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# CARNEGIE

## NEWSLETTER



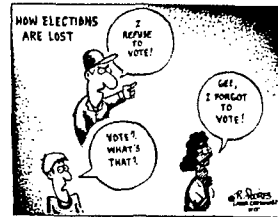
NOVEMBER 15, 2000

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

## STAND UP FOR COMMUNITY



Re-Elect 戴慧思  
**LIBBY DAVIES**



### Increased poverty and addiction -

#### the Liberal legacy in the Downtown Eastside

- The Liberals cut \$60 billion over the last 5 years from social spending, including health care, housing and welfare.
- The Liberals axed the national housing program and forced thousands of people to live on the streets or in substandard, expensive housing.
- The Liberals refuse to fund badly-need facilities for addiction treatment and recovery
- The Liberals continue to tax pensioners on fixed incomes while cutting taxes for corporations and big banks.

### The Liberals have marginalized our Downtown Eastside community.

(ON NOV. 27<sup>th</sup> STAND UP FOR VANCOUVER EAST - RE-ELECT LIBBY)

### *Libby fights for our community*



Libby forced the federal government to pay attention to the Downtown Eastside.

Libby fights tooth and nail to stem the drug crisis by speaking out for better treatment and medical solutions. Libby says no one earning less than \$15,000 a year should pay federal income tax.



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- ➔ Libby fights tooth and nail to stem the drug crisis by speaking out for better treatment and medical solutions.
- ➔ Libby says no one earning less than \$15,000 a year should pay federal income tax.

Libby Davies is one of the finest people standing up for our neighbourhood and community that the federal New Democratic Party has ever seen.

Yes, this is a promotion for her re-election and *no bones about it*. Here are a few points on Libby's track record::

**Poverty:** The poorest 1/5 of Canadians have had an average income drop of 31% since '84; over 80% of single mothers with a child under 7 live in poverty.

**Action:** Libby's Private Member's Motion to force the Liberal government to set targets for the elimination of poverty. She has another motion to amend the Human Rights Act to make it illegal to discriminate against someone because of their "social condition."

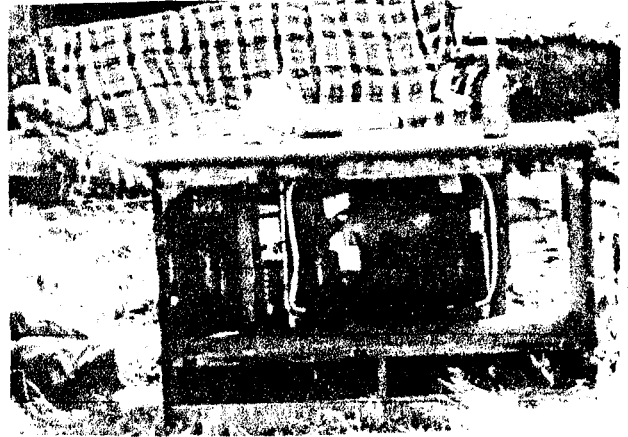
**Progress:** The Human Rights Review Panel has made exactly this recommendation, that someone's income level cannot be used against them. This is an important victory for the countless people who have been fighting for years to have this recognized.

**Community Safety:** There is increasing concern for the drug crisis in the Downtown Eastside. Drug overdose is the leading cause of death in BC for 30-44 year-old people.

**Action:** The Liberals were forced to debate Libby's Motion calling on them to acknowledge the drug epidemic as a health emergency. Libby has been in regular contact with the Health Minister and has done extensive work in pushing for federal funding for treatment, prevention, enforcement and harm reduction.

**Progress:** The Vancouver Agreement, in which the federal, provincial and municipal governments are all partners in addressing the many aspects of the Downtown Eastside in general and drugs in particular, has recently announced funds for treatment, street outreach and local economic development.

**Housing as a Right:** The Liberals withdrew from housing almost at once. in '93. There are 824,000



tenant households in Canada paying over 50% of gross income for housing and homelessness is a national disaster.

**Action:** Libby traveled right across the country, talking to homeless people and community groups working on housing and homelessness to give first-hand weight to her Motion demanding that the Liberals get back into housing with a National Housing Strategy

Libby has spoken and fought for education for all, for ending discrimination against same-sex couples, for saving our water from the leeching enabled by bad trade agreements, against the Liberals moves to privatize social housing, for harm reduction and the treatment of addiction and has worked tirelessly to discourage the narrow-mindedness that demands enforcement and imprisonment as the sole response.

It's easy to go on and on about the accomplishments that Libby has been and is involved in, yet this is not a one-person show or race. The main opponent is a lawyer shipped in from Shaughnessy. **Mason Loh** was at the All-Candidates Meeting put on by DERA. He is so out of touch with the realities of our neighbourhood that he kept looking in the

Liberal Red Book to get answers for questions. HE takes no stand on education, no stand on housing, and responds only that he'll 'try and get someone to 'look into' whatever issue is raised. He started off applying for a Canadian Alliance nomination, then just switched parties when Liberals shoe-horned him into Vancouver East. If Loh gets elected, he will have virtually nothing to do with the Downtown Eastside.

Check the following articles and information. If you didn't get a voter's notice in the mail, you are not on the list and won't be able to vote.

### **\*\*Get On The Voter's List!!\*\***

-If you got your voter's information card, read it carefully to make sure your name and address are correct. It has info about advance polls and where you go to vote on Monday, November 27.

-Call one of these places to get registered. Do it before Election Day. **Elections Canada – 775-7350**  
**Libby Davies Campaign Office – 251-3666**

-Advance Polls are open on Friday, Saturday and Monday. November 17, 18 & 20, at the Chinese Cultural Centre, 50 E. Pender. If you have a Voter's Card, bring it. Also bring ID (Care Card, Driver's License, BC ID, Welfare ID, + any letter addressed to you).

\*\*If you would like to vote in the Advance Poll and are told that you cannot, call 251-3666 for help.

You have only to look at the dirty tricks over voting that are being aired daily about Florida to see that elections are not the civilized exercise pictured. At a poll when Margaret Mitchell last ran, there was a Liberal scrutineer going to every Chinese person in line, waiting for a ballot, telling them to vote for Anna Terrana because Margaret was a racist! He was caught only when someone who spoke both English and Cantonese heard him and complained. Libby has been screamed at and vilified by Alliance scuzz for not siding with their agenda to eliminate all poor people by arrest and detention. And make no mistake about it: Mason Loh is hard-core Alliance material, offering little to this community. He has indicated, both by what he says and in his answers to residents, that he will promote only the interests of the far right. That crew says "No social shit; take users and the poor to islands or work

Save this important information along with your voter information card.



