



**FAIRFIELD GONZALES**  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

*the place to connect*



# ***ANNUAL REPORT***

***AUGUST 1ST 2013  
TO JULY 31ST 2014***

**Annual General Meeting  
October 27th 2014, 7pm  
1330 Fairfield Road**

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*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*  
*Joan Kotarski*



This last year was a time of transitions and decisions and celebrations.

**TRANSITIONS**

At the beginning of the school year our recently returned from maternity leave OSC coordinator Candace Negm got an offer from the Province she could not refuse. We welcomed back Kristina Wilcox (last year's Sundance manager) who took over the position with admirable skill. We also said good bye to Jen Brown as FFOSC manager and welcomed back Sarah Angus from maternity leave only to say good bye to Sarah as again the Province made her an offer she could not refuse. Luckily for us Jen Brown was available and she stayed with us until the beginning of the next school year. After a year in the new position of Community Development Coordinator, Kaari van Nostrand choose to pursue her career in Banff. Among a very competitive field of applicants, Vanya McDonnell was awarded the position. Thank you to past and new staff. It would be disingenuous of me not to mention the difficulty of transitioning from June to September during the teacher action. So many of our programs were impacted if not directly, indirectly, as we juggled spaces and rearranged or delayed programs. I have only the deepest admiration and gratitude to our staff for all the thoughtful hard work they put into challenging circumstances.

**DECISIONS**

The FGCA was seriously evaluating our Out of School Care (OSC) presence at Sundance Elementary School when the school district took the decision out of our hands and announced the closure of Sundance School at the end of the school year. We worked very hard to accommodate the families who chose to move to either Sir James Douglas Elementary (SJD) or Margaret Jenkins Elementary (MJ) schools to provide childcare if needed. In fact, we added additional spaces at MJ, not only because of the closure, but the increased demand from the school parents/guardians at MJ. While it was challenging to get organized, working with the old and new principals at MJ and the district, the needed space was ready for the start of the school year (even if it was delayed a month). We also had some hard choices to make in reducing our operating budget but again our staff rose to the occasion and found efficiencies even at a cost to them personally. On a personal note, I made the hard choice to retire and set a target date to the end of 2015.

**CELEBRATIONS**

One would think that given all the transitions and tough decisions we would not have much to celebrate, but au contraire, we are rich in celebratory events and occasions. Another fabulous year of special events like: Fall Fairfield Harvest Fete – only gets better and better; our AGM – celebrating 'it is people who make the difference'; Our magnificent fundraising gala with our new fabulous site partner – the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria; a special FGCA Board of Directors reunion; OSC Family fun day; and many more programs and individuals celebrated events. Next year, September 7<sup>th</sup> 2015, marks our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary – now that rates a party!!





**BOARD PRESIDENT**  
*Edward Pullman*

Once again, it is my privilege to deliver a few words about the FGCA in this annual report. Sadly, this will be my last one as President of the FGCA, as I have just departed Fairfield for a new residence in Hillside-Quadra (the perils of being a renter!)

This year has seen our community association overcome the challenges of a tough fiscal climate, and job action brought about by the recent Teacher’s Strike. The staff and volunteers at the Place continue to perform their duties impeccably, and I am forever grateful for their dedication and commitment to our community.

From the Moss Street Market, to our Fall Fair, to our youth programming, to the classes and lessons we host for all ages and abilities, the Place continues to be the heart and soul of this wonderful community we are blessed to live in.

Enjoy the meeting, and please let us know if you have any questions, concerns, ideas, or anything else we can help you with. It’s a job all the staff, directors and volunteers do with pride and love.

