Community Tables:

Engaging Neighbours Initiative

2011-2012 Regional Table Report

Change starts here.

Community Tables: Engaging Neighbours is an initiative of the United Way of Greater Victoria.

The Community Tables: Engaging Neighbours Regional Table Report was written by Karen Potts. Karen was one of five graduate students from the University of Victoria's Office of Community-based Research hired to assist the initiative during the pilot phase between September 2011 and June 2012.

For more details about the Community Tables: Engaging Neighbours initiative or to contribute to the Regional Tool Kit, please contact:

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"If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together."

South African proverb

Neighbourhood Based Community Learning and Engagement Initiative[1]

Community Tables: Engaging Neighbours is an initiative of the United Way of Greater Victoria (United Way) that takes a neighbour-powered approach to creating stronger and more caring communities from the inside out. The goal of this initiative is to facilitate collective learning and support residents as they develop and implement action projects and strategies that change their communities for the better.

United Way aims to increase the capacity within communities to create lasting and effective change by encouraging collaboration across sectors, focusing on neighbourhood assets, and fostering a commitment to long-term community learning and action. The pilot initiative is being delivered in partnership with BC Healthy Communities and the University of Victoria's Office of Community-based Research with additional funding support from MITACS's Accelerate Research Internship Program.

The Community Tables: Engaging Neighbours initiative provides United Way with opportunities to better understand critical issues facing British Columbia's Capital Regional District (CRD) and to mobilize and support action. This initiative also assists community stakeholders to identify and develop key action strategies that lead to enhanced relationships between multi-sector community partners (e.g. local government, NGOs, neighbourhoods, businesses, academic bodies) and create initiatives, projects or programs that achieve stronger and more caring communities.

To support the work of the three pilot neighbourhoods, as well as future neighbourhood tables, the Community Tables: Engaging Neighbours initiative created a Regional Resource Table. This diverse multi-sector resource team was made up of individuals who have experience in citizen engagement, place-based neighbourhood or community development. They were asked for their insights, resources and thoughts about best practices in the CRD, British Columbia, Canada and internationally.

Purpose of the Regional Table

To complement and support the neighbourhood tables, a list was established outlining CRD specific best practices in neighbourhood community building and/or development as well as place-based, asset-focused neighbourhood community development. The original terms of reference called for the Regional Table participants to:

- **Share Stories:** Share best practices and identify community initiatives, research, resources and illustrative stories of citizen and place-based community development and engagement in the CRD and beyond
- **Develop Tools:** Advise on the development of the United Way of Greater Victoria – supported regional inventory and interactive Community Map of neighbour and citizen-led activities

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[1] Community Tables: Engaging Neighbours Report, June 2012

- **Support Innovation:** Contribute to evaluation and planning of Community Tables project with recommendations to United Way of Greater Victoria on opportunities and ways to support and invest in citizen and place-based innovation.

Who was involved

Forty-seven individuals were identified as potential Regional Table participants for their personal knowledge and experience with community building projects and neighbourhood community development. They also represented a variety of key sectors in community development including: municipal government, regional government, provincial government, university, housing, arts, First Nations, social planning, non-profits, and funders.

In this pilot phase of the initiative, 25 people contributed to the Regional Table. A complete list of participants is available as Appendix A.

The work of the Regional Table

During February-April 2012, Regional Table participants were given the choice to share their expertise via roundtable/focus group, individual interviews or via email. All participants were given a list of general questions ahead of time (see Appendix B) plus a list of the initial areas of interest identified early on by the pilot Neighbourhood Tables (see Appendix C). The conversations that occurred loosely followed these areas of interest.

The results of the Regional Table

A lengthy list of insights and resources were distilled from the contributions by the Regional Table participants. These contributions will be used in three ways:

1. CRD-specific resources will be illustrated on a United Way online map.
2. A 'best practices toolkit' is in development – this will be an online reference containing specific project links as well as links to useful articles, books, and videos. The data collected from the Regional Table participants will make up a significant part of this resource kit.
3. Organizations and projects identified as doing great place-based community development work in the CRD have been compiled (see Appendix D and Appendix E).

Summary of Learnings

It was difficult to reach all of the potential participants identified for this pilot Regional Table process. However, the feedback from those who did respond was inspiring and revealed how many people are eager for this kind of regional research and engagement to happen and for the information and resources gathered to be shared publicly.