**Advance polls – Friday, November 17**  
**Saturday, November 18**  
**Monday, November 20**

**Last day to apply for special ballots – by 6:00 p.m., local time, Tuesday, November 21**

**Last day to go to your local Elections Canada office to register and to correct information on the voters list – by 6:00 p.m., local time, Tuesday, November 21**

**Election day is Monday, November 27, 2000.** You can register to vote at this time as well. You will have to provide a valid proof of identification, which can be either:

- a document with your name, current address and signature, such as a driver's licence, or
- two (2) documents, one with your name and signature and the other with your name and address

**The information contained in this publication is also available in alternative formats and in several other languages.**

**1 800 INFO-VOTE (1 800 463-6868)**  
**[www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)**

camps and let's make prisons the biggest growth industry in the country." With Loh, taking no stand seems to be his way of offending as few as possible. With Libby, taking a stand and being directly involved in issues affecting her constituents and herself is as natural as breathing.

**Re-elect LIBBY DAVIES, Member of Parliament for Vancouver East!!!**

By PAULR TAYLOR



## **Un-Civil Discourse** *(Community Alliance-style)*

Consider this:  
'Wake up out of your bliss,  
A stitch in time  
We'll create your crimes  
We'll beat the bushes  
You can ditch your rights  
We'll keep on pushin'  
Give up your fight.  
We'll continue to occupy  
Our numbers will multiply  
You might as well split –  
you don't qualify.

We'll continue to confuse you  
Continue to mystify, to testify  
We'll stay on our high horses  
Consolidate all of our forces  
Look down on you from our  
ivory towers,  
You are poor. We hold the power.  
So what are your chances?  
You realize your choices.  
We've got all the finances  
to forever silence your voices.'

Robyn Livingstone

## **povnet**

This is an incredible resource for people living in poverty. It is even more for advocates, community groups and people who are involved in anti-poverty work.

PovNet is a computer-linked network and it is an organisation.. but not quite.. officially. Some of this has to do with legal fictions, and having a steering committee and several dedicated individuals who love keeping information up-to-date, establishing links with any and all resources that the people in the first paragraph above can use in their lives and work..

There was a 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> at the Vancouver Public Library. It was also the occasion to 'launch' the new PovNet website. Penny Goldsmith and Carol McEown of the Legal Services Society, gave humorous talks on the history and development of the network as it evolved and links grew. An on-line community is very much a part of that growth, but the resources and experience of those in legal work, frontline advocacy, housing and homelessness, human rights, welfare, BC Benefits, disabilities, mental health, drugs & alcohol, women, seniors and community organizing are linked with local to international sources. Links to on-line First Nations and Aboriginal resources are there, with information and more links to youth activities, info

on books, pamphlets, films, articles and more.

To kind of show how ideas can come from anywhere, Penny's co-creator of the new website clicked on an icon that brought up the 'how and why' of holding a demonstration. It gave good pointers on public events, speaker and message, media, what not to do, etc. At the bottom was the source – "from a pro-gun organisation in the US."

Carol thanked the various funders who helped in getting PovNet to its present state and seeing the possibilities. The Law Foundation, Legal Services and others (sorry, can't write fast) were mentioned. The Steering Committee has reps from the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities, BC Library Association, BC Public Interest Advocacy Centre, Community Legal Assistance Society, End Legislated Poverty, federated anti-poverty groups of bc, Inland Refugee Society, Legal Services Society, Social Planning and Research Council of BC, Tenants Rights Action Coalition.

There are also confidential e-mail lists on various things, and PovNet has information on this.

For more info about PovNet contact:

**800 – 1281 W. Georgia St, Vancouver V6E 3J7**  
PHONE: (604) 876-8638 FAX: (604) 685-7611  
EMAIL:  
WEBSITE:



## Burning Bridges

It was a cold Friday in November  
 Going on another hunting trip  
 Looking for that perfect prize  
 A young man with a skate board  
 Sitting across from me on the bus  
 Burning the bridges with passion  
 With the view of the fishing boats  
 And Indian Ann a favorite of men  
 A flight coming to a nice landing  
 At the other end of the bridge like  
 The gold, orange and red leaves  
 Fallen to rest on the green grass  
 Friendships can be lost over money  
 But some things go very deep like  
 The water below the mountains in  
 In the picturesque town of Deep Cove  
 So many people are not happy and  
 Do not need one other person crying  
 And even though a flame burning, small  
 It grows bigger when shared with others  
 And it is better to be rich in happiness.

Daniel Rajala

## NIGHTMARE REALITY

“Your cheque is being held in the office this month.  
 We require further information from you.”

Everyone on welfare knows this fear.

Will my cheque come today? Or will it be stopped  
 by a will or a whim of a computer or a human hand.

The mail came; no cheque.. just a note.

Trembling with panic, she searched her mind for a  
 reason. None came. She went into the February  
 rain, lined up with the other scared people.

He was at lunch. It was a long wait.

Her name was called. She rushed to the caller.

Hee, you must have done something wrong for me  
 to have stopped your cheque! I just can't remember  
 what it was... mmm.. mm

So to get her cheque she had to say  
 “yes” – he was right and she had done something  
 wrong – whatever it was – and she was sorry –

She got her cheque., and a piece of her died.

Sheila Baxter (a true story)



## Forced March

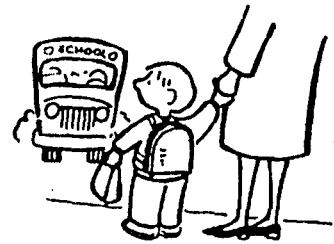
Sleep is a rocky road I take each night.  
 A necessary journey but not an easy one.  
 Waking often to look at the clock  
 Working my way through a rough channel of dreams  
 A hard road of pain.

I wake — not renewed but also not unravelled  
 To begin again with an even score in the struggle of  
 Every night every day.

Wilhelmina



# Re-Elect 戴慧思 LIBBY DAVIES



## Libby Davies Speaks For East Vancouver

Libby Davies has spent her entire working life fighting for ordinary citizens in Vancouver, and especially in East Vancouver. As you know, the interests of people in East Vancouver are not the same as the interests of people in the west of Vancouver — in Shaughnessy, Point Gray or Kerrisdale, for example. For the most part, the people on the west side are wealthier than the people on the east side.

There has always been a split between the richer west side and the poorer east side of Vancouver. In the early days of the city, the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) wanted the highest profits for its land on the west side, and lobbied for large lots, large houses, sidewalks, beautiful parks, good street lighting, and no industrial development.

The CPR had no land on the east side of Vancouver and dozens of small land speculators catered to working class citizens with small lots, small houses, and fewer parks and sidewalks than on the west side. Also, industrial development was zoned for the east side by City Council, and pollution was a big problem.

Today that split between the richer west side and the poorer east side continues. A study by the B.C. Ministry of Health and the Vancouver Health Department demonstrates that split because it shows that people on Vancouver's wealthier west side are healthier than those on the poorer east side. (1)

Libby Davies has always spoken up for the rights of low and middle income citizens. Today she is fighting to maintain her seat in Vancouver East in this federal election. Libby lives on the east side. In the summer of 1972, she worked in the low cost food store at the Downtown Health Clinic. In the summer of 1973, she helped start a newspaper in the

Downtown Eastside called the "Downtown East". In January, 1974, Libby and the "Downtown East" joined the Downtown Eastside Residents Association (DERA). Since that time, Libby has worked in the interests of the citizens of Vancouver East as a worker for DERA, a City Councillor, and a Member of Parliament in Ottawa.

