

# Zine & **HEARD**

**Amplifying Voices of Youth From Care**

**MAY 2024  
ISSUE #16**



**PHOTO BY  
TYLER TANNER**

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.

### **WHAT'S INSIDE**

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@ph0t0thug @josanwoo

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Sal's Skate Shop Stephen Banks

Tegler Youth Centre

The Source Snowboards & Skateboards

Tigers Skate Club

Youth in Care Chronicles

### **EDITOR**

Penny Frazier

### **COVER**

Riley Powderface

@lelandpowderface bigme

Photo by Tyler Tanner

@tftanner



THE  
STRONGEST  
HEARTS  
HAVE  
THE MOST  
SCARS

QUOTE: Jeff Woods ARTWORK: Chasm Frazier

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@ph0t0thug



Richard Cardinal ended his life in 1984 at the age of 17. He had been in 28 foster homes, group homes and shelters in his very short and traumatic life. Richard was a gifted writer who kept a diary to detail his lonely, confusing, and frightening existence in the Alberta Child Welfare System.

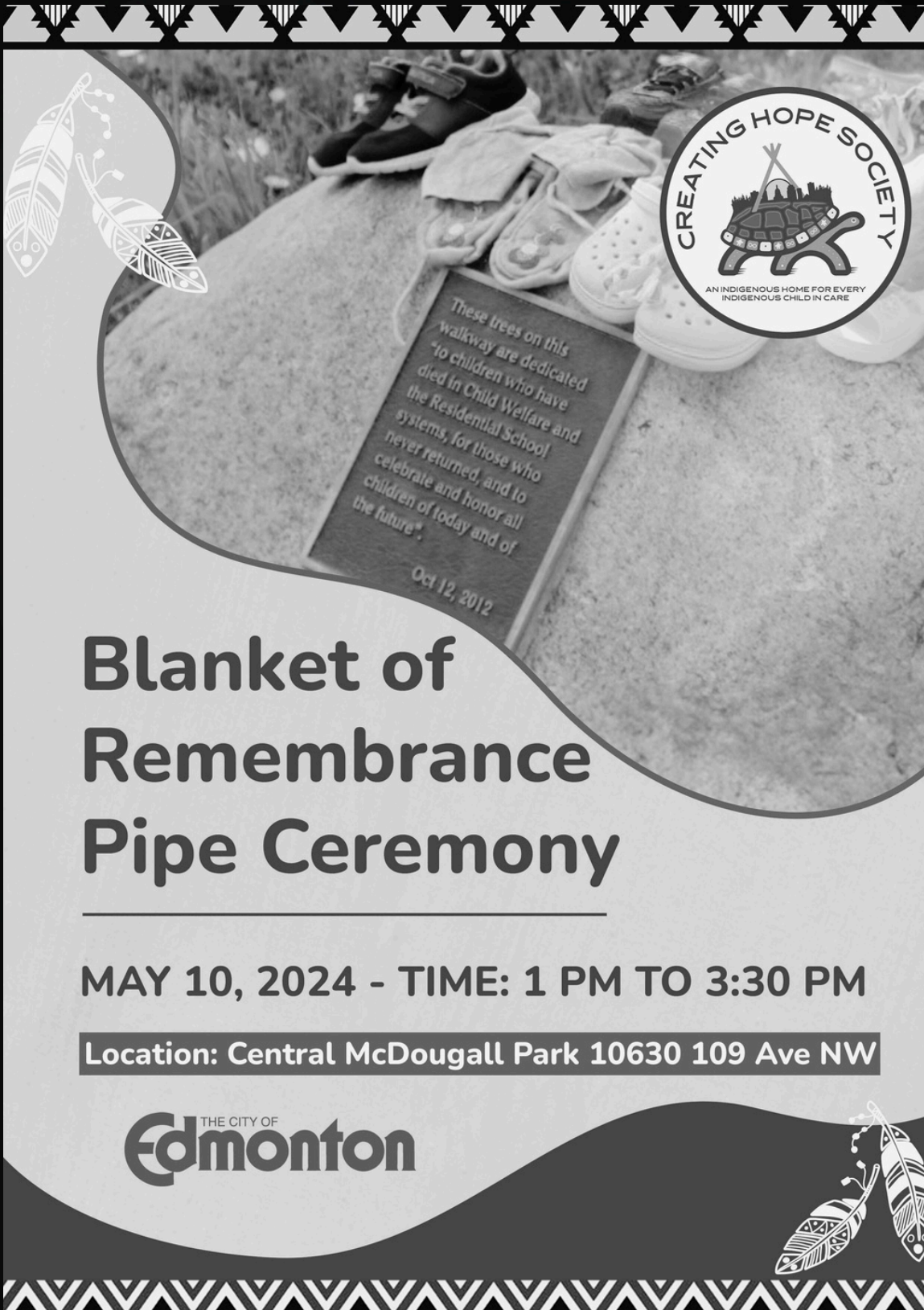
Love can be gentle as a lamb  
or ferocious as a lion  
it is something to be welcomed  
yet it is something to be afraid of  
it is good and bad yet people  
live, fight, and die for this  
somehow people can cope with it  
I don't know  
I think I would not be happy with it  
yet I am depressed and sad without it  
love is very strong

Excerpt from  
Richard Cardinal's diary

To better understand who Richard was and how truly dire his circumstances were, please take the time to watch *Richard Cardinal: A Cry from the Diary of a Metis Child* a 1986 documentary by the award-winning Canadian film maker, Alanis Obamsawin.

**Colonialism Skateboards**  
**In Memory of Richard Cardinal**





# Blanket of Remembrance Pipe Ceremony

**MAY 10, 2024 - TIME: 1 PM TO 3:30 PM**

**Location: Central McDougall Park 10630 109 Ave NW**



Since 2006, Creating Hope Society has held The Blanket of Remembrance Pipe Ceremony in memory of the children who have died in the Child Welfare System, the Residential School System, the 60s and 70s Scoops, those who never made it home, and to celebrate and honour all the children of today and of the future.





No room for an editorial this issue and that's a good thing. So I just want to say thank you to everyone who made this zine possible. The more I learn, the more I love this community. Mostly because they are there for kids. All kids. Including kids from care. Continually making life better in Canada and around the world. I also want to apologize to anyone I may have missed this year. Not intentional - just a matter of time and space and still not knowing who all's out there. We will do a 2025 skate zine if we're still around and I hope we will be. I think maybe publishing this zine is kind of like skateboarding. It's all about passion...and a certain kind of stubborn.

Much love, Penny Frazier, Editor



## FIRST BOARD CONFESSIONALS



I can remember my first board like it was yesterday. It was an "Alva" by Eddie Reategui - the one with the Conan the Barbarian theme. It was the first pro board I got before the Toys R Us style boards were available to us back then. It eventually led me to the skate mags in what was hot and popular. Mind you, it was the 80s so everything was supernew.

JOE BUFFALO

I was about 6 years old when I got my first skateboard. It was a Jerry Hsu Maple board with Destructo trucks and Spitfire wheels. A really cool lady from the complex I used to live in gave it to me because her son was moving out. It would be sick to thank her again. I didn't have Wi-Fi like the cool kids so I had like once a year to watch X games on TV or if I was lucky I could watch some of my friends older brothers skate videos. I had to try to figure out the footing and how I should ride and I went through so many pairs of socks standing on my grip tape. I had rain boots or hiking boots to skate in. I didn't know shoes were a big part of skateboarding growing up. Unfortunately I don't have have that same skateboard anymore. Some kooky kids from Ormsby stole it and sold it for a gram of weed.

JJ PICKARD



One of the first skateboards that I have a lot of memories with was a Max Headroom deck. I was more of a Gonzo kinda skater I guess. My tricks consisted of stacking up garbage cans, lighting myself on fire and riding into them. At lunchtime. At school.

