

# D.E.W. DROP IN

**Downtown Eastside Women Do Drop In**

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

**OCTOBER 2002**

**FREE**



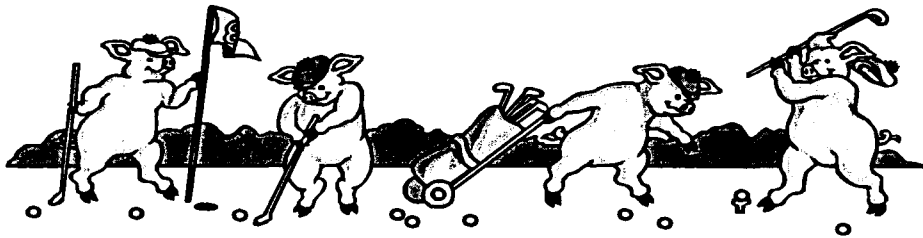
**Inside:**

Skills Connection

Poetry

Upcoming workshops

Halloween



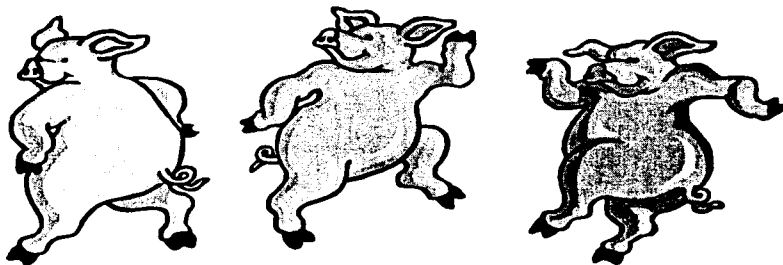
Pigs at the Trough

It was the night before Thanksgiving and everything was still.  
The M.L.A's had done their dirty work on Legislature Hill,  
each pig gored themselves on a thousand dollars per plate dinner.  
While the rest of us living in poverty became thinner and thinner.

Members of the Lunatic asylum are what M.L.A. stands for.  
We receive far less, while they receive much more.  
The Ministry of Genocide is causing a great deal of starvation.  
British Columbia has a wider gap between the rich and the poor  
in the entire nation.

Single mothers and children are being cut off assistance.  
We must organize everyone and show much resistance.  
No one escaped Moron Cruel's drastic cuts; he should be  
forced to live on welfare rates, no ifs or buts.

Irene Schmidt



# Woodward's Chronology

**January 1993** - Woodward's department store chain goes bankrupt, flagship Hastings Street store closes for good.

**March/April 1995** - After a series of new property owners, Fama Holdings Ltd., owned by Kassem Aghtai, buys Woodward's and the parking lot for approximately \$18 million. They announce their plans to redevelop the site with a commercial and market condo (approx. 360 units) project.

The campaign begins in the Downtown Eastside to protest this development, as it has no amenities or social housing for the existing neighbourhood.

**June 19, 1995** - Development Permit Hearing for Fama's plan. This includes about 200,000 sq./ft of commercial space, over 300,000 sq./ft of condo space. Fama is able to convert existing commercial space to residential space in return for heritage conservation. This means Fama is granted additional residential space then is allowing under the existing zoning. The city asked for no concessions regarding affordable housing. The DP is approved.

**June 1995** - The City, with no warning, purchases the parkade for approximately \$11 million.

**Summer 1995** - numerous protests and opposition over Fama's plan.

**February 1996** - The protest pays off. The provincial government announces a partnership between Fama, the province and the city to include over 200 units of co-op housing in Woodward's. The Woodward's Co-op Committee is formed.

**November 1996** - Development Permit Board amends earlier approval to include a 197 unit co-op development in Woodward's.

**April 4, 1997** - Fama Holdings backs out of partnership, the deal is off. Fama now wants an all condo project. Community goes ballistic; spray painting and demonstrations commence immediately.

**April 16, 1997** - Sit-in at Fama's office in West Vancouver by supporters of the community.

**April 21, 1997** - Development Permit Hearing for revised Woodward's project without the co-op is cancelled partly due to the level of protest.

