

VENDORS PAY 50¢

PER PAPER

ALBERTA Street News

Volume 14

Issue 11

November 2017



Alberta Street News vendor Glen Auger sell papers on Whyte Avenue. Photo by Kaitlyn Carter

ALBERTA STREET NEWS

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**Deadline for December is-
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THE VIEWS
PRESENTED ARE THOSE
OF THE CONTRIBUTORS.

Going forward with Alberta Street News

By Linda Dumont

Alberta Street News is celebrating our 14th anniversary this year. We have faced a number of challenges, but are still in print.

The paid ad on the back cover by the city councillors covered most of the printing cost each month. Other donations have covered the balance. However, for October, due to the election, we could not run the ad, leaving us without money to pay the printer. The future is uncertain.

Thanks to a generous \$500 donation by Cathy Page, the October printing bill was paid, and the November issue sent to the printer. I am confident that we will be able to continue publishing, even if at times it is a month to month situation.

Thank you to all of the regular contributors and those who periodically submit a story, and to our customers who support the vendors out on the streets. And thank you to all of the vendors, who continue to sell even in the cold winter months. It is the vendors that make Alberta Street News a street newspaper rather than a monthly newsletter.

Unfortunately, there have been a few vendors that just were not able to interact appropriately with the public and their association with the paper had to be terminated. There were just too many calls from police and the public regarding their behaviour. We are, however, willing to give another chance if there is evidence of change.



Suspension

We regret Dale Ferris has had to be suspended from selling Alberta Street News until December 1st due to continued complaints about the harassment of customers and threatening other vendors. Vendors are not to ask for money. Papers are sold by donation, and it is up to the buyer to decide how much money to give for a paper.



International
Network of
Street Papers

The Real Junk Food Project feeds the poor

By Joanne Benger

Photo By Linda Dumont

One of the speakers at the Global Street Paper Summit in Manchester, UK was Adam Smith, founder and co-director of The Real Junk Food Project. He has won awards from organizations ranging from the Observer, to NESTA, and AskMen listed him as one of the world's 40 most influential men in 2014.

Adam Smith grew up in England as a dysfunctional child in public care. He emigrated to Australia to find himself and became a successful professional chef. He was constantly shocked to see how much edible food went to waste at wholesale and retail levels.

He returned to England and founded The Real Junk Food Project, which now has cafes in more than one hundred countries ranging from South Korea to South Africa and Argentina. Canada has one Real Junk Food Project in Guelph, Ontario.

Smith's cafes have a sign, "Eat at your risk. Pay what you can or not at all."

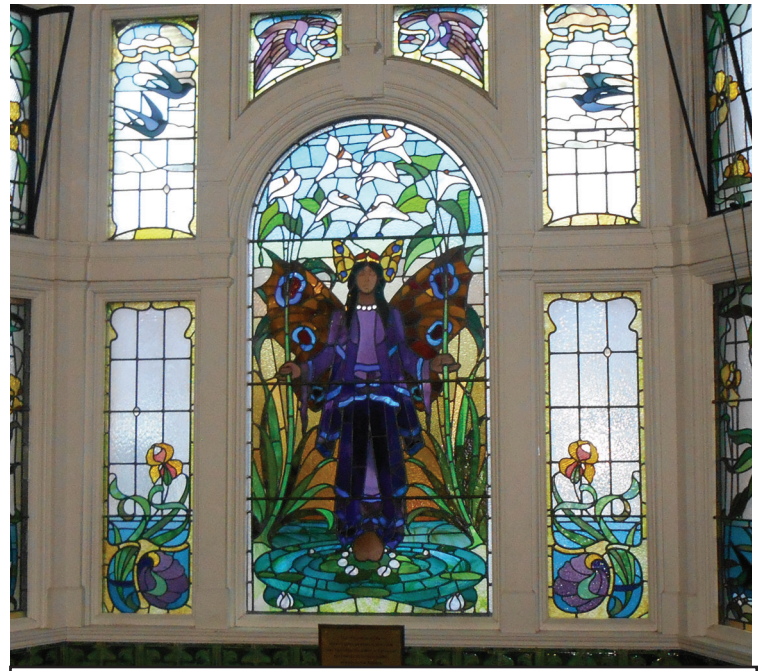
He has been feeding breakfast to 20,000 children in 50 schools in Britain in his "Fuel School" project because he

was concerned that some children were coming to school hungry. During the school holidays he had the United Kingdom's first Waste Food Supermarket with thousands of shoppers.

Smith's motto is, "If past it, donate it." His manifesto is, "Feed bellies, not bins." He ignores best before dates explaining that 60 to 70 years ago, food had no best before dates. Conditions determine how fast food deteriorates and we can determine if food is off or edible by how it looks, smells and tastes. Smith has been arrested for

using food past its best before date but all charges were dropped.

At the Global Street Paper Summit, delegates ate a delicious dinner made up entirely of waste food served by volunteers from The Real Junk Food Project.



Adam Smith and volunteers prepared and served a junk food meal at the Georgia Baths for the summit delegates. Above: a stained glass window at the Georgia Baths.

The Centre for Local Economic Strategies

By Joanne Benger

Neil McInroy is COE of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES), the United Kingdom's leading independent think and do tank. The aim of CLES is to achieve social justice for everyone, everywhere.

At the Global Street Paper Summit in Manchester, McInroy said he sees homelessness as an economic problem. The system is rigged in favour of the large developer and the large producer. There are actual geographic divides in cities with different building materials, infrastructure and greenness. There's

the city for the wealthy and the city for the rest. There are people who are unbelievably rich while the sea of losers just keeps growing. The ten wealthiest men in the world have as much money as the poorest 50% of the world's population.

