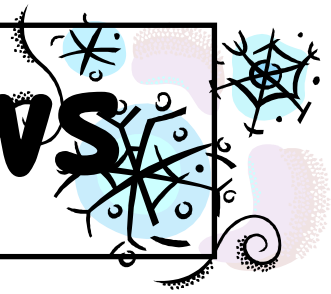




News & Views

A Newsletter for Families at the University of Victoria



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Issue 135

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Check out our complete listing of programs at: <http://web.uvic.ca/family-centre/>

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NEWSLETTER

EMMA CHALIFOUR

Family Centre Hours

Tuesdays

9am-2pm & 7-8:30pm

Playgroup
10:00am-12pm

Wednesdays

10am-2pm

Playgroup
10:00-12pm

Thursdays

1pm-5pm

Culture Club
1pm-3pm
After School Club
3:30pm-5pm

Time for a cup of tea and chat?

By Emma Chalifour

Kathleen Bortolin lives in Family Housing with her husband and fifteen month old daughter. Kathy teaches English as a second language part-time at Uvic and her husband is a law student. Kathy is not only a language specialist but also an avid News and Views reader! It was while reading an article on the Conversation Club that Kathy wondered if this was a way she could give back to her Family Housing community. Kathy approached Family Centre staff and has been helping to run the Conversation Club since.

Kathy grew up in Calgary. She studied English as an undergrad and went on to do a Masters in Education. She and her husband then spent seven years travelling overseas. They both taught English as a second language, mainly in Japan. Kathy says that of all the places she has travelled to Japan remains her favourite, perhaps because she lived there for four years. However, she also confessed a fondness for Italy, mainly since she loves the food. When Kathy is not busy teaching and taking care of Elia, she loves to snowboard and hike. She also runs a book club for moms. When asked to name her favourite book, Kathy had to think for a while, but then decided on *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.

I asked Kathy to tell me a bit about the Conversation club. Typically there are between five and eight people there, so far they have all been women. One of the things that Kathy loves is the fact that the group is so diverse, mothers and grandmothers from Egypt, Libya, China, Mexico, Japan, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh. All of them drawn together to learn to communicate more efficiently in English. The Conversation Club is very informal. There is always tea to drink and a topic to discuss. So far they have discussed starting a conversation and small talk, employment and jobs, personality, health and wellness, and culture. Mixed in with the theme the women share challenges and tips and talk about their culture. Kathy speaks of the club with great enthusiasm and passion, sentiments shared by the other participants I'm sure. So, if you are learning English as a second language why not participate in the Conversation Club? Make some new friends, have a cup of tea and a chat! Thank you Kathy for all you have given to make the Conversation Club the success that it is.



维多利亚大学家庭中心是为所有住校和非住校的学生家庭服务的。这里为0岁至15岁的小孩提供一些便利的活动（请参考每月简报上的日程表），同时也提供可以外借的图书与玩具，衣物交换，和一些家长们可以参加的活动。这是一个方便学生家庭交流，学习，娱乐的好去处，我们真诚期待您随时踊跃参与。





2006 Census Highlights~Victoria Census Metropolitan Area

by Tomoko Okada

I had an opportunity to attend a workshop presented by Statistics Canada this fall, and I would like to share some informational highlights of the Victoria Census. The world's population is over six billion. Between 1960 and 2000 it's population nearly doubled. According to the UN's assumption, it will not double again, but will peak at around nine billion mid-way through the 21st century. After that it will begin to decline quite rapidly. Within this global context, Canada will show similar population trends. Our fertility rate has already fallen to 1.5 children per household, and is moving towards an even lower level among European nations.

What has been happening in our communities? If you do nothing now, what is our community's population likely to be in 10 years? According to the 2006 census results, the population of Greater Victoria was 330,088, and was the 15th largest Census Metropolitan Area in Canada and the 14th fastest growing city between 2001 and 2006. Nearly two in three residents in Greater Victoria lived in the largest three municipalities: Saanich (108,265), City of Victoria (78,057), and Langford (22,459), followed by Oak Bay, Esquimalt, Central Saanich, and Colwood. Everywhere an aging population is a common trend, Greater Victoria was the third oldest metropolitan city with 17.8% aged 65 and over and had the highest proportion (6.4%) of very elderly people (80 and over). The median age in Greater Victoria was 35.9, in 1996, 38.4 in 2001, and 40.8 in 2006.

