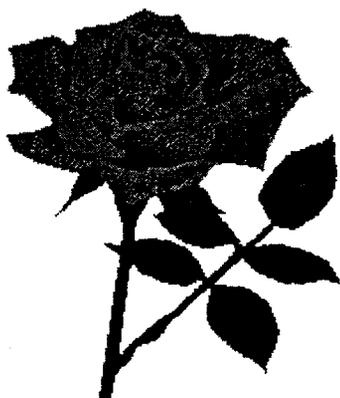


D.E.W. DROP IN

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN
The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

NOVEMBER 2000

Free



Remember and Honour all Courageous Women
Fighting for Peace

Remembrance Day, November 11th

Outings Are Back

Yes Christine, we will go where no women have gone before....
(as long as you bring yer cowboy boots!)

Greetings from Jennifer, the new Drop-In Programmer ☺

I am thrilled to be part of the Women's Centre community, and to be organizing and planning weekly outings to those fun and crazy places where we can get our shoes dirty or simply enjoy the countryside and the quiet for our own personal rejuvenation. Our first big outing to Alder Acres Pumpkin Patch was tons of fun! We ate a yummy lunch, drank coffee, frolicked with the goats and tried to keep Cecelia away from the furry bunnies as she was craving a delicious rabbit stew! Well we didn't bring any bunnies home underneath our jackets but we brought back a pumpkin which was carved for our Halloween Party! We will also be doing lots of recreational favourites such as bowling, swimming, and bbqueing too! Given the excitement in the Women's Centre over the Chicago, the musical, we will be attending as many local art events as possible. I will also be working with staff and volunteers in planning special events such as the Christmas Dinner (which is looming quickly). But most importantly, I want to hear from YOU! Please drop by my office any time on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays!

A warm goodbye to Denise, Drew, Alix, and Heather (drawing this out is so sad!). We will dearly miss their company, antics, jokes, and warmth. Heather, our bookkeeper, is soon leaving for Toronto. Let us wish her a fantastic trip, and hope that she comes and visits when she is back on this side of the country! And of course Denise has offered her place up for a BIG OUTING (6 week) to San Fran and can't wait to make us pancakes every morning of our visit!! hee hee... but if not, Drew and Alix aren't far away!!

Other news from the Staff...



Friday night music jam at the Women's Centre

When: ***First Friday of every month, starting
November 3 @ 6 pm, dinner at 5 pm***

Where: at the Women's Centre

Who: All women welcome, no musical experience necessary!!!
Leona, Marg, & special musical guests will be there

What: Singing & playing music

What to bring: Your favourite songs
Any musical instruments you may have, including spoons,
kazoos...

Why? Because we need more fun!!!

Note: This is ***not a concert***, this is ***for women who want get together to play music, or sing, or make noise!!!***

HOUSING IN THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

Bridge Housing Society For Women is Accepting Applications Now!

Bridge is developing housing at 100 East Cordova St.-also, home of the new Women's Centre! Our building will have 36 apartments for single women who are capable of living independently.

Bridge's Vision and Values

Bridge's Vision is of women working respectfully with women, sharing their experience and their learning, to create a safe place to support women in healing and transforming their lives and their communities.

Independent Living Apartments

The apartments are about 300 to 385 square feet, and come with a refrigerator, a stove and blinds. Rent will be 30% of the gross household income. The rent includes heat and electricity.

Residents accepted for the independent units may keep only one pet—a cat, bird, gerbil, hamster, guinea pig or fish. No dogs.

As Bridge will receive provincial assistance, certain rules apply:

- This housing is for single women only.
- All applicants must provide proof of income.
- The gross household income must be \$27,500 or less.

Resident Involvement

Residents will share in decisions about activities in the building. Ways for people to become involved will be established after move-in.

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How to Apply

The estimated move-in date is February 2001. Bridge will be selecting residents in November 2000. Bridge will be holding an information session in early November to let people know more about the housing.

Applications are being Accepted NOW!

Applications are available from The Main and Hastings Community Development Society at 40 East Hastings St (help filling out the application, during daytime hours is provided) or from office staff at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre.

Completed applications can be delivered to 40 East Hastings 24 hours per day seven days a week.



