



FAIRFIELD GONZALES
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
the place to connect



ANNUAL REPORT

***AUGUST 1ST 2018
TO JULY 31ST 2019***

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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



It has been another great year of working with the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association. This has been my fourth year as President of the Association, and it has been busy and productive as always.

I want to thank all of our committees for their great work and the time they have given this year. The Board has undertaken Strategic Planning, expertly led by UVic Master of Community Development candidate and FGCA Board member Bryan Rowley. Our Executive and Governance Committees have put in countless extra hours to make sure the Board leads the FGCA effectively. Patricia Ward and the rest of the CALUC Nominating Task Force have created and launched a new, more transparent process for appointing members to our Community Association Land Use Committee. Thank you to these and all the other Board members and committees who gave so many hours of their time to help improve their neighbourhood.

I also thank all of the staff at the FGCA for the work they put into our excellent programs and services, from childcare to special events to activities for all ages. A special thanks to Co-Executive Director Vanya McDonell for taking on the full Executive Director role while Kristina Wilcox is home with her newborn son.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the members of the Fairfield Gonzales community, who help make this such a special place to live and do our work. It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve as your President this year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Vanya McDonell

Kristina Wilcox

As we head into our fifth year as Co-executive Directors, we are thinking a lot about transition. Part of the reason we are drawn to community work is that no two days are the same, and change is the only constant. Instead of trying to stop it, we choose to expect and adapt to changes as they come.

We have seen changes in people. With unemployment at its lowest in decades, we are seeing many transitions in our staff team as people move on to new and exciting opportunities. In our neighbourhood, demographics are shifting, requiring us to adapt in new ways. There are both more children and more seniors in our community; how do we continue to serve them with a shrinking workforce? How do we keep our neighbourhood livable as it grows?

We have seen changes in relationships. Our relationships with Indigenous Canadians are shifting as we begin to learn their truths and work toward reconciliation. How do we make sure we are good neighbours? How do we move towards becoming allies?

We have seen changes in the weather. Climate change is progressing, and will continue to affect weather patterns and migration across the globe. The sooner we adapt, the more successful we will be in mitigating its effects. How do we plan and act at the neighbourhood level?

Luckily, in our work we are not alone. Fairfield Gonzales has a vast wealth of human capital. Ours is a neighbourhood full of knowledgeable, passionate, creative people; people who are not afraid to face change and work together to shape it. As we connect and collaborate, we become something greater than the sum of its parts and become more resilient in the face of change.

We have seen transition on a personal level, too. Kristina has become a parent this year, probably the biggest transition anyone navigates in their life. As Kristina shifts into a year of parental leave, the rest of the team adapts to a year without her leadership. We are fortunate that our work thus far has taught us to approach this transition with curiosity, flexibility, and excitement for what comes next.



Kristina Wilcox and Vanya McDonell

BOARD & COMMITTEES

*EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
STREETLIFE/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
STRATEGIC PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE
PLACE COMMITTEE
HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE
NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LAND USE COMMITTEE*

BOARD MEMBERS WHO SERVED IN 2018/2019

*ALEXANDRA AGES
ALICE ALBERT
DAVID BILTEK
SCOTT DAVIS
MICHAEL HIRSCH
JENNIFER MATTHEWS
DON MONSOUR
ANNA PHELAN
CHRIS REED
BRYAN ROWLEY
PHILIP SAWKINS
DAVID THOMPSON
ANNE TOMYN
BRIAN VATNE
PATRICIA WARD
JULIA WARREN
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.

STREETLIFE/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Over the past year, the Streetlife and Community Engagement Committee has been busy engaging in our local community! In addition to helping organize the Community-Wide Yard Sale in May, our dedicated volunteers have had booths at community events including the Moss St Market, Cook St Village Block Party, and Fall Fairfield, where we have been speaking with community members about the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association and the various ways people can become more involved in their community.

