

FAIRFIELD GONZALES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Map by Gordon Friesen

2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 14TH, 2011

7:00-9:00 pm

Garry Oak Room
1335 Thurlow Rd.

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BOARD

April 2010 – March 2011

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Blair Humphrey
Michael Masson
Lynn Beak
Amanda Theriault/ Julie Holder

Directors

Patricia Aikens
Linda Siegal
Chloe Markgraf

Jim Masterton
Bill Rimmer
Michael Masson

Scott Davis
Erika Verlinden
Tamsin McIntosh



STAFF

April 2010 – March 2011

Joan Kotarski	Executive Director
John Taylor	Facility / Community Coordinator
Thomas King	Community Recreation Coordinator
Candace Negm	Child Care Coordinator:
Ro Fife	Operations Director/Family Program Coordinator

FGCA staff in 2010

Adele Worobey	Devin Johns	Jesse Peel
Alison Watson	Dianne Gorter	Jessica Cebulka
Amanda Wilhelm	Dominique Curry	Jocelyn Burridge
Anna Fuszara Flower	Elisabeth Holland	Julie Cormier
Ashlee Daidone	Emily Amos	Julie Salmon
Asia Lim	Emily Barchyn	Kaari VanNostrand
Aubrey Baldock	Emily Reyse	Karen Kasner
Caitlin Groves	Emily Stark	Katherine Thring
Cameron Butt	Emma Zabloski	Kathie Cross

Carly Rudolph Carolyn MacDonald Catherine Roberts Chandler McMurray-Ives Chelsea Gogal Christopher Cuming Chrystine Green Dana Sibley Danielle Green Deanna Skinner Deborah Howard Megan Kent Michael Pogue Michaela Maxwell Miranda Mundel Mitchel Duplessis Monique Bottineau Nichole Brown Pamela Norman Pat Barlen Paulina Hakkarainen Robert Beattie Tanya Adams	Fiji McAlpine Fiona Pasay Gareth Coombes Ginger Rippengale Graham Turner Heather Anderson Heather Buikema Heather Teit Ian Chatwin Isaac McKitrick Jamie Owens Jane Bourree Jean-Paul Maurice Tanya Hadley Ruby Smith Samantha Province Sarah Brand Sarah Garrett Sarah McColl Sarah Northrup Scott Kouri Sheryl Aberdeen Sophie Simard	Kirsten Salmon Klaudia Sapieja Kristine Bresee Laura Beaulac Laura LaBelle Lauren Dunkley Leanne Gummersbach Leila Durzi Lisa Davis Madison Kelland Matthew Christie Stacey Huskins Susan MacTavish Tammy Reid Teresa Winter Trevor Lakey Ute VonSalzen Vanya McDonell Vincent Burgers William Bingaman Ye Bowden Zoe Disting
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VOLUNTEERS & PRACTICUM STUDENTS

April 2010–March 2011

Linda Schwebe

Marlene Drew

Gord Olsen

Blake Tillison

Tracy Hall

Erin MacKenzie

Marlene and the Garth Homer toy cleaning crew

BOARD REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Blair Humphrey, President, FGCA

The past year has been one of funding turmoil, with uncertainty over the Gaming grants we have relied on for many years to cover our core expenses, in particular the salaries of our senior staff members. With revenues and expenses near \$2.4million, we require significant non-program funds to provide the excellent management we enjoy.

The staff is to be commended for cutting expenses until we did in fact receive the Gaming funds. We could then use the funds to complete needed improvements for our programs and operations.

I attended, with another Director, the Boot Camp for Board Members, put on by the Victoria Chamber of Commerce. I learned at this two day workshop that the FGCA is a very well run association, avoiding the pitfalls that hamper the work of other societies. We have a strong active Board, strong financial management, and a very good staff, led by the Executive Director.

Indeed, during the year our ED and staff helped the Vic West Community Association set up to operate a building and programs that they took over from the Y. We received an excellent letter of thanks for this.

The Board and staff continued to develop policies and operational procedures to meet institutional best practices.

One area I learned about at the Boot camp for which we lack strength is fundraising outside of program support. The Board and staff are developing policies in this area and I expect that future years will see an improvement.

A major issue that has affected our ability to offer youth programming was the discovery of mould in the area used for the Chill Zone. Staff, in particular the ED and the Facilities Manager, have negotiated with the City of Victoria to not only replace the lost space, but to improve it under a cost sharing agreement. These changes will take place next year.

In spite of the loss of space, and with minimal dislocation, all of the programs continued, although with some inconvenience for all.

So, although the year was a bit tumultuous, it was a very good year.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

By Blair Humphrey, President, FGCA

The Terms of Reference of the Executive Committee is to

1. Oversee the administration and financial wellbeing of the Association;
2. Ensure good governance of the Association;
3. Provide direction and feedback to the Executive Director;
4. Approve the draft board meeting agenda for presentation to the Board of Directors;
5. Ensure timely preparation of the Annual Report and the Annual General Meeting;
6. Oversee the progress of any committee and the completion of any assignments approved by the Board;
7. Oversee the hiring and annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director;
8. Acts on behalf of the board in emergency situations, informing the board fully and immediately of action or decisions taken;
9. Report at the next Board meeting or as needed on matters addressed by the Executive; and
10. Ensure that the Association is following its strategic plan and brings forward to the Board, within in a timely fashion, any suggestions that will help achieve any goals set out in the plan.

In addition, the Board asked the Executive Committee to take responsibility for the spending of certain funds as agreed by the Board.

In 2010, the Executive included Amanda Theriault (to July), Blair Humphrey, Lynn Beak, Joan Kotarski, Julie Holder (September to December), and Michael Masson (May to December) and Wayne Hollohan (to April).

Some of the issues discussed by the Executive were:

1. Moss Rock Review: we continue to review the FGCA position on the MRR.
2. The Executive Director evaluation is due.
3. The formation of a Special Events Board committee.
4. The Societies Act requires information on mid-term board changes so a Policy needed to be developed.
5. A survey of the Plastic Recycling Program was done. The executive wanted the focus to be more on the Reduce and Reuse parts of the

equation, and hope the FGCA's program can be turned over to the CRD.

6. A computer upgrade quote was accepted according to the requirements of a Board motion as was a furniture purchase..
7. The Executive kept a watch on the situation of the mould and replacement of the space.
8. The Executive agreed that the Bonfire event should be discontinued.
9. The Executive agreed that a Public Engagement policy for the FGCA be developed.
10. The Executive discussed the issue of Gaming money, and the possible end of that source of funds. A contingency plan was discussed.
11. The Executive dealt with a formal complaint against some staff, and determined the complaint was unfounded.