**FGCA 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.



# BOARD & COMMITTEES

PLANNING & ZONING  
COMMUNITY GARDEN  
STREETLIFE  
PLASTIC RECYCLING  
FUND DEVELOPMENT

## BOARD MEMBERS IN 2013/2014

**EDWARD PULLMAN**, *President*  
**PAUL BROWN**, *Vice President*  
**LYNN BEAK**, *Treasurer*  
**CHRISTOPHER SCHMIDT**, *Secretary*  
**TORRANCE COSTE**  
**SCOTT DAVIS**  
**DAVID EDGINGTON**  
**SUSAN SNELL**  
**DEAN TARANGLE**  
**DREW TUPPER**  
**GEORGE ZADOR**



## PLANNING & ZONING *George Zador, Chair*

The Planning and Zoning Committee is mandated by the City of Victoria to receive and review proposals for development involving land use rezoning in the Fairfield-Gonzales community, prior to their formal submission to the City. The Committee holds Community Meetings where such proposals are presented to the affected public. Reporting back to the City, it acts as the voice of the community regarding the effects of the development on the neighbourhood. The projects may be as small as a single family zoned lot seeking rezoning for a garden suite, or as complex as a large high-rise apartment building covering several lots.

The past year has seen steady ongoing activity in our community; twelve projects were presented at six meetings, and in addition, the Committee also handled a large number of phone calls and e-mails for advice and direction from community members regarding planned or ongoing building projects.





## *COMMUNITY GARDEN*

*Bonnie Mae Newsmall, Member*

The garden is doing well, with the trees and berry bushes surviving their first winter in good condition. Funds from our matching grant were used to purchase tools, equipment, plumbing supplies, additional nursery stock, and other materials.

Four work parties were held in May and June to sheet mulch the garden in order to keep weeds down, and define the garden beds. Paths were dug, soil amendments and cardboard were spread over the beds, and everything was covered over with bark chips. The cages were removed and weeded inside, and the earlier plantings were re-mulched. Additional berry bushes and understory plants were planted. Each work party had a dozen or two volunteers, a mix of old and new people, with Geoff or Erika directing the sheet mulching. People worked hard and reported having a good time – in all, hundreds of volunteer hours. The irrigation system was completed, and plumbing issues were addressed throughout the summer.

We'll be continuing the work of sheet mulching and planting, and our future plans include building on the signage we have begun, and installing a garden shed and perhaps other amenities at the site.

## *STREETLIFE*

*Jazmin Snider, Chair & James Pratt, Member*

Streetlife has been involved with Moss Street tabling/outreach, Fall Fairfield, Village Building and the first annual 'Spring Clean' neighbourhood-wide yard sale event in 2014. The committee typically meets monthly and has an ongoing focus of 'Bringing Community Alive' through engagement and community building. It actively promotes Street Parties, and has hosted community dialogues regarding cohousing and the formation of the Legacy Housing Land Trust, a new community-based regional entity which will acquire and steward land for purposes of sustainable living.

## *PLASTIC RECYCLING*

*Susanna Grimes, Manager*

Since 1999, the FGCA has operated a very successful community-based plastics recycling program for local residents. The program has:

- Recycled over 300 three-ton truckloads of plastics from local residents since 1999
- Generated \$5,000 in revenue to the FGCA for this fiscal year
- Donated thousands of dollars from container deposits to local charities since 1999
- Engaged 50+ volunteers who collectively donate 1000 hours each year

Recycling in the region took a big step forward in May 2014 with the advent of a new province-wide Packaging and Printed Paper (PPP) stewardship program, administered by Multi Material BC. Shifting the cost of recycling from consumers to producers should both reduce the amount of packaging produced, and increase the percentage that gets recycled. It is uncertain what effect – if any – this will have on depot operations.

Other recycling events this year were: a Hartland tour for volunteers in the spring; the Fairfield Gonzales Spring Clean on May 24<sup>th</sup>; and a new FGCA event combined “3-R” awareness with community-wide yard sales.

Efforts to educate residents on reusing and reducing will be the focus for the upcoming year. For example, providing more information on where residents can donate reusable items locally, and what residents can do to reduce household hazardous waste and other difficult-to-recycle items.





## **FUND DEVELOPMENT**

*Vanya McDonnell, Coordinator*

As with all non-profits, we are constantly working to secure funding for the services we provide. This unseen work to diversify funding streams ensures a sustainable future for our programs. Staff, board, and volunteers all contribute to fund development efforts.

**\$14,500 THROUGH OUR GALA EVENT**  
**\$3,200 IN SPONSORSHIPS**  
**\$9,163 IN INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS**

### **SUCCESSFUL GRANTS**

United Way Jump 'N' Start expansion –2 year funding  
Sara Spencer Foundation Grant for Youth Zone button maker  
RBC Day of Service Grant  
City of Victoria Neighbourhood Enhancement Matching Grant

### **SPONSORSHIPS**

Realtors of Greater Victoria – General Sponsor  
Duttons Real Estate – Youth Zone Sponsor  
Abstract Developments – Gala Sponsor  
Megson Fitzpatrick Insurance – Gala Sponsor  
Peak Business Solutions – Gala Sponsor

We also had the support of over 80 generous in-kind sponsors this year. Please visit [www.fairfieldcommunity.ca](http://www.fairfieldcommunity.ca) for a full listing.

### **APPEALS**

Fall Fairfield Donations, Sept. 2013  
Giving Tuesday Appeal, Nov.-Dec. 2013  
Raffle, Nov.-Dec. 2013

### **FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

Fairfield Gonzales Gala, April 2014

“The centre is a hub and a connector for families and individuals that live in the Fairfield/Gonzales area. The Centre is well aware of the trends and issues in its neighbourhood, and works in collaboration with the community to create an environment within its centre and within the community that allows people to feel welcome and safe.” – *United Way of Greater Victoria*





# PROGRAMS

RECREATION  
OUT OF SCHOOL CARE  
YOUTH  
PRESCHOOLS  
FAMILY DROP INS



## RECREATION

*Thomas King, Coordinator*

The FGCA provided a number of child and adult recreation based registered programs last year over four seasonal sessions.

**750 REGISTRATIONS**  
**150 DROP-IN VISITS**  
**10 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTORS**

"I like the variations and individual attention in Lauren's Iyengar Yoga class. Thanks for another great session!" - *Class participant*

Bellyfit  
Nia  
Zumba  
Zumba Toning  
Zumba 15-15-15  
African Hand Drumming (1 & 2)  
Iyengar Yoga (Beginner & Intermediate)  
Spanish (1 & 2)  
Spring Forest Qi Gong  
Drop-in Badminton  
Kids' Hip-Hop  
Sportball  
Sportball Soccer

## *OUT OF SCHOOL CARE*

*Kristina Wilcox, Coordinator*

The FGCA delivers high quality licensed child care to many families in our community.

**165 CHILDREN ENROLLED  
24 STAFF**

Before & After School Care for:

Margaret Jenkins Elementary

Sir James Douglas Elementary

Sundance Elementary

Professional Development Day Camps

Winter & Spring Break Camps

Summer Camps

Strike Camp (June 23<sup>th</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup>) – this camp was put in place as a response to the Teachers' job action.

Sundance Elementary School closed its doors at the end of June 2014, thus resulting in the closure of our Out of School Care program at that location.

"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."

- Parent







## YOUTH

*Emma Zabloski, Manager*

The FGCA facilitated four youth programs (two onsite and two offsite), and provided space for three other organizations to offer their programs. The FGCA ran its registered Youth Zone program Mondays to Wednesdays, and its drop-in Chill Zone program after school at the Fairfield Community Place's youth space. The FGCA also continued to run its outreach mentorship Jump N Start program at Central Middle School and George Jay Elementary School after school on Thursday and Fridays, respectively. All of the programs ran at near or full capacity throughout the year.

**556 CHILL ZONE DROP INS  
35 IN YOUTH ZONE & JUMP 'N' START  
4 STAFF, 2 PRACTICUM STUDENTS,  
3 YFCS, 4 VOLUNTEERS**

Youth Zone  
Chill Zone Drop-In  
Jump 'N' Start  
Partner Programs

"Just wanted to say that the program is well thought out with a great variety of activities that (my son) really enjoyed participating in. Thanks to all of you! "  
- Parent



## FAMILY DROP-INS

*Ro Fife, Coordinator*

Parent & Tot Drop-In  
**100 FAMILIES PARTICIPATING**

Kindergym Drop-In  
**30 SESSIONS**

Laugh, Learn, then Lunch  
**36 SHARED LUNCHES**

Family Clothing Swap  
**OFFERED MONTHLY**

## *FIVE POINTS PRESCHOOL*

*Ro Fife, Coordinator*

Children learn through play. Play provides children with opportunities to explore, investigate, and practice skills. We believe it is important to promote process learning as young children are not skilful users of materials, and they are still trying things out. As well, children are interested in “doing” rather than producing a product. Parents/guardians are the first and primary caregivers of their young children. The teachers work with the family to offer support where needed. We stand by the statement “it takes a whole village to raise a child.”

**15 CHILDREN ENROLLED**

**2 STAFF**

## *MOSS ROCK PRESCHOOL*

*Kristina Wilcox, Coordinator*

Moss Rock Preschool is a licensed preschool that runs Monday–Friday between the hours of 9 am and 12 pm. The Preschool offers 2–5 day registrations for children aged 2½–5 years old and is based out of Fairfield Place. Moss Rock identifies itself as a child-centred, exploration-based program that nurtures individual needs.

**21 CHILDREN ENROLLED**

**2 STAFF**

“Moss Rock isn't really a preschool in my mind. It's so much more. It's an extension of community. Where parents are welcome to come in and make connections. Where nature and mud and art and resolving conflicts, and big emotions are accepted and embraced.” - Parent





# EVENTS & PROJECTS

FALL FAIRFIELD HARVEST FETE  
FAIRFIELD GONZALES GALA  
MOSS ST MARKET BOOTH  
SPRING CLEAN YARD SALE  
FAMILY FUN DAY  
BOARD REUNION  
ART AT THE PLACE  
OUR PLACE IS YOUR PLACE

## FALL FAIRFIELD HARVEST FETE

This year's Fall Fairfield was notable for the challenges it surmounted. When the senior staff coordinating the event moved on just prior to the Fete, the rest of the team stepped up to deliver the event seamlessly. Gale force winds and driving rain couldn't squelch the enthusiasm of the staff, volunteers, and presenters who came out to celebrate their community. This was a day we will never forget!

"Rain or shine ... all will be fine. I played until soaked. Drummed, mad hatted, cookied, hot cocoa-ed, souped, and now I warm up at home! Happy Autumn and thanks for a great play in the rain!" - *Attendee*



## FAIRFIELD GONZALES GALA

Our third Gala Fundraiser was a great success, due in large part to moving the venue just up the hill to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria at 1040 Moss Street. Live jazz, great food and wine, and excellent company kept event attendees in high spirits. Bob McDonald, CBC television and radio personality, was a big draw for many as he came out to speak about the fantastic place where we live and the importance of nature and science for youth. The event raised \$14,500 for youth and family programs at the FGCA, and built many new partnerships.

"What an elegant, fun event – well done!" - *Guest*





### *MOSS ST MARKET BOOTH*

Our weekly attendance at the Moss Street Market continued to be an important piece of community engagement, and a space to showcase our programs and projects. With thousands of people flocking to the Market each week, it's a great space to talk about issues, make art, and promote our activities.

### *SPRING CLEAN YARD SALE*

An enthusiastic team of volunteers and staff worked to create a community-wide yard sale with a difference on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Partnering with the CRD, St. Matthias Church, and The Salvation Army, residents were invited to host yard sales, and to reuse and recycle their stuff. Nearly 20 households signed up to host a sale, and many more homes hosted sales in the neighbourhood to join in on the fun.

### *FAMILY FUN DAY*

Every year we invite our Out of School Care and Preschool families to join us for fun and games (and food!) in the field behind Fairfield Community Place. This is a time to celebrate a successful year and express our appreciation for our wonderful families.

### *BOARD REUNION*

In February 2014, we invited all of the dedicated community members who have served on our board since the FGCA's inception in 1975 to a reunion at Fairfield Community Place. We tracked down many of the 162 past board members by digging through the dusty archives, searching the web, asking those in the know, and even using the good old phone book! About 35 folks made it out to the event for food, drink, and even a song, courtesy of past director and plastic recycling program co-founder Neil Vickers.

"Congratulations to the hundreds of committed community supporters who have made Fairfield and Gonzales what it is today." - *Past board member*

### *ART AT THE PLACE*

When the local group who organized art shows in our foyer disbanded, we took on hosting rotating exhibitions ourselves. Artists Shanna Baker and James Nesbitt displayed their works this year to rave reviews.

### *OUR PLACE IS YOUR PLACE*

A monthly open house hosting diverse activities.



# SERVICES

FACILITY RENTALS  
YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELLORS  
VOLUNTEERS

## FACILITY RENTALS

*Thomas King, Coordinator*

Our various rooms hosted a number of events, workshops, meetings, classes, and private functions.

**169 RENTERS**  
**832 BOOKINGS**

Sportball  
Par-T-Perfect  
International Women's Catering Co-op  
Chronic Pain Network  
VIHA  
For The Love Of Africa  
Newport Realty  
Tye Aquatic Club  
Public Safety Coalition  
Soundings Vocal Ensemble  
Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria  
Canadian Company of Pilgrims  
Volunteer Victoria  
RASCALS  
Moss Street Market  
Project Tibet Society  
Dallas Road Paragliding Society  
Clover Point Anglers Association  
Students of Colour Collective  
The Compassionate Friends  
South Vancouver Island Potters Guild  
LifeCycles  
Women In Need  
Victoria Insight Meditation Society  
Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation  
Vinyl Supernova Record Fair



"Please accept and extend thanks and good wishes the staff of the FCGA for the rental of the always-wonderful Garry Oak Room on Oct. 23, and their assistance in this endeavour. Our event was indeed a great success, due in no small part to the efforts of the FCGA staff." - Renter



## **VOLUNTEERS**

*Vanya McDonell, Coordinator*

Volunteerism at the FGCA has been steadily growing as community members give back in areas from digging dirt to publishing our newspaper.

**150 VOLUNTEERS**  
**2,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS**

Blake Tillison has been volunteering with the FGCA for 15 years! Every Wednesday afternoon he can be found doing the behind-the-scenes work that makes Fairfield Community Place tick; sweeping pathways, sorting recycling, or working in the office. Blake's affinity for current events always keeps office chatter lively and engaged. Thank you Blake for your countless hours of service and dedication!

"Positivity and support is what made my time at "FGCA is so special and fun, and encourages me to keep volunteering." - *Volunteer*

"[Volunteering] was an awesome experience that couldn't have been improved on." - *Volunteer*

Fairfield Community Garden Sustainability Project  
Observer Newspaper  
Plastics Recycling  
Through Fairfield Seasons Eco-Arts Project  
Board of Directors  
Streetlife Committee  
Moss Street Market Booth  
Planning and Zoning  
Fairfield Gonzales Gala  
Fall Fairfield  
Spring Clean Community Wide Garage Sale  
Youth Programs  
Out of School Care  
Drop-In Badminton  
Preschools  
Front Garden  
Toy Cleaning  
Facility Volunteer  
Administration  
Archives & Digitization  
Copy Editing  
Art Curator  
UVic Project Serve  
RBC Cook Street Village



## **YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELLORS**

*Ro Fife, Administrator*

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.

**1,200+ STUDENTS & FAMILIES  
17 YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELLORS**

### **MOST FREQUENT CONCERNS**

- 1 ANXIETY & STRESS**
- 2 ECONOMIC HARDSHIP**
- 3 FAMILY CONFLICT**

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

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

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



# WORKING AT FAIRFIELD

AUGUST 1ST 2013  
TO JULY 31ST 2014

## BUDGET

\$ 2,227,365

OPERATING BUDGET

## REVENUE

\$ 2,253,144

ACTUAL FOR YEAR

70 %

GOVERNMENT FUNDING,  
SCHOOL DISTRICT & GAMING

29 %

FGCA PROGRAMS & RENTAL  
REVENUE

1 %

DONATIONS, FUNDRAISING &  
GRANTS

## STAFFING

We are a major employer in the Fairfield neighbourhood. 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.

98

T4S ISSUED FOR 2013

84 %

STAFFING COSTS AS % OF OVERALL  
EXPENSES





# *FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE FGCA*



FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## **GOVERNMENTAL BODIES**

Public Health Agency of Canada  
Human Resource Development Canada  
Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch  
Island Health (formerly VIHA)  
City of Victoria

## **NON-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES**

School District #61  
United Way of Greater Victoria  
Provincial Employees Community Services Fund  
Community Social Planning Council  
Sara Spencer Foundation  
RBC Foundation  
Duttons & Co Real Estate Ltd.

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, visit our website: [www.fairfieldcommunity.ca](http://www.fairfieldcommunity.ca)