Currently, we are very excited to be working on a Community Asset Mapping project! We are applying for a 'My Great Neighbourhood' grant to help fund this project. We are fortunate to be working alongside an FGCA practicum student, and are looking for more volunteers to help make this project a useful resource for our community members! Contact event@fairfieldcommunity.ca if you'd like to get involved!



Streetlife Committee member Bryan (R) with Sharmarke Dubow at the Cook St Village Block Party

STRATEGIC PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE

The Strategic Planning Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the Executive Committee, which this year consisted of five board members. This subcommittee's purpose is to assist the Board and Executive members in producing a document which outlines a plan that contains goals and objectives for the association to invest in for the next four years. This plan contains strategies which are committed to helping the association to better meet its mission statement and mandates, while maximizing its ability to create public value for the communities it serves.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Proposed and passed a motion to engage in strategic planning in April 2019

Facilitated a focus group that produced the association's list of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges in May 2019.

Used data from the focus group to develop strategies for the association to adhere to for the next four years in June 2019; they are: Partnership, Diversity and Inclusion, Community Engagement, Funding, and Strategic Management. An action plan was produced which will be shared with the public by 2020.

Gave staff the opportunity to offer their contributions to the strategic planning process in September 2019.

Have begun to implement some of the plan's strategies into the various committees by September 2019. An example of this is the Streetlife committee which is pursuing an asset-mapping project.



Fairfield Food Forest

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE AND FAIRFIELD FOOD FOREST

The Fairfield Food Forest is a community garden located in Porter Park, near the intersection of Kipling Street and Thurlow Road. A passionate group of dedicated residents created this garden in 2013. As this permaculture garden continues to grow it will become a food producing forest.

Throughout the year, the Food Forest hosts community work bees, Early Years programming, and community-wide workshops. In March, gardening expert Bobby Arbess hosted a free workshop on pruning techniques specific to the Food Forest plants.

This spring, we offered two Family programs in the Food Forest, “Learning to Grow” and “Friends of Porter Park”. This was an opportunity for young ones to drop-in with their parents and caregivers to explore, to garden, to play and to build community. Our Moss Rock and Five Points preschools and our Camas Early Years Centre included work bees into their programming this Spring, allowing our early learners to explore soil, to plant, and to harvest. A kindergarten class at Sir James Douglas also took part in a work bee, building community within the youngest members of the community.

The Food Forest relies heavily on volunteers. We have been fortunate to have a core group and always welcome new volunteers. This year work parties included high school students from Glenlyon Norfolk School, Sir James Douglas’ Me-To-We Club as well as early learners from our programs, resulting in more work being completed, increased education, and awareness about the forest and local food security.

Thanks to the City of Victoria’s “My Great Neighbourhood Grant” and funding from the FGCA, the Food Forest was able to hire a local builder to build and install fencing in some areas.

What is next? Our priority in 2020 will be to access funding to fence the remaining areas. We also want to strengthen our relationship with the FGCA Early Years programs, possibly creating a “friendship garden” for growing plants that could be used for tea. Also, our new metal plant signage will list plant origin, nutritional value and harvesting information.

- 7 COMMUNITY WORK BEES**
112 VOLUNTEER HOURS LOGGED
59 VOLUNTEERS
- 9 EARLY YEARS & SJD WORK BEES**
100 HOURS EXPLORING
150 PARTICIPANTS
- 3 SJD ME-TO-WE CLUB**
60 PARTICIPANTS
3 SESSIONS
- 2 HIGHSCHOOL WORK BEES**
30 HOURS OF MULCHING AND
WEEDING
15 PARTICIPANTS
- 4 LEARNING TO GROW SESSIONS**
98 HOURS OF FUN
50 CHILDREN
32 CAREGIVERS / PARENTS
- 5 FRIENDS OF PORTER PARK**
55 HOURS OF EXPLORATION
28 CHILDREN
18 CAREGIVERS / PARENTS
- 1 COMMUNITY PRUNING WORKSHOP**
16 PARTICIPANTS
1 LOCAL GARDENING EXPERT

NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

This year the FGCA Board created the Neighbourhood Improvement Committee. This committee has a mandate to work on projects relevant to social justice, environmental sustainability, the built environment, urban form, transportation, parks, and related matters so as to improve our neighbourhood.