McInroy says it is not enough to dole out aid. As we have more and more homeless and poor, giving money is not enough. "Keep your coins. We want change," he says. It is not a question of whether change is coming for social and economic justice, but when. Our present economic model is failing

and a change must come.

Economic and social life are two sides of the same coin. CLES believes we must localize, socialize and democratise. The aim is to create an economy where wealth is broadly held with local roots so income is recalculated.

McInroy sees hope for the future in the new Facebook economy. People who are disenfranchised can't get a job and can't get on the ladder, are doing their stuff. He also visualizes cottage industries taking the place of multinationals.

**Make a donation to help keep Alberta Street News in print. Call 780 428-0805
\$642 pays for publication of one issue.**

Reform as resistance

Two men trying to change the Klan from the inside out

By Adam Sennott

Daryl Davis wasn't surprised when he saw white nationalists carrying tiki torches through the streets of Charlottesville, Va., on Aug. 11.

Davis, a Black musician and author, personally knew some of the people who were marching. He said the removal of a statue of confederate general Robert E. Lee, which supposedly spurred the protests, "had nothing to do with why they were there."

"They were there for one reason and one reason only," Davis said. "They were there to incite the first steps of a race war."

Davis is an expert on supremacists, specifically because he knows so many of them. He has spent nearly 30 years befriending members of the Ku Klux Klan, and convincing them to turn their backs on an organization the Southern Poverty Law Center calls "the most infamous — and oldest — of American hate groups."

Davis, who said about 40 to 60 members have left the group directly because of the friendship they devel-

oped with him, also works with Scott Shepherd, a reformed former Grand Dragon for the Invisible Empire: Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Tennessee. In his work Davis, sheds light on white supremacist organizations and those who join them.

Despite their efforts, the pair sees white supremacist groups using the rhetoric of President Donald Trump and his administration as a foothold to further their own agenda, all while trying to legitimize racism in the public's eye.

"What you're seeing are people coming out from under the rock, from under the carpet, from out of the closet," Davis said. "They've always been here, but now with the new administration in power they feel a little more emboldened to show themselves more."

Protesting the removal of confederate statues gave them perfect cover, Davis said.

"Anytime you're going to have a gathering on public property — especially if it's a protest, march, or a rally,

or maybe you want to sell lemonade and hot dogs — you have to have a permit,... You cannot go to the city and put down on the application 'I want to start a race war,'" Davis said. "So, they put down that they are the decedents of their great, great, great ancestors who fought in the confederacy, and they want to preserve the heritage of the confederacy, and they want to protest the removal of the Robert E. Lee statue."

If the march was actually about the statue and Confederate heritage, Davis said, they would have also invited black and Jewish descendants of Confederate soldiers who also support preserving the statue of Robert E. Lee.

"Instead they excluded them," Davis said. "And they chose to march through the University of Virginia campus with their tiki torches, and down the streets of Charlottesville shouting anti-Semitic and anti-black epithets."

Shepherd, who also worked as an organizer for David Duke's National Association for the Advancement of White People, said he was "blown away" when he saw people marching in the streets unmasked and carrying tiki torches.

"It's more of a dangerous thing now than it was when it was just the Klansmen in the robes and hoods," Shepherd said. "They've reached the point where they feel like their views are accepted by a lot of people in this country." Like Davis, Shepherd said that white supremacy groups are trying to dilute their image in order to appear legitimate and accepted by



the general population.

"They're using the term Alt-Right and they're trying to separate themselves from the well-known or the mainstream white supremacists," Shepherd said. "But the Alt-Right is nothing but a white supremacist movement.

Their goal is to be viewed as "a civic group," Shepherd said.

Trump's response to the violence helped to normalize their image, Shepherd said. He took too long to condemn the action, wasn't specific and wasn't harsh enough.

"And I think that was giving the green light to the white supremacist movement that they be able to do this more and more and get away with it," Shepherd said.

Though Trump did later condemn the violence in harsher terms, Shepherd said, "It was a little bit too late."

Shepherd said that Trump didn't realize when he blamed both sides for the violence that the "good people and fine people that he was talking about" got mixed up in the crowd and started carrying Nazi flags and white supremacist paraphernalia.

"That's where they stopped being fine people," Shepherd said.

Despite efforts to mainstream their image, Shepherd said behind the scenes white supremacists are using racial slurs and support having Black people separated from White people or even sent back to Africa.

"In the background, they're talking about race wars and arming themselves," Shepherd said. "They're really preparing for a violent confrontation." Shepherd said that the Klan is very meticulous when it commits acts of terror. He said an inner circle plans and executes acts of terror — violence, cross burnings or other violence. Those outside the inner circle don't even know who they are, preventing law enforcement from penetrating the wall to find the organizers.

The Klan also promotes a lone wolf system, where supremacists will commit acts of violence on their own,

Shepherd said.

Shepherd said he remembers the 1981 murder of Michael Donald, a 19-year-old Black man who was murdered by a two Klansmen, according to NPR. It was the last recorded lynching in the United States.

The Southern Poverty Law Center later sued the United Klans of America on behalf of Donald's mother, according to the Center's website. The \$7 million judgement bankrupted the organization and forced it to close. At the time, Shepherd said he was a member.

Shepherd quit the white supremacy groups he was involved with in 1990 and said takes "full responsibility" for everything he did.

Shepherd is unique among Davis' friends in that he had already left his life as a white supremacist when they met. Most others have not.

Davis said he first became inter-

ested in meeting members of the Klan when he was 32. He wanted to know how people could hate someone they knew nothing about.

He started by having his secretary set up an interview with Roger Kelly, the Grand Dragon and eventual Imperial Wizard for the state of Maryland, Davis said. She did not tell Kelly that he was meeting with a black man.

Kelly and his bodyguard were stunned when they arrived at a hotel room for their meeting, Davis said.

