COMMUNITY MEETING
On the agenda: Block Watch
When: Monday, March 15, 2010
Time: 7:00pm
Where: Burnside Gorge Community Centre, 471 Cecelia Road

Everyone welcome! Doors open at 6:30pm. Come early to enjoy light refreshments and a chance to visit with your neighbours.

Block Watch is a crime prevention program that encourages community members to work together to reduce and prevent crime in their neighbourhoods. Real security comes from creating a real neighbourhood where people care about and watch out for one another. Join your neighbours to learn how you can help make Burnside Gorge a crime-free neighbourhood.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

Shape Your Future Burnside Gorge
by TJ Schur, BGCA Board of Directors and Land Use Committee member

The City of Victoria has launched a comprehensive process to update the Official Community Plan (OCP). Here is your chance to add your voice and get involved in neighbourhood planning in Victoria. The city’s target is to have 5,000 people participate in updating the OCP and provide local input.

A first, and easy, step to getting involved is to fill out the initial survey on community issues and concerns that the OCP should address. The survey will be available online, in paper format and at electronic kiosks until March 10, 2010. The Burnside Gorge Community Centre will be hosting a survey kiosk on March 7 from 9am-1pm and March 8 from 10am-1pm.

The city will also be exploring key OCP topics through citizen-led Community Circles that will run from March to June and a Community Forum on March 26 and 27, 2010 at the Crystal Gardens.

This is a chance for you to speak about the city, your neighbourhood, your street – the place you live - and how you envision it for the future. Burnside Gorge is an incredibly dynamic community with strong and innovative voices; make sure your voice is heard. Get involved!

City of Victoria OCP Community Survey
Burnside Gorge Community Centre
471 Cecelia Road
Sun, March 7, 9am-1pm
Mon March 8, 10am-1pm
250-388-5251 for more information or visit www.shapeyourfuturevictoria.ca

Please note that the family centre and youth centre will be closed March 15-19

Proposed Biosolids Treatment Plant in the Upper Harbour: What We Want to See
by Vickie Jackson, Burnside Gorge Land Use Committee Chair

Dear Dwayne:
The Burnside Gorge Community Association would like to thank you for your presentation at our Community Meeting on January 18, 2010. It was the first opportunity for this neighbourhood to discuss the CRD’s initial thoughts on locating a biosolids treatment plant in the Upper Harbour and we hope it will set the tone for ongoing consultations.

As you pointed out, plans for the siting, design and integration of this facility are in the early stages so we want to ensure that this, and surrounding, communities are brought in to this process as active partners. We feel that early, frequent and meaningful consultation will help us all achieve an outcome that meets the needs of the region as well as this neighbourhood.

In particular, we can canvass for feedback on amenities, design and impacts. As an Association, we have our own thoughts on these topics:

Amenities:
• there is a long-standing plan to have a waterfront walkway that eventually connects the Saanich walkways to downtown. This should be considered in all sitting and design decisions. Public access points, waterfront sightlines, meeting and gathering places should be featured.
• any shoreline should be restored to natural vegetation and contours where possible.

Design:
• an attractive building(s) with as much of the plant underground as possible to minimize massing and maximize greenspace.
• design features that would qualify the building(s) for LEED Silver certification at a minimum.
• a design and massing that is sensitive to the adjacent properties, particularly Point Ellice House, and the major arterials.

Our community association sees the potential for positive outcomes from this concept only if the needs of this area are forefront in planning decisions. We are fully committed to acting as a focal point for discussions between the civic and regional bodies, and our neighbours and surrounding businesses.

We would be pleased to set up regular meetings and to put forward lead contacts to ensure a thorough, efficient consultation process. Please contact me soon to initiate this process.

Yours truly,
Vickie Jackson
Chair, Burnside Gorge Land Use Committee

...What the City Wants to See
by Dean Fortin, City of Victoria Mayor

Greetings from Mayor Dean Fortin.
The Capital Regional District is moving forward on sewage treatment options under a short timeline. As a municipality involved in this project, the City of Victoria is committed to meaningful community input, and has begun outreach to help us shape this important project.
There are a few sites that have been identified by the CRD that fall within the borders of Victoria – as of writing this update, no one site has been confirmed. However, regardless of what site is finally selected, the City has a series of principles that will guide our participation in this project. Community input in shaping how these principles translate into reality will be fundamental to this project.

First of all, we are committed to the principles of social, fiscal and environmental sustainability - and there are many ways we can achieve this goal.

