

FREE - donations accepted.

# Carnegie

## NEWSLETTER



JUNE 1, 2000

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

### President's Report: 1999-2000

Can you believe it - the time is here. Where did the year go? The high road took us to many places where we picked up Michael and said good bye to Steve and Andrew.

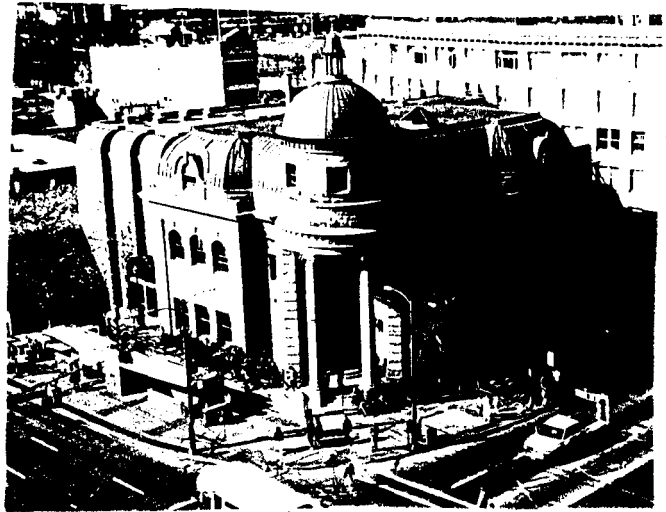
This year many doors opened and, once again, communication became our tool towards community involvement. While many of our goals were achieved through positive thinking and action, our successes were double the pleasure.

As most of you know I was away the last few months of my term I would like to thank Muggs for the countless hours she put in while I was gone. Muggs did keep me up to date on the issues.

The committees kept us busy on Carnegie and community issues. The biggest success was when Rice Wine, at 38% alcohol by volume, was removed from the Downtown Eastside. Thanks to ALL who took part in this project (seven years plus!).

Thanks to the all Carnegie staff, volunteers and Board who made this year a raving success.

**Margaret Prevost**



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
of the  
**Carnegie Community Centre Association**  
**Sunday, June 11, 2:00 pm**

**\* Reports.. Elections.. Refreshments!!**

**\* Registration begins at 1 pm**

**(You must have been a member for 14 days  
immediately prior to this day to vote.)**

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT: DECEMBER 1999 - MAY 2000

I arrived in time for the Christmas celebrations, and since then have taken in cabarets, Easter dances, 50's dances, country and western dances. So this is what Carnegie is all about parties and celebrations! Why not?

The twentieth anniversary in January was a powerful reminder of the importance of Carnegie in this community. The Centre is a place where people come to find respite from the harshness of the street and it is a place to celebrate the richness of life in the generosity, talent and commitment of our volunteers and board, and of our staff.

Carnegie is a warm and welcoming place. As I have found in my first months here, there is a special atmosphere when you come in the front door. It's hard to describe, but it draws you in, and in my case, gives me the energy to go through the countless meetings, the problem-solving and the soothing of relationships that are all part of hanging out and working together.

More than anything, Carnegie I think is about relationships, and it is about enabling people to discover themselves. It is a resource for people to develop their own voice in determining the future of the Downtown Eastside as a community characterized by a an acceptance of many life-styles, by a commitment to social justice and by a truly democratic spirit of participation.

In several other reports and ways I have said that my *initial priorities* are three: to work with the Street Program to help find a solution for the drug market at Main and Hastings - that saves lives, improves the health of those with addictions, and closes the open drug activity; to involve our first floor information and security staff in expanded training and support programs; and, to involve all members of the Carnegie family in preparing a mission statement for the Centre. Work is well underway on all of these. All will contribute to the growth of a strong Centre, in tune with the community.

My thanks and appreciation to the board, staff and volunteers for your patience with all that I have to learn, and for your advice and support for all that we are doing together.

Michael Clague

# Welcome to Gastown

*The  
tourist  
destination  
that  
has it all!*



# Hey - not to worry.

Gastown has one of the largest private police forces anywhere. They work full time to keep the unsightly panhandlers and shopping cart people moving and away from you. The pimps and johns know better than to tangle with our efficient guardians. So you'll always be fully protected as you enjoy your shopping experience. Don't you feel safer already?

And Vancouver city police have big plans to make it even safer. They want to install surveillance cameras that can scan all the high-crime areas of Gastown, meaning just about every sidewalk and street corner (see walking tour map). Then they can keep an eye on you as you go about your shopping.

And that's not all: Gastown is getting its second police station, at Carrall and Cordova, less than two blocks from the first one, with 40 extra officers dedicated to just one thing - giving you a good old-fashioned Gastown welcome.

For your shopping convenience, we are planning to create a "Carrall Street Safe-Transit Corridor" where police and rentacops will be patrolling in extra

3. strength to protect you from unauthorized contact with the locals as you travel from Gastown to Chinatown and back in search of shopping experiences.

But we're also busy tackling the root causes of all these problems, too. When we're finished with the final solution, there won't be any poor people left in Gastown to spoil your shopping experience - only the new gentry living in high-security gated complexes. With our friends in Chinatown, we are currently lobbying city council to prohibit any more low-cost housing or social programs in the area.

So once all those poor people finally get the message, they will pack up their few meager belongings and move to a cardboard box in another part of town - or maybe to your town.

And as for all the people who have physical or mental disabilities, or have addictions, and the children and adults selling their bodies on the street, well, they'll just mend their ways on their own when they find out that there's no help for them available in Gastown.

So enjoy your visit to Gastown. Remember, it's not who you are, it's how much you spend.

Be sure to visit our website at:  
[www.gastownwelcome.com](http://www.gastownwelcome.com)

*[Editor's note: Someone just found this pamphlet (part of which is here), that gives a much clearer view of Gastown than the pap you get from their shells. Maybe more will be made and - given out!]*



## Community Directions Needs Our Support

One of the clearest articles about the concerns of Downtown Eastside residents on the so-called 'Revitalization Plan' for our community was written by Marg Green, now an organizer with Community Directions, a Downtown Eastside coalition of over forty groups. Her discussion paper was called The Downtown Eastside: A Time For Mediation or A Time to Take A Stand? It appeared in the *Carnegie Newsletter* on March 15, 1999.

