-interest connection (being appointed by the very people who now approve or deny this proposal) to condemn or attack things that are obviously needed in our community and do so as if they have more say or sway than elected representatives or community workers in determining what is really needed and wanted in the Downtown Eastside.

Examples: Pulling bureaucratic strings to kill a probation facility near Pigeon Park; condemning Bridge Housing Society's plan to build decent premises for battered women and a new home for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre on the lot across from the Columbia Hotel... and then working under-the-rock to tie it up in court for almost 3 years with some lunacy about a friendly-to-them architect having some technical (*divine?*) right to build whatever goes on that piece of land no matter who's paying the tab! They slipped with the Carrall Street corridor - meetings began with interested people and reps from several groups like Carnegie and Dera, and the handful of Gastown grunge passing themselves off as 'reps' of Homeowners & Residents & Historic Planners



& Safety Society & Business Improvement & Merchants & Land Use & the Venerable Clique of Hot Dog Handlers... and as soon as our issues of poverty and treatment and homelessness and detoxes and community needs were on the table the 'reps' pull off the gloves and write open letters and hold press conferences saying that we have no right to live here anymore. The more idiotic amongst them has called homelessness a lifestyle choice. The more stoned amongst them has decried any resource centre or treatment of addiction and related illness as unacceptable in her backyard.

Is all this a coincidence? How coincidental is it when heroin use is rampant amongst teenagers and parents find out that treatment or programs are being cut back or even eliminated while hundreds of thousands of dollars go to street surveillance and millions to more cops because it gets political brownie points? How coincidental is it when jails are full to bursting and cops arrest dealers and muggers and they're back on the street before the same cop finishes the paperwork - and addiction grows and efforts at harm reduction, dealing with homelessness as a health issue and poverty as violence against children are condemned by narrow-minded, greedy, classist twerps as unacceptable in their backyard?

This began as news about The Haven. If the Salvation Army's request for permanent status is denied, expect more bars on windows and locks on doors, surely, but more sadly expect more and younger addicts and homeless people on the streets. Think about the mindsets of the gastown blanks when thinking about kids killing other kids in schools and in gangs. When hope is dashed, when drugs flood communities and treatment is unavailable, killing something makes sense.

# NEED LEGAL ADVICE?



**The Law Students' Legal Advice Program**  
runs free legal clinics at the

**CARNEGIE CENTRE**  
401 Main St. (and Hastings)

We as a people are taught from very early in life that we have to compete with everyone, for everything. Competition rules the world. This is the situation as it is right now, and only we as a people can change that.

What would happen if we all started working with each other, seeing our abilities, and learning to share them in peace and harmony? As we learn to share our Spiritual gifts, we may find that yes, we can. It means coming from the truth that is in us and ignoring the bullshit that is all around us...

As we grow and share our gifts, each adding to the whole, we learn what our true purpose is for inhabiting a small thing like a planet. Love had a reason for placing us here, and that is to learn who we are, so we can teach our truth to each other.

It means outgrowing the temporal home called a body, and getting into the Eternal Mind that created it all. It is a journey of learning that never stops; on the other hand, it is already done.

To be in peace and harmony is our eternal gift - this is what is offered by the Spirit. Our pain and fear stop us from seeing the simple truth, so we invent all sorts of things, and then we come here to play with our toy and it bites us. We forget who we are, we forget where we came from, we forget to remember our Eternal Truth.

Dreamweaver

## DROP-IN

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10am-4pm  
Tuesday: 1-8pm

Call 822-5791 (0) for more information.

I pray Grandfather  
for the strength and courage  
to fight this battle to the end  
I pray to win and come clean  
And stay that way till my dying day

I pray Grandfather  
to return to the light  
to do what is right  
to be a beacon in this dark night

I pray Great Spirit  
to learn my lessons well  
to walk in beauty, to tell the truth  
to show by example there is a way  
to end the suffering  
to calm the pain  
to know the purity of a young one again  
to walk in beauty  
to be One with the Spirit  
to walk a path with heart

## The Vancouver Aboriginal Restorative Justice Program

## COMMUNITY FORUM AND FEAST

June 10th, 1999 1:30 pm  
at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship  
Centre Society

Call 251-4844 for more info

## Joan Skogan

The Carnegie Writers' Group and the Carnegie Reading Room co-hosted an author reading on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Joan Skogan is a BC author now living on Gabriola Island. Several years ago Joan participated in a writer's group at Carnegie. She has had many of her works published - fiction,



### **It's Time to Sing the Old Songs Again**

It's time to sing the old songs again;  
The times they are a changing.  
Not the way we meant or wanted  
But we knew this time would come round again.

