

# CALGARY Street TALK

**SOLD BY  
DONATION**

Thank You  
Your vendor  
pays 60 cents  
per copy.

SEPTEMBER-2007 VOL. 11 NO. 9 A SPARE CHANGE NEWSPAPER



## Caring school children learn about homelessness

*Artwork by Madison, a Grade 3 student at Sundance Elementary School*

Last fall some Grade 3 students from Sundance Elementary School saw a camp that homeless people had created in the inner city. That experience led to a year of learning about poverty and homelessness. They learned that they could help and they raised \$2,600 which was donated to CUPS Community Health Centre. The plight of the homeless and poor was incorporated into their curriculum. As part of their English class they wrote to community leaders about homelessness and also wrote about their experience. Some of their essays and artwork about homelessness appear on Pages 8 to 11.

## Vendor Code of Conduct

Calgary Street Talk vendors are proud of their newspaper and the people who sell it. They each sign a Code of Conduct that stresses the importance of a high standard in customer service because they realize that the conduct of one affects all the others. On occasion, certain persons obtain copies of *Calgary Street Talk* and sell them without authorization; this can be accompanied by undesirable behaviour. The authorized vendors and the publishers are anxious to eliminate such incidents.

If you witness or experience any unacceptable behaviour, please report it directly to the offices of *Calgary Street Talk* at 221-8780.

## Vendors Needed

*Calgary Street Talk* has openings for new vendors. If you are looking for a way to earn money while learning new skills, this is the job for you. We require our vendors to be genuinely interested in working and trying to improve their circumstances. We currently have a number of excellent locations available.

For more information, please contact *Calgary Street Talk* at 221-8780.

## Top Sellers

#07 **Andie Wolf Leg** took top honours for the month of August. #04 **Mike Abhar** was the second top seller for the month followed by #02 **Bob Bland** and #383 **Gordon Eddy** who tied for third place.

## Vendor Incentive Program

Vendor #381 **Wade Ackerman** receives August's Award. He receives a \$25 food gift certificate.

We are dependent on supporters to donate to our Vendor Incentive Program. We like to award at least one \$25 food gift certificate to deserving vendors each month to recognize initiative, improved sales or to acknowledge participating in the Calgary Street Talk program.

For information about the Vendor Incentive Program please call 221-8674.

**VENDOR BIRTHDAYS in September:**

#21 **Brian Jones** - Sept. 24

# Author discusses hidden homeless

Calgary author Susan Scott will provide some poignant insights into the plight of Canada's homeless women during Homeless Awareness Week which starts Sept. 16.

Scott traveled from Vancouver to Ottawa to research *All Our Sisters, Stories of Homeless Women in Canada*. The book has been on a number of non-fiction best seller lists recently.

Scott interviewed more than 60 women facing homelessness across Canada and promised to tell their stories in a bid to help people better understand.

She will read from her book and discuss *Sisters* and their unique challenges at McNally Robson book store on Stephen Avenue Sept. 20 from 7.30 to 9 p.m.

Scott contends that her research

shows that the social system has failed the women and agencies let them down because the agencies and services provided are not sensitive enough not adequate enough to meet the women's needs.

Many women who are not actually homeless are also living on insufficient funds with violent partners, in unacceptable dwellings or other fragile circumstances that are often overlooked, Scott said.

Each year there are a variety of events planned for Homeless Awareness Week which this year runs from Sept. 16 to 22. Details were not available to Calgary Street Talk at press time and the website, [www.homelessawareness.ca](http://www.homelessawareness.ca) also was not available at that time. ■

# Street Talk Distribution

Here is a list of authorized active *Street Talk* vendors, each of whom works his or her own hours. The best time to find one is during the morning, lunch and afternoon rush.

- Vendor #1: "Saint"- Pete  
17th Avenue & 7th Street SW
- #2: **Bob Bland**  
6th Avenue & 2nd Street SW
- #4: **Mike Abhar**  
4th Avenue & 1st Street SW (A.M.)  
Eau Claire Market (lunch & early P.M.)  
6th Avenue & 4th Street SW (late P.M.)
- #7: **Andie** 23 Ave. & 4 St. SW
- #8: **Leonard V.**  
Safeway, 12th Avenue & 8th Street SW
- #9: **Dennis Fryklund** Kensington
- #19: **Norm "The Mayor" Mansell**  
City Hall, 8th Avenue & Macleod Trail SE
- #21: **Jim M.** Bankers Hall
- #60: **Caroline M.** 8th Ave. & 1st Street SW
- #68: **Rob Champion**  
Plaza Theatre, Kensington
- #130: **Vince Montana**  
Globe and Uptown Theatres
- #187: **Bruce S.**  
(underpass) 8 St. & 9 Ave. underpass PM  
4 St. & 9 Ave. underpass AM
- #217: **Carolyn Miller**
- #221: **Brian Jones**  
7th Avenue & Macleod Trail SE
- #242: **Eugene M.**  
7th Avenue & 4th Street SW
- #251: **Ed Gorman** 18th Ave. & 4th St. SW
- #253: **Darrell S.**
- #273: **Ray R.**  
Safeway at 410 - 10th Street NW
- #381: **Wade A.**  
9th Avenue & 1st Street SW
- #383: **Gordon E.** 12th Ave. & 14th St. SW
- #397: **Lois O.** 6th Ave. & 4th Street SW
- #398: **Glen O.** 5th Ave. & 3rd Street SW
- #476: **Michael & Dudley**  
7th Ave. & 1 St. SW
- #480: **Lori H.** 7th Ave. & 4th St. SW
- #509: **Barbara Randle**  
Kensington Safeway



Sept. 6, 2007

United Way of Calgary and Area

# Campaign KICK-OFF 2007

On September 6th, you're invited to join our celebration and kick off the 2007 United Way Campaign!

11:00 am Meet at 600 Block of 3rd Street SW  
11:30 am Parade to Eau Claire Market  
12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch and Festivities at Eau Claire Market

A great city is within reach.

# CALGARY Street TALK

SEPTEMBER 2007 VOL. 11 NO. 9  
A SPARE CHANGE NEWSPAPER

Publisher: **Robert Perry**

Editor: **Paul Drohan**

Distribution: **Susan Phillips**

Design & Layout: **Unicorn Graphics, Airdrie**

The following contributed in some way to this issue:  
**Mike Abhar, Jon Bateman, Rob Champion, Susan Froelich, Grade 3 Sundance Elementary School students, Kathy Houston, Connie Johnson, Ron Murdock, Jennifer Scullion, Stonebridge Capital Corporation, Pete S., Tim Wild**

COMMUNITY



HEALTH CENTRE

Calgary Street Talk is published monthly by  
Calgary Urban Project Society (CUPS)  
128 - 7 Ave. S.E., Calgary, AB T2G 0H5  
Telephone: 221-8674 or 221-8780  
Fax: 221-8791  
E-mail: [streettalk@cupshhealthcentre.com](mailto:streettalk@cupshhealthcentre.com)

Calgary Street Talk is produced to offer an income, business-skills development, and a voice for people on the margins of our society. Vendors pay 60 cents per copy and resell to the public. Please buy only from vendors with an I. D. badge. The opinions expressed in Calgary Street Talk are those of the writers; they do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper, its advertisers, publisher, or CUPS.

Calgary Street Talk welcomes your comments, questions, suggestions and article ideas. Please write or telephone. Letters to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must be signed, must include phone number, and may be edited for length.

## Worth noting...

The poverty of our century is unlike that of any other. It is not, as poverty was before, the result of natural scarcity, but of a set of priorities imposed upon the rest of the world by the rich. Consequently, the modern poor are not pitied . . . but written off as trash. The twentieth-century consumer economy has produced the first culture for which a beggar is a reminder of nothing. ■

~John Berger

OTHER VOICES :

## Mistake to ban begging

*(This is an edited excerpt from a Toronto Star editorial.)*

Renewed calls for a ban on panhandling are the predictable aftermath of the tragic slaying of Ross Hammond, a visitor from St. Catharines, after he refused to give money to four aggressive beggars. Two men and two women, all in their 20s and of no fixed address, have been arrested. And the public is justifiably outraged. Some politicians are demanding a ban on panhandling.

That would be a mistake. The modest act of asking a passerby for help should not be turned into an offence.

What killed Hammond wasn't panhandling; it was a violent attack with a knife. That is already banned. As well as robbery and murder, aggressive panhandling is forbidden by law.

People panhandle for many reasons. Many are hungry and need money for food. Others spend what they collect fuelling a drug or

alcohol addiction. Still others beg rather than work. Whatever its motive, panhandling is a symptom of a broad social malaise. It is rooted in poverty, homelessness, mental illness, the curse of addictions and despair. People in the grip of those problems won't be saved by a ban on panhandling. In fact, in desperation, more just might resort to violence. That would be the worst possible outcome for Toronto.

Better enforcement of existing laws set up to protect the public should be coupled with renewed efforts to address the underlying problems afflicting many panhandlers. Providing more and better shelter for the homeless would be an obvious start.

