



Plenty to Celebrate

Editorial

BY MIKE LEWIS

It is so interesting to read the articles that contributors to *Making Waves* magazine feel compelled to write. On average, half our content is planned, and the rest arrives unsolicited from readers with something they want to communicate. When you think of the amount of work that donation involves, drafting and re-drafting to get things right, you'll know what I mean by "compelled." These people have stories that won't take "no" or "later" for an answer.

But there's something else about this issue's contributors that made me stop, halfway through writing this editorial. Brendan Reimer, Sherri Torjman, Michelle Colussi, and Stewart E. Perry all share some very special connections.

First, all of have been reading *Making Waves* for a very long time. Brendan Reimer's experience may be the shortest, but that is still ten years. Stewart has been reading it since its inception as a 4-page newsletter 21 years ago. His speech at a major community economic development (CED) conference in Chicago was the subject of a report in our very first issue.

Second, every one of them has played important roles in the development and ongoing evolution of the Canadian CED Network (CCEDNet). Hmm... I pondered. At its conference in Winnipeg this June, CCEDNet will celebrate its tenth anniversary. Is some

kind of serendipitous convergence at work here, between this birthday and this issue of the magazine?

Take Stewart Perry for instance. He was helping the founders of CCEDNet to work through various issues two years before they launched the organization. And, long before that – 40 years ago, in fact – he was recognized and revered as a leader by many members of the CED world in the United States. In Canada he has been implicated in the formation

Then consider Sherri Torjman, one of Canada's most prominent social policy researchers, commentators, and advocates. She too was at the table in 1997: a key player in the two years of tough slogging that led up to the launch of CCEDNet. Among Sherri's many qualities is her ability as a researcher to stay in dialogue with the people working on the front lines. Her recent book *Shared Space: The Communities Agenda* originates from this creative

It is gratifying to be able to publish such largely unsolicited knowledge so close to CCEDNet's anniversary. All the contributors are thoughtful, smart, & passionate people, committed to analysis & advocacy. Happy 10th, CCEDNet. May the celebration be rooted in gratitude for the many members & partners who exemplify these fine qualities.

of New Dawn Enterprises, RÉSO in southwest Montréal, in the groundwork for the federal program that has since grown into Community Futures The list goes on.

And here he is now, over 80 and going strong, contributing to this magazine an insightful article on the New Hampshire Community Development Financing Authority, one of the most effective instruments for organizing equity that I know of (p. 20).

tension. Her masterful synthesis of a number of key concepts, grounded in the notion of community resilience, provides some navigational aids to all who choose to wade into the complexity of advancing an agenda of community transformation (p. 5).

Michelle Colussi's fascinating review of several books and her distillation of "Seven Prerequisites of Transformation" was delightful surprise (p. 12). I had no idea it was coming. One might think I should,

since Michelle is one of my closest colleagues in the work that we undertake in community resilience and Transition Towns here at the Canadian Centre for Community Renewal. As a member of our staff team, she has been associated with CCEDNet from the beginning. Interestingly, one person she cites in her review, Paul Born, was yet another key player in the formation of CCEDNet. His book *Community Conversations* (2008) clearly impressed her – and take it from me, Michelle is not easily impressed.

Finally, there is Brendan Reimer: researcher, practitioner, activist, and long-time regional staff member for CCEDNet in Manitoba. Brendan is what I call an “inspired grinder.” Committed to CED and to community change, he is honest and straightforward. “Look at what is working and what is not; name it and get on with it, or change it so it works better, or drop it and move onto more fertile ground for innovation,” that’s Brendan’s outlook. His article examining the effectiveness (or not) of Winnipeg’s “CED Dating Service” is another in a

series of practical, useful, and instructive articles that Brendan has felt compelled to communicate to our readers (p. 15).

It is gratifying to me to be able to publish such a line-up of largely unsolicited knowledge in *Making Waves* so close to CCEDNet’s anniversary. Almost 50 years separates the oldest contributor from the youngest. All belong to CCEDNet. All are thoughtful, smart, and passionate people who are committed to clear-headed analysis and the hard work of advocacy.

Happy 10th CCEDNet. May the celebration be rooted in gratitude for the many members and partners whose fine qualities are exemplified by the contributors to this issue of *Making Waves*.



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Résumé : Beaucoup à célébrer

L’éditeur Mike Lewis a remarqué quelque chose à propos des quatre personnes qui ont écrit des articles pour cette édition de *Making Waves*. Tous ont joué des rôles importants dans le développement du Réseau canadien de DÉC (RCDÉC) qui est sur le point de célébrer son 10e anniversaire.

Stewart Perry, qui a plus de 80 ans et qui est encore très actif, a non seulement aidé à former le RCDÉC, mais aussi New Dawn Enterprises, RÉSO dans le sud-ouest de Montréal et le Programme des Sociétés d’aide au développement des communautés (p. 20.). Sherri Torjman, une de nos plus grandes chercheuses en politiques sociales, commentatrice et militante était au centre des difficiles discussions qui ont précédé le lancement du RCDÉC (p. 5.). Michelle Colussi est

une autre membre de longue date du RCDÉC. Sa réflexion sur les sept prérequis à la transformation (p. 12.) doit beaucoup à Paul Born, un autre fondateur du RCDÉC. Brendan Reimer, l’un des coordinateurs régionaux du RCDÉC, nous a écrit un autre article franc et instructif, cette fois-ci à propos d’un service qui relie des organisations communautaires et des professionnels bénévoles (p. 15.).

Ce sont toutes des personnes passionnées qui sont engagées dans l’analyse lucide et dans le dur labeur du militantisme. Que l’anniversaire du RCDÉC soit en premier lieu une célébration des nombreux membres et partenaires qui partagent ces grandes qualités. ■

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