Despite the number of contributors to the Regional Table, there was amazingly little overlap in terms of 'best practice' examples and resources. By the end of the pilot phase, we had not reached 'saturation of

the data' and were still hearing new information and new recommendations. What this tells us is that the CRD is indeed rich in terms of activists, projects and examples of outstanding community development. We anticipate that, as readers go through our compiled list of organizations and projects, they might want to add to it. The Regional Table is a living resource that we hope to continue adding to and learning from.

Several initiatives received multiple mentions; these are the projects and organizations in the CRD that 'have people talking'. Here are the 'top 10' CRD initiatives listed by Regional Table participants:

1. Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group and its projects
2. Urban Farmers Groups: Gorge-Tillicum Urban Farmers and Vic-West Urban Farmers specifically
3. Transition Victoria and its projects
4. Lifecycles and the Compost Education Centre
5. Sooke Community Health Initiative
6. Citizen neighbourhood sharing, street initiatives such as the 'book boxes' appearing in Gorge Tillicum, Fernwood and James Bay
7. Victoria Native Friendship Centre
8. The Belfry Theater
9. Community Social Planning Council
10. Volunteer Victoria

There were also 'gaps' and issues considered to be barriers to community building in the CRD that received multiple mentions:

1. A common calendar, local event, local information source.
2. Better ways to find and connect with local citizen leaders – professionals are easy to find!
3. Getting diverse people together in a neighbourhood was unanimously seen as the main challenge.

Next steps for the Regional Table

Reflecting upon the data collection questions asked of the Regional Table participants, there were areas that should have been asked about, including:

- good examples of enabling policies, by-laws, legislation that support community development
- good examples of advocacy organizing, practices that support community development
- getting people to think about projects and happenings in less visible parts of the CRD, such as the Gulf Islands.

Reflecting upon our data gathering methods, in general, there were limitations to the interviews that could be corrected in future phases including:

- Some Regional Table participants wanted to tell us about projects that are needed in the CRD instead of talking about what work already going on.
- Some Regional Table participants did not focus on projects or people doing place-based, community development. Instead, they gave a list of agencies that do good community work in general, e.g. provide programs and services.
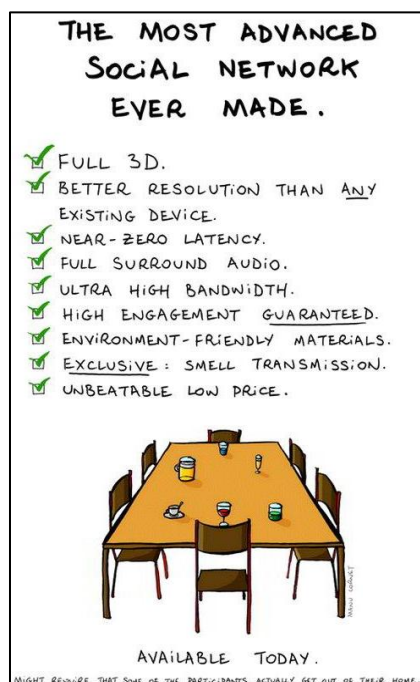
- Time limits to the conversations did not really permit enough focus on the initiative areas identified by three neighbourhood community Tables. The data generated could have been more specific to help the neighbourhood Tables.
- The focus group/round-table discussions generated a lot of energy but the 'small groups' did not have enough time.   People had more ideas to contribute but having six people in each group meant that not everyone had an opportunity to share.

Conclusion

Exciting and inspiring place-based, asset based neighbourhood community development work is thriving in the Greater Victoria area.   And it will only get better and stronger, the more we can learn from each other and our efforts.

The Regional Table participants have shared with the Community Tables: Engaging Neighbours initiative a great wealth of knowledge and expertise. We have documented favourite formal, organizational-based community work going on in the CRD as well as amazing informal, citizen-initiated, 'living room' or 'coffee shop' projects. This data will be used to develop a web resource - a virtual reference desk - that citizens can search to find answers and inspiration for their own neighbourhood building. We believe that this will be the first community development resource for the CRD that combines academic, international, as well as local and specific examples from which to learn. The data about local organizations and projects will also be searchable on a United Way online map

We look for forward to developing our network, relationships and knowledge as we move into the next phase of Community Tables: Engaging Neighbours.

Appendix A:
Contributors to the Regional Table (February – May 2012)

The following participants contributed to the Regional Table through an interview, participation in the roundtable/focus group or through email. Interviews and focus groups were facilitated by Geoff Cross and Karen Potts.