"They were thinking either they got the wrong room number, knocked on the wrong door or [that] this was an ambush," Davis said.

At the beginning of the interview, Davis said whenever he would reach for his Bible to refute one of Kelly's religious arguments or for a new cassette to record the interview, the bodyguard would reach for his gun.

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November Days

By Joanne Benger

November is upon us. Its abbreviation in No and that about describes it. It is the month of No. No more summer heat, no more flowers, no more leaves, no more shorts and sandals, no more outdoor markets, no more picnics. It is the month of No. Expect snow. It is the month of endings. It is the month of death.

It begins with All Saints Day on November 1st when we remember the good souls, who took the express route of Heaven.

November 2 is All Souls Day when we remember the rest – the mortals like us who lived, sinned and died. They are trudging along through Purgatory, paying for their sins and hoping to eventually get to heaven. It used to be the custom to help them along. Some did with prayer – five Hail Marys and five Our Fathers would pay for the sins of one lost soul so he could fly up to heaven. Some thought it was better to do good works in the name of the dear departed. Every loaf of bread you give to the poor would

enable one soul to fly up to heaven. Give a hundred loaves and you save a hundred souls from purgatory.

People wanted to see the souls they saved so they began having fire-works on All Souls' Day. Fireworks symbolized the rescued souls flying up to heaven.

Then Remember the fifth of November. That is Guy Fawkes Day or Bonfire Night in England when an effigy of Guy Fawkes is carried around and burned on a bonfire as the Gunpowder Plot is remembered.

November 11 is when we remember the dead soldiers who died to keep us safe. Remember to wear a poppy and watch the parade.

Now for some November celebrations. November 3 is Sandwich Day, the birthday of John Montagu, the fourth Earl of Sandwich, who invented the sandwich in 1762 when he ordered a quick meal of sliced meats and cheese between bread.

November 20 is National Child Day. Celebrate it with a child.

November 21 is World Hello Day.



Greet as many people as you can with that wonderful word – Hello. You must say hello to at least ten people.

Then comes American Thanksgiving Day, arriving the fourth Thursday of November which is November 23 this year. The day before is Hob Nob Gobbie Day as they prepare their turkey feast. The day after Thanksgiving is Black Friday when stores finally get into the black with gigantic sales that spill over into Canada. Then comes Cyber Monday when sales continue on line.

For Americans the Christmas season begins with Thanksgiving and the sudden realization that Christmas is only a month away. The Christmas frenzy begins.

The Hardest Fight

By Bevan

Here we are again, Me, myself and I.
An enemy, my truest friend.
Resenting, never relenting. Pressured,
unassured, left behind.
Unsearching, unenergized, No end,
No one on which to depend.

Thoughts instilled, unfilled, heart-
ache, darkness and pain, Insane?
Put down, pushed around, let
down. Treated like a clown!
Motionless struggle, cocooned, un-
deniably...continually gets worse.
Bashed and berated, deflated. Why,
Oh God why? Am I cursed?

Can't eat, can't sleep, blaming,
shaming, continual self attack.
Awake, the new day. Remember
then thoughts are brought back.
Berated and compared, continually

bombarded, absolutely retarded.

No growth, nor hope. Darkness
and solitude, freely imprisoned.
Desire and want, they are powerless,
too. No simple solution or pill.

Words cut! The cold sword's gift.
Rejected, detested; Hope bound.
Absurd, little turd. Nothin' become,
bullied, bashed, broken and torn,
spit and yelled at. Oh, blessing. Nor-
mals don't know what they're miss-

ing!

Splintered and taunted, mistakes
flaunted. Supported? Not, this way.
Uncaring, unhelping words from
ghosts. Reactions, better than most!

It is okay to be right, They are self-
ish, cold and their hearts are pitch.
Cold stone. To be totally honest they
could give two...

The shore, out of sight. Simply
adrift, paddle less ship bobs in night!



Street paper Trivia

By Joanne Benger

In Norway it is no longer proper to call their natives Laplanders. They are now Sami.

Serbia has no word for homelessness.

In Austria, newspaper vendors can't wear uniforms or identifying jackets because it is against the law.

95% of Manchester's homeless have drug issues.

In northern England, only 30 to 40 per cent of street paper vendors are British. 60 to 70 per cent are new immigrants, and migrant vendors.

The best time to post news items on Facebook is 3 p.m.

Emotional posts are most viewed.

"Without shelter people die." A successful campaign by Tim Harris of Real Change, Seattle.

In Australia the government pays homeless people to be guest speakers in schools.

Reform as Resistance

"continued from page 5

Eventually everyone began to relax when Davis said he heard a "strange noise."

Davis said he jumped up from his chair and was ready to leap across the table and tackle Kelly and the bodyguard. "I perceived it to be an ominous, threatening kind of noise," Davis said.

When Davis jumped up from his seat, Kelly's body guard reached for his gun, and the three of them stood there staring at each other, not sure exactly what had happened, Davis said.

It turned out the noise came from a can of soda that had cascaded against melting ice inside a bucket in the hotel room, Davis said.

"We all began laughing at how ignorant we all were," Davis said.

It was "a teaching moment," Davis said. "Ignorance breeds fear."

When the interview ended they agreed to stay in touch, Davis said.

"I began calling him and inviting him to my gigs," Davis said. "And he would go, and he would bring his bodyguard."

Then Davis said he started inviting him to his house, and over time Kelly started coming without his bodyguard.

After Kelly was promoted to Imperial Wizard, Davis said he started getting invited to his house to see his "Klan den."

"He began inviting me to Klan rallies" Davis said. "So I'd go to these Klan rallies and watch them light up this big cross on fire and parade around [and] all that stuff."

As their relationship grew, Davis said Kelly "realized that he'd been wrong, and he quit the Klan."