"Solutions to the problems of the Downtown Eastside will not be found through mediation, nor through an expensive office of planners and consultants dropped into the middle of the neighbourhood," Marg writes. She insists that the historical community of the Downtown Eastside, with its multicultural, low income population, has to be recognized. This community is stable. Most of the population consists of long-term residents. Poverty and lack of decent, affordable housing are major problems in the neighbourhood. With Vancouver land prices among the highest in North America, building low income housing is not a money-making proposition. "The instability of the neighbourhood lies not in its population base, but in the precariousness of the housing supply for a population whose incomes are inadequate to meet basic needs." (Green)

Marg Green points out that the Downtown Eastside is not an empty wasteland that needs new

strategies in order to attract investment. Look at the huge International Village Project. Look at the new condos being built. Look at the proposed Convention Centre on the waterfront. Our community is not an inner city that has been abandoned. "The problem facing the Downtown Eastside...is not that no one wants to invest there, but rather that they do. In this context revitalization becomes another name for displacement. (Green). Gentrification is a major issue for the residents of the Downtown Eastside and yet this issue is not clearly named by government, even in the latest City of Vancouver flyer, Side by Side: An Introduction to the Downtown Eastside Revitalization Program (*Vancouver Courier*, March 29, 2000.)

The entire Downtown peninsula (Burrard inlet on one side; False Creek on the other) is covered with development corporation profit-making projects. They want it all. So much for the ruse of 'striking a balance' put forward in the City's flyer

"The central issue is a land issue. Vancouver's downtown core is a peninsula that cannot expand in any other direction. There are more cranes working in the downtown core than in most other Canadian cities...many developers are interested in the area...the pressures for development can only increase." (Green) We are talking about millions and millions of dollars in profit as land prices rise in the Downtown Eastside. We need the help of government to defend ourselves against developers who see Downtown Eastside land as a way to get very rich.

Marg Green calls for measures that will protect the Downtown Eastside's low income community before its swallowed up by the monster of market-driven development. Building a strong neighbourhood voice through Community Directions is one of those measures.

Community Directions' meetings are held on a regular basis, and are open to Downtown Eastside residents and the organizations they belong to. Call Marg Green (760-7859) for more information and watch for the notices in the *Newsletter* or on community posters.

By Sandy Cameron  
to be continued

## TWO WORLDS

There are always the two worlds  
 The one that is fixed in your mind  
 And the one that is always changing  
 There are those who have made it  
 The ones just holding onto the ladder

Those two souls walking in the world  
 One artist living his life in the Light  
 The other in the shadow of the moon  
 A walking Mr. Lonely into the night  
 For a year I had a mirror in my room  
 It was cracked and it was smudged  
 Even losing the paint on the back of it  
 The person that I saw was disappearing  
 So I replaced it with a brand new mirror  
 And now when I look into it I can see  
 That person I am saying, "love you" to  
 There was that whole other world that  
 Existed behind the mirror I had missed.

## Steel Roll

Like the ores refined in some big factory  
 Of all the impurities that are mixed in it  
 And then comes out sheets of shining steel  
 So my life became in recovery from cocaine  
 I kept on writing and doing the radio shows  
 And kept on getting back up on The Stage  
 I kept on doing volunteer work in the city  
 People kept on moving down the sidewalks  
 Going to work or trying to get that next fix  
 People getting married and playing sports  
 Trucks carrying goods down the highways  
 The trains moving across the many countries  
 The big ships navigating the oceans and seas  
 And out of the sky descending from the clouds  
 Came a man we haven't seen for a long time  
 To walk amongst us, setting everything straight  
 Like a big steel roll crushing the grapes of wrath  
 So that there is the best wine in the end to drink.

*Daniel Rajala*

*Daniel Rajala*

### **Is civil disobedience a positive tool for bringing about social change?**

*When love stirs your conscience to say "No"  
 how can you possibly say "Yes"?*

*So have at it, my friends,  
 wherever your heart leads you.  
 Wherever your truth must be spoken,  
 speak it in love, in compassion  
 for those who yet cannot hear,  
 for that is what you have come to do.*

*Speak it with joy  
 for those who are ready to listen.  
 Speak from the fullness of your own knowing.*

*Civil disobedience? Oh my yes.*

### **FREEDOM is SLAVERY**

Every civilization has had slavery as an essential element of its economy, including our own. Have you attained the North American dream in making payments on your own home – only to ask the question "Who owns your home really?" If you're still making payments, then who owns your car or appliances or TV? Just stop making payments and see what happens.

The freedom to spend money on things that are

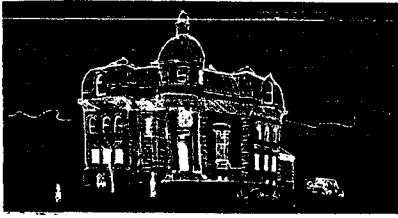
priced too high becomes the slavery of debt. Before the Civil War in the USA, free men could sell themselves into slavery for up to 7 years to pay off debts to the landlords.

In ancient Chinese philosophy it is said:

"Small robbers are put in prison;

"A great robber becomes a feudal lord, and at the gates of feudal lord your righteous scholars are found."

**IGNORANCE is STRENGTH**



### Editor

I read Susan Parsons article in the May 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the Carnegie Newsletter and something just doesn't sit right with me. I acknowledge that the Ministry has the authority to verify the addresses of recipients. I also acknowledge that *some* of the hotels are little more than crack houses and criminal havens. What doesn't sit right is that she is justifying the excessive intrusion into people's privacy. Yes, there has been welfare fraud, but read between the lines, people. She is talking

### Editor,

Social injustice is happening today; to say we have improved over the days of old-time slavery is incorrect. People who have no money are at risk every day. A classic stereotype is to say it is a poor woman's fault for not having enough money to defend herself from life's 'bad' trips.

