



Volunteer Newsletter of the

Community Justice Centre

“Justice is our middle name”

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Welcome to the first newsletter!

Volunteers asked for it, and here it is. The intention is to provide a newsletter every two months which brings all the Justice Centre volunteers up to date with recent happenings and news. Several features are planned, including success stories, monthly case statistics, training opportunities, changes in policy and discussions of restorative justice ideas and practices. Because most volunteers operate within the small groups associated with the resolution conference process, we also hope to be able to introduce you to other volunteers whom you may not yet have encountered.

Initially, we will be printing copies of the newsletter for distribution through the office, along with e-mailing copies to those who have computer access. Over time, we hope to be able to reduce the number of printed copies and begin posting it on the website.

Since communication is best when it is a two-way street, you are also invited to send in comments, ideas and information you think would be of use to other volunteers of the Centre. Material can be submitted to: cjc@shawbiz.ca. Please put “Newsletter material” in the subject line.

This is your newsletter, make it your own.

President invites your input and feedback

As President of the CJC Board of Directors I would like to invite your feedback as to the functioning of the centre and its employees. This feedback will be processed by myself and possibly other board members and used to help determine the direction of the Centre.

You may, of course, request anonymity, or have your name attached to the input.

My e-mail is: adstringfellow@shaw.ca and my phone number is 338-0438.

Thank you, Andy Stringfellow

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At the CFB Comox Officers' Mess

Annual Volunteer Recognition BBQ slated for September 29th

Every year, the Centre seeks to acknowledge the incredible work of our volunteers by hosting a BBQ, usually at the CFB Comox Officers' Mess. And it is ready to go ahead this year on the last Saturday in September. The weather's usually still pretty good, and even if it's not, the company is excellent.

Last year, we heard from a "graduate" of our programme, a young man who was given the opportunity to turn things around following an incident with a local business. He went on to several successful acting experiences with local theatre companies, and then pursued professional training and the establishment of his own theatre company in Vancouver. You may have noticed his leading performance in "Vincent in Brixton" earlier this year with Courtenay Little Theatre. Last month, he received the Best Actor award at the provincial drama festival for that role.

This year, our evening BBQ will unveil the Centre's new volunteer recognition scheme and include several other surprises, along with a fine complimentary meal, a "no-host" bar, and a great opportunity to meet new volunteers and renew your acquaintance with our long-term volunteers. Three guests from the founding of the Centre have agreed to share their recollections.

In order to ensure we have enough for all, we try to have accurate numbers for the caterer, and particularly, the right balance between red meat, poultry and vegetarian meals. Please contact the Centre and advise us of your name, the name of your guest, and each person's preferences for entrée. This list is also provided to the security gate to allow entry to the Base.

Please let us know you will be attending no later than Friday, September 21st., by phone 334-8101 or e-mail cjc@shawbiz.ca.

By the Numbers...

Statistics tell us part of the story of our success, stories tell the rest. Here are the statistics for the last two months. It's been a busy period! Well done and thanks to all the office assistants, case co-ordinators, panel members and facilitators who did this work!

June and July Statistics

New cases received	22
Resolution Conferences	12
Cases closed successfully	12
Cases closed unsuccessfully	4
Cases not accepted	2

Croquet Champions Crowned

The Second Annual CJC Croquet Tournament and Summer BBQ concluded with the crowning of Andy & Maureen; Jane & Tony; Jay & Ola, and Thierry & Maureen as Champs. The gathering of 25 CJC volunteers was held at the home of Mark & Vicki Bramley in Merville and the tournament was run under his adept leadership, following his rules, and on a field he had personally groomed for the event. The BBQ was staffed by Co-ordinator Jane Webb's partner, Tony, and the pot-luck table simply groaned under the tasty offerings. The evening concluded magnificently with the "flight of the Peacocks" from Mark's roof to their evening roost, accompanied by the strains of the classic Wagner tune (of a remarkably similar title) hummed by the CJC chorus! Thanks Mark & Vickie for a wonderful evening.

Many new volunteers joining us as CJC begins 10th year of successful operations

Dedicated and committed volunteers are the core of the Centre's success over the past decade, and, as we begin our tenth year of operations, a vibrant crew of new volunteers are offering their help to our work.

With almost eighty active volunteers on the roster, and an increasing workload, we have been recruiting additional help for the last few months. Some of our recruits are returning veterans who have had a break, others are brand new to Restorative Justice and the Centre.

Recently joining our office assistant staff are: Margaret White, Donna Walton, Judy Gerritson and Ola White. New case co-ordinators include the returning Larry Winters, and new volunteer Thierry Vrain. And our facilitator roster has recently been supplemented by the addition of Laurel Walton.

As well, there are a number of new volunteers undergoing their training and orientation. They will be completing their observations of resolution conferences over the next month and be added to our regular roster.

Office assistants currently receiving their training include: Bonnie Seely and Karena Crumpler,

Currently undergoing orientation and observation to join our facilitator's roster are: Gary Jones, Dennis Evans, Catharine Watson-MacDonald, and Brian Thicke.

New volunteers in the process of joining our panel member roster include: Georgette Whitehead, Peggy Zimmerman, and Karina Sangha.

Returning volunteer, Frank Burdon, will be assuming case co-ordinator responsibilities in September.

And volunteers for one or more of our special projects include: Brian Baker.

Welcome to all our 'newbies' and thanks for your commitment to restorative justice and the Community Justice Centre. The Directors and longer term volunteers are looking forward to meeting and getting to know you at the Volunteer Recognition BBQ on September 29.

Policy input panel established

A group of volunteers, who wanted to be more involved in the Centre's policy process has been established as a policy advisory panel. In response, the Board has adopted a procedure for gathering their input and achieving board consideration. The first policy to go through this process was the policy establishing the procedure!

As a result of their input and the Board's deliberations, those volunteers who wish to be part of the policy process are invited to forward their names and e-mail addresses to the Chief Administrator for inclusion in the group.

The process will begin with Board identification of the need for an existing policy review or the development of a new policy topic. A draft proposal will be developed based on the Board's initial thoughts and ideas and then be circulated to the panel by e-mail for comment and input. That material will then be consolidated, reported to the Board Secretary, and a revised draft of the policy will then be reviewed by the Board. In non-controversial matters, the Board may then adopt the policy, or they may decide to submit the revised draft for a further round of input before finalizing and adopting the policy.

CJC workshop on police involvement in Res Cons

Over twenty interested volunteers, from our local Centre and three other restorative justice centres on the Island gathered to learn about how police officers are involved in restorative justice conferences under the Community Justice Forums model of resolution conferencing on August 22nd. The speaker, Randy Munro, is a retired RCMP officer, who is active in the programme in Nanaimo.

The RCMP model of restorative justice, adopted from models used in Australia and New Zealand, is used in many locations in British Columbia, including both Campbell River and Nanaimo. It is administered by the RCMP and incorporates an RCMP officer as the facilitator of the rescon.

The workshop was organized to broaden our local volunteer's understanding of other models of RJ and to assist in the consideration of incorporating a role for police officers in some of our cases. The Comox Valley model has historically not included officers in the Res Cons, but a number of cases have arisen over the years in which co-ordinators and facilitators have felt that police involvement would have been very helpful. Cases which don't have a specific individual complainant (such as drug possession charges) and those involving procedural matters (such as resisting arrest), may be more satisfactorily resolved with such involvement. As well, a number of our Comox Valley officers have a deep commitment to restorative justice and wish to be involved in some of the cases they have referred.

The workshop was part of the information gathering stage for the development of a new policy on officer involvement in resolution conferences that will be developed through the new policy development process later this fall (see article on policy involvement on Page 3).

Provincial Restorative Justice Conference in October

For the 3rd time since 1999, the Provincial Government's Ministry of Attorney General, is sponsoring a province-wide gathering of RJ practitioners working in the various community programmes. "Developing Restorative Communities: Next Steps" will begin Thursday evening, October 11th and conclude Saturday, October 13th, at the Delta Airport Inn in Richmond.

Topics that will be addressed in plenary sessions include: Restorative Justice and Community: Critical Issues for Action and Advocacy on the first day, and Restorative Practice and the School Community: Critical Issues for Action and Advocacy on the second day.

In the breakout sessions scheduled for the afternoons, presentations from many of the community justice centres will address: Applying Best Practices in Restorative Justice, Peacemaking Circles/Caring Communities, BC Government Restorative Justice Policy & Practice, Police involvement in RJ, Circles of Support and Accountability, Restorative

Practice and Corporate Cultures, Apology and Forgiveness, United Nations Rights of Children and Youth, Victim Trauma, Needs & Services, Restorative Justice and Serious Offences.

In the CJC budget process, we are currently trying to allocate some support for those who wish to attend. We expect to be able to provide conference registration, transportation expenses for car-pools, and, depending on the number wishing to go, some food expenses. In order that final amounts can be determined, please make sure you let Lou Cassivi know of your interest in participating. Check out the conference website: www.rjcapconf.org.