BEN DISASTER aka BENNY BLITZKRIEG POP



Many thanks to Stuart and CJ and the Cousins Crew for being our feature in the 2024 Skate Zine. Talk about a passion project that started from the ground up. In fact, Cousins started out with a mobile skate park they got from the City of Calgary that came with two trailers...but didn't have a truck to pull them. That was then. This is now.



The Cousins truck is sponsored by the Driving Force and is used to haul mobile ramps to many communities all over Alberta. Artwork for the Cousins truck and trailer was designed by Blackfoot artist, Brendon Many Bears @burliest\_bear





# 17 YEARS AT LOCAL 124!



## THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Just want to take a little space to thank Local 124 for supporting us since day one.  
Always stocking Zine & HEARD and giving us words of encouragement.  
(Of course they tell us not to give up. They are skateboarders.)





Local 124 has been a cornerstone of the skate community since my earliest days skating. They welcomed me with open arms since I was a tiny little kid, and encouraged me to become a part of this community that is so important to me to this day as an adult. They're the best!

-Kevin Yue, Team rider and been here since he was shorter than Tim

The Local 124 crew started out as total badasses to me, became my friends and are now & forever my family. They've guided me through mountain roads, showed me the lines of endless bowls and damn that one time we took a wrong turn at Albuquerque's Ditches.... If you told 16 year old me that I would be the one behind the shop till for the next generation, I'd be baffled. It's a honour and privilege to go forth with the family and forge forward together in setting up skateboards for all kinds of terrains, ages and abilities.

-Sheldon Lauzon, your local skate mechanic and rat

## FIRST BOARD CONFESSIONALS

After I saw the 900 on TV and played that video game, I knew I wanted a skateboard. My parents said no because money was tight so I took it into my own hands to "find" one. While riding with friends in a richer neighbourhood, I saw a complete just laying on a lawn. When I picked it up off the grass, it was a different and fresher shade underneath - implying to my teenage mind that it had been there too long and needed a new home. I rode that thing til the nose and tail were square and mean with teeth of wooden splinters. It sits in storage now, still bestowed with stickers and a punk rock band's logo carved into the grip tape.

ANONYMOUS in YEG





**It always starts with the shoes.**

**I fell in love with a pair of Vans around the same time I fell in love with skateboarding. Maroon, navy fall with a gum, waffle sole. Maybe, I got the skateboard to justify the shoes because this was the era of the great poser purges. But I loved those shoes, and the pair that came after (Hook-ups, red).**

**It starts with the shoes because that was also the main tell of another's affiliation with the tribe. In the days before you could hop online and learn everything about a person in a matter of minutes, you had to make deductions from the clues presented. The flick marks on the upper suede of a skate shoe (usually from countless hours of trying to kick flip) were the clearest sign that another kid skated and you didn't have to burn the cool capital by walking up to them and (god forbid!) actually talking. Instead you just had to drop the timeless "Yo, you skate?" and nod to the shoes.**

**Many pairs of shoes later, in my 20s, I worked at a residential program for kids with behavioral and psychological issues, most of whom were in state custody and struggling to the point that foster care was not an option. Little victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and all of the conditions those experiences exacerbate. Some of the kids had parents or at least family in the periphery, they had means and people checking up on them.**

**If you didn't, if you were in state custody, your clothing came from donations and a limited budget. Those kids didn't wear Jordans, they wore Shaq's. Shaq's were a line of shoes produced by the discount chain "Pay-Less-Shoes". The giant basketball phenom (/rapper) Shaquille O'Neil, after ending a contract with Reebok turned down a massive contract with major shoe companies to work with Payless and make a respectable basketball shoe for kids who couldn't swing the \$99 price tag of a pair of Jordans.**

**Those kids didn't wear Jordan's,  
they wore Shaq's.**



# **I didn't want skateboarding tied to "being good" I wanted it tied to "being free".**

**I partly started a skateboard program at the program as an excuse to be able to skate while at work but also because the skateboard had become a power item for me. It grounded me in my body but also in my identity as a participant in an activity that was a direct engagement with the world on your own terms. Towns and cities opened up to you just by entering the stream of the streets and relishing in the flow. For kids who (through tragic situations and state action) have lost connection with family, friends, school, community and even sometimes the reality of themselves, it seemed to me that skateboarding was a way to reconnect with the energy earth, the sovereignty of their own bodies, and the power that comes from doing something dangerous and rebellious.**

**I brought old skateboards from my collection and solicited donations from staff and friends. The program gave us some pretty pathetic Walmart boards as well from their toy closet. Some of these barely rolling and turning. In Vans, Fallens and Shaqs, we worked on unlocking the secrets of an Ollie. In the back parking lot, some kids just butt-boarding down an incline, others learning to push, taking turns on the "real skateboards". Celebrating the triumph of any member no matter how big or how small because skateboarding creates community.**

**I tried to make participation happen regardless of behavior, I didn't want skateboarding tied to "being good" I wanted it tied to "being free." You define how far you want to go, the world you want to create, the risks you're willing to take. You're not the people that failed you, the system that took your agency, the pain that you carry or the shoes on your feet. As the mighty Jeff Grosso, patron saint of the defiant, once said "It's you, your skateboard, and the world. So go out and make it your own."**

**Adam Gray @resorttocannibalism**



# CANORA COURTS

Canora Courts, a skate space designed with everyone in mind. DIY is the idea and the goal we constantly strive for is a space for anyone. We have been fortunate enough to have the Canora Community league in full support of this space and the events we hold. Due to us being all volunteers, this is a labour of love. Upgrades from Matt Mastrovito will be added to park in the coming future, the goal is to have the park refurbished for Go Skate Day and National indigenous Peoples Day. We feel it's not only very important to recognize the space we are on but to make sure others after us are able to utilize it. We have been lucky enough to have support from all the local skate shops here in Edmonton (NineTimes, Local 124, Source Boards, Rumour & Boardom). We are so grateful for the support and constant encouragement, that's what keeps us going! Getting in touch with us is as easy as following us on instagram @Canora.Courts.

Due to this all being volunteer work, we get what we get done with the help of the community. So keep your eyes peeled to our stories and posts because that's the best way to help us.

Please feel free to message the page if there are questions about the space, I'd be happy to answer them.

Hope to see you at the Courts!



Nick Steinhubl,  
Canora Courts Management  
Photo by Lexi Penzich

## FIRST BOARD CONFESSIONALS

My first skateboard as a kid was a "Firefly" model from a company called Dominion. Not a pro skateboard by any stretch, it was just the kind of thing you could get at a department store, but I still thought it was pretty sick. I remember one time my friend and I were spending an afternoon bombing a hill near my house by lying down on our boards on our stomachs. If we got going too fast, we would just bail by rolling off to the side. After a few rips down the hill, my genius friend tipped me off that instead of bailing, he had been successful in slowing down by pressing his fingers onto the wheels like brakes. So on my next run, as I got going faster I gave it a try, and it worked... until my fingers got sucked under the wheels and completely ripped off four of my fingernails! Sweet dreams!

