

FREE - donations accepted.

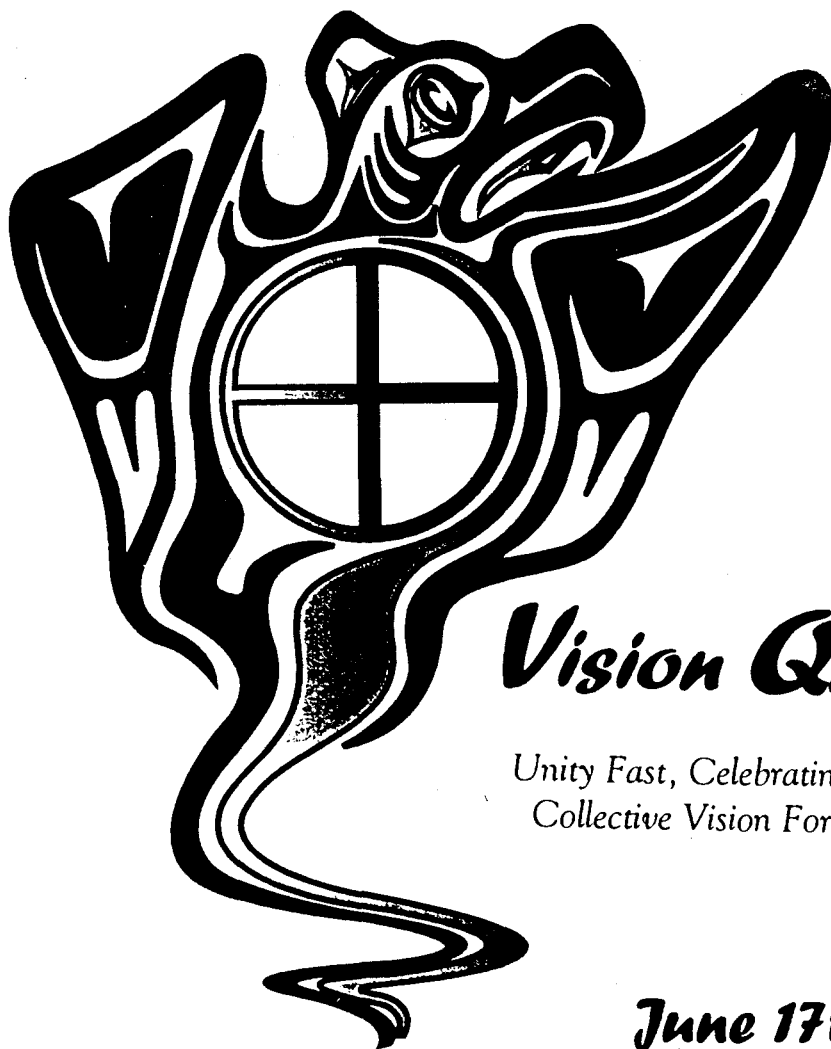
# Carnegie



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 15, 2000

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



A National  
Aboriginal Day  
Celebration

Come Join  
+  
Bring Your  
Support.

## *Vision Quest 2000*

*Unity Fast, Celebrating Survival, Forming a  
Collective Vision For A Better Tomorrow*

***June 17th to 21st***

**@ Vancouver's Victory Square.**

# A TIME FOR CHANGE

The idea for **Vision Quest 2000** was born from a protest fast held in Pigeon Park in July 1998. That Fast was inspirational to those of us who participated, and provided us with a beautiful gift far beyond the simple moment of true clarity that comes with a Fast. Five of us - all residential school survivors, each with our individual personal journey of recovery, each getting up there in age - sat four days and four nights on the hard pavement in the heart of poverty and all that comes with it. Junkies, beggars, prostitutes and other friends stood around us.

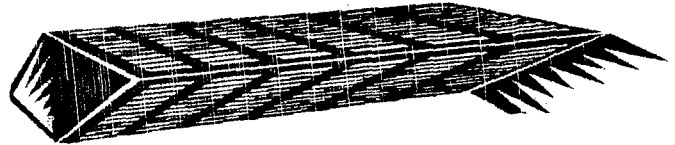
We never felt more empowered.

On the last day of our fast, when one of us turned to the others and weakly said, "We survived", we knew we had survived far more than four days without food. For the first time it was clear to us; we knew we had survived the War against our identity that has been waged against us. We had survived the residential school, racism, the Indian Act, and colonialism itself. The fact that we were there, holding our own Fast, our own Vision Quest, meant that we had survived. When we celebrated at the feast that followed the Fast, we

were celebrating that survival.  
*We never felt more empowered.*

On June 17th we will begin another Fast. This time we invite you to participate - to share in the celebration of survival. We chose the downtown Vancouver location of Victory Square, because it is a memorial park. It is a place where loved ones lost in War are remembered. It is maintained "Lest We Forget". It is a place where we can come together to publicly mourn those lost and wounded in the War against our identity while sharing and coming together in search of a vision for a better tomorrow.

We are humbled by the invitation we give you today, but the new Millennium suggests a time for change, a new beginning, and we recognize Vision Quest 2000 as part of that change. It felt wrong not to invite you. We have a vision of representatives from those organizations working for change for our people coming together in a quest for a common vision for the future of our people. It is a fresh approach based on the oldest of teachings. We never felt more empowered when we completed our first Fast. It is something we want to share with you.



W. M. (Bill) Summersgill  
INVESTIGATOR

900 -1111 Melville Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 3V6

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Direct Line: (604) 775-2413  
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Email: [bill.summersgill@gems6.gov.bc.ca](mailto:bill.summersgill@gems6.gov.bc.ca)

Commissioner. These people start the inquiry and it may get informally resolved or just be dismissed if there's no substance.

'Characterization' - Service and Policy refers to things like a discontinued practice of releasing people picked up for various offenses (public drunkenness, etc) at 3 am with no money and no where to go. It was just bad policy.

