



FAIRFIELD
GONZALES
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION



2011-2012
ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING

October 27th, 2012
2:00-4:00 pm
Garry Oak Room
1335 Thurlow Rd.

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Lifestyle
Welcoming
Inclusive
Celebration
Collaboration
Supportive
Working
Pride
Engaging
Hub
Creative
Caring
Everyone
Safe

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 Summary

By Joan Kotarski, *Executive Director*

Community life in Fairfield Gonzales is alive and well and thriving. The FGCA endeavors to keep up with our active involved residents by continuing to follow a path of building a sustainable, thoughtful and progressive community asset. Like other non profit entities we struggle to keep up with many demands and expectations on limited budgets. Our organization prides itself in being an employer of choice and maintaining a family friendly environment for all. What we know is that together we can make a difference in the lives of others while enriching our own through community involvement. This reflects the inspired and dedicated work of members of the FGCA. I am proud to share their accomplishments with you.

Patience – How many years have residents talked about wanting a special space for our youth? Well now we have it!! Well done everyone!

Perseverance – Over the last few years the board and staff have struggled to convey the sense of what we do and what we are

capable of doing together. They have put their minds towards how to market the organization to ensure recognition and quality service, looking at branding, logo, key statements and identifying a vision statement. The work of marketing has continued into this next year.

Promotion – Telling others about who we are and what do we do has been a helpful exercise in identifying our strengths, to ourselves and then to everyone else. We are doing this through special events like Fall Fairfield and our fundraiser, the Community Jazz Gala.

What do I see ahead for us? We keep adding to our capacity and in the process we get better and better in managing our resources. This year we have increased our capacity to support volunteers by hiring our first Community Development Coordinator - Kaari van Nostrand. Our plans include increasing the capacity of our citizens to take on more volunteer responsibilities and opportunities, strengthening our board capacity, and focusing on increasing our financial capacity in keeping with our mission statement.

Our brand new youth space



FGCA Board of Directors

The following community members served on the FGCA board of directors in 2011-12

Trish Aikens*
Lynn Beak*
Joan Cahill*
Scott Davis*
Julie Holder
Mia Korn*
Chloe Markgraf
Michael Masson*
Don Monsour
John Muller
Edward Pullman*
Philip Sawkins*
Linda Siegel*
Dean Tarangle*

*current board member
as of October 2012



People Make the Difference

The FGCA takes pride in recognizing volunteers who dedicate time and money to support the association's delivery of affordable, family-oriented programs, services and events. Behind the scene volunteers such as the board of directors sometimes go unnoticed for all the visioning and governing work that is of utmost importance to secure a future and sustainability of the community centre for the Fairfield Gonzales neighbourhood.

Lynn Beak is currently the longest serving active board member on the FGCA board. She joined the board in the winter of 2001 and has been part of many changes at the community centre. She has served on the Place Committee for five years. She has also spent two years as Board Secretary and the last three years as Treasurer.



Joining the board was an opportunity to learn more about my new community as well as a chance to contribute to it. My family and I moved to Gonzales from northern Ontario in 1996, and I felt a need to become more involved and to ground myself here. I have learned so much about Fairfield Gonzales and the city from my Board involvement. As a historian, I treasure my deeper, richer understanding of how our community grew. This knowledge helps sustain me as I participate in planning for the future."

-Lynn Beak
FGCA Treasurer
2011-2012

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. Membership forms can be found on our website at :

www.fairfieldcommunity.ca/getinvolved/join us

The Board at Work



Community Garden Sub-Committee (of StreetLIFE)

The Community Garden Sub-Committee (CGC) enjoyed a fruitful year which carried the Fairfield-Gonzales neighbourhood several steps closer to getting its first community garden. In February 2012 the CGC submitted a proposal to the City of Victoria to establish a permaculture commons in Robert Porter Park. The proposal is currently in review by the Parks Department. Pending approval, the proposal will then be forwarded to city council for their consideration. In April 2012 the CGC hosted an afternoon forum on food security, titled *Fairfield Garden Matters*, which gathered an audience of some 25 people. In May 2012 members of the CGC up-potted several perennial food-bearing plants, including Desert King fig, edible chestnut, and Red Flowering currant, destined for the proposed permaculture commons. The CGC eagerly awaits the coming year and all it offers for the community. For more information please see <http://www.fairfieldcommunity.ca/events> or contact Erika Verlinden at erika.verlinden@gmail.com.

StreetLIFE Committee

The StreetLIFE Committee became active again in 2012, with renewed energy and membership looking ahead to plenty of community engagement and fun in the year to come. Co-Chair James Pratt presented at the *Spirited Summer* series at the Fairfield United Church, connecting with congregation members and building support for our initiatives.

StreetLIFE has been receiving more concerns about pedestrian safety at Fairfield and Moss, as well as suggestions for what can be done to improve pedestrian safety and cycling infrastructure. In response, the committee will be inviting residents to participate in more community visioning processes - such as our wildly successful "Design-O-Rama".

Watch for FUNfield activities in the months to come. For more information on StreetLIFE contact: James Pratt, james@prattconsulting.ca

Planning and Zoning Committee

The Planning and Zoning Committee is seeking active committee members.

Planning and Zoning deals with land use issues on behalf of the association by hosting and facilitating community meetings and providing feedback to the City of Victoria. The committee will promote and respect the Community Association Land Use Committee's Policy (CALUC) and the City of Victoria's new Official Community Plan (available at www.shapeyourfuturevictoria.ca)

If you are passionate about land use in Fairfield and Gonzales and want to share your time, contact volunteer@fairfieldcommunity.ca for more information.

Plastics Recycling

By Susanna Grimes

For the past thirteen years, the FGCA has operated a flourishing community-based plastics recycling program for local residents that has recycled over 250 three-ton truckloads of plastics and provided \$35,000 to the Association. Volunteers – who have made the whole program possible - donate nearly one thousand hours annually.

New program ideas implemented within the past year have been: a free “re-useables area” that keeps serviceable plastic objects out of the recycling stream, a method that allows depot users to donate directly to the Association, and a targeted promotional flyer campaign.

Another change came by way of the CRD. In May 2012, the Blue Box program expanded to include milk cartons and Tetrapaks. These have historically accounted for ~15% of total volume at the depots.

Despite the ongoing success of the program, volumes and revenue have been slowly and steadily declining over the past 3 years. The primary reason is that there are simply more options to the public to recycle items (a good thing). Materials that will remain unique to the plastic recycling depots for the time being, will be styrofoam, soft plastics, oversized plastics, and mixed paper (though some of these are accepted at the Hartland Landfill).

Nevertheless, there is much potential to expand the service, as many households in Fairfield still do not participate in the program (~1000 do). With targeted promotion, the program could well flourish, in some form, for many years.

Many residents bring recyclables to the depots on behalf of others: their workplace, a family member, neighbour or friend.

For your next visit, think about helping out someone else, and double your recycling karma!

Plastics Recycling in Fairfield

The following materials can be recycled at the monthly depots:

Styrofoam, soft plastics, all hard plastics, foil bags, mixed paper products, batteries, electronics, small appliances, milk cartons and tetrapaks, bicycle tires & tubes.

A modest fee is collected, a portion of which is donated back to the community association. Refundable container revenue is given to local charities.

4th Saturday of every month

9am-11am St. Matthias Church

10am-12pm Canadian Red Cross

Visit our website for more details



Our Partners

Pacific Mobile Depots
Canadian Red Cross
St Matthias Church



Family Programs

By Ro Fife,

Family Programs Coordinator

Quality
Respectful
Pro-Active
A

Family Programs at the Place remain a small but vital community gateway for many caregivers of young children in south Victoria. The primary goal of our Family programs is the need to support and engage primary caregivers as the most important influence in the life of a young child. Our programming continues to feature caregiver and child drop in sessions. The Fairfield Five Points Preschool rounds out our formal programming. We have revitalized parent education offerings through the *Laugh and Learn... then Lunch* group which runs parallel to parent and tot drop-ins on Thursdays. Another activity which has been restructured and revitalized is the family-focused clothing swap now scheduled monthly on Saturdays.

