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City Councillor Dean Fortin



FERNWOOD NEWS

FALL 2004

News from the Fernwood Community Association



The Heart of Fernwood



by Dave Kesson, FCA President and Lee Herrin, FCC President

"What is lacking is a recognition of heart. We don't want to lose the facilities that help to generate and maintain the heart of the community." -Fernwood Resident at Recreation Renewal Meeting, October 26, 2004

At the Recreation Renewal Meeting residents spoke out loudly to the mayor and city council members about the importance of maintaining facilities operated by the community for the community. Yet there was something more being addressed at this meeting, and that is "recognition of heart." Passionate speakers used the metaphor of the "heart of our community" over and over again. No one, however, spoke about the hearts of our communities. One heart, one soul, one organism that is Fernwood, and two community organizations - how much sense does this make, really?

Fernwood is Victoria's oldest neighbourhood and it is also the one that most directly balances differences: the towering grandeur of the Belfry theatre shares a town square with a methadone clinic; historic Victoria High School co-exists a stone's throw away from a recently opened sobering centre. We have easy access to downtown Victoria's wealth of employment, shopping, and entertainment opportunities, yet we are also often impacted by social and health issues arising from policies to protect downtown's business and tourist interests. We are a functionally diverse community that has been coming together for a long time to respond proactively and to design our community in a way that respects our strong sense of fairness, social justice and innovation. Let's fix it.

When the Fernwood Community Centre (FCC) was conceived some twenty-five years ago, the City of Victoria insisted on the creation of another non-profit organization, as it did not trust the Fernwood Community Association to manage the Neighbourhood Improvement Grant awarded to Fernwood. Thus, even from the outset, an artificial division was imposed on our community from the outside. In 1998, not a single director on the board of the FCC actually lived in Fernwood, and some of them weren't even residents of Victoria. The division and alienation between the perceived City/outside driven FCC (although in fact only \$40,000 of the \$1,000,000 per year budget of the FCC actually comes from the City of Victoria), and the neighbourhood-oriented FCA continued. Some began to wonder if in fact the empty storefronts and lack of quality services in the Fernwood core might even be a ripple effect of this lack of closer collaboration between the two organizations.

To address the abysmal situation in the business district centered at Fernwood and Gladstone, the Fernwood Community Association struck the Community Economic Development Committee (CED) in early 2003 with the goal of supporting economic regeneration: it was time to get the blood pumping back into the heart of the neighbourhood. Interest grew rapidly around this issue and

the Committee gained participants from around the community, including existing members of the FCA and the FCC, Vic High parents, local business and property owners, and residents who had never before participated in our community processes. However, by December 2003 frustrations were being felt within the Committee.

The problem was that in order to coordinate initiatives that would serve the community as a whole, it was necessary to consult with three different organizations - the FCA, the FCC and the Fernwood Healthy Community Coalition (FHCC). In other words the process by which residents have made collective decisions in Fernwood has, over the years, become unwieldy. If a format could be found to bring all groups to the same decision-making table, people said, we might actually be able to:

- *Streamline communications between and amongst service providers in our neighbourhood
- * Deliver more and, more effective, programs and services
- * Develop a more simplified interface for gathering and responding to community input
- * Better empower residents to become more involved in identifying, responding to and owning the solutions in Fernwood by no longer fragmenting or needlessly duplicating their efforts.

In response to the situation noted by the CED Committee, the Boards of Directors of the FCA and FCC both approved entering into exploratory discussions with the community and its organizations on collaboration. As a result, a group composed of members of the FCA, the FCC and the FHCC began meeting in February 2004 to share their thoughts on the positives and

negatives that collaboration might bring and the many formats that it could take. The members of this Fernwood Collaboration Committee came to a consensus that all parties seemed to desire closer collaboration and that the next step would be to consult with the people whose opinions mattered the most: the community. The Collaboration Committee secured funding to engage a neutral community consultation facilitator and as a result of a Request for Proposals process, hired facilitators Marianne Alto and Doug Balsdon to move this project forward.

The facilitators began a process of community consultation around the issue of resident governance. They met one-on-one and in groups with the FCA and FCC boards of directors, staff, and volunteers. Through a presentation at the FCA AGM and an article in the Fernwood News distributed throughout the neighbourhood, they also encouraged community residents, activists and interested others to become engaged in the process and share their views. In all Marianne and Doug had conversations with eighty-six people on the subject.

continued on page 2...

It is the intention of the Fernwood Community Association and Fernwood Community Centre Society to merge into a single, non-profit, charitable organization with the mission of improving the quality of life for all Fernwood.

FCA General Meeting
Wednesday November 24, 2004
7:00p.m.
1923 Fernwood, Fernwood Community Association

FCC General Meeting
Wednesday December 8, 2004
7:30p.m.

1240 Gladstone, Fernwood Community Centre

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Fernwood Community Association (FCA)
 1923 Fernwood Road, Victoria, BC V8T 2Y6
 Coordinator: Kim McKay
 Telephone/Fax: 250-384-7441
 Email - fernwood@highspeedplus.com
 Website - www.highspeedplus.com/~fernwood

Office hours
 Tuesday 12 - 6 pm
 Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm
 Friday 10 am - 4 pm

FCA Board of Directors:
 Dave Kesson, Stephanie Hill, Lisa Helps, Maura Parte, Carlos Flores,
 Todd Doherty, Richard Olafson, Keith Forshaw, Joanne Murray,
 Lenore Rankin, Tania Wegwitz, Jaime Matten, Ed May

Graphic design and typesetting by Mark and Jane Bateman
 Editors: Kim McKay and Carolyn Masson

The Fernwood News is a community newspaper, open to anyone wishing to share information or offer an opinion of interest to the people of Fernwood. Opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the FCA or contributors. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the City of Victoria, our advertisers, and the hard-working volunteers who help produce this newspaper.

Winter issue: mid-February. Deadline for submissions: mid-January.
 We welcome your Fernwood stories and photos.

What's Your Story?

Paris had Balzac, Colette, Bresson. Moscow had Tolstoy. Las Vegas had Hunter S. Thompson. Fernwood has you. You walk around Fernwood - see the houses, some of them old wood framed, some newer, some fixed up more than others; look at the gardens, the projects going on in people's driveways and in apartment building parking lots; you walk past the empty store fronts, see people eating and drinking beer in the sun on the patio across the street; you walk through the Square, notice people, some tattooed, some pierced, milling around, a couple of Harleys parked under the gazebo. You walk around Fernwood and you realize that it's, well, more interesting than your average neighbourhood, looks like more's going on - the diversity and all. But what exactly? And who? SUBMIT YOUR STORIES, PHOTOS, and DRAWINGS to the Fernwood News. Fiction, fictionalized, or just plain told like it is.

