

FREE - donations accepted

# Carnegie

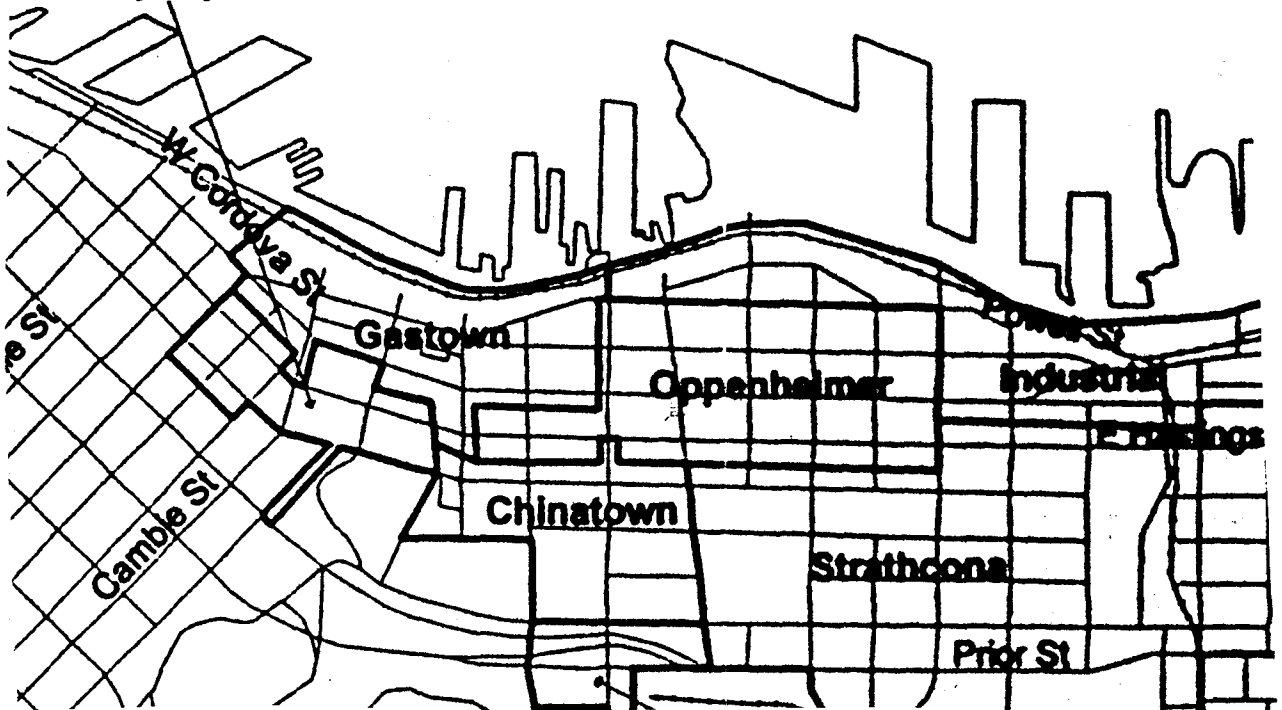


## NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1, 1999.

401 Main Street, Vancouver V6A 2T7 (604) 665-2289

### Victory Square



## Gastown shop a licence to print influence

JAN PAUL SHASON BACKS HIS BLACK MERCEDES sedan into the garage and then slips in the rear door of his lovely Marguerite Street home on the southern fringe of Shaughnessy. For the godfather of the NPA, and the city's most influential back room operator, it has been another busy day.

He's called "J.P." by his pals, his political allies, the tenants of his real-estate holdings. He's not just on the NPA board, he's on the nomi-

nating committee; some say he is the nominating committee.

His company, Gastown Printers Ltd., first came to my attention when J.P. picked up \$200,000 for a job he did for his friend, Liberal leader Gordon Campbell, two years ago. Campbell got into a pickle because he used more than \$800,000 of taxpayers' money intended for individual Liberal MLA communi-

Table: Loss of SROs, 1970-1997 (rooms)

	Total (rooms)	Average per Year (rooms)
Since 1970	6,330	228
Last 10 Years, 1988-97	1,194	119
Last 5 Years, 1993-1997	664	133

cations with constituents to crank out a partisan province-wide mailer.

Shason still does both printing and political work for the Liberals, and of course he picks up all the printing work for the NPA.

Gastown Printers at 378 West Cordova St. is also the nerve centre and money-drop for the NPA. For the past few weeks a steady stream of elected city officials, wanna-bes and campaign workers have dutifully delivered envelopes stuffed with new memberships and cash. (No cheques please—they can bounce.)

This tribute is seen as proof that they or those they represent are worthy of J.P.'s attention in the only political race that matters—the one to make the list for NPA nominations on Oct. 7. Win the nomination, and election to office is all but guaranteed—at least that's what happened last time.

Shason owns the building that houses his print shop; in fact, as at least a few city councilors know, he owns practically the whole south side of the block from Homer to Cambie. This includes the Amsterdam Café and Hemporium, a place that provides delicious tofu rolls, passable lattes and a mellow venue for a fellow or three to twist up a toke after a hard day of whatever, man. Free rolling paper is available next to the cash register.

It would be ludicrous to suggest that Shason profits from the seemingly illegal activities of his tenant. Obviously this is an embarrassment. Although the courts found he was a bit heavy handed in his attempts to evict the Amsterdam, it'll finally be gone by the end of October. Hardly seems any point for his pals on council to have that "show-cause" hearing to lift the café licence Oct. 20.

More interesting to consider, though, is how council policy affects Shason's overall wealth. Like all property owners and commercial tenants in the area, J.P. is a member of the Gastown Business Improvement Society. Former NPA board member (now NPA staffer) Grant

Longhurst is also on the society's board.

The society, along with Chinatown merchants, has been lobbying council to clean up that festering river of crime and addiction on Hastings that separates the two areas. Business and property values are intimately linked to whatever council decides.

In a letter last year signed by the society, among others, city council was warned to "reject the draft Housing Plan and Anti-Conversion bylaw" for the area. Such a bylaw would protect all those single-room occupancy hotels that house many of the city's downtrodden. Getting rid of those rooms and gentrifying the area would attract more business and push up property values.

