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VENTURES VOICES

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Christmas Good Times

Christmas time is always a time for families and friends to get together and share the joy of the Season. The Community Ventures Society family had our time together at PLACE MAILLARDVILLE and truly a good time was had by all. Participants, families and staff enjoyed each others company, seasonal music, singing, great food and a visit from Santa. Much gratitude goes to the folks who decorated, organized and prepared food and an especially hale and hearty Santa.



Sean Craig with his mom, dad and Gramma



Mrs. Ledoux and Patty Lasaruk



Jack Janson and Ray Marson

The Gift of Giving by Rochelle Paquin

One of my favorite ways to help out in the community is to collect money for the Empty Stocking Fund.

I've been collecting pennies for many years now. I start in January and keep collecting until December. I roll them myself and then one of the house staff gives me a hand taking them to the bank.

I've codonating to charities and helping others. Two of my favorite ways are donating to charities and volunteering at the SPCA looking after the animals. I collected over \$100 this year. The money goes to buy clothes and gifts for children who may not otherwise get much.



Inside this issue:

<i>The Christmas Play</i>	2
<i>Vision for Community</i>	2
<i>A Family Story</i>	3
<i>Citysoup.ca</i>	3
<i>Caring Citizens</i>	4
<i>Woodlands Abuse Report</i>	4

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Entertains All

by Lana Hennessy

The Christmas play turned out to be a great success!

Young and old alike were delighted with the play. Every one of the actor's and actresses did a great job.

The Director Rosemary Mailloux was very encouraging to everyone. So were the behind the scenes people as well. The Props which Edith Toldy made were realistic and seemed to come alive as well as drawing the audience into the play of Snow White And The

Dwarfs! The audience loved the songs especially the one about Some Day My Prince Will Come. Afterwards everyone enjoyed the refreshments that were provided!



As you could say the play ended Happily Ever After! P.S. –C.V.S. would also like to acknowledge Community Integration Services Society and Ridge Meadow's Society for their wonderful help and support which was highly and totally appreciated!

A New Vision for Community Living - A vision of choice and change

The Interim Authority for **Community Living BC** is the next stage in the transformation of Community Living services in the Province of British Columbia.

In Summer 2003, a new Provincial Authority will assume responsibility from the Ministry of Children & Family Development (MCFD) for the delivery of services to people with developmental disabilities in British Columbia, including services for adults and many children and youth with special needs.

The new Authority will develop an innovative, community-based service delivery system that offers a range of choices.

The Community Living sector and government believe that it is essential to involve individuals & families in the development of the new Authority and the services that are provided for them.

The ACT: The Interim Authority was created by the Minister of Children and Family Development, Gordon Hogg, under the authority of Bill 65 - 2002 - [COMMUNITY SERVICES INTERIM AUTHORITIES ACT](#) on November 12, 2002.

The BOARD: There will be a board of directors for the interim authority that is made up of family members, self-advocates and community members.

The Executive Committee: The Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and the Interim Authority establishes an Executive Committee to co-manage the community living service system over the coming months. The Committee will be co-chaired and will have three members appointed from government and three members will be appointed by the Interim Authority Board. This committee will ensure the Interim Authority is included in ministry operational decision-making until the permanent authority is established.

There are Families and then there are Families

By Kathryn Urquhart

When I came to work at Community Ventures Society it was quite a surprise to discover that one of the day program participants, Faye Headridge supports my grandmother, Francis Wood, who lives at Dania Home. My grandmother is now 88 and does not have many opportunities to get out into the community so when I was informed that the drama club (including Faye) was doing a presentation, I



thought it would be a perfect outing for my grandmother. The day went spectacularly!

Grandma thoroughly enjoyed herself and was more coherent than I have seen her in months. She was pleasantly surprised with the number of people who recognized her and had some special time after the play to visit and dance a bit with Faye. The outing was a huge success for everyone! Although grandma may not remember that she went she certainly had fun while she was there – I think there is a lesson for all of us in that - to focus on enjoying the moment .

Welcome to CITYSOUP.CA - Your Community Explore IT

citysoup.ca, the eCommunity has been created for the residents of Coquitlam and Port Moody. Under the direction of the [Smart Choices Society](#), citysoup.ca is being built to enhance the lives of residents using the benefits of information and communications technologies.

This will be **a gateway** to information and services within your community – sign up for swimming lessons, find a daycare close to your home, build a website for your community group or business, research zoning and permits for construction development. Whether you are a business, community group or a resident in Port Moody or Coquitlam.

What is on the web site currently is a taste of some of the tools and features available when the portal launches in a few weeks. ([Sign up there](#) to be notified when citysoup.ca goes live and as new things are rolled out over the next six months.) Content within the portal will come from many sources , including local community groups, businesses, municipal, provincial and federal governments. People are asked to share knowledge and opinions. Are you an expert in flower arranging, for instance? Or pet grooming? Write an article for citysoup.ca's Living section –! Just about any topic you can imagine can be shared in citysoup.ca – and you don't need a website or even email to do it. Plus, you'll be able to share your thoughts on movies, games, CDs, restaurants and events via the Reviewers Corner, too.

It also will have special content available for the Korean, French, Spanish and Japanese communities as citysoup.ca grows.

CARING CITIZENS by PHILIA

'Citizen' is one of the most important roles each of us plays in society. The Caring Citizen is the glue that holds our society together. Citizenship involves three components: rights and responsibilities and access.

- Rights of belonging, of access to justice, to due process, of mutual recognition and approval of our distinctiveness, uniqueness and differences both as individuals and groups.
- Responsibilities to respect and care for each other; to commit to the well being of the community, to contribute to the health and vitality of our communities, to engage in creating a vital society.
- Access to the forums, institutions, associations and public spaces where citizens meet, discuss, share, work, contribute, play and socialize.

To be a Caring Citizen is to share a commitment to the 'Common Good'. To be a Caring Citizen requires us to be in relationship with others. We cannot be a caring citizen in isolation. Our role of citi-

Woodlands Abuse Report

On Friday, July 26, 2002, the provincial government of BC released its long-awaited report on abuse at the institution known as Woodlands. The report called, "The Need To Know: Administrative Review of Woodlands School", confirms that abuse took place at Woodlands and makes many recommendations. As a follow-up to one of the recommendations in the report, the Woodlands Parent's Action Committee is organizing several day long informational sessions around the province to support former families of Woodlands Residents to understand what the report means and organize themselves into a strong voice so their concerns and expectations are met in a respectful, safe and timely process.

The purpose of these sessions are to make sure that families of Woodlands have both a **voice in the discussion** of the Report and the **knowledge to make good choices as various options are discussed**. Some of the goals to be achieved include:

- establishing a communication network for families
- discussing all the options available to the former residents of Woodlands outlined in the Report
- development of a provincial resource directory of sustainable community based supports like counseling, therapy and other required needs for families
- develop a united position so there is safe and healthy process to find resolution on compensation and other issues related to the Report
- meet with government officials from Children and Family Development to hear the provincial government's views on the Woodland's Report
- meet with Detective Mike Macfarlane from the New Westminister Police, a legal consultant, Psychologist or Counselor speaking on abuse and its effects, Joanne Taylor, E.D. of the Representation Agreement Resource Centre, Jane Holland from MCFD Advocate for Service Quality, etc..

THE NEXT SESSION:

January 30, 2003 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Scandinavian Community Centre

6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby

Lunch will be provided

We the families are grateful for the opportunity to provide feedback to government regarding what we determine to be the most effective ways to heal and reconcile. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity; your input into this process may prove beneficial to the future of your family member