

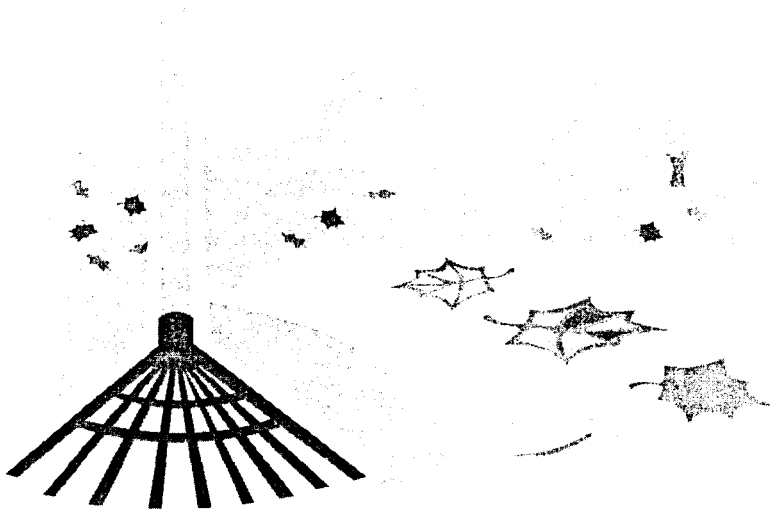
D.E.W. DROP IN

Downtown Eastside Women Do Drop In

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

September 2004

Free



INSIDE:

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Board news...

It's been about six short weeks since Centre members voted in a new Board at the July 17 Annual General Meeting. The new Board is Edna Brass, Betsy Bruyere, Benita Bunjun, Anne Carlson, Suze Kilgour, Amy Many Guns, Joan Morelli, Mable Nipshank, Debra Ramage, Marg Scott, Marlene Trick, Marianna Young.

Since then Board members, volunteers, staff and Centre members have been working hard together to keep the doors of the Women's Centre open. We are facing many challenges, including a lack of information, a severe financial crisis, and a staffing crisis. The Centre is relying on a huge amount of volunteer work now more than ever!

Even though some Centre records were missing when the new Board began our work, we have pieced together what we need to keep the Centre operating. The financial picture of the Centre is not good: The Society has a lot of debt, and not enough money coming in to pay it off and pay our expenses right now. We are working on ideas to save money while still providing as much services as possible for women-it's a difficult and ongoing challenge. The Finance committee is contacting all the people and businesses we owe to make payment arrangements. An external Fundraising Committee of hardworking, committed women who care about the Centre was struck this month: They have already planned an action-packed schedule of fundraising ideas and events, are putting out the Donor Newsletter ASAP, and are writing grant applications as they come up. In addition, we are in the process of hiring a Bookkeeper.

A financial audit is planned for the fall, which will also give us information about how the Society's money was spent last year, how to improve our record-keeping and accounting systems to be more open and transparent, and how to save money. This audit will be presented at the next AGM for approval by members.

In August, the Board met with a group of our funders to explain our situation and present our plan for rebuilding the Centre. They were impressed with our plan but their biggest worry is how we will pay off our debts. Some Board members are scheduled to check in with our funders again this month to show them how our plan is working. Some funders even offered to help us try to work out some arrangement about this debt. We have asked Libby Davies, MP, Jenny Kwan, MLA, and Ellen Woodsworth, City Councillor, for help too.

Because our staffing situation is still getting sorted out by Personnel and the Board, a Centre Coordinating Committee of staff, Board, and volunteers has been struck to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Centre. It has been a struggle to staff the Centre, and to make sure meals happen everyday.

Active Board committees include Personnel, Finance/Legal, and Communication Committees which are meeting regularly. The Board has already held one Planning Day and we intend to have another one soon.

If you want to offer feedback, information, or ideas with the Board, you attend Women's Voice, which will start up again this month, or you can write a note and leave it in the locked mailbox we will be installing soon, forward it through Carol Martin, or Alice Kendall, or speak with a Board member-we're in and out of the Centre quite often these days! If you want to offer your skills and help to the Centre, please get in touch with Michelle, Volunteer Coordinator.

