



FAIRFIELD GONZALES  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

the place to connect



*Erika Verlinden at the Community Garden*

August 1st ,2012  
to July 31st ,2013

# ANNUAL REPORT

**Annual General Meeting**  
**October 28th, 2013**

7:00-9:00 pm  
1330 Fairfield Road

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

## **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.*

# Executive Director's Report

By Joan Kotarski, *Executive Director*



This fiscal year I am going to report on the 4 strategic goals of the FGCA as identified in 2008's AGM report. It is hard to believe that our last strategic plan is 5 years old. Those 4 strategic directions are:

**FACILITY RENEWAL** ~ new roof on portable and new floors in foyer and family room, additional cupboard space in childcare room,

**BOARD DEVELOPMENT** ~ new board members recruited and new committees, Fund Development plans,

**EMPLOYEE RETENTION** ~ stable senior management team –honoring 5 year employee Thomas King and same executive director for over 15 years , Lauren Cox yoga instructor since 1989.

**ORGANIZATIONAL BRANDING** ~ new logo and new messaging statements developed:

*Leader in providing a strong voice for a better Fairfield Gonzales*

*Provide support for individual residents, including elderly and families close to home*

*Committed to bringing residents together through programs and events.*

**“PEOPLE THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE”**

**JOHN TAYLOR**



*John Taylor and Lynn Beak*

The FGCA takes pride in supporting and retaining its employees. Often our staff are the unseen glue that holds all the programs and services together, who have a vision of community that they can support and help build. It is with a real sense of loss that John Taylor had to leave our organization due to medical reasons. I am happy to report he is now well on the road to good health. John was an integral part of the building renewal that saw renovated offices, additional washrooms, a new youth space and ongoing facility management. It is nice to know he is out and about in the neighbourhood and always has a friendly smile and good advice to share.

# A Note from the President

By Edward Pullman,  
*FGCA Board President*



It is my pleasure and privilege to deliver this year's President's Report for the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association (FGCA). Between our great facilities, top-notch programming, and fantastic staff and volunteers, our community association is one of the best Victoria has to offer.

This year we were very excited to kick off our garden commons project in Robert Porter Park. After some fun-filled work parties with many hard working volunteers, things are off to a fantastic start.

Recognizing the need for modern branding, our staff and board volunteers set to work updating our association's logo. After many hours of hard work and back and forth, we were very pleased to present our new logo at our Annual Jazz Gala this past April.

Looking forward, our organization continues to face funding challenges, with municipal, provincial and federal governments all locked into a long-term period of fiscal restraint. We will continue to search for partnerships and diversify revenue sources so we can continue offering the same high-quality services and programs you've come to expect from us over the year.

## **Joining is the first step....**

### **Are you a member ?**

The Fairfield Gonzales Community Association is a non-profit organization overseen by an elected Board of Directors. Our Association membership is open to any individual who lives in or owns a business in the Fairfield Gonzales Area. There is no charge for membership and it is perpetual.

Membership is a simple step to becoming more involved with your community. Sign up and be a part of the FGCA. Membership allows you to stand for election to our Board of Directors, and vote at our Annual General Meeting.

To sign up contact the FGCA at 250-382-4604 or [place@fairfieldcommunity.ca](mailto:place@fairfieldcommunity.ca).

Membership forms can be found on our website at [www.fairfieldcommunity.ca](http://www.fairfieldcommunity.ca)

# Board of Directors



## CURRENT MEMBERS (as of 28 Oct. 2013):

Beak, Lynn	Term ends 2013
Davis, Scott	Term ends 2013
Pullman, Edward	Term ends 2013
Sawkins, Philip	Term ends 2013
Siegel, Linda	Term ends 2013
Tarangle, Dean	Term ends 2013
Zador, George	Term ends 2013
Brown, Paul	Term ends 2014
Edgington, David	Term ends 2014
Tupper, Drew	Term ends 2014
Masson, Michael	Past President