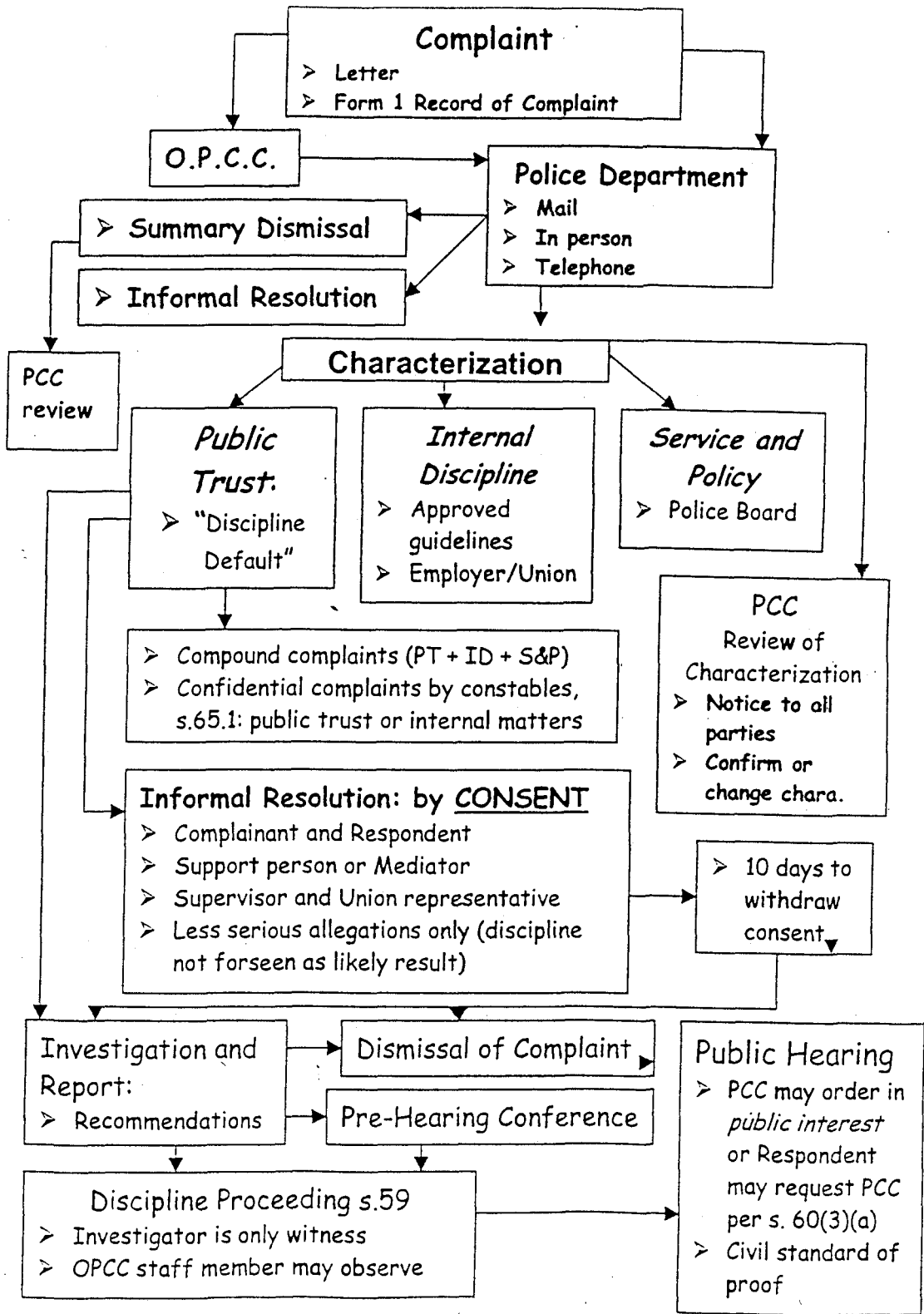
- Public Trust complaints are what over 95% are classified as. These relate to how police have treated individuals or acted in situations that merit investigation.

The response of many people in the Downtown Eastside to laying formal complaints is that they will set themselves up for retaliation. The Complaints Commissioner states that any perception of retaliation or targeting by police in light of a formal complaint will be dealt with.

OFFICE OF THE  
POLICE COMPLAINT  
COMMISSIONER  
British Columbia  
Canada

The chart on the adjacent page shows the way that complaints against the police are dealt with. The first, mandatory step is that a complaint form has to be filled out. The problem or situation has to be written down. If it's not written down on the official form it won't be dealt with.

O.P.C.C. is the Office of the Police Complaint



**Complaint**

- Letter
- Form 1 Record of Complaint

**O.P.C.C.**

**Police Department**

- Mail
- In person
- Telephone

➢ **Summary Dismissal**

➢ **Informal Resolution**

**PCC review**

**Characterization**

**Public Trust:**

- "Discipline Default"

**Internal Discipline**

- Approved guidelines
- Employer/Union

**Service and Policy**

- Police Board

- Compound complaints (PT + ID + S&P)
- Confidential complaints by constables, s.65.1: public trust or internal matters

**PCC Review of Characterization**

- Notice to all parties
- Confirm or change chara.

**Informal Resolution: by CONSENT**

- Complainant and Respondent
- Support person or Mediator
- Supervisor and Union representative
- Less serious allegations only (discipline not forseen as likely result)

➢ 10 days to withdraw consent

**Investigation and Report:**

- Recommendations

**Dismissal of Complaint**

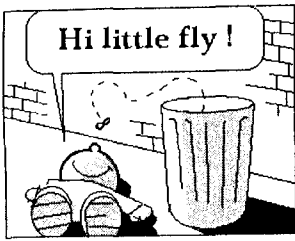
**Pre-Hearing Conference**

**Discipline Proceeding s.59**

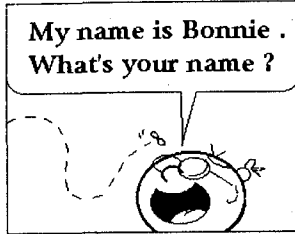
- Investigator is only witness
- OPCC staff member may observe

**Public Hearing**

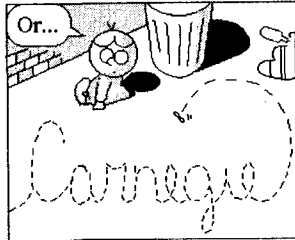
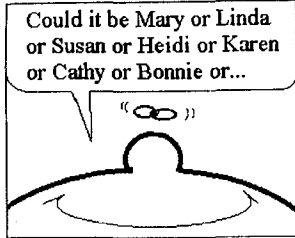
- PCC may order in public interest or Respondent may request PCC per s. 60(3)(a)
- Civil standard of proof



© 2000 Rick Nordal



**MAIN** by Rick Nordal

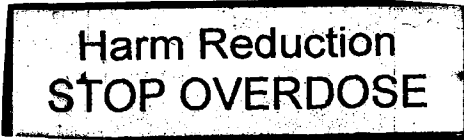


**Harm Reduction Slogan Contest**

The slogan must be able to fit onto a lighter. Each lighter will have the words "HARM REDUCTION" on it. The other words are up to you and your imagination.

The front side has room for up to 17 letters; the back side can have up to 3 lines with 17 letters on each line. You can get an entry form or drop it off at the Health Board Office, 332 Carrall Street, at DEYAS, VANDU, Carnegie, Oppenheimer.

This contest was learned about on June 1<sup>st</sup> and closes n June 16 at 3:00.



**Of What I See**

I am not ashamed. I am afraid.  
 I am not heartless. I am disillusioned.  
 I am not immune. I am kept sterile.  
 I am not stupid, not under-educated, not pompous, nor better than.  
 I am simply frozen in the knowledge that, I can do nothing for you except give you my words. They are all I have. Use them.

ELI

**VANDU Attacks Ally**

Opponents of harm reduction in Vancouver scored a victory in May with the publication of a vicious attack on a principle champion of harm reduction in the *Vandu Voice*. The struggles of the Carnegie Centre on behalf of drug users in the downtown eastside are less than naught to the scathing pen of one anonymous Vandu writer.

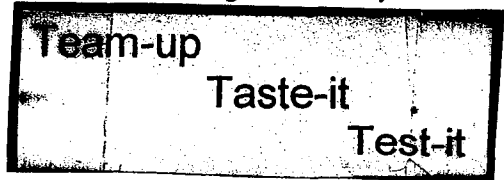
Disinformation suggesting addicts themselves are opposed to inclusionary gestures like the Carnegie Street Program provides wonderful ammunition for drugwar fanatics in Gastown, Strathcona, and wherever. The tactic of divide and conquer is a tried, tested and true combative strategy that leaves one wondering who's side the heart of this nameless Vandu writer is on.