City council has wisely resisted repeated calls to ban panhandling. Toronto is currently engaged in assessing the needs of those who beg downtown and studying the impact of panhandlers on the city's businesses and tourist trade. ■

## Brit PM leads on housing

*(This is an edited excerpt from a Toronto Star editorial.)*

As Prime Minister Stephen Harper tries this summer to develop a fresh political agenda for his struggling government, he should take a long, hard look at what's happening in Britain for some much-needed inspiration.

In a bid to correct some of his country's worst poverty problems, new British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has launched an ambitious \$17-billion affordable housing plan that over the next three years will see 50,000 new units of social housing built annually. Brown will double spending on social housing as part of a wide-ranging plan that is part of Brown's pledge to make affordable housing a major priority for his government.

Brown's plan calls for 3 million new affordable homes to be built by 2020.

The program has won wide support across the political spectrum.

It is the kind of bold policy initiative that is desperately needed in Canada, and one that Ottawa could easily copy.

But in Canada, there is no national housing strategy. Worse, there is a lack of political will to develop one, despite a growing homelessness crisis and huge waiting lists for subsidized housing across the country.

Under Harper, the federal government has done little to address this issue. What little new money his Conservative government

has allocated for housing has been scattered across a patchwork of programs, with little overall impact on construction.

Moreover, the housing situation is worse today than it was in 1998 when hundreds of organizations and big city mayors declared homelessness a national disaster. In 1991, federal and provincial governments spent \$4.1 billion on housing. By 2006, that had slipped to \$4 billion, a 10 per cent drop when inflation is taken into account. In those 15 years, the population grew by 4 million and the number in need of housing rose to 1.6 million from 1.4 million.

Canada is alone among the major industrialized countries in not having a national housing strategy. Only 5 per cent of the housing stock in this country is social housing, one of the lowest levels in the world. Only the United States and New Zealand have less.

Such statistics are a national disgrace.

For too long, Ottawa has failed to tackle this issue with any real enthusiasm and the current hodgepodge of underfunded programs have only made a small dint in our massive housing problem.

Ottawa should take its lead from Britain and develop a similar long-term housing strategy with multi-year funding commitments.

Only then can we ensure all Canadians have a decent place to live. ■

**M**embers of the Calgary Housing Action Initiative are anticipating that a planned demonstration on city hall on September 20 will remind voters to think of affordable housing before casting their ballot. The demonstration is set to mark Homeless Awareness Week and is aimed at voicing a specific list of key recommendations on affordable housing to prospective candidates in the election on October 15.

"We want the candidates that run for city council to know that supporting inclusionary zoning and setting aside a percentage of allocated lands that the city owns for profit and non-profit housing are extremely important to making real progress on the affordable housing crisis," said Grant Neufeld, spokesman for the Calgary Housing Action Initiative.

The concept of inclusionary housing means that city council would pass a municipal law that would require a set percentage of affordable housing projects to be developed in each future Calgary neighborhood that is planned. Additionally, it would require that existing neighborhoods be assessed to improve the amount of affordable housing projects that they have in their community, instead of creating whole communities of low-income housing that are segregated from the rest of Calgary.

The city also owns a significant amount of land within its boundaries that has not been developed yet. The Calgary Housing Action Initiative would like to see city council designate a percentage of this under-utilized land for affordable housing projects. Strangely, even though this land would appear to be available, the designations that are being requested have yet to be implemented.

Perhaps it's that city hall does not yet see the severity of the affordable housing crisis and lacks knowledge or the ability to be a catalyst for significant action? If that's the case, they don't need to look very far to understand that the reality of living in Calgary these days is a bleak one for anyone with a lower income. Our downtown shelters visually tell the story every night. Statistically, a person working full-time at minimum wage can only afford to spend \$324 per month on housing. Yet, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation it costs an average of \$849 per month to rent a one-bedroom apartment in our city. Even with worker shortages and higher wages around Calgary, a \$500 dollar discrepancy between low-income wages and average one-bedroom accommodations is simply much too high.

**S**o what is the city doing? Here are some of the goals listed on the city's website for what it terms to be their Affordable Housing strategy (Note: No document referenced when searching affordable housing strategy on the website has data newer than 2002.)

1. Develop policies and guidelines ensuring that an adequate choice of low to medium income housing is provided in suburban communities shall be developed as part of a



# From Where I Stand

By JON BATEMAN  
For Calgary Street Talk

new comprehensive citywide package of policies on affordable housing. Sustainable Suburbs. Policy. 1995. (H.3.)

2. Encourage a more varied social composition in all parts of the city by locating social housing projects in a variety of areas throughout the city. These housing projects should be small scale in nature. The Calgary Plan. 1998. (2-3.2.2C)
3. Encourage the provision of an adequate supply of rental accommodation for different socio-economic groups in all parts of the city. The Calgary Plan. 1998. (2-3.2.2D)

Facilitate the provision of shelter within the municipal jurisdiction through a variety of means including:

1. Maintaining a working relationship with Provincial housing officials who control funds for social housing projects.
2. Encouraging the establishment of public, private and joint rehabilitation projects, where appropriate.
3. Establishing links with special needs groups working towards housing solutions for low income families, urban natives, persons with disabilities and the hard to house.

As you can see, the goals are positive but vague without any forms of measurement to monitor implementation and success rates. The city's goals, outdated as they are, don't seem to go far enough to address the fact that affordable housing is now more than just a problem, it's a crisis. Calgary's growth has occurred at such an alarming rate, that it appears safe to say that city council and really all three levels of government were caught unprepared in dealing with the social implications of such unprecedented growth.

The economic surpluses for private business and the government over previous years are obvious, but these same groups that have been recipients of such great financial benefit need an education on why social welfare is equally important. Communities like Calgary can't be healthy and even as economically productive without the social needs of its people being safeguarded. Calgarians are slowly getting the message. Recently, a Calgary Herald survey showed that 78 percent of people polled in the city supported the concept of rent controls. For a city with an entrepreneurial history and a political inclination toward free marketed, right-wing politics, this is a big step forward and a very telling statistic that the minds of Calgarians are changing in regard to a growing social issue like affordable housing.

**I**t's more than just a problem for those that are homeless. Affordable housing is seriously affecting students, single-parent families and those working for lower than average incomes. But, it's also a problem that is within the power of government and private business to help solve. Let's hope that a demonstration like the one planned by the Calgary Housing Action Initiative and others like it during Homeless Awareness Week will help bring home the message that the affordable housing crisis in this city is simply unacceptable. ■



By **TIM WILD**  
For Calgary Street Talk

Thirty years ago, during the throes of an economic crisis, Enrico Berlinguer, the leader of the Italian Communist Party [PCI] suggested that workers and unions adopt austerity measures in their wage demands to help curb the crippling pressures of inflation. By itself this was hardly earth shattering. Wage and price controls were implemented by numerous right-wing governments throughout the period, including the

# Red, green and social justice

Liberal Party of Canada which had previously campaigned against them. Berlinguer also argued that the weight of economic retrenchment should not be borne by workers alone, and by making immediate concessions to the dictates of the market there should be some provision of long-term social benefits to the working class. Once again, other left-wing politicians and union leaders had advocated this aspect of the quid pro quo of industrial relations.

What was unique about Berlinguer's suggestion, however, was that he argued it be linked to a fundamental reconsideration of the dominant values of society, and that it be used as a means to ensure environmental sustainability, develop solidarity with developing nations which had not yet reached western levels of economic development, and provide for a transformative expansion of social justice. Needless to say, Berlinguer's ideas, despite being vision-

ary, were not adopted . . . and the environmental crisis continues apace.

Still, many are finally waking up to the manifest environmental danger and are offering tentative suggestions to respond to the seemingly incontestable facts regarding the degradation of Earth. Indeed, the band Coldplay, Al Gore and even Charles Windsor are buying forests and planting trees in an effort to become "carbon neutral." Essentially, they are paying others to cover their environmental impact; just as during the American Civil War rich people could pay for poorer people to take their place in the various line regiments. I'm sure Chris, Al and Charles are certainly well meaning in their actions. However, as Michelle Langlois bluntly suggests in Rabble news, "carbon-neutrality may be the environmentalist-chic flavour of the week, but it is not environmental justice. It is eco-capitalism, and it is not going to save the planet."

Additionally, as argued by both Langlois and Carol Goar in May's Street Talk there is a clear class bias in terms of the assumptions of mainstream environmentalism. For example, Goar locates the origin of the current and faddish environmental debate within the context of "middle class guilt", and indicates that this approach will result in policies, programs and, perhaps most importantly, a moral consumer culture that will have a negative - and greater - impact on working class Canadians. She is right. People on limited and fixed-incomes have less room to maneuver in their daily economic "options", and have considerably less ethical space in terms of their ongoing choices as "consumers", currently the preferred approach to dealing with the environmental crisis.

A person receiving the disgraceful amount of \$402 per month on social

■ see ... RED, GREEN on page 15

ON OCTOBER 15  
RE-ELECT

## Alderman Druh Farrell

for Ward 7

283-3770

[www.druhfarrell.com](http://www.druhfarrell.com)

Vision

Values

Voice



# TEEN S *learn* social justice FIRST HAND

By SUSAN FROELICH  
For Calgary Street Talk

Teenagers who have always wondered what street life would be like had the opportunity to find out this past summer.

