

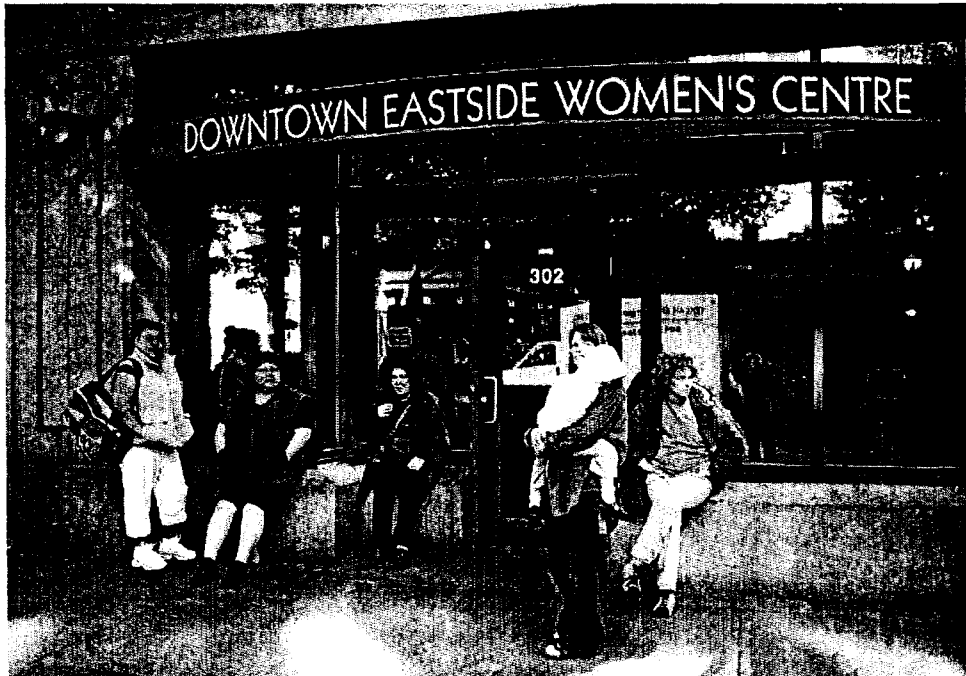


WOMEN'S CENTRE

D.E.W. DROP IN

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

Downtown Eastside Women Do Drop In
July 2006 Free



Welcome to our home.

INSIDE:

- Calendar of events/ workshops and outings
- Victim Services
- Wise Women's Words (contributions from members)
- News from Management Team

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday July 2, 2006 from 5-7

Recycling Committee

Meet the Greens and contribute to caring for Mother Earth

Monday July 10, 2006 from 4-6

Libby Davis in the Centre

Find out what she is doing for you in Ottawa and let her know what you want done - Get Libby to work for you.

Monday July 17, 2006 from 4-6

Shirley Bear

Women Artist Speak Wisdom

This will be an interactive workshop that includes visioning, art making, story telling, personal stories and colonial history

Wednesday July 19, 2006 from 2-4

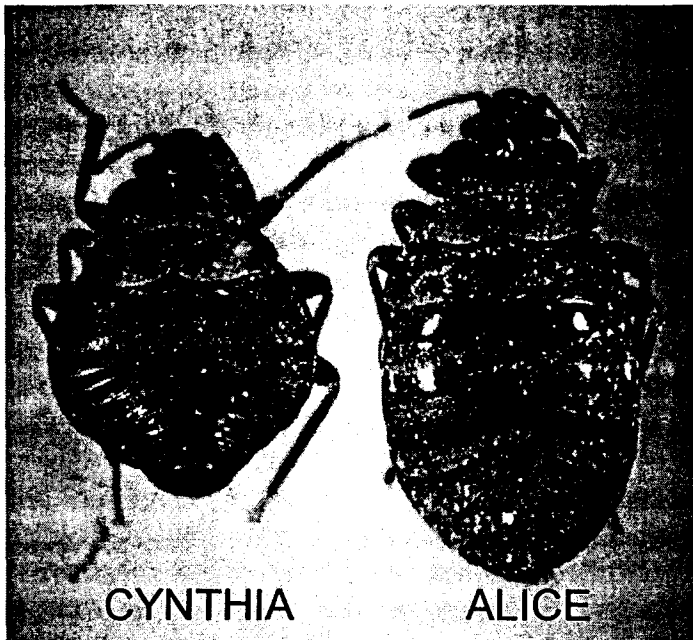
Street Party!....organizing meeting

We need to start now to plan the 3rd annual DEWC Street Party, to get things happening. What kind of entertainment and activities - the theme? We want your ideas, if you don't get involved it might not happen!

