



Volunteer Newsletter of the

Community Justice Centre

“Justice is our middle name”

(250) 334-8101
E-mail: cjc@shawbiz.ca

Suite E, 450 -8th Street,
Courtenay, B.C. V9N 1N5
www.CJC-comoxvalley.com

Vol. 2, No. 6

August, 2008

RSVP today!

Sunday, October 5 at 5:30

10th Anniversary Dinner & Volunteer Recognition Event to be held at Black Fin

Change is in the winds! After ten years of holding our annual Volunteer Dinner at the Officers' Mess at CFB Comox, we are moving the event to the lower level of the Black Fin Pub, overlooking the Comox Harbour by the light of the 1st Quarter Moon and the awesome Queneesh Glacier.

The food is very good, the facility is very nice, the service is very good, and it will serve our needs very well for this special 10th Anniversary Year.

In recognition of our anniversary, we are inviting representatives from the municipal and regional district government who fund our program, representatives from the agencies who accept our respondents for community service hours placements, members of the RCMP detachment who refer our clients, and all the volunteers who deliver our programme.

The service awards will be made by our patron, The Honourable Iona V. Campagnola, BC's former Lieutenant Governor. As well, we will be announcing those elected as Fellows of the Community Justice Centre, along with some special entertainment.

The dinner is free to all our guests and our volunteers (and their guests), but it is a no-host bar. So be sure to **reserve the date on your calendar and make sure to RSVP to 334-8101 or e-mail cjc@shawbiz.ca** letting us know your name, your guest's name and if you are vegetarian (the buffet will have Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding and Sockeye Salmon).

New Website Launched

CJC has launched a new and (much) improved website. Generally, it is easier to move through, quicker to find what you're looking for, and contains all the information and updates needed to keep aware of what's going on within the CJC and the broader field of Restorative Justice across the nation and around the world.

One of the additions to the site is a calendar of upcoming events; an easy way to make sure you don't miss social gatherings, upcoming training sessions, or other matters of importance. In time, there will be a section through which you may make a donation to the work of the CJC via the internet.

It even has its own domain name to make it easier to find. The address is www.cjc-comoxvalley.com/.

The professional re-working of the site was carried out by Tara Moses, of Tara Moses~Web Design, at a substantially reduced fee because of her support for the Centre's purpose and objectives. Thank you, Tara!

CJC 'FIRST ON THE BLOCK' to Sign Up as a Safe Harbour



As you return to the Centre this Fall for another year of RJ work, you'll notice a sign on our front door identifying the Centre as a Safe Harbour. The CJC was the first organization to sign up for this programme that is attempting to create a welcoming and affirming environment throughout the Comox Valley for all individuals – residents and visitors alike.

The programme was developed by the Critical Incident Protocol Committee in Nanaimo in 2004, and has been

CJC President, Aniel Dato (right), and Chief Administrator, Bruce Curtis, installing Safe Harbour signage. so successful that it is now a provincially funded project, administered by the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies. It has been implemented in over 30 communities which have delivered free two-hour orientations to over 400 *Safe Harbour* businesses, government offices, financial institutions, libraries, and agencies. In the Valley, the Job shop is the project co-ordinator.

Each *Safe Harbour* location displays the window decal and other signage that announces to the community that they understand and welcome diversity. Many people of diverse backgrounds are not certain that a business or organization will be accepting of them and their needs. How can they know whether discriminatory comments or actions directed at them will be effectively dealt with by staff in the offices and businesses they visit? How can they feel included in a Canadian workplace culture as a newly arrived immigrant? The *Safe Harbour* designation promises equitable treatment for anyone who walks in the door, and a respectful, inclusive environment.

The goal is to have offices and businesses publicly identified all over the Valley as places to which those experiencing racial harassment or other forms of discriminatory treatment may go to escape for a few moments while gathering their thoughts, composing themselves, and deciding what to do.

Workshops for CJC volunteers have been slated for September – See Page 6

New Arrivals to our Volunteer Team

Dennis J. Evans has been a lawyer for 11 years, practicing in criminal, wills and estates, and civil litigation. A member of the Canadian Bar Association Provincial Council, he also found time to be a board member of Community Futures Strathcona, and is finishing up his term as president of the Comox Valley Bar Association. He previously worked as a customs officer for three years on the Alberta/Montana border, and as a taxi driver in Vancouver for 6 years.



Dennis is the “proud parent” of one 3-year-old dog, Samantha, and “devoted staff member” to a 16 year old cat, Domino.

Raised in the Comox Valley, he graduated from Highland Secondary’s first graduating class. “People can do the research on that, but I was not in Pamela Anderson’s class.” Dennis’ mother taught at Tsolum Elementary “for an eon or two,” while his dad taught at Robb Road (pre-French immersion), Lake Trail, and retired from Vanier.

