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VANDU-DEYAS

DTES CLEANOP AND HEALTH INITIATIVE

THE BEST OPPURTUNITY...

to make a difference in our community

Prepared by George Messinger VANDU

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THE VANDU-DEYAS PLAN

Our best opportunity to establish a working relationship is to take a beach-head in the DTES and maintain it according to the comparative advantages we possess...

Following lengthy discussions with the city and DEYAS we have achieved a consensus on the task at hand and the means whereby it can best be executed.

Two areas of immediate concern have been identified:

1. installation of hazardous material disposal containers to address a huge gap in the safe disposal of used needles-these sites have been identified and labelled, see below for map and narrative
2. cleanup of medical and human waste in areas frequented by idu's, see below for details

To achieve the stated ends VANDU has twinned with DEYAS to exploit economies of scope and scale, not to mention the construction of strong working relationship

- VANDU has mapped the hazmat locations and will service them on a daily basis
- VANDU will provide 4 personnel commencing with Wednesday September 11, 2002 for a period of 4 hours (10am to 2pm), lunches will be supplied and the workers will be paid a stipend of \$20.00 each for volunteering
- DEYAS will provide logistical support to the cleanup effort at the north-west corner of the Georgia Viaduct, this will include the loan of certain hardware and transportation of the collected waste away from the site
- Operation **dtes cleanop** will continue until the health risks are removed and/or brought under control-we anticipate this to be a permanent operation

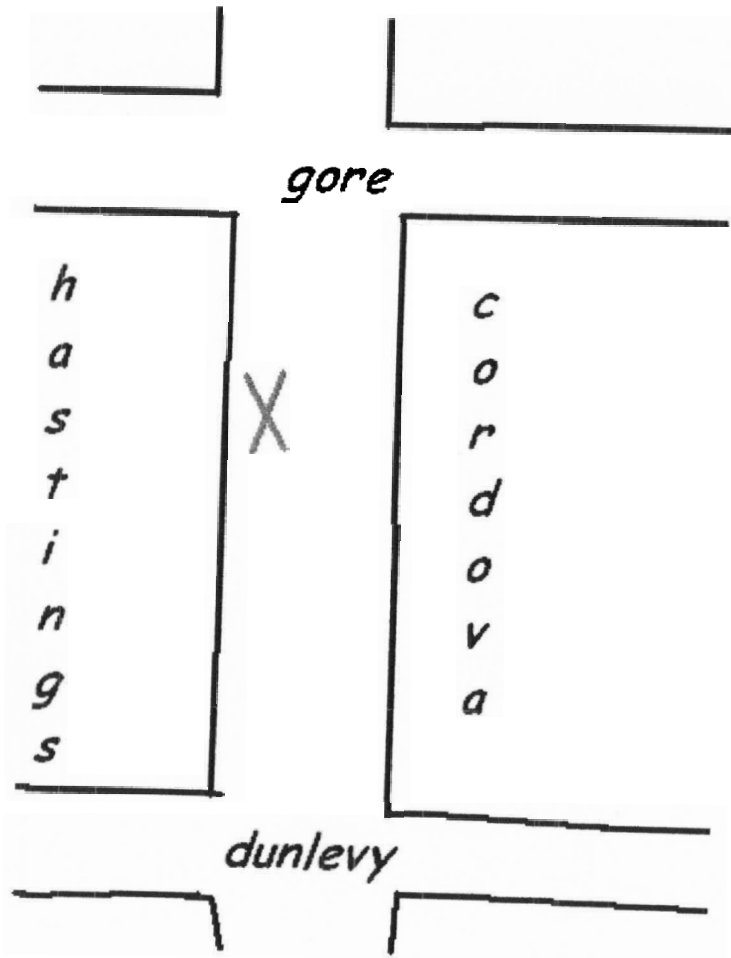
Appendix:

Narrative of physical locations for the mounting of hazmat disposal container:

LOCATIONS:

- 1. BETWEEN HASTINGS AND PENDER/CARRALL STREET AND COLUMBIA
THREE CONTAINERS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE ALLEY**
- 2. BETWEEN HASTINGS AND PENDER/COLUMBIA TO BACK OF CARNEGIE**
 - TWO ON NORTHSIDE**
 - TWO ON SOUTHSIDE**
 - ONE BACK OF CARNEGIE**
 - ONE SIDE OF CONTACT CENTER**
- 3. BETWEEN HASTINGS AND PENDER/ROYAL BANK TO GORE**
 - ONE SOUTHSIDE**
 - ONE NORTHSIDE**
- 4. BETWEEN HASTINGS AND CORDOVA/GORE AND JACKSON**
 - ONE SOUTHSIDE**
- 5. BETWEEN HASTINGS AND CORDOVA/DUNLEVY AND JACKSON**
 - ONE NORHTSIDE**
- 6. CORDOVA AND POWELL/DUNLEVY AND GORE**
 - ONE OPPOSITE OF SISTERS ON WALL OR ON *THE SISTERS PROPERTY**