Friday July 21, 2006 from 1:30 - 4

Outing to Queen Elizabeth Park

Enjoy some fresh air, walk barefoot on the grass, smell the roses, appreciate one of the best views of the City.



BED BUGS

Bed bugs are small, brownish, flattened insects that feed solely on the blood of animals including humans. The common bed bug, *Cimex lectularius*, is the species most adapted to living with humans. It has done so since ancient times. Bed bugs are challenging pests to control. The bugs are efficient hitchhikers and are usually transported in or on luggage, clothing, beds, furniture, etc. They hide in many tiny places, so inspections and treatments must be very thorough. Once bed bugs are introduced, they often spread

room to room throughout a building. Unlike cockroaches that feed on filth, the level of cleanliness has little to do with most bed bug infestations. Affording access for inspection and treatment is essential, and excess clutter should be removed. In some cases, infested mattresses and box springs will need to be discarded. Since bed bugs can disperse throughout a building, it also may be necessary to inspect adjoining rooms and apartments.

This is a major concern in the DTES, in the Centre it is the reason why we are so careful about where we get donations and cannot accept any donations from residents in the neighbourhood. If we spot a bed bug we have to immediately close down the clothing room until treatment and inspection not only of the clothing room but of the whole centre.

Bed Bug Information Session

Sunday July 23, 2006 at 1:30

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT

Your rights if you are a Victim of Crime

Under the British Columbia's Victims of Crime Act, Justice system personnel must treat victims of crime with courtesy and respect. If you are a victim of crime, the Act also gives you the right to receive information about:

- **victim services available to you**
- **compensation under the Criminal Injury Compensation Act**
- **how the criminal justice system works, the status of the police investigation and the court case.**
- **the administration of the offender's sentence**
- **your rights to privacy under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

Victims of Crime Act: What do I need to know if I am a victim of Crime?

When crime touches you

When crime touches you or your family, you may need to know how to get information and support during the days following the crime.

Under the Victims of Crime Act, you have the right to be given information about victim services and how the criminal justice system works.

The act also refers to other legislation that provides privacy rights, and rights of access to information and compensation.

The victim of Crime Act gives you the right to receive information, including

- **status of the police investigation**
- **status of the prosecution**
- **status of the court case**
- **administration of the offender's sentence**

Victim Services are funded by the provincial government to help victims of crime. These programs are staffed by people trained to help victims, and are free of charge. Some of the services they may provide are:

- Helping you to cope with the effects of a crime;
- providing you with emotional support;
- helping you to apply for criminal injury compensation, if you are eligible;
- referring you to the other agencies for further assistance;
- informing you about the status of the police investigation and the court case;
- explaining what happens in court and preparing for the trial; and
- helping you to prepare a victim impact statement (forms available from Crown Counsel offices)

What if I am Injured?

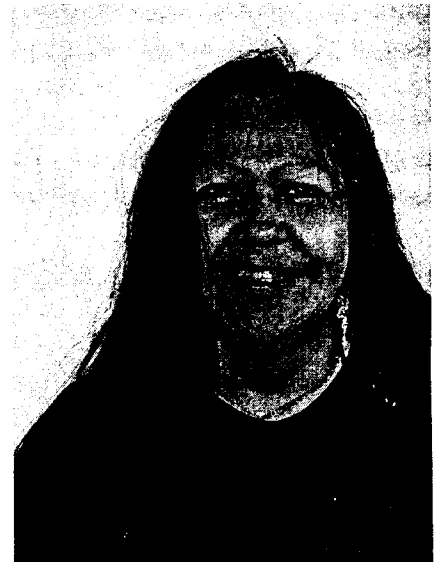
If you are injured as a result of a crime, or if you are an immediate family member of a person killed because of a crime, you may be eligible for compensation under the Criminal Injury Compensation Act.