While council and particularly Mayor Philip Owen often pose as heroes demanding more action to make life better for Downtown East-side residents, the society effectively got its way. Council has dithered over the bylaw and more rooms were lost through conversions last year. One could logically conclude that Shason is better off.

None of this is illegal. It's simply how things seem to work when one political machine holds a monopoly in the city and powerbrokers like J.P. tightly control a basically secret process for selecting candidates. The party may be called the Non-Partisan Association but that doesn't mean there aren't vested interests.

1 + 1 = 2

(...told ya)

Are the chickens finally coming home to roost? Articles in the *Vancouver Courier* and the *Georgia Straight* have noted the uncomfortably close connections between Vancouver's ruling political party, the Non Partisan Association (NPA), and Gastown merchants. In particular, prominent gaspoid property owner JP Shason and anti-poor people propagandist Grant Longhurst are intimately tied to Mayor Philip Owen's NPA Council.

Shason, it turns out, is Phil's bag-man, while his family company actually does the NPA's printing. According to *Courier* columnist Allen Garr, Shason also pretty much runs the NPA board of directors. This is the board that gets to

allen garr

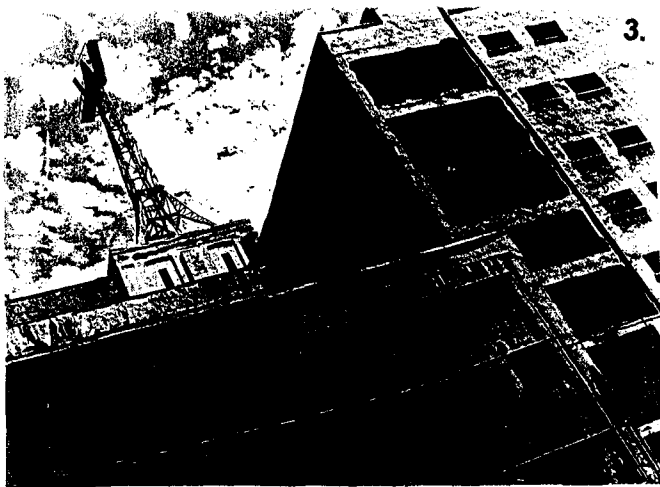
decide which people will be allowed to run for NPA nominations for City Council, Parks Board, and School Board... and whoever gets Shason's nod will pretty much be a shoe-in for the election in November. He lives in Shaughnessy.

Longhurst is a communications consultant with a gastown office who has been involved with the business association. Until recently, Longhurst was also on the NPA board. He quit so that he could work as an NPA staffer, running the upcoming election campaign. He lives in North Vancouver.

So what's the problem with this? We're all entitled to be politically active. This is a democracy, after all. Well, for one thing, Vancouver's civic politicians are instrumental in deciding what will happen to the Downtown Eastside. They decide on the kind of zoning and land use policies that ultimately determine whether this remains a community of people with low incomes or becomes a sanitized heritage heaven for yuppies and tourists. These politicians are all NPA members and therefore close associates of these two gastown power-brokers.

This is no innocent relationship. Shason has a printing shop in gastown and is one of the area's major property owners. The value of his properties will increase depending on decisions made by the same civic politicians with whom he is so tight. His record on the Downtown Eastside is pretty dismal. As president of the gastown merchants in the mid-1980s, he actively lobbied against a pedestrian access route to CRAB Park from the Downtown Eastside, favouring instead a route at the bottom of Carrall or Abbott that would help promote gastown business. He has remained a key member of the gastown business improvement association ever since.

This is a group that's consistently been hostile to actions that would promote better housing, better services, and improved quality of life for the majority of people who live in this neighbourhood. Instead, they have actively supported policies that promote residential displacement, gentrification, and conversion of residential



hotels. [Every business owner in the geographical area called "Gastown", plotted on some map in 1972, must be a member of the Gastown Business Improvement Association. Registration is a requirement under City by-laws and the dues are added onto each business's taxes. It is then used as a political vehicle, regardless of dissent from individual owners. Ed.]

Longhurst has also been an important player in the gastown business group. A couple of years ago he put out an expensive piece of poor-bashing propaganda called The New Downtown, suggesting that the Downtown Eastside was a ghetto and that gentrification would fix the problem really fast. He also represented gastown business in the discussions over the Carrall Street tourist corridor.

City Hall has been actively promoting its Downtown Eastside Revitalization Plan, but how can we really trust the elected politicians who are making decisions about the future of the neighbourhood when they are so closely associated with individuals who have consistently attacked this community?

I'm not sure if any of this is a conflict of interest. But given that certain gastown businesses and property owners stand to make a lot of money on City Council's zoning decisions, it sure smells like one big ethical stinker. (and do ethics even matter when it comes to profit?)

By EA Boyd

THE **CARNEGIE SINGERS**  
are starting their 2nd season!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

in the  
**CARNEGIE CENTRE THEATRE**

*New Voices Welcome!*

THE CARNEGIE SINGERS AIM TO REPRESENT OUR COMMUNITY, THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE, WITH MUSIC THAT'S POLITICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY RELEVANT. OUR ONGOING REPERTOIRE INCLUDES SONGS BY BOB DYLAN, TRACY CHAPMAN, BOB MARLEY, AND OTHERS.

GOOD MUSIC, GOOD PEOPLE, FUN!

*Come Join us*

## National DEPRESSION SCREENING DAY

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Get more than a  
test score. Get  
back your life.

- FREE
- Written self-test for depression
- Screening interview with a mental health professional

## Mental Health Awareness Day

Tuesday, October 5  
11 am - 2 pm

CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE  
- THEATRE -

- \* Information booths
- \* Panel discussion on dual diagnosis
- \* Light refreshments

For more information, contact Catriona Moore at 665 - 3301

Depression Screening Day, October 7, 12 - 4 pm, in Theatre

*If the pleasure has gone out of your life, if you feel sad and empty or if you have trouble sleeping or eating, you may have clinical depression. Restlessness or decreased activity, thoughts of death or suicide, inability to concentrate are also signs of this illness.*

*Effective help is available. Find out more on Thursday, October 7th.*

Co-Sponsored by:

**natural  
Factors**

**HeartLink  
Canada Inc.**

**ELI Lilly CANADA INC.**

and an education grant from: **SB SmithKline Beecham  
Pharma**

Location & time in your area:

**Carnegie  
Community Centre**

**401 Main Street**

**12 - 4 pm**



CANADIAN MENTAL  
HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE  
POUR LA SANTÉ MENTALE

or  
call

**1-888-731-1222**

or visit web site:

**www.cmha-bc.org**

## FUNNY MONEY

Funny money

Laugh in the mirror  
Climb Billy-goat hill  
To school of the stars  
Beyond any thrill.  
Ride the mind  
till it burns,  
Coffin of dreams.  
Hug friends till they pop,  
Sing and dance till you drop.  
For the lonely rain tears  
til; the heart is wrung sunny  
Laugh in the mirror  
It's just funny money!