Victim Notification Unit

- ◆ Victim's of Crime have a legal right to information throughout the justice process, including information about the status of an offender who has been sentenced to a provincial jail for committing a crime against them.
- ◆ The victim notification unit has started an automated telephone system in which can notify victims and to provide access to offender information at any time.
- ◆ The system is now in place throughout BC. It provides the following information to victims:
 - Name of the jail where the offender is located.
 - Transfers to other institutions
 - Escapes and returns to custody.
 - Dates of parole hearings, and the results of the hearings.
 - Unescorted temporary absences.
 - Release date at the end of sentence.
- ◆ A person can register with the victim notification unit if they are the victim of an offender who has received a jail sentence of less than two years in a provincial correctional institution. In some cases, relatives of victims can also register.
- ◆ When a person registers with the victim notification unit for automated notification they are asked for a telephone number, and issued a personal identification number. Once registered, an automated message will be sent to that telephone number when information about the offender changes. The registered person then enters their PIN (code number) and can hear the message.
- ◆ With the exception of escape notices, which are generated 24 hours a day, the system calls between 6 am and 11 pm.
- ◆ Victims can also obtain get information 24 hours a day, any day of the year, by calling the victim notification unit toll-free number for automated messages.
- ◆ If a victim does not want to register for automated notification, the victim notification unit can work to find alternative ways to provide and receive information (e.g. individual notification from custody centres).

For more information, or to register with the Victim Notification Unit, contact Marlies Wester, *Victim Services Coordinator* in Office B.

Volunteer News

Just when you thought you have gotten rid of me...hee...hee...hee...

I would like to give a formal report back on the work I have been doing with The Facilitator Group, aka Pam and Melanie. We conducted 12 interviews with volunteers who wanted to be interviewed. Although we were consistent with our efforts in soliciting participation from the volunteer base at Volunteer Meetings to form a group that would give direction to the project. There was, however, not a significant response from the volunteers. As the deadline for forming a Committee expired, Pam and myself decided to move on and developed our own outline. We believe that volunteers do not feel ownership over this process and hence, it resulted in a lack of enthusiasm or support. Pam also noted that this process did not originate with the volunteers.

For the majority of volunteers, the Centre is a safe place to come, belong to a group, and gain satisfaction by being an integral factor in the Centre's continued existence. For them, it is not a priority for the Women's Centre to offer a bridge to more formalized life skills or employment training. The term "employment training" was suspect for some volunteers who have concerns regarding being forced to look for work by government support systems. Combined with the lack of volunteer ownership of the project this created a level of resistance to the goal setting process. In the interview process overall the goal setting activity was very difficult. This is reflective of where many of the volunteers are at this point of their lives and speaks again to a different set of priorities. We did see a great need for listening and more long-term work to assist in the relationships between the women working as volunteers. In other words, starting where people are in their lives. A small number of volunteers did see this project as an opportunity to be supported in achieving their goals and have registered some success within the life of the project so far.

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Difficulties in carrying out the consultants' work:

- Unpredictable crisis such as floods and the break-in made it difficult to set interview schedules.
- Availability of the Volunteer Coordinator to focus on developing the Skills Development Project with The Facilitator Group was very limited. This is due to a lot of factors such as the need to attend to other Centre matters, programming duties, being sick and burnt-out.

Next steps:

At each Volunteer Meeting, we will provide:

- Updates on who is participating in this component of the program and the progress of those who are participating.
- To reassure all volunteers that this component is available, especially to newcomers.

Recommendations for the new Skills Development Project Coordinator:

- To be available for the participants of this component.
- To continue working with Pam on further developing this part of the program – probably with regards to basic communication skills and facilitate a process where better relations among the volunteers happen.
- To follow up on the requests made by the volunteers, for example, computer training and other educational workshops.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO EXITING THE BACK OF THE WOMEN'S CENTRE- THIS INCLUDES ALL VOLUNTEERS, STAFF, AND WOMEN USING THE CENTRE (too many things are going missing).

WOMEN'S BELONGINGS OR VALUABLES ARE NOT PERMITTED IN OFFICE E, WHICH IS THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR/PROGRAMMER/RELIEF STAFF OFFICE. THIS OFFICE IS NOT LARGE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE THIS MANY STAFF, LET ALONE VARIOUS BAGS/ITEMS. ANYTHING LEFT IN THIS OFFICE WILL BE IMMEDIATELY PLACED ON TABLES. NO EXCEPTIONS!! IF YOU VALUE YOUR BELONGINGS KEEP THEM WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES!

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

44 East Cordova Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1K2

Front Desk: 681 - 8480 Women's Line: 681-7458

**LUNCH SERVED
DAILY AT 12:30**

NOVEMBER 2000

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

Learning Group - Every Monday, doors close at 5:15. Exploring different ways of Learning with elder, Bernice Hammersmith.

Battered Women Support Services on Tuesday nights from 5 - 8:30, support for women affected by violence in their lives.

The **Street Nurse** is here every Wednesday from 10:30 – 12:00 to give you information on all kinds of health issues.