The Executive determined that the FGCA Year End should change to accommodate our funding model and our program model, both of which end on or around June each year. Other Year End models were considered

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

By Blair Humphrey, Committee Chair

The nominating committee recommended the election of five Directors, three to be re-elected and two new Directors. The Nominating Committee recommendations were accepted by unanimous vote.

Name	Status
Aitken, Patricia	Re-elected to 2012
Beak, Lynn	Continues to 2011
Holder, Julie	Continues to 2011
Hollohan, Wayne	Continues to 2011
Humphrey, Blair	Re-elected to 2012
Markgraf, Chloe	Continues to 2011
Masson, Michael	Continues to 2011
Masterton, Jim	Continues to 2011
McIntosh, Tamsin	Continues to 2011
Rimmer, Bill	Continues to 2011
Siegel, Linda	Elected to 2012
Theriault, Amanda	Re-elected to 2012
Ver Linden, Erika	Elected to 2012

PLACE COMMITTEE

By Blair Humphrey, President, FGCA

Members: John Taylor, Joan Kotarski, Blair Humphrey, Chloe Markgraf, Julie Holder

The terms of reference for the Place committee are:

On behalf of the Board, assist, consult and advise the Executive Director on issues such as:

1. organizing and managing FGCA activities in the Place, such as all candidates meetings, topical seminars and workshops,
2. space allocation,
3. equipment purchase,
4. building maintenance and repair,
5. joint use agreements with the School District and any other community partnerships,
6. reviewing operational policies and procedures,
7. reviewing programs on a regular basis,
8. assisting in personnel issues, as needed,
9. assisting with any other issues relating to the programs and the physical plant used by the FGCA,
10. reporting on all the above activities to the Board

The Committee met on five occasions in 2010. Items of interest are:

- Mould: the presence of mould in the bunker area was our major issue in 2010. A report was generated by NW Environmental and sent to the City regarding our actions. The storage area where the mould was found is now under limited use by staff.

The committee felt that spending a lot of money to return to the *status quo* was not in our interest, and that other options should be pursued.

Negotiations began with the City to explore improvements to the space, so that the FGCA would benefit. These negotiations were ongoing at the end of 2010.

The capital grant program from BC Gaming was not active in 2010, so no application could be made to assist in the funding of the youth space upgrade.

- Facility use. The following table shows our present demand:

<u>ON-GOING FACILITY RENTERS</u> Brian Simons Acrylic Painting Workshops Christ The King Anglican Church Discovery Chiropractic Fiddlesticks Music Program Folk Jam Gaia College Hang Glider Club Hart House International Women's Catering Coop Japanese Playgroup Jordan Hanson Drumming Karate Moss St Market Par-T-Perfect Science of Spirituality The Land Conservancy Value Based Business Network Victoria Read Society Victoria Song Writer's Association	<u>COMMUNITY CENTRE PARTNERS</u> Songs of Passage Royal Astronomical Society Girl Guides South Island Pride Network Artists in Motion Surfrider Club Victoria Emergency Measures Fairfield Artist Tour Fire Dancers
<u>OTHER</u> Other full scale renters use the facility on a one-time basis, such as weddings, parties, etc. & Sir James Douglas Elementary – Joint Use	<u>ASSOCIATION RELATED FACILITY USE</u> Board Meetings and events Planning and Zoning Meetings Streetlife Committee Meetings Place Committee Meetings Out of School Care Program Recreation Programs Five Points Pre-School Program Family Drop-in Program Kinder Gym Program Chill Zone Drop-in Program

Partners pay a rent (from \$0 up) on a case by case basis after evaluation of their direct contribution to the community. **Association related facility use** has no explicit rent, but many of the programs require space to be provided as part of the program funding although no additional funds are included other than "administration".

We are stretched for space, and the issue with the mould can possibly be used as an opportunity to improve our situation.

Rental income contributes to our non-designated funding, and is therefore important to us.

- Staff prepared a proposal for building renewal and upgrade. The proposal was presented at two Place meetings and eventually to the Board.
- Staff prepared a draft Volunteer Handbook. A draft was presented at the Place committee and eventually to the Board.
- A process for Association related use of space was developed, which has each Committee Chair agree to a 0-base rental agreement. Committee Chairs or appropriate designate will be responsible party for 0 cost rentals. This system will keep track of room usage for our submissions to the City (our landlord).

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

By Jim Masterton Committee Chair

Members: Jim Masterton, Chair, Jim Morris, Clair Jackson, Bill Rimmer.
(Note: Committee members Wayne Hollohan, Amanda Thierault and Jacqueline Horton resigned over the course of the last year.)

The FGCA Planning and Zoning Committee acts as an interface between the community and City Hall in relation to planning and development happenings in Fairfield Gonzales. Under the City-approved CALUC process, (Community Associations Land Use Committees) the P&Z Committee will meet with potential developers to provide a community input into initial proposals. The Committee also chairs City-organized Community meetings where the neighbours within a specified range of a project are notified by the City and are invited to attend a meeting at the FGCA Community Place to hear the proposal described by the proponent, seek elaborations and ask questions. Comments are recorded by the Committee and forwarded to Mayor and Council as part of the essential community input that assists Council in making the correct decisions.

All Community members are welcomed to join the Committee- a background in urban planning or architecture is not needed, only a passion for the community. Over the course of the last year, the Committee lost 3 valuable members and needs to replenish itself again.

