

.....PAGE 5



**FERNWOOD'S
NEW YEAR BABY
2006**

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FERNWOOD PROFILE:PAGE 5

KAY DIXON
Educator,
Activist,
"Rabble Rouser"



FERNWOOD

WINTER 2006

NEWS

News from the Fernwood Community Association

A Legacy For A Hundred Years

On November 3rd, City council unanimously agreed to support extensive renovations to earthquake-proof the Fernwood Community Association's "Little Fernwood" hall at 1921-23 Fernwood Road.

Joanne Murray, FCA president, expressed satisfaction at the prospect of the long-anticipated project finally becoming a reality. Referring to the building affectionately as "the old girl," Murray suggested that the projected improvements represent "a legacy for a hundred years."

That legacy has been a long time in the making. A charette held in 2000 resulted in plans for extensive renovations. The project included a re-design of the main hall, re-location of the office to the north storefront, and seismic improvements.

Last March, the fundraising phase of the project was completed and construction slated to begin in June 2005. After delays related to the City of Victoria's need for inter-departmental consultation, the proposals went before council in November. The unanimous vote reflected the view that, as Councillor Helen Hughes noted, "it is our building and it's an investment in our property."

Many locals would add that it's an investment in the future too. We are hopeful that construction can begin in the next few months. Watch for details in upcoming issues of the Fernwood News.



Fernwood Community Association building, 1921-23 Fernwood Road
Photo: Stephanie Hill

Knock This House Down? What Do You Think?

How do you know if a house is worth saving? The public is invited to attend a presentation by Victoria City Councillor Pam Madoff on what to consider when deciding whether to preserve or demolish an existing home. For example, what is meant by the term "heritage preservation"? Does it apply just to buildings, or does it refer to interesting or distinctive features such as yards, trees, or walls? The affordability of our existing housing stock is another consideration, as well as the City's numerous rules and regulations governing construction and demolition. Recent pictures of homes in Fernwood, some of which are slated for demolition, will be used as examples. In addition, there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion.

PRESENTATION
by
Councillor Pam Madoff
Tuesday, February 28, 2006, 7:00pm
at
1923 Fernwood Road (FCA Hall)

Pam Madoff is currently serving her fifth term on City council and has held the portfolios of Planning, Heritage, and Design. She is a passionate advocate for sustainable and appropriate planning that enhances our city and its neighbourhoods. Prior to being elected to council in 1993, she wrote and lectured on architectural history, preservation, and urban planning.

This event, sponsored by the Fernwood Community Association Land Use Committee, is the first in the 2006 series of presentations concerned with land use and development issues in our community. Future presentation topics may include: affordability, density, building height, parking, traffic, safety, noise, building design, property maintenance, parks, and playgrounds.

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FERNWOOD NEWS

WINTER 2006

News from the Fernwood Community Association

February 1st 2006

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Delivered free to every home in Fernwood

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Graphic design and typesetting by Mark and Jane Bateman
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The *Fernwood News* is a community newspaper, open to anyone wishing to share information or offer an opinion of interest to the people of Fernwood. Opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the FCA or contributors. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the City of Victoria, our advertisers, and the hard-working volunteers who help produce this newspaper.

We welcome your Fernwood stories and photos for the Spring issue. Deadline for submissions is Sunday April 23rd 2006

Please support our local advertisers.

Change

Editorial

Change, as the saying goes, is inevitable. But to the extent that we control it, change involves choices, and all choices require thoughtful consideration and, sometimes, tough decisions.

We have had to make our fair share of tough choices here in Fernwood in recent years, but, oh, how sweet the resulting changes can be!

As we see in this issue's cover story, there are big changes happening at our own Fernwood Community Association building at 1923 Fernwood Road. It was a long time in the works, and not without inevitable delays and frustrations. It hasn't happened yet but it is happening.

Consider too the story about the two apartments that have long been of concern to our neighbourhood, the "Ground Zero" of so much despair. At long last, it looks as if they have been sorted out. That's a very positive change.

Then there's the Parfitt Building at the centre of Fernwood village renamed the "Cornerstone" by its new owners. After years of being boarded up on the main floor and occupied by some dubious characters upstairs, the building is slowly coming back to life, thanks to the efforts of our sister organization down the road, the FNRGS (hey, that's a new name - another change!), and to the many neighbourhood volunteers who have given generously of their time and money. That's positive change too.

On a smaller scale, but no less encouraging, is work being done on the old corner store at Chambers and Princess, across from George Jay School. I'm told that the owner plans to open it as a coffee shop. Look out Starbucks!

Another sign of change, perhaps more difficult to applaud, has been the boarding up another well-known problem apartment, in the 2300 block of Cook Street. Although no one wants to see the closing down of affordable housing, there is a difference between affordable housing and unsafe housing, and I suspect that few neighbours are lamenting the departure of that building's more colourful occupants or the crime and syringes that came with them. We can only hope that the City will attempt to broker a deal that would see a solution similar to the one currently in the works for 2821 Irma Street, which is being transformed from a notorious drug house into affordable housing for specifically identified groups. Imagine the Cook Street apartment as affordable housing for aspiring artists as a beacon of creativity instead of despair. Why not?

Wander the streets of Fernwood and you see change happening everywhere: old houses being restored, the sound of paint slapping over the boards of faded fences, vegetable gardens appearing where weeds once ruled. This past autumn, I watched as three long-neglected rental properties near where I live were painted and repaired; a good thing for the landlord, tenants, and neighbourhood alike. Look at the traffic-calming circles on Denman with their little gardens where you would least expect to find them. Take a long admiring look at Paul Phillip's place on the corner of Camosun and Balmoral if you want to see a work of love in progress.

Call me a naysayer, but I'm always a little sceptical when I hear talk of neighbourhoods spontaneously energizing, mobilizing, or whateverizing; it's never that simple and never without some hard choices and pain; but there can be no denying that things are changing in Fernwood. And those changes look pretty good to me.

Cheers Fernwood!

From The Land Use Committee

By Stephanie Hill, Chairperson

All photos: Stephanie Hill

The primary goal of the Fernwood Community Association's Land Use Committee is to ensure that residents have the opportunity for meaningful participation when land use decisions are made. Many overlapping areas comprise the broad topic of land use, including: development/re-development, traffic, tree protection, secondary suite regulation, design guidelines, and community plan development. The committee's work ranges from reviewing one-off, re-development proposals to providing input into planning and zoning practices and bylaws. Reviewing rezoning proposals takes a substantial amount the committee's time and frequently touch on multiple issues. Below are a few of the recent proposals brought before the committee.