The rough beast is on its way to be born;  
A fool can see the portent.  
The same old games have begun  
We never learn: our memories are all short term.

Lest I name myself Cassandra or put a sign  
on my door "Beware the Ides of March",  
In which case I will become like all the others,  
Raving to an indifferent populace.

So I shall go my careful way:  
not upsetting the cart of apples.  
Do we need one more prophet - surely we've had enough.  
Instead I will play the old music, sing the old songs.  
Revolution is neither cool nor imaginable.

Wilhelmina

non-fiction, magazine articles, poetry, radio plays.

Joan just had her first novel published, entitled "Moving Water." The Reading Room has three 5. copies! About twenty people attended the reading from this book and other works. After the reading, Joan and the writers' group read and discussed their work and shared tips on how to get published.

## **AESOP'S FABLES**

### ***The Gentle Art of Persuasion***

The north wind and the sun were disputing which was the stronger and agreed to acknowledge as the victor whichever of them could strip a traveller of his clothing.

The wind tried first but its violent gusts only made the man hold his clothes tighter around him. When it blew harder still, the cold made him so uncomfortable that he put on an extra wrap. Eventually the wind got tired of it and handed him over to the sun. The sun shone first with a moderate warmth, which made the man take off his topcoat. Then it blazed fiercely till, unable to stand the heat, the man stripped and went off to bathe in a nearby river.

*This fable shows that very often persuasion is more effective than force.*

### ***Unity is Strength***

A farmer, whose sons were always at loggerheads, tried to persuade them to mend their ways but found that no words made any impression on them. He decided to give them an object lesson. He made them bring a bundle of sticks and started by giving each the bundle as it was and telling them to break the sticks. Try as they would they could not. Then he untied the bundle and handed them the sticks one at a time, so they could break them easily.

"It will be the same with you, my children," he said. "As long as you agree together, no enemy can overcome you; if you quarrel, you will fall an easy prey."

*Divided, men are vulnerable. It is union that makes them strong.*

[Submitted by Pearl]

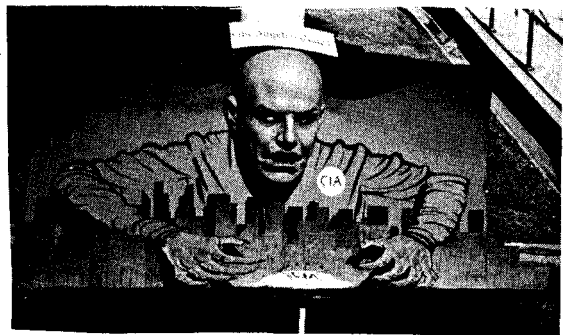
# VISION TACTICS

'Every move you make, every breath you take ...  
I'll be watching you'.

From a song by **The Police**, 1983.

Who would have dreamed that the Vancouver Police would be merrily singing this song 15 years later? It's coming our way very soon -- video surveillance of the Downtown Eastside. This new police program will cost \$400,000 or more and is designed to take the heat off the police and other civic officials for what is happening on the street down here.

The program is called Closed Circuit Television, CCTV for short. Sounds like a cozy, cuddly TV network, right? Wrong. CCTV is an insidious extension of the government right into every aspect of your life. Just think, once the 16 cameras



are installed to cover Hastings Street between Cambie and Hawkes, as well as in gastown and Chinatown, your every move will be watched by someone. They'll be able to track which bars you enter and leave, whose place you visit, which services you use, who you talk to on the street and what you do while you're there. They'll be able to tell exactly where you live.. or whether or not you have a place to live at all.

The CCTV solution is ingenious. It allows the police, the politicians and the planners to accomplish a whole range of objectives without actually doing anything tangible for or with the people of the neighbourhood. First of all, it makes it *look* as if the City is doing something about the all-too-visible street scene in the Downtown Eastside. In reality, CCTV does not address the causes of such problems. It only pushes them somewhere else (maybe) and, if they can be pushed elsewhere, they can also return just as quickly. It must be cheaper to buy surveillance cameras than to eliminate poverty.

