

Hi Bill.

Nov 13th

Sometimes I read the free newspapers in Vancouver. But that if only if I am heading to work early enough to catch the guy who hands them out at the train station. Otherwise I don't really think about picking them up.

Anyways I picked up a newspaper one day with two interesting articles. I have enclosed.

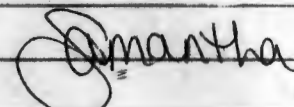

The night before I got the paper I saw a news clip on the news article.

In Marpole they are looking to make temporary housing for the homeless. The thing is, that all the residents are protesting it. They are saying ~~that~~ they don't want it across from a school, to expose their children to that. That they are already cleaning up needles in the park they don't want more work to do. The housing will be about 70 units if I remember correctly.

Mom said that the homeless they would be housing would already be in the area so it's not like they are bringing new people to the area.

On my way to work one day, I saw about 50-100 protestors walking down Cambie, protesting the development. I think they are being ridiculous. What do you think?

The other article I just thought was an interesting concept you and Fran might like.

Love  xoxo 

A call for compassion

HOMELESSNESS

Planned temp housing has stirred resident emotions



Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

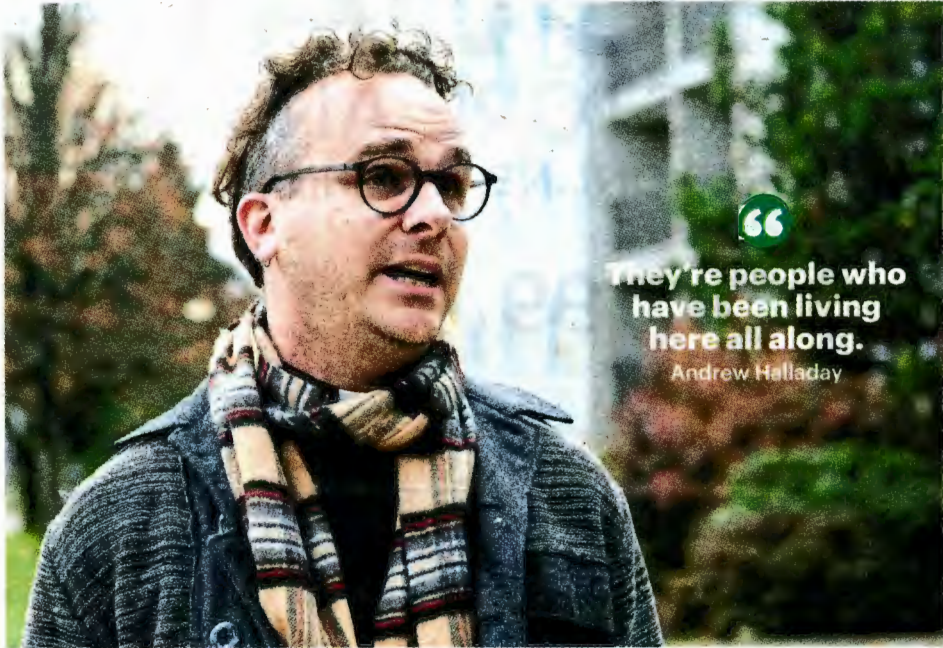
Andrew Halladay has an invitation for residents of Marpole who are terrified that a temporary building to house the homeless will endanger their children:

"I feel frustrated, but I also feel like I would want to invite and welcome everyone to come to the church and meet the people we're talking about," said Halladay, a priest at St. Augustine's Anglican Church. The church runs a meal program that is open to everyone in the community — including local homeless people.

The quiet South Vancouver neighbourhood has been rocked by an outpouring of emotion on both sides of a debate around the city's decision to put a 78-unit modular housing building at 59th Avenue and Heather Street. The site is located across from Sir Wilfred Laurier Elementary and a block away from Churchill Secondary, and will be open by January.

On Nov. 6, around 200 people gathered near the site to protest the plan. They carried signs saying "kid's safety matters" and "no homeless housing" with drawings of syringes. Graffiti on a nearby street sign reads "junkies not here."

Mayor Gregor Robertson said he was "concerned about the



“They're people who have been living here all along.”

Andrew Halladay

Andrew Halladay runs a meal program for homeless people. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

vicious comments, the stigma that's being put on people that are homeless," a remark that stung some of the residents who are opposed to the project.

Meena Wong, a former mayoral candidate and a mental health worker with Vancouver Coastal Health, said the city could have handled the community consultation better, especially considering the fact that many in the diverse community are recent immigrants.

"You have to understand, in the country or community they came from, homeless people means either mental illness, or people are no-gooders, or they have been cast out of their supportive network — their family, their friends," Wong said, noting that community information sessions have been

held in relatively small venues, leaving many frustrated residents outside.

"And then you add the drug addiction, and these people have never met anyone dealing with that issue."

"It's about educating, not shaming," agreed Andy Yan, an urban planner and director of Simon Fraser University's City Program.

Anna Cooper, a staff lawyer with Pivot Legal, agrees more work needs to be done to counter rampant misinformation, such as the perception that homeless people are violent or that all have addictions.

"Is there suddenly a massive uptick in needles everywhere, anytime a low-income housing project gets put into a community? That's just not true,"

she said. "There's no credible evidence that putting in this housing near a school is going to lead to direct harm to children."

Back at the church, Halladay and a member of the congregation are having a conversation about people they know who would benefit from the new housing: a woman about to lose her housing; a man who is currently couch surfing; another man who might be able to finally tackle his addiction if he had stable housing.

"These aren't new people coming to the neighbourhood, they're people who have been living here all along," Halladay said.

"If you haven't noticed that, now's the time to start noticing."



Angie Lohr, president of Hope Outreach, hopes a new pilot project will lead to the creation of an effective life-saving app for Kelowna's at-risk women. THE CANADIAN PRESS

New app to improve sex worker safety

TECHNOLOGY

Application would send a distress alert after set period

An outreach group supporting vulnerable women in British Columbia is hoping a cell-phone app designed to monitor remote workers in resource industries will help keep sex workers safe.

Hope Outreach, a non-profit group that provides support to homeless and exploited women in Kelowna, is partnering with the makers of YodelMe to launch a pilot project to make the monitoring app available to sex workers and other vulnerable women in the Okanagan.

"What I can see it do is saving some lives, and that's what I'm all about," said Angie Lohr, president and co-founder of Hope Outreach.

YodelMe uses Wi-Fi, cellular and satellite technology to monitor a user by having them check in and out at set time periods. If a user doesn't

check in when they're supposed to, a reminder is sent. If it's ignored, the app sends a distress message to pre-programmed contacts with the user's location.

Greg ter Wolbeek, business manager for YodelMe, said he and founder Aaron Kilback contacted the outreach group after reading about it in a local newspaper.

"It just struck me that hang on, this is developed for lone workers, essentially they are lone workers, so perhaps we can help them," he said.

Lohr said she and the women Hope Outreach works



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Angie Lohr

with were excited by the offer to help find a solution to the violence they experience.

Details of the pilot project are still in discussion, but

Lohr said she hopes to gather groups of 10 women from Kelowna, Vernon and Penticton to begin trying out the app in December. The pilot project is also looking at establishing a neighbourhood watch-type group among sex workers for an added level of security, ter Wolbeek said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A note from
Samantha

Here is my November letter, on time!

Look at us being efficient!