Shell Station at 1321 Yates. Plans presented to the committee involved upgrading the gas bar, replacing some of the service bays with an expanded retail operation, and relocating the car wash. Since a rezoning is required to permit the retail store, the proposal will go to City council for approval. The proponent has attended several meetings to go over the design and has made changes in response to suggestions.



1115 & 1117 Caledonia. This is one lot, zoned duplex (R-2 bylaw), with two small houses on it. The proposal is to tear down the two existing cottages and create one side-by-side duplex.

2020 Shakespeare. This property is zoned single-family dwelling (R1-B bylaw), with enough land for 3 50'x100' lots. The proposal to retain the existing house and build two small lot infill houses, one on either side of the existing house, has been approved.



1408 & 1410 Walnut. These two lots are zoned duplex (R-2 bylaw). Both are undersized and do not meet the minimum size requirement for the duplex bylaw. One lot is vacant and the other has a house on it. The proponent's first proposal, to tear down the existing house and build two new duplexes, was rejected by City council. Since then, the proponent has returned with a proposal to

reconfigure the lots, build one duplex, and tear down the existing house to replace it with a small lot infill house.

The City requires developers to bring their proposals to the committee for review, but there are other procedures involving significant land use changes that are not brought to the attention of the Land Use Committee. An example of this is an application to the Board of Variance. Along with other community groups, we are encouraging council to recommend that these applications come to their respective neighbourhood land use committees.

Over the past year, the committee has been an active participant in a process, initiated by City council, to formalize and standardize the role of the various community land use committees in the city. After a lot of hard work, the final draft of the Community Association Land Use Committee (CALUC) processes will soon be going to City council.

Meetings of Fernwood Community Association Land Use Committee, which are open to the public, are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Check the notice boards in the window of 1923 Fernwood Road for upcoming proposals. The Land Use Committee welcomes everyone's perspective.

I hope to see you at the meetings. Remember land use issues affect you!

Fernwood Community Association Committees: Chairperson/s

Building: Carlos Flores 598-7690.

Date and time varies

Communications: Tony Sprckett 380-0714

Meets 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00pm

Cultural: Richard Olafson 385-3378

Date and time varies

Land Use: Stephanie Hill 592-1919

Safety: Co-chairs Brian Day 418-8910 and Joanne Murray 595-3191.

FCA Board Meeting: Meets 2nd Wed. of the month in the board room.

All meetings at FCA building 1921-23 Fernwood Road. **Everyone welcome!**

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Carole James, MLA
 Victoria Beacon Hill
 Community Office
*Best Wishes for the
 New Year*



Tel: 952-4211

carole.james.mla@leg.bc.ca

Thank you Victoria!
 It has been an
 honour
 to serve as your M.P.



DAVID ANDERSON

Victoria - Hillside Community Office



1020 Hillside Avenue
 Phone: 250 360 2023
 Fax: 250 360 2027
 rob.fleming.mla@leg.bc.ca

Rob Fleming, MLA
 Victoria - Hillside

NEW DEMOCRAT
OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Councillor's Report

by Dean Fortin

Finally, with cautious optimism, it looks like we have started on a road to resolving a major issue in Fernwood the mis-management of the apartments at 2120 Ridge Road and 2111 Spring Street, and the negative effect they have had on the community. Recently, City Council moved to a business licence hearing, threatening to remove the owner's ability to run the apartments. This led to a last minute arrangement for Brown Brothers to take over the management of the two buildings and undertake to fix the problems. The Community has formed a working group to provide Brown Brothers with information and assistance to making the arrangement succeed. Members of the Fernwood Safety Committee have been active in moving this matter forward and are to be commended for their persistence and diligence.

Recently, community concerns around safety and illegal activity near the Johnson Manor also came to my attention. The facility had been running with little incidents for the past three years, but recently, in the past year, activity around and in the residences was becoming alarming. I was happy to be able to facilitate a meeting of the local neighbours, Safety Committee members, city staff, and representatives from Cool Aid. We highlighted the issues and concerns, and Cool Aid was able to act on the neighbours' information and take steps to correct the behaviours of some of the tenants and their visitors. It appears that problems have abated and will continue to improve.

I am happy to announce that, working with Fernwood Community Association members and representatives of the Housing Coop on Gladstone, we were able to compliment the upgrades they undertook by contributing to the resurfacing of the alley and parking spaces around the FCA building. It looks great, the pervious surfacing helps reduce storm water contamination, and it makes for good neighbour relations.

I was recently elected the Chair of the CRD Housing Trust commission. November marked the launch of the CRD Affordable Housing Trust Fund, whereby we "opened for business" and are now accepting applications for the funds. It was great to have representatives from the Fernwood Community Centre at the launch as one of the potential recipients of funds for renovating the suites at the Cornerstone building. I will look forward to seeing the proposal through the system.

It has been my great pleasure to work with residents in the Fernwood community and to represent your interests at the City of Victoria council chambers over the past three years. There have been many great things accomplished, from Chamber Street improvements, the Stevenson Park upgrades, passing a Problem Property Bylaw, securing Alexander Park as the dogs off-leash site, greening the traffic circles in Fernwood, hosting a community forum with the senior police officers, and much more. None of this could have been accomplished without the involvement and commitment of many community members. I live in the Fernwood area, and being Council liaison has enriched my understanding and experience of the community. As always, it is the people that enrich a community.

I have now been reassigned to the Quadra Hillside and the North Park communities as council liaison. I am looking forward to working on behalf of those neighbourhoods, but it is with a sad heart I leave Fernwood in my official liaison capacity. As a Fernwood resident, I plan to attend as many community festivals and celebrations as possible, and to continue to support the hopes and dreams of the community at the council table. See you in the neighbourhood.

