GOOD WORK NEWS

The Working Centre, 58 Queen St. S. Kitchener, ON N2G 1V6

Issue 81

June 2005

Subscription: a donation towards our work

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Diploma in Local Democracy

20 Week Course Starts Sept 14th, 2005

The formal start to The Working Centre's first diploma course in Local Democracy through the Waterloo School for Community Development will begin on the second Wednesday of September 2005. This project is a unique initiative to develop a school with minimal infrastructure, but with maximum enthusiasm for learning and opportunity.

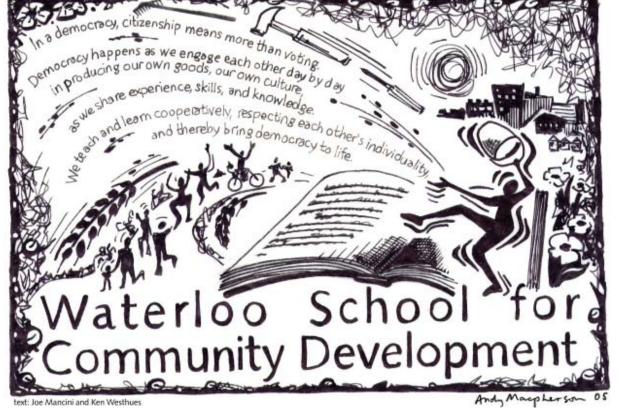
The curriculum will be guided by sociologist Ken Westhues, who will bring his 35 years of university teaching experience to this project. Local and national speakers will give examples of how they understand local democracy through practical access to tools and relationship building ventures. The course will explore historical and biographical examples of individuals and projects whose inventiveness has resulted in cooperative, inclusive and democratic structures.

The eight-month program will consist of 20 two-hour sessions, scheduled on Wednesday evenings. Candidates for the Diploma in Local Democracy will do assigned readings for each of these sessions, much as in a college or university course, and come to each session prepared to make well-informed and reasoned contributions to discussion.

Who Should Apply

In the course of the program, each Candidate will plan and write an essay on some aspect of local democracy in relation both to the assigned readings and to his or her own experience. The essay will be at least 3000 words in length, and of a quality suitable for publication in Good Work News or on the Working Centre's website. Candidates will read and criticize one another's essays, for the sake of improving them and helping one another learn. Candidates will shape the learning they are seeking through presentations and sugges-





tions for content.

How to Apply

To apply see the Waterloo School for Community Development link at www.theworkingcentre.org or call Joe at 743-1151 x112. Paper copies of the application can be requested at the front desk at 58 Queen St. South.

The Diploma program is intended for mature adults who are committed to serving democracy, practically and effectively, in Kitchener-Waterloo: for office-holders in our municipal governments; for people employed in public service as administrators, police officers, or front-line workers in social work, recreation, or development; for leaders of churches, service clubs, business organizations or unions, the media, the performing arts, elementary and high schools. This program is designed for active citizens in whatever line of paid or voluntary work, people with a keen sense of their community and commitment to improving it, the kind of people who read the opinion pages of local newspapers and are tempted to write letters to the editor.

Tuition

There is no application fee. Allinclusive tuition for Candidates enrolled in the eight-month Diploma program is \$400. Bursaries will be available for Candidates invited to enroll in the program, but unable to accept for financial reasons. It is possible that some candidates may be sponsored by their workplace.

We Are Pleased to Announce that

John Taylor Gatto

will offer a public lecture
The Artificial
Extension of Childhood
on October 11th.

On Wed October 12th, John will address the Diploma in Local Democracy Seminar More Details in Sept. GWN

John Taylor Gatto is a former New York State Teacher of the Year and author of the best selling book *Dumbing Us Down* (see Page 7 for the description of the book). John is a dynamic public speaker who challenges the assumption that learning only happens in a structured school environment. He questions why the schooling system leaves many behind. Gatto is known for offering common sense approaches to education that engage skills and community knowledge.

Work Begins at 97 Victoria St. N.

Early May marked the start of another renovation project. After months of planning, we quickly found ourselves sorting out the first phases of the Integrated Community Project at 97 Victoria St. North.

We began the slow transformation of the former St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store into Worth A Sccond Look Furniture and Housewares. Working with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, we have been able to keep open half the store while renovations take place on the other half. This has caused disruptions, but we know the final result will be worthwhile and necessary. The work in the retail space includes drywalling to meet fire code, installing new energy efficient windows, extensive insulation, new flooring and an easy access side exit.

The second phase is the dismantling of offices, separation walls, wiring, heating ducts on the second floor. This is the space that will be the future home of St. John's Kitchen. The first stage of demolition was a three week project that

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Twentieth Year

Issue 81

June 2005

Good Work News

Good Work News was first produced in September 1984. It is published four times a year by The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen as a forum of opinions and ideas on work and unemployment. There is a circulation of 9,500 copies.

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Contributors: Dave Thomas, Karin Kliewer, Kari Kokko, Leslie Morgenson, Margaret O'Shea Bonner, Chad McCordic, Christa Van Daele, Joe Johnson, Amaryah DeGroot, and Rebecca Mancini.

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18th Annual Mayors' Dinner

The snowy weather did not dampen the spirits of the more than 650 people gathered at Bingemans on April 2 at the 18th annual Mayors' Dinner to honour retiring United Way CEO John Thompson. Long-time MC Neil Aitchison entertained the audience with his customary flair and wit, and the Centro de Trabajo provided atmospheric music to get the evening under way. The silent and live auctions - featuring prizes as diverse as a Ringo Starr 3-CD live box set to a celebrity breakfast outing at the Harmony Lunch in Waterloo raised more than \$27,000.

John's supporters spoke of his dedication and years of hard work in his efforts at United Way, as well as his extensive community leadership through events such as the Tournament of Hope Golf Tournament.

We are especially thankful for those who contribute their time to make this dinner so successful: Mayor Carl Zehr, Mayor Herb Epp, Marc Guilbeault of Bell, Roman Dubinski, Neil Aitchison, Lawrence Bingeman, Fred Walker, Dominic Cardillo, Margaret Motz, Harry Froklage, Chloe Callender, Joyce Stankiewicz, Dave Kropf at Encore Communications, Murray Haase, Andy Nessner, Don Allen, Alex Brown, Sandy Klaus, Steve Ashton and many others. Lighter Side Productions offered humourous songs and skits in John's honour.