Remember that book *Black Like Me* – a white man went to find out what it was like to be black in the deep southern states. He darkened his skin and hair, then went to various places to experience life as an African-American. I challenge anyone to put on a poor persons attire and push a shopping cart around for a few days or weeks.

Life on the streets can devour a woman or a man. Many people "sleep out" but it can be difficult to find them; it's hard to feel safe, especially with strangers poking around. Street persons know instinctively that outflow should not exceed inflow, but every time inflow stops the basic question becomes "Will I die this time?"

Peace on you street person; we both know it may be a long time or never before our sister/brother learns the money lessons we've learned. Love is the answer over money. Thanks.

..from Mike Bohnert

about the *hotels* committing the fraud. Read again what she says "some hotels had many more residents than rooms"... 'many rooms were found to be vacant.'" But the bottom line is that, from her own numbers, there were only 10% of the hotels doing this.

The need to verify a person's address and the need to gain control of only 10% of the hotels does not justify the intrusion into people's privacy. To have a Welfare worker knock on your door backed up by uniformed police is little more than a fascist tactic of intimidation. It was used by the SS and the KGB. It says that your rent receipt, your intent to rent and your tenancy agreement are fraudulent

How would Susan feel if a Revenue Canada auditor knocked on her door in the company of the RCMP to verify that she actually lived at the address that is listed on her tax return?

Henry Dutka

### Editor,

Gil Puder hit the nail on the head: "That drugs rarely cause crime, while money almost always causes crime." The serious work of straightening out drug problems needs sober attention.

John Turvey is one such helper; his recommendation that the provincial government support addict training in overdose procedures is great! He says, "In short, if folks aren't breathing or CPR isn't happening for them, the use of Narcon would have limited potential."

These things are only part of the drug problem; saying no is one option but the person must be able to do this. Will teens or younger kids know the reasons why? Can parents teach their children something they themselves don't know? Evil is insidious – lurking in many places with many faces – and searching for victims.

Hopefully Allen Rock [federal Minister of Health] and Jenny Kwan [provincial Minister addressed by Turvey] will pay attention to the recommendations of both MP Libby Davies and John Turvey.

Thanks again to all the Carnegie volunteers and supporters who help to make these good things possible.

Mike Bohnert

## The Battle

To Walt Whitman: Author of Leaves Of Grass

Walt Whitman  
singer of songs  
who are you?

Eliot could not read you;  
Pound winced, and recognized your genius;  
Lawrence stood in awe,  
and Miller followed singer in his turn.

You sing the Self  
the spirit and the body,  
the sacred person  
too precious to betray.

From depths uncharted in your odyssey  
you open up your arms embracing all,  
the light, the dark, the living and the dead.

You give a voice  
to all who cannot speak  
to those in need of courage  
to the lonely  
to those crushed by oppression  
facing death, despair and bitter emptiness.

From you we learn to know humility  
accepting what we are  
accepting all,  
still holding fast to our most inward dream.

No easy path you show us;  
defiance, vigilance you preach  
a willingness to risk our worldly comfort  
for that fierce light  
by which things shall be known;  
to stand within the shadow of the end  
and sing loud praise.

O gentle seer  
the trees did talk with you  
the stars did know you as a trusted friend;  
your voice was as the thunder.

Sandy Cameron

Future, like a moldable plastic compound  
penetrating my very being  
soft waves of desire elude me,  
warm me like passionate kisses.

I am delighted by this erotic exercise,  
drawn out by subliminal self love.

My tendency to provoke disaster  
is crawling like an infant child,  
slithering on its belly like a worm.  
He is able to sense a change in me,  
it sends him into an enraged emotional *fit*.

The battle has just begun;  
the struggle is exhausting,  
sweat drips from my every pore  
and I taste the salt, my salt.

I feel my blood boil in my being,  
as I remember I am the captain  
of my vessel.

I am the owner!

I will not remain in exile.

“Death to the invader” is my battle cry!  
somewhere deep within the threshold of consciousness  
I see liberation at the end of my long,  
hard journey.

A certain type of immunity from all my past wrongs.

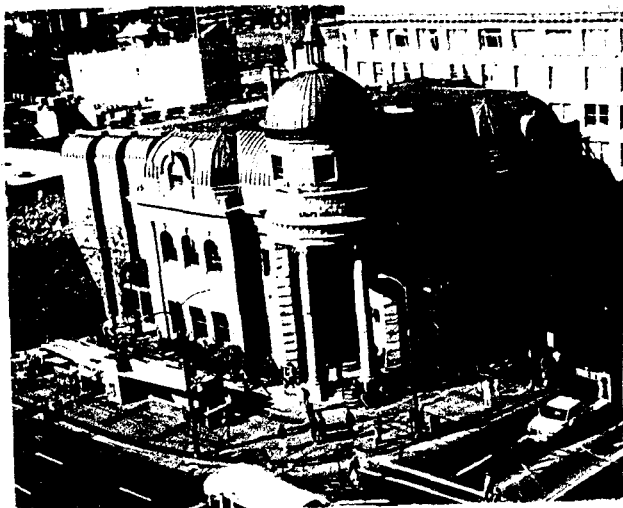
The beast is growing weary and drained.  
Consumed by my lust for life.

Time to savor my triumph,  
to bask in the brilliance of my conquest.  
Yet even after the last scene is performed,  
and the curtain comes down,  
the beast still lurks.

**WAITING!**

Nicole Eggie





## HOORAY! THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY HAS A PERMANENT LIBRARIAN!

Congratulations to Dick Turner. Vancouver Public Library has just announced his appointment as our permanent Librarian/Branch Head. Dick has been serving on a temporary basis since November of last year. In the past year we have had three Librarians or Branch Heads as they like to be called. September 1999, Andrew Martin ended two years as Librarian and transferred to the VPL Science and Technology section. Mary Duffy came to fill the position but left within a month to temporarily fill in at Strathcona Children's Library. Her background was children's programming and so she was moved when the Librarian was on a leave of absence. Recently the position of Librarian/Branch Head became available and Mary decided to stay at Strathcona. During the time Mary was at Carnegie she "fell-in-love" with the Centre and the Library.