Throughout the summer, for three days and four nights, high school and junior high school kids from all over North America were exposed to street culture at the Mustard Seed. The summer program called Demo Crew is designed to educate youth and young adults on issues surrounding homelessness, poverty and social justice.

The kids sleep in sleeping bags at the First Baptist Church and are at the Mustard Seed by 7:30 am. Their first exposure to the Mustard Seed is standing

in line with the guests for a meal.

Lee Goodman, one of the Demo Crew leaders, said: "Usually they are uncomfortable doing that but it is a good introduction." Standing in line helps the teens identify with what it is like to actually be homeless.

Cara, one of the participants (her last name is not used for safety reasons because she is under 18), said the experience helped her realize how fortunate she is in her life. She said: "I've learned that I am actually very selfish. I didn't think that I was but now I know that I am."

Participants go through a number of workshops as well, on topics such as addiction and prostitution. One of the favorite activities they do is outreach for an afternoon.

The kids load backpacks full of things like juice boxes, granola bars and chocolate bars and head out to the river or to city parks and hand the goodies out to homeless people.

Goodman says the treats make it easier for the students to start conversations with people living out on the street. "The point of outreach is to make a connection. It's also to open the student's eyes to homelessness and how people are living in poverty and things like that."

Goodman says the activity is quite successful. "People the students stop and talk to quite often give their stories freely. When you show kindness and you are offering them something it opens up an opportunity to get to know their name and say, Without being disrespectful, why are you living by the river. What

is your story?"

"They don't take it as being disrespectful; they genuinely know that the students are concerned."

Another activity the kids participate in is called Hit the Streets in which the students are sent out bottle picking for 45 minutes. They are divided into groups of six and each person is given a garbage bag and a set of heavy construction gloves. The goal is to collect \$2.50 worth of cans and bottles. After they have collected all they can, they bring their bottles back to the Mustard Seed and instead of cash, they receive gift certificates they can give to whichever guests they would like.

Goodman says this exercise is "to show how hard it is to make money bottle picking. It's a chance for them to live in someone else's shoes for a bit, and it teaches them that many people bottle pick because of mental and physical disabilities and they must resort to such jobs."

Chris is 15 years old and came from a small town in Northern Alberta to participate. He says, "I enjoyed hearing and seeing the peoples' lives and journeys. I never thought they went through all of that. I thought they were lazy and didn't try hard but it's because all of the abuse, peer pressure and some don't have families like we do. It broke the stereotypes for me - I thought they were just lazy. People need to take this course because it is amazing."

When asked how the program is designed to motivate students beyond their comfort zones and have them reach out and get to know SEED guests, Goodman says, "With every activity that they do, we try to involve guests with that. So if it is cleaning the main floor they are cleaning with guests. A lot of the time, it is guests who are telling them what to do when it come to working on the clean up crew. Usually it's the guests that make it easy for them. They will do forums and are very open to share their stories. They like to give back to the Mustard Seed and to the students who are serving them." ■

*(Susan Froelich is a staff member of the Mustard Seed Street Ministry and regular contributor to Calgary Street Talk.)*



Two Demo Crew members at work.

Photo supplied by Mustard Seed

# Homelessness . . .

## There are many answers to a complex question

By JENNIFER SCULLION

After I disclose to people that I work at the Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre, I am often asked, "What is the major cause of homelessness?" I believe that homelessness is not an individual issue, it is a societal matter that needs to be addressed accordingly. People become homeless when all of the theoretical safety nets that are in place have failed. People end up residing in a homeless shelter or on the streets with no physical shelter because all other agencies, government bodies, institutions, and personal connections have failed.

Homelessness is so much more than just not having a place to reside. Our clientele at the Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre have many obstacles and barriers to overcome such as poverty, mental health, childhood trauma, abuse, domestic violence, addictions, physical disabilities, isolation, neglect, disease, and issues associated with aging (to name a few). Not only do the client population which we serve need to attend to some of the before mentioned underlying issues; they also have to contend with the societal biases that have been placed due to being labeled "homeless."

There are so many exceptional stories that I could submit regarding the client population at the Drop-In. I am well aware that although I have the title of a counsellor within the agency, I am in no way singular from the other staff members that clients entrust to share their incredible stories with. I have decided to write this particular article in light of the recent publicity our clientele, location and agency is receiving. As everyone is aware there was an increase in reported acts of violence in and around our centre in August. A number of these incidents have ended in death.

I would like to address a headline I read in early August in the Calgary Sun, it stated: "Drug addict assaulted, killed" and dealt with the murder of a woman in the Ramsay area.

What does that bring to mind I ask? Both personally and professionally I am enraged. How long are we going to idly stand by as a society and watch these vulnerable people not only be marginalized

but also murdered? I am appalled and disgusted with the human race in that on a continual basis we perpetuate human biases at every given opportunity. Not only in life but also in death our clients are judged on the fact that they live outside of what society deems as "normal."

We have heard that prostitution is the oldest profession; moreover, it is viewed as being immoral and some type of character flaw for both the men and

woman that work within this high-risk profession. If it is such a well-known fact that the sex trade is a dangerous, undesirable profession, then why is it that we are doing nothing to protect the individuals engaged in this subculture? Oh my mistake, we take away the Johns' cars and send them to John school. Yes, the Johns that are exploiting our children and abusing the sex trade workers should be arrested.

But what about the sex trade workers?

Have they ever been given a voice or an opportunity to speak to the larger community? Has anyone asked them what they want and how they feel?

NO!

They are a statistic.

They are ostracized by society.

The majority of men and women involved in the sex trade are there to survive. Some do not have the skills or experience to work in a minimum wage job. Some are trying to put food on their children's plate. Some are running away from the childhood abuse and trauma they have suffered by the people that were supposed to protect them. Many are supporting an addiction that takes precedence over all else. I believe that the apprehension of the "Johns'" vehicles is society's way to clean up the sex trade workers and put them a little closer to danger. The police force seizes a John's vehicle and then auctions them off to private citizens. Where is the money being distributed that is made through these seizures and auctions? Is it being allocated to set up programs that are going to help the individuals involved in the sex trade?

We all know the answer.

By no means is this going to stop the sex trade workers from going to the stroll, nor is it going to stop the pimps from living off the avails or Johns from picking up the workers.

The men and women involved in the sex trade just won't be turning tricks in cars any longer.

They will be forced to turn tricks in back alleys and private dwellings which in turn will increase their risk of being raped, beaten or killed.

Will their screams be heard?

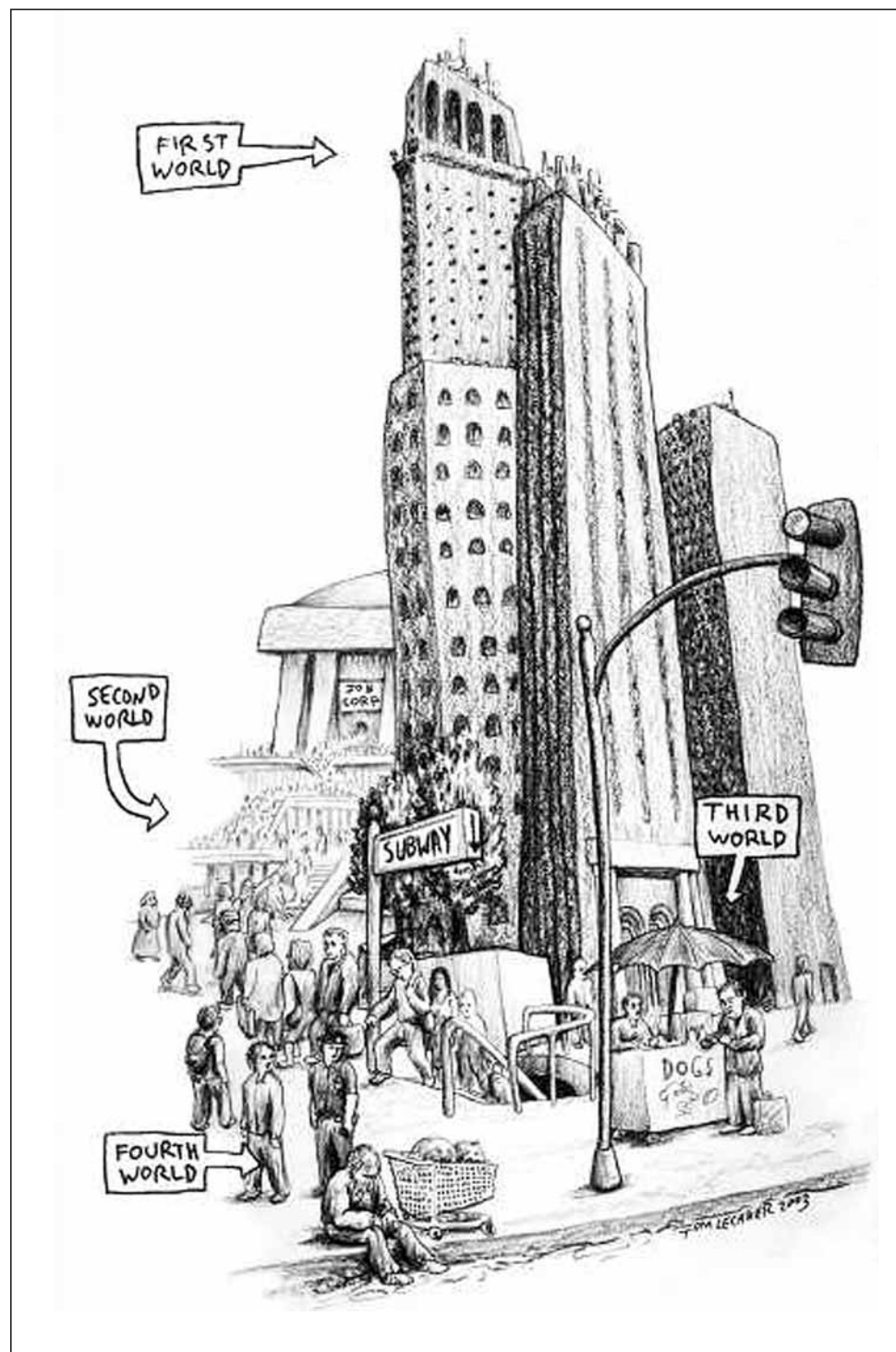
Will anyone care?

