

D.E.W. DROP IN

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE
OCTOBER 1998 FREE

WHO'S ON THE BOARD OF THE DEWC?

THE FOLLOWING WOMEN WERE ELECTED AT THE AGM ON SEPTEMBER 22,
1998



DORIS BIGJOHN
JANE DAVIS
LORELEI HAWKINS
PAULINE JOHNSON
STEPHANIE JONES
ALICIA MERCURIO
NORMA M.
DEBBIE MOREAU
JULIE NORTON
SHEILA NYMAN
CATHY SOUTHWELL
DENISE STILLWELL



*A big thanks to all the 1997/98 steering members and welcome to the
returning and new members.*



INTERNATIONAL DAY TO END POVERTY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

Helping to Protect Women in Need

BC TEL has a program for low-income women at high risk of abuse who need a phone. Since the announcement of the cellular phone initiative in November, 1997, the ministry of Attorney General has received many calls from women requesting a free cel phone.

Criteria for application

A woman in need of access to a telephone due to her safety being at risk, and:

- has no existing credit
- does not have an outstanding closed account
- agrees to full toll restriction and no long-distance calling card

For information, contact:
Leslie Perry-Whittingham
BC TEL Credit Services
Phone: 604-528-8769

This day was declared by the United Nations who stated that governments around the world need to develop ways that work to end poverty and that all individuals have the right to enough food, housing, medical care and work.

We know that this is not happening. In fact, the economic policies of the western governments have meant that the rich get richer while the poor get poorer.

End Legislated Poverty, in coalition with other groups and individuals fighting against poverty, are organizing a series of events for the week leading up to October 17. These groups want to highlight that poverty is a major problem in our communities and that our governments are not doing things to end poverty as they had promised.

If you are interested in volunteering to help the Women's Centre organize an event for that week, talk to Alice in Office C.



Members of the Learning Group at the Medicine Wheel Gathering in August.

I'm a woman
a granddaughter
a sister
a niece
a friend

I sometimes don't understand
a friend...
and I expect my friend to understand
me...

I don't know my friend's world
I can't go in there because it's my
friends world

Patience makes me. ME
it helps me try
to understand a friend
when a friend needs to be listened to

like a friend so it feels sometimes just
blue
yet I don't forget about that
I'm a woman
I'm a granddaughter
a sister
a niece
and a friend.. *Tania*



DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

44 East Cordova St., Vancouver

681 - 8480

OCTOBER 1998

**LUNCH SERVED
DAILY AT 12:30**

| SUN | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SAT |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| CENTRE HOURS | | | | 1 1:00 - 4:00 Law Student 1:30 Women's Voice 5:00 Women Surviving Together | 2 10:30 Sewing and Alterations 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 2:30 Spanish Cl. | 3 CENTRE OPEN 12:00 - 5:00 |
| | Mon 10:00-5 Tues 11:00-5 Wed. 10:00-5 Thrs. 10:00-5 | Fri. 10:00 - 5 Sat 12:00 - 5 Sun 12:00 - 5:00 | | | | |
| 4 CENTRE OPEN 12:00 - 5:00 2:00 Video | 5 1:30 Beading 4:30 Trip to End Legistated Poverty to make puppets for the March | 6 2:00 Volunteers Only Mtg 5:00 Battered Women's Support Services | 7 10:00 Street Nurse - Testing and info 1:30 Nurse - Diabetes Awareness 1:30 Mental Health Trip ton Seymour Forest 5:00 A + D Group | 8 1:00 Law Student 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 WST | 9 10:30 Sewing and Alterations 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 2:30 Spanish | 10 CENTRE OPEN 12:00 - 5:00 |
| 11 CENTRE OPEN 12:00 - 5:00 2:00 Video 5:00 Volunteer Mtg & Dinner | 12 STAT HOLIDAY 12:00 TO 5:00 (NO LUNCH) 1:30 Beading | 13 5:00 Battered Women's Support Services | 14 10:00 Street Nurse - Testing and info 1:30 Nurse - Quitting Smoking 5:00 A + D Group | 15 1:00 Law Student 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 WST | 16 10:30 Sewing 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 2:30 Spanish Class | 17 CENTRE OPEN 12:00 - 5:00 12:00 VAN LEAVES FOR INT. DAY FOR THE END OF POVERTY MARCH |
| 18 CENTRE OPEN 12 - 5 2:00 Video | 19 1:30 Beading | 20 5:00 Battered Women's Support Services | 21 10:00 Street Nurse - Testing and info 1:30 Nurse - Taking care of your health in winter 5:00 A & D Group | 22 1:00 Law Student 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 WST | 23 HARVEST DINNER 12:30 1:30 2:30 | 24 CENTRE OPEN 12:00 - 5:00 |
| 25 CENTRE OPEN 12:00 - 5:00 | 26 1:30 Beading | 27 5:00 Battered Women's Support Services | 28 CHEQUE DAY CENTRE CLOSED FOR PLANNING MTG 5:00 Alcohol and Drug | 29 1:00 Law Student 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 WST | 30 10:30 Sewing 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 2:30 Spanish | 31 OPEN 12 - 5 HALLOWE'EN PARTY 2:00 - 4:00pm |

