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# Carnegie

## NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 15, 2002

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

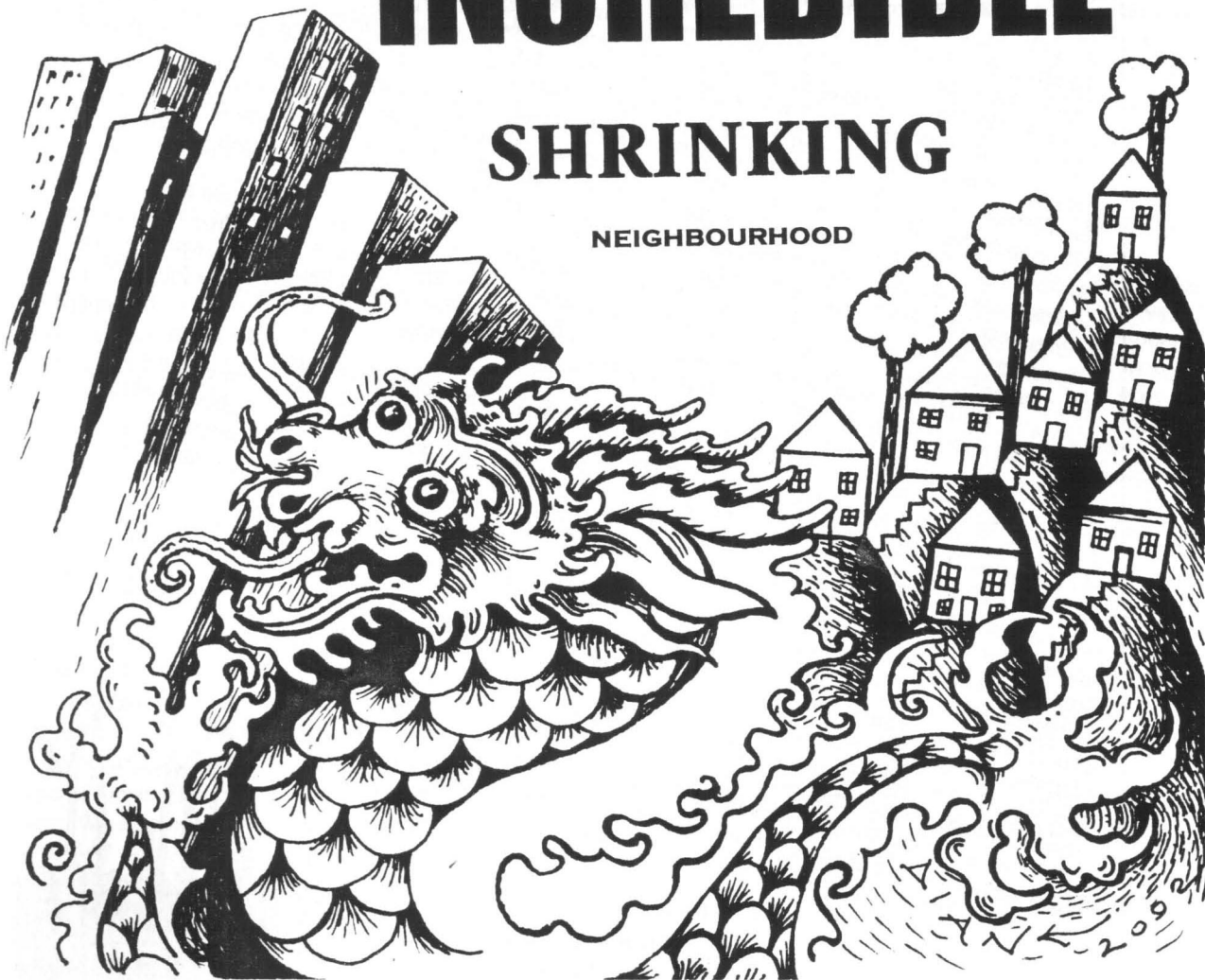
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THE

# INCREDIBLE

## SHRINKING

### NEIGHBOURHOOD



## Dear Mayor and Council,

Many members of the Downtown Eastside community were distressed to discover recently that a section of our community has been annexed by another neighborhood. We refer to the northeast area around Oppenheimer Park, where decorative banners have been placed on Cordova, Powell and Hastings Streets from Clark to Dunlevy, proclaiming those streets to be part of Strathcona..

This is an area that has always been recognized as the Downtown Eastside. Indeed it is firmly located in the Downtown Eastside/Oppenheimer Zoning District. And the maps in the city's own Downtown Eastside Community Monitoring Report confirm this.

Strathcona, on the other hand, is an area south of Hastings Street, and has been so since the earliest history of Vancouver. While sharing some characteristics with the Downtown Eastside, it is a distinct community with its own identity and boundaries.

As you may know, Carnegie Centre administers Oppenheimer Park. Our Association holds regular public meetings there, at least monthly, to discuss issues of concern to park users and the community. The first we knew about the banners was when we saw them on the poles on two sides of the park. On inquiry, we discovered that the banners were placed there by a business group, the Strathcona Area Merchants Society (SAMS), with the approval of the city engineering department.

When SAMS was established in 1999, they were advised by the city to consult with community groups and they agreed to do this. However, to our knowledge, no part of the affected community was consulted in what is effectively a rebranding of our community. And apparently there is no actual requirement that a BIA consult with residents on such projects. This contrasts with the experience of our Association. When we were involved in putting up Downtown Eastside banners on Hastings Street, we were required by the City to conduct a rigorous process of consultation with surrounding areas, not just on Hastings Street. Other areas had virtual veto power over decisions taken on Downtown Eastside streets.

Now we learn there is a proposal, well advanced, to place permanent signs on gateways to our community proclaiming it to be Strathcona. Again, this is with the cooperation of city departments. A hearing has been scheduled at City Hall in less than two weeks (Sept. 19). Yet, there has been no consultation with anyone living in the area affected. It feels like a done deal. A hearing at City Hall is not really an accessible forum for many residents.

We are a struggling community, trying to build pride and revitalize our neighborhood under difficult circumstances. The City has expended great effort and expense toward this same objective. More than 4,000 people live in the Oppenheimer area; it is not just a business district, but a full residential neighborhood. Ironically, the real Strathcona neighborhood is outside the boundaries of SAMS and cannot mount any Strathcona banners - yet SAMS saw fit to consult with residents there last week about the project while ignoring the actual residents affected.

Low-income people are the majority of this community, but we are having trouble being heard in the proliferation of voices from other interests that the city is encouraging in our community. To take away our identity is to weaken the voice and undermine the self-help efforts of our community.

Banners carry a message; that's why they are created. But sometimes the message is an unintended one. In this case, they tell residents they don't count, that in fact, they don't really exist. That is not the way to invoke residents in the revitalization process.

We are asking that the city re-examine the policy that gives special interest groups such extraordinary powers in a community. We aren't a business district; we are a community. Please remove the signs and acknowledge that we are the Downtown Eastside — and we are proud!

Yours truly,  
Margaret Provost  
President CCCA





## A PARK UNDER SEIGE

Our one small green space in the downtown Eastside is Oppenheimer Park. It's a small park in an under-parked community that has for the most part been ignored in recent years by the city at large. Much energy was spent in getting Crab Park, and then in futile attempts to get equal access for all the community. But Oppenheimer just went on with ball games, checkers, volleyball, and lots of programs that the year-round staff put on.

Recently, it feels as if the Park is being hammered on all sides. A couple of years ago some evangelical Christians decided that this was the best place to save sinners. They couldn't do it quietly or privately; for some reason it has to be at the top of their lungs (and loudspeakers). They also have a strong liking for TV cameras and newspaper articles (if they talk about them). Regular park users understandably questioned, 'why us?' and say 'give us peace in our park.' This group that has been using Oppenheimer Park to blast their word on Sundays, has a storefront on Hastings, across from the Astoria Hotel. They are a lot closer to McLean Park in Strathcona. The question has been raised "why don't they try to use McLean Park?" Why go across Hastings and over to Oppenheimer Park? The answers to these questions are clearly self-explanatory.

The Carnegie Centre Association has opposed the use of Oppenheimer Park for Sectarian Religious use. We also oppose the use of the Park for Sectarian Political use, and for Commercial use. Our parks are supposed to be a place of peace. We should be able to go to our parks and relax without being pestered to buy products, join political parties, or be called sinners and ordered to get over here and be saved!

