

between \$87,000 and \$105,000 based on his performance, will not become the CRD's talking head. Monday May 17 2008

Fixing heavy heads, heavy hearts

Sometimes the medical system doesn't have the answer, and a group of grassroots mental health groups in the Capital Region wants to showcase alternative approaches they've developed to assist those living with mental health and addiction issues.

On May 5 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the member organizations of Victoria's Progressive Recovery Group will host a mental health fair in the lobby of the Eric Martin Pavilion to share their creative, mentor-driven approaches to healing.

"We decided to do it in the lobby of the Eric Martin Pavilions—take it to the mountain as it were—and let it be available at least so the system could come and see what we're up to, what we're offering, and maybe incorporate some of our ideas in more of their work and invite the public in so they can gain access," says **Bruce Saunders**, the man behind Movie Monday at the EMP for the last 14 years and someone with more experience with the mental health system than he'd like, through his recovery from manic depression.

"A lot of people don't go looking for help until the shit hits the fan, and that's when you start to realize you don't know anything about these illnesses and they're wreaking havoc in your family."

To mark mental health week Saunders will screen two films: *Back From the Edge*, about borderline personality disorder and bipolarity documentary *Not Just a Bad Day*, starting at 6:30 p.m. He's also showing a 2 p.m. matinee of *Not Just a Bad Day* immediately after the mental health fair.

Saunders has also rolled out a special Movie Monday welcome mat to local anti-poverty activist **Rose Henry** who, with a group of other women, intends to walk across Canada this summer to raise awareness about missing and murdered aboriginal women.

On Saturday May 3, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the EMP there will be a screening of *Highway of Tears* and *Finding Dawn*, followed by a panel discussion about the plight of Canada's 3,000 missing women.

"It all starts with economics," says Henry. "Many of these women would not be out on the streets, putting themselves in danger, if there were a more guaranteed livable income."

Film series tackles homelessness

One of the province's original housing advocates is coming to Victoria to tackle homeless issues.

Judy Graves, who has worked with Vancouver's street population since 1974, is the special guest at the Mental Illness and Homelessness Films and Forums on Monday, Oct. 6, and Tuesday, Oct. 7.

The Monday film feature is the documentary, *The Devil Plays Hardball*, a piece focused on homelessness in Vancouver and it features Graves. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Eric Martin Pavilion Theatre, 1952 Bay St.

On Tuesday the Progressive Recovery Group presents *Out of the Shadows*, which chronicles the filmmaker's mother who suffers from paranoid schizophrenia. The film starts at 7 p.m. at St. John the Divine Church at 1611 Quadra Street.

The events are by donation. For more information please visit www.moviemonday.ca.

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Also worth noting this week is Movie Monday's **Mental Illness Awareness Week** and **Homeless Action Week** screenings and panel discussion. In addition to their regular Monday-night showcase (this week it's *The Schoolhouse* and *The Devil Plays Hardball*), the Progressive Recovery Group will be hosting a screening of *Out of the Shadow* and in-depth discussion on the causes of homelessness as well as looking at some concrete solutions at 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 7, at St. John the Divine (at Quadra and Mason). The event will feature Vancouver housing advocate and Homeless Outreach Project founder Judy Graves, who has been helping people find a way off the streets for the past 30 years, plus Rev. Al Tysick and CBC's *All Points West* host Jo-Ann Roberts, who will be emceeing the event. See moviemonday.ca for complete details.

—John Threlfall

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Homelessness featured in festival

Movie Monday is hosting a film festival about the issue of homelessness this weekend at the Eric Martin Pavilion theatre. The first film is *Cats of Mirikitani* on Saturday (Jan. 24) at 7 p.m., about an 85-year-old Japanese artist living on the streets of New York before 9/11.

The Sunday showing features *Homeless in Paradise*, which follows four homeless people in California at 12:30 p.m., followed by a chat with Jody Paterson and *Something to Eat, A Place to Sleep and Someone Who Gives A Damn* which follows life on the streets in Vancouver. Then there will be a video presentation with Chris Johnson and Rockwell. For more information go to www.moviemonday.ca.