

# D.E.W. DROP IN

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## DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

MARCH 2002

FREE



### INSIDE:

*Poetry and protest*

*March on Victoria*

*Upcoming Workshops*

*Sasamat!*

## **Downtown Eastside Women at the Protest March in Victoria**

Approximately 20 000 people showed up at the lawns of the Legislature to protest the government cutbacks. About 30 of those were women from the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre.

Some of us slept on the floor of the Women's Centre on Friday night so we would make the early morning trip. We got on the ferry at Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo and drove from there to Victoria in time for the Rally. After parking in Victoria, we walked through the streets with our banner and drumming – people stepping aside and clapping as we went by. We managed to make our way to the front of the Rally where a couple of women were interviewed by the media.

The energy at the Rally was great – 20 000 people who were there together to oppose the massive cuts the liberals have made to social services and programs, including cuts to welfare and legal aid and to oppose the treaty referendum.

Thanks to the United Native Nations who came through and rented us a van to get us to Victoria.

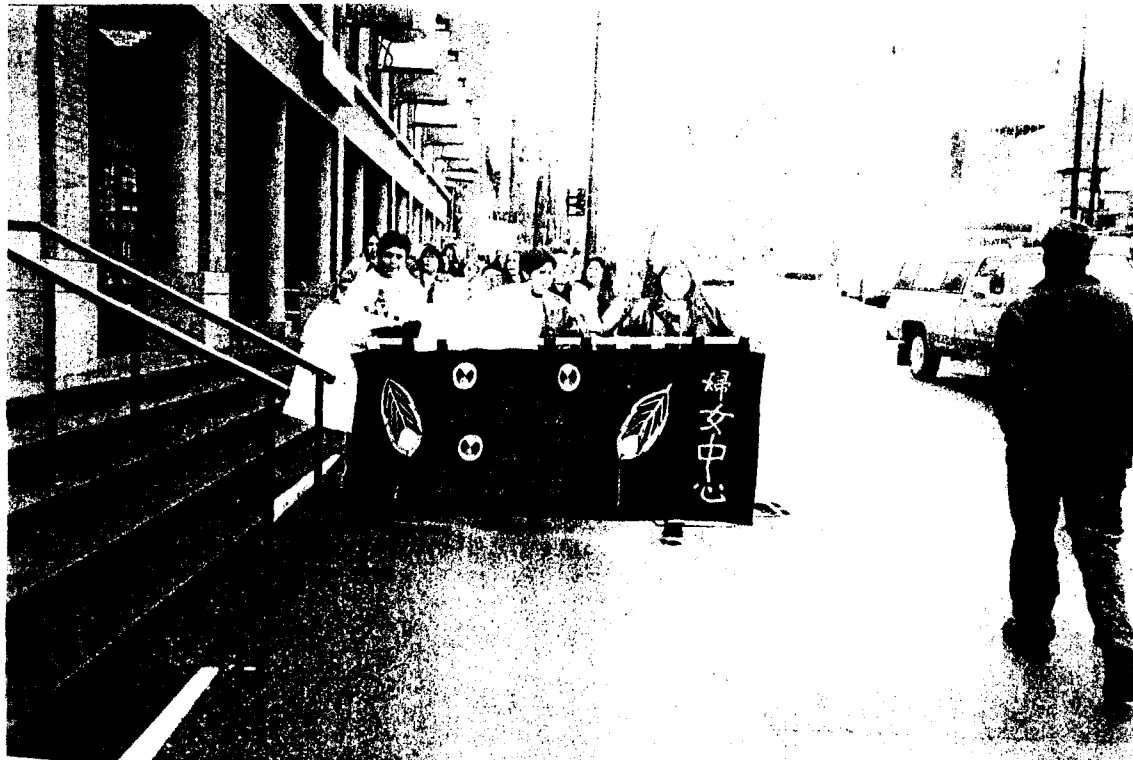
A special thanks to Lucy who volunteered her time to stay late on Friday night and cook a meal for the women who stayed overnight.

Women Centre slumber party...well rested protesters, make happy protesters!