Unfortunately the Parks Board, which first refused<sup>3</sup> these people a permit to recruit in the Park, caved in after all the publicity and pressure was put on them. It has been likened to the poor Frisbee players' right to play in parks. What is not stated here is that many of the users of Oppenheimer don't have the option of getting in their cars and driving over to Spanish Banks etc. to enjoy another park. The issue of class is never stated or included in these discussions. People do not have the same rights when they can't afford to pay for their leisure activities. Many times people don't have bus fare or aren't well enough to even walk to English Bay. So driving them out of their local Park has much more serious implications. The political pressure on the police to move the drug activity off Hastings Street has also had implications for Oppenheimer Park. If you force street drug trade to move, it is like a water leak. It will find its way to an open space and fill it up. The nearest open space is Oppenheimer Park. So now we have evangelists and the drug dealers using the Park, both the result of City policies.

Recently Hastings, Cordova, and Powell Streets got these banners that loudly proclaim the area to be Strathcona. When we inquired as to what process the Business Improvement Association went through to put these banners up, we were told they don't have to go through a community process. Why would that be? When the Carnegie Action Project wanted to put up banners on Hastings Street that said "Downtown Eastside" we had to dance through hoops for months. We were told that the term Downtown Eastside is a political term. Is the reason that the Business Improvement Assoc. doesn't have to go to the community that lives there, because they have MONEY.? Of course, it is. This is all about money. If you take away a community's identity, divide it up, remove its name, call it Gastown, Chinatown, Strathcona, or Victory Square, or Thorton Park, what you really do is take away its voice. You take away its ability to speak for itself.

The Carnegie Community Centre Association is going to hold a Town Hall meeting to discuss the issues facing Oppenheimer Park.

By MUGGS SIGURGEIRSON



Yes, cocaine is bullshit. The part of it that is worth any money is gone in less than 15 seconds. I mean by the time you stand up from sitting down in a chair to look at yourself in the mirror, and you turn around 180 degrees to sit down again, the rush is gone! And you think to yourself, "It's over - now what do I do?" And then for the rest of the afternoon, you are fighting yourself; "Do I do more? No, it's bullshit! Do I do more? No, it's bullshit!" etc.

Cocaine does have a surly quality to it. They do not call it the Devil's Dandruff for no reason. Coke is bad luck on wheels. You could do a couple of hundred bucks worth in an afternoon, and at the time, it will seem like no big deal!

Cocaine, like all other drugs, affects the limbic system; that is the reptilian part of the brain that needs food, air, water, and sex. Consequently, if one does enough drugs, he will come to need it like food.

The body produces endorphins.. chemicals that make one feel good. When a pleasurable narcotic containing endorphins is introduced into the body, then the body will no longer produce the endorphins on it's own, because it would be redundant. (This is why steroids are harmful, as the body no longer produces its own testosterone). So when a junkie is going through withdrawal, he is not needing the drug as much as the fact that his body is no longer producing endorphins and will not again until another 10 days.

Wing Ko

## Sunday Morning Coming Down

I wake to the panicked pleading  
 "Oh Robbie please don't go. Hang on please!"  
 The panic, the pleading, up thru the floorboards  
 went on for an eternity; call the neighbour  
 who calls the desk.. but they never even  
 sent an ambulance - just the cops  
 to see if the stiff was dead yet

A couple of soul sisters lead the grieving girl away  
 Guy didn't make it thru his last shot  
 Died in the arms of a panic-stricken partner  
 No more pain for him, a legacy of pain left behind  
 for those who once touched his warm body  
 Commonplace, another OD, listen to the screams  
 ..hopeless pleading of survivors.. indifferent cop..  
 just another loser Sunday morning coming down  
 forever

Wherever he is, hope he's found peace.

R. Loewen



## Connections

"Gloria Kieler, representing Living Waters, is not connected in any way to the respected Christian ministry of the same name. Her organization has no ties to any of the churches, dioceses or associations that govern most Christian organizations and provide accountability and a creed."

This was the first paragraph on a very interesting collection of stuff dropped off in the *Newsletter's* office a couple of weeks ago. Kieler is the self-proclaimed "Mother Hastings" who has invaded Oppenheimer Park on Sunday afternoons since mid-August to rant and rave at people about being

sinner and needing her or Jesus or her to do something. Living Water is the "respected Christian ministry"; Kieler is trying to ride on their good name by adding an 's' to 'water' but she is in no way connected to the one with the honest bona fides.

Other interesting bits show that Kieler is, in fact, a



political animal who belongs to and runs for office under the banner of the Christian (Reform) Heritage Party and has had her name on the ballot in the last 2 Federal elections – getting less votes than the Marijuana Party candidate but more than the Communist Party did. It makes a kind of weird sense as to why she does what flies in the face of every recognized Christian ministry in the neighbourhood – having loudspeaker induced rants in the park, forcing closure of regular activities while the shill from the States raves about repenting and hellfire, calling the media with false stories about hordes of devil-worshippers threatening to drag her down to Hell if she went ahead with her abomination, yelling at and berating ordinary residents in the Park for saying she should just shut up and leave us in peace. And all for the press!? She plans to keep running for office!! ...and what better thing to cloak yourself in than 'fundamental(ist) family values and Jesus!?!'

The Christian (Reform) Heritage Party believes that all government should be run by Christian fundamentalists; they are against childcare, against pensions, keeping "dangerous or sexual offenders" behind bars until they are good or dead, and making everyone pay the same amount of tax. It will get curiouser and curiouser if the 'born-again' chant becomes a 'vote for me' rant for any election. If it's civic, provincial or federal (or just any chance to get free publicity) can the normal, ordinary people of the Downtown Eastside expect to have their Park ripped off as a "constitutional right" of Kieler to sell herself?

"Off with her head!" cried the Queen of the Heartless...

PRT

## Shoeless Irene

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On August 20, 2002 there was a Health Fair at Oppenheimer Park. It turned out to be unhealthy for my feet as my shoes were stolen when I took them off to obtain a massage from Delaney.

Delaney rushed across the street to find a pair of shoes for me in the free box; they were a bit tight but should get me home... ut they ended up hurting my feet so badly I had to get off the us and buy a pair of thongs.

The person who took the shoes must have been high on something as she left a pair which were five sizes smaller. I guess the moral of the story is that if you go to Open Bottle Park glue the shoes to yur feet

There were many people drinking rice wine on the outskirts of the park that day and the police turned a blind eye to it. Rice wine is a killer and there needs to be another crackdown on the stores whose owners sell it to people they know are drinking it as liquor.

They used to sell rice wine at Superstore but now it has been taken off the shelves. Metrotown did the same when employees on their Health and Safety Committee (my son Wayne is one) observed the same people coming in day after day to buy that poison. If you know of stores here still selling it (some do so by the caseload) call the police.

By IRENE SCHMIDT





## Red, White and ...what?

I was in Victoria recently, where I observed an American tourist in a shop saying,  
"I really like the Canadian flag.  
Does it come in any other color?"

Anita Stevens

# CARNEGIE CELEBRATES LITERACY DAY SEPTEMBER 19th 12 --4 PM

Great book giveaway outside centre 12-2pm  
Power Talk and Literacy 2-2.30 Gallery  
Show with Puppets 2.30 - 3pm

## \*\*SPECIAL EVENT 3-4\*\*



LARRY LOYIE  
AND CONSTANCE BRISSENDEN

Discussing New Book  
AS LONG AS THE RIVER FLOWS



## Notes From The Library September 15 2002

### Graphic Novels

New to the library is the graphic novel of **The Minority Report**, (also a film directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Tom Cruise,)

A word about terminology: a "graphic novel", by definition, is a stand-alone story in comics form, published as a book. We have ordered other titles in this format.

**Wild Years: the music and myth of Tom Waits**  
782.421 JAC

This is the story of Tom Waits' transformation from skid-row night-lifer to eccentric gentleman farmer, husband, and father.... known as Poet laureate of the common man, Waits is the lifeline between the great Beat poets and today's rock & roll heroes.

**Dispensing with the truth.** 616.398 mun

This is the story of what a drug company really knew about the drug fen-phen ( a diet pill) the ways it kept this information from the public, (which caused loss of lives). An absorbing report of ensuing law case as victims and their lawyers searched for truth and a stark look at how greed kills.

**Laws of the Bandit Queens.** 305.409 smi

A fun and inspiring collection of portraits - in words and pictures of some incredible Women - words and laws they offer for women and girls to live by.

### Upcoming Events in Library

...and the new computer system. Horizon is new to us and new to you so we ask for sympathy and tolerance as we familiarize ourselves with the new system.

Library staff also wishes to thank all patrons for their patience the last week of August..

We were glad to be able to stay opened whilst all other Branches were closed, the down side was because of latter we had to hand check everything so we appreciated your understanding!

Mary Ann Cantillon, Librarian

Keep your words sweet in case you have to eat  
them later

- M.P.