Then, Davis said, he gave him his robe and hood.

Davis documented their relationship in his book "Klan-destine Relationships: A Black Man's Odyssey in the Ku Klux Klan."

From there Davis went on to meet other members of the Klan and make similar bonds, which culminated in his documentary, "An Accidental Courtesy," in which Shepherd appeared.

Shepherd said he has been working to make amends for his actions.

In March 2013, the Klan was planning to hold a rally in Memphis, and Shepherd reached out to the Imperial Wizard who organized the event and asked him not to come, according to Fox19.

Shepherd said the Klan leader was not happy to hear from him.

"The voice mail was very angry, the language was like bathroom graffiti," Shepherd told the station. "They blocked their numbers, so it's a typical cowardly behavior to hide their numbers and hide behind their masks."

Still, he warned residents not to attend.

"Don't show up, always take it seriously. They're dangerous people. They're dangerous because of their anger," Shepherd said at the time.

He also speaks to classrooms about the dangers of the KKK and other groups.

"That's basically what my mission is," Shepherd said. "To try to prevent these young people from being sucked into that stuff."

In January, Shepherd and Davis participated in a panel at the King Center in Atlanta, Georgia, it was his first time there and he saw an opportunity to go further.

As he sat next to Martin Luther King Jr.'s youngest daughter, Bernice, he apologized for all of the terrible things he'd done.

"In my past I did a lot of terrible things, I said a lot of terrible things about Dr. Martin Luther King," Shepherd said to the audience. "Of course, I had no idea what I was talking about, learned it from other people."

"But there's no excuse, I did it anyway," Shepherd said. "And I extend my apology to everyone."

King described his words as "redeeming."

"What my father sacrificed his life for is what brought this possibility into being," King said.

Davis said that at that moment, he realized his efforts were helping Dr. King's dream come true.

"There we were on the red hills of Georgia, a former KKK leader who was all White supremacy and separating the races, sitting down at the table of brotherhood with the daughter of the man who died, giving his life dreaming to see these very people do just that," Davis said. "It was indeed a very redeeming moment and I was very proud of everyone there."

At the same time, he noted how "shameful it was that a Klansman could apologize to Black people, but the U.S. government will not apologize for slavery."

"We have come a long ways,"

Canadian Cancer Society's CIBC Run for the Cure raises money for breast cancer, programs, services and research

Story and photo by John Zapantis

Terrorists who commit acts of terrorism have been known to wreak havoc, spreading their reach throughout the world. Edmonton was one of the terrorist targets that felt terrorism's wrath for the first time, on September 30th, when a lone wolf terrorist ISIS sympathizer Somalian Nationalist named Abdulahi Hasan Sharif, age 30, decided to ram his car into an EPS police officer Cst. Mike Chernyk while he was conducting traffic control outside Commonwealth Stadium, during an Eskimos football game. He drove into the officer, hurling him 15 feet, then quickly got out of his vehicle and repeatedly stabbed the officer with a knife in the head and body, before made his getaway. Hours later that same terrorist managed to rent a truck and used this vehicle as a moving projectile, speeding down Edmonton's downtown Jasper Avenue, pursued by a caravan of police cars in a high speed chase in which the occupant of the truck ran down four pedestrians, injuring them all.

The following day, Sunday, October 1st, the mayhem from the day before wasn't able to prevent more than 6,000 runners and walkers from fulfilling their mission, helping to raise pledges, while taking on another terrorist known as breast cancer by participating

in the Canadian Cancer Society's CIBC Run for the Cure hosted and organized by the Canadian Cancer Society at the Alberta Legislature Grounds in Edmonton. The fundraising event started off with a morning opening ceremony that took place on a stage. Virgin Radio personalities and MC's Ian MacKinnon and Chelsea Bird hosted the ceremonies, introducing various speakers to the stage to give their greetings as well as breast cancer survivors, who spoke about their issues, while living with the disease.

The speakers included Alberta Health Minister, Sarah Hoffman, who along with some helpers, read cue cards to make a declaration that October is Breast Cancer Month in Alberta. Others who gave their greetings on breast cancer, or who spoke about their struggles with the disease included CIBC District Vice President of Edmonton Southeast Numa Kwan, CIBC General Manager Amanda Comisso, Running Room Founder John Stanton and breast cancer survivor Gwen Nikoluk.

After the completion of the morning ceremony, the CIBC Run for the Cure, commenced at 10:30 a.m., when the runners and walkers ran or walked the five k route, starting from the legislature grounds, along Fortway Road to River Valley Road, up to the Groat Road overpass and then back to the legislature grounds.

The closing ceremony offered top fundraising prizes to fundraising teams after runners and walkers completed their route.

During the closing

ceremony, other speakers spoke about their struggles with breast cancer or gave their greetings to the audience. Those speakers included, breast cancer survivor Karen Vittmann and Canadian Cancer Society Volunteers Andre Poitris and Meagen O'shea.

Breast cancer survivor Karen Vittmann gave her more than enthusiastic presentation on her battle with breast cancer. Vittmann said, "I'm so happy to be here this morning, 'cause I'm alive. That's how I look at life now. I'm a wife, mother of three amazing adults and two fabulous daughters-in-law. In the last three years, I've gained four grandchildren.

Now to tell you about the serious part - in 2012 of February 13th, yes it was Friday! I went to get a mammogram. You want to know something? It turned into a mammogram biopsy and right into the doctor's arms. 'Sorry I think you have cancer.'

So within a month, they rushed me over to the Cross Cancer Institute and I started chemo therapy treatments. They told me, 'We're going to do six.' And I said, 'Okay, I can do this.' Well, I did six. They decided, 'Lets do eight.' Then they got to me and it really drove me down. I had to postpone surgery.

Well in all this, in 2012 I had my breast removed and said good bye to my sickness. So I'm cancer free. Then they said, 'Lets go in October. Lets go to the Cross and do radiation everyday.' So you go and you give yourself room, cause you want to beat this. So long story short. I'm here and I'm healthy and happy. I'm shaking. Somebody, hold me still!. I had my breast removed. I told you I'm a strong believer. Faith grows when you ask without knowing the outcome. What I've learned is live

Right: John Zapantis standing in a parking lot at an A&W Restaurant with the famous Three Sisters mountain peaks in the background in Canmore Alberta. Photo by Photo by Allen Wong- A tourist from Mississauga Ontario



for the moment. Remember the small blessings in life. Living after that - you can. I've been so blessed to find my best friends, the Dragon Boat Racing team. I'm not a professional by any means, but please keep active, eat well and enjoy life each and every day. Also listen to your body, because it tells you when something is wrong. I am so blessed to be here today. I thank each and everyone of you for coming out. Thank you."

This year's fundraising event was again a huge success. Over 5,000 runners and walkers helped raise more than \$800,000 for breast cancer programs, services and research. The fundraising event was a well organized one, thanks to the Canadian Cancer Society's Executive Director Chelsea Dreager and Director of Health Policy and Health Promotions Angeline Webb and the many volunteers, local sponsors, runners and walkers. Their efforts in making this event possible is helping the hearts of breast cancer survivors beat all over again! Oh, and that heart beat especially won't forget the heavy presence of the Edmonton Police Service, who were at the event providing security to the many runners, walkers and volunteers, encouraging the process of this event to continue its fight to defeat that terrorizing element known as none other than breast cancer.



This little blonde girl and the Pink Ribbon Storm Trooper hammed it up for the cameraman during the CIBC Run for the Cure on the Legislature Grounds.



The Mustard Seed Art Club

Every Thursday artists gather for drop in art at The Mustard Seed and alternate Thursdays some of the more serious artists paint at the Dream House next door to The Mustard Seed. Art supplies are provided and artists paint or draw whatever they want. Volunteers are there to provide materials, encouragement and snacks.

This fall the artists were able to show their work at two venues. The Art From the Unknown art show sponsored by Premier Rachel Notley October 27 to 29, and an art display at Kings University College for the month of November.

Sharon Spencer, right, painting with The Mustard Seed art club at the Dream House.

Nenshi! Nenshi! He's our man!

If he can't do it, no one can!

By Allan Sheppard

"I'm entitled to my entitlements." Thus spoke David Dingwall on October 19, 2005 to a parliamentary committee examining his expense claims as chief executive officer of the Canadian Mint.

Dingwall had been a 17-year Liberal member of parliament and, for a few years, a cabinet minister under Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. If memory serves me, his infamous response to a committee question influenced the election that followed in 2006. The Dictionary of Canadian Politics preserves Dingwall's words for posterity with an observation: "Dingwall was deemed to be nickel-and-diming taxpayers." As I recall, he was also deemed by many Canadians to be arrogant.

Dingwall long had been out of politics by then, but Canadians remembered his demeanor in office. Many thought of his position at the mint was a sinecure reward for service to his party. Opposition parties and citizens took Dingwall's defiance to be typical of Liberal arrogance during a long run in power under Chrétien and Paul Martin. Stephen Harper's Conservatives narrowly defeated Martin's Liberals in 2006 and remained in power with a second minority and an eventual majority until (having contracted their own virus of arrogance) they were defeated by Justin-Trudeau's Liberals in 2015.

Perceived arrogance can be toxic in politics and public relations, especially when an arrogator has nothing to be arrogant about. A timely case in point: the owners and managers of the Calgary Flames hockey club in their ongoing bun-fight with Calgary mayor Naheed Nenshi.

Nenshi's behaviour during his second term had led opponents and observers to question his judgement

and toss the A-word in his direction. As Nenshi approached the end of his second term, the Calgary Flames lobbied hard and campaigned aggressively for substantial city funding for a new arena and against Nenshi, who had steadfastly and, they suggested, arrogantly resisted what he and council considered excessive demands. The team's current venue, the Calgary Saddledome, was built with public money for the 1985 Winter Olympics. The building was approaching the end of what the National Hockey League considers the maximum useful lifespan for arenas: 35 years.

Perhaps more significantly, Edmonton had gifted its Oilers with an arena on spectacularly generous terms. When Rogers Place opened in 2016, it was (and still is) hailed as an arena for all seasons that put everyone else's hockey barns and sheds to shame. Flames owners longed to keep up with the NHL Joneses. They also felt they deserved—were entitled to expect—the same generosity from Calgary that the Oilers got from Edmonton. The Battle of Alberta, hitherto fought on the ice was to be engaged in the municipal election.

The 2017 municipal elections gave the Flames an opportunity. Nenshi was their target, in spite of the fact that he had council support. Presumably they thought that, if they could topple Nenshi, council members who had opposed the Flames' demands would fall like dominoes, less able to resist under a more sympathetic mayor.

Nenshi won: with a significantly smaller majority than in the previous election, but still with more than 50 per cent of the vote. All ten incumbent council members were also re-elected. After the results were in, the Flames' communications director tweeted to his private account, "I can't believe it YYC (Calgary)...Having @nenshi

as mayor is worse than @realdonaldtrump as president. #arrogant #bracefordisaster #outoftouch." (tiny-url.com/y9kox6nt)

The tweeter seemed not to realize that, while he wanted to target the mayor, it was the electors who had supported Nenshi who took is flak.

The tweet was quickly deleted and denied by the Flames as representative of the team's point of view. Fair enough, but the Flames must face the fact that the manager responsible for the team's public image was so discombobulated by the election results that he forgot the first law of holes: When you find yourself in a hole (that is, when the candidate you opposed wins, despite your efforts), stop digging (that is, throwing more shade at your victorious opponent).