Will anyone come to his or her aid?

I think we know the answer.

Sorry if I come off sounding facetious; however, I am disgusted with all of these band-aid solutions. What is it going to take until we, as human beings, are able to display empathy to these individuals? ■

*(Jennifer Scullion is a counsellor at the Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre.)*



# Parents support LEARNING about *homelessness*

Photo and Story  
By PAUL DROHAN  
Calgary Street Talk

Homelessness isn't a subject that Grade 3 students usually study in school. But it became part of every subject for Grade 3 students at Sundance Elementary School last year and three mothers say their children are better citizens of their community because of it.

Two Grade 3 classes from Sundance came to the inner city last November to visit the Wildlands in Inglewood. They spotted what they later learned was a homeless camp. Their curiosity, which was encouraged by teacher Shelly Pynoo, led to a variety of learning experiences and a decision to help the homeless.

The children researched homelessness through local news media, the Internet, and early on contacted CUPS Community Health Centre for information. CUPS has a variety of programs to help those living in poverty. Eighty students from four Grade 3 classes visited CUPS in January. CUPS staff also spoke in the classroom and at an assembly.

Homelessness was also used as a learning tool in a variety of subjects including English, art, social studies, and mathematics.

Students in Pynoo's class wrote essays about what they had learned.

"We learned that homeless people are just like us but just having a bit of bad luck," wrote Vicky in her essay.

A sampling of other comments includes: "Kids have power! They can make a difference and so can you!" stated William.

"Because I did not know about homeless people I did not really care about them. . . I saw how poor and unfortunate they are. I wanted them to have a better life," wrote Krystal.

A selection of essays and some art work is presented on Pages 9 to 11.

A number of students wrote that they wanted to do something to help. The students raised \$2,600 from a bake sale at Christmas and book sale at Easter. They ended their school year in June with a donation of bottled water, sunscreen, toiletries in small containers, sun glasses and other items use for people living in shelters.

Janice Ridd had two children in Grade 3 and said both "definitely have a better understanding now of what they saw . . . I don't think they understood at the begin-

ning." She was one of the parents who went on the trip and also saw the camp outside the Inglewood Wildlands last November.

"I think it has been very valuable experience . . . definitely from learning about life in Calgary . . . and seeing what their money can do towards helping."

Ridd said that one of her daughters, Makenzy, was excited about supporting the bake sale which raised over \$1,600 and when she toured CUPS was able to see how donations help various programs.

Brittany, the other daughter, was impressed with one demonstration during the CUPS tour. A variety of necessities including clothing, blanket, toiletries, food etc. is laid out on a table. There is a lot more than what would fit in a backpack. Students are asked what they would select.

"Brittany couldn't believe that's all they have for the day. I explained to her that she has a nice home and food and everything else. I don't think they understood how some people live until they experienced it in a way by going to CUPS and seeing it."

The children also learned how drugs and alcohol abuse can change a person's life. "They also learned that you can turn a negative to a positive with help."

Learning about homelessness and being separated from family also helped the Ridd family make a decision to move back to Ontario so that they could be closer to their family.

"It really hit home, too. We have no family out here . . . really feel the pressure of struggling on your own," she said. Ridd and her four children were involved in an automobile accident in April. "Luckily my husband wasn't in the car and he could care for the kids while I was in hospital." That experience brought home the value of family support, she said.

Virginia Myles accompanied her son, Morgan, on the field trip and supported the children's decision to "do something"

She also saw this as a chance to teach her older children, who are 10 and 13, some personal values. She said they became a lot more aware of homelessness in Calgary.

"I am really proud of them all. They worked so hard for the bake sale and the same for the book sale. They were all there helping sort books . . . they were great."

Mary Jane Henry wasn't on the field trip but said her daughter Jennifer became very interested in learning more about homelessness and wanted to help people.



Shelly Pynoo with her Grade 3 students

"She was surprised that there were people who lived on the street or were homeless because where we live she doesn't see that," Henry said.

Mike Harvey, the CUPS Outreach coordinator, spoke to Jennifer's class and left quite an impression on Jennifer, Henry said.

"Harvey told a story about someone's life and said that some really sad things had happened to them. Jennifer was happy that people at CUPS helped them with clean clothes, food and foam mattresses and blanket for weekend. Jennifer was also really impressed with the health clinics at CUPS," Henry said.

Jennifer is interested in arts and crafts and was happy to see that there are arts and crafts for kids at CUPS.

Henry said that younger children are often sheltered from some of the harsher realities of life. "Up to Grade 3 they are really kind of protected even in the stories they read in school. But in Grade 3 they start to read novels and start to be more aware of the world."

The bake and book sales gave children an opportunity to become involved.

"Jennifer was really motivated to find books around our house that she was finished with. The kids were really involved because they could really participate by

bringing books from home, sorting them at school and then displaying them. They were involved at each stage."

There were a lot of discussions at home about what life was like for other people throughout the world, Henry said. "We have been very privileged and that could easily be us," Henry said. "I also explained to her that a lot of the homeless suffer from mental illness."

Henry said she was able to show her daughter that it is important to be generous and help others who are less fortunate.

Her daughter's participation didn't really surprise Henry.

"At her age she is starting to be aware and they are very compassionate. They have really been working on the theme of respect at the school this year. Respect not only for their classmates but for people in the larger community."

"So I think that was all part of her experience this year . . . and with the vocabulary they are learning they could come home and discuss it."

Henry praised the school and teacher Shelly Pynoo in particular. "She is really a fantastic teacher, a really motivated person and very caring. She put 100 per cent into it and got everyone else around her to do the same by her example." ■



Students at Sundance Elementary School.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Students in Shelly Pynoo's Grade 3 class at Sundance Elementary School researched homelessness throughout the year. Pynoo incorporated homelessness into the entire curriculum. A selection of their essays and art work is presented on Pages 9 to 11.

## KIDS HAVE POWER!

By Phoenix

At the beginning of Grade 3, I didn't know what homeless were. And since I didn't know, I didn't care. I had no clue people were unfortunate and I had no clue what was going on. Whenever someone said that word I didn't know what it meant. But, I saw this homeless camp near the Inglewood Wildlands. That changed everything! From that day on my class has helped the homeless and we still do! Since we saw the camp we wanted to help! We made a big list of what we wanted to do to help. First we did a bake sale and raised over one thousand six hundred dollars and, since that went so well we decided we wanted to do more. Now we had just finished a book sale and raised another thousand dollars. All that money went toward CUPS. All through we have had one important message and that is: KIDS HAVE POWER! We also know that no matter what age or size ANYONE can help this problem. One side of me feels good because I know I am helping other people. The other side of me feels sad because it is really hard for me to see other people not being cared about or being unappreciated. I know that they are just regular people who are less fortunate. So everybody has got to show respect. And when you are helping, feel good about yourself! ■

## Homeless are people just like you and me

By Hayley

Hello, I'm Hayley from Sundance Elementary School. I never knew anything about the homeless. I didn't even know what a homeless person was. In the second grade I thought they were smelly garbage-eaters. Now I know that they are people like you and me. In fact, now my whole class knows because of a field trip to Inglewood Wildlands. We saw a homeless person's camp. We thought that was a kid's play fort but noticed stuff was getting added and noticed it was a person's camp. So we took ACTION and helped. We helped by doing a bake sale and then we had a book sale. I felt happy that I was helping someone. ■

## I am different person, feel great that I helped

By Madison

At the beginning of Grade 3 I had never even heard the word homeless before in my life. I never heard of that word, so I did not care about them at all. Our class decided to have a bake sale and a book sale. For our bake sale we raised \$1600. For our book sale we raised \$1000. Now I feel like I am a different person. And you can help this problem! Donate money to CUPS. Kids have power!! We know that everyone can make a difference. We tried to tell people that everyone can make a difference, even you. I feel sad to hear about homeless people, but I feel great that I am helping them. Now I care about the homeless a lot. I hope that the homeless people will have a home soon. ■