Cut out and save



If You Need Help..... Useful Numbers To Call

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| EMERGENCY 911
Police, Fire, Ambulance | Victoria Youth Pride Society (VYPS)
472-4393 | Streetlink (19 or older)
383-1951
Transition House
385-6611
Sandi Merriman House
480-1408
Salvation Army (19 & up)
384-3396
Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Centre
361-9433 |
| NEED
Crisis & Information
386-6323
Youth Line (4-10pm)
386-TALK (386-8255)
Victoria Youth Clinic
388-7841 | Counselling
Mental Health 356-1123

YM-YWCA Outreach
386-7511
Victoria Youth Empowerment Society
383-3514
Native Friendship Centre
384-3211
Intercultural Assoc. (ICA)
388-4728
The Law Centre
388-4516
Epilepsy (VEPC)
475-6677
Youth Clinic (4-10pm)
388-7841
Pregnancy & Birth Control OPT (Options for Pregnant Teens)
598-3144
AIDS VCR Island
384-2366
Birth Control Clinics
388-2201
Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic 388-2220
Single Parent Resource Centre 385-1114 | Emergency Food
Mustard Seed Food Bank (hampers) 953-1575
St. Vincent de Paul
382-0712
Upper Room 388-7112
Open Door (coffee & muffins) 385-2454

Income Assistance office
(ages 24 & under)
1515 Quadra 387-5356
Employment & Referral Office 952-5210

Parenting Support
Vic High Daycare 381-3091
Victoria Best Babies
385-8979
Young Mothers Program
386-7511
Single Parent Resource Centre 385-1114
Young Parents Support Network 384-0552

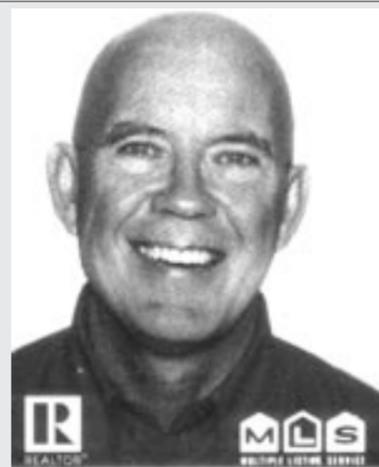
Alternative Education Programs
Greater Victoria SD #61
475-3212
SJ Willis Alternative Ed
360-4321

Clothing & Furniture
Women in Need
389-2203
St. Vincent de Paul
382-0712
Intercultural Association (ICA) 388-4728

Non-Emergency
Police (Victoria)
995-7654
Fire (Victoria) 384-1122 |
| General Health & Medical
Public Health Nurse:
Victoria 388-2200
Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic 388-2220
Dial a Dietician
1-800-567-8911
BC Drug & Poison Information Centre
1-800-667-8911 | Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs
Alateen 383-4020
Alcoholics Anonymous
383-7744
Narcotics Anonymous
383-3553
BC Smokers Help Line
1-877-455-2233 | |
| Youth Employment & Benefit Services
Victoria Youth Empowerment 383-3514 | Career Shop
Spectrum Job Search Centre 381-9074 | |
| Legal Information
Crimestoppers 386-8477
Law Centre 388-4516
Together Against Poverty
361-3521
Ombudsman 387-5855
Victim Services 995-7351
Rock Solid 386-7625 | Support Services
Street Nurse 885-1228
Youth Against Violence
1-800-680-4264
BC Schizophrenic Society 384-4225
Immigrant & Refugee - SARIS Support 361-9433 | |
| | Eating Disorders
Eating Disorders Program (VIHA)
Assessment & Treatment
387-0000
Resources & Outreach
383-2755

Abuse/Violence Issues
Women's Transition House 592-2927
Victim Services Program
995-7351
Women's Sexual Assault Centre 383-3232

Emergency Shelter/Housing Assistance
Kiwans Youth Shelter
386-8282 | |



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Theatre Inconnu!

Fernwood's "other" theatre, Theatre Inconnu, which has its home in the Fernwood Community Association building at 1923 Fernwood Road, is looking forward to another busy year. Here are just a couple of upcoming productions to mark on your calendar.

***The Ambassador* by Slawomir Mrozek**

This satirical and hilarious comedy was written in 1980 to describe the Polish experience under the domination of the former Soviet Union. However, Mrozek's *The Ambassador* takes on a new life, as it can now be related to the North American and European experience under the so-called global threat of terrorism. The plot unfolds in a foreign embassy within the borders of a "mythical" host superpower. The Ambassador in this embassy has been duped by the host country into believing that his homeland is still alive and well and that it continues to pose a threat to the host country. In reality and unbeknownst to the hapless Ambassador, his own country has imploded due to its ineffectual leadership and its inability to take a stand on any single issue. The host superpower has kept both the Ambassador and its own citizens in the dark in order to maintain and increase the erosion of civil liberty. Unfortunately, a refugee finds his way into the embassy and demands asylum and transportation to a freer life. As the Ambassador tries to comply with the refugee's wishes, he inevitably discovers the fate of his own country. He is subsequently confronted by a Representative from the superpower and is given a choice: he must either maintain the ruse or face the consequences. Mrozek stated "a good subject for a playwright is not a good subject for a politician or a social worker or a farmer." In *The Ambassador*, it is not only the politicians who become the scrutinized. All characters find themselves personifying the subjugation of common sense to ideology.

This is a specially commissioned translation by Theatre Inconnu. The playwright and his publisher have given Theatre Inconnu sole rights to do a first English translation of this great Polish comedy. Slawomir Mrozek is one of the great world dramatists, having produced 40 plays in the last 40 years. He is the most widely produced Polish playwright both outside and inside Poland, and is credited as having helped shape the course of modern drama. *The Ambassador* has played to huge success throughout Europe, and for Theatre Inconnu to receive permission to produce the premier English version is indeed a great honour! It also provides an exclusive opportunity for Victoria audiences to experience a play inaccessible to the rest of the English-speaking world! And this is all happening in the humble Little Fernwood Hall! Be sure not to miss out on this rare treat!

The Ambassador is directed by Clayton Jevne, and features Eric Grace, David McPherson, Clayton Jevne, Catriona Black, and Dennis Eberts.

Date and Times

March 16 to April 1, Wednesdays through Saturdays @ 8pm (no show on March 24th, but check out Café Sympatico that night!).

Ticket prices

\$12 regular, \$10 for seniors, students and the unwaged.

Special half price preview on Wednesday March 15th just \$6!
Pay-What-You-Can performance on Wednesday March 22nd!
So no excuses! There's a price for everyone!

For information and reservations phone: 360-0234
Stay tuned for more great entertainment this spring by Theatre Inconnu!

Denise Savoie Elected to Parliament

Dear Fernwood residents,



It is truly an honour to be elected as your Member of Parliament. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support. I am committed to being accessible and accountable to all my constituents.

I feel a special connection to Fernwood, and have worked with many of you on traffic and safety issues as a City Councillor. That is the same approach I will take as your MP working with the community to move your priorities forward in a minority Parliament.

