



## COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010  
9:00 AM / BOARD ROOM  
175 INGRAM STREET, DUNCAN, BC

---

AGENDA		PAGES
1.	<u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA:</u>	1-2
2.	<u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES:</u>	
	2M1 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held November 19, 2009	3-5
3.	<u>BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:</u>	
4.	<u>DELEGATIONS:</u>	
	4D1 Judy Stafford, Jessica Kerr and Bev Suderman representing the Cowichan Food Security Coalition Re: Cowichan Food Charter	6-7
	4D2 Pamela Alcorn representing the Duncan Age-Friendly Seniors Safety Project Re: Introducing the Age-Friendly Seniors Safety Project	8
	4D3 Pamela Alcorn representing Volunteer Cowichan Re: Brief Introduction on the Creation of an Interactive Comprehensive On-Line Community Resource Directory for the Cowichan Region	9
5.	<u>REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE:</u>	
	5C1 Safer Futures Re: Community Safety Bulletin DRAFT	10-11
	5C2 Cowichan Community Policing and Crime Prevention Programs & Services Re: Annual Report 2009	12-19
	5C3 Safer Futures Re: Fear of Crime Summary of the Literature	20-30

- 5C4 CSAC Subcommittee Report (Community Advisory to Corrections Liaison) Jim Harnden, Theresa Gerritsen, Michelle Bell 31  
Re: Cowichan Valley Regional District Connection with the North Island Citizens Advisory to Parole

**6. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Distribution:**

**Representatives by Geographic Area**

Southern Sector

CVRD – Director Lori Iannidinardo (Committee Chair)  
Community Representative – Michelle Bell

Central Sector

CVRD – Director Phil Kent (Committee Vice-Chair)  
Municipality of North Cowichan – Councillor John Koury  
City of Duncan – Councillor Joe Thorne

Western Sector

Community Representative – Bruce Ingram

Community Group Representatives

Cowichan Women Against Violence Society / Safer Futures Program – Theresa Gerritsen  
Community Options Society – Cheryl Stone  
Cowichan Valley School District No. 79 – Candace Spilsbury  
disAbility Resource Centre – Jim Harnden  
RCMP – Corporal Kevin Day  
Social Planning Cowichan – Candace Spilsbury

**Cowichan Valley Regional District**

Joe Barry, Corporate Secretary

(Agenda Cover Only)

Warren Jones, Administrator

CVRD Directors

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Committee held in Committee Room No. 2, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 9:02 am.

**PRESENT:** Director L. Iannidinardo (Chair)  
 Theresa Gerritsen, Cowichan Women Against Violence Society / Safer Futures  
 Corporal Kevin Day, RCMP  
 Cheryl Stone, Community Options Society  
 <to 10:00 am>  
 Michelle Bell, Community Representative  
 Jim Harnden, Cowichan Independent Living  
 Candace Spilsbury, Cowichan Valley School District  
 No. 79  
 Michelle Nowzek, Social Planning Cowichan  
 <at 9:10 am>

**ABSENT:** Director P. Kent (Vice-Chair)  
 Councillor John Koury, Municipality of North Cowichan  
 Councillor Joe Thorne, City of Duncan  
 Bruce Ingram, Community Representative

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:** Kathleen Milward, Environmental Technologist  
 Dominique Beesley, Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES  
 2M1**

**It was moved and seconded that minutes of the Regular meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Committee held September 10, 2009 be adopted.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**3BA1**

*Citizen's Advisory Committee to the National Parole Board and Correction Service of Canada*

Ms. Gerritsen; Cowichan Women Against Violence Society and Safer Futures; noted that the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the National Parole Board represents north Vancouver Island and that its Chair has changed.

Ms. Gerritsen said that a meeting between the National Parole Board / Correction Service of Canada Liaison Subcommittee and the Citizen's

Advisory Committee to the National Parole Board and Correction Service of Canada would be set by approximately early next week.

9:10 am

Michelle Nowzek arrived to the meeting at 9:10 am.

## DELEGATIONS

4D1

Corporal Kevin Day representing the RCMP presented statistics on crime rates in the Region.

Responding to a question from a member of the Committee regarding crime reduction priorities, Corporal Day noted that each year the RCMP identifies these priorities in its Annual Performance Plan. This year, said Corporal Day, domestic violence and traffic crimes were most prevalent in the Cowichan Valley region.

With the community's consultation, through its partners and stake holders, the RCMP is able to target prolific crime offenders which is part of its crime reduction strategy explained Corporal Day. He noted that it would be beneficial if the Community Safety Advisory Committee were a part of the consultation process for the RCMP's Annual Performance Plan.

Responding to a question from a member of the Committee regarding regional crime statistic comparisons, Corporal Day said that, in his view, we live in a safe community although domestic violence crime rates are higher than the average here.

Michelle Bell requested that staff provide the Committee with crime statistics from the third quarter of the years 2008 and 2009 from the south areas and Cowichan Lake South / Skutz Falls.

## CORRESPONDECE

5C1

Theresa Gerritsen, Cowichan Women Against Violence Society, regarding planning for the next steps for the panhandling issue, was received.

10:00 am

Cheryl Stone left the meeting at 10:00 am.

**It was moved and seconded that Safer Futures produce a community safety bulletin for each Community Safety Advisory Committee meeting to be used as an internal document.**

## MOTION CARRIED

5C2

Theresa Gerritsen, Cowichan Women Against Violence Society, regarding an update on the safe needle disposal initiative, was

received.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NB1**

*Terms of Reference*

It was moved and seconded that it be recommended to the Board that the *Community Safety Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Section 2. Composition* be amended by adding the words "Community Policing" under the heading *Community Groups*.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT**  
**10:42 am**

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 am.

Certified Correct:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**Request to Appear as a Delegation****4D1****Meeting Information**

Request to Address:\*

☐ CVRD Board☒ Committee

If Committee, specify the Committee here:\*

Cowichan Safety Advisory Committ

Meeting Date:\*

01/21/2010

Meeting Time:\*

9am

**Applicant Information**

Applicant Name:

Judy Stafford, Jessica Kerr, Bev Suderman

Representing:

Cowichan Food Security Coalition

(Name of organization if applicable)

As:

Members

(Capacity / Office)

Number Attending:

3

**Applicant Contact Information**

Applicant Mailing Address:

181 Station Street

Applicant City:

Duncan, BC

Applicant Telephone:

250-748-8506

Applicant Fax:

same

Applicant Email:

jess@cowichangreencommunity.org

**Presentation Topic and Nature of Request:**

On behalf of the Cowichan Food Security Coalition, we would like to request the opportunity to present the Cowichan Food Charter to the Cowichan Safety Advisory Committee.

The Cowichan Food Charter was conceived and created by the Cowichan Food Security Coalition in cooperation with Cowichan Green Community in 2008. Since that time, we have received additional feedback from local food producers, organizations, and individuals and we are pleased to present the latest version to your committee for review and feedback. The Charter states that food security exists when all members of our community have access to enough nutritious, safe, ecologically sustainable, and culturally appropriate food at all times. A strong

\* indicates required fields.

On behalf of the Cowichan Food Security Coalition, we would like to request the opportunity to present the Cowichan Food Charter to the CVRD Environment Commission.

The Cowichan Food Charter was conceived and created by the Cowichan Food Security Coalition in cooperation with Cowichan Green Community in 2008. Since that time, we have received additional feedback from local food producers, organizations, and individuals and we are pleased to present the latest version to your committee for review and feedback. The Charter states that food security exists when all members of our community have access to enough nutritious, safe, ecologically sustainable, and culturally appropriate food at all times. A strong vision of a food secure Cowichan is outlined, as well as the commitments we as a community need to make in order to support our goals. The Charter functions as a positive mission statement and guide for all food security initiatives taking place in the Cowichan Valley, and we feel it is the next step in working toward the creation of a National Food Policy.

After reviewing it, we invite all members of the CVRD Environment Commission to sign on both as individuals and as a commission. Signing the Charter affirms our collective dedication to ensuring all members of our community are able to live healthy lives with dignity.