The excessively small-minded Vandu article renders defensiveness from Carnegie inappropriate. Indeed, the *Vandu Voice* continues to be distributed in and around Carnegie. Anyone wishing clarification on Carnegie's action and policy for drug users is encouraged to call me at 689-0397.

In closing, an old slogan:

"Class consciousness is knowing which side of the fence you're on; class analysis is knowing who's there with you."

Shawn Millar  
 Carnegie Community Action Project



**Cultus Lake 2000**

I really enjoyed Cultus lake, even though it was raining 98% of the time. We had a nice canoe ride and the food was excellent. It was a pleasure to meet Michael Clague, our director.

Everyone got along, as it should be, and I look forward to the next Senior's trip.

Thanks to everyone at Carnegie.

Mulweektmin/Basil Deneau

# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE C.C.C.A.

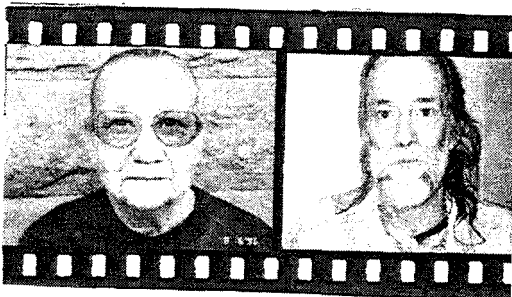


The Carnegie Community Centre Association held its Annual General Meeting on June 11, and in spite of short notice (in this rag at least) there was a good turnout.

Nineteen people were nominated for the Board and the following are directors for 2000-01:

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Eva Britt       | Ruth McGibbon      |
| Peter Fairchild | Alicia Mercurio    |
| Scott Hamel     | James Pau          |
| Lorelei Hawkins | Margaret Prevost   |
| Luka Jolicoeur  | Irene Schmidt      |
| Chris Laird     | Muggs Sigurgeirson |
| Mike McCormack  | Jeff Sommers       |
|                 | Paul Taylor        |

Special thanks and mention were given to both Dan Feeney and Bob Sarti for the work they did to produce the book of annual reports. Over 130 patrons have their photographs in it.. kind of like a yearbook.



It scarcely does justice to the work done and ongoing of the several committees, so what follows is just an introduction. The reports of the President and Director were in the last issue. **Finance** – administration and statements are the joint responsibility of Deleine (staff) and Jeff as Treasurer. Future health is hoped for through diversification of revenue sources, currently and perhaps overly reliant on gaming. This dilemma is certainly not unique to Carnegie, and fundraising is now a function of committee effort.



**Community Relations** – the visit of Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson; four pillar approach to drugs: prevention, harm reduction, treatment, enforcement; Carnegie's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Mission Statement project; work on redesigning the corner of Main&Hastings with input from users, patrons, staff, business and police; improved working relationship with police; involved in Community Directions and supportive to Circle of Hope, the Windows Project, HIV/AIDS group, and others. **Community Action Project** – reports to ComRels *Necessary Measures* housing plan update, work on anti-conversion bylaw and monitoring of SRO stock, researching and responding to closed-circuit surveillance cameras, continued work with other groups (TRAC, DERA, Portland Hotel Society, Main&Hastings, Community Directions)



to ensure the Downtown Eastside lives & breathes  
**Library** – new permanent librarian Dick Turner, ongoing service and improvements, necessity of security gates and fundraising for same, visits by Roch Carrier (National Chief Librarian) and Gov-Gen Clarkson, outreach and giveaways.

**Program** – advising on Street Program & strategy to find real solutions to the drug problem, Hep C support, Media Workshop, Coffee & Ideas, CD project, Festival of Delights, van trips, Sarti walks, Christmas, volunteer support.

**Publications** – *Help in the Downtown Eastside* in English, French & Spanish (22<sup>nd</sup> printing) [non-response on funding app to MSDES], *Newsletter* celebrates 14<sup>th</sup> birthday in August and continues to piss off exemplary excrement like Leonore Sali. Sue Bennett, Mikee McCoy et al.

**Education** – Learning Centre, computer room, Literacy Day and promotion of writing, poetry, local history and current affairs, First Nations Initiative and Native languages project, tutoring, outreach with WISH, Opp. Pk, writers' group.

**Volunteer** – recognition of thousands and thousands of volunteer hours that make Carnegie a reality, outtrips, problem-solving, Volunteer Of The Year Andy Hucklack, staff assistance and mentoring to enhance participation

**Oppenheimer Park** – arts+crafts, music, children's events, adult trips, festivals, work with users to curtail drugs, health services, cooking and food, kudos to Steve Johnson.. even a wedding!

**Seniors** – International Year of The Older Person, work on literacy, awareness of need of population and recreational opportunities. Computers and access to health/community/family services

If you want to get involved with any of the above or have new ideas, go for it!

By PAULR TAYLOR

## Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody

This is a story about four people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

There was this important job to be done and everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was everybody's job. Everybody thought that anybody could do it, but nobody realized that somebody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that everybody blamed somebody when actually nobody asked anybody.

- submitted by Mr. McBinner



*this could be for anyone that you like  
 but it's for my son Kirk Matthew Pearson  
 and Mark Hesketh*

I had a friend he had a cat  
 his cat was in a corduroy box  
 he plays with a little boy  
 the boy is almost perfect  
 After all, he is an angel  
 because he earned his wings  
 I often see them in my dreams  
 They remind me to keep on believing  
 They tell me to follow my dreams  
 They can become my reality  
 They will be my reality  
 They are reality  
 I miss you two  
 Mommy always loves  
 See you in heaven  
 Always remembered  
 Never Never Never Forgotten

*Andrea Pearson*



## Adult Guardianship

A quiet and personal issue was the focus of DERA's monthly membership meeting, held on the first Friday of June in Carnegie.

Four new laws were passed recently that help ensure the wishes and independence of seniors will be honoured.

### \*The Representation Agreement Act

Individuals are encouraged to set up a Representation Agreement, You choose what decisions a friend or loved one can make for you, and the law stipulates what efforts must be made to let you make your own decisions on your life - your money, housing and what you find important - including what kinds of medical treatment you want or don't want. It can be a general agreement but may delegate life-and-death decisions.

### \*The Health Care (Consent) and Care Facility (Admission) Act

The general rule is: Adults can be given health care only with their consent. It puts into law much more specific criteria for health care providers to allow people to make their own decisions. It also stipulates the limited situations when consent is not required, such as urgent or emergency need or involuntary psychiatric admission.

If you have a Representation Agreement (RA) in place then that person can act as he or she should - as you would want them to. In matters of health care, if no RA exists, a family member or someone close could be asked to act as a temporary, substitute decision-maker.

