

inner strength

GONTHIER geha the culture of we

My journey into entrepreneurship started more out of sheer desperation than anything else: I was in my mid-forties and in the process of moving from an off-the-grid-by-the-ocean lifestyle on Maui to the cold urban surroundings of Edmonton.

Fuelled by the reality of coming to the end of my meagre savings, dressed in my usual hippie gear and armed with three hoola hoops and a ghetto blaster, I placed myself on the sidewalk of Whyte Avenue, which I understood to be the centre of town, and danced away. I was lucky I wasn't arrested, and I made \$22, which seemed like a fortune to me. That happened just a few years ago, and I am reminded of that incident nearly daily, as I pass my dancing spot on my way to work.

Although I was shaken by the many judgmental looks of passersby, and disturbed by the lewd comments hurled at me by numerous men, I also woke up to an inner strength and persistence that has become the foundation for my decision to take my heart into my hands and follow my dream.

That day I also understood that my willingness to be vulnerable was a strength that could become my backbone. As scary as it was, unpredictability could become my ally and support the flow of creativity. Complexity, not safety, was the edge for personal growth and healing.

Against this background my heart child was born: Wellness on Whyte - a Wellness and

Beauty Clinic designed to cater to the discerning consumer interested in holistic, organic, prevention-oriented wellness solutions. Because I am insistent on cultivating the values of transformation within company culture, we are more than just a clinic. We are a community - a group of practitioners and dedicated administrative staff that have the courage to explore conscious development of themselves while offering it to others.

Our company culture has become the backbone for my vision - the strength that weathers the numerous challenges we continuously face as a fairly new and still growing business. Inviting my team for collaborative problem-solving has led to new and creative solutions.

Being in business is a great opportunity to show up as visionary and social architects that co-create the future. Innovative leadership invites new paradigms of performance evaluations, including our own. It demands of us to shape the future, not simply react to it.

That, to me, is an irresistible invitation.



president

GEHA GONTHIER, R.A.C, B.A; E-RYT

Wellness on Whyte

www.wellnessonwhyte.com

780-437-9355

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