Newdawn

FUNNY MONEY

## Whaddaya Really Know?

Old men sometimes mistake the fact  
they've lasted so long to some sort of wisdom.  
Old windbags who think they know it all,  
they'll bore you. If I ever turn into  
an old pontificating fart I hope someone  
puts a .22 short in the base of my brain.

I hate preachers who somehow always  
come out of every situation being right about  
everything under the sun.  
The ones who know anything know enough  
to just shut up and let people live  
without all their narrow-minded opinions  
being forever crammed down your throat.  
Opinions are like hundred dollar bills, oughta be  
stashed deep in your pockets and only handed out  
when you mean to do business.  
The rest is just bullshit.

R. Loewen

God grant me the Senility to  
forget the people I never  
liked, the good fortune to run  
into the ones I do, and the  
eyesight to tell the  
difference.

## LITERACY DAY CELEBRATION AT CARNEGIE

On Friday, September 17th, the Carnegie Library, Centre, Learning Centre and Writers Group co-hosted a celebration of International Literacy Day. The festivities started at 1:00pm with some truly wonderful music by Ricky and Joanne. Following the music came the formal unveiling of the long anticipated Downtown Eastside booklist. Many thanks to the Library Committee (especially Bob Sarti) for all their hard work on this. After the unveiling came readings by Learning Centre, Writers Group and Downtown Eastside people. Two of the writers (Sandy Cameron and Joe Ferone) read from their work as well.

The readings took place in the Art Gallery on the 3rd floor of the Centre. For the occasion the Gallery had been hung with beautiful art work (drawings, paintings, etc.) done by members of our community.

While the festivities were going taking place on the 3rd floor, activities were also happening outside. As part of the celebration, Carnegie Street Programmers organized face painting, chalk drawing, Scrabble (a very literate game), a book giveaway (5 full boxes went) and a Learning Centre Information table.

The readings were followed by a nice meal at 4:00. People in attendance enjoyed salad, wild rice, salmon and cake. To cap the celebrations off, there was a dance and rap music in the Auditorium at 7:00. A good time was had by all.

## CARNEGIE LIBRARY - PERSONAL UPDATE!

Claudia Douglas is the acting head of the Carnegie Library until the middle of October, replacing Andrew Martin while he takes a well-deserved vacation. (See following article.)

Claudia has a "history" both with the Carnegie Library, and with the Downtown Eastside. She was here in the summer of 1995, also doing vacation replacement for the librarian at the time, Eleanor Kelly, and is pretty enthused about returning, even if only for a short time (her usual position is in the Popular Reading Library at the Central Branch). She has a familial connection to the Rainbow Mission near Oppenheimer Park - it was run in the 50's by her grandmother!

Claudia got married in 1964 to an 'older man' and he introduced her to Chinatown (and real

Chinese food), East Pender (used bookstores) and along East Hastings to the park. Carnegie Centre and the neighbourhood sound enjoyable, and Claudia sounds memories of coming home.

She'll be here until the 18th, so drop in and say hello!

Those who think they know it all have no way of finding out they don't.

Joe Paul

## ADVOCACY TRAINING ON B.C. BENEFITS

with B.C. PERSONS WITH AIDS SOCIETY advocates

### 8 sessions

(Oct. 7, 8, 28, 29, Nov. 4, 5, and  
2 dates in January 2000 TBA)

**OCT 7 (1-5) OVERVIEW OF B.C. BENEFITS**

**OCT 8 (11-4) APPLYING FOR DB II**

*Complete outline will be available at Oct 7 session.  
Participants should be prepared to attend all 8 sessions.  
No drop-in sessions.*

Classroom II 3rd floor  
Carnegie Community Centre

Sponsored by HIVIDU Consumers' Board, Carnegie Community Centre Association and Carnegie Seniors

For more info, contact Carol at 688-6241 Mon. or Wed.  
To sign up, come to Program Office or call 665-2274.



### What Cost The Trauma?

..It's worse than a bombing when they start smashing up your home, tossing sanity, security, hopes and dreams into a dumptruck... who are these brothers and sisters who take such blows of greed? ..what cost their trauma? Despair?

Sam Roddan

## FAREWELL, GOOD LUCK AND THANK YOU

I have decided to leave my job as Librarian at the Carnegie Library. I will be off on holiday until October 18th I then return to the Carnegie Library for a week to train my replacement and to do a bit of cleaning up. I hope to start my new job as a Reference Librarian in the Science and Technology Division at the Central Branch on October 25th

The decision to leave has been a very difficult and upsetting one for me to make. The patrons and staff of the Carnegie Community Centre have treated me very well. I am very fond of them. The staff of the Centre are some of the most dedicated and committed I have ever had the privilege to work with. I am proud to have been part of the "Carnegie team" for the past two years.

Before accepting the job as Branch Head at the Carnegie Library I was a Reference Librarian at the VPL Central Branch for eleven years. When I started here I told my Supervisor that I would like to try it for two or three years to see if it suited me. Sadly I have found that it's just not for me. I can and have done the job, but it has been very hard for me. Several month ago I asked my Supervisor if he would transfer me to a non-supervisory position at the Central Branch. I feel strongly that my talents can best be used by the Library as a Reference Librarian and not as a Branch Head. Last week I was offered a great job (fantastic collection and people to work with) in the Science and Technology Division. I accepted the offer.

Many years ago I told a friend that I felt that the Carnegie Library was the best Vancouver Public Library branch in the city. After working here for two years I still believe this. For twelve hours a day, three hundred and sixty-five days a year, the staff here provide good service to the people of the Downtown Eastside. The Reading Room staff are some of the kindest and most supporting people I have worked with in my



fifteen years of library work.