## Homeless are people who had bad luck

By Ray

When I was in the beginning of Grade 3 I did not know lots about homeless. I just knew that they didn't have homes. It started with our class going on a trip to Inglewood Wildlands. We saw a house that a homeless person lived in. There were boxes and pieces of wood. When we got back to school we decided to form a bake sale. We put posters up in the halls and raised over \$1600. Next time, we made a big book sale. We raised \$1000. We gave all that money to CUPS I learned lots of things this year about homeless. They are just normal people. Those people just had bad luck, that's all. I know all the people in Calgary can help the homeless. ■

## I thought shelter was a child's fort

By Adam

When Grade 3 began I did not know one thing about the homeless until we had a field trip to the Inglewood Wildlands. We saw a shelter for a homeless person. First I thought it was a child's fort but it was only a shelter for a homeless person. I didn't even know it was a shelter because it was very small. Mostly everyone thought it was a child's fort. So, after the field trip we were all talking about it when we got back to school. Then some people started to bring in articles out of the newspaper and put them on our bulletin board. After awhile we had a bake sale. We raised over \$1,600 and then later we had a book sale and raised another \$1,000 and we gave all that money to CUPS It made me feel really good helping the homeless. ■

## Helping people is a good feeling

By Vicky

At the beginning of Grade 3 because I didn't know about homeless people, I didn't really care about them. Then we saw a homeless person's camp outside of Inglewood Wildlands. That changed everything! We decided to help them get a better life. We started by having a bake sale. We raised over \$1,600 and sent it all to CUPS (the Calgary Urban Project Society) because we found out they helped homeless people. After that we had a book sale and raised \$1000 and gave it all to CUPS Now I feel good because we helped a lot of people. We learned that homeless people are just like us but just having a bit of bad luck. We try to tell people that everyone can make a difference – even you! ■

## We saw homelessness and we took ACTION

By Sharee

At the beginning of the year I didn't know what homeless people were. But now that we are learning more about them, we started to take ACTION! We had a bake sale and since that went well, we had a book sale! At the book sale we raised over \$1600 and at the book sale we raised another \$1000 and we donated it to CUPS. ■

# LEARNING about home

## I didn't know about homeless

By Brittany

At the beginning of Grade 3 I did not know that there were homeless people. I even did not know about the word but everything changed when we saw a homeless person was living by the Inglewood Wildlands. We wanted to help so we had a big bake sale and raised over \$1600.00 that we gave to CUPS. So since our bake sale was so good we had a big book sale. We raised another \$1000.00 that we gave to CUPS. Kids have power! We can do anything to change the world. Now that we have learned so much about the homeless people we know that everyone can make a difference – even you! ■

## We should treat homeless with respect

By Gabe

I thought everybody had a home when I was in Grade 2. But now I know that there's people out there that need help and those people are the homeless and they need help so treat them with respect. I know that I can help. You should too. And when I help the homeless I feel really helpful and happy and generous to realize that I'm helping less fortunate people and I'm sad sometimes when I see a homeless person. Do you feel the same or are you just mean? ■



Students learned about the food bank and that not everyone has access to food and water.

## I am happy we helped many homeless people

By Alex

At the beginning of Grade 3 I didn't know what homeless people meant but I have heard of it and I didn't care. One day when we went on a field trip to the Inglewood Wildlands we saw a homeless person so we took action. Then we made a bake sale. We raised over \$1600. We thought that we could do more so we did a book sale and raised \$1000. I feel sad and happy because I don't feel good when I hear homeless people are sleeping in the street and they don't have homes. I'm happy because we could help lots of homeless people by raising money. ■

## I was happy to help someone less fortunate

By Kyle W.

Before we started helping the homeless I didn't even care about homelessness. Then when we started helping the homeless I wanted to get them off the street. So, we made a chart for things to do to help the homeless and raise money. We started with the bake sale and we raised over \$1000. Then was the book sale and we raised exactly \$1000. Then I felt happy that I helped someone less fortunate. ■

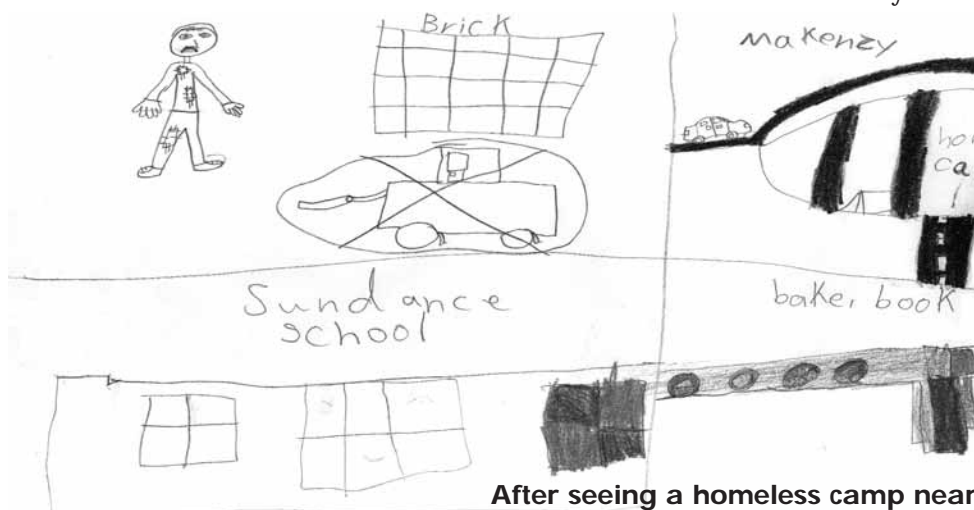


Art Work by Krystal

## We know we can make a difference

By Jaime

In Grade 3 it started when we were on a field trip to Inglewood Wildlands and we saw a homeless home. So when we got back we talked about it and we made a list of how we could help the homeless. We had a bake sale. We raised over \$1600.00. That was a great success so we had a book sale and raised \$1000.00 and we gave the money to CUPS that helps the homeless. We know we can make a difference. Homeless people are just normal people but without a home. ■



After seeing a homeless camp near the Inglewood Wildlands students held a bake sale to raise funds to help the homeless and also researched homelessness.

## I know not to treat homeless like garbage

By Cameron

At the beginning of Grade 3 I did not know anything about the homeless people but I did know the word homeless. Then my class and the other Grade 3 class went to the Inglewood Wildlands and we kept going past a homeless house but I just thought it was a kid's fort but it actually was a homeless shelter. When we got back to school we planned a bake sale and we raised \$1632.99. Then we did a book sale and we exactly raised \$1000. Then we gave all the money to CUPS. Now I know not to treat homeless people like garbage. Now I feel happy to have helped the homeless people. ■

## Seeing homeless camp changed everything

By William

At the beginning of this year I didn't know what homeless meant. Then, we saw a homeless camp at the Inglewood Wildlands. It changed everything. We saw how poor they are. They don't have any food or clean water to drink. So we decided to take ACTION! First we made a list of things we could do to help. The first thing we did was a bake sale. We raised over \$1600.00 that we gave to CUPS. Then we had a book sale and raised \$1000.00. Again, we gave the money to CUPS. Kids have power! They can make a difference and so can you! ■

## I learned that everyone can make a difference

By Kyle E.

At the beginning of Grade 3 I didn't know homeless people even existed. When we went to Inglewood Wildlands I saw a homeless person's camp. At first I thought it was a fort. But, it was a homeless shelter and then we took action. When we got back to school we made a list of things we could do to help. We decided to have a bake sale. We raised over \$1,600 for the homeless. I felt really good. I felt even better when we raised \$1,000 more dollars in a book sale! All the money went to CUPS. This year I learned that homeless people should not be treated badly and that everyone can make a difference. ■

**I am proud of what we all did to help**

By Alyssa

All the stuff that we did to help the homeless I feel proud of. I think that it helped a lot of people. I feel so bad that they don't have a home. I didn't care about homeless people until I saw a little tent that a homeless person was living in. I think that the bake sale and the book sale helped a lot of people. I am proud of what we all did. I think that CUPS helps a lot of homeless people too. I think that there are still too many homeless people. I wish I could do more stuff for them, so I will. I hope the number of homeless people will go down fast. ■

**It's been great experience helping homeless people**

By Makenzy

In the beginning of Grade 3, I didn't know that much about homelessness. I didn't really care about them. I didn't really want to help them at all. Then I went to the Inglewood Wildlands. That changed everything! I decided that it would be good to help out. So we decided that we would do a bake sale. We raised \$1600, and for our book sale we raised \$1000. It feels good to help a homeless person. It's been a great experience with helping the homeless. ■