Second, it restores public confidence in civic authorities by reducing the fear and panic caused by images of the Downtown Eastside, generated through the relentless poor-bashing by the media and property-owning groups. This is perhaps the most important part of CCTV. Evidence from England on the use of CCTV in crime reduction is far from conclusive, but the most valuable thing it does is to reduce *fear of crime*. So, if middle class people aren't so afraid of the Downtown Eastside, then just maybe they'll come down here to buy all those gastown condos that are languishing on the flat real estate market. It will also boost the tourist trade if out-of-towners and shoppers know their vehicles - frequent marks for smash and grab

## health info TABLES



Every Tuesday, 1:00 - 3:00 PM  
Main Floor or Outside

June 1	Street Nurses
June 8	Westcoast Aboriginal Network on Disabilities
June 15	Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS

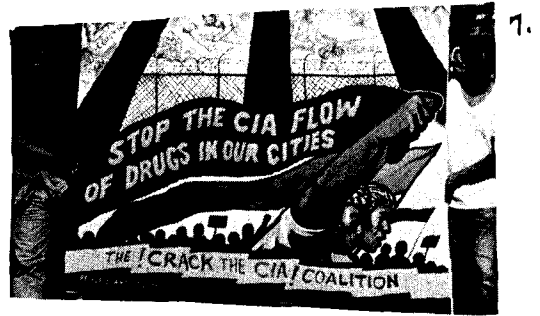
If you have any questions or if you are interested in setting up an info table, please contact Rika in the Program Office, 665-3003.

artists - are under video surveillance.

Third, in the process, it lets authorities ignore the (far more perilous to them) problem of dealing with why the Downtown Eastside is the locus of so much property crime and such a thriving drug scene in the first place. Civic planners and politicians are directly implicated in the current situation because they facilitated the redevelopment of low cost SRO hotels and rooming houses in the inner city neighbourhoods. The decline of rooming houses and SRO hotels in Vancouver means that the Downtown Eastside is the very last centre of relatively cheap market housing in the city.

CCTV is especially good for the police because it helps them sidestep their own culpability in creating the hyper-active drug scene and the HIV/AIDS epidemic centred here. From 1986 to 1991, the Vancouver police deliberately pushed as much of the street-oriented drug and sex-trades into the Downtown Eastside from other parts of the city. Everyone knows it. The police refuse to admit it. When asked, they sidestep the question. The police, planners and politicians helped create this situation and ignored us when we said it wasn't acceptable. Now that property in the Downtown Eastside has development potential, that is, money-making value, they want to reverse what they started.

They expect us to trust them on this. They'll tell



us that CCTV will protect everybody. Don't bet on it. If they were so concerned with the people down here, why did they let things get so out of hand in the first place? Why did they treat the Downtown Eastside as the containment zone for the city's social problems for so long? Is this some kind of latter-day conversion? Not likely. We all know the real reasons for the sudden concern in the Downtown Eastside start and end with dollar signs. Oh yeah, and the Mayor's re-election campaign.

In the meantime, smile, you'll soon be on candid camera. Feel any safer yet?

EA Boyd

NEXT ISSUE: How the police campaign to clean up the Downtown Eastside fits into the gentrification agenda

for keith richards

i

have

no

aspirations

I

am

a

loan

in

the

universe



anita stevens

## No Reason

I have hope this time; the signs are changing  
Death and disease are being replaced  
By pretty and vacant images of images:  
Banality abounds.

Perhaps we will have a rest, a space  
To think, to look, to respond.  
Perhaps we will wind the clock of change  
One more time.

Perhaps this time we will get it right;

But, then again...

Wilhelmina

# PROVEN JOB FINDING STRATEGIES

## Get Results Through: *Fourward Action Training*

(12 Week Training Program)

### INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATES

- ◆ SuperHost Fundamentals
- ◆ Serving It Right
- ◆ FoodSafe
- ◆ WHMIS
- ◆ Traffic Control Training
- ◆ St. John Ambulance First Aid

### IN-HOUSE CERTIFICATE

- ◆ Basic Introduction to Computers

## Start Date: June 1, 1999

#### Exclusively for:

- Those who have been in receipt of Income Assistance/BC Benefits for the last nine months or longer\*.