Good Luck Down Under

The Fernwood Community Association regrettably says goodbye to our board member, Tathra Street. Tathra is headed for Australia and we say thank-you, and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavours.

Office Space For Rent

The Fernwood Community Association has bright, clean office or studio space available at 1921 Fernwood Road, for just \$275 per month plus GST, utilities included

Please contact Todd Doherty at 704-6699.

The Heart of Fernwood

...continued from page 1

Further feedback came from the Fernwood Forum, held in April 2004, at which participants were asked their opinion on the issue of closer collaboration between the FCC and the FCA. In their report, the facilitators noted that a significant majority of community members:

- * Supported a closer connection between the FCA and the FCC
- * Believed that the most productive model for clarifying and simplifying community advocacy and program delivery would be a single operation.

In their report on the FCA/FCC Unification topic at the Fernwood Forum, the consultants also noted that:

* "Overall, participants were wary of endless process, and talked about nearing a critical stage of 'process fatigue'. Most wanted any closer collaboration to be undertaken quickly enough to avoid getting 'bogged down' in the debate, while taking enough time to include everyone who wanted to be at the table."

At the August board meetings of both the FCA and the FCC, the final report of the facilitators was put forward for approval. Both boards voted unanimously for committing to the unification of the two societies as the desired outcome. Each board chose four representatives to participate on a transition team, which was to meet regularly and report back in October with a concrete plan of how unification could best be achieved.

Besides holding numerous meetings between themselves, the transition team engaged the professional services of Terry Erskine as a neutral facilitator to help guide the process, and Richard Bridge, a lawyer specializing in charity and non-profit law to advise on charity status and help determine the best form for a new organization given the constitutions and operations of the currently separate entity.

Based on the majority wishes of the community as gathered in the unification report, on the advice of professionals, and on their extensive discussions, the transition team recommends that the best path to unification is for the Fernwood Community Centre Society to dissolve and merge into the Fernwood Community Association. This option is recommended because it:

- * Aligns with majority views of the community expressed so far
- * Preserves the unique identity of the Fernwood Community Association, which has been serving Fernwood residents for thirty years. Any other type of merger would require dissolving the FCA
- * Does not require any changes to the FCA constitution and bylaws
- * Is legally prudent and does not compromise retaining the charitable number of the Fernwood Community Association after the merger

Such a dissolution and merger would be guided by a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), negotiated between the two organizations and approved by a majority of their members. The MOA describes how each organization, its members, its staff, and its finances will be safeguarded as unification progresses, and outlines the conditions that must be met by each organization before unification can proceed.

Both boards approved this strategy for unification at their October meetings. They also approved a time line that includes bringing the proposed unification strategy and Memorandum of Agreement to their membership to discuss it and to consider it for approval.

One Beating Heart

Now it is time for us, as members of the FCC and the FCA, and as concerned and committed Fernwood residents, to make a decision. FCA members will vote on this issue on Wednesday November 24th at 7:00pm at the FCA building and FCC members on Wednesday December 8 at 7:30pm at the FCC building. Be sure to come out and vote on this important issue.

As so many people so eloquently, and so emotionally, expressed at the Recreation Renewal meeting on October 26th, what we have here in Fernwood is unique; it is vibrant and necessary. We have a community of people committed to community. This is clear. We have one strong heart that keeps a beatin' no matter what might seem to stand in its way. And now, it seems, it is time to put our heart into one body and continue to create Fernwood together, in all its eclectic glory.

To view documents relating to the unification process, please visit the Fernwood Community Association website at <http://www.highspeedplus.com/~fernwood/> and click on "Unification," or visit the Fernwood Community Centre at 1240 Gladstone or the Fernwood Community Association at 1923 Fernwood Road.



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Councillor's Report

by Dean Fortin

Over the past few months I have had the welcome opportunity to meet with many Fernwood residents, both in groups and individually. It has been a great way to more deeply comprehend the interests and concerns of the community, which are many and varied.

A local Fernwood resident brought to my attention that a large English oak on Fernwood Road was at risk of being removed because it was in conflict with hydro lines. This was due to the construction of a new house. In this case we were fortunate that the approved landscaping was included in the Development Permit, so we were able to ask the developer to explore options with BC Hydro and an arbourist. But the incident highlighted the shortcomings of the City of Victoria's tree protection bylaw. The bylaw only protects 3 species of trees and English Oak is not one of them. As well, any tree can be removed if it is in the building envelope (including sheds which can be placed anywhere in ones yard), or if it interferes or could potentially interfere with services such as water, sewer or hydro. It is a very weak bylaw. Thanks to the vigilant resident from Fernwood, the larger issue of the bylaw was brought to the council table and we gave direction for a formal review and report back on how we could toughen our bylaw to our staff. I will keep everyone up to date on this issue as it comes back to council.

The City's tree protection bylaw only protects 3 species of trees ...it is a very weak bylaw.

As well, in August of this year a resident brought to my and Councillor Savoie's attention an accident where a cyclist suffered serious injury when entering Haegert Park from Grant Street. Apparently he hit a speed bump or water deflector as he was entering the park and was cast into a bollard. In an effort to prevent this type of injury from happening again, City Staff have relocated the water control lip, removed the square frames from the bollards and applied reflector tape. The gravel path through the park is on school board property so city staff notified the School District maintenance staff.

As Council Liaison to the Housing Advisory Committee, it was with great pleasure that I was able to introduce the creation of Victoria's Affordable Housing Trust Fund. This fund will see \$250,000 allocated each year, out of our GST return, towards the creation of affordable housing in the City of Victoria. We are currently working out the terms of the trust, but it is great to have the money committed and I am sure that the knowledge that it is there will spur us to greater efforts to get the projects rolling.

It was with great pleasure that I was able to introduce the creation of Victoria's Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Contributions to the fund can also come from the exchange of granting bonus density to developments. For example, the recent Cook Street development resulted in a \$420,000 commitment to the fund. It is important to note that no matter what incentive the developer is offering, the development itself has to stand on its own merits. In the Cook Street case, the second project did win the full approval of all councillors and the mayor, as it was more in scale with the village and brought controlled growth and renewal to the area.

Finally, as this edition of the Fernwood News goes to press, Council and staff are meeting to explore the details of a "Problem Property" bylaw. This is of great interest for many Fernwood residents as we try to come up with some tools to address nuisance rental properties. The review also includes looking at how we deal with public drunkenness downtown. We are "in camera" at this time as the bylaws involve legal considerations, so I am unable to share the details of our considerations, but I look forward to bringing the debate into the public soon.

...as this edition of the Fernwood News goes to press, Council and staff are meeting to explore the details of a "Problem Property" bylaw.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 217-9273 or deanf@city.victoria.bc.ca if I can be of any assistance or if you have concerns to raise. As you can see from past work, Fernwood residents are instrumental in helping to drive and frame the work of the City.