## MEMBERS WHO LEFT DURING THE FISCAL YEAR

Joan Cahill  
Julie Holder  
Don Monsour



(L to R) Philip Sawkins, Dean Tarangle, Paul Brown, Linda Siegel, Drew Tupper, Lynn Beak, Edward Pullman, Joan Kotarski, Julie Holder, Scott Davis

# Board Committees at Work



## Community Garden *by Scott Davis, committee member*

After 4 years of planning, the garden design was laid out on the ground in early May, marking it with stakes. Over 20 volunteers contributed 80 hours of time and energy on May 11 and 12 by digging, planting 33 trees and berry bushes and erecting temporary deer protection. The opening ceremony on May 11 was attended by the mayor and councillors, dozens of supportive neighbours, FGCA staff and community members.

On August 22 we were able to irrigate using the drip system, rather than hose watering which was a big improvement. We've had lots of positive feedback from passers by including the conversion of a number of the naysayers which was most gratifying.

Future plans include adding more trees and bushes next spring.



*Community Garden ground breaking*



## Planning & Zoning *by Paul Brown, Committee Chair*

The Planning and Zoning Committee deals with land use issues by hosting and facilitating community meetings on proposals that seek rezoning or variance from existing City bylaws and by providing feedback to the City of Victoria. It is a requirement for such proposals to be first presented to the Committee before presentation to the City.

Over the past year, the Committee has held eight public meetings for a total of 12 proposals seek variances and/or rezoning of subject properties.

The Committee promotes and respects the Community Association Land Use Committee's Policy (CALUC) and the City of Victoria's new Official Community Plan (available at [www.shapeyourfuturevictoria.ca](http://www.shapeyourfuturevictoria.ca)).

## Fund Development *by Vanya McDonell, Committee member*

Our new logo was launched in March at the *Community Jazz Gala: Spring Swing*

3 messages about what we do were developed by the committee and approved by the Board of Directors (see Executive Director's report)

A Community Giving Package was developed as a tool for approaching donors.

We hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *Community Jazz Gala: Spring Swing* fundraiser on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The event raised \$13,796.00 gross, an 89% increase over the previous year, with proceeds supporting FGCA youth programs.



**FAIRFIELD GONZALES**  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
*the place to connect*

## Streetlife Committee

The Streetlife Committee encourages, supports, and oversees 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.

Specifically, the Streetlife Committee aims to achieve the following objectives, working with other FGCA committees and other organizations (businesses, non-profits, schools, PACs, churches, etc.) as appropriate:

- Strengthened sense of community
- Joint stewardship of common areas
- Improved safety
- Improved security and resiliency
- Reduced carbon impact
- Improved access to affordable and sustainable housing
- Expanded opportunities for youth

## Plastic Recycling *by Susanna Grimes, Program Coordinator*

Since 1999, the FGCA's plastics recycling program has collected a total of 300 three-ton truckloads of materials and over \$40,000 in donations from residents. Annually, volunteers contribute nearly one thousand hours.

In recent years however, as more recycling options have become available to the public, program use has dropped to half of the peak in 2009 and is now only revenue neutral. Although this is a good problem to have, declining revenue does raise the question of future program viability.



In May 2014 a new province-wide Packaging and Printed Paper (PPP) stewardship program – will begin. Residents will no longer be required to pay additional fees to recycle packaging and how this will affect the FGCA depots is unknown at present.



# Family Programs

By Ro Fife, Family Programs Coordinator



Clothing swap



Five Points Preschool

Family programs at the Place offer a gateway into our community centre with young children attending with their primary daytime caregivers (parents, extended family, family friend or paid childminder). Our family programs operate for ten months a year, shadowing the school year calendar. Most of our programs are designed as day of drop in with no pre-registration. Our licensed Preschool, Fairfield Five Points, offers a "learning through play" program three mornings a week.