### \*The Adult Guardianship Act

This law protects adults from abuse, neglect and self-neglect. Abuse is deliberate mistreatment that causes physical, mental or emotional harm, or damage to or loss of assets. It includes humiliation, intimidation, physical or sexual assault, overmedication, withholding needed medication, censoring mail, invasion or denial of privacy and denial of

access to visitors. Neglect is a failure to provide necessary care or assistance. Self-neglect is any failure of an adult to take care of himself that causes, in a short period of time, physical or mental harm. It includes living in grossly unsanitary conditions, suffering from an untreated illness, disease or injury, suffering from malnutrition that will severely impair physical or mental health, and creating situations that will cause harm or suffering to himself or others.

This law allows for intervention, such as court ordered restraints on abusers, and homecare providers to curtail neglect

### \*The Public Guardian and Trustee Act

A Community Response Network is a group of people and organisations in a community who work together to ensure an appropriate and coordinated response to adult abuse, neglect and self-neglect. The principles are already mirrored in the Downtown Eastside with the provision of community education and advocacy, the work towards prevention, sharing to understand current responses to abuse and neglect (including tracking how responses are working) and the support of each other. What this Act does is redefine the role of the Public Guardian and sets out parameters for support and assistance.

Community Response Networks are made up of family members, advocates, organisations such as churches, service clubs, advocacy groups, spousal assault programs, victim and legal services, health care providers and so on. Such 'networks' exist in youth services and child protection, street safety and even treatment provision to some extent, but the reality is that the need far outweighs what is available.

The presentation and question/answer kept coming back to the basic dignity of the individual and the hoped-for decision by seniors to set up a Representation Agreement to keep it.

For more information:

- **Public Guardian and Trustee of BC  
Adult Guardianship Project  
700-808 W. Hastings, Van V6C 3L3  
(Tel) 775-0847 / (Fax) 775-0207**

By PAULR TAYLOR

## Notes from the Reading Room

There has been a fair amount of confusion about the policy and use of the Internet terminal in the Reading Room; this is to clarify.

The first and most basic 'rule' is that any user is allowed a maximum of 2 half-hour sessions per day, and there must be at least 30 minutes between those 2 sessions. This is standard practice across the Vancouver Public Library system and we will not deviate from it. No VPL or other identification numbers are required by any user to log onto the Internet.

Here at Carnegie, Internet users book time by signing their names on the sign-in sheet at the Circulation desk. Each time slot is for 30 minutes and users are expected to sign on and off the terminal promptly on the hour and/or half hour. The clock on the wall governs the change-overs. We will not argue about the time with any user; we will refer them to this clock.

If a user has inadvertently gone over time and has to be reminded that another person is waiting for his/her time slot, we expect that user to log off immediately. If you are waiting for a time-slot, and the current user has gone over time, please inform the staff at the Circulation desk.

If a user who has booked a time-slot does not show up, or is late, then the staff at the Circulation desk must be informed. At this point, staff will amend the sign-up sheet and another user can insert his/her name for the time-slot, but staff must be involved with this change. If there is no one else wanting to use the time and the original user arrives, he/she may use the time-slot. If someone just sits down and begins an Internet session without informing staff, that person will be asked to leave if the original user arrives, another user books the time-slot with the staff at the Circulation desk or the time period ends.

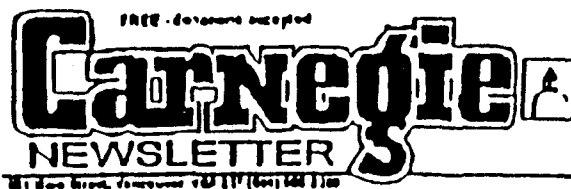
Because of the popularity of the Internet and because we have room for only one Internet terminal in the Reading Room, we have had to be absolutely rigid about these rules. Very simply, there have just been too many arguments and disruptions around the use of the Internet. We'd

appreciate everyone's help and cooperation in dealing with this policy. It will make matters simple for all of us.

Anyone who wishes to read the Internet policy here need only ask at the Circulation desk. It's on the back of the sign-up sheet. **The rules stand whether you know them or not!**

\_Congratulations to Ruth McGibbon on her re-election to the Carnegie Board. She was chair of the Carnegie Library Committee last year. Staff are happy about her continued presence because of her degree of interest in the library and books, and because of her dedication to Carnegie and Carnegie's people.

Dick Turner, Branch Head  
Carnegie Reading Room



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, June 27**

**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



NEWSLETTER OF THE CARNEGIE



# COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 689-0397 OR DROP BY OUR OFFICE, CARNEGIE 2ND FLOOR



## STADIUM INN

**Converts to  
Backpackers  
Hostel**

**You can add another 44 units to the list of  
nearly 1000 hotel units lost to conversions**

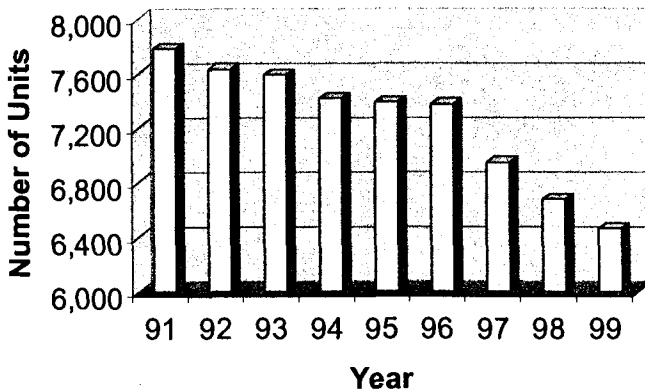
# The Numbers Keep Growing

The Stadium Inn, 340 Cambie Street, is the latest in a string of hotels lost over the past four years to conversion. Residents of the Stadium all received eviction notices telling them that they had two months to find new accommodations. The sign out front already says "Gastown Hostel" and renovations are in full swing in the bar.

There are 44 units in the Stadium, which puts the number of units lost since 1996 at about 950.

The report by Colliers International, done for the city, predicts that we will lose on average between 125 and 140 hotel units per year over the next 10 years. However, the yearly average for the past 5 years has been about 190 units. There are some serious warning signals happening here, so if anything positive is to come of the city's Revitalization Program or the Vancouver Agreement there needs to be stability in our housing stock. The city must enact the demolition and control by-law.

**Vancouver's Residential Hotel Stock, 1991 - 1999**



## Hotels Lost (since 1996)

- Hotel California (Howard Johnson), 135 units
- Royal Hotel, 90 units
- Niagara Hotel (Ramada), 100 units
- Austin Hotel (Ramada), 121 units
- Cambie Hotel (The Cambie Hostel), 41 units
- Grand Trunk Rooms (Grand Trunk Hostel), 25 units

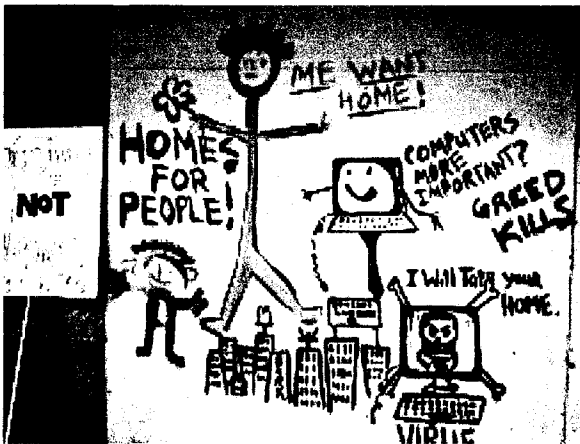
When will it stop? Last year five hotels, totaling 198 units, were added to the list of converted hotels that could have been prevented had the city enacted the **Demolition and Conversion Control By-law**. As a result of their inaction any new housing built in last decade (1990s) could not keep up with the losses, so we are now in situation where we have less low-income housing in the downtown core than we did in 1990.