About 70 percent of the Members of Parliament are lawyers and business people. They represent the interests of well-to-do citizens. Libby Davies is a community worker who represents the interests of working/middle class and low income citizens of many ethnic and racial backgrounds - the people she has worked with in east Vancouver for almost 30 years. She respects business interests, but she knows our country is more profound and caring than a business deal.

Now the Liberal Party in Ottawa has brought in a well-to-do lawyer to run against Libby in Vancouver East. His interests cannot be the same as the interests of the great majority of people in the riding, no matter what their ethnic and racial background. He is a lawyer with a successful lawyer's income. He doesn't live in east Vancouver. He lives on the west side. He doesn't know much about the complex, multicultural east side community, ranging from extreme poverty to middle income. How can this man, no matter how well-meaning, represent the interests of East Vancouver?

*Listen, friends, I know that some of you are disillusioned with politics, and you have good reasons for being disillusioned. But please consider voting for Libby Davies in this federal election. She has stood up for low and middle income Canadians. She has worked with the citizens of the Downtown Eastside. She has fought for affordable housing, better social programs, better public health care, and better environmental protection. She is the conscience of Canadians, and the House of Commons needs her to*

keep those cynical, self-serving politicians honest.

Many of us long to see our collective compassion expressed in the politics of today. Libby Davies gives expression to that longing for decency and integrity. It is on our yearning for justice that we will build a multicultural Canada of which we can be proud.

Sandy Cameron

(1) "City's wealthier west side healthier, too, study finds," by Robert Sarti, Vancouver Sun, Jan. 16/96



WE CARE



## The Media Workshop For the People!

The desmedia collective invites downtown eastside residents interested in telling their stories, writing, making video, photography and art to join us in developing collaborative projects.

We are an art collective from different backgrounds and have been running the weekly workshop at the Carnegie since May 2000. The desmedia workshop centres on documenting lives in the downtown eastside, empowerment and creativity.

Using basic art materials, painting, photography, video, writing, and other art forms you can utilize your experience and cultivate self-expression. Your participation in the workshop forms the framework for short or long term projects.

We will be having our first exhibition of the works produced at the Carnegie in mid-December at the Gallery Gachet, 88 E. Cordova.

The workshops are held every Thursday from 3:00 to 6:00 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor classroom at the Carnegie Centre. Come on by, have a cup of tea and chat and even make some art or tell us some stories on tape; you may be surprised at the talent you have within.

phone 809-8774 or email

~ Nearly everywhere, school yard or day care, beauty and innocence are extolled and celebrated. Hard to believe so many "good citizens" see only the ugly, the reject, the disposable, in the life and times of downtown eastside

Sam Roddan

# big money Bad \$cience

“Genetically engineered food is better than normal food.” Wrong. Better for who?

“Genetically engineered food is insect resistant and needs far less herbicides, pesticides and fertilizer.”

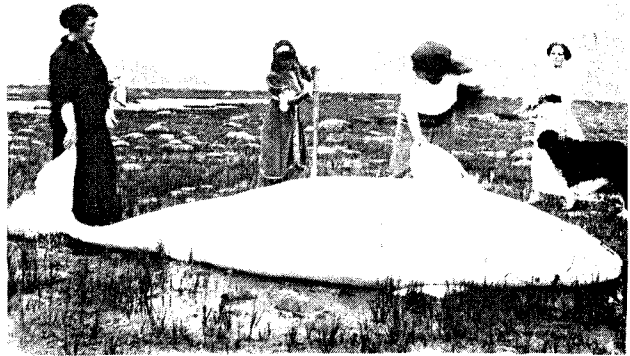
Wrong. Insects become immune; experimental and planted crops not only use more additives than normal, the regular chemicals are rendered useless.

“Genetically engineered food will greatly reduce food shortages & poverty in Third World countries.”

Wrong. The monoculture drives people off farms and into crowded cities as the land is rendered unfit for growing anything but the one crop.

“BioTech corporations and governments are open and helpful in providing objective information and requiring proper testing to ensure safety *and will terminate production if the facts warrant.*” **WRONG**

“Genetically engineering food (and the whole line of everything from seeds, chemicals, production and distribution) is inevitable so get used to it.” **WRONG**

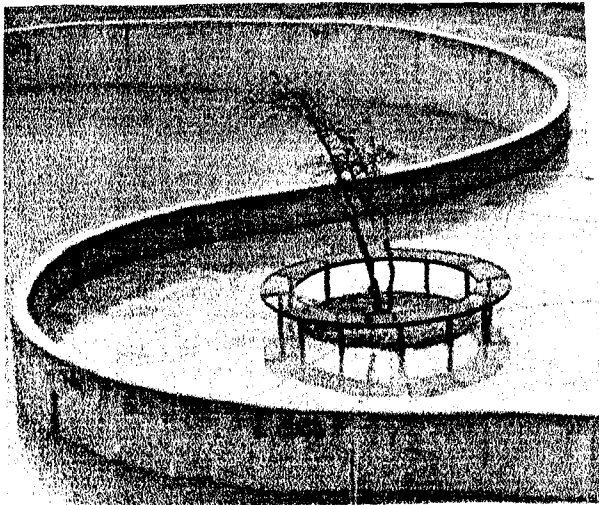


## Frankenfood

Putting fish genes in tomatoes, starting plants in a lab, then growing them as crops that produce sterile seeds, and knowing nothing about risk or effects. Such plants cannot be isolated or segregated in the open and the promoters only test for specific toxins; no effects on ecosystems are considered. Markets are flooded with genetically modified organisms and the industry stand is to accept any risk and wait (to see in a year or ten if anything has happened). It is a form of colonialism, when diversity is replaced with monoculture and this for export.

For any drug – anything that people put in their bodies – rigorous and long-term testing is required. The genetic engineering corporations (Monsanto is one of the biggest) have bedded with government to reverse this. Genetically modified organisms and biotechnology have already changed food and we are the test animals.

The most insidious aspect of this seems to be the patenting of seeds and of life. Chemical companies patent gene sequences that reflect one characteristic – like the ability of a plant or animal to withstand heat or cold or not be edible to an insect – but claim anything and everything that is certainly contained in that same gene sequence. This gives a monopoly and ownership of a seed. Farmers must purchase these seeds or even pay royalties to the owners if their crops produce fertile seeds naturally. Fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides are also genetically



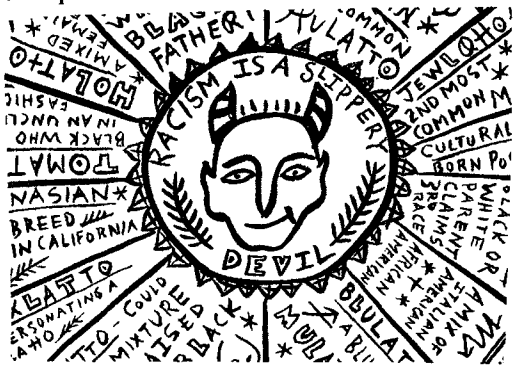
There was a day-long conference under this heading held at the Vogue Theatre in downtown Vancouver. It featured over twenty speakers, three per panel in hourly sessions, with more time after each aspect at a close location. The subject, as you may have gathered, was/is/will be the genetic engineering and modification of life.