Community News Release

Given that the September Newsletter is the first following the Annual General Meeting, this is an opportunity to introduce and welcome the newly elected members. The following is a Community News Release originally offered on July 19th, 2004:

The new Board (2004-2005) is committed to returning the Centre back to the women and responding to the women in the Downtown Eastside. The newly elected Board is committed to keeping the Centre open and to having lunch available daily. We would like to thank all our constituents: members, community groups, funders and staff for having supported the women in reclaiming the Centre. We would like to especially thank all the committed volunteers whose efforts are keeping the Centre open and functioning.

The previous board has and will continue to contest the legitimacy of the newly elected Board of Directors (2004-2005) and the many complaints put forward by women. The new Board understands that there are numerous issues including: legal, financial, personnel and programming that require immediate attention. This will require much time, resources and commitment from the board, members, volunteers, staff, funders and the community at large.

We acknowledge that the women of the Downtown Eastside have been experiencing much hurt, uncertainty, fear, loss of services and a lack of respect. We have heard each other demanding for accountability.

Thank you for your support and patience. We encourage people to continue to support the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre by:

- Visiting the Centre
- Volunteering
- Giving donations
- Writing support letters
- Providing resources to the Centre (including professional consultation, advocacy and outreach)

Our goal is to put forward the interests of the women by providing services with integrity, in a safe, healthy environment with a commitment to transparency and accountability.

In this time of crisis, transition, and healing we need your continued support.

With respect,

The Downtown Eastside Women's Centre Board of Directors of 2004-2005

Music Night News: Music Night is up and running again-The next Music Night is Friday, September 17. Unfortunately, childcare subsidy and bus tickets cannot be provided until further notice.



All women and children are welcome. Come make some noise, use your voice, and share a few laughs!

We are running on a `shoe-string budget' right now because the Centre can't afford any evening groups. If we want to keep going, we have to pay our own way. Ameena has written a great letter looking for sponsorship and donations from all sorts of folks! We will be asking for donations of instruments in the upcoming Donor newsletter, as we hope to start a guitar circle in the near future! A generous volunteer is retyping our songbooks in big print. Now more than ever, Centre members need music.

If you want to help with this work, please contact Marg or Ameena through Michelle, Volunteer Coordinator.

Bonjour

**DO YOU SPEAK FRENCH?
PARLEZ-VOUS FRANÇAIS**

Every Wednesday (except the check's day), from 1.30 to 2.30 pm, la Boussole facilitates a French drop-in table in the Women Center.

What are we doing?

- We share in French, our mother tongue or because we love this language and want to practise.
- You can also receive counselling / advocacy services in French if you need.

Why is it important to have a French drop-in?

**Anyway, everybody living in Vancouver
speaks English !!**

- Even if most of the French women you know do speak English, some don't...
- Some issues are more difficult to deal with in another language, even if we speak English in the everyday life...we think especially about abuse, our rights, health and mental health issues.
- You, women, know how important it is to stay close to our roots...to be able to speak your mother tongue is a way to keep a link with your culture...

So, if you are a French-speaking woman, if you have a French-speaking friend, you want to know more about our services and we will be glad to see you one of these Wednesdays.

Patricia, for la Boussole, French community center.

BWSS Support Group

Every Tuesday at 5pm from August 24 to October 26
at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

Who attends the BWSS Support Group?

Battered Women's Support Services provides free support groups for any woman who has been abused in an intimate relationship as an adult. The abuse may be emotional, physical, sexual or financial. All groups are facilitated by trained counsellor/advocates.

What happens during a BWSS Support Group?

In our support groups, women have the opportunity to:

- Meet other women who share common experiences
- Receive emotional support, information and practical help
- Explore their situation and make decisions in a supportive, non-judgmental atmosphere

When is the BWSS Support Group?

Every Tuesday at 5:00pm from August 24 to October 26 at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre. Please sign up on the day you'd like to attend at the front desk in the afternoon by signing yourself up or calling reception at 604.681.8480. Women need to be at the Centre by 5:15pm to get the group started on time.

What about dinner, bus tickets and childcare?

Snacks will be provided for this ten week session instead of meals due to budget constraints. There will continue to be bus tickets available for all women and childcare for up to four women per session. Please call ahead to Michelle at 604.681.8480 ext 224 to request childcare. Please call 24 hours in advance, the first four women to call will receive childcare.