You have the right to apply for benefits to cover cost such as:

- loss of income or wages;
- counselling expenses; and
- medical expenses not covered by your medical plan

After the crime has been reported to the police, you have one year to make an application for compensation. You may apply, or someone else may apply on your behalf, even if no one has been convicted of the crime.

Victim services offices can help you fill out an application form.



**For more information on your rights as a victim speak
To Carol Martin at the Centre.**

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

302 Columbia Street, Vancouver

604.681.8480 **ALL SPECIAL/NEW EVENTS ARE IN BOLD**

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

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

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

Massage—NOT THIS MONTH

Conversation Cafe - new group starting on June 5th from 2-4 Street Nurses, Christina or Liz, every Wednesday from 12noon-2pm health information and services

Sweat Lodge - Every second Wednesday, Elder Reta will take women to the Lodge, meet at the Centre at 11:30.

ARTS & CRAFTS WORKSHOPS

Painting-Join Tara and the WEAVE project for all types of Art- materials supplied- every Thursday - 2:00 pm. DEWC will host a Fall Art show of works so contribute your gifts.

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

Sewing Circle with Freeda- Every Tuesday morning, 10:00am.

Beading with Leona- Every Friday at 2:00pm.

Ceramics- Every Monday from 2-4 OR 10-12

Fabric Arts with Diane - every Saturday from 2-4 p.m.

EVENING PROGRAMMING

Tuesdays-Battered Women Support Services- Support for women experiencing violence.

Wednesdays-Power of women2women-social justice group and other activities from 5-8:00

Thursdays-Healing Circle- except the day after Welfare.

Fridays-Taiko Drumming-For anyone who has been to previous workshops - **GROUP CLOSED UNTIL SEPTEMBER**

Karaoke - Sing a tune from all the ages with Reta and Jem.

Every second Wednesday from 2-4:30

Community Kitchen- Once a month, come out to make a meal together and pack some for home. All ingredients provided

SUNDAY 12:00-5:00*	MONDAY 10:00-5:00*	TUESDAY 10:00-5:00*	WEDNESDAY 11:00-5:00*	THURSDAY 10:00-5:00*	FRIDAY 10:00-5:00*	SATURDAY 12:00-5:00*
						1 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts
2 2:00 Video and discussion 5:00 Recycling Committee	3 10:00 CWS 2:00 Conversation Café 2:00 Ceramics	4 10:00 Sewing 2:00: Bingo 5:00 BWSS	5 12-2 Street Nurse 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Sweat Lodge 5:00 POW2W	6 2:00 Painting 5:00 Healing Circle	7 2:00 Beading 5:00 Taiko Closed Group	8 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts
9 2:00 Video and Discussion	10 10:00 CWS 2:00 Conversation Cafe 2:00 Ceramics (Last one until 31st) 4:00 LIBBY DAVIS IN THE CENTRE 6:00 Dinner	11 10:00 Sewing 2:00: Bingo 5:00 BWSS	12 12-2 Street Nurse 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Karaoke 5:00 POW2W	13 2:00 Painting (Last one until August) 5:00 Healing Circle	14 2:00 Beading 5:00 Taiko Closed Group	15 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts
16 2:00 Video and Discussion Group 5:00 Community Kitchen	17 10:00 CWS 2:00 Conversation Café 4:00 SHIRLEY BEAR – Artist Share Wisdom 6:00 Dinner	18 10:00 Sewing 2:00: Bingo 5:00 BWSS	19 12-2 Street Nurse 1:30 Sweat Lodge 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Street Party Organizing Committee 5:00 POW2W	20 5:00 Healing Circle	21 1:30 Outing to Queen E. Park 2:00 Beading 5:00 Taiko Closed Group	22 2:00Video 2:00 Fabric Arts
23 1:30 BED BUGS INFO. 3:30 Volunteer Meeting 30 2:00 Video	24 2:00 Conversation Cafe 31 10:00 Ceramics 2:00 Conversation Cafe	25 10:30 TOBACCO DAY 10:00 Massage 2:00 Bingo 5:00 BWSS	26 12-2 Street Nurse 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Karaoke	27 CENTRE CLOSED	28 2:00 Beading 5:00 Taiko Closed Group	29 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts 5:00 POW2W

• PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CENTRE IS OPEN UNTIL 5:00 PM BUT DOORS WILL BE LOCKED AT 4:45



NDP House Leader – What is a house leader anyway?
Justice Critic Deputy (for Substance Abuse, Prostitution Issues)
Infrastructure & Communities Deputy Critic (for Greater Vancouver Area)
Labour Critic

These are the kinds of things Libby is suppose to do for us, are you interested in her position on Prostitution and Substance Abuse? Do you want to know how she is supporting women from the community? She is our voice in Ottawa and we should know what she is saying – in fact we should tell her what to say!

**MP LIBBY DAVIS @ the DEWC, Monday July 10
4:00 – 6:00**

From Paula, practicum student at the Women's Centre

Greetings to all:

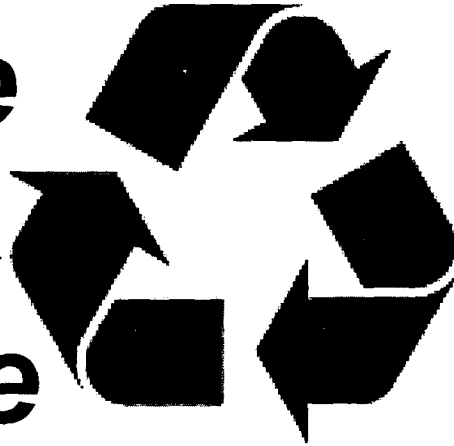
I am almost at the end of my practicum now and it is going to be sad to leave. I loved working here for the women at the centre. What an honor it has been. I would like to take this time to first of all thank Sara for hiring me to do my practicum here. She is a very beautiful and caring lady..I appreciate her for all she has done. It has been a very good work experience for me here, and yes I am leaving here with good tools to carry on with my education to be what I want in life.

I have gotten to know quite a bit of the ladies while my stay here, and it has been an honor.

I would also like to thank the ladies in the kitchen for having me help out quite a bit...I am totally going to miss the both of you, Ruth and Stephanie. You are two very beautiful ladies and thank you so much for having me. It has been a good practicum.I enjoyed every bit of my time here....I want to thank each and everyone of you for sharing with me.

PAULA, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR INCREDIBLE SMILE, PATIENCE AND SUPPORT TO ALL THE STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND WOMEN OF THE CENTRE. WE WISH YOU THE VERY BEST ON YOUR JOURNEY, YOU WILL TAKE WITH YOU A PART OF US AND A PART OF YOU WILL STAY HERE WITH US – WE WILL CHERISH AND TREASURE YOU. MAY GOODNESS AND GRACE FOLLOW YOU AND YOUR FAMILY, ALWAYS.

Reduce
Reuse
Recycle



THE GREENS ARE HERE! THE GREENS ARE HERE!

Collect all the papers, crush all the cans, hide the plastics and let the veggies rot!

The Centre is going green! We have started a recycling committee, our first meeting was on June 20 with a great turn out of 15 dedicated women from the Centre. Some of the topics that we discussed were, recycling plastic spoons, paper and metal and using the garburator for left over foods.

Our next meeting is July 2 at 5pm – New members are welcome.

“Be the change you want to see in the world.” Gandhi

Ruth & Caren

DID YOU KNOW!

- ▶ Each year the residents and businesses in the City of Vancouver disposes of **475,000 tonnes of waste.**
- ▶ Residents of the Downtown Eastside and poor women are perhaps the most environmentally friendly citizens, we hardly buy new stuff and we are experts in ‘reconditioning’. ‘recovering’ and ‘reusing’.