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my deepest love  
to bare my core so true and real  
I must be willing to let my soul  
take flight  
or be bruised  
.. a line so fine..

to love is to feel pain  
so bittersweet

Broken-winged I can't take flight  
Heart and Soul I surely die  
Will you nurture and cradle me  
or push away what is meant to be  
.. I risk to walk that line..

Terrified  
but always hopeful  
If but for only a moment to remember  
Love is eternal even if you love alone

I'm losing you  
I wish for you to find your way back to me  
let our souls as one fly together through infinity

(\*graffiti from Metropole Hotel Pub stairwell)  
submitted by Wilhelmina Miles

### POLITICS

argue both sides at once  
look for soft spots  
impress Family Values  
photograph with kids  
be affable, attentive, prepared  
and appeal to mass with Trinity  
of money, security, integrity  
sexual politics

avoided like plague but exert subtle machination  
rise in eyes both knowing and unknowing  
refused, cajoled, hoodwinked and still miss link  
moral purpose, sexual awareness, unite on brink  
of toxic ideology infecting infant pride  
ww III threatens – sweet love is radiant guide  
virtuous rise in shame  
seeing no one to blame

A. Kostynuik

in the pink we arrive  
live and let be  
can't you feel it tonight  
the one  
the sacrifice that saved my life  
someone stole my songs  
i believe in blue eyes  
being sorry is harder than it seems  
blessed by the wind  
make yourself young  
it's right to speak  
now that's living  
separate lives  
just let go  
there's no way to compromise  
when you wish that it rains  
something happens over heaven  
the last line that i ever wrote  
it shows that i can grow  
a moment for all  
hold on  
drowning a man  
over a woman  
charles fortin



**Comments?  
Concerns?**

**Contact  
Jenny  
Wai Ching  
Kwan, MLA**



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**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES  
NUTRITIONAL INNOVATION  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR INCOME ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS  
HOW TO COOK RABBITS, RATS AND  
OTHER RODENTS**

Dear Recipients,

Some people have been complaining that I don't give a rat's ass about the needs of the unemployed bums who can't find (or so they say) one of those \$6/hour jobs. Nothing could be further from the truth. As such, I have developed a tool to enhance the nutritional intake of Human Resources Clients:

**Cruell's Rodent Recipes!**

My new cook book includes recipes for many soon to be family favorites such as Uvic Bunny Burgers; Sweet & Sour Rat Balls; Chipmunk & Chips; Fettuccini Rodentia and Rat Tail Spaghetti. →

**'DAY OF DEFIANCE' TO GREET BC  
LIBERAL RETURN TO HOUSE**

Victoria, BC - Preparations are underway for a large-scale demonstration on Oct. 7, the first day of the BC Liberals' return to the Legislature. Dubbed "Round II: Day of Defiance and Community Solidarity against Cuts and Privatization," the event will fuse direct action with a massive rally and march.

The event is being organized by Victoria's Communities Solidarity Coalition, a network of labour, environmental and social justice groups that have united to challenge the Campbell government and its assault on the people of BC.

Organizers are expecting attendance in the thousands, and have issued a mobilization call to unions, labour councils and community groups across the province. Groups are encouraged to organize buses into Victoria and hold their own events on Oct. 7, culminating in a long march through downtown Victoria, beginning at 10 a.m. in Centennial Square. Those unable to make the trip to the provincial capital are asked to organize their own rallies, actions and meetings for Oct. 7.

"It will not be business as usual on Oct. 7," one event organizer told the Democrat. "With Campbell and the Liberals back in Victoria, citizens and workers plan to take action to demonstrate their opposition. The days of symbolic protest are over."



→ Also included are many other healthy hints: how to pick up a dog from the SPCA for those large family gatherings when rodents just won't do... how to catch the early bird, and roast it... slugs (oysters for the poor...) storing and transporting roadkill... Also included, a free copy of Swift's A Modest Proposal (and you always thought your kids were good for nothing!)

Pick up **Cruell's Rodent Recipes** at the nearest Human Resources office. \$5.95 for recipients, free for everyone else.

Bon Appetite!

**Minister for Human Resources  
Murray Cruell 655-5711 or 356-7750**



## Open Letter to the Honourable Linda Reid, Minister of State for Early Childhood Development

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Minister Reid,

I am writing for information about your Ministry's use of the Federal government's allocated funds for Early Childhood Development initiatives. As you know, in April 2001, the federal government allocated \$291 million to BC for Early Childhood Development initiatives to be distributed over 5 years. However, as far as I can tell, your Government has still not accounted for the expenditure of the first year of Federal dollars (totaling \$39 million). What has happened to this money?

This request comes in response to concerns expressed to me by many British Columbians, who are worried about the series of service cuts affecting their access to early childhood development programs. Just to cite a few examples, your government has:

- Reduced the amount of income assistance available to single parents on assistance,
- Required single parents to go to work after their youngest child turns three,
- Introduced welfare time limits for employable parents,
- Reduced the shelter rates for families with two or more children,
- Rescinded sections of the Child Care BC Act and terminated the Funding Assistance Program, which would have ensured affordable universal child care in BC.
- Lowered the thresholds for access to the income tested child care subsidy,
- Ended funding for all 40 Child Care Resource and Referral Programs in communities across BC, and
- Reduced funding to Legal Aid so that people will no longer be able to access legal assistance in securing spousal support.

These few examples are illustrative of the type of mean-spirited policies that are emerging from this Government. Families, especially low-income or single parent families, are hard hit by this array of cuts. More and more children are being left in substandard child care by parents who cannot access adequate supports. Even families where both parents are working find it difficult to maintain the childcare support they need.

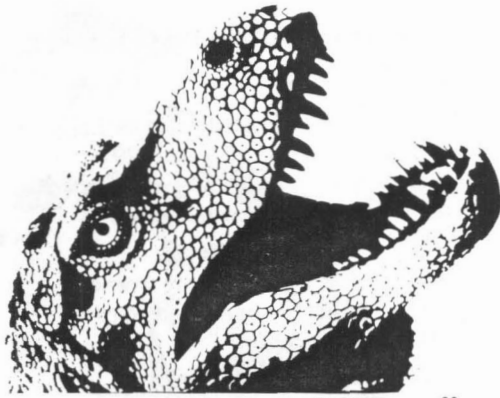
The childcare-serving community shares these concerns. Childcare workers are very worried about the impact of these program cuts on parental choices. Valuable and necessary childcare facilities are threatened with potential closures because organizations and parents are unable to cover the additional costs of care resulting from government cutbacks. Access to childcare services is becoming more difficult as many referring agencies and organizations are themselves closing down due to cancellation of funding.

In this climate, many people want to know what happened to the Federal money. Your Ministry has made it their goal to establish British Columbia as a national leader in the area of early childhood development. It is recognized by many experts that good quality childcare services is a fundamental component of good early childhood development. Yet, in spite of federal contributions to B.C. for early childhood development initiatives, we are seeing supports and programs for children reduced. I would like to receive from you a detailed breakdown of monies and programs, as well as information about how and to whom your Ministry is allocating the federal funds for Early Childhood Development initiatives.

Sincerely,

Jenny Kwan, MLA, Vancouver-Mt Pleasant





## "Living Is A Matter Of Hope"

Dedicated to all those fighting the atrocious violence of Gordon Campbell and his government driven by the ideology of wealth and power for a few and increasing poverty for many.

On April 7, 1945,  
allied armies approached  
the Buchenwald concentration camp  
in Germany.

Prisoners could hear the American guns, and  
they hoped, oh, how they hoped.  
Then the SS decided to move  
five thousand men from the camp -  
five thousand skeletons -  
to hide them perhaps,  
to kill them,  
these ghosts that bore witness  
to holocaust.

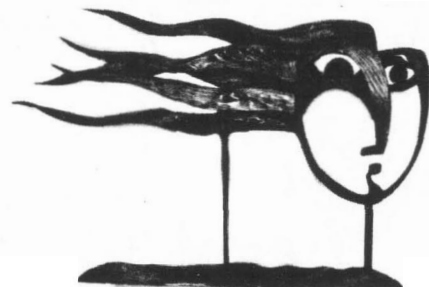
So began a twenty-one day nightmare -  
fifty freight cars  
one hundred men to a car  
wandering aimlessly in Europe.  
No hope now.

Starving, delirious men  
shared a few potatoes  
a bit of bread.

Sometimes the train  
sat at a siding for days,  
suspended between life and death.  
About two men died  
in each car every day, and  
the dead were left beside the track.  
Some men went mad  
and pounded their heads  
against the wooden walls.

Others, delirious with fever,  
screamed for water.  
The SS hit them with clubs  
to restore quiet.  
Then an SS officer  
appeared at the top  
of an open car,  
his face contorted with hatred.  
He fired his rifle  
into the car  
as though killing others  
would kill his inner torment.  
One prisoner was shot through the head,  
and his blood and brains  
splattered on those around him.  
In spite of themselves, the others  
were glad it wasn't them.  
They thought of the extra space  
they would have  
when the body was removed,  
and they mourned their selfish thoughts  
along with their dead comrade.