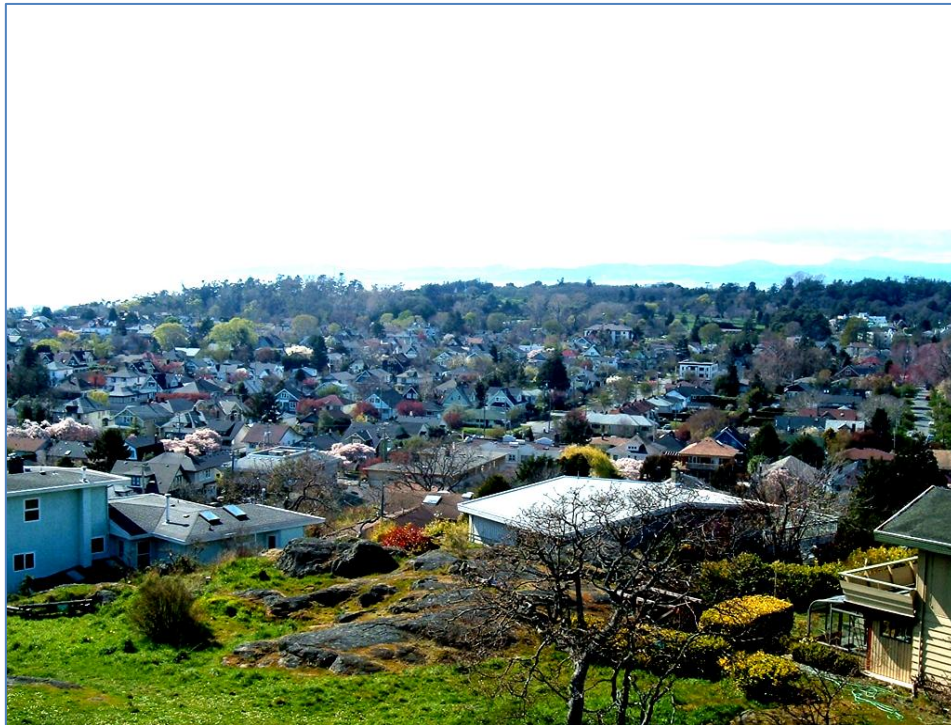
In 2010 the Committee was been involved in the following proposals:

- May Street -proposed rezoning for townhouses

- Trutch Street- rezoning to allow conversion of older house to 4 strata units
- Robertson Street- Development Variance Permit to allow house addition
- Moss Street- Subdivision into 2 lots to allow 2 new homes
- Pakington Street- proposed rezoning for 8 town houses
- Burdett/McClure St- proposed rezoning for new 4 or 5 storey apartments
- Burdett Street- Mt. St Angela rezoning for multi-family units
- Fort Street- propose rezoning for offices in existing older home
- Bonus density considerations in relation to Official Community Plan amendments
- Cook Street Village food cart vendors

The last year (April 2010-April 2011) was of a relatively low activity owing to the slow economy. This will obviously change in coming years which makes the Committees other mandate- involvement in official community plans, neighbourhood plans and local structure plans very important.

The Planning and Zoning Committee is very important in helping Fairfield Gonzales manage its growth whilst retaining and enhancing that neighbourhood character that we all love.



PLASTICS RECYCLING SUB-COMMITTEE

By Susanna Grimes, Plastics Recycling Coordinator

For the past twelve years, the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association has operated a flourishing community-based plastics recycling program for local residents that has recycled over 200 three-ton truckloads of plastics and provided over \$30,000 to the Association. Volunteers – who have made the whole program possible - donate nearly one thousand hours annually.

Special thanks go to Phil Fawcett, Gerry Howell-Jones and Neil Vickers for their vision, dedication and mountains of volunteer time!

The year 2010 was an unusual one for the Plastics Recycling program. In the spring, its very existence was uncertain; the result of disparate philosophies of the Plastic Recycling Committee and the business partner. Then, in June, the program was recognized with the CRD EcoStar Award for Waste Reduction.

Another positive development was the hiring of a paid part-time Coordinator, to oversee the program and volunteers, help secure a better business partnership, and increase the profile of the FGCA.

Achievements and Changes in 2010

-  A new and better contract with the business partner was negotiated, resulting in uninterrupted service to residents.
-  A survey of depot visitors provided 235+ responses and invaluable feedback on depot use, whether users should be charged a fee, their awareness of the FGCA role, etc. As a result, subsequent changes were felt to be generally acceptable. The survey also generated a surge of new volunteers (25+).
-  The depot day and time were changed (against the Committee's preference).
-  Depot operations were modified to conform to the business partner's 'fee' model (also against the preference of the Committee). However, the FGCA retained the practise of allowing residents with insufficient funds to participate. And, as some depot visitors continued to donate funds beyond the requested fee, the FGCA negotiated to keep 100% of this revenue.
-  The Red Cross depot was reorganized for better flow of people and smoother operations, as per the successful layout established at the St Matthias site.

- ♻ The profile of the FGCA was raised through: pamphlets, signs at the depot entrances, ID tags for all volunteers, through the FGCA website, articles in print media, a display in the FGCA Place, etc
- ♻ Refundable beverage containers are also collected, the revenue from which is donated to two charities. In 2010, an estimated total of \$1000 went to "Project Upgrade" - an educational upgrading program for single parents and street youth, and to the B.C. Guide Dog Services.
- ♻ Volunteers were provided with refreshments at every depot and a chance to rest.
- ♻ An Operations Manual was created to assist the FGCA and Committee with program continuity and coordination.
- ♻ A letter to the CRD Solid Waste Sub-Committee was submitted jointly by the FGCA and other local community groups that run recycling depots, supporting the CRD plans to expand the blue box program.
- ♻ The plastics recycling program was restarted at the FGCA "Place".
- ♻ The program received the CRD 2010 EcoStar Award for Waste Reduction for a non profit

Plans for 2011 & Beyond

- ♻ Continue to build the capacity of the program
- ♻ Seek Thrifty Foods sponsorship of volunteer refreshments
- ♻ Ensure close adherence to the contract between the business partner and the FGCA
- ♻ Educate residents on "reducing" and "reusing" (as well as recycling), and the end-uses for recycled plastics
- ♻ Seek young volunteers through middle and high school volunteer programs.



In May of 2012, the CRD will be expanding the range of acceptable materials for its blue box program. It is anticipated that there will no longer be a need for the neighbourhood recycling program – at least with its current mandate.

STREETLIFE COMMITTEE

By Chloe Markgraf

Over the course of 2010 the Street Life Committee has been developing their role in the Fairfield Community as well as hosting some successful events. Regular events such as potluck meetings and dances have been held in members' house and in common rooms at the Fairfield Community Place. The Street Life Committee continues over 2010 and now into the New Year to enact its purpose of encouraging, supporting, and overseeing neighbour-driven activities and initiatives at the street, neighbourhood and community-wide level to create a safer, healthier, greener community in the Fairfield / Gonzales area.

During the first part of the year, Street Life hosted a series of regular Dances at the Garry Oak Room titled Fairfield Fusion Fridays. Dances were successful and drew a large number of people from around the community. Thank you to Francine Klysen for all her hard work in this.

The beginning of 2010 also saw the finalization of the "Fairfield Vision" document, drafted by the Street Life Committee. Here the Committee outlines the desire to see Fairfield excel in terms of quality of life, local economy, environment, housing, transportation, food and culture. The document was circulated at events and at the Moss Street Market for community members to sign on to.