** THE SISTERS HAVE CONSENTED TO HAVE IT MOUNTED WHERE-EVER WE FEEL IT IS SUITABLE TO DO SO*



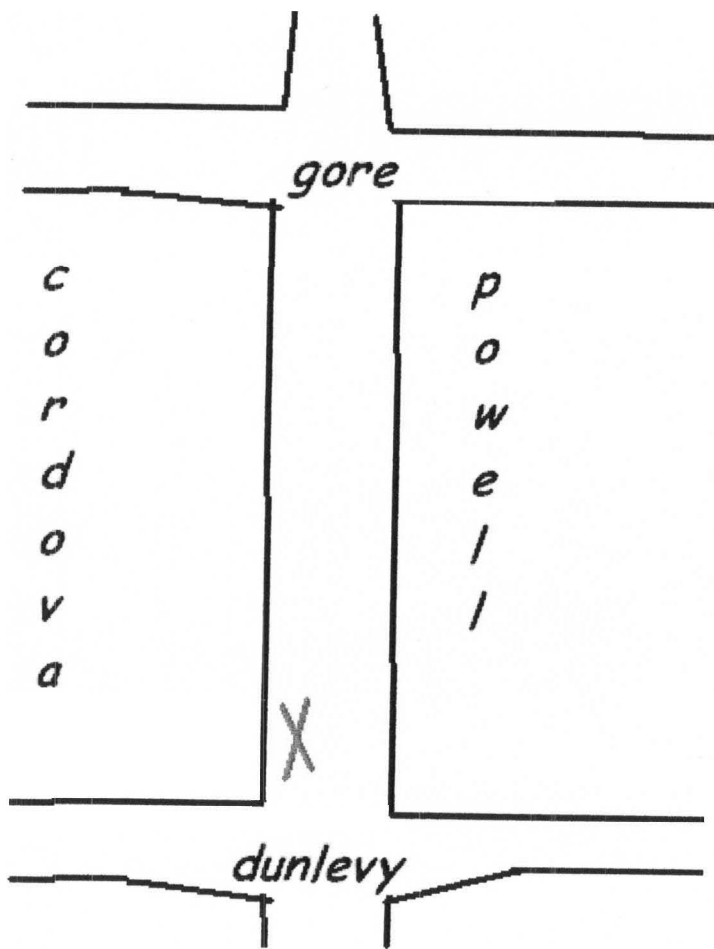
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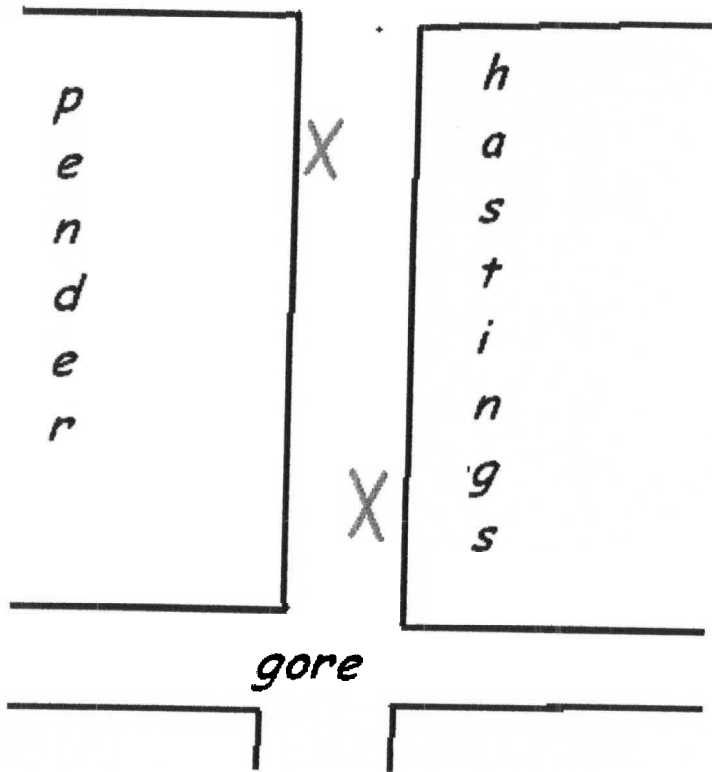
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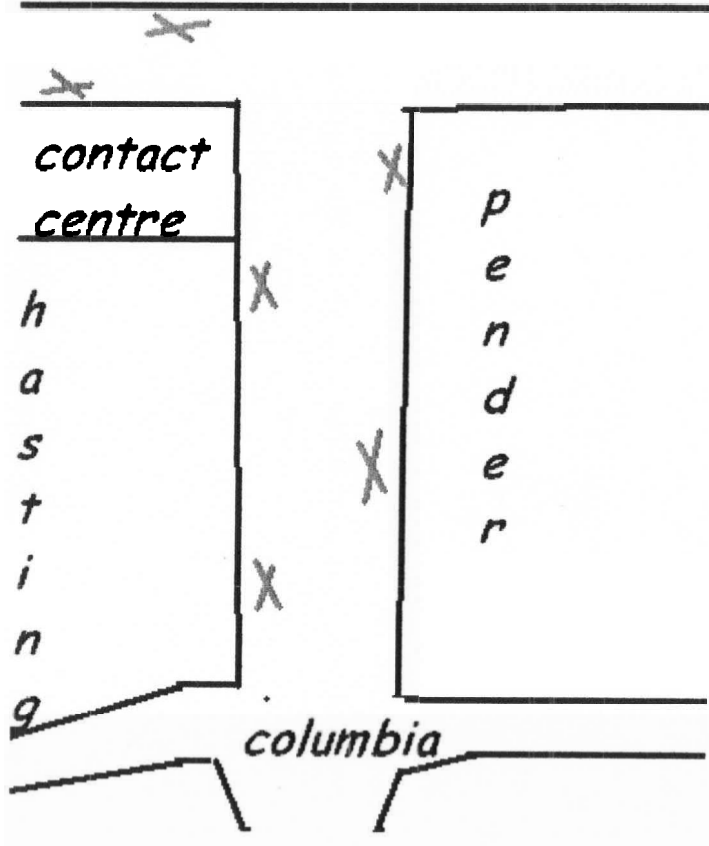