For more information about the group please talk to Michelle at the Centre (for dates, childcare, sign up sheet etc) or call BWSS at 604-687-1867 (for counselling and advocacy services). Please note that BWSS is only available during day time office hours. If you need support or information outside of BWSS office hours, call WAVAW at 604-255-6344 or toll-free 1-877-392-7583 or Rape Relief at 604-872-8212.

**UNIVERSITY ACCESS PROGRAM
at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre**

Do you want to increase your Math and English skills?

The IIG – All Nations Institute will be offering the University Access program once again at DEWA starting in September, 2004. Lorraine Fox will be setting up a table for registration on **Monday and Tuesday, August 31st and Sept. 1st**.

The University Access program is suitable for individuals at all levels and helps to sharpen Math and English skills. It also helps students to increase their chances of employment or to access further education. Students are given the tools to recognize their own unique abilities and strengths. The program provides opportunities for personal and academic growth, as well as pride in cultural heritage. It is also open to people of all heritages.

Register with Lorraine, or call 604-602-9555 for more information. We also have University Access programs at Kiwassa House, Aboriginal Mother Centre, and Crabtree Corner.

A certificate will be awarded upon completion.
This pilot project will be offered ***tuition free***.



All Women Welcome.

**Women's Quilting Project
In the Theme of Women's Activism**

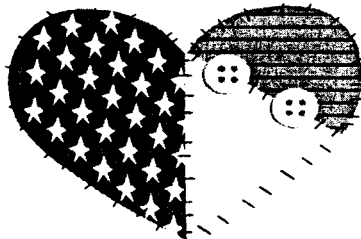


Join Freeda in a quilting project to reflect women's activism in the downtown eastside for the upcoming Arts Festival in October, 2004. Women's fabric art will be displayed throughout various sites in the community during the week of October 10 to 17.

**Get started making your own quilt
or by joining a partner or a group!**

**Every Tuesday morning between 10 am and 12 noon
at the Centre in the drop-in area**

All Women Welcome, especially beginners!



DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE
 302 Columbia Street, Vancouver
 604.681.8480

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 2:00 Crochet & Raffle 2:30 Writing Group	2 12-2 Street Nurse	3	4 2:00 Video
5 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video 2-4 Hairstyling 200 Volunteer Orientation	6 10:00 CWS 1:30 Beading	7 10 Massage & Sewing 2:00 Bingo 5:00 BWSS	8 2:00 Crochet & Raffle 2:30 Writing Group	9 12-2 Street Nurse 2:00 WOMEN'S VOICE	10	11 2:00 Video
12 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video 2-4 Hairstyling	13 10:00 CWS 1:30 Beading 2:00 Volunteer orientation	14 10 Massage & Sewing 2:00 Bingo 5:00 BWSS	15 2:00 Crochet & Raffle 2:30 Writing Group	16 12-2 Street Nurse	17 5:00 MUSIC JAM	18 2:00 Video
19 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video 2-4 Hairstyling	20 10:00 CWS 1:30 Beading	21 10 Massage & Sewing 2:00 Raffle 5:00 BWSS	22 2:00 Crochet & Bingo 2:30 Writing Group	23 CENTRE CLOSED	24	25 2:00 Video
26 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video 2-4 Hairstyling	27 10:00 CWS 1:30 Beading	28 10 Massage & Sewing 2:00 Raffle 5:00 BWSS	29 2:00 Crochet & Bingo 2:30 Writing Group	30 12-2 Street Nurse		

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

Chinese Women's Group (CWS) -Open to women whose first language is Chinese. The group will focus on cultural awareness, advocacy, and social events.

Creative Writing Group-Read and write poems and prose.

Hairstyling—Get a haircut or learn some new styling.

Literacy Workshop – Working with books, themes and word puzzles. Learn while having fun!

Massage—Pamper yourself courtesy of Anita and Rosemary!

Piano & Voice—Come on out to learn something new or practice what you know with music instructors!

Resume Workshop – Create your own Resume with the help of Eemina.

The **Street Nurse, Christina**, comes by every Thursday between 12noon-2pm to give you information on all kinds of health issues.

Women's Voice – Meets to give feedback about the Centre. Your opinions and ideas are needed!

ARTS & CRAFTS WORKSHOPS with materials supplied

Beading with Denny - Every Monday, 1:30 pm.

Crochet with Anna & Freeda-Every Wednesday, 2:00pm.

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

Dreamcatchers with Denny-Every Sunday at 1:30pm.