Anyhow, if I don't see all of my friends at Carnegie before I leave I would like to thank you for your help and support and for two good years. Good luck and farewell.

Happy reading!

Andrew Martin, Librarian

The Carnegie Library would like to thank Daryl of the Pender Street Hotel for a large donation of books.

### Hey all!

Sorry for the late notice but I would like to welcome four new members to the Carnegie team. They are Kelly Price, Liam MacDonald, Jerry McFeeters and John Williams. They're new members of the auxiliary list for Oppenheimer Park and the street program.

The Street Program home is upstairs in the program office - the number is 665-2213.

Steve

## What Can We Learn From Switzerland and Germany About Effective Drug Policy



This is the last of three Carnegie Newsletter articles on a report called Comprehensive Systems of Care for Drug Users in Switzerland and Frankfurt, Germany, written by Donald MacPherson for the Social Planning Department, city of Vancouver.

We can learn from the Swiss and Germans that drug use (legal or illegal) is part of the present world order, and the problems of drug misuse must be dealt with in a practical way that fosters the health and safety of all citizens.

We can learn that the stabilization of a drug user's life through care and respect is important in order for that person to take steps towards improved health. Abstinence can be a goal of harm reduction programs, but it is not the immediate goal. The immediate goal is the reduction of drug-related harm to the individual and the community.

We can learn that drug addiction is a serious health concern that is inappropriately dealt with by the criminal justice system. It is time to separate drug users from the criminal elements in the illicit drug market, and move towards adequate health services. The Canton of Geneva has passed a law that says if you are a drug user, you must be able to receive treatment without waiting, and that includes methadone treatment. The same law states that if you are a drug user

who is not ready to quit, you must have access to appropriate health and social services.

We can learn to balance the issues of public health and public order. Sure, harm reduction programs cost money, but the savings in hospitalization, emergency services, the courts, crime control, and police time spent dealing with ill people were significant in Switzerland and Germany, and helped build public support for the comprehensive programs. Public order increased with harm reduction programs because they reduced crime and the street drug scene.

We in Vancouver can learn that without more resources for harm reduction and treatment programs in the Lower Mainland, we may continue to spend a lot of money for the suppression of drug users without any lasting effects on the actual harm that individuals and communities experience as a result of drug use.

We can learn that a comprehensive system of care for drug users takes a lot of co-operation among the various branches of government, including the police. Police in Switzerland and Frankfurt, Germany, supported harm reduction programs because they increased public safety and public order, and the programs enabled the police to concentrate on the organized crime aspects of the international drug trade. Business people supported harm reduction programs because they created a healthier climate for the tourist trade, and drug users supported the programs because they treated them with respect, gave people a chance to stabilize their situations, and saved lives.

In his report, Donald suggests that the City of Vancouver consider an intergovernmental task force similar to the one set up in Frankfurt, and he reminds us that the overall objective of our drug control programs must be to reduce the harm caused by the misuse of drugs (legal or illegal) for all citizens - our children, families, friends and communities.

Donald MacPherson's report is required reading for anyone interested in an intelligent, practical approach to the problem of drug misuse. The Carnegie Reading Room has copies (ask at the desk), and copies are available from the Social Planning Department, City of Vancouver.

By Sandy Cameron



That we need to continue to learn, to learn more and to judge less  
That everyone has a story to tell  
That people have divided opinions about whether the Eastside is a community or not  
That this place is the end of the line

That we all walk different roads, but that does not determine our personalities  
That everyone deserves a second chance  
That there are lessons to learn from the stories we hear  
That people here are honest and straight-forward. They don't sugar-coat the truth  
That people are people, not problems and stereotypes

Now the Eastside's thoughts we share  
Their voices and stories we bring:

From the streets to your pews, listen.  
All we ask is you open your ears, your eyes and your minds  
Keep your eyes open; Look around and see what's happening.

WE are people too.  
You get out of life what you put into it.  
Listen to our stories.  
Don't be narrow-minded. Be open to other's opinions.  
Believe in yourself!

*This meditation was written by the young people who took part in nightwatch, a week-end devoted to exploring the services to street youth in the Downtown Eastside.*

## ONE DAY!

One day around 4pm I sat outside of Carnegie Centre, watching the actions of many people. At first all I could see was addictions and drug dealers. I started jotting down some information - who are these people swarming the community centre like bees to honey?

I saw only people with addictions, then looked over to the bus stop. I noticed people with suits and others well-dressed, like they were getting off work - you know, the 9-5 people.

I thought of addicts as people with 9-5 jobs too, people who could be nurses, building managers or working with money in a bank...

I thought of addicts and dealers who have to know the cost of their product and markets. I thought of users having to know which veins are good and quantity/quality of dose.

It was amazing to see my thoughts turn into something totally different.

THOSE people, as some call them, can be someone one day.

Margaret P.

CJSF-SFU radio needs volunteers to help with various behind-the-scenes tasks, as well as to host music and spoken word programs. You don't need to be an SFU student to join. Call the Station Manager at 291-3727(3) to set up an orientation.

On behalf of the Deneault Family from the Skeetchestn Indian Band, I would like to thank everyone at the Carnegie Centre in Vancouver for the way they coordinated their trip to the 23rd Elders' Gathering here in Kamloops. Thanks for taking care of our uncle Basile, along with the other elders who were involved. You all did an awesome job and will never be forgotten.



## LETTING GO

To "let go" does not mean to stop caring, it means I can't do it for someone else.

To "let go" is not to cut myself off, it's the realization I can't control another.

To "let go" is not to enable, but to allow learning from natural consequences.

To "let go" is to admit powerlessness, which means the outcome is not in my hands.

To "let go" is not to try to change or blame another, it's to make the most of myself.

To "let go" is not to care for, but to care about.

To "let go" is not to fix, but to be supportive.

To "let go" is not to judge, but to allow another to be a human being.

To "let go" is not to be in the middle arranging all the outcomes, but to allow others to affect their own destinies.

To "let go" is not to be protective, it's to permit another to face reality.

To "let go" is not to deny, but to accept.

To "let go" is not to nag, scold or argue, but instead to search out my own shortcomings and correct them.

To "let go" is not to adjust everything to my desires but to take each day as it comes, and to cherish myself in it.