NIK KOZUB







**I was always told "it gets better" while I was in treatment.**

**I had used drugs and alcohol to repress and numb the things I was going through emotionally because it seemed easier than the alternative which was confronting these issues head on.**

**I work in an industry where partying hard was expected, as it was a part of the identity associated with skateboard and snowboard culture since I was a teen.**

**But while time is a constant, people grow and environments change. I started seeing my favorite professionals put down the bottle and start walking a road of recovery. It would still be another decade before I realized that I too was suffering from an addiction disorder.**

**I got sober February 20, 2017.**

**I have a million reasons to relapse at any given moment but there is one thing that keeps me on the right path...**

**It did get better.**

**So as a former suicidal user I can tell you if you are here and reading this. You've made it.**

**Service work has played a major role in my recovery. I was never the best skateboarder, however I enjoyed it and wanted to continue being a member of the community in other ways.**

**I accomplish this by volunteering on community boards within our region such as the Spruce Grove Skatepark Society which will see a new skate park built in Spruce Grove later this year. I also volunteer to run BBQs at other community events.**

**I am so excited for what's to come from our community. If you ever need some bolts tightened, bearings replaced or just want to treat yourself to a new deck, we'd love for you to visit.**

**Our doors are (almost) always open.**

**Ben Miller**





**WWW.SOURCEBOARDS.COM**

**EDMONTON/CALGARY**  
**@sourceboards**

**Photo by Zach Watson**



# BY SKATERS 4 SKATERS YEG



Since writing in the zine last year so much has happened with BS4S, and it's all thanks to the skate community.

We organized a few skate jams/BBQs last summer that built a larger community more rapidly than I anticipated. Heading into the fall, I knew we couldn't lose all that progress. Thanks to the amazing board at

Ritchie Community League, we were able to partner and host a learn-to-skate program in their hall from October to April. We had numerous individuals come to learn skateboarding – boys and girls, young and old, families, friends... We realized we weren't just teaching skateboarding but we experienced firsthand the beauty of a skate community that prioritizes mutual support and enjoyment. Through that opportunity, we launched a second indoor spot partnered with Skate Life Canada & Youth Rise in Millwoods, creating a space for students to come and learn to skate!

Heading into this summer, there are numerous plans in consideration: BBQs, community events, skate camps, and so many more possibilities. We're still so young and fresh, but the future looks so bright. Once again, thanks to everyone who supported, provided space, transported ramps, or coached. I can't achieve this without the support of our community!

If you want to support or be a part of BS4S, message us on Instagram to get involved.

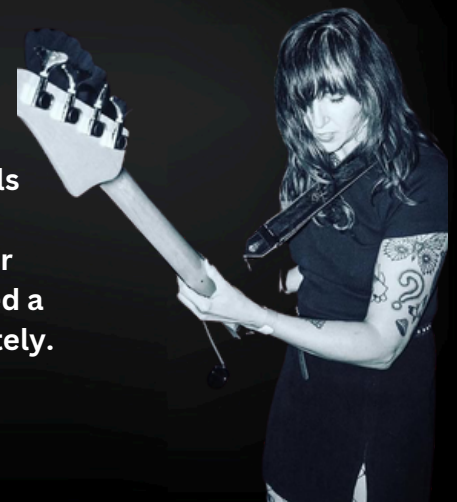
There's space for EVERYONE!

[@byskaters4skatersyeg](https://www.instagram.com/byskaters4skatersyeg)



## FIRST BOARD CONFESSIONALS

I was given a 7.5 toy machine board for my 14th birthday. The Independent trucks and Spitfire wheels were inherited from my brother, and switched out later that summer. At this time there weren't many female skateboarders so I entered the local DC nationals the following summer advancing to nationals where I got to skate the RDS skate park. I placed 3rd because all I could do was drop in on their 12 foot quarter pipe. I had the DC team sign my back pack and snapped a photo with big black rip. I think I lost that board in a move, unfortunately.  
**BRANDI STRAUSS** [@solemnshadow](https://www.instagram.com/solemnshadow)





**WHAT THE?! It's been just a little over a year since the Edmonton shop opened and we're so grateful to everyone who helped bring this into fruition and to all who support us.**

**Spring and summer are upon us and there's already a lot planned in terms of events, premieres, and contests, so keep an eye out on our instagram and website as the details roll in. Hope to see everyone out there! <3**





Joe Buffalo  
Photo courtesy of  
Look Back Library  
2023





**GROWING UP IN KANSAS  
I FELT SO ISOLATED  
FROM THE GREATER  
COMMUNITY OF  
SKATEBOARDING  
THAT I SAW IN THE  
MAGAZINES AND THE  
FEW VIDEOS THAT  
WERE AVAILABLE.**

Throughout this wild ride, I've learned that most anything you set your mind to is attainable. Focus your interests, educate yourself, and surround yourself with knowledgeable people that share a similar passion. Building relationships within your community, in my opinion, is a key component to success. The larger your network, the broader your reach will be within your community and beyond. If skateboarding is your passion, understand that there is only a small percentage of us will actually go on to be a professional skater. But plenty of opportunities await once you start investigating things.

Kevin Marks,  
a mediocre skateboarder of 38 years

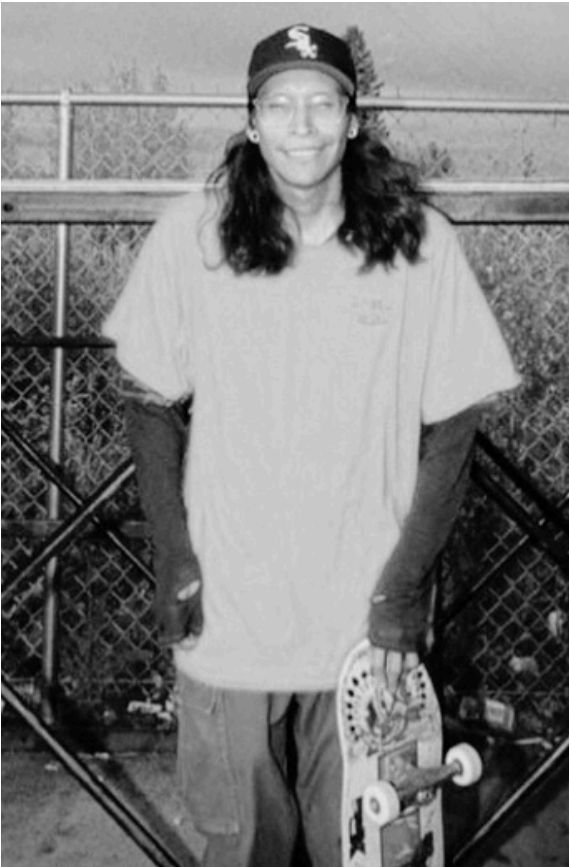
When I started skateboarding in the mid 1980's I never would have thought then that I'd still be skating in my fifties. Nor would I ever thought that as a mediocre skater from Kansas, that I could have managed to work in the skateboard industry my entire life. Growing up in Kansas I felt so isolated from the greater community of skateboarding that I saw in the magazines and the few videos that were available. I was the only skateboarder in my high school, but luckily soon met skaters from other schools and we became fast friends. We explored all over town looking for spots to skate and later would build a handful of backyard mini ramps. Once I turned 16 and could drive, that opened new possibilities to explore and led to a job at one of two local skate shops. A couple years later when living in Colorado I opened my own skate shop. Contacts I made at the shop led to a job working for Foundation and Toy Machine when I moved to San Diego a few years later. During those times I contributed articles to Thrasher, Transworld & Slap magazines. I started a small distribution business in 1999 and in 2001 opened another skate shop, this time in San Diego. Now for the last decade, I truly feel that I've discovered my purpose in running the Look Back Library. The goal is to build an archive of every skateboard related book & magazine ever printed. With the excess magazines, we build satellite libraries at skate shops across the globe.



**@LOOKBACKLIBRARY  
LOOKBACKLIBRARY.ORG**



# ON THE COVER



**What I love most about skateboarding is being with my friends and how we cheer each other on. We are always working on our tricks. The learning is ongoing. Everyone is accepted and there are more and more youth who are coming out to skate every year so we like to help the new ones.**

## **RILEY POWDERFACE**

I started skating when I was 12. My late friend was a skater and he got me interested. I tried his board and got hooked. It was so much fun. My first board was a Baker board from West 49 but I eventually bought an Olive board from Shredz Skateboard Shop in Cochrane.

