



FAIRFIELD GONZALES
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

the place to connect



ANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST 1ST 2017
TO JULY 31ST 2018

Annual General Meeting
October 22nd 2018, 6:30pm

www.fairfieldcommunity.ca
place@fairfieldcommunity.ca
1330 Fairfield Rd.
Victoria BC V8S 5J6
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TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association is on the unceded Coast Salish Territories, specifically of the Lekwungen and WSÁNEĆ Peoples.

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FGCA MISSION STATEMENT

To create a connected, collaborative, inclusive, and sustainable community.



BOARD PRESIDENT
Don Monsour



My third year as president of the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association has been a rewarding one. Together we have accomplished so much; approving new constitution and bylaws, expanding our Out of School Care, adding all day childcare, and working with community partners to ensure we are serving Fairfield Gonzales the best that we can. Thank you to our departing board members for their hard work, and we are so pleased that so many people, of all ages, have applied to be on our board this year.

Working in unity with each other helps us to accomplish great things. Our Board, staff, and volunteers work together to enhance community life and support Victoria residents. Board members work with the Victoria Community Association Network to address common challenges and work towards common goals. Our many non-profit partners help us learn and grow. Our funders and donors make many of our programs possible with their support. Each piece of the puzzle has an important role to play in helping to create a connected, collaborative, inclusive, and sustainable community. As a long-time Gonzales resident, I am proud to be a part of the FGCA's work, and I look forward to another successful year!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Vanya McDonell

Kristina Wilcox

This year marks our third year in our roles as Executive Directors and we are honoured to call the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association our place of work. Each year, through the challenges and successes, we are reminded of the significant role community plays in each of our lives and, specifically, the importance of feeling a sense of belonging within our community. It is our strong belief that this feeling of belonging stems from creating positive relationships, relationships with the community, our staff, program users, volunteers and each other.

Reflecting on the year passed, we celebrate the successful expansion of our childcare programs. For over a year, our team worked tirelessly to create an all-day childcare program here at The Place. After renovations, recruitment and detailed operational planning, the project finally came to fruition on October 15, 2017. This program of 16 children and 3 educators has enabled the FGCA to offer a continuum of care that we believe is essential to quality care and, ultimately, strengthens our community.

Even with this expansion, we continue to see a growing need for additional, affordable childcare in our community and the surrounding communities. As such, as a team we are committed to investigating opportunities that may enable us to further meet that need.

Lastly, with every passing year, we are astounded by the level of skill and commitment our staff and volunteer team bring to the FGCA. Their drive, determination and unwavering commitment to the important work we do makes this an exceptionally special place. They truly are the backbone of this association and we want to thank each and everyone one of them!



Vanya McDonell & Kristina Wilcox

BOARD & COMMITTEES

*EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
STREETLIFE/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PLACE COMMITTEE
HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LAND USE COMMITTEE*

BOARD MEMBERS WHO SERVED IN 2017/2018

*ALEXANDRA AGES
ALICE ALBERT
DAVID BILTEK
PAUL BROWN
ANDREW BROWN WRIGHT
SCOTT DAVIS
DON MONSOUR
HEATHER MURPHY
BRYAN ROWLEY
PHILIP SAWKINS
R. FORREST SMITH
DAVID THOMPSON
ANNE TOMYN
ANDREI WHITAKER
KEVIN WHITE
GEORGE ZADOR*

The Board of Directors consists of up to 14 members at any one time. Board members serve two year terms and are elected each year at the AGM by the membership. Board members bring a broad range of perspective and expertise to the FGCA, and provide governance and leadership to the organization. Board members also participate in community development through committee work.

PLACE COMMITTEE

The Place Committee's purpose is to assist, consult with, and advise the Executive Directors, as needed, on issues generally relating to facilities maintenance, operation and programs that affect the use of premises.

Most notably, at the beginning of the 2017-18 year the Committee was pleased to participate in the successful opening of our newly refurbished portable building, which now provides all-day childcare for up to 16 children. This project was funded by the FGCA and received no funding assistance.

In addition, the following projects were either completed or started in the 2017-18 year:

- Floors in two of the Fairfield Place rooms were replaced. This was a long overdue maintenance project and now provides a safer and cleaner environment for the individuals who utilize that space. This project received funding assistance from the Ministry of Children and Family Development.
- Bathroom renovations began in the Summer of 2018 and included the replacement of our shower facility, installation of a program-friendly, utility sink. More upgrades in the works and the project is expected to be completed in the Winter of 2018. This project was funded through the Gaming Grant.
- The Committee updated its Term of Reference

All work was managed very professionally by the Executive Directors and staff, resulting in only minimal oversight requirement by the Place Committee.

