

# The History of The Arusha Centre

## A Brief History of Arusha from 1972 to the Present

The Arusha Centre is a meeting place for community enthusiasts and activists of all types. The Arusha Centre offers space for meetings, affordable access to event supplies, buttonmaking, stilts and costumes, tents, amplifiers, and printing. The Centre is located on the main floor of the Old Y Building for Community Organizations, an affordable, accessible downtown location for connecting and collaborating.

So how exactly did Arusha begin? Here are the words of Carol Sherwood, Arusha's first staff person: "We didn't start in 1972, but a couple of years before that. Our roots go back to the Calgary and District International Development Society known as CDIDS or the people who brought you the "Miles for Millions" fundraising walks. The staff there - Pat Mooney, later followed by Debi Ransom - had wanted to incorporate some development education into the publicity for the walks, and had devised some innovative programs for young people to learn more about the split between the world's rich and poor. Doing this education along with fund-raising for overseas projects seemed to be difficult to carry out and the need for a separate organization to concentrate on education became apparent.

Fortunately at this time, in the spring of 1972, Calgary was visited by the mobile unit developed from the Cross Cultural Learner Centre in London, Ontario. CIDA and CUSO felt that London's Learner Centre was an effective model for helping people learn about developing countries, so they put money into this cross-Canada tour.

CIDA indicated that funds would be available to local groups wanting to follow up with their own resource centres, so that CIDA's policy of

giving foreign aid would become more understandable to the Canadian public.

Thus, the core of people who came together to start a Centre in Calgary were from: (1) The Miles for Millions group (2) A Local Initiatives Project sponsored by Calgary InterFaith to produce resource kits for schools - this project was known as NIDERK, and was motivated by the good feelings generated at the Banff Conference on World Affairs sponsored in June 1972 by the Division of Continuing Education at the UofC.

At that time Carol Sherwood had just returned from two years of working in Zambia. She was delighted not only to find a group of kindred spirits, but a group that was also prepared to offer her a job.

Here are just a few highlights and odd bits of trivia for each year since Arusha was born:

## 1972

-Arusha was initially called the Calgary Development Centre. The following plea was issued at the first Annual General Meeting:

"Can you please suggest a better name than 'Development Centre'? Suggestions will be gratefully received by the Secretary" (AGM agenda for Dec. 5, 1972).

-Here's a glimpse of what happened at that first AGM: "Alan James outlined the objectives and methods of the group as recorded in the constitution, against a background of slides emphasizing the Centre's human orientation. A group of street theatre enthusiasts, assisted by Matt Moche's slides, presented their interpretation of what the Centre can do" (AGM minutes, Dec. 5, 1972).

-Regarding our first location: "The Calgary Development Centre accepted an offer from Mount Royal

College, then opening an elaborate new suburban campus, to rent space in the Learning Resources Centre. Free use of audio-visual equipment and larger meeting rooms were the advantages. Unfortunately no one from outside could ever find us!"

## 1973

-The following resolution was passed at the AGM:

"Agreed that the membership fee be raised from \$1 to \$3 to cover the cost of the monthly newsletter" (AGM minutes, Sept. 19, 1973).

-To raise funds, the idea of asking members to contribute 1% of their personal income was considered. It was noted that the Winnipeg Centre had "considerable success" with this approach.

-Arusha played an active role in the formation of the Alberta Council of International Agencies. ACIA was created to access provincial funding for development education.

## 1974

-Arusha worked primarily with churches, schools and labour groups. Activities included a film series, discussions, and orientations for overseas volunteers.

## 1975

-Programming included: Tuesday night discussion group on issues of the day; strong support for Ten Days for World Development program; seminar to study the economic system and look at ways to effect social change.

-From the report to the AGM, Sept. 26, 1975:

"We have been at our present location for almost two years. Although we like the Hillhurst area, the space is becoming increasingly crowded and increasingly cold and damp. Therefore, we are hunting for a new and hopefully permanent home. We want it to be centrally located, on at

least one major bus route, and warm!" Arusha moved to the Old Y building in December of 1975.  
-And also from the same report: "Suggested that a 'big name person' be added to the Board for prestige."

## 1976

-The New International Economic Order was the focus of programming.  
-Tuesday night discussions continue.  
-Arusha withdraws its funds from the Royal Bank to protest their loans to the South African and Chilean governments.

## 1977

- From the 1976-77 Annual Report by Chairperson Sheila Black (Robinson): "We are happy to report that we at Arusha have energetically and fruitfully completed our fifth year of activity here in Calgary [...] The major topics we have dealt with repeatedly during the past year include Southern Africa, Chile, energy alternatives, environmental problems, Sri Lanka and its tea, food, and immigration. The overall themes for the year were "A Conserver Society" and "The International Food Issue."

## 1978

-Arusha has 100 regular members.  
-Preparatory work is done for the People's Food Commission.  
-From the 1977-78 Annual Report by Chairperson Liz Reid: "We have loaned out our 5 films a total of 40 times. Our collection of 25 slide shows were used in total over 100 times."  
-First Mexico Study Travel tour. 16 participants headed to Cuernavaca, Mexico to experience the world through the eyes of the poor.

## 1979

-Arusha purchases a film projector!