Nenshi may be arrogant, but Calgarians seem to have decided that he has more to be arrogant about than the Flames.

After all, who is out of touch? The candidate who gains majority support in a heavily contested election? Or an entity that opposes that candidate? Who is more arrogant? An entity that demands generous public funding for an essentially private endeavour? Or the candidate that maintains, with support of a majority, that its demand is excessive?

And who needs to brace for what disaster? The Calgary Flames, who could lose out on a sweetheart deal for a facility to be built at substantial public? Or the city and citizens of Calgary, who could lose out on an arena they would own in name only but would be home to a hockey team that is a source of pride and entertainment for many (though far from all or even most) Calgarians?

I know and have often argued that, while we like to think we vote rationally, with our heads, we most often vote with our hearts and our hopes. Professional sports, like professional arts, depend for public support on that reality, which I ac-

knowledge with respect. My question is not if professional teams like the Flames should get support to remain in a small market but how much?

I believe Edmonton paid too much, both in actual cost borne by the city and intended or unintended consequences of gentrification. I hope, with sincere respect, that Calgary can avoid taking the same bait.

Rogers Place reportedly cost \$614 million. That amount includes a Winter Garden public events space that crosses above 104 Avenue to connect the arena with adjacent properties, including some developed by Oilers owners, the Katz Group. Setting aside the Winter Garden and any benefits to the Katz Group, the cost of Rogers Place can be considered for discussion to be equivalent to the cost of the of a new arena in Calgary, set by the city at \$555 million.

Calgary proposes dividing that amount equally among the city, the team, and users of the facility, who would pay a surcharge on tickets to events. Each would pay or raise \$185 million, compared to an announced total of \$313 million paid by taxpayers in Edmonton, with \$166 million (mostly in the form of rent) from the Katz Group, and \$125 from a ticket surcharge. (The numbers, as I could find them, don't add up; transparency in such matters is always a problem.)

The Flames reject the city's offer and have stopped negotiating. They argue they would be double charged, because a surcharge on ticket prices should properly belong to them and used at their discretion, not to pay the city for a facility where the surcharge would be imposed. That argument might make sense, were it not for the fact that Calgarians, like all of us, pay a GST surcharge on most purchases that benefits the federal government, not the businesses (including the Flames) that collect it; and were it not for the room tax surcharge that hotels and motels collect for the city, rather than for themselves. Even in a province that is a staunch bastion against consumption levies, that argument does not

hold water.

The Flames may be guilty—or victims—of poor timing. Mayor Stephen Mandel and most Edmonton councillors of the day gave in to the Katz Group's taking of hockey fans as hostage to its personal benefit because they were desperate for a catalyst that could spark downtown redevelopment. The cranes that dominate the skyline around Rogers Place and the gentrification that will soon overwhelm neighbourhoods to the north seem to suggest that the city made a good economic decision. Factoring in taxes diverted to the project and the long-term social costs could still tarnish that image.

No miraculous renaissance seems likely around a new arena in Calgary. With a "27.7 per cent downtown office vacancy rate," (tinyurl.com/ybvwtkv1) development of the kind and scale we have seen in Edmonton, whether worth it in the long term or not, seem unlikely.

Still Mayor Nenshi may only have won a battle; he could still lose the war. David Dingwall was right in his privileged and arrogant way: he was and is entitled to his entitlements. So are we all entitled to our entitlements. But some of us seem to be more entitled than others.

Remembering G.G. - My ex-father

By Angelique Branston

He locked me in a box
 No knowlege of when the seige would be over.
 He locked me in a box
 I refused what he wanted
 A threesoeme
 Him and his girlfriend
 I prefered those times when it was just his unwanted body on top of me.
 To the other things he would.demand.
 I have heard... undying loyalty.
 He circles my house
 Ever avoiding the camera
 He locked me in a box
 I had refused him
 Even if it was just this once
 He had been denied
 My reward was the box
 A little over 24 hours
 I was twelve.
 My mom had just left.
 I stayed
 Only to save the life of a doomed pony..
 I should have left when I had the chance
 I only prolonged the inevitable.
 A knowlege that will haunt me.forever.
 A year later he fed me my pony... after having his way
 with him and his friends in his basement.
 I lived with a monster.
 I am alive today.
 Freedom is fought for... hardly given.
 Sought after...
 The silent goal of those too weak to advocate for themselves.
 The promise of the after life.
 Peace and rest.
 My body
 I give myself to thee whether to destruction
 Or to grace
 Tis in your hands
 Peace.

The Shadow of My Mother

By Maria B.

Feelings about mothers are usually confused and not very easy to understand.

While we have been told to honour our mother, it is incredibly important that we realize the important role that mothers hold in our lives.

The fact is that it does not matter how you put it, mothers that are emotionally absent fail to provide their children with important aspects of what children need.

As children, we did not ask to be born, so why should we become responsible for a mother's failure to keep her child safe and failing to ensure that child gets their basic needs.

Virtually all children love their parents and they even find excuses for whatever their parents did and live feeling ashamed and guilty. If the mother is dysfunctional, the children have been blamed so much for everything that happened in their lives, that it becomes easier to make themselves responsible than to listen to the denials and their victims. Children, who get caught in such a dysfunctional position, carry the entire burden.

As children, the connection with our parents allows us to identify ourselves but unfortunately many times, the identification of our parents about us has been determined. I can tell you that it does not put us in a very nice light. And unfortunately some people go through life believing all those lies.

In some cases when the child is born, right away the child is seen as the source of burdens, which impedes the mother from doing the larger than life job of caring for her children.

In the physical absence of a mother, it becomes the greatest deficit



for the child. Due to this, the child will find an incredible amount of deficits in their foundation, making his/her foundation weak.