STREETLIFE/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Street Life and Community Engagement Committee is the board's fun committee. We work on helping to make our neighbourhood better.

It's a new committee. Where did it come from?

This past year, the board created a Community Engagement Working Group to help develop ideas for the Association to further engage with community members. The StreetLife Committee has worked for many years on developing engagement between community members.

The two were combined this year and are gathering a range of project ideas aimed at building community and engaging residents. These include some existing programs and some new ones, some involving FGCA staff and all with volunteers:

- The annual community-wide yard sale
- Fall Fairfield (see page 16)
- The round up: a what's-going-on-in-FG resource

Intrigued? We welcome new members, new ideas, and people who just want to join us to discuss what's possible for Fairfield Gonzales. Please feel free to drop by our next meeting!





- 8 COMMUNITY WORK BEES**
128 VOLUNTEER HOURS
LOGGED
35 VOLUNTEERS
- 5 EARLY YEARS WORK BEES**
100 HOURS EXPLORING
50 PARTICIPANTS
- 1 FOOD FOREST FUNDRAISER
JACK-O-LANTERN**
25 PARTICIPANTS
5 VOLUNTEERS
\$200 RAISED FOR UNDERSTORY
PLANTING
- 2 HIGHSCHOOL WORK BEES**
30 HOURS OF MULCHING AND
WEEDING
15 PARTICIPANTS
- 4 LEARNING TO GROW SESSIONS**
172.5 HOURS OF FUN
67 CHILDREN

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE AND FAIRFIELD FOOD FOREST

In the Fall of 2017 we celebrated at Fall Fairfield, planted garlic with the FGCA early years programs, hosted a school work-bee with Glenlyon Norfolk School, and a pumpkin carving fundraiser for the garden. We rang in the New Year with our annual meeting in January.

Work parties for the food forest started in early March, a little later than previous years due to the cool wet weather. Our emphasis was on mulch- 14 yards was supplied by the City, so many wheelbarrow trips were required. In April, we had a big understory planting work-day which was very well attended. Our volunteer, Bonnie Mae, purchased a great selection of native plants for the garden, and a very enthusiastic group got them in the ground. In April, our two benches were installed, created by local builder (and artist) Chaim Sisson. Scott Davis brought our irrigation up to speed with modifications and the introduction of sprinklers, a welcome addition to the drip system he has installed over the years. April was also the month we hosted our first Food Forest workshop - "Irrigation". It was very well received - we hope to run more in the future. May was the beginning of the FGCA family program's "Learning to Grow", a program that explored the food forest & growing food. In June we began the installation of a new graffiti-detering mural on the shed. So far, it has worked!





Scott Davis & Bonnie Mae Newsmall

The Food Forest has continued to be cared for by our core volunteers as well as new volunteers. In addition to this group, we have welcomed new community members into the forest via group work parties with the FGCA's Early Years program, including Moss Rock Preschool, Camas Day Care and Five Points Preschool. We also worked with the high school students from Glenlyon Norfolk School. Working with these groups has resulted in more work being completed at the forest, increased education and awareness about the forest and local food security, and has generated new volunteers. We hope to build on the success of these group work-bees in 2019!

What's next? 2019's biggest project to tackle will be coming up with a fencing solution that will accommodate the growth of our plants, keep deer out but welcomes people in. A few ideas are in the works. We would like to encourage the FGCA Early Years programs participation, possibly creating a growing space within the garden for their explorations. The signage on the cages will be improved - the old signs have been redesigned and will be printed on metal. Once a fencing solution has been found, we will be able to install the signs and continue with our understory planting, welcoming more pollinators and a diverse selection of native & drought tolerant plants.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance Committee is a standing committee of the Board, which this year consisted of two board members and two other members of the society. The committee's purpose is to assist the Board to fulfill its legal, ethical and functional responsibilities through amongst other things, the maintenance of the constitution and bylaws, policy development, and committee terms of reference.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Updated constitution was approved by members at the October AGM and by Canada Revenue Agency in early 2018.

Updated bylaws were approved at a Special General Meeting of the members in February 2018.

New member categories were made effective, expanding eligibility to include important stakeholders, property owners, and representatives of businesses in Fairfield Gonzales.

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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LAND USE COMMITTEE (CALUC)

The CALUC is a volunteer committee helping our neighbours engage in community planning by providing opportunities and processes to collect and forward residents' comments to City Council.

Due to the recent resignation of our former Chair, David Biltek, who has stepped away after a couple or more years chairing this active Committee, we are bereft of his detailed knowledge of our previous year's work. This report represents an approximation of the work we have done over the year.

At the height of our membership, our committee swelled to approximately a dozen active members and at present we are nine persons. During the course of the past few months the Board appointed a Task Force of four to review CALUC and report back. After many, many meetings within the community and the City of Victoria (Mayor and then Director of Planning, etc.), the Task Force reported presenting a fairly comprehensive description of some of the highs and difficulties in its current iteration. The Board then appointed a three person committee to look into implementing one of the suggested recommendations presented in the Report. The Board will review the implementation report in the coming months.

This past year the CALUC were very busy with many Preliminary and Community Meetings including a couple of joint meetings with South Jubilee and North Jubilee CALUCs. There were approximately 5 meetings for a second time on developments in our catchment area and including the proposed PARC seniors development; an OCP amendment for the development proposed for Fairfield United Church; Abigail's Hotel; 515 Foul Bay Rd; 601 Trutch Street; and one on Kipling. We appreciate the presentation by neighbours who provide many important considerations to the rezoning requests.

We did have other Community Meetings including 931 McClure, and a few Preliminary Meetings as well as several requests from the Planning Department to review possible concerns about variances and electrical permits, for example.

David Biltek fielded many enquiries from community members with respect to specific developments. His time and work has been invaluable.

A highlight for our Committee is an information session—CALUC 101—from Rob Bateman of the City's Planning Department. We learn so much each time.

Many members of the Committee have been involved with local community plans in order to understand how proposed changes would impact on the neighbourhoods. Impacts may also need to be understood by CALUC.

Respectfully submitted by: Alice J. Albert, chair, Robin Jones, Susan Kainer, Don Monsour, Kevin White, David Wales, Joanna Fox, Joanne Thibault, Nik Humphries.



OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

Our licensed Out of School Care programs consists of both before and after school care, running concurrently with the School District 61 school year. We primarily offer care for students at École Margaret Jenkins and Sir James Douglas Elementary, with the addition of a few students who bus in from outside of the catchment. To the larger community, we offer Professional Development Day camps, Spring Break camps as well as programmed camps throughout the Summer Break. Both our Pro-D Camps and Spring Break Camps continue to run at maximum capacity while our Summer Break Camp's numbers continues to grow.

This year the FGCA's staff and managers focused on creating more opportunities for professional development by hosting additional educational sessions.

Lastly, we continue to see an unprecedented need for school aged care in the Fairfield Gonzales communities and look forward to continuing our work with community partners to increase our capacity.

180 CHILDREN ENROLLED

24 STAFF

Margaret Jenkins OSC

Fairfield OSC

Seasonal Camps (Spring/Summer) - All Day

Professional Development Day Camps - All Day

PROGRAMS

OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

RECREATION

CAMAS EARLY YEARS

FAMILY PROGRAMS

PRESCHOOLS

YOUTH



"After school can be a hard time of day for my daughter and the OSC staff do such a great job supporting, entertaining and feeding all the kids. It's hard to get her to leave! She loves OSC! "

Out of School Care Parent

RECREATION

The FGCA provided a number of child and adult recreation based registered programs last year during all four seasonal sessions, with the goal of fostering health and wellness close to home.

733 REGISTRATIONS

200 DROP-IN VISITS

12 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTORS

"Great class, thank you! Lots of information, knowledge and great activities and materials."

Spanish for Travellers Participant

"Loved this course—very clear, concise & easy to understand. Nick was great in explaining and assisting with different tasks."

Bike Maintenance Participant

Arican Hand Drumming (1 & 2)

Bike Maintenance 101

Cheese Making Workshops

Drop-in Badminton

Gentle Yoga & Somatics

Iyengar All Levels

Iyengar Yoga (Beginner & Intermediate)

Iyengar Yoga Support and Restore

Paint Night

Spanish for Travelers

Spring Forest Qi Gong

Sportball Multi—Sport Coach and Children

Sportball Parent and Child

Sportball Camps

Sportball Soccer

Tai Chi

Yin Yoga

YogaFit

Zumba

Zumba Toning

Zumba 15-15-15



CAMAS EARLY YEARS CENTRE

The Camas Early Years Centre was born from a response to the community's desperate need for full time child care spaces and we are happy to be celebrating its first year in operation come October 15, 2018. We are a collective of educators, families, children and extended staff members working together to create a place of inquiry, uncertainty and possibility. Our hope is to foster a sense of belonging and well-being for all who walk through our door.