We built our park in my community of Mini Thni (also known as Morley) a few years ago and a couple of years ago I met Stu and CJ and the crew from Cousins. Since then I have done quite a bit with them. I love volunteering and I like helping kids learn how to skate.

In December of 2022, I was at a skate event in Calgary and fractured my foot. It took a long time to heal but I'm still doing my physio and I'm really happy to say I am back to skating and snowboarding.

My advice to youth starting out is to just get out there and skate as much as you can and help others. Have fun. Lift each other up. Find someone who skates that you can look up to and they'll help you out. Skateboarding is like that. It's a good feeling to be that someone for someone.

Follow Riley [@lelandpowderface](#) [bigme](#)



**@cousinsskateboarding**

Honestly, we never set out to start an organization. I think I originally met CJ Cutter (Siksika Nation) at a Zero demo in Calgary at the old Compound skatepark. I remember being hyped that he brought some friends with him and we were the same age and into the same stuff.

It was clear right away that he was 100% a skate rat. He had a genuine, lifelong passion for skateboarding, and he was a ball of energy. He could skate for hours on end like he was 16. One of the coolest things about being a skateboarder is that when you meet someone who skates, you can have an instant connection with them. It doesn't matter how different you are, you both have a love for the same thing

I'm Cree/Metis/Scottish. My mom's family comes from Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation (NW of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan). I never grew up there and I can't claim that I'm "from the rez". My dad was a Scottish red head. My grandpa is 92 and was playing a bag pipe in an Edmonton marching band until a couple years ago. I grew up being ashamed of who I was. My dad was adopted and carried a lot of baggage and struggled with addiction and mental health issues his whole life.

In grade one my mom moved us to Fort Liard, NWT, for a job. It's a beautiful Dene reserve just north of the B.C. border. I have memories of riding skidoos in the winter and the sun staying out in the summer.

I remember eating rabbit stew at Echo Dene Elementary. But what I remember most is being scared and knowing I didn't fit in. I've continued to struggle with that my whole life. That's no one's fault. Kids can be rough on each other. I knew my skin made me different. I saw my brother get in fights and I knew I wasn't tough enough to handle myself. So, I tried to be funny and endearing. Kids don't want to punch your face if you make them laugh and feel good about themselves.



**(L to R). CJ, Ziggy Goodeagle, Stuart  
at the Siksika Every Child Matters Pow Wow**



The rest of my childhood was a blur. I had undiagnosed ADHD, anxiety and depression and it came out strong in school. By grade 10 I was living in Fort McMurray and going to school very periodically. I left home at 15. I got into drugs and my life spiralled. After a weeks long binge, I ended up in the hospital. My dad had just finished a Salvation Army program in Edmonton and asked if I wanted to live with him. We had a one bedroom apartment on 104th street off of Jasper. I was going through some serious mental health issues at the time but I was with my dad and I felt safe. We got sober together and it changed my life. It took a few years but I eventually upgraded and got accepted to the U of A. I got a degree from the Alberta School of Business, got married and started a family. I'm 38 and my wife and I celebrate our 15th anniversary in June. I feel so lucky to have a strong partner as I navigate life.

In October 2020, we found out that the City of Calgary was selling their mobile parks. CJ and I got together and knew we had to get our hands on a park. At the time there were no skateparks in any of the Treaty 7 Nations. We figured if we got a mobile park we could bring it around and help the local skate communities grow. I spent weeks working on a proposal and we were successful in getting a park. We had no plans or ideas on what to do. We started in Siksika. From there we helped support skate communities in Tsuut'ina and Mini Thni.

In August 2021 we had been going strong for about 6 months.

On August 10th my dad committed suicide and I was an absolute wreck. I just curled into a ball and cried for days. I think it was the first time my kids saw their dad cry. We had scheduled a week long skate camp in Lethbridge for Kainai youth the following week.

We worked with Family Services to connect with kids in care and help them experience skateboarding in a real way. CJ told me that I could skip the skate camp and he'd handle it. I knew that he could. He's great at that. But I needed healing



**At the time there  
were no skateparks  
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Treaty 7  
Nations.**

**We figured if we  
got a mobile park  
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the local skate  
communities grow.**

Rae-Marie Firstcharger  
competing in the 2023  
Alberta Indigenous Games  
Inaugural Skate Contest  
hosted by Cousins

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to overcoming every hurdle. But we believe in working together to help build inclusive communities is a good place to start. Kids need to feel like it's okay to be who they are. We want all young people to celebrate and be celebrated for the things they love.

**Cousins is a non-profit and we don't make any money. As of right now, we haven't received any provincial, federal, or First Nations funding. We rely 100% on donors and sponsors to pay for everything. It's a struggle finding financial support. People think because we're Native, we must be getting tons of cash. It just hasn't been like that for us.**



Mark Kaquitts handing out new pairs of VANS to kids at the Stoney Pow Wow 2023

Cousins Skateboard Community is focused on helping build grass root skate communities for youth on reserves. We never go into a community trying to tell them what to do or how to do it. We find local skaters who want to see skateboarding grow and we partner with them to help make it happen. Our primary focus has been on setting up consistent skate programs where kids can just come and be themselves. We have weekly skate programs in Mini Thni, Siksika and Tsuutina. We're also working with our friend Husky Firstcharger to do weekly programs in Kainai and Pikanii this year. It's a ton of work but it's been worth it. We're not trying to become a big organization. We're not here to promote Cousins as an organization. Cousins is just the vehicle we use to connect with kids and communities. It's about asking "what do you need" instead of saying "here's what you need". Everyone wants to be a part of a community and healthy communities are built on partnership and understanding.





and I figured taking my 5 year old son to a skate camp for a week would be good. It made a big difference, and I knew that there could be healing in skateboarding.

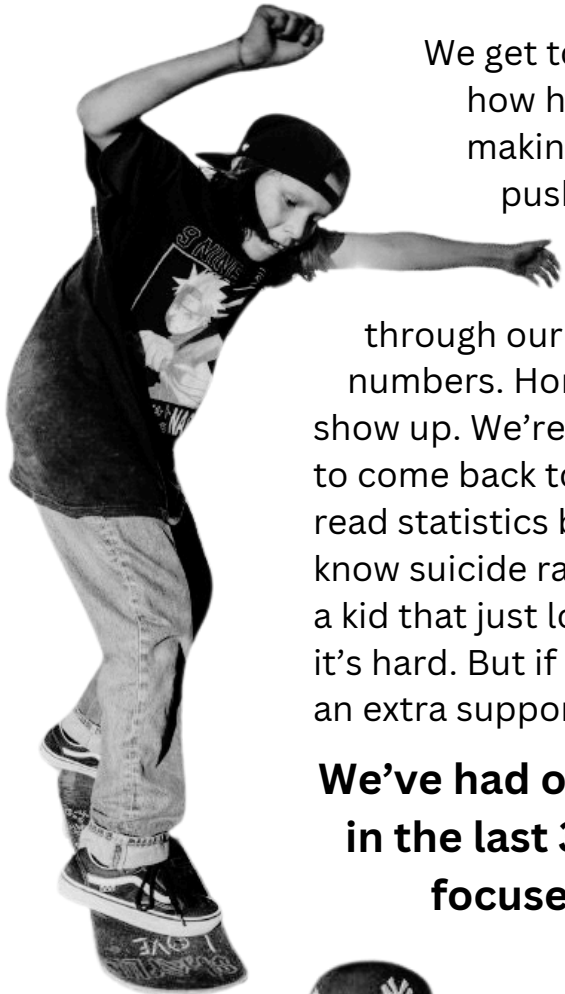
We wouldn't have gotten anywhere without the support from the Jumpstart Charity. Cousins is a non-profit and we don't make any money. As of now, we haven't received any provincial, federal, or First Nations funding. We rely 100% on donors and sponsors to pay for everything. It's a struggle finding financial support. People think because we're Native we must be getting tons of cash. It just hasn't been like that for us. When we started Jumpstart gave us a good donation to get off the ground. They've never asked for anything in return and they're a great partner to this day.