Gotta be ready for those photo ops!





# Lake Sasamat Retreat 2002

Retreat, Retreat, Retreat!  
We gotta go back  
We forgot to bring Bronco back!  
No, the talking parrot, Buddy!  
No, it was our wonderful cook, Maggie!  
As Denny said after each meal. **"I'm fed up!"**

It rained, It poured.  
All thru the day, all thru the night  
but did it dampen our spirits?

(Jennifer told us that Feb.21st. was a record breaking day for rain.)

**"I won't melt, I'm not made out of sugar!"**  
Margaret heads down to the lake  
**Margaret, slow down, we can't keep up!"**  
8 of us walking around the lake  
**"No, I'm not moving, I'm staying right here!"**  
Joanne.S only one sitting in the canoe

We arrived at about 4:30ish, met in the dining room, went over a few house rules, next we scrambled out to find our beds and cabin mates, the cabins were electric heated, warm and cosy. We divided ourselves into the 5 cabins.

After sipper , some of us went out onto the beautiful outdoor deck, and lit the fireplace, most of us worked on decorating our journals, cutting out pictures and words, ironically we all used the same magazine (8 copies of the same book) but our journals all reflected our own creativity and differences. Time is endless out there. **9 o'clock, is that all!**

Next morning, It was the bestest breakfast i ever had, **Mmmm ... French Toast covered in big chunks of strawberries and topped with whipped cream. Mmmmm...** After breakfast, most of us went for a walk around the lake. They told us it was a 40 minute hike. It took us 1 and 1/2 hour to walk around the lake.

After lunch, it was canoe time, what an experience that was, **I never thought getting into the canoe could be so hard.** I never heard such a fuss. Our dock hand gives us some pointers and whew! Half an hour later, we're on our way, out on the lake, one decides she wants off the canoe, we head back, The young dock hand yells several times from the dock,  
**"Your ALL paddling on the same side, your gonna tip!"** Miraculously, we make it back to the dock!

After supper, Denny sets up her dreamcatchers workshop. a few of us are outside sitting in

front of the fireplace, Jennifer brings out her guitar and Joanne.H and Joanne.S take turns strumming. Jennifer shows us her expertist in mashmellow making. What an enjoyable, memorianble evening. Later on those that finished their dreamcatchers joined us on the patio as we laughed and fought to keep the fire burning.

Nights were beautiful. I cracked my window a bit, lied there and listened to the rain.

The next morning, i go for another walk with Anna and Jennifer around the lake. Come back and it's eating time again. Jennifer is talking and telling us some excuse, as she finishes, right on cue, the parrot, Buddy says, "**Yeah right!**" I burst out laughing and repeat what Buddy says and everyone else burst out laughing.

Closing circle time, we reflect on our past two days, Most of us would've wanted another day. A group picture is requested.We're lined up in front of the fireplace, and then guess who slaunters on over towards us, is Bronco, holding a plate of chocolate brownies, I thought he was gonna offer us a going away present, **NOT!**, he kneels in front and pictures flash. Ummm.....

Poem by Rosanne Gervais

Her rugged,  
red  
overcoat  
bore wear  
from cascades  
of secret  
destinations.

Discovery 69  
swayed  
seducingly as I  
approached  
her mysteriously  
upturned lips, timeless  
as the Mona Lisa.

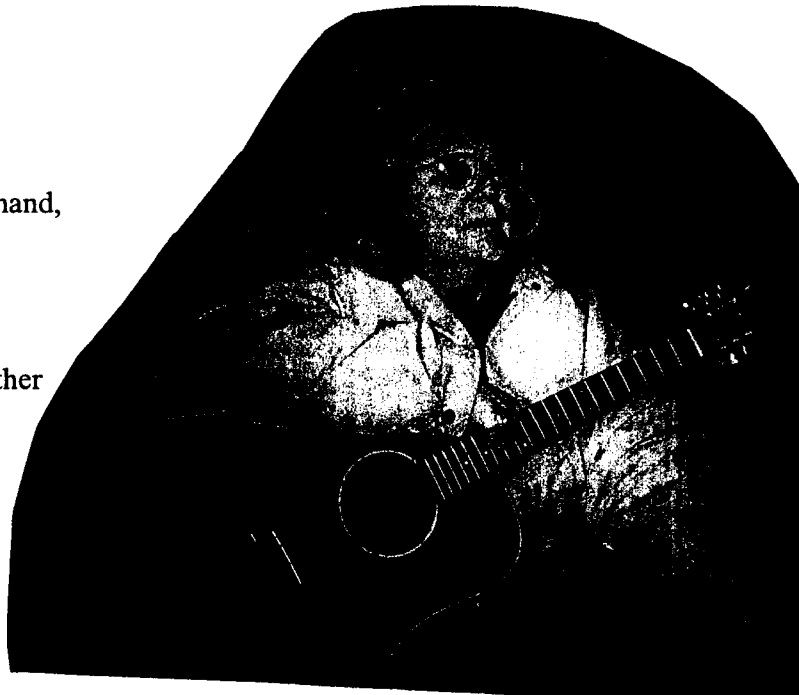


Her patience thundered  
calmly.  
Together  
we endured  
inclement weather  
and awaited  
intimate exploration.

That there had been so many  
past lovers  
aboard  
the aptly named  
Discovery 69  
was dismissed  
quickly.

She revealed nothing of the  
ages, sexes or numbers...  
nonetheless,  
her obvious  
pleasurability  
evidenced the  
usage of "protection".

With paddle in my gloved hand,  
willing partner  
and fearless attitude,  
we began our first caress  
of swelling water  
touring Sasamat Lake together  
in this lovely red canoe



# DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

302 Columbia Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6A 4J1

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

**LUNCH SERVED  
DAILY AT 12:30- 1:45**

**MARCH 2002**

## REGULAR PROGRAMMING

**Library Group** –Every Monday at 5pm. Works on developing Centre library and works on literacy through crafts and fun activities!

**Organizers Training (ELP)** takes place on Monday nights at 5-8pm. Learn to facilitate and organize anti-poverty activists, rallies, and develop political strategies around various poverty issues.

**Battered Women Support Services (BWSS)** takes place on Tuesday nights from 5 - 8:30pm. This group offers support for women affected by violence in their lives.

**Creative Writing Group** – Every Tuesday, 5 pm. Facilitated by Rosemary and Linda. They will meet women at the Centre at 5:50

The **Street Nurse** is here every Wednesday from 1 – 4pm to give you information on all kinds of health issues.

**Popular Education Group** – This group has ended at the Centre. Another group will replace this one in the next coming months.

The **Alcohol and Drug Harm Reduction Support Group** is currently on hold.

**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. **Sweat Lodge** 12pm every Thursday (except day after Cheque Issue). Reta takes women to the North Shore for a sweat. Temporarily on hold.

**Music Jam**- Every third Friday of the month. Sing and play instruments with special guests!

**ARTS & CRAFTS WORKSHOPS:** Materials provided.

**Beading with Leona** – Every Monday, 1:30 pm.

**Yoga**- Monday 11:15am with Roma. Blankets provided.

Wear comfy clothing!

**Clay Works**- Will return Tuesdays at 2:30pm.

**Crochet with Anna**- Every Wednesday, 2:00pm

**Collage Arts with Anna B.**-Every Wednesday, 2:00pm

**Fabric Arts with Freeda** - Every Friday morning, 10:30am.

**Dreamcatchers** every Saturday with Denny at 1:30pm.

Expand your skills and share stories with other women.

SUNDAY 12-5pm	MONDAY 10-5pm (Full Meal Day)	TUESDAY 10-5pm	WEDNESDAY 11-5pm	THURSDAY 10-5pm (Full Meal Day)	FRIDAY 10-5pm	SATURDAY 12-5pm
* Note: Group Times are subject to change- keep an eye out for Centre updates					1 10:30 Sewing etc. 1:30 Raffle	2 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:30 Video
3	4 11:15 Yoga 1:30 Beading 5:00 Library Group 5:00 Organizer's Training	5 2:30 Joint Effort- Film and Discussion 5:00 BWSS 5:00 Writing Group	6 1-4pm Street Nurse 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Collage	7 1:30 Women's Voice 5:00 Healing Circle	8 <b>International Women's Day</b> 10:30 Sewing etc. 1:30 Raffle	9 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video
10	11 11:15 Yoga 1:30 Beading 5:00 Library Group 5:00 Organizer's Training	12 5:00 BWSS 5:00 Writing Group	13 1-4pm Street Nurse 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Collage	14 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Outing 5:00 Healing Circle	15 10:30 Sewing etc 1:30 Raffle 3:00 Food Forum 5:00 Music Jam with Special Guests!	16 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video
17	18 11:15 Yoga 1:30 Beading 5:00 Library Group 5:00 Org. Training	19 5:00 BWSS 5:00 Writing Group	20 1-4pm Street Nurse 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Collage	21 <b>Centre Closed for All-day Staff Meeting</b>	22 10:30 Sewing, etc. 1:30 Raffle	23 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video
24/31	25 11:15 Yoga 1:30 Beading 5:00 Library Group 5:00 Org. Training	26 5:00 BWSS 5:00 Writing Group	27 1-4pm Street Nurse 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Collage	28 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Outing 5:00 Healing Circle	29 10:30 Sewing, etc. 1:30 Raffle	30 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video



## Gardening Tips

Start sowing vegetable seeds indoors now on a windowsill, egg cartons or alfalfa sprout containers are good. Sew seeds, cover with plastic bottle (with the bottom and top cut off) or cover with plastic covered hoops.

\*First day of Spring is March 20<sup>th</sup>

## Announcements: Income tax and G.S.T. forms

Do you need your income tax and G.S.T. forms filled? D.E.R.A. will fill out your forms free on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, at 9:30 - 11:30 am, at 425 Carrall Street, suite #1, Vancouver

### TIME TRAVELLED

in the beginning was The Word  
which deteriorated into language  
since

humanity is only human:

life is a cosmic highway,  
a ribbon of light

where inner wisdom thrives

on this ongoing memory you have of yourself:

night is the lover's blanket,  
a shimmering delight of loose ends.

Yea, though ye be cosmetically copasetic  
and hath not poetry,

ye be but a horse without a rider,

a mobile turning slowly,  
a globe slipping its axis;

bass, the final frontier,  
second to last, second to none.

Joanne Hamen

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING WORKSHOP

### *Are you frustrated with your current accommodations?*

Do you know of others in subsidized housing, and wonder why aren't you? Or, just want to see what other rentals are out there?

WELL, LET'S GIVE A TRY!!!

### *Cori will be offering a Housing Workshop On: Wednesday March 13<sup>th</sup>*

At the Housing Workshop we'll:

- fill out Housing Applications for the areas and Societies you want to apply to
- create a contact list to follow up those applications you'll be mailing and faxing off
- build a list of supporters to request letters from: Drs., Advocates, Current Manager/Landlord
- check out all rental listings, through the paper, bulletin boards, and internet

Follow-up workshops: March 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and April 3<sup>rd</sup>. All costs are covered, with further workshops to follow-up on your applications. Generally, it can take months to get subsidized housing. Patience and Perseverance.

Hope to see you there.

### The Subsidized Housing Guide Critique

Cori has put together a Subsidized Housing Guide for the Downtown Eastside, Downtown, Westend and Waterfront of Vancouver's Eastside. This Guide is moments away from being printed, yet the only thing holding it back is YOUR INPUT. It lacks luster, artwork, and women's voices. It will be at the Subsidized Housing Workshop on March 13<sup>th</sup> for you perusal. This guide has been a year in the making. It offers its readers all the subsidized housing societies, agencies, and corporations that have reduced-rental suites in the areas mentioned above. It is 32 pages full and will be printed as a production of the DTES Women's Centre. So, please come out to offer; your pictures, your words, your wisdom and your critique. I would be honored to hear it all.

--Thanks from Cori

## **Safety**

- are you a woman that lives or comes to the downtown eastside for support
- Do you have concerns about safety in the downtown eastside?
- Are there some issues about safety you would like to talk about and work towards changing?
- Do you have ideas about what the community needs and wants in order to feel and be safe?

### **Then this project may interest you....**

Stepping Out: Women Creating Safer Spaces in the Downtown Eastside is a community-based project at DAMS that will be working on safety issues. We are currently talking to women in the community and working with several groups to find out what the current situation is for women in the Downtown Eastside. We want to work with women to develop some practical ideas and solutions to keeping women safe and to bring about small changes that are within our immediate reach.

As part of this project, we will be at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre in March, 2002 on Thursday afternoons working on an art quilt/hanging that speaks to the issues of safety. Women can participate by creating their own message through art, words, photos, etc. on a square piece of cloth. The pieces of cloth will be placed together and will stand as a unified art piece on what safety issues currently exist for women in the community. With this project placed in several locations, starting at the Women's Centre, we can gather ideas from women and plan to focus on specific solutions. Come and join us to create or share your views about safety in the community.

For more information or if you are interested in getting involved with this project, please contact Rita Buchwitz at DAMS - 604-685-5472 or general line - 604-687-5454, email: [ssfbh@telus.net](mailto:ssfbh@telus.net)

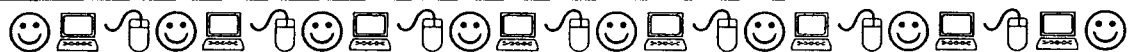
Upcoming Workshop: Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm  
Penny Goldsmith from *PovNet*

*PovNet* is an internet site for advocates, people on welfare, and community groups and individuals involved in anti-poverty work.

*PovNet* provides up-to-date information about welfare and housing laws and resources in British Columbia, Canada.

*PovNet* links to current anti-poverty issues and also provides links to other anti-poverty organizations and resources in Canada and internationally. Regular updates on the cuts by the Liberal government.

Please see Cecily to sign up. Space is limited, but if there is enough interest, hopefully we will continue workshops on an ongoing basis.





## "Walking a Mile in My Shoes?"



Will this truly help you judge  
How is it he is.

Why here



How come

Is it just because

How bold how incorrect



To speculate that you

Could begin even to guess how it is

To walk a mile in this man's shoes

For even as you stride along

Same pace same distance too



Your shoes both set as one

Will always guard from you

Blind you will be

Great effort although you make



To match and feel this man's stride

Because until you feel his blisters

You could never know what hides inside.



Sandie "having lived on the street"

## *The Peregrine and The Mouse*

Dreams of green fields, chamomile spills  
its fragrant shroud on the skin  
Nothing moves, but a mouse in wait  
for when its life might dissipate  
Arbutus Tree, burned by the sun  
rouged to its core, peeled by the wind  
There sits the Peregrine  
Sharp-shooting eye  
not a second flies by  
without notice by the Peregrine  
“Oh, what a breeze here  
up high in the trees, dear”  
There’s merely a moment to enjoy  
And there the Mouse sits  
knowing it’s time to feed once more  
until it’s time to be dined upon  
There the Peregrine, laughs.  
Seeing its small, brown-furred reflection  
in the eye, way up high  
Here the Mouse accepts;  
“All that is to be, will be had,  
for my short life, I have been glad.”  
And the Peregrine falls, from the red-skinned tree  
Speckled brown wings, stretched to their ends  
Soaring through the carrying winds  
Browsing on fragrant breathes of chamomile  
Green fields blur by, the skillful eye  
Tall weeds intersperse and knock the wing  
into a tail-wind spin,  
spiraling  
whipping weeds  
Downs the Peregrine, crippled by shame  
If only its flight were as skilled as its eye  
And arrogance sits still in the rouge-peeled tree  
Laughing, as the Peregrine, crippled, dies  
And the Mouse feeds on life’s humility

Cori





THE POOR FEEDING THE RICH



THE POOR FEEDING THE RICH

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IN  
Po  
Mi  
Up  
Sa