## FAIRFIELD FIVE POINTS PRESCHOOL

15 families, 2 staff

## PARENT AND TOT DROP IN

## KINDERGYM DROP IN

## LAUGH AND LEARN ...THEN LUNCH

Parent support & education drop in

## FAMILY CLOTHING SWAP

Hosted 10 swaps

*"This is a good opportunity to meet other parents and children, helps me to feel better about my parenting and to find strategies to deal with my very active and challenging child."*

*"It is great to identify with other parents and for my child to make new friends and learn confidence, independence and social skills."*

*"I feel more connected to my community, knowing my 1 year old is meeting future friends and classmates, from all walks of life".*

*~ taken from CAPC participant survey  
March 2013*



## "PEOPLE THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

### UTE VON SALZEN

Ute joined our Five Points Preschool staff in 2007 as our preschool assistant. She has extensive early child education and youth care training in her native Germany. Drawing on both her formal training and her life experience as parent, she is resourceful, responsible and respectful and has been a wonderful asset to our family programs.

# Community Recreation

By Thomas King, Recreation Coordinator

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

Iyengar Yoga  
Yin Yoga  
Yamuna Body Rolling  
Nia Dance  
Zumba  
Drop-in Badminton

## CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS

African Hand Drumming

## LEARN FOR LIFE

Spanish  
Cooking with Chef Sonja  
Cooking with Chef Daniel

## CHILDREN

Sportball



Zumba Instructor, Isabel Santos



Isabel with Island Farms 'Daisy the Cow' teaching Zumba to the Fall Fairfield crowd

*"Isabel is such an encouraging instructor. Every class is so fun I forget it's exercise & the time flies by"*  
~ Zumba participant



## "PEOPLE THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

### JORDAN HANSON

Since 2003, Jordan Hanson has been following the beat of his own drum here at the Fairfield Community Place. The Hand Drum Rhythms founder and facilitator has studied traditional music in West Africa, Cuba, and Brazil. His enthusiasm for drumming is contagious, and he is able to get new students playing traditional rhythms within a few minutes.

Recreation at the FGCA has a range of classes for our community members. Our ever popular anchor classes; Zumba, Iyengar Yoga, and African Hand Drumming, which account for about 80% of program revenue, allow us to take a chance on new programming in an effort to support emerging instructors and bring something different to the neighbourhood.



Drop-in Badminton regulars

# Out of School Care

By Kristina Wilcox, *Childcare Coordinator*

This year the FGCA Out of School Care (OSC) programs delivered high quality child care to over 150 children and their families in the Fairfield Gonzales community.

Our OSC programs are play based and child focused in nature. Our staff views children as individuals with their own ideas, cultural beliefs, abilities and interests, and strives to provide a safe and stimulating environment — physically, intellectually, mentally and emotionally. While recognizing diversity, our program encourages the development of positive relationships among peers, as well as respectful communication between children, staff and families.



*"I should also take this time to mention that the after school care staff have been so awesome. My daughter has really enjoyed her time and looks forward to seeing them all again in September."*

*~ Fairfield OSC Parent*



## **FAIRFIELD OSC**

Sir James Douglas Elementary  
75 children and 8 staff

## **MARGARET JENKINS OSC**

Margaret Jenkins Elementary  
60 children and 11 staff

## **SUNDANCE OSC**

Sundance Elementary  
12 children and 2 staff

## **MOSS ROCK PRESCHOOL**

10-12 families, 2 staff

## **SUMMER CAMP**

65+ families, 8 staff

## **WINTER & SPRING BREAK CAMPS**

# Youth Programs

By Emma Zabloski, Youth Supervisor

## YOUTH ZONE

11 youth registered

## CHILL ZONE DROP IN

630 drop in youth

## JUMP 'N' START

19 youth registered

## PARTNER PROGRAMS

South Island Pride

Centre's W.H.A.T. drop-in program

Youth Zone delivered an engaging program focused on acquiring new skills, exploring new territory, learning from community mentors, nurturing creativity, and developing a social conscience. We have watched our participants grow, build character, cultivate friendships, and develop communication, collaboration, and leadership skills.