-Second Mexico Study Travel tour.  
-Arusha participates in the People's Perspective on Latin America conference.  
-From the 1978-79 Annual Report by Chairperson Judith Umbach: "The Annual Report of this year would not be accurate if it did not reflect a developing atmosphere of restraint in funding."

## 1980

-In the 1980-81 Annual Report by Chairperson John Ayer it is noted that Arusha is averaging 25 calls a day, with 5-10 people dropping in "to use the resources or just to visit."  
-Programming targets primarily labour issues as well as banking and corporate responsibility, Latin America and refugees.  
-Development of proposal for Making Changes program for immigrant women.  
-Arusha assists with the beginning publication of what will become the Network calendar of events.  
-Third Mexico Study Travel tour.

## 1981

-In the 1980-81 Annual Report by Chairperson Steve O'Gomman, the Alberta Committee for International Cooperation (ACIC), formerly the Alberta Council for International Agencies (ACIA), is reported as being "increasingly antagonistic" towards Arusha. In the 1981-82 final report, Chairperson Martin Serediak states the need "to be able to determine our direction without the political interference of ACIC." He adds: "We recognize [...] that if the pursuit of wealth clashes with things like human dignity and social equality, then the latter will be given priority.' How much more pleasant our existence would have been if ACIC also had a similar philosophical view."  
-In response to the "political interference" Arusha takes a leadership role in the formation of the Alberta Development Education Coordinating Council (ADECC) which is created in March of 1981.  
-For the first time, Arusha must

contribute \$5,000 of self-generated funds to match CIDA contribution.  
-Fourth Mexico Study Travel tour.  
-Funding received for the first Making Changes program.

## 1982

-Fifth and last Mexican Study Travel tour.  
-Pat Mooney gives the Tenth Anniversary key note address entitled: "Development Education 10 Years After: Where To From Here?"  
-Arusha contributes \$20,000 of self-generated funds to match CIDA contribution.  
-Arusha launches the radio ESL program "Just the Three of Us. A radio drama series for learning English."

## 1983

- In March, Arusha moves from the Old Y back to 233 - 10th Street, this time occupying most of the building. From the Arusha Newsletter: "Successful Move - Arusha is now comfortably installed in its new premises. Thanks to volunteer support and workers from the Fine Options Program, we have managed within a month to have the Centre cleaned, painted and filled with new shelves." (May 1983)  
- Arusha involved in promoting the play *Sandinista!*  
- The search for a new logo and a slogan is on.  
- "Arusha marked its eleventh year with an Annual General Meeting, dinner and dance last month. A new tradition of annual dances is happily establishing itself at Arusha. The band "Spotty Dog" played to a crowd of approximately 70 people" (Arusha Newsletter, Oct. 1983).

## 1984

- Programming includes the following 3 and 6 week evening courses:  
\*Focus on Third World Development.  
\*Central America: Roots of the

Crisis.

\*Paulo Friere and Popular Education.

- Discussion groups meet every 2nd Friday evening.
- Preview nights held to choose new audio-visuals.
- Monthly "volunteering at Arusha" evenings begin.
- "Unlike any other Arusha AGM, this year the meeting will be followed by a giant auction of services. You will have the unusual opportunity to bid for things such as: a West African dinner, a poetry reading, a canoe trip down the Bow, a birthday party or other services and of course exotic food" (June 1984 newsletter).

## 1985

- Issues covered include: global trade unionism, women and pharmaceuticals, understanding the Middle East, and disarmament and development.
- Arusha facilitates a discussion group which produces a formal response to the government's Green Paper on Directions for Canada's International Relations.
- Arusha helps organize "The World on Your Platter: An International Awareness Dinner."
- Arusha involved in the creation of Sunday International Radio Program.
- Funding is received for Phase I of Arusha's Job Development Project for severely employment disadvantaged immigrants (After two years this project becomes an independent society called Employment Futures for New Canadians).
- Arusha publishes "Splintered Dreams: Sikhs of Southern Alberta" and "They Tried to Rob Me of My Name: Cross Cultural and Third World Literature for Social Change" by Jaswinder Gundara.
- And here's a bit of history on the globe sign (soon to be replaced by a mural by native artist Bobby Ewenin): "Gerald Lajeunesse and Eric Bellows, bottle of whisky underarm, persuaded professional sign painter Blaine Shaw to blitz the job. It was done in a weekend.

The finished product lay in the upstairs hallway until June 18 when Walter (Administrator) and Katie and Eric (summer employees in Resource and Programming) mounted it where it may be presently envied by all the owners of tacky and artless signs on 10th Street" (Arusha Newsletter, July/August 1985).

## 1986

- Programming includes the following evening courses:
- \*One Earth, Why Care?
  - \*Canada and the Third World.
  - \*Tales Told About Central America: Yours, Mine and the Media's.
  - \*South Africa: Whose Beloved Country?
  - \*Women's Common Concerns.
- The first Arusha spring retreat is held at Chief Camp Hector to "strengthen Arusha's sense of community."
  - "Issues Over Ice Cream" held every second week.
  - Arusha helps organize the first One World Film Festival.
  - Storytelling evenings begin.
  - Gala fundraising dinner, catered by Gerald Lajeunesse and featuring speaker Chris Bryant, Director of CUSO.