The quotes above are from the propaganda that the BioTech transnationals and governments feed to the



engineered to compliment and work with these singular crops, so farmers are tied to specific chemicals and cides even if they don't work.

The patenting of remarkable gene sequences in individuals has also occurred. Imagine your blood or eyes or intelligence being owned by a corporation and you not even being asked! This is biopiracy and theft, yet the law allows it. Trade Agreements like NAFTA, GATS and the MAI all have provisions on Intellectual Property Rights, making any law that restricts trade in genes or even restricts the introduction of genetically modified organisms in food unacceptable.



### The New Caste System

Geneticists are at odds with where this goes. They see having "designer" babies as inevitable, but this sets up an attitude that certain aspects of humanity are undesirable, unfit, open to elimination. The attitude then decries all those now carrying those characteristics or disorders. It seems science fiction is the subject when posing futures where only the genetically engineered humans (or 'enhanced' according o some arbitrary stuff like blue eyes/blond hair/ athletic/superior intellect/able to leap tall buildings in a single bound..) replaces natural birth and people who are normal. The scenario has 'normal' people doing all the work while this new elite rules... ?

### Precautionary Principle

It was on the basis of this, the principle that you err on the side of caution, that made the debate on genetically modified organisms in Europe so clear. According to man from Scotland, 3 years ago they had no public information, no testing, no labeling so people could at least choose, and both governments and biotech corporations telling everybody not to worry. "Sound familiar?" he said. They began by

getting information out as far and as fast as possible, and people just stopped buying from any company known to be using genetically engineered food. The demand progressed from wanting labels so people could choose to such a massive boycott that every company selling engineered goods had to pull them. There is now a law that prohibits any genetically modified food in Europe. It is being challenged by American and Japanese corporations under the WTO rules.

The guy from Scotland was funny when he talked. "People here say that it's different. Europeans have traditions and long involvement with food that is lacking here. I had to laugh. One of my main staples is deep-fried Mars Bars!"

The message from this gathering is that this tinkering with life without any hint of or concern for consequences will not work. It promotes intelligent and sincere questioning of the motives and products of these transnationals. A couple of quotes may help:

"We are setting our own unpredictable time bomb."

-Dr.R.Steinbrecher, Geneticist

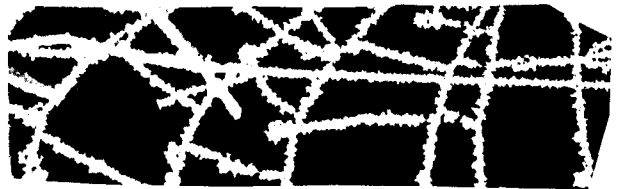
"Our interest is selling as much as possible. Assuring its safety is the government's job."

-P.Angell, Director

Corporate Communications, Monsanto

Big money Bad Science was held too organize people in response to the imminent Pacific Rim Biotech Conference happening in Vancouver this week. Call the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives at 801-5121 for information.

PRT



(Poverty doesn't cancel intelligence. Awareness of and concern for the planetary food supply keeps us alert to scientific tinkering and greed. One point not yet voiced in all this is where the frankenfood – the failed or not-so-successful experimental food – goes if not to stores? Poor people.. food lines.. food banks.. charities.. ?

# ELDERLY AND DISABLED ABANDONED BY THE CITY



This was the headline of the press release, co-written by three of us at Neighbourhood Helpers Outreach Project, we sent to the media last week, to get some response to the situation at the Old Continental, a city-run hotel, which has been (& still is) without an elevator for over 4 weeks!

Clemencia, the NHOP coordinator, and I went door-knocking at the hotel on Granville St. last Thursday. We walked into the lobby, and there was a frail little 67 year old man with a long wispy white beard, wrapped in a blanket, who had lived on a couch for 27 days, with his wheelchair parked beside him. We asked staff at the desk (remember, there's a city workers' strike, and this wasn't the regular manager) if anyone else needed help, food brought to them, or was sick. We were told "you're asking the wrong person... we don't do that... you have to ask Phillip Owen".

We shrugged off his incredible insensitivity and headed upstairs, door-knocking and asking residents "Are you OK? How is it without the elevator?" We discovered others waiting trapped in their rooms, with a stockpile of tinned food and a can opener, like some kind of nuclear bunker in reverse that goes up instead of down... waiting trapped, held hostage by their handicap... waiting for the fallout of bureaucratic blindness to end. We could see a tragedy in the making, a disaster waiting to happen, a heart attack, a stroke or fall that would go un-detected, for how long? And when the ambulance is called, how long will it take them to get up to the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> floor?

Everyone said "I'm lucky, so & so has it worse off than me", someone on a higher floor or with a worse medical condition. The sense of community was sweet and heart-warming. Between them they had organized who could get down the stairs to shop, and who could carry groceries or cases of Ensure up the stairs, not always the same person. We hadn't even finished our visits on the first floor before we agreed to help, to do something, to call the TV cameras, this problem had been going on too long, and the tenants were very frustrated and angry with the city's lack of response to so serious a dilemma, except for the excuses "next week, we need a part from Toronto" they had been hearing for years!

They had already started a petition: "*Don't take it laying down, it is up to us tenants to scream loud enough for City Hall to hear us. This is a seniors and disabled people's home. check the sign on the door, and on your personal contract you got when you applied to move in here, this elevator is definitely an essential service!*"

So when we left the hotel Thursday, there was a petition being circulated floor to floor, and a plan in place to demonstrate the following Tuesday and call the media. Clemencia postered and faxed the news of the demo, and TRAC joined us in the fight for the tenant's rights to a safe place to live. I found myself writing a press release, instead of poetry, on Monday and faxing it to the media. Steve Quinn from the CBC radio morning show showed up to "scoop" the story the very same day; on his heels came BCTV with their camera, and the story broke that evening.

"Coincidentally" the man on the couch had been moved to a place with an elevator during the weekend, once we started asking questions and the petition surfaced, so the radio & TV interviewers only heard about him. They talked to Sheila Clifford, a 63-year old woman on the first floor with osteoporosis, who has only been outside twice since the break down. Her boyfriend, Johnny Konduc, supports her when she needs to walk down the hallway, or she crawls on her hands and knees! Johnny buys her groceries, and delivers the food she cooks to Jeremiah, who lives across the hall, and is so sick he can't stand up at his hotplate to cook for himself. Johnny can't walk, and uses a motorized scooter to get around, but without an elevator he can't keep it in his room and has to get staff to get into the storage room every time he needs to go out, and uses the railings to drag himself up and down the stairs. "So how do you carry the groceries upstairs?!" I asked. "I pay someone" he said.