Understanding these deficiencies could lead us to a better understanding of ourselves and becoming aware of the feelings of abandonment, guilt, shame, isolation, inadequacy, disengagement, etc, etc. This is a reflection of the insecure attachment that we have and will be with us for the rest of our lives.

There are many "mothers" that have children but they are unable to take care of themselves so how are they going to take care of another human being? These women are not ready for the task of "Mothering" which requires constant giving to others.

Mother is a symbol of self sacrifice

But when a woman is not ready to be a mother, she becomes dysfunctional. How we see ourselves, our sense of self, our self esteem and our unconscious feelings are strongly imprinted on us. You can feel a mother

as an inner layer of love and support and this is always with you, if she was able to love you. If she didn't love you, this feeling is also always with you. The primary role of a mother is nurturing and protecting your child, but when a mother fails to do this, the child will be incredibly affected.

Mother, you invalidated every feeling that I told you. You used to say that I exaggerated or/and that I did not tell the truth While I was telling you what I had seen and /or what I heard, or/and what I believed, I was telling you my truth.

The corrosive affects of the failures of my mother, will follow through the rest of my life like a shadow. And, unfortunately, this is all I have to remember her for.

We must rise above and become the best mother for our children; they trust us and they love us and it is up to us to give them the strength and love necessary to overcome the burdens of life. They are our future and often we are doing too little to protect them.

Alberta Street News vendor Bill Cunningham

By Linda Dumont

Photo by Kaitlyn Carter

You can find Bill Cunningham standing outside When Pigs Fly on Whyte Avenue on Edmonton's south side. He's a long time vendor dating back to the old Our Voice Days in the 90's.

Bill walked into the Second Cup, got himself some coffee and came over, his body curved over to the left side, and using a cane. As a cancer survivor, he is now in remission. He still goes for regular check ups to make sure the cancer has not returned, but he is cancer free, and for now he is OK.

"Makes me feel handicapped," Bill said, indicating his cane. "I have a compression bandage on my leg."

"I'm not going to do the happy dance, especially when I've had cancer two times. I try not to think about it. In a way I still have issues with addictions. I've been on methadone for 12 years and it got me off the opiates, but sometimes I relapse when a stressful thing comes along. I don't want to get angry. I'm also on the medical marijuana program through the Cross Cancer Society. It helps me smoke a little less cigarettes and brings my appetite back and helps my morning to have a positive outlook on the day. If I let things build up I can just snap.

"Paper sales have gone downhill compared to in the past. For me, I have regular customers I've known for a long time and they always stop by on a Saturday to say 'Hello'. It's



kind of like family. They are concerned for me. I was a stage three cancer patient. When I went into remission they were all shocked – they said, "It's so good to see you. I thought you had passed away.

It's a lot in the power of your mind that plays a big role in your chances of recovery. The doctor said people tend to over analyze about where they're at. There's now a lot of cancer that they give one treatment and it's gone."

I had a hard time when I was going through my treatment. The worst thing was watching the

people around me and of lot of them were terminally ill. You see these kids, three or four years old, and they were playing a game and they all had toques on. I heard the nurses say they were very, very sick. One kid's toque came off and no hair. Poor kid. Four years old. One kid had leukemia and only months to live."

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Remembering Indigenous Canadian Veterans

By Sharon Austin

On November 11, Remembrance Day, we honour all of the brave men and women who served during the wars and we thank them for their service, their courage and their sacrifice. We take time to remember that because of the efforts of all the veterans we enjoy the freedom we have in Canada today. 2017 has been a year where there has finally been more focus on the Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Metis, and Inuit) of Canada. For Remembrance Day I thought it would be interesting to research the Indigenous Peoples contribution during the wars and learn about some of the veterans. The Indigenous and Northern Affairs Government of Canada website provided some informative and interesting articles.

I learned that although “status Indians” as they were called were not obliged to enter the armed forces many flocked to join the war effort. More than 7000 Indigenous Peoples made important contributions during the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War. Most Indigenous veterans served in the infantry where their traditional hunting skills enabled them to carry out dangerous tasks. Because of these skills, some were called on to become snipers and others were very valuable as Reconnaissance Scouts. Their job was to sneak behind the front lines to find out the enemies weapon power and location and relay this information back to headquarters.

During the First World War more than 50 medals were awarded to Indigenous people in Canada for their bravery as snipers and scouts. Throughout the two wars the “Department of Indian Affairs”, as it was then called, received thousands of letters from the battlefield praising Indigenous marksmen and scouts.

Indigenous languages also played

an important role during the wars. Charles Checker Tompkins from Grouard, Alberta was a Cree veteran of the Second World War who worked as a “code-talker.” His job was to translate military messages into Cree before they were sent to the battlefields of Europe. When the message was received it was translated back into English by another Cree “code-talker” and given to the military officials. The enemy had no way to understand the message sent in Cree.

Thomas George Prince from the Brokenhead First Nation in Scantbury, Manitoba was one of Canada’s most decorated Indigenous soldiers. He enlisted in the Second World War in 1940 at the age of 24 and also served two tours in the Korean War. In 1942 he was in the first Special Service Force, a combined effort of the Canadian\American unit that became known as The Devil’s Brigade. In 1944, Prince was spying on the enemy from an abandoned farmhouse in Littoria, Italy. As he watched the German troops, he realized that his communication line was broken and he could no longer send messages about enemy activity. Prince showed great courage as he changed his clothes to look like a local farmer and taking a hoe he calmly walked out among the enemy to follow the communication line. Pretending to tie his shoe, Prince quickly reattached the broken wires and walked back to the farmhouse. Prince was awarded the Military Medal and the Silver Star in the Second World War and he also received the Korean Medal, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and the UN Service Medal.

