

Cairnsmore Community Newsletter

May/June 2008

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER!



NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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The Cairnsmore Newsletter is published bimonthly. If you would like to contribute an article about the Cairnsmore Community please contact **Veronica Scott** at **733-2441** or verscott@telus.net

Many thanks to Cowichan Valley Open Learning Cooperative (CVOLC) students for helping us fold the last issue of our Cairnsmore Community newsletter. We appreciate your help!

Veronica and Thanya

EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVOCATE MARY DOLAN RETIRES

After 40 years of working with young children, **Mary Dolan, Executive Director of Growing Together Child and Parent Society**, retires at the end of June. Mary is a well known outspoken advocate for quality child care in the Cowichan region and throughout British Columbia.

Growing Together in Cairnsmore started in 1993 because moms studying at the Cowichan Valley Open Learning Cooperative needed child care services. The centre was first located across the street at the home of Laurie Williams. A year later it moved to its current location on Cairnsmore, with spaces for 16 children.



"It's been such a privilege to work with families, children and community partners," says Mary. Her immediate plans include a holiday to Europe including Scotland, Ireland and Wales. During this time she plans to spend time with family and to "reflect on life," before making any decisions about the next chapter in her life. Kathy Williams, who has been with Growing Together for 12 years, will replace Mary. "Kathy will do a wonderful job," says Mary. Farewell Mary – welcome aboard Kathy!



POSITIVE NEWS FOR LOURDESS

In the last few issues of the Cairnsmore News we've brought you updates about **Lourdess Sumners**, a student at École Duncan Elementary in Cairnsmore. Lourdess is in Vancouver receiving treatments for leukemia. Principal Pedro Mengual e-mails regular updates he receives from Lourdess's mother and father, Ping and Orlando. Here

is an excerpt from their latest message. "The initial results are in and everything looks positive so far, no leukemia cells. We know that it is still a long way to go but we are happy that we passed this milestone on the road to recovery."

For more information about Lourdess click on to www.lourdesssumners.com

LOOKING FOR HISTORY BUFFS

We would like to include a regular column about Cairnsmore's history.

Do you remember what Cairnsmore was like years ago? Do you have a story or two to tell about the 'good old days?' - interesting people, events, buildings, etc? If you have lived in the Cairnsmore area for many years and would like to share some interesting historical tidbits, please call **Veronica Scott** at **733-2441**.

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Safer Futures: www.saferfutures.org

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The Government of Canada's National Crime Prevention Centre is a partner in this initiative.



NEWS FROM THE COWICHAN VALLEY OPEN LEARNING COOPERATIVE (CVOLC)

Principal **Larry Mattin** reports that the school has received a \$16,000 grant from the **National Crime Prevention Centre** to help youth return to school. The money will be used as part of a joint effort with other community organizations including MCFD (Ministry of Children and Family Department) and Canadian Mental Health, connect with students who have drifted away from school for one reason or another. As part of the program, CVOLC students will work with 'at risk' students who are attending other schools.

The school has also received to a \$1500 grant from the **Inspiration Foundation (an initiative of School District 79)** to conduct two tours to Vancouver's east side. Eight students will see another side of life – and its sad outcomes.

ACTIVITIES IN THE WORKS FOR GALA VISTA YOUTH

As the long hot days of summer draw closer, Safer Futures, Gala Vista Apartments management and Cowichan Centre youth workers are planning a series of activities for young people living at the Gala Vista. "The idea is to use the resources that we have in the community to help our young folk have fun and stay safe," noted **Thanya Al-Saadoon** of Safer Futures. If you would like to know more, please give **Thanya** a call at **748-7000**.

STUDENTS TO VOTE ON PLAYGROUND DESIGN

The **École Duncan Elementary** playground project has been successful. We have raised the money we set as our goal due to a very generous anonymous donation.

We have narrowed the designs to two and these have been posted on a bulletin board in the main hallway. The children will vote from June 2nd to 13th after which we will order the design of their choice. The plan is to have the structure ordered and shipped prior to the holidays so that the school district can build it while the kids are off. It would be wonderful for the children to return from summer break to a brand new shiny playground.

Next year we will begin fundraising for phase two. The plan this time will be to replace the dated apparatus on the far side of the building. We have some ideas as to what this will look like. I am positive that the children of the Cairnsmore community will be very impressed with this new toy.

Susan Porter
Vice President, École Duncan Elementary PAC

SERENITY HOUSE UPDATE

Cairnsmore's Lorna and Jessica McPherson are working hard to start a much needed home for young single mothers and their babies. Unfortunately, their application for government funding support was turned down recently. But they are as determined as ever to make life better for young 'at risk' moms and their babes.

Lorna says that Sharon Jackson, City of Duncan Councillor, has completely revamped Serenity House's website as a donation. Check it out www.theserenityhouse.ca Proposal writing expert Dan Lousier has joined the team as an advisor.



COMMUNITY GARDENS UP AND RUNNING

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church plans to hold a community get-together this summer to celebrate their new community gardens. The idea is such a success that the garden lots are all spoken for, says **St. Andrews parish nurse Jan McIntyre**. The gardens were made possible thanks to a grant from **New Horizons**. Stay tuned for details of the celebration.

WHAT IS SAFER FUTURES?

Safer Futures is a program of Cowichan Women Against Violence Society (a non-profit organization) that works with people in the Cowichan Valley to create neighbourhoods that are safe, healthy, and offer equal opportunities for a good life. A safe and healthy community is one that works to connect people, community organizations, business, and local government to narrow the gaps between advantage and disadvantage, and to ensure healthier, stronger, and more cohesive communities.

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