So far, our members have started working on traffic calming on streets impacted by motor vehicles, implementation of the City's Greenways Plan, and implementation of the City's Climate Leadership Plan, and is looking ahead to addressing affordable housing and Go Victoria (the City's upcoming transportation plan).

Like other board committees, we run on volunteer energy, so please feel free to drop by if you are interested in the above issues or others.



Cornwall Street

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance Committee is a standing committee of the Board. Its 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.

Over the past year the Governance Committee's primary contributions have been conducting a review of the FGCA human resource policies, as well as a review of all terms of reference for Board committees. The Governance Committee worked with FGCA senior leadership to review over 30 organizational and HR policies. The Governance Committee has also been hard at work reviewing all Board committee terms of reference to ensure these documents are consistent, compliant with the recently updated committee terms of reference policy, and user friendly so they can be easily relied upon to direct committee work.

The Governance Committee is currently comprised of 3 Board members, but has previously included hardworking volunteers with a zest for organizational governance from the FGCA membership base. Sounds like something you might be interested in? Please connect with us!

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LAND USE COMMITTEE (CALUC)

This report represents an approximation of the work the CALUC has done over the year.

At the height of membership, the CALUC had 10 members; currently there are five members. The CALUC was saddened to lose David Barlow to cancer this year and his energy, expertise and humour continues to be missed. Joanne Thibault left the committee in the winter and in July the committee witnessed a mass resignation of Chair Alice Albert, and long-standing members Susan Kainer, Robin Jones and David Wales. All these departures were due to irreconcilable differences. CALUC welcomed a new member, Michael Hirsch, who joined current members Kevin White (Acting Chair), Joanna Fox (Acting Vice Chair), Don Monsour and Nic Humphries. Thanks to a new application process developed by the FCGA Board of Directors, a slate of up to 9 committee members will be appointed.

This past year the CALUC held preliminary and community meetings nearly twice monthly to meet the demand of development in the community. There were two Community Meetings held for a second time on new multi-unit developments, and 10 Community Meetings for applications that included site specific zoning, rezoning, and variances. Property development spanned from new builds to Heritage-property renovations. Community engagement was extensive for the multi-unit developments on Fairfield (the Rhodo) and Heywood. Attendance for Community Meetings fluctuated; it must be noted that there is concern by the community that the City of Victoria's meeting notices to those within 100m of the proposed development are not being received, or are not being received with adequate notice to enable attendance. It should also be noted that all of the new developments are including appropriate bike storage and two of the multi-unit development proposals are designated for apartments not condos. Parking, traffic, tree-canopy preservation, and development height continue to be the main concerns for all developments.

Respectfully submitted by: Kevin White, Acting Chair; Joanna Fox, Acting Vice-Chair; Don Monsour, Nic Humphries and Mike Hirsch.

OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

Our Out of School Care (OSC) Programs, servicing primarily Margaret Jenkins Elementary and Sir James Douglas Elementary, saw an increase in registrants over the 2018-19 year, due to an increase in physical capacity with the School District's construction of two Learning Studio portables for joint use.

Our goal for the program is to provide a welcoming and stimulating environment where children can feel at home, grow, learn, and have fun. Our daily activities include out-trips, crafts, free play, sports activities, and lots of time outside enjoying our wonderful natural spaces.

A few highlights of the year were the ÉMJS OSC Carnival Event; the FFOSC first annual multi-age soccer tournament; and the annual Family Appreciation BBQ, which we estimate had 350 attendees.

230 CHILDREN ENROLLED
27 STAFF (INCLUDING 3 SUPPORT WORKERS AND 2 MANAGERS)

CAMPS

To the larger community we continue to offer Professional Development Day camps, Spring Break camps as well as programmed camps throughout the Summer Break.

