



# Zine & **HEARD**

**Amplifying Voices of Youth From Care**

**MAY 2025  
ISSUE #28**

**PHOTO BY  
DEVAN HEAD**



We respectfully acknowledge that we reside on Treaty 6 Territory; traditional lands of many First Nations & Metis people & we are committed to learning the true history of Canada & the true meaning of truth & reconciliation.

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**WHO**

Youth from care speaking out & making a difference.

**WHAT**

A zine to amplify our voices & raise awareness.

**WHEN**

We publish around the 15th of every month.

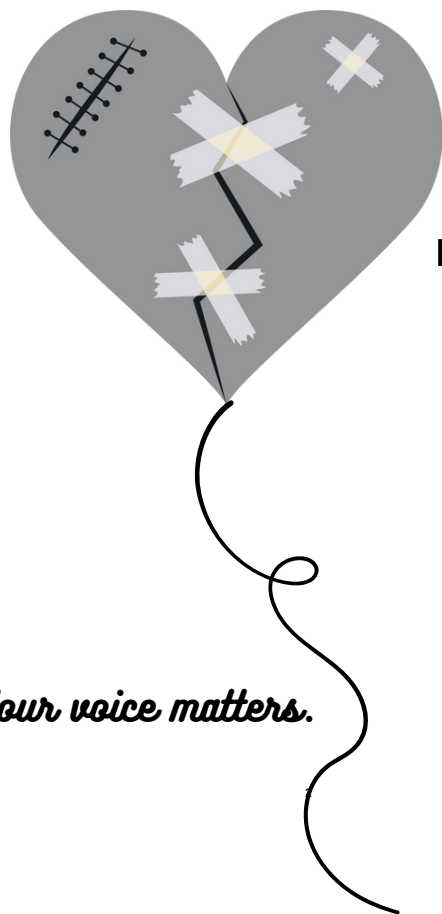
**WHERE**

We are based in Edmonton but are for youth from care everywhere.

**WHY**

Because we can. Our voices have been silent for too long.

**THE STRONGEST HEARTS HAVE THE MOST SCARS**



*Your voice matters.*

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DEVAN HEAD

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The Source

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**WHO'S INSIDE**

BLUE JEAN JACKET DAY

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CREATING HOPE SOCIETY

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DAVID BLOOM

JULIANA MOORE

KANNON MYRAM

KENYA SKATE

KG SKATE CLUB

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OSYS SKATE DRIVE

RUMOR BOARDS

STAND UP WALK

THE SOURCE

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YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

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This gang you're about to join  
comes with a lot of loss and  
sadness and that goes for any  
gang. You may feel loved for a  
little while but people change  
and if you mess up once, say  
the wrong thing, it could all  
go away. Go search  
for love or a place  
to belong like  
skateboarding.

TS

All Starz Zine Project  
November 2025



photo by Tyler Tanner  
@tftanner



# **AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ONE THE ONLY SKATE ROSIE AKA ROSIE ARCHIE**



Photo by Tracy Giesz-Ramsey

## **When did you first fall in love with skateboarding?**

Pretty much my earliest memory is around 1992, when I seen my sister Charmie skating with the boys on the Rez. I had to push 1km to the main Rez school to skate the new basketball court, listening to my disc man and the freedom of pushing that's when I felt the love and appreciation.

## **What was it like to hold your Colonialism pro-skateboard for the first time?**

I have to acknowledge how many people were involved in making this day a huge surprise for Chad Dickson and myself. It was pretty amazing to have all my family and friends there with me, it made it more special. It was a life hammer feeling.

## **Can you tell us about being a team rider for Colonialism?**

### **What does being on their team involve?**

I am grateful to be on a team that is constantly educating people about Colonialism thru skateboarding. Michael does an amazing job doing that thru the boards he releases every year. Each board comes with a story that is raising awareness. For example, my ribbon skirt board, the jingle dress and the #MMIW2SR boards all have a story and a purpose to educate others.

Honestly, Michael doesn't ask for much so I make sure I am representing his company in the best way I can.



## What's new at Nations Skate Youth?

I am super excited about 2025, Nations is going to do more skateboard graphic collabs with the communities we are visiting. It's really special to have graphics with local artists that can showcase something personal to represent their Territory or Nation.

We are planning to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day & Go Skateboarding Day in Whitehorse, Yukon this year and doing a road trip up to Dawson City. This will be a special trip as the Sequel Turtle Island Skate Jam 2 will be launched - this is a skateboarding game from an Indigenous perspective that Nations is apart of. The characters, artwork, and music are a true celebration of Indigenous youth and skate culture. Tristan and I are playable skaters in the game again, it is a free game you can play on [cbckids.ca](http://cbckids.ca) so check it out on June 21st.

We are excited to do more workshops with Odra Lelum, a Youth Wellness Centre in Lantzville. Odra Lelum is the first in the province to offer detox services, specifically for Indigenous youth. Our first visit was powerful, the connection we made with the youth left me wanting to continue this relationship.

Our year is looking really exciting. We will visit new communities and keep spreading the love of skateboarding with the youth. Stay tuned on our instagram @nationskateyouth



Photo by Tristan Henry

**You've worked with so many kids and have taught them so much. Is there something a particular kid or maybe a group of kids taught you that stands out to you?**

It's hard to sum this up because

I have so many memories.

I love visiting the remote

communities where

skateboarding hasn't really

been an opportunity for them.

Overall, I am always surprised

how fast the youth learn.

It takes one to drop in or

go down a bank and then

they all want to.

I am also lucky to experience

the cultural knowledge

in each community.



## **What's your best advice for beginners?**

I remind them to always be aware of their inside voice, it can be their best motivator, saying things like I can do this, next try, I got this....

Building self confidence starts with the way we believe in our selves - they can relate it to any life goals or dreams. I share my experience of how I always try to make everyone feel included when I go to a park, just saying hi or acknowledging someone can go a long way. Basically being kind and remembering we all belong.



Photo by Tristan Henry

## **What's on the 2025 calendar for you right now?**

I work at a Credit Union in the Fraud Department. That's my day job and it rules. On my free time I do Nations. I am always looking for ways to stay healthy, physio and yoga help a lot. Self care and family time definitely balance out all the travelling. I am truly blessed to do Nations, setting up all the events and workshops. It's something I am passionate about so it doesn't feel like a job

but it takes up a lot of my time. I wanna attend more pow wows in 2025.

If you see me come say hi.

## **Your annual skate comp 'Stop Drop & Roll' has gained a lot of momentum and quite the extended family since you started. Is your wish to keep it as is, or is there something you would like to change or transform?**

Starting SDR as a grass roots event is honestly the best. This year will be the 10th and I would love to have a bigger prize purse and more international skaters come out - that would be a dream come true. I was thinking of making it a 2 day event - like a Hastings Bowl event one day and a Street event the next day that would be rad.

Kind of like Exposure in California.

## **When you aren't skating what might we find you doing?**

I spend my extra time with my family in Tsq'escen' (Canim Lake) doing nature stuff when I can. I love watching basketball with the family #GoldenStateWarriors. I love going to concerts with my sister. I am a sucker for sunsets and river/ocean swims. I love making medicine bags and beading with my cousin and sister.





Photo by Tristan Henry

## Who inspires you?

My parents and family are a huge inspiration to me, they keep me humble and grounded. I am always inspired by my nephews Connor and Colton. My good friend Kristin Ebeling is my mentor. I am so grateful for her. Lastly, the next generation will forever inspire me because if it wasn't for them, Nations wouldn't exist.

## Top 3 things on your bucket list?

Right now,

1. To meet Stephen Curry.
2. Take Nations to Australia.
3. To be in a movie with Lily Gladstone.

Totally going all out on this one.

*Skate Rosie*  
**@skaterosie**



STOP DROP & ROLL Photo by Norma Ibarra

# Rosie Archie - MMIWS2ST



Colonialism celebrates an Indigenous woman in the skateboard community on Turtle Island and a team rider for Colonialism. Rosie Archie is from Tsq'escen' (Canim Lake) of the Secwepemc (Shuswap) Nation. Tsq'escenemc means "The People of Broken Rock" and they are part of the lakes people of the Northern Shuswap. Rosie's traditional language that she learned growing up is Secwepemcstin, known as the Shuswap language. Rosie has been skating for years and is known for incorporating and celebrating her culture through skateboarding.

The skateboard graphic features a photo taken by Taylor Ross-Robinson of Rosie in a dress originally made for her late sister, Tracy, by their mother, Mary Anne Archie, in the late 1980s. This design honors Mary Anne's craftsmanship and the family's history. The beadwork on the skateboard, created by Cole Chalifoux from Grouard, Alberta, in Treaty 6 Territory, highlights a long-standing cultural tradition. Cole's beading is more than art; it's a revival of her people's heritage. Otter fur, used in the design, has been valued for its protective and insulating properties and symbolizes strength. Rosie has been a major inspiration for Cole, encouraging her to continue her cultural practices. Through Rosie's leadership and influence, Cole has been motivated to honour her traditions. Cole is proud to create beadwork for Rosie, acknowledging her as a vital role model and leader for their community, Kinanâskomitin!

## Co·lo·ni·al·ism

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK MICHEAL  
FOR GIVING US PERMISSION TO USE HIS  
PHOTOS AND TEXT FOR ROSIE'S STORY

PLEASE VISIT COLONIALISM AT  
[www.colonialism.ca](http://www.colonialism.ca)  
FOLLOW  
[@colonialismskateboards](https://www.instagram.com/colonialismskateboards)



The red-painted hand on the face represents MMIWG2S, which stands for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people. It's a symbol of the ongoing fight for justice and awareness for these individuals.

The issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and Two-Spirits in North America, particularly in Canada, is a profound and urgent crisis that reflects systemic racism, colonialism, and socioeconomic disparities. Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit individuals face disproportionately high rates of violence, with many cases going unsolved or underreported.

This epidemic is rooted in a long history of marginalization and exploitation of Indigenous communities, where centuries of colonization have eroded cultural ties, economic stability, and social cohesion. The lack of adequate legal protection and the persistent stereotype about Indigenous people further worsens the issue.

In Canada, the crisis of MMIWG has prompted a national outcry and calls for justice, leading to significant governmental and societal responses. The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, concluded in 2019, highlighted the systemic nature of the violence and called for sweeping changes across policing, justice, and social services. Despite these efforts, progress has been slow, with many Indigenous families still struggling with unresolved cases and a justice system that often fails to address their needs adequately. Grassroots organizations and advocates continue to push for more thorough action and accountability, highlighting the need for culturally informed policies and greater support for Indigenous-led programs.

Addressing the crisis of MMIWG and Two-Spirits requires a holistic approach that not only seeks to bring justice to victims but also aims to dismantle the underlying factors contributing to the MMIWG2ST crisis. This involves confronting the legacy of colonialism, investing in community-led solutions, and creating systemic changes within legal, political, and social systems. The path forward must be guided by respect, justice, and a commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of all Indigenous individuals.

#### Resources

<https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/>

<https://nafc.ca/policy/mmiwg2s?lang=en>

<https://pauktuutit.ca/mmiwg-inuit-action-plan/>

<https://nwac.ca/assets-knowledge-centre/NWAC-action-plan-English.pdf>



Photo by Casey McDonald

# Rosie Archie - Ribbon Skirt - Pro board



## Co·lo·ni·al·ism

Colonialism celebrates a very important Indigenous woman in the skateboard community on Turtle Island, and team rider for Colonialism. Rosie Archie is from Tsq'escen' (Canim Lake) of the Secwepemc (Shuswap) Nation. Tsq'escenemc means "The People of Broken Rock" and they are part of the lakes people of the Northern Shuswap. Her traditional language that she learned growing up is Secwepemcstin, known as the Shuswap language. Rosie has been skating for years and is known for incorporating and celebrating her culture through skateboarding. Colonialism Skateboards is honored to have Rosie added to the team. The graphic on the skateboard is Rosie's first Ribbon Skirt. It was made by her mother, Mary-Anne Archie, in honour of her late sister, Tracy Archie. The skirt is worn in ceremony but also helps Rosie connect with herself and Mother Earth.

The pro graphic honors the deep history and education attached to Ribbon Skirts. The Ribbon Skirt is a symbol of resilience, sacredness, and survival but varies from nation to nation. Ribbon Skirts are traditionally worn for ceremonies by women, girls, and two-spirit individuals. The skirts are also not bound to one specific tribe or nation.



The origins of the Ribbon Skirt are not known but the first documented one was recorded in 1802, but First Nations regalia has been around since time immemorial. From 1884 till 1951, the Indian Act banned Potlachs, Indigenous ceremonies and traditional clothing, and was enforced by Indian Agents who controlled everything in Indigenous communities. “The government and its supporters saw the ceremony as anti-christian, reckless and wasteful of personal property” (Gadacz). Ceremony items, goods and traditional clothing were confiscated, and charges were laid on Indigenous people who participated. By 1951, traditional identities, languages, and cultural social relations had been disrupted, but this did not destroy Indigenous cultures and traditions as several communities throughout Canada still celebrate and practice ceremonies and cultural traditions today.

On January 4, 2021, in Kamsack, Saskatchewan, Treaty 4 territory, a young Indigenous girl named Isabella Kulak from Cote First Nations went to her school, Kamsack Comprehensive Institute wearing her Ribbon Skirt because that day students were asked to wear formal clothing. Isabella was proud of her colorful Ribbon Skirt that was made by her auntie. The young girl was surprised that the educational assistant in the school compared her clothing to another girl, and made negative comments regarding her mismatched skirt and shirt by saying they were not acceptable for a “formal day” (Brace). Isabella was being shamed for wearing a Ribbon Skirt. News broke out about the discrimination this young Indigenous girl had encountered at school from a staff member. The school division confirmed Isabella’s experience and people from across Turtle Island and “as far as Germany and Puerto Rico started to show photos and videos of themselves wearing their own Ribbon Skirts or shirts to show support” (Brace). The news of this discrimination spread throughout media outlets and support came in from all over the world. Since then, Isabella was made an “honorary member of Saskatchewan’s Indigenous women’s advisory committee to the RCMP and was praised by Prime Minister of Canada” (Silverthorn) and a Bill was passed by Senate Chambers on Parliament Hill in Ottawa marking January 4 as National Ribbon Skirt Day.

## **BILL S-227**

### **An Act respecting a National Ribbon Skirt Day**

Whereas Indigenous women are life-givers and are entrusted with traditional knowledge to care for their families, their communities and the environment;

Whereas the ribbon skirt is a centuries-old spiritual symbol of womanhood, identity, adaptation and survival and is a way for women to honour themselves and their culture;

Whereas the ribbon skirt represents a direct connection to Mother Earth and its sacred medicines;

Whereas Indigenous culture, tradition and ceremony, including Indigenous ties to language and the land, are critical to the vitality and well-being of Canada’s First Peoples;

Whereas section 1 of Article 15 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to which Canada is a signatory, states, “Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information”;

Whereas Call for Justice 2.1 of the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls calls “upon all governments to acknowledge, recognize, and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their cultures and languages as inherent rights, and constitutionally protected as such under section 35 of the Constitution [Act, 1982]”;

And whereas Call for Justice 15.2 of that report calls on Canadians to “[d]ecolonize by learning the true history of Canada ... and learn about and celebrate Indigenous Peoples’ history, cultures, pride, and diversity”

Colonialism Skateboards supports all skateboarders in their pursuit to better themselves mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

For more information and resources for this article please visit [colonialism.ca](http://colonialism.ca)

No editorial this time - just big love to all who contributed to the skate zine and to those who continue to support this small but mighty publication and the voices it amplifies. Cheryl Richardson said:  
People begin to heal the moment they feel heard.  
She's right.

With love, Penny Frazier, Editor



Please get a hold of us to share your stories, poetry, art, music, life, hope.

Deadline for the June issue is May 25th.

Contact us at [editor@zineandheard.ca](mailto:editor@zineandheard.ca) or @zine and heard on Instagram.

Or you can text me at 780-221-6124. Maybe you'll make someone's day a little brighter because your story gave them hope.



Thank you.

# OSYS

OLD STRATHCONA YOUTH SOCIETY

## SKATE DRIVE

NOW TIL THE END OF JUNE!

PLEASE DONATE YOUR GENTLY USED  
DECKS, TRUCKS, WHEELS, GEAR  
AT LOCAL 124 SKATE SHOP  
& MAKE SOME KID'S SUMMER  
WAAAAAAAAAAAAAY BETTER

MONETARY DONATIONS TO PUT TOWARDS  
PURCHASES OF EQUIPMENT ALSO WELCOME

**THANK  
YOU!**



**Zine &  
HEARD**





Photo by  
@ph0t0thug



# IT'S ABOUT THE MAKES

by Kennedy Higginbotham featuring BRETT DEVLOO.

There are very few things like skateboarding. It's one of very few reasons I can think of that people would be willingly letting themselves crash onto concrete over and over again for fun. But once you get the trick you've been trying, it's like you suddenly became invincible. It doesn't really matter anymore if you fell 1000 times... if you get the trick on attempt 1001, you now proudly say "I did it". Skateboarding just breeds that sort of optimistic determination. It's the 1 make that matters, not the 1000 falls. Sure, how long it took or how hard it was can turn into some interesting skate lore. But once you get the trick, nobody really cares how many times you fell.