Chill Zone, continued to offer youth a safe place to hang out and connect with their peers after school. The kids enjoyed games, crafts, special events and workshops throughout the year.

Jump 'N' Start offers youth a space to spend time after school with a small group of peers and supportive staff. Referrals to Jump 'N' Start come from Youth and Family Counsellors. The program is delivered in partnership between George Jay School, Central Middle School, the FGCA and Ministry of Children and Family Development.



Thanks to the generous support of RBC, Duttons, and the FGCA, we were able to offer three sponsorships this year to youth who would have otherwise not been able to attend.



Thank you for sponsoring me to go to youth zone! I enjoyed all of the activities meeting new people and learning new things. Emma was always fun to be with thank you again for all your kindness

eye love you

"I am not as shy as I used to be, I am more confident about myself"

"I am less depressed and I like Tuesdays more"

"I spend more time outside"

"I am getting better at socializing and I feel like when we go out to eat we are like a big family"

"I am more happy"

"I feel better about hanging out with friends"

~ feedback from kids in Jump 'N' Start

# Special Events

By Vanya McDonell Community Development Coordinator



*Jazz Gala:  
Spring Swing*

## **JAZZ GALA: SPRING SWING FUNDRAISER**

Our annual fundraiser on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 at the Wardroom CFB. We had 94 attendees enjoyed dancing and our silent and live auctions. Money raised went toward our Youth Programs.

## **OUR PLACE IS YOUR PLACE**

a monthly open house hosting diverse activities .

## **FALL FAIRFIELD HARVEST FETE**

Over 500 community members were brought together September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013 for a wonderful day of harvest and community. Festival goers enjoyed live music, a magic show, dancing, kids activities, a preserve competition, and much more.

## **OSC FAMILY FUNDAY**

Our way of showing appreciation to our Out of School Care families; inviting them to share a barbeque, games and activities every June.



*Fall Fairfield Harvest Fete*

## THROUGH FAIRFIELD SEASONS

Through funding from a BC Arts Council Grant and in partnership with community artist Carolyn Knight, Through Fairfield Seasons Eco-arts Project created opportunities for community participants to connect to one another and to the local Garry oak ecosystem. Through public workshops and 'in the field' activities, people learned ways to care for this sensitive ecosystem, take part in creating art for the land, with neighbours, family and friends during friendly fun social times. Emerging artists Meghan Lindholm and Erica Isomura were mentored by the lead artist to lead participants in weaving invasive species.



Through Fairfield Seasons

Audience reached: **2,242**  
Participants: **790**  
Volunteers: **55**  
Volunteer hours: **460**

*"It's incredibly inspiring for me to be part of such an innovative project ... The sense of environmental responsibility is important for me as someone coming from a background in environmental education, as is the spark I see people make when they make the deep connection between art, social responsibility and our environment."*

*-Meghan Lindholm, emerging mentored artist Through Fairfield Seasons  
Eco-Arts Project*

# Volunteer Services

By Vanya McDonell *Community Development Coordinator*

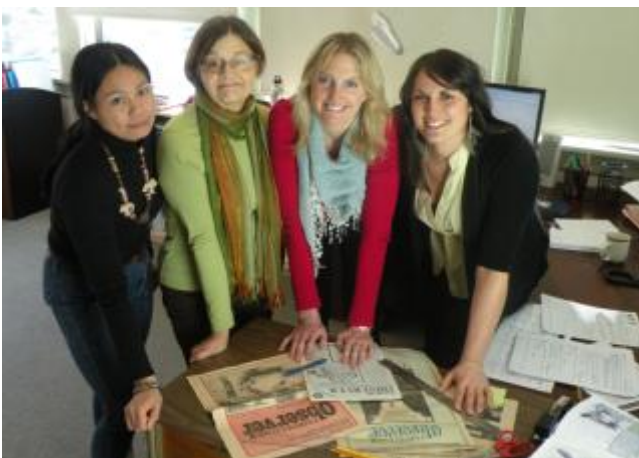
The volunteer team has significantly increased this year: increasing from 14 regular volunteers in September 2012 to 27 volunteers in July 2013. There has been a significant increase in volunteer hours for casual volunteers involved in service days and community events i.e. UVIC service day, Monk's Service day, RBC's Service Day, and Creatively United for the Planet (estimated 600 hours from Sept 2012- March 2013).