Karina Sangha is currently attending the University Studies program at North Island College in the Comox Valley and hopes to attend Law School after completing a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science. Karina became interested in the CJC after reading about it in the newspaper, and thought that it would be an excellent experience for her due to her ambitions to become a lawyer. She grew up in the Comox Valley, and prior to her graduation from Isfeld Secondary School in 2007, spent many years entertaining the Valley as a competitive dancer. Karina has greatly enjoyed volunteering at the CJC thus far, and looks forward to helping out more in the future.

Lauren Box Woodrow, 20, was born in Montreal Quebec, and her family was posted 11 years ago to the Comox Valley. She has one older brother, Jared, and four step-siblings.

She spent the past six months travelling throughout South East Asia and Australia. “I first got the travel bug when I went away on a family vacation last year to Thailand and decided I had to see the rest of Asia. I love learning new languages, cultures and of course meeting new people. I volunteered at an English school in Nha Trang, Vietnam for a week and loved every minute of it!”

Lauren always wanted to get into volunteer work around the Valley; she just never found the right place. “When Lou suggested I come and be a part of the team at the Community Justice Center I couldn’t think of a better place to do it. I’m very excited to soon be a part of the team and anxious to meet the rest of the staff!”

By the Numbers...		In this issue	
<i>July & August Case Statistics:</i>		Volunteer Banquet Date Set	1
New cases received	12	CJC: Valley’s 1 st Safe Harbour	2
Resolution conferences	2	New volunteers’ introductions	3
Cases closed successfully	4	Artwork donated to Centre	4
Case closed unsuccessfully	2	New training plan launched	5
Cases not accepted	0	“Safe Harbour workshops for CJC	6

“The Journey” donated to CJC

A 3 ½ X 7 foot fabric art piece, by noted Comox Valley fabric artist, Althea White, has been donated to the Community Justice Centre. Titled “The Journey: Transformative Justice”, the work was created to express the values of Restorative Justice as practiced here in the Valley and around the world.

In her Artist’s Statement, White said that apart from being functional as a door hanging, this piece has been created for the purposes of training, discussion and the sharing of stories. The creation of the hanging has been a learning journey of transcribing an abstract concept into a fabric structure.

The centre of the work is pure white, as we are all born, but as we grow we change. So do the colours. The colour wheel is the central theory to the transformation from primary, secondary and tertiary colours. This also leads to examining the complementary colours, shades, tones, and pure colours. The pure colours are centred in three circles: red, blue and yellow.

The three circles are central to Peace Circles, family conferencing and all forms of Restorative Justice, representing self, the other party, and the community. There are always three people in any resolution, although one may be the invisible “ELEPHANT” in the room.

There is also another circle that works in the background that helps to spin the whole process. This is the fan background. What else might be its name?



During the process of listening, exchanging stories and perspectives, change happens. This transformation comes from forgiveness, education, accountability, sharing, understanding and leads towards healing and hope. Those of you who have been through any of this type of process will immediately understand the different layers that are in the circles and the changing form of the central

Continued, Page 5

New volunteer training plan launched

Many volunteers have suggested, over the years, that it would be good to have a broader understanding of restorative justice. And it doesn't seem to matter which area of our programme they are working in: case co-ordination, admin co-ordination, panel membering, or facilitation.

Some want to know in which ways our programme is unique and in which areas we are the same as other RJ programmes throughout the province. Others want a deeper understanding of where RJ comes from – the philosophical and cultural sources. Other still, want to know how it interacts with the other components of the criminal justice system.

With a large number of new volunteers joining the Centre, it has been decided to provide a four session "overview" training programme available to all CJC volunteers. The intention is to offer this training twice a year, on four successive weeks. Each session will provide information, answer questions, provide opportunities to try out some skills, meet with other volunteers, and learn how it works.

The first-time offering of this training will be made on **Thursdays, October 9th – 30th at the Centre, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM.** The programme will be offered again in the Spring,

on a different weeknight, sometime in February or March.

Initial planning is for the four sessions to cover the following ideas, information and concepts:

Session 1: Introduction to Restorative Justice; History of the CJC; sources of restorative philosophy and practice; Success stories.

Session 2: The CJC steps and rationales for a typical case; Roles in the process; Outcomes of cases.

Session 3: CJC's expanding sources of referrals for cases; CJC's collaborations with other groups and projects (anti-racism work, public education, etc).

Session 4: role plays for specific jobs within the process; Follow-up questions and other issues.

It is planned that all new volunteers will complete the programme within their first 18 months with the Centre. Current volunteers are encouraged to participate as they will bring important, front-line experiences to the discussion. We also hope that current volunteers will take this opportunity to expand and update their understanding.

Art piece open to interpretation, stimulates discussion

circles without any further explanation. For those who have not emotionally undergone anything like this, please participate in the process and trust the process to work its miracle. There is a miracle in the process which is not easily explained, only experienced. What is your story?

The figures are stylized as representative of the feelings and situations. The one is a figure of despair, misery, darkness, etc. How would you describe the lone figure? The group represents

the changing in relationships, feelings, hope, etc. They are not any particular race, religion or sex. You are invited to interpret them in your own way. How have they changed? Is the lone figure asking forgiveness, being reunited with family, comforting a smaller person, or is it the reverse? In fact, there are more questions than answers in the picture!

I hope that the hanging is used for many discussions, much sharing and education.

...from page 4

CJC “Safe Harbour” Volunteer Workshops

Part of the CJC’s commitment to this programme is to arrange for the training of all our “front-line” volunteers (Case Co-ordinators and Administrative Co-ordinators) as well as our other volunteers. These training sessions are quite brief (a couple of hours) and will be available at a variety of times. The initial set of training times are:

Mon., Sept 15 @ 1 – 3 PM;
Wed., Sept 17 @ 7 - 9 PM;
Tues., Sept 23 @ 4 – 6 PM.

You’ll need to sign up for these sessions, to make sure they will go ahead. Just e-mail or phone the CJC and give your name and the date you want to come.

The programme doesn’t make huge, unachievable promises – its signs simply say to someone encountering racism, homophobia, hateful harassment or assault: “Here is a safe place of refuge, respectful treatment, and a prepared and welcoming staff.”

It doesn’t undertake to “solve the problem”, just to provide fair and equitable treatment for those with something to fear, perhaps a drink of water or coffee, the use of a phone, and the provision of some information on what they can do for themselves or where they can obtain help.

It is part of a broader effort to create a welcoming and accepting community, respectful of diversity.

“Who Will Fix the Fence?” quilt to be auctioned

Remember the exhibition of quilts made by the Merville Grannies for the Stephen Lewis event last June? Well, they are all to be auctioned at an event on October 5th. Several volunteers of the CJC have concluded that the one entitled “Who Will Fix the Fence” (an 18” X 18” piece) with the image of an elephant trampling a vegetable garden, would be the quintessential image of the work we do in restorative justice and that it should be on our walls.

If you would like to participate in this project by pledging a contribution to a pool of funds that would allow us to make a bid for this piece, please call the office and let us know your name and the amount you would be willing to contribute towards the bidding. Don’t send any money, but if we are successful in our bid, then we will notify you, call in your pledge, and add your name to the list of donors. You will also be eligible for a tax receipt from the CJC for the donation (tax time isn’t too far away!).



**SAFE
HARBOUR**
RESPECT FOR ALL



AMSSA

Affiliation of Multicultural Societies
and Service Agencies of BC

www.amssa.org

Inclusive and Creative Leadership Training offered October 20 - 24

The CJC's project on racism, homophobia and hate crime has been offered up to three spaces in an upcoming week long programme in intergenerational and diversity leadership offered by the Cowichan Intercultural Society.

The goal of the training is to increase capacity within communities for engaging youth and adults from diverse backgrounds in working together on anti-discrimination, anti-racism, diversity education and inclusive community-building.

The dates are **10:00 am Monday, October 20th to 3:00 pm Friday, October 24, 2008.**

The co-facilitators include:

- Dr. Linda Hill and an intergenerational team of Inclusive Travel Guides from Cowichan Intercultural Society
- Scott Swan, Founding Artistic Director & Head Teacher, Seacoast Studios
- Nadia Chaney, Arts Empowerment Facilitator

The funding from Multiculturalism Services covers training, materials, transportation, food, and dormitory accommodation for up to three participants from each community (one to two adults, and one to two youth or young adult participants). A flyer describing this training opportunity is available at the CJC.

The requirements for selection and participation are that you:

- have experience and a commitment to addressing/preventing issues of racism and discrimination.
- will attend the entire training
- will make a firm commitment to implement what was learned during the training.
- will make a firm commitment to engaging youth in addressing and preventing issues of racism and discrimination after the training.

The CJC will select up to three volunteers from the community by the end of September, so **applications need to be at the CJC office no later than Friday, September 26th.**

The application must include your answers to these points:

1. List three ways you could engage youth in combating racism, homophobia and hate crime activities in the Comox Valley.
2. What are three things you hope to bring back to the community following the Inclusive Leadership Institute?
3. Include a brief resume (less than one page) describing how you meet the following criteria:
 - Youth/young adult representatives are approximately age 16-24 and will be living in their local community (i.e. not moving away for work or school) during the next six to twelve months.
 - Adult representatives are caring, supportive, safe, and respected community members (professional or volunteer) who are willing to work with the youth representatives on developing and implementing an action plan for applying the skills learned at Inclusive Leadership Training for six to twelve months following the training.
 - You have experience in one or more of these areas: diversity issues, anti-racism, diversity education, community building, leadership, facilitating groups.
4. Because this is a youth focused inter-generational training, adult representatives are also required to submit a recent Criminal Record Check and two references.

In case you missed the front page....

**CJC's Annual Volunteer Recognition Evening
Celebrating our Tenth Anniversary!**

SUNDAY, October 5th

5:30 – 9:00 PM

Black Fin Pub (Lower Level)

Entertainment, Awards, Special Guests

& Dinner

(no host bar)

RSVP to 334-8101

with name, name of your guest, and if you require vegetarian meal

by September 26th