Our 2018-19 camps programs saw another successful year. We again kept our Spring Break Camp's program at a 100% registration rate.

For our Summer Camp's program, we once again were eligible recipients of the Canada Summer Jobs Grant and the program maintained a 99% registration rate, an increase of 2% from last year.

We continued our support of the Youth Leaders In Training program which is facilitated by the City of Victoria, by taking on two Youth Volunteers. As they supported our programs, we supported them with their understandings around work ethic and the importance of relationship in community.

80 SPRING BREAK CAMPERS
311 SUMMER CAMPERS
10 STAFF

PROGRAMS

OUT OF SCHOOL CARE
CAMPS
CAMAS EARLY YEARS
FAMILY PROGRAMS
PRESCHOOLS
YOUTH
RECREATION



Margaret Jenkins OSC Carnival participants

Thank you very much, we appreciate all that you and the wonderful leaders have done for our daughter while she was in OSC. It is been a wonderful experience.

I just wanted to write quickly to let you know how much I appreciated the leaders work this past year.

Out of School Care Parents

CAMAS EARLY YEARS CENTRE

Camas Early Years Program offers care for families with children between the ages of 2.5 and 5 years old. Predominantly held outdoors, educators focus on relationships between children and the Land, considering our way of being and living in harmony with one another, and the other-than-human beings. Early Childhood Educators offer responsive care, reflecting on our relationships as co-learners with, and about the world, alongside children. By practicing in this way, we reimagine education, and we remain open to the endless ways of seeing our world from new perspectives. We foster a space of belonging for all that enter our space. Educators work with the BC Early Learning Framework, and write pedagogical narrations to share our thinking with families and the community.

16 CHILDREN
3 STAFF



Camas participants at Moss Rock Park



Camas participants

"I feel a strong sense of belonging, a sense of being home here. I am filled with joy being with each of you."

Camas Staff

"The progressive program, enabling the kids to explore and appreciate nature, and learn gratitude for what they have is truly unique. The care, thoughtfulness and personality of every early childhood educator in the program has been inspiring. We can't wait to hear several years more stories from the field as our boys come home and recount their adventures."

Camas Parent

FAMILY DROP INS

Our Family Programs are supportive and inclusive. These affordable drop-in groups are perfect for making new connections for children, parents and caregivers. Exploring through play and socializing, children have the opportunity to develop mobility and social skills, and have fun. Our families have the option to have a parent discussion group, and we encourage community building by providing a healthy hot lunch to all who attend the program.

We continue to run the Family Programs at full capacity, and have added a "Friends of Porter Park" outdoor drop-in program that runs seasonally in the spring.

EARLY YEARS DROP INS

PARENT AND TOT

*981 PARENTS/CAREGIVERS
1216 CHILDREN*

KINDERGYM

*440 PARENTS/CAREGIVERS
494 CHILDREN*

LEARNING TO GROW & FRIENDS OF PORTER PARK

*50 PARENTS/CAREGIVERS
78 YOUNG GARDENERS
18 HOURS IN THE FOOD FOREST*

LUNCH, LAUGH, AND LEARN

*40 PARENT SUPPORT SESSIONS
40 LUNCH DATES
650 HAPPY FULL BELLIES*



Parent & Tot participants

"The parent support sessions have allowed me to make connections with other parents in the community, in this supportive group I have been comfortable sharing and being open about parenthood. I have learned I am not alone. I have learned new parenting and self care techniques"

Drop In Participant

MOSS ROCK PRESCHOOL

Moss Rock is primarily an outdoor focussed program that embraces a reflective, respectful, and responsive care in which individuals learn about themselves through interactions with the larger world.

23 CHILDREN ENROLLED

2 STAFF



Moss Rock Preschool participants

"My kid loved Moss Rock, the educators are supportive and caring, the classroom is inspiring and the outdoor component was a great fit for our son"

Moss Rock Preschool Parent



Five Points Preschool participant

FIVE POINTS PRESCHOOL

Five Points Preschool operates three days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. A licensed program for 2.5-5 years old with a focus on learning through play, discovery, problem solving, socializing, and exploration. We place importance on community building and keep our parents involved through the year with potlucks and events to nourish our connections.