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. We rebooted our parent education and support group, re-establishing it as a weekly support group with a shared meal. We now offer this session as a concurrent group while our regular drop-in happens, to best engage parents with very young children. *Laugh and Learn ...then Lunch* has grown in popularity and enables parents to both have an adult conversation and share a meal with others.

Family Programs at the Place

DROP IN PROGRAMMING

- Parent and Tot
- Kindergym
- Family Clothing Swap

PARENT SUPPORT AND EDUCATION

- Laugh and Learn ...then Lunch
- Victoria Queer Families group

EARLY LEARNING

- Fairfield Five Points Preschool

Family Program Funders

Our programs are dedicated to universal access and offer low or no-fee activities to ensure access to all. Our key funding partners are:

Public Health Agency of Canada
(Health Promotion Division)

- Parent and Tot drop ins

BC Ministry of Children and
Family Development

- Laugh and Learn...then Lunch
- Five Points Preschool



People Make the Difference!

Family programs are seen as “soft” social services, where relationships are made to combat the isolated job of parenting. Our staff models care, compassion and community commitment to all of our caregivers and their families. I remain humbled to work with my wonderful team of staff: Cathy Roberts, Ute von Salzen, Erika Goetz Lad and Chrystine Green. They truly emulate that “it takes a village”.

Fall Recreation at the Place

COOKING

Cooking with Local Ingredients
West Coast Vegetarian Entrees
Vegetarian Recipes from Africa
Gourmet Vegetarian Soups
Pasta, Pesto & Gnocchi
Swiss Cuisine
Unusual Winter Salads
Pasta Making
Gourmet Food Made Healthy

At the Sultan's Table

Finger Foods
Patience leads to Bread
Mediterranean Cuisine

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
Christmas Paper Making /Papercraft

CHILDREN SPORTS

Sportball
Little People Yoga

Community Recreation

By Thomas King,
Recreation Coordinator

Once again, recreation programs at the FGCA are anchored by five popular instructors/programs: Lauren Cox (Iyengar Yoga), Jordan Hanson (African Hand Drumming), Isabel Santos (Zumba/ Zumba Toning), Richardson Sports (Sportball), and Heidi Fink (Cooking). These programs are responsible for over 90 percent of the participants in FGCA recreation programs!

This year the FGCA experimented with offering more courses at times we had not offered programming in the past, with mixed results. We offered Zumba classes on Friday mornings at 7am; and Parent and Tot Yoga classes on Mondays and Wednesdays after lunch; and Self Shiatsu classes on Saturdays during our administrative hours. We managed to run half of the classes at less than half capacity, but the upside is that new instructors get an opportunity to gauge the viability of running the course at the centre.

Another notable challenge to registration came in the Winter and Spring session as numbers were significantly lower in many of the cooking classes, with about half of the classes offered being canceled. The goal for next year is to re-package our cooking classes in a way that differentiates us from the new competition of high-end cooking classes opening up in the downtown area.

Picking up the slack this year was the addition of a new program called Nia Dance that ran on Tuesday evenings, each session with 75-100 percent capacity. Nia Dance is an excellent example of a program that started out in one of the FGCA's small and less used rooms at a time when it could be adequately supported by our administrative team without straining the FGCA's limited resources. Nia's instructor, Deborah Redfern, (right) had her own marketing strategy and was willing to adapt her program's needs to the FGCA's available resources in order to run a successful class. Well done!



Out of School Care

By Sarah Angus,
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. Staffing was a challenge as returning staff went on to other pursuits after completing their education. While the task of training can be daunting, the FGCA successfully hired upwards of ten new staff members, who brought fresh enthusiasm and variety to the program.

There was also a change in managers at the start of the 2011/2012 school year, with Caroline Roberts taking over at Margaret Jenkins OSC and Ashlee Daidone at Sundance OSC. The springtime brought more changes as Candace Negm, Child Care Coordinator for the past five years, made the exciting transition into motherhood. The ripple effect resulted in opportunities of growth for some of our current staff members. I, Sarah Angus, as the previous Fairfield OSC Manager, moved into the Child Care Coordinator role. Ashlee Daidone, Sundance OSC Manager, took on the larger program of Fairfield OSC, and a front line staff member, Katelyn Burke, stepped up to the task of managing Sundance OSC.

As in recent years, Fairfield was the largest OSC program in 2011/12. It occupies four of the six rooms within the FGCA's main building. The second largest program is Margaret Jenkins OSC, utilizing two portables and the brick annex on the school grounds. Sundance OSC, our smallest program, runs daily out of the gym in the school itself.



Winter and Spring camps saw a large influx this past year as families filled the spaces and leaving a small waitlist on many days. The FGCA successfully applied for and received a Canada Summer Jobs Grant of \$6456.00, which allowed us to hire a student manager for our 2012 program. The grant assisted in funding the 14 week position, which was awarded to an internal candidate, Katie Lore. Registration numbers were a challenge again this summer and we were forced to cut our camp spaces from 40 down to 20 in 6 of the 8 weeks. Despite this set back our experienced and enthusiastic team provided excellent care throughout the summer.

OUT of SCHOOL CARE PROGRAMS

FAIRFIELD OSC
Serving Sir James Douglas Elementary

MARGARET JENKINS OSC
Serving Margaret Jenkins Elementary

**Includes two funded positions for Supported Child Care Workers from Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health, for children with higher needs*

SUNDANCE OSC
Serving Sundance Elementary
**Includes two Supported Child Care Workers*

CAMPS

WINTER BREAK CAMP
SPRING BREAK CAMP
**Includes one Supported Child Care Worker*

SUMMER CAMP
**Includes two Supported Child Care Workers*

PRESCHOOL

MOSS ROCK PRE-SCHOOL

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT THE PLACE

AFTER SCHOOL DROP-INS & OUTREACH

- Youth Zone
- Chill Zone
- Jump N Start

PARTNER PROGRAMS

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

Did you know?

With the help of RBC and Shaw TV the FGCA was able to sponsor three youth to participate in the Youth Zone program.

Check out the FGCA website for the **Youth Zone's** Anti-Bullying public service announcement video!

My son has really enjoyed his afternoons [at Youth Zone]. It gave him some time with his peers to become a more independent person. He gained responsibility and learned new things that we couldn't teach him

- Parent

I appreciate all of this because it built my friendships and trust and most of all because I had fun

-Youth Zone Participant

Youth Programs

By Thomas King & Kaari van Nostrand,
Youth Supervisor

The 2011/2012 school year was an exciting time for youth programs at the FGCA. In late September 2011, the long-awaited designated youth space was completed. Existing FGCA youth programs, like Chill Zone and Jump N Start, as well as South Island Pride Community Centre's (SIPCC) W.H.A.T. program, are now revived thanks to this accessible, resourced space just for youth. Promoting these programs in various school classrooms built rapport with over 72 youth from grades five through eight in the local community, and a resulted in a year of memorable friendships and fun! **NEW Youth Zone!**

In addition to these programs, the FGCA envisioned creating another afterschool drop-in to provide experiential learning and leadership to youth in grades five and six transitioning from the OSC programs to the bustling Victoria youth scene.

In October 2011, a pilot of the Youth Zone program was launched. With nine youth enrolled, the Youth Zone participants took part in various team-building and leadership activities, attended weekly workshops, and hosted community barbeques while making new friends. A highlight of the year was the Youth Zone's participation in the Anti-Bullying Film Festival hosted by the Boys and Girls Club Services of Victoria.



Local Bank Shows Support For Youth

Community members were joined by a volunteer team from the RBC in Cook Street Village to take part in the City of Victoria sponsored program called VTAG - Victoria Together Against Graffiti. Thirteen volunteers took to the streets surrounding the Fairfield Community Place to remove graffiti and to repaint hydro poles. The RBC team used this volunteer opportunity to access their Community Service program and raise \$2000.00 for the FGCA's youth programs!

Administration

By Pippa Davis, *Administrative Assistant*

Our team's goal is to support program delivery, from a helpful, welcoming public access point, to our well-maintained, behind the scenes, infrastructure. We had many successes this past year.

Reception was, as usual, busy, unpredictable and rewarding. Pippa Davis and Vanya McDonnell balanced the demands of secretarial work with the random tangents of reception. Pippa Davis enjoyed completing a yearlong cycle of our Program Guide, with lots of positive staff and community feedback, as well as contributing to the planning and production of the Observer Newsletter. The reception team also functioned as the FGCA's communications hub, maintaining our website and membership database.

Despite the withdrawal of funding for the Community Access Program through Industry Canada, we continue to offer free computer and internet access to the public. Operations Director Ro Fife and Bookkeeper Pam Norman smoothly transitioned the change of our fiscal year end to July 31st, in addition to maintaining the daily finance and operations routines.

Often, it seems, the work of the administration team goes unnoticed; we take that as an indicator that our systems are working well!

Facility

By John Taylor, *Facilities Coordinator*

It never looks good in the beginning.... but with the support and help of City of Victoria staff the Place Building saw the completion of a major upgrade. We now have a dedicated youth space, new accessible washroom and access to the rear of our building, and organized ground level storage space.

At the same time we took the opportunity to replace the flooring in the entrance lobby, in the Family Room where little ones crawl, and the Garry Oak Room where bigger people spend time on the floor doing yoga. We continue to have heavy use of our commercial kitchen. The International Women's Catering Co-op is in their fourteenth year. Rosamond Ricketts of "Rosy's Jams" makes all her products here, as does Carlos Guzman of "Tamales Don Carlos", whom you can find on Saturdays at the Moss Street Market. The smell of baking bread no longer wafts our way as Claudio Costi (left), of "Il Forno di Claudio", now works from a bigger place that better accommodates his growing business. Read about Claudio and his flourishing business in the September 2012 issue of the Fairfield Gonzales Observer newsletter. We can't accommodate everyone, but when we can, we are happy to incubate new businesses, especially when we can sample the wares.



We continue the quest to upgrade our facility to make best use of the space for our programs and for the community.

17 Youth & Family Counselors

Over 1200 students and families counseled

3 most frequent student concerns of 2011-12:

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

Youth and Family Counselors

By Ro Fife, *Operations Director*

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. We employ 17 YFCs, equating to 13.2 FTE positions, supporting the students and families in 13 schools ranging from elementary to secondary. Together these counselors take on a service caseload of over 90 individuals and/or families.

What do they do?

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. Being employed by the community association provides these counselors with a neutrality and independence that enhances the work.

How is FGCA involved?

The YFC contract has grown over the past twenty years, initially employing one counselor to now serving six of the seven family of schools for the district. As a strong believer in partnerships, we also sub-contract some of this work (approximately 8 FTE) to Blanshard Community Centre to anchor those staff positions in their traditional community agency. Our current contract is valued at over one million dollars each school year, and greatly offsets our core operating and administration staffing costs.

Why the FGCA is involved?

As the contracted partner with the school district, the FGCA earned a valuable reputation as a progressive service provider grounded in community. This YFC service is a logical extension of our family-focused centre which values the concept that it takes a village to build a healthy community. Keeping youth in school is a key pillar in that village.

YFC Schools

ELEMENTARY

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

MIDDLE

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

SECONDARY

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

For more information consult the South Vancouver Island Youth and Family Counselor Association website at www.schoolyfc.ca



People
make the
difference!

Kathie Cross has worked for our community association for over twenty years, starting as a Youth and Family Counselor at Central Junior High in 1989. She has experienced tremendous changes in both the FGCA and the school district. She has worked diligently to establish the professional association for this unique counseling role. Kathie values the support and independence that being an FGCA employee affords her in her current work at Central Middle School. She makes a positive difference with every student she encounters. Well Done Kathie!

Special Events



FALL FAIRfield

Artist-in-residence Carolyn Knight brought flare and vibrancy to our new event. By engaging the community through art-making workshops, producing pennants, giant papier-mache apples, and sunflowers, Carolyn created a closer network of FGCA staff, board members, program participants, volunteers and community members. 500 people took part, learning new skills and building community connections. Event attendees gave their two thumbs up, appreciating the "community feel", participatory opportunities, and intergenerational appeal of the event. More photos on Facebook!

Community Jazz Gala

February 10th, 2012 marked the FGCA's inaugural *Community Jazz Gala* fundraising event. Partnering with over ninety local businesses and CTV as our major Television Media Sponsor, the FGCA raised over \$7000.00! Supporters gathered at the CFB Wardroom Officer's Mess to raise money for the children, youth, family and recreation programs provided to over 20,000 service users. Seventy attendees enjoyed live local jazz music by The Esquimalt High School Senior Jazz Combo, Anne Schaefer and Zach Santella in a grand piano duet and the Trio Espresso band. The energy rose as the live auction kicked off with the sale of a vintage upright piano as well as a bustling silent auction and interactive fundraising games. Hope to see you there next year!



Family Fun Day

Each year in June the FGCA Out of School Care programs host a free family appreciation event for all of its participants. The event includes a BBQ, bouncy castle, fair games, music, and a special feature this year; OSC utilized one of our talented recreation instructors, Isabel Arias Santos, who teaches popular Zumba classes in the Garry Oak Room. Isabel had children, staff, and parents alike moving to music. There were 140 children attending the event, along with many of their parents. They partook in free activities and OSC fun for the afternoon. We look forward to our next event.

Volunteer Services

By Julie Cormier,
Community Development Manager

Proof is in the pudding – volunteerism works! From designing info-graphics to story writing, volunteers are building organizational capacity at the FGCA. These volunteers provide support across this non-profit organization by leading and facilitating projects that would not exist otherwise. Built on a strong history in volunteerism, the community association was launched by a group of dedicated residents and nurtured over the years by board members, who have built what we are today, a neighbourhood-based service provider.

By dedicating efforts in volunteer coordination beyond existing programs and services, this past year was focused on welcoming and recruiting new volunteers. This work has been particularly rewarding as efforts are not so much geared towards management, but rather engagement. As part of a community engagement strategy, volunteerism harnesses the power of social capital. Social capital is about relationship-building, and about the sparks that develop in the form of ideas, action and visions when people are connecting and working together for a common cause.

The volunteer program takes on the same philosophy as the other FGCA program that is to ensure quality and accessibility for all. This means providing meaningful opportunities for a diverse range of abilities and needs. My favorite thing to hear from a volunteer is, 'I'm so excited about this project' or 'I've been thinking about this project and have some ideas'. These words, to me, signal meaningful involvement!



Who Volunteers at the FGCA? And why?

A diverse group of people are giving their time and expertise to the community association. Some are Fairfield residents, others not, some newcomers and others longstanding Victorians. These philanthropists are here to gain new skills, build connections, and support their community centre. Breyn is one of the youth volunteers at the FGCA who is thinking about his future. He gained work experience by assisting with our clothing swap, preserving archival material, and completing a photo project, which you can find on our Facebook page. Breyn is hoping this experience will help him find a job when he turns 14. Best of luck Breyn and thanks for your time!

Volunteer-Led Projects

ARCHIVES PROJECT

Preserving and digitizing over 35 years of history of the FGCA and Fairfield Gonzales neighbourhood

MEMBERSHIP

Reviving member program and engagement strategies

MOSS STREET MARKET BOOTH

Engaging local residents through arts and crafts

WRITING & EDITING

Story writing and editing FGCA communications material

CREATIVE PROJECTS

"Grow Your Neighbourhood"

infographic design

String lantern-making workshop

The Observer is Back!

2011-12

re-established

the Fairfield

Gonzales

Observer as a

community

newsletter.

Interested

volunteers

should contact :

development@fairfieldcommunity.ca



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*

\$1,248,042
Wage costs for 2011-12

\$1,414,153
Total employer costs 2011-12

5
Full time, year round staff

94
T4s issued in 2011

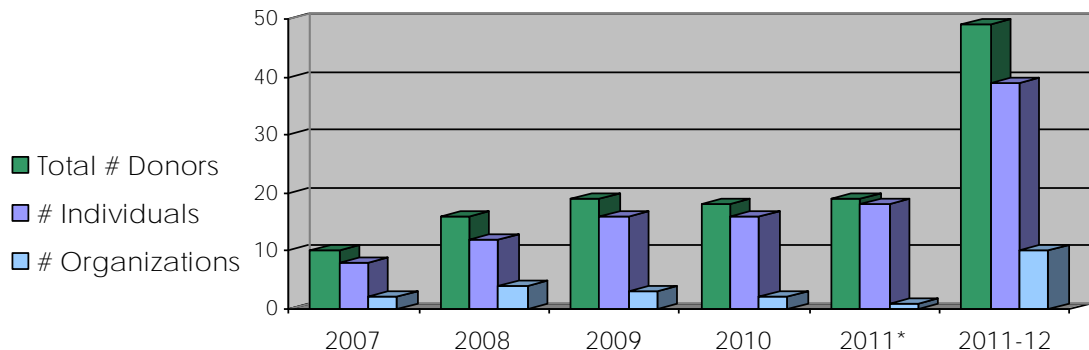
\$62,720
Costs of extended benefit coverage

25
Staff enrolled in extended health benefits
(2011-12)

78%
Wage and employer costs
as % of actual expenses

Growing our Revenue

As the costs of doing business increase and our organizational funding stays stagnant, we have refocused our efforts on growing our donation revenue. Through careful planning and promotion, including our fundraising Community Jazz Gala and a Youth Space capital campaign, the FGCA has been steadily growing its donor base.



* seven month truncated year due to fiscal year end change

Financial Support for the FGCA

FUNDERS (funding based on contractual relationship)

GOVERNMENTAL BODIES



Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada

Public Health Agency of Canada
Industry Canada
Human Resource Development Canada



BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

Ministry of Children and Family Development
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch



Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture

NON-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES



School District #61



United Way



PECSF

Provincial Employees
Community Services Fund

ORGANIZATIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

2011-12 was a year of substantial growth for the FGCA in nurturing our business and organizational relationships as we increased our outreach to the private sector for financial donations and event sponsorships. In past years, Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) has contributed to the FGCA special events with both volunteers and funds, but this year the local Cook Street Village branch earmarked their volunteer day in the community to an anti-graffiti work party at The Place as well as contributing needed funds to outfit our new Youth program space.

2011-12 saw a healthy increase in individual donations as well, in part due to a direct donor campaign for our Youth space renovations, which raised \$11,195.00 to assist the FGCA in finally achieving designated Youth programming space. Thank you to the forty-eight donors who contributed to the "Safe Space" Capital Campaign.

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

FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

The FGCA hosted the *Community Jazz Gala*, their first full scale fundraiser February 10th, 2012. The inaugural Community Jazz Gala created a strong base for successive years raising over \$7,000.00 gross and establishing relationships with over ninety new businesses through sponsorships and auction donations. The Community Jazz Gala is part of a larger strategic plan to establish sustainable funding for programs and to increase our community profile.

For more information about our donation and fundraising initiatives contact development@fairfieldcommunity.ca or visit the "Get Involved" section of our website.

For a full list of the many business and organizational donors to the FGCA in 2011-12 visit our website (www.fairfieldcommunity.ca/aboutFGCA)

Grow your Neighbourhood

Connect

Participate

Donate

Volunteer



FGCA INFOGRAPHIC BY VOLUNTEER ERIKA MCMURRAY