## 1987

- New Courses include:
- \*The World Bank: Friend or Foe?
  - \*Communicating with the Media: A Skills Development Course.
- "Pictures and Popcorn" evening slide presentations by returned overseas volunteers begins.
  - Third World authors book discussions begin.
  - Arusha buys its first computer!
  - A new communications strategy is developed.
  - The first strategic planning process begins at Arusha. A 5 year plan is developed.
  - Arusha receives funding for Volunteer Skills Training Project.
  - 2nd annual Arusha retreat focused on strategic planning.

## 1988

- The year begins with Arusha's second annual dinner. The focus has now switched from fundraising to profile raising. Special guest speaker is Bernard Wood of the North-South Institute.
- Arusha participates in the Literary Arts Festival, part of the Olympic extravaganza, by promoting the participating Third World Writers.
- New course: "Global Economics for the Overwhelmed."
- Author discussion series focuses on the theme of *Prison Memoirs*.
- Arusha's spring retreat is held in Canmore with the goal of reworking Arusha's mission statement.

## 1989

- Co-sponsorship of Mayor's Walk for Africa.
- "Pictures and Popcorn" continues twice monthly.
- JUBA performs at the One World Film Festival.
- Arusha purchases the current facility (233 - 10 Street) for \$136,000.
- Contract secured with Petro Canada International Assistance Corporation to supply resources for their overseas briefing program.
- Charitable status is finally achieved! 5th Arusha casino nets \$32,500.

## 1990

- Funding received to produce an assertiveness skills training video for immigrant women. Under the direction of Sherry Kozak, "Taking Control" is completed in 1991.
- The collective decision-making model is reaffirmed at the spring retreat in Canmore.
- Summer camp out at Joe Zinc's farm.
- Courses continue.
- Philippine Internal Refugees Information Tour with solidarity visitor Eva de la Merced.
- Jeanette initiates major Arusha clean up; the library is finally weeded!

-With the help of the Marrelli brothers, Arusha acquires a new roof.

- A team of Environmental Design students work with Arusha's Building Committee to produce a proposal for a new Arusha building.

## 1991

- After a couple years of financial muddle, and with a new team working on the finances, a clear financial picture finally emerges. The news is not good, but there is much relief in finally knowing where we're at.

-Arusha staff unionize under CUPE.

-A FUNdraising Committee is formed with a firm commitment to the first three letters of its name. The strategy pays off - all fundraising goals are met and a good time is had by all!

-First annual "Boogie for a Better World" draws 450.

-Retail sales gross \$58,000.

- Arusha is very active in education around the war in the Gulf, with one presentation, "The History of the Iraq/Kuwait Conflict," drawing over 300 participants.

-Other issues covered include: "South Africa: Changes Since Mandela's Release," "Gender and Development in the Americas," "Peace, Palestinians and the PLO."

-After several years of being in limbo, the Detecting Biases project is completed.

## 1992

-Another successful film festival.

-A strategic planning process which led to a redefined mission statement, goals, and objectives.

- The schools project reaches over 3,000 students and teachers.

- New funding received for anti-racist education.

- Library automation is completed.

- Several activities are organized over Environment Week, including a piece of street theatre.

- The Making Changes program is in its 11th year.

- Several workshops incorporating popular education techniques are

held.

- A new mural is commissioned to adorn the Arusha building.

- A highly successful 20th anniversary dinner celebration attended by over 100 members, friends and supporters.

## 1993

- CIDA funding cut 11%.

- Theme of "developing global citizenship in an increasingly interdependent world" included:

\*The Global Economy.

\*Gender and Development.

\*Environment and

Development.

\*Canada's Role in the

World.

-Programming included 1700 people.

- Energy is focused on the Committee for Anti-Racist Education, One World Film Festival, monthly newsletter, Making Changes, the resource library, the Schools Project, and various workshops and special events.

## 1994

- Rotating chair at board meetings adopted.

- Property taxes refunded due to extensive lobby at City Hall.

- Programming continues with the Committee for Anti-Racist Education, One World Film Festival, the Earth Day Road Race, monthly newsletter, Making Changes, the resource library, the Schools Project, and various workshops and special events.

- Funds raised included \$3,500 from the Road Race, \$8,000 from retail sales, and \$7,000 from the dinner and auction.

- Arusha locates to Bridgehead Coffee retail location

## 1995

-CIDA cuts 100% of funding! This was a shock but "after much soul searching and interactions with staff, board, volunteers, partner agencies and supporters, we have affirmed our new freedom and

flexibility ..." (Bob Dickson and Heather Davie, Co-Chairs).

- The 233 - 10th Street building sold for \$300,000. The balance of Arusha's mortgage was paid off, a three bedroom house on 18 Avenue SW was purchased, and the balance of the proceeds put into the bank. Initially, this was done with the intent to move Arusha to the new building and thus become mortgage free as well as drastically reduce property tax payments. However, the Carpenter's Union which bought the 233 - 10th Street building offered a very affordable rent and it was decided to stay and share the building with CUSO and OXFAM. The 18 Avenue building was rented out to generate income.

- The Bow Chinook Barter Community is born to complement Arusha's ongoing programming. BCBC was given a \$3,000 grant along with office space and use of a computer. The project's goal is to build community by linking individuals and promote a grassroots alternative to the global economy.

- The Debt and Deficit Tabloid was produced to support workshops and a video that were created on the subject.

- Arusha collaborates with Women Looking forward, an umbrella group for feminist and social justice groups, labour groups, incl. groups working on issues of racism, economic development, poverty, etc, located in the Old Y building.

## 1996

- The Sustainable Calgary project emerged from the Sustainable Communities work Arusha was funded for by Calgary Community Adult Learning Association. Its goal was to create indicators for social, environmental, and economic conditions in Calgary.

- Dinner and auction featured Joan Grant-Cummings, President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, and raised almost \$13,000 for Arusha.

- Earth Day Road Race was

another success attracting 235 runners and raising \$4,500.

- CARE came to the end of a three year funding proposal and Lisa Hari was hired by the Calgary Board of Education as a Diversity and Equity Facilitator. Lisa continued to work with Rosemary Brown at Arusha.

- Bow Chinook Barter Community activities necessitate the hiring of a part time staff member, Gerald Wheatley.

## 1997

- Arusha's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

- Sustainable Calgary "think tanks" focus work towards indicators in six areas: Health & Education, Economy, Community, Natural Environment and Resource Use.

- Programming continues with focus on the Committee for Anti-Racist Education and the Bow Chinook Barter Community.

- The first Anti-Racism Education Training Program, designed to "train the trainers" was a success with 36 people in attendance.

-Arusha rallies around the impending APEC meeting in Vancouver to organize a citizen's response.

## 1998

- So far, '98 has seen the Earth Day Road Race combine with the Calgary Earth Day activities and the Bow Chinook Barter Fair. Fundraising was poor but the event was a high profile introduction to Arusha for many Calgarians.

- This year's AGM is shaping up to be both productive and enjoyable with the AGM activities happening in a neighbouring room to the BCBC potluck to be followed by the two groups coming together for a party with free food and entertainment.

-For CARE, It's been a year of meeting challenges with new approaches. CARE continued its work in the public school system and extended programming to include the Youth and Violence Workshop Series.

-Board and staff dedicate

themselves to a successful and productive strategic planning process which includes no less than three full-day retreats and Arusha's first constituent survey. The critical issues that Arusha must address are identified.

## 1999

-Arusha staff and board met together for a whole day to bring together all the pieces of the strategic planning work we have been working on over the past two years into a single strategic plan. We now have an exciting vision for Arusha in place.

- Calgary Alternative Transportation Co-Op had their AGM July 28, 1999 to begin discussions of buying a vehicle to make carsharing a reality in Calgary. On May 1, 2000 Gerald Wheatley and Kerri Treherne sold their Toyota van for Calgary Dollars to CATCO so they had their first vehicle on the road. CATCO

-Training for Transformation is in its second year of funding from the United Way, Alberta Community Development, Calgary Community Lottery Board and Canadian Heritage.

-The Committee Against Racist Education has had another successful year.

-The Bow Chinook Barter Community is hosting monthly potlucks and contributing to office reception and expenses.

-\$10,000 was raised at this year's Arusha Dinner!

-150 attendees ran the Earth Day Road Race at Glenmore Park.

- October 26, 1999 Vandana Shiva talk.

## 2000

-The Barter Community and Training for Transformation continue to be core activities at Arusha.

-Arusha is creating an effective resource centre that will serve as both a community centre (including several partnership organizations) and an updated library. Last fall we sold our property on 18th Avenue in the Mission district and placed

an offer on 1414 - 9th Avenue S.E. (Inglewood) in early March. The total square footage is 8,500 ft. Arusha would only be occupying approximately 3600 ft. and the remainder of the building will be leased out to commercial tenants including a grocery store currently occupying the west end of the building.

-The Sunnyside Carsharing vehicle, managed by CATCO, is the first carsharing project in Alberta and plans to be operational by June 2000.

-The Calgary Activist Network web page allows anyone to post social and environmental events information.

-Arusha staff member Sarah Kerr attended the protests against the WTO in Seattle, was arrested for peacefully demonstrating, and spent four days in the King County Jail.

-Paddy Campbell, long time administrator at Arusha, resigned this fall to move onto the UofC. She has been replaced by Denise Kowalski.

## 2001

-Arusha and the Calgary Alternative Transportation Co-operative (CATCO) partnership hired Marsha Staples to coordinate carsharing across Calgary. This position receives funding from Alberta Eco-Trust and The Calgary Foundation.

-In early 2001, Arusha purchased the Inglewood building. With enormous community support and volunteer effort, we have gutted one of the building's three bays and are about to begin building a large library and meeting space, as well as offices for Arusha and our community partners. Raising the money for renovations and designing our new space has been an epic and educational process for everybody involved, and we have only one more hurdle to pass. We are waiting to hear if our application to a provincial funding program has been accepted. If it is, we will complete the renovations this fall, and be in our new home

by December 1, 2001.

-A compilation CD of socially-conscious music is being created which will feature National Dust, James Keelaghan, Great Uncle Bull, Dan the One Man Band, and Peter Puffin. Gerald Wheatley is coordinating the *Songs of Change CD*, a fundraiser for The Activist Network, to demonstrate the connections between Arusha's various projects and the world-class talents of Alberta's musicians. Production costs have been financed by Valerie Zink, Grant Neufeld, Bob Dickson, and Gerald Wheatley. Plans are to release the CD early in 2002.