Dick Turner was our third intrepid librarian, this year. He seemed to fit in from the very first day. While Dick has been here he has served library patrons and the staff with humour and a genuine love of people. His creative direction for the library and the collection improvements already show. He has expanded the Spanish collection and plans to index and catalogue the entire *Carnegie Newsletter* so referencing items will be easier for any of us needing to find something that was printed some time ago.

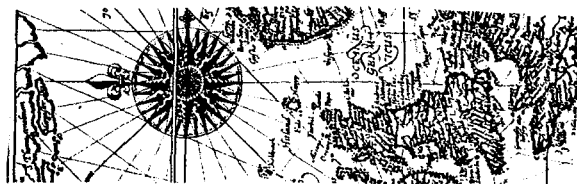
The Library Staff deserves special recognition for their steadfastness during this past year. They have had to show up for work, keep the doors open, answer our requests and shoulder the stress of not having a steady and constant Branch Head to give them back-up. We owe this group of workers our gratitude and "Thanks."

On Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> the Library celebrated the Carnegie's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with an authors' reading. The theme of the day was *New Voices of the Community*. Six writers from the local community-Marie Baker, Joan Skogan, Robert Waltz, Sparrow, Maxine Gadd, and B.B. Polecat (Bill Blanchard) shared their writings. Readings were followed by a salmon dinner. The VPL and Carnegie Association sponsored this event.

Thank You to Barry Davies, Taum Danberger, Ken Godin, Marvin Faithful and Gerald Wells for assisting with set-up and clean-up for the reading and dinner that followed. Also, Gail Mintz who showed up and offered to help. With the gold glitter this woman's body is sporting these days she truly was a Fairy or Sprite with her helping spirit. Mistress of Ceremonies Delayne did a great job. She assisted in organizing the Reader's day and her thoughtful and creative input to the planning helped make the day a success. Hostess Irene Schmidt, member of the Library Committee, served food. Joanne Hamen serenaded us on her accordion while we were dining.

Thank-you to Michael Clague as Director of the Carnegie, Muggs Sigurgeirson representing the Association Board, filling in for Margaret Prevost (who is in the hospital) and Yvette Yardanoff, filling in for Dick Turner (who also was suddenly sick) spoke on behalf of the Library. Michael, Muggs and Yvette each welcomed everyone to the Library's celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Carnegie Centre.

There is one serious note to end my first year as Library Committee Chair. Over the summer the





**I CHARGE**

each individual with recognizing their fear  
 each repressor with responsible therapy  
 each judge with damages to victims  
 demoralized with societal stigma  
 Prosecutors, Cops, Priests, Politicians - moral  
 violators, incompetents under the umbrella of art.  
 "The laws of morality and the laws of art  
 are the same"

**I WANT**

prostitution legalized, drugs legalized,  
 contraception mandatory...  
 an oligarchy to end poverty  
 women to be sexy, men to be tender, parents to  
 say yes unconditionally, cheats to be generous,  
 environmentalists to be respected, pope to recant,  
 politicians to seek counsel from artists immediately  
 ... or some kid carrying a nuclear bomb is going to  
 drop it.

My witnesses are dying children.

*Andy Kostyniut*

committee and the Association's efforts will be  
 focused on seeking funds for the Security Gates  
 for the Library. VPL will be contributing 50%  
 and the Association will be looking for funds of  
 over \$8,000, covering our share of the costs. We  
 have until September, 2000 to secure a commit-  
 ment for the money. We are currently writing  
 requests to foundations that support literacy. Any  
 suggestions of sources could be made either to the  
 Carnegie Association Board or to Dick Turner  
 Librarian/Branch Head who can be found in the  
 Library Monday through Friday.

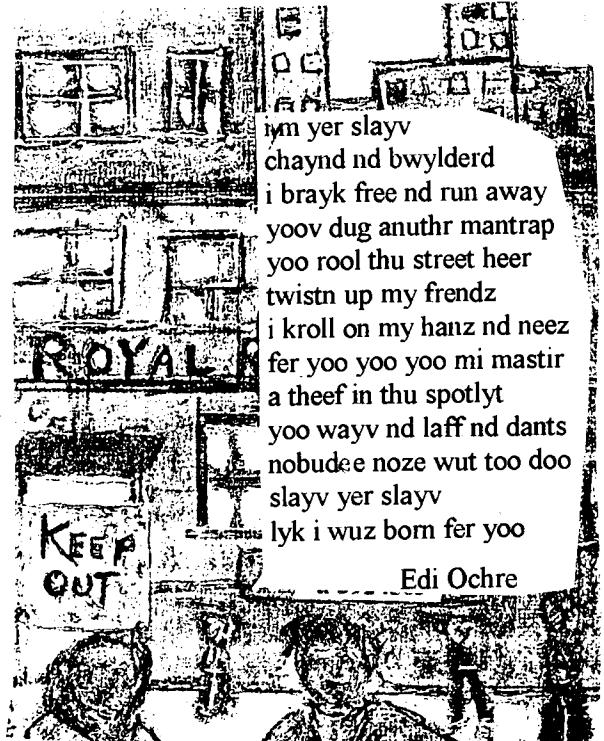
This is my final Library column for this year. It  
 has been an act of love to serve on the Library  
 Committee. I've attended Humanities 101 and  
 102 during this Fall and Spring and this program  
 is a direct result of our past Librarian Andrew  
 Martin's efforts on behalf of the Downtown East-  
 side community and the Carnegie Centre. From  
 this experience I plan on looking into a Library  
 Technician certificate at Langara College. Person-  
 ally, it has been both a tough, hard winter but also  
 a time of real growth. The University courses  
 gave me a spring back into planning for my next  
 twenty years. I never intend to retire and I'd like  
 a career that offers me the opportunity to continue  
 learning. Learning for the sake of learning is a  
 joy. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as a  
 Board Member and to assist the Library. I've  
 learned and grown and loved it all.