16 CHILDREN

3 STAFF

"I moved to Victoria just as Camas opened and got the last spot. I felt as though I'd won the lottery; I didn't know how lucky I actually was. It could have been a difficult transition for both my daughter and me, but the wonderful Camas staff ensured the year was full of community and support. For my daughter it was nothing short of magical."

Camas Parent



FAMILY DROP INS

Our Family Programs offer free or affordable drop-in programming providing opportunities for children to explore, socialize, learn and play while caregivers build connections, share resources and learn together. Participant feedback has highlighted an appreciation for regular opportunities for caregivers to feel supported and to meet others undertaking the challenging and often isolating job of parenting. For many families, drop-in programs are the first interaction they have with the FGCA.

This year all Family Programs ran consistently at capacity. In April 2018, we were able to expand our Thursday program in order to accommodate all families that arrived for drop-in, as well as increase the amount of soup served. This expansion was possible through additional funding from the MCFD. In April we ran a new trial of a new program "Learning to Grow", a popular program which offered families a way to connect and explore outdoors.

EARLY YEARS DROP INS PARENT AND TOT

1080 PARENTS/CAREGIVERS
1341 CHILDREN

KINDERGYM

438 PARENTS/CAREGIVERS
494 CHILDREN



LEARNING TO GROW

48 PARENTS/CAREGIVERS
67 YOUNG GARDENERS
6 HOURS IN THE FOOD FOREST

LUNCH, LAUGH, AND LEARN

36 PARENT SUPPORT SESSIONS
36 LUNCH DATES
600 HAPPY FULL BELLIES

CLOTHING SWAP

11 SWAPS, OFFERED MONTHLY
350 APPROXIMATE PARTICIPANTS

BABY WEARERS

124 PARENTS/CAREGIVERS
169 CHILDREN

"This program helps me feel supported and not as isolated as a nanny"

"This environment helps foster healthy, positive responses as caregivers to our ever-changing, developing babies, toddlers, preschoolers. It provides support week to week as we cope along the way."

"Sharing playtime with other families is so enjoyable - it is wonderful to be a part of a parenting community"

Drop In Participants

MOSS ROCK PRESCHOOL

Moss Rock Preschool is a licensed preschool that runs Monday to Friday from 9am until 1pm. The preschool offers 2-5 day registrations for children 2.5 -5 years old. The program is based out of Fairfield Place, and offers predominantly outdoor programming on the land neighbouring the community centre.

Moss Rock Preschool has been operating since September 2011 and has been growing ever since. This popular early care and learning program identifies itself as being child-centred, place-based, inquiry-led, and supports professionalism by showcasing learning through pedagogical narrations. Educators are committed to continued learning and mentoring in the field. This centre hosts practicum students from Camosun College. Families are welcomed into a warm, and nurturing space that respects individual values, and works to create an environment of understanding, empathy and mutual respect.

22 CHILDREN ENROLLED

2 STAFF

"We enrolled our second child at Moss Rock Preschool after hearing about its progressive nature of program delivery. We are pleased that Moss Rock Preschool provides educational opportunities of exploration in a vast number of areas, such as nature, community, art and social interactions; the focus is heavy on exploration-based learning in a warm, diverse and nurturing environment. We could not be happier with the faculty and programming."

Moss Rock Preschool Parent



FIVE POINTS PRESCHOOL

Five Points Preschool is a licensed, early learning program for children ages 3-5 years. The program operates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 am-11:30 am and is located at the Fairfield Community Place.

The program has been operating since 2001 with an overarching goal of Kindergarten readiness. Our emphasis is on "learning through play". Our preschoolers discover, create, socialize, and explore. We also promote community engagement through our Meet and Greets, potlucks which include fun activities for parents/grandparents and caregivers to do with the children, and our Open House in February.

The highlights from this year were the Bug Zoo, Beach day, Petting Zoo at Beacon Hill park, gardening, baking, and science experiments.

15 CHILDREN ENROLLED

2 STAFF

"The feeling of warmth and comfort and safety is apparent immediately with Cathy and Maria and the preschool room atmosphere. The creative dramatic play ideas were so neat. Each month had a different theme such as an ice-cream shop, an office with an old-fashioned typewriter, a castle, camping and a restaurant. The calendars were a huge excitement to our home. Our daughter would check to see what was coming up and talk about it each day."

Five Points Preschool Parent

YOUTH

The 2017-2018 year in the Youth Programs turned out to be a year of community and joy!

More than ever the youth took the lead in cultivating their space and, as facilitators, we were grateful to be along for the ride. A sense of community and ownership took place while promoting self-aware and supportive guidelines, making sure the space was safe and inclusive for all folks.

The ongoing creative projects were endless - from the annual Haunted House at Halloween to daily musical and theatrical performances, large-scale art projects, baking and so much more: the space was alive with energy and creative community building.

The **Youth Zone** program had 10 regular participants a day for a total visits of 1070. This year we practiced boundaries - and the different boundaries we might have for different relationships - and offering supportive spaces to all folks, even if we disagree. The kids rose to meet the challenge of community with enthusiasm and great big hearts.

Chill Zone continues to be an important, thriving space for the youth, with a drop-in total of 1036 visits! The average daily attendance was 15 youth who continuously articulated their appreciation for having a space where they can hang out, choose their activities, and feel safe and supported.

The FGCA also ran its outreach mentorship **Jump N Start** program at Central Middle School and George Jay Elementary School. Some of the highlights were:

Eco-Survivor Challenge on Galiano Island was a real treat for the kids and leaders. The journey began with the first ever Jump N Start ferry ride! Practicing outdoor skills and getting to explore the tidal pools in the cove were ways the kids were able to challenge themselves as well as play and learn.

Fun out trips this year included: Mystic Vale, Beach BBQ, Cadboro-Gyro Park, library, Metchosin, Famosa Pizza, Beacon-Hill Park and Drive-In, swimming, Moss Rock and more!



Lots of cooking and baking activities: Edible slime, cotton candy slime, cupcakes, cookies, sandwiches, pies, and our daily snacks of course.

Outdoor spaces: the group this year preferred to be outside, exploring; it became a game of finding new places to play in. One of the highlights for the kids was Mystic Vale: the sense of exploring off-trail and making our own path left a lasting impression!

1036	CHILLZONE DROP INS
27	REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS IN
	YOUTH ZONE, JUMP 'N' START
4	STAFF
2	PRACTICUM STUDENTS
1	VOLUNTEER

EVENTS & PROJECTS



FALL FAIRFIELD & PUPPETS FOR PEACE

Fall Fairfield celebrated a two-day event this year as the FGCA partnered with Puppets for Peace. The first day featured Fall Fairfield programming and the second was the Puppets for Peace parade. On the first day of programming, Puppets for Peace hosted a puppet making workshop which contributed to the next day puppet parade. The parade started in Porter Park and ended at Government House with a reading by Roy Henry Vickers accompanied by a dance performance. Fall Fairfield programming featured 25 interactive booths featuring local businesses and organizations, along with three food trucks and a beverage garden sponsored by Phillips. Both days was centered around community and the spirits of those in attendance was high!

2,000+ ATTENDEES
75 VOLUNTEERS
35 PARTNERSHIPS

FALL FAIRFIELD
 GIFT OF GOOD FOOD
 BOOK CLUB
 COMMUNITY DINNERS
 CULTURAL KITCHENS
 JACK O LANTERN FUNDRAISER
 ART AT THE PLACE
 COMMUNITY YARD SALE
 RECONCILIATION CIRCLE
 OBSERVER NEWSPAPER
 REPAIR CAFÉ FAIRFIELD

GIFT OF GOOD FOOD

Partnering with the Fernwood NRG, the goal of the Gift of Good Food fundraiser is to raise money to provide fresh and healthy produce to families in need throughout the greater Victoria area. Every \$500.00 raised supports one family with fresh fruit and veggies for a year.

11 LOCAL FAMILIES SUPPORTED
\$80,463 OVERALL FUNDS RAISED

BOOK CLUB

Started in 2017, the FGCA book club strives to contribute to our cultural understanding of Canada through the stories of First Nations, the diaspora of many countries, their immigrants and their descendants.

12 MEETINGS
45 PARTICIPANTS



CULTURAL KITCHENS

This year the FGCA hosted two Cultural Kitchens — a two and a half hour workshop highlighting cultural food practices and the traditional cuisine of Mexico and Nigeria. Each workshop hosted 10 attendees who gained an understanding of diverse cultures and invited two guests to join the feast. Everyone ate together in the Garry Oak Room. The workshop facilitators shared stories and recipes about their respective countries with workshop participants.

2	DINNERS
60	GUESTS
4	VOLUNTEERS

ART AT THE PLACE

Every two months, the main foyer of Fairfield Community Place transforms into a gallery featuring local artists. With a rotating cast of artists, styles and mediums, the walls of the community centre are made brighter for all to enjoy. Most artists host reception held in the foyer and community members have a chance to meet the artist and view their art.

6	ARTISTS
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COMMUNITY DINNERS

These themed dinners took place in the Garry Oak Room and the food was prepared in Corrine's Kitchen. The goal of the dinners was to bring community together by participating in a monthly neighbourhood dinner. From August through November, we hosted four community dinners featuring the Food Forest, a Friendsgiving potluck, and World Street Food. Community dinners are well-loved by community members and everyone involved.

4	DINNERS
230	GUESTS
25	VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Every spring the FGCA hosts a community wide yard sale and this year we had 50 registered sales, two group sales, three table renters, and a BBQ held at Fairfield Community Place. We partnered with EF International, a school that connects international students with homestays for the summer, who volunteered at the BBQ. This event is a favourite of many residents near and far. It builds neighbourhood connections by getting people out in their community! In total, we raised \$606.00 through registered yard sale participants and the BBQ.

51	YARD SALES
7	VOLUNTEERS

RECONCILIATION CIRCLE

The FGCA Reconciliation Circle was formed in September 2017 as a neighbourhood-level response to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. We are confident that although our activities may be modest we are creating ripples that will spread and provoke compassionate self-examination followed by concrete actions of truth and reconciliation among settlers in Fairfield Gonzales and beyond.

ACTIVITIES

Hosted monthly discussions about colonization, the TRC recommendations, and what people could do in the community to help with reconciliation with our Lekwungen SENCOTEN speaking neighbours.

Jane Mertz met several times with Aragon (developer) about indigenous public art for their proposed building at Cook and Pendergast.

Members of the Circle created a list of over 150 books by Indigenous authors in a variety of genres. The list is posted at fairfieldcommunity.ca/events-projects/reconciliation/

Rebecca Atleo from the Ahousaht First Nation spoke on the subject of understanding and acceptance to over 70 community members. Rebecca impressed everyone with her authenticity and patiently and generously answered questions from the audience.

Jane Mertz, Diana Smith and Nancy Montgomery met with Ron Rice, the Executive Director of the Victoria Native Friendship Centre. Circle members made other connections with indigenous groups in Victoria and beyond.

The Circle co-promoted an event at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria where 4 Indigenous Curators talked about their personal histories and their responses to some of the pieces within the show.

Mark Albany, Songhees educator, led 2 walks: one around Beacon Hill Park and one downtown, drawing attention to places and features of importance to First Nations and seamlessly linking past and present for a rapt group of attendees.

In June the Circle held the main event of its 'Celebrating Indigenous Stories' project with readings at Little Free Libraries (LFLs) in Fairfield-Gonzales by Monique Gray Smith, Crystal Nelson and Janet Rogers (all Indigenous authors). The event was a success with an enthusiastic and engaged audience of about 50 total for the 3 readings. This project was supported by a My Great Neighbourhood grant from the City of Victoria. Susan Martin was the lead organizer of the project, with other Circle members participating.

10 CIRCLES HOSTED
5 EVENTS HOSTED
1 GREAT NEIGHBOURHOOD GRANT

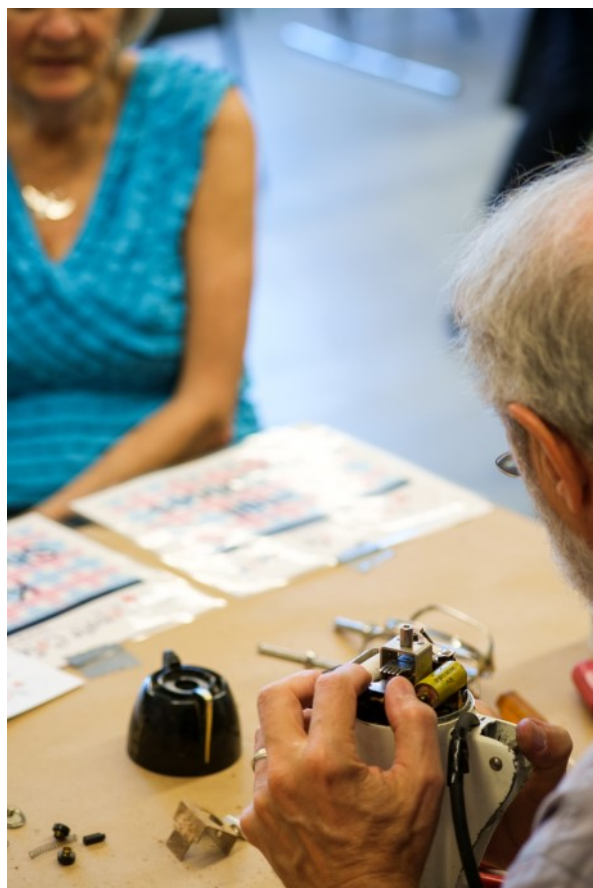


Monique Gray Smith

REPAIR CAFÉ FAIRFIELD

With the support of the FGCA, a group of intrepid volunteers have continued on with the Fairfield Repair Café, a local branch of a global initiative to reduce waste by repairing household items instead of throwing them away, and to pass on repair skills and knowledge.

6 CAFES HOSTED
35 VOLUNTEERS
240 ITEMS FIXED AND KEPT
OUT OF THE LANDFILL
144 BAGELS & 25 LITRES OF
COFFEE ENJOYED
220 HAPPIER SOULS



OBSERVER NEWSPAPER

A community newspaper highlighting neighbourhood news, events, businesses and the place to find information on FGCA programs and services. The Observer has a long history in the Fairfield Gonzales neighbourhood as a source for community building and a celebration of neighbourhood connections.

4 ISSUES
5000 COPIES PER ISSUE

SERVICES

VOLUNTEERS
FACILITY RENTALS
YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELLORS

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the heart and soul of our community. We are lucky in Fairfield Gonzales to have residents who are passionate about their neighbourhood and eager to give back!

200 VOLUNTEERS
3500 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteers help out in all aspects of the Community Association:

Fairfield Food Forest
Observer Newspaper
Photography
Board of Directors
Streetlife Committee
Community Association
Land Use Committee
Fall Fairfield
Community Yard Sale
Youth Programs
Out of School Care
Newspaper delivery
Summer Camp
Drop-In Badminton
Front Garden
Toy Cleaning
Facility Volunteers
Art Curator
Database build and support
Needle felting group
Repair Café
Reconciliation Circle
Community Dinners
Clothing Swap
....and more!

Penny Tennenhouse embodies our mission of creating a connected, collaborative, inclusive and sustainable community. Penny has lived in Fairfield since 1992. Penny attends most events at the FGCA, usually snapping beautiful photos that capture the spirit of the people there. She



is a natural connector, introducing people from her many networks to the FGCA's activities. She is often the first person to step forward and offer her help on projects. She also contributes to her community by volunteering with Friends of Government House Society, Avodah - the social action group of Congregation Emanu-El synagogue, and participating in block parties on her street. She is a representative to Faith in Action and a supporter of the Greater Victoria Acting Together for the Common Good (GVAT).

In Penny's own words:

*"My first connection to the FGCA, if I recall correctly, was to submit a photo to the wonderful book, *Hanging on to Paradise*, an illustrated anthology of community visions in prose and poetry, just then being published by the Association (and I proofread it). (And, as it happens, the telephone pole on the corner of Moss and Carnsew, also, somehow, magically, has the California poppy painted on it...). In that book, I identified myself as 'taking special pleasure in all things Fairfieldian'."*

Since that time, I've felt very home at the FGCA, particularly taking photos of events but also enjoying the extraordinary gift of Wednesday felting with the Garth Homer people, as well as the FGCA book club, reconciliation group, and many other events."

We can't imagine Fairfield Gonzales without Penny!

FACILITY RENTALS

Our community centre benefits from having numerous facility rentals throughout the year. We were fortunate to share our space with on-going renters such as Moss Street Market, Fairfield United Church, Royal Astronomical Society, Pacific School of Innovation and Inquiry, Salsa Moderna, Bucan Bucan and Soundings Vocal Ensemble. In addition, Corinne's Kitchen was bustling most of the year with the International Women's Catering Co-Operative, the Samosa King and Tamales Don Carlos.

Returning this year was Knotty by Nature who hosted their successful fibre arts festival, Fibrations, on our field and the South Vancouver Island Potter's Guild who held their annual pottery sale in our Garry Oak Room.

Our community centre was also active with an array of private rentals hosting Community Meetings, Youth Pride Dances, Celebrations of Life, African Dance Lessons, Weddings and many Kid's Birthday Parties to name just a few.

Our Place is Your Place continued to be a way for community groups to access our rooms, at no cost, on the last Monday of each month. As long as events are free and open to the public, our rooms are available for groups of 30 or less.



*Samad Khan (Samosa King)
Carlos Guzman (Don Tamales)*

YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELLORS

Under the oversight of the FGCA are the Youth and Family Counselor (YFC) staff 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 succeeding in their education program, promoting healthy relationships and choices, strengthening student's relationships with family and community and school attachment. This work is rich and varied, with many YFCs working as the only non-school district staff in the school environment. In 2017-18, statistics from the Youth & Family Counselors' final reports identified the following top five student concerns:

- *Stress and anxiety*
- *Greif and Loss*
- *Poverty (low income, unemployment)*
- *Family conflict/challenges*
- *Peer conflict/bullying/harassment*

In collaboration with children, youth and their families the YFC provides the following services and strategies to help address these concerns:

- *Individual counselling.*
- *Family counselling and parent/teen mediation.*
- *Group counselling (i.e. grief/loss, parenting, divorce, social skills, healthy lifestyle choices).*
- *Life skill training, which may include social skills development and conflict mediation/resolution.*
- *Enhancement of interrelationships between families, schools and community.*
- *Ongoing consultation with teachers/community professionals.*
- *Crisis management intervention.*
- *Preventative interventions (i.e. health promotion, drug and alcohol education).*
- *Facilitation of students' transition to and connection with a new school or work placement*

1,200+ STUDENTS & FAMILIES
13 YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELLORS
10 SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

WORKING AT THE FGCA

AUGUST 1ST 2017
TO JULY 31ST 2018

STAFFING

We are a major employer in the Fairfield neighbourhood and are lucky to include many talented and dedicated individuals on our team.

120
EMPLOYEES IN 2017

90%
STAFFING COSTS AS % OF
OVERALL EXPENSES

REVENUE
\$ 2,463,138 ACTUAL FOR YEAR

EXPENSES
\$ 2,407,611 ACTUAL FOR YEAR

6%
CITY FUNDING

10%
PROVINCIAL & GAMING FUNDING

1%
FEDERAL FUNDING

42%
SCHOOL DISTRICT 61 CONTRACT

40%
FGCA PROGRAMS & RENTAL
REVENUE

0.3%
DONATIONS, FUNDRAISING &
FOUNDATION GRANTS



FGCA staff Evan Pepper & Kelly Bohlken

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE FGCA

The FGCA has a diverse funding model, including grants, contracts, and fees-for service. This diversity contributes to our financial health and our ability to stretch our dollar to do more for our community.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Fall Fairfield
Jack-O-Lantern Family Fundraiser
Community Yard Sale BBQ
Gift of Good Food (in partnership with Fernwood NRG)

SUCCESSFUL GRANTS

Canada Summer Student Grant
Community Fund for Canada's 150th
City of Victoria My Great Neighbourhood Grant
BC Multiculturalism Grant
BC Gaming Minor Capital Grant

SPONSORSHIPS

Pixel Union

IN-KIND SUPPORT

We also had the support of many generous in-kind sponsors this year. Their support with items such as tents, products, or services make our events possible. Major In-kind sponsors:

Thrifty Foods
RBC Cook Street Village
ReFuse
Spinnakers
Used Victoria
Puppets for Peace
Orca Books



DONATIONS

While donations are not a large part of our budget, they are a big part of our success! Without your donations, we would not be able to run much of our extra programming or buy some of the much-needed equipment for the children in our care. Because of donations, we can offer support to families in need, right here in the neighbourhood.

We would like to thank each and every donor for their generous contribution to making our community a better place to live, work, and play!

FUNDING FOR THE FGCA



FUNDING FOR THE FGCA PROVIDED BY

Public Health Agency of Canada
Employment and Social Development Canada
Ministry of Children and Family Development
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch
Island Health (formerly VIHA)
City of Victoria
School District #61
Community Fund for Canada's 150th
BC Multiculturalism Grant



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada