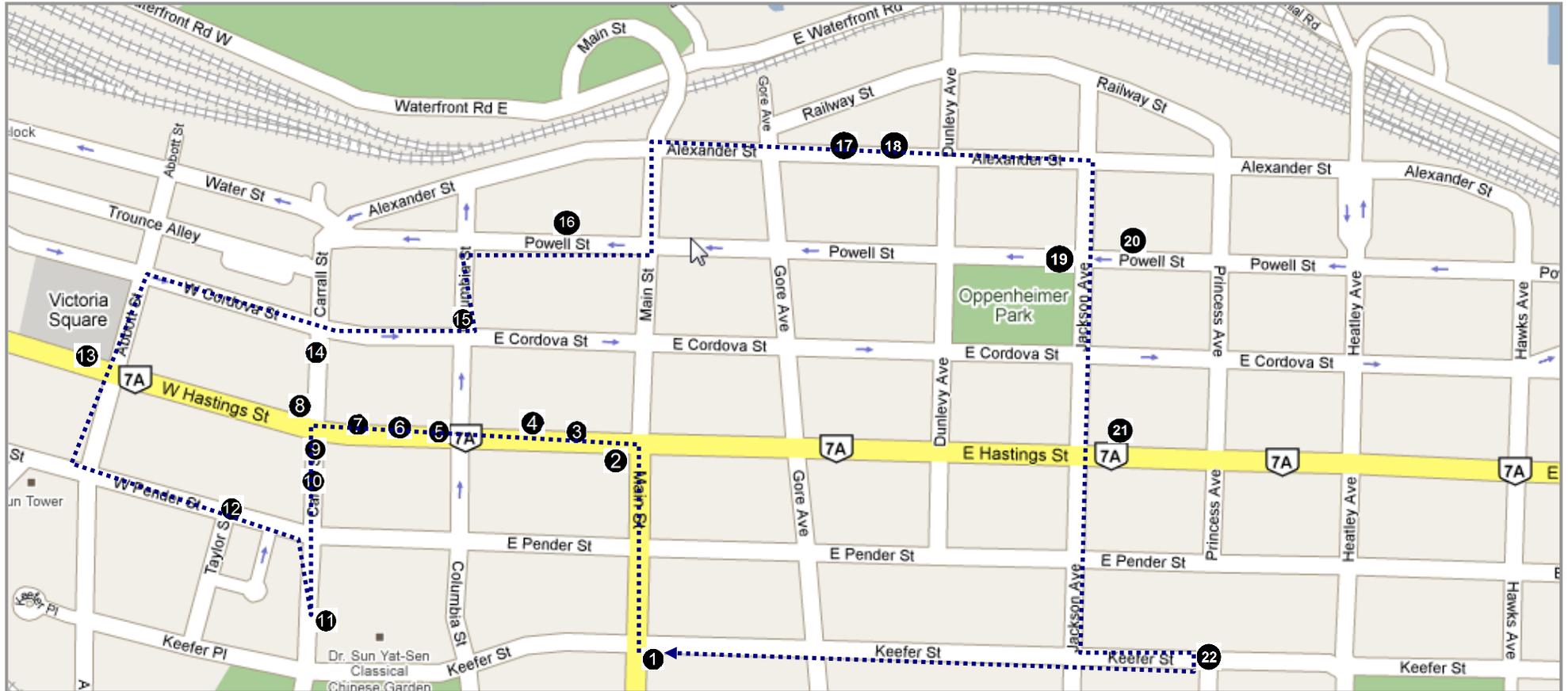


Downtown Eastside Walking Tour #1



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Learning Exchange (612 Main street) | 12. In-Site (139 East Hastings) |
| 2. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden (578 Carrall St) | 13. Downtown Eastside Community Store (179 East Hastings) |
| 3. Carrall Street Greenway | 14. Carnegie Community Centre (401 Main Street) |
| 4. Chinatown Millennium Gate (26 W. Pender) | 15. Downtown Eastside Women's Center (302 Columbia St) |
| 5. Woodward's Building (Abbot and Hastings) | 16. 4 Sisters Co-op (153 Powell Street) |
| 6. First "guerrilla" injection site (327 Carrall) | 17. W.I.S.H. (330 Alexander Street) |
| 7. Pigeon Park (Carrall and Hastings) | 18. Lookout Downtown Shelter (346 Alexander Street) |
| 8. BC Electric Railway (425 Carrall) | 19. Oppenheimer Park (Powell and Jackson) |
| 9. United We Can (39 East Hastings) | 20. LivingRoom Drop-In (528 Powell Street) |
| 10. VANDU (50 East Hastings) | 21. YWCA Crabtree Corner/Sheway (533 East Hastings) |
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Downtown Eastside Walking Tour #3



- | | |
|--|---|
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Downtown Eastside Walking Tour



Source: <http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/planning/dtes/images/dtesmap.gif>

Chinatown

- Founded in the late 19th century, Chinatown expanded after the repealing of the Chinese Immigration Exclusion Act after WWII. It continues to be a vibrant part of the Downtown Eastside.

Gastown

- Founded in 1867 when “Gassy Jack” Deighton built a saloon. In the last 1960s features such as cobble-stoned street and vintage lighting were restored as part of an effort to attract tourists.

Victory Square

- Named for its war memorial cenotaph, Victory Square contains businesses, downtown campuses of post secondary institutions, and a number of single room occupancy hotels that house approximately 1500 people.

Strathcona

- A diverse area with light industry and many forms of housing. Nearly 61% of residents in Strathcona speak Chinese as their first language

Oppenheimer

- Initially home to many Japanese Canadians. In WWII, the area was devastated when Canada interned the Japanese and moved them to a camps in the interior of B.C. Today, Oppenheimer includes a courthouse, police station, Buddhist temple, theatre, social services, retail businesses and some light industrial facilities.

(http://vancouver.ca/community_profiles/downtown_eastside/index.htm)

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- Named the “father of modern china” Dr. Sun Yat-Sen was an important figure in the development of the Republic of China.
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- There are 4 major elements in the garden: water, rock, plants and architecture. The relationship of these elements reflects the Taoist belief in Yin and Yang- opposites must be in balance to create harmony.

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- Established in 1870 as the easternmost boundary of the Granville townsite, Carrall Street's original distance from the shore of Burrard Inlet to the tidal flats of False Creek was about half as long as the street's length today.
- Carrall Street has been, and remains, home to many diverse cultures and communities as well some of Vancouver's most historic buildings
- The Carrall Stewardship Group was established in 2002 as a venue to engage the community in the greenway design process.
- In April 2005, City Council approved the concept design and a long term vision for the Carrall Street Greenway. In July 2006, Council approved a budget of \$5M for construction of the Carrall Street Greenway (2006-2008 Capital Plan). An additional \$2M for the Carrall Greenway has been requested in the 2009-2011 Capital Plan.

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5. **Woodwards Department Store:** (Abbot and Hastings street)

- The Woodward's Department Store was first established at the corner of Hastings and Abbott in **1903**, and grew to occupy half the block bounded by Hastings, Abbott, Cordova, and Cambie streets. It was Vancouver's primary retail destination: anchoring the retail along Hastings and providing its low and modest income neighbours with a food floor and other household necessities. It became known city-wide for its Christmas displays and the neon “W” on the roof.
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- This small park in the heart of the downtown eastside is a common site for drug dealing. Check out the great murals and poems lining the walls of the park. Currently there are proposed improvements to the park, with construction planned for summer 2009.

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9. United We Can: (39 East Hastings Street)

- United We Can creates employment opportunities and care for the urban environment without long term dependence on public funding.
- Their first major undertaking, the “United We Can Bottle Depot”, was created by and for Vancouver’s bidders in 1995 and continues to thrive.
- United We Can offers recycling services to local businesses using non-motorized foot and bicycle carts known as Urban Binning Units (UBU). Employees from United We Can use the UBU cart to collect returnable containers from local businesses, apartment complexes and special events then return them to United We Can to be recycled.

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- Started by Vancouver coastal health, this self sustaining program provides affordable food and groceries, as well as nutritional and budgeting support to the DTES community.

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- Served first as the city's public library and city hall in the early 1900s, and later the Vancouver Museum and City Archives.
- In 1978, the Carnegie was reopened as a community center and has been one of the most successful and well-used community centres in Canada. The centre bills itself as 'the living room of the neighbourhood', providing space for interaction and engagement that doesn't always exist in the rooming houses and the single room occupancy suites where most DTES residents live.

15. Downtown Eastside Women's Centre (302 Columbia street):

- Their mission is to provide basic needs for women and children in the DTES. They provide support for over 300 women and children everyday. They provide basic necessities such as meals, free clothing, secure mailing addresses, showers etc. They also provide individuals with long term support, education, advocacy, and peer mentorship.

16. Four Sisters Co-op (153 Powell Street)

- It is a self-governed, 153 unit co-operative housing society.
- Each housing co-operative is a registered, not-for-profit society. No individual member actually owns a suite, however, all members jointly own, and are responsible for, the operation of their co-op.

17. W.I.S.H. Drop-in Centre (330 Alexander)

- Since 1987, WISH has operated a Drop-in Centre for women in the survival sex trade. The mission of WISH is to increase the health, safety, and well-being of women involved in the survival sex trade in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES).
- WISH began serving coffee and cookies to a small number of women on a volunteer basis out of the First United Church. The use of the WISH Drop-in Centre has increased 100% since 1999, and estimates that they reach at least 400-600 different women a month. WISH received registered non-profit status in 1991.

18. The Hazelton Residence and Lookout Downtown Shelter (346 Alexander Street)

- Lookout's first service, the Downtown Shelter opened in 1971. Lookout's 24 hour/7 day-a-week Downtown Shelter offers 42 year-round beds to meet the needs of adult men and women .
- In 12 months ending March 31, 2008 the Downtown Shelter had 3,399 requests for shelter. They were able to house 1,528 but turned away 1,871.

19. Oppenheimer Park

- Formally known as the Powell Street grounds, the park was renamed in honour of former mayor David Oppenheimer in 1982.

- Site of numerous labour-related rallies and demonstrations in the past, it is now used for community events and on sunny afternoons you can find dozens of locals hanging out near the park clubhouse.

20. **The LivingRoom Drop-In (528 Powell Street)**

- The Living Room Drop-In Activity Centre was initiated in 1993 to provide a welcome "hang out" for the local mentally ill. The Drop-In offers a variety of structured and unstructured programs to encourage participation of people, particularly those who are not already involved with the formal mental health system. A particular goal is to teach social and life skills so as to enhance their ability to maintain a stable and as independent as possible living situation and to improve the quality of their lives.

21. **Sheway (533 Hastings)**

- Provides comprehensive health and social services to women who are either pregnant or parenting children less than 18 months old and who are experiencing current or previous issues with substance abuse.

YWCA Crabtree (533 Hastings)

- Crabtree Corner provides emergency short-term child care and many diverse support programs for single mothers including support groups, a food bank and community kitchen.
- All of the produce that is grown at the YWCA Rooftop Gardens (535 Hornby Street) is donated to Crabtree.

22. **Strathcona Elementary School (601 Keefer)**

- Founded in 1891, Strathcona is Vancouver's oldest elementary school. It was designated an inner city school in 1989. It also has a community centre.
- The schools population is over 500 students from a range of diverse backgrounds.
- Strathcona is part of the Inner City Project Schools, which was created to: improve social development, improve language (literacy) and to engage the parents in school activities. Strathcona features classes from Kindergarten to Grade 7. This school offers a lunch program, a before and after school care program, a full day Kindergarten class and Breakfast Program.
- In previous years, Trek participants have helped create and decorate planters and benches for the school courtyard and as a Reading Week project in 2006 they have helped students decorate the school's fence with images of flowers and fish.
- Currently Trek program participants lead literacy activities, including one-to-one reading and the Readwell Program. They also volunteer in the after-school sports and recreation activities.

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- In 1978, the Carnegie was reopened as a community center and has been one of the most successful and well-used community centres in Canada. The centre bills itself as ‘the living room of the neighbourhood’, providing space for interaction and engagement that doesn't always exist in the rooming houses and the single room occupancy suites where most DTES residents live.

3. Downtown Eastside Community Store (179 East Hastings):

- Started by Vancouver coastal health, this self sustaining program provides affordable food and groceries, as well as nutritional and budgeting support to the DTES community.

4. Insite (139 E.Hastings)

- Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) in partnership with the PHS Community Services Society opened North America's first legal supervised injection site (Insite) scientific research pilot project in September 2003.
- Since opening its doors, Insite has been a safe, health-focused place where people can go to inject drugs and connect with health care professionals and addiction services. It is an integral part of Vancouver Coastal Health's continuum of care for people with addiction, mental illness and HIV/AIDS in the Vancouver community.
- Health Canada extended the existing operating exemption for the supervised injection site from the end of the year to June 2008.
- The future of Insite continues to be in limbo. In May 2008, the B.C. Supreme Court struck down sections of the Canadian Criminal Code prohibiting drug trafficking and possession, ruling that they contravened the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This decision would give the site legal grounds to continue operating. However, the federal government has announced plans to appeal that decision to the Supreme Court of Canada.

5. Pigeon Park Savings (92 East Hastings):

- Pigeon Park Savings opened its doors in 2004. Pigeon Park Savings, opened by PHS Community Services in partnership with Vancity, provides people living on low incomes in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside with access to basic financial services. An account package is available for a flat fee of \$5 per month, and includes cheque cashing, unlimited withdrawals, bill payments, money orders and ATM card access.

6. VANDU – Vancouver Area Network Drug Users (50 East Hastings):

- VANDU formed in January 1998 to address issues of poverty, social exclusion, criminalization and illness.
- VANDU is funded by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA) as part of its harm reduction strategy. Its primary objective is to increase capacity of people who use illicit drugs to live healthy and productive lives. This is accomplished through peer-based support and education. VANDU holds several weekly support group meetings, and its membership is actively involved in public awareness and education campaigns (through media, conferences, and outreach), hospital visits, and community and legal advocacy.

7. United We Can: (39 East Hastings Street)

- United We Can creates employment opportunities and care for the urban environment without long term dependence on public funding.
- Their first major undertaking, the “United We Can Bottle Depot”, was created by and for Vancouver’s binners in 1995 and continues to thrive.
- United We Can offers recycling services to local businesses using non-motorized foot and bicycle carts known as Urban Binning Units (UBU). Employees from United We Can use the UBU cart to collect returnable containers from local businesses, apartment complexes and special events then return them to United We Can to be recycled.

8. Pigeon Park (Hastings and Carrall)

- This small park in the heart of the downtown eastside is a common site for drug dealing. Check out the great murals and poems lining the walls of the park. Currently there are proposed improvements to the park, with construction planned for summer 2009.

9. The Carrall Street Greenway : Carrall Street

- Established in 1870 as the easternmost boundary of the Granville townsite, Carrall Street's original distance from the shore of Burrard Inlet to the tidal flats of False Creek was about half as long as the street's length today.
- Carrall Street has been, and remains, home to many diverse cultures and communities as well some of Vancouver's most historic buildings
- The Carrall Stewardship Group was established in 2002 as a venue to engage the community in the greenway design process.
- In April 2005, City Council approved the concept design and a long term vision for the Carrall Street Greenway. In July 2006, Council approved a budget of \$5M for construction of the Carrall Street Greenway (2006-2008 Capital Plan). An additional \$2M for the Carrall Greenway has been requested in the 2009-2011 Capital Plan.



10. BC Electric Railway Company Terminal (425 Carrall St)

- Completed in 1912, the six-storey BC Electric Railway Company Terminal once operated the most extensive interurban system in Canada from this location. The company was the largest employer in the area and businesses grew up in the adjacent areas to serve the influx of customers.
- Two of BC Electric's three interurban lines terminated here: the Central Park-Fraser Valley line, which connected Vancouver to New Westminister (1891) and later Chilliwack (1910); and the Burnaby Lake line to New Westminister (1911).

- The Chilliwack line was important for bringing milk and other products from the Fraser Valley to the city, where it was delivered to retail outlets for sale. The system grew quickly with lines extended and new ones created until Vancouver and the outlying areas were crisscrossed with tracks.
- When electric trolleys and motor coaches replaced the trams in the 1950s, the bottom floor of the building was closed in and used as a bank. The closure of the interurban station with its offices, combined with the shutdown of the North Shore ferry services and the Union Steamship, all which brought thousands of people into the area daily, had a devastating impact on the neighbourhood economy and general vitality of the area.

11. **Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden (578 Carrall St.)**

- Named the “father of modern china” Dr. Sun Yat-Sen was an important figure in the development of the Republic of China.
- This garden is the first full-sized classical Chinese garden built outside China. Built in 1985-86, it displays ancient techniques used in the Ming Dynasty.
- There are 4 major elements in the garden: water, rock, plants and architecture. The relationship of these elements reflects the Taoist belief in Yin and Yang- opposites must be in balance to create harmony.

12. **Chinatown Millenium Gate (26 W Pender St.)**

- To inaugurate the new millennium and commemorate this "journey in time", the Vancouver Chinese Millennium Society designed a physical structure representing both the past and the future. The Gate incorporates both eastern and western symbols with traditional and modern Chinese themes in its construction and appearance. The gate opened in July 2002, is a project with a mandate to strengthen Chinatown's image and joint community involvement.

13. **Woodwards Department Store: (Abbot and Hastings Street)**

- The Woodward's Department Store was first established at the corner of Hastings and Abbott in **1903**, and grew to occupy half the block bounded by Hastings, Abbott, Cordova, and Cambie streets. It was Vancouver's primary retail destination: anchoring the retail along Hastings and providing its low and modest income neighbours with a food floor and other household necessities. It became known city-wide for its Christmas displays and the neon “W” on the roof.
- Woodward's closed its Hastings Street store in 1993 and in early 1995 the property was sold to Fama Holdings. In June 1995, the City’s Development Permit Board approved Fama's preliminary application to develop a mixed-use project consisting of condominium units and commercial and retail space, subject to conditions.
- Woodward's was designated a heritage building in November 1996.
- In 1996, Premier Harcourt announced the Province would fund 200 co-operative housing units in the building. As part of a Woodward's partnership, the City of Vancouver agreed to develop, with VanCity, a 50-unit project for street youth at 326 West Pender which opened in 1999. Fama and the Province were unable to conclude their negotiations, and the Province re-allocated the Woodward's Co-op funding to the Lore Krill Co-op. (That housing co-op recently completed two buildings with a total of 203 units at 65 West Cordova and 239 East Georgia.)
- In March 2001, the Province purchased the building from Fama Holdings for \$22 million, with the intent of developing a 200+ unit co-operative (100+ units for core-need households), a home for SFU's School for Contemporary Arts, and approximately 200,000 sq. ft. of commercial space. However, the Province was unable to find a partner for the commercial component, and in early 2002, the new Provincial government put the project on hold.

- In September 2002 a number of homeless people and community groups occupied the building, demanding more social housing. They formed a tent city on the sidewalk around the perimeter of Woodward's.
- In March 2003, the City of Vancouver purchased the Woodward's building from the Province for roughly \$5 million. The City believed it was in the best position to find a workable solution to the future of the site. The City began its consultation process in May 2003. Through workshops, an Ideas Fair, open houses and meetings, the City attempted to involve the community and other Vancouver residents in designing and planning the redevelopment of the building.
- On April 22, 2006, the residential market units in the Woodward's development went on sale. All 536 units were sold by April 23, representing over \$200 million in sales.
- On January 26, 2007 the City issued the Development Permit for the Woodward's site.
- December 2009 is the target project completion and occupancy

14. 327 Carrall street: First “guerrilla” supervised injection site

- 327 Carrall was the unofficial safe injection site. Staffed by drug-user volunteers and health professionals, the site ran for almost over a year despite opposition from law enforcement.

15. Downtown Eastside Women’s Centre (302 Columbia Street):

- Their mission is to provide basic needs for women and children in the DTES. They provide support for over 300 women and children everyday. They provide basic necessities such as meals, free clothing, secure mailing addresses, showers etc. They also provide individuals with long term support, education, advocacy, and peer mentorship.

16. Four Sisters Co-op (153 Powell Street)

- It is a self-governed, 153 unit co-operative housing society.
- Each housing co-operative is a registered, not-for-profit society. No individual member actually owns a suite, however, all members jointly own, and are responsible for, the operation of their co-op.

17. W.I.S.H. Drop-in Centre (330 Alexander)

- Since 1987, WISH has operated a Drop-in Centre for women in the survival sex trade. The mission of WISH is to increase the health, safety, and well-being of women involved in the survival sex trade in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside (DTES).
- WISH began serving coffee and cookies to a small number of women on a volunteer basis out of the First United Church. The use of the WISH Drop-in Centre has increased 100% since 1999, and estimates that they reach at least 400-600 different women a month. WISH received registered non-profit status in 1991.

18. The Hazelton Residence and Lookout Downtown Shelter (346 Alexander Street)

- Lookout's first service, the Downtown Shelter opened in 1971. Lookout’s 24 hour/7 day-a-week Downtown Shelter offers 42 year-round beds to meet the needs of adult men and women .
- In 12 months ending March 31, 2008 the Downtown Shelter had 3,399 requests for shelter. They were able to house 1,528 but turned away 1,871.

19. Oppenheimer Park

- Formally known as the Powell Street grounds, the park was renamed in honour of former mayor David Oppenheimer in 1982.
- Site of numerous labour-related rallies and demonstrations in the past, it is now used for community events and on sunny afternoons you can find dozens of locals hanging out near the park clubhouse.

20. **The LivingRoom Drop-In (528 Powell Street)**

- The Living Room Drop-In Activity Centre was initiated in 1993 to provide a welcome "hang out" for the local mentally ill. The Drop-In offers a variety of structured and unstructured programs to encourage participation of people, particularly those who are not already involved with the formal mental health system. A particular goal is to teach social and life skills so as to enhance their ability to maintain a stable and as independent as possible living situation and to improve the quality of their lives.

21. **Sheway (533 Hastings)**

- Provides comprehensive health and social services to women who are either pregnant or parenting children less than 18 months old and who are experiencing current or previous issues with substance abuse.

YWCA Crabtree (533 Hastings)

- Crabtree Corner provides emergency short-term child care and many diverse support programs for single mothers including support groups, a food bank and community kitchen.
- All of the produce that is grown at the YWCA Rooftop Gardens (535 Hornby Street) is donated to Crabtree.

22. **Strathcona Elementary School (601 Keefer)**

- Founded in 1891, Strathcona is Vancouver's oldest elementary school. It was designated an inner city school in 1989. It also has a community centre.
- The schools population is over 500 students from a range of diverse backgrounds.
- Strathcona is part of the Inner City Project Schools, which was created to: improve social development, improve language (literacy) and to engage the parents in school activities. Strathcona features classes from Kindergarten to Grade 7. This school offers a lunch program, a before and after school care program, a full day Kindergarten class and Breakfast Program.
- In previous years, Trek participants have helped create and decorate planters and benches for the school courtyard and as a Reading Week project in 2006 they have helped students decorate the school's fence with images of flowers and fish.
- Currently Trek program participants lead literacy activities, including one-to-one reading and the Readwell Program. They also volunteer in the after-school sports and recreation activities.