-BCBC celebrated its 5th birthday this year. A highlight of this year has been our growing relationship with the City of Calgary and our arrangement to sell Calgary Transit tickets and City Pool passes for local currency, with the proceeds going to support other community projects. Thanks to the hard work of Meagan Smith-Windsor, residents at the Brenda Strafford Centre have used BCBC HOURS to get haircuts, organic coffee, children's toys, and tax services.

-Along with Building Stronger Communities, Community Development Council, Healthy Calgary and Sustainable Calgary, Arusha is a founding member of the Calgary Community Development Network (CCDN). CCDN works to create a focal point for community development in Calgary. Our first project was a speakers series, called "Community Speaks" which was funded by The Calgary Foundation's Neighbourhood Grants Program. A series of five workshops, Community Speaks brought together Calgarians who are working to make their communities healthier, safer, happier places to live. The speakers and participants shared ideas and enthusiasm and learned new tools for organizing and community building. The response of participants was very positive, and we are excited about doing more of this sort of work in the new building.

- Calgary Folk festival joins BCBC as a collaborator and sponsor and members are now able to purchase Folk Festival tickets using BCBC HOURS.

- In relation to C\$ programming, Arusha staff member, Gerald Wheatley, begins Masters in Environmental Design under the supervision of Dr. Jeff Jacobs where he attended conferences and travelled to California, Vermont, London and Ithaca New York to learn about complimentary currencies.

## 2002

-Arusha has been confronted with large operating and maintenance expenses. Further to this, the middle bay, to be the second space rented out commercially, could not be rented. Some tenant inquiries were declined for being incongruent with Arusha's principles. City taxes on the Arusha bay had to be paid since Arusha was exempt from these taxes only when it was operating out of the building. However, moving in was delayed. By October it became evident that Arusha was not going to receive the total amount of funds from CFEP necessary to renovate the Inglewood building which would have allowed Arusha to move in.

-Bow Chinook HOURS, Calgary's local currency, were replaced this year with Calgary Dollars. Calgary Dollars have been welcomed by members and the public as both beautiful and functional. The new notes were unveiled by Alderman Joe Ceci, who was the first recipient of Calgary Dollars when he sold a pound of his composting worms at our unveiling ceremony. The denominations of Calgary Dollars are C\$1, C\$5, and C\$10 and are equivalent to Canadian Dollars. The notes are brightly coloured and display themes of cycling, local markets, and local flowers. Calgary Dollars has experienced ongoing support from the United Way of Calgary and Area and welcomed the City of Calgary as a new financial partner.

The current level of local currency circulation is \$34,000.

- C\$ Business Coordinator position created and Sharon Stevens is welcomed to Arusha in this capacity.

-Numerous grants have been awarded to community projects this year. Carsharing, operated by CATCO, has used Calgary Dollars to have a business plan completed, and The Boiled Frog Trading Co-operative has used Calgary Dollars to have a 50-gallon biodiesel production unit fabricated.

-Training For Transformation, a program of Arusha that delivers Anti-Racism/Oppression programs, is testing a Pilot Project at the Calgary Young Offenders Centre for young persons between the ages of 12 and 17. The project was designed to prevent race, sexuality, culture, and ethnicity related violence among young offenders returning to society.

-T4T also facilitated a workshop called "Bringing Down the Barriers for Women." This initiative was the result of requests to test open workshops for networking women facing barriers.

-T4T is also working on a Teachers Handbook called "Avoiding Racism in the Classroom" and is finalizing a parents handbook for dealing with racism in the schools.

-T4T is in a wind-down phase, as many of its services have been carried on to sustainable models such as Diversity Calgary, and a division of the Calgary Board of Education.

-Capacity Building: Support by the United Way of Calgary and Area has allowed resources for Arusha to organise to advance its mission to the fullest and most effective extent. The board and staff of Arusha have been making great efforts to critically examine Arusha and its role in the community to ensure that its mandate for moving social justice forward is maintained and enhanced.

-Partnerships with other initiatives in the city this year included a collaboration to advance carsharing between the Arusha Centre and the Calgary Alternative

Transportation Cooperative (CATCO). This resulted in a state-of-the-art website, business plan, and more vehicles and memberships for CATCO, which operates two vehicles serving Calgary's downtown northwest with 14 registered drivers.

-When Arusha held its town hall in the summer of 2002, the strongest theme that emerged was an expressed desire for Arusha to provide more support and resources to individuals and groups in Calgary committed to social justice.

## 2003

-Training for Transformation has concluded its work as a project of Arusha. With the creation of a Diversity Department at the City of Calgary and other notable achievements, anti-racism work in Calgary has expanded far beyond Arusha.

-Late in 2003, the Arusha Centre moved from a cozy but cramped office on the second floor of the Old Y Building to a larger and more accessible space on the main floor. The year ended in a frenzy of acquiring the necessary furnishings, supplies and new resources for The Information Centre. Nashil Lallani will manage resources while Sharon Stevens will be coordinating events for the Centre in 2004.

-In the short time since opening, The Information Centre has also provided meeting space and resources to vibrant organizations such as The Mayworks Committee, The Activist Network, The Revolutionary Knitters and others.

-The *Hold Your Ground Volume 3* was chosen by CKUA as one of the top 100 albums of 2003. It is an excellent overview of Alberta music, as well as a survey of the issues Albertans are facing.