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

Battered Women Support Services on Tuesday nights from 5 - 8:30, support for women affected by violence in their lives. The session will go from Oct 6 to Dec 9.

The Street Nurse will be in every Wed morning at 10:00 am to provide info on STD's, hepatitis and HIV/Aids and will do blood testing on site.

The Community Nurse - is in every Wednesday at 1:30. Watch out for health tips and information.

Alcohol and Drug Support Group - Wednesday from 5:00 - 8:00, do you have or have you had a drug and/or alcohol problem? This may be the place to get some support, no preaching or guilt trips.

Women's Voice - Thurs. 1:30. Let us know what you think about the Centre. Your opinions and ideas are needed.

Women Surviving Together - Thurs. 5:00 - 8:00 Healing Circle and support group for women.

Raffles - Usually on Fridays at 1:30 or 2:00. Items which are not clothing items that have been donated to the Centre are raffled.

Stopping the Violence Discussion - Watch for Deepa's posters about this group in October.

CRAFTY WORKSHOPS - Materials provided

Beading with Leona - Every Monday, 1:30 pm. Learn how to bead, expand your skills or just share ideas..

Ceramic and Tile Painting - Every Thursday, 2:00. Make something that you can use everyday or give to a friend.

Fabric Arts with Freeda - Every Friday morning. Learn to do your own sewing and alterations and also to knit and crochet.

OUTINGS - Watch the Outing Board for RUSH tickets.

TRIP TO SEYMOUR FOREST - Oct. 7, 1:30 - Alice will take women on a mental health trip to the north shore forest. Picnic included!

SPECIAL

HARVEST DINNER - The women's centre's annual fall dinner will be held on **Friday, October 23rd**. The Centre will be closed except for the dinner seatings. Tickets available at the front desk after October 7.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE END OF POVERTY - OCT 17TH, 12:00PM - The van will leave promptly at noon to join the demonstration. A puppet making session will be held on Oct 5th to make props for the demo. See Alice.

HALLOWE'EN PARTY - There will be a party for women and kids on Sat. Oct 31.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Bye everyone!!

I just wanted to say that I've really enjoyed working as the volunteer coordinator at the Centre and I'm really going to miss being part of the Centre on a daily basis.

As most of you know, Cynthia has asked for a little more time to be on her leave. It will take a little time until someone is hired into the volunteer coordinator/centre programmer position.

Fortunately, Dawn Cook has agreed to coordinate a number of the volunteer activities in October like the volunteer store, the meetings, bus tickets, etc. Dawn was a dedicated volunteer at the Centre for many years doing bingo, helping to set up the store, and working on the desk. Now she is one of the relief staff and covers weekends and other shifts. Thanks Dawn for taking this on in October!

I have had some of my best times and a few bad moments in this job (some of you were there!) I guess that's what being part of the Centre is like - the intensity brings out the best and the worst in us.

Our meetings and workshops have

made me aware of the different directions we all come from. I respect all of you for contributing your time and skills to the Centre. The volunteers are the heart of the DEWC and I am glad we are going to have two representatives on the Board (Doris Bigjohn and Denise Stillwell).

