

Street Feat loses Peter McGuigan

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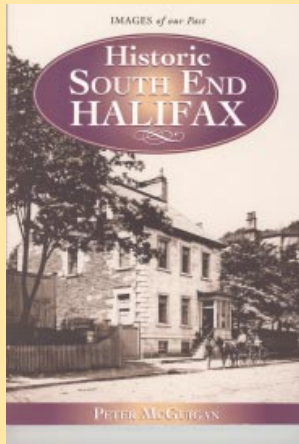
personal experiences, as well.

Peter also remarked on a rare, but still very bad experience: challenging the convention wisdom regarding Prince Edward Island. That PEI has the warmest water north of Virginia, USA. He researched this and then later presented his findings to the New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Tourist Bureaus, by sending letters to the local newspapers detailed with scientific documentation and relevant maps. He also forwarded these materials to the appropriate officials in each tourism office, but they did not want to believe him.

Then Peter life's journey intersected with *Street Feat* newspaper. He was the one who sold the very first *Street Feat* newspaper, adjacent to the Spring Garden Road branch of the Halifax public library, on December 29, 1997.



Peter was the papers' first Editor (trainee), working out of an desk-office in a corner of the Catholic Pastoral Centre in downtown Halifax. He worked as a vendor, and later as the senior vendor co-ordinator. Because Peter grew up in the south end, went to primary school, high school and university there this was the turf he knew best. This was the area where he had the most successful *Street Feat* selling experiences, especially with door-to-door efforts and selling to the congregations in the churches. This is where *Street Feat* newspapers sold best. Peter has repeatedly expressed his gratitude to anyone within earshot in our newspaper office regarding the many generous *Street Feat* supporters he encountered in the Faith community throughout the south end.



Peter's sheer push and determination brought him the success that every writer seeks: being published. his book, *Historic South End Halifax*, published by Nimbus Press is the first of what we wish to be many such accomplishments.

Now Peter is hard at work on his second book, involved with an exploration of the History of Halifax and The Great Depression. This next book is more academic in nature and it attempts to fill a void in the writings about this period of time in the Maritimes and specifically, Nova Scotia. Peter feels with all of his time living in the south end and his years of research into the history of the HRM, he finally senses that he is an expert in the life and times of the south end, as well as other historical matters regarding local history.



Peter, very appropriately, has a personal connection to historical figures in Canada: his uncle James Charles McGuigan of Toronto (deceased in 1974), became the first Cardinal in English Canada.

Among his many previous credits include a church assignment (Archdiocese of Toronto) to write up a piece called The Untold Story - The Irish In Canada (published by the Archdiocese of Toronto and printed by St. Mary's University Press MA in 1985). Also Peter's many newspaper duties included a stint as editor of *People Of Nova Scotia*, a publication of the Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia. Also he worked on the St. Francis

School (Inglis Street) publication entitled *People Of The Maritimes* (distributed by Nimbus Press). He also wrote a column published in the *Chronicle Herald* in the 1990's. Peter has also written for the *South Ender* as an historical columnist for the past ten years.

So now Peter is departing, finally leaving our humble *Street Feat* family which he so arduously worked with and helped to found, beginning ten years ago. He is going to pursue his dream of full time writing, and his latest work on how the Great Depression impacted Halifax and Nova Scotia ought to be an excellent read and a gritty literary sojourn through one of the Maritimes more hellish time periods. We wish Peter well, and much success in his writing career. Good Luck and may the wind always be at your back (and your ink well always full).

The Spring Garden Area Businesses would like to congratulate Street Feat on providing alternative employment opportunities to homeless people. Congratulations and good luck!



One World Cafe closes down - community misses it

Contributed by HCAP

On September 13th, 2007 the One World Cafe a small Northend Halifax community arts and music space/cafe shut its doors for good. It was more than just a business it was a central beating heart of this challenging neighbourhood. It connected people, gave them a space to talk, be neighbours, share ideas, art, music, culture and of course great food and the best coffee in town. It is like a death. As I walk passed the cafe where just a few short days ago people laughed, played music and shared community my heart drops, the papered windows and signs redirecting people to venues in other locations speak volumes of the vacuous space in my community this closure has created. It is like walking passed the scene where a violent crime has been committed, you do not want to look but your eyes are drawn to it. You regret your looking and the memory of it lingers in your thoughts



unable to shake the scene. You may ask why would I write this story, what does it have to do with poverty and the struggle of the poor? In the onslaught force of gentrification in our small north end community the One World Cafe was one of the the last strongholds, it was a place where service and community not profit were the main focus, which unfortunately was also its downfall. What saddens me most is the fragility of it, how easily people can walk away, justify the closure, give up the space, the apathy. Is our sense of community so fragile, are we so downtrodden by our poverty and exposure to it that we no longer can fight for what is important to us? Will no one step forward to fight for our community?

Remember what Margaret Mead said - "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

"We must serve the poor; they have been given to us as our masters and patrons"

- St. Vincent de Paul, Priest.

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