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HodgePodge

By Charlie Hodge

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I have always been astounded by the Not In My Hometown Syndrome (or the Eyore Complex) and have recently realized that it is not restricted to simply our lack of recognition of musicians or artistic types. Nope - it seems EC or NIMHS crosses all human genre of society – including visionaries in the world of science, environment, and humanity.

The Not In My Hometown syndrome is, of course, that overarching cloud of negativity that suggests that nothing or no one gifted, talented, significant or great can possibly come from our own hometown. Like Eyore the fatalist donkey pal of Winnie the Pooh, we simply believe that, “if it’s good - it can’t happen here.”

It’s a rampant disease certainly witnessed in the music and art world where bands such as Cruzeros, Kinship, Sleddogs, The MacGregors, Scott Thielman and others – are huge draws and garner all kinds of attention elsewhere in the country and world, but are barely known or supported in their own home town. Same with so many painters and sculptors such as Ramona Swift, Merv Brandl, Jim Krahn, John Revill, Alex Fong, and.... who hang in galleries around the country and world but are barely appreciated here

Well, add to the list a visionary with determination and a passion to better this planet - by the name of Curtis Bennett.

It’s actually difficult to specifically tag just what Curtis exactly is or does, because he simply never stops. However, suffice to say most of it stems from his work and research with his company Thermografix Consulting Corporation. For a couple of years now he’s been continually offering his knowledge, equipment, and technological skills to the City, Regional District, Province, and others. For the most part it seems he’s basically been snubbed, ignored, or shushed. Out of ignorance, job protection, politics, fear, or whatever ...regardless – Eyore Thinking has hit again, hurting more than just us.

As a certified thermographer, Curtis studies heat and where it is, what it does, how, and why, and has meticulously worked on technology and research in better understanding heat and what it means physically, medically, globally, ... He is also a National Certified Electrician and an Engineering Technologist. His innovative skills have led to some amazing

findings and scenarios. It's frustrating then, for such a creative and willing person to watch as needless destruction to our environment and ourselves take place because of fear or ignorance.

As an example, during the recent 'Fire' Thermograpix offered their heat tracking skills to help the fire fighters. With his equipment Curt could point out the exact locations of hot spots and fire sources that could not be found another way because of the intense smoke. But the fire crews, police, and province never gave him a minute – too busy. Months later, after providing heaps of data and evidence to a (provincial) review board - he was not allowed to be a part of the provincially organized Fire review inquiry.

Clearly if Mr. Bennett was to be heard at a review hearing, and displayed his technology, it would prove pretty embarrassing to some. A valid, effective, immediate way of finding the sources of the fire – ignored? Whoa!

But Curtis Bennett is not only bright, innovative, and determined – he borders on obsessive with his passion to help save our planet. He knows he has technology at his fingertips that can help save our planet and our health and people in his own backyard won't wake up and give it a look.

However, thankfully not everyone is ignoring him. Not at all.

In fact Curt spent the better part of this past week in communication with the Prime Minister's office over his work on tracking heating loss from buildings and their flawed design.

As well, he is now on regular demand to talk and make presentations to folks in the medical field in the U.S. They are fascinated with his technology regarding the near perfect detection of cancer and other medical insights.

His personal medical doctor's comment on his efforts?

“This is excellent work. I am proud to be associated with you - and your work has global implications as well as cellular and molecular ramifications. Your outlook and inner vision is looking into the future disaster or the future salvation of the global ecology.”

Of greatest current passion to Bennett though, is to convince decision makers of the potential to radically reduce global warming and other significantly negative environmental impacts by simply meeting building code standards in our community and province.

“Everything in the world is temperature sensitive and it is vitally important to our survival as a species to respect that and not impose temperatures on the atmosphere. The whole world assumes that global warming is from heat trapping gases from burning fossil fuels, but it is much more than that. Just look at our buildings for a start,” he explains.

Bennett has the equipment and the evidence to show that we are consistently creating structures all around us that are not even close to meeting code for the loss of heat and other factors.

Thermogafix uses advanced thermograph applications to accurately document actual building energy use and compare it to design temperatures. In general, buildings have a very serious design problem causing them to grossly exceed design temperatures. The solutions are not all that difficult including design, landscaping, angles, materials - but everyone turns a blind eye - even though the result is blatantly a useless waste of heat and energy and a huge impact on our air quality and global warming effect. Needless ignorance.

The building flaw is not universal to Kelowna – in fact it’s almost everywhere. We are simply not building buildings right. The technical results are similar in every city, province and state; buildings have serious design problems regarding temperatures. It’s just frustrating that he has to go elsewhere to prove it.

If you want to know more about this character check out his website at [www.thermoguy.com](http://www.thermoguy.com) .

Curtis will be among those involved in this week’s upcoming Sustainability Forum and Workshop and it will be interesting for me to see what sort of attention and response he receives. A lot of eyeballs (and hopefully minds) may get an awakening of what many others around the world are starting to understand.

Bennett is the cutting edge.

He is constantly on the look for ways to utilize his thermo and electrical knowledge with technology – and his efforts may someday earn him a Nobel Prize. But, oh yeah, that couldn’t happen here. Not in our little town.

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Golly gee, whiz (as a friend of mine is prone to saying) it’s just five weeks until Christmas. Ready or not it’s coming. Most of us are never ‘ready’ for the big day, but that’s not the case with Kelowna’s hot rock band The Sleddogs. The talented trio has been in the festive spirit for a couple of weeks now and the end result is a rocking good version of *Frosty the Snowman*. The fun, up-tempo, rocking recording is being sent out to Canadian radio stations across the country and will definitely garner a lot of airplay. It’s great fun and I love it. Way to go guys!

The Sleddogs have earned numerous recent awards and recognition with nation-wide airplay for songs *Bye, Bye Life*, *Perfect Place* and *Happy Face*.

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If you want to catch *The Cruzeros* again before Christmas than this Saturday and Sunday at the Corner Pin Inn is your final chance. The band is celebrating their numerous awards and recognitions this year and resting up before more work on the road.

The band will actually play once more in town before Christmas, playing one set as the closing act for the Second Annual Okanagan Families Society' *Night of the Arts*. The fundraiser/awareness event is set for the Kelowna Community Theatre Dec.13 and features 14 Okanagan bands and a large silent auction of great Christmas gifts. The Sleddogs are also part of the evening as is Dogskin Suit, Jane Eamon, Deb Stone, Ten2Nine, STIL and many others.

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Seems the Christmas spirit can hit anyone anywhere. Heck, it just nailed a lawyer.

Good friend Fran Huck has put his support behind the above-mentioned OKFamilies' *Night of the Arts* event by pledging \$1,000 towards ticket purchases. Huck says he will use some of his 50 tickets for friends, but will give the rest back to the Society to give to families that are strapped for dollars. Huck, known for his talent and gamesmanship as an NHL, WHA and National Team hockey player, has challenged all other Kelowna lawyers to meet or beat his support of the upcoming fundraiser concert/silent auction. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids and available at most music stores including Lee's Music, Wentworth Music, kelowna GuitarWorks, and Robbie Browne's Guitar Town. Or you can call Okanagan Families at 763-0456.

Way to go Fran, that's wonderful.