Ruth McGibbon,

Chairperson of the Library Committee

***Friendly Reminder***

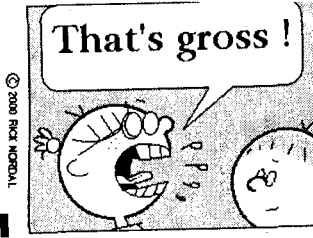
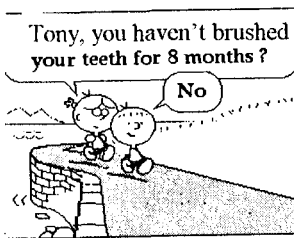
Come Rain or Sleet or Hail or Sun - on May 31<sup>st</sup>  
 the Library will be outside with a free book table  
 as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Street Pro-  
 gram. Congratulations to Sharon and all the great  
 staff and volunteers who work in the program on  
 the streets. We'll be there! Come on out!



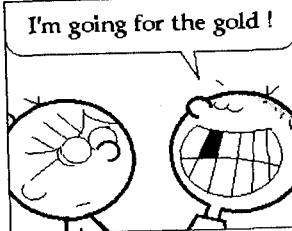
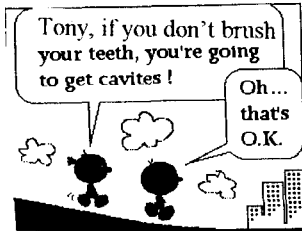
# Hey, whatever happened to – TONY SEAVER?

It's always noteworthy when Carnegie people go out and make a name for themselves in the outside world – Tony Seaver is just one of those people.

Tony is earning a reputation as the most disagreeable bouncer in Vancouver. In fact, the pages of the *Westender* newspaper have been peppered with letters the past few weeks about his notorious exploits at the Commodore and, before that, at the Town Pump. Seems he has a habit of throwing his weight around. He's big and burly, so people who cross him tend to end up on the sidewalk – and not in a standing position.



**HASTINGS** by Rick Nordal



In one incident, Tony was so rough in ejecting someone that even the band was outraged. The lead singer spat on him and ad-libbed lyrics to one of his own songs telling the beefy bouncer what he thought of him.

A power-tripping bouncer is not exactly a rarity, but what puts Tony's exploits in the news is that the Commodore is the premier venue downtown in Vancouver, so that makes Tony the No. 1 bouncer in the city.

Thankfully, Tony isn't known to most Carnegie people these days, but those who do remember him won't really be surprised by his newfound celebrity. In the bad old days, back in the mid-1980's, a little clique of opportunists led by Tony grabbed control of the Carnegie Board and, by their general incompetence and favoritism, were driving the Association toward bankruptcy, subverting democracy and generally creating a pathetic spectacle in the community. The *Carnegie Newsletter*, not even a year old, reported on the sleaze and Tony and cohorts tried to kill the paper. What topped it all off was when they began reporting to Welfare the names of kids who were enjoying the free food events at Oppenheimer Pk.

Carnegie people finally had enough of it. The largest petition ever assembled in the building – over 300 names – climaxed a campaign by volunteers and patrons that successfully turfed them out.

Tony the bouncer and his coterie were bounced, and we haven't seen them since. We may have had our ups and downs over the past 13 years, but the Association and the Board have become models of harmony and stability compared to the nightmare reign of Terrible Tony.

Wally Macleod

Vancouver Health Board Society



Pacific Outback Program

# HEPHIVE



## Hepatitis and HIV Education & Support

449 E. Hastings St., Van, BC, V6A1P5  
Tel: 604.254.9949 Fax: 604.254.9948  
1.800.994.2437  
darlene.morrow@hephive.org

**Darlene Morrow, BSc**  
Programme Manager  
www.hephive.org



**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 - 6:45 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.**

**2000 DONATIONS** Libby D.-\$55  
 Sam R.-\$15 Nancy W.-\$20 Eve E.-\$20  
 Margaret D.-\$30 Shyamala G.-\$18  
 Joy T.-\$30 Val A.\$36 Wm B-\$20  
 Thomas B.-\$41 Harold D.-\$7 Pam-\$22  
 Rolf A.-\$45 Bruce J.-\$50 Beth L.-\$2  
 Kettle -\$18 Sonya S.-\$140 BCTF-\$10  
 Nancy H.-\$35 Bill G.-\$150 Wes K.-\$30  
**DEYAS-\$200 RayCam-\$25**  
 Wisconsin Historical Society -\$10  
 Heather S.-\$18 John S-\$50  
 Yukiko -\$10 VEDC -\$25  
 Rockingguys -\$30

FREE - donations accepted

# Carnegie

## NEWSLETTER

411 Dow Street, Vancouver BC V6P 1K7 (604) 682-1100

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**  
**Monday, June 12**

[carnnews@direct.ca](http://carnnews@direct.ca)

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

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

**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!**



Creating an organization's first mission statement is a process of gathering ideas and suggestions for the mission and honing them into a short, sharply focused phrase that meets specific criteria. It is said that the mission should "fit on a T-shirt," yet a mission statement is not a slogan. It is a precise statement of purpose. Words should be chosen for their meaning rather than beauty, for clarity over cleverness. The best mission statements are plain speech with no technical jargon, no adornments. Like the mission statement of the International Red Cross -- "*To serve the most vulnerable*" -- they come right out and say something. In their brevity and simplicity is power. The greater the mission, the more simply it can be stated.

The truth is that all great leaders in history have had missions that were no more than a single sentence long. Abraham Lincoln's mission was to preserve the Union. Franklin D. Roosevelt's mission was to end the Depression. Nelson Mandela's mission was to end apartheid. Mother Teresa's mission is to show mercy and compassion to the dying. None of them prescribed means, or said what they were going to do to make it possible, or how they were going to do it - they just said that they were going to get it done. As soon as you prescribe means, and start saying specifically how you plan to do it, walls go up, conditions apply and focus is shifted.

An example: If our statement includes direct reference to feeding hungry people, some might comment or criticize that we have a wonderful kitchen which serves a lot of meals - our mission has been accomplished. Some may read it and think we are just a soup kitchen, not unlike so many others down here. We all know this is not the case. However, if in the construction of our mission statement we step back and embrace the entire concept of hospitality, providing meals becomes a part of that, and we're still free to pursue our mission and better serve our patrons and

community. The choice of words is all-important.

This is the challenge of recognizing what is unique about Carnegie and incorporating this into our statement. Look around at the sample mission statements, and think of other agencies in our neighborhood which could use these statements for themselves. Many are excellent examples, worthy of a noble cause, but keep in mind there is no place on earth like Carnegie. Our funding sources are stable and relatively generous. We have hundreds and hundreds of willing volunteers, working thousands of hours every month. We have a dynamic board which is proactive both in and outside the walls of this building. We have this big, beautiful building, located in the heart of the area where our efforts are needed most. We have the opportunity to do more than your average non-profit agency, and we can also be flexible in our approach and methods. Our mission statement doesn't need to reflect this as much as it needs to recognize this, and in its construction we must remember that once all of the emergencies in our neighborhood have been addressed - and we must believe that day will come - Carnegie Centre will still be an asset to its patrons and continue to be a positive and relevant force in the community.

Think also about what we want to be remembered for, years from now. Looking back, will we say "we were serving food", or will we say we were providing a place for people to not only eat, but get involved in feeding themselves and others, giving them choices when it came to diet and health?

Will we see ourselves as a building which provides educational opportunities with a Learning Centre and Library, or are we a place which facilitates learning on a variety of different levels, from the classroom to the seniors lounge, where wisdom and knowledge can be freely exchanged for the purpose of personal growth and greater humanity?

Looking back, will we see that we were a refuge from the harsh reality of the street? Or were we a place where people from the street came together to create a new reality for our community, starting right here?

This is how a mission statement has its impact, both in the here and now and over time. We post it proudly at our entrance, letting those who are new at Carnegie know what we are really all about. It's a description of the combined sentiment of those who join with others here at Carnegie and start to experience the love and camaraderie between friends who also happen to be neighbours; when one begins to fully realize the spirit of sharing which brought them here, regardless of whether it was to give or take.

When disagreements arise, we can look to our mission statement and measure whether or not our actions are worthy of our goal. For now, for the future. This is a very exciting time for Carnegie Centre. I wish us all the best of luck in our mission statement process. Thank you.

Kai Erickson

## **Town Hall on Carnegie's Mission Statement**

Six draft mission statements were presented to the Town Hall meeting, based on returns from 110 surveys. The Town Hall participants worked these over and added their own suggestions. There has been no time yet to do any re-writing but it's probable that we have narrowed it down to two or three. There were different viewpoints in the room on two questions. The first matter is concerned with inclusion. Is Carnegie supposed to serve all people or people who are poor and marginalized? Can it do both? What about people who are not allowed into Carnegie? The second matter was that of small "p" political action. Should we include the ideas of "advocacy" and "empowerment" in our mission statement? The meeting wasn't polarized on these questions, but it was obvious that people attach different degrees of importance to them.

**excruciations of compassion**

what do you do  
when "the most hated human being in society"  
is the only man you knew  
who loved you  
and was your gangster-hero-stepfather  
but molested your sister  
and was convicted of raping a 9 year old girl?

or what do you do  
when a woman accused of  
"flaunting contempt for the moral laws  
on which our society ultimately rests"  
accused in a full-page sensational  
suicide and sex scandal  
what do you do  
when this most evil woman  
is your mother?

or what do you do  
when the killer who shot your grandmother  
in the heart  
is her daughter and your aunt  
who turned the gun on herself?

well  
it's a hell of a lot easier on me  
to condemn some monster/alien/stranger  
and revel in self-righteousness  
than to have  
these excruciations of compassion  
and suffer with  
the most hated humans  
the most immoral women  
the most extreme violence  
in a scary and confusing  
solidarity with the socially damned  
that burns so furiously  
in my blood

Bud Osborn  
*good friday 2000*



## Take A Trip, Make The Time

Hit the bricks, save the fare  
Run some lights, who should care  
You make the corner of unit-block  
Cats are hustling, dealing rocks  
Girls are twirling, just spinnin 'round  
No harm, no foul, want up or down?  
You feel the Reaper from dusk 'til dawn  
You hunt, you claw, you drop a bomb

### Magic

Quick as that it flew by a bald eagle  
surrounded by half a dozen seagulls  
hovering right past my 4<sup>th</sup> floor window  
Two hours ago I gave a coin with a bald eagle on it  
to an Elder who seemed to know me  
Chance you say; what did Jung say  
about coincidence – holy flashes  
-coming quick, leaving you to wonder...

There is so much death here  
Life surprises me, blows me away  
when the magic and the mundane collide  
Sunday, Mother's Day, I saw a Chinese mother  
with a son who loved his mother proudly  
From her a sadness, a straight sense of duty  
from the boy complete safety clinging to her hand

Ya, we may live in sometimes hellish times  
but we try to live out our lives with as much  
love & beauty, truth and the bonds of affection as anyone  
4 blocks away a hooker dead in a dumpster  
it is this we battle with everyday trying  
to be normal as people drop like flies all around us.

You can poison us with your cocaine, heroin  
but the will to live overpowers your evil  
the love simple people have will never be completely  
washed away.. maybe you have to look for it  
but the magic is there, the love shines thru.

R. Loewen

The doll's in vials, the balls in cheeks  
Make a buy, close a sale, try not to freak  
The dealin's done, no need to run  
So find a doorjam.. maybe an inside can?  
Sorry you can't come in; you've been banned.  
So you take a stroll, stay pro in control  
You'll be alright if you stay out of sight  
You do the up, you do the down  
Just tryin to turn your head around  
Now you're back in style but only for a while  
You're feelin fine and on top of the world  
But you gotta make tracks to the unit-block  
or howsabout the square this time  
or the cement park the next – no dice?  
Take care and beware of the demons out there  
and remember me when you need a friend  
I don't cost a dime & I've always got time for you  
Fate says we'll be together in the now & at the end

*Robyn Livingstone*



the community

mary overdosed alone  
in her hotel room  
but the old guy next door  
an alcoholic  
found her and saved her life  
they watch out for each other  
like when he's drunk  
she helps him get back to the hotel  
but mary broke  
a couple of her fingers  
when she dropped  
and her face has now erupted  
with a rash and sores  
from a bad cut  
in the heroin

*Bud Osborn*

# Take Personally

**Homelessness, Poverty and Health**  
The World Trade Organization(WTO), the  
International Monetary Fund & the World Bank –  
*Myths, Facts, Questions & Answers*

[It's to state the obvious – being wealthy means having access to better healthcare, more nutritious food, and little survival stress; being poor means struggling to have even the basic necessities with the lack of adequate food, clothing, housing and medical care a constant stress. It's to link this to the WTO, IMF, World Bank, and all the labels that say nothing of how the impact of their functions are felt directly by us in the Downtown Eastside and throughout the world. It's to say that winning a battle or two – de-railing of the MAI,

## What Is trade?

The logic of trade is simple. Suppose I can make wheat better than steel and you can make steel better than wheat. If I then focus on wheat and you focus on steel, we can trade together to exploit our respective talents to each do better than if we didn't trade. Similarly, if two countries have different "comparative advantage" in the production of wheat and steel, and they each make both wheat and steel for themselves, the total pile of wheat and steel for the two countries will be less than if they specialized. Of course, the extra output from specializing and trading has to exceed the costs of negotiating the trade and sending the items, but if it does, then both sides can get more from trading than not. Free trade, then, is simply trade without taxes, tariffs, or other barriers or restrictions. The logic is that since trade is good - in that both parties can benefit relative to not trading, restrictions that reduce trade are bad.

## on the World Trade Organization

Robson Square Conference Centre  
800 Robson Street

the Battle of Seattle, the non-reporting of a huge protest in Washington DC over the International Monetary Fund conference there - is a far cry from winning the war against this global conspiracy to rid the planet of anything resembling democracy. There is so much to read and draw from in compiling anything like this – suffice it to say that contributors are numerous. The WTO primer beginning here was prepared by Michael Albert; the 'fact sheet on homelessness' is from the National Anti-Poverty Organisation.] There's going to be a Teach-In on the World Trade Organisation in November. To get more info: 711-207 West Hastings,  
Vancouver, V6B 1H7  
Fax: 688-5756 Tel: 878-5424

## When and why is trade harmful?

First, when two parties specialize and then trade to benefit from comparative advantages, gains could be split to benefit the worst-off party more, divided equally, or benefit the better-off party more depending on prices or what is called "the terms of trade." Some prices could even shuffle all the gains to one side. They could cause one side to be worse off than if they hadn't traded in the first place, as in many instances of colonialism. So in the short-term, who benefits from trade and how much they benefit depends on prices. One of the ills of international trade is that larger economies can impose prices while smaller economies generally suffer the consequences. This doesn't only mean that the U.S. and Germany can overwhelm Thailand and Guatemala. Of the 100 largest economies in the world, 52 of them aren't countries, they are corporations.

Moreover, with no restrictions on international

investment, firms will force countries to compete against one another. Each country and community is pressured to lower wages, lower taxes on business, and reduce environmental regulations if they are to attract and hold businesses. This is what has been called the race to the bottom.

Additionally, in this system communities can be decimated if what they have specialized to produce can no longer be sold profitably on the world market. So, for example, if free trade means that U.S. corn has a lower price than Mexican corn, US-made corn will be imported into Mexico and those who produce corn in Mexico may not only lose their land and livelihood, but be forced to leave their communities in search of employment elsewhere.

Or suppose two countries trade and prices are such that both enjoy immediate material gains. However, suppose the division of labour allows one country to develop and diversify its economy, but forces the other country to focus overwhelmingly on one product, perhaps even a product that has no future. One country specializes in coffee or sugar and the other specializes in computer software. As a result, the continual downward pressure on prices of sugar or coffee as well as limited linkage to other industries causes inequality to persist and widen.

Similarly, two countries could trade and one moves in ecologically positive directions, but the other focuses in areas with horrible environmental labour, or social consequences. Additionally, whether an economic policy benefits only from profits rather than from social quality of life and ecological effects has much to do with domestic

**WE THE CORPORATIONS BELIEVE THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF EVIDENT THAT ALL CORPORATIONS ARE CREATED EQUAL....**



**FOUNDING FATHERS**

**Confronting Globalization  
.... Demanding  
Democracy**



agendas in each country. If one country has death squads to silence opposition (paid for by the government of the other country), its labor costs can be pushed to rock bottom, children can be enslaved, toxic waste can be dumped.

Regarding the World Trade Organization (WTO), its agenda prioritizes the privatization of welfare, education, health, social housing, and transport. According to the U.S. trade delegation, "The United States is of the view that commercial opportunities exist along the entire spectrum of health and social care facilities, including hospitals, outpatient facilities, clinics, nursing homes, assisted living arrangements, and services provided in the home." Salivating in the wings of the WTO talks were U.S. multinationals, including the pharmaceutical industry, the long-term care sector, and HMOs. The WTO seeks to create a new privatization bonanza in the health sector, as but one instance of its overall agenda. Multinational and transnational corporations are lining up to capture the gross domestic product that governments currently spend on public services such as health and education. The long tradition of European welfare states, based on solidarity through community risk-pooling and publicly accountable services, is being dismantled.

**What Is the WTO?**

The WTO is an international organization of 130+ member countries; it's a forum for negotiating international trade agreements and the monitoring and regulating body for enforcing agreements. The WTO was created in 1995 by the passage of the provisions of the "Uruguay Round" of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Prior to the Uruguay Round, GATT focused on



promoting world trade by pressuring countries to reduce tariffs. But with the creation of the WTO, this corporate-inspired agenda was significantly ratcheted up by targeting so-called "non-tariff barriers to trade"- essentially any national or local protective legislation that might be construed as impacting trade.