I look forward to working with Jack Layton and our 29 NDP MPs to get results on the priorities that I heard on the doorstep; affordable housing, health care, more training for our youth, and action, not talk, on environmental concerns like climate change.

In terms of local issues, I will push for completion of the Victoria Urban Development Agreement, so that the federal government is more responsive to local concerns. Finally, the Conservatives made a very clear promise to Victoria on sewage treatment, and I will hold their feet to the fire until they deliver!

I will be opening my constituency office in the coming weeks, and I look forward to serving you as MP for Victoria over the next few years.

Thank you Merci beaucoup!

Denise Savoie, MP-elect

Victoria

History Corner

1423 Fernwood Rd (43 Fernwood) 1896

John Leander & Agnes S. Beckwith

A prominent characteristic of the Queen Anne house type is its variety of surface treatments. In many buildings this led to a complex structure, usually with hipped roof and several asymmetric gables. In this simpler instance of the less common subtype with a front-gabled roof and cross-gables, the variety is achieved in an unusual way: each of the four gables is



1423 Fernwood Road

Photo: Derek Trachsel and the Victoria Heritage Foundation

constructed in a slightly different manner. The front (west) gable has wide, paneled bargeboards with straight ends and a peak with an uneven stringcourse that projects over the wall below. The rear (east) gable has bargeboards with eave returns similar to those popular on the Edwardian Vernacular Arts & Crafts house a decade later. To the left (north) there is a jerkinhead gable over a one-storey angled bay window with a shed roof, while on the right (south) the wall gable has no bargeboard. A cutaway bay window on the left front side is combined with a simple porch on the corner entry.

J.L. Beckwith was born in 1856 in Cornwallis, NS. At 16 he was a clerk in a retail drygoods and clothing store. In 1884 he came west to Portland, then north to Victoria. A travelling salesman for various companies until 1905, he then incorporated as J.L. Beckwith & Co. The company carried on financial business and as general manufacturers' agents and importers, for many years at 1113 Langley St and then in the Belmont Building. In 1903 he and H.C. Brewster, future BC premier, founded Clayouquot Sound Canning Company and vied with the Todd family (1041 St Charles, Rockland) as producers of high grade canned salmon.

Beckwith spent 22 years in public service, as Victoria City Councillor from 1899-1906, Mayor in 1912, and chairman of the Police and License Boards. He was a School Trustee for 14 years until his death. He was instrumental in saving Craigdarroch Castle (1050 Joan, Rockland) from demolition, and in 1921 helped to establish Victoria College there in affiliation with the University of British Columbia. J.L. served as president on the Board of Trade, and as a director of the Chamber of Commerce. He was an early member of Victoria Automobile Club, Kiwanis Club, BC Agricultural Association, and Victoria and Island Development Association. During World War One, Beckwith worked for Belgian Relief and was decorated by the Belgian King. He was grand regent of the Royal Arcanum of Washington and BC. He was also a crack shot when young, and represented Victoria on the Dominion team in Ottawa.

Agnes McLeod was born in 1861 in Berwick, NS, married J.L. in 1886, and came to Victoria. One of the founders of the Victoria YWCA, she was an active worker during WWI with the Florence Nightingale Chapter, IODE, and in the Fernwood branch of the Red Cross. Agnes died suddenly in 1927 in Portland, OR where she had gone for an operation. J.L. moved to the Willingdon Apartments, then the Pacific Club, where he was living when he died in 1934. The Beckwiths were both very active in First Baptist Church. Beckwith St and Beckwith Park in Saanich are named for him.

Growing up, the three Beckwith children staged theatre productions in the house, with curtains hung from the arch between dining room and parlour to create a stage. Macbeth was a favourite of family and friends. All three graduated from McGill, but son Alfred was killed during World War One as a physician with the British Navy.

Beckwith paid the property taxes on 1423 from 1896, when improvements of \$1,500--the new house--are listed in the assessment rolls. According to granddaughter Jean Vantreight, the house was for many years stained brown with cream trim.

In 1946, owner Albert E. Drewry converted it to a nine-suite rooming house called Roslyn Court, then added two more suites. In 1956, Lief Sundhy converted it to four suites, and in 1969, under owner M.P. Paine, it became the Victoria Hostel for Girls. From 2000, it was owned by Fernwood Community Centre, who ran it as Fernwood House for their Best Babies prenatal outreach program, until trading it with Robin Kimpton in 2005. In exchange, and for an additional \$635,000, the Fernwood Community Centre acquired the Parfitt Building at 1301 Gladstone.



Parfitt Building (1301 Gladstone) circa 1911

Photo: Courtesy of the Parfitt Family and Victoria Heritage Foundation

Adapted from *This Old House: Victoria's Heritage Neighbourhoods, volume one (Fernwood and Victoria West)* by the Victoria Heritage Foundation, 2004. Copies of this volume and volume two (*James Bay*) are available at local bookstores. Fernwood News would like to thank Jennifer Barr and the Victoria Heritage Foundation for their assistance.

Notes to Fernwood From Councillor Helen Hughes



Councillor Helen Hughes

I am moving from your next door neighbourhood, Oaklands, to be the Councillor liaison to Fernwood. I look forward to building upon the good work done by Councillor Dean Fortin.

I believe that it is important for all residents to have a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood, and I will strive to accomplish this by being accessible and listening to their concerns. I also hope to have feedback about the positive aspects of the community so that together we can bring those benefits to other people.

I can be contacted in the following ways: 361-0217 (City Hall phone), 361-1291 (home phone, I stay up late so don't worry about when to phone), helenh@city.victoria.bc.ca (email), and snail mail: #1 Centennial Square, City Hall, Victoria, B.C. V8W 1P8.

I look forward to working with all of you in 2006. Best wishes for a productive and happy new year!

The Spring Ridge Community Well Project

By Bill Goers

In the summer of 2005, the Fernwood Community Association received a neighborhood-matching grant from the City for the drilling and finishing of a water well in Stevenson Park. A long-term local resident, Ron Welch, was hired to lead the first phase of the project, dousing, drilling, and casing a well. When Welch and his team of neighbourhood volunteers struck water at a depth of about 15 feet, a casing was installed and the well capped with print and film media on hand to capture the event. This phase of the project was completed on July 23-24, 2005.