#### Located at:

**PRIDE Centre** (*People Responsible for Improving Downtown Economy*)

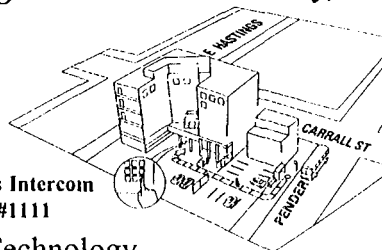
110 - 1st Floor, 425 Carrall Street (off Pender Street)

Vancouver, BC V6B 6E3

Phone: (604) **685-1288**

Fax: (604) 669-9593

Press Intercom  
#1111



Funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training And Technology

\* Priority given to 19-24 years old. Seats available for mature students

Four Corners Community Development Society

## Attention: Get Your Resume Done! Mon-Wed-Thurs 1:00pm



*Canada, a society for all ages*



International Year of Older Persons 1999

# **D.E.S.** **COMMUNITY SENIOR CELEBRATION!**

***June 5th 10am - 4pm  
Oppenheimer Park***

**Our Community Celebration in Honour of the  
International Year of the Older Persons**

***Entertainment - Music - Food - Prizes!!***

## **Featuring:**

***Chatowath  
Seventh Wave  
Carnegie Choir  
Chinese Choir  
Song Child  
Strathcona Chinese  
Dancing Company  
Blue Sky Flyer  
Lemieux  
Arrows Freedom  
Gordie Walker***

## **Speakers:**

***Andy Huclack  
Chris Laird  
Lorelie Hawkins  
Irene Schmidt  
Muhinder Grewel  
Jenny Kwan  
Councillor Jennifer  
Clarke  
Sandy Cameron  
Margaret Prevost***



## IN THE DUMPSTER

binner@vcn.bc.ca

Greetings fellow bidders & bidderettes:

What is this screwed up country coming to? In 186 Queen Elizabeth came to Vancouver at Expo and gave us our constitution, thus making Canada an independent country. This means we are not under English rule; so why tell me is Victoria's birthday is a holiday? It should be buy-McBinner-a-beer day.

On welfare night at Powell and Carrall I was crossing the street to go to the store and nearly got hit by a car. I was in the crosswalk. The crosswalk is dotted, not regular (lined). This is a warning to shitty hall engineers and our mayor pita (*pain in the ass.*) That if any citizen or myself gets hit legally crossing that crosswalk there will be a big lawsuit and if i can, there will be somebody fired. Besides if i get hit who would look after my snuggle bunny? What is cheaper a funeral or a lawsuit? Historic grasstown my ass.

Why are our honest downtown east enders up in arms about the surveillance cameras outside Carnegie? I don't relish the thought of big brother monitoring my coming and going either but I frown on not being allowed to walk in or out of a place (my paid up membership) where I proudly volunteer. This is an individual call. If the cameras are going to give us back our corner I say go

for it. The way the law stands now it's a fucking joke. As yer supreme leader to be I say lose the pubic outhouse. Tear the thing down and disk the pay phones behind it. Simple isn't it. It's a shame the leader of "the rockin' guys" never thought of that... maybe that's why I'm not in the band.

Might be also that I drink like a pig and get the swine flu too much.

Any who have a good month and hey! Let' be careful out there.

By MR. McBINNER



## THE EYES HAVE IT

Garry Gust

Hummm, a meeting at the Carnegie on Friday about surveillance cameras. Can't be there.. insomnia.

But, I like the idea of an eye in the sky on public streets where privacy has no place. I like the idea that if someone comes up and blows my brains out the whole thing will be caught on tape to be used to put my assailant in the big house, without the aid of reluctant witnesses.

I like the sign at the Four Sisters and the Army & Navy informing the public that they're being viewed by surveillance cameras. For my own protection I find comfort in these cameras in public places. It's like having an advocate to back up my side of the story if an unpleasant incident occurs on our unpoliced streets.

Once we all know the cameras are there, our more aggressive fellow citizens would most likely start minding their Ps & Qs, and we could give the eyes in the back of our heads a much needed rest.



## Shagadoom

The turn-around decade 1990-2000 became my personal struggle. I've struggled because of rents paid but never having a place to call home. I've struggled for the environment, for the lesser use of autos. My struggle is all-encompassing.. including health, happiness and holiness. (The 3H organisation does provide positive support to people in the form of yoga.)

Recycling, bicycling and finding alternative

## Need help ?

- . drug addiction?
- . drug cravings?
- . withdrawal symptoms?
- . drug related insomnia/  
anxiety/depression?
- . stress?