We were these kids. We struggled in organized sports, but we managed to find skateboarding. It felt different. There was no other team to beat. No score to keep. No "right" way to do it. It was hard. But no matter how many times we fell, we kept getting up. We credit skateboarding for some many things in our lives. We know firsthand the impact skateboarding had on us and we see the impact it continues to have today. We want to provide our youth with the guidance and mentorship that allows them to see the doors that skateboarding can open for them. More than anything, we want to help kids just be kids. Through skateboarding, we found a community of individuals with a common passion and resilience.

**CJ encourages a group of youth from Sikisika  
at the Alberta Indigenous Games  
in Edmonton 2023**

**More than  
anything,  
we want to help  
kids just be kids.  
Through  
skateboarding  
we found a  
community  
of individuals  
with a  
common  
passion  
and  
resilience.**






We get to see the impact every day. We had no idea how hard this would be, but knowing that it's making a difference gives us the desire to keep pushing.

We've had over 1500 kids come through our programs in the last 3 years. But it's not about numbers. Honestly, we're not concerned with how many kids show up. We're focused on creating communities that kids want to come back to. Life on the rez can be tough. It's one thing to read statistics but it's another to experience it first hand. We know suicide rates are sky high on the rez, but when you talk to a kid that just lost their father it's not a statistic. It's real and it's hard. But if they belong to a healthy skate community it's an extra support that can really make a difference in their life.

**We've had over 1500 kids come through our programs in the last 3 years but it's not about numbers. We're focused on creating communities that kids want to come back to.**



I wish I had a whole page to thank everyone who makes this happen. We'd have nothing in Mîni Thnî without Mark Kaquitts. He deserves so much credit for what he does in his community. He'll always be mi tâus (brother). He's taught me so much. I'd go into any battle with Mark and CJ. None of this would happen without all the amazing people that work behind the scenes.

Cousins isn't about me, or CJ, or being Blackfoot, or Cree, or Stoney. It's definitely not about how good you are at skateboarding. For us, Cousins is an excuse to tell kids they matter.

Make Your Ancestors Proud.  
It has become a war cry for us.  
Together we can make a difference.

**@cousinsskateboarding**

Cruise Rollinmud (top) and Jojo Poucette  
participate in the weekly skate session  
at Mini Thni, Alberta



We were these kids. We struggled in organized sports, but we managed to find skateboarding. It felt different. There was no other team to beat. No score to keep. No “right” way to do it. It was hard. But no matter how many times we fell, we kept getting up. We credit skateboarding for so many things in our lives.

Stuart Young



The Cousins Crew at the Inaugural Skate Competition at the Alberta indigenous Games in Edmonton 2023

**MAKE YOUR  
ANCESTORS  
PROUD**

# CHARLOTTE SZELES

I am an Edmontonian who started skating when I was 8 or 9 but never really got serious til high school. When I was 18, I started to watch the Jackass series and the Finnish Dudesons. I loved to especially watch Bam Margera and Steve-O skateboarding and doing stunts. That's what really inspired me to take up skateboarding more. What really amazed me about them was how dangerous the stuff they were doing and how fearless they were. I have that fearless streak in me.

I started to go to West 49 in WEM when they had an indoor skatepark at the time. I kept seeing signs up that it was free to skate there so I took it as a sign to try it again. Everyday after work and early morning weekends I went there and practiced. I never cared what people thought of me. I was even crazy enough to ride up to the biggest ramp, falling down immediately. I had no idea what I was doing but I was able to laugh at myself. Of course, I fell many times and it hurt! But that didn't stop me, instead it gave me a rush.

With lots of practice and discipline I became obsessed with skateboarding. These days I really like skating St. Albert, Capilano and Callingwood.

I love to listen to all kinds of music. (I know everyone says that) But seriously I listen to music from classical music to classic country, also black metal, punk, 90s dance music, old school rap, classic rock, thrash metal, and heavy metal and there's more I didn't mention. When I skate I listen to fast paced music like Judas Priest, W.A.S.P., Slayer, Iggy Pop + The Stooges, Accept, Sodom, Suicidal Tendencies, White Zombie, Exodus, Marilyn Manson and much more.

Other things I enjoy besides skateboarding and music is driving, looking at cars, and watching old movies. My dream is to own a classic car or truck. If I had to choose a favourite car it would be the 1965 Pontiac GTO or the 1969 GTO Judge. They don't make them like they used to!

@szelescharlotte

Photo by @josanwoo





# FIRST BOARD CONFESSIONALS



When my mom was going to Gonzaga University a few of the moms were at a Value Village and they seen a few skateboards for cheap and they bought them. That was the first time I stood on a board but don't remember much from that. I do remember a friend got a used board from this skate shop in Kamloops called Oronge. She got hurt and didn't want it anymore so she gave it to me. It was an ATM board with Tracker Hawk trucks and when I went to the skate shop they told me I had 56 wheels in the back and smaller wheels in the front. I had no idea so they set me up with new wheels and that is where it all started.

ROSIE ARCHIE, Nation Skate Youth @skaterosie

I got my first skateboard in LaJolla, California in 1978. I was 15. It was a G&S Fibreflex with Bennet Pro trucks and Road Rider wheels. When I got back to Calgary all the skater dudes in my class were super jealous. They traced my board and made copycats in shop class. When I started skating again at age 50, I took out that board and rode it again. But soon after rediscovering my love for skating, I got a new setup. I met Joyti Gondek, the Mayor of Calgary, at the International Women's Day breakfast she hosted this year, and she also remembers skating on a similar era board as mine. (Before I went to the Mayor's Breakfast, I cleaned up the wheels and put new bearings on it.)

MARLENE HIELEMA @imagemaven



The ALL STARZ ZINE PROJECT is an exciting initiative from Creating Hope Society. The goal is to offer COOL zine projects and programs to incarcerated and marginalized youth throughout Edmonton because we believe there is a star in every youth. They just need to find a place to shine.

# ***You Just Never Know***

**By Denise Bizlaev, Co-Founder/Director, Tigers Skate Club  
Follow Denise @thebizlife on Instagram**

If someone told younger-me that this would be my life, I would have never believed them.

Enter skateboarding. At 12, a daughter to immigrant parents who endured years of unfathomable grief because of my rebellion, I found joy, freedom of expression, and something to call my own. I'd steal my little brother's skateboard to roam the neighbourhood and practice ollie's on a crack that still exists on my parents' driveway today.

In the early 90's, I excitedly declared that I was a skater, a "Betty" for anyone else old enough to know, but I never could've guessed what followed; years of bullying, mostly by girls swarming me in the school yard calling me a "Poser" and demanding, "If you skate, then prove it and do an Ollie." The impact on my life was wild; I became a "closet skater," quit skating completely at 15, became more rebellious and a bully myself, and refused to step onto a traditional skateboard for decades. I never grew up to know my full potential and would much rather do an 8-9ft drop in than attempt Ollies today.



**Who would've thought that I'd play a role in welcoming others to the skate community? Or that I'd work in an industry that a little 12 year old Filipina would only dream of because it seemed impossible?**



I joke that I came out of retirement almost 25 years later because I realized that skateboarding never left me. At the start of the pandemic, I asked myself what's the one thing I'd regret not doing if I died the next day and not getting back on a skateboard was it. While I don't typically look back on those moments unless prompted to, I pay them enough respect knowing that they've shaped who I am and what I do today.