- Clarence Hotel (Seymour Cambie Hostel), 40 units
- Jolly Taxpayer, 20 units
- Glenaird Hotel (Global Village Backpackers), 73 units
- Piccadilly Hotel, 43 units
- Cecil Hotel, 76 units
- Victoria Rooms (Victoria House), 40 units
- Dominion Hotel, 67 units
- Stadium Inn (Gastown Hostel), 44 units

# Woodwards - Here we go again

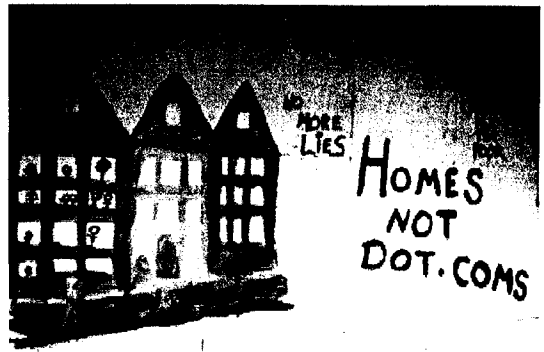
On May 27<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, community organizations held a rally at Woodward's in order to send a message to the city, current owner, Mr. Agthai of Fama Holdings, and an unknown buyer that this community still considers housing for the low-income community to be the only option for Woodward's. The pictures on this page illustrate some of the messages painted on the hoarding during the rally.

The latest plan for Woodward's is to turn it into a



high tech telecommunication center for the internet. Through their lawyer, John Norton, a US based company has approached the city regarding their plans for Woodward's. The city will not reveal the identity of the purchaser until such time as a development permit application is submitted. CCAP believes that the developer may be Markley Stearns, based out of Los Angeles. They've done this kind of development in a number of American cities and recently approached the City of Toronto.

Last Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, a number Downtown Eastsiders occupied John Norton's office in



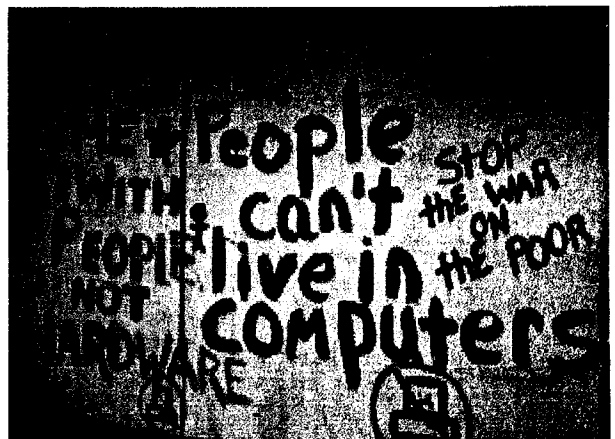
order to impress upon him that this community must have a meeting with the mystery buyer. So far, Mr. Norton has refused to discuss the issue with us.

In a series of on again/off again negotiations, the province has been attempting to purchase Woodward's from Mr. Agthai. The problem has been that the purchase price is well above what would be considered a fair price for Woodward's. If the new owner is serious we would expect a development permit to be submitted to the city in the near future. The struggle continues.

## The Price of Woodward's

1995 Fama Holdings purchasing Woodward's and its parking lot for an estimated \$16 million.

continues on back page



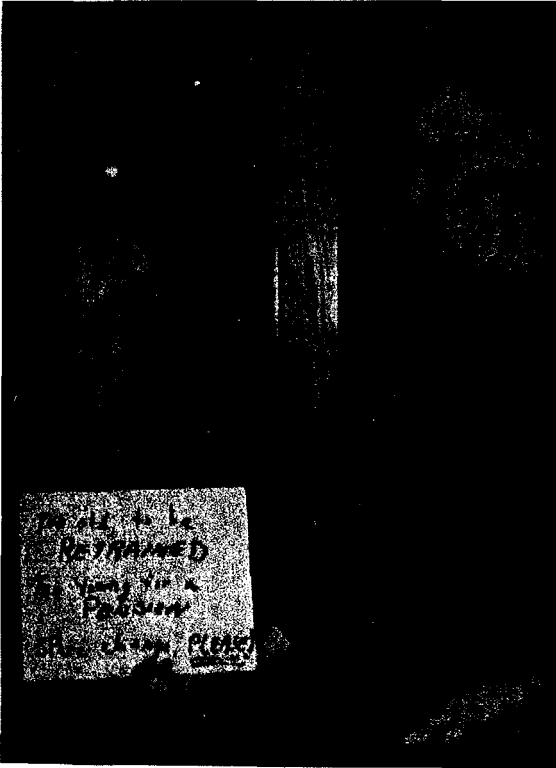
Woodwards, continued from inside

1995 The city's Real Estate Services purchases the parking for approximately \$11 million and doesn't tell anyone, including other city departments.

1995 or 1996 ? Fama Holdings sells 50% ownership of Woodward's to offshore investors for an estimated \$7.5 million. Note, this means Fama has made \$2.5 million in profit with no development at all.

1995 to present. Fama spends an estimated \$6 million on demolition and consultants (people like Chuck Brooks or Terry Partington) for Woodward's.

Selling Price: In order to pay off the offshore investors (\$7.5M), plus Fama's 50% (\$7.5M), plus Fama's investments into Woodward's (\$6M), a purchaser would likely expect a selling price by Fama of at least \$21 million. However, Fama is rumoured to be asking somewhere between \$25 to 30 million. Fama Holdings is your quintessential profiteer and example of the speculation going on in our neighbourhood.

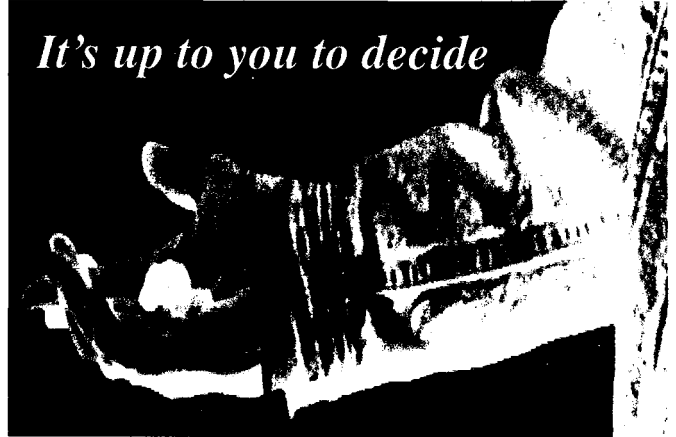


**Some familiar faces try their hand at panhandling during a pan-in at Robson and Burrard. May 17th.**

CCAP, Carnegie's Community Action Project is supported by the

## SPARE CHANGE

*It's up to you to decide*



CCAP recently produced this handout. It outlines the attack on panners by the police and private security guards as a result of the city enacting an anti-panhandling by-law.