## Free ear acupuncture

*Vancouver Native Health Society*  
Community room  
449 E. Hastings

9:30 a.m. to noon  
**Monday to Friday**  
(except holidays)  
May 3rd to July 31st, 1999

*No appointment necessary*

Confidential Drop in  
Treatment takes about 45 minutes.

**Call 254-9937**



Vancouver/Richmond  
Health Board  
*Working Together for Better Health*

housing or work has also been part of the effort. Survival has been at the low income level - less than three thousand per year for all these 'turn-around' years. I've done without medical, dental and so many other things at times too numerous to mention here. It would seem that I'm nearing the culmination of ten years' work; what will be remains to be seen.

Our society needs answers. All I can say is "do the best you can and pray"; if you really care you'll see what has to be done.

I worked my way down to being comfortable at poverty levels.. I still worry that something will break, but ya gotta have faith. I guess I've escaped the jaws by being busy and knowing I don't want to be another Canadian victim. It's still too easy to start sliding down and never get back up.

Poverty kills.

By MIKE BOHNERT

## Don't Have a Phone???

### TRY VOICEMAIL!!!

#### What is Voice mail?

- Voice Mail is an automated answering service for people who don't have phones. It's easy to use, private and inexpensive. You can access your messages 24 hours a day.

#### How much does Voice Mail cost?

- \$3.00 per month
- \$10.00 for four months (save \$2)
- \$25.00 for a year (save \$11) ← **BEST VALUE!**

#### Where do I get Voice Mail?

- Visit the **Downtown Eastside Residents' Association (DERA)** at 425 Carrall Street.
- **Hours:** 10-12 or 1-5 Monday to Friday
- **Info:** 682-3269 box 1000

## Special Offer!

**Get One Month FREE!**

**With a new subscription.**

Offer good for a limited time only!!

Valid ID required

## THE VIOLIN

(for Lord Yehudi Menuhin)

If only' could write  
as you know how to play.

This vacuum robs all sensation.  
Come. Come tingle over my static flesh.

Awaken long forgotten cares  
lying dormant in a coffin.

Embrace my existence with your passion.  
Envelop what is drained and replenish anew.

This battered frame of tin  
Once had a heart as you.

*Anita Stevens*

## Holding On and Avoiding

If someone had said they had felt like they were floating above the city, like they were expanding exponentially, becoming, as they say, lighter than air, I would have thought them simple-minded, until it happened to me, if it ever happened to me, I was thinking, realizing, while I was thinking this, that perhaps my so-called thoughts were trying to tell me something, as it were, or rather, that something was happening unconsciously, or whatever the term is, and this reflection was a reflection of that so-called unconscious process, or whatever. One must be thinking about getting away, thinking these things, I thought. Except that I could not tell if I had been then, and had been, really, forever trying to hold on to something, perceiving everything as tangential to the band of pure white light inside, as I used to call whatever it is I imagined, or whether I had been constantly avoiding a so-called reality, or whatever, engaging in *only* tangential activities and pastimes, resisting fate, as they used to say, resisting the thing or things that I would be doing if I was not



always either holding on to something or avoiding something, if there is, after all, anything but holding on or resisting. If we have a fate, I thought, it is holding on and avoiding - what we hold on to, or try to hold on to, and what we avoid, or try to avoid, matters little. For years I would sit on King Street benches or in coffee shops in Kitchener, Ontario, in the evening and write *snippets*, books and books of *snippets*, which I pack around painstakingly to this day, trying to get it down, as I would have said then, or trying to put it in its place, as it were, out there, as they say, as I would also have said. There will be nothing left of me, I thought, but *snippets*, a life of *snippets* lost in its snippet relics, I thought then and still think now. From exponential expansion to the minutiae of disintegration, I thought, from the so-called oceanic to the so-called atomic, all *and* nothing, we are fated, just as they used to say. We think we are somehow *beyond* fate - that fate is an out-dated concept, that everything depends upon our transient whims, now that we so-called know things etc., when in fact we are as embedded in fate as we ever were, the more so we imagine, arrogantly, that fate has nothing to do with us. Fate, I thought, was never an excuse for doing nothing - there are endless excuses for that - but a way of acknowledging how nearly impossible and improbable our lives are, how me are more than the continuous babble of our whims. We would be reduced to *shoppers*.