So time passed.  
Men died of dysentery, exhaustion  
and despair.  
The world had become absurd.  
On April 26,  
as one more lay dying,  
three of his brothers  
from the Franciscan order  
sat in silence beside him.  
Slowly, as water trickles  
from a hidden spring,  
a song arose among them.  
They sang the Canticle of Brother Sun,  
written by Saint Francis,  
and their voices touched the hearts  
of the remaining three thousand prisoners.



"Glory for the gift of your creation  
for our brother the sun  
for our sister the moon."

They sang like

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego  
in the fiery furnace,  
and like Nazim Hikmet,  
the Turkish poet  
who spent many years in jail  
because he loved justice, and  
who wrote while in prison:  
"Living is a matter of hope, my love.  
Living is a serious business,  
like loving you."

Sandy Cameron



### **Report calculates cost of cuts to low income families**

End Legislated Poverty has released a report called "Income assistance after the cuts: Client and caseload statistics for March to July 2002 and annual savings projections for MHR". The report examines who is affected by cuts to welfare and child care subsidy and how much they are losing.

In particular:

- Over 20,000 families lost \$45 to \$75 per month in shelter allowances
- Support allowances for more than 27,000 cases have been reduced by \$47 to \$144 per month
- About 72,000 new cases annually are being denied welfare for three weeks or more who previously would have qualified for assistance
- 10,500 families now receive less child care subsidy or none at all; and

- Over 24,000 cases have lost maintenance and earnings exemptions of \$100 to \$200 per month

Altogether these cuts represent \$144 million in annual government savings. Clearly, this is short-term gain for the Ministry, but long-term pain for BC's poorest citizens.

"Families are being evicted from their homes because they can no longer afford to pay the rent", says Lesley Moore. "Many parents are forced to choose between substandard care, leaving children alone, or working fewer hours because the cost of child care has become so prohibitive. These punitive policies do not help families; they simply make it harder for people to escape poverty."

### **CULTURE JAMMING 101 with Andrew Boyd**

**Tue, October 1, 7:30 PM**

**Havana Gallery (1212 Commercial Drive)**

**Cost = \$5 - 15 (sliding scale) Tickets at Door**

*Nuclear Saints of America. Free Trade Cell Phone Drill Team. Corporate Soup Kitchen. Sweat Gear. Boston Tea Party Redux. 100 Musical Chairs. Billionaires for Bush;. Enron Democracy Shredder.*

These are not punk bands you haven't heard of. These are artistic/organizing projects that Andrew Boyd, has helped to carry out over a 15 year career. Workshop participants will analyze these efforts, learning how to adapt artistic strategies to support political action and education.

The workshop will explore:

- . How to get high-concept, high production values on a low budget.
- . New approaches including: culture jamming, media interventions, guerrilla theater and newspaper wraps.
- . How to invite open-ended grass-roots participation into actions and yet maintain artistic cohesion and a focused message.
- . The web as a tool for disseminating not just info but ready-made organizing and message-making tools.
- . How ingenious "meme warfare" can inject a message into corporate media in spite of editorial frames designed to filter it out.

**There is also an art show featuring local artists like Dianne Wood at the same location. Check it out!!**

September 11, 2002 (2:57pm) **THIS IS NOT A POEM** This is from things people have been saying for centuries, a high school student in North Vancouver, Jonathan Swift, Jane Edwards, Michael Barnholden, people in the pub, people at meetings, people in newsletters, people running or not running for government or no government....**King James Bible, Compton version** *For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men. As a cage is full of birds, so are their houses full of deceit: therefore they are become great, and waxen rich. They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge. Jeremiah 5:26-28* **THIS IS NOT A POEM ABOUT THE REDEMPTION OF GORDIE CANNIBAL** and Mikie Cannibal and Christie Cannibal and Garry Cannibal and Willy Cannibal and Murray Cannibal and all the big and all the little cannibals: Georgie, Val 1, Billie B1, Pat, Billie B 2, Billie B 3, Tony, Harry, Shirley, Jeff, Elayne, Susan, Graham, Gulzar, Ida, Tom, Dave, Walt, Rich 1, Gary, Michael, Kevin, Stan, Greg, Arnie, Colin Gordon 2, Roger, Brendan, Randy, Sindi, Dave, Mike, Daniel, Ken, Brian, Kevin, Richard 1, Blair, John, Brenda, Harold, Dennis, Karmine, Reni, Lorne, Wendy, Joyce, Ted, Paul 1, Richard 2, Rob, John 1, Sheila, Barry, Geoff, Judith, Linda, Claude, Val 2, Patty, Armando Sandy, Lynn, Ken, Richard, Blair, Ralph, Rick, Gillian, John 2 van DONGEN, Rod, John 3, Katherine, John 4, **PATRICK!** predator entrepreneurs, stock brokers, real estate rip-off con artists, white collar thieves, every collar colour gangsters, vampires, civil servants, ancient straight citizens, sucking away at the blood of the poor. oh no, they're just five-year-olds with blow torches instructed by some tired monster to go find their suppers somewhere all so negativestand and cheer or I'll chill ya You five year olds with blowtorches are having so much fun, running around, doing the public business, burning down the house our fathers and mothers built for our security and our health. Since you terrorize us maybe you are terrorist creepshappier n a pig in shit Oh, no, Letitia, they're poor lost Picked-on boys and girls seeking the father of the Holy Psalms *a father of fatherless boys and a judge of widows is God in his holy dwelling God is causing the solitary ones to dwell in a house; He is bringing forth prisoners to full prosperity. Psalms 68:5* 1961 New World Translation of the The Holy Scriptures I won't ask you who you serve. With our current translation complexes we have no way of asking this question. I fear to tell you the fate decreed to poor Gordo by a woman I met in a downtown eastside pub. Her teeth, what was left of them, were rotten. She said, "How can I ever get a job looking like this?" I said, "Well, your hair looks right." and she sez, "if you only knew me better I would tell you..." I guess she was wearing a wig She had been denied dental service by social services. When I asked her what should be done about these cuts to our economies she sed: "I'd like to tie him up and slash his penis raw with a razor and lay him down face first in battery acid and leave him there." I was just one small square table and two beers away from her so I didn't ask if she solved all her political disagreements that way. Possibly she'd been to one of Willie Pickton's Parties. Little Willy Picked-on Cannibal, our little brother, Gordie.. Do you think maybe little Willie Cannibal has a job for her, Gordie? All our Cannibalites have jobs for the socially marginalized that they would do so lovingly so willingly so obediently in your new Household, The Era Economy, unfettered capitalism, chaining people like pit bulls and Gordie in that situation you are not protectable, though I feel guilty, because Gordie, you used to remind me of my little brother when he was five. but gordie, you have a wife who is vice-principal of a school that has to function in an economy that you chose to be administered by an air-flight instructor