15 CHILDREN ENROLLED

2 STAFF

"I am very pleased with the professionalism and kindness of the 5 point preschool staff. This school has been a wonderful place of learning for two of our children and we are now sending our third child there in September. What a wonderful opportunity for children to develop strong friendships at an early age!"

Five Points Preschool Parent



FGCA staff Adam Rayburn in the Youth Zone

YOUTH

The primary goal of our **Youth Zone** and **Chill Zone** programs is to prepare our oldest ages of after school care to move on to middle school. We do this by challenging our registrants with new responsibilities in tandem with offering new freedoms. We often see a large arch from the beginning of the year to the end in terms of growth in our individuals and from the group as a whole.

In **Jump N Start**, we look to serve youth who are facing barriers with a free, yet enriching after school program largely out in the community. The heightened importance of having a safe and nurturing space to spend several hours a week for these pre-teens and teens is reflected in the heartfelt end-of-year feedback.

1157 CHILLZONE DROP INS
44 REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS IN
YOUTH ZONE & JUMP 'N' START
6 STAFF
2 VOLUNTEERS

"I am going to miss the special little community of our own we made. It felt safe to be here."

"I found my new name here. I felt okay to share that with people here."

Jump N Start Participants

RECREATION

The FGCA provides a number of registered and drop-in recreation based programs for children and adults. Recreation programs change at times, to ensure the needs and wants of the community are being met. These recreation programs foster health, life learning and wellness close to home.

507 REGISTRATIONS
187 DROP-IN VISITS
11 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTORS

African Hand Drumming
 Band & Balls
 Drop-in Badminton
 Gentle Yoga & Somatics
 Gentle Yogafit
 Guitar Ensemble
 Iyengar Yoga
 Richardson Sport Multi-Sport
 Richardson Sport Soccer
 Spanish for Travellers
 Spring Forest Qi Gong
 Strong
 Tai Chi
 Yin Yoga
 Zumba

"Great neighbourhood centre that is in walking distance and affordable."

Qi Gong Participant



Iyengar Yoga participants

EVENTS & PROJECTS



Giant bubbles at Fall Fairfield

*FALL FAIRFIELD
GIFT OF GOOD FOOD
BOOK CLUB
ART AT THE PLACE
NEIGHBOURHOOD YARD SALE
COMMUNITY DINNERS
CLOTHING SWAP
RECONCILIATION CIRCLE
TRANSGENDER TIPPING POINT
OBSERVER NEWSPAPER
REPAIR CAFÉ FAIRFIELD*

FALL FAIRFIELD

Fall Fairfield is a one-day, free event that celebrates connections at the neighbourhood level. It is a family oriented community festival located in the heart of Fairfield at Porter Park. With giant bubbles, a cardboard castle, hay bales, and harvest hats; it is a celebration of the start of the fall season. Although the weather called for rain, it subsided by the time of the event. Apart from a windy afternoon the event was a great success with over 25 interactive vendors, 4 food trucks, 5 performances, and a beverage garden. We featured our 3rd annual pie competition and added a bakery category featuring pies from Irene's Bakery, Bubby Roses, Roost Bakery, Fol Epi, Origin Bakery, and Salt Chuck Pie Company. We had a silent auction which made over \$2000 and received donations from nearly 30 businesses! Fall Fairfield is loved by all who attend because it has a "home made" feeling that gives patrons a space to relax and enjoy connecting with their neighbours.

2,000+ ATTENDEES
40 VOLUNTEERS
65 PARTNERSHIPS

GIFT OF GOOD FOOD

FGCA partnered with Fernwood NRG and 15 other organizations to work together to raise \$80,000 to give 150 families access to fresh fruit and vegetables every two weeks for an entire year! We surpassed the goal raising a grand total of \$88,179. This is a great community fundraiser which directly supports families in the greater Victoria area, including 10 families right here in Fairfield Gonzales.

