

THE INDICATOR

A joint publication of the Quality of Life CHALLENGE and the Community Council.

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation



VANCOUVER FOUNDATION



United Way
Member Agency



THE SAMUEL AND SAIDYE BRONFMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION

Vancouver Island Health Authority



Quality of Life CHALLENGE

What's happening in the three priority areas?

Homes

- Research with low-income people about housing.
- A proposal for a region-wide Housing Development Fund.

Paid Work

- Upcoming research into the dynamics of poverty for high risk populations.
- New Sustainable Incomes Working Group focusing on effective strategies

Community Connections

- Stories are coming in about people working together to enhance our quality of life.
- January 31 deadline for story submission for 2003 Quality of Life Awards.

(See page 3 for more info on the three areas)

A BOLD INITIATIVE

A bold new initiative is going to make real change in this region. The Quality of Life CHALLENGE is a comprehensive community initiative under collaborative leadership of the Community Council which is bringing people together to create solutions in the areas of housing affordability, paid work and community connections. The CHALLENGE uses measurable community targets to mobilize action and monitor change.

Targets - By 2006 in BC's Capital Region:

HOMES

1,000 more low income households have a safe, decent and affordable place to call home.

PAID WORK

5,000 low income unemployed or underemployed people now have sustainable incomes from paid work.

CONNECTIONS

1,000 stories are shared about people who are working together to enhance our quality of life.

"I can think of no other place in Canada where a Quality of Life CHALLENGE resonates with a community as it does in BC's Capital Region. Your community not only values quality of life but believes deeply that it can...is achieving the best quality of life in the country."

Paul Born, CEO
Tamarack - An Institute for Community Engagement

INSIDE: The Community Charter: Opportunity, Challenge or Threat?

The Quality of Life CHALLENGE website is up! Check it out at www.golchallenge.ca for resources on housing, paid work and community connections, as well as stories of people working together to enhance our quality of life.

A COMMITTED COMMUNITY MEMBER

Volunteers are our strength. The Indicator will report regularly on some spectacular volunteers.

When not repairing old houses or canoeing with her two children, Barbara Clerihue Carter serves as a Vice President of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce. She also participates in a number of committees including: Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

Small Business Advisory Committee, the Housing Affordability Partnership, the Quality of Life CHALLENGE Communications Committee, and the Business Edge Advisory Committee. She serves as a Honourary Aide de Camp for the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. Barbara has been presented with a number of awards including the medals struck for the 125th An-

niversary of Confederation and the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

Her company, Aurora Works, was given the 2002 Community Service award by the Vancouver Island Advanced Technology Centre, in recognition of its corporate culture of volunteerism and community service.

(cont. on p. 2)

Local Opportunity, Challenge or Threat?

Last month we voted for our community leaders. During the next three years there will be significant shifts in governments' roles. While the province divests itself of a range of responsibilities it is crafting a new Community Charter to allow municipalities to have greater choice and control. New local authorities will be mandated to deliver services to children and families and to people with disabilities. First nations people are discussing broader mandates with the federal government.

Healthy communities are resilient to change. How will shifts in power and function affect the elderly, people with disabilities, vulnerable youth and children? Community issues such as pov-

erty are the result of a complex interaction of economic and social factors. At the community level we can see the "whole picture" rather than a set of disparate and unconnected parts. Are we building our capacity to take greater responsibility and to address issues in a more comprehensive way?

Across this region people from many sectors are learning and working together through comprehensive initiatives like the Quality of Life CHALLENGE.

Local governments and authorities as well as the private sector and

engaged citizens can complement and influence the essential role of senior levels of government.

Together we can strengthen our capacity to understand issues, to develop focussed solutions, to monitor change. And we can create a sustainably vibrant community.

For more information about multisector and comprehensive community initiatives see www.vibrantcommunities.ca

A COMMITTED COMMUNITY MEMBER, continued from page one

Barbara worked in the public and private sector before making a huge career shift and founding Aurora Works – a web design and internet consulting firm – with two partners. Her specialty is in business process and design as it relates to online business operations. She completed a Masters of Arts in Leadership and Training this year with her studies concentrated on women's ways of

leading in women-serving organizations.

Barbara has been involved in the community for most of her life, the most enduring participation as a Reserve Naval Officer in the Canadian Forces. Now in her 24th year of service to Canada, and one of the most senior female officers in Canada, she now holds a part-time military position based out of Ottawa.

Barbara is one of the many wonderful people in our community working to improve our quality of life.

THANK YOU to Barbara and her company Aurora Works for all the support they have provided to the Quality of Life CHALLENGE and the Housing Affordability Partnership.

Who has Taken Up the CHALLENGE? Working Group Members

Steering Working Group

Detlef Beck *Coast Capital Savings Credit Union*
Sandy Bjola *Vancouver Island Health Authority*
John Briggs *Western Economic Diversification*
Arlene Galloway-Ford *Vancouver Island Health Authority*
Jenny Holder *Burnside Gorge Community Association*
Kirsten Humpherys *JobWave BC*
Patricia Lane *Coast Capital Savings Board of Directors*
Sandra Mark *CEDCO Victoria*
Diana Smith *Royal Roads University*
Don Storch *Consultant*
Susan Stovel (chair) *Retired Community Health Expert*
Geoffrey Thornburn *UVic Communications*

Barb Clerihue-Carter *Aurora Works*
Lianne Peterson *Vancouver Island Health Authority*
Don Storch *Consultant*
Randall Gerlach *Student, UVic*

Measures & Indicators

Rod Braithwaite *Victoria Hospice Society*
Jeffrey Castellas *SheerKnowledge Inc.*
Chris Goldburn *CRD*
Frank Mitchell *Retired economist*
Tathra Street *The Molloy Group*
Geoffrey Thornburn *UVic*
Wendy Zink *City of Victoria*

Community Connections

Sam Carson *PFLAG*
Joyce Clairmont *United Way of Greater Victoria*
Sue Coneys *Victoria Good News Choir*
Anne Russo *Regional Arts Strategy Coordinator*
Don Storch (Chair) *Consultant*

Sustainable Incomes

Geoff Thornburn *University of Victoria*
Herman Rebneris *Cottage Grove Developments*
Norma Strachan *ASPECT*
James Cavalluzzo *BCGEU*
Joe Artibise *HRDC*
Kirsten Humpherys *JobWave BC*
Lynn Markell *Consultant*
Sandra Mark *CEDCO*

Wayne Springer *Community member*
Coreen Weizel *Community member*
Louise Parton *CEDCO*
Nicole Burgess *Business Victoria*
Sheila Walker *Spectrum Job Search*
Shirley Vickers *VIATeC*

The Housing Affordability Partnership Steering Group are also partners in the Quality of Life CHALLENGE.

Many thanks to these committed groups of volunteers.

Homes, continued from page one

Quality of Housing Survey

In order to understand local housing realities and to put a human face on housing statistics, interviews are being conducted with low-income people across the region regarding their housing situations. The compiled results will be published with other comprehensive, reliable, easy-to-read information that will help builders, developers, politicians, community groups and planners to create more housing that is affordable.

Be part of the housing survey

If you live on low-income and are willing to be interviewed in your home, contact Jane at 383-6166.

Housing affordability: a hot issue

in this region

It was raised at most municipal candidates' meetings this fall. The media is paying attention to housing stories. There is a buzz about how we are going to solve our housing challenges amongst neighbourhood groups, developers, builders and landlords. **Elected officials are talking about establishing a Regional Housing Development Fund.**



Child's drawing of their home. Housing stability is of particular importance for children.

This did not happen by chance. The Housing Affordability Partnership (www.housingaffordability.ca) is a major influence in the CRD's Regional Housing Affordability Strategy that is entering Phase 2 – Identification of Solutions (see www.crd.bc.ca/regplan/RGS/reports/strategic/has.htm). The Quality of Life CHALLENGE is calling attention to the need for safe, decent and affordable housing and mobilizing people to take action to reach the housing target. The three groups are working together on housing affordability.

YOU can be part of the solution. Report to the target. Tell us about new safe, decent and affordable housing for low-income households.

Paid Work, continued from page one

Poverty Dynamics Research

Within high risk populations such as youth, women, immigrants, seniors, lone parents, and people with disabilities there are different experiences of poverty. People may be:

- working poor;
- temporarily unemployed;
- persistently unemployed;
- dependent poor; or,
- homeless.

Are resources to help move

people out of poverty allocated appropriately? Information collected about resources and patterns of need can be used to develop action strategies designed to have the highest impact in poverty reduction.

The more effective strategies will require involvement of non-profit, government and business sector...and changes in practice in all of them.

- Mark Cabaj, Vibrant Communities

Sustainable Incomes Working Group

A new group has been formed to develop effective local strategies based on real evidence. People who experience poverty participate alongside business folk, service providers and government.

Community Connections, continued from page one

Do you have a story to share about how you or people you know are making a difference to the quality of life in this region? **YOUR STORY COULD INSPIRE OTHERS.** We want to recognize and celebrate the many and diverse strengths of our community! The CHALLENGE will share your stories through its website, the media and at the annual Community Celebration event.

If you have a story you would like to submit, please call 383-6166 or check on line www.golchallenge.ca for a form to send in.

We will be collecting stories on a year-round basis; however, to have your story considered for a **2003 Quality of Life Award, please be sure to submit by 31 January 2003.**

Each story tells how people are applying these working principles of the CHALLENGE:

- Cooperation
- Understanding
- Participation
- Inclusion
- Communication
- Sharing
- Openness

COMMON GROUND & GROUNDWORKS

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.
 Marcel Proust

Children, youth, professionals, the unemployed and the elderly are coming together to create new visions for their neighbourhoods. Community mapping processes facilitated in part by Common Ground Community Mapping and Groundworks are being used to make a Greenways Plan and a Green Map in the City of Victoria. In the Hillside Quadra neighbourhood PATH (Promoting Action Toward Health) is using community mapping to bring people together to develop a community plan. A dynamic partnership model is evolving between Common Ground, Lifecycles and the Community Council to ensure sustainability and good governance for the Groundworks Learning Centre at 521 Superior. Check the website: www3.telus.net/cground and www3.telus.net/cground/groundworks

COMMUNITY RECONSTRUCTION

In 2001, the provincial government began a series of policy and funding changes which are having a significant impact in our community. Since then, services to the most vulnerable in our community have been affected and many agencies are in transition. Community capacity is built through knowledge about impacts of government changes, stronger working relationships among agencies and all sectors of the community, and mobilization of resources to support individuals in need of social support. This three-year project will track the trends in social service delivery and make visible the impact of the changes in government services and programs. Project partners in this Community Council initiative are the United Way, VIHA, BCGEU, University of Victoria, VIPIRG and Burnside Gorge Community Association.

We are looking for the stories and the active engagement of people and agencies who require or who deliver social and health services in this region. If you want to participate phone 383-6166.

Community Council Board of Directors 2002-03

- Max Bacon
- Sandy Bjola (President)
- John Briggs (Treasurer)
- Lorrie Carlson
- James Cavalluzzo
- Nicole Chaland
- Edie Copland
- Sheila Dobie
- Arlene Galloway-Ford
- Randall Gerlach
- Jenny Holder
- Nerys Poole
- Harvey Rogalsky
- Diana Smith
- Norma Strachan
- Doug West

BC TRANSIT

This unique partnership between the Victoria Regional Transit Commission and the Community Council provides 30,000 free tickets to individuals and families in the Capital Region with urgent transportation needs through approximately 30 human service providing agencies. Accessibility to transportation is fundamental to the quality of life of families and individuals across the region, from access to basic needs to strengthening economic independence. Primary uses for tickets in 2001-02, 33% were employment related travel, an increase of 7% from previous years; 23% of the tickets for health related travel; 16% for travel related to basic needs (food, shelter, clothing).

FOOD ROUNDTABLE

In September, a Food Access Forum brought together emergency food providers from across the region to identify and map our community food resources, expand connections within this sector, and share opportunities. A Food Access Directory will be published in March 2003. The Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable continues to bring the dialogue on local food production and distribution, and is preparing an analysis

JOIN YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Businesses & Organizations \$50
Individuals \$25 Low Income \$3

The INDICATOR is a joint publication of the Community Council and the Quality of Life CHALLENGE to provide information about some of the issues and trends that affect the quality of life of the people in the Capital Region.



Community Council

1144 Fort Street, Victoria BC V8V 3K8
 Tel: (250) 383-6166 Fax: (250) 385-6712
 Email: cspc@islandnet.com
 Website: www.qolchallenge.ca

Bringing people together to create solutions in the areas of homes, paid work and community connections in BC's Capital Region.