**BC IS OCCUPIED**



**THIS LAND IS N**

**STOP THE BC TRE**

**ED TERRITORIES**



**IS NOT FOR SALE**

**TREATY PROCESS**

who can say with a bald face "Most people will do well in this economy. Only the Disadvantaged will have to pay." A great way to learn to fly. Kama Kazi, suicide bombing. It's done by signing a paper you read and sign that sez you may not live on more the 518 dollars a month and if you try to do so you will have 100% Income Tax to pay on any earnings. That is, everything you have above \$518 dollars a month you have to give back to the provincial government to give back as tax refunds to millionaires. Talk about motivation and if you don't sign you will have none of the necessities of life, housing, healthcare, good water, proper food and clothing. Yu will become an outlaw, run down to death or run into crime and be processed through a highly paid and privileged justice system Or yu will raise animals for slaughter Like our daughters An action perfectly "legal" in Contract law. Legislated Poverty perfectly Good in Law which probably could prove to be, like slave law, not good- in- law and unconstitutional in this country if this country had a constitution ensuring us with safety and mobility if a lawyer could put her mind to it but she can't she has a living to earn a reputation to consider i sympathize with her, gordie because we all have her problems, even the marginalized, those beneath consideration, hookers and slackers, drifters, thieves, frauds, liars, story-tellers, priests, poets, pimps, bums thieves wankers insolvents, consolidators, consultants, garment workers, body workers, food service workers, truck drivers, manufacturers of screws and nails and bomb makers, yes bombs and mines assembled by the cheap labour that Gordie and the Cannabillites need to expand for their factories over on the North Shore of some California sort of place a great and complicated city, thousands of years after Enoch, the one built by farmer, Cain and his unnamed wife in Genesis Yes, that Cain, who killed his brother, Abel out of jealousy over God's love Cain who was the first one to really answer God, to talk to him, to plead with him, to beg for his love. To change His mind. And God became human and the plot got thick. but yu know no matter Who Yu are, yu try to keep busy, like yu politicians and biker gangs, yu pig eaters, and all the little Hitler vegetarians and rainmakers of every ilk, like yu and Michael Cannibal, Gordie and ideologists yu have supported Hannah Arendt speaks about "the banality of evil" such an interesting word, "banality" once meant the duties you owed to your feudal chief coming to mean the boring, the usual, the everyday and though you are cruel, blind and unhearing gordy, yu are not unique. In 1995 even the NO DAMN PITY party did the same same things yu are doing to the disadvantaged, cutting welfare and any supplementary earnings the disadvantaged could earn and all the while fostering the lofty contempt of the second and third generation union worker so ignorant of the history of the foundation of his high daily wages his privilege, public welfare, a guaranteed annual income a negative income tax some form of decent life protection for our citizens Yu Cannabillites, yu legislative assembly, are all educated privileged smartas whips, yu know yu know yu can devour all the resources of the poor. yu know when times get tough the tough get time. let them eat cake at the Sisters of Atonement. stop traffic at Terminal and Main and polish yur windows. scare yu so bad yu have to put them jail and forget about them. when they cry out in loneliness and starvation and pain gas them and sell them for parts or chop them up as meat, cook them for soup can it, and sell it and enhance the now much-dwindled Public's coffers, its glorious bottom line Who would question you and your cousins and sons and wives free enterprisers all so honest and self-sufficient and frightfully decent they, gordie if yu get rid of us allyou'll finally have a surplus--

**you and all the real estate**

Yor Big Loving Sister Maxi Cannibal



**The new(est) Chief of Police**, Jaimie Graham, was the guest at DERA's General Membership Meeting, held on September 6 at Carnegie.

Kim Kerr, acting Housing Manager for DERAHS (Housing Society) gave voice to the concerns and complaints of many local residents, made to him and shared by seniors and others, on the increasingly dangerous streets and seeming inaction of police.

- residents of Tellier Tower at 16 E.Hastings are afraid to leave the building because of open-air drug market outside their building;

- assaults and muggings are increasing in regularity and very aggressive dealers threaten residents;

- dealers generally don't live here, but commute each day to 'do business' on claimed turf;

- Neighbourhood Safety Office has a police person but dealers set up shop right out front;

- the seeming police policy of containment leaves non-using residents to seek other places to live and it becomes increasingly hard to get people to move in;
- the 2-3 blocks of Hastings have become a tourist attraction as people drive through gawking at street scene, while residents fear going out day or night

The Theatre was standing room only as many seniors and concerned people supported a petition with over 600 signatures, gathered in 2 days, saying that safety and security of person/residence are things that people have a right to.. and asking that the police work to enhance same.

Constable Graham accepted the petition and gave a short, personal introduction on his background and what he brings to the Top Cop's job.

People lined up with questions, but the number was limited by Graham's schedule (he had 35 minutes).

- heroin use has increased dramatically despite (or because of) attempts to curtail its importation. This was related to an "Old Boys' Network" of senior police who ousted previous Chief Constables; Graham dismissed 'network' theory and admitted to increases in most drugs in recent years.

- will the police do sweeps or purges of streets in conjunction with the Olympic Site Inspection, not wanting to show true face of our area?

Graham said he would not support such a tactic.

- Vancouver Agreement channeled several million dollars through the City for neighbourhood help but a minimal amount was actually spent on treatment and accessible alternatives. The lion's share went to road improvement and the Millennium Gate.

DON'T WORRY - ANY MISBEHAVIOUR ON THE PART OF MY OFFICERS WILL BE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED, WON'T IT BOYS? IT'S SIR!



WELL BOYS - WHAT'S THE VERDICT?? HE'S COMPLETELY INNOCENT, SIR! SO'S HE, SIR!



Graham said he was directly involved with Van Ag process and would make it a priority.

- no mention is made of the growing number or recovering addicts in this area. [We] want input.

- Police have been working at cross purposes with some recognizing addiction as a health issue and others treating all users as criminals; private citizens (well-t-do) seem able to command police for person/property protection while poor and users are stereotyped and receive little assistance via 911

Graham said education and examination of all policy and procedure was ongoing.

There was little time for people to either express support for or to dismiss the petition and safety concerns. Graham has been in the job for 2 weeks and ended by saying that he plans to meet periodically with the community as a whole and get real feedback on whether he is making any difference.

One point that both Graham and the audience agreed on was that the police are one pillar of the four pillar approach to the drug problem (prevention, treatment, harm reduction and enforcement). What seems to be happening as political interests twist initiatives into weird shapes is that little commitment to the pillars of treatment and harm reduction leave the enforcement aspect "responsible" for dealing with the (lack of) results.

By PAULR TAYLOR



## DERA believes in cooperation

The rancour spouted by W. Robert Millar toward DERA no doubt serves his prejudice against us very well, but doesn't serve your readers' interests if they are looking for factual information (Don't kill the golden movie goose, Letters, Aug. 28).

I have lived downtown off and on since 1947. I have been a member of DERA and have regularly attended its meetings since 1995.

I think it important that Robert Millar of Tartan Films understand that, while certain members of VANDU illegally occupied the DERA office some years ago under the virus-name "Friends of Dera", VANDU has never been part of DERA and certainly would not share space with DERA.

The Downtown Eastside Residents Association has tended to support the rather unglamorous part of the poor: the elderly, the old-timers, the ill, and those worn out and injured from labour.

You may not notice us because we're kind of weak and scared of a lot of the street life. We tend to stay home. In the past, DERA has built low-cost housing for us which makes more bearable and lets us live our peaceful, ordinary lives privately.

There are many more of us living in the neighbourhood than the people you see hung up and homeless from the use of dangerous drugs.

Maxine Gadd

The Downtown Eastside Residents Association has been in operation for nearly 30 years. We are not a flavour-of-the-month interest group. We serve all residents of the Downtown Eastside: the drug involved, the elderly, the disabled, people with language barriers, the homeless and others lost in despair. We are not affiliated in any way, shape or form with the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users and do not enjoy seeing our name linked with any of their endeavours.

The address of DERA is 425 Carrall St.; VANDU's is 50 East Hastings. They're both in the phone book.

I have never met with, spoken to or heard any complaint about our film liaison work from Mr. Millar; I would have responded promptly if I had.

The movie industry continues to work closely with DERA because filmmakers know we send people out on the set who actually know what they are doing. If we have problems, we sit down and work them out.

Lastly, Mr. Millar, please lose the chest-thumping "taxpayer" rant. Every nine-year-old who buys a can of pop is a taxpayer. If you feel that "everywhere is everyone's area," surely it follows that every public issue is everyone's business. Now can we all get back to work?

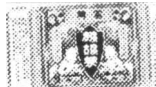
IAN MacRAE

*President*

*Downtown Eastside Residents' Association*



## Dera's History with the Film Industry



In the early 90's residents came to Dera to complain about film shoots in the area. The complaints cover a wide range of issues. Dera responded to residents concerns. In very early minutes it shows Bea Ferneyhough, Barb Daniel and Ian MacRae having meetings with the City Film people and Gastown Business Association. By 1993 Dera had started its "Film Liaison Program".

The Film Liaison Program was set up to handle issues around film shoots that adversely affect local residents. We were able to convince the Film Industry and the City that if film shoots were taking place in the Downtown Eastside a representative from Dera should be present on the site to protect the interest of the residents. We had no involvement in any arrangements the industry would make with individual business; our concerns remained as to what was happening on the sidewalks.

Over the years, we were able to negotiate many issues, such as the enclosure of the lavish food tables that the industry was putting out on sidewalks while hungry residents walked by, getting public notice of film shoots, not having lights left on for long periods between shoots, noise and explosion issues and the ever-disruptive blocking of street ways.

We further negotiated with CUPE 1004, the Union that represents the workers at Dera, to have a separate seniority list for Film Liaison Work. We knew there were people in the neighbourhood who we could hire for a 7 hour shoot but who could not hold down a full time job at that time. We set the rule that you must live in the Downtown Eastside before you could be a Dera Film Liaison person. We wanted to create employment while also earning money for Dera's programs.



Since 1993, 30 residents have worked as film liaisons, 4 residents worked enough each year to stay off welfare, over several years 13 went on to full time employment. Some residents didn't make it.. they showed up drunk, smoked illegal substances on the job, or simply didn't show up for work – they were immediately dropped from the Liaison program. The fact that this was just 4 people (since '93) hurt the program only from an outsider's points of view. From Dera's point of view, this is an extremely successful program.

Dera charges the individual film company \$39.00 per hour. The person actually working the shoot gets paid \$16.40 per hour. The Dera Film Co-ordinator position is a half time positions with benefits that earns \$22,000 per year. After Dera has earned the \$22,000, the remaining money is used to support Dera's programs. The most money Dera every made toward programs was \$25,000 in 2000. Those programs cover services to residents. Advocacy services 4,500 clients per year, Intake Advocacy does another 3000 per year and our free telephone service provides 28,000 telephone call per year (just to mention a few items). So when the film industry hires Dera

for a shoot not only are local residents' issues and concerns protected but dollars flow back to keep Dera's doors and services open to the Community. None of the money leaves the community and thousands of people benefit.

The Film Industry has donated clothes, bedding, furniture, and toys which in turn Dera gives away to residents.

Dera's relationship with the Film Industry and the City has not been an easy one. Film people want to get in and out with the least hassle. They often only see their shoot and do not see what the fuss is about. Some years there has been a shoot every second day, so for us a lot of the glamour has worn off. People are tired of the Movie Moon (lights) in their rooms all night. The City wants the Film Industry for many reasons. So there we are - the Downtown Eastside - between two very strong forces. We are always struggling to control our lives and living conditions. Dera wants the Neighbourhood to gain. You can see from the foregoing that we were having some success; some people benefitted directly with jobs, others benefitted by helping to keep Dera's doors open and still others benefitted because we were exercising some control over the massive shoots.

In the past two years there has been a change of attitude. People in the film industry believe they know the Neighbourhood and don't need Dera. They will hire their own locals. Some other organizations have stated to the Industry "Dera doesn't speak for us". So divide and conquer lives again. There is an advantage for the industry to hire someone who doesn't know all the rules that Dera, on behalf of the community, struggled to have put in place. The industry only has to pay one person and I have no idea how much they pay. The City wants the Film Industry so they inundate us with as many film shoots as possible..

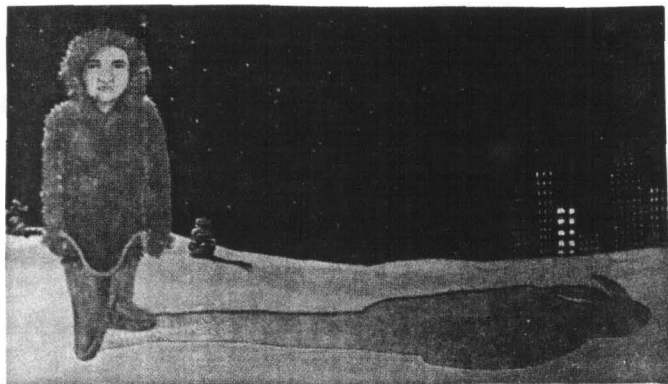
And now a further divide. VANDU is falling right in line with those who want to divide and conquer this community. Their demands that sex trade workers and drug dealers be compensated by the Film Industry or else these romantic business people would disrupt all filming, has been reacted to angrily by residents and non-residents alike. For reps of VANDU to damn Dera is music to the ears of the fly-by-night production companies and paves the way for a return to the old days when there were no recognized rules or any accountability. This makes it extremely difficult for the Dera film liaison to negotiate on behalf of ALL residents who are negatively effected by the film industry It's up to all of us.

Terry Hanley  
Executive Officer, DERA

Kevin Annett sends this message about the release of his book **Love and Death in the Valley**. "It is a biographical account of my last ten years uncovering the evidence of deliberate genocide of indigenous people in our country.

"Love and Death ..." is stirring, humourous, and of course irreverent. It tells of my years as a minister in Port Alberni, my trashing by the United Church, and how I worked with survivors of the "residential schools" to document the hidden crimes in our own backyard.

The Truth Commission into Genocide in Canada is making a formal presentation to a visiting United Nations investigator this January concerning the evidence of genocide by church and state in Canada.



## CARNEGIE CULTURAL SHARING PROGRAM

### DRUMMING & SINGING

All Drummers, Singers and Dancers Welcome  
Every Monday, 6-9 pm. in the Theatre

For more info call Barb at 604-665-2220

**DOWNTOWN  
EASTSIDE  
YOUTH  
ACTIVITIES  
SOCIETY**

**STD CLINIC – 219 Main: Monday to Friday, 10am – 6pm**  
**NEEDLE EXCHANGE – 221 Main: 8:30am - 8pm every day**  
**NEEDLE EXCHANGE VAN – 3 Routes:**

**City – 5:45pm – 11:45pm**

**Overnight – 12:30am – 8:30am**

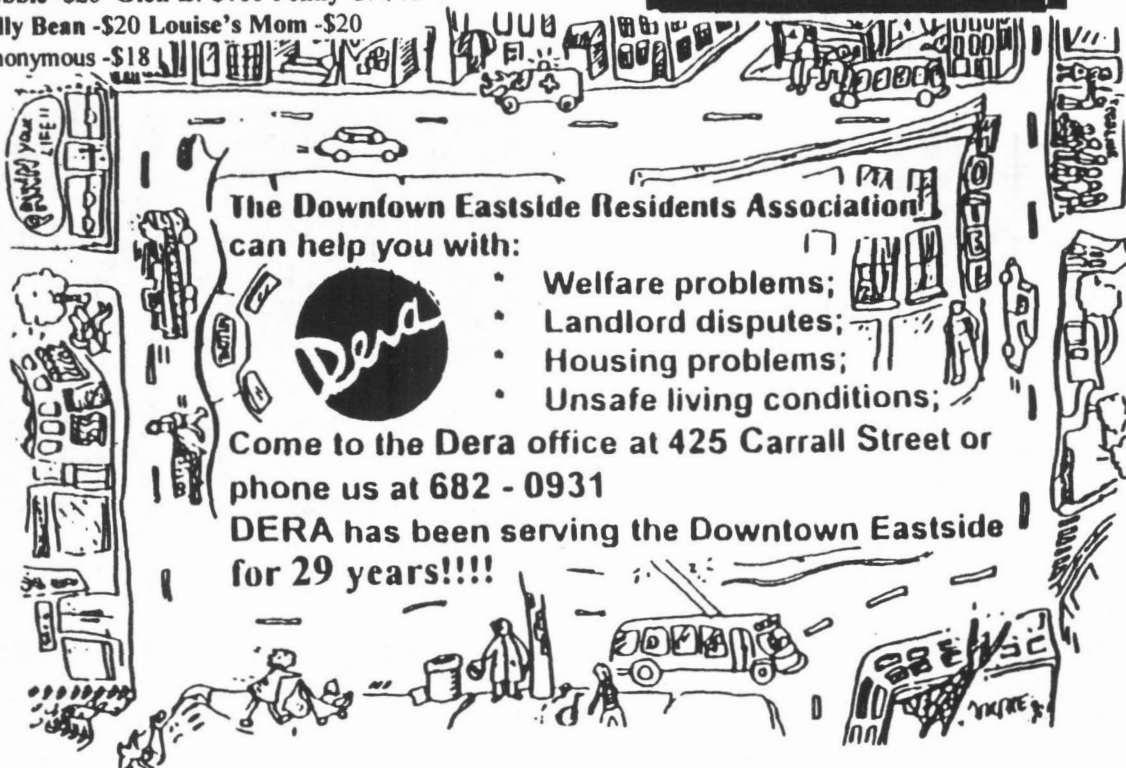
**Downtown Eastside – 5:30pm – 1:30am**

**2002 DONATIONS** Libby D.-\$81  
 Sam R.-\$20 Eve E.-\$18 Nancy H.\$50  
 Margaret D.-\$22 Sabitri G.-\$22  
 Hulda R.-\$25 Val A.\$18 Wm B.-\$27  
 Harold D.-\$9 Mary C.-\$71 Paula R.-\$35  
 Rolf A.-\$75 Bruce J.-\$18 Peggy -\$25  
 Kettle -\$18 Sonya S.-\$100 BCTF-\$10  
 Bill G.-\$100 Wes K.-\$36 Charley B.-\$25  
 DEYAS-\$125 RayCam-\$25 LSS-\$200  
 John S.-\$36 Paddy -\$75 Sarah E.-\$10  
 The Edge -\$200 Maggie R.-\$100  
 Jo's Mom -\$25 Charles F.-\$10  
 Mennonite CC -\$85 Rosemary Z.-\$40  
 Joanna N.-\$40 Jenny K.-\$18  
 Charlotte F.-\$20 Nancy C.-\$50  
 Debbie -\$20 Glen B.-\$100 Penny G.-\$40  
 Jelly Bean -\$20 Louise's Mom -\$20  
 Anonymous -\$18

Free – donations accepted.  
**Carnegie**  
 NEWSLETTER  
 401 Main St, Vancouver V6A 2T7 Email: carnnews@vcn.bc.ca

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

**Submission Deadline**  
**for next issue:**  
 Thursday, September 26



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

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

**Come to the Dera office at 425 Carrall Street or  
 phone us at 682 - 0931**  
**DERA has been serving the Downtown Eastside  
 for 29 years!!!!**



## Country Legend

In Memory of Carnegie legend Tom Lewis

I'll tell you a story, about a man who I once knew  
But it has to be a country song, 'cause nothin' else will do  
He lived his life for singin' though he sang his life away  
I only wish I could sing this song with him right here today

He is a country legend      Riding on the wind  
Nothing could ever hold him, even if you wanted to  
He's a ghost rider in the sky  
Gone forever from me and you

He had a way of living that was true to a spirit free  
Either diggin' in a smithrite, or writing poetry  
His voice was soft and humble, his hands hard and tried  
He never stopped playin' 'til the moment when he died

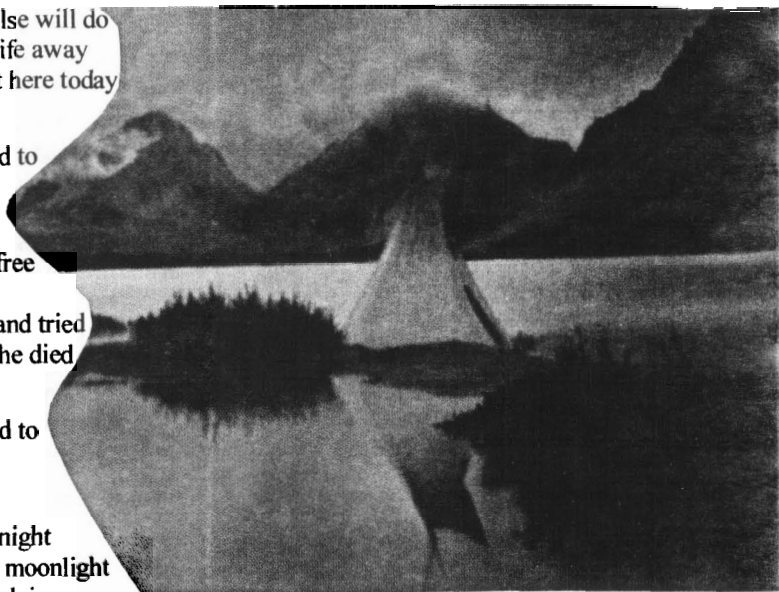
He is a country legend      Riding on the wind  
Nothing could ever hold him, even if you wanted to  
He's a ghost rider in the sky  
Gone forever from me and you

Legends are of stories, told in the middle of the night  
Either with a campfire burnin' or under the soft moonlight  
Voices of the mountains, of the valleys and the plains  
Know only how this legend died and his love that still remains

He is a country legend      Riding on the wind  
Nothing could ever hold him, even if you wanted to  
He's a ghost rider in the sky  
Gone forever from me and you

Steven Rose

Paul: I wrote this song after Tom Lewis died, though I can't remember the date. I sang it at his memorial service but never got a copy of the lyrics to you for the newsletter. Each time I sing this song I remember Tom coming in, all in black with the black cowboy hat. He'd quietly stroll in with his guitar in hand. All he'd sing was cowboy songs. He'd show me some of his new finds from his dumpster diving. But then I'd get a whiff of alcohol on his breath and it was time for him to go. But he always seemed to get by the security. We all trusted him but he took that for granted and was as sneaky and as sly as the best of him. I know there was one time I didn't notice that he was drunk until he got to the stage. By then I had to let him sing because once he sat down and was about to play he'd give me a piercing look with his glassy, gentle eyes as if to say "there's no way you're getting me off this stage until after I'm through". And I'm grateful I did for I found solace and comfort in his deep country voice. He was like the high priest of the Carnegie Cabaret in those days. As well, he was one of the original Downtown Eastside poets, and had a lovely way with words. He was gone for a couple of years and everyone though he died until he showed up one day to play some country songs. Everyone was shocked yet so happy to see him. Legend has it that when he died they found him on his bed, all in black with his guitar resting peacefully on his lap, as if he'd just finished singing a tune. The empty bottle had fallen to the floor. He is a country legend, a Carnegie Legend.



## To the MUSE LETTER:

## How old am I?

— Okay — I am as old as the hills, younger than dirt, as aged as the wise old woman in her rocking chair, as young as the child skipping down the street, as irrepressible as a rebellious teenager, as romantic as a virgin, passionate as the youth who still believes in one's own immortality. I am a young woman going to her first debutantes ball — and as old as the chaperone watching over me. I am pregnant with excitement and almost too old to have children. I love my mommy and daddy, one of who has passed over, the other too frail to rock me on her knee and too blind to put a bandage on my owie. I am old enough to actually love my siblings and young enough to still want to bonk them on their heads with a rock and give them a spankin'. I am mature now to love my friends unconditionally, no matter what they think, say or do, but young enough to be jealous, and want to be their 'only best friend'. I am too old to be young and beautiful and young enough to still kid myself. I am young at heart but my liver is lagging. Young enough to have blond hair and old enough to question the half inch closest to my scalp. Young enough to think all those I love are beautiful and old enough to not see imperfections because my eyes are failing. Young enough to look good in the morning when I awake — until I put my glasses on! Young enough to think I will live forever and old enough to wonder how I will pay my mortgage off before I retire. Young enough to wear shorts and old enough to notice younger girl's shorts are shorter than my underwear. Young enough to still believe in Santa Claus and old enough to have become Santa Claus. Young enough to get excited Christmas morning and old enough to have to pay the Christmas bills for six months later. Young enough to fantasize losing my virginity — it was so long ago I forgot it already happened. I must be young, I forget how old I am. The older you get, time flies. I have never seen time in the sky, so I must be young. My memory tells me it was just yesterday that I was born!

Submitted by Colleen (who's between 4 and 58)

## Super Thursday

On September 5 twelve of us were treated to one of Bob Sarti's world-famous walks. We took Carnegie's van to Crescent Beach, then hiked around the beach to Blackie's Spit.

Walking on the trails feasting on blackberries was a wonderful experience. Having our food outdoors made the food taste much better.

We ended up at Huddy Roddan's 'hobbit house'. She's a great hostess and made everyone feel welcome. Her soup, blueberries, coffee and tea were a real treat.

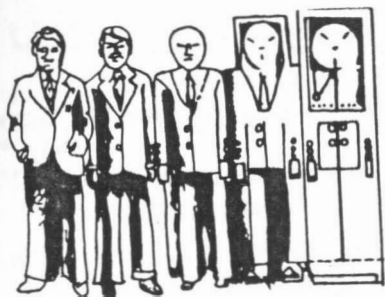
The highlight of the visit was when Huddy played a tape of Sam's memories during 1931 — the hardships people endured from the viewpoint of an adolescent boy. History repeats itself as those same conditions exist today because of the Chretien and Campbell governments. Sam's tape was aired on CBC Radio and it'd be nice to et a copy for Carnegie.

Sam built their house in the 1960's from recycled lumber. He also did not start painting pictures until he was over 75! He was truly an amazing man.

Huddy is taking Sam's loss well and said, "Sam is everywhere in the house. His paintings adorn all the walls."

By IRENE SCHMIDT





## Kicking the senior's crutch

*"Garbage, garbage, garbage.. they're filling up our minds with garbage."* (Folksinger Pete Seeger lyrics)

*"There is a great deal of concern about looking after our older citizens. It has perhaps not been well enough publicized that as we make changes to the continuum of care for those seniors who require assisted living, individual care plans will be developed in consultation with the residents of our care homes with their families. I want to emphasize to you that no door will close before another has opened."* John Nuraney, BC Liberal MLA quoted from the *Burnaby Now* newspaper.

As Pete Seeger's song implies, the seniors and the marginalized can regard the Liberal Government's cost cutting measures as 'garbage'. MLA Nuraney's consultation to seniors in extended care homes is not happening.

According to Bill Tieleman, author of the *Political Connections* column in Vancouver's *The Georgia Straight* paper, "it is seniors who are giving government the most challenge. They and their families are organizing to stop forced nursing home relocations that clearly violate Liberal promises that no residents would be moved without their consent." Joyce Jones, Co-Chair of the Seniors Network in the same article retorts: "All fragile and elderly residents can't be moved around the systems like luggage while the government tries to convince us that it has a workable plan."

In addition to its other sins, the provincial government is also practising ageism (a negative attitudes toward seniors). Joyce Jones describes ageism as "being perceived as not as capable as younger people". She says in the *January 2002 Seniors Network* "Seniors want to be treated fairly, equally, and in consultation, when they deem it to be nec-

essary.

End Legislated Poverty social activists Gael Marriotte and Marilyn Young are experiencing first hand the ugly effects of the 'cuts' and ageism. Gael was told at 62 years of age, by government officials to "Get a job", despite having an inoperable tumor. Cancer has spread because the prescription drugs she was using have been delisted and therefore are unobtainable. Marriotte discovered she could not apply for a nutritional supplement unless she was dying. "The cuts have taken a big toll on my emotional and physical health." Her benefit cheque's been reduced to \$298 a month. The stress has affected her breathing and, being diabetic, she is also unable to afford the proper food. Marriotte feels depressed and asks, "Do I really want to live?"

Marilyn Young feels the cuts "have caused me tremendous stress. My condition got worse. I am really not feeling that well. I do not know how it's going to affect me. My medication for Parkinson's has been delisted. Vitamin and Herb Supplements may not be covered. I may be in danger of losing my maintenance funding."

And what would a theologian say about the cuts? Dr. Barbara Blakely, a priest at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, declared: "The cuts are not the will of God, or the people of God." Blakely said everybody deserves respect and dignity. She cites the *Rule of St. Benedict* in which we are to receive the poor or the elderly—anybody who is vulnerable. The monastic ritual is: "We greet them with a bow, which is we greet them with respect, as we would greet Christ." Blakely says the *Rule of St. Benedict* wrote the wealthy, powerful or strong are able to care for themselves. "Our natural habits will lead us to greet the powerful with respect... The poor also have to be greeted with respect."

Activists urge poor people to fight back. Gael Marriotte urges, "Don't sit on your ass and do nothing. Scream, yell and go down swinging."

At a recent *Organizing the Left* forum, Phil Lyon, Co-Chair of the Seniors Network, said, "Everything that affects seniors affects everyone else. People don't get involved unless their ox has been gored!" As a counterattack to the cuts, Gael Marriotte declares, "Fight and work with poverty groups (such as ELP) to push and fight to the bitter end." Marilyn Young continues, "If forced to, I will commit civil disobedience because I am fed up with being lied to

and abused." Her action plan, she says, will have to be creative. She says, "And I have only just begun to fight back and speak out." Young's plan also includes helping and encouraging others to survive: "I want to be there to support the people in my community in whatever way possible."

Robin Loxton, an advocate with the Coalition of People with Disabilities, says "We are there to support independent living. When government programs are cut, that affects people's lives. The government is not listening. They only listen to people they want to hear. There is no real community consultation."

By FRED LUDWIG

[First appeared in The Long Haul, July '02]



## Computers ! (@#\$\$%^) !?

Come up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor and have fun learning what a computer can do for YOU!

Training sessions are provided by the Vancouver Community Net ([www.vcn.bc.ca](http://www.vcn.bc.ca))

### Computer Room Training Schedule for September

From 2pm to 3pm, we will work together to...

Sept 4 Introduction to Computers and the Internet

Sept 11 Create and use your own Email address

Sept 18 Work with your Email account (send and receive attachments, etc.) "~~~~~ Women Only! \*\* \*

Sept 25 Search the Internet for Real Stuff (News and Information)

From 3 to 6, we will continue to work one-on-one...

### Computer Room Training Schedule for October

From 2pm to 3pm, we will work together to...

Oct 2 Introduction to Basic Letter Writing

with Word

Oct 9 Create your own pamphlet

Oct 16 Create your own resume \*\* \* Women Only! \*\*\*

Oct 23 Create a poster or two

Oct 30 Create a greeting card or two

From 3 to 6, we will continue to work one-on-one...

### Computer Room Training Schedule for November

From 2pm to 3pm, we will work together to...

Nov 6 Create own our website, part 1

Nov 13 Create own our website, part 2

Nov 20 Surf the Internet "~~~ Women Only! "~~~~

Nov 27 Search the Internet for Real Stuff  
(News and Information)

From 3 to 6, we will continue to work one-on-one...

## Enemy Sightings!

Self-proclaimed enemy of the people Jennifer Clarke is currently reconnoitering here deep in the heart of hostile territory. The Gastown Alliance puppet can be spotted perched in the passenger seat of an anonymous green van, strategizing for her avowed war on the Downtown Eastside community. The Mayoral hopeful is easily recognized by the deep consternation evidenced in her facial expression as she weighs the pro's and con's of flamethrowers and grenade launchers, and their efficacies in wiping out poor people.

The fearsome savagery of the Downtown Eastside community merits all of the inhumane sentiment this pretty politician can possibly muster if she is to appease the neurosis of her Gastown handlers. Her heroic bravery in penetrating the "ghetto" with only a driver at her side clearly indicates her willingness to jump off a bridge to fit in to civilization. What a winner!



Florence

## BC Liberals Are Jeopardizing Safety of Women!

*"No violence against women program in the province of BC will be cut or reduced under the Liberal mandate or under my leadership." - Gordon Campbell, fall 2000.*

**WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN Rape Crisis Centre has been informed by the office of the Solicitor General that the 24-hour Crisis Line that has been serving the Greater Vancouver Area (population of 2.1 million people) for over 20 years will no longer be funded.** This funding cut jeopardizes our ability to deliver crisis services such as hospital and police accompaniments. Our crisis line serves as the main point of contact for most of the women who use our services. Our crisis line provides support, referral, and information; this is and has been an essential service to the largest metropolis in British Columbia.

WAVAW has provided sexual assault services to Greater Vancouver for over 20 years. We receive **over 400 calls a month** on our crisis line and the number of callers has increased on an average of 20% per year.

- British Columbia has the highest rate of sexual assault in the country (**47% of women will be sexually assaulted during their lifetimes**)
- Gordon Campbell promised in fall 2000 and is quoted saying, "No violence against women program in the province of BC will be cut or reduced under the Liberal mandate or under my leadership."
- For over 20 years WAVAW has been providing efficient and fully comprehensive services to the population of 2.1 million people in Greater Vancouver. Our after-hours crisis line is staffed by a well-trained volunteer component enabling WAVAW to provide services in a fiscally responsible manner.

**Call W.A.V.A.W. at 255-6344 to offer support and help with their petition. Join the fight!**



### **Towards the Core**

Infused with lust, dreams reduced to dust  
Inside the coil your blood continues to boil  
You meet with the elite – a mutual distrust  
They will try to snafu you with the least fuss.

You'll be turned round corners and given the gears  
It's a matter of power that may bring you to tears  
Be a trooper, be resilient, be honest and tough  
You'll come out on top when the going gets rough.

You must care for others and share what you have  
Regardless of consequences, the rules or the regs,  
Throw down the gauntlet and begin carrying a torch  
Even though it's painful 'n you'll likely get scorched

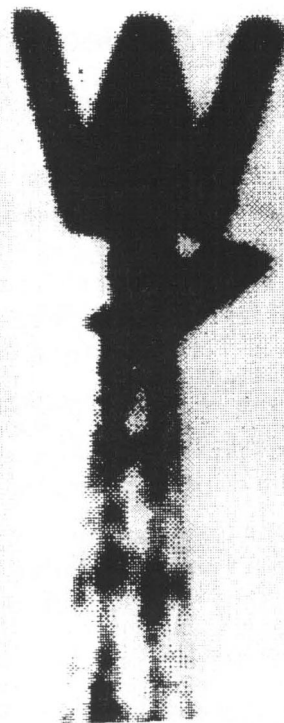
This is the way the battle may have to be waged  
One step at a time, and in stage after stage.  
Correct your mistakes before this conflict is won  
No one ever told me "Your life shall be fun!"

Robyn Livingstone



# *Rally to resist the cuts*

- Social Housing
- Families & Social Programs
- Aboriginal and Treaty Rights
- Education and Youth
- Legal Aid & Welfare
- Privatization



**With good fortune and resolve, a week of actions started on Saturday, Sept 14<sup>th</sup> with 'ground zero' being the Woodwards building at Abbott and Hastings. There will be daily rallies drawing attention to the Liberal/Corporate cuts and their inhumane agenda.**

**We'll be running a 'pirate' radio station as well as transmitting live through internet links so we can tell the real, uncensored truth about the rallies.**

**We hope this week of rallies and non-violent direct action, coupled with calls for strategic direct action across the province, will move the resistance to the Liberal/ Corporate agenda into a new level of activism.**

**We hope to put a spotlight on the fiscal ineptness of cuts and privatization.**

**We feel it is important that this event occur before the next sitting of the legislature and the concurrent rally.**

**Our request is that you and your people come out to support these events and, further, consider giving some financial support to our campaign. The setup of an internet station and the feeding of the community during this week will not be without financial costs.**

For further information: Come to **W**oodwards at 10:30am each morning  
or call 604-682-3269 ext. 8883.