To "let go" is not to regret the past, but to grow and live for the future.

To "let go" is to fear less and love more.

- Author unknown



### Anthony James Dawson

There are no words to describe the loss of a child who leaves this world suddenly. One day you are comfortable in knowing you have a son and you are not alone in this world. The next, you must watch your child die. The soul wrenching pain is so hard, that at times you cannot even move. To have this compounded by discovering what our son endured while being "assisted" into an ambulance is something that no family should have to endure. These types of actions should not happen to *any* person, especially in this country.

The family asks all people who were at the scene of Oak Bay and Bank Street (Victoria) on August 11, 1999 to PLEASE call Scott Hall, Lawyer at (250)384-6600.

Thank you very much.

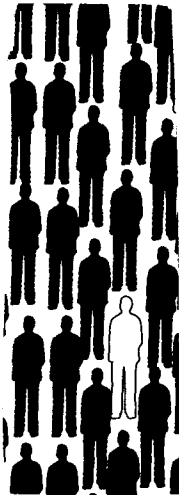
## Bus Stop at Main & Hastings

Every now and then someone, out of the blue, will do something extraordinarily nice to a perfect stranger for no apparent reason - give up a seat to a pregnant girl, kid in hand, hair akimbo



In response to anonymous submission -  
re: Black Sheep

Dear "Black Sheep",  
I am also a "black sheep," too.  
Sheep are cute, cuddly, soft  
creatures. Black absorbs all  
colors. It's OK to be a  
"black sheep." In pain & terror  
you feel all alone, no matter how  
many people are around you.  
I feel alone too. Nothing - stabs,  
fire, satanist, anything will  
ever kill your loving Spirit.  
Perhaps, there is nothing "black  
sheep" about you. Maybe you  
are just an animal, human, spirit,  
God like anyone else.  
Maybe, it's a blessing if people  
ignore you. Silence is powerful.  
Choose your words carefully.  
Being nice is who you are and  
it's the world's problem, sweet  
heart, not yours.  
You are a warrior, like many  
in the world. You can  
handle the knife stab. You  
can handle the wounds.  
YOU ARE NO. 1  
YOU ♥ YOU  
Peace be with you.  
anon.



9.

There's still time for courtesy..we can still afford  
to be polite and poverty doesn't cancel manners.  
It's a gruff world but we constantly see a 'rare'  
gentlewoman or man from a bygone era - who  
have seen or keep alive better days

Golden moments on Main Street  
The child bows to the grandmother  
and insists she go first..  
the proud mother a step behind

Look for beauty - it will come  
Look for magic - the crows will tell you.

R. Loewen

We are confined in our understanding of other  
human beings by what we know about ourselves

Joe Paul

## THE FRUIT OF THE LAND

A good man said, "Let there be abundance."  
And so I gave unto him the awareness to see,  
And he looked,  
And he saw how the Earth had given forth  
all manner of life in great multitudes,  
And he saw how the Earth thrived;  
How truly abundant She really was.  
And with this awareness he could also see himself;  
How the living flesh of which we are all composed  
is come up out from the Earth,  
As is all life.  
And he could feel a new kinship towards  
everything alive.  
The leaves, the ants, the jellyfish,  
All had become his brothers and his sisters.  
And then he rejoiced in his new found knowledge,  
And he proclaimed loudly to the Heavens,  
"I am the fruit of the land!"  
So he was content.  
And then I smiled upon him cynically,  
And said unto him, "Hay Fruity,  
now why don't you buy me a beer?"  
And so there was Abundance.

AGE

**Carnegie Community Centre  
Presents.....  
Association.....**

**An open-air concert of classical music  
Tuesday, October 5, at 2:30 p.m**

**CORNER OF MAIN & HASTINGS (outside Carnegie Centre) All welcome!!**



## NIGHT WATCH

In the midst of sun and good weather  
Twelve kids from St. James' and St. Catherine's  
Came together for three days at week's end in May  
To learn and see part of our city  
That part known as the Downtown Eastside

A video to begin the reflection  
Of men and women trapped in addiction  
The beginning of journeys and stories  
Into the lives of the people of this side of town

Young people we are, young people we seek  
At VanCity Place for Youth, a home off the street  
At Youth Action Centre, a.k.a. YAC

A drop-in to chill, to hang, and to take a bath  
To DEYAS we went, the Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society  
To see detox, reconnect, and outreach programs for kids like you and me

On the streets and through the alleys of the Eastside we moved  
Lunching at the Forty Four, sharing a meal with the people of this place

Discovering the Needle Exchange, and the Health Van, and some  
Just a few of the services to help Eastsiders live day to day

Upon Carnegie our group descended  
Through its halls and rooms we wandered  
Chess masters-in-the-making plotting their next moves  
A semblance of community in a place too-quickly and too-often forgotten

To the people who opened our eyes, our ears and our minds  
Who challenged our naive thoughts and beliefs  
Our gratitude we extend  
For our lives will never be the same

To Toby and Len, the beat cops from the Odd Squad  
Who showed us the faces of the Downtown Eastside  
To Chris, who opened to us the doors of VanCity Place  
To Harold, Sheldon, Corey, Sean and Roy  
Street peers who opened our minds to stories unspoken  
To Shannon and Andrea, who help young addicts quit  
To Robyn and Gloria, who help kids find their way home  
And to Linda and Douglas, our resource and spiritual guides  
For the lessons they taught us this weekend  
Lessons we share with you today  
We learned:

Of the breadth of human compassion and of our capacity to survive no matter the odds  
That not everyone on the Eastside is a drug addict

**DOWNTOWN STD CLINIC - 219 Main; Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**  
**EASTSIDE NEEDLE EXCHANGE - 221 Main; 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. every day**  
**YOUTH NEEDLE EXCHANGE VAN - 3 Routes**  
**ACTIVITIES City - 5:45 p.m. - 11:45 p.m.**  
**SOCIETY 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.-\$45 Bruce J.-\$18 Susan S.-\$7  
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 DEYAS-\$200 PRIDE-\$50 Wm. B.-\$18  
 Heather S.-\$35 BCCW-\$20 Bill G.-\$180  
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 Ray-Cam -\$70 Van MPA -\$75  
 Brenda P.-\$10 Wes K.-\$50  
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 Leah S.-\$20

FREE - donations accepted

# Carnegie

## NEWSLETTER

101 Main Street, Vancouver V6A 3T7 (604) 682-3200

THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE  
 CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION  
 Articles represent the views of contributors  
 and not of the Association.