They also interviewed Swen and Bill on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor and it was quite a hike to get up there! Bill has a bad heart, and times his trips out of the building every second or third day, because of his heart he can only make that one trip and has to plan accordingly. Swen challenged Phillip Owen on tape for the CBC "if that \*^!?!# will climb up the five flights of stairs with 2 bags of groceries in his hands, I'll give \$50 to any charity he names!"

Clemencia voiced her view that the problem could not be blamed totally on the strike, she felt the city didn't care about them because they are poor and live in the downtown core. Why has this terrible situation been allowed to continue for so long? It's horrible!

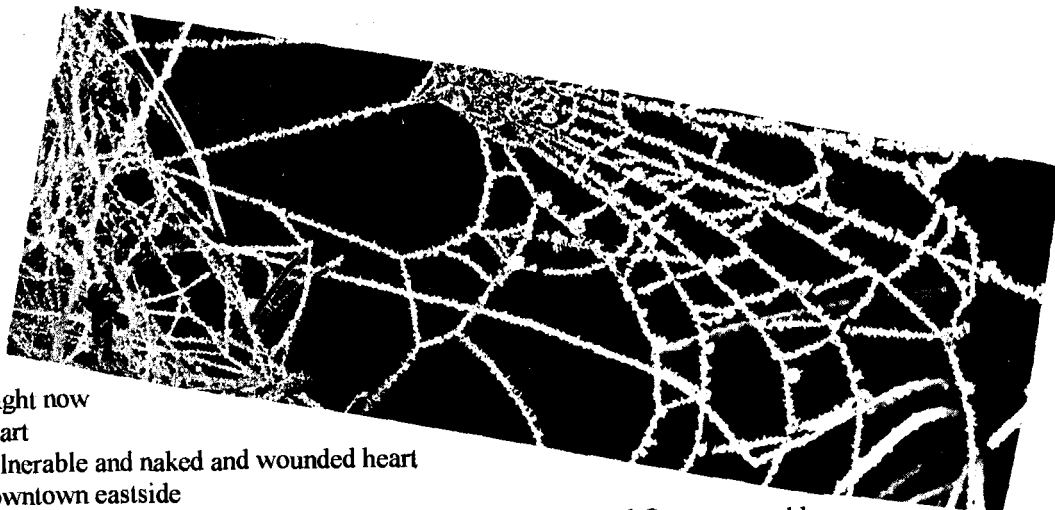
The demo on Tuesday morning was emotional and powerful, NHOP's workers and volunteers, TRAC and the very vocal Continental tenants with their placards, petition and demands. BCTV filmed frail 72 year old Tommy Dott struggling down the stairs with his cane to the demo, but didn't interview him because neither the newscaster or the cameraman could understand his thick Scottish accent. I could understand him just fine, a very proud man who refused my offers to carry him or catch him if he fell with an offer to carry *me*, took my arm at the bottom of the stairs, and proposed to me several times through-out the press conference. I got him to hold still for a photo by telling him I was going to send it out with the wedding invitations! The Province published a picture of him struggling back upstairs, supported by Edela, a diminutive homecare worker half his size. I was told he usually spends 24 hrs. a day in his room.

We went back Wednesday to find out who needed what and met with representatives of the City. John Lippon got relocated to Roddan Lodge with meals at the 44. Sylvia got a wheelchair (temporarily, while a "keeper" gets chased down through the appropriate channels.)

Very few people wanted to leave their rooms, their *homes*, for a strange building, even if it did have an elevator. Johnny said "No, I can tough it out, I'm not a transient, I've been here 7 years." *La lucha continua*, it's not over yet! The tenants continue to meet with NHOP, TRAC and City housing representatives to solve the problems created by the lack of elevator service.

I see a ripple effect, where a lot more is coming to light other than just stairs vs. elevator... isolation vs. helping each other, a mistrust of the hollow promises made to them over a lifetime by workers in every area of their life, and a dawning awareness that if they speak out and act together their rights won't always be ignored! "Beauty" as Clemencia would say!

By Diane Wood



we are right now  
in the heart  
in the vulnerable and naked and wounded heart  
of the downtown eastside  
a community of 10,000 human beings  
who have  
the lowest per capita income in canada  
the highest suicide rate  
the lowest life expectancy  
the most homeless people  
the fewest jobs  
of any where in british columbia  
and the downtown eastside is experiencing  
the worst hiv/aids epidemic  
among drug addicts in the western world

the downtown eastside struggles to survive  
as a community for all who live here  
amidst 3rd world poverty conditions  
amidst the most wretched housing in north america  
according to experts from the united states  
and the human beings of the downtown eastside  
comprise the most traumatized community  
the most disabled community  
the most besieged by law-breaking noise levels  
of upscale construction developments  
which are displacing and scattering  
this community of poor people

and what has been the most significant response  
by our public servants  
by the political will  
to the cries of fear and pain and rage we hear  
in the screaming of sirens upon sirens upon sirens?

this summer  
vancouver mayor philip owen  
attended a meeting of the urban development institute  
which is composed of business and real estate people

and Owen was told  
that condominium sales are holding steady  
throughout vancouver  
except in gastown and the downtown eastside  
where sales are low  
because of the people on the streets  
because of the residents  
because of the drug situation  
and owen left that meeting  
singing an old discredited tune  
singing  
war on drugs  
and the cops came out swinging  
dehumanizing the downtown eastside  
in the province newspaper



and beating people  
on the streets and in the parks and alleys  
beating  
the afflicted people of the downtown eastside

I myself attended a meeting  
with the new chief of police  
who said the police were unleashed  
in a clean-up campaign  
on downtown eastside streets  
for the sake of tourists and business  
tourists and business  
and the chief inspector of this area  
said in a public meeting  
that the police are going to aggressively enforce  
laws they do not enforce anywhere else in the city  
and recently greer was quoted as saying  
street level drug dealers are responsible  
for creating the hiv/aids epidemic  
he's a liar  
the abandonment and betrayal  
of the people of the downtown eastside  
by elected leaders from all 3 levels of government  
is what has created  
the western world's worst hiv/aids epidemic  
among drug addicts

the war against drugs  
is a war against the poor  
but not against all of the poor people  
in the downtown eastside  
the war on drugs  
discriminately assaults  
latino and aboriginal and black people  
and those who look like white trash  
the *war* against drugs  
is a euphemism for a war against refugees  
from global economic warfare  
whether they are from alberta or el salvador  
the war on drugs is an excuse  
for police to beat the shit out of people who are  
ill and abandoned and deemed expendable and powerless  
and who have nowhere else to go than down here