This year Bell offered a major Sponsorship, substantially contributing to the event. A special thank you to our generous patrons: Zehrs Markets, Terraces by Hallman, RDM Corporation, The Record, MacNaughton Hermsen Britton Clarkson Planning Limited, Strassburger Windows and Doors and St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church.

Thank you to our Community Tables: Advanced Benefits Consulting Services, Bob and Judy Astley, BDO Dunwoody, Bingemans, Catholic Family Counselling, CAW Local 1524, Roman Dubinski, Erb & Erb Insurance, Ethos Consulting, Grand Valley Golf Club, Gary Kieswetter, K-W Naval Association, Margaret Motz, Steve and Eve Menich, RBC - Royal Bank, St. Jacob's Country Inn, St. Jerome's University, Sigco Industries, TD Canada Trust, Tournament of Hope Golf Classic, Township of Woolwich, United Way of Kitchener-Waterloo and Wilfred Laurier University.

Thank you to those who made special contributions including Steve and Eve Menich, Ron and Rita Cherkewski, Ken & Patti Brooks, Michael & Dianne Czura, Caribbean Canadian Association of Waterloo Region, Pat & Noreen Flynn, John Kokko & Anderson, Link with Home Travel, Ken & Marilyn Murray, Jeff Oberholtzer & Lisa Hutfloetz, Quarry Integrated Communications, Rita Levato & John Villemaire, Ted & Anne Scharf, Bruce & Paula Scheifele, Mary Lou & Murray Schmidt, Joyce & Bill Stankiewicz, Cathy & Rick Snyder, John & Donna Weber, Diane Wolfenden, Peter Brill, Ray Gabel and Audrey Reitzel.

Your Generosity is Very Much Appreciated

The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen are grateful for the many contributions we receive from individuals, businesses, churches, schools, groups and organizations. It is with a sense of deep gratitude that we thank those who make regular contributions to our work. We recognize, in doing so, that we may leave out many who contribute in so many important ways to our work.

Aardvark - Vanaheim Inc., Carmeta Abbott, Ace Bakery, Vera Aldersley, Dr. Jennifer Ashworth, Nettie Baer, Mary Bales, Bast Tire & Auto - Wayne Moser, Brian & Trudy Beckberger, Bickell Foundation, Pierre Bischoff, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Bloomingdale United Church, Vernon Bowman, Bridgeport Lions Club, Paul Bulla, Ilene Burkhardt, C.A.W. Head Office - Jim O'Neil, C.A.W. Local 1524, C.A.W. Social Justice Fund, Marian Campbell, Canadian Construction, Casual Restaurant Systems Inc, Catholic Community Foundation, Gina Chhatwal Trust, Church of The Holy Saviour, Coleman Equipment Inc., J. Douglas & Muriel I. Coleman, Conestoga Rovers & Associates, Crosby Volkswagen Ltd., Kenneth R. Davidson, Dave Dawson, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Dosman, Doyle Capital Corporation, Roman Dubinski, Ecoplans Limited, Emmanuel United Church, Equitable Life Lighthouse Club, David Ernst, Ethos Consulting, F.K. Morrow Foundation, First Christian Reformed, First Menonnite Church, Charles Fletcher, Patrick Flynn, Forest Hill United Church, William Fox, Steven & Sabine Furino, Ronald Green, Jim & Sue Hallman, Anna Hemmendinger, Highland Road United Church, Pamela Hilton, Bruce Holzworth, Carl Kaufman, Cecil Kavanaugh, Kitchener-Waterloo Christian School Society, Lloyd & Erla Koch, Dianna Koebel, Jacobus Kok, James Krakovsky, K-W Naval Association, K-W Region Elks Lodge #578, Lear Canada, M. R. Jutzi Company, M.S.G.R. Stephen Foerster, Ron & Vicki MacDonald, K. MacIsaac, Macnaughton Hermsen Planning, Lois Magee, Dr. Catherine Mancini, Manulife, David & Nancy Matthews, Ed Mccarron, Fr. Murray Mcdermott, The McLean Foundation, Margaret Motz, Bruce Murray, Bob & Margaret Nally, Paul Nijjar, Irene Nudyk, Parkminster United Church, Nancy Lou & Palmer Patterson, Brigitte Penzendorfer, Gladys Porter, RBC Foundation, The Record, Marvin Remple, Carl Rieder, Ruth Ristau, Robstar Investments, Rosseau Rehab Inc, Flora Roy, Brian Ruby, Marguerite Rueb, Mr. & Mrs. John Scheele, Jack Schoenmackers, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Barbara Schumacher, Mitsuru Shimpo, John Shortreed, Sisters of Providence S.V.P., Sisters of St. Joseph, Social Awareness, Christopher Springer, St. Agatha Religious House, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, St. Anthony Daniel Parish, St. Francis of Assisi Church, St. Mary's High School Student Council, St. Peters Ev. Lutheran Church, St. Phillips Church, St. Agatha Church, St. Columba's Church, St. Michael's Church, Stirling Ave. Mennonite Church, Strassburger Windows, Jan Stroh, Sun Life Assurance, United Way, University Catholic Community, Robert Veitch, John & Patricia Wainwright, Waterloo Catholic School Board, George Weiland, Ken & Ann Westhues, C. B. Wigle, and Zehrs Markets.



\$115 per Golfer plus a \$20 Golf Bonus Package To reserve your spot call Suzanne at 743-1151 x236

The Music Between the Words:

The Art of Andy Macpherson

By Christa Van Daele

What did the pages of *Good Work News* look like before Andy Macpherson came along?

For most of us - new readers or oldtime subscribers to the paper - that would be hard to say. Fact is, the intricate body of black and white drawings featured in *Good Work News* over the past decade's issues have constituted a full bodied "music between the words" that have expressed the heart's core of The Working Centre for a growing body of subscribers, volunteers, visitors, and project staff.

Explore a world of creative possibility by studying the "Tools for Living" graphic above. It's a touchstone Andy Macpherson drawing. Generated as a pioneer statement in 1994 in dialogue with Joe Mancini, a Working Centre founder and editor of Good Work News, the drawing's core themes have steadily evolved in progressive variations offering the reader "head and heart" principles on the pages of Good Work News. "We were thrilled with it," Joe says of that first drawing. "It was the first one I remember Andy doing, the first key drawing that got across the idea of tools."

The ideals of the "Tools for Living" drawing share a world of living and working in harmony, pursuing free motion through cycling, playing music and raking and gardening. For some, it's a world of modestly following the traces of the tiny snail's leisurely life pace, as rendered in the right hand corner of the drawing. It's a world that holds suffering as well as spirit, but one that is piercingly illuminated by the sweeping shape of a unified sunlight over all.

For me, a contributor in the hospitable environment of The Working Centre's daily milieu, Andy

Macpherson's posted drawings on bulletin boards have held increasingly tangible

worlds of meaning. Like so many other people curious about The Working Centre, I had initially become engaged with his gangly long-limbed black and white figures a full decade ago by investigating Andy's art on the striking cover of *The Working Centre: Experiment in Social Change*, by sociologist Ken Westhues. It appeared to me that the cover deliberately presented a bold dialectic of ideas. Since then, I've learned that you don't take the themes and figures in all at once, but in brief pauses in a busy work day.

In addition, the artist's work is suspended in the timeless world of faith and nature. His themes have

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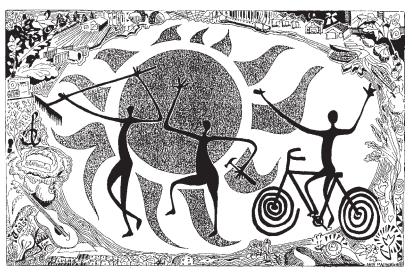
meditatively captured the underlying changing of the seasons, the simple reminders of what's important. Christmas time, the celebration of a new outdoor bread oven, a tribute to the gardens, the coming and going of friends—these times have all been, in *Good Work News* and in posters at the Centre, occasions for a new rendering by Andy. Reviewed at a scholarly level, Andy Macpherson's drawings express as a unified narrative the historical evolution of The Working Centre's key principles and projects in a way that little else has.

Andy Macpherson, a Kitchener based artist, math teacher, musician, and father of three, accurately refers to his work in the tradition of "illuminated text." As such, it has taken root, as illuminated texts tend to do, in the most pragmatic of origins - the design of a logo for St John's Kitchen. It was Arleen Macpherson, Andy's mother, who had long co-coordinated Kitchen activities; she had asked Andy to pull something together about ten years ago that would serve as a logo. "Somewhere in the archives is a coffee cup that has the entire information about St John's Kitchen. The original logo had the incorporation of text and the graphic

all together, an appealing way of integrating text into the logo."

That was in 1989. Since then, it's been a true creative partnership that has progressively

evolved in terms of the intricate depth of the art works produced. Further dialogue between Joe Mancini and the artist over the past decade has involved the steady exchange of ideas and concepts that have, in turn, supported the creation of dozens of drawings. Many of Andy's finest drawings are created exactly to size for *Good Work News*, with exact dimensions specified ahead of time. Working this way, right up to deadline time, illuminated texts in all shapes and sizes have continued to spring from Andy's pen,



- TOOLS FOR LIVING -

wrapping words inside images, running texts in borders, pulling phrases and key word concepts into a layered spectrum of drawings.

In fact, Andy's Working Centre portfolio of "squiggly figures" has exploded with life and joy as he has increasingly responded to practical deadlines. Friends and family members have become the happy recipients of themed works created for special occasions as birthdays or life anniversaries are attained. Andy's



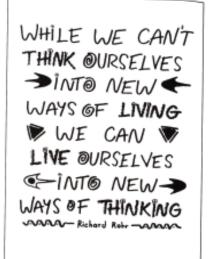
handcrafted tile work with his wife Susie Fowler has also become another delightful extension of his Working Centre themes; the two create brilliantly coloured ceramic tiles together that decorate their home, become gifts for friends, or cycle back around as hotly auctioned items at each year's Mayor's Dinner. It is clear that the growth of Andy's witnessing artwork has visibly taken place in a practical parallel structure to the emerging needs of Good Work News – which, in turn, as a publication, began in the mid-1990s to reflect the increasing complexity of The Working Centre's environment.

How do the practical project tools and virtues consolidated at the Board of Directors' level of The Working Centre actually generate a unified thread of layered pen-and-ink ideas? A method that has served over the years for Andy's working process is the habit of specific reflection on a text by some of the thinkers that have inspired the founders of The Working Centre—Ivan Illich, Wendell Berry, Ken Westhues, Richard Rohr, and others. "When you are making art at The Working Centre, your philosophy and your understanding of

the work is shaped by what you are doing. I'm learning as I do it. This is how I work." Andy's habit of drawing principles out of the readings, he states, has been enjoyable: "It required me to read something on a topic that I found interesting."

Recently, 30 or so staff members got together with Ken Westhues on April 14 of this year, sharing in a two hour session both freely produced drawings and spoken metaphors to explore the virtues and habits that anchor the milieu of the Centre. My growing sense, consolidated by that exciting experience, is that the last decade's "meaning map" of the Working Centre – its most important values, ideals, and practical projects - continues in 2005 to be partially an objective reality, partly a subjective reality, with each individual contributor taking his or her part in shaping the story.

Andy Macpherson has shown us the way in the illuminated texts that are published quarterly in each issue of Good Work News. He has gone down many roads to offer up a body of pioneering humanist images that increasingly, in 2005, outline a "story in stages" about The Working Centre. He has rendered for our collective benefit the vibrant pieces of a redemptive narrative, offering us a coherent shaped world that many of us are delighted to absorb - and perhaps recast some day in a form of our own. This is the music between the words as we invent each day in a community of shared memory. Without an artist who can persistently continue to imagine the landscapes of "inside" and "outside", bringing interior and exterior realities together, how can we hope to tell our story to ourselves and share it with others?



Revolution Camp

Youth Camp as a Coming of Age Marker

By Leslie Morgenson

In most cultures, "coming of age" has been a life passage as important as birth, marriage, and death. These are the anticipated passages that Ronald L.Grimes (Deeply into the Bone: Re-inventing Rites of Passage) says "are precarious moments requiring rites for their successful negotiation." But in our "ritually poverty-stricken world" what is serving as coming of age rites of passage are often clumsily handled crisis situations that in no way assist teens through the bittersweet ride to adulthood.

At a recent three day camp, 44 youth from the streets, from group homes and from various organizations, all having had dealings with the justice system, had the opportunity to give voice to their personal stories, their criticisms of the youth criminal justice system and input regarding the implementation of the new Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA). For these kids, jail time, criminal records, and lost years have been the unanticipated markers that will forever define their youth. This is their experience of our culture.

On August 26, 2000, when "Ted" was 13 years old, he broke a window and wasn't caught. Five years later at 18 years of age, Ted had his own apartment and a job. When someone broke into his apartment, the police took fingerprints in their investigation of the break-in. Identifying Ted's own fingerprints as those on the long-ago broken window, they charged him. Five RCMP officers wrestled him to the ground during his arrest; he was jailed for six months, lost his job and his apartment.

This is a typical scenario of an accused youth under the old Young Offenders Act and clearly demonstrates the need for new legislation. The new YCJA, while remaining tough on serious crimes, is designed to offer a variety of options for less serious crimes. To date, Canada's record has been shameful in terms of its handling of youth, whose incarceration rate is higher than the adult incarceration rate. More telling,

Canada's youth incarceration rate is higher than any other western nation with 80% of custodial sentences for non-violent offences.

We need options for custodial sentences. Accountability can come in many forms beginning with conversation between parties as one effective bridge resulting in restitution. In fact, conversation following an offense, with the possibility for apologies expressed for wrongdoing, remorse and understanding, would likely allow more accountability than incarceration ever could; and further, would represent a positive step in the direction of making our youth feel safer in a world that has become increasingly unsafe for them as evidenced by their growing number on the street. If we equate coming of age as important a marker as are birth, marriage and death, how can we Canadians countenance teens living on the street? Should we not be encouraging a safe passage through their often turbulent transitional years with as much decorum and consideration as we would these other rites of pas-

De-escalation strategies, fighting fairly, peer mediation and anger management skills were some of the ideas the kids would like to see implemented. Justice, the kids said, means making things right again, with respect from both parties. As it stands now, however, justice often is defined by the police. Youth and the police perceive justice very differently. The new YCJA accepts that we can't use a wide brush; justice needs to be tailored to the individual.

The youngsters who gathered at the camp retreat made their criticisms quite clear. They all know first hand, as one put it, that "It's harder to get out of the system than it is to get in." They spoke of long delays in the court system, inconsistent sentencing, losing time waiting, perhaps under house arrest and eventually found not guilty and released, after losing perhaps a whole year of tender youth (already so short, fleeting, and irretrievable).

A young woman shows me her



arms scarred with hundreds of cuts. It is as if I am looking at the rings of a tree; her arms so old. She tells me she knows every scar—what she was going through at the time, and why she self-mutilated. Now well past that time of cutting, she speaks like a wise old tree, knows her boundaries, calls herself a writer and has plans to help other teens. Currently she is working with local police, speaking to school groups.

Angie, an Ojibwa woman, spoke to the kids about their beauty. The roar in the room ceased as if we were all sitting in the midst of a quiet snowfall. There wasn't a sound, only Angie's quiet voice magically weaving the words a child longs to hear from a parent. A voice telling them that they are lovable, they are strong, they are our teachers—the kids are our teachers. A similar thought written long ago by William Wordsworth in his poem Ode on Intimations of Immortality: "the child is father to the man." The child comes first, gives birth, paving the way for the adult to come later. If our children, here in Canada, are being forced to live on the street, we had better listen to how we all have failed them. These 44 youth spoke resolutely of many psychological and physical abuses by those in authority while they in return were asking for nothing but respect. Even after life journeys full of confusion and twisted roads, these kids still maintain a sense that mutual respect or reciprocity is fundamental to staying on course.

For these kids, the need to push against family and community that aren't working for them is very strong.



They therefore must be engaged by extraordinary methods. People from "Adventure Works" engaged the kids physically with ropes and climbing trees. And Angie, along with Christine, a Mohawk woman from Four Directions Aboriginal Centre and two aboriginal youth, engaged them spiritually. Burning a mixture of sweet grass, cedar, sage and tobacco, the kids were invited to smudge their bodies, a Native Canadian cleansing ritual. The kids removed their jewelry and eagerly welcomed this new rite. One complained that the smell was making him sick. "Good," said Christine. Her response was then completed by a peer of the sick youth: "If you have to vomit," he said, "something has been triggered that has to be released."

With great exhilaration the group desired to sing. "In English or a different language?" Christine asked them. "A different language," some quickly called out, as if the old language, the one they've been taught, hasn't worked, hasn't been honest. A new language is most welcome. This new way brought much spontaneity from the kids. From one young man a gift of a cigarette butt for Angie, as if he couldn't have her walk away without something after she'd given them so much. Apparently unaware of the importance of tobacco, he

Continued on page 5

Engaging Social Change

By Chad McCordic

In late March, I left Camp Ganadaoweh exhausted, bewildered, and excited. I felt a part of something important, and if it was not an earthshaking event, The Justice re: Action camp had moved me.

When I arrived there, after a whirl-wind of planning, I decided that I would not look at the camp in terms of objectives. I would listen. It may seem strange to help plan a federally funded earpiece for youth in conflict with the law, but that's how I felt. From the beginning of the first group discussion it was becoming clear that if nothing else, these youth who had been ignored by so many had our complete attention.

Listening was a big part of my camp experience. Thrust into the "Camp Leader" role, I spent my nights in the cabin with "the boys". At two in the morning, in a room full of sleeping atrisk youth, one develops an acute hearing ability that makes sleep a wistful afterthought.

Titles like "Camp Leader" soon become unnecessary, though, as youth became their own leaders. An incident arose involving theft; tension was thick. Earlier that day, the youth had been introduced to an Aboriginal tool, the talking stick. They gath-

ered together in a circle, passed the stick to those who wished to speak, and resolved the problem calmly. I was in awe, and I heard a police officer overwhelmed to the point of tears. These youth were building a caring community from the ground up, right in front of our eyes. They just needed the tools to build it.

On the day we were all to leave, questions followed everyone back to Kitchener. Was this simply an "event", an inspiring moment apart from all of our daily realities? The excitement was palpable, but could it last?

Since then, some youth have met together fairly regularly to discuss justice issues that affect street youth. A "rights card" is being developed, that illustrates the rights of local street youth in a relevant way. Discussions with local security officers are taking place so that we can have an open dialogue between them. Many of the youth have found employment, and others have found permanent housing. They now have the tools, and everyone is still listening.

Much has been accomplished, and much has been documented. But nothing could ever capture the feeling of the camp, the frantic feeling of being at the epicentre of social change. It moved us all.

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Revolution Camp

Continued from page 4

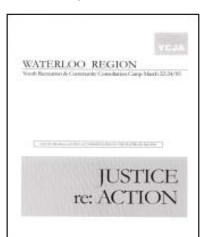
somehow knew that tobacco in aboriginal custom is presented when one wishes to speak to an elder.

As the Keeper of the Talking Stick, Christine brought the ornate stick she uses to conduct "talking circles", the aboriginal way of handling conflict, allowing everyone an equal voice. When conflict arose late one evening at the camp, a young woman to whom Christine had explained talking circles, came looking for Christine, and asked for her talking stick. The group of kids, without any adult tuition, resolved

their evening conflict through a new, respectful method. "It's all part of creating n e w memory in these kids," Christine said to me summing up her involvement in the camp.

The shedding of old skin was experienced throughout the three days. The removal of sunglasses after two days, the spontaneous running into the waiting arms of the Ojibwa woman for a much needed hug. By embracing the aspects of the three days that resonated with them it became an event "driven by youth, for youth," as one adult leader commented.

It needed to be. This is their revolution. Many of them have lost faith in the adult world that has constantly failed them. Social critic Jean Vanier once said that our kids are a reflection of us; they reflect the brokenness



of the adult world. They need to start again with whatever rings true in their own hearts. They need to be heard and, at least in theory, the new YCJA involves adults committed to listening to them. This camp was the start of the listening. In truth, everything they had to say was sensible, all centering around one key concept respect. The only thought that pushed the limits was perhaps their need to express themselves with graffiti. Not such a terribly outrageous idea. The young at times have greater scope than adults, new eyes, fresh thoughts. We would benefit from allowing them some latitude.

"The young are searching for something which is universal," says Jean Vanier (Eruption of Hope). "They don't want just the local, the regional, or even the national. They see further than borders." To exclude them on our journey would be a mistake. They know better than anyone how broken we all are.

This recognition by the adult camp leaders of the wisdom of the youth made the retreat experience a very moving one. Relationships were built, most notably between police officers and youth-what for some would have seemed an in-

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surmountable hurdle.

But this was a

With food, warm beds, companionship of friends and an adult population struggling to understand them, the lap of the camp presented a reprieve from life on the streets for half of the youth present, and clear thinking prevailed. By leaving behind the world for three days, venturing into nature, testing their strength and endurance, and participating in aboriginal rituals, the camp unintentionally contained elements of coming of age rituals.

The camp held much hope for future understanding between young people and the organizations working with them. The youth who participated fully went away with ideas of how life can be different. They plan on designing a laminated "Rights Card"--a compilation of their rights, responsibilities and resources condensed into understandable language onto a pocket size card, signed by the police. This small piece of paper might educate kids when they bump up against authority. They also want to formalize the peer mentorship that already occurs, counseling each other, accompanying friends to court and learning to trust police and other authority figures who have been helpful. They welcome the idea of restorative justice, of having warnings, community service and/or dialogue as constructive alternatives to incar-

Upon leaving the camp, one young man expressed what a difference the three days had made for the kids, allowing them to leave fortified. Like the aboriginal depiction of the bear, not searching for strength (because it has been there all along) but searching for the courage to use the strength already present in each one of them.



Urban Agriculture

By Margaret O'Shea Bonner

Given a chance, any of us has the possibility of changing our lives. Tyler, one of twelve youth in the Youth Mentorship in Urban Agriculture program at The Working Centre, knows this first-hand. He has always loved cooking, but finding an opportunity to develop these skills has not been an easy task. "I started cooking when I was five, taking things out of my mom's cupboard and making stuff, I loved doing that, but when I looked for work all I could find was a dishwashing job" Just over a month ago he heard about this program and decided to apply for a position. It's a pretty amazing program, giving people like Tyler an opportunity to reach for their dreams. Priority in this project is given to youth facing barriers to finding and keeping employment. The 12 youth come from a diverse background, and bring a broad range of experiences, education, interests and skills to the project.



The project has three sectors: 1) Marker Gardening, Greenhouse and Community Supported Gardening, 2) Artisan Baking and Food Prepara-

JUSTICE re: ACTION Planning Committee

Angie Koch: Working Centre Chad McCordic: Working Centre Rob Davis: Waterloo Regional Police

Barb Chrysler:Regional of Waterloo - Social Planning

Sara Escobar & Allison Miller: OSIS and ROOF

Marika Sandrelli:Participatory Research Consultant

Lynn Zammit: Choices for Youth Waterloo Region School Board

Kiaras Gharabaghi: Family and Children's Services

Joan Brown: John Howard Society

tion, and 3) Herbal Gardening and Herbal Product Development, with four youth participating in each sector. The market gardening sector will develop skills in all aspects of this field from planting to harvesting, will support the existing Whole Food Box CSA program, and will introduce the participants to natural landscaping and ecological restoration. Those involved in the baking and food preparation sector will prepare daily meals at St. John's Kitchen, develop menu planning, safe food handling and other skills and can be found every Wednesday from 11:30 am to 1:00pm making pizza at Queens Greens across from Joseph Schneider house on Queen Street West. (Individual pizzas are available for a suggested donation of \$2.00 - \$3.00.) And the herbal gardening group will participate in all aspects of herbal gardening and herbal product development, will prepare fresh herbs for local restaurant deliveries, and will have a stall at the

> Kitchener Farmer's Market every Wednesday morning.

> This project gives the youth a chance to make a significant contribution to our community, and to be valued for doing that. It provides concrete opportunities for them to learn new skills, to work cooperatively, and to develop relationships and links in these work worlds. Colleen, a participant in the market gar-

dening sector, says "Everyday for the rest of my life this job will help me. It will give me credibility and endless possibilities for new jobs." Tim and Celena are encouraged by the range of opportunities and experiences they have already experienced, and hope that, someday, this will translate into that elusive job as nutritionist or even starting a small business.

This is what keeps Tyler motivated too. He looks forward to group trips to similar program in Toronto, to local restaurants and businesses and especially to the Stratford Chef School, something he has always dreamed about. And he will be supported all along the way by a very dedicated and knowledgeable staff in the Urban Agriculture tools project and in job counseling. His description of this creative venture says it all. "It's awesome, amazing."

RECYCLE CYCLES



Community Bicycle Centre Established 1993

43 Queen Street S, 2nd floor downtown Kitchener 749-9177 x 222

recyclecycles@theworkingcentre.org

DONATIONS NEEDED!

If you have an old bicycle that you are no longer using, please consider donating it; why let it go to waste?

Public Hours: Tues. 11am-4 pm & Sat. 10am-2pm

Fix or build your own bike with volunteer support, Volunteers wanted to help fix bikes. Training provided. Call 749-9177 x 222

Supported by The Working Centre and WPIRG



2005 Oven Schedule

Wood-Fired Pizza Days

Wednesdays 11:30 - 1pm, May 11 - October 26 (Vegetarian supplies provided) \$2-3 donation suggested

Wood-Fired Baking Sessions

Thursday afternoons, July-October. Drop by to learn. Other baking by appointment only.

Queen Street Bake Oven and Garden Tour

Sunday July 17th, 12-2pm
Enjoy a tour of the garden and fresh baking.
Rain or Shine, All Welcome! Free Event!

Location:

Call Karin at 743-1151 x113 karin@theworkingcentre.org

Queens Greens Community Garden at Corner of Queen St. S. and Mill St., Downtown Kitchener

Recycle Cycles Gears Up for Summer

By Kari Kokko and Chad McCordic

With spring finally here, Recycle Cycles is a vibrant hub of activity as people work to get bicycles ready for summer riding. Every week there are many faces in the shop, some new and some familiar, all busy cleaning and greasing, patching and adjusting. Two days a week are devoted to helping people repair their own bicycles. So far in 2005, over 200 bikes have been worked on in the shop. On the other three days, volunteers fix up donated bikes which then become part of the monthly bike sale. Over 80 bikes have been repaired and sold or donated to members of the community so far this year. Currently there are also 4 hours a week when high school students can come and volunteer to fulfill some of their required community service hours. During this time the students learn about bike repair while working on some of the donated bikes, providing the students with a hands-on learning experience while providing Recycle Cycles with repaired bikes that can then be sold.

Around K-W

Besides these regular functions, Recycle Cycles has been involved in several other exciting projects. Recycle Cycles has offered free bicycle tune-ups at two local fairs. In September of 2004, Recycle Cycles worked on 10 bikes at Car-Free day in Victoria Park, and more recently we worked on 9 bikes at the first annual Non-Violence Fair in Waterloo Park that took place in May.

Another project is happening in conjunction with the Teen Refugee Support program at the YMCA. There are 10 teenagers participating in this program who are in need of bicycles. Over the course of 5 weeks they have been coming in two at a time to refurbish bikes for themselves. This is being done with the enthusiastic assistance of Netami Stuart and Dave Kobak. The project has been extended at the request of St.

Downtown Bike Camp

Advanced Workshops and Skill Building

This is an opportunity for young adults to develop basic level bicycle repair and maintenance skills, and eventually take part in an advanced skills workshop with local bike mechanics. These lessons will deal with hydraulic and disk brakes, tuning shocks, and other high-end bicycle components.

The project will use the format of "The Recycle Cycles Bike Camp" with highly intensive handson learning and be incorporated into the Recycle Cycles volunteer hours.



Designed for the downtown Kitchener youth community: a certifiable skill will be learnt while community service hours can be collected, all in a relaxed, fun atmosphere.

Contact Chad at 749-9177 x244 if you are interested

Recycle Cycles Bike Camp

Learn about your Bike!
Learn how to fix it. Learn
how to ride better. Learn
everything there is to know
about bikes and have fun
too!

In cooperation with:

- Kingsdale Community Centre
- St. Patricks Catholic School

July 11 to August 12 Ages 10 -14

Activities include:

- Bike maintenance workshops
- Sportsworld fieldtrips
- Bicycle road trips
- Sports, games and more!

Supported by Waterloo Region NCB Recreation Fund and WRPS. For more information call Chad at The Working Centre, 749-9177 x244

Work Begins at 97 Victoria St. N.

continued from page 1

was accomplished by the Job Cafe labour force. The pictures below show the work on the main floor that is supported through a work experience training project through HRSDC's Job Creation Partnership.

Over the summer we will continue

to renovate the main floor retail area as well as start construction on the second floor. As this work continues, we welcome all offers of donated labour and donated building materials. If you have experience framing, drywalling, installing flooring or want to help with regular clean up, please call Greg at 575-1041.



Summer at Recycle Cycles Continued

John's School, where six new Canadian children in the ESL program are in need of bikes.

Bike Share Hub

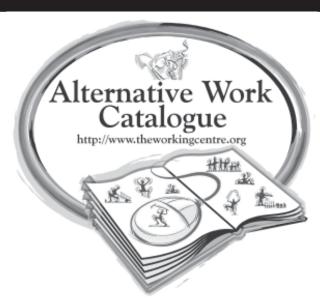
A project being initiated by The People's Car Co-op will allow members to share bikes as well as cars. All of the bicycles to be used in the Bike Share Hub are bikes that have been donated to Recycle Cycles. With much elbow grease and tenacity, Dave Steffler, Dan Unrau, Norman Schultz, and Paul Nijar are spending two days a week polishing and perfecting this fleet of bikes.

Bicycles from Recycle Cycles are also being used to support other community initiatives. One refurbished bicycle was donated to Arts in Action, a fundraiser for Out of the Cold that was organized by the KW Philharmonic Youth Choir. A second refurbished bicycle made its way to the Twin City Optimist Club, where it was presented to a youth at the Sunnydale Community Centre. Three refurbished bikes were also donated to the special education program at Courtland School, where three teenagers who have never ridden a bicycle will get the chance to learn.

The summer promises to bring more cycling adventures as the Recycle Bike Camp heads into its third year. This year the camp will be held at two different locations and will incorporate many of the same elements as previous years, such as lessons in bike repair and safety skills, great bike trips, a canoe trip on the Grand River with the Waterloo Regional Police, and constant fun.

As the shop shifts into high gear for the summer, Recycle Cycles remains committed above all to promoting cycling for transportation and recreation. Sitting above the bike stands, the piles of refurbished bikes, and the assortment of parts generously donated, the Recycle Cycles logo continues to encourage all those who enter the shop to "Keep on Cycling". It's this simple but effective message that regularly brings energetic volunteers into the shop to get their hands dirty and help make Recycle Cycles an effective community tool.

Alternative Work Catalogue

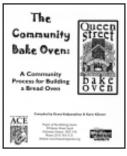


The Alternative Work Catalogue is now on-line at www.theworkingcentre.org and is a great resource for:

- supporting small and home business entrepreneurs;
- helping people through job search and career change to find their most inspiring and rewarding work;
- community and spiritual development.

You can place orders by mail, fax or phone - see the back page order form. We try to ship all order within a day or two depending on availability. Feel free to call us about special orders.

AWC books are also available at The Front Window - The Working Centre's gift store at 43 Queen St. S. in Kitchener. All proceeds from this catalogue go to Working Centre Projects.



The Community Bake Oven A Community Process for Building a Bread Oven

Geeta Vaidyanathan and Karin Kliewer

This handbook is intended to be a guide that will facilitate community groups in designing and building a masonry oven that meets their needs. The Working Centre and the Queen Street Bake Oven project share the story of how an inexperienced group of volunteers was able to build a beautiful oven, and how a community can come together for a common project.

Incorporating journal text, step-by-step practical information, photos, drawings, resources and some necessary measurements, this handbook provides the basic information and encouragement needed for more community bake oven projects to begin. This handbook is not intended to be an exhaustive building manual, but rather to be used to support and compliment professional masonry building books that are readily available.

Regardless of the style of community oven you decide to build, you can be assured that anytime the wood-fire is stoked, the first baking goes in, and the tantalizing smells start to waft through the air, the same magic will happen as diverse people start to gather around to share their ingredients, skills and stories.

50 pages GB02 \$20.00 softcover



The New Organic Grower A Master's Manual of Tools and Techniques for the Home and Market Gardener

Eliot Coleman

A welcome source of knowledge for those interested in small-scale, commercial farming and gardening without pesticides. The small grower learns of cost-effective, environmentally sustainable production techniques along with learning how economy of effort transforms gardening from a task to a craft. Like any practice, it can only be learned through repetition, dedication, and good teaching.

304 pages SU08 \$36.00 softcover

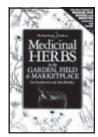


Successful Small-Scale Farming An Organic Approach

Karl Schwenke

The author's clear-eyed approach to the best farming methods covers a wide range of proven techniques and practical advice including: enriching the soil, machinery, the best crops to grow for profit, creating a market niche for your farm, and an overview of essential farmstead skills. Schwenke's message is that small-scale farms can be cleaner, smarter and more efficient than corporate agribusiness.

134 pages HC08 \$21.50 softcover



Medicinal Herbs

In the Garden, Field and Marketplace

Lee Sturdivant

Takes you step by step from your garden or field into the marketplace. Detailed help from medicinal herb growers, practitioners, product makers, and wildcrafters. Shows the small farm and business opportunities in North America's growing demand for herbal medicine.

350 pages GC02 \$40.50 softcover



Dumbing Us Down

The Hidden Cirriculum of Compulsory Schooling

John Taylor Gatto

Dumbing Us Down shows how compulsory schooling stamps out the self-knowledge, curiosity, concentration and solitude essential to learning. In his 26 years of teaching, John Taylor Gatto has found that independent study, community service, large doses of solitude, and a thousand different apprenticeships with adults of all walks of life are the keys to helping children break the thrall of conforming society.

103 pages AE03 \$14.95 softcover



School Free

The Home Schooling Handbook

Wendy Priesnitz

Authored by a home schooling mother and founder of the Canadian Alliance of Home Schoolers, *School Free* is an introduction to life-based learning (sometimes referred to home-schooling). Everything parents, educators and students need to know about this increasingly popular educational alternative.

143 pages AE04 \$16.95 softcover



And the Skylark Sings with Me Adventures in Homeschooling and Community-Based Education

David H. Albert

This is an inspiring story of contemporary education outside of school. A unique and passionate homeschooling story filled with practical wisdom on a wide range of subjects. A superb model of what all parents can do to bring forth the best in their children.

240 pages AE09 \$19.95 softcover



The Unschooling Handbook How to Use the Whole World as Your Child's Classroom

Mary Griffith

A growing percentage of homeschoolers are becoming unschoolers. Without bells, schedules, and rules about what to do and when, the knowledge they gain through mindful living and explorations is absorbed more easily and enthusiastically. Successful unschooling parents know how to stimulate and direct their children's learning impulse

230 pages AE05 \$25.95 softcover



The Teenage Liberation Handbook How to Quit School and Get a Real Life and Education

Grace Llewellyn

This book is for those who have gone to school, but it is especially for teenagers and people with teenagers in their lives. You'll find good reasons to think about quitting school, how to reclaim the natural ability to learn, how to get parents' support, how to keep friends, stay out of legal trouble, design a personalized education, go to college without going to high school, and how to find volunteer positions, apprenticeships, and other work opportunities. This is the international edition.

259 pages AE06 \$25.95 softcover

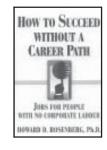


Deschooling Our Lives

Edited by Matt Hern

Includes some of the most inspiring and challenging thinkers about education, as well as a survery of the most promising alternatives to compulsory schooling: community learning networks, homeschooling, democratic/free schools, and more. Contributors include: Ivan Illich, John Holt, John Taylor Gatto, *Growing Without Schooling*, the Albany Free School, Summerhill, and te Sudbury Valley School.

150 pages AE02 \$17.95 softcover



How to Succeed Without a Career Path Jobs for People with No Corporate Ladder

Howard D. Rosenberg

It's okay not to have a career in today's new economy. Filled with self assessment exercises, individual chapters explore non-career options for success: self employment, the importance of recreation, leisure, volunteerism, and artistic and creative interests for those not committed to careerism. A manual for developing an important vision of what you really want to do with the rest of your life.

214 pages AE08 \$21.20 softcover



Secrets to a Successful Greenhouse Business

A Complete Guide to Starting and Operating a High-Profit Business That Benefits the Environment

T.M. Taylor

Designed for the beginner or hopeful grower to show how, with a small investment, anyone can have a profitable home-based business growing plants. Presents up-to-date information on plans for

building simple greenhouses, which plants sell best, when and how to grow them; selling to national chains and local markets, and growing vegetables hydroponically and with soil.

153 pages GR01 \$47.05 softcover

Alternative Work Catalogue



Internship Success

Real-World Step-by-Step Advice on Getting the Most out of Internships

Marianne Ehrlich Green

It's no secret that a successful internship can help you get a job, but how can you make sure you get the best internships, and get the most out of them while you're there? Until now, you were on your own, left to figure things out as you went along. *Internship Success* takes you through the entire internship process, from finding and applying for the best

internships, to dealing with bosses and colleagues, to wrapping things up and moving on.

178 pages YB04 \$17.95 softcover



Help Wanted

Tales from the First Job Front

Sydney Lewis

Sydney Lewis presents candid accounts by young people across the nation about their first forays into the real world of work. These first-person stories take us from the cubicle and copy room to the stage and campaign trail, offering advice not found in typical career guides.

310 pages YB06 \$27.00 softcover



UpStart Start-Ups!

How 34 Young Entrepreneurs Overcame Youth, Inexperience, and Lack of Money to Create Thriving Businesses

Ron Lieber

Essential tips and information that will enable you to get your own business off the ground. Includes: myths and realities when you are under 30, acting on a good idea, making your age work to your advantage, developing a realistic business plan, establishing credibility, and engaging

successful models. You can turn your youth, inexperience and lack of money to your advantage and capitalize on your assets to trump the corporate system.

232 pages YB01 \$22.00 softcover



Gen F

Generation Entrepreneur is Rewriting the Rules of Business - And You Can Too!

Brain O'Connell

This book is motivational, inspirational, instructional and informational, making it totally essential for aspiring entrepreneurs, existing entrepreneurs, and anyone who wants to know the basics of building a good business.

337 pages YB02 \$28.95 softcover



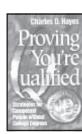
The Liberal Arts Advantage

How to Turn Your Degree into a Great Job

Gregory Grangrade

Employers look for employees who can see the big picture, whose broad field of study has trained them to understand and think critically about people, society and culture. **The Liberal Arts Advantage** gives you an insiders' look at specific opportunities for liberal arts graduates in publishing, broadcasting, journalism, advertising, and shows you how to target your job search for the exact career that's right for you.

184 pages SD04 \$16.00 softcover



Proving You're Qualified

Strategies for Competent People Without College Degrees

Charles Hayes

Each day thousands of experienced, competent people are denied job opportunities and well-deserved promotions because of the lack of formal credentials. Credentials cannot be counted on as a proof of competence. Hayes demonstrates how to prove competence rather than relying on credentials.

166 pages AP01 \$26.30 softcover



Job Smarts for Twentysomethings

Bradley Richardson

Packed with firsthand advice from accomplished twentysomethings - newscasters, heads of nonprofit groups, and entrepreneurs, among others - who are generally more successful than they have a right to be. In this book, Richardson tells you everything you need to know to make the leap from fast-food restaurant to a fast-track career. Savvy, pragmatic, and even fun to read, with great cartoons.

407 pages RH01 \$21.00 softcover



Nice Job!

A Guide to Cool, Odd, Risky, and Gruesome Ways to Make a Living

Lookout Medic

This odd guide is packed with 80 detailed, fun-to-read profiles of the world's most interesting and unusual professions. Includes such jobs as mercenaries, bounty hunters, erotic dancing and film, wildland firefighting outposts. Explore how far afield your skills can take you.

288 pages AJ03 \$23.95 softcover



Your First Resume

For Students and Anyone Preparing to Enter Today's Tough Job Market

Ron Fry

Who will benefit from Your First Resume? Students and recent highschool or college graduates, homemakers trying to reenter the workforce, men and women returning from military service and anyone who wants to fulfill his or her career goals and turn minimal work experience into impressive qualifications. Covers all the possibilities and necessary preparation in

logical sequence, from goal-setting to networking to interviewing to accepting the job!

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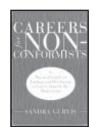


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Rob Sulliva

This book offers effective information for organizing and highlighting your marketable skills, convincing an employer of your potential, and getting the ideal job offer. This step-by-step book walks you through the entire career search process. Sullivan offers self—assessment exercises, guidelines for crafting an effective resume, tips on fielding difficult interview questions and salary negotiation.

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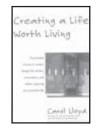


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Sandra Gurvis

Are you a recent graduate, an early retiree looking for a twilight job, or are you just plain ready to leave behind the corporate 9-to-5 routine? Careers for Nonconformists is a practical, all-in-one guide to hundreds of unique and satisfying careers. Sandra Gurvis showcases 75 careers – and touches on 150 more – within 15 areas of interest, from animals and the outdoors to entertainment, travel, and the Internet.

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Carol Lloyd

An inspiring and irreverent crash course in career survival. Lloyd guides you through the process of birthing your vision and helps you invent the means to support your long-term dreams. Each chapter provides concrete tasks to help you generate and flesh-out ideas; develop strong, healthy work habits; and map a path to your ideal creative life. This

book is for anyone who wants to harness creative energy to create a unique career path.

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