One of the biggest examples of that sort of optimism skating can give to people is seen in Brett Devloo. Watch or read any interview that Brett has done, or scroll through his Instagram page, and you'll immediately notice someone who is just incredibly optimistic and determined. When Brett was 16 years old, he unexpectedly became blind – something he has cited he's grateful for. Brett never stopped skating; he is still giving it his all on his board to this day. We talked to Brett about his optimism, and how skating informed it. "I've been skateboarding since I was such a young kid", Brett says, "I've always been about the mentality where if you fall get back up again if it's something you want to do because every time I fall and complain about it, my dad would just say well, then don't skateboard and my response would always be but I want to skateboard and I think that instilled the Mind set to just roll with the punches. To go with it is definitely a skateboarders way of thinking to just be OK with something traumatic that happens to you like for example, going blind or breaking your femur didn't slow me down. I can't wait to get back on that skateboard." (Brett is currently getting over that femur injury!).



**BRETT  
DEVLOO**  
hails from  
**British Columbia**

Follow Brett on Instagram: [@tbkttheblindkid](https://www.instagram.com/tbkttheblindkid)  
His website: [www.theblindkidtbk.com](http://www.theblindkidtbk.com)



The battles of a skater are fascinating. It's like these personal wars (shouts out Thrasher "My War" videos) that are totally inflicted on the self purely based on the belief that you can do something. It's seeing a spot, or an obstacle and thinking, "I know what I could do with this". Brett is no stranger to this.

"I've got some fun stories about that actually one of my most recent battles is probably a tie between three tricks", Brett says of his own skate battles trying to get tricks. "One of them is just a big fat pop shove it over a fun box but landing on the down ramp That took me about 75 tries one day and then here and there over an entire summer and then it finally happened ironically, the day I broke my leg, but that wasn't how I broke it. Another one that I battled with for a while was a board slide down a rail over a set of stairs. I just kept getting robbed by the feet, holding up the rail and landed on my back a couple of times pretty sure I bruised a rib, but I finally got it. That's in my This Is Us video part. Some honourable mentions would be this wall ride with a rail that you can go over at the HMI indoor skate park in Hope BC and that one took me a little while to get over."

"Honestly, skateboarding is good for everybody!", says Brett. "I can't say I've lived through a hard life like a lot of people who may be reading, but I have seen a lot of it with my friends at Skate parks and people I meet along the way and the only thing in common is the smile on their face when they skate. It's the same way I feel when I skate. It's a place of freedom. Nothing else matters cause you're focussing on landing if you're not focussing on landing, you're gonna eat shit so you're gonna have to start focussing on landing and letting everything else go".

**"I can't say I've lived through a hard life like a lot of people who may be reading, but I have seen a lot of it with my friends at Skate parks and people I meet along the way and the only thing in common is the smile on their face when they skate. It's the same way I feel when I skate. It's a place of freedom. Nothing else matters cause you're focussing on landing and if you're not focussing on landing, you're gonna eat shit so you're gonna have to start focussing on landing and letting everything else go".**





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# skateboarding is freedom

i miss the sound of skateboards  
clattering down the pavement,  
keeping time with every push forward.  
waiting for the snow to melt  
and then to skate down streets and hills in warmth again.

Skateboarding is freedom  
- a rush of motion and energy, so close to flight,  
speeding down a back alley just after midnite.

Old memories and new ones collide  
- we learn a lesson from falling.  
Get up, rise up every time you fall.  
No matter what shadow or darkness goes by,  
trust your feet beneath -  
already we know how to fly.

Seagulls and sunshine dance overhead,  
I'll ride my skateboard till I can't ride anymore.

For all those who know and understand -  
skateboarding is freedom,  
the two go hand in hand...  
this rush of motion and energy that unites us,  
the unity of those who understand...

~ Ryan Baier ~

## FIRST BOARD CONFESSIONAL

I picked up my very first skateboard when i was 12 from a garage sale for 5\$. The deck was water logged, and the bearings were shot. The plastic trucks were horribly stiff, but i loved it. I still have it and probably won't get rid of it. It sparked a new love for something in my life. im so happy I made the choice to buy it. I've been skateboarding for 7 years now, mostly as something to pass the time while hanging out with friends. Whenever i look at my first board, I feel a sense of accomplishment for how far I've come in terms of tricks and my comfortability on the board. From rolled ankles to sprained wrists and road rash from hill bombing, the bliss you feel from landing that trick you've spent countless hours learning makes it all worth it.

Kannon Myram



Your teacher  
Your employer  
Your mechanic  
Your doctor  
Your tattoo artist  
Your coach  
Your landlord  
Your coworker  
Your therapist  
Your banker  
Your dental hygienist  
Your lawyer  
Your bartender  
Your neighbour  
Your dog groomer  
Your driver  
Your advocate  
Your mailman  
Your barista  
Your veterinarian  
Your friend's mom  
Your friend's dad  
Your kid's friend  
Your friend

You  
might  
know  
a  
former  
youth  
in  
care.

You  
just  
might  
not  
know  
that  
they  
are.

**RAISE THE AGE. LOWER THE STATS**





It's been 20 years and never once has it not been about you, the skateboard community. We're so lucky to have been part of so many memories and moments in your lives. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for letting us be part of your life and skateboarding.

# SKATE WORLD AT CANORA COURTS

A drop-in art activity + skateboard photography exhibition  
celebrating creativity and community.

**JULY 12, 2025**

For more info [www.lexipendzich.com/skateworld](http://www.lexipendzich.com/skateworld)  
Instagram | [oftenminimal](https://www.instagram.com/oftenminimal)

SKATE WORLD at Canora Courts celebrates creativity, inclusion and connection. This interactive one-day event invites community members to come to Canora Courts - a DIY skatepark that was built by community for community - and design their own custom Tech Deck skateboard graphics, sculpt playful skate obstacles out of clay, and explore the art and culture of skateboarding. Everyone is welcome to attend! Tech Decks and art supplies will be provided.

SKATE WORLD also features an outdoor photo exhibition celebrating skateboarders who ride at Canora Courts—showcasing the diverse and welcoming skate community that's thriving right here in west-central Edmonton, especially the women and LGBTQ+ skateboarders who are creating an even stronger culture for skateboarding.

Whether you're a skateboarder, an art lover, or simply curious, SKATE WORLD is your chance to explore a vibrant space, meet new people, celebrate with community and experience the joy of creativity together.

The project is supported by  
We Belong in Jasper Place |  
Projects for Belonging







Lexi Pendzich is a photographer, whose lens-based work focuses on documentary photography, portraiture and subtle still life moments. She's inspired by the power of images to tell stories and personal narratives. Her ongoing film photography project documents women and LGBTQ+ skateboarders, and she's also creating a video and podcast series that explores Canora Courts, a DIY skate park in Edmonton.

She published AGENDA 2036, a publication that's an ode to planning for the future, with Publication Studio Edmonton (2017). Lexi was the Artist in Residence at hcma architecture + design (2023), where she explored the world of skateboarding through creating skate deck designs, mini DIY skate obstacles and reflecting on the theme of Delightful Unburdening through community connection.

Lexi works with film photography and darkroom processes (developing + printing).

# An Interview with Dakota Cootes

By Juliana Moore

I remember meeting Dakota for the first time. It was at Rosie Archie's Stop Drop & Roll, an annual contest for women, non-binary and trans skaters of all levels. We were at Britannia Courts and I was helping skaters sign in when I looked up from the paper and there she was. I was so struck by the way she walked, talked and even just held her board. Then I saw her skate! Wildness, grace, confidence, and something else there aren't words for yet. After that day, our dear friend Judy McLaren put us in touch and Dakota agreed to come speak at my highschool as part of Queer Talks. She shared her journey from childhood to the present day, not holding back or sugar-coating anything the way we often do with young people. Dakota was the only speaker to refuse using a microphone, and you could hear a pin drop - something rare in the realm of hundreds of teenagers. She spoke of her journey as Indigenous, trans, a skateboarder, former outreach worker and present human being. She could have left after the talk, but instead she brought some skaters outside for a session. Dakota and I have been friends ever since. We recently lost our friend Judy to cancer. This interview is dedicated to her.



Photo by Adam Flynn



JM - Hi Dakota! Where did you grow up?

DC - Hi! Victoria, B.C.

JM - Between first stepping on a board and right now, when/where/how did you connect with skating to the point where you were totally locked-in? Or, in the immortal words of The Spice Girls, when did 2 become 1?