Indigenous Peoples who remained in Canada during the wars also contributed to the war effort. They donated more than \$67,000 to the war relief funds such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army, and gave Reserve land to be used as defense posts, airports, and rifle ranges. Indigenous women also contributed during all three wars. They helped raise money,



Thomas George Prince (right) with his brother Morris Prince -Feb. 12, 1945. Photo by Christopher Woods. Library and Archives Canada

knitted for soldiers, and worked in factories. Some like Charlotte Edith Anderson Monture, from the Six Nations Grand River Reserve in Ontario served as a nurse in France during the First World War.

To honour Indigenous Canadians who served during the wars, the National Indigenous Veterans Memorial was unveiled on National Aboriginal Day in 2001. The monument represents all Indigenous Peoples of Canada and was created by artist Lloyd Penay from Peepeekisis First Nation in Saskatchewan. On Remembrance Day, we can all be very proud of the contribution of the Indigenous Peoples during the First and Second World War and the Korean War.



National Indigenous Veterans Memorial

It has a ring to it

By Lanky

There are stories we tell ourselves
And others but not quite the truth you
see

Maybe it was at one time to draw a
few laughs
Perhaps it was to draw a few oohs!
Maybe just to get a few exuberated
“really’s”!!

There are stories we ourselves and
others tell
In our own mind’s after years of
bullshitting.
One starts to separate reality from
fantasy.

And say, hey, that’s a lie, and never
tell it again.
Praise your mind’s ears and eyes as you listen to
you.

There were stories we told ourselves and others
And bold faced, sometimes cold and calculating.

Sometimes just bald faced lying from the crowd.
This baggage I weed out, literally, because it’s rooted
ties.

There are no longer untrue stories running
around this head.
No more avoidance of the good, bad and
ugly truths.
The source of lies, feeling powerless and
helpless.
A childhood need to impress led to theft, fires
and lies.
Now remembering the sliver lining of all the
dark truths.

Now there are stories. Creative non fiction.
That’s my knack.
I guess the real me is ready finally to come back.
Lost somewhere in my childhood trauma, found in
adult hood.
There are stories we tell ourselves.
But aren’t quite the truth you see?



Untitled

By Lisa Anderson

We don’t let stigma defeat us
We are a resilient group
Yes we have bad days
Amongst the good

Pills prescribed
Blood taken
Health care card shown
So we won’t be mistaken

Please hear our voices
Don’t turn a blind eye
Wait for a smile
After a good cry

We need acceptance
Inclusion
And connection.



Most of us are safe
Not violent
Let the misconceptions pass

We become ill, not crazy
Nor are we stupid or lazy

Walk in our shoes
For a little while
To see what it’s like
To be us

Sometimes overwhelmed
Symptoms take over
We go down hill
But we fight to get back up

There is strength in numbers
We need to take a stand
We can get through this
If you would only
Take our hand.

Our vendors:

Cynthia Ellington (Denver Voice, Denver, USA)

INSP News Service

By Benjamin Tomkins,
Denver Voice

Cynthia Ellington woke up in a shelter the morning of this interview. She waited in line for an hour to take a shower. Then she had to wait in line for a towel, a washcloth, a curling iron, and makeup. “You have to wait in line for everything. They gave me two conditioners today, but I wasn’t going to wait in line again for another shampoo.” After the shower, she had a twenty-five-minute walk to the Denver VOICE office.

Though her life has taken her from the stage to the streets of Denver, Cynthia still has the smile of a star. She is beautiful. Cynthia was born and raised in Colorado Springs, and after school she entered Fred Astaire Dance Studios with designs on a career.

“I taught classes, danced—we did it all. We’d stay up until one in the morning and then get up and do it all again. I used to wake up doing the cha-cha,” said Cynthia.

She married one of the other dance students at Fred Astaire, and her husband’s life in the army took them to Corpus Christie, Texas.

For a time, she managed a series of health clubs, but dancers are meant to explore the stage. She traveled first to Washington, D.C., and then Maine, where she raised her two daughters, Aubrey and Miranda, for a number of years as a single mother. She also taught tango and salsa in Jackson Hole for nine years, before eventually finding her way back to Colorado. “I’m a nomad, basically. I go back and forth between the mountains and the ocean.”

Family and a love of people have driven a lot of Cynthia’s decisions. In many ways, a collision between dreams and reality is inevitable for a person whose art demands fidelity and whose heart is too big for her chest. When she lived in Portland, Maine, there were nights when she had as many as four traveling artist couples staying in her apartment. Both of her daughters carry the desire to help others as well. Aubrey runs a tutoring business, and Miranda is in medicine and spent time in South America working with impoverished communities. Although Miranda has yet to choose a specialty, Cynthia thinks she will choose emergency medicine.

Her sister in Florence, Colorado, brought Cynthia back to the Centennial state recently. Family is also what brought her back to Denver seven months ago. Her brother is homeless here and has struggled with alcohol addiction for decades. A talented chef and artist, he was the executive chef at a restaurant in New York City, where he also showed his artwork. Unfortunately, “you lose everything on the streets,” Cynthia observes.

After living in Florence, Colorado, for a few years, she came back to Denver for him. He is now in a treatment program for his addiction.

“I never doubted him,” Cynthia says through tears. “Everyone doubt-



ed him. A lot of people lose hope because people lose hope in them.”

Despite her difficult circumstances, Cynthia still manages to focus on the positive. She came to the VOICE in December at the suggestion of another vendor. “The people [I’ve met on the streets] are amazing. It’s like a big family out there. You’re experiencing a totally different side of life. It gives you empathy. Strong empathy.”

While each day is a new challenge, Cynthia still has hopes for her future. She would like to begin teaching dance again, and writes poetry. “I came here for [my brother]. I feel like I’m on the path that I should be. No angst or anxiety—just a lot of emotion.”