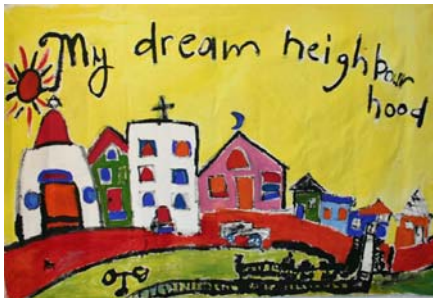


Cairnsmore Community Newsletter

July/August 2007



NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Patty Delisle
Kathy Coster
Larry Mattin
Mary Dolan
Lorna McPherson
Kerry McIntyre
Veronica Scott
Kim Martin

We'd like to thank everyone who contributed to this newsletter!



WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER!

There's a lot going on in the Cairnsmore community. It's a happening place. A newsletter is a good way to share information. If there's anything you'd like to see included, please let me know. You can track me down through the Safer Futures office at 748-7000, or e-mail me at verscott@telus.net

Veronica Scott

HELLO FROM SAFER FUTURES

Hello Everyone! My name is Suzanne Gray and I am the Cairnsmore community development coordinator for Safer Futures. Just in case you were wondering, Safer Futures is a non-profit organization that works with people and businesses to help create safe and healthy neighbourhoods. You've may have seen me over the last three years at various Cairnsmore events.

This newsletter is produced by Cairnsmore community members specially for our community. We hope it will become a wonderful way of letting people know what's going on in Cairnsmore – and there's a lot going on! We're also producing this newsletter because we believe that staying connected improves community safety.

We plan to produce our newsletter every couple of months. If there's anything you would like to include, please let me know. We would love to hear from you. I can be reached at the Safer Futures office in Duncan at 748-7000 ext 231.

Sincerely, **Suzanne Gray**

INTRODUCING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING GROUP

These people live and work in the Cairnsmore community. They meet regularly to identify issues and to explore ways they can support our neighbourhood. The group has developed a neighbourhood Action Plan. (We have also interviewed many people outside of the group for input and the Action Plan is a compilation of everyone's concerns and suggestions) The Action Plan is based on these issues:

- The need for **quality childcare**.
- More programs for **youth**.
- Programs for **people with addictions**.
- **Neighbourhood Resource Centre** where people can meet and get information.
- The need for **community gardens**.
- **Traffic calming** – improved road crossings and signs.
- More **green spaces**, **affordable housing** and **public transportation**.

Like to know more or join the group? Be sure to call **Suzanne** at 748-7000.

ECO FACTS

- >> One fast dripping tap can waste 2,000 litres of water a month.
- >> One dripping tap can waste 24,000 litres of water per year.
- >> In one year, a single tap dripping at a rate of one drip per second wastes enough water to flush 700 toilets.

Let us know what you'd like to read about in your community newsletter (please check all that apply):

- Activities taking place in my neighbourhood
- Housing
- Child care
- Community safety
- Government subsidies and benefits
- Transportation
- What other people are doing

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NEW NAME, NEW BEGINNINGS FOR GALA VISTA APARTMENTS

The **Gala Vista Apartments** (formerly known as the Luxor) is experiencing an 'extreme makeover.' It is now receiving a whole new look and feel. New managers, **Geraldine** and her daughter **Mona**, are working hard to clean the buildings up and improve the living conditions for tenants. They are also working to make the buildings safer for families.

Since Geraldine took over from the previous manager last October, 47 of the 98 apartments have been vacated. As tenants move, the apartments, many of which are in bad shape, are re-decorated. The common areas are starting to look clean and welcoming with fresh paint, artwork and flooring. In addition to all the physical upgrading, both Geraldine and Mona have worked hard to get to know each of their tenants while remaining firmly in control. As a result, they do much more than rent out suites.

They are working to create a very special apartment complex that is a family centred, supportive and encouraging environment. Many tenants have mental health and addictions issues. Once all the suites are occupied, Geraldine and Mona plan to use one of the apartments as a meeting place for community social service agencies to further support tenants. (Safer Futures has begun interviewing tenants about what kind of programs they would like). They are also planning an enclosed playground for children, who, they say were seldom seen outside in the past. Tenants in need receive second-hand clothing (donated by St Andrews Church and other fabulous people) and furniture (donated by Uncle Albert's Furniture store in Duncan).

"It's hard work, you have to want to do this," says Geraldine. "But the tenants are worth it. They are nice people."

CLUB LOOKS AT COMMUNITY NEEDS

Keep a look out for **Ian Kalina** from the **Boys and Girls Club**. He is out and about talking to people from our neighbourhood to better understand how the club can meet the needs of young people, six to 12 years old. We've identified the need for more youth activities and services as a top priority. You can reach Ian at 748-1171. Stay tuned for more information.

Please fill out the survey on the other side of this page and return it to:

Safer Futures
255 Ingram St.
Duncan, BC V9L 1P3

Call us at 250.746.7000
E-Mail us: saferfutures@cwav.org

ST. ANDREWS CHURCH & COWICHAN GREEN COMMUNITY TEAM UP FOR FRESH VEGETABLES!

There's nothing like fresh veggies straight from the garden – yummie. Unfortunately, much of the fresh produce we buy in stores is trucked and ferried to the island. Cowichan Green Community (a local non-profit organization) would like to see us grow more of our own vegetables and fruit. Growing closer to home is better for us – and way easier on the environment. Folks from the Green Community and St. Andrews Church are working together to come up with garden plots at the church. If you would like to know more, please call **Rev. Kerry McIntye**, 748-8927 or **Tom Merrick**, 748-8506

SERENITY HOUSE FOR MOMS AND BABES

Lorna and Jessica McPherson are the movers and shakers behind **Serenity House**, a home for young at risk parents and their babies. The idea is to provide a safe place where young people can have a safe place to stay while learning parenting skills. Lorna and Jessica, who have early child care-family service backgrounds, are busy looking for partners in the project and places to get funding. It's a great idea, and very much needed. Like to know more? Please call 746-6446.



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