**Everyone can make difference - even you**

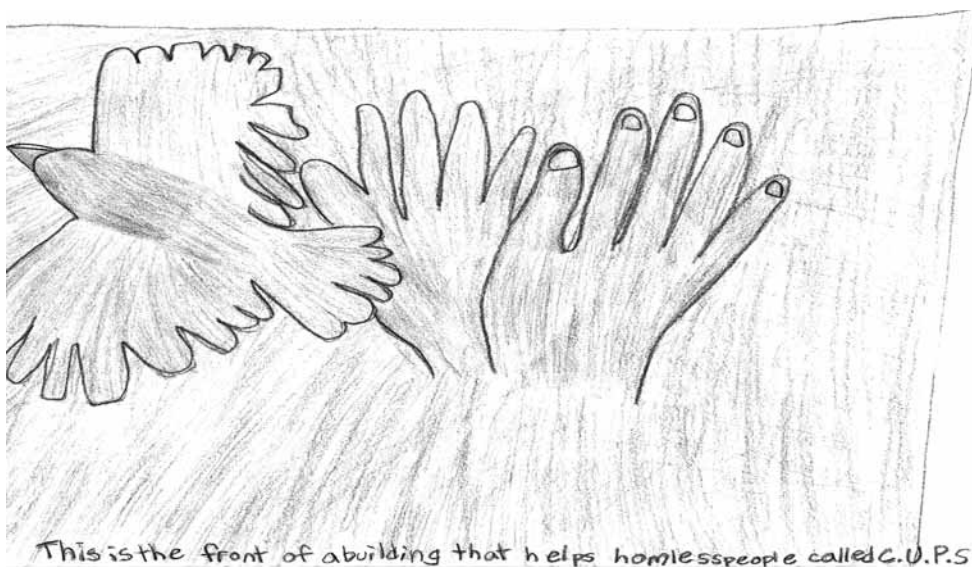
By Khalie

At the beginning of Grade 3 I didn't know about the homeless until I saw a homeless person's home. At first I thought it was a tree fort but in the end I found out that it was a homeless person's home. That's when we decided to take action. First of all we held a gigantic bake sale. We raised over \$1600. Then we held a gigantic book sale and we raised \$1000 which we again donated to CUPS (the Calgary Urban Project Society). I have learned lots more about homelessness this year. I also learned that you don't treat the homeless like garbage. They're normal people just like us, too. Remember everyone can make a difference - even you! ■

**Didn't know, didn't care - now I know; now I care**

By Krystal

At the beginning of Grade 3 I did not know anything about homeless people. Because I did not know about homeless people I did not really care about them. I did not even know what homelessness was. I saw how poor and unfortunate they are. I wanted them to have a better life. Now I have learned so much about homeless people. Now today I know that anyone can make a difference. ■



Art work by Vicky

Students visited CUPS as part of their research into homelessness



## Game Day Sponsors

Each year 10 companies help CUPS Community Health Centre by sponsoring Calgary Stampeder home games. Sponsors each take a home game and agree to contribute \$60 for each point scored by the Stampeders in that game. Some choose to increase their contribution.

CUPS will receive \$10,875 for the five home games played so far this season.

*The 2007 Stampeder game sponsors include:*

- Calgary Stampeder Offensive Line
- Trinidad Drilling
- BMO Bank of Montreal
- Hyatt Regency Calgary
- GLJ Petroleum Consultants
- Apache Canada
- Precision Drilling
- ARC Energy Trust
- Toromont Energy Systems
- Gridiron Rathole Drilling

***CUPS thanks these 10 sponsors for their contributions and also for helping create more awareness of CUPS Community Health Centre and its programs to assist those living in poverty. ■***

## Columnist offers piece of his mind in bid for *peace*



**RON MURDOCK...**  
reporting from  
the streets of  
Calgary

During one of my times when I step back and notice what is really happening in our world, I see that Canada really isn't the peaceful nation it claims to be. I've noticed several "wars" – more

verbal than physical, among many groups in our great nation. When one notices Western Canada versus Central Canada, Native or Aboriginal versus White, English versus French and so on, it makes me wonder why there isn't more civil unrest in the Great White North.

How did things come to this? It seems as if some higher up authorities are enjoying this, using divide and conquer to keep people separated and sniping at each other. Little do we realize that we have more in common than not. It has me wondering how much and how long social conditioning has been used to keep people suspicious of each other. Tribal mentality has done a lot to set up an us versus them mindset. Organized religion and politics are two of the biggest systems in place that separate people into different ideologies. Yet they sound remarkably similar in how they present their material. I never have figured out how arguing or debating anyone into the same viewpoint helps matters. Who in their right mind wants to be an automaton spewing out the party line?

What is needed to counterbalance our state of affairs is to learn how to think as opposed to being told what to think. But try to tell this to the education system. It could cause fainting spells and hand wringing if not more serious medical problems among educators. Part of the solution is to use logic and reasoning to think things through. It's not enough to take someone's word on anything but we should check things out for ourselves. If not, one could be suckered into believing anything that comes down the road. Some are well intentioned, others are little more than snake oil salesman in disguise.

While I believe in the free exchange of ideas, one must develop a skeptical attitude to sift out the bad ones from the good ones. Just think what could happen if everyone raised their level of awareness and left petty squabbling behind. Cultural diversity is a good thing but that aside, we're much the same under the skin. What will it take to break down the artificial boundaries that keep us from seeing this? ■

(Ron Murdock can be reached [doc.ster@hotmail.com](mailto:doc.ster@hotmail.com))

## MIKE'S WISDOM

### *Simplicity* Taken from the book *I am always with you* by Douglas Block.

Compiled by MIKE ABHAR, Vendor #4

The essence of life is simplicity. The great truths of life—love, forgiveness, unity, giving—are simple. Likewise, realized masters and teachers are simple, unpretentious, and childlike.

It is a challenge not to be overwhelmed by the multitude of choices and options that are presented to us each day. The way out lies in focusing on what is truly essential.

Take a moment and ask yourself, "What are those simple activities—spending time with a good friend, taking a walk by the ocean, accomplishing a short-term goal—that bring me true peace and contentment? What steps can I take to reduce the clutter in my life so that I may live simply and joyously?"

As you begin to simplify your life, you will discover a new joy and freedom. It truly is a gift to be simple.

'Tis a gift to be simple, 'Tis a gift to be free. – *Shaker Hymn*

Teach us delight in simple things, And mirth that has no bitter springs. – *Rudyard Kipling*

We are not rich by what we possess but rather by what we can do without. – *Immanuel Kant*

The firm, the enduring, the simple, and the modest are near to virtue. – *Confucius*

Too lazy to be ambitious, I let the world take care of itself. Ten days worth of rice in my bag; a bundle of twigs by the fireplace. Why chatter about delusion and enlightenment? Learning to listen to the night rain on my roof, I sit comfortably, with both legs stretched out. – *Ryokan*

Knowledge is acquired by daily gain: but the Way is acquired by daily loss. – *Lao-tzu*

Besides the noble art of getting things done, there is the noble art of leaving things undone.

The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of nonessentials. – *Lin Yutang*

The greatest truths are simple – and so are the greatest men. – *Chinese Proverb*

Less is more. – *Robert Browning*

Live simply that others may simply live. – *Anonymous* ■

## Got Questions?

*211 is a three-digit telephone number that connects you to a full range of community, social and government services information in Calgary.*

*211 is free, confidential and multilingual.*

*Trained Information & Referral Specialists answer 211 calls. They link you to the best available information and services.*

## Get Answers.

*Dial 211 to Get Connected to the Community Services You Need.*

[www.211calgary.ca](http://www.211calgary.ca)

Design credit: The Support Network, Edmonton



Got Questions? Get Answers.  
Dial 211 to Get Connected to the  
Community Services You Need.



**Distress Centre**  
Helping People in Crisis



**United Way**  
of Calgary and Area



THE CITY OF  
**CALGARY**



# Vibrant COMMUNITIES Calgary

BY CONNIE JOHNSON

## Only one in five Calgarians voted in the last city election:

## WILL YOU BE VOTING in the next city election on October 15?

Fewer people vote in municipal elections than provincial or federal elections, and yet our municipal governments have a greater impact on our daily lives than the other two levels of government.

Between 1961 and 1999, according to the Pembina Institute, 70 per cent of eligible Albertan voters participated in federal elections, 59 per cent participated in provincial elections, and 41 per cent of eligible Calgarians voted in municipal elections.

**Voter turnout in Calgary's 2004 General Municipal Election was less than 20 per cent, an abysmal rate.**

Most people seem to agree that we have a responsibility to vote in federal and provincial elections, but fewer people can explain why we should vote in municipal elections.

Here are five good reasons to vote in the October 15 municipal election in Calgary:

1. Your physical and mental health largely depends on who gets elected. Your ability to participate in recreational activities, such as skating, swimming, and visiting the public library is

dependent on the affordability of user fees, which are decided upon by local authorities. Ambulance and many other community health services are also provided by municipalities.

2. Many affordable housing solutions fall under municipal jurisdictions. The municipal government largely determines residential zoning regulations, including, for example, whether or not homeowners can build secondary suites, a proven strategy to increase rental accommodation, lower mortgage costs, and increase property value.

3. Your safety and security depends, in part, on local politicians. The level of police and fire services offered, for example, is decided upon by the municipal government;

4. Many environmental considerations fall under local jurisdictions. Whether or not our children's parks are sprayed with unnecessary pesticides, for example, is decided upon by local politicians.

5. Most importantly, every vote counts! Aldermen Helene Larocque attracted 21 per cent of Ward 3's vote in the 2004 election, beating her nearest

challenger by one per cent of the vote, and the third leading candidate by two per cent of the vote.