Dan Feeney

**GLOBAL VILLAGE LEADS TO LOCAL HOMELESSNESS --  
ASSISTED BY VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL**

**IS YOUR TURN NEXT? WILL YOU BE HEARING THESE WORDS  
SOMETIME SOON?**

**"YOU'RE EVICTED!! THE OWNERS ARE  
RENOVATING THIS HOTEL FOR TOURISTS."**

So far, this has happened, or is happening at

- The Hotel California
- The Royal Hotel
- The Cambie Hotel
- The Niagara Hotel
- The Jolly Taxpayer
- The Grand Trunk Hotel
- The Clarence Hotel

**IS YOUR HOTEL NEXT?**

**THE POLITICIANS AT CITY COUNCIL COULD STOP THIS  
TODAY.**

**BUT THEY NEED A KICK IN THE YOU-KNOW-WHAT FROM US.**

**Please join us for fun & refreshments**

**TOWN HALL FORUM**

***June 22, 7p.m.***

**TELL THE POLITICIANS TO STOP  
TOURIST CONVERSIONS!**

**WE NEED HOUSING, NOT HOMELESSNESS!**

**DOWNTOWN  
EASTSIDE  
YOUTH  
ACTIVITIES  
SOCIETY**

**STD CLINIC - 219 Main; Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**  
**NEEDLE EXCHANGE - 221 Main; 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. every day**  
**NEEDLE EXCHANGE VAN - 3 Routes**  
**City - 5:45 p.m. - 11:45 p.m.**  
**Overnight - 12:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.**  
**Downtown Eastside - 5:30 p.m. 1:30 a.m.**

**1999 DONATIONS** Libby D.-\$90  
 Sam R.-\$20 Nancy W.-\$20 Agnes -\$6  
 Margaret D.-\$25 Shyamala G.-\$25  
 Jenny K.-\$18 Joy T.-\$25 Eve E.-\$20  
 Rick Y.-\$25 Jennifer M.-\$20 Val A.\$9  
 Thomas B.-\$41 Harold D.-\$20 Pam-\$30  
 Rolf A.-\$35 Bruce J.-\$18 Susan S.-\$7  
 Kettle -\$18 Sonya S.-\$60 Beth L.-\$25  
 Nancy H.-\$18 BCTF-\$10 Yukiko-\$10  
 DEYAS-\$20 PRIDE-\$20 Wm. B.-\$18  
 Heather S.-\$35 BCCW-\$20 Bill G.-\$80  
 Wisconsin Historical Society -\$20  
 Anonymous -\$104 RayCam -\$70 Brenda P.-\$10  
 Van M.P.A.-\$75 Rolf A.-\$45

FREE - donations accepted

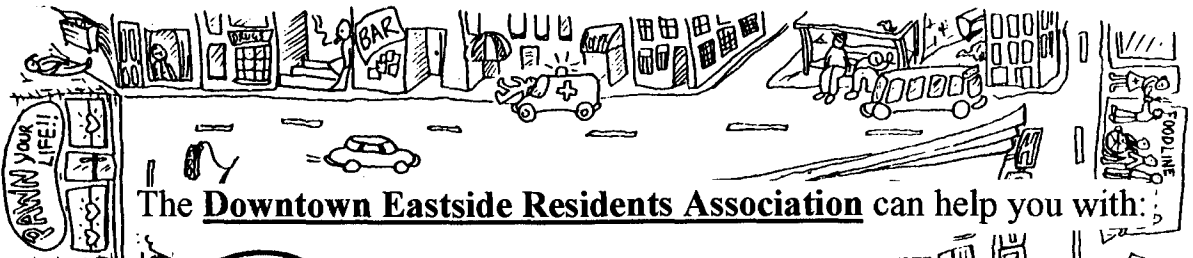
# Carnegie

## NEWSLETTER

101 Main Street, Vancouver V6P 1T1 (604) 682-1200


THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE  
 CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION  
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## Youth Violence -

### A Direct Result Of Adult Violence

After the deaths of fourteen students and one teacher in Littleton, Colorado, and the death of one student in Taber, Alberta, Premier Glen Clark was quoted as saying, "The question of violence among teenagers is a growing concern for all of us who are parents, and for all Canadians. "(1)

For the past twenty years most politicians and the business elite of Canada haven't given a damn about youth. They've forged ahead with their brutal market ideology of maximum profit with its business blackmail of, "If you don't give us the low wages, low working and environmental standards and low taxes that we want, we'll go elsewhere." The violence done to youth in the present global nightmare has been enormous. The violence some teenagers are doing to each other is a direct result of adult violence, and was predicted nearly twenty years ago by Dr. Paul Steinbauer. In 1980 he said that Canada would see more depression, alienation and violence by youth unless something was done to counteract society's failure to build a stable community that included them. (2) The political, economic and media elite of Canada were, and are, too busy making money to listen.