Cut out and save

If You Need Help..... Useful Numbers To Call

EMERGENCY 911

Police, Fire, Ambulance

NEED

Crisis & Information 386-6323
Youth Line (4-10pm) 386-TALK (386-8255)
Victoria Youth Clinic 388-7841

General Health & Medical

Youth Clinic 388-7841
Public Health Nurse: Victoria 388-2200
Saanich 744-5100
Esquimalt 360-5600
Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic 388-2220
Dial a Dietician 1-800-567-8911
BC Drug & Poison Information Centre 1-800-667-8911

Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs

Alateen 383-4020
Alcoholics Anonymous 383-7744
Narcotics Anonymous 383-3553
DALLAS Youth Services 721-2663
BC Smokers Help Line 1-877-455-2233

Youth Employment & Benefit Services

Victoria Youth Empowerment 383-3514
Saanich Youth Services 952-4958
Esquimalt Child Protection 952-4073

Career Shop

Employment Resource Centre 388-3880
Spectrum Job Search Centre 381-9074

Legal Information

Crimestoppers 386-8477
Law Centre 388-4516
Together Against Poverty 361-3521
Ombudsman 387-5855
Victim Services 995-7351
Rock Solid 386-7625

Support Services

Street Nurse 885-1228
Youth Against Violence 1-800-680-4264

BC Schizophrenic Society 384-4225
Immigrant & Refugee - SARIS Support 361-9433
Victoria Youth Pride Society (VYPS) 472-4393

Counselling

Mental Health 356-1123
Saanich Mental Health 952-5073
YM-YWCA Outreach 386-7511
Victoria Youth Empowerment Society 383-3514
Native Friendship Centre 384-3211
Intercultural Assoc. (ICA) 388-4728
The Law Centre 388-4516
Epilepsy (VEPC) 475-6677
Youth Clinic (4-10pm) 388-7841
Pregnancy & Birth Control OPT (Options for Pregnant Teens) 598-3144
AIDS VCR Island 384-2366
Birth Control Clinics 388-2201
Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic 388-2220
Best Babies Fernwood 385-8979
Single Parent Resource Centre 385-1114
Youth Clinic (4-10pm) 388-7841

Eating Disorders

Eating Disorders Program (VIHA) Assessment & Treatment 387-0000
Resources & Outreach 383-2755

Abuse/Violence Issues

Women's Transition House 592-2927
Victim Services Program 995-7351
Women's Sexual Assault Centre 383-3232

Emergency Shelter/Housing Assistance

Kiwanis Youth Shelter 386-8282
Streetlink (19 or older) 383-1951

Transition House 385-6611
Sandi Merriman House 480-1408
Salvation Army (19 & up) 384-3396
Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Centre 361-9433

Emergency Food

Mustard Seed Food Bank (hampers) 953-1575
St. Vincent de Paul 382-0712
Streetlink (lunch & dinner) 383-1951
Upper Room 388-7112
Open Door (coffee & muffins) 385-2454
Community Kitchen Info 381-1552

Income Assistance office (ages 24 & under)

1515 Quadra 387-5356
Employment & Referral Office 952-5210

Parenting Support

Vic High Daycare 381-3091
Fernwood Best Babies 385-8979
Young Mothers Program 386-7511
Single Parent Resource Centre 385-1114
Young Parents Support Network 384-0552
Public Health Nursing (see General Health)

Alternative Education Programs


Greater Victoria SD #61 475-3212
SJ Willis Alternative Ed 360-4321

Clothing & Furniture

Women in Need 389-2203
St. Vincent de Paul 382-0712
Intercultural Association (ICA) 388-4728

Non-Emergency

Police (Victoria) 995-7654
Police (Saanich) 475-4321
Fire (Victoria) 384-1122
Fire (Saanich) 475-6111



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Ephemeral Beauty: Tiny Rare Plants Grow in Winter Puddles in Garry Oak Ecosystems

by Carolyn Masson



Photo: Chris Junck



Rosy owl-clover and bearded owl-clover are both endangered in Canada
Photos: Matt Fairbarns

What was the landscape like in Fernwood before European settlers arrived? If you had asked me before I started working with the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (GOERT), I would have guessed that the land was covered with Douglas-fir forest. But it was actually a luxuriant parkland of oaks, grasses, shrubs and flowers, as described by early settlers. First Nations people had used fire to maintain open meadows in order to cultivate camas lilies whose bulbs were a staple carbohydrate source for them. Left undisturbed, many of the meadows probably would have been eventually overtaken by Douglas-fir forest. Imagine standing here two hundred years ago and being surrounded by Garry oak savannah as far as the eye could see. Most of greater Victoria was like that. Now there is less than 5% of that habitat left in Canada.

Garry oaks, the only native oak trees in BC, are adapted to surviving the hot dry summers typical of the Mediterranean-like climate we enjoy on southeastern Vancouver Island. The oaks are not endangered, but many of the plants and animals that live in and around them are. There are more than 100 species at risk in Garry oak and associated ecosystems (woodlands, coastal bluffs, grasslands, rock outcrops, transitional forests, seeps and vernal pools).

Some of the rarest species are tiny annual plants: ephemeral beauties that grow in puddles and muddy spots (called vernal pools) during the rainy season, and disappear by the heat of summer. One of GOERT's rare plant specialists, Matt Fairbarns, predicts it will be a good year for vernal pool species: "Because of the big rainfall we had in late August, they're off to a great start. In the newly moistened soil, the tiny annuals came out of dormancy and germinated, and they were able to hang on and do some good growing through September's warm weather. Now they're cruising for the winter, unless we get a killing frost." Some of the plants are so small, they come and go without being noticed by most people. "During the winter, they sometimes just form a green carpet on the bottom of miniature ponds," says Fairbarns. "A lot of them have small leaves, and their stems often trail along the ground." I asked him if the leaves are smaller than those of oregano or thyme. "Oh yes. Many of the plants are only 5-10 cm high. Some of the larger mosses would give them a run for their money. Some would be crushed if a dime was leaned against them."

Fairbarns is currently studying three kinds of owl-clovers, small annual paintbrushes that live in vernal pools. Owl-clovers are root parasites. They have green leaves and do their own photosynthesis, but instead of building extensive root systems, they latch onto the roots of other plants. Says Fairbarns, "They tap into someone else's deeper root system to suck in water and nutrients. The little thieves have been known to go after grasses, broad-leafed herbs, woody and herbaceous plants, and some have been known to go after each other." With their root connections, owl-clovers can end up forming underground networks with all the plants in an area. In spring they produce pretty flowers of yellow, white, pink or purple. By the time the soil has dried up in June, the plants have made their seeds and they're lodged in the soil, or else they're out of luck." Here today, gone tomorrow.

For more information about Garry oak and associated ecosystems and where to find them, go to www.goert.ca.