DC - First off, we love the Spice Girls. For me, the process of integration took hold in stages over years of my childhood and into adolescence. I think the first phase was playing Tony Hawk's Pro Skater games. I played THPS2 obsessively as a kid and that gave me the base level of knowledge to be able to identify tricks which made me curious enough to want to try skateboarding. Trauma sort of filled in from there as a huge motivating factor. The first time I went to a skatepark (Gordon Head Skatepark in Victoria, BC. S/O Gordo Days) my Uncle sent me down the smallest quarter pipe there and I slipped out backwards and smashed my mouth off the ground. That was the moment when I thought "I'm going to figure this thing out no matter what." A few years after that my home life fell apart - parents divorced, and the one I stayed with relapsed. For a little over 2 years I watched what was my family home descend into a full-blown crack house. During those years I would just leave the house as much as was humanly possible to go skate. I used to walk an hour and a half each way to go skate the UVic underground with friends because I couldn't afford the bus. It was my only sense of normalcy and the only thing that connected me to the world around me. I didn't have the social skills or the mental stability to relate to people who actively took part in society's script. Skateboarding truly was my only safe space at that time.

JM - What were you like in school? Were you more of a loner, a floater or a pack animal?

DC - I went through phases, like any kid. My experience was definitely turbulent and not very supportive overall though. I grew up in that last generation where kids had "behavioural issues" rather than teachers actually engaging to help kids get the support they need and deserve. From a young age I knew I was different from the people around me but couldn't place how. I vividly remember dissociating on the playground during recess in kindergarten with a profound feeling of "otherness" from the kids around me. It took me another 15 years or so to figure out where that feeling actually came from. Overall I'd say largely I was a loner. I had small groups of friends for a year or two at a time but I never felt like I truly belonged or fit in. I was always the back-up friend or the person people would forget to invite to events. I still am honestly.

**I used to walk an hour and a half each way to go skate the UVic underground with friends because I couldn't afford the bus. It was my only sense of normalcy and the only thing that connected me to the world around me.**

JM - Was there a particular teacher that had a positive impact on you?

DC - Yeah, several. My high school metal shop teacher Mr. Wagner in particular was a huge supporter of me and at one point considered adopting me when he found out what my home life was like. He really tried his best to step in and was even packing two lunches at one point - one for him and one for me. He really showed me that I was capable of creating whatever I set my mind to, which is a life-changing kind of confidence to instill in someone who is going through what I was battling then.

JM - I grew up in Winnipeg wayyyyyy back, and in all the competitions, demos and parking lots I sat in as a kid, there were never any girls skating, nevermind queer folks and skaters of all ages and abilities. Coming to Vancouver and meeting Michelle Pezel (shoutout Antisocial) made my brain explode. It's very different all over now. Does that resonate? Is that openness and inclusivity still growing and expanding in your experience?

DC - Yeah it was the exact same way when I was growing up. Elissa Steamer was the only girl who skated as far as I knew! I have a vague memory of seeing a girl come through my old local park one time, but I think she was already sort of quitting at that point. I would have killed for girlfriends who skated back then! There definitely were no openly queer skaters at that time that I knew about, not locally at least. Skateboarding was still super homophobic then as a culture, even towards girls. There still is a lot of phobes around of various kinds but that's typically just people trying to mask their own feelings or never having had the opportunity to see queer or gender-diverse people as what they are: just people. There's definitely a lot of work to be done in that regard, especially in more rural areas, though overall things have shifted in an irrevocable way. Women and Queers are an integrated part of skateboarding now so you either work on yourself and become a decent and accepting human or you get left behind and turn into the jaded person at the skatepark that nobody wants to be around. Being a better version of yourself is never a bad thing and in fact is something we should all be working towards in life.

JM - How would you describe Britannia Courts to someone who has never been there?

DC - A safe space.





JM - Do you feel a big/medium/small difference in the community of those who skate at Courts and elsewhere? Could you describe the difference?

JM - For sure. There's a lot more kinship at Britannia Courts than other parks for sure. You can see people's posture relax when they walk into the park. It feels more like hanging out with your friends in your living room at times than anything else

JM - You've been a big part of solidifying that community. From where Courts began to where it is now, what is the biggest change you've noticed?

DC - I've been around the last 3 or 4 years and in that time I've seen a drop for sure in the amount of women and femmes who skate there. A lot of people who started skating during covid have moved on or gotten busy with life but it's one of the more immediately noticeable culture shifts.

JM - What missing components would help build community even more? At the same time, what components should be surgically removed forever?

DC - What needs to be changed is people remembering that D.I.Y. means "Do It Yourself" and not "wait for someone else to do it on build day". I hear a lot of guys (many of whom work in construction) complaining about obstacles falling apart but I have never once seen them show up with tools to fix anything. The repairs always fall on a handful of us but at the end of the day Courts is still a D.I.Y.

and D.I.Y. parks require community involvement and maintenance.

If you aren't going to show up for your community and yourself then just keep your mouth shut.

What would help the community flourish further is more people showing up and organizing obstacle builds so we can teach them how to use tools if necessary and empower each other to keep our shared space as pristine and inviting as possible.

**What needs to be changed is people remembering that D.I.Y. means "Do It Yourself" and not "wait for someone else to do it on build day".**



Photo by Tristan Henry

JM - I know Andrew Reynolds is your favourite skater. How come?

DC - Andrew became the sort of leader at a young age that I've always aspired to be. He brings people under his wing and lets them figure things out for themselves while remaining a stable and loving force who helps pick people up when they fall. The important part is that he lets them fall so they learn from first hand consequences, but he always leaves room for people to change and do better. Those character traits mixed with his ability to produce an endless stream of flawlessly executed clips in iconic spots made him the ideal person for me to look up to as a kid. My close second is Dylan Rieder.

JM - What skate video or part should everyone go run and watch right now?

DC - Skate video: Emerica - Stay Gold. Westgate opens up the video with the speed and agility of a cheetah. Jerry Hsu's part is entirely switch. Reynolds closes the video with a feel-good song and perfect technique on monolithic spots for its time. Skate Part: Dylan Rieder in Gravis's "Dylan."

JM - If you could, what would you go back and tell your teenage self?

DC - There's a few things that come to mind. #1 You will go on to achieve so much more than you ever dreamed you were capable of, so keep your chin up. #2 Do not hold yourself to the standards of neurotypical achievement. That's not you and that metric cannot be used to measure your success in your endeavours. #3 You're not ready to hear this yet but you have felt different from everyone your whole life because you're trans. Your life gets so much better after you accept that. #4 The last thing I would say to myself is what my late friend used to say to me when I needed support. "It'll be alright in the end, and if it's not alright? Then it's not the end."

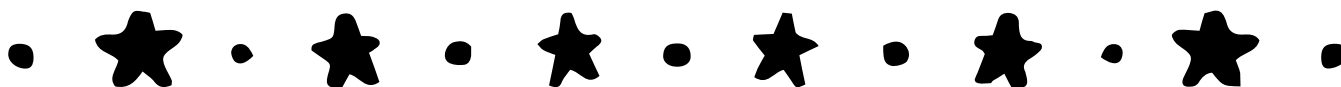
JM - What are you most looking forward to this year?

DC - Shaking the rust off and hitting the streets! I'm working on a video project right now with a rad bunch of girls called "efemmeral". No release date yet but I'm hoping for this winter!

JM - Ohhhh I can't wait to check that out. Thank you, Dakota!

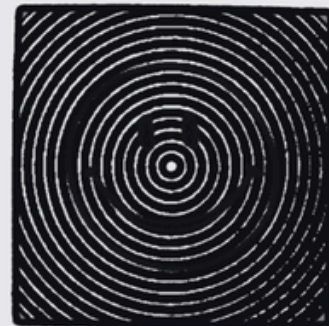
**#4 The last thing I would say to myself is what my late friend used to say to me when I needed support.  
"It'll be alright in the end, and if it's not alright?  
Then it's not the end."**

[@whatsyourbesttrick](#)





# n i n e t i m e s



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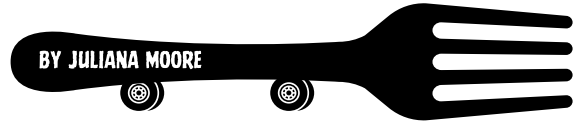
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# RECIPE FOR A REAL GOOD HIGH SCHOOL SKATE CLUB

BY JULIANA MOORE



3 years ago, I took a teaching job at a highschool in downtown Vancouver. I noticed that for such a small school there were a lot of students who skated; however, the school's business-dense location left little choice for skate spots. One student casually proposed using the tennis court for weekly sessions. We approached our admin and to all of our amazement, they fully supported the operation and gave us the green light. Despite some eye rolls and complaints from cranky folks in the neighbourhood, our skate club has been going strong ever since. The student who sparked the flame is now the captain and a fellow teacher co-pilots the club with me.