Drop by the CCAP office for copies of this handout.



VANCOUVER  
FOUNDATION

## *Community Directions Needs Our Support* **The Working Group On Housing**

Community Directions is a Downtown Eastside coalition of over 40 organizations. It hopes to build a united neighbourhood voice that can speak strongly to the needs of our community and against the gentrification that threatens us.

Community Directions has 6 committees:

1. the Community Economic Development Working Group
2. the Working Group on Housing
3. the Working Group on Alcohol and Drugs
4. the Working Group on Safety and Well-Being
5. the Working Group on Children and Youth
6. the Working Group on the Concerns of Women

The first three committees are operating now. Hopefully, the last three committees will be operating in the near future. These committees only put forward public positions on social issues that have been approved by Community Directions and have wide community consent. The purpose is to build consensus, not self-destruct. For more information on these committees and on how to join one, call Marg Green at 760-7859.

The Working Group on Housing started in December, 1999. Twelve to fifteen people, representing residents and about six Downtown Eastside organizations, meet on a regular basis. The meetings are open to residents of the Downtown Eastside and the groups they belong to. The Carnegie Community Action Project (CCAP) is a member of this Housing Committee.

Affordable housing is one of the most critical issues in the Downtown Eastside. If we don't have decent, affordable housing for the members of our community, there won't be anybody around to take part in community activities. The Housing Committee supports The Downtown Eastside Housing Plan - Necessary Measures, that has been endorsed by more than a dozen local groups that work directly with Downtown Eastside residents. In fact, the Housing Committee is working on a new draft of this plan and it should be ready for the consideration of Community Directions in July.

Zero displacement of low income residents, a



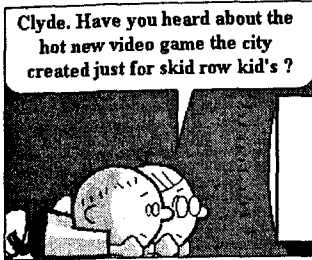
City bylaw to control or stop the conversion and demolition of hotels, a site-specific one-to-one replacement policy for lost suites, the enforcement of existing standards of maintenance and the creation of management guidelines, zoning for community goals, rent controls, and the importance of Woodward's for social housing, are all major concerns of the Housing Committee.

With the help of the federal, provincial and municipal governments, some good projects are taking place in the Downtown Eastside. Look at Bruce Eriksen Place, the New Portland, Bridge Housing, Vancouver Native Housing, the Washington, the Sunrise, the Regal and the upgrading of the Roosevelt through the federal rooming house rehabilitation assistance program (RRAP). Much more needs to be done, however. We need a Federal national housing strategy. We need the Province to maintain and increase its social housing program. We need the City to enact a Conversion Control by-law. As Jim Green, DERA organizer from 1981 to 1991, said in the Carnegie Crescent newspaper (October, 1985). "It's recognized by just about everyone in the Downtown Eastside that we have a housing crisis in this area that's been going on for years - and we need thousands more units of social housing in order to stabilize our neighbourhood."

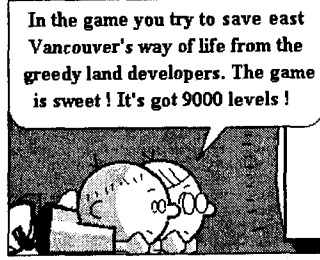
The projected opening day of the Community Directions Storefront Office is July 3, 2000. The office will be in the Bruce Eriksen building near Main and Hastings. May Community Directions have the tenacity and courage of that old warrior.

For more information on the Working Group on Housing, contact Tom Laviolette at 689-0397 or Marg Green at 760-7859.

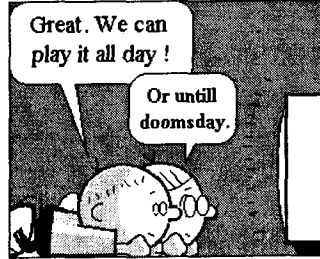
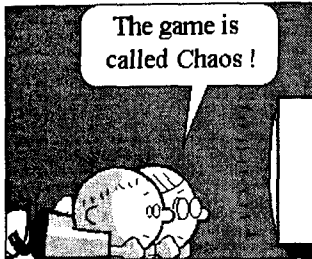
**By Sandy Cameron**



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**H**  
**M**  
**A**  
**I**  
**N** by Rick Nordal



**Inspiration**

As I sit here alone and know that I am never really so,  
pondering my life and my ways.  
Thinking of years gone by, and of the weeks and the days.  
As I travel along this way,  
I remember the joy and dismay.  
I know, now, that this life should be cherished,  
and from it we may get a lesson;  
To love the law of life and nature,  
never mind seeking possession.  
To be there when needed by a friend,  
never to waver, never to bend.  
To appreciate Mother Earth just a little bit more,  
and stop treating her like some damned old whore.

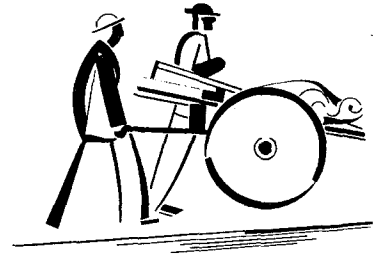
I watch some birds on this summer's day;  
Avian projectiles, flying straight, staying true,  
flying away in a perfect vee,  
across the majestic sky so blue.  
Where they're going, I do not know,  
perhaps to some far away, sun-drenched land,  
where there's nothing but sea and sand.

**Gentrification**

The Downtown Eastside Vancouver's oldest neighbourhood is under siege as those with much push out those with little. Like the herons and the eagles. the residents of the community are becoming homeless. Not only are homes destroyed with gentrification. A circle of friends is destroyed, a neighbourhood, a small world in itself, a world that people who are dispossessed cannot hope to rebuild. Citizens become refugees in their own land. They, too, are an endangered species.

*Sandy Cameron*

from the poem 'Endangered Species'  
Downtown Eastside Poems Lazara Press 1998



Whilst in sanest hours I do abide yet on this plane,  
and dream these dreams, so mundane;  
there lies, deep within my soul, an infinity;  
and my spirit while still rooted like the tree,  
will sometimes, like the birds, yearn to be free.

And so as I pray on this beautiful day,  
this day that's been given to me,;  
in God I praise that I once was blind  
and have been given the power to see.

Tony P. Loomes

## What Is the WTO?

The World Trade Organization is an international organization of 134 member countries. It's a forum for negotiating international trade agreements and the monitoring and regulating body for enforcing them. 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 low wages and high pollution 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 labour 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 national or local laws impede trade - say an environmental or health law, or a labour law - the WTO adjudicates, and its entirely predictable pro-corporate verdict is binding. The WTO trumps governments and populations on behalf of corporate profits.

### Why are people opposed to the WTO?

There is no denying that someone could oppose the WTO out of narrow self-interest—saying, in essence, my country ought to be able to do as it domestically prefers, but other countries should be entirely beholden to this world oversight on behalf of corporations (sort of how the U.S. government relates to international law and the World Court: it's for everyone else). The view of movements against the WTO are that social, labour, ecology, cultural, and other concerns take precedence over profit-making everywhere, not solely in one's own neighborhood.