Carolyn Masson was the coordinator at the FCA for 1.5 years, and now does outreach for the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team in Bastion Square. She still lives in Fernwood.



Photo: Chris Junck

How you can help protect species at risk in vernal pools:

Stay on established pathways. Footprints and wheel tracks traversing meadows can crush plants and change waterflow patterns.

Refrain from picking wildflowers.

Keep dogs on leashes and pick up their droppings.

Where to enjoy Garry oak ecosystems in your neighbourhood:

Visit Summit Park near Finlayson between Cook and Quadra.

Have a look at "Pembroke Meadows" in spring to see the camas bloom. This is an unprotected privately owned lot on Pembroke near Belmont. Although blackberry and broom are encroaching, this may be the only patch of fairly intact Garry oak meadow left in Fernwood.

five crazed actors, one Christmas classic, pure bedlam

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fernwood.beat

by James D. Thornton

Blue Rodeo Bob Lands at Little Fernwood

Blue Rodeo's multi-instrumentalist Bob Egan is coming to Victoria on Saturday, December 4, and he has chosen to perform at the Fernwood Community Association (colloquially known, of course, as "Little Fernwood") at 1923 Fernwood Road. You'll be able to hear Bob play all of the instruments he's famous for, including lap steel, mandolin, guitar, and vocals. Tickets are \$12 at A&B Sound, Fernwood Community Association, and Fernwood Community Centre (1240 Gladstone Avenue). The show will start at 8:00pm. It is rumoured that Fernwood's own folkie James Kasper will make a guest appearance.

Save the War Children

Photo Exhibit: Review by Kim McKay

From October 13 to November 1st, the Little Fernwood Gallery was host to a powerful exhibit of photos by anti-nuclear photojournalist Takashi Morizumi, depicting the horrifying effects of war on the children of Iraq. The aim of the exhibit, which is currently being shown in Canada and the US, is to expose the human and environmental prices being paid by the people of Iraq. The photo exhibit also shows the devastation caused by DU



A young boy next to bombed apartment house where many residents were killed.

- depleted uranium weapons - on people and the environment around the world. The Save the War Children organization is working to ban DU weapons by showing the horrible effects on the civilians and veterans of this new type of nuclear war. These weapons have been the cause of cancer and other diseases for many children in Iraq. The exhibit is currently on display on the 4th floor of the Bay centre downtown, in Gallery EC4, and will be running until November 15. For more information about the exhibit, Takashi Morizumi and the Save the War Children

organization, visit their website at www.savewarchildren.org. The following poem was inspired by the exhibit, and written by a visitor to the Little Fernwood Gallery.

We condemn the Nazis for concentration camps
But the Face of Iraq looks much the same to me
Not much brighter really if you look all around
At the places In the faces With a future
Bound To half-life of uranium How's that sound!

Nothing quite so fatal As a future that is bound
To death sentence with grotesqueness Stalking slowly
Dropping pound by pound In each village Hear the sound.
Condemnation to the oppressors for their cruelty!
What is the name for the US and their cruelty?

Rumsfeld, Mister Bush, Condaleezza and Powell
(Not smiling back no more at such atrocities!)
Any where there's war There is such cruelty and hate
But this scale is so grand Such misery the fate
Of these afflicted in Iraq Just what is there to hate?

Vroom zoom vroom goes the sound of all our cars I'd say
Oil beneath the surface of these desert folks' home
And the greed fueling economy and our cars
Is the heart of US cruelty. So call it GREED.
Greed that thinks it needs. Need turned into greed. G for
Grotesque R for reject E for economy E - Eternal D for death G-R-E-E-D.

Thank you very much for the pictures.
Sylvia C.



8-year old Safaa at the entrance to Mansool Children's Hospital. She was leaving because they had run out of medicine. As a side effect of the anti-cancer medication she was taking to treat her leukemia, she had lost all of her hair.

Kids of Victoria Self-Portrait Cards

In 2003, the Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria (CACGV) started the "Kids Of Victoria - Self Portraits" project as a fundraiser for their Arts in Education Program, and to promote the importance of the arts in the lives of children. The "Kids of Victoria" greeting cards are an extension of the "Kids of Victoria - Self-Portraits" show, which took place April - May of 2003, at the EC4 Gallery. The show was such a success that the CACGV applied for (and received) a grant from the Victoria Foundation to create a line of greeting cards using nineteen of the children's' self-portraits. Inside each card is a different quotation about the importance of the arts. These beautiful and unique cards will be on sale at craft fairs around Victoria this season, including the Fernwood Winter Craft Fair on December 11 & 12. Proceeds from the sale of the cards will go into CACGV's Arts in Education Program, through which artists will be paid to go into twelve more elementary schools to create a new series of "Kids of Victoria" art. Partial proceeds will go towards the FCA and FCC's fundraising endeavours. The goal is that each year's cards will make enough money to pay for the following year's cards, and thus become an annual event that the whole city looks forward to.

Theatre Inconnu presents

A Christmas Carol

Eight Christmases ago, Theatre Inconnu began what has now become a holiday tradition in Victoria. This two person, 80-minute adaptation of Dickens' beloved story continues to delight and move audiences of all ages. Performed by Clayton Jevne and Sandra Ritter, this show succeeds in capturing the intimacy and poignancy of a story written to inspire universal humanity in its audience. Both actors share in assuming the various roles, while Sandra also weaves musical magic throughout the show with her Celtic harp. This is a fully acted play, and not simply a staged reading. The actors manage to shift seamlessly from one character to another, sparking the audiences' imagination with Dickens' own words, and creating an unforgettable experience.



"It just might be the best version of this show I've ever seen."
Monday Magazine, Victoria

8 pm
Dec. 16, 22, 23 & 24.

Admission:

\$10 regular, \$8 seniors, students and unwaged, \$5 kids under 16. If you reserve in advance for a group of five or more, all regular priced tickets will be reduced to \$8.

ALSO -

A Triple Bill Family Matinee

(This presentation will have just returned from a 2 week tour in Mexico)
50 minutes full of puppets, masks, music and fun!
Performed by Ellen Arrand and Clayton Jevne

The Tragic Symphony - How can you conduct your masterpiece when your musicians keep disappearing?

Little Red Riding Hood - A new four - legged hero is introduced into this beloved tale. Lots of help from the audience!

Snow White - Both politically correct, and politically outrageous. Liberals might want to pass on this one, but everyone else will feel right at home.

1 pm.
Dec. 19, 22, 23, 24

\$8 and \$5 for kids under 16. If you reserve in advance for a group of five or more, everyone in your group gets in for \$5 each.