This year also saw the development of another sub-committee; the Food Security Sub-Committee was developed as a branch of the Street Life Committee in which the Fairfield Community Garden Group is active. In May the group applied for and received a matching grant for development and implementation of a garden site. Two open houses were held, one in August and one in October, looking at Robert Porter Park as a potential site for a garden project. Since then, the garden group has been actively looking at how to best engage community members, and address concerns raised at the open houses. Additionally, the group is maintaining a blog (fairfieldcommunitygardens@blogspot.com) and a twitter account (Fairfield gardens). For more information visit the blog or email communitygarden@fairfieldcommunity.ca

The Street Life Committee, through the Garden group, also organized a community circle during the Official Community Plan outreach sessions. Participants spoke of food issues related to their vision of Victoria in the future.

Additional events hosted by the Street Life Committee in 2010 include a canning workshop with a small group of interested community members. If you have any ideas or inspiration to bring to the Street Life Committee please contact us through the Fairfield Community Place.



FGCA STAFF AND ACTIVITIES REPORTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Joan Kotarski, Executive Director

The FGCA annual general meeting report is a long standing tradition of reflecting on the past year. As usual our board and staff reports give details of the year's events and I urge you to not only read them but to get involved with our initiatives and programs. Community organizations like ours by their very nature reflect the interests and the capacity of the local residents. We are all busy people but for some supporting and contributing to the well being of the neighbourhood association is of paramount importance. I hope you will find the time to join us in the coming year. 36 years ago on September 9, 1975 the association was legally recognized as a non profit BC Society. This last year we seriously began to look at our past. We are fortunate that we have kept a huge stack of information in our basement and with the help of volunteers and staff we are organizing and making it visible to share with others. If you have any information we hope you will share it with us.

We are also embarking on a fund development process. We recognize that the competition for funds is changing and priorities for funding are shifting. We need to keep moving with the times yet hold on to the programs and services we believe are critical to our residents. We also need to diversify our funding base and work on increasing our fundraising and donation revenues. We are very fortunate to have a strong partnership with the City of Victoria. The City has taken supportive steps to manage and maintain these buildings out of which we run our programs to ensure they are safe and accessible for public use. We will be reporting next year on our wonderful new youth space which will be completed in 2011.

Of course the work of our organization is done by dedicated volunteers and staff – residents like you and me. We follow in the footsteps of the individuals who were instrumental in starting and running this organization over 35 years ago. I say well done all!!

FACILITY/ COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

By John Taylor, Facility/ Community Coordinator

This is now my third annual report on the Facility of the FGCA. The first year was a heavy learning curve. The large variety of programs and services we offer interact and overlap within a very limited space. We have a unique situation operating from a City owned building, joint use of the Garry Oak Room and Commercial kitchen with Sir James Douglas School, a portable building owned by the FGCA, and Out of School Care operations at Margaret Jenkins and Sundance Schools. All these require the building and maintaining of good relationships between partners and staff.

The office renovation, though making life difficult at the time, now allows time to tweak existing systems and develop new ones that make our administration more efficient. Much of this is due more to stability of key staff and good communication driven by our executive director who is able to juggle all these apples and oranges and reminding us that the work we do bears fruit for the community.

Year two saw major renovations to the commercial kitchen, a change in Janitorial contractors, comfortable chairs, and many small changes to make it easier to accommodate the changing needs of internal programs and external renters and user groups. It also saw the completion of the first phase of the Five Points Project with new benches and plantings at the top of Oscar Street.

In 2010, the Fairfield United Church began phase two of the project, making their corner more people friendly. Soon it too will be finished and we will have another community gathering spot with seating and plantings.

This last year I was able to give more time to the Community side of my portfolio. I represented the Centre at the Intercultural Association's Welcoming Community Initiative, which the FCCA and 25 other organizations signed onto, I worked with Tracy Cullen from VIHA to help develop a new Community Kitchen Network that encourages groups and families to cook together, provided a space for Gay and Lesbian Youth to meet and socialize in a friendly, non-judgmental and safe environment and maintained our partnerships with the Fairfield Artist Studio Tour, The Moss Street Market and our ongoing relationship with the International Women's Catering Coop. A new initiative was working with a group called "Artists in Motion" who now have a gallery of paintings in our main Lobby which are changed on a regular basis. A percentage of any sales goes to the FGCA

so come and have a look and if you see something you like, you'll be helping both the Artist and us.

The International Women's Catering Coop is a unique partnership. What began over 10 years ago as an incubation project is now a renter and partner in our Commercial Kitchen, Early in 2010 they helped finance a new commercial stove. This is a good example of how the seeds we fertilize bear fruit.

One project that is on-going, started with the Office Renovation. During the clean up of the storage area I discovered many boxes marked "archives". Inside, unsorted and in disarray was 35 years of history of the Community Centre. I saw this as an opportunity to help us help others understand our commitment to the Community over the years. With our hands in so many things it is not easy to describe the broad scope of what we do or have done. With the help of Volunteer Victoria we have had several volunteers sorting, culling, and organizing articles, photos, posters and audio files indexed into binders and scrapbooks. Currently Lisa Pascolli and Scyi Norgaard spend a few hours a week doing this work.

This last summer we were able to hire Julie Cormier to begin looking at fund development opportunities. She has been working with the volunteers to create some portable displays and multimedia presentations. . It has been "a long and winding road" to get to where we are and now it will be easier to see how we have grown and changed with the times. As you look around the room at the AGM you will see the fruits of their labour. What began as a small group of concerned citizens, anxious to have a voice in our changing neighbourhood, is now the second largest private employer in Fairfield.

Our Place Building is old, but well maintained by the City. This fall we have been working on plans to upgrade the rear storage area. Phase one and two will see the foundation and walkways repaired, and a new level floor and insulated walls. The design allows for a phase three which we must fund ourselves. It involves washroom renovation and handicap access so we can have another public assembly space in the building geared to our unfunded but important youth programs. This is a good time to remind you that The FGCA is a Registered Charity. More space equals more Community Programming and opportunities for Community involvement. This is after all, your Community Centre. We thank you for your support to help us serve you better for the next 35 years.

COMMUNITY RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS

By Thomas King, Community Recreation Coordinator

Recreation

This year saw steady numbers in attendance/participation in programs offered here at the Fairfield Community Place. Once again, Hand Drumming with Jordan Hanson, Cooking Classes with Heidi Fink, and Iyengar Yoga with Lauren Cox anchored our recreation programs with quality classes that were rewarded with strong attendance. The Fall session saw the addition of Zumba classes on Monday nights and Boxing for Fitness on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Instructor Isabel Santos brought her popular Zumba class to Fairfield and it ran at capacity. Fitness trainer, Dean Kerpan, adapted his boxing background to a boot camp model and ran an early morning (6am!) exercise class for 12 participants. The success of these courses can be attributed to the hard work these instructors put into networking and marketing their product.

Did you know that we successfully ran 72 programs at the Fairfield Community Place in 2010? Twenty-nine of the programs were cooking classes!

I take pride in the quality programs and the professional instructors that I have been given the pleasure to work with. I particularly enjoy being part of a process that enables a community member to take their seed of an idea and transform it into a class/program that enriches community life. Although space at the Fairfield Community Place is at a premium I do my best to make opportunities for new programming. The process is simple. Bring your idea to me, the Recreation Coordinator at the Place. Have an outline that summarizes what you wish to teach and how you intend on doing it. Include your resume and any certification that applies to your program (applicable insurance, a current criminal record check, and current first-aid [with CPR C] are mandatory for all instructors). Lastly, if your program falls within our organizational mission to enhance the quality of life in Fairfield by involving community members in identifying and acting on the residents' needs then I will consider offering it during available time and space.

It is important to note that marketing continued to be one of the biggest challenges for new instructors in 2010. The FGCA promoted its programs in

the Moss Rock Review, The Active Living Guide, and on our website but these three strategies are limited in their capacity to capture participants. It is vital for instructors to promote themselves and their product and to have a plan in place to access potential clients. It has been my practice to support and accommodate those instructors willing to put the extra work necessary to succeed.

Thank you to the facility staff, instructors, and volunteers for their support and dedication towards community programs. Also, thank you to the City of Victoria Recreation Services Department for funding our community recreation programs.

Special Events 2010

Community Hockey Warm-up

The Fairfield Gonzales Community Association and the James Bay Community School Centre partnered up and secured funding from the City of Victoria (by way of the 2010 Olympics Legacy Grants) to host an Olympic themed family event. As a warm up for the Preliminary Round Olympic Hockey game between Canada and the U.S.A., community members (of all ages) from Fairfield and James Bay squared off for a friendly afternoon of ball hockey. The J.B.C.S.C. served as the host venue with competitive hockey offered in the school's gymnasium and "fun emphasized" hockey on the outdoor basketball court. The event was free to attend with food (hot dogs, popcorn, and oranges) and drink (juice boxes and bottled water) by donation, an arts and crafts station, live streaming Olympic hockey projected on the wall, and prize give-aways. Attendance was estimated at around 80 community members (about 15 from Fairfield) with 40 hockey participants.

Luminara

The FGCA was one of four community associations to partner with the Inter Cultural Association to host a community illumination. It is the ICA's "vision for Luminara in years to come is to illuminate neighbourhoods across the Capital Regional District, highlighting the creativity and diversity of our local community" (<http://www.icavictoria.org/luminara/>). The FGCA provided free space for Luminara staff to facilitate lantern making workshops and hosted a celebration on Wednesday, September 22nd that featured a

special Chinese Moon Festival and Parade that was enjoyed by several hundred participants.

Halloween Bonfire Cancelled

The Fairfield Gonzales Community Association cancelled this year's Community Bonfire. If you are interested in having a bonfire in Fairfield next year please contact the FGCA at 250-382-4604 or place@fairfieldcommunity.ca for more information.

Rock of Pages

This year the FGCA hosted the fourth annual poetry celebration on the rocks of Porter Park. The poetry contest saw over 25 submissions and was celebrated with a prize-giving gala that included live music by Mary Brown and Jack Stevenson. The FGCA would like to thank the judges, Dvora Levin and Harb Sanghara, for their hard work and congratulations to all of the poets who participated. A special acknowledgment must be given to Barbara Julien whose passion for poetry has made this a special summer event to look forward to. Barb is the owner operator of Overleaf Cafe on the corner of Cook and Pandora.

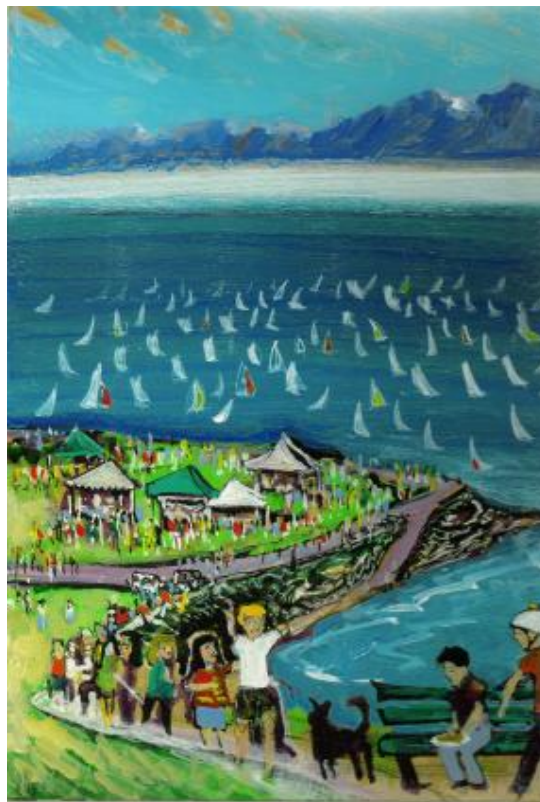
The Fairfield Community Place Is Your Place

In September the FGCA began running a monthly event night. We encouraged the public to come join us here at the Fairfield Community Place on the last Monday of the month for activities like board games, guitar jamming, clothing exchanges, book clubs, video games, and movies and popcorn. We envisioned this time as your opportunity to get connected with the community by sharing a space with like-minded individuals. For example, we hosted a Holiday Movie Night, a Board Game Night, and a Seed Sharing Workshop all by donation.

Swiftsure Healthy Breakfast

The Fairfield Gonzales Community Association would like to thank all of the volunteers and sponsors that braved the stormy weather to help put on the 28th Annual Swiftsure Breakfast. This year was an important reminder of how weather dependant this event can be. The Swiftsure Race certainly brings out the die-hard observers (I would estimate between 300 and 500 spectators on this windy and rainy day) but it can really bring out the casual observer if the weather is nice (over 1000 last year). An event of this magnitude requires the support of local businesses and organizations and

we would like to acknowledge Bubby Rose's Bakery on Cook Street. Owners, Valerie and Mark Engels, kindly came on board two years ago to help us transition to a healthier and tastier breakfast and were able to provide 800 muffins for the event. To compliment the muffins we received continued support from Thrifty Foods and Island Farms with donations of fruit, juice, and yogurt. Also, coming to our rescue last minute was Level Ground Coffee who supplied the fair trade organic coffee grounds. And special thanks to reFUSE who helped us manage our waste to half a garbage bag. Again, the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association would like to thank our sponsors for their support and generosity. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again in the future.