I am personally sickened and enraged  
from hearing on a daily basis  
stories of more beatings and harrassment and brutality  
committed by police on downtown eastside streets  
the war on drugs  
is a war on this community

the war on drugs  
is a war against hope and compassion and care  
the war against drugs itself spreads  
the hiv/aids epidemic

by driving addicts into hotel shooting galleries  
john blatherwick  
the chief medical officer of the city of vancouver  
says the safest place to shoot drugs in the downtown eastside  
is in the alleys  
because there only one or two people use a needle  
but when the police drive addicts  
off the streets and out of the alleys  
and back into the hotels  
several people crowd into a single unsanitary room  
and share needles  
and the epidemic spreads

and as I am a member of the vancouver/richmond health board  
representing the downtown eastside  
I hereby voice a complaint and an accusation  
against the vancouver police  
and demand they charge themselves with the crime  
of spreading an epidemic  
and aggravating a public health emergency

but I have met police officers in the downtown eastside  
who are not terrorists  
but are ashamed of the shameless actions of fellow officers  
and I call on them to step forward now  
I call on those cops who privately express their support  
for our struggles to survive here  
those cops who understand the pressures bearing down on us  
I call on them to publicly renounce this insane war  
and announce their distance  
from this increasing brutality  
and become leaders in this community  
instead of being tarred with the same brush  
as the sociopaths in their department

I call on those authentic officers of the law  
to be real community police  
and serve and protect  
this entire community

Bud Osborn

[Written in 1997. There were constant efforts by members of and those influencing the VRHB to remove him from that Board. Bud was not re-appointed at the end of his term and that was a loss for all of us.]

## Bible stories from a confirmed sinner

This is not Sunday; someone I work for  
teaches bible stories to children on Sunday  
I find it so foreign yet so beautiful go figure

Most people I know punctuate everything  
with the words "fuck you know"  
I believe in god or God or whatever  
just look around with new eyes  
you will see a little bit of the Creator  
in every set of eyes, in the cycle of life

Some people need a slap across their kisser  
with a 30 pound salmon to wake them up  
some never even count all the second chances  
we are given, the forgiveness we don't deserve  
the unexpected show of love

So this is my bible story, it's not even Sunday  
but god never leaves you whether you see or not  
walk gently on this earth, cherish all you've got

A. Loewen



## LAST FRIDAYS

Prose, Poetry & Performance Art  
at

GALLERY GACHET  
88 E. CORDOVA ST.

'open mike' format

BUDDING POETS &  
WRITERS WELCOME!

next event date:

November 24<sup>th</sup> @ 8pm

for further info call  
Carmen at 687-2468

Admission by Donation

## BRICKS

Stack the stories like bricks  
a temple of pain the plunger pushes  
another brick into this bloody temple  
soon the city will be painted  
with the blood of 14 year-old selling her ass  
the petty rip-off brick after brick, car thief, shoplifter

This temple of chasing dragons, this hellish palace  
Don't despair. You will become yet another brick  
in your own time when your number is up

Look how the mothers straining to save their sons  
striving to save their daughters from becoming just  
another brick in the wall in the palace of pain  
the only painkiller that works is more heroin  
evermore down, down, down

Wish I was Jesus throwing the moneychangers out  
push the pushes back in the gutter  
but I'm not that strong

all I can do is stand and watch the building of blood  
building higher.. the end is just a shot away  
from flesh to stone - one long breath and you are  
gone

A. Loewen



## The days of our working lives.

Surprise, Surprise. Judy Rogers, one of Vancouver Mayor Philip Owen's lieutenants, has unintentionally validated what striking civic workers have been saying all along (Civic strike more about time than money, Paula Brook, Nov. 1). The singular act which instigated this strike, council's cancellation of a decades-old work arrangement, was not based on any qualitative analysis but merely on what Ms. Rogers termed "anecdotal" evidence. In other words, council constructed a straw man to attack as a politically expedient exercise to appease Non-Partisan Association backers. Civic employees were merely hapless pawns.

No wonder council has dogmatically refused any equitable compromise;

politicians know the best defence for a half-truth is a take-no-prisoners offence.

Would any business leader want these ham-fisted individuals running their company like this — or even a fruit stand? Council has churlishly devalued and belittled its employees, shrugged off an alarming number of resignations and snatched back a valued, no-cost-to-taxpayers benefit. By its intractability on that item, council seems bent on fomenting an increasingly fractious and bitter strike.

It's not surprising that most of the non-union, professional staff at City Hall privately side with the union; they've been gored by the same ox — or should I say bull?

PAUL SAWYER  
Burnaby

## Notes from the Reading Room

We ask that Reading Room users not deface or mutilate the newspapers. They are for everyone's use. If you write on, cut out or tear out some part of the paper, you are ruining it for anyone else after you. A lot of it has to do with crossword puzzles, so ask for copies of the puzzles from The Vancouver Sun and from The Province. Remember, if you mutilate or deface one of our newspapers, to be fair to the other patrons, you owe us a clean and complete copy of that paper.

Thanks to that Silent Stranger for returning over a dozen lost books to us last Wednesday, but that was just a teaser. The next morning, there were two large shopping carts absolutely full of books from the Reading Room that had wandered off. Our sincere thanks to whoever returned them. We're delighted!

The orchid on one of the tables is a gift from the Vancouver Public Library Management and Board, welcoming us back after having been closed for that week. Michael Clague, the Director of Carnegie, gave us two potted chrysanthemums a couple of weeks ago. Unfortunately, one of them disappeared soon after it arrived and the other just last week. We hope they went to good homes, but rather liked them here.

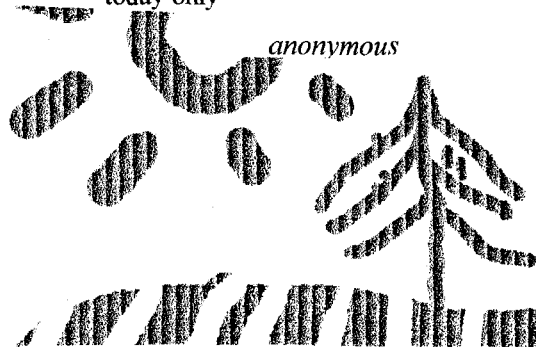
### From Stephen Smith, PARC librarian:

The Pacific AIDS Resource Centre (PARC) Library is the largest HIV/AIDS library in Western Canada. It's at 1107 Seymour Street, open to the public. The Library's staff and volunteers provide information and support to the members, staff, and volunteers of AIDS Vancouver, the British Columbia Persons with AIDS Society (BCPWA), to concerned and affected individuals, and a variety of organizations and groups across the province. The Library can be a gateway into the many services and programs offered in the PARC building, as well as the larger community.

The collection at the PARC Library consists of 3,600 book titles, 550 video titles, and a large number of journals, magazines, newsletters, pamphlets, and articles. Topics covered include: HIV/AIDS awareness; living with HIV; caring for someone with HIV; information about HIV in specific populations; HIV education, testing, treatments, alternative therapies, legal and ethical issues. There are also a number of books and videos related to living with

There once upon a time  
was a place o go  
where you could work  
for food you can't afford  
and people went on interesting trips  
there and back same day, overnight  
or even longer  
and it was safe from the confines of the  
SRO and it taught some stuff we  
no longer knew and then its cost  
became unaffordable they closed its doors  
and I sit and ponder what to do where to go  
back to indignity unsafe sorrow  
nothing to read nothing to eat  
guess I'll go panhandle  
out on the street  
all the people I meet - some from the  
place where friends meet

today only -



Hepatitis C, with a special focus on Hepatitis C and HIV co-infection.