I will be dropping in regularly. All the best to everyone!

LUCY xoxo

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER DATES

Tuesday, Oct 6, 1998 - Volunteers Only Meeting - 2:00pm
Sunday, Oct 11, 1998 - Volunteer Meeting and Dinner - 5:00pm

Volunteer Meeting - September 13, 1998

1. What's new?

We discussed the change over that will soon happen when Lucy leaves and Cynthia returns. Everyone assumes this is what's happening but she is responding to personnel this week.

Several volunteers are going to camp and we will need to cover those shifts. Also a reminder that the AGM is coming up. Who's running for the board?

2. Signing up for shifts

There has been a question about how many planned shifts everyone can have. The agreement is two shifts but what about bingo and the kitchen? After much discussion it was decided that the kitchen should be separate but that bingo volunteers should count their Wednesday shift as one of their two pre-planned sign ups.

3. Volunteering in the kitchen

When someone works both in the kitchen and then on the floor or clothing room, please get two signatures on your volunteer hours slip. That way the kitchen can sign for their hours and the volunteer coordinator of floor staff can sign for the other. One slip, two signatures and say how many hours in each place so we can keep the statistics straight. If you work two shifts in the same day, you get two bus tickets for each shift (four tickets altogether).

Also, we need more volunteers to sign up for kitchen shifts. Right now, Mary is doing a lot of work and she doesn't want to volunteer every day.

3. Volunteering on the weekends

There have been times on the weekend where there are not enough bus tickets. Lucy will look into why this is happening because she leaves enough tickets for all the shifts. Sometimes it is confusing on the

weekends for volunteers because one staff says this and another tells you something different. Lucy will ask Dawn and Carol to decide who is supervising volunteers and giving out bus tickets on Sundays and let everyone know. Whichever one of them is working Saturdays (they alternate) will be in charge then.

At no time are some volunteers supposed to be bossing around other volunteers or telling them they have to do shifts. This has been happening and it is not okay. It is making volunteers angry or not wanting to come in to the Centre when they are not working. Everyone agrees that we should respect each other.

4. Breaks

Volunteers need breaks and we all agreed to take two 10-minute breaks per shift.

5. Bingo

Lucy wants to meet with the bingo volunteers and go over the new regulations. When everyone is together, we will make a time.

6. Communications Workshop

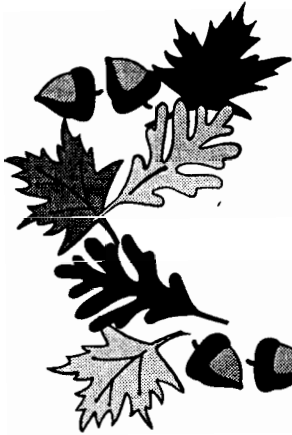
Kathi is coming back to do another session with the volunteers. This session will be focused on ways that we can deal with frustrating situations while on shift. It will be held next door on Monday, Sept. 21 at 2:00pm.

HARVEST DINNER

friday, october 23rd

12:30, 1:30, 2:30

Tickets will be available at the
front desk after October 7th



Child Apprehension Workshops for Women

Sponsored by the Legal Services Society
and held at DAMS

Women know your legal rights and what to
expect from the Ministry of Children and
Families

Wednesdays 1-3pm

November 4th - December 9th

at

DAMS - 119 West Pender (Rm 112)

To sign up, please call Kathleen or
Amanda at 687-5454

Lunch, Bus Tickets and Childminding
Money is available

BUS TICKETS

The DEWC cannot provide bus tickets for every woman who needs one. We do provide tickets for volunteers who have worked a shift, for evening groups and for steering who live out of area. The floorworker will not be giving out bus tickets. If you have a medical emergency, one of the advocates will contact your financial aid worker and it is up to the Ministry to provide your transportation.

TO LUCY:

ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US I WOULD LIKE TO SAY IT WAS GREAT WORKING WITH YOU AND WE WILL ALL MISS YOU. MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT IT WAS SO SHORT LIVED. WE WILL ALL HAVE TO GO UP TO CARNEGIE TO VISIT. SO WE WISH YOU WELL AND A BIG THANKS FROM ALL OF US.