-For the past three years, CATCO has operated a carsharing project that serves 16 drivers who use two vehicles located in Sunnyside and now Mount Pleasant.

-Calgary Dollars Grants have been awarded by members at

the monthly potlucks. They demonstrate the surplus wealth created by our local currency while providing much needed funding for community work. Recipients have included UofC Community Gardens, Broadminds Theatre, and Herland Film and Video Festival.

## 2004

-Arusha has enjoyed having many new board members this year: Tracey Pickup, Steve Loo, Lisa Willott and Murray Birt came together at the UofC to create a social justice student centre and have all come onto Arusha's board.

-Nashil Lallani has done a great job in working to manage and promote Arusha's library.

-The Resource Centre has seen increasing numbers of Calgarians seeking information and engagement in the pressing issues of the year. From high profile talks by Linda McQuaig, Avi Lewis and Julian Darley, Arusha is engaging all of us. We supported grassroots groups like da Vinci, MAYworks, and the Calgary Coalition Against War and Occupation. We launched Arusha's Happy Hour and are continuing the success of Calgary Dollars with the excellent leadership of Robin Morrison, Carol Marcinowski, Gerald Wheatley, Sharon Stevens and Grant Neufeld. We rounded out the year with fantastic support from The Calgary Foundation who will fund two years of moving Calgarians from Information to Action.

## 2005

-This year saw the introduction of stilt-walking mascots to Arusha and Calgary Dollars along with promotional videos and other items to take Arusha's message to the streets.

-The *Hold Your Ground* music compilation produced its fourth and final CD this year, resulting in a 65 song compilation covering social and environmental music from across the province.

-The CATCO carsharing fleet grew

from 21 to 60 members and from two to five vehicles this year.

-Andy Eyck has returned to Arusha to lead the charge in premiering world-class social and environmental films in Arusha's monthly Action Films. 2005's films were: Avi Lewis' *The Take*, *The End of Suburbia*, *Between Midnight and the Roosters Crow*, *Stolen Childhoods*, and *Trudell*.

-Over 2,500 people have visited the resource centre and library since moving to the main floor of the Old Y building. Groups like the Feminist Men's Auxilliary, CultureJammers, African Sudanese Association and Pesticide-Free Parks have all become Arusha Members-at-Large.

- Arusha hires Corinne Younie to fill the position of Coordinator, Calgary Dollars East Calgary Outreach Initiative.

- Arusha obtains a Community Initiatives grant with which we purchased a colour printer and PA systems for the new Info-Active Resource library.

- The Activista Social Club presents a mock cheque for 1000K to the Info-Active Resource Centre which represents the first donation to the Centre.

## 2006

-It's been an excellent year for Calgary Dollars membership. There has been a 40 percent increase this year to over 700 individuals and businesses. The Calgary Dollars annual member survey also showed that members are increasingly satisfied with the quantity and quality of goods and services available.

- C\$ launches new currency. C\$ hired a graphic designer and acquired artwork from the Glenbow museum including Margaret Shelton and E.J. Hues piece to adorn the new currency

-Take Action Grants awarded almost \$7,500 in Calgary Dollars to local groups, matched with \$7,500 Canadian Dollars from The Calgary Foundation.

-The Calgary Housing Action

Initiative (CHAI) formed in August 2006 as a citizen's action group supporting community engagement throughout Calgary. CHAI has received tremendous response from the public, media, politicians and funders. CHAI hosted a rally in November challenging the proposed bylaw which would negatively impact homeless people in Calgary.

-C\$ supported a number of great events like the Natural Family Fair, the Attachment Parenting Group, the Party at Ground Zero in support of a pesticide-free Calgary, and the events around the International Day to Eradicate Poverty.

## 2007

-Action Films enters its second year! This year's films include: *In the Gutter and Other Good Places*, *The World According to Sesame Street*, *Black Gold*, *Iraq For Sale*, *Bullshit*, *Rebel Music Americas*, and *Pills Profits Protest*. These movies were screened in partnership with groups committed to community change: CAOS, Haymarket Books and Café, Good Earth Cafe, Democracy and International Law, the Women's Centre of Calgary, Oxfam Calgary, and Calgary Folk Fest.

-Action Films has found a permanent home at the Plaza Theatre. Other highlights have included the hosting of a world premiere of *Escape from Suburbia*, and a visit from the Yes Men.

-Funding for Greater Forest Lawn Carsharing Pilot with Calgary Carshare, at that time known as CATCO (Calgary Alternative Transportation Co-operative) and CHAI has been received from the United Way. This expands Arusha's work into housing, as well as suburban carsharing.

-Take Action Grants expanded to a total of \$20,000, half in Canadian and half in Calgary Dollars.

-Calgary Dollars is moving its listings to an entirely web-based system, allowing members to post listings instantly.

-By the end of the year, the

Greater Forest Lawn Carsharing Project's success had drawn the attention of the Learning Village and negotiations have begun to create a multi-year project.

-Arusha board members-at-large and Coalition for a Healthy Calgary have been campaigning towards a City of Calgary bylaw in 2008 to phase out the use of unnecessary pesticides on private and public lands.

-The Arusha Centre and the Social Work dept. of Mount Royal College initiated the placement of practicums which has brought new energy, resources, and profile to Arusha.