In addition to the above mentioned reasons, you should vote in the October 15 municipal election because it is your right and responsibility to protect both your individual and your community's self-interest. The mayor, aldermen, and public and separate school trustees are elected by citizens to communicate our interests, and without our support, they may serve the interests of a vocal minority, rather than the greater public good.

So, get out and vote!

The list of candidates running for civic office will be available at 1 p.m. on September 17 at the city clerk's office at city hall and at the Election and Information Services Office at 1103 - 55 Avenue N.E. Their telephone number is (403) 221-3850. This list is official at noon on September 18 following the 24-hour withdrawal period.

Unlike provincial and federal elections, people running for municipal office do not represent, or belong to, a political party. Each candidate develops his or her own political platform, and so

it is important to call their campaign office, or visit the candidates' website, to learn more about the candidates' political position. Please call or visit The City of Calgary's Election and Information Services website for more information on the availability of candidate websites and campaign offices.

Information on Wards, voting stations, advance polls, new voter identification requirements, and names of candidates will also be available online after September 17 at The City of Calgary's website, [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca), and on Vibrant Communities Calgary website: [www.vibrantcalgary.com](http://www.vibrantcalgary.com).

We are only provided the opportunity to vote in municipal general elections every three years. As such, it is important to take advantage of these opportunities as they become available. Educate yourself, and vote! Polling stations are open on October 15 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. ■

*(Connie Johnson is Interim Director of Vibrant Communities Calgary, a local non-profit poverty-reduction organization. For more information about Vibrant Communities Calgary please visit [www.vibrantcalgary.com](http://www.vibrantcalgary.com)).*

## If you drink, that's your business.

# If you want to STOP, that's ours.

CALL ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Office: #2, 4015 - 1st St. S. E. , Calgary

# 777-1212

# ROB'S CORNER

By ROB CHAMPION,  
Vendor #68

**ROB'S FIRST SAY OF THE DAY:** Everything is not so perfect in a so-called perfect world.

**QUESTION OF THE DAY:** What is an acceptable number of homeless people before it is becomes a crisis? Currently it is about 3,500 and growing. So when exactly does it become a major problem in the eyes of the powers-that-be – since it doesn't appear to be already?

**UNKINDEST CUTS:** When the government cuts funding to affordable housing, homecare, daycare, health care, welfare and raises taxes on tobacco and alcohol it only hurts those who can least afford it. You can't be a productive member of society if life's basic needs aren't satisfied. Not every one is on the higher end of the economic scale and able to enjoy the Alberta Advantage.

**ROB'S SECOND SAY OF THE DAY:** Sometimes when you think you have solved one problem or when you feel you have solved a problem, you may have created another. Of course, if the problem is not dealt with it can

grow into something much worse. You can ignore a problem. You can point fingers and blame somebody else. You can pretend that there is no problem – that it is only a figment of your imagination. You can say, think or feel all of that but that doesn't mean the problem will disappear.

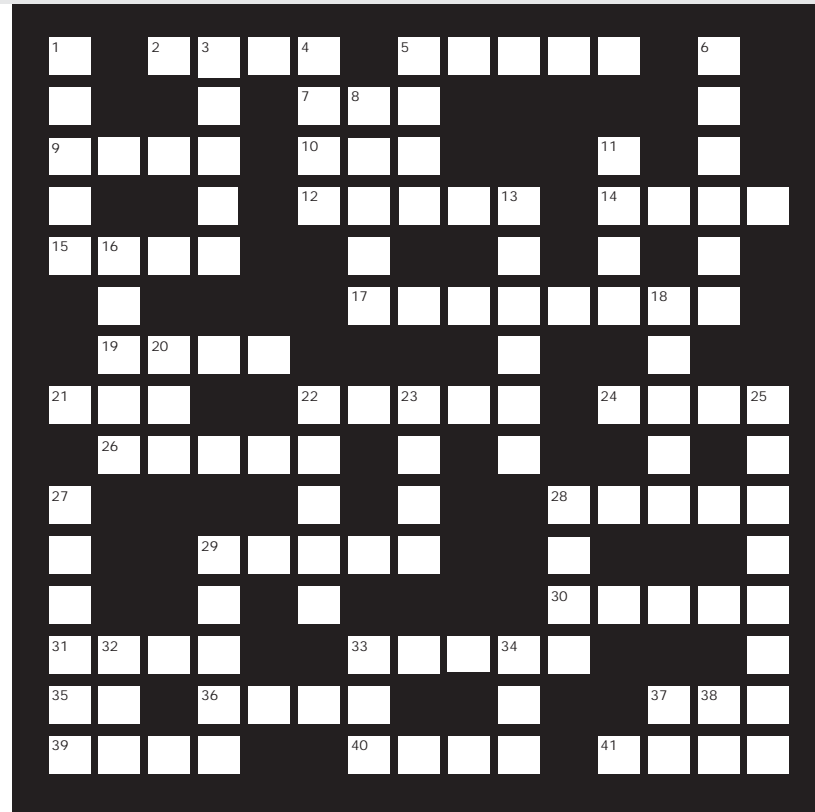
**SCARY MOMENTS TO REMEMBER:** Your very first phone call to a girl or guy. Your first time holding hands. Your very first date. That first kiss. Your first car. Your first trip on your own and all those other firsts.

**GOING GREEN:** Walk, cycle, roller blade, run, park your car, ride transit, compost, recycle, reuse. These are some of the things you can do to help the environment.

**ROB'S THIRD SAY OF THE DAY:** Be kind to others. They deserve it. You would expect no less from them.

**ROB'S LAST WORD:** Hope you all had a great, fun-filled, injury-free summer. Thanks for all of your support. Thanks for your continuing support. ■

# PETE'S SCRABBLE CROSSWORD



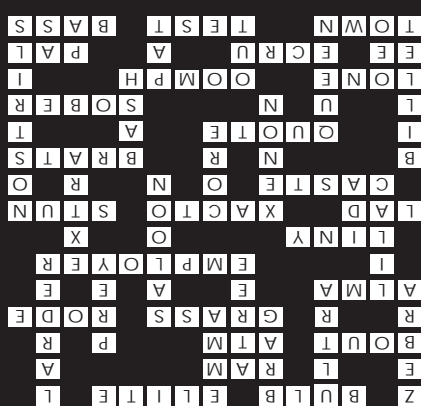
## ACROSS

2. Future tulip
5. Cream of society
7. Male sheep
9. Ring event
10. Bank machine
12. Lawn stuff
14. Went by car
15. \_\_\_\_\_ mater
17. Da boss
19. Pocket fluff
21. Small boy
22. Utility knife
24. Awe
26. Social station
28. Siblings often
29. Cite
30. Not drunk
31. Solo
33. Pizzaz
35. Printers measure
36. Hosiery shade
37. Chum
39. Large village
40. Exam
41. Lake fish

## DOWN

3. To the max
4. Toot your horn
5. Jane Austen novel
6. Pantry
8. \_\_\_\_\_ grows in Brooklyn
11. Hawk's dinner
13. Old west pub
16. Fragrant bush
18. Bonus
20. Actress Lupino
22. Rare gas
23. Apple center
25. Nose holes
27. Temporary accommodation
28. Huge party
29. Mama bee
32. Lennon's love
33. Not at home
34. A way to stand
37. Ma's mate
38. Easy \_\_\_\_\_ pie

## September Solution



## PETE'S THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

*Evil thrives when good people do nothing.*



**KATHY HOUSTON ...**  
the story teller

# Andrew's gift

It was summer and the sun was shining, but some children were feeling sad and lonely for whatever reason. Sometimes they feel like this on other holidays too. When this happens they sit at home and feel sorry for themselves. But not Andrew.

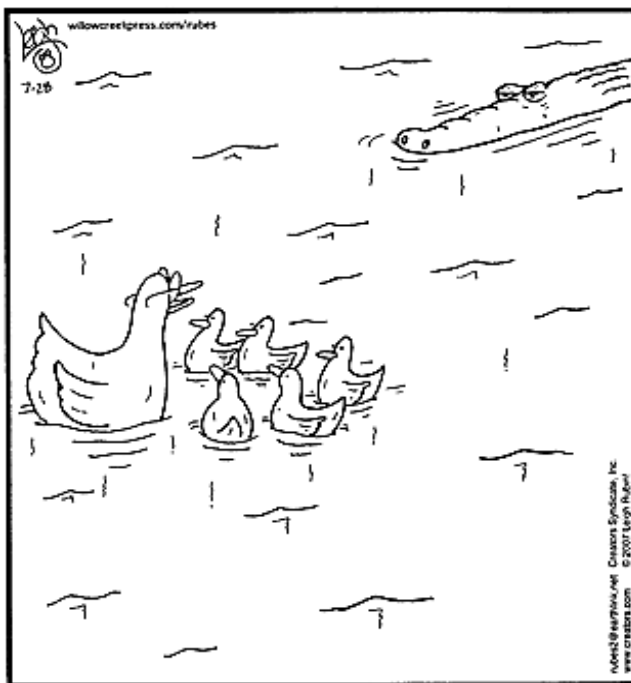
Every time Andrew gets a moment, he's outside playing soccer. Even if there's no one else to play with him, he practises kicking the ball or aiming it at a pretend goal. When there are other children outside, they all play soccer together.