The idea for a community well goes back to the neighbourhood plan of 1994. Fernwood residents agreed that a local water well should be made as a park feature to commemorate Spring Ridge's role as the main source of Victoria's water supply during Crown Colony and early Confederation days (1860s and 1870s). Interestingly, both Sir James Douglas and Queen Victoria issued proclamations stating that a local well would belong to the citizens of Victoria. This proclamation remains in force today, and could only be overturned by another Royal Edict. The community well celebrates this history. The well's placement, in the northwest corner of the park is within 50 meters of the location where the people's well stood.

Just days after the well was dug, the Community Association received its first call from a Vancouver Island Health Authority representative with questions about water purity and public health risks. These were timely and reasonable concerns. After all, we live in an era of increasing awareness of water quality and safety. Safety comes first.

The next phase of the project would see the completion of the site in the spring of 2006. The installation of a hand pump (if the water is safe), a water feature, and historical information plaques are all being considered.

Project members would like to offer a special thanks to Ron Welch for his dousing, drilling, and storytelling; to the Do-It Centre and Victoria Landscape-Gravel Mart for donated materials; and to the Hudson's Bay Company for its historical interest.

Water, Water, Everywhere?

By Bill Goers

If, or rather when, a significant earthquake strikes Victoria, our water supply will very possibly be interrupted. Depending upon the degree of infrastructure damage, we might be without water for a week or more.

In response to this concern, the City has formed an Emergency Social Services Team to find strategies for dealing with a host of problems that could arise when disaster strikes: the need for first aid, fire suppression, communications, shelter, food, and perhaps most importantly water.

The team has taken several actions to address the possibility of a water supply interruption. It has made an inventory of private backyard water wells (14 identified so far, most of them in Fernwood), formulated plans for transporting lake water to the city (from Elk, Beaver, Thetis lakes), and made an inventory of food-grade water transportation vehicles such as milk tanker trucks and other small tanker trucks that typically supply rural wells during the dry season (though, unfortunately, there aren't many of these vehicles around Victoria). Finally, the team has added water purification technology to its Capital Acquisitions Budget for 2006. A portable unit with a capacity of 40,000 litres per day could supply a minimum of 5000 people with drinking water.

These measures are significant, but in discussion several questions arise. Backyard wells, which are generally shallow (40 feet or less), are subject to pollution, especially if the earth shakes around them. Is their capacity and purity adequate for the volumes being suggested? Would transportation, especially with large vehicles, be a problem when there has been infrastructure damage? Is the capacity of the proposed water purification system adequate for our needs?

The Fernwood Community Association's Safety Committee has recently proposed that the City consider establishing a local deep water well to help meet its water needs in the event of an emergency. Fernwood's Spring Ridge, well-known in earlier days for its natural springs, was at one time Victoria's principal water source. As any local resident will tell you, the water is still there. A locally placed deep well would provide the volumes needed in emergency, probably be less susceptible to the pollution shallow wells are suspect to, and together with a water purification system would provide an accessible emergency water supply. A well and purifier system could be a model for sustainable local solutions to a regional problem.

If you are interested in getting involved with this Fernwood initiative, we would like to hear from you.



Ben Isitt and Melissa Moroz with new baby Aviva Scout Moroz Isitt, born January 1st, 2006 at their home in Fernwood.

Fernwood Total Plastic Recycle Pick-up

Bring all recyclable plastics to Fernwood Community Centre
1240 Gladstone Ave.

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Fernwood Profile: Kay (Katherine) Dixon

by Susan Huntley Elderkin



95 year old Kay Dixon chats on her back porch, January 2006
Photo: Joanne Murray

It's true that everyone has a story, but some of our stories make a map that, if we superimpose them on the street grids of Fernwood, show a dynamic and textured structure. It's like reading a set of complex architectural plans when you've only ever noticed the rooflines.

Many long-term Fernwood residents know Kay Dixon as an educator and an activist ("a rabble-rouser," she says), but as a relative newcomer to the neighbourhood, I'd only heard a few stories that highlighted her energy and idiosyncrasies. No matter who I spoke to, though, everyone agreed that Kay is a vital presence.

When we met in January, I asked Kay to tell me a bit of her story. Whether she spoke of her beginnings in Winnipeg's North End as Katarzyna Skibicka, her career as a teacher in the Prairies and in Victoria, her neighbours, or her work with Street Newz, Kay's passionate humanism was foregrounded. She seems to have always been a student of people and a collector of their stories. Kay herself is an eloquent storyteller, but a linear narrative simply can't contain over ninety years of experience. Instead, she creates an enchanting fabric with gaps and patches that you find yourself staring at with a kind of wonder.

One of the strongest threads in this fabric is survival, as clichéd as that sounds. Throughout our conversation, we found ourselves comparing the desperate circumstances of the early years of the twentieth century with the present. Kay's memories of immigrant life in Winnipeg and the need to "be English" segued to contemporary poverty and then to the need to treasure our educational system. Clearly, for Kay, memories of tragedy and disappointment need to be placed beside the times of contentment; although some events, like her mother's early death due to tuberculosis when Kay was twelve, have resonated throughout her life, others provide a counterpoint or overlap other experiences, like teaching grade one at George Jay and motherhood. But, as Kay says, the trick with our stories, with our lives is to find a balance between independence and autonomy on the one hand, and sharing responsibilities on the other.

The Garden In Winter

by Joanne Murray

Where we Garden

In our mild maritime climate the four months of winter dormancy can have a delicate beauty to rival the exuberance of spring, the ripeness of summer and the drama of autumn. After leaf-fall the ornamental garden is bare and exposed and the subtleties of twig, berry and winter flowers shine under the grey sky and occasional radiance of winter sun. I think the best places to plant for winter interest are in locations you most often pass in winter -- near sidewalks, walkways and driveways. Inside your home, the view from a favourite window can be enhanced with plants that shine in winter.

My Favourite Winter Plants

I like the surprise of fragrance carried by the wind on a cold day, bulbs that I forget about all year until they pop up more robust and plentiful than last year and easy care ornamental plants that reward my negligence with glossy leaves, bright berries, glowing bark and radiant flowers in the winter. I want it all, I want it to take care of itself all year and I want it to smell good and look terrific in every season. Is this too much to ask?

Sarcococca hookeriana humilis is a diminutive evergreen shrub for shady locations. It is handsome all year and in February and March the delicious fragrance of its white flowers is enchanting.

For the native garden, *Garrya elliptical* has long elegant droopy catkins dangling from branches of leathery evergreen foliage in early winter. It takes full sun to partial shade in well drained soils and is drought tolerant once established.

