

GOOD WORK NEWS

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

Issue 86

September 2006

Subscription: a donation towards our work

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Join Us to Celebrate the Opening of 97 Victoria Street North

We have completed the renovations and invite you to see the projects:

- ★ St. John's Kitchen ★ Medical Clinic ★
- ★ Public Washrooms ★ Showers ★ Laundry ★
- ★ Worth a Second Look Furniture & Housewares ★

Thursday October 19th

4:00pm-8:00pm

Formal Recognition to be held at 7:00pm



Open Space Full of Activity

By Joe Mancini

This is a very exciting time for all of us here at The Working Centre. To list all of the new activities gives a sample of the community involvement that seems like a continual wave of activity. On July 25, after a year of construction we moved St. John's Kitchen into its new location at 97 Victoria. See page 3 for Leslie Morgenson's article and pictures. We invite you all to the Open House on Thursday October 19th between 4-8 pm. (see above). Worth A Second Look, in the same building, has also completed its space with more room

in the store and sorting areas now that the construction is finished. Construction continues at 66 Queen as the apartments are almost drywalled and we are starting to mud and tape.

On Queen Street the monthly calendar of activities is filled with public events. You can download that file from The Working Centre's website. The activities divide into regular services such as Housing Desk, Speak English Café, BarterWorks Market Day, Computer Recycling, and Recycle Cycles. All those projects provide a service and

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New Space at 66 Queen for Job Search Resource Centre

By Christa Van Daele

In recent months, a new bustle and colour has energetically surfaced in the flow of life at 58 Queen Street South. That is the original employment resource space at The Working Centre, a well worn community space that thousands in the city have come to know rather well as they drop by the front desk to make inquiries, check personal messages on a well used bulletin board, or petition someone with an urgent housing or employment request on behalf of themselves or a relative.

Has something significant changed at 58 Queen? Lately, some have wondered if employment services have expanded in number or in kind at 58 Queen. It is not an unreasonable question. A whole new building addition has been annexed there in the spring of 2006, referred to by those who work in the space as "66 Queen." With its bright new tile floors, long corridors stretching both back and front, several clustered areas of tables and chairs, and sunshine pouring all over the well lit space, 66 Queen expands well out to the corner of Queen Street South and Charles, bringing the overall drop-in resource space of The Working Centre right over to the corner of a busy intersection in the heart of Kitchener.

The answer, from a historical perspective, is both yes and no. Remarkable physical changes have indeed come. But what has happened recently is that a large door has been opened between the newly renovated "66 Queen Street South" -- the bright new space with the new tile floors and the strong appealing colours -- and the old space that most have always known as The Working Centre.

A history of both spaces tells an interesting story of changing times and changing fortunes on Kitchener's Queen Street South. Joe Mancini recites it from memory. "There is an important historical antecedent here," says Joe. "The door that now connects

the two spaces, that allows us to spread out, - it's really a re-established door. Between 1958 and 1976, the whole space was one store, called Ontario Office Outfitters. The door was closed off around 1977, when Willson Stationary purchased Ontario Office Outfitters and Montreal Trust rented out 58 Queen. And then in 1985, we established the The Working Centre's job search resource centre at 58 Queen Street South. The renovation work has re-established the double use of the original space."

In addition to the story of the happily rejoined bricks and mortar, there is the equally interesting story of the reconnected mingling of employment services that had previously "travelled across the street". For several years now, since 43 Queen opened in 2000, a visitor looking for a job might travel back and forth across the street, wondering where "my employment counsellor is!" Now, that criss-crossing need happen no more. All Working Centre staff offering employment services is working under one roof, linked to those who are using the Centre through the hospitable presence of Myroslava and others at the front desk of 58.

That mingling features many attractions and benefits. "We noticed some natural stratification happening," comments Joe. "The more skilled people looking for work would wind up at 43 and the less skilled at 58. Now, people just distribute themselves as they wish across the new space. The visitor notices that there are plenty of places to sit. There's a magic to the

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Twenty Second Year

Issue 86

September 2006

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 10,800 copies.

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Contributors: Dave Thomas, Leslie Morgenson, Bob Shantz, Sally Lerner, Christa Van Daele, Kari Kokko, Suzanne Dietrich, Joe Johnson, and Rebecca Mancini.

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Canada Post Bulk #05306256

Charitable Registration #13092 9607 RR0001

Our Building Projects



97 Victoria Street North

66 Queen Street South

- ♦ St. John's Kitchen ♦ 5 units of Affordable Housing ♦ Medical Clinic ♦
- ♦ Computer Recycling ♦ Employment Counselling ♦ Maurita's Kitchen ♦
- ♦ Job Café ♦ Public Washrooms, Showers, and Laundry ♦
- ♦ Worth a Second Look Furniture and Housewares ♦
- ♦ Queen Street Commons Café ♦

We have raised \$1,018,824 in support of these projects, but we still need your help to raise the remaining \$259,058.

Our expenses have included:

Construction Materials:	\$413,943
Electrical:	\$114,222
Plumbing & HVAC:	\$339,595
Labour:	\$181,969
Kitchen Equipment:	\$50,000
Roofs:	\$85,975
Handicap Lift:	\$19,500
Consulting:	\$72,678
TOTAL	\$1,277,882

Our funders have included:

L.S. Hallman Foundation	\$83,548
CAW Social Justice Fund	\$70,000
Service Canada	\$153,426
Jim & Sue Hallman	\$110,000
K-W Community Foundation	\$31,700
Local Donors/Foundations	\$145,450
Ontario Trillium Foundation	\$199,700
Strong Start/Reg of Waterloo	\$150,000
Kitchener/Upper-Storey Prog.	\$75,000
TOTAL:	\$1,018,824

Over the past three years The Working Centre has embarked on a surprising path that has included the purchase and revitalization of two 1900s era, 15,000 square foot warehouse buildings in downtown Kitchener.

This heritage renewal has resulted in significant new community resources, space and housing.

We organize all aspects of the renovation while harnessing community support in the form of gifts of services, time, and money, combined with work experience grants.

We have been blessed with significant support and extensive donations from suppliers and contractors.

We have no capital loans and have used our resources to pay for the work as it is completed.

We have spent approximately \$1,277,882, or about \$41 a square foot - a frugal renovation cost despite completely stripping down and adding new services to meet fire and building codes.

Presently, we have raised \$1,018,824 without anyone dedicated to fundraising. As we complete these projects we find our resources spread thin and we are looking to the community for big and small contributions towards the final \$259,058.

Over 200 Golfers Turn Out for 17th Annual Golf Tournament

By Dave Thomas

Seventeen was our lucky number this year at the Annual Golf Tournament to support operations at The Working Centre and St. John's Kitchen. The 17th outing on the links was our most successful one yet, raising almost \$30,000 and filling the course to capacity.

The weather was grand at Foxwood Golf Course as the players teed off to enjoy a day away from the plant or office, to continue friendly rivalries, and seek that elusive bogie, birdie or eagle - all the while supporting a good cause.

A few weeks before the event, it looked like we would not have enough golfers, so members of our tournament committee really got to work. In the end, 216 players registered - more golfers than we've ever had. The members of CAW Local 1524 had a big turnout, with many participating and inviting their colleagues from other locals to play too. Players came from Lear plants as far away as Ajax, Whitby and Windsor.

The skies clouded up as the afternoon passed, but that didn't dampen the spirits of the participants. And fortunately the rain held off until after the dinner wrapped up in the evening.

There were numerous prize opportunities on the links, such as closest to the keg, a 50/50 draw, longest drive and hole-in-one contests that would have earned the lucky hitter a prize of \$10,000.

The top foursome was Bob Shantz, Dan Shantz, Ed Nowak and Dennis Roth. Janis Turenne, Sue Oberle, Kim Carter and Cheryl Medeiros were the top women's foursome. In the top mixed quartet were Tim Lyons, Brian Hanke, Mary Lou MacDonald and Jay Traynor.

Bruce Davidson served as MC again this year, as players enjoyed a buffet

dinner of roast beef and rolled ribs. We capped off the evening with a number of generous door prizes and a silent auction. Prizes included: Urn-style Planters, compliments of Hauser Company Store; Propane Tank and Fill, compliments of Downtown Auto Centre; a Lawn Mower, compliments of MTD; a 5-piece Luggage Set, compliments of TLC Travel & Terri Lynne Woods; a Hot Air Balloon Flight for Two, compliments of The Record; a Hoover Wind Tunnel Vacuum Cleaner, compliments of Hoover; and a Thermoelectric Wine Cooler, compliments of Danby Products.

We'd like to extend a special thank-



you to our committee members: Frank Curnew and Sharon Lupton (Labour Program of Waterloo Region), John Germann (UA 527), Tammy Heller (CAW Regional Office), Eric Kingston and Vladimir Malidzanovic (Bell), Tim Mitchell, Rob Pyne, Paul Roeder, Janis Turenne, and Jim Woods (CAW Local 1524), Rick Moffitt (Waterloo Region Labour Council), Mike Thibodeau (Lear Kitchener), and Fred Walker (Bingemans).

Major support also came from our community sponsors: Lear Corporation, CAW National Office and, for the first time this year, Bell. Patrons MTD Products Limited and Dennis Murphy Pontiac Buick GMC Ltd. also returned this year.

A Busy Summer and Fall

continued from page 1

offer volunteer activities. Two new projects Maurita's Kitchen and Queen Street Commons Café are projects that over 50 volunteers have already been part of. These projects offer a great way to learn new skills and pitch in. Then there are all the workshops like the Linux Users' Group, healthSPEAK, New Canadian Series, Job Search Support Group, Care for Nurses Info Session, English ESL Drop-in, Job Search Networking Series, Apprenticeship Info Session, Celebration of Foods Cooking Session.

At the Queen Street Commons Café, we have live music every Wednesday evening between 5-8 pm provided by Mary Anne Epp and Mike Daly. On Tuesday nights from 7-9, Mike Kelly will be hosting an open mic

for local songwriters.

This fall four different courses started up in the evenings. Ken Westhues is teaching a University of Waterloo course Soc 209 Ancestry, History, Personal Identity; Waterloo Region ASSETS+ has its first session of 10 participants taking home-business training, Mary Ann Vanden Elzen started up another Simple Living Circle on Tuesday nights and the Waterloo School for Community Development started up its second Diploma in Local Democracy with 15 students led by Ken Westhues and myself.

In this issue we decided to convey the excitement of all this programming with pictures. It is a different way of describing our work. It illustrates the new spaces that have been created, it shows the outline of the projects that continue to develop and it emphasizes the large number of people who are part of The Working Centre everyday. We hope to see many of you at the 97 Victoria Open House.

St. John's Kitchen

Major Renovation Creates New Home for St. John's Kitchen

By Leslie Morgenson

It was as if an extended family of 300 had moved in on July 25th when St. John's Kitchen set up its new home at 97 Victoria St. N. And the neighbours were watching intently, sizing up the newcomers. It was certainly the kind of scene the late activist and writer Jane Jacobs would have loved; neighbours kibbutzing, jostling to accommodate each other. One neighbouring business hired four people for day work within the first week. Talking toward solutions was Jane Jacobs' idea of urban development.

"We may no longer be in a church but the new space feels spiritual"

If poetry is language at its best the new St. John's Kitchen is space at its best. The airy open concept allows for conversation and connection between the kitchen and the dining area. Through large windows streams natural sunlight and ventilation. The larger kitchen, says one volunteer, means the food preparers are not tripping over each other. And the painted walls splashed with warm food colors, paprika, mango, tangelo have meant not only is this a place of refuge but also a place of enjoyment. And people seem quite uplifted by their new space. It has a café feel, many have said.



"Thank you for making us feel as if we deserve a nice place," someone said upon first entering this new community kitchen with a café style.

"We may no longer be in a church but the new space feels spiritual," said another diner. Recently, after a meal, another patron commented that the space shows a generous heart on the part of many who contributed in so many ways to its creation.

Having a building that is specifically built around the needs of the people being served means ideally, that all the services provided run more efficiently. Our new home is not only a kitchen, but also has medical offices shared at the moment by the Kitchener Downtown Community Health Clinic on Tuesdays and the Psychiatric Outreach Program on Thursdays - two programs that have been of great benefit to our community. We now have a small lending library, and in the Fall we will have available free showers and laundry facilities. It is a welcoming space that seems to invite ideas of possibility for the future.

And while we look to the future we cannot ignore the historical past of this long-standing building. Mitchell Button Co. was the first business

"Thank you for making us feel as if we deserve a nice place"

to occupy this building. As the train leaves the station across the street we are reminded of how this location on the train line, was crucial to Mitchell Button Co. (established in 1927) during a time when buttons were big business and Kitchener was considered the button capital of Canada. The company originally made buttons from mother-of-pearl and fresh water shell, but later they were made from plastics at which point the company become known as Mitchell Plastics.



In the 1970's, Dumont Press Graphix, a workers' collective type-setting shop set up home printing, for example, "Labour/Le Travail" The Journal of Canadian Labour Studies, past issues of which have been donated to The Working Centre Library. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul operated the thrift store for over 20 years on the main floor. Within our current population, we have some musicians who once recorded their albums on the second floor at Sound on Sound Recording Studio where we now dine, converse, and support each other.

We also share the space today with Worth a Second Look Furniture on the ground floor, a thriving used furniture store.

The French philosopher, Gaston Bachelard writes in his book, The Poetics of Space, about the influence of architectural spaces on our creative imagination. The four walls we find ourselves within, he argues, influence and inspire us, allow us to daydream, as well as sheltering and protecting us. With this in mind, it seems only right to give people the best possible space in which to be.

We are a community kitchen with an invitation open to all to come for a coffee, a meal or a look around.

The Working Centre in Pictures



Volunteers and staff at Maurita's Kitchen work to produce a variety of healthy foods for Queen Street Commons Café



Whole Foodbox CSA members picking up and sorting through their fresh, local, organic produce



Queen Street Commons Café, serving local, organic, vegetarian dishes prepared at Maurita's Kitchen



Recycle Cycles Bike Camp



Computer Basics class at 58 Queen St. S. provides students with an introduction to general computing



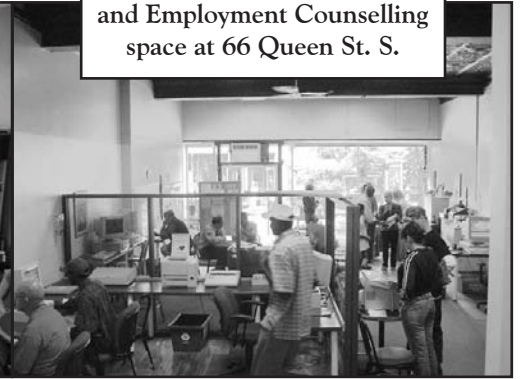
The Working Centre in Pictures



Worth a Second Look Furniture and Housewares at 97 Victoria St. N. provides quality used goods at affordable prices



Reception at 58 Queen St. S and Employment Counselling space at 66 Queen St. S.



Workers hired through a Job Creation Partnership work on drywalling and insulating the apartments on the second floor of 66 Queen St. S.



Volunteers assist cyclists with bike repair and maintenance at Re-cycle Cycles, at 43 Queen St. S.

The Psychiatric Outreach Project staff, including two medical students observing Dr. Arya, operate the clinic each Thursday



An artistic touch is added to the side of 66 Queen St. S. as colourful clay tiles are adhered to the wall.



New Canadians at the Speak English Café at 43 Queen St. S. improve their English skills



People are assisted in their search for affordable housing at our Housing Desk



Job Café work crews pull weeds and sweep in a downtown alleyway.



Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) present The Working Centre with \$50,000 for small business training.



Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre staff meet at the 97 Victoria St. N. medical clinic which operates regularly on Tuesdays



Job Search Support at Local Plant Closings

We have seen the closing of a series of companies that provided long-term, well-paying manufacturing jobs. Over the past year employment counsellors from The Working Centre have worked to support workers from La-Z-Boy, Easy Heat, Zettel Manufacturing, VSA, and B. F. Goodrich.

By Stephanie Mancini

Many of the jobs in these companies supported the work of a wide range of feeder-companies throughout the community, providing parts and supplies to the plants. While we are involved in the direct Labour Adjustment Committees, through our Job Search Resource Centre, we also assist a wide range of other invisible workers whose jobs were lost when these companies closed.

This work is intensive and engaging. The transition from these well-paying jobs can be complex – decisions involve questions of early retirement, about changing to a different or less-physical kind of work, building on the opportunity to take further training or education, or to find work that pays significantly less money. Resumes are written and job search techniques are explored as each worker strives to dem-

onstrate their skills and convince another employer that they would be a good employee. Differentiating each worker's skills and knowledge is a work of art and dedication, as employment counsellors encourage workers to describe their strengths, their hopes and their experiences.

We have joined with other community partners in providing this service, working closely with Lutherwood and Conestoga College to provide Resume-writing workshops, Job Search workshops, Interview workshops, and one-on-one assistance. While this level of community coordination is a bit more complicated, it also ensures we have trainers available to respond to any requests from the Adjustment Committees in a timely manner. In the past eight months, we have provided assistance to up to 2,000 workers facing job loss. The Working Centre has also provided tutorial-based computer training for a number of workers who were strengthening their computer skills or just being introduced to computers.

The Adjustment Committees that form to support these workers bring together the knowledge and experience of the company, the union/workers, and

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Start your business with the help of the Waterloo Region ASSETS+ Project

A Service for Self-Employment, Training, and Support



We have a specific focus on women, New Canadians, those who are working in low-income jobs, and those living on a limited income who are not eligible for other small business supports.

This project offers:

- ✦ **Ten Week Business Training and Entrepreneurship Readiness Course:** This course will assist you in completing a simple, comprehensive business plan. Includes steps such as performing market research, acquiring accounting and budgeting skills and developing financial statements. Both start-up entrepreneurs and existing business people can benefit from the information and planning this program provides. *(The first class is currently running until December 4th in the evening.)*
- ✦ **Business Technical Assistance:** Sessions are provided on specific topics such as marketing, product development, bookkeeping, financial statements, tax preparation, management, etc.
- ✦ **Business Loans:** Assistance with accessing small loans, marketing assistance, and other supports for your business.
- ✦ **Mentorships/Networking:** Learn from a wide network of existing business people who can offer mentorships, advice, and observerships as you develop your own business.

For information or to register, contact:

Bob Shantz
wrap@theworkingcentre.org
(519) 743-1151 x 206

The Waterloo Region ASSETS+ Project is a partnership between The Working Centre and the Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) - Waterloo Chapter. Technical assistance provided by MEDA International.



Full ten week Business Training Course fees based on income.

Some Shades of Green at The Working Centre

The Commuter Challenge



Commuter Challenge is a national program that aims to increase the awareness of the benefits of sustainable commuting and to encourage Canadians

to take action by walking, cycling, taking transit, carpooling or tele-working instead of driving alone to get work.

This year's Challenge saw Waterloo Region place 2nd among communities in Ontario.

The Working Centre once again placed first among participating businesses and organizations in Waterloo Region with 26-100 employees. In the past five years we have placed first four times and second, once. This year we earned a 90% participation rate, meaning that 90% of staff cycled, walked, took public transit or car pooled. How is it possible that so many individuals at The Working Centre are able to avoid getting to work without a car? If all workplaces could achieve even half of that number, air pollution and global warming gases would be reduced substantially. It seems that besides people at The Working Centre being environmentally friendly, the major factor is that the majority live near the Kitchener or Waterloo downtown and are able to walk or ride to work and even for those who are not near the downtown, bus routes and bike trails all serve the

downtown well. A further reality is that most staff get by either without a car, as members of the car coop or as one car families. All of which makes The Working Centre a very commuter friendly place.

Cool Shops



At a press conference at The Working Centre's 43 Queen location, the three local hydro companies that sponsor the Cool Shops program branded M&M Meat Shops (Cambridge), Princess Twin Cinemas and Loop Clothing (Waterloo) and The Working Centre (Kitchener) as the first official Cool Shops in the Kitchener-Waterloo Region.

Cool Shops is a program that works with retailers in neighbourhoods across Ontario to identify and implement in-store energy management measures that encourage the small-business commercial sector to save on utility costs and reduce energy consumption.

The Working Centre has taken significant steps towards energy efficiency by changing T12 fluorescent tube lights to newer, more efficient T8 Lighting. These changes along with numerous other energy efficient initiatives have reduced The Working Centre's energy bills by over 30%!

We have applied this same strategy to all of our buildings resulting in significant energy bill reductions.

Volunteer Opportunities at The Working Centre

Worth a Second Look

Furniture & Housewares

Worth a Second Look is a thrift shop that provides the community with quality used goods at very low prices. Volunteers are needed for:

- Customer Service / Cashier
- Pricing
- Driving / Delivery

Location: 97 Victoria Street North
Times: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm, Sat. 9am-4pm.

Whole Food Box CSA

The Whole Food Box Community Supported Agriculture program provides affordable, seasonal, local, organically grown and fairly traded produce. Volunteers are needed for:

- General Help

Location: 66 Queen Street South
Times: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4pm-6pm.

Maurita's Kitchen

The kitchen provides a practical learning environment, where volunteers make all the meals for Queen Street Commons Café from scratch using fresh, whole foods. Volunteers are needed for:

- General kitchen help

Location: 66 Queen Street South
Times: Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm

Computer Recycling

Computer Recycling provides the public with affordable used PCs. Volunteers learn about computer repair by refurbishing old computers.

Location: 43 Queen Street South
Times: Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30am-4:00pm.

Sewing Space

Sewing Space offers beginners and advanced sewing classes. Volunteers assist people in learning the machines, working from patterns, and sewing techniques. Those with experience are invited to assist with classes.

Location: 58 Queen Street South
Times: Mondays 9am-12pm, Tuesdays 9am-12pm & 12:30pm-3:30pm, Thursdays 12:30-3:30

Queen Street Commons

Queen Street Commons is a volunteer-run café that offers a local, organic, vegetarian menu, community events, music and movie nights, and a gift shop. Volunteers are needed for:

- Customer and Food Service
- Food Preparation
- Kitchen Help

Location: 43 Queen Street South
Times: Monday to Friday from 8:30am-11:30am, 11:30am-2:30pm, or 2:30pm-5:30pm.

For more information or to volunteer, please call (519)743-1151.

New Space at 66 Queen

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new space - it seems to attract its own clusters, maybe three times as much space for new groupings, and it provides a pretty complete employment counselling environment."

But even in a space largely dedicated to job search and employment counselling, other features of the new joined space are slowly asserting themselves. Diverse projects that come from the gardens are working in good harmony near and around the connected spaces of 58 and 66. Like Hull House, a turn of the century settlement on the corner of two busy streets in Chicago that housed a great diversity of productive human activities, The Working Centre's original location at 58/66 has allowed for a blossoming of activity that is beginning in late 2006 to colonize the annexed space.

Cooking classes at Maurita's Kitchen, the preparation of daily food that is run back and forth on trays across the street to the Café at the Commons, and food boxes coming in from the gardens on a weekly basis are some of the sight and sounds that also thread through the employment resource area each day. In fact, the smell of good bread baking, or the acerbic living smell of fresh greens and flowers from the garden, is a constant reminder of the varied interests shared by contributors at The Working Centre.

Ray Oldenburg, an American sociologist, has given particular time and thought to observing in depth the fluid,

friendly areas of shared public interest in our lives where people just enjoy passing the time around ordinary human exchanges. He has called such spaces "the third space", summarizing his observations in a terrific book called *The Great Good Place: Cafes, Coffee Shops, Bookstores, Bars, Hair Salons and other Hangouts at the Heart of a Community*.

In the spirit of a great good shared place, an employment counsellor debriefing an in-depth issue with a visitor searching for better options can work privately in a quiet booked room at 66/58 Queen, or cross the street on occasion to the Commons to a lively and shared public space. There, in an atmosphere where many from the downtown are there to chat and enjoy themselves during lunch in the middle of a busy working day, a resume proofreading session can be finalized together with a feeling of real accomplishment -- over a cup of coffee at a table.

Why not? The fluid third space is continually redefining itself as visitors bring their ideas and needs for human interaction to The Working Centre. The buoyant feeling of reconfigured work habitats in 2006 has settled nicely into the adjoined spaces of a spacious employment resource centre. And each day, all of this continues to change, creating decisive shifts in the choreography of people clustered in and around The Working Centre. We dare to think of it as a great good place.

Local Plant Closings

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government representatives. Action Centres are established that provide a drop-in service that includes connection to formal workshops provided by organizations like The Working Centre, job leads developed by the Action Centre staff, and information on training and schooling options. The responses are dictated by the needs of the workers and are unique in each closing. Issues like severance, eligibility for Employment Insurance, training opportunities while on EI, retirement options, and many other choices are researched and shared with the workforce.

Suzanne Dietrich, an Employment Counsellor at The Working Centre over the summer months, who worked on the B. F. Goodrich closing shares the following comments:

"Although I did not have a tour of the plant I learned quite a bit about the job roles and training opportunities that were provided at the plant. There seemed to be a real sense of community among the workers, as they supported each other in workshops by sharing experiences and providing the necessary humour, of course. Employees I met had been at the plant for as little as 2 years to as long as 28 years. There was a wide variety of skills and training that they received, with many completing or working towards apprenticeships.

"For many the closure was quite a shock, as with any loss of employment. When a whole community is displaced it is different -- it has a stronger impact but it can also eliminate some of the isolation that is experienced. Many of the longer term employees have never had to write a resume or conduct an extensive job search. A number of employees were not sure what direction their future would take them, due to changes in the local manufacturing sector. But many workers had ideas of different avenues to pursue. With patience, persistence and the support available to them, I believe that each employee will find a place where their skills, experience and dedication to team work can be used."

It is this strong belief in the ability of each person that helps to make the most of this immensely significant community crisis. Work is such a significant part of our self-image, of the way we measure our worth. Job loss is significant and life-changing for many people. The privilege of supporting these workers through this time of intensive change is both challenging and gratifying. We are always impressed with the great people we meet in this work, with the many people who work to support one another, and with the coordinated community efforts that combine to assist workers facing a plant closing.

Alternative Work Catalogue

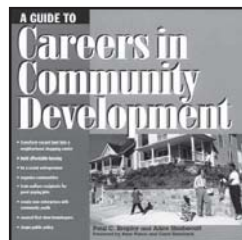


The Alternative Work Catalogue is now on-line at www.theworkingcentre.org and is a great resource for:

- ♦ 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.

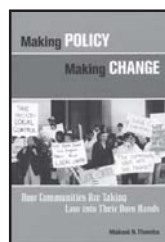


A Guide to Careers in Community Development

Paul C. Brophy & Alice Shabecoff

Describes the many different kinds of community development jobs available, ranging from community organizing, to financing housing and new businesses, to redeveloping brownfields. Advice on how to break into the field along with guidance for long term opportunities.

309 pages CD01 \$23.95 softcover



Making Policy, Making Change

How Communities are Taking Law into Their own Hands

Makani N. Themba

Using case studies and practical, how-to instruction, and drawing on her own extensive experience, Themba shows how a community group can construct a policy initiative, work with the community and the media to get it passed, counter negative gender and race stereotyping and, in the end, take law into their own hands-by making it.

177 pages CD08 \$30.50 softcover



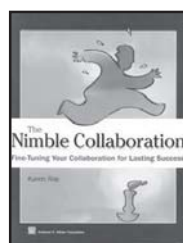
Storytelling for Grantseekers

The Guide to Creative Nonprofit Fundraising

Cheryl A. Clarke

This book contains the resources needed to craft a persuasive package with a compelling story, using a short story approach that supports the larger proposal. Clarke stresses the need to see proposal writing as part of a larger grantseeking effort, one that emphasizes preparation, working with the entire development staff and maintaining good relations with funders.

121 pages NP04 \$39.50 softcover



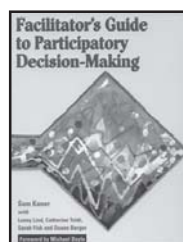
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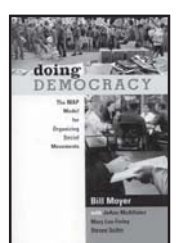


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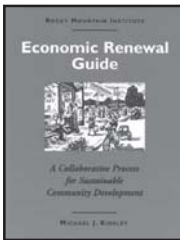
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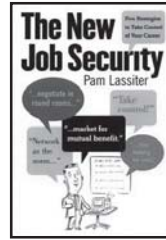
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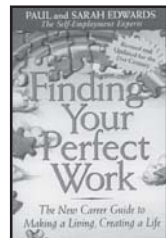
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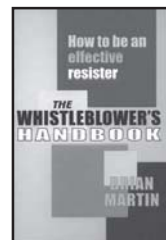


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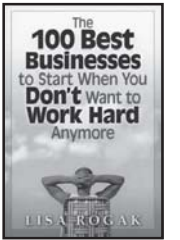
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