176 LOCAL FAMILIES SUPPORTED
48,498 LBS OF PRODUCE
581 SUPPORTERS

BOOK CLUB

Run by volunteers and attended by community members, Book Club meets monthly to discuss book selections the group has decided upon. Each Book Club meeting is framed by volunteer facilitators around a few discussion points. All voices are valued and welcomed. Book Club presents an opportunity for neighbours to meet one another and explore challenging themes while reading novels by Canadian authors.

12 MEETINGS
45 PARTICIPANTS

ART AT THE PLACE

The main foyer of Fairfield Community Place acts as a gallery space for local artists to display their work to sell to the wider community. From prints to ink, photographs to paintings; there are many different mediums used by artists on display in the foyer. Since its inception in 2014 colourful installations have decorated the centre's walls.

6 LOCAL ARTISTS

NEIGHBOURHOOD YARD SALE

Formerly known as Community Yard Sale Day, our Neighbourhood Yard Sale Day celebrated its 6th consecutive year. Members of the community sign up to host a yard sale at their homes in the Fairfield Gonzales neighbourhoods all on the same day. It is a way to keep items out of the landfill and encourage neighbours to reduce their waste impact. In total we raised over \$600 from over 50 registered sales and a community BBQ. It was a busy day at Fairfield Community Place as Clothing Swap, Repair Café, and the Moss St Market were running concurrently. Although it rained for most of the day it didn't dampen yard salers spirits. Community members braved the heavy drops and made the most of the experience. One sale was donating all their profits for the development of wells in Liberia, located in West Africa, so citizens have access to fresh water.

50 YARD SALES
5 TABLE SALES
6 VOLUNTEERS

MUSIC BINGO

Leading up to Fall Fairfield, we hosted a Music Bingo Fundraiser at the Fernwood Inn to raise funds for Fall Fairfield programming. The event was held on a Wednesday night and was well attended by staff, volunteers, friends, family, and community members attended. Spirits were high as people sang along to cheesy '80s tracks, classic ballads, and music from all different genres. In total we raised nearly \$450! It was so well received by those in attendance, we know this won't be the last one!

65 PARTICIPANTS
\$450 FUNDRAISED

COMMUNITY DINNERS

Through a Strategic Plan Grant from the City of Victoria, the FGCA hosted monthly Community Dinners in the Garry Oak Room from October through June. Safia from the International Women's Catering Co-op is the chef for each dinner, creating deliciously diverse dishes. The dinners are well received by the community who attend; some from Fairfield Gonzales and some from other neighbourhoods. It gives people the chance to connect, with food being the main part of what brings them together. All the volunteers came again and again because they enjoyed the food and supporting the dinner in whatever way they could.

9 DINNERS
450 GUESTS
36 VOLUNTEERS



Community dinner in the Garry Oak Room

CLOTHING SWAP

Every month the FGCA hosts a community Clothing Swap where you can bring gently used clothing and swap them for new clothes. It is a completely free service that reduces the need to buy new clothes. The Clothing Swap is well attended with returning community members contributing to the growing amount of clothing each month. The FGCA hosts 11 swaps a year with approximately 500 yearly participants. Every fourth Saturday come to Fairfield Community Place and enjoy finding some new threads.

11 SWAPS, OFFERED MONTHLY
500 APPROXIMATE PARTICIPANTS

RECONCILIATION CIRCLE

The FGCA Reconciliation Circle was formed in 2017 by a group of community members who wished to respond to the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. The Circle meets monthly to share thoughts and ideas and plan activities. All are welcome!

Members of the circle are currently working on three streams of action:

Build More Awareness of Indigenous Ways — We have ‘seeded’ little free libraries with books by Indigenous authors and hosted readings with Indigenous authors in order to celebrate the stories and perspectives of First Nations writers. We have also created a reading list which is available on the FGCA website.