## VOLUNTEERS

26 regular volunteers  
12 Board members  
30+ special event volunteers

## ROLES AND PROJECTS

Administration  
Archives/Digitization  
Moss Street Market Engagement Booth  
Through Fairfield Seasons Eco-Arts Project  
Fall FAIRfield  
Community Jazz Gala: Spring Swing  
Photographer/Videographer  
Observer Newspaper  
Place Volunteers  
Corporate and Student Service Days  
FGCA Board of Directors  
Community Garden Committee  
Streetlife Committee  
Planning and Zoning Committee  
Place Committee  
Plastics Recycling



L-R, Sheila Alonzo, Bonnie Roll, Sarah Norton, Kaari van Nostrand



**"PEOPLE THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE"**

## THE OBSERVER NEWSPAPER TEAM

A big success of 2012-13 was the growth of the Observer Newspaper volunteer team. The paper has evolved from a largely staff led initiative to a collaboration between staff and a dedicated core group of volunteers; lending their talents and drive in writing, editing, and formatting. A star volunteer, Shannon Auringer, has taken on the role of Creative Editor for the newspaper, giving it a clear vision and style. Kudos to the team for a job well done!

# Youth and Family Counselors

By Ro Fife, Operations Director

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

James Bay Community School  
George Jay Elementary  
Macaulay Elementary  
Victoria West Elementary

## MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Central Middle School  
Lansdowne Middle School  
Shoreline Middle School  
Rockheights Middle School

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Oak Bay High School  
Mount Douglas Secondary  
Esquimalt High School  
Lambrick Park High School

**17 YOUTH & FAMILY  
COUNSELORS**

**1200+ STUDENTS AND FAMILIES**

## MOST FREQUENT STUDENT CONCERNS

- 1 - Stress and anxiety
- 2 - Poverty
- 3 - Family conflict

A unique program under the oversight of the FGCA is the youth and family counselor (YFC) staffing for many of the schools in the Greater Victoria district. YFC staff are tasked with providing counseling services to students with an overarching goal of improving their relationships and school attachment. This work is rich and varied, with many staff working as the only non-school district staff in the school environment.



L-R: Representative Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond; award winner Mitchel du Plessis; and award presenter Jin-Sun Yoon, Faculty, School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria

## "PEOPLE THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

### MITCHEL DU PLESSIS

In 2012, FGCA staff Mitchel du Plessis received an award of excellence from the Representative for Youth and Children for BC. Her award recognizes an individual that demonstrates exceptional commitment, creativity and dedication in work that makes a difference in the lives of children, youth and their families.

Dear Sheryl,

(YFC at Central Middle School)

Thank you for dealing with our many problems and going on field trips with us. The camping field trip was especially good, it was great having someone to talk to. I think that you probably have one of the best jobs, ever; it must feel nice knowing that you helped someone at the end of the day. We know that you've helped us all emotionally and mentally, even if we don't admit it. You've taught us all how to be better people. You give us a place to go and talk to someone who cares and always listens, while at the same time getting us out of difficult situations. We hope that you feel like the great person you are. We love you ~ Sincerely, Students of Division 15



# Administration & Facility

By Vanya McDonell, *Administrative Assistant*

The administrative team is responsible for the nuts and bolts that ensure the smooth operation of the Community Association. The front desk staff, Operations Director, and Bookkeeper work together to ensure that our obligations are met as an employer and a charitable society, that our users have ready access to our information and programs, and that front line staff and coordinators are supported in their administrative and communications needs.