Reservations and info: 360-0234

Fernwood Winter Craft Fair

Jointly presented by the Fernwood Community Association and Fernwood Community Centre



Illustration by Deborah Mahan-Bryant www.artbydeborah.net

Saturday, December 11 and
Sunday, December 12, 2004
10 am to 4 pm each day
At Little Fernwood Hall, 1923 Fernwood Rd

A sumptuous display of work by talented local artisans
Jewellery, clothing, pottery artwork, glassware and much more

Attractions include:
Live entertainment, a raffle basket, hot drinks and dessert auction

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Funds raised will go to the FCC's Infant and Toddler Daycare, and the FCA's heritage building renovation fund.

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What Happened to Community Consultation?

by Carol Sokoloff

As a longtime member and past president of the Fernwood Community Association, I feel compelled to express my alarm at the irresponsibly accelerated movement towards amalgamation of the FCA with the Fernwood Community Centre Society. At an FCA general meeting this November 24, the membership will be asked to approve the amalgamation of these two entities by the end of 2004. This important meeting is less than one month away as I write, and FCA members have received no notice or background information on this motion. It is only through the neighbourhood 'grapevine' that I have learned of perhaps my one opportunity to speak to and vote on this issue.

What has become of the very cherished Fernwood ideals of a fair and open process for important decisions regarding the future of the Community Association and thorough community consultation on issues affecting the neighbourhood? This respect for process and neighbourhood voice has guided every previous major Fernwood undertaking including our most recent neighbourhood plan and our traffic plans. In the case of the Fernwood Neighbourhood Plan, representatives insisted on hiring consultants who would not just study the statistics but hold some ten separate meetings to discuss the needs and wishes of the neighbourhood. It was only in that way that we could be assured that this document fully served the community. In the present instance an important Fernwood issue which may result in the loss of neighbourhood resources has been discussed by a few, presented hastily to the FCA board (which was far from unanimous in approval) and now is being brought to the membership for a rubber stamp so that an amalgamation can be implemented by this December. Whoa, Nellie! What's the rush? Where's the frank and open community discussion of the pros and cons? Where's the detailed information and clear projections of the future implications of this action so that FCA members and neighbourhood residents may study, consider, discuss, amend, and in the end make an informed decision as to the benefits of the amalgamation of these two Fernwood organizations?

This is no small matter and deserves genuine consideration for differing points of view. The Fernwood Community Centre Society is a staff-driven recreational and social service-oriented organization with a large staff and budget, a good portion of which comes from the City of Victoria. The Fernwood Community Association is an autonomous neighbourhood association, an advocacy group that represents the Fernwood community to all levels of government. Our autonomy is absolutely essential for our advocacy role. We receive only the minimal funding given to each Victoria neighbourhood group and have only one part-time paid employee. Ours is an organization of volunteers. For over 30 years volunteers have renovated and maintained our building, sat on the Board of Directors, chaired the Land Use Committee and offered space for cultural and community events. Even though the FCC proposes to disband as a society and come under the umbrella of the FCA, it is obvious that the larger-budgeted organization is going to drive the agenda of the smaller. An elephant may choose to call itself a mouse but it is still an elephant.

Why, I question, is the FCC board so anxious to annihilate itself? I also question whether the hardworking volunteers of the FCA Board are truly able to handle the vastly expanded mandate that amalgamation entails. Having sat on the FCA board of directors for many years I know the time and energy it takes simply to keep on top of our limited mandate of neighbourhood concerns, our historic building and its use, and our allotment gardens. If I were a current board member I would certainly hesitate before accepting the responsibility for the Fernwood Community Centre, its staff, programs and properties, its financial obligations and liabilities. Indeed, the longest-serving members of the FCA board did just that, proposing that the matter deserved further study before informed decisions could be taken. Apparently, even the acting Treasurer had not seen the documentation regarding the amalgamation motion until the night before it was decided on! I am truly alarmed that the majority of the FCA Board would not consider the approval of the Treasurer to be absolutely essential to the successful adoption of this endeavour. It makes me question who is behind this movement and why they have run roughshod over any pretence of community process.

I attended the FCA Annual General Meeting in June. At that time we were introduced to a consultant who was hired (by whom?) to 'study' the neighbourhood. The membership was assured that this was only a preliminary study and that there would be a great deal of opportunity for community consultation and input for any proposed changes. That was the last information this member received. Who exactly was consulted in this study? Certainly not this member. At what public meeting did we discuss the conclusions of the consultant's report? That meeting never took place. The community and the FCA membership never had any input into this process. Yet now I am asked to approved an irresponsibly rushed and poorly thought-out amalgamation agenda for which I have received no clear information on which to base my decision and have had no opportunity to apprise the Board of Directors of my views. This very flawed process clearly reveals the fact that those driving this agenda have very little experience or knowledge of the Fernwood community, where a genuine respect for consultation has been the foundation of important decisions. For this reason alone the FCA membership should be sure to attend the November 24 meeting and reject any attempt to rush an important decision which may have profound ramifications for our Association and neighbourhood.

Fernwood Residents: Produce Your Own Play!

by Clayton Jevne

The Little Fernwood Hall's resident theatre troupe, Theatre Inconnu, would like to invite all interested Fernwood people to pool their creative energy and talent by creating a play about living in Fernwood. Inconnu director, Clayton Jevne, will facilitate the project by bringing to the project his own thirty years professional experience as an actor, director, designer, and puppeteer. He will be giving instruction for those who are new to performing, but he will also be encouraging others to provide their own artistic expertise in these various areas, as well as in others. The plan is to share stories and experiences, and then to collectively develop them into a performance that will use a variety of artistic mediums, such as acting, music, puppetry, dance, mask, and storytelling. All those who wish to perform will be encouraged to do so but there will be many other areas to contribute creatively for those who feel a bit shy. To make this project accessible to everyone, there will be no cost to participate; and the plan is to use as much donated material as possible to build puppets, costumes, sets, etc. An initial meeting for interested people is planned for Wednesday, December 8th at 7 pm at the Little Fernwood Hall (1923 Fernwood Road). But if you are interested and cannot make the meeting please phone 360-0234 and leave a message letting Clayton know. We don't want to exclude anyone who would like to get involved. Clayton will be away from Nov. 18th through Dec. 6th, so don't worry if you don't hear back from him between these dates. He will get back to you.

Earthbound Organic Community Garden

by Krsangi Baxter

Earthbound Garden, on Garden Street off Bay Street in Fernwood, is an FCA community project accommodating local gardeners in fourteen two-hundred square foot plots. The winter veggies are planted for another season of local organic eating. Kale, chard, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, garlic and edible herbs like cilantro, parsley and rosemary are abundant. The final stage of a five-year bed building plan is now complete thanks to the many hours of volunteer time and expertise put into the project. On site there is a water source, tool shed, picnic table and two composting areas.

This year Earthbound Garden received a City of Victoria matching grant. The grant provides funds to support a community project. The funds

will be matched with volunteer labour hours. The new projects at the garden include extending the water system, filling all of the paths, building a sitting area/gazebo, and finishing our wonderful cedar fence with a gate. Community gardens are environmentally and socially indispensable. By eating in our local area we greatly reduce energy consumption and increase our health. Gardening with one another is a way to learn how to

cooperate and problem solve on a grass roots level. In Victoria the climate is so amazing that we can garden all year long, which is unique in Canada.