EVENING PROGRAMMING

Battered Women Support Services- Support for women experiencing violence. Tuesdays on rotating schedule from 5-8:30pm.

Alcohol and Drug Support Group –A harm reduction focus. Takes place every second Wednesday from 5-8:30pm. Everyone welcome.

Music Jam- Sing and play instruments with special guests.

Women's Health Clinic-Ongoing—59 West Pender.

ARIES March 21-April 19

Move over, world! This month begins and ends with a bang. Slow down a little the 3rd and 4th and double-check your bank balance -- you need funds for all of this forward movement -- and by the 6th you'll be back in the swing of things. The 11th and 12th, watch out for even more high-powered fun -- and maybe a little romance to boot. (Could it be the trail guide has their eye on you?). You kick into a regular, let's-get-down-to-brass-tacks routine midmonth. Pay attention to what's brewing under the surface the 18th and 19th, then strap on your protective gear -- rain poncho, helmet, lifejacket, extra copies of the company report, whatever -- the 26th through the 28th. Things could get a little rough. Don't make any sudden moves until the 29th, when you're back (thank goodness!) in your element.

TAURUS April 20-May 20

This month holds just a tad of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde for you. You're going to alternately find yourself doing just the right thing for all the right reasons and then -- boom! -- having to resist going against your better instincts. The first three days of the month are more Mr. Hyde (he was the bad one). Don't make any big purchases, no matter how good the idea seems to be at the time. The 4th and 5th, Dr. Jekyll is back in the driver's seat -- you feel good, you look good and you should follow your impulses where they lead. The 6th and 7th, watch out again. No big planning, no unexpected movements. Midmonth is a time for socializing, but make sure you don't get too full of yourself. (Mr. Hyde, you might remember, was a bit overconfident). At the end of the month, tell your friends all about the roller coaster couple of weeks you've had.

GEMINI May 21-June 21

There could be changes afoot this month. Of course, input could show you where some unexpected obstacles lie. Don't cope by anxiety-eating -- just keep asking questions. Watch your money the 8th to the 10th, and the 11th and 12th you might start to see the light. What you want will make sense, even if your family doesn't see it that way. The 16th and 17th, your plans take off -- and so will the butterflies in your stomach when you meet a special (perhaps very cute) person. But don't let the butterflies lead you astray -- if it's meant to be, your plans don't need to be rearranged. Anytime you make changes, even the best ones, there's friction -- watch out at the end of the month (especially the 26th through the 28th). You're on the right track!

CANCER June 22-July 22

You're like a neon glow-in-the-dark yo-yo: a little bit up and down, but a lot of fun. First-- especially the 4th and 5th -- you're all dressed up and ready to go. You're going to mix it up with all the right people. The 6th and 7th, take a walk on the wild side -- maybe with some folks who are wrong in all the right ways. Enjoy -- it's good for you. By the 13th, your personal starship is ready for docking, and the 14th, you start the journey back to earth. (Check in and see how you have changed!). The next few days could be stormy. The end of the month is housecleaning -- you might have to deal with some messes you inadvertently made. As you clean up those messes, you'll remember what a good time you had making them!

LEO July 23-August 22

You can take just about anything -- toothpick art, dirty dishes, mime troupes -- and make it a riot. That's part of the reason you're so popular. But maybe it's time to move on? Think about it. You're going to be very in touch with your subconscious (were you born to be an artisan ice cream maker, maybe?) the 8th to the 10th, which could open the way for some subterranean probing the 18th and 19th. Don't bore the heck out of your friends (or your lovers) by talking endlessly about your new, health-conscious, sundae-free self. By the end of the month, the new you is ready to emerge.

VIRGO August 23-September 22

If life is a garden party, you're the head gardener this month. You're going to be planting, plotting, pruning and organizing in what looks to be a very group-oriented period. Whether you're jump-starting a 'save the whales' task force at work or a really bang-up dinner party, your social group is an essential -- and fertile -- theme. From the 8th through 10th, things will really start to come to fruition: You're going to be energized, galvanized, prioritized and all-around spectacular (even if there is dirt under your fingernails). Don't forget that all this other-orientedness is really a way for you to get a new perspective on yourself -- settle in for a little internal analysis (think of it as composting) the 18th and 19th. As the month winds down, make sure you've got plans in place to conserve what you've reaped.