In 2006, close to one in five (19.1%) residents in Victoria were foreign born. This was slightly lower than the Canadian average (19.8%). Immigrants came from a variety of countries as the table and numbers below show.

Place of birth of immigrants by period of immigration

Before 1991		1991 to 2000		2001 to 2006	
United Kingdom	38.7%	China	14.3%	United States	14.7%
United States	9.6%	United Kingdom	10.1%	China	14.1%
Germany	5.7%	United States	8.1%	United Kingdom	10.4%
China	4.5%	Philippines	6.7%	Philippines	6.4%
India	4.1%	India	6.5%	South Korea	5.5%

For top mother tongues in Greater Victoria is: 1. English (85.3%), 2. Chinese (2.9%), 3. French (2.0%), 4. German (1.6%), 5. Punjabi (1.2%), 6. Dutch (0.7%), 7. Spanish (0.7%), 8. Portuguese (0.5%), 9. Japanese (0.5%), 10. Tagalog (0.5%). Among ethnic and visible minority census respondees, Victoria showed a strong presence of British heritage compared to the other metropolitan cities. For further information, visit the following websites. The United Nations Population Division at <http://www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm>. Statistics Canada has a wealth of data at <http://www.statcan.ca>.



FAMILY CENTRE OPEN FRIDAY MORNINGS!

A group of parents got together and decided that it would be great if we could have a playgroup on Friday mornings as well as Tuesday and Wednesday! With the cold, rainy winter months upon us, it is so wonderful to have a place to bring our children where they can play together, and we can visit and chat with one another. So we will be opening the Family Centre Friday mornings from 10:00a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We need everyone's help! Please bring your helping hands, and ideas for activities for the kids. We will keep going as long as the interest and need is there, and look forward to everyone's input. See you this Friday!

Kristine Mannion.



Contributions for the newsletter can be emailed to fcnews@uvic.ca
 Recipes; book reviews; parenting tips; reflections ... all gratefully received!

December ~ A month of multicultural holiday celebrations!

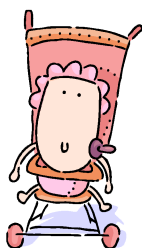
I was surprised when I started to list all the holidays that take place during the month of December. Here's just a few of them...



- Saint Nicholas Day (Christian) -- December 6
- Eid'ul-Adha (Muslim) -- December 8
- Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexican) -- December 12
- St. Lucia Day (Swedish) -- December 13
- Hanukkah (Jewish) -- Begins at sundown on December 21 (ends December 29)
- Christmas Day (Christian) -- December 25
- Boxing Day (Australian, Canadian, English, Irish) -- December 26
- Kwanzaa (African American) -- December 26 to January 1
- Omisoka (Japanese) -- December 31

Most of the celebrations incorporate getting together with friends and family and eating special foods. Whatever your December looks like we hope that you will have a great break. UVIC will be closed from December 25th-January 1st. Classes begin again on January 5th.

Notices ...



Babysitter Wanted

Hi, my wife and I are new to Family Housing and we are looking for a babysitter for our 22 month old daughter. We are looking for someone over 15 that has some babysitting experience. If you are interested please call 250-590-8656. Thank you.

Please note ~ due to a lack of storage space the Family Centre is unable to receive donations of large items such as furniture or baby equipment. If you have items to give away please send details to fcnews@uvic.ca and we will post them in the newsletter—remember to include your phone number or email address so people can arrange pick up. Alternatively please call local charities. Thank you!

Who to call...

Housing Office	721-8395
Family Centre	472-4062
Maintenance Line	721-8650
Maintenance (Emergency)	721-8658
Health Services	721-8492
Campus Security	721-7599



The Family Centre will be closed from December 24th until Tuesday January 6th. There will be a drop-in playgroup on December 23rd from 10-12, but there will be no music program.

WINTERFEST '08

Vancouver Island's 2nd Annual
THE GIFT Craft Show and Family Expo
 Dec 6th 10AM-5PM
 Dec 7th 10AM-3PM
 Eagle Ridge Arena
 250-412-7102

info@community-expos.com
www.community-expos.com

Admission \$5 [seniors and children under 3 FREE]
 Kids receive 10 play tickets for The Giving Carnival

WinterFest '08 is the largest family centered holiday event on the Island. Vancouver Island residents can shop for locally made items, visit exhibits, and celebrate community while their kids have a screaming good time. Our multicultural community stage features dance, music, puppet shows, children's entertainers and more throughout the weekend. Our Giving Carnival is a place where children will play, learn and win prizes while supporting great family-based charities. This is a child-safe environment, where all exhibitors are family friendly and welcome 'little hands'.

Programs and Events

A great way to get connected!



Playgroups: On Tuesday and Wednesday mornings the Family Centre hosts fun and energetic playgroups. Tuesday mornings from 10:30-12 features a popular music and movement program with Kathleen. There's guaranteed to be lots of singing, rattling, and playing! Wednesday mornings from 10:30-12 are more of a crafts time, relaxed with toys, games, and friends for the kids to play with.

After School Club: Are you between the ages of 8 and 15? Do you like to have fun with other people your age? Do you like trying new things and doing fun activities? If so, you should come to the After School Club at the Family Centre on **Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:00pm**. Every Thursday we do something different. Sometimes we cook, or do crafts, or learn history. We also play sports or get help with our homework. Come meet some friends and get to know other people your age while having a great time.

December 4 ~ Gift Making
December 11 ~ Silly Science
December 18 ~ Winter Celebration

The Culture Club welcomes members from diverse cultural backgrounds and meets on **Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00**. Its purpose is to support international and new Canadian student families. The following activities are scheduled for December. There may be some time schedule changes in January to accommodate more participants. Please do not hesitate to speak to Tomoko for your ideas of Culture Club.

Dec. 4 – Pottery Workshop
Dec. 11 – Intercultural Communication Workshop
Dec. 18 – Winter Celebration Pot-luck lunch



NEW PROGRAMME!!!

Friday mornings at the Family Centre
10-12.

Drop in playtime for
preschoolers.

Community Events

8th Annual Bear Wear event kicks off when dozens of teddy bears, dressed in their best, check in to the Hotel Grand Pacific 463 Belleville Street. **Bear Wear** is a fundraiser for the Queen Alexandra Hospital Foundation for Children. Local businesses sponsor and decorate teddy bears, which are displayed at the Hotel Grand Pacific for the enjoyment of hundreds of families. Results are tabulated on December 17th so each teddy can find its new home by Christmas. Kids under 14 can enter the free raffle for a chance to take a very unique teddy home for the holidays. The dressed-up bears are displayed in the Hotel Lobby from **November 29th - December 17th**.

17th Annual Festival of Trees

Tue, Nov 18, 2008 – Mon, Jan 5, 2009

Fairmont Empress Hotel, Government Street

Every year, the Festival of Trees transforms The Fairmont Empress into a lush forest of beautifully decorated trees to raise funds for BC Children's Hospital. As sponsors of this event, local businesses, organizations and individuals decorate the trees - in a sometimes wacky, often irreverent and always beautiful fashion. The trees are then displayed throughout The Fairmont Empress over the holiday season, beginning November 18, 2008 with the kick-off decorating gala, through to January 5, 2009. (250) 380-1527

Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary

EVENT: A Christmas Spider

Listen to the naturalist version of the European folk tale of how spiders decorated the Christmas tree. Make your own Christmas spider, decorate a tree and shake hands with a real tarantula. All ages welcome.

PLACE: 3873 Swan Lake Rd.

DATE: Saturday December 27, 2008

TIME: 1:00 and 2:15 pm

COST: Donations

CONTACT: Margaret Lidkea

PHONE: 250 - 479 - 0211

Eagle Extravaganza at Goldstream Provincial Park

Two hundred and fifty eagles start arriving at Goldstream in late November and stay until February. Binoculars are a MUST. <http://www.goldstreampark.com>

CFB Esquimalt

Our Canadian Pacific Naval Fleet decorates eight ships as a fundraiser for a local food bank. You will also be able to visit the Admiral's residence. Ships of the West Coast Fleet are ablaze with lights from stem to stern every night from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. There is no admission charge, but visitors are encouraged to bring a donation of cash or non-perishable food for the Mustard Seed Food Bank. As well, viewers can cast their ballots for their favourite display of colour. More than 100,000 visitors have done so since the contest began in 1987. For more information (250) 363-4006 or <http://www.forces.gc.ca>