The gardeners at Earthbound enjoy gardening, and the bounty that comes from that garden is the proof. Everyone in the community is invited to our next "garden party", Saturday November 27th from 10 am to 2 pm. This is an opportunity to get involved in a Fernwood community garden project by working on the garden, enjoying refreshments provided by Earthbound, and meeting the gardeners. Any inquiries please contact Krsangi Baxter site coordinator at 598-2971 or Kim at the FCA. We hope to see you there!



Fall 2004: New Gardener's abundance

Health & Longevity Increase

Fernwood Community Involvement

by Anne Murphy

As a new resident to Fernwood, I have recently had the opportunity to meet and volunteer with The Fernwood Autumn Glow Seniors, who gather weekly at the Fernwood Community Centre. This group brings together history and friendship as they enjoy a glorious lunch prepared by Elsa Morrison each Friday afternoon. Lunch is served after a drop-in exercise program and before entertainment and games.

This is an invitation to Fernwood community members to join as seniors (or soon to be seniors), to continue to enhance the spirit that now exists within the Autumn Glow group. Welcoming new faces is important for rejuvenating our community clubs and ultimately strengthening the greater community in its midst. The Fernwood Community Centre is a central facility for young and old to congregate, socialize and be involved in the vast offerings of this fine community.

So you retirees: come out and share your experience and expertise with others. Monthly menu calendars are available at the front desk of the Fernwood Community Centre. Call 381-1552 for more information.

**The Autumn Glow Seniors Group
needs a rocking chair! If you have
one to donate, please call the FCC at
381-1552.**



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Victoria High School



Victoria High School Students Receive SEVA Compassion Award

Six students at Victoria High School were honoured September 25th, 2004 with the first National SEVA Youth in Action Compassion Award. Their winning project is an engaging presentation they developed for elementary and middle schools which introduces students to "Language of the Heart" or Nonviolent Communication. This simple yet effective communication model was developed by Dr. Marshall Rosenberg over thirty years ago, to reduce conflict and violence in our world.

Students Sophie Boutilier, Jane Campbell, Cayce Foster, Alexis Oak, Ariella Falkowski and Miranda Calderwood created their dynamic hour long workshop two years ago with the support of Youth & Family Counsellors Anne Field and Martha Henry. They have given presentations to students in grades two through nine. They also gave their workshop at the Middle School Conference last spring.

VIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

by Margaret Hantiuk

Vic High is well underway for another school year with about 1080 students. Some have come from other schools and even other districts (some for the Tech and Trade courses, and some for the casual and accepting atmosphere. Parents were reminded at both Meet the Teacher night and at the PAC meeting that Home Room (no matter what your son or daughter is telling you!) is very important as this is where information about what is going on in the school is passed on to the students. All school paper work and bulletins come through Home Room as well. Also, if your son or daughter is late, sick or absent from one or more classes with an excuse they must bring a note from you to the classes when they return. Many teachers are in the school as early as 8 am and for a while after classes at the end of the day if students need to talk about assignments. The students are reminded to use their planners to keep on top of their homework.

The present Grade 10 students are the first cohort undergoing the new graduation requirements, which will have them writing some provincial exams this year, some next year and fewer exams in grade 12. They will be expected to have a 'Graduation Portfolio'--like a scrap book or journal--showcasing their achievements by their final year. In it can be 'evidence' of any of their pursuits outside of school as well as school accomplishments. (Start saving photos and clippings--anything that can describe or account for their interests and pursuits.) The intent is to teach students to promote themselves and to become aware of how their interests and efforts are building a set of skills and strengths that they can capitalize on.

The sports teams are up and running, as are many clubs, and both the Concert Band and famous R & B Band. New artwork is showcased in the halls. PAC meetings (for parents and guardians) are held the first Tuesday of the month in the staff room at 7:30 pm. All are welcome. Come out for a social evening, and if you have any questions, our Principal, Keith Forshaw, usually attends and can answer them for you. The PAC is selling Thrifty certificates (cash value, dollar for dollar) and Fairways as well--which has the Club Grad this year. For more information about these, please call me. Margaret Hantiuk (home phone: 595-1684).

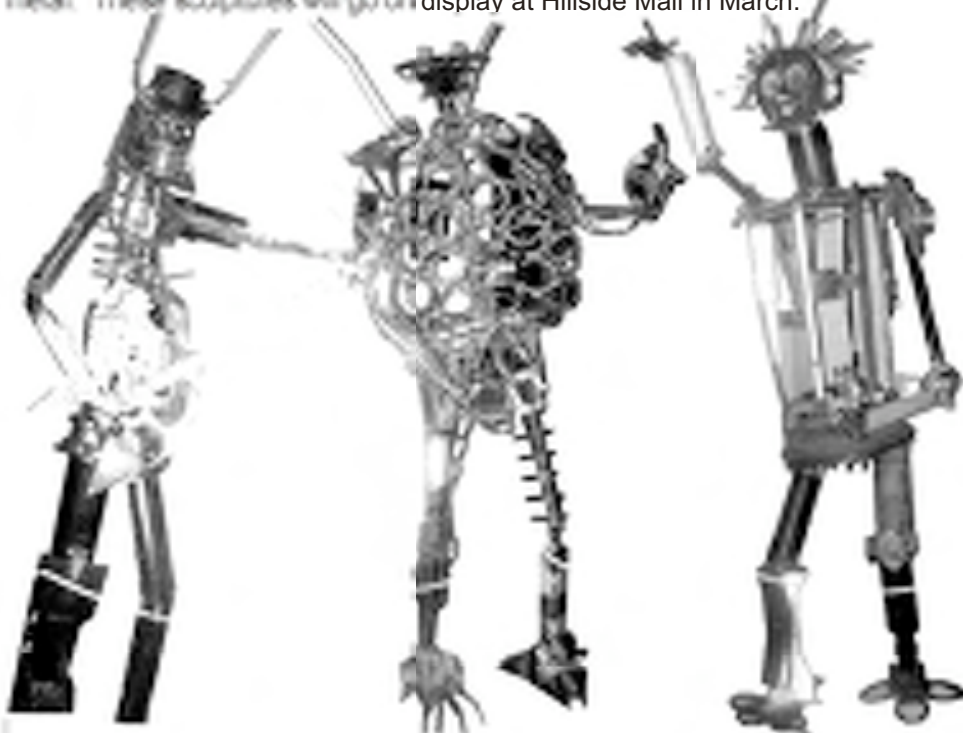
New to the Library

by Norma Jee, Vic High Librarian

New to the library is a wonderful volume called "Shakespeare's Songbook," a donation from a grateful Vic High family. This is the first donation from a promotion by Cadboro Bay Book Company. I choose books to go on a "Wish List". Shoppers can choose from the list and receive a 20% discount. A big thank-you to former student Jessica MacLowich for our first wish granted! Jessica is now at Camosun, studying criminal justice. We wish her well. Also in the library is a large collection of what is called "graphica". This \$1500 purchase was made possible by a generous donation from the Times Colonist Literacy Fund. The students love these novels and non-fiction books, which are done in "comic strip" format. Some novels are in the Japanese format called "manga" and read not only back to front, but from right to left. Now that pushes your brain! These books have been carefully chosen, as not all graphica is suitable for teens. If you are buying them for presents, you'll want to read them first, or phone your friendly Librarian for suggestions. One student told me yesterday that he has seen some students reading these books who admitted they hadn't read a novel for years. Now that students can place their own reserves, we can't keep them on the shelf!