**April 1997** - Fama is granted a demolition permit to commence removal of inner walls, old mechanical systems, etc. Fama is not allowed to do any new construction, only demolition.

**July 1997** - Province reaffirms that the 200 co-op units intended for Woodward's are still available off site. Lori Krill housing co-ops, completed summer 2002 is the result.

**October 20, 1997** - the City approves Fama's Development Permit with all condos. At least 60 community members speak in opposition of the permit.

**1998, 1999** - Fama never gets their project going. Condo market for the area "no good."

**May - June 2000** - High-tech option comes to Woodward's. Markley Stearns plans to buy and develop Woodward's into high-tech computer "hub." Deal falls through, high-tech bubble bursts across North America.

**March 2001** - Provincial government buys Woodward's building from Fama at current market value - \$21 million. Province announces a social housing allocation of 220 units. Simon Fraser University plans to move School for Contemporary Arts to Woodward's.

**June 2001** - Provincial elections, new Liberal government and new Premier, Gordon Campbell.

**November 2001** - Provincial government freezes 1,700 social/co-op units yet to be built. Woodward's is frozen.



**April 2002** - Gordon Campbell cancels 1,000 social housing units, Woodward's is cancelled.

**August 2002** - Minister responsible for BC Housing, George Abbott, acknowledges to the press that the Woodward's building is for sale.

**August 2002** - Woodward's Housing Co-op Committee is informed that there is potential buyer. Representatives, Geoff and Tanya Hughes, of Madison Bellevue Apartments Corporation meet with

Co-op Committee, who are asked to sign a confidentiality agreement. However, Committee declines offer, thus no information of sale is discovered except that they want to do a market rental development.

Two Vancouver buildings providing SRO housing, the Marble Arch Hotel and Dunsmuir House (operated by Salvation Army) are owned by this company and others, including the Strand Properties Corporation. The Strand appears to be the principle player in the bid to purchase Woodward's.

Purchase is contingent on significant concessions (e.g. property tax free exemption) and financial support (e.g. RRAP) being brought into the deal. It, however, remains doubtful that rents would be low enough for those living in the community.

Chuck Brooks Consulting, also used by Fama Holdings, is involved with the potential buyers.

**September 15, 2002** - Community members occupy Woodward's. Another challenge to secure Woodward's for the community begins.

The above is from: <http://www.downtowneastside.ca/>

Useful links:  
[Carnegie Community Action Project website](#)  
[Community Research PDFs](#)

<http://www.povnet.org/>



## Downtown Eastside Women's Centre Word Search....

D O S F R I E N D S H I P C Z S  
W Y Y V I U H J A F K C L L U S  
M E L I N E U P S H Q L Q Q K K  
D A I V R J P F F D R O P I N B  
O S B B W B L F T J P T Q F W N  
W T G G N I D L I U B H C Z Z N  
N S G R O U P S D C I I V X M M  
T I M S I N I M E F V N Z S R F  
O D K N D Y P F N I V G I M V U  
W E R E P A P S W E N V J K C N  
N V O L U N T E E R I N G A E C  
L A R U T L U C I T L U M W L H  
N E R T N E C L C Y D Y C I T Z  
I W A D V O C A C Y E D G M H C  
N L U N C H F C O N F L I C T S  
V E E H D Y R D N U A L U N I D

← Find the following words

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| activism               | advocacy      |
| building               | centre        |
| clothing               | conflicts     |
| downtown               | dropin        |
| eastside               | feminism      |
| friendship             | groups        |
| laundry                | lineups       |
| lunch                  | multicultural |
| newspaper volunteering |               |



## Halloween Pumpkin Carving

At the Centre on  
Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>  
From 2:00pm - 4:00pm

# 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**

**October 2002**

## REGULAR PROGRAMMING

**Library Group** – This group will now meet weekly during the day to prepare for fun craft and literacy activities.

**Organizers Training (ELP)** takes place on Monday nights at 5-8pm. Learn to facilitate and organize anti-poverty rallies and develop political strategies around various poverty issues. Begins May 6<sup>th</sup> with co-facilitators, June and Erin.