Prostrate native juniper at the base of *Garrya* heighten the midwinter effect of the long drooping catkins. *Mahonia*, especially *Mahonia x media* 'Charity' has luminous foliage that is bold and spiny. Upright racemes over a foot long covered in fragrant yellow flowers burst exuberantly from the ends of the branches. This is an upright evergreen shrub, drought tolerant and good in partial to full shade.

Camellia sasanqua has elegant evergreen leaves and blooms in December in shade or semi-shade. The flowers are usually single and either white or pink.

Things I wished I'd Known about Landscaping in Fernwood Earlier. On a south western exposure consider planting deciduous trees and shrubs -- you will have a privacy screen and shade in summer but after leaf fall the silhouettes of bare branches will allow the pale winter sun to enter.

Pay attention to the mature size of trees and bushes -- that pitiful twig will look lost in the garden at first but in a few years horizontal and vertical growth will be startling and you'll wish you had filled in with perennials and annuals rather than crowding another shrub or tree into the picture.

The winter garden at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific is a living resource. It is a winter tapestry of familiar and exotic plants situated in wood and meadow exuberant drifts of crocuses in dappled light, sturdy hellebores with graceful drooping flower heads, the heady fragrance of *Lonicera fragrantissima*, winter honeysuckle, drifting over the scene. The 103-acre Centre is located at 505 Quayle Road and is open in winter 9 am to 4pm.



Sarcococca hookeriana



Garrya elliptical



Mahonia x media 'Charity'



Winter Garden, Horticultural Centre of the Pacific

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Vic High School News

by Margaret Hantiuk

Vic High is well underway to finishing off its first term of this school year. This is the last graduating class under the 'old' grad requirements, meanwhile Grades 9 through 11 are under the new Grad Portfolio requirements: there are some provincial exams in Grade 10 and 11, and less in Grade 12. The Grad Portfolio itself is new and students are learning to collect the necessary 'evidence' of their successful endeavors both in and out of school. For more info, please talk to Vic High Educational Counsellors or go to the Min. of Ed website: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/portfolio.

Vic High is working on upgrading its Phys Ed dressing rooms, weight room, and the halls and classrooms have all been beautifully painted with a grant from the district. We have an active Student Council this year which has initiated, as one of its activities, the setting up of a 'Student Lounge' in an unused corner of the school. The PAC meets every first Tuesday evening of the month in the Staff room at 7:30. All parents/guardians are welcome, and refreshments are served. The Principal attends and is available to answer any questions and concerns and to update us on what is happening in the school. With a grant from the Min. of Ed., and with funds from our Gaming Commission account, the PAC has bought nearly new computers for one of the computer labs. We have also ordered a new school server and an LED projector. Also, with our Gaming funds, we support the Athletic teams and Intramurals, the wonderful and famous Vic High R & B band, the Yearbook, Art Club (cameras and software), the Student Handbook, two PAC scholarships (congrats. to Felina Pablo and Jack Weyler this year), subsidized tickets for students to attend local drama/opera performances, our Drama Clubs, Foods Club, Science Club (setting up an aquarium in the upstairs hall), Yoga Club, in-school performances of touring groups (this year it will be a Brazilian Group), support of the library (we are one of the first B.C. schools to purchase E-books), and to our First nations students for their activities and to our Students' Council and their activities.

From our Thrifty's Smile cards account, we have donated money to the Principal's Sunshine Fund, which assists students in need and to the Youth and Family Counselors' Account which also assists our students and their families in crisis and transition. We would like to thank all of you who use a Thrifty Smile card for Vic High (we receive 5% of your grocery purchases at no cost to you) For anyone wanting a Thrifty Smile card for Vic high, please email Edna at: beulahbelle@shaw.ca. These revenues assist our school greatly and mean that parents don't have to engage in multiple fund-raising activities.

Other useful contacts for students and their families:

VCPAC Advocacy for help with school system problems: 475-9785

www.vcpac.ca - district assoc. of PACs website,

www.bccpac.ca - B.C. confederation of parent associations

www.Sd61.bc.ca - our Victoria School District website

www.bced.gov.bc.ca - Min. of Education website, and

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp for curriculum, or

www.bcawardsonline.sd61.bc.ca/ for scholarship info. 🌿

Fernwood Community Gardens

The FCA works with two allotment gardens and one community open space in Fernwood: the Earthbound allotment garden on Garden Street, the Chambers Street allotment garden, and Spring Ridge Common at the corner of Gladstone and Chambers. Community members who don't have access to gardening space at their homes can participate in the allotment gardens by maintaining a plot of their own and working together to keep the gardens beautiful and productive.

Residents of Fernwood have priority for spots in the allotment gardens; there is currently a waiting list. Each allotment garden has a site manager who liaises with the gardeners and looks after day-to-day maintenance. Each gardener is expected to adhere to a gardener's agreement by keeping it an organic garden, and keeping plots and pathways clean and weeded.

On the site of Spring Ridge Common near a fresh water spring, a one-room schoolhouse was constructed in 1887 and maintained as a schoolhouse until 1960. After the building was demolished in 1968, the site was used to park school buses and then became a vacant lot and cut-through until community interest encouraged the establishment of a community space.

The Fernwood Community Association has assembled a task force to conduct a review of these sites administrated by our organization. Comments, concerns and suggestion may be addressed to the FCA at 384-7441 or fernwood@highspeedplus.com. 🌿

Reckoning at Fernwood's Ground Zero

by Michael Trelawny

On October 13, City council took a long-awaited step to sorting out two problem buildings in Fernwood: the back-to-back apartments at 2111 Spring Street and 2120 Ridge Road.

At a special session, councillors voted unanimously to revoke the business licence of Inderjit Gill, the long-time owner of the buildings. But City council offered Mr. Gill a carrot with its stick: if Mr. Gill could arrange a management agreement with Brian Siddall of Brown Brothers, the City would rescind the revocation at its November 24 meeting.

Neighbours and the City didn't have to wait long for Mr. Gill's response. Within days, Siddall's self-styled "shotgun marriage" with Gill was consummated with an iron-clad three-year contract that includes the "red-zoning" of Mr. Gill from these properties, and a promise by the City and Siddall to keep the neighbours informed of changes.

As one neighbour put it: "Council did something really smart. It put the onus on Mr. Gill to prove that he should not have his licence taken away. It was a tough case to make," he added, noting that Gill's lawyer did not contest the long list of charges brought against his client.

On November 24, when council again considered Mr. Gill's licence, it voted to table the revocation motion for six months, a measure that, in effect, keeps the revocation option available to council. As one clearly delighted neighbour stated after this decision: "We're going to encourage council to keep right on tabling that motion every six months."

For neighbours of the Gill properties, known locally as Fernwood's "Ground Zero", the resolution was a long time coming. An almost constant problem since long before the trouble peaked in 2002, the buildings have received hundreds of visits from police, fire, and ambulance services in recent years. So far, the arrangement seems to have worked. "The difference here since October has been like the difference between night and day," said one neighbour. "I'm not sure what closure feels like," he added, "but this could be it."

But this story is about more than sad lives, broken promises, and frustrated neighbours. It's about the possibility, as Siddall notes, of creating affordable housing in our community. It's also a story about neighbours working together. As one neighbour pointed out: "We've developed a really tight community around Ground Zero, not just watching them, but watching out for each other working together. It's been as much an exercise in community building as anything." 🌿

Garbage!

by Brian J. Day

Shortly before she died, Vida Waltz told me the following story in an email:

"Two years ago, as I was leaving a client's home in the Jubilee area, one of her neighbours was loading discarded items onto his pickup truck. My client's husband asked if he could add an old chair to the pile and said he would gladly pay part of the dumping fee. The man replied: 'No need to pay, the boy and I will dump this stuff in Fernwood later tonight; after all, everyone else does.' Needless to say, I gave him a piece of my mind."

Knowing Vida, I don't doubt it.

I was reminded of this story recently when a neighbour lamented the garbage he has been seeing around the neighbourhood lately, usually in piles at the side of the road. He distinguished between two sorts of garbage: garbage pure and simple, usually dumped at night to avoid tipping fees; and garbage that started its life under a "Free" sign, but which becomes garbage after a couple of nights in the rain or after the neighbour's dog lifts its leg on it.

Don't get me wrong: those little "Free" offerings are part of what makes Fernwood special, a sign of big hearts and a desire to share. My neighbour has a point; there's a fine line between generosity and garbage.

Then there is the not-so-fine line. One local apartment owner, whom I'll call simply Mr. G, had a habit of leaving "offerings" under a cherry tree in front of his neighbour's property. Most of these offerings came straight from his dumpster, left there by midnight dumpers. Mr. G called his cherry tree offerings "generosity." His neighbours called it "garbage." These offerings would often end up scattered around the neighbourhood, broken and discarded.

A fishing rod became a scythe to cut down a neighbour's garden; a desk chair on rollers became an improvised skateboard. After years of feeling indignant and powerless, the neighbours finally said "enough!" They documented the drops and took photos, all of which they passed on to the Bylaw Office at City Hall. The Boys in Bylaws told Mr. G to close down his cherry tree recycling depot or face fines. The dumping stopped immediately. Way to go, neighbours!

Unfortunately, not all garbage scofflaws are so easily dealt with. Even if you can get the licence plate number of a midnight dumper, my experience is that the police won't deal with it unless they catch the dumpers in the act. Good luck!

There is still a lot we can do. If garbage appears on public land on a sidewalk or the side of the street Public Works will pick it up. Just call 361-0400 and give them the address. If the garbage appears in a park, call the Parks Department at 361-0600.

I've called these Public Works a number of times in recent months, always with fast results. And the best part is that the dumping is actually slowing down, which suggests to me that leaving garbage for someone else to deal with simply reinforces the wrong message: the neighbours don't care go ahead and dump it right here.

Are you picking up syringes on your property or around the neighbourhood? The police recommend that you put them in a sealed container and throw them out with your garbage. Are you finding syringes but are unwilling to pick them up? If they are on City property, call Street Clean at 361-0418. They'll come around and pick them up for you. If you don't mind picking them up but don't want to put them out with your garbage, you can always take them to the Vancouver Island Aids Society. Call 384-2366 for information.

As for those "Free" piles, a number of charities will pick up your re-usables for free. Canadian Diabetes takes clothing (380-3024); St. Vincent De Paul takes larger items, including furniture (727-0808); or try the Salvation Army (727-2293), Big Brothers and Sisters (385-7226), or the Red Cross (382-3159).

If you catch a midnight dumper at work, and you don't have Vida's in-your-face spirit, I wouldn't recommend confronting these people. Don't sweat it, just pick up your phone and let the City deal with it. Vida would be proud of you. 🌿

Free Victoria

A compendium of free services and activities around town

Free for Children:

Mother Goose -- Fernwood Community Centre Gym, 1240 Gladstone. Group experience for parents, caregivers, infants, toddlers and young children that teaches rhymes, songs and stories. Alternating Saturday Mornings. Free. Pre-Registration is required 381-1552.

Toddler time -- Greater Victoria Public Library Central Branch -- 735 Broughton -- Wednesdays @ 9:30 and 10:15 am for 2 - 3 year olds with parent/caregiver.

Preschool Storytime -- Central Library -- 735 Broughton -- Thursdays @ 10:15 for 4 - 5 year olds.

Almost free:

Parent and Tot Playgroup -- Fernwood Community Centre Gym -1240 Gladstone. Every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30. Socialize with other parents while your child enjoys toys and playtime. Coffee, juice and snacks provided. \$1 per family.

Free for Seniors:

Introduction to Computers for Seniors: Part 1. Do you want to learn how to use a computer but don't know where to start? This hands-on session is designed to introduce "older novices" to the workings of a Personal Computer. Nellie Mclung Library Branch -- Friday February 10, 10:00- 11:30 am. To pre-register please call 477-7111

Surfing Seniors Drop-In: Central Library -- 735 Broughton -- first Wednesday of each month from 10 to 11:30. Learn to become more Internet savvy. Drop in to the library and practice your skills with a trainer. Each month offers a brand new theme and lots of interesting websites to try. No need to pre-register. February 1st, March 1st, April 5th. from 10- 11:30.

Free Recreation:

Free Swim at Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre -- 2275 Quadra - monthly, next swim Wednesday February 22nd from 7 to 9.

Free Swim at Oak Bay Recreation Centre -- 1975 Bee Street -- Sunday March 5th from 9 to 11 a.m.

Free Skate at Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre -- Sunday February 12th from 3 - 4:30pm, Sunday March 26th from 3 - 4:30. Passes available up to 2 weeks in advance at Crystal Pool or Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre.

Emergency Preparedness Instruction:

Friday Feb. 10th 6:30 -- 9:00. **Basic Search and Rescue.** Participate in a search for casualties! Is your house safe to re-enter after an earthquake? Fairfield Community Association -- OSC Room -- 1330 Fairfield Road. Call 920-3373 to pre-register.

Monday March 27th 7:00 -- 8:30pm. **Individual & Family Preparedness.** You may be on your own for up to 72 hours before outside help can arrive. Yates Street Fire Hall, Camosun St. Entrance -- 1234 Yates Street. Call 920-3373 to pre-register.

Sunday April 9th 9:30 -- 11:00. **Fire Extinguishment.** You actually get to put out a fire! Yates Street Fire Hall -- 1234 Yates Street -- meet out back. Call 920-3373 to pre-register.

Computer Instruction:

E-mail for Beginners - Learn how to send, receive and forward email messages. Central Library -- 735 Broughton -- Tuesday February 23, 10 -- 11:30 am. To pre-register call 382-7241.

Introduction to Searching the Internet -- Central Library -- learn the basics. Wednesday February 8, 10 -- 11:30 am; Wednesday February 15, 10 -- 11:30am; Tuesday February 21, 10 -- 11:30am; Saturday March 11, 10 -- 11:30am. To pre-register call 382-7241.

General Research Skills - Part 1 -- Central Library -- Are you looking for authoritative sources of journal, magazine and newspaper articles? Search and retrieve the information you need. Learn about Boolean Searching and how to make better use of GVPL's electronic databases (EBSCOHOST, CBCA, Canada Newsstand). To pre-register call 382-7241. Also, **Best Sources Of Information On The Internet.** Wednesday March 15, 7-8:30 pm.

Free Internet and Computer Access:

Free Internet and computer access for community members. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 9:15 am to 8:30 pm, Wednesday between 11 am and 3 p.m. at Fernwood Community Centre -- 1240 Gladstone.

Free Internet and Computer Access for Everyone. Greater Victoria Public Library -- Central Branch -- 735 Broughton. Surf the Internet and check your email at computer stations on both first and second floors. First come, first served basis.

Free Legal and Social Services:

Free Legal Advice and Representation -- The Law Centre, third floor, 1221 Broad St., provides legal help to eligible persons who have criminal, family, civil, human rights, welfare, E.I, landlord and tenant concerns. Call for an appointment at 385-1212.

Free employment services to immigrants and new Canadians who are looking for work or training -- Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society, #305 535 Yates. Employment counselling, electronic resources centre, educational and training opportunities, job placement, workshops. 361-9433 ext 206.

Free employment services to French speaking people -- La Societe francophone de Victoria -- 535 Yates, second floor. **Free internet access,** job board, messaging services and more. For information, call 388-7350.

Free information session on collaborative separation or divorce presented by the Collaborative Family Law Group. Tuesday Feb. 21st 6-8 p.m. at the Royal Bank Room UVic downtown campus, 910 Government St.

Almost Free:

The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria -- 1040 Moss Street -- First Tuesday of Every Month -- admission by donation. February 7th, March 7th, April 4th.

Victoria is presenting a month-long celebration of the Arts in recognition of the City of Victoria's designation as a 2005 Cultural Capital of Canada. phone hotline 361-0388 www.artsinthecity.com

Some of the Interesting and Free events:

February 18-19, 1:00 -- 5:00pm. **Victoria Map Project** -- Garry Oak Room, Sir James Douglas School at Moss and Fairfield. Gordon Friesen presents an aerial view of greater Victoria in its natural state, pre-European contact.

February 3rd, 8:30 -- 11:00 am. **Arts in the City Photo Safari** -- Solstice Cafe, 529 Pandora. Camera buffs join Claudia Lorenz on a 2 hour hike through the visual wilderness of Downtown.

Theatre and Dance:

Feb 6, 7:00 pm (Please arrive by 6:45). **Open Rehearsal:** Opera Studio -- Metro Studio, 1411 Quadra. Working opera rehearsal in preparation for Puccini's Suor Angelica.

Feb 11, 18 and 25, 7:00 - 9:00 pm. **Art of Dance** -- Ballet Victoria, 1201 Fort Street (rear building). A multimedia event of local dancers, choreographers and visual artists in the creation process.

Feb 11, 10:30 am. **Improv Workshop** - Youth - Metro Studio, 1411 Quadra. Introductory workshop on improv styles and techniques. Registration required. 383 - 2663.

Feb 11, 4:30 pm. **Improv Workshop** - Adult - Metro Studio, 1411 Quadra. Introductory workshop on improv styles and techniques. Registration required. 383-2663.

Musical Arts:

Feb 6, 8:00 pm -- **Jazz/R&B Showcase Series** -- Central Bar and Grill, 708 View Street. A showcase of up and coming and established Victoria jazz players! Series continues Feb 13, 8:00 pm and Feb 20, 8:00 pm. Please check the website for up to date list of performers. Free admission all three nights.

Feb 12, 2:30 pm - **Chamber Series** -- St. Anne's Academy Chapel -- 835 Humboldt Street. A wind trio comprised of some of Victoria's finest musicians perform a variety of classical pieces and instrumentals.

The Chamber Series continues Feb 19, 2:30 pm at St Anne's Academy Chapel with the St. Clements Trio performing a delightful variety of pieces, from light classical to tango and show tunes.

Feb 28, 7:30 pm - **Musical Finale** - Alix Goolden Hall - 907 Pandora.

The Greater Victoria Concert Band plus more treats and surprises, musical and otherwise. #



UPCOMING EVENTS

Trade in your winter mitts for your green thumb at the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre spring workshops!

Saturday, February 4th, 11am to 1pm: Free Composting Basics Workshop.

Saturday, February 18th, 2-4pm: Planning your Organic Veggie Garden Workshop. Cost: \$10

Saturday, February 25th, 2-4pm: Introduction to Grafting Workshop. Cost: \$10

Saturday, March 4th, 11am-1pm: Free Composting Basics Workshop.

Saturday, March 4th, 2-4pm: No Dig Veggie Gardening Workshop. Cost: \$10

Friday to Sunday, March 10-12, Fri. 6-9pm, Sat/Sun. 10-4pm: Compost Educator Volunteer Training Program. Cost: \$100 deposit, with \$90 refundable.

Saturday, March 18th, 2-4pm: Cane Fruit Production Workshop. Cost \$10

Saturday, April 1, 11am to 1pm: Free Composting Basics Workshop.

Saturday, April 8th, 2-4pm: Rainwater Harvesting Workshop. Cost: \$10

Pre-register for workshops at 386-WORM or info@compost.bc.ca. 10% discount for members. All workshops are held at the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre located at 1216 North Park Street.