Name	Association
Marlene Barry	Sooke Region Community Health Initiative – Chair
Kristina Bouris	City of Victoria – Community Planner
Leslie Brown	UVic OCBR - Acting Director
Narissa Chadwick	Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development – Senior Planner
Michelle Colussi	Transition Town / Canadian Centre for Community Renewal
Budd Hall	UVic OCBR – Founding Director
Sue Hallatt	Capital Regional District – Senior Planner
Lee Herrin	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group – Executive Director
Brian Hill	Community Social Planning Council – Past Chair
Leanna Hill	Volunteer Victoria – Youth Program Coordinator
Robin Hood	UVic OCBR – Associate
Colleen Kasting	Ready to Rent – Director
Marion Little	PEERS Victoria – Executive Director
Kelly Mann	BC Games – President and CEO
Kim Manton	United Way of Greater Victoria – Victoria Labour Representative
Roberta Martel	Fernwood NRG - Past Executive Director
Jean McRae	Intercultural Association – Executive Director
Alvaro Moreno	Community Social Planning Council - Research and Development Officer
Matthew Payne	Theater SKAM – Artistic Producer
Christina Peacock	Jeneece Place – House Manager
Kim Perkins	Burnside Gorge Community Association – Manager of Communications
Tricia Roche	UVic Centre for Youth and Society – Manager
Linda Ross	Linda E. Ross Property Management – Managing Broker
Maureen Sawa	Greater Victoria Public Library – CEO
Rob Wipond	Transition Town – Journalist and Activist

Appendix B:
Guiding Questions for Contributors to the Regional Table

General questions:

1) Who do you consider to be the leaders/innovators in placed-based citizen engagement in the Greater Victoria/ CRD area (groups and individuals)?

2) What neighbourhood community development or citizen engagement projects/initiatives in the CRD have impressed or inspired you?

United Way impact areas and Community Tables initiatives of interest:

3) Can you think of groups, best practices or innovative work in these specific areas, either locally or further afield?
   The United Way Priority Areas are:
   a. Kids and Youth,
   b. Poverty to Possibility, and
   c. Healthy People-Strong Communities.

4) Do you know of any specific project, initiative, or resource, anywhere that addresses some of the main interests of our three neighbourhood groups, and the three United Way impact areas. (See attached document).

Best Tools and Resources:

5) Can you recommend any 'outstanding' tools, resources, or readings on neighbourhood community development (local, national, global) to include on our resource 'virtual' reference desk webpage? Think books, articles, manuals, TED talks, YouTube videos, documentaries ... anything!

6) Where are the best (facilities, location and price considerations) spaces that you can have a community meeting or host an event?

7) What are the best community building events to attend and participate in?

8) What are the best web resources to connect people, issues in town? Where do you go for information as to what's going on around town?

9) Who are your favourite community minded businesses, trades people?

10) Who are the most approachable politicians or bureaucrats who want to help community engagement?

11) What is the best source to get information out to local people about community issues and events?

In April 2012, the questions were amended to include:

1) Can you tell us about your work with (insert organization/project)?
   a. Smart practices to share?
   b. Any lessons learned?

2) Do you have anyone else in mind from the Greater Victoria region who we should interview?

3) Any advice, direction for this project OCBR/United Way's involvement in the region?

Appendix C:
Theme Areas to be Referred to the Regional Table for Brainstorming: Looking for Examples of Communities that have Successfully Addressed these Issues
As of January 31, 2012

United Way Focus Areas:
1. '**All that kids can be**' provides children and youth with the support and opportunities they need to be ready for grade one, finish high school and forge strong positive relationships. What makes the CRD a vibrant and healthy place for kids and youth? (e.g. places, events, supports). What is missing?
2. Giving support, education and skills training to people struggling with mental health, addictions, or disabilities is building '**healthy people, strong communities**'.   What supports a sense of belonging and social inclusion in the CRD? (involves different ages, incomes, cultures and abilities) What are the gaps and challenges?
3. Helping people find jobs and secure safe housing is lifting them '**from poverty to possibility**'. What supports social and economic well-being in the CRD? What are the gaps and challenges?

General themes and interests across all three Community Tables:
1. Becoming more of a village – craving for a 'centre', for local markets.
2. Getting neighbours to meet each other.
3. Bridging across diversity.

Issues raised that were specific to each of the neighbourhoods:
 ** indicates that these may be more of a priority.

North Park Specific
- **How to build community and relationships between diverse groups – new immigrants and homeless? How to build community with people who don't have a residence, homeless, but live their lives, use the services of the neighbourhood. Innovative models of building community connections.
- **How to reclaim a positive image of 'gritty'? Want North Park to be seen as a positive community without gentrification, pushing the marginalized people out.
- **How to develop a 'no traffic area'? How to get people out of their cars, making the neighbourhood greener, more walkable, bike-able, especially as the neighbourhood is a 'thoroughfare' for people going from one part of Victoria to another or people coming to North Park for services.
- A fun event where all community would turn out, meet each other and engage.
- How to engage the citizens, get people to come out and participate? Need innovative ways for people to meet each other.
- How to get community input beyond a survey?

- How to reclaim professional athletic facilities for community use when not occupied? Specifically Royal Athletic Park.
- How to engage industry and businesses in community life? E.g. Island Farms Dairy – need a store front, retail, and community space. North Park has 129 businesses.
- How to build an arts revival in a neighbourhood?

Oaklands Specific
- **How to create bridges – physical and psychological – across a major barrier, Hillside Avenue?
- **How to engage Hillside Mall into the community?
- **How to coordinate events, communicate with the neighbourhood? E.g. a central hub for information that people use and how to maintain it. What type of webpage works and gets everyone submitting and checking regularly.
- **How to build a community with multiple centres e.g. a triangle approach with 3 different focal points, destinations to encourage people to cross boundaries.
- How to create a successful farmer's market? Including how to change attitudes so that people support it.
- How to encourage people to 'rove' e.g. events that encourage people to move about and through the community e.g. how to do a Jane's Walk.
- Is there a community role for a large cemetery e.g. the Jewish Cemetery as a central feature in Oaklands.

Tillicum Specific
- **How to best build an asset inventory? A listing of neighbours skills, businesses, trades, equipment, tools, babysitters. How to gather the information? Keep it up to date? How to make it accessible? (GTUF starting with major garden tools sharing list)
- **Community centre construction processes - how have other (local) communities made this happen? What barriers were there? How are they run? (particular interest in non-professionally run centres – really 'club' spaces, meeting spaces, outdoor space for community gardens, citizen driven, not programs and services)
- How to get around problematic bylaws. Many people have home based businesses but don't want to risk 'advertising' that they exist.   Innovative ways to support home based trades people, small crafts people, local growers and gardeners who have surplus to sell and share out on their own streets.
- How to bring local businesses back into the neighbourhood.
- How to change attitudes so that local neighbours support local businesses.
- How to ensure local businesses remain affordable to lowest income residents, not just niche high end products and services.
- How to build community across the economic divide. How engaged, connected do low income families feel? They are not at 'this table'.
- How to communicate with the neighbourhood (beyond just online tools – seem to have limitations for people in this neighbourhood).

Appendix D:
Great organizations doing place-based community development in the CRD, as identified by Regional Table participants

Number of Mentions	Organization	Participant Comments (direct quotes – non edited)	Website Links
6 x	Transition Victoria	Transition seeks to engage communities with a comprehensive approach. Just launched a study to better understand which food production models really help with poverty reduction (i.e. local CSAs, community gardens, etc.). *Research should be completed soon. The Gift Circle approach is important because in addition to bringing more goods to those who need them, it builds relations amongst people. giving and trading useful goods	http://transitionvictoria.ning.com http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transition_Towns
5 x	Victoria Native Friendship Centre	Youth pole carving and raising Career fair in conjunction with Burnside Gorge Siem Lelum House, food programs, Health programs, etc. VNFC as an inclusive organization with supports for Children and Youth, Families, Elders. These supports include medical, food, counselling, housing, etc.	http://www.vnfc.ca
4 x	Lifecycles and Compost Education Centre	Compost Education Centre model for youth engagement leading the way in Open Source technology and mapping umbrella for many initiatives	http://lifecyclesproject.ca http://www.compost.bc.ca
3 x	Gorge-Tillicum Urban Farmers (GTUF)	Enhancing food production in backyards Model can be brought to other neighbourhoods	https://sites.google.com/site/gorgetillicumurbanfarmers

Number of Mentions	Organization	Participant Comments (direct quotes – non edited)	Website Links
3 x	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Neighbourhood development organization focusing exclusively on Fernwood. Key initiatives include neighbourhood visioning forums, pole painting and community murals, affordable housing developments, and urban agriculture.	http://fernwoodnrg.ca http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHdaC8AEO3k
2 x	Belfry Theatre	Converting old space in theatre in Fernwood Square Have left artistic mark on community in Victoria	http://www.belfry.bc.ca
2 x	Community Social Planning Council	info that mobilizes action around housing work	http://www.communitycouncil.ca
2 x	Volunteer Victoria	Provides support for non-profits. Brings in retired executives and matches them with local groups to provide assistance and guidance. Community investment network	http://www.volunteervictoria.bc.ca
2 x	Community Micro Lending Society	New innovator, key resource in town Connecting people with the right resources	http://www.communitymicrolending.ca
1 x	Sooke Region Volunteer Centre	It connects potential volunteers to organizations. Also includes services for non-profits, including resources on how to support volunteers, engage volunteers. The centre (a physical space) provides in-house training, grant-writing assistance, records keeping, networking, and storage facilities for local organizations.	http://www.sookeregionresources.com/resource/sooke-region-volunteer-centre
1 x	Neighbourhood Community Associations: • Burnside Gorge • James Bay • Fernwood	First place to start any neighbourhood work All usually have complex dynamics and personalities but most are vibrant resources	http://www.burnsidegorge.ca http://www.jbna.org http://www.fernwoodvic.ca

Number of Mentions	Organization	Participant Comments (direct quotes – non edited)	Website Links
1 x	City of Victoria	Model for intentional engagement during OCP process	http://www.shapeyourfuturevictoria.ca
1 x	Central Saanich	has done some work to repurpose recreation amenities to more youth-focused spaces. Notably, a tennis court was turned into a skate park. Keeping youth lens in planning projects	http://www.centralsaanich.ca/Home.htm
1 x	James Bay Project	Provides mix of services. Acts as a real dialogue space for people in the neighbourhood to connect around issues. Active clothing drop-off. Community Dinners Youth nights and getaways Family hockey tournament (includes road closure) Organizes 'James Bay Day' festival	http://jbcp.bc.ca http://jbsc.conscious-choices.ca/?page_id=358
1 x	Boys and Girls Club	Metchosin Farm – great model	http://www.bgcvic.org http://www.bgcvic.org/outdoor-centre/outdoor-programs
1 x	Faculty of Education	CORE – 2nd floor Ed building – connects Ed students with community youth needing tutoring, students with disabilities etc.	http://www.core.uvic.ca
1 x	Youth Corp	Go to group for the youth perspective. Great website	http://youthcore.ca
1 x	Tsawout First Nation		http://www.tsawout.com/index.php/component/phocagallery/category/8-youth-gallery
1 x	Board Voice	Brings together board directors of non-profits to share ideas, stories, resources, etc.	http://www.boardvoice.ca
1 x	Atomic Vaudeville	Innovative company that turned Victoria Event Centre into regular, sought after venue	http://www.atomicvaudeville.com

Number of Mentions	Organization	Participant Comments (direct quotes – non edited)	Website Links
1 x	Theatre SKAM	Theatre SKAM's goal is to change the sense of a place; change the expectations that people have for a space (or, in certain cases, a group of people) Never have had single consistent theatre space. Rather, have used all different types of spaces to create their pieces, including cafes, bars, community halls, parks Site specific theatre changes the way audience members view and use a space. It creates a new connection to places (often under-used and underappreciated)	http://www.skam.ca
1 x	Our Place	place-based engagement of homeless, vulnerably housed, and marginalized communities	http://www.ourplacesociety.com
1 x	Victoria Multifaith Society and Faith Communities	There is a lot more potential to connect with these groups and bring them further into local communities. They have a great deal of resources to offer.	http://victoriamultifaith.com/wp
1 x	St. Andrews Catholic Cathedral	Big fundraiser for Kingcom Inlet – success in bringing together the First Nations and non-First Nations of Victoria	http://standrewscathedral.com
1 x	PEERS	RV support vehicle. 'Mobile placed-based engagement'. The RV has become an important space for the sex worker community. RV houses support services – doctors, food, counselling, computers, trainings, clothing, and belonging and security.	http://peers.bc.ca
1 x	United Way of Greater Victoria	75th anniversary – ties to Victoria development	http://uwgv.ca
1 x	Victoria Foundation	Resilience Project Vital Signs Report – key to see areas for development e.g. GVPL used this to argue for special teen passes to museum and gallery	http://www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca

Number of Mentions	Organization	Participant Comments (direct quotes – non edited)	Website Links
1 x	Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL)	works with the downtown core agencies Community database – currently under-utilised	http://gvpl.ca
1 x	Literacy Victoria	Book mobile with Greater Victoria Public Library	http://www.literacyvictoria.ca
1 x	Times Colonist	Raise a Reader, book sale	http://www.timescolonist.com/about-times-colonist/aboutus.html
1 x	Monday Magazine	Editor very supportive of community initiatives	http://www.mondaymag.com
1 x	Royal BC Museum	Connects people, events in Victoria	http://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/MainSite/default.aspx
1 x	Art Gallery	Keen on community accessibility, bringing community into gallery space	http://aggv.ca
1 x	Saanich Neighbourhood Place		http://www.saanichneighbourhoodplace.com
1 x	Rotary Club		http://www.rotaryvictoria.org
1 x	Victoria Chamber of Commerce		http://www.victoriachamber.ca
1 x	YMCA		http://www.victoriay.com
1 x	Local CBC		http://www.cbc.ca/ontheisland
1 x	Downtown Business Development		http://www.downtownvictoria.ca
1 x	Recreation Centres		http://www.crd.bc.ca/recreation.htm
1 x	Ready to Rent		http://www.readytorentbc.net
1 x	Saanich First Nations Adult Education Centre		http://saec.ca
1 x	Recreation Integration Victoria		http://www.rivonline.org

Number of Mentions	Organization	Participant Comments (direct quotes – non edited)	Website Links
1 x	Woodwynn Farms		http://woodwynnfarms.org
1 x	Big Brothers & Sisters		http://www.bbbsvictoria.com/en/Home/default.aspx
1 x	Community Living		http://communitylivingvictoria.ca
1 x	BC Non Profit Housing Association	Toward More Inclusive Neighbourhoods	http://www.bcnpha.ca
1 x	VanCity	Streets to Homes	https://www.vancity.com/
1 x	Together Against Poverty		http://www.tapsbc.ca
1 x	Mustard Seed		http://mustardseed.ca
1 x	Mason Street Farm		www.masonstreet.com
1 x	Cool Aid		http://www.coolaid.org
1 x	CRHC		http://www.crd.bc.ca/housing
1 x	Ready to Rent		http://www.readytorentbc.net
1 x	Canadian Housing and Renewal Association		http://www.chra-achru.ca/en
1 x	Aboriginal Finance Officers Association		http://www.afoa.ca

Appendix E:

CRD projects promoting place based community development work, as identified by Regional Table participants

Number of Mentions	Organization/Project	Participant Comments (direct quotes – non edited)	Website Links
3 x	Fernwood Graffiti Management	Pole Painting. Rather than promoting the City's 'paint over' graffiti management, the group organizes pole painting sessions. In addition to being hugely popular, the initiative has reduced the amount of graffiti in the neighbourhood. An important aspect of this type of project is to give people creative control. Do not set strict guidelines as to what can be painted. Let people have ownership. Fernwood Square mural. The group commissioned a mural in the square by a local painter. This has also reduced the graffiti.	http://fernwoodnrg.ca/fernwood-nrg-events/fernwood-pole-painting-project
3 x	Sooke Region Community Health Initiative (CHI)	Collaboration between the groups since 2003. Flexible approach - take opportunities as they come. Approach is to identify those who are directly interested with a given issue (i.e. food security) and then get them involved. CHI will support the project to get it off the ground and gradually let the project take its own course, let those involved in the project make it into a unique initiative. Open Spaces conferences . Settler and Non-settler relations (aboriginal and non-aboriginal) relations in the Sooke region taken a long time to build. Part of Sooke CHI's work is first to build relations and then to learn to meet the local first nations needs. However, this does not mean imposing programs on these communities, rather as the relation has been built, the first nations community will come to them for specific projects.	http://www.sookeregionresources.com/resource/sooke-region-community-health-initiative-chi http://www.sookeregionresources.com http://sookefoodchi.ca http://www.sookeregionresources.com/resource/tsou-ke-first-nation