Most of the book collection, and all of the video collection is available for loan to members of the PARC Library. Books are loaned out in-person only, and videos can be mailed out to B.C. destinations outside of the Lower Mainland. The Library staff will also mail out information packages consisting of fact sheets, pamphlets, and articles. Membership is free, but new members must present a piece of ID and an official document, such as a telephone bill, with their current mailing address on it.

The PARC Library is located at **1107 Seymour St.**, in downtown Vancouver. The Library is open Monday - Friday, from 9AM to 5PM, and can be reached by telephone at **893-2294**. The Internet address is:

Dick Turner, Branch Head, Carnegie Reading Room



[Art Phillips was mayor of Vancouver in 1975. He had an "Opinion" article in the *Sun* last week and the following are some responses. Those of Taum, Ian and Kimiko were edited and printed; Jeff's was too hot to handle. Read on.]

Art Phillips isn't the first millionaire to thumb through a research document and come away instantly insightful on how much better a neighbourhood the Downtown Eastside would be if only the riff-raff could be replaced with hard-working decent taxpayers. With redevelopment on everybody's election ledger these days, he won't be the last.

Housing is not about the structures people live in; it's about how people live. Although millions of dollars have been thrown at schemes nobody here asked for, social housing isn't one of them.

People stabilized where they spend most of their day can only grow in conditions that are safe, clean and secure. What is lacking here is economic growth potential and real jobs for residents — opportunities shaped by residents themselves to suit their own needs. This will take both time and the will of governments to back off and allow it to work — both of which are in short supply.

Bruce Eriksen maintained the powers-that-be will always help you up off the street, but no further than your knees. Vibrant, self-sufficient neighbourhoods with locally owned and managed assets scare people like Art Phillips; it means that new investors who buy into these communities only become successful if they believe in them as well; very few do.

IAN MACRAE  
Downtown Eastside Residents' Association

I'm saddened by Art Phillips's conclusion about housing in the Downtown Eastside (Good intentions go bad, Commentary, Nov. 1). Social housing improves the quality of lives for people with limited incomes. The failure is the lack of social housing to replace the disappearing single-room occupancy accommodation. We all need quiet, clean places to sleep. In a just society, even the homeless would be housed.

I'm one of those who have benefited from the stability afforded by social housing. Mr. Phillips is now telling me that this was a mistake. He couldn't be more mistaken.

TAUM DANBERGER  
Vancouver



Flow: Journey to Abundance

**Editor:**

Art Phillips's review of the situation in the Downtown Eastside is selective and biased (Good Intentions Go Bad, Commentary, Nov. 1).



To begin with, he badly misreads the recent report on conditions in the area's Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels. (One wonders whether he read it at all.) My own research on the Downtown Eastside shows that during his tenure as Mayor, Phillips ignored the Downtown Eastside as much as possible, preferring instead to sink millions of dollars into projects like the Granville Mall, now acknowledged as a colossal failure.

For some reason he has decided to enter the fray 25 years later. In doing so, he aligns himself with the business groups who have consistently attacked poor residents and opposed the construction of new and better housing for people in the community. Why is the population of the SROs now younger, sicker, and more transient? Phillips doesn't seem to know. One reason is that much of the social housing in the neighbourhood has been targeted at people 45 years and older who live in the SROs. As much of this group has moved into better housing it has been replaced by others seeking the cheapest accommodation available in the city. Another reason, as UBC geographer David Ley pointed out years ago, is that many of the policies Phillips himself pursued when he was Mayor actually drove up housing prices in the much of Vancouver's inner city. The wave of gentrification that ensued saw the demise of thousands of cheap rooms in neighbourhoods around the urban core. As a result, SROs are now the last significant stock of bottom rung accommodation in the housing market available to single people with low incomes.

Why does Phillips, once a big supporter of Gastown restoration, dismiss proposed renovations to SRO hotels so they can be healthier, more supportive places to live? The picture accompanying his article shows the roof of the Regal Place Hotel peeking out over his left shoulder. Along with the Sunrise, the Washington, and the Metropole, this hotel is one of a number of highly successful projects in which SRO housing has been made livable. Does Phillips not know about these successes, or does he simply choose to ignore them because they don't support his argument? Rather than knocking the community groups that have worked tirelessly for improved housing in the Downtown Eastside, Phillips should spend his energy trying to get more social housing for his own neighbourhood.

Jeff Sommers

## The Bridge Housing Society for Women

is having a workshop/meeting for individuals interested in tenancy.

Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 3:00

509 East Hastings

682-3269 ext 6085



“Communicating with your own soul gives you a glimpse of the most fulfilled, wise, compassionate, and intelligent person that you might become.” – Gary Soul Stories - Harmony, Cooperation, Sharing and Reverence for Life Excerpt from Soul Stories: Doing what other people expect you to do never creates harmony. To create harmony, you have to come closer to people. Doing what you think will please them moves you farther away. Harmony comes from sharing who you are, letting others share who they are, and learning to do that together.

People cooperate because they want to be together, not because they share goals. From the point of view of your soul, cooperation is play.

Your soul always sees friends. That is because it sees beneath the surface. When you see a friend wearing a beautiful dress, do you think she is beautiful because of her dress? When you see her in a dress that you don't like, isn't she still your beautiful friend? When you see with reverence, you see everyone as a beautiful friend.

- submitted by Princess

DOWNTOWN  
EASTSIDE  
YOUTH  
ACTIVITIES  
SOCIETY

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

2000 DONATIONS Libby D.-\$55  
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Yukiko -\$10 VEDC -\$25 Paddy -\$60  
Rockingguy - \$30 Anonymous -\$67

FREE - donations accepted.