Vic High Students Create Giant Robots

Vic High's Metal Workshop students under the direction of teacher Bill Morrison and Dr. David Winestock, a retired neuro-radiologist (known by students and staff as Dr. Dave), created four giant humanoid sculptures from donated scrap metal. These sculptures will go on display at Hillside Mall in March.



Nightingale Preschool



Nightingale Preschool/Junior Kindergarten, located at 1340 Balmoral Road, is Victoria's only learning through play and academic program. Children enrolled in either the morning or afternoon four hour programs, are encouraged to become independent learners through a variety of structured and spontaneous activities. Creativity and experimentation are encouraged as part of a carefully planned curriculum. The preschool is divided into various supported learning areas including the book corner, sand and water, math, role play & home and creative writing, to name a few. For more information or to arrange a tour, call Tronie Brown, the director, at 595-7544. Pictured with the children are (l to r) Lisa Stutters, Karen Adams, Cynthia Lee and Tronie Brown (front). Visit them on the web: www.nightingalepreschool.com Photo: Mark Bateman

George Jay News

by Janine Roy

George Jay has had an exciting start to the school year! We have two key goals for our school year: to improve student literacy skills, and to improve student numeracy skills. We have reorganized so that all classes work on literacy before recess and on numeracy after recess, so that we can group students and help them with the specific skills they need to work on. We have three new part-time Learning Support teachers who will work with small groups to help improve student literacy and numeracy skills. Our First Nations Support Program, the largest elementary First Nations Support Program in the district, provides academic help to students in the morning, and provides cultural support to all classes in the afternoon. We will continue to assess students several times during the school year in reading, writing and math so that we can see how individual students are doing and assess our programs to alter them to best meet student needs throughout the year.

We have had some exciting events take place at George Jay. In September, several staff members agreed to kiss a live pig if everyone in the school participated in the Terry Fox Run. Since all students participated, we had a whole school assembly, and the staff members puckered up and kissed the pig. Even 'The New VI' came to watch! In October, the drumming group 'Marimba Muzuva' gave an excellent concert for the school. This month, we are having a 'Read-a-Thon' to promote nightly home reading and to raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

At the end of the month, a movie company will be filming scenes at George Jay for an upcoming mini-series on the Movie Channel. They will use our school for outside shots and for inside scenes in a classroom. They will be filming after school hours so that they don't interfere with classes in session. This will be an exciting event for our school!

If you want more information about our programs and services at George Jay, please contact Principal Janine Roy at 385-3381.



Fernwood Community Centre

1240 Gladstone Ave., Victoria B.C. V8T 1G6 • Phone: 381-1552 Fax: 381-1509

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Seniors' Programs

Autumn Glow

Join our friendly group of older adults for a delicious home cooked lunch, followed by games and activities. Before lunch, participants join in on a gentle exercise video featuring Blanche Black from "Fit as a Fiddle." Drop by and pick up a calendar of weekly menus and activities. New seniors always welcome! Date: Fridays, exercise at 11:00 am, lunch @ 12:30 pm
Cost: \$5.50 per person.

Rentals

Looking for space?

Rent our place! Fernwood Community Centre has rental space for meetings, activities, parties, music and sports activities. We have the space to meet your rental needs. For more information please call: 381-1552

Birthday Party Rentals

Is your child's birthday coming up and you don't know what to do? Well, leave the organization to us while you sit back and enjoy the day. Our leaders will organize a busy party complete with games and activities in a fun safe environment for your child and all their guests. Call Lyn at 381-1552 for more information on availability and rates.

Adult Programs

Community Kitchens

Community Kitchens is a program where adults join together to prepare five main meals for their families. Each group meets twice a month to plan and cook their own meals. Learn recipes, have fun and stretch that food dollar! Call the Community Centre for more information and to register.

Free Internet Access

Fernwood Community Centre offers FREE Internet access to community members as part of the Community Access Program funded by Industry Canada. Stop by the front desk Monday to Friday from 10 am to 8:30 pm to find out how you can book computer time. Printing is available at a nominal fee.

Fernwood Qi Gong

Qi Gong is an excellent and enjoyable way to start your day. In most Eastern cultures health is seen as the movement of energy, qi or chi, through the body. These eighteen easy to learn, meditative movements help circulate and balance energy. Qi Gong promotes flexibility and clarity of mind, enhances mood and releases stress. Join us Wednesdays from 10 am - 12 pm, everyone welcome.

Free!

Adult Drop In Floor Hockey

Adult floor hockey for ages 18 + takes place every Tuesday & Thursday night in the gym. All the equipment is provided. Come join in every Tuesday & Thursday from 6:30 - 8:00 pm
No wooden sticks please!

Fernwood Floor Hockey Challenge

Deadline to submit teams: Oct. 29

Cost: \$10 per team.

Winning teams will receive IT Came From Fernwood CDs & Drop-in Floor hockey Punch cards.

Adult Tournament (Age 18+): Nov. 23 & 25

Youth Tournament (Ages 13-17): Nov. 27 For more information please call James at 381-1552.

Childcare Programs

Fernwood Community Centre offers a range of high quality childcare programs, all at the lowest rates in the City. For information or to register please call Lyn at 381-1552.

Fernwood Infant & Toddler Care

Our licensed Infant & Toddler Educators offer a loving and safe daycare program for your children. This brand new daycare centre offers full time care for children ages birth to 36 months. Open Monday to Friday 7:30 am - 5:30 pm. Registration ongoing.

Fernwood Daycare

Our licensed daycare offers a full day program delivered by qualified Early Childhood Educators providing the highest quality of care. This full day program for children ages 30 months to 5 years incorporates a preschool class, which focuses on school readiness skills all delivered in a safe, loving environment. Open Monday to Friday 7:30 am - 5:30 pm. Spaces are available registration is ongoing.