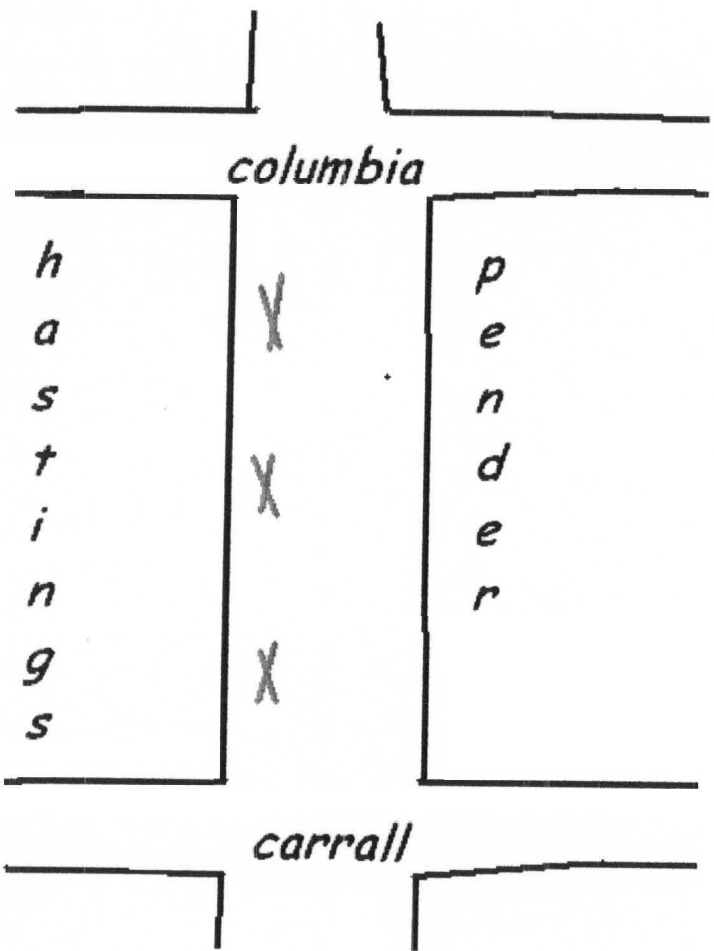
VANITA Board Meeting

back of royal bank



back of carnegie





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Needle Sweep Meeting Aug 23, 2002

Minutes

Present:

Ann Livingston, Dean Wilson, George Messinger	VANDU
Don Syroishka, Olivier Gringras	Street Youth Job Action
Bill Miller	DEYAS
Rick Ivanauskas	United We Can
Bob Ross	City Engineering

(Tim Christie of Van Coastal Health Board and Marcia Hammacher of Coast Foundation unable to attend, due to last-minute conflicts)

Purpose:

Bob outlined the purpose of the meeting, which was to try to ensure that needle pick-up activities in the Downtown Eastside and downtown Vancouver are coordinated as well as possible, so that the resources are applied where and when the need is greatest.

Present Activities:

Only SYJA and VANDU have contracts with Van Coastal Health Board which are specifically dedicated to needle sweeps. Each of the groups outlined their present needle sweep activities as follows:

SYJA: Along Commercial Dr

Strathcona

Andy Livingston Park, behind Cobalt Hotel, Molson Indy

Three Bridges, around Downtown South Community Health

Evergreen and Joyce Station

DEYAS: Informal routes for needle sweeps by one full-time worker.
Provide needle retrieval kits to people, organizations and businesses concerned about needles (tongs, sharps containers, info brochures)
Keep lists of contacts and recover sharps from above

VANDU: Alley Patrol twice a week (4 hour health outreach, 10 am – 2 pm, all lanes in a 24 block area, incl Oppenheimer, two people plus street nurse, pick up all bio-hazards)
Needle retrieval from 4 hotels operated by Portland Society
Unscheduled sweeps at Georgia Viaduct
Volunteer (Glen) cleans up rigs daily in lane south of unit blk E Hastings

United We Can: Litter and garbage pick-up programs 7 days a week (4 hours a day) in Gastown (4/wk), Chinatown (2/wk), Hastings corridor (daily), Oppenheimer & Crab Park (2/wk)

Gaps/Overlaps.

Each group will fax a copy of their detailed needle sweep maps and schedules to Bob Ross (Fax 604 871 6119)

Areas that need additional attention (gaps) are the Georgia Viaduct (west of Main) and beneath the north end of the Crab Park overpass. VANDU and DEYAS will coordinate regular clean-up in these locations.

Needle Pick-up standards.

It was agreed that **all** debris from drug use and sex trade should be picked up.

This includes needles, wrappers, caps, plungers,, water containers, alcohol swabs, condoms, etc

It was agreed that needles must be recovered from

-under grates (may require lifting grate) and in drains (where visible)

-entrances, incl behind grilles and fences (where visible)

-overhead, incl needles stuck into wooden poles

Olivier reported that two thirds of the caps have broken needles in them

Crews require two containers for pick-up: one for syringes and one for the other debris. Needle exchange crews (Alley Patrol) can only pick up needles (and not other debris), so a second crew may be necessary for the debris.

Recording and Reporting Procedures

SYJA records address of every needle recovered

Not practical for United We Can to record each needle, but Rick will do a one-week sample by counting needles recovered per block of lane or street.

DEYAS counts the needles that are turned in through secondary pick-up (ie in returned Sharps containers)

VANDU will work with DEYAS to determine numbers of needles recorded from specific areas (Bill and George to coordinate)

Locations for additional needle disposal containers

There are only four disposal containers in public locations (that we know of):

2 outside Carnegie

1 in Oppenheimer Park

1 on overpass in Andy Livingston Park

Bill reports that these containers are sometimes broken by people trying to gain entry.

Agreed that these containers should be emptied every day

New locations---George handed out map showing locations (primarily in back lanes) where VANDU feels additional containers should be installed

George and Bill will scope these locations out together and make recommendations re specific installation sites.

Bob will assist in actual installation. Bob will check if City Council's ok is required. Bob indicated that funds have not been set aside for installation, but that he will pursue with Health Board, etc.

Actions

All groups will send to Bob copies of their needle sweep areas and schedules (fax 604 871 6119). Rick will send copies of one week's clean-up logs.

All groups will record, on an on-going basis, numbers of needles recovered, by location. (Details of communicating this data yet to be worked out).

Bill and George were enthusiastic that today's meeting has opened up communication between VANDU and DEYAS, and that these organizations can now coordinate activities.

Bill and George will determine specific locations where new needle disposal containers should be installed, and contact Bob re installation procedures.

Bill and George will coordinate regular clean up at Georgia Viaduct west of Main and under Crab Park overpass.

Another meeting should be held in a month's time or so, so report on progress

Bob Ross
23 August 2002