Andrew has inspired me to look inside myself when I'm feeling down in the dumps, bored and with doing nothing. I get up and do something, anything, no matter how trivial it seems to be. Whether you have mental or physical challenges, you can always find something to amuse yourself like walking round your building or an activity that gets you moving and not thinking about yourself.

I find when I do this, the world looks like a better place and even other people around you seem happier. Andrew, who is only seven and who loves his soccer so much, has given me a very precious gift. Now it's time for me to give it to pass it on to you. Good luck! ■



For as long as he could dream, man has always dreamt of the joys of flight.

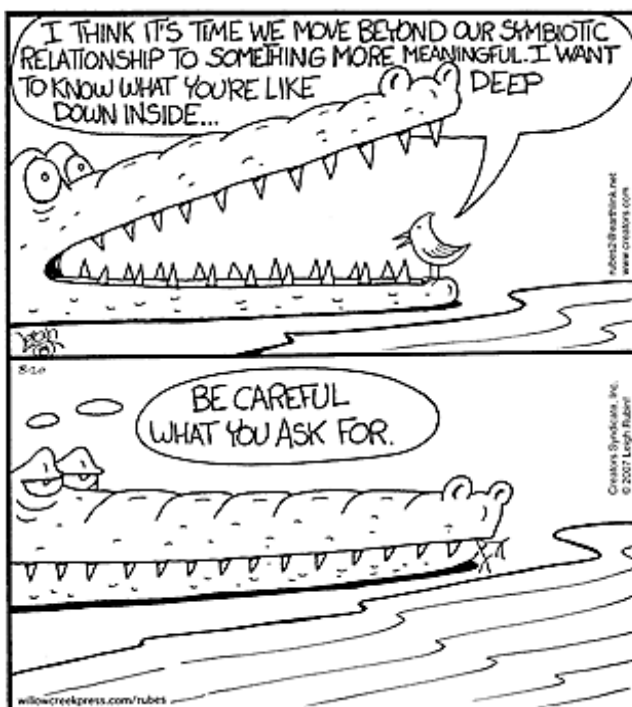


"OK, class, today's lesson will deal with the practical application of the concept of survival of the fittest."



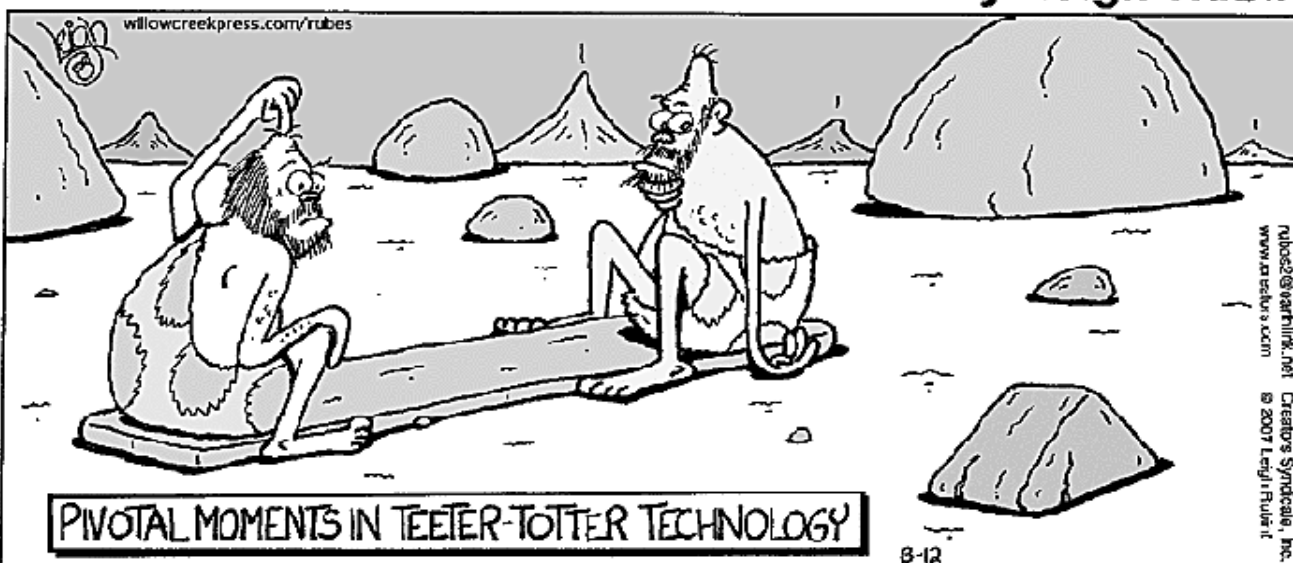
"Oh, man, you won't believe this ... The view from up here is to die for!"

The comic feature Rubes is sponsored by  
**STONEBRIDGE MERCHANT CAPITAL CORP.**



**RUBES®**

By Leigh Rubin



PIVOTAL MOMENTS IN TEETER-TOTTER TECHNOLOGY

# Red, green and social justice

■ continued from page 5

assistance can't usually pay for trees to be planted, and may also have to buy socks at Wal-Mart as opposed to shopping at the ethically and environmentally purer options of, say, Ten Thousand Villages. Goar is correct – the current approach to dealing with the environment will place an unfair burden on lower-income Canadians. We can't all afford to buy hybrid cars, purchase organic fruit as a matter of course or go on eco-tours. Economically marginalized people have less fat to trim. However, as with all manifestations of the guilt that accompanies the periodic crises of capitalism, ultimately it is the working classes who pay the price.

Carbon credits aside, there seems to be an unwillingness to truly address the root causes of our environmental crisis, and recognize the fact that it is firmly embedded in the current economic model of ever expanding production

and consumption. Until we realize this, and act accordingly, we will be merely tinkering around the edges of social and environmental injustice, and postponing the inevitable termination of our tenure on this planet.

Now this relationship of the environment, social justice and economics is obviously not a new idea. But there needs to be greater consideration as to the actual blend of the above factors. As noted by Andrew Dobson in Green Political Thought, environmentalism as a political initiative can find a home in just about any party – left, right and centre. The environment is considered as one of numerous competing values in terms of the pluralist market of policy development. The waxing and waning of environmental interest is firm evidence of this.

Ecologism, on the other hand, is a more explicitly deep green political

standpoint, and places the numerous ecological interactions at the very centre of policy development, hegemonic discourse and social practice. This has implications for political decisions, and necessarily leads to a very questioning of our models and aspirations of production and consumption. As such, ecologism explicitly blends justice and the environment.

Obviously, such an approach will have an impact on our lifestyles regardless of our objective class position. However, from an ecological standpoint this is not a bad thing. Indeed it is necessary. Furthermore, this privileging of the environment over economics can have tremendous implications in terms of social justice, and perhaps marks the last best hope for the political left. It will also result in the creation of a society where the centrality of the work-income nexus is removed, and people currently

on the economic margins of society can become mainstream participants in a more rational, planned, just and humane society.

We can have social justice, an expansion of options for working class people, policy initiatives that respond to people not economics, and a healthy environment – and the current attention provides a beautiful opportunity to make those links and develop broad based eco-social policy. But this requires greater planning, public engagement, a collective austerity and a broader sense of humanity that goes far beyond the simple dictates of economics. ■

*(Tim Wild is a social worker who is interested in the relationship between public policy and asocial justice. His column appears each month.)*



# COFFEE WITH A CAUSE

## COFFEE WITH A CAUSE

Coffee with a Cause is a unique fundraiser will help us raise funds for economically challenged families in Calgary and across the globe.

CUPS has teamed up with Costa Cana Import Inc. for "Coffee with a Cause" – a unique campaign that will raise funds for a new CUPS program for children from pre-natal to 3 years old.

Costa Cana imports their coffee from Costa Rica. They are fair trade compliant, and donate a percentage of all sales back to the local community for social support.

Owned by Bruce Covernton and Greg McGinley, Costa Cana's motto is simple: When you drink San Vito premium coffee you help people in both Canada and Costa Rica – Also when you drink coffee, it may as well taste great. Helping people makes it taste that much better!

As a gift, donation or for your home and office, buy our coffee and help us in the fight against poverty! ■



CUPS Executive Director Carlene Donnelly, left, and Brue Covernton, a co-owner of Costa Cana Coffee Imports Inc., recently launched Coffee with a Cause to raise funds for a new program that would benefit CUPS families such as Cherylyn Bickford, centre, and her children left to right Cole, Wayne and Trinity.

This unique fundraiser will help us raise funds for economically challenged families in Calgary and across the globe. As a gift, donation or for your home and office, buy our coffee and help us in the fight against poverty!

Great Coffee ☿ Great for the Community ☿ Great for the World ☿

**ORDER FORM** (Orders, along with payment, may be faxed to 221-8791 or mailed to the address below)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

District (e.g. Rideau Park) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone – Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Description	Quantity	Price	Amount
Medium Roast	_____	\$220 per 25 lbs	_____
Dark Roast	_____	\$220 per 25 lbs	_____
		<b>Total</b>	_____

**Payment Options:**

Visa or Mastercard Number (Circle One) \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Or cheque payable to: CUPS Community Health Centre  
128 0 7 Ave SE, Calgary, AB T2G 0H5

