

Street Feat loses Peter McGuigan to big time publishers

by Juan Carlos Canales-Leyton, Managing Editor and Bill Krampe, Vendor, Editorial Contributor and Issue Editor

During the phone call to Peter McGuigan that is the basis for this article, I asked him, or tried asking him, about his family life. The answer came just as soon as the sound from my mouth finished echoing through the phone lines. "I don't want to talk about my personal life, only about my professional career." No matter what I insisted trying to make him reconsider, he stuck to his decision. I think this is too bad for us, for I truly believe we could have enjoyed knowing a different dimension of this private, quiet, unassuming and almost misanthropic personality of our retiring vendor co-ordinator,

editor and editorial contributor, whom we have worked with at *Street Feat Voice Of The Poor* since day one. Peter is indeed one of the founders of *Street Feat*.

I have become used to Peter's direct, almost sharply critical speech mannerisms. He is so "right to the bone," or "right to the point" in a way that is very impatient with people, that is people who desire to engage in even the most rudimentary small talk, or any conversation at all. Some take him for arrogant, rude or simply antisocial, but he is none of these. He is truly a self-defined individual who has



Peter's original "byline" photo.

experienced his many accomplishments on his own efforts, and, of course, his own push and initiative. Peter spares no honest opinion when, during a rare moment, he is indeed engaged in conversation, or even in argument (understand that by the latter, it means as a debate regarding ideas, not an exercise in exchanging unpleasanties).

Peter is a lifelong Haligonian, who was born and raised in the south end of the city. He attended Saint Patrick High School and went on to obtain a BSc. from Dalhousie University in 1970, and

many years afterwards, a Masters in History from St. Mary's University. Though Peter never had the financial viability to study toward a Ph. D. in History at Dalhousie University, he felt he could have been more successful in seeking a degree at the University of New Brunswick, a more inexpensive place to study, but this never worked out to the point of matriculating at the UNB graduate school of History.

Some time during his formative years Peter decided to become a full time author in the tradition of Lou Collins, who



Peter's action "byline" photo.

recently passed away. Among his many accomplishments, Collins convinced developers to save Historic Properties from destruction while building highways (in the New York Manhattan fashion). Another influence upon Peter was the columnist George Mullane, who wrote the occasional piece over a 25 year period in local papers. His columns were so popular they still appeared even after his passing.

Peter's writing actually started out with his family tree and genealogy explorations to ultimately historical writing. Initially Peter's interests

were catalyzed from reading newspapers. Most satisfying in Peter's earliest explorations were about finding out the real history not the mythology behind many local events. For example, finding the grave of the Rector of St. Mary's University at Holy Cross Cemetery in Halifax, was something that no one heretofore had ever been aware of. So Peter started with the family tree, moved on to write about genealogical narratives and then finally into historical stories, especially local history. Yet these early forays into local history were not without their desultory

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The Nova Scotia KAIROS Anti-Poverty Fund Committee (formerly Nova Scotia PLURA) takes these words to heart. Through a Canadian Ecumenical Social Justice funding body, we have been providing seed money to Nova Scotia grassroots organizations since 1970.†

As followers of Jesus we affirm all, no matter the unique path they take, who walk the journey of justice. We wish to celebrate with you vendor/writer Peter McGuigan, who is retiring from Street Feat. We affirm his vision that he lives out in his writing and his living.

As St. Francis says "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." Amen brother Peter!



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**We wish you
Great Success in your
new career path, Peter.**

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