Popular Education Group - Wednesday from 5:00 - 8:00, Share the skills that you have to make changes in your life. Meet with like-minded women to organize events.

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

Women Surviving Together – Every Thursday, 5 pm.

Healing Circle and support group for women. Facilitated by elder Reta Blind and Stopping the Violence Counselor, Carol Martin.

Creative Writing Group – Every Thursday, 6 pm. Metis performer & playwright, Marie Clements, offers her talents to women interested in creative writing. She will meet women at the Centre at 5:50 pm and walk over to Firehall Arts Centre (280 East Cordova) for the group.

Support Gathering for Women who are HIV+/AIDS – Every Friday, 12:30 – 3:30 pm. Meshell and Donna (from DAMS) will be facilitating this group at DAMS (167 West Pender). Join us for good food, great conversations and company as we focus on different topics and issues concerning the daily lives of women who are affected by HIV/AIDS.

ARTS & CRAFTS WORKSHOPS: Materials provided.

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

Fabric Arts with Freeda - Every Friday morning, 10:30. Learn to do your own sewing and alterations and also to knit and crochet.

Dreamcatchers with Beverly and her friend, every Thursday at 1:30. Expand your skills and share stories with other women.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 2:00 Volunteer Orientation 10:30 Street Nurse 5:00 Popular Education	2 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Dreamcatchers 5:00 Healing Circle 5:50 Creative Writing Group (Firehall Arts Centre, 280 East Cordova)	3 10:30 Sewing and Alterations 12:30 – 3:30 HIV+/AIDS Support Group at DAMS (167 West Pender St.) 5:00: Music Jam with Marg and Guests! ☺	4
5	6 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	7 5:00 Organizers' Training with End Legislated Poverty	8 10:30 Street Nurse 5:00 Popular Education	9 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Dreamcatchers 5:00 Healing Circle 5:50 Creative Writing Group	10 10:30 Sewing, etc. 12:30 – 3:30 HIV+/AIDS Support Group at DAMS	11 REMEMBRANCE DAY
12	13 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	14 5:00 Organizers' Training with End Legislated Poverty	15 10:30 Street Nurse 5:00 Popular Education	16 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Dreamcatchers 5:00 Healing Circle 5:50 Creative Writing Group	17 10:30 Sewing, etc. 12:30 – 3:30 HIV+/AIDS Support Group at DAMS 5:00 Karaoke at the Women's Centre	18
19	20 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	21	22 CHEQUE DAY 10:30 Street Nurse 1:30 Dreamcatchers 5:00 Popular Education	23 Centre Closed for All-Day Staff Meeting 5:00 Healing Circle 5:50 Creative Writing Group	24 10:30 Sewing, etc. 12:30 – 3:30 HIV+/AIDS Support Group at DAMS 5:00 Karaoke	25
26	27 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	28	29 10:30 Street Nurse 5:00 Popular Education	30 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Dreamcatchers 5:00 Healing Circle 5:50 Creative Writing Group		

Community Events!!

FREE, FREE, FREE!

Traditional Healing: Myth or Medicine?

Tuesday, November 7th: 7-9pm

Central Library (lower level), 350 West Georgia Street

This session will include panelists from Chinese, First Nations and Metis traditions. It will be interactive and participatory, complete with smudge, healing chants, storytelling and demonstrations of traditional Chinese diagnostic methods.

-Presented by the Vancouver Multicultural Society

NEW STAFF Welcome CORY!!! **NEW STAFF**

Cory is joining our staff team as a relief floorworker. We are very excited to have her talents at the Women's Centre. She has worked in the Downtown Eastside for a number of years at the Needle Exchange! We welcome her insight, experience and tallness (at least us short ones do...)!! Please introduce yourself and make her feel at home.

Remembrance Day

November 11th, 2000

On this day we often take a few moments to remember those who served in World War I (1914-18), known as the "Great War". But often the faces and histories of those who served are unknown to us. For example, many First Nations men and women served in the Canadian Army, the Canadian Field Artillery, or the Medical Corps (among others), but this is not often acknowledged. I am going to use this space to introduce to you a First Nations woman who worked for the U.S Medical Corps in World War I. Edith Anderson Monture was from the Six Nations Grand River Reserve. Determined to follow her dream as a nurse, she studied at the New Rochelle School of Nursing in New York State, as there were few opportunities in Canada. At the age of 27, Edith joined the U.S Medical Corps, and found herself in Vittel, France in 1917. She attended soldiers who had been shot or gassed, and offered her services at other medical stations in France.