LIBRA September 23-October 22

If you care (and you do), you're going to have to spend the first few days of the month giving, giving, giving and listening, listening, listening. If you do what you need to do, it will all work out by the 4th. Celebrate, but don't let yourself go. On the 10th, something (a few stray emotions you thought you didn't have to deal with, maybe?) could upset the rhythm again. The bigger picture will emerge the 11th. Listening up on the 17th will help everything realign in time for you to go deep (what, after all, is it that you really want?) the 18th. Toward the end of the month, with a little help from a good friend who has a knack with tricky knots, you might start to untie something that binds you. Maybe what you really want is to bring a little balance to the people around you.

SCORPIO October 23-November 21

As you sashay your good-looking self through life trailing that big, bad stinger the way you do, you should learn sooner rather than later that if a conflict isn't necessary, avoid it. Keep a cool head and you could really soothe - instead of sting -- those around you as the month gets going. It's time to think about taking care (especially around the 6th) when an important detail could escape you at the office if you aren't on your toes. Wait until the 22nd to sign anything. After all of this keeping yourself in check, you can finally let go and let the mysterious, magical side of life take hold. (There could be somebody out there who'd like to take hold of you -- and the feeling is mutual!) It is hard to be so wonderful and so cautious at the same time -- but it's worth a try.

SAGGITARIUS November 22-December 21

If you're having fun (and as the month kicks off, you sure are!) there is almost certainly smooching (or the possibility of smooching) involved. Nothing wrong with that, especially when you're getting so darn much accomplished! Be careful, though, the 6th and 7th -- you may not know exactly who it is your dealing (or smooching!) with. If it turns out to be a mismatch, be flexible -- there are other fish in the sea. Speaking of seas, why not take a trip the 10th? You never know just what (or who) you'll encounter once you take yourself out of your comfort zone. If you're still trekking through the Andes (or fly-fishing the next county over) the 22nd, don't buy anything! You don't need it and you'll just throw it out later. By the end of the month you could be plain tuckered out -- and you should be! You've done a lot. Take five to integrate what you've learned.

CAPRICORN December 22-January 19

As the month begins, you might find yourself looking for another sort of commencement. Maybe you'll research your family tree. Maybe you'll get your parents/great aunt/uncle/etc. on the phone and ask a few questions. It's roots time! Don't take things personally the 9th -- it will only wear you down. The 13th refreshes you, and keeps you going on your family background research. (Were you related to Beethoven? Could explain the musical genius -- and/or the wacky hair.) The 21st and 25th, be wary of any bright ideas somebody has that could cost you money. (Maybe they're descendants of Bonnie and Clyde!). You'll start putting all the pieces together -- in some pretty creative ways -- by the end of the month.

AQUARIUS January 20-February 18

Sure, you've calmed down, but don't forget that poet who said that you were the Muse. Get ready for a (and this is a direct quote from the stars) sizzling affair to give your routine a good shake the 6th and 7th. No sizzling affair is going to be easy (would you even want it to be? Please!) and you'll be navigating some tricky (but rather thrilling) straights the next couple of days. As someone very wise must have once told you, 'Don't think. Just do.' You'll have an interesting and unusual connection with someone the 17th before moving into a more reflective, regenerative period. (Ask yourself: Who do you want to be, actually?). An answer might come during your high-flying, show-stopping, good-time days the 24th through 28th. Could be you want to quit your day job and go back to Paris, hmm?

PISCES February 19-March 20

Don't answer any riddles, but do write them down for later. By the 5th, you've entered a new phase, where the stars bring beauty and illusion into your days. Write a love letter (maybe in purple ink?), and send it even if you think you shouldn't. By the 9th, someone (not necessarily the person you addressed your letter to) is going to announce themselves as a suitor. This could be the right thing at the right time. If you're making big decisions around the 13th, look first, but then go ahead and leap. On the 18th and 19th, you should be careful if you go swimming -- there could be (metaphorical) sharks sharing your space. The month ends with a bang (maybe your new lover is a drummer?). Anyway, you'll surely have the chance to dress up and rediscover something you forgot you knew about yourself.

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Looking for a real job?

Then take *this* number down: 604-253-9355.

If you're out of work, and need help finding a job, then here's your opportunity. The Job Shop is a free program that will support you in a quick return to work. With the support of one-on-one coaching, you'll get connected, gain confidence, and learn from others – all with a view to finding meaningful employment. It really does work. Call 604-253-9355 now to attend the next Job Shop info session. The Job Shop is brought to you by Tradeworks Training Society.



PROGRAM MADE POSSIBLE BY
 Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada



Hi ho. Hi ho.

If you're 19 or older and looking for employment, it's back to work you go.

If you're out of work, and need help finding a job, then here's your opportunity. The Job Shop is a free program that will support you in a quick return to work. With the support of one-on-one coaching, you'll get connected, gain confidence, and learn from others – all with a view to finding meaningful employment. It really does work. Call 604-253-9355 now to attend the next Job Shop info session. The Job Shop is brought to you by Tradeworks Training Society.

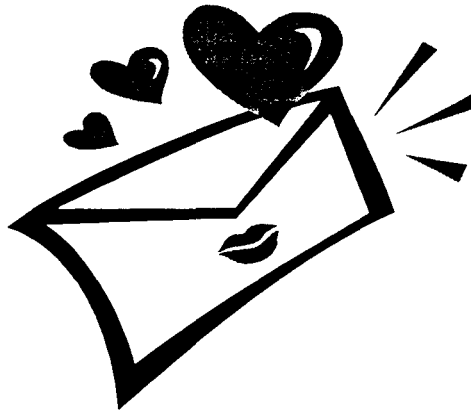


PROGRAM MADE POSSIBLE BY
 Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE
FILL OUT HOWEVER MANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORMS YOU
NEED IF YOUR MAIL IS BEING SENT TO THE CENTRE!!!
BECAUSE...

**WE ARE CHANGING OUR
MAILBOX
ADDRESS FOR WOMEN'S MAIL.**

IF YOUR MAIL IS ADDRESSED TO THE CENTRE, PLEASE
CHANGE THE ADDRESS FROM 302 COLUMIBA TO



**150-100 EAST CORDOVA
VANCOUVER, BC
V6A 1K9**

TO NOTIFY SENDERS FILL OUT ADDRESS CHANGE CARDS AT
FRONT DESK AND STAFF WILL PROVIDE STAMPS TO MAIL IN.

The Swan

I feel like a river
that's been blocked by a dam
and is unable from flowing
to mix with the stream
it is destined to

I feel like a budding flower
that's been guarded by a rock
and is unable to grow
although its roots are strong
it will never bloom

I feel like a bird
that's been feared from flight
and is unable to soar
although it's wings spread
it will never fly

I feel like a swan
that's never been told:
she will float down a river to her destiny
she will bloom into a flower someday
she will fly if she'd just spread her wings

Yet, she, as I are weighted by this faith in hope

I can tell her to try,
but her ears are deafened by doubt
her eyes fill with tears
her lips whisper nothing but her shame

So I will let her go,
as I read her confusion as...
you have released us
and as she leaves I say goodbye

For I am now left with the swan
she told me I could be, all along



The Gifts of Fearlessness

The Sun was hot,
unbearable and stretching the very will of the Mouse,
gathering its food before running for cover from the heat.
The Great Raven soared on high,
stretching her limbs, enveloping the Wind.
She swooped down from the skies,
casting her full spanned darkness on the earth below.
The Mouse looked up,
seeing only the shadow of black approaching and scurried for cover.
Thinking a storm was upon him,
he shuddered in the bare protection of a fallen,
barren blackberry bush.

What of his food,
he'd sought all morn' to collect, and now,
frightened and alone and hungry,
awaited the storm to come and shed it's hatred on him.
The blackened shroud of the Raven flew by,
just overhead of the Mouse,
and with it stirred up a fresh wind,
and reprieve from the heat.
The Mouse relieved,
fanned by the Raven's gift of Wind,
moved faster then he had before she passed,
breathed in the break of the beating Sun,
and feasted, collected
and was contented.

And the moral of the story is???

Should you never have to run so far for cover
that you miss out on the gifts that your fears blind you from seeing.



With sincere gratitude for all the women and organizations who support the Centre.

*Please join us for the
'Celebrating Our Journeys' Street Party.*



*We're having our celebration on Sunday,
September 19, 2004 between 12 noon and
4pm. We're closing Columbia Street
between Hastings and Cordova and will be
hosting a BBQ.*

*Hope to see you there.
In Unity, the members, volunteers, staff and
Board of the Downtown Eastside Women's
Centre.*