Number of Mentions	Organization/Project	Participant Comments (direct quotes – non edited)	Website Links
3 x	Book Boxes	Boxes in seven neighbourhoods for residents to freely swap books	
2 x	"Urban Village" at 120 Gorge	Linda E. Ross Property Management Inc. is involved with VNFC. All funding machinations are still in full swing, but as soon as we get going with construction, we could share the creation of the Village, the community partnerships, the road blocks et al.	
2 x	Victoria Youth Council	Can provide support for all types of youth-focused initiatives	http://cvyc.net
1 x	Transition Streets/Transition Town	Gets at the heart of resilience and reductions. The project is intended to build relationships and social cohesion.	http://transitionvictoria.ning.com/page/transition-streets
1 x	Reskilling Projects/ Transition Town	Transition Victoria is holding 're-skilling' projects, which are cross-generational. Developing skills such as, canning, gardening, bike repair	http://transitionvictoria.ning.com/group/RESKILLERS
1 x	Gift Circles/Transition Town	Transition Victoria 'Gift Circles' – giving and trading useful goods. The Gift Circle approach is important because in addition to bringing more goods to those who need them, it builds relations amongst people.	http://transitionvictoria.ning.com/group/giftcircles
1 x	PLAY Network	Network has great capacity and could be tapped into to assist projects	http://www.playvictoria.org/EN/main/who.aspx
1 x	Threshold Housing Society	In existence since 1992, Threshold Housing Society provides youth from 16-22 safe housing options. The program is based on semi-independent living approach.	http://thresholdhousing.ca/
1 x	Youth Services Providers Network	Key network to tap into	http://www.facebook.com/pages/Victorias-Youth-Housing-Network/187821437933860

Number of Mentions	Organization/Project	Participant Comments (direct quotes – non edited)	Website Links
1 x	Youth Housing Network	Team of concerned citizens that would like to work towards finding safe and affordable housing for youth in the Victoria and West Shore Communities. The network is a coalition of local service providers who meet monthly to share resource information and advocate for better youth services on South Vancouver Island.	http://youthhousingvictoria.wordpress.com/author/youthhousingvictoria/
1 x	Sooke Youth Council	Other organizations look to the Council for support in youth projects	http://www.sookeyouth.ca
1 x	Spray Park at Beacon Hill	Need to repurpose recreation centres to get best use, as in turning them into multi-use spaces or repurposing them to support youth (i.e. skatepark)	http://www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/capital_van_isl/story.html?id=6ef0865a-a719-4059-bafd-666f3df88922
1 x	Neighbourhood House Coalition	Cool Aid host	http://www.anhbc.org/ http://www.coolaid.org/cgi-bin/SIDES/s2.cgi?ref='CHILD*%5E*YOUTH*SERVICES/COALITION*OF*NEIGHBOURHOOD*HOUSES'
1 x	Victoria Labour Council	Represents 26000 workers in CRD, and discussion about how labour will contribute back to the community	http://victorialabour.ca/wp3
1 x	Community Partnership Network	United Way, service providers, police, UVic equity office Many projects started from here Organize training on diversity Make tools available to different groups	http://www.icavictoria.org/connect/community-partnership-network
1 x	Local Area Administrators Group	CAOs of every municipality, CEOs of library, CRD, CREST etc. meet every 2 months, no one misses – key networking	

Number of Mentions	Organization/Project	Participant Comments (direct quotes – non edited)	Website Links
1 x	Downtown Service Providers Assoc	Meeting at 8:30 am and its packed. VIHA, Ministry of Social Development, police, City councillors Kathy Stinson – main organizer	
1 x	Investment Forum (Transition Victoria)	Investment in local control of resources Currently taking the project to Western Communities	http://transitionvictoria.ning.com/events/invest-your-money-in-local-change
1 x	Community Investment Fund	Community Social Planning Council	http://www.communitycouncil.ca/initiatives/cif.html
1 x	Cornerstone Cafe	Enterprising non-profit model. Naming of the building to the cornerstone has changed the 'narrative' of the building.	http://fernwoodnrg.ca/neighbourhood/cornerstone-cafe
1 x	Fernwood University	Organized series of talks on neighbourhood control and democracy happening at Cornerstone Cafe	http://fernwoodnrg.ca/fernwood-university
1 x	OCBR Vancouver Island Food Project		http://web.uvic.ca/ocbr/initiatives/local_food_project
1 x	Community greenhouse project	Sooke First Nation	www.tsowkenation.com
1 x	Urban Farmers – Gorge Tillicum, Vic West, Jubilee, Hillside	Food security, citizen to citizen information and resource sharing	https://sites.google.com/site/gorgetillicumurbanfarmers http://jamesbaymarket.com/tag/vic-west-urban-farmers http://www.southjubilee.ca/gardening.html
1 x	Boulevard Gardening - Fernwood and Oaklands		http://transitionvictoria.ning.com/video/claiming-the-commons-food-for

Number of Mentions	Organization/Project	Participant Comments (direct quotes – non edited)	Website Links
1 x	Haultain Common Haultain Corners	Common garden space, hosting neighbourhood planting and gardening projects Movement to rebuild some of the buildings, increase street furniture and liveability Outdoor 'living room' area, with wood furniture for people to use.	http://www.oaklandscommunitycentre.com/node/134 http://www.cityfarmer.info/2010/12/01/haultain-common-in-victoria-bc-a-garden-on-public-land-where-all-may-harvest/ http://www.flickr.com/photos/greenkeepers/3822740036
1 x	Harvest Feast on Saanich Peninsula	gathers 350 people for dinner of completely local food.	http://www.islandfarmfresh.com/harvestfeast
1 x	Share a backyard Victoria	Lifecycles	http://www.sharingbackyards.com/browse/Victoria,%20BC&welcome_box=2
1 x	North Saanich Farm Market	Example of community development in more rural context	http://www.northsaanichfarmmarket.ca
1 x	Emerging Leaders program	Volunteer Victoria	http://www.meetup.com/Victoria-Emerging-Leaders-Network
1 x	Good Food Box Program		http://thegoodfoodbox.ca/
1 x	Affordability Index	Provides understanding of what it costs to live here and good indicators to track change From the Community Social Planning Council Good information to inform projects; lot's of potential to increase the use of this research Ties into 'Living Wage Roundtable' initiative	http://www.communitycouncil.ca
1 x	Faith in Action	Strong track record in policy advocacy	http://www.bcfaithinaction.ca

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1 x	CUPE 10% Shift	Similar to Langford's neighbourhood spending initiative	http://www.tenpercentshift.ca/
1 x	Community Mapping	Common Ground – now defunct but inspiration lives on electronically	http://mapping.uvic.ca http://www.greenmap.org/greenhouse/en/home
1 x	Saanich Civic League	Based on a model from Guelph that says people are more likely to be engaged at the municipal level when they see their values reflected	http://www.saanichcivicleague.ca
1 x	Social Coast	Do 100 mile dinners	http://socialcoast.org/index.php
1 x	Victoria West Lawn Bowling Club	Tillicum may want to look at the Victoria Lawn Bowling Club for example of multi-use clubs using & paying for a shared space.	http://vicwestbowls.ca
1 x	Community gardens E.g. Spring Ridge Commons	The garden can act as a centre to create relations that lead to great mutual aid. A community garden can be a *means to an end*.	http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/departments/parks-rec-culture/parks/community-gardens.html http://www.saanich.ca/living/community/afs/communitygardens.html http://www.facebook.com/#!/springridge.commons
1 x	CSPC Poverty Charter	New coalition, critique of quality of life challenge	http://www.communitycouncil.ca/initiatives/cap.html
1 x	Shared tool sheds	Leadership Victoria Capital Regional Housing Xaxe Tenew Sacred Land Society VIPIRG	https://sites.google.com/site/fpatoolpool http://www.vipirg.ca/action/projects/community-tool-shed
1 x	Saanich Neighbourhood Grants	Award winning community building program	http://www.saanich.ca/parkrec/community/neighbourhood.html

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1 x	Theatre SKAM Bike Ride	Engaging underused public spaces along the Galloping Goose trail (mainly Vic West and Burnside area). Riders go from show to show along the Galloping Goose. For people in Gorge and Vic West area the event really engages their local space in a radically different way. The project has brought together a number of community partners and project has helped to facilitate partnerships in the area	http://www.skam.ca/bike-ride
1 x	Awesome Shit Club	People put $ into a pot and others come in to pitch ideas, winner takes $ to develop them.	http://www.awesomeshitclub.com
1 x	Chalk the Walk		http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.175832425763105.43558.175619732451041&type=3
1 x	Dogwood Initiative		http://dogwoodinitiative.org
1 x	Diner en Blanc / Dinner in White movement White Dinner – James Bay		http://paris.untappedcities.com/2012/04/27/2012-paris-diner-en-blanc-promises-to-be-grandest-ever Narissa Chadwick
1 x	Learning Community Network	Have learning festivals Oak Bay is getting a Learning Centre. Modelled on Australia which has multicultural literacy and learning festivals	
1 x	Food Trail	bike tour of local farms in Peninsula area	

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Change starts here.