The idea is simple - instead of only imposing on third world countries high pollution & low wages due to their weak or bought-off governments, why not weaken all governments and agencies that might defend workers, consumers, or the environment, not only in the third world, but everywhere? Why not remove any efforts to limit trade due to its labor implications, ecology implications, social or cultural implications, or development implications, leaving as the only criteria whether there are immediate, short term profits to be made? If local or national laws impede trade - say an environmental or health or labour law - the WTO adjudic-



ates, and its entirely predictable pro-corporate verdict is binding. The WTO trumps governments and populations on behalf of corporate profits.

Homelessness is not an isolated social phenomenon. It is caused by a wide range of social, political, economic and institutional factors. By conservative estimates, there are over 200,000 Canadians who are homeless.

*People who are considered homeless include the:*

**Visible Homeless** who live on the street or in shelters or temporary housing.

**The use of shelters on an average night is about 300 people in Vancouver, 700 in Calgary, 460 in Ottawa and over 5300 in Toronto. In Montreal, 8253 people used a shelter between 1996-97.**

**Hidden Homeless** who live in abandoned buildings and vehicles; double-up in other people's homes; trade sex for a place to sleep; and children who are in foster care for lack of housing.

**High Risk for Homelessness** such as people who pay more than 30% of their income on rent; people in physically and/or sexually abusive situations; tenants of single-room occupancy hotels and rooming houses; people living in overcrowded and unsafe housing; and disabled persons living in inaccessible housing.

## N A P O Canada has promised to...

"(recognize that) everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing..."

*Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948*

but still...

- The *UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* has condemned Canada for allowing the problem of homelessness and inadequate housing to grow to become a national disaster (Concluding Observations, December 1998)
- The *UN Human Rights Committee* recognizes that homelessness in Canada "has led to serious health problems and even to death" (April 1999)

## Fact Sheet

on

**Homelessness**

## Dispelling Myths about Homelessness

*Myth: Homelessness is a lifestyle choice.*

**FACT:** Homelessness is a direct result of poverty and a lack of affordable housing.

Poverty is on the rise in Canada and it can be attributed to declining real wages, unemployment, and inadequate welfare rates. Rent takes up a large part of household income for people living in poverty, forcing individuals and families to make impossible decisions between food and shelter.

- Single parents with one child fall as much as \$7,500 below the poverty line, even after working full-time at a minimum-wage job;
- A single person receiving social assistance in St. John's pays more than two times his benefits towards rent for a 1-bedroom apartment;
- Almost one in four tenants in Ontario are at risk of homelessness because they spend more than half their incomes on rent;
- In 1993, all federal social housing expenditures were cut by 42%. In 1996, the federal government down-loaded housing programs to the provinces. Canada is the only developed country without a national housing strategy;
- A New York University study found that the main cause of family homelessness is the scarcity of affordable housing. It found that 80% of formerly homeless families with subsidized housing stayed stably housed, regardless of other problems.

*Myth: Mental illness and substance abuse are the primary causes of homelessness.*

**FACT:** Mental illness and addiction exacerbate issues such as loss of housing, poverty, and cutbacks to treatment services.

In a Toronto survey, 61% said their homelessness was caused by inadequate income to pay rent or marital/family breakdown. Only 3% lost housing because of mental illness and 17% because of drug/alcohol abuse

While mental illness and substance abuse appear disproportionately among the homeless population, they do not by themselves explain the increase in homelessness. For example:

- The loss of affordable and Single Room Occupancy(SRO) housing for poor people suffering from addiction and/or mental illness is a major cause of increased homelessness in many communities such as Vancouver. Yet stable housing is essential to the effective management of mental illness and recovery from addiction.
- Homeless people face huge barriers in accessing treatment services and recovery supports because of closure of psychiatric beds; cutbacks to addiction treatment programs; lack of transportation; inability to afford medication and treatment; and lack of health coverage.

*Myth: A "typical" homeless person is a single, alcoholic, adult male.*

**FACT:** Youth, families, and women are the fastest growing groups in the homeless, at-risk population.

- Families represented 46% of the people using hostels in Toronto in 1996;
- In Montreal, 4,000 to 5,000 youth are homeless and 30-40% of homeless people are women;
- Violence against women is a significant cause of homelessness. In 1996, 8,450 women and children in Toronto turned to a women's shelter or the general hostel system because of domestic violence;
- In Calgary in 1996, 2,587 women-led households faced a housing crisis, of which 971 were absolutely homeless.

## THE CORPORATE CITY

“Whenever there has been a choice to make between providing people with what they want and need on the one hand, and pursuing a strategy that would increase the short term and long term profits of the development corporations on the other, the developers have chosen to pursue their own interests... The consequences of this arrangement, however, is that the corporate city is designed not to provide a humane and livable city, but rather to maximize the profits to be made from urban land and to capture as much control over the process of urban growth as possible for the development industry.... The corporate city... is not so much a place for people to live and call their own as it is a machine rationally and effectively designed for making money.”

James Lorimer, in his book The Developers  
pub. by James Lorimer & Co., 1978, page 79



### theology from the outer darkness

to randy and cheryl

at a street church in the downtown eastside  
a middle-aged first nations man remains  
after the service and hot dogs  
and says he wants to speak to someone  
he then tells me  
his family is dying  
of a.i.d.s. from dirty needles  
and overdose deaths  
because there is nowhere safe  
to use drugs  
my family is dying right now he says  
in the bar  
on the street  
and the man's face  
streaked with scars  
creases in anguish  
he sticks his arms straight out at his sides  
and makes sounds



of spikes driven through flesh and bone  
ghastly violent sounds  
he says i don't want to give up  
but my brother just died  
and he really tried  
to find a new life  
and the man nods toward the front of the room  
to the bloody tortured executed christ  
I think a lot about that gentleman he says  
and stretches his arms out again  
and makes the sounds  
of crucifixion  
and says  
the pain  
the pain

*Bud Osborn*



### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

When i was driving street cars in the early 30's, I knew the Cozy Corner as a comfort station for the logger and street worker, a cheery place full of goodwill, advice, admonitions.-- As the years passed, the cozy corner fell into disastrous times...many people were hurt...disappeared  
Strange how the name lived on....

*Sam Roddan -*