Edith was interviewed by her local newspaper, The Grand River Sachem, in 1983 on her experiences and memories in WW I. Here is one particular memory of a 20-year-old American:

"He'd been shot in the neck, but he was getting along fine. Then one night I was on duty and he began haemorrhaging quite badly. We did have orderlies, but they were never to be found, and it happened that a boy who bought bread for the Americans was the one who helped me do the running around.

We finally managed to stop the bleeding and settled the boy down. The next night he was real good, but then he haemorrhaged again the next. The night after that he died.

It was quite a shock to all of us because we were confident he was going to be alright. I got his mother's address in the States and wrote her telling her I was with her son when he passed away".

Edith returned to Six Nations Reserve, where she married and had four children. She was contacted by the boy's parents who came to visit her at her home. Edith was 101 in 1998. [Source: Veterans Affairs Canada website, www.vac-acc.gc.ca]

Remembering and honouring

Cherry Kingsley, a First Nations woman, received the Governor-General's Award on October 18th, 2000. She has spent the last four years establishing programs designed to help youth break free of prostitution. In 1996 she shared her own personal story of being forced into the sex trade at 14 in Stockholm at the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. In 1998 she organized a summit in Victoria that brought together 55 young prostitutes from 10 nations. She now manages Out of the Shadows and Into the Light, a national program that has brought her to 22 communities to connect with young people in prostitution. Her ultimate goal is to establish a national network of youth in the sex trade across Canada. Let us honour her strength, courage, and determination to fight for justice for women in the sex trade.

Let us remember and honour all women who offer their lives, hope, and action- friends, mothers, sisters, grandmothers- to bring peace to our everyday lives.

Create a poem or short
story with these (all!) words!

sled

karma

paperclip

melting

Taurus
(as in horoscope)

bean bag

(any staff name)

Mr. T
(back to the 80s!)

(a select few)

Will be featured in December's
Newsletter!

NOVEMBER IS NAP MONTH!!

When the drizzle begins, indulge in the spirit of napping

Naps for parents!

Parents just don't get a lot of sleep. So SARK, a special lady has introduced the idea of MICRO-NAPS. Tiny, tiny, itty bitty naplets in the midst of a busy day. For example, you could encourage your children to play 'pile-all-the-pillows (or any fluffy object)-on-top-of-mummy' and see how long it takes them! This equals a chance for a MICRO-NAP!!



COMMON EXCUSES FOR RESISTING A NAP

It's true, we all love to nap, especially after the Women's Centre's delicious soups and hot lunches!

(Source: SARK, Change Your Life Without Getting out of Bed,)

WOMEN'S CENTRE

CHRISTMAS IS COMING, CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

The Centre is already in preparation for the exciting Christmas season! Watch for some fun, crafty classes with Freeda- I hear she has some wreath making activities coming!

We are also eager to hear your ideas for the Christmas dinner (entertainment, food, activities)! There will be an important meeting for any woman interested in contributing to the planning of the Christmas dinner in early November. This opportunity will take place at Women's Voice. Women's Voice takes place every Thursday at 1:30pm. Keep a look out for the Christmas meeting.

*“Stan it’s raining.
The Umbrella’s gone.”
Crying big tears of frustration
Largely in agreement,
Stan thinks it will be Okay.*

-A.L.V-ICMAX

Dear Women,

I would like to see that when a girl comes in and she is in need- as in an emergency- then she should be served immediately. The rest are well supplied sometimes everyday. This greed must stop so that the people who really need it are not turned away.

- Rose-Anna Mc Gowan

Creative writing: "Rose-Anna the Magnificent"

I felt like a piece of felt that had been felt by a feelingless felt-less flinkin flubby wubby guy. No-one is felt less I shasheyed he-shed! The felt-less feeling less felt like goody goody yumi yumi. I shed my snaley wailey skinny winny shin dig and I shore gave him zee ziggy wiggy dig in dem ribbiee wibs! I shied OOOOOOOOOOOO Baybee bubby bumme wittle bubbly by with de emormoose boobals.

He with the Revolving Eye-Balls

Mr. M he with the eye-balls eye-balled me with such adoration. My entire being yearned for he and his spinning eyes. His gentle voice. Mr. M soothed my being with fluffy feathers.

WOMEN'S MARCH 2000, WOMEN'S RIGHTS TRIBUNAL

On Tuesday October 17th women and children and their brothers, lovers, friends, and fathers marched from Oppenheimer Park to the Aboriginal Friendship Centre to raise awareness about the extent to which injustice in Canada hurts women's everyday lives. We gathered and listened to many women's testimonies of human rights abuses. It was a powerful and moving gathering. Thank you to Anne-Marie who spoke for the Women's Centre and to all those whose presence and prayers offered resistance and solidarity.