

The Fernwood Community Association
Striving Towards Community Development

Fernwood Integrated Community Planning

Fernwood Integrated Community Planning. What exactly does it mean? The meetings so far have succeeded in inventorying the bulk of the services available within the Fernwood area. The idea being, it seems, to put together a directory which all facilities and service providers can use to meet the needs of those living in the community. Where there are overlaps in services, integration will occur; where there are holes, steps will be taken to fill them.

So far, it all makes sense. But then, there are also rumblings of a community school being planned at Vic High, to be built some time in the next 5 years. And wouldn't it be nice if we put all the community facilities together, ie. build onto the school an addition to house the Fernwood Community Centre and Association. But that's down the road a ways.

Now, it's the FCA's position that we might be better to back up a step or two and find out what the neighbourhood a) *wants* and b) *needs*. We feel that the existing facilities (Vic High, Fernwood Community Centre and the FCA) might be able to find better ways to utilize the buildings we already have. That way, Fernwood residents could take evening classes in computers, business skills or even get a *Foodsafe* endorsement. The FCC only has limited space for this kind of training whereas the school currently sits empty most evenings

Winter Membership Meeting

February 4, 1998

Learn more about the
Fernwood Integrated
Community Planning taking
place in your
Neighbourhood

Land Use Meeting: 6:30-7:30pm

Membership Meeting: 7:30 - 8:30pm

featuring guest speakers who will
bring us up to date on the latest
developments and provide an
historical perspective on the
Fernwood Neighbourhood Plan

Refreshments &

**Music and Vocals with
Caridwen Irvine and Dan**

Weisenburger

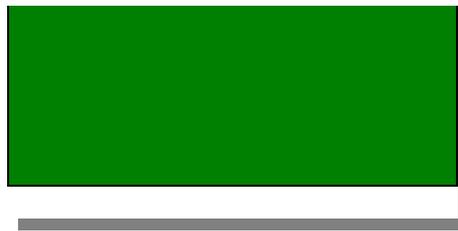
8:30 - 9:15pm

1923 Fernwood Road in the Main
Hall

and weekends. Then, if it still seems the area's service needs are not being met, it would be time to look into making an addition to the school.

As it now stands, the City is being asked to fund a survey at the cost of \$26,000. While the FCA supports the move to create a comprehensive services directory, we feel the cost of the survey could be offset by making better use of the people and resources already available. We also question whether the objective to integrate the services in Fernwood is the only one and would like the objectives clarified more extensively before spending tax payers dollars on the project.

That's why we need you at the Membership Meeting on February 4, from 7:30-8:30, at 1923 Fernwood Rd. Your input is essential during this crucial, decision-making stage of the process.



FCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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B.C. Transit Update: on December 9th the FCA hosted an Open House for the proposed change in the #10 Gorge-Haultain bus route. There are mixed feelings about this change, which would see most of the stops being moved Haultain to Bay, and residents are concerned about possible time delays along busy Bay Street. One of the main catalysts behind the move is a homeowner's complaint about bus movements shaking his house. It has been pointed out to B.C. Transit that if the City fixed and levelled off some of the road patches, this problem would all but disappear. So far no decision has been made but if you'd like to know more, contact B.C. Transit's planning department at 385-2551.

COMMUNITY POLICE NEED YOUR INPUT

The Mayor and many of the City's police officials held a public consultation at the FCA in November as one of a number of such consultations, to discuss the neighbourhood's concerns regarding policing. Unfortunately, there was a very dismal turn-out. It seems people are ready to complain but not interested in coming together to find solutions.

If you would like to address some of your concerns to those in our police force, contact Const. Brian Fox at **995-7399 ext. #7285**. He is very interested in hearing from you.

F.C.A. Bulletin Board

**Land Use Meetings - first Wed. of each month.
(7:30pm) Main Hall.**

**F.C.A. Board Meetings - second Wed./mo
(Boardroom -7:30pm)**

C.A.S.C. - first Wed. /mo (Boardroom)

**Cafe Simpatico - 2nd & 4th Fridays in the Main
Hall**

**OUR - One United Resource Youth
Meetings: - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays**

12- Step Groups (call for details)



**ARE YOU READY FOR THE
BIG
ONE?**

Last winter, during the SnowStorm of '96, we all got a taste of what Victoria would be like in an emergency. Power outages, food shortages, telephones and transportation down. And while it was scary for many and a major inconvenience for nearly everyone, it was a clanging alarm bell for those of us who hadn't ever

really considered what we would do in such a crisis.

Think back... *Did you have enough food on hand? Did you have an alternate way of heating your house (ie. wood for the fireplace--a fireplace which had been cleaned regularly so you could actually use it?) Did you have bottled drinking water in case the water mains burst? Did you have food on hand for your pets?*

Now, ask those questions of yourself again only, this time, consider that the next disaster may be an earthquake and you may not even be able to stay in or even have access to your house. Do you have a secure area to store the essentials necessary to sustain life for three days to a week, in the event of such an emergency?

Even if, after reading this article, you do nothing else, go out and buy a little \$2.95 handbook called, **Earthquake Survival, What to Do: Before, During, After -- The Authoritative Guide to Surviving An Earthquake**. Don't be fooled by the big title, it's a very thin book (so there's no excuse not to read it) and it's published by Pan Pacific Promotions. I picked one up at Bolens. It covers such topics as: what to have on hand, purifying water, tools, important items, if the power goes out, flushing the hot water tank, pets, aftershocks, if you are trapped, etc. A very thorough handbook to have on hand. *Only don't wait for the earthquake to read it.*

And then be creative. Most earthquake/disaster preparedness kits can cost a lot of money to put together. If you live in an apartment or are friendly with your neighbours, approach them about sharing the expense and the work. After all, even after you have your kit, it will require occasional upkeep. Bottled water needs to be changed, cans of food need to be rotated and replaced, etc. It's nice to share the upkeep burden with others. After all, your neighbours will probably be the ones you share the aftermath with and you may have to call on them for help and support.

At the very least, acquaint yourself with the **B.C. Tel phone book**. There's a couple of pages of tips on emergency preparedness. *Very handy!*

DID YOU KNOW? EARTHQUAKE FACTS

B.C.'s southwest corner is the most active earthquake region in Canada. More than 200 earthquakes are recorded each year on the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. Although most are too small to be felt, an earthquake capable of structural damage can be expected to occur somewhere in the region about once every ten years.

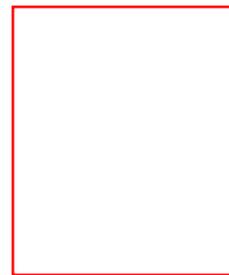
EMERGENCY FAMILY MEETING PLACE

Decide in advance where to meet if anyone in your family gets separated or is not with the rest of the family when the emergency occurs. Carry I.D. at all times and pre-arrange a method of communication.

And Don't Forget Man's Best Friend

Or for that matter, the kittie, the budgie or the hamster? Do I hear fish, anyone? During the Northridge quake, our animal friends were left out in the cold (fortunately, it was California). Vets and animal shelters were overflowing with lost and injured pets.

Therefore, make sure you have a good supply of your animal's food in your evacuation pack. And extra water, as well as I.D. tags on collars and leashes. In the chaos after a quake, animals can panic and get lost. A kennel or pet cage stored somewhere outside where you can get it, will keep your pet contained until things calm down.



WHAT TO DO... BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER

If an earthquake strikes, the secret to survival will be to avoid panic. In a major quake the ground can pitch and roll like the deck of a ship in a storm. Your chances of survival are best if you remain calm.

DURING:

- **If in a building, stay there and take cover beneath sturdy furniture or in doorways. Stay close to the centre of the building and away from glass windows.**
- **Don't ignite candles, matches or lighters.**
- **Remain clear of areas subject to the danger of falling debris.**
- **If outdoors, stay away from buildings and overhead power lines.**
- **If you are in a moving car, stop in a clear area away from bridges and overpasses and stay inside.**

AFTER:

- **Assess situation, check for injuries -- treat your own injuries -- if qualified, give First Aid.**
- **Inspect gas, water and electric lines. If in doubt, shut off mains. If there is a gas leak, open windows, leave building and report to authorities.**
- **Consult radio or television for emergency information.**
- **Make phone calls only for life threatening emergencies. Don't overload the phones needlessly.**
- **Provide emergency help to those about you and remain calm until help arrives.**

BEFORE:

- **Assemble a family emergency pack containing food, water, medications and first aid supplies, and battery-operated radio and flashlight (with extra batteries).**
- **Fasten hot water heater securely in place and tall furniture solidly to walls.**
- **Take a current, approved First Aid course.**
- **Prepare a family emergency plan and practise it regularly.**
- **Designate a *Family Meeting Place***
- **Know the best way to reach the nearest emergency first aid station.**
- **Be prepared to be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours.**

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PACKS - What Should They Contain?

Remember: It is best to store these supplies in an accessible place outdoors.

In addition to those already listed above:

- Shelter - a plastic tarp, a small tent, emergency blankets, or even some large garbage bags.
- Water - at least four litres/person/day, in tight-lidded non-breakable containers.
- Food - non-perishable such as canned or dehydrated food, dried fruit, canned juices. (Rotate periodically to keep fresh). Remember a can opener!
- Extra batteries should be stored in waterproof plastic bags. Same for candles and matches.
- Personal toiletries and medications
- Class ABC fire extinguisher
- Wrench to turn off natural gas.
- Shoes - heavy enough to protect from broken glass and other debris. Keep in a plastic bag or under the bed.
- Money - including coins for telephones because banks and credit cards may not be usable.
- Sleeping bags for each of your family members
- Appropriate clothing for the season
- Additional options: rope, heavy tape, a portable toilet, games or toys for children, a crowbar, photographs of your family (in case of separation), survival manual.

Now that you have a little information, take the initiative to contact the **Provincial Emergency Program** at **952-4854** and ask for their full package of information. Then, when you get it, **READ IT!** And start putting your kit together. I know it's human nature to ignore the facts until they're staring you right in the face, but **DON'T WAIT** until the **BIG ONE** hits to regret not making preparations. The time to act is **NOW!**

Information in this section provided by the organizations, information packages and other publications mentioned throughout. *Many thanks.*