News from Management Team

SURVEY TIME! Once again we are asking you how we are doing at the Centre, how can we improve and how can we support you make positive changes in your life. Everyone complains about doing the survey, worse still they complain about everything at the Centre but they do not offer any suggestions and solutions! We expect our members to be involved and this means taking care of the Centre and being active in making this the kind of place that you would be proud to call home. We are also asking about your experience with addiction services, our advocates, peer support workers and victim services workers know that getting women into detox or program is very difficult we would like to gather personal stories from you so that we can better evaluate how the services are working for women.

We will have a consultation meeting in August to discuss the responses of the survey and figure out how to make positive changes in the Centre.

PLEASE TAKE SOME TIME TO FILL OUT THE SURVEY. THANK YOU.

We were hoping to be able to go camping this year, unfortunately it looks like it will not happen. It would have cost about \$2,000 and also a lot time and energy for organizing the trip by staff and volunteers. Nobody really took it on and we did not have much time to dedicate to this effort. We will try again next year, we are so sorry. Maybe if women are really interested to make it happen we can start a camping committee to make sure it happens – it is never too early.

We will try to have more outings through out the year and plan for a summer BBQ in August. We will also focus on making the 3rd Annual DEWC Street Party the most successful and fun of all. There were ideas of closing the street for 12 hours and having night events such as movies, volunteers have already offered their performance skills – thanks to Gina and the 'Supremes'. Last year the theme was Celebrating Our Journeys – The Courage to Change, we are still wondering what we should do this year, if you want to help please come to the meeting on Wednesday July 19th at 2. We have help from a summer student Cara who just started this month, welcome her and tell her what you for your party.



As you may already know Mary Clifford got big job as the Executive Director of BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses. Mable Nipshank and Cecily Nicholson will be coordinating the POW2W project until March 2007. They will be organizing workshops, learning exchanges and planning an event, to get involved check out the information board next to the elevator or attend the group on Wednesday night.

Poetry Corner

WISE WOMEN'S WORD

Your Angel

**You'll always have me
to care about you
No matter what life
Holds for you
You'll always have me
No one ever really knows
what life has in store.
What roads they will travel
or how things will turn out.
It's kind of scary sometime
looking ahead and not knowing.
But.....I want you to know
that you'll always have me.
It doesn't matter where I am
or what i'm doing.
I will always take time for you.
You are a very special person to
me,
and you have a place in my heart
that will always be there for you.
I want you to remember
that you will never really be
alone,
because you'll always have me
to care about you.**

Dedicated to all the women who I miss so dearly and remember with fond memories. I love you all.

In tears I saw you sinking,
I watched you fade away,
You suffered, much in silence,
You fought so hard to stay,
You faced your task with courage,
Your spirit did not bend
And still you kept on fighting
Until the very end. .
God say you getting tired,
When a cure was not to be,
So, he put his arms around you,
And whispered, "Come with me"
You didn't deserve what you went through,
And , so he gave you rest,
God's garden must be beautiful,
He only takes the best
So, when I saw you sleeping,
So peaceful, free from pain,
I could not wish you back,
To suffer that again.

To all the people who died from AIDS/HIV,
I love you and miss you all. You left fond memories of yourself and it is held within my mind and felt in my heart. Till we meet again.

Always a friend, Carol.

Shirley Bear

b. 1936, Negootkook, New Brunswick
First Nations Affiliation: Wabnaqii

Dedicated feminist, activist, artist, and curator, Shirley Bear is a painter trained at Whistler House Gallery and the Boston Museum. Her work draws upon Wabanagii stories, and petroglyph images to counter post-contact, patriarchal attitudes and systems. With this goal foremost, she has worked extensively as a lecturer, performer, political lobbyist (along with other Native women she was at the forefront of the struggle to reinstate those women who had lost their Indian status through marriage to non-Native men), Cultural advisor at UBC and BCIT (1997-2004)



My ancestors- (seated) Grandmother Zabed,
Aunt Malo (left) and Grandmother Katlin

ARTIST SPEAK WISDOM @

Downtown Eastside Womens' Centre

July 17, 2006, 4:00 – 6:00

Dinner at 6:00

Please join us in welcoming Shirley Bear to our Centre, she will present her work and facilitate a creative journey with women from the community.