The last 5 years have been a whirlwind of valuing each opportunity to encourage others to experience the positive, life-changing impacts of skateboarding. I'm honoured to be a Co-Founder/Director of Tigers Skate Club, an Edmonton-based not-for-profit skateboarding community group dedicated to breaking down barriers to participation for women and non-binary skaters through events, programming, and mentorship. We host all-ages weekly meetups and an annual event called *The Ambush*, an all-women, girls, and gender expansive skateboarding event and community day that welcomes participation from individuals from across Canada to engage in community and build support for women in skateboarding. More doors opened and I began working alongside Canada Skateboard and most recently joined the team at New Line Skateparks as the Marketing Coordinator.

**At the start of the pandemic, I asked myself what's the one thing I'd regret not doing if I died the next day and not getting back on a skateboard was it.**



Who would've thought that I'd play a role in welcoming others to the skate community? Or that I'd work in an industry that a little 12 year old Filipina would only dream of because it seemed impossible? The teenage me who was told by educators that she'd never make it past junior high would never believe you and at 42, I'm still in joyful disbelief. I could talk about how I wished I never stopped skating, but instead I enjoy focusing on skateboarding's positive impact and our need for more safe spaces that provide people with opportunities to be who they are, where they can grow, and experience a healthy inclusive community.

I hope whoever reads this will feel empowered to try something they've always dreamed of doing, most especially the youth. I'm a firm believer that you should never be underestimated for your capacity to create positive everlasting change and I hope you carefully sift through the 'noise' of others so the positive words stick, bringing hope to you for brighter days ahead. No matter your circumstances, stay encouraged and know that your colourful past can become an incredible gift because you never know what the result will be.

You just really never know.

**I hope whoever  
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Photo by  
DAN MATHIEU

**With Tigers Co-Founder/Director Rosey Kulba at the  
2024 Canada Skateboard Leadership Summit.**





## **TIGERS SKATE CLUB**

Photo by STEVEN BROADHEAD

**Skateboarding has a cohesion to say “at least I belong”.  
I have never experienced or seen any community that has such cohesion or  
meaning or connection. Particularly in terms of integrating outsiders.**

**Whether you are blue-blooded and come from the  
highest families or from the streets. Skateboarding  
unites people who don’t otherwise fit together.**

**---- Rodney Mullen ----**

## **FIRST BOARD CONFESSIONALS**

During Covid my family and I spent a lot of time outside at our local skatepark, riding my scooter. One day a guy riding a skateboard approached me and said he thought that I had a lot of courage on my scooter, and I should try skateboarding. That afternoon I went to my local skate shop and purchased my first board. The first day on my board, I felt a bit intimidated. The majority of the kids on skateboards were boys. Everyone there was so friendly. They were all very helpful and encouraging. That day I was hooked! I love the challenge of learning new tricks, and the feeling I get when I accomplish a new ones. I love travelling around to different parks and meeting new people!

**Makena McWilliam, Competitor at the Olympic trials in Montreal, 2024**



# WALKING THE TALK... AND SKATING IT TOO

## AN INTERVIEW WITH THE LEGENDARY CHRISTOPHER LEMOFOUET

*Editor's Note: Lucked out and got Chris from the Tegler Youth Centre to do a little interview with us on really short notice so we really appreciate his time. Of course, skateboarders (especially ones who work with kids) can take the pressure! And yup - Tegler is that bright yellow building run by the Hope Mission on 118th that's been there for youth for many years.*

### **WHEN DID YOU START SKATEBOARDING?**

I was about 11 years old and I remember going to Tegler for the first time and I would be playing soccer but I would look up into the skatepark and I would see these guys doing what looked absurd. So I went and tried it.

### **WHAT GOT YOU HOOKED?**

What got me hooked on it was how individual skateboarding is unlike most other sports which are team sports. Being able to skateboard on my own and get lost in it is what hooked me.

### **DID YOU HAVE A MENTOR?**

Actually I did have a mentor named Luke. He used to be a Tegler staff. I remember this specific moment that I will never forget. I was learning to boardslide on the down rail and I would just not commit because I didn't believe in my self at the time and he would be watching me refuse to commit to the trick. That's when he said this to me, "I believe in you" and I remember thinking in my head how can he believe I can do this when I don't believe it myself but I trusted in him believing in me and landed the trick



Photo by Abdi J

**That's when he said to me, "I believe in you" and I remember thinking in my head how can he believe I can do this when I don't believe it myself but I trusted in him believing in me and landed the trick.**





**My favorite part about working with kids is I get to be in this leadership role where I try to help youth like I was helped.**

**TELL US ABOUT THE TEGLER CENTRE.**

Tegler is what I call home. It's been that to me for years. I basically did all my growing up there. Tegler offers a variety of programs ranging from sports, games, tutoring and so much more. The skatepark is amazing it feels like I can never get bored of that skatepark.

**WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AT TEGLER?**

I feel like my role at Tegler is basically the skater that refuses to leave. I have been going to Tegler for a long time and now I work there. My role has changed over time but right now it feels like my role is to show and inspire the youth to do more than they think they can do. This is what I have learned over and over from skateboarding

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PART ABOUT WORKING WITH KIDS?**

My favorite part about working with kids is I get to be in this leadership role where I try to help youths like I was helped

**DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE SUMMER?**

We have a lot of skate event/plans for this summer the first is the Skate Competition at Tegler. I look forward to it because I will be judging it this year and it's going to be interesting and exciting!

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TELL YOUTH WHO WANT TO LEARN HOW TO SKATE OR ARE JUST STARTING OUT?**

I would tell them skateboarding is not easy you only get what you put in so make sure to aim as high as possible with your goals cause the only limit exists in your mind.

**Christopher @chrispreme\_1**

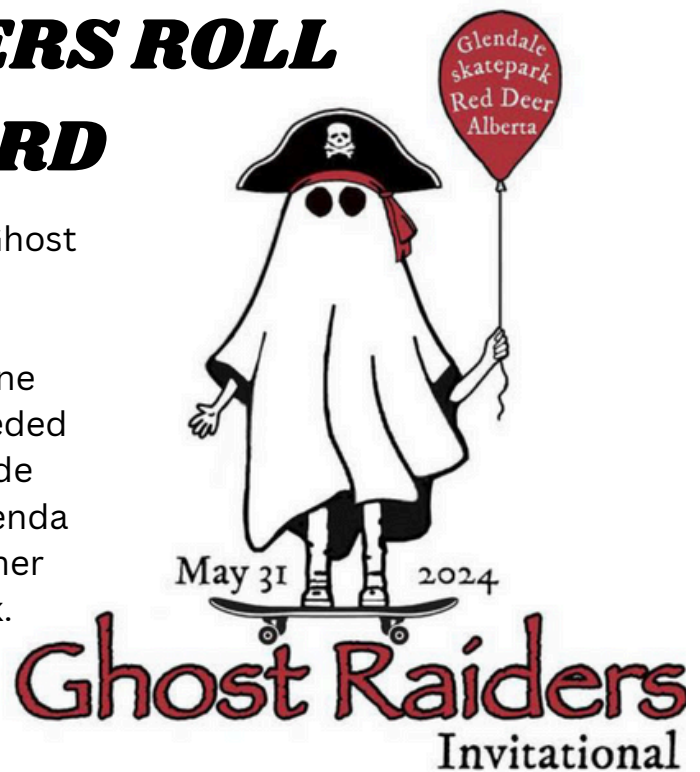
# **FROM RYDERS TO RAIDERS**

## **DELBURNE SKATERS ROLL**

### **ONWARD & UPWARD**

Stoked to see the future of the Delburne Ghost Ryders Skatepark Competition!

The Delburne Ghost Ryders started with one person's vision of what our small town needed to build to give our youth some place to ride other than the steps of the post office. Brenda Smith reached out and informed this teacher that together we *were* building a skatepark. Right from the beginning we both knew that the students of our community must be involved; they designed, named and helped raise funds for our park.