## COMMUNITY FACILITY USERS

LifeCycles  
Fresh Choice Kitchens  
Chronic Pain Support Group  
Grandmothers for Africa  
Artists in Motion  
Victoria Mental Health Centre  
International Woman's  
Catering Coop  
Royal Astronomical Society  
of Canada  
Rozy's Jam  
Tamales by Carlos  
Par-T-Perfect  
Sportball  
Japanese Playgroup  
VIRCS  
Capoeira  
Movement and Massage  
Life Ring  
Potter's Guild  
Old Cemeteries Society

**-and many more  
private events, workshops,  
classes & meetings!**

Community rentals have provided a number of opportunities for groups with limited resources. Community Kitchen rentals in particular, served as an incubator for community members looking to start or maintain small businesses. Our various rooms hosted a number of multi-cultural events and projects, as well as many private events, workshops and meetings.

*"Thank you so very much for everything you do all year long, for all the little things and all the big things you do!"*

*~ Cathy Roberts (Preschool Teacher)*

*"This is a place I really feel good about and look forward to visit and be a part of...Just a warm sincere welcome and help where I may need some. Kindness, comfort, hope, compassion, patience. Thank you for all of this and all you do."*

*~ Volunteer and CAP user*



**"PEOPLE THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE"**

**VANYA MCDONELL**

Vanya McDonell currently serves as our administrative assistant. Her great strength is her friendly approachable demeanor and the value she places on respectful engagement with all centre users from the toddler to the senior. She makes the Place a truly welcoming hub for the community.

# Working at Fairfield

We are a major employer in the Fairfield neighbourhood, second only to the Thrifty Foods at Fairfield Plaza in numbers of staff.

The majority of our positions are part-time and seasonal shadowing the school year calendar. We are a training ground for many university students pursuing child and youth care and education degrees. We value our role as training ground for emerging social service and child care professionals.

The FGCA takes pride in being an employer of choice offering professional development and extended health benefits for all eligible staff.

## FGCA Staffing by the numbers

**\$1,243,337**

Wage costs for 2012-13

**\$1,422,416**

Total employer costs 2012-13

**76%**

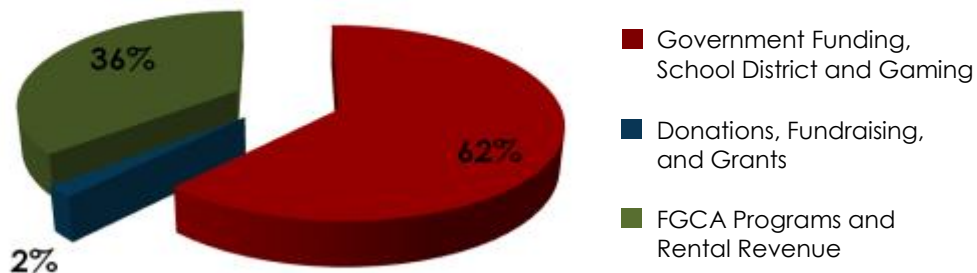
Wage and employer costs  
as % of actual expenses

**101**

Employees  
(based on our 2012 T4s)

## Budget & Revenue

**2012-13 Operating Budget - \$2,298,916.00**





# Financial Support for the FGCA

## GOVERNMENTAL BODIES



Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Public Health Agency of Canada  
Industry Canada  
Human Resource Development Canada



Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch  
Island Health (formerly VIHA)



Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture

## NON-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES



School District #61



United Way OF GREATER VICTORIA

United Way



PECSF

Provincial Employees  
Community Services  
Fund



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ARTS COUNCIL  
An agency of the Province of British Columbia

**We thank all our individual donors for their thoughtful contributions to our work**

**For a full list of the many businesses and organizational donors to the FGCA in 2012-13 visit our website**

[www.fairfieldcommunity.ca](http://www.fairfieldcommunity.ca)