The real debate between WTO advocates and their left critics is not about protectionism, but about who will be protected from the ravages of



unrestrained competition. The WTO has no rules to guard those who labour or to protect long-term development or to foster cultural sustainability or diversity. Without such standards, the majority of people can actually lose from expanding trade, not only relative to a fair ideal, but relative to abstaining entirely.

The critic's theoretical understanding of the WTO as a vehicle only moved by corporate profit-seeking logic is borne out from the WTO's history to date. In every case that has been brought to the organization challenging environmental or public safety legislation on behalf of corporations, the corporations have won. When foreign commercial shrimp fishing interests challenged the protection of giant sea turtles in our endangered species act, the turtles didn't stand a chance. When it was Venezuelan oil interests versus the Environmental Protection Agency's air quality standards for imported gasoline, the oil interests won. When it was U.S. cattle producers against the European Union's ban on hormone-treated beef, European consumers lost. The list goes on.

### But don't we favor regulation of trade?

Yes, but not the type of regulation proposed by the WTO. The WTO is about protecting corporate ownership and monopoly over the patenting of plants, processes, seed varieties, drugs, software, and all capital, fostering its exchanges of goods despite any ill effects, and breaking down any protections of labour, the environment, health and safety, that might limit corporate profit making.

### Why do some demand new policies while others demand shutting down the WTO?

Some critics argue that the WTO trade liberalization program is fundamentally flawed and we should abolish this dangerous organization. They urge building global resistance and constructing



global solidarity from below. Other people, in particular much of organized labour, argue that while the WTO trade liberalization program is deeply flawed, it's now well established as a powerful organization and that the concept of negotiated trade regulation is vital to the health and welfare of the world community. They argue that if core labour rights, environmental protections, and what the Europeans refer to as a "social clause" was inserted into the WTO's mandate and practice, it could be transformed.

### **What are ten key reasons to oppose or even shut down the WTO?**

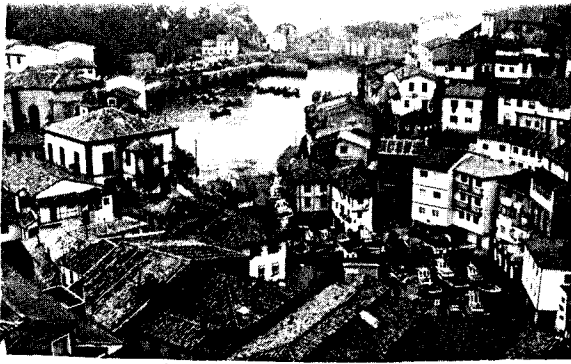
1. The WTO prioritizes trade and commercial considerations over all other values. WTO rules generally require domestic laws, rules, and regulations designed to further worker, consumer, environmental, health, safety, human rights, animal protection, or other non-profit centered interests to be undertaken in the "least trade restrictive" fashion possible - almost never is trade subordinated to noncommercial concerns
2. The WTO undermines democracy by shrinking the choices available to democratically controlled governments, with violations potentially punished with harsh penalties
3. The WTO actively promotes global trade even at the expense of efforts to promote local economic development and policies that move communi-

ties, countries, and regions in the direction of greater self-reliance

4. The WTO forces Third World countries to open their markets to rich multinationals and abandon efforts to protect infant domestic industries. In agriculture, the opening to foreign imports will catalyze a massive social dislocation of many millions of rural people on a scale that only war approximates
5. The WTO blocks countries from acting in response to potential risk-impeding governments from moving to resolve harms to human health or the environment, much less imposing preventive precautions
6. The WTO establishes international health, environmental, and other standards at a low level through a process called "harmonization." Countries or even states and cities can only exceed these low norms by winning special permission, rarely granted. The WTO thereby promotes a race to the bottom and imposes powerful constraints to keep people there
7. WTO tribunals rule on the "legality" of nations' laws, but carry out their work behind closed doors. The very few therefore impact the life situations of the many, without even a pretense at participation, cooperation, and democracy
8. The WTO limits governments' ability to use their purchasing dollars for human rights, environmental, worker rights, and other non-commercial purposes. The WTO requires that governments make purchases based only on quality and cost considerations. Not only must corporations operate with an open eye regarding profits and a blind eye to everything else, so must governments and thus whole populations
9. WTO rules do not allow countries to treat products differently based on how they were produced -irrespective of whether they were made with brutalized child labor, with workers exposed to toxins or with no regard for species protection
10. WTO rules permit and, in some cases, require patents or similar exclusive protections for life forms. In other words, the WTO does whatever it can to promote the interests of huge multinationals - there are no principles at work, only power and greed.

*Next issue:* Alternatives to the WTO; how the World bank and the International Monetary Fund and the WTO impact on people.





## Ourtown's First

Gastown, Chinatown,  
 Yaletown, Yourtown,  
 Ourtown, crackdown  
 Yellow jackets, Goon squads  
 Boys in Blue hunt down you  
 "Sweep the streets," say the security tsars,  
 "Clamp down, herd up the strays who don't fit the  
 mold, The round pegs in square sockets" – and  
 they, our socialized political masters, say  
 'civil rights be damned'  
 round us up and run us out of 'their' towns.  
 They wish to crucify us, nullify us, stupefy us  
 with their draconian doctrines and fascist decrees.  
 They try, they fail, time after time after time.  
 I've got news for those in the corridors of power:  
 We were here first – this is our home.  
 We're not flashy luxury-cruise-liner-tourists...  
 ..pockets stuffed to the brim with Yankee bucks  
 We are actual residents and tenants  
 We live here on a permanent basis  
 We'll never disappear like thieves in the night  
 and sailing away back to your utopia..  
 We built these boroughs and communities and  
 plan on sticking around for a very long time  
 if you please, and especially if you don't.  
 So get off our case  
 for the benefit of the greater good  
 or for your own sorry asses – take your pick.  
 We actually do fit the bill.. and foot the bills  
 We live here and will not be moved.  
 Do you get the picture now?  
 That's final. So buzz off already! Allright?

Robyn Livingstone

## Criminal Injury Compensation

This is a program run under the Ministry of the Attorney General. It falls to either advocates, frontline workers, or the victim of crime to file a claim or find out if one is even eligible.

A couple of lawyers who work on the thousands of claims filed each year gave a presentation at the Neighbourhood Safety Office. The basics are that there are 56 offenses, under the Criminal Code, and being injured as a result of one makes you eligible for consideration. The lawyers, Elaine and Doug, were quick to point out that loss of property isn't an injury, but "pain & suffering" are cause to seek compensation.

The legislation passed into law almost 30 years ago, and the only offenses added to the original list are Stalking and Uttering Threats.

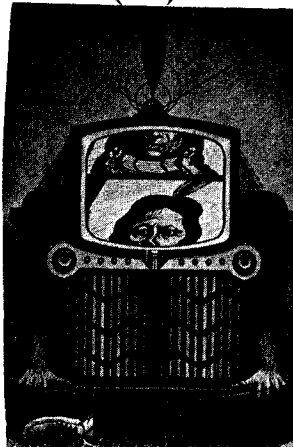
If you have sustained an injury as a victim of crime, you may be able to recover expenses and even earning potential. Before dreaming millions just take a breath – the biggest amount is fifty thousand dollars. If you are injured while acting as a "good Samaritan" there is no limit.