The B.C. Youth Forum Brief to the Special Senate Committee on Youth, May 24, 1985, said, "Young people today are facing a crisis of existence." Consider the following: Nonpermanent jobs are now the norm for all paid workers under 25 years of age. Even among university graduates, the proportion of those finding full-time work is falling to just over two-thirds in 1996. Real youth unemployment in Canada is over 25 percent. (3) The official unemployment figures represent corporate/government spin-doctoring; the fact that you can be counted as employed if you work one hour of paid work in the week Statistics Canada does its unemployment survey, is plain dishonest. The B.C. government's "Youth Works" has not



changed the overall picture of youth unemployment. While youth receiving benefits in B.C. dropped by one-third from January to October, 1996, there is no evidence that those youth found stable jobs. Welfare rates are so low that recipients of "Youth Works" are directed to food banks to ensure that they are healthy enough to participate in training programs. (Help Wanted, p.19) Now that's violence! The experience of moving through the cycle of low wage, part-time jobs, and the welfare system, increases the hopelessness, desperation and anger of young women and men.

An Ontario study found that as early as grade 5, children worry about getting jobs when they leave school. They are overwhelmed by the malaise and helplessness that grips their underemployed or unemployed parents. (4) Their fears are a direct result of government policy.

When they look at the labour market, many youth (but not all..the richer you are, the better chance you have of getting a stable, well-paid job) only see demeaning, part-time, temporary, low wage jobs with few benefits and poor working conditions. They feel trapped in dead-end jobs. No exit. No hope for the future. Then they're blamed by the political and economic elite for their unemployment, and told that they're lazy! In their hearts, though, young people know that the basic human need to contribute to society is being taken away from them. The stable, fairly-paid jobs that they need aren't there. (Help Wanted, p.8)

Young women and men suffer from depression at a much higher rate than adults, and the suicide rate for Canadian teenagers nearly quadrupled in the last thirty years. (Help Wanted, p.36) Canada has the industrialized world's third highest suicide rate for teens between 15 and 19. (5) Young people

feel a strong sense of unfairness in the way our country overvalues the business elite (the top 10 corporate executives in Canada each brought home more than \$10 million in 1997), and devalues youth who are trying to build a decent life. For example, young workers under 25 have seen the greatest decline in wages of all workers - a 20 percent drop between 1990 and 1995.(6) Minimum wage keeps a person in poverty, welfare rates have been slashed, and unemployment insurance has been decimated. In 1994, 57.6 percent of single men under 25 and 71.4 percent of single women under 25, lived below the poverty line. And this is happening in Canada where the economy has grown bigger than the year before for almost every year in the last 20 years. (The Growing Gap, p.75) Canada has the 8th richest economy in the world.. richer than China, which is 9th. Who in the name of greed is getting all that wealth?

There's lots more to say about the violence directed towards young people, but I'll stop for now by changing the words of Premier Clark quoted at the beginning of this article. The violence of the business and political elite is a growing concern for all of us who are parents, and for all ordinary Canadians.

By Sandy Cameron

### References

- (1) "2 students shot in copycat crime at Alberta school," *Vancouver Sun*, April 29/99.
- (2) "Psychiatrist blames society for rising teenage violence," *Globe & Mail*, Sept.25, 1980.
- (3) Help Wanted - Economic Security for Youth, by Nadene Rehnby & Stephen McBride, pub by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 1997, p.5.
- (4) "Children fear future, study says," by Martin Mittelstaedt, *Globe & Mail*, August 26/93.
- (5) "Canada has world's third highest suicide rate for teens between 15 and 19," *Vancouver Sun*, October 23/95.
- (6) The Growing Gap- A report on growing inequality between the rich and poor in Canada, by Armine Yalnizyan, pub. by The Centre for Social Justice, Toronto, 1998, p.20.



## My Spirit Soars

In the life of a child, it's hard to measure the pain and losses from urban blight. Trees to climb are rare.. homes can be plagued with sour despair. Yet, miraculously, children find an eagle, a raven, a bear, a spirit soaring.

Sam Roddan