We expect any facility design to meet the highest operational standard, especially with regard to odour and noise concerns, as well as optimize the potential benefits for energy generation. The City has established policies for its own new Civic buildings which should be met or exceeded for a regional facility of this scope. These policies include the minimum achievement of LEED Silver certification, up to 1% of project cost devoted to the provision of public art, protection of views from important public vantage points, and on-site park/open space.

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Putting Women and Children First
by Denise Savoie, Victoria MP

Dear Constituents,

After two months with no democratic oversight on the Conservative government’s actions and policies, the House of Commons is set to return this week.

In addition to the 2010 federal budget – expected to push major cuts to public programs while going ahead with new corporate tax breaks – and other key issues from pension reform and job creation, to the Conservatives’ watered-down climate targets and preventing future abuse of pro-regulation, there is another key theme emerging for the upcoming parliamentary session.

After the PM announced that he would prioritize maternal and child health in developing countries at this summer’s G-8 and G20 meetings – a necessary and urgent goal, albeit a little behind other countries who pledged $5.3-billion dollars in 2007 alone – my New Democrat colleagues and I invited the other parties in Parliament to cooperate in 2010 to improve the lives of Canadian women and children, too.

Canada now ranks behind Mongolia, Latvia and Sri Lanka in the global index on gender equality. One in seven Canadian children lives in poverty. And just last week, we heard that mortality rates among Inuit babies are three times the national average.

Our proposals include:

- fixing Employment Insurance rules that deny eligibility to six in ten women;
- restoring pay equity to the government’s agenda;
- increasing support for women’s groups working to prevent violence;
- launching a national initiative to ensure every child has daily access to healthy food;
- boosting the Guaranteed Income Supplement to end poverty among seniors (overwhelmingly women); and
- making education, literacy and training opportunities more available and affordable.

Hopefully we can overcome the divisive politics in Ottawa for once and find common ground around putting women and children first this spring.

Meanwhile, my annual celebration of International Women’s Day features Coro Strandberg as keynote speaker. Coro helped develop the Victoria Values-Based Business Network and is a former Green Economy Policy Advisor for the BC Government. Offering a women’s lens, Coro will talk about the unspeakable rules that affect our lives as women in our workplaces and relationships. I invite you to come share in the discussion on Sunday, March 14, from 2 to 4 pm at the Ambrosia Conference and Event Centre, 638 Fisgard Street. Please call my office at 250-363-3600 to book a seat, as space will be limited.

On Sunday, February 14, 2010, Congregation Emanu-El hosted the There is Love Concert featuring Janine Davidson and Kouskous. The concert was a benefit for the Arsdal Rent Supplement Fund which provides $120 each month to the Burnside Gorge Community Association’s Homeless Family Outreach Program. This fund helps homeless or at risk families find shelter and maintain their housing.

To help Arsdal assist more families through hard times, please mail your cheque to Congregation Emanu-El, 1461 Blanchard Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 2J8. Please make cheques out to Congregation Emanu-El Rent Supplement Fund. Donations can also be made online at www.burnsidegorge.ca.
Move Over Captain Underpants, Make Room for Some New Superheroes!

by Gillian Rowan, Recreation Coordinator

Do you have a budding artist, comic enthusiast, or animation fan in your family? The Burnside Gorge Recreation Department is pleased to announce a new course for your young fan! Crazy Cartooning is scheduled to start at Burnside Gorge Community Centre on March 23. This course will take place on Tuesdays after school from 4:00-6:00pm, and is designed for kids aged six to twelve. Our instructor will take students through the steps needed for creating successful comics, cartoons and/or stories in this fun, hands-on course.

Crazy Cartooning teaches storyboarding techniques, drawing skills, and narration in a supportive and fun environment. Students will also have a chance to display their work to friends and family at the Crazy Cartooning Art Show on the last day of the course.

Register for one of the upcoming Crazy Cartooning sessions by calling the Burnside Gorge Community Centre at 250-388-5251.

Tuesdays 4-6pm
March 23-May 11, May 18-July 6
$84 for 8 weeks

Check out the spring Activity Guide for more courses for children including comedy training, French for families, Sportball and pre-school hiphop.

Better Laws needed to Protect Our Children and the Environment from Toxic Pesticides

by Rob Fleming, MLA Victoria-Swan Lake

As a father of two young children, I am deeply concerned by the cumulative effects on human health from exposure to toxic chemicals. I know many British Columbians also share this concern. Opinion surveys suggest nearly 8 in ten British Columbians support legislation protecting them from cosmetic pesticides in our neighbourhoods and environment.

Our society faces a huge potential cancer burden from exposure to hundreds of known and possible human carcinogens and from thousands of new chemicals that have not been tested for their cancer potential. The New York Academy of Sciences found that women exposed to pesticides have a “right” to use cosmetic pesticides on their own property. But like second-hand smoke, pesticide cross-contamination can’t be contained, thereby harming the rights of neighbours not to be exposed to dangerous substances.

For children and pregnant women, there are no safe levels of exposure to chemicals such as endocrine-disruptors and neurotoxins. And in protecting our young children, the legislation I’ve proposed could lower cost of delivering health care services over time by reducing chronic disease and illness.

I introduced this bill last November and will reintroduce it in this Spring 2010 legislative session. It is my hope that all parties will be free to debate the legislation and decide if B.C. wants to join the 6 in ten Canadians already living in provinces that ban cosmetic pesticides as a health and environmental precaution.

If you’d like a copy of my bill, go to: http://www.leg.bc.ca/39th1st/1st_read/m206-1.htm

More from Burnside Gorge Community News

Burnside Gorge is offering the Triple P Parenting Course

Cut through the confusion of parenting and learn strategies to prevent problems.

Currently accepting applicants for a waitlist. Burnside Gorge Community Centre 471 Cecilna Road 250-388-5251
**Community Announcements**

Thank you! Brad and Lynda Hasanen for donating a stove for the Burnside campus.

Workshops at the Burnside Gorge Community Centre, 471 Cecelia Road:

- **Emergency Preparedness Workshop** - Weds, March 10, 7-9pm. Learn what hazards can affect us in Victoria, what you need to do to be prepared for an emergency, and how to build your own emergency preparedness kit. Free. RSVP: 250-920-3373 or vema@victoria.ca
- **Increasing Energy through Chakra Balance Workshop** - Sat, March 13, 1-4pm. $40. Phone to register: 250-388-5251
- **Mature Drivers Workshop** - Tues, March 23, 1-3pm. Free.
- **River Otters on the Gorge** - Weds, March 31 7:30-9:00pm. Free.

Spring ‘Scene’

by Martina Kasumovich, Youth Rec. Programmer

Spring Break is quickly approaching and ‘The Scene’ Youth Centre is ready for a week of adventure and fun from March 8-12. Youth that register for Camp Survivor Spring Break will be participating in activities ranging from laser tag and swimming to a high-ropes and zip-line course. A sense of adventure and wanting to have fun are the only requirements for this high-energy camp! Breakfast included!

Cost: $155/week or $40/day. Time: 9am-3:30pm. Ages: 11-15.

Check out some new programs at ‘The Scene’

- Parents, do you need a night off from homework?! Send your kids to us after school on Wednesdays from 2:15-4:30 for the “S.O.S. Club” – We will help them get their HW done, have a snack and then they can play some games! Ages 9-16
- Hip Hop and Open Mic-Friday nights starting at 7pm. Ages 11-18
- The Youth Centre will be closed March 15-19.

Volunteer Profile

Bill Harrison

You may have seen Bill setting up at a special event, cutting the grass, delivering newsletters or changing our roadside sign.

Bill first started working with Burnside Gorge doing painting and landscaping work at the Burnside campus five years ago. Since that time, he has transitioned into volunteer work with the organization and he is a regular helper at most of our special events.

Always one of the first to arrive and last to leave, Bill is a dedicated Burnside volunteer.

Thank you Bill!

Volunteer Opportunity

Do you have a truck? The BGCA needs a volunteer to help pick up a plant that has been donated to the centre. Approximately 20 minute commitment. Time is flexible, but weekday pickup is preferable.

Contact Kim at 250-388-5251 or community-bgca@shaw.ca if you are able to help.

The Volunteer Dept. is made possible through support by The Provincial Employees Community Services Fund. To become a volunteer, contact Kim Perkins, 250-388-5251, ext. 223 | community-bgca@shaw.ca.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Kinders Enjoy a Lovely Tea**

by Toni Matingsley, Quadra Kinder-care Supervisor

On February 12th, a Valentine’s Day Tea was held at Quadra Elementary School for the parents and children in BCCA’s Kinder-care program. All week long, the children were preparing for the tea by making heart mouse puppets and cards. The cupcakes served at the tea and the room decorations - flowering annuals, hand woven table centers and banners - were baked and prepared by children and staff.

The Valentine’s Tea is an annual celebration providing the opportunity to meet and greet informally and deepen and strengthen ties to the community. We all enjoyed the celebration and look forward to a successful and busy year!