Map and connect to the land – before settlement—with mapping initiatives and walks with Indigenous guides.

Be an active resource for learning and outreach - group members are sharing resources and connections, while exploring what we can enact locally from the TRC recommendations.

ACTIVITIES

This year the Circle focussed on building awareness of Indigenous ways through hosting a free public speaker series.

January 2019: Ron Rice and Tanya Clarmont of Victoria Native Friendship Centre

March 2019: Earl Claxton Jr: Native Plants and their Indigenous Uses

May 2019: Stephanie Papik: Storytelling: The ancient art of spinning wool and leadership development

Circle members also volunteered time and food to provide home-cooked meals for shelter guests at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre over the holiday season.



Sharing Circle with Stephanie Papik

TRANSGENDER TIPPING POINT

The FGCA provided space and support for the Transgender Tipping Point project this year.

Trans youth from across Canada convened for retreats in the fall and spring. These arts-focussed retreats connect trans youth with each other and with adult mentors, building a network of support and celebration.

"As a member of the Trans Tipping Point Project, I can attest to how life-changing and inspiring it's been. Thank you so much for helping make this a reality!"

Trans Tipping Point participant

REPAIR CAFÉ FAIRFIELD

Repair Café is changing our throw-away culture, one item at a time. This popular event is hosted regularly at the FGCA by a group of committed volunteers. This creative response to environmental sustainability brings together people who need items fixed with people who can do the fixing, all for free!

5 CAFES HOSTED
30 VOLUNTEERS
COUNTLESS ITEMS FIXED AND
KEPT OUT OF THE LANDFILL!



Repair Café participants



OBSERVER NEWSPAPER

The Observer Newspaper is the place to find information on all the FGCA's programs and services, along with neighborhood news, local events, and businesses in Fairfield Gonzales. Shortly after the Community Association formed in 1975, the Observer was created as a way to build community through sharing stories, connecting neighbors, and celebrating where we live, a vision held true by the team that brings each issue of the Observer to print.

4	ISSUES ANNUALLY
18 000	COPIES MAILED
2 000	COPIES PICKED UP

SERVICES

VOLUNTEERS
FACILITY RENTALS
YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELLORS

VOLUNTEERS

We are lucky in Fairfield Gonzales to have residents who are passionate about their neighbourhood and eager to give back. We couldn't do our work without them!

200 VOLUNTEERS
3300 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
Neighbourhood Improvement Committee
Fall Fairfield
Community Yard Sale
Youth Programs
Out of School Care
Preschool
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
Babywearers
....and more!

PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: BLAKE TILLISON

Blake Tillison has lived in Fairfield since 1998, and for twenty of those twenty-two years he has volunteered once a week at the FGCA. Every Wednesday afternoon Blake arrives with a warm hello for everyone, eager to get on with his work. He is an incredibly hard worker and for the last twenty years, he has helped us with administrative tasks, watering the front gardens, as well as sweeping, sorting recyclables and picking up garbage. Blake likes to keep active and volunteering at the FGCA provides him with exercise and routine.



Blake Tillison

Some of his favourite memories include Joan Kotarski's retirement party, all the Fall Fairfields, including the funny band that played on the field, Halloween Bonfires, the Volunteer Appreciation Pancake Breakfast, and all the Winter Holiday parties.

Blake remembers when the Food Forest did not exist and has enjoyed watching it grow and change. He remembers when Vanya McDonell created the front gardens, giving him something to water. He also remembers when the FGCA got the Portable, later transitioning into the Camas Day Care.

Blake loves to have a cup of coffee on his break and chat with the FGCA staff and likewise the staff are always eager to hear Blake's stories. The FGCA is so fortunate that Volunteer Victoria referred him to us twenty years ago. He is an important part of our community and we look forward to many more years together!