**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. (on hold until the fall)

**Creative Writing Group** – Change of time! Group will take place in the afternoons. Tuesdays from 2-4.

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

The **Alcohol and Drug Harm Reduction Support Group** is back with Mary from DAMS! Takes place Wednesdays from 5-8pm. All are welcome.

The **Chinese Women's Group** – open to women whose first language is Chinese, cultural awareness, advocacy and social events. facilitated by Paulina (commencing Saturdays in October, check boards for more information)

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

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

\*Note: Group Times are subject to change- keep an eye out for Centre updates

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

**Beading**– Every Monday, 1:30 pm.

**Yoga**- Monday 10:45am with Roma. Blankets provided.

Wear comfy clothing! Will start again in the fall

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

**Collage Arts with Marie (sun) and Marilyn (tues)** – have fun with the supreme art of cut and past! Make book marks, cards, gift boxes, illustrate stories and poems....everyone is welcome, fun for the kids too.

**Fabric Arts with Freeda** - Every Friday morning, 10:00am.

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

expand your skills and share stories with other women.

| SUNDAY<br>12-5pm                                     | MONDAY<br>10-5pm                                   | TUESDAY<br>10-5pm   | WEDNESDAY<br>11-5pm   | THURSDAY<br>10-5pm       | FRIDAY<br>10-5pm   | SATURDAY<br>12-5pm                       |
|--|--|---|---|--------------------------|--|--|
|  |  | 1<br>2pm- Joint Effort-<br>Film<br>2-4:00 writing group<br>5-8:30 Wom.Health<br>Clinic 569 Powell<br>1:30 Collage | 2<br>1-4pm Street Nurse<br>1:30 Raffle<br>2:00 Crochet<br>5:00 Harm Reduct  | 3<br>1:30 Women's Voice  | 4<br>10:00 Sewing etc.                                       | 5<br>1:30<br>Dreamcatchers<br>2:00 Video |
| 6<br>1:30 library /<br>literacy group<br>2:00 Video  | 7<br>1:30 Beading<br>5:00 Organizer's<br>Training  | 8<br>2-4:00 writing group<br>5-8:30 Wom.Health<br>Clinic 569 Powell<br>1:30 Collage                               | 9<br>1-4pm Street Nurse<br>1:30 Raffle<br>2:00 Crochet<br>5:00 Harm Reduct  | 10<br>1:30 Women's Voice | 11<br>10:00 Sewing etc.                                      | 12                                       |
| 13<br>1:30 library /<br>literacy group<br>2:00 Video | 14<br>1:30 Beading<br>5:00 Organizer's<br>Training | 15<br>5-8:30 Wom.Health<br>Clinic 569 Powell<br>1:30 Collage<br>2:00 Movement                                     | 16<br>1-4pm Street Nurse<br>1:30 Raffle<br>2:00 Crochet<br>5:00 Harm Reduct | 17<br>1:30 Women's Voice | 18<br>10:00 Sewing etc.<br>5:00 Music Jam<br>Night with Marg | 19                                       |
| 20<br>1:30 library /<br>literacy group<br>2:00 Video | 21<br>1:30 Beading<br>5:00 Organizer's<br>Training | 22<br>5-8:30 Wom.Health<br>Clinic 569 Powell<br>1:30 Collage<br>2:00 Movement                                     | 23<br>1-4pm Street Nurse<br>1:30 Raffle<br>2:00 Crochet<br>5:00 Harm Reduct | 24<br>1:30 Women's Voice | 25<br>10:00 Sewing etc.                                      | 26                                       |
| 27<br>1:30 library /<br>literacy group<br>2:00 Video | 28<br>1:30 Beading<br>5:00 Organizer's<br>Training | 29<br>5-8:30 Wom.Health<br>Clinic 569 Powell<br>1:30 Collage<br>2:00 Movement                                     | 30<br>1-4pm Street Nurse<br>1:30 Raffle<br>2:00 Crochet<br>5:00 Harm Reduct | 31<br>1:30 Women's Voice |  |  |



## **Horoscope**

### **Aries (March 21-April 20)**

Your work area and things related to it seem to be on your mind this month. You could be having lots of interchange of ideas that could bring you the better future that you have dreamed of. An offer of a partnership could be presented to you in a very unexpected fashion and this could be the lucky break that you have been expecting for a long time. More responsibility will be wanted from you and you will have to be ready for this. Some differences of opinion could surface and you will learn a great deal from this.

### **Taurus (April 21-May 21)**

A short trip could be on the agenda for you this month. This will be for pleasure and entertainment purposes.

This could be a very happy occasion for you. Your work area seems to be bringing you very surprising changes towards your future and consequently to your personal income. This should be favorable for you. Some tension could arise in connection to children or a lover and all this could be settled in a friendly way.

Think things thoroughly before you make any decision on this matter and learn from this experience.

### **Gemini (May 22-June 21)**

The limelight for you this month is on the area of your home base. You could encounter some tension and obstacles on this area, but you will be able to deal with this in an intelligent way and harmony should prevail. There is a learning process that you will be going through in connection to your shared resources. Good fortune could be smiling at you in connection to a loved one with unexpected happenings. Handling this situation with maturity and responsibility will be very favorable for you. You could become worried after the 15th of the month concerning your outside sources of income as this area is very vague right now, but this should work out in a favorable manner.

### **Cancer (June 22-July 23)**

Communication is the key word for you this month. You could receive very surprising news connected to your future. Look at this with an open mind, as you might not be able to understand the whole scope of things. Talents that you have used in the past are being looked at and considered towards future changes for you at your work place. Some adjustments will have to be made with your mate or partner connected to all this as worries and concerns could get to you. Luck is waiting for you behind closed doors.

### **Leo (July 24-August 22)**

Personal resources and values are in the spotlight for you this month. There could be some tension connected to an investment or speculation and this could come through a friend. Some of your outside resources could save the day. You could be the recipient of very happy news concerning an old friend and this will catch you by surprise. Your mind will be at work figuring out how to increase your sources of income as you want a better future and you do not see this very clear in connection to your line of work. Clarification will come.

### **Virgo (August 23-September 23)**

This month you could find yourself trying to reconcile conflicts that you have related to your home and goals in your life. Your mate or partner could be of help in finding and answer for you on this matter. Very favorable circumstances could provide you with better personal income due to changes and innovations at your work place. Your thoughts will be focused towards your future goals. Your imagination and dreams could be part of this picture. You could be thinking of new ideas that you will wish to make reality. Questions should be coming to your mind concerning the validity of all this. Learning is part of this picture.

### **Libra (September 24-October 23)**

You will start this month with a strong feeling towards looking your best and giving yourself some physical comfort. Desire to take a trip for pure entertainment purposes to a far away place could come to you in a sudden manner. This could be very fortunate for you in spite of some restrictions that you might encounter. You need to resolve some obstacles that concern your past, and you are trying to do it in a very private way.

You could be the recipient of news concerning future plans that could help you to clarify issues at home

### **Scorpio (October 24-November 22)**

Your area of friends, hope and wishes is in the limelight for you this month. You are having ambivalent feelings related to your past and present and circumstances that bind each other together. Being aware of these feelings will help you work them out in a creative manner. There are many changes at your home base that continue happening and right now they are looking their best as a very positive outcome is tied to your outside resources of income. News of a vague nature could be coming from a friend that is connected to your future endeavors; all looks very rosy but watch for a hidden agenda. A lesson is in the making for you.

### **Sagittarius (November 23-December 21)**

Your career is very prominent this month for you. You are putting a lot of your thoughts in planning how to reach what you wish in life as you see the future in a very optimistic manner. There is much illusion attached to this especially related to your personal sources of income. You could be profiting from a learning experience. A good opportunity to enter into a partnership could be present at this time and you could be receiving many unexpected news related to this and connected to the input that you could bring with your special talents. This could become a lucky break for you.

### **Capricorn (December 22-January 20)**

Some of you must be heading right now towards starting a much wanted higher education. All your thoughts are aimed towards a career that could open up a future for good job prospects for you. There is much dreaming related to this and some of you could be changing the course of your aims toward the future. Surprising favorable circumstances could come to your aid in providing comfort for you in the career of your choice.

### **Aquarius (January 21-February 19)**

Money matters concerning your joint and outside resources are in the spotlight for you this month. Your way of thinking could take you towards making a new investment that could be very important towards your future. This is something that you have been dreaming about and might come to reality at the present time. There are many surprising circumstances surrounding all this, but as you should know your life has been full of surprises for the last few years anyhow.

### **Pisces (February 20-March 20)**

The spotlight this month for you is on your area of marriage and partnerships matters. You will be giving a lot of thought at your future related to your home and dreams that you have at the way you picture this future, but much illusion could be veiling the reality of things. In spite of all this harmony seem to be prevailing in this area. A lucky break could be coming your way throughout your outside resources and this could bring much harmony at your home base as you have been bearing much of the burden and responsibilities on this area.

*September 29, 2002*

*Folks,*

*It has been my honour to be a member of the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre these past two years and I leave a better person.*

*I would like to offer my respect to the staff and to our executive director. While most of the time we hear the negative, I have never ceased hearing the heartfelt thanks. This is not a job one can do alone.*

*I would like to offer my respect to the volunteers of this Centre. You have worked hard and given countless hours of your time and energy to work in this space. I have found you inspiring, grounding, challenging and a source of great joy. Thank you for everything.*

*I would like to offer my respect to all the women who use this space. I've been a witness to your strength and will not forget the lessons I've learned from you.*

*Take good care of each other. My best regards for you individually and collectively.*

*See you around.*

*Sincerely,*

*Cecily*

[cecily2@canada.com](mailto:cecily2@canada.com)

(Check out November's Newsletter for an introduction to the new volunteer coordinator/programmer....)



## *Quiet is the Heart*

*Quiet is the heart in it's want of her  
amazed of the moment within his reality*

*Then never ending, a pose physical base  
circumvents the water on heavenly feet*

*orchards soak, soft stems consumed in the lakes torrent  
although this is perceived; he focuses on the rapture*

*the golden curves, gold head and form  
present inside wet sliver.*

*By Margaret Small*



# Skills Connection

**Is this you?**

Are you looking for work?

Training?

Upgrading?

Do you find it hard?

Do you think is something that makes employers pass you over?

Are you a woman?

Do you have children?

Do you have a disability?

Have you ever felt you have been the target of discrimination?

Do you find it really difficult to get out and pound the pavement?

We offer...

- A person to help you work on the items in your to-do list.
- Someone to make a difficult phone call or go with you to appointments.
- Help with job search skills and aid you with tasks that have to be done before you can start looking for work?

Interested?

**Contact us at 604-713-4464 and ask for The Skills Team.**

**We are located at Skills Connection, 601 Keefer St.(Normally, but for the next few weeks the location will be changing, please call for directions.**

**You can also email us at [soatxx@yahoo.ca](mailto:soatxx@yahoo.ca)**

# Literacy/ Library Group



- Do you want to make crafts, create art and literacy
- Do you want to be involved with the literacy/library group?
- Do you like to learn in a relaxed and enjoyable way?
- Do you enjoy food and talking? then...

**What: Literacy/ Library Group**

**When: Every Sunday**

**Where: Downtown Eastside Women's Centre – Library/ Resource Room  
(downstairs)**

**Time: 1:30-4:30 – 09/08**

This group is facilitated by Janice Kramer. Each week we will complete a craft and engage in written/art expression using creative literacy tools. There will be food and juice available. See Cecily for more info.



# *Movement Workshop*

*Helen Walkley, Artist in Residence at  
the Scotia Bank Dance Centre*

*will offer a six week workshop in the  
downstairs space from*

*2:00 pm-4:00 pm*

*Beginning on Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup>  
running until mid November.*

*This class will focus on relaxation,  
coordination and creative  
expression of the body.*

*All are welcome to attend!*