The best thing to do is see an advocate and fill out the application form. Remember that what they read is a lot of what is considered, and it does take time to get reports from police, medical personnel and investigators.

For more information:

### Criminal Injury Section

c/o Workers' Compensation Board of BC  
 PO Box 5350 Stn Terminal, Vancouver V6B 5L5  
 (604) 244-6400



## Agony

knowing without action  
 tears at all understanding  
 shadowing life  
 the darkest cloud  
 apathy  
 the silver lining  
 existence  
 the chance at movement  
 the chance at blessed change

Joanna Lemay

## Neighbourhood News

Many interesting things are happening with DERA, the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association. It came as a blow recently when the NPA majority on City Council voted to terminate the Community Services grant that DERA has had for years.

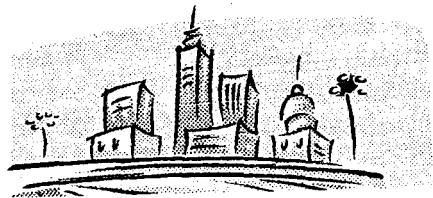
The funding, \$28,000, paid part of the salary for a "community organizer" – and the Social Planning Department of the City of Vancouver monitored the use to which this money was put.

DERA has expanded its involvement to meet the needs of residents. The advocacy aspect has been bursting at the seams ever since BC Benefits was introduced and its punitive measures impacted on our poorest citizens. Cutbacks to basic assistance, restrictions on crisis grants, and a drive to reduce those even eligible by making application almost hopeless has put all advocate services in the



community on overdrive. One direct result is that advocates cannot make any time to organize for a concerted fightback but do so anyway. DERA has had to restrict its intake to residents of the Downtown Eastside only, even though people from all over the Lower Mainland come in daily. Funding for this essential service has never covered the costs of providing it... and money to cover costs has to be found every year.

DERA has responded to the underlying need in this community for housing; it is against the drive to gentrify our neighbourhood that there are also major efforts to establish training programs for building service workers and getting into private/public partnerships to actually purchase SRO hotels, with its management expertise and record sufficient to become a partner in lieu of cash. To



do these things, the membership gave DERA permission to form a real estate holding company and also to set up other independent companies to run any business or enterprise that might create jobs or generate revenue. One such business will be a bar/lounge when the Metropole re-opens.

The Metropole Hotel has been lauded as a major accomplishment by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and the method by which this housing was preserved and protected from either demolition or conversion to tourist use has gotten endorsements from across the country. While the struggle goes on to get governments back into housing, the private/public partnership thing is an alternative.

All of the above and much more has been the work of the community organizer. The 'much more' includes involvement in organizing public meetings on issues such as BC Benefits, mega-projects coming to the neighbourhood, drug trafficking, tenant organizing, the street market and public/media relations. Interaction with the Vancouver Economic Development Commission and participation in aspects of Community Directions don't end this, but the overall picture is that it is all community organizing.

The wisdom of Social Planners says 'DERA's activities no longer fit our (non) definition of what community organising is or must be.' It gets funny when they are asked what they deem to fit and they decline to answer, even when asked 3 or 4 different ways and times to say what it is that DERA "should" be doing to continue as a funded organisation. Again, no answer.. only "DON'T STOP DOING WHAT YOU'RE DOING!!"

It gets funnier when the Vancouver Economic Development Commission wants to continue

accessing DERA's expertise and staff to help them only to have their bosses, the same City Council, say that DERA cannot do such work and be a recipient of the Community Services Program.. which funds said staff.. who they want help from.....

Reaction from community activists has been pretty uniform – it's an outrage that DERA, the birthplace of so much in this community, would be dealt with so callously by the City. DERA has to generate over \$300,000 a year just to keep its doors open and provide the services it does.

A note of interest – former City Councillor Nancy Chevario has just been hired by DERA as the Housing Portfolio manager.

DERA fights back.

PRT

### INSIDE STORY

I have been working in the computer room as a volunteer since November 1999, at a time when I lost my home on the mountains and struggling with a cocaine addiction. Helping other people at the Carnegie and doing my own work helped to give me some kind of stability needed at the time.

In a month I figure I help about fifty people in the computer room but there are going to always be those few people who figure they haven't been helped the way they wanted. Maybe they expect to get more extra special treatment than other patrons but, so often, this works more against them than for them.

Some people are not as skilled using the computers as they think they are. One day a woman who demanded I print something from her disk right away could not understand why it couldn't be done. It was not until after she left did I realize that she had not even properly saved whatever work she was doing on her disk. Some people make their files so difficult to find that they have a hard time finding them themselves which takes time away from other people. One man left angry because I could not give him enough of my time but then maybe he is secretly building a bomb.. and I don't feel too bad. Unfortunately so often

They say it's best to buy.. or steal. I don't know why. You go to buy something like a can opener and it doesn't work. You paid for it, the higher price. but it doesn't work! You go back, buy a cheap one, and it works partially.

If this continues, nothing will work, so why buy?


Doris Leslie



dawn

where are the words to describe the wonder  
profoundly announcing the coming of dawn  
when the blues and greys framed by leaves  
gently unfolding embrace the wind  
and gracefully sway offering a symphony  
to the loveliness of light

anita stevens



the opinion that some Carnegie staff have of my performance in the computer room is based on the complaints.

There have been a few times when being a volunteer in the room has been very rewarding. One day Anita Stevens came in, a poet whom I have admired for a while, and she needed help. She did not know how to even use a computer and wanted me to print a copy of a new poem, "dawn" which I was more than glad to do. She left a basket of delicious strawberries to enjoy.

In the time spent in the Computer room I have seen my own career as a writer take off and will not even have the time to be a volunteer at the Carnegie as of the end of June. I will be doing a poetry reading at **Black Sheep Books** June 30<sup>th</sup> and there will be a write-up on me in the July issue of the *LOOP* magazine, which will help to generate more readings this summer. One person making it off the streets ... hopefully this will be encouraging to others who feel their lives have reached a state of hopelessness in this area.

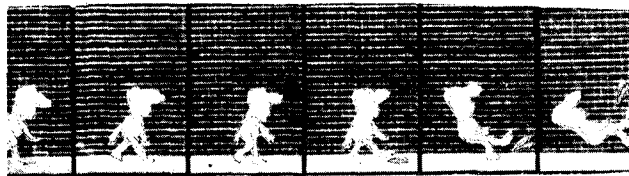
By Daniel Rajala



## NO EASY TASK

Years ago I was a teacher. Often I'd see a stranger by the school fence. Could he be a lonely soul re-calling days of his youth.. the long gone happiness of another age? Or was this visitor grievously ill, lost in a private world of pain and rejection? No easy task, in any age, to be guide, instructor, advocate of human dignity, guardian of our youth.

*Sam Roddan*



## Breaking Free

breaking  
 shattering  
 like a brown beer bottle  
 against cement curbing  
 breaking against constraints  
 torn open  
 flowing unconstrained  
 oozing with wet life  
 parts of spirit believed cacti dry and dead  
 moistened with truth  
 breaking free  
 shattering against self-deceit

*Joanna Lemay*