It was extremely helpful and beneficial having a liaison on the Board (thanks Michael!) for the event. The process this year for me was pretty straight forward but it helped to know that I had support when I needed help. Last but not least, the FGCA would like to thank all of the dedicated and hard working volunteers who made the event run so smoothly. Simply, for a community event to be successful it needs community members to attend as well as community members to deliver the service and this year we achieved a wonderful balance of both!

YOUTH PROGRAMS

By Thomas King, Community Recreation Coordinator

2010 was a year of set-backs and triumphs for youth programs at the FGCA. Once again, we were forced to search for a new designated youth space as the Lower Lounge that housed four different youth groups had to be closed for structural upgrades. We managed to relocate the groups to new times and spaces as they became available which tested the resiliency of the programs. For example, the Chill Zone Drop-In had strong numbers in first half of the year when it ran out of the Garry Oak Room after school but struggled with attendance when the program had to move to the Portable at a later start time in September. On a positive note, we continued to support the South Island Pride Community Centre by offering a different space for the Queer Youth Drop-In on Wednesday evenings. Also, we lent our support to the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society by providing rehearsal space for their youth Theatre Project. The FGCA recognizes and welcomes the diversity of our community and strives to support programs that can accommodate populations that are underserved.

The 2010 school year witnessed growth and the fruition of a number of goals for the Jump n Start program. As in years past we operated on a resiliency based learning model that saw our participants grow and learn through experiential learning via the use of facilities and activities in school, at the FGCA, and in or around our local communities. We operated at near full capacity with 8-10 counselor referred participants in both groups throughout the school year.

This year saw a marked improvement in participants "buy-in" with students that had left our program often returning for activities, rejoining the group permanently or simply checking back in with our leaders regularly to share life stories or ask advice. We were also able to offer an extended presence to our kids through bridging programs such as our youth space (the Chill Zone) and Tuesday Summer Youth Getaways, which allowed for relationship building with our extended community network and children from different schools and our surrounding neighbourhood.

This year's program benefited from the continuation of a complimentary program at the Fairfield Community Place called the Chill Zone Youth Drop-In that ran on Thursdays and Fridays after school. The Chill Zone was a continuation of the summer program (of the same name) that was structured around providing primarily Jump N Start participants a youth space where they could hang out, engage in fun activities, and learn about the programs being offered throughout the city. The school year version of the Chill Zone provided Jump N Start participants an opportunity to further socialise within their peer group by sharing and interacting in a space that they have some ownership. The summer version was modified to incorporate partnerships with neighbouring community centres that increased the length and variety of services being provided (like the fore mentioned Summer Youth Getaways in partnership with James Bay Community School Centre).

In the past, our Jump N Start leaders have expressed an ambition to introduce their students to other youth facilities and services in their area, and with this in mind they visited the Boys and Girls Club youth drop in and fostered an organizational partnership that we continued to build on with the creation of a co-facilitated game-based gym program that started up in September and is open to all middle school aged youth.

We also had the great opportunity to visit with the aboriginal women's counselor at S.J. Willis School who lead us through a guided meditation and a discussion about ancestry. In addition to these activities in the past year we have visited art galleries, museums, local parks and beaches, the library (and set our kids up with accounts), the IMAX theatre, ice skating, and numerous other out trips. In house we have had workshops on hand drumming, baking, cooking, and made crafts like silk screened shirts, flower pots, and picture frames.

Through the course of this school year we have had great successes in both the expansion of Jump N Start's goals and in the cohesion of our participants both current and past. Our program provides the opportunity for participants to partake in lots of fun activities, encounter new experiences and allows them a safe haven to disclose personal issues solicit advice and simply unpack the stresses of youth and build new friendships.

FAMILY PROGRAMS - A GATEWAY TO COMMUNITY

By Ro Fife, Family Program Coordinator

I consider our Family Programs at the Place as an important community gateway for many caregivers in south Victoria. Our programming continues to feature Caregiver and child drop in sessions. Our Fairfield Five Points Preschool rounds out our formal programming. In 2010, we conducted a participant survey about programs and services and based on that work have implemented some add-on activities including a monthly clothing swap on Saturdays and a more informal parent support group Lunch, Laugh and Learn.

Drop in programs for Caregivers and Children

Our drop in programs provide a safe, child-friendly harbour for young children and their caregivers. Our unique staffing model of parent facilitator continues to provide excellent role modeling and truly re-enforces our core value that ALL parents have skills and abilities. These programs continue to create opportunities for young families to build connections and learn together through social, educational and recreational activities at the Place. Participant feedback for our programs has highlighted their appreciation for regular opportunities to meet others undertaking the challenging and often isolating job of parenting. The Health Promotion division of Public Health Agency of Canada continues to be the primary funder of our drop in programming.

Preschool

Fairfield Five Points Preschool continues to offer a learning thorough play program three mornings a week to help bridge the socialization of youngsters preparing for Kindergarten. We remain fortunate to have two dedicated Early Child Educators anchoring this program (despite the part-time seasonal nature of their employment).

The regular registration of siblings and the very positive parent testimonials speak volumes to the quality of our preschool.



Parent support Groups and Community Referral work

We hold as the primary goal of our Family programs the need to support and engage primary caregivers as the most important influence in the life of a young child. In the spring of 2010, we undertook a service review, surveying our current program participants to better access programming needs. Arising from this work, I modified our parent support programming and re-established a weekly shared lunch session Lunch, Laugh and Learn. This replaced our more structured Family Talk support sessions. As well, we introduced a monthly Family Clothing Swap. This programming receives funding from the Ministry of Children and Family Development. We also continue to support the Queer Parent family group as well as offering supportive referrals to caregivers as needed.

I remain humbled to work with my wonderful team of staff; Cathy, Ute, Kate, Leanne and Chrystine. A special thanks goes to Vanya McDonnell who undertook a very meaningful review of our programs and services in the Spring of 2010.

CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

By Candace Negm, Child Care Coordinator

CHILD CARE COORDINATOR REPORT

2010 was a year of introspection and redefinition. The FGCA Out-Of-School Care faced a very difficult and unpreventable change: loss of child care spaces. While SD No. 61 plunged forward with all day Kindergarten and elimination of early out Wednesday's our Out-Of-School care was forced to evaluate our next steps. The challenges our organization faced with the movement to full day Kindergarten were specifically, the loss of child care income and therefore, our inability to keep our senior educators employed. Margaret Jenkins OSC was forced to close two Kinder Care programs, Fairfield OSC closed one and Sundance OSC also closed one Kinder Care Program. In total, we lost 55 day time Kinder Care children and 5 full time Kinder Care staff members. In an effort to refocus and recruit new clientele and retain existing staff I began the exciting task of opening a new pre-school. Throughout the year the Fairfield Out-Of-School care manager, Sarah Garrett, and I focused on opening a preschool. We are pleased to announce the new Moss Rock Pre-school, which will open in January 2011.

SUMMER CAMP

By Candace Negm

The summer months welcomed, for the second year consecutively, Nichole Brown as manager and Sarah Garrett as assistant manager. The management team enjoyed the return of many senior staff members and familiar Out-Of-School care children for the summer months. Focusing on reducing our carbon footprint Nichole and Sarah programmed excellent local out-trips and relied on the BC transit system to reach all locations. Our Summer Camp utilized many of the local Fairfield and Gonzales parks as well as traveled to Goldstream, Queen Alexandra, The University of Victoria and many down town trips to the Imax and Bug Zoo. It was possible to offer a before camp component in 2010 which provided care for up to 25 children. Our regular camp provided care for up to 55 children. Our programming offered arts, science, fashion, nutrition, environmental awareness, outdoor education, water education and of course fun.

This year has been an opportunity to enjoy the strength which comes from a team of senior staff remaining in place. Margaret Jenkins Out-Of-School care manager and newly promoted Assistant Childcare Coordinator Karen Kasner, Sundance Out-Of-School Care manager Scott Kouri and Fairfield Out-Of-School Care manager Sarah Garrett all returned to the FGCA in their management positions.

Thank you to the team of Coordinators at the Place for your ongoing support, to the fantastic managers of the program, Scott Kouri, Karen Kasner, Sarah Garrett as well as Nichole Brown, who have worked relentlessly to create outstanding OSC and Summer programs.

SUNDANCE OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE

By Scott Kouri, Program Manager

Sundance Out-of-School Care (OSC) enjoyed a very vibrant early 2010 with many programs flourishing. With large changes at the school district level in the later part of the year, however, we saw many of our youngest children begin school at an earlier age rather than join us in our kinder programs. Sundance OSC made a difficult choice and closed the Before School Care program as our enrolment was not large enough to sustain the program. Additionally, due to full day Kindergarten, Sundance OSCA also closed our Kinder program. As our programs shrank, Sundance OSC refocused and drew on our skilled and passionate staff to create programs infused with music, art and light. A highlight of this year, for example, was a successful partnership between the FGCA OSC programs and Luminara. Over the summer I worked with the Luminara coordinator to build a partnership and tie in the Out-Of-School care program. Luminara provided a workshop for our OSC staff members where they learned how to build lanterns. Leaders were able to take this knowledge back to their program space and teach the children to build lanterns and learn about the larger scale community event. Together the two community agencies created a grass roots and family focused event which celebrated some of our youngest local artist.

MARGARET JENKINS OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE

By Karen Kasner, Program Manager

Cutbacks and creativity have been the theme at Margaret Jenkins Out-of-School Care this year. With the introduction of all day kindergarten in September 2010 we no longer had the need to offer kinder care between the hours of 12:00-3:00pm. Enrollment numbers have fluctuated this year - many families have opted to make adjustments to their work schedules to accommodate the school day. With ongoing registration taking one step forward, two steps back we finally made the difficult decision in December to amalgamate our groups into three program spaces instead of four leaving us with a total of 60 fully registered spaces.

September 2010 also saw almost an entire new team of staff coming on board to MJOSC. This presents the management team with both rewards and challenges. Having fresh faces brings a fresh energy and commitment to the job. It also brings many hours of necessary training and supervision. Fortunately we did have two senior staff return to MJOSC who along with the manager, offered guidance and mentorship to the new staff.

We continue to enjoy a positive and cooperative working relationship with the EMJS school staff. This is essential component for the quality of care that we are able to offer to the children in our program. By working cooperatively with parents, teacher and OSC staff, we ensure that there is consistency in all areas of the child's life.

2010 also brought with it a focus on giving back to our community. Our staff and children were engaged in a number of projects such as the third annual Toasty Toes Sock Drive in December, a Clean Sweep community clean up in March, a food drive in April and a Beach Cleanup in June. These projects foster a sense of community pride and generosity of spirit our children. For the older children in our program, the focus has also been on leadership. The grade 4/5 group conceptualized, planned and facilitated a Halloween Celebration for all of the other children in the program. It was inspiring to see what they were able to accomplish in such a short time and how seriously they all took their roles during the event. We look forward to another fantastic year at Margaret Jenkins Out- of -School Care.

FAIRFIELD OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE

By Sarah Garrett, Program Manager

As usual while January is the start to a new year for most, Out of School Care is already in full swing with before school, Kinder and Afterschool Care. We kept some old traditions and managed to incorporate new ones as well. Although the weather was not always on our side we managed to get out onto the field for "Families welcome Soccer Fridays", but with the twist of every other week getting kids and families involved in field wide games.

Spring Camp

March 2010 was the first time School District 61 had chosen to run two full weeks of Spring Break. The FGCA hosted a successful weeklong camp, providing care to all three of its childcare centre as well as external families. We ran a camp of 40 spaces and welcomed many of our regular OSC faces as well as some new ones. The centre was closed during the second week of the School Districts Spring Break for some much needed cleaning and re-organizing.

2010 has been a full year with yet another increase in spaces for Fairfield Out-Of-School Care. Registration in April left the program with a lengthy waitlist. We successfully applied to use the Gary Oak Room as an OSC space to accommodate the community in their need for childcare. This increased our licensed spaces from seventy-five to ninety-five. Thanks to the flexibility of the other coordinators at the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association, Fairfield OSC was able to accommodate many families in need of care.

September 2010 saw FFOSC staffed with long time returning employees and led to a great start for the year. The programming was extremely varied with large projects and some life skills being taught. Our portable program, grades two and three, learned a great many recipes and how to work in a kitchen, while our new Kindergartens learned about their friendships and families. Due to the school schedule changing and no more Wednesday early dismissals for out trips, staff had to use their imagination to create exciting alternatives. They have successfully brought in guests from Dodge Ball workshops to Naturalists. Other creative alternatives have been utilizing

the internet and screen projector system to do online tours of Museums and slideshows from staff travels.