Our sessions are once a week for 2-3 hours after school. We've hosted Game of Skate contests and pulled off 2 field trips to an outdoor skatepark. If I've learned anything it's that every high-school should do this. Even if there are no skaters - put up a poster and there will be. It's not a hard thing to run, but what you put into it matters a LOT. Here are a dozen ingredients for creating and sustaining a successful grassroots skateboard club in a highschool setting. And remember, this is just what works for us - take whatever you like and run with it.





## 1. MAKE IT LEGIT

Write a mission statement, register as a club and approach admin and PAC for financial support. Skateboarding deserves as much love and respect as the classics like basketball, volleyball & rugby.

## 2. CONNECT

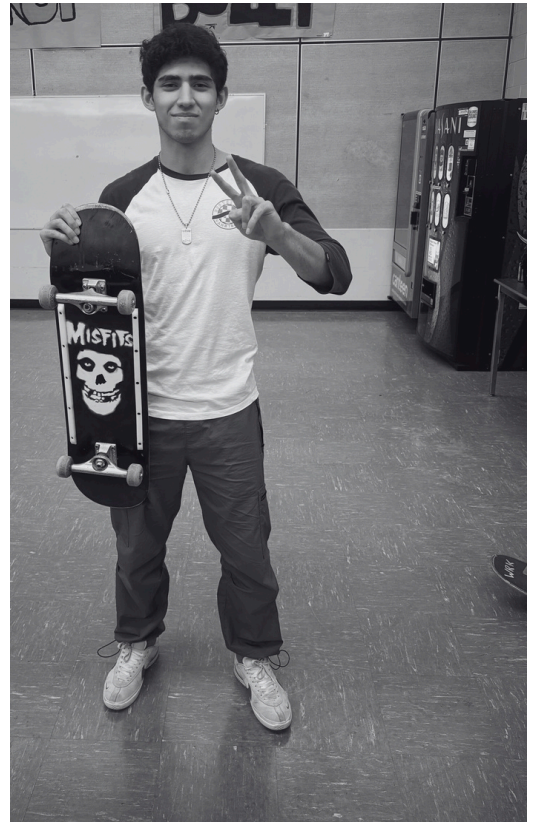
Connect with admin & staff, befriend the engineer and help them all see the beauty of your operation. Invite fellow staff to check it out. It'll make the sight and sound of skateboards on site less jarring.

## 3. SNACKS

The presence of some kind of sustenance is a game changer. Figure out what everyone likes and mix it up.

## 4. MUSIC

Bring a speaker and let skaters play the stuff they love. Don't police the music. Whatever feeds the spirit - so long as it doesn't offend anyone, that's the soul of any session.

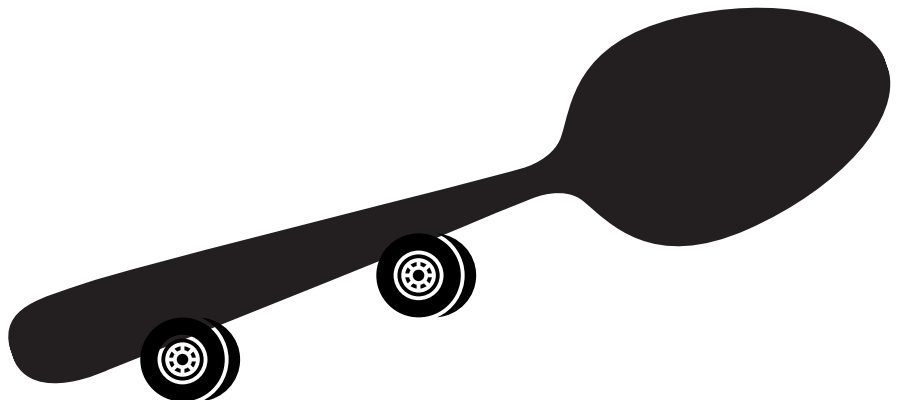


## 5. HUMOUR

Earthly life isn't getting any easier. Humour is a healer and should be as present as the pavement.

## 6. CELEBRATE

Birthdays, seasons changing, landmarks, firsts, lasts & every dang thing in between.



## 7. TAP INTO YOUR COMMUNITY

Connect with local shops and organizations for inspiration, prizes and news about events. Buy your snacks from local spots whenever possible.

## 8. CONSISTENCY

Keep it the same day every week. If some can't or don't show up, it's no reason to abandon ship, but everyone should feel a sense of commitment to show up for one another.

## 9. VARIETY

Even though it's skate club, not everyone wants to skate all the time. Take photos. Film stuff. Share music. Have a deck of cards, a ball, a bucket, a cardboard box - anything. We've spent hours whipping a tennis ball at a stack of empty juice boxes.

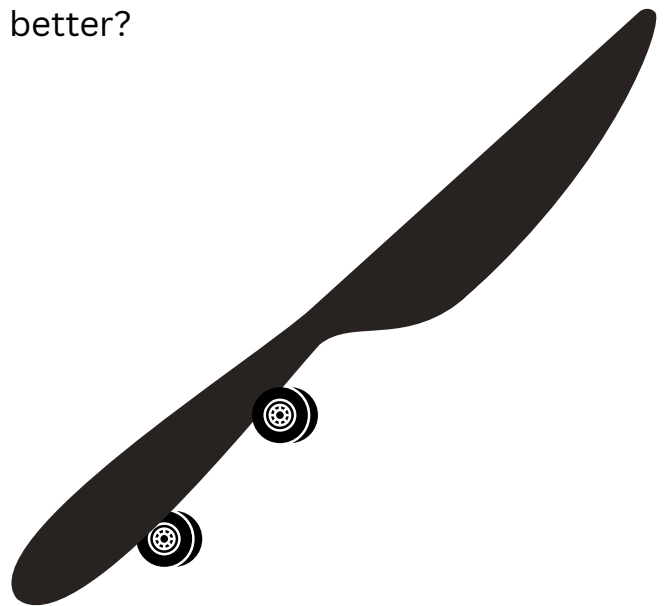


## 10. GIVE EVERYONE A JOB

Like a family dinner, everyone plays a role. Lugging gear, setting up obstacles, tearing down, garbage run, you name it - someone's gotta do it.

## 11. CHECK IN

Do we like how this is going? Should we change anything? How could this be better?



Shout out to the most incomparable co-pilot Shanna Albrecht and club members (former & current) Kanta, Akirah, Hannah, Bill, Emilio, Joon, Jiwoo, Taro, Seiji, Jhun, Joshua, Kaleb, Ashton, Ana, Stephan, Uno, David, Miguel, and Julien.







# THE KC SKATE CLUB

VANCOUVER, BC









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**Joe Buffalo**

Keynote Speaker

Co-Founder of  
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## FIRST BOARD CONFSSIONAL

I got into skateboarding directly as a result of seeing the skateboarding scenes in the movie, Back to the Future. My first skateboard was a Firefly complete that I bought from Zellers. It was \$30. My little kid job at the time was delivering flyers and it took me so long to save up the money to buy the board. While the photo is not the original board I had as a kid, through the help of friends, I have been able to cobble together the same board graphic, trucks and wheels.

The only difference is that my original board came with a huge yellow plastic bubble tail guard, yellow nose rail guard, and yellow wheels.

I also didn't have any legit skate stickers on my original board. I didn't know legit skateboards existed, let alone skate company stickers.

David Bloom @ph0t0thug





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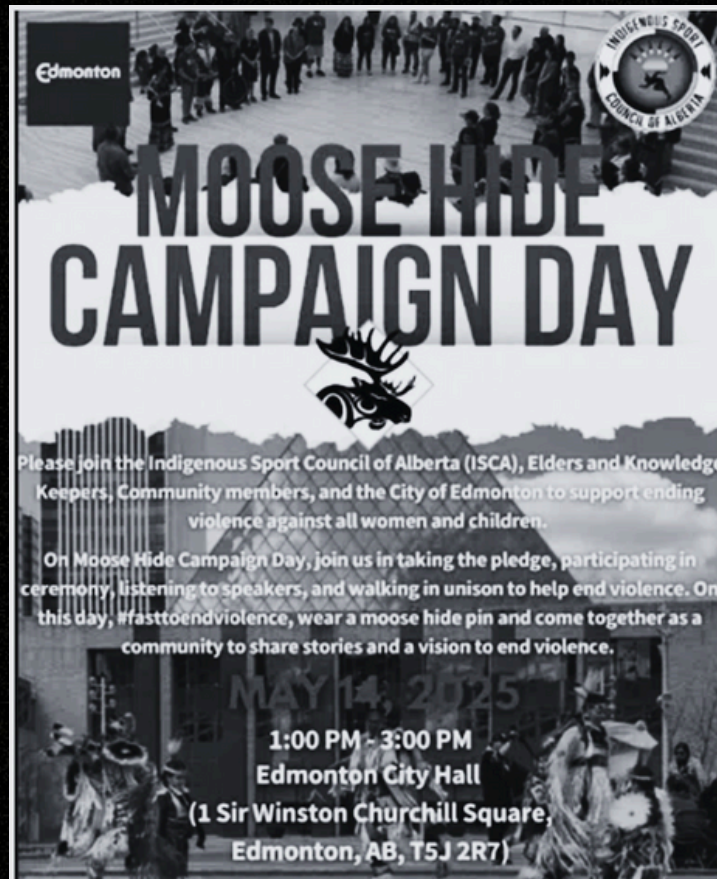
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## FIRST BOARD CONFESSIONAL

I'd already had an inherited banana board & couple cheap Zellers completes before my first "real" deck was purchased at some goofy shop in the west end's dying monster mall. I already knew the toy was in my DNA at this point and it was time to find something more factual. It was a blue vision aggressor 2 and it whispered mystical incantations to me immediately. The store was weak so I needed parts to finish up but buddy behind the counter pointed me towards the inside edge for the rest of her ingredients. Growing up in a northern town, I had never stepped foot into a bonafide skate shop before. As I walked through the front door my skin literally goose'd!

Violently magical doesn't even come close to describing that experience. It was a core churning, spiritual awakening.

"This is who I am" I thought.

It was one hell of a slapper because how many 10 year olds get to think that? The teenager behind the counter was cool and helped me out by setting me up with some black ventures & vision blurs. I recall his kindness in answering an endless river of noob questions and honestly wish I knew who he was so I could thank him for playing such a key part in my memories. Life had just begun and now I was ready to charge into it face first, kung fu fighting the raw gravel pocked streets of rural Alberta. My first skateboard was so much more than an experience, it was a door to identity.

Robin Lacoursiere, "Lostboy Skate Club" & "Bird & Ink"





# WHEN YOU ASK THE LOOK BACK LIBRARY TO NAME THEIR TOP 10 FAVORITE THINGS...



For many decades, the way to track the progression, creativity and artistry of skateboarding was through photographs published in print magazines and footage compiled together in skate videos that were readily available to skaters around the globe. The bulk of modern day skate media has shifted online. New generation of skaters are finding that printed magazines and VHS/DVD copies of skate videos are becoming harder and harder to find these days. Kevin Marks of The Look Back Library is doing his best to keep copies of the old mags in circulation so they can be enjoyed by future generations.

Kevin Marks' lifelong passion for skateboarding brought him from Wichita, KS, to Ft. Collins, CO, and then to the west coast in the 90s, where he found a job in the skate industry and planted roots in San Diego. After many years working different industry jobs, Kevin found himself with an opportunity to start his own personal passion project, The Look Back Library.

He has taken on the task of collecting, sourcing and cataloging all historical forms of skateboarding in print publications. Archives of industry and mainstream magazines, spanning skate scenes from all over the globe have been cared for, separated into eras, and shelved with meticulous precision.

Kevin takes the initiative every year to travel all over North America, to nurture the many friendships he has cultivated with skate shop owners, industry friends, and the everyday skaters he encounters on his months long road trips. In true nomad form, Kevin has put hundreds of thousands of miles on his blue Sprinter van. Kevin collects donations of old skate mags to build small versions of skate mag libraries in core skate shops around North America, giving all generations of skaters access to a dwindling resource. The new skate kids need to learn about historical skating, the tricks that made certain skaters famous, and other important eras of skate history.

Kevin does his best to share his passions outside of skateboarding with the people he comes across on his travels. When not frontside rocking, or doing proper pivots to fakie on quarter pipes and mini ramps, Kevin loves to jump off cliffs and bridges into rivers and lakes. He is always finding the coolest location to soak in natural hot springs. He spends his spare time playing games of Skip Bo and dominoes with friends, or enjoying local disc golf courses. Kevin loves and respects all animals, especially the numerous cats and dogs he encounters on his adventures. Kevin's love of vegan foods manifests mostly in his voracious appetite for tacos, but could never eclipse his ever present search for a delicious seeded watermelon.

I am proud to have forged a friendship with Kevin over the past five years, meeting up whenever possible on his adventures when our paths cross in California, Montana, Washington and even north of the border in my hometown of Vancouver, Canada. Kevin found his passion at an early age and has stuck with it into adulthood and nurtured his love of all things skateboarding. To me that is the true definition of finding meaning in life.

Kudos to you my friend, Kevin. May you continue to find that never-ending stoke and passion to successfully live the rest of your life as you should. The life of a lover of all things skateboarding.

Please consider supporting The Look Back Library by following Kevin's adventures on his social media profiles and by donating any old skate magazines you have lying around collecting dust to him so he can continue to spread the stoke of print publications.

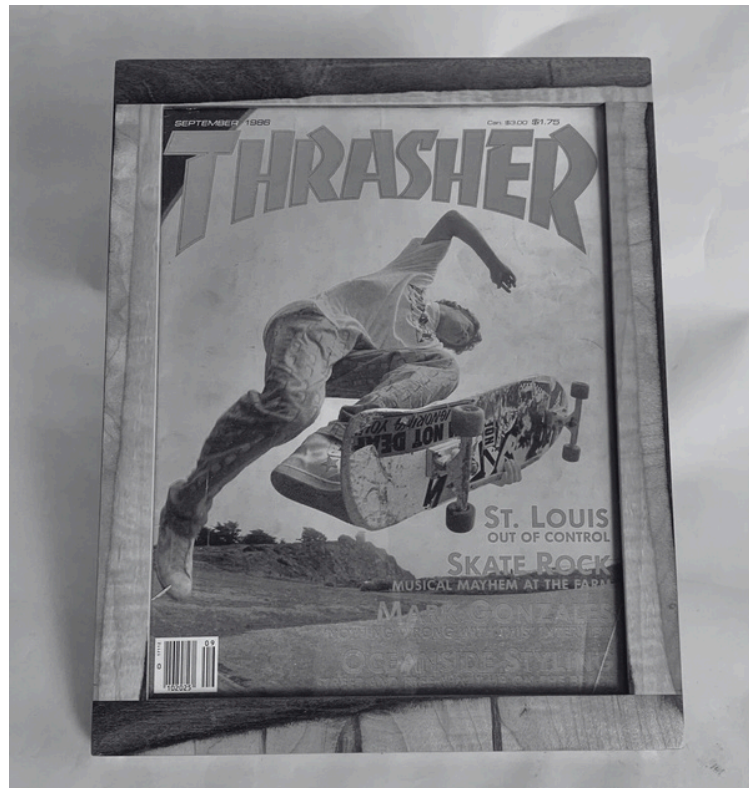
---Alex Chalmers





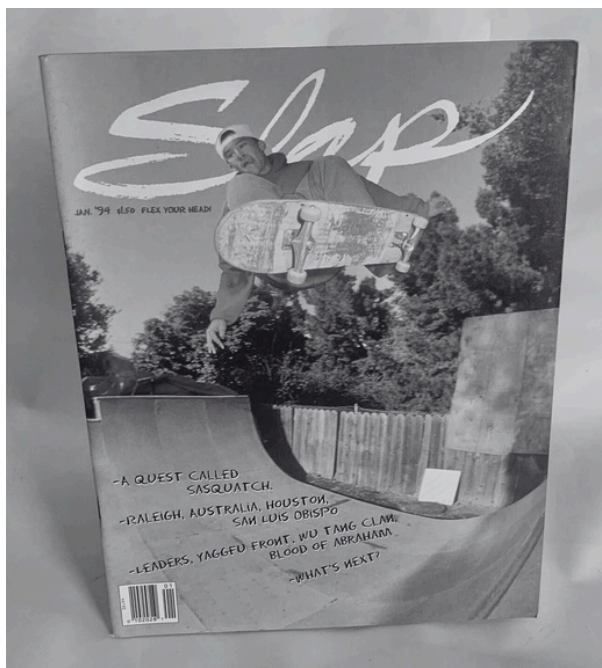
### #1. Useless Wooden Knowledge trophy

One night in Long Beach at the Black, I decided to truly test my skate knowledge by competing as a team of one. And I barely won that night to take home the trophy that reads "Congratulations, You've Wasted Your Life".

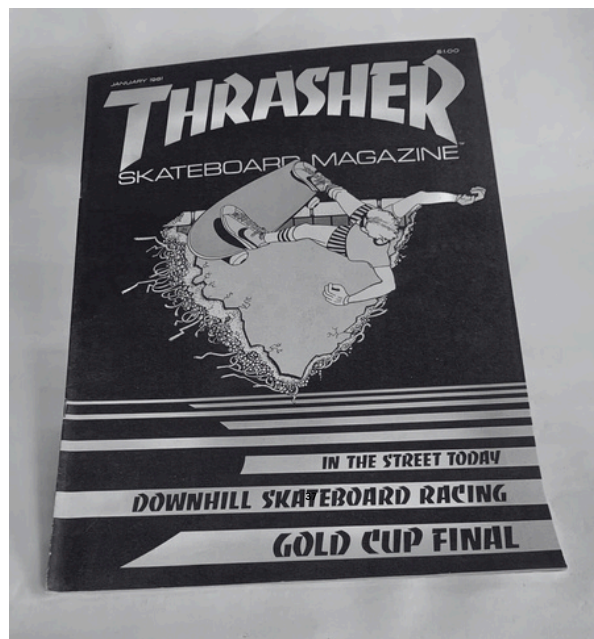


### #2. The September 1986 issue of Thrasher

featuring Mark Gonzales on the cover. This particular copy is the first skate magazine I ever bought and it began the journey to where I am today with the library and what ends up being the largest collection of skateboard publications in the world. A friend made the frame from old skateboards and it resides on the wall in the main room at library HQ in San Diego.



**#3. The January 1994 issue of Slap** featuring Phil Shao [RIP] on the cover. This is my favorite issue of Slap partly because it's Phil, partly because of the colors of his board matching his sweatshirt, & partly because of the Crib Ramp.



### #4. Our copy of Thrasher Magazine issue 1 from January 1981.

This is where it all began for modern skateboard magazines and this issue has a special story. It's never been read. It was sold to Donel Distribution in Dallas, TX, and once February rolled around it sat in a box with other unsold copies. We bought it off an ex employee that kept it in pristine condition all these years.





**#5. A 3D rendering of the Skate Rags skull logo by master artisan Daniel Howard aka @toybox\_monster / Tom Groholski** rode for Skate Rags & was one of my favorite skaters as a kid - he's still one of my favorites. But I loved this logo and picked it up from Daniel at a Skatercon event in Arizona a few years ago.



**#6. A placard of my good friend's face**  
Mark O. Waters died of covid complications in early 2021 and these cutouts of his face were made available at his memorial skate jam. This one resides in the master archive room at library HQ where Mark watches over all the mags from on high.



**8. The first Beauty & the Beast dvd from Girl and AntiHero.**  
This collaboration between two teams = one fresh and one hesh = proved to be a brilliant and unparalleled concept. They went on to do two other trips and dvds, but this first one is the jam as they road trip up the west coast.



**#7. A damaged Lance Mountain doughboy THANKS FOR SHOWING UP award**

from the 19th annual TAMPA PRO contest from 2013. I was given this damaged version by a friend who was integral in getting them made back in 2013. I didn't attend that year and I didn't earn this, but am grateful to have it in the master archive room at library HQ.





**#9. An unopened cassette tape by the infamous Larry Perkins.**

I've come to know LP over the years and his story is one of perseverance and hard work. Player is always trying to come up! That big sponsorship deal is right around the corner.

**THANKS TO KEVIN FOR SHARING  
THIS GOLD WITH US IN THE  
2025 SKATE ZINE**

**~ EDITOR'S NOTE ~**

**I'M STILL LAUGHING AT #1.**



**10. This is a placard that Powell/Peralta made in the early 80's to promote their first venture into the world of skateboard videos.**

Turns out that this is the first skate video I ever saw when I went to Simi Valley to skate with my two cousins in 1986. Tono & Pepe had a dubbed VHS copy of the Bones Brigade Video Show and Future Primitive and they sent me back to Kansas with a copy of that very tape.

## **FIRST BOARD CONFESSIONAL**

My name is Violet Whyte. I grew up skating Sherwood Park and Edmonton and I live and skate in the Vancouver area now. The first board I can remember, I was about 5 to 8 years old and my friend down the street had gotten two skateboard/scooter things from garage sale.

Like the kind that was totally a skateboard on the bottom but had handle bars coming up from the front truck. I think they had knock off Spider-Man on the bottom or something. And the two of us pushed each other to progress on those thing's constantly. We took the handle bars off pretty quickly and got a feel for pushing and riding. Within a few years we were taking those things to the skatepark and going down ramps and ollieing around. But we hit a skill ceiling after the ollie at that age so we both quit for a while. So basically shoutout to Cameron for pushing me into skateboarding. And a huge shoutout to my parents too, for supporting me along my journey. I wouldn't have made it this far without you guys!



photo by @ph0t0thug



# HOUSELESS KENYA YOUTH BUILD COMMUNITY

BY KENNEDY HIGGANBOTHAM

We have been doing the skate zine for a few years now, and something we always get the pleasure of seeing when putting it out is the common theme of youth using skateboarding to heal and overcome hardship. Whether it be our local youth and skaters sharing their stories of skating giving them an escape, or pro skater Joe Buffalo talking about his relationship with skateboarding giving him purpose, or learning about the cool kids of Kenya building a skate community to call home.

A couple years ago Red Bull put out a fantastic short doc showcasing street youth in Kenya who found skateboarding and built a supportive community together. In this video Yann Horowitz (pro Skater) talks about how skateboarding has impacted these youth said, “Their bond was so tight, they’ve got off the streets and now they’re in orphanages going to school ... it's good to see how positive they still are about their circumstances. I think Skateboarding actually kind of saved them.”



Balo – Front Board Shove-It, photo by Samuel Mwangi via Red Bull

**SAMUEL & BALO ONCE SLEPT RIGHT BY THE LOCAL SKATE SPOT – AND STARTED SKATING AS A RESULT. WITH GEORGE’S INTRODUCTION OF SKATING INTO THEIR LIVES, THE KEEDZ (‘THE PAIR’) ARE OFF THE STREETS, ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, AND RIPPING.**

Excerpt from You Tube

**IN NAIROBI, KENYA, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT OVER 60,000 YOUTH SLEEP ON THE STREETS EVERY NIGHT.**

**IT’S GOOD TO SEE HOW POSITIVE THEY STILL ARE ABOUT THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES I THINK SKATEBOARDING ACTUALLY SAVED THEM.**

Pro Skater  
Yann Horowitz



**GO WATCH: “HOW SKATEBOARDING IS TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF KENYAN STREET YOUTH | SKATE AFRICA PART TWO”, ON YOUTUBE!**



# SHANGILIA SKATEPARK & CHILDREN'S HOME, KENYA



Kenya is also home to a unique Children's Home that houses Shangilia Skatepark.

It is a skatepark attached to a Children's home! "It's an orphanage and school for kids who cannot pay school fees ... it brings kids together and they also have skatepark", says George Zuko, a worker at this park. This park opened in 2013, and since then the community, the youth, and the kids accessing it have been able to come together and share a collective experience of letting skateboarding bring joy and purpose to their lives.

## **FROM SKATE-AID     SKATE-AID.ORG**

The Shangilia association is offering street children a home in an orphanage, provides them with an education and a decent life. The orphanage is on the edge of Nairobi, in the Kangemi slum. The aim is to carefully restore the children's self-esteem with acrobatics, music and sports.

But the need for places for children rejected by society is growing continuously. Therefore Shangilia started to build a new home with an integrated school. Together with "[Shangilia Deutschland](#)" and the [Dirk Nowitzki Association](#) we could realize the wish for the first Skatepark in Kenya. In October of 2013 the multifunctional leisure facility was opened, not only with the possibility to skate, but also to play basketball.

The "[Skateboarding Society of Kenya](#)" has been dedicated to skateboarding since a long time and was highly involved into the building of the park. The local skaters were involved from the very beginning – they planned the park together with the German architect and build it in cooperation with the skate-aid supporters Ali Krick and Christian Petzold from Germany.

In addition, the Kenyan Skaters will lead the skateboard training and provide programs for leisure activities. The first step is taken: Since November 2013 the weekly skateboard training for the younger ones is part of their class schedule. Currently the skatepark and basketball court is used regularly by about 200 children from the orphanage and many more from the surrounding slums. They can not only play and use their energy on the Shangilia grounds, but they also find somebody to talk to and, as the case may be, might be admitted to the orphanage.

**4TH ANNUAL** **VICTIMS OF CRIME WEEK**

# STAND UP WALK

**TO END  
SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE**

**MAY 13TH  
3:30-8PM  
FREE BBQ**

**SPEAKERS  
RESOURCES  
DRUMMERS  
FOOD**


**WHERE? :**


- The walk starts at VIOLET KING HENRY PLAZA (99th ave). We will meet with our signs, hearts, and voices to walk in community.
- The walk will end at Kinistina Park; there will be a FREE BBQ, dancers, drummers, speakers, and resource tables




**WHAT? :**

- This is a walk to bring awareness to, protest, and demand an end to sexual violence.
- ALL ARE WELCOME to attend
- Bring a sign!
- The walk begins at 3:30pm, festivities at Kinistina park begin at 5pm.

**Scan me!**





**BRING YOUR SIGNS!  
BRING YOUR VOICES!  
BRING YOUR HEARTS!**

**BRING YOUR SIGNS!  
BRING YOUR VOICES!  
BRING YOUR HEARTS!**

**BRING YOUR SIGNS!  
BRING YOUR VOICES!  
BRING YOUR HEARTS!**

**BRING YOUR SIGNS!  
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**BRING YOUR SIGNS!  
BRING YOUR VOICES!  
BRING YOUR HEARTS!**

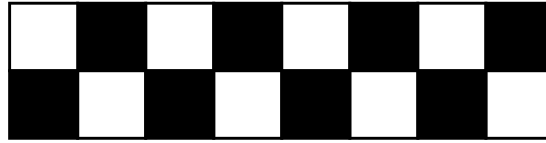
## FIRST BOARD CONFESSIONAL

“ My first board was a blank board with a blue bottom ply. I also had blue destructo trucks, and blue ricta wheels. I loved blue because of Sonic the Hedgehog. I was in the fifth grade and I remember fantasizing about skating to school and how cool that would be, only to skate there one day and immediately be told by my teacher that I could not skate to school in the future because there was nowhere to keep it. That put a damper on things pretty quickly. I also could barely make the thing turn so I hung it up for a few years, and it wasn't until one of my little brother's friends found a longboard in a dumpster that I would start skating again.”

**Vic Sato**







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**If you have questions about your rights as a young person,  
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**Monday - Friday 8:15 AM - 4:30 PM**

**NORTHERN ALBERTA Call: (780) 422-6056**

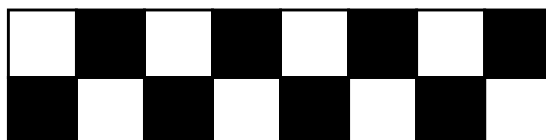
**SOUTHERN ALBERTA Call: (403) 297-8435**

**ACCESS OPEN MINDS**

**ACCESS Open Minds Edmonton is a walk-in service for individuals  
16-25 years old. Young people and their families can walk-in during  
open clinic hours and will be seen on a first come first serve basis.**

**MONDAY – FRIDAY 12:00-5:00PM 780-887-9781**

**NEED TO CONNECT? DIAL 211 24 HOURS**





# Many thanks to the Friends of Zine & HEARD

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18 former youth in care from  
Alberta tell their stories in  
YOUTH IN CARE CHRONICLES:  
Reflections on Growing Up in the  
Child Welfare System

Available at  
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All proceeds go to fund  
projects for youth in care.



# MISSING



Brian has medical concerns that may cause him to become disoriented, and as such, family and police are concerned for his welfare.

## BRIAN POTTS

Brian Potts was last seen at approximately 10 a.m. on Thursday April 10, 2025, in the area of 111 Avenue and 135 Street. After getting off the #3 bus to Westmount at the 111 Avenue and 135 Street stop, he reportedly walked northbound towards the Westmount shopping center, leaving the parking lot on the southeast side after 10 a.m. Potts is described as 5'8" tall, and 177 lbs, with a medium build, dark eyes and dark hair. He was last seen wearing tan pants and an Oilers hoodie. He has reportedly expressed an interest in visiting Fort McMurray.

EPS - MRU #: MP25R013

Anyone with information about Brian's whereabouts is asked to contact the EPS at 780-423-4567 or #377 from a mobile phone.

**YOU ARE NOT  
FORGOTTEN**

## BLUE JEAN JACKET DAY JUNE 6TH



Blue Jean Jacket Day was launched for the first time in Edmonton, AB on June 6, 2023.

It is a day to create awareness on the important issue of missing and murdered and exploited men and boys.





*You  
are  
not  
forgotten.*

**A very high percentage of missing & murdered Indigenous women & girls, men & boys & Two-Spirit persons spent time in the child welfare system.**



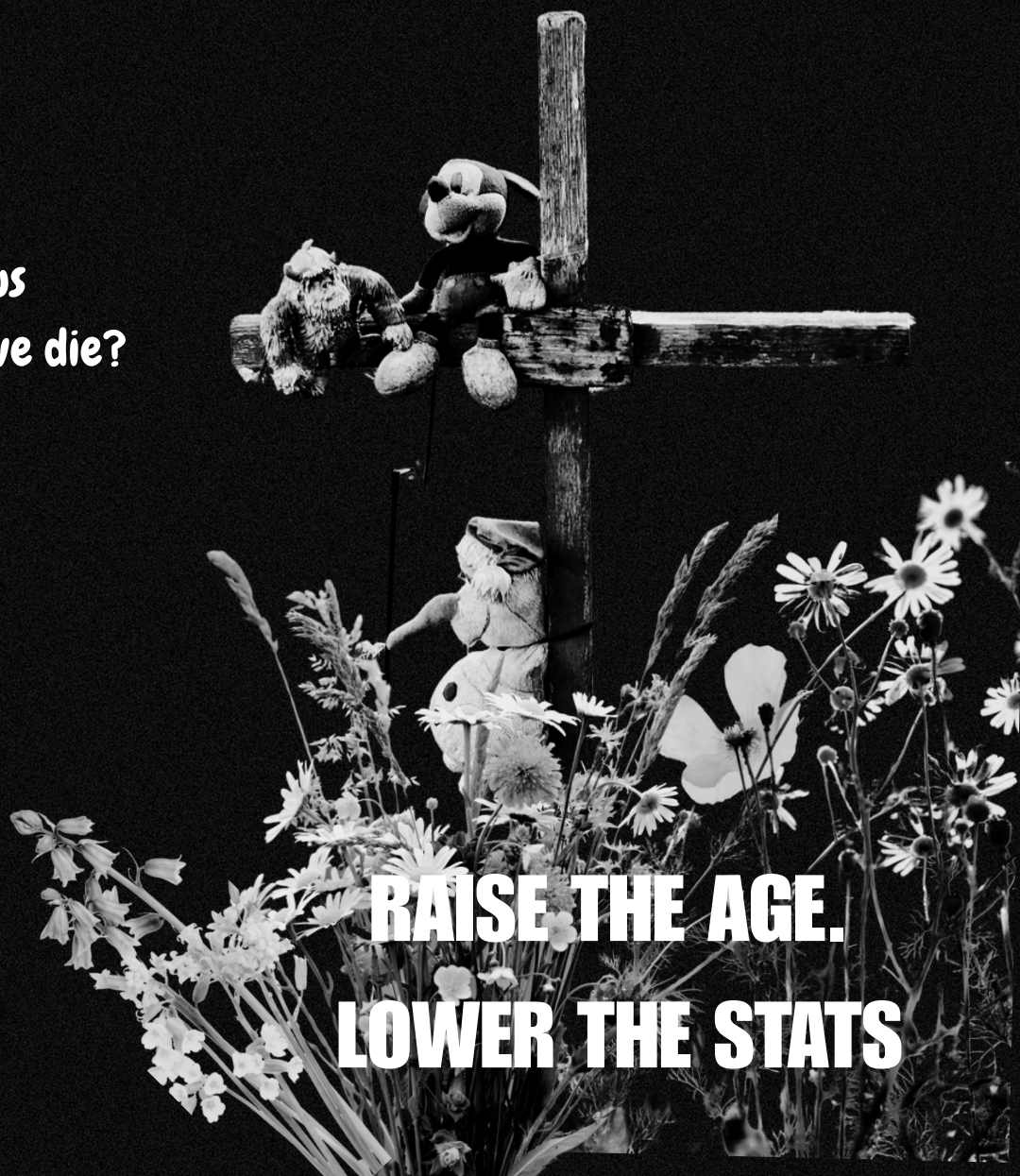
Dear Alberta Government,

We hope this finds you enjoying the summer  
with your families & friends.

Many of us are not.

Truly yours,  
Youth from Care

P.S. Why do you call us  
Red Tape when we die?



**RAISE THE AGE.  
LOWER THE STATS**