Family Centre Transition  
by Barb Whittington

Perhaps you have heard the sounds of celebration from the Centre. Sonya Chandler, present and soon to be past Director of the Family Centre won a seat on the Victoria City Council November 19th! Her term begins soon and she has decided that she needs to say farewell to her work here. Sonya started in August 2004 and together with Rosie, Andrea, Tomoko and a number of fine students and Family Centre volunteers, she has added her special touch to the work of the Centre.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
When Martha left as Director we all felt terrible, but her leaving allowed us to meet Sonya. We will miss Sonya and we will meet another good person as soon as possible and hope that Sonya’s work can be built upon. The Family Centre is funded through the Faculty of Human and Social Development so the hiring group will include someone from that faculty, plus we invite those who use the Family Centre on a regular basis to put their names forward for the hiring panel as well. For the last hiring we had Family Centre folks, a volunteer, a practicum liaison, myself as coordinator and another member of the family Centre Advisory.

We design a position description, place the ad in the media and spread the word around to folks we know who have experience in community work, counseling and work with children & families. Usually the requirements mention a degree in Nursing, Social Work or Child & Youth Care so that the Director can supervise students on practicum from those schools. Then we sift through the applications, short list and interview. All this takes time and care. Thus far we have had wonderful people come forward so we will hope for that this time too. If you have things you would like us to consider or have some time to put into this process, please email me by December 9th, and I will let you know the next steps.

I would like to add my own thanks for all your work Sonya, for your interest in families, community, food sustainability and having fun. See you on April 1st at the No Foolin’ Event for breakfast pizza and ice cream!

Changes  
by Sonya Chandler

It is with great sadness that I must announce that I will be leaving my role as Director of the Family Centre as of early December. As some of you already know, I decided about eight weeks ago to run for political office. I ran with the Greater Victoria Green Party for Victoria City Council and on November 19th I was elected! WOW! This means that I will be working out of City Hall for the next three years on projects such as affordable housing, community gardens, good transportation options... Hey...that sounds like my job at the Family Centre!
Changes: Sonya says goodbye! continued from Page 1

I want to thank all of you for the relationships we have built, the fun we have had and the challenges we have overcome together over the last year and four months. I have been honored to have been a part of this community and to have gotten to know you and your families; to have held babies, shared stories, picked paint colours, and eaten pizza for breakfast has been a really great experience for me! Thank you for being who you are and for allowing me to share in your lives. I hope to take what I have learned here about diversity, communication, acceptance, transitions and community to City Hall with me as it will surely support my decisions and help make Victoria a welcoming, safe place for everyone. Thanks again and best wishes for the future!

Our Family Suggests...

In this recurring column, we will hear about activities and events suggested by residents of Family Housing. Is there something that your family likes to do? Send us your recommendations!

Thanks, Joanne, for this suggestion for a family holiday outing!

Saanich Historical Artifacts Society
Heritage Acres, the Society’s open-air museum off of Island Highway in West Saanich, is dedicated to collecting, restoring, housing, and demonstrating artifacts from our rural past. They have one of Western Canada’s largest collections of working steam engines, tractors, agricultural machinery, and household and industrial artifacts. And during the holiday season, the village is decorated with lights and they have activities for the whole family.

4th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE
A Fundraising Event for the Saanich Historical Artifacts Foundation
Dec 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18
Nightly 5:00PM - 8:00PM
Admission $5.00 per vehicle

Children’s Holiday Music Recital
Date: Sunday, December 18, 2005
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Place: 2904-2363 Lam Circle
(Netanya’s house)

Children are invited to dress in their finest holiday clothes and share their musical talents (i.e. singing and/or playing an instrument) at a holiday musical recital. In order to put a program together for this event, please RSVP (for those who are interested) to Nadine by Monday December 12 at 383-8502. Please bring along a healthy snack to share with others.

Family Centre Book Sale
Thursday Dec 15th, 12-6pm at the Family Centre
Calling all families...
All books, even hardcover, are $1!
There is fiction, youth, adult and children's books! Something for everyone in the family, and all proceeds go towards the Emergency Family Fund.

Multicultural Childcare Capacity Building and Education in Greater Victoria Project by Tomoko Okada

Many new immigrant and international student families settling in Victoria are faced with overwhelming challenges to understand and adapt to Canadian society and its systems. Under the current immigration priority for entry to Canada, a significant number of highly skilled professional workers are also coming, often with young families. They choose Victoria for its educational opportunities for their children and a range of community services they can access. Unfortunately, for those families with young children who require childcare services, the parents cannot easily select the facility and services best suited to their needs. With appropriate information they can select from licensed or unlicensed facilities, daycare centers, pre-schools, child-minding, or after school care services.

Project Objectives
The main role of ICA Settlement Services is to assist in supporting immigrant families in making transitions and effectively integrating into Canadian life. Multicultural Childcare Capacity Building and Education in Greater Victoria presents an opportunity to increase the awareness for the need and easy access to culturally sensitive childcare services to be made available. At the same time, this project will provide cultural awareness and sensitivity training and education to childcare providers so that they may better understand and meet the particular needs of immigrant families.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Tomoko Okada, Project Coordinator at 388-4728 or tokada@icavictoria.org.

Family Housing Classifieds
WANTED. Looking for a baby fence and a car seat for child 18 months old. If you have these, and you do not need them, please contact Rownak at 721-3677.
International Potluck Dinner
Winter Celebration

Please join us at Childcare Complex B on December 22nd from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. This event is hosted by the UVic Family Centre and the International Exchange Student Department. UVic Family Centre’s Culture Club (Tuesday afternoons’ international women’s group) is going to cook a turkey and potato salad for the party. Please bring your family and your favorite dish to share with the participants. Please let Tomoko know if you family are planning to come. You can leave a telephone message at 472-4062 at the Family Centre.

ATTENTION FAMILIES:
Once again this year there are hamper available to families who need help celebrating the holiday season! If you, or one of your neighbors could use some support with food, gifts, and some holiday spirit please contact the Family Centre as soon as possible. There are two hampers being donated from Peppers Foods and support available from Santa's Anonymous. All names will be kept confidential.

Favorite Old Fashioned Gingerbread

Original recipe yield: 1 - 9 inch square cake.

INGREDIENTS:
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 egg
- 1 cup molasses
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup hot water

DIRECTIONS:
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour a 9 inch square pan.
2. In a large bowl, cream together the sugar and butter. Beat in the egg, and mix in the molasses.
3. In a bowl, sift together the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, ginger, and cloves. Blend into the creamed mixture. Stir in the hot water. Pour into the prepared pan.
4. Bake 1 hour in the preheated oven, until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Allow to cool in pan before serving.

Children’s Corner

Make your own wrapping paper

1. Cut open a brown paper shopping bag or find some interesting recycled paper.

2. Take an apple or potato, cut it in half, and carve a shape into it (heart, star, snowflake, snowperson...)

3. Dip stamp in paint or ink and apply to paper.

Be creative and have fun!

The winter tree
Is fast asleep.
She dreams, in reams
Of snow knee-deep,
Of children climbing
Up her trunk,
Of white-tailed deer
And gray chipmunk,
Of picnics,
Hammocks,
And short sleeves,
And leaves,
And leaves
And leaves

-Douglas Florian
Vikes Christmas Tree Sale

'Tis the season and the University of Victoria Vikes cross-country and track teams are set to begin their 8th annual Christmas tree sale and fundraiser. The sale will take place at UVic’s Centennial Stadium beginning on Saturday, December 3rd and running through to the 19th. Trees are available for purchase from Monday to Thursday from 12:00PM to 7:00PM, Friday from 12:00PM to 8:00PM and Saturday and Sunday from 10:00AM to 7:00PM.

"This is our eighth season selling the Christmas trees," said head coach Brent Fougnier. "It has become our most important fundraiser of the season with proceeds going directly to our program to assist with athletic awards and other costs." The sales are conducted by team members who find time during Christmas exams to volunteer at the stadium. Many of them find this time at the stadium a perfect break from studying.

All of the trees are 100% freshly cut Vancouver Island stock and selection includes both cultured and wild fir, spruce, noble and alpine and range in size from 4' to 15'. New stock will arrive periodically throughout the sale.

The Nitty Gritty
Facts and questions about Family Housing

In this monthly column, we address questions about living in UVic Family Housing, as well as supply information, ideas and tips about regulations, personnel, and the general "nuts & bolts" of life on Lam Circle.

This month, our information comes from the new Family Housing administration. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nikko at 721-4504 or Chardelle at 721-8400.

Greetings from the HFCs Family Housing Office!

We understand there has been much talk, and confusion, as to when a student must leave Family Housing. As you can imagine (and some of you remember!) there is an extremely long waitlist to live on campus. To be eligible, and remain, in Family Housing the leaseholder must be a registered student in a degree granting program at the University of Victoria.

Undergraduate students must complete a minimum of 9 units per academic year (September 1 to August 31) and Graduate students must have full time status confirmed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. At the conclusion of the term in which a student completes the required courses for graduation, they are no longer a registered student, and are therefore ineligible to live in Family Housing. Since students are aware they will be completing the requirements for their degree at the beginning of a semester, we expect a family to vacate one month upon completing the requirements for their degree. For example, if you register in December for January courses and you complete the requirements for your degree in April, then your move out date would be May 31. Under extenuating circumstances extensions to this move out date may be considered. We hope this clarifies and assists families with planning their departure from campus.

Finally, on behalf of the Family Housing team, we would like to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season. Cherish and enjoy your upcoming time off with family and friends, and best of luck with your studies in 2006!

Anyone having difficulty affording a Christmas tree this year please contact the Family Centre. Trees that are used in different faculty offices that are taken down on Dec 19th are being donated to the Family Centre. So if you don’t mind waiting until the 19th, you could have a free LIVE tree!

YOGA IS CANCELED FOR DECEMBER due to low turnout. Please watch for another class to start in February. Thanks to all who participated in the first class! It was a real success!

Brown Bag Lunch Series of the Graduate Students' Society
Help! I Married a Grad Student
A social co-hosted at the Family Centre, located in Family Housing at Finnerty and Lam Circle on Wednesday, December 7 from 12:00 - 1:30pm.

Thank you!

Nobody's Perfect
A Parenting Program for UVic International/Immigrant Student Families

Congratulations to all seven proud mothers who successfully completed seven weeks of the program on November 25th. The recipients of the certificates were: Umi, Sunyoon, Nehla, Iman, Hiba, Layla, and Fathia. Thank you Ruth from ICA and Susan from VIHA Public Health for facilitating the sessions, as well as Takako and Kazumi for coordinating the children's activities.

Thank you to the Fairway on Shelbourne for a donation of a pumpkin to our children's craft activity.
Family Centre Programs

Check our website for full program descriptions:
http://web.uvic.ca/family-centre/

PLEASE NOTE: Because of staff changes, there may be disruptions in our regular programs in December. Be sure and call the Family Centre for current hours and events. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Family Centre Cooking Co-operative
CANCELED FOR DECEMBER -- Starting again in January we will run it every third Monday of the month from 7 pm. Interested people can contact the Family Centre or email Shannon at jonesshan@hotmail.com.

Storytime & Playgroup
Tuesdays, 10am to 12pm.

International Community Kitchen
Tuesdays 4 to 6pm.

Playgroup
Wednesdays, 10am to 12pm.

Breakfast Club
Wednesdays & Fridays, 7:30 to 9am.

After-School Club
Thursdays, 4 to 5pm.

Knitting Night
Second & Fourth Friday, 7 to 9pm. (Contact Family Centre for December dates.)

Super Saturday Mornings
Saturdays, 9:30 to 11am.

Ladies’ Running Group
Do you need someone to run with for motivation, company or safety? Come join us for a run Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30am. We meet outside the Family Centre and jog for 25 - 45 minutes. All ages and fitness levels welcome. Please contact Heather at 384-1396 if you have any questions.

Walkers welcome! If you aren’t a runner but would like to meet and walk at the same time as the runners please call Sam at 477-9624.

News & Views Needs Your Contributions!
We welcome submissions of all kinds -- send us your thoughts, opinions, suggestions, stories, poems, recipes, tips or ideas! The email is fcnews@uvic.ca, or you can drop your submission off in the envelope on the board outside the Family Centre.

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER: Dec 20

Community Programs

Swan Lake Events
All events take place at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, 3873 Swan Lake Road, and donations are appreciated.

Exotic Wreaths, Sunday, December 11, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Christmas Dinner for the Birds, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Dec 17 and 18; 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec 19 to 23

Tracking Around the Lake, December 27, 10 a.m.
Join Sanctuary staff for a 2.5 km. walk around Swan Lake, looking for animal tracks.

Creative Cones, December 28, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Use our recycled materials at a drop-in craft session to make pinecones into critters. Suitable for ages 4 and up.

Survivors: Adapt and Defend, December 29, Presentations at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
Participate in games and activities for ages 6 and up. Suggested donation, $2.00 per child.

Papermaking for the Holidays, Dec 30 & Jan 2, 10 am to 3pm
Drop in program for ages 4 and up.

The First Christmas Nativity Pageant
Presented by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, this outdoor Nativity pageant features live animals. Free admission. December 21, 22 & 23, performances at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30 & 8:00, Topaz Avenue – access from Quadra & Bianshard

Snow White: The Panto!
Masques Theatre presents a traditional English retelling of this classic story. Fun for the whole family! Dec 8-10, 16-17 @ 7.30pm; Dec 10 & 17 @ 2:30pm, St. Matthias Hall. Tickets $10-$12. Call 595-8438 or 370-1291 for tickets or more info.

Moss Street Market Holiday Craft Fair
Dec 10-11, 1330 Fairfield Road. Unique selection of arts and crafts, organic baked goods and winter vegetables. Bring a mug for free hot apple cider! For more info, call 361-1747.

Festival of Trees
More than 60 decorated tress are on display until January 4 at the Fairmont Empress Hotel. For more info, 380-5843.
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