**Submission Deadline  
 for next issue  
 Tuesday, October 12**



**The Downtown Eastside Residents Association can help you with:**

- Welfare problems
- Landlord disputes
- Housing problems
- Unsafe living conditions

**DERA**

We offer many services as well including a  
**FREE PHONE and VOICE MAIL for \$3.00 a month (or less).**

Come to the DERA office at 425 Carrall Street or phone us at 682-0931

**DERA has been serving the Downtown Eastside for 25 YEARS!**



the

ups

and

downs

of Fircom

"We don't want please leave..." Off to a start!!! 8:30 is too early Back at 9:30, catch a bus to H.S. Bay. "Form a line!" All luggage is inspected by everybody... but I don't see my sleeping bag. "Don't worry, it will get there."

Climbed up a mountain. No sign of the cross! Down again and try this trail. Aha! An orange rectangle and a blue string. Must mean

you here,  
GREAT  
in the morning.

something...

An eagle soars overhead at the summit on Calvary. "Oh spirit messenger, speed up my handicap application."

The stars. At night. Regular as clockwork. Shooting stars, the Persids. In Draco Bootes. All directions. Up all night.

Found a book to read. What is in a starfish? Lost the book to read. Still unknown.

No marshmallows for the campfire. Yes marshmallows for the fire. And coffees. Mmm. Thanx to Jim & Julie

Taum

### A Tree Again

Three feet thick  
it grew over time,  
across the street  
from the sandwich line.

People it shaded,  
from the heat of the sun.  
Crows perched in it,  
pecking on a bun.

In winter it looked  
so stark and bare.  
Shades of brown,  
not yet green.

Many winters it withstood  
three feet thick, solid wood.  
Winter "99" almost spent,  
Mother Nature a windstorm sent.

Bent and broken,  
two weeks it lay  
before the Parks Board  
wood take it away.

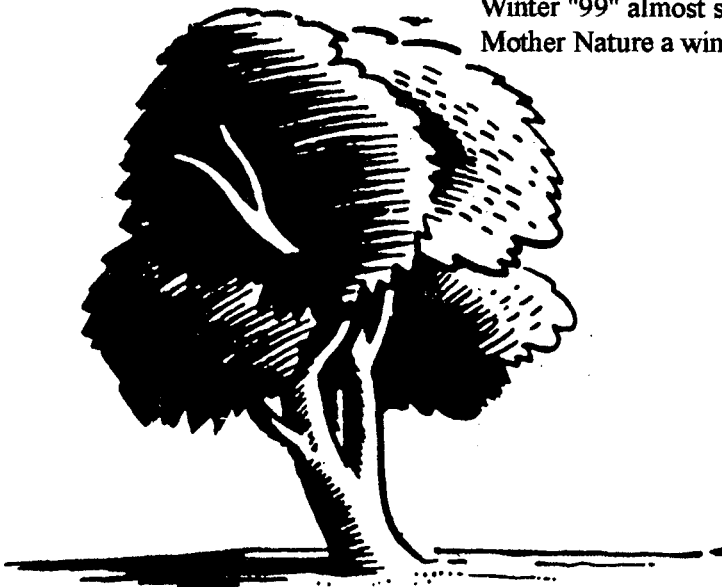
Half a year gone  
fall now here.  
Grass now growing  
where it stood.

Here and there,  
coming up thru the grass,  
the tree is rising  
from its roots again.

Dozens of shoots  
coming up thru the grass,  
all chopped down  
when they cut the grass.

It wood not take  
that many years  
for the roots to grow  
a tree again.

To shade the people  
from the heat of the sun,  
a place for the crows  
to peck on a bun.



Paul Wright

# The War on Drugs and the Other Side of Immigration to Canada:

## The story of Barb H.

Barb H. is one of the newest residents in the Downtown Eastside, but how Barb arrived here is more curious and disturbing than most such tales.

At the age of 12 Barb and her family embarked on a wonderful new adventure and moved to southern California from Hamilton Ontario. For Barb her new home was an exciting place, warm and alive with all the sights and sounds of the sixties. Barb lived an ideal kind of adolescence there.

In her early twenties Barb went on to marry and give birth to a daughter. Following this her and her husband adopted and took in as foster kids 7 other children, each troubled by abusive backgrounds. For 25 years Barb raised her child and foster kids, enjoyed a happy marriage and had every right to expect a gentle glide in to retirement.. to enjoy the fruits, if you will, of all her labours.

Then tragedy struck. Barb's husband was stricken with cancer and after a 2 year battle he died. To add to her grief little insurance money was available so to help make ends meet Barb allowed a man with a trailer to rent space in her back yard. Barb heard disturbing rumours of drug dealing but she chose to ignore them and took the man at his word. He swore no drugs were being sold from out of his trailer.

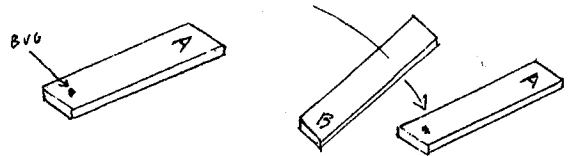
One evening about 3 1/2 years ago the police raided both the trailer in her back yard and her home. The man was arrested for dealing speed. Though Barb did not even know of the man's involvement the police also arrested her too. Under a 1996 California law a landlord can be held criminally libel for any drug dealing done on his or her premises.

Barb, a very passive and naïve suburban housewife and widow, was led away to jail. Listening too well to her court appointed public defender, Barb signed a plea bargain, pled guilty and received a 3 year sentence in the California State

Prison system. 16 months were spent in the notorious women's maximum security prison at Chowchilla, and the remainder at a minimum security facility called Live Oaks.

Barb did her time but her troubles were far from over. The US Immigration and Naturalization Service determined that Barb was now unwanted in the USA and arranged to deport her here to

1. Place bug on end of wooden plank A:  
2. Strike area where bug is located on plank A with plank B:



Vancouver. In spite of her status as a permanent resident and having been married to a US citizen for 25 years, Barb had no defence. The day she finished her sentence she was removed to Mann County Jail for 6 weeks then sent to Canada with a handful of immigration documents, her few belongings and less than \$200.00 Canadian.

From the airport she met a fellow deportee and stayed for several nights in an East Hastings Hotel. From there she spent several nights in a women's shelter and found suitable but sparse lodgings also here in the Downtown Eastside, where simply her view of the streets is, she says, more shocking than anything she saw in prison.

What can we say about Barb's plight? As Canadians we hope such a thing could never happen here. Yet, it was the same hysterical 'law and order' screaming and the cry for a "War on Drugs" we hear here that led to these repressive California laws and their consequences.

This is not to say that our laws haven't perhaps strayed too far in the opposite direction; it IS to remind us of the consequences when we let our emotions alone direct and inform our criminal justice system and our laws. And one of those consequences is that a 50 year old housewife is now living in a place she doesn't belong, a living counterpoint to the other 'immigration' stories we hear of today.

bio sphere

## MIKKI SINCLAIR

Interviewer Rudolf Penner



INT: You come down here quite often to the Carnegie Centre.

MIKKI: Ya, I love the Music Program.

INT: What kind of songs do you sing there?

MIKKI: I like mostly women's songs. We'll do *Sing in the Sunshine* or *Dreams* or *Angel of the Morning* or *Blue Bayou*.

INT: I've heard you sing the same songs quite often. How does that work? You don't mind?

MIKKI: Rob (Doucette) said if I don't sing it enough I won't get used to it, because of stage fright.

INT: I see. What else do you want to talk about in this interview?

MIKKI: Oh, all the nice people who come to Carnegie. They're poor but they don't make each other feel poor. All the friendship and the

love that everybody shares, they care about each other. We're like a family.

INT: Oh neat. What kind of experience have you had with say one person about that?

MIKKI: Oh. When I first saw Dean he took a whole bunch of us out for tea, over at where they're playin' live music...

INT: Where was that?

MIKKI: West End. Where the jazz place used to be. Just over that way by Pigeon Park somewhere. Ya they had a jazz thing there, a jazz coffeehouse.

INT: So you're dressed for summer today?

MIKKI: Ya...I got the shorts, the tank top, and the nice summer jacket, so I don't burn (laugh).....I'm glad they don't get sunstroke.

INT: Who?

MIKKI: Me (laugh).

INT: Oh, so what are you going to do after this?

MIKKI: After this probably go home and watch TV like I do every day. Maybe have a game of Crazy 8s or 21, with Cliff (her husband)...

INT: OK. Thanks very much!

MIKKI: OK, you're welcome.

## Falling

and I'm falling... falling through city streets  
and I'm falling through the places  
where the past and future meets  
I'm falling through lies  
and stories I've been told  
I'm falling through a truth  
that my body couldn't hold  
I'm falling through institutions  
and every single belief  
or they sort of fell past me  
along with happiness and grief  
and I'm falling through purposes  
and the arms of the status quo  
and though they sought to teach me  
their reach in *me* wouldn't grow



I'm falling through ambition  
and any badges of achievement  
as I'm falling through the suburbs  
and all other forms of bereavement  
Now I'm falling through the atmosphere  
into outer space  
far from this friendly planet  
and every other state of grace

Kenny Hawley



# A WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN ON HIV/AIDS

Guest Speaker - Margreth Tolson (AIDS Vancouver)

## "Protecting our Health, Reducing our Risk"

### CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE THEATRE

#### Thursday, October 14th, 6 - 9 pm



Dinner, Cake, Pop and Door Prizes



#### Cosponsored by:

Carnegie Community Centre  
DTES HIV/IDU Consumers' Board  
AIDS Vancouver

#### Funded by:

Merk Frosst Pharmaceuticals  
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For information and tickets contact Rika Uto at 665 - 3003 or the Consumers' Board at 688 - 6241

Booze and drugs were what she used  
Or should I say abused  
Everything given to her on a silver platter  
Now that she was pregnant, nothing mattered

Grandma and Grandpa gave her everything  
Right up to the day of her wedding ring  
Her husband was stationed overseas  
She felt deprived of her needs

One night while all alone  
She went drinking and got stoned  
Went home with another military boy  
Not aware of the problems of her new toy

Nine months later came the end result  
The booze and drugs were at fault  
Couldn't handle what she had done  
So she gave up her only son

The little boy went far away  
Still with no one he could play  
Being raised by strangers in a strange home  
Growing up he felt alone

The other kids laughed at him and made him cry  
The little boy didn't know why  
He was trying to make new friends  
But was unsuccessful to no end

His mother came back at nine years  
To take him back because he thought she cared  
Her intentions were to correct a wrong  
He wondered what had taken her so long

Things never got any better  
Fighting for attention from a sis and two  
brothers  
Never really fitting in  
He wasn't perfect. he confessed his sins

At 16, he moved out on his own  
Starting with nothing and all alone  
Building a new life from scratch  
Going forward never looking back

Everything he got was by himself  
Never accumulating any wealth  
Hasn't talked to his mom in years  
Every so often he breaks into tears

He never forgave his mom for what she'd done  
As far as he was concerned he wasn't her son  
A mother.. he never really had one  
His heart she has never won

**Anthony Dunne**

## Leah Stone

1960 - 1999

Want to put in your two bits about the Music Program in Carnegie? You'll have a chance on Thursday, Oct. 14, from 1-3 in the Art Gallery.

There have been some proposals made to change the music program: doing something about the noise levels in the Theatre; bringing different musical activities in the Centre; and maybe changing focus a bit to create more variety and involve more people.

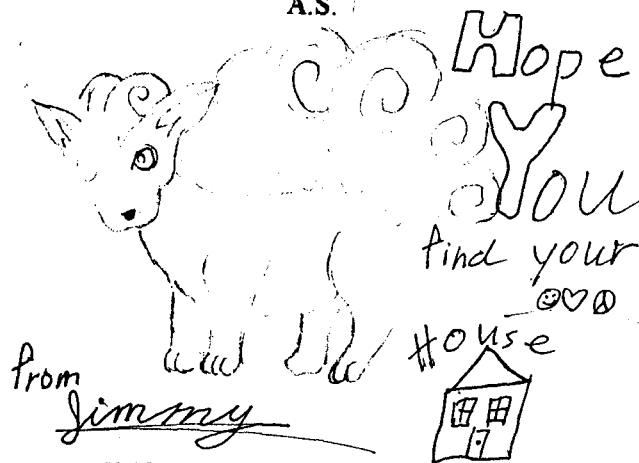
Bring ideas you have about music in Carnegie!