## 2008

The Calgary Dollars Potluck-Markets took place on the second Wednesday of every month at the Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association. The Calgary Dollars newspaper continues to grow under the guidance of Kirti Bhadresa. Calgary Dollars: Our annual survey showed that our members strongly believe in living in a local community, living a healthy lifestyle, living simply and sustainable, and 93% cite Calgary Dollars as an influence on these values. Almost 90% of members attend our monthly events. 72% believe Calgary Dollars helps them to live a greener lifestyle. 75% of members surveyed believe Calgary Dollars helps them to be more community involved.

Arusha Happy Hour events are held on the last Friday of every month at our office. Each has a theme, and a short speaker or information session followed by lively discussion. We also had local beer and wine for sale in C\$ and snacks.

Starting in 2007, The Calgary Housing Action Initiative employed Jennifer McVeigh to help structure meetings and organize events. Unfortunately funding was not extended in 2008 and therefore Jennifer's contract was not renewed. CHAI made a valuable

contribution in moving affordable housing forward here in Calgary. It was the first group to sound the affordable housing crisis alarm bells. Meetings and protests held by CHAI created space for citizens to discuss how they were affected by the leap in housing prices and the mass condo conversions that occurred.

In October of 2007, the Greater Forest Lawn Carsharing Pilot Project joined with the Calgary Learning Village Collaborative to create an independent non-profit community carsharing operation based in this area, the Greater Forest Lawn Community Carsharing Initiative. With five-year funding from the Calgary Children's Initiative (generously donated by the Riddell Family), the new initiative will offer a variety of member supports including interest-free loans for member deposits and 24 hour call centre support. Other innovations include group memberships for community organizations and on-board computers in all carsharing vehicles. The project will also promote and facilitate the use of other "green" transportation alternatives like bicycling, ridesharing and carpooling.

Arusha Action Films events burst at the creative seams, bringing together live bands, guest speakers, AND the best new films each month. Averaging 250 attendees, each event encouraged audience involvement, dressing up, singing, admitting their sins, and dancing in the aisles. Taking the documentary film watching to a whole new participatory level. With gratitude to The Plaza Theatre staff for their flexibility and consistent support for the antics we get up to in the Action Film nights.

The World According to Sesame Street, In the Gutter and other Good Places, Troubled Waters, Who Decides our Energy Future? Escape from Suburbia The Yes Men Live, Our Daily Bread, Super Amigos, Getting a Little .... Action, Wal-Town



Take Action Grants: \$15,000 when combined with the matched funds from The Calgary Foundation in Canadian currency. Recipients were The Garden Path Society of Calgary, Art on the Street, Waste Wise Outreach Program, Rock for Choice, Western Indian Art Show, The EcoLiving Fair, Real Milk Calgary, Live Green Calgary, Green Market 17, and The Prosperity Cheque Film. Thank you to these businesses for supporting TAG initiatives by donating Calgary Dollars: Sunnyside Market, Blue Mountain Biodynamic Farms, Raven Cartridge, Tech House, Rockwater Connections, FFWD, Broken City.

Nobel Laureat Andrew Weaver came on November 27 2008 to speak on his book *Keeping Our Cool: Canada in a Warming World*.

## 2009

“With the economic train derailing, future-sighted economists tell us we shouldn’t be wasting time and money trying to get the train back on the tracks. They were tracks going in the wrong direction anyway. A whole new set of green and equitable tracks need to be built and the Arusha Centre is laying them here in Calgary.” Board member Kitty Dunn. Calgary Dollars, Take Action Grants,

InfoActive Series: What do lawyers, environmental activists, The City of Calgary, The Disability Speakout, youth animators, and a political leader advancing gay rights have in common? Answer, they were all part of the Arusha Action Series in the past year. Arusha also expanded the series this year to include national book tour events for Andrew Nikiforuk, Tony Clarke, and Dr. Andrew Weaver.

Carsharing: Carsharing is growing in east Calgary, with 14+ member/drivers and three minivans in regular use. The vehicles are located in the communities of

Southview, Erin Woods and Applewood; a fourth vehicle will be added this year. So if you’re in Forest Lawn, look for the distinctive ligo on silver minivans and wave!

The Bow River Flow has emerged as a programming opportunity for The Arusha Centre to discuss themes of alternative transportation and urban planning while strengthening local identification and local arts and culture. It was a challenging political and media issue which resulted in extensive coverage of the issue. The first event drew 4,000 Calgarians to a kilometer long section of Memorial Drive.

This year, Take Action Grants was supported by the Calgary Foundation, Mountain Equipment Co-op and Community Natural Foods, Sunnyside Market, Broken City Social Club, Blue Mountain Dynamic Farms and the TechHouse who are showing how inspired the Calgary business community is.

United Way funding for C\$ reporting requirements necessitate the hiring of a dedicated staff person. UW reporting and evaluation compelled Arusha to completely overhaul our way of collecting data, measuring outcomes and evaluating the program which took significant time and expertise.

C\$ partners with Community Natural Foods. Community Natural foods now accepts C\$ for gift certificates to purchase food and other products at their store. FCSS approves a 2% increase in funding of C\$. C\$ featured on CBC National’s The Point. C\$ membership is over 300.

New to Arusha are social media activities on Twitter, Facebook, Meetup, YouTube, and Flickr sites. Arusha participants are giving input, discussing issues, and keeping connected in real-time pictures, text and video.

The Arusha Centre, in collaboration with the Women’s Centre and other local sponsors, welcomed the author, feminist, activist and rabble rouser Judy Rebick to speak in Calgary. Rebick celebrated the launch of her new book, “Transforming Power: From the Personal to the Political.” Where she tells the story of how, in the wake of decades of destructive politics, new pathways of social change are being forged around the world.

Arusha attends public interest Alberta Conference  
March 19 – TAG/TCF/Child and Youth Friendly Calgary event occurs with over 200 in attendance  
May 29 – Arusha attends the Speak Out parade and Critical Mass  
GFL Carsharing now has 3 cars in the fleet located in Southview, Erin Woods and Applewood  
Arusha is in final stages of internal communications recommendation implementation

## 2010

Monthly C\$ Market moves from Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association to the Bow Cliff Senior Centre in Spruce Cliff SW Calgary. C\$ experienced exponential growth in 2010.

Arusha Curriculum Development: Over the years, Arusha Centre staff has been involved in providing in-school presentations around a number of themes including: Abili-trees: promoting discussions about careers, healthy lifestyles, and introduces themes of environmental economics; Calgary Dollars, which teaches students about complementary currency; Bioregionalism, which encourages students to think about ways to live sustainably within our Bow Chinook Bio-region. The curriculums can be adapted to different age levels, from elementary through senior high levels and can be used for everything from math to social

studies classes. Calgary Dollars and Arusha now have free curriculum available to teachers, which can either be combined or used as stand-alone lessons. Arusha staff will come present at local schools for a small fee.

Arusha attends People and Place, Cities and Towns in Transition Conference, an event to bring together voices from around the Calgary Region to discuss how we transform our cities and towns. Arusha attended and presented on complimentary currency and community activism at: Under the Western Skies, The Public Interest AB annual conference, the ACSW provincial conference, the CBE convention, the Red Deer Pathways to Sustainability conference,

Collaborations at the Info-Active Resource Centre included partnerships with The Coalition for a Healthy Calgary, The Calgary Folk Music Festival, Transition Calgary, Slow Food Calgary, The Old Y Building for Community Organizations and Next Up Leadership. Arusha, in collaboration with Sustainability Calgary and EcoLiving events, began the Sustainability Book Club.

First Info-Active tent at Folk Festival. Children and adults flocked to the Arusha Centre's Info-Active tent at this year's Calgary Folk Fest, happily participating in the several art projects offered by the tent. People hand decorated flags, which the centre plans to use for its various community projects, and also had a button making station. From pre-designed sayings like I Love Calgary Dollars, Ride your Bike, and Vive l'Arusha, to people's own message or design, the button station proved to be most popular among attendees. An Open Jam hosted throughout the

weekend kept the spirit of music alive through the tent with people of all ages contributing to the flow. The Speakers Corner gave patrons a chance to voice their opinions on whatever social issues impassioned them. For patrons wanting to relax, the tent offered yoga classes and even provided the mats. Many people stopped by and received an intimate lesson, free of charge, from a skilled yoga instructor.

On August 22 2010, the 2nd Annual Bow River Flow featured 6 bike tuning stations, 21 live music acts, a dozen fitness activities and a human-powered procession. The human powered procession were mayoral candidates Naheed Nenshi, Bob Hawkesworth, Paul Hughes, Kent Hehr, and Craig Burrows.

Sharon Stevens is presented the William Irvine Award for Social Justice

## 2011

Third Annual Bow River Flow takes place on August 21st with between 5,000-10,000 in attendance. A celebration of human-powered transportation and the innovative use of public space. 4km of roadways were re-purposed with dozens of activities, including: seven "Tune Station" music stages, an Olympian minibike race, karaoke, a guzheng ensemble, a kid's zone, mini golf, alternative transportation choices, and more! The event saw the Arusha Centre collaborate with over 50 community organizations, music groups, cycling organizations, arts organizations, and cultural associations in the programming of the event. Arusha was supported by 120 cumulative committee, pre-event, and event-day volunteers. BRF opened the understorey of Centre Street to human-powered transportation which has only ever

been closed to traffic one other time. The 2011 route extended into Chinatown for the first time and programming was led by the Calgary Chinese Merchants Associations. Multi-medalist Kristina Groves organizes mini-bike race which included six local Olympians Kyle Shewfelt; Christine Nesbitt; Brittany Schussler; Justin Warsylewicz; Anastasia Bucsis) and five "rock stars of a different kind (Dr. David Swan; Councilor Pincott; Pete Estabrooks; Chris Turner; Michael Ireton).

Arusha hosted second Info-Active tent at Calgary Folk Festival.

In October Erin McFarlane, BRF Coordinator presented to Mount Royal Students on C\$, TAG and the Arusha Centre

Long time Arusha staff members, Gerald Wheatley is presented with the Calgary Peace Prize and Sharon Stevens is presented the Arts community Elephant Artists Relief Outer Ear Award.

The Arusha Centre  
C/O The Old Y Building  
#106, 223-12 Ave. SW  
Calgary, Alberta  
Canada  
T2R 0G9  
Tel: 403.270.3200  
Fax: 403.270.8832  
[www.arusha.org](http://www.arusha.org)