While we had a majority of returning staff we had a new addition to our FFOSC team as well in the form of a practicum student. Our practicum student has been a critical part of bringing our resource bin project to completion. In 2008 the FGCA received a grant for an educational purpose, which was used to put together 26 thematic bins as a permanent resource for programming. Erin's focus was to do further research into activities and programming which would round out all the wonderful resources already in the bins. Our goal is the bins to be "ready-to-use" with materials, activities and manipulative for ages five through twelve. Erin has created a colour coded age appropriate system for leaders to utilize. We look forward to putting all the new resources to use in all three of our OSC programs.

Winter Camp

The holidays arrived quickly with Winter Camp programs running successfully out of the main building. As manager and having worked in program over the duration of camp, it was a great chance to spend more time with the children and get geared up for 2011.

YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELLING

By Joan Kotarski, Executive Director

The FGCA administers the Youth and Family Counsellors (YFC) contracts for the Victoria and Esquimalt family of schools in School District #61. YFCs are available at Shoreline, Rockheights and Central Middle Schools, Victoria and Esquimalt High Schools, and Oaklands, Macauley, Vic West and George Jay Elementary Schools. In addition, we support the Parent Resource Room at George Jay Elementary. The FGCA is also responsible for the YFC services offered to the Reynolds Family of Schools as subcontracted out through the Blanshard Community Centre. We also provide counsellors to Mount Doug, Oak Bay and Lambrick Park family of schools. This vital service is available free to school aged children. Our counsellors are widely respected professionals who are valued members of their school based team. We maintain a unique partnership with their professional association, the South island Youth and Family Counsellors Association.

OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION

By Ro Fife, Operations Director

The focal point of the work of the office and the administrative team is to help the daily routines of the Place keep on happening. Providing administrative and office support for the busy multi-service organization is at times challenging, regularly rewarding and definitely never dull for long! Requests and enquiries are quite varied and never cease to amaze us. 2010 was a very successful year of meeting day to day tasks and community requests while continuing to re-enforce useful protocols to make our record keeping and eventual reporting accessible and maintaining operational integrity.

Staffing

Our office team assist with many, often unnoticed, tasks which make the Place hum!. Our part-time reception staff take pride in being a welcoming first face for the FGCA. This front desk team values offering superior customer service and engaging new community members. As well, the senior management staff made significant contributions to create a welcoming and responsive environment at the Place. We said a fond farewell to Vanya McDonnell, who left her reception role in May on maternity leave and engaged Kate Thring, a senior childcare staff, as an addition to our front desk team in the fall of 2010. We have been fortunate to expand the responsibilities of Pippa Davis, who is now serving as our administrative assistant. Pippa has become the anchor to our front desk and has taken on much of our routine web site maintenance as well as the lead development of our new in-house publication. Beyond the front reception desk roles the FGCA is also ably supported by Pam Norman as our bookkeeper. Like many of our other "invisible " jobs, Pam is dedicated to meeting our financial obligations including payroll, accounts payables, monthly financial statements for the FGCA board as well as preparing our fiscal records for our year-end financial review.

Equipment and Technology

We undertook significant upgrades in our information technology this year with an upgrade to our agency server and to our staff work stations. Our efforts to upgrade and meet the expanding methods of work has been ably supported by Resolve IT Solutions as well as internally by senior staff. As well, our reception staff have become established users of our CLASS

recreation and facility software. Additionally, our operation team support the public use of our foyer computers, provided through the Community Access Program at Industry Canada. Within this rapidly changing electronic landscape, we continue to treat the machines as tools to support the staff and prioritize interpersonal and relationship building skills as the key strengths that our front desk staff provide to our many centre users.

Top Three Interesting Comments captured by our Administrative Team

“Of course I am a member, I have lived here all my life!”

While membership is free and perpetual (as long as you remain a resident) you need to actually fill in a membership form once to be listed as a FGCA member.

“When did Gonzales join Fairfield?”

The Gonzales neighbourhood has always been a part of Fairfield. The association formally adopted Fairfield Gonzales Community Association as our doing business as (DBA) name in December 2008.

“You are a wonderful, resourceful person! Thank you!”

A misinformed community member showed up for a workshop. We conducted some on the spot investigation and set them straight with the right place (not the Place), right date and right time.

FAIRFIELD ARTISTS STUDIO TOUR

By, Lesley Friedmann, Chair of FAST Committee

After several years of careful mentoring, Joan and John felt that the FAST had matured to the point whereby we can be allowed some autonomy. In a meeting conducted by Joan and John in October with members of FAST, it was agreed that the best way to increase FAST participant autonomy would be to create a committee of interested local artists to administer and promote the FAST. As such, several local artists stepped forward to form this committee following my lead to chair it. We now have 11 local artists helping with registration, sponsorship, group space, printing, web design and input, donations, and any other details required to make the event run as smoothly as possible. We were exceedingly grateful for this opportunity, and we would like to thank Joan and John for creating a great structure from which we could work. We also would like to thank them for offering to help in this transition and the support of the Fairfield Community Centre is so much appreciated.

We now have 42 local artists opening their studios on April 30 and May 1st. Several of them will be using at least one group space to display their work. We were hoping to finalize this in a meeting planned Thursday February 24th, but due to the weather this meeting has been postponed to March 3rd. Thanks to the Fairfield Community Centre for being an anchor from which we can spring. The continued cooperation of the association is much appreciated.



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS IN 2010

☞ **City of Victoria**

☞ **Province of British Columbia**

Ministry of Community, Aboriginal & Women's Services

Ministry of Children & Family Development

Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

☞ **Government of Canada**

Human Resource and Development Canada
(Summer Career Placements)

Public Health Agency of Canada
(Community Action Plan for Children)

Industry Canada (Community Access Program)

☞ **Greater Victoria School District #61**

Community Links programs
– Youth & Family Counsellors and Parent Liaison

☞ **United Way of Greater Victoria**

☞ **Provincial Employees Community Services Fund**

☞ **And our many individual donors, volunteers, business and organizational partners**

FAIRFIELD GONZALES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT

The Fairfield Gonzales Community Association board, staff, volunteers and users will adhere to the following Code of Conduct to guide all behaviour and activities related to the FGCA:

- We will interact with respect, courtesy, objectivity and inclusiveness
- We will work towards the good of all community members, and not for personal benefit.
- We will promote collaboration, cooperation and partnership with each other and with other groups
- We will promote health, wellness and safety for the entire community.

Fairfield Gonzales



Community Association

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**“To enhance the quality of life in Fairfield
by involving community members in
identifying and acting on the needs of the
area residents”**