The focus on the students, listening to their thoughts and wants, as well as seeing their dedication to their chosen sport, led us to deciding to hold a competition, a skatepark competition, one that runs just like any other school sport event does. Other schools send us their athletes, we give these amazing humans an opportunity to showcase their talents and everybody gets a day outside of the normal classroom. This approach of spending time away from math class seems to have taken hold with skatepark users, as we started with 18 athletes our first year...and packed, like packed, the park last June with 74 competitors from 14 different schools.

The 7th Annual Invitational Skatepark Competition is set to run this May. However, this year brings change as we will be partnering with Red Deer's Lindsay Thurber Composite High School, specifically their Raiders



Skateboarding students . There are two main reasons for this transition. First off, we *need* a bigger park, so Glendale Skatepark in north Red Deer will be able to allow us to host more athletes from across this province. Secondly, this dude retired...finally...therefore a new point person has volunteered to take the trophy and run with it.



Mr R.J. Willms, a young, innocently naive human of great demeanor and superb character, will now be the face and voice of the only school sanctioned skatepark comp we know of in Canada...he really has no idea what he has agreed to...

Cluelessness aside, Mr Willms is the perfect choice to take over this adventure. Having been in his skateboard option class at Thurber, it is clear, crystal clear, that he is the one to move this competition into the future. His commitment to every student in that school is evident in his actions. Just stay for lunch and watch the students hang in his room. This place is a wonderfully safe space for all humans.

It is with great pride that we now call this year's skatepark competition the 7th Annual Ghost Raiders Invitational. So stoked for May 31st at Glendale Skatepark, Red Deer. Every student from grades 7 to 12 that wishes to compete is welcome. Please follow [raiders\\_skateboarding](#) or [delburne\\_ghost\\_ryders](#) on Instagram and be a part of this incredible journey.

The inclusive nature of our comp, one that celebrates three disciplines across six grades, seems to resonate with our athletes. Everyone is welcome, everyone is seen and all are valued. This core foundation of acceptance for everyone will continue regardless of the name attached to this comp.

Hope to meet you at a skatepark sometime in the future...stay safe, ride well... thanks for the memories...

Stephen Banks, Founding Member of the [Delburne Ghost Ryders](#)

## FIRST BOARD CONFESSIONALS

I got my first skateboard from my vice principal, Mr. Banks. I became a part of the Delburne Ghost Ryders a few years ago and that's when he gave me the board. The one day, I was riding down a hill and got the speed wobble. I ended up bashing my head off the pavement, and I needed to get it glued back together at the hospital. Ouch! In the end I healed fine and learned that I should've been wearing my helmet.... They're important! I still have that board to this day :)  
LEE, Delburne Ghost Rider



My first skateboard was a no-name, DIY set up I got for Christmas when I was 7 or 8. It came with two 7.5" decks which was the style at the time, 2 sets of wheels and 2 sets of trucks. It wasn't great but I fell in love with it immediately. Over time through making deals with other kids and pestering my parents I slowly swapped out the parts for a better deck. I've owned more decks than I can count now but I'll never forget how special that first one was. [CURTIS DECK, Vocals, VECTOR 23](#)

# UNIGNORABLE

## POVERTY AWARENESS WITH SKATEBOARDS

Kristian Basaraba @salsskateshop

Skateboards, street art and homelessness in youth were the themes for a student art project that took action against the #UNIGNORABLE issue of local poverty in 2018. The PAWS (Poverty Awareness with Skateboards) project by Next Step High School (SPO) students was one of the twenty-one projects awarded a grant by the United Way of the Alberta capital Region for the 2018-2019 school year that aimed to teach students about the challenges local individuals face when living in poverty. The project goals of the PAWS project were to have students create an artistic image using a skateboard deck as a canvas in order to engage and invoke a conversation around poverty and homelessness in youth.

Next Step students made weekly visits to the Old Strathcona Youth Society (OSYS) Co-op to forge relationships and share experiences with the youth that frequent the space. Each week featured SPO students bringing along an art activity for all participants to work on plus a couple of “Make Your Mark Sharpie Boards”. These skate decks were given to people to share their thoughts on poverty through a word, picture or story and written on these boards with a Sharpie. These interactive pieces allowed everyone to be engaged in this discussion including students, co-op youth and others and provided some insight into how this issue is viewed by each of them.



The weekly visits allowed for conversations to be had between youth while creating some wonderful art. The first visit enabled the students and youth to get introduced to one another, to have all involved be given a synopsis of the project and use the button maker to make buttons. Students brought along Sculpey® clay to create sculptures on the second visit and the third week participants



created drawings using pencils and paper. Each visit SPO students heard stories from the co-op youth as to what it takes to survive and live on the street. It was these stories that one SPO student described as “an experience that has impacted me greatly, and has made me feel much more empathetic towards people in this situation.” The ride back home after these visits was very emotional for some students and it allowed them to reflect on how fortunate they are and how poverty affects youth their age. It was a humbling experience for some and reshaped some student views and influenced what they want to do in the future. In the words of another SPO student, “it has changed my views and perspective on what I want to do with my life.”

Using these emotions, stories and experiences the SPO students then embarked on their skateboard deck design planning and implementation. Each student was given a blank skateboard deck and were challenged to create a graphic that promotes an awareness of poverty and homelessness in youth. One goal was to create a graphic that encourages a discussion around this issue and maybe be an impetus for change. These boards were to be displayed in an art show and silent auction fundraiser for the OSYS on the evening of February 19 at The Aviary in the heart of Edmonton.

**THE RIDE BACK HOME AFTER THESE VISITS WAS VERY EMOTIONAL FOR SOME STUDENTS AND IT ALLOWED THEM TO REFLECT ON HOW FORTUNATE THEY ARE AND HOW POVERTY AFFECTS YOUTH THEIR AGE. IT WAS A HUMBLING EXPERIENCE FOR SOME AND RESHAPED SOME STUDENT VIEWS AND INFLUENCED WHAT THEY WANT TO DO IN THE FUTURE.**

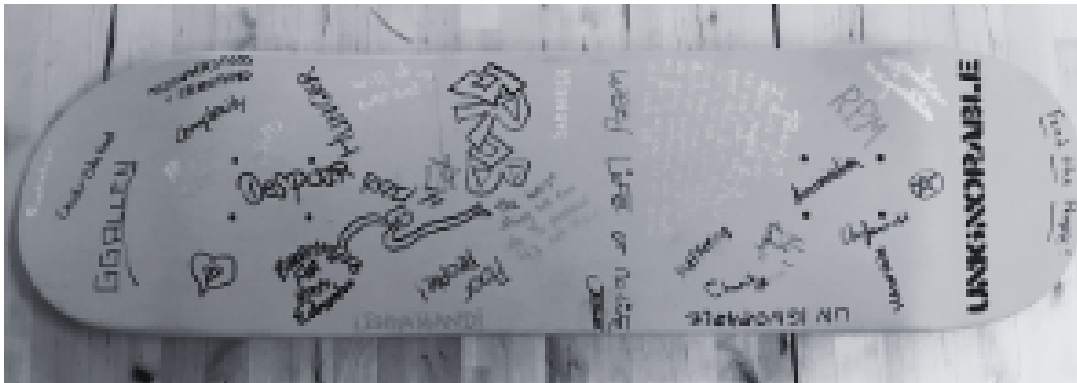


*Untitled skateboard by OSYS youth Cristian A.*



*Skateboard entitled "Time Machine" by SPO student Max T.*

**ON APRIL 29, 2018 THE UNITED WAY HOSTED AN AWARDS PROGRAM AND CELEBRATION WHERE MORE THAN 300 STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND GUESTS ATTENDED. IT WAS A CHANCE FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THIS INITIATIVE TO SEE ALL OF THE TWENTY ONE PROJECTS AND THE IMPACT THEY HAD ON FIGHTING POVERTY.**



This art exhibit featured all of the ten student boards including four designed by local Edmonton artists. The students displayed their work proudly and were excited to welcome guests, dignitaries and VIP's. The night also featured all of the art created on the weekly visits, the interactive Make Your Mark Sharpie decks and a variety of musical guests including teacher colleague Tyler Buchan and the SNFU punk cover band The Devil's Voice. All the boards were sold in a silent auction format and along with the cover charge for the event the students of Next Step High were able to raise approximately \$1700 to fund programming for the homeless youth that frequent OSYS.