Puddle Jumpers Preschool

Join our exciting theme-based multicultural preschool program. Each month we will explore and learn through play, art, music, stories, science and movement. Make new friends while developing a life-long love of learning. Parents can choose from two, three or five day a week programs. Classes are at George Jay School and run Monday to Friday 9 am - 12 pm. Spaces are currently available, registration is ongoing.

Kindercare

Help make your child's transitional year easier on them and you. Our qualified and caring ECE staff offers participants a wide range of opportunities and activities to engage their creativity and imagination while enhancing their social and cognitive skills and abilities. Equal time provided for free play, outside time and just plain fun! The program is located at George Jay School, taking morning or afternoon kindergarten students. Monday to Friday 7:30 am - 5:30 pm. Open every Pro-D Day and school holidays. Spaces are currently available; registration is ongoing, full, part and drop in spots available.

Out of School Care

This licensed program is designed for school aged children 5 to 12 years. Operating on site at George Jay School, our qualified staff offer quality care for your child before and after school, and full days on all school holidays and Professional Development Days. The program includes a learning environment full of challenging and rewarding opportunities. Snacks provided, full and part time spaces available.

Specialized Childcare

School Aged Pro-D Day Camps

Fernwood Community Centre offers full day care on every professional development day for your school aged child 5 to 12 years. Children enjoy fun activities, field trips, games, arts and crafts and lots of fun in our licensed facility with our professionally trained staff. Pre-registration is required. Call Lyn at 381-1552 for more information or to register.

Christmas Shopping Childcare

Need to go Christmas shopping? Looking for someone to watch the children so you can shop in peace? Fernwood Community Centre offers a solution. Our trained childcare staff will keep your child busy and entertained while you shop, relax and prepare for the holidays. Pre-registration is required. Please call Lyn at 381-1552 for more information or to register. Saturday Dec 4, 11, 18 Time: 10:00 am - 8:00 pm

School Aged Christmas Camp

Wondering what to do with your school aged child over the Christmas break? Fernwood Community Centre offers a fun and exciting program for children ages 5 to 12 in a licensed facility. Daily programs include: field trips, arts & crafts, games, and sports. Pre-registration

is required. Please call Lyn at 381-1552 for more information.

Camp dates include: Dec 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29. Camp times: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

New Year Eve's Overnight Childcare

Looking for safe, reliable childcare while you ring in the New Year? Fernwood Community Centre is here with a solution. Our trained childcare providers will offer over night care for children ages 3 to 12. Pre-registration is required, please call Lyn at 381-1552 for more information. Date: Friday Dec 31 - Jan 1, 2005 Time: 6:00pm - noon

Family Programs

Mother Goose

Mother Goose is a group experience for parents, caregivers and infants/ toddlers (0-2 1/2) and young children that teach rhymes, songs and stories. This program is held every Saturday morning from 10 am to noon in the gym. Pre-registration is required.

Parent & Tot Playgroup

Join us for parent and tot time at the Community Centre. An opportunity to socialize with other parents while your child enjoys toys and playtime. Coffee, juice and snacks are provided.

Every Tuesday & Thursday from 9:30 - 11:30 am, Cost: \$1.00/ family

Every Second Sunday starting April 18 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Cost: \$1.00/ family

Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program

Nobody's Perfect is a program for parents of children newborn - 5 years of age. The program includes; learning how to understand your child better, information on children's health, safety, and behaviour, coping with stress, sharing ideas, tips, and experiences, and how to take a break from your busy day. Each session includes a nutritious snack and child minding. There is no charge to attend. Upcoming classes will be held in January 2005. Pre-registration is required.

Victoria Best Babies

Offering support & programs for expectant & new mothers, Victoria Best Babies is your baby's best start. Services provided include: support, nutritional & lifestyle counseling, pre & postnatal education, food supplements, referrals, weekly support groups. Call 385-8979 for more information.

Youth Programs

Afternoon Adventures

Youth ages 11 - 14, are invited to join this fun drop in-group every Tuesday & Thursday after school from 3:30 - 5:30. Activities include: sports, games, arts & crafts, outings, and so much more. Staff picks up youth from Central Middle School. Pre-registration is required, call Lyn at 381-1552 for more information. Date: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Time: 3:30 - 5:30 pm

Cost: \$2.00/ each

Coming Soon: Youth Talent Show, Youth Radio Club, And Youth Video Dances!

Call 381-1552 for more information

Special Events & Celebrations

Food and a Flick - Fernwood Style

Fernwood Community Centre is throwing open our doors and welcoming the community to join us for food & flick. Enjoy a delicious home cooked meal followed by a movie on the wall of our indoor gym. The first food and a flick will be held Saturday November 20, doors open at 5:30, dinner is at 6:00 and the movie is at 7:00 pm. Meal: spaghetti, coleslaw & garlic bread

Movie: It's a Wonderful Life

Cost: \$2.00/ per person for the meal: drinks are available for sale through the concession stand. Date: Saturday Nov 20, 2004

Please Note: Additional Food & a Flick nights will be held monthly in the New Year. Visit or call the Community Centre for more information.

Fernwood Yuletide Celebration

Join us for a family Christmas celebration including an open house, holiday craft sale, games, treats, arts & crafts & a visit from Santa. For more information please call 381-1552.

Date: Saturday December 18

Craft Sale: 9 am to 4 pm

Open House: 1:00 to 4 pm

Crafters Wanted

Crafters interested in renting a table for our Yuletide Celebration are asked to call Lyn at 381-1552.

Night Before Late Night Shopping

This is the night Hillside Mall offers amazing sales, discounts, prizes, food and entertainment. Customers can only enter the mall with a pre-purchased ticket.

Tickets are on sale at the Fernwood Community Centre for \$5.00 each and the best part is 100% of the profits from ticket sales stays with the Community Centre to support our ongoing children, family and community events.

Date: Sunday Nov 21, 2004

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Location: Hillside Mall

New Year's Eve Dance

Join us as we ring in the New Year with an all ages dance and refreshments. Leave your child in our drop in childcare program while you enjoy yourself.

Cost: \$6.00/ each

Childcare: \$5.00/ hour

Date: Friday Dec 31

Time: 8:00 pm - 1:00 am

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CD of Various Fernwood Artists

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Available at Fernwood Community Centre

1240 Gladstone Avenue

Easter Eggstravaganza

Families and children under 12 are invited to join us for a fun and busy Easter party, complete with games, crafts, food and an Easter egg hunt. Date: Saturday March 19, 2005

Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Fernwood Community Flea Market & Garage Sale

Need to do something with all that junk you no longer need after your spring-cleaning? Turn it into cash by bringing it to the Community Centre and selling it to someone else as treasure. Join us for the first annual Fernwood Community flea market and garage sale.

Call Lyn at 381-1552 to rent a table or reserve a space. Pre-registration is required.

Saturday April 16, 2005 Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Upcoming Special Events include: Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

Father's Day "Dad & Me" sports day