### Rotten Apples and Ripe Plums

Is it realistic  
to expect  
the inferior gender  
(that's you)  
of the species  
to begin to comprehend the  
complexities  
of the superior gender  
(that's us)  
of the species?

A.S.



I wish you good  
luck!

You were sunny, funny,  
so special, so beautiful and  
amazing. We will always love you.

We'll miss your music, laughter,  
spontaneity, cleverness and generosity.



From Nancy

Thank you, Andrew Sheeves, for nursing me through a prescription drug withdrawal and for helping me to overcome a difficult situation in my parents' home.

Anita Stevens

Dear Anita,

Even that we don't know you that well, but we know that you are very nice and kind.

Thank you for telling us to lock the door before we left the house.

We all wish you good luck!

From Nancy, Sharry and Jimmy

# Welcome to the Downtown Eastside



## Good things about this area, this community

1. It is a community with a history of accepting most anyone. People are generally decent and have evolved to create the social services providing aid and interest.

2. **DERA** - the Downtown Eastside Residents Association was formed in 1973 to fight for basic rights in the cockroach hotels and rooming houses. i.e. sprinkler systems, doors that would close and lock, windows that would open. DERA members were instrumental in getting Carnegie re-opened as a community centre. It has developed hundreds of units of housing for low income singles and families in both rental and co-op models. DERA provides advocacy services and assistance in matters relating to welfare, landlord/tenant problems, taxes and EI.

3. **United We Can** - this is a major recycling centre for many bidders (dumpster divers). It provides cash for collected materials and some employment for people cleaning alleys and lanes. Those involved lobbied successfully to get many more kinds of containers redeemable, and helps now to augment the incomes of hundreds of recyclers.

4. **Portland Hotel Society** - provides housing for people still active in addictions and substance misuse as well as mental health consumers and

sex trade workers. Harm reduction and tolerance as well as psychiatric aid are part of the operation. Older hotels have been purchased and renovated to provide housing and a new hotel is going up.

5. **Sun Yat Sen Gardens** - an oasis in the downtown, about 2 blocks from Carnegie. There is both a free side and an entry-fee side to enjoy the tranquility and energy in this classic Chinese setting.

6. **Pigeon Park** - a paved corner with trees and benches, it is an open space. It sits outside the base of Co-op Radio, a volunteer run radio station whose programs and possibilities are limited only by the participants' input.

7. **Victory Square** - green space across the street from the downtown campus of Vancouver Community College and near the local hemporium. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives is in the building just north of the park, providing excellent analysis and rebuttal to the machinations of the Fraser Institute. The Simon Fraser University downtown campus is about a block-and-a-half farther west.

8. The **Downtown Eastside Women's Centre** is an excellent resource for women in need of space, advocacy, food, clothing and referrals.

9. **Crabtree Corner** is under the auspices of the YWCA and provides assistance for single and low-income parents. There is an emergency or arranged daycare and a myriad of services.

10. **PRIDE** is an acronym for this established project providing the training and job search skills necessary for many to find employment.

**Bladerunners** links youth with construction job sites and trades for training.

11. **DEYAS** - the Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society, operates the needle exchange and has direct input into youth detox, housing, street nurses, and works with people in substance abuse and sexual abuse situations. Much has been done and continues, in conjunction with **Watari**, the **Youth Action Coalition** and the **Neighbourhood Safety Office**, on changes to policing and legislation over the laws on prostitution, procurement of minors for sex and enforcing / rewriting same.

12. **Native Health Society** - frontline and unique in providing medical aid, counselling, referrals and addiction services. There are a variety of projects and interests - transsexual safety, drug&-alcohol programs, pregnancy options and traditional direction.

13. **Evelyne Saller Centre** - a community resource with a cafeteria providing low cost meals, recreational activities, games, pool and TV, and health services including laundry, showers and de-lousing.

14. **Street Orientation Services - SOS** is the resource centre for Latino residents, with help on immigration and refugee claims, job searches, substance abuse issues, medical network connections and ESL/job matters. Issues on the head tax and related difficulties are a component of the challenge here.

15. **Four Corners Community Savings** - This is a financial institution created by and for low-income residents, with assistance from the legal department of the provincial government. The original and ongoing ideation is to give low income residents and customers the dignity and opportunities available at larger banks, trust companies and credit unions without the class or economic discrimination.

16. **Main&Hastings Community Development Society** works on education for non-residents, surveys of locals to determine housing needs and difficulties, has provided excellent housing and is seeking to develop more. Another interesting aspect is the research and exposure of the trend to privatize public space through the introduction of private security forces and bylaws prohibiting panhandling and squeegeeing (by implication, not meeting some arbitrary standard of acceptable appearance set by merchants / property owners.)

17. **Lookout** - helping people with temporary shelter to emergency housing, with drop-in aid for dual diagnosis individuals, mental health consumers and others at the **Living Room**.

18. **VANDU** is the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users and provides peer counselling and advocacy for users in matters of housing, medical aid and needs in a harm reduction model



## The City of Vancouver Millennium Project

wants your stories and photos!

What is your Vancouver story? The Portrait V2K story and photo gathering workshop is part of a series of community events and activities designed to celebrate life in Vancouver and provide several lasting legacies.

The Vancouver Museum will mount a year-long exhibit of selected photos and stories and some will become part of a time capsule.

If you or your group are interested in participating, come to an info session on Thursday, October 14 at 3pm in Carnegie.

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Various missions and churches operate programs that involve food, clothing, showers, phones, advocacy, referrals, administration of assistance money, rehab, housing and counselling.

The *Help in the Downtown Eastside* booklet contains the briefest outline of the many groups, services, agencies and organisations in the neighbourhood as a guide to what the community has. Almost every interest has the same underlying factors affecting expression - poverty, decent housing, drug misuse and substance abuse, safety, recreation, jobs and job opportunities, access to training and education, medical aid and security. Every listing and component of work is, of course, limited by space and even words and only touches the surface. This neighbourhood is much more than just the sum of its parts.

**Welcome to the Monkey House!**