# Carnegie

## NEWSLETTER

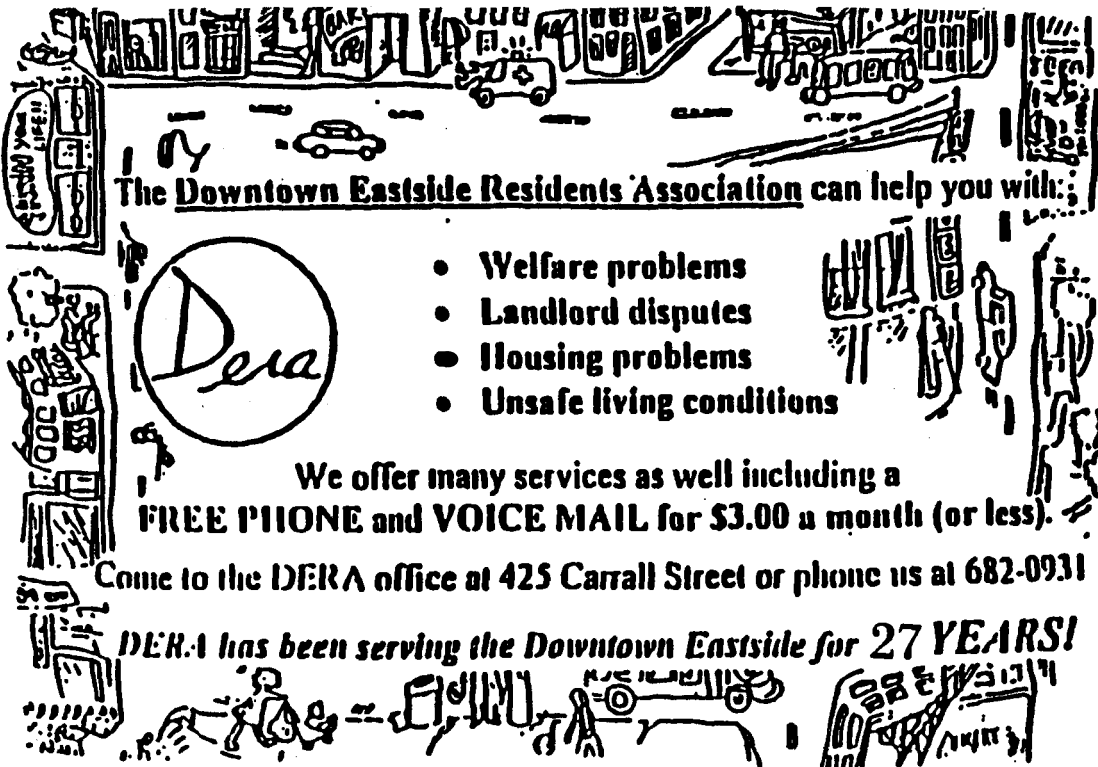
401 Main Street, V6A 2T7 665-2289

THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE  
CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION

Articles represent the views of contributors  
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Submission Deadline  
for next issue

Monday, November 27



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 27 YEARS!**



## NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

\*The bunch calling themselves the Community Alliance is mostly business and property owners, but by no stretch are they speaking for all people living and/or working in the neighbourhood. A gaggle of them have been trying to expand the membership, in part because the thousands of people whom they have claimed to be speaking for have gotten angrier at the sleaze being perpetrated by this Alliance. Seems that publicly claiming the support of community groups, organisations, all businesses and property owners backfires when said groups etc. are named on letters and such without the permission or knowledge of most of the people associated with them.

A few thought money, social status, class, and other nefarious bona fides guaranteed expansion – it certainly helped get 6 charter buses of ‘nice’ people to their demonstration at Canada Place when the fiction of ‘thousands’ was in danger of being more ridiculous than ridiculed. The same few formally requested the Downtown Vancouver Association – the organisation of business and property owners in the financial and shopping districts - to join. The bankers, lawyers, doctors, architects, developers etc. told this bunch to drop dead.

The DVA has an 8am-9am meeting to deal with issues impacting, straightforwardly enough, downtown Vancouver. They wanted to hear about this Harm Reduction that the Alliance bunch was so vehemently condemning and asked for a presentation, giving 40 minutes total on their agenda. Three people from Carnegie, with the assistance of a person at the Portland Hotel Society, joined the woman who had spoken outside here at the Harm Reduction day. She and her husband, who is a prosecutor, started the group of parents and people related to overdose victims called From Grief to Action. These five were there for over 2 hours. No one left. All members of DVA, having businesses

and practices to go to, stayed and asked questions and were, with only one exception, positive and supportive of the four pillar approach to drugs and the street scene.

The next day, the Police Board/Commission held a public meeting at Vancouver Community College. The main agenda item was the Downtown Eastside and a presentation was made on the Carnegie Street Program by Michael Clague, Director of Carnegie. He gave a complete picture of all the work being done: how the program works and its evaluation; low-level access to services and treatment, counselling and resources available for users and others on the street, the links and facilities and education/training/employment resources coming in line with the Vancouver Agreement. Both Margaret Prevost and Muggs Sigurgeirson, the CCCA president and vice-president respectively, were there to answer questions and give perspective. They described Michael's talk as both excellent and well-received.

This supremely pissed off Brice Rositch, the one who wants to be on Council, the one who sees a food distribution line as a personal threat, the one running his mouth ‘nd motor about the righteousness of the Alliance... He and a couple of geese were at the Police meeting and could hardly hold their lunch. They stormed outside as it was closing, and tried to gather the attending media around to vent or make statements or whatever it is they do. The media ignored them, except for some student radio reporter; Michael had given the whole picture and their narrow crud wasn't of any interest.

It's kind of obvious that this bunch is now using scare tactics to influence the upcoming election. Public displays and half-truths, innuendo and outright lies are the strategy to influence people into withdrawing support from Libby Davies, our Member of Parliament, and fomenting a kind of hysteria that Mason Loh, the lawyer from the West

End, will wave his magic wand and the Liberals will change everything. St. Paul's Hospital has tried to present some facts about Harm Reduction and drugs in general to the Chinese community, which is being sorely affected by Loh's hype and the rants of this Alliance. They sponsored Professor Yuet Wah Cheung, of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, to give a talk in Cantonese on addiction and the many things that work in "Pathways to a Healthier Neighbourhood". This was at SUCCESS on Friday. People left with a much different attitude, as did many Chinese people who heard John Turvey talk about DEYAS and the Needle Exchange at the last monthly meeting of DERA.

The Downtown Vancouver Association refused to be influenced by Rositch and cohorts; the Police Board/Commission got all the facts; the campaign by Mason Loh and Alliance supporters to slander Libby Davies and denigrate her superb performance as our MP makes that bunch appear as they are – without masks.

**IT IS CRUCIAL THAT ALL RESIDENTS** of the Downtown Eastside come out on November 27 and vote. Libby is our voice and the best representative this community has ever had. In my opinion, for whatever it's worth, voting along party lines – be it for Liberal, Conservative, Alliance, Canada Action or even Green – is nonsense in this riding.

By PAULR TAYLOR



## Downtown Eastside Health Van is Back!!

... from the brink of being shut down. In the last issue this service was detailed and the funding crisis elaborated on. Money needed for nurses, drivers & supplies was leaving the Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society in the red, but the program saves lives and is an invaluable component of health service delivery in the community.

Judy McGuire, program director at DEYAS, met with the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board on October 31<sup>st</sup>. She faxed the following message a few days later:

"It is with great delight that I announce that the VRHB has approved top-up funding... which will allow the van to operate at normal capacity for the duration of the fiscal year [through March]. During this time the Health Board will conduct an operational review of all mobile services in the Downtown Eastside, including the Health Van. The Health Van will then be issued a new contract based on the results of this operational review.

Achieving this funding and commitment from the Health Board is due in no small part to continuing support of residents and agencies in the Downtown Core. I cannot thank you enough for the time and energy you have put into helping us achieve this goal."

The dollars are 50,000 and supplies are now being received through the Health Clinic. This is excellent as full supplies cost \$5-6,000 a month.

The Health Van is back to full shift, from 3pm to 1am and can be reached at 551-5011.

Goood Work!