

Cairnsmore Community Newsletter

February/March 2008

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 Email: verscott@telus.net

SAFER FUTURES WELCOMES PAM ALCORN

Pam Alcorn recently joined Safer Futures as Program Supervisor. You may remember Pam from her days at the Horizons Pre-employment Program and her involvement in keeping the Mill Bay ferry running. In 2006, Pam moved back east to be with her family and work on her Master's Degree. She is a strong advocate for social justice who believes that violence can be prevented by strengthening connections between neighbourhood residents, community agencies and local elected representatives.

Pam will be working alongside of the Cairnsmore Neighbourhood Working Group to help bring about changes that the group identifies. You can reach Pam at 748-7000 ext. 230 or palcorn@cwav.org



ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN OFFERS EXCELLENT PROGRAMS

Cowichan Family Life is offering Mother Goose (a parent learning program) at Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church in Cairnsmore. It has been a positive experience for both the church and Family Life.

The church is also running DivorceCare, a support group for those who are experiencing the pain of separation and divorce. The group meets Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 in the nursery school, Agapeland. On Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m. we have GriefShare at Gospel House. This program focuses on the pain of loss through death. Both are in a DVD seminar format followed by discussion. *(cont'd on page 2)*

DUNCAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT SHOWING POSITIVE SIGNS



Ecole Duncan Elementary principal, **Pedro Menguel**, has been keeping the community updated on the progress of **Lourdess Sumners**, a student who is receiving treatment for cancer in Vancouver.

The latest report from the family in early March says that they are "cautiously excited" about her recent cord blood stem cell transplant.

Although it is too early to say for sure, the results look good. Older sister Georgette, also a student at Ecole Duncan Elementary "is a good helper and does her best to look after her big sister," writes their father Orlando.

"We know we are being upheld with prayer and we are so thankful. We keep going on day by day, but man we are tired. You know at the same time this is our life for now. We are so happy to have such good care in so many ways. Life is not all stress. We do laugh and try to enjoy the process."

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

ÉCOLE DUNCAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LAUNCHES NEW PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISER

Over the next several weeks, a child may present you with an official letter and a green, yellow, pink or blue ball sporting a happy face. We are calling these "Happy Smilin' Balls." Please agree to trade the child's ball for something that we can raffle off or add to a silent auction. All money raised will be directed to funding a new playground for Ecole Duncan Elementary and the community of Cairnsmore.

Susan Porter
Parent Advisory Committee

Newsletter sponsored by:
Safer Futures: www.saferfutures.org
Vancouver Foundation: www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca

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



COWICHAN GREEN COMMUNITY'S INFORMATION BOOTH OUT AND ABOUT

Here at the Cowichan Green Community we are busy with our traveling food-security information booth. We spent four days at the Duncan Mall and we will be out and about in various other locations throughout Duncan. We'll be announcing these locations soon so keep a watch-out for us.

On March 26th, we will launch Cowichan's Food Security Action Plan at the Duncan United Church, 246 Ingram Street from noon to 2 p.m. We will start with presentations and speakers then follow up with refreshments and networking. Other organizations will also have booths at the launch.

Also, be on the lookout for two more advertorials about food security in the Newsleader-Pictorial. These were made possible due to the hard work of our JCP (Job Creation Project) participants.

Amy Rienzo,
Cowichan Green Community

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER EVENT RAISES MONEY FOR DUNCAN'S HOMELESS

April 26, 2008 at 7:00 pm
New Life Community Baptist Church, 1839 Tzouhalem Rd., Duncan

Tickets \$20, available at:

- Gallowglass Books
- Coffee on the Moon
- Cowichan Sound and Cellular
- Duncan Christian Book & Music Centre

Phone **748-6521** for more info.

20% of proceeds will be going to Serenity Child and Parent Society.

REQUEST FOR PROVINCIAL FUNDING TURNED DOWN. SERENITY HOUSE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Serenity Child and Parent Society recently applied for \$750,000 Major Capital Funding for New Child Care Spaces and a Community Hub (community services). The application is for a home for new mothers and their babies, who would otherwise be at risk.



The Society was advised by Nanci Davies of the Ministry of Children and Family Department (MCFD) said that application was denied because 235 applications were received, and there is not enough funding for every project. There were no problems with Serenity's application.

We're surprised and very disappointed that we weren't successful. There is such a need for this type of service. We'll keep trying, but we *really need someone who can help us with funding applications*. Also, we are asking people to sign a support letter which is on our website, www.theserenityhouse.ca.

ÉCOLE DUNCAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S DARE PROGRAM

On March 13, ninety-five students graduated from the DARE Program at École Duncan Elementary School. DARE stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. It is a partnership between parents, schools, and the police to teach students about decision making skills to help them remain free of drugs and violence.

Special guests who attended the graduation ceremony included the students themselves, families and friends, City of Duncan Councillor Sharon Jackson, Inspector Howard Goodridge (Officer in charge of the North Cowichan Duncan RCMP Detachment), and Cpl. Garth Cunningham (Drugs and Organized Crime Awareness Service, Island District, Victoria).

Highlights of the ceremony included personal DARE essays read by the students, student skits demonstrating decision making skills, and a slide show that gave the audience a brief glimpse of the activities and learning that took place during the program. The one-hour graduation was warmly received by all involved. It was a positive beginning to the start of the school Spring Break!

Constable Heather Howard
Ecole Duncan Elementary School
Liaison Officer

EARTH DAY ZEROS IN ON CLIMATE CHANGE: Did you know that April 22nd is Earth Day? This is the day when people all galvanize behind a call for global warming action, this year's theme. There will be hundreds of events popping up in many countries including Canada. I anticipate that there will be a local celebration here in Duncan. Be sure to keep a look-out.



Patti Delisle, Community Resident

ST. ANDREWS CON'D FROM PAGE 1

These programs are open to the public at a cost of \$25 which includes the workbook. Click on to these websites (they contain a lot of useful information): www.divorcecare.org and www.griefshare.org

We now have a counsellor, Alistair Findlay, who has established Warmland Counselling in the Duncan community. Alistair has his Master of Arts in counselling. He is working in the Cairnsmore area renting space from the church.

The church has hired Carol Avon as manager for the Redemption Garden Project, a community garden for seniors. Carol can be reached at 748-0090 e-mail candila@shaw.ca. We'll have more on this in our next issue.

Jan McIntyre, Parish Nurse

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