On April 29, 2018 the United Way hosted an awards program and celebration where more than 300 students, teachers and guests attended. It was a chance for everyone involved in this initiative to see all of the twenty one projects and the impact they had on fighting poverty. Four projects were put in the spotlight for their efforts and the students from Next Step High walked away with an Awareness Award for their project. This award highlighted the hard work these students did and recognized the impact it had on everyone involved.

**NOTE FROM KRISTIAN BASARABA**

I wanted to share this story for two reasons:

I believe in the power of skateboarding to make positive change in the community and highlighting this project may inspire others to try something like it.

I want to raise more awareness of OSYS and encourage people to help if they can.





*"if you don't like  
the weather, wait  
nine minutes..."*

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# FIRST BOARD CONFESSIONALS



## JESSE JAMS & THE FLAMS

(L TO R) LYLE BELL, CURTIS ROSS, C\$ MASLYK, JESSE JAMS, CHASM FRAZIER, ADAM "MAPLE SYRUP" MARTZ, MIMI FRAZIER

As a kid in the 80s there was a trilogy of cool and slightly dangerous seeming things that made it seem imperative that I get a board. The movie Thrashin', Thrasher magazine, and metal/thrash bands like Suicidal Tendencies, Anthrax, and D.R.I.

that were in some unspoken way seemingly connected to the skate scene. I got a junky board from Canadian Tire but it did have a ninja on it though so I thought it looked super cool and apparently the board wasn't entirely undesirable as a group of Leduc child gangsters tried rob me for it when I was visiting my grandparents in 1988. I acted uncharacteristically tough and made it seem like I knew dangerous people in the big city (Edmonton!) and was luckily able to skate away unscathed. I tried to take up skating again in my late 20s and broke my arm on a half pipe and had to cancel a couple of month's worth of gigs so now I'm done. I know what I'm good at and what I'm not!

CURTIS

My first skateboard was a small skateboard from WalMart that came with a t-shirt. My cousin gave it to me. I was 6. I don't know for sure what happened to that board but pretty sure my Grandma threw it out. It just disappeared one day.

I have had many boards since then.

CHASM

I always wanted to skateboard but I was never cool enough.  
C\$

I was 12 years old when I got my first skateboard. It was an Element from a pawn shop. My Dad bought it for me. I eventually learned a shove. It was the one and only trick I ever learned and it caused me a lot of scrapes and sprains and board throws. LOL.

I was also the only kid in town with all the safety equipment thanks to my Grandpa. It finally snapped and that was it. I moved on to learning how to play guitar.

JESSE

I had a Classic Bold ZERO skateboard. At 13,

I remember hurling myself off a set of stairs downtown while waiting for the bus. My first period gym teacher thought I was lying when I said I couldn't walk - when I showed her my ankle, her face turned ghostly. That board was stolen out of our garage. I wonder if it caused them as much pain as it brought me.

ADAM

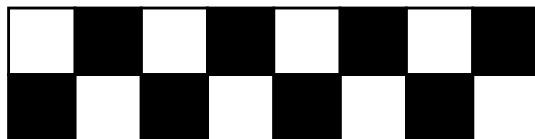
When I was a kid I was a pretty avid skater. I'm old as the dirt I lay in now so this was the 80's. My first board was an old school Neil Blender deck my pal didn't want anymore. We would skate around the U of A campus, listening to CJSR and pestering the bands who would occasionally load in to the studio. We met Disciples of Power one afternoon and one of the guys said my Blender deck was Bitchin'. Emboldened, we skated over to the long hill down to Emily Murphy Park and I just went for it. My buddy stopped 10 feet down but I kept ripping. Halfway down I had the most epic speed wobble and totally bit it. Smashed my face and took most of the skin off my hands, knees and butt. I also snapped my precious deck somehow and lost my shoe. I took up guitar shortly afterward.

LYLE

I never took it up. Obvioulsy it would have been really hard to find a helmet to fit the Frazier melon.

MIMI





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

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

# These Skateboarding Old Souls

by Ryan Baier, March 2024

Pavement rushes by underneath us when we fly.  
Like a lone seagull drifting through a warm sunlit sky.  
My skateboards keeps time, clattering beneath me -  
hundreds of miles have passed under these feet.

Taken to flight on an old long board...flying along cold, gray  
pavement...I saw your haunted face three decades ago...racing  
toward the future but really taking it slow. Skated across the train  
bridge a few summers ago...the world passing us by...the old poet  
...the young skater...decides to ride again. This is truly our zen...

## WE ARE LOOKING FOR AN ARTIST...ASAP

Zine & HEARD is having a big fundraiser on June 14th and we are hoping to find an artist to do a specific work of art for us in the style you would see on an old school punk show poster. If that sounds like you please message us on Instagram [@zine\\_and\\_heard](#) or email [editor@zineandheard.ca](mailto:editor@zineandheard.ca) and I will give you more details. It doesn't pay much but there will be other perks!

Thank you for your interest.

Zine & HEARD is always looking for stories, poetry,  
art & music from youth in & from care.  
There is no age restriction. Every voice matters.

Please contact us on  
Instagram [@zine\\_and\\_heard](#)  
or email the editor at  
[editor@zineandheard.ca](mailto:editor@zineandheard.ca)

Thank you.



# STICK AROUND



**PUNK  
ROCK**  
FUNDRAISER  
FOR ZINE  
& HEARD  
IS ON LIKE  
CHONKEY KONG!  
JUNE  
14TH

WE ARE SMALL BUT WE ARE MIGHTY

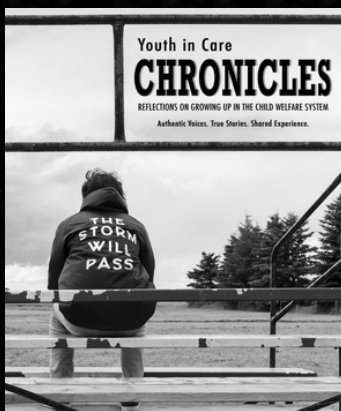


# Many thanks to the Friends of Zine & HEARD

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18 former youth in care from Alberta tell their stories in  
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# Freda Alvina Whiteman



Freda was 50 years old at the time of her disappearance in Edmonton. She is 5'4" and weighs 160 lbs. Freda is an Indigenous woman with brown eyes, long black hair, medium build, and she has dentures. She has a scar on her forehead, a scar on her arm that is like that of a stove top element, and she has a metal rod in her left leg from having her leg broken. She also has a scar that runs up her leg from her ankle to her knee. Freda has been missing since October 6, 2006. She is known to frequent the downtown core.  
EPS File #:17-187766

If you have any information about Freda, please contact the Edmonton Police Service at 780-423-4567 or Edmonton Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or [submit your tip online](#). Please reference the EPS file number.

*You are not forgotten*

*We hope that Freda is found safe and reunited with her friends & family soon.*



The Moose Hide Campaign recognizes that all forms of violence are unacceptable, regardless of gender. We see the disproportionate number of women who are victims and the importance of engaging men and boys in addressing this issue.

We also know that “shame and blame” isn’t the answer.





*You  
are not  
forgotten.*

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



**Dear Alberta Government,**

**We hope this finds you making  
nice plans for the summer.**

**Many of us are not.**

**Truly Yours,  
Youth from Care**

**RAISE THE AGE.  
LOWER THE STATS.**