FACILITY RENTALS

This year we continued to share our community space with on-going renters such as the Moss Street Market, the Fairfield United Church, the Royal Astronomical Society, Salsa Moderna, and Soundings Vocal Ensemble. In addition, Corinne's Kitchen was rented most of the year by the International Women's Catering Co-Operative, the Samosa King and Tamales Don Carlos.

Once again Knotty by Nature hosted their popular fibre arts festival, Fibrations, on the field and the South Vancouver Island Potter's Guild held their annual pottery sale in our Garry Oak Room.

Also using the space were a number of private rentals hosting education sessions, a book launch, support groups, community meetings, a Youth Pride Dance, an All Abilities Valentine's Dance, and many birthday parties, to name just a few.

We changed the name of 'Our Place is Your Place' to 'Freebie Nights for Community Groups' and with a new poster and some advertising it became a huge success. Freebie Nights is 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.

86 RENTERS
854 BOOKINGS

YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELLORS

The FGCA employs Youth and Family Counsellors (YFCs) in ten schools in School District #61. Counsellors bring their unique talents and skills to their student population, providing individual and group counselling, social supports, life skills coaching, referrals, and other interventions that help students succeed at life and in school. Youth and Family Counsellors are often seen as the heart and soul of the school. Their caseloads are high, the issues complex, and they rise to the challenge every day.

Top concerns that Youth and Family Counsellors are seeing in their schools are:

- *Stress and anxiety*
- *Grief 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).*

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

"I wouldn't have made it through this school year without you"

Student receiving YFC service

WORKING AT THE FGCA

AUGUST 1ST 2018
TO JULY 31ST 2019

STAFFING

Our greatest strength is our people! Our talented and dedicated staff team is the lifeblood of our work, and serves as the point of connection for all of our community and clients.

111
EMPLOYEES IN 2018

89%
STAFFING COSTS AS % OF
OVERALL EXPENSES

FUNDING

REVENUE
\$ 2,795,659 ACTUAL FOR YEAR

EXPENSES
\$ 2,695,703 ACTUAL FOR YEAR

6%
CITY FUNDING

15%
PROVINCIAL & GAMING
FUNDING

1%
FEDERAL FUNDING

38%
SCHOOL DISTRICT 61 CONTRACT

38%
FGCA PROGRAMS & RENTAL
REVENUE

1%
DONATIONS, FUNDRAISING &
FOUNDATION GRANTS



FGCA staff Melissa Reid & Stefie Gray

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE FGCA

The FGCA is funded thorough a number of streams. Diversity in funding is a key factor in the organization's financial health. We hold a number of contracts, collect fees for service, and apply for grants. We also hold fundraisers and solicit donations that help us do the community work that is so important but is often not funded.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Fall Fairfield
Community Yard Sale BBQ
Music Bingo Night
Gift of Good Food (in partnership with Fernwood NRG)

SUCCESSFUL GRANTS

Canada Summer Student Grant
City of Victoria Strategic Plan Grant
City of Victoria My Great Neighbourhood Grant
Victoria Foundation Community Grant— Trans Tipping Point
Trans Care BC grant—Trans Tipping Point

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.

In-kind sponsors:

Thrifty Foods
RBC
ReFuse
Used Victoria
Phillips Brewery
Peninsula Co-op
...and the many local businesses who contributed to our silent auction



Music Bingo Night at Fernwood Inn

DONATIONS

Your donations make it possible for us to do the community-building work that is often not funded. With these donations, we create opportunities for people to build social connections, and we improve life in our neighbourhood for all who live, work, and play here. Our volunteer base helps stretch these dollars to reach more people in our neighbourhood.

In addition to ongoing donations, we also encourage planned giving. What better way to leave a lasting legacy in Fairfield Gonzales than to commit part of your estate to the community you love?

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
IS PROVIDED BY:*

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CANADA

PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

GAMING POLICY AND ENFORCEMENT BRANCH

ISLAND HEALTH

CITY OF VICTORIA

SCHOOL DISTRICT #61

VICTORIA FOUNDATION

TRANS CARE BC



Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada