Family Centre Gets New Director by Barb Whittington

Sonya Chandler will start as Family Centre Director on August 15, 2004. She is a UVic alumnus, has a community health background and will combine her work at the Family Centre with work at the James Bay Youth Clinic. In the next newsletter she will tell you all more but I wanted to let folks know right away that we have found a great person. She is informed, hardworking, fun and smart (like the families at UVic). Sonya has had an opportunity to meet with both Martha and me but I think she would appreciate you dropping by and welcoming her once she is here in mid-August. When the sign is out, the door is open!

Luckily we will still have the benefit of Catherine Carter's excellent input as a Centre staff member. We have a good basis for a great team.

I would also like to thank family housing residents Shannon and Annalisa, as well as Betty Tate, HSD faculty, who served with me on the selection panel. It was not an easy job as there were such good applicants. Great work and thank you all for your time and your commitment.

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Haro Woods Invasive Species Removal Project Needs Volunteers by Lisa Hitch

Norman Mogensen, resident of Cadboro Bay, is involved in a community project to clean up Haro Woods from invasive plant species. Family Housing rests up against a portion of this urban forest which many of us use for walks, short cuts to the beach, even making student films! This forest is owned by UVic, Queen Alexandra, and Saanich, yet the group only has permission now to work on the Saanich portions. They are completely dependent on attracting enough energetic and willing volunteers to accomplish their task within this calendar year. They hold work parties twice each week, on Wednesday mornings (9:00 AM to noon) and on Saturdays. Preserving a healthy urban forest is a good cause. It enhances the possibility of leaving a permanent forest legacy for future generations. Each work day's accomplishments are very visible and that is satisfying for participants. Over time, one can expect to see the return of some native species that have almost been eclipsed at the site.

Community volunteers are removing:
- Himalayan blackberries
- Ivy
- Holly
- Broom
- Deepine leaves
- Discarded tents
- Native species are being preserved and enabled to grow. To join in this community effort, please call Norm Mogensen (477-9114) or Bill Dancer (721-5273) for more information.
Submit to YOUR Newsletter!
Please send your contributions or ideas to Lisa at fcnews@uvic.ca, or simply drop off your written submissions in the envelope on the bulletin board outside the Family Centre.

Housing Office Q&A

Steve Fitterer, Housing Office manager, has offered to answer our questions about various policies related to living in Family Housing. Please send your questions to fcnews@uvic.ca for next month.

Q: Does one need to have children to live in a townhouse?

A: While the policy states that you need to have children in order to live in the townhouses, there will always be exceptions to the rule. If there is an issue around institutional accommodation or medical circumstances that warrant special consideration, we try our best to accommodate. If something arises and we determine that the best resolution is to offer a townhouse to someone without children, we will. Lastly, if we have a late-notice vacancy and the only family we can get to accept a townhouse on very short notice is a family without children, then we will assign them to a unit before we run it vacant for a month. Financially, we have an obligation to run at as close to 100% occupancy as possible.

Summer Fun!

Events at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary
Located at 3873 Swan Lake Road. To register or for more info, contact Melanie Andrews or Erin McNamara at 479-0211.
Creatures of the Night
Friday, August 13th, 8:00 - 9:30 pm
Join our naturalist for this night time adventure as we explore the lake at night. Learn more about the world of nocturnal animals, their adaptations and other fascinating facts. Recommended for families and children 7 yrs and up. Pre-registration required.
COST: $4 per child (accompanying adults free)

Free Summer Fun in and around Victoria
Here are a few of the favorites from folks in Family Housing:
Willows Beach (great French fries at the concession!), Thetis Lake (warm water, but no lifeguards), Gonzales Beach (washrooms and picnic tables), Gyro/Cadboro Bay beach (who can resist a Cadborosaurus!), East Sooke Park (beautiful day hiking and glorious sunsets), Beacon Hill Children’s Farm, Goldstream Park (hike Mt. Finlayson) and fishing or crabbing off the pier in Sidney. Just ask a neighbour if you’re new to town – there’s lots of fun to be found in Victoria. And pick up a copy of Island Parent’s Family Summer Guide for details and more ideas.

Upcoming Potlucks

Summertime Potluck Dinner at the Family Centre
Wednesday, August 25, from 5 - 7:30 pm.

Frank Hobbs Back to School Potluck Dinner
Thursday, September 2nd, 5:00 pm
Please come and join Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Underwood, principal and vice-principal of Frank Hobbs, for a potluck dinner to welcome back old families and greet new ones. Bring a favorite dish and meet at the Family Centre.

Family Housing Classifieds

A good deal on a car for sale
1993 Plymouth Voyager, 170,000 KM, good air conditioning and in good condition. Since time is short and we really need to sell we are asking $2,800. Phone Einat at 384-3301.

Moving Sale
August 7th, 9:00 - 1:00 PM
Unit 504, 2361 Lam Circle
Lots of books, furniture, clothes, and other great stuff for cheap!

Children’s Corner

Talking to Draven, Ben, Jose, Antonia, and Netanya in Family Housing on the subject of water fights, we learned some important rules to follow:
“Ask someone first if they want to play.”
“No squirting in the eyes.”
“Don’t hit someone if they get you all wet.”
“Careful of neighbour’s flower pots.”

“Use laundry room water, but turn it off.”
“All forms of water containers are fair game.”
“Don’t fill up in your kitchen.”

Come to our Magic Show!
August 13, 2 - 2:30pm
By Laundry Room 901
Netanya and Antonia will wow you with their tricks!