Please contact us if you require additional information and to confirm our attendance. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

## Request to Appear as a Delegation

4D2

## Meeting Information

Request to Address:\*

☐ CVRD Board☒ Committee

If Committee, specify the Committee here:\*

Community Safety Advisory Comm.

Meeting Date:\*

02/18/10

Meeting Time:\*

9:00 am

## Applicant Information

Applicant Name:

Pamela Alcorn

Representing:

Duncan Age-Friendly Seniors Safety Project

(Name of organization if applicable)

As:

Project Manager

(Capacity / Office)

Number Attending:

1

## Applicant Contact Information

Applicant Mailing Address:

Applicant City:

Duncan

Applicant Telephone:

250-710-2524

Applicant Fax:

Applicant Email:

pamination@shaw.ca

## Presentation Topic and Nature of Request:

Introduce the Age-Friendly Seniors Safety Project that combines WHO Age-Friendly Cities Initiative and Cowichan Region Safety Lens.

\* indicates required fields.



**4D3****Request to Appear as a Delegation****Meeting Information**

Request to Address:\*

☐ CVRD Board☒ Committee

If Committee, specify the Committee here:\*

Community Safety Advisory Comm

Meeting Date:\*

02/18/10

Meeting Time:\*

9:00 am

**Applicant Information**

Applicant Name:

Pamela Alcorn

Representing:

Volunteer Cowichan

(Name of organization if applicable)

As:

Project Manager

(Capacity / Office)

Number Attending:

1

**Applicant Contact Information**

Applicant Mailing Address:

Applicant City:

Duncan

Applicant Telephone:

250-710-2524

Applicant Fax:

Applicant Email:

pamination@shaw.ca

**Presentation Topic and Nature of Request:**

Briefly introduce the creation of an interactive comprehensive on-line community resource directory for the Cowichan Region.

\* indicates required fields.



# Community Safety Bulletin

## DRAFT

*"Promoting Safety in the Cowichan Region"*  
Presented by Cowichan Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC)  
February 2010

### Panhandling Workshop

A third community forum to address panhandling was held on February 4<sup>th</sup> at the Phoenix Motel. About thirty people attended including business owners, local agency and government representatives, RCMP, commissionaires and others with an interest in panhandling. The focus of the meeting, moderated by Theresa Gerritsen (Safer Futures) considered changing donors' behaviour, looking at environmental design and redirecting donations. Several suggestions were brought forward including a community-wide communications strategy, re-designing brochures, assigning more commissionaires, developing signs and reconsidering the train station gazebo and other places where panhandlers gather. Plans are to hold another meeting to further hone viable solutions. The group is looking at ways for panhandlers to participate in the process.

### Age Friendly Safety Project

The Age-Friendly Seniors' Safety project funded through the Union of BC Municipalities is to improve the safety and well-being of seniors in Duncan. It is based on standards developed by the World Health Organization and will integrate the Cowichan Region Safety Lens (Safer Futures).

The objective is to carry out recommendations of the 2007 Duncan Official Community Plan (OCP) related to seniors' safety. This includes identifying gaps in services for seniors; addressing safety issues around crime, victimization and fear; recreational opportunities and participation in local decision making. Pam Alcorn, an independent community development facilitator, heads a committee comprised of representatives of local seniors' organizations. The project ends in March 2010.

### Community Policing

Carol Ann – Rolls, Manager of Community Policing – Volunteer Programs and Services, recently circulated a fan-out to local businesses cautioning them to be extra vigilant when receiving payment by credit card and/or gift cards. Community Policing has received complaints about suspicious cards and individuals. The cards are currently under investigation by RCMP in North Cowichan and Nanaimo. More information will be circulated once it is available from the police. The fan-out gives a series of practical tips on what to look for to ensure the cards are legitimate.

### Citizens Advisory to Corrections (CAC)

The North Island Citizens Advisory provides a link between the community and Corrections Canada to provide input and information about programs related to offender support and release into the community. CSAC will be able to raise concerns specific to our own community and the services available in the Cowichan Region. A list of specific questions was forwarded to the CAC to be included in a future presentation to CSAC with an aim of developing a FAQ sheet for Cowichan Region citizens.



### Provincial Domestic Violence Action Plan

The provincial government released its Domestic Violence Action Plan in response to the Lee Coroner Inquest Jury Recommendations. Highlights of the plan, which are to be implemented immediately, include the establishment of a domestic violence unit in the Capital Regional District. The unit will include a victim service worker and child services worker.

A 'death review panel' will be convened in the BC Coroner's service to look at domestic violence cases with the goal of preventing similar incidents in the future. A uniform policy for investigations of all instances of domestic violence will be established. Steps will be taken to ensure that all reported instances of domestic violence are flagged.

The Duncan Domestic Violence Designated Court is consistent with these recommendations to provide a consistent and collaborative response to domestic violence cases.

### Intercultural Event

The second of a two-part series on Women's Safety hosted by the Cowichan Intercultural Society was held on November 27<sup>th</sup>. 'Neighbours – Safe Women, Safety Community' is funded by the Status of Women. The objective of the project is to explore what safety means in a multi-cultural society. This includes facilitating access to community security resources through educational presentations; providing bridging opportunities to neighbouring women's groups to create a stronger level of comfort and security and to facilitate leadership capacity in women of immigrant and/or visible minority background through direct mentorship and guidance.

Approximately 30 women attended the half-day session held at the Duncan United Church. Several of the women related their stories about safety through the lens of immigrant women. A participant from China, for example, explained how she sometimes feels safer with a great number of people around rather than open spaces and a relatively sparse population. With all things considered they collectively agreed that the Cowichan Valley is a safe place to be.

### Caulfield Place

Approximately 100 people attended a public meeting to discuss Caulfield Place, a soon-to-be transitional housing apartment complex for people with mental health and addictions issues. The meeting was hosted by VIHA and moderated by Theresa Gerritsen (Safer Futures). Community safety was one of the key concerns raised by local residents. VIHA representatives explained how residents would be supported by staff to live successfully in the community. This includes budgeting, grocery shopping and other types of daily living activities. In terms of security, the apartment (which complies with the Residential Tenancy Act and has been approved by the District of North Cowichan) will operate like other apartment buildings. Visitors will have to ring the office to enter. Each tenant will have a care plan carefully managed by a team of health care professionals. VIHA has invited the community to visit the building and to take part in regular meetings as well as work toward a potential Good Neighbour Agreement.

### Fear of Crime Literature Review

Safer Futures contractor Jane Worton has completed a review of current 'Fear of Crime' literature, which will be provided to the CSAC committee to aid in its work to promote safety in the region.



**COWICHAN COMMUNITY POLICING AND CRIME  
PREVENTION PROGRAMS & SERVICES  
ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

2009 was another busy year for the volunteers, especially with our involvement in two special community events – The RCMP Musical Ride in August and Olympic Torch Celebrations in October. Both events involved many volunteers, not only the day(s) of the events, but also with event planning and committee work leading up to the celebrations. The Musical Ride was definitely a feather in our cap. Not only was the event a sellout and garnered much praise from the public and riders, we also raised \$18,000 and were able to gift a portion of those funds to Cowichan Search and Rescue and Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association.

The year also brought personnel changes in the RCMP Community Policing section. Cpl Kevin Day joined the section and Cst Heather Hayward retired. Dealing with the member turnover and redeployment is a reality we have to come to terms with. It makes the RCMP attachment and liaison to the volunteer programs less than ideal, however, we have been reassured that with the addition of a third member at year end, the new troop of Auxiliaries expected to graduate in early Spring 2010, and section-priority setting in January, the RCMP will affirm their support and commitment to the programs and volunteers.

Despite the Manager chairing the Volunteer Resources Committee for RCMP Regionalization and the preparation by the committee members of another report outlining the benefit and value of regionalization of volunteer-delivered programs and services, the RCMP Division has decided not to pursue regionalization at this time. Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society continues to be a resource to other community agencies delivering similar programs in other Detachment catchment areas but is unable to provide programs outside of the funded areas of North Cowichan, Duncan and Cowichan Bay. This does create some issues when requests for service (i.e. deployment of Speedwatch) must be refused or deferred back to the Regional Director in that area.

## **Volunteer Information, outputs and measurements:**

The 2009 year ended with 61 volunteers. We were particularly hit hard with 8 volunteers on medical leave of absences this year. Three others requested a leave due to personal/professional reasons. Fortunately, we expect 5 to be returning in early – mid 2010. No additional formal volunteer training was undertaken in 2009 given the reduced RCMP resources and emphasis to revitalize the Auxiliary Program. Recruitment will take place in January for a Spring class of new volunteers.

That aside, volunteers contributed 8,857 hours to community policing and crime prevention programs and services. This minimally represents an \$88,570 return on investment and the equivalent of almost 5 fulltime employees working for safer streets, homes and community. On average volunteers gave 145 hours/pp, with several volunteers contributing more than twice that amount of time. Most of the volunteers have now been with the program for 3+ years showing a long term commitment. This does not reduce the importance of ensuring that new energy is brought on board to stabilize and expand programs.

Volunteers contributed significantly with the success of the Musical Ride and Olympic Torch Celebration as well as their presence at other community events such as Maple Bay Wooden Boat Festival, Cowichan Bay Day, Summer festival and Gay Pride to name just a few. Regrettably we are not able to be present at all of the community events that we receive requests for attendance.

Volunteers also completed additional training in WCB Emergency Traffic Direction, CVRD Rapid Damage Assessment and Leadership training through LERN, St John Ambulance Emergency First Aid and Bank of Canada Counterfeit/Fraud Awareness.

Despite particularly inclement weather which forced the cancellation of many shifts, 12 Speedwatch volunteers clocked over 87,495 vehicles, contributing over 871 hours visible on the road with emphasis in the Crash Corridor. We try to recruit volunteers into this program as much as possible as demand for deployment outnumbers our supply of volunteers. Volunteers participated, in conjunction with ICBC and South Island Traffic Services, two "Crash Corridor" days. We are seeing a noticeable decline in speeds when we are able to provide more frequent and consistent deployment in an area. The statistics collected by the volunteers are shared with RCMP Municipal Traffic and further action is taken when volume and speeds warrant targeted enforcement. The

RCMP Traffic section was virtually a one-man section and we have had reduced interactions with the Traffic section this past year. Linkage is still made through the Traffic Safety Committee on a bimonthly basis, although reorganization and personnel changes within ICBC were expected at year end.

The purchase of the new reader board was postponed as we investigate some new technology (solar powered) for the boards. Intent was to work with placing the board in particular neighbourhoods within the City of Duncan where deployment of the mobile board/volunteers is limited due to safety reason and also so we can obtain more statistics on the volume and speed of vehicle over a longer duration of time.

187 businesses were provided with counterfeit and fraud prevention information kits. There are over 850 businesses entered into the Property Reference database. This is voluntary and contact information is recorded should there be a breach in security or need for the RCMP to contact a business representative after hours. There is no annual fee for this service, however, not all businesses respond to requests for information or provide updates when contact information changes. We no longer do direct fan outs to businesses but rely on the business organizations such as Chamber of Commerce in Duncan and Chemainus, and the Business Improvement Areas in Duncan and Cowichan Bay to disseminate information to their members.

Crime Free Multi-Housing – was put on hold in 2009 as the trained Auxiliary member is on medical leave. The list of apartments, condo/townhouses was updated. There are two complexes in final stages of designation; neither was identified as problem locations. Several townhouse complexes have joined the Block Watch program.

Block Watch Program was undertaken by an Auxiliary member when the RCMP member was transferred out in mid-2008. This program continues to flourish with 89 additional volunteers acting as Captains and Co-captains for 97 neighbourhoods. This includes 12 new in 2009. Our goal would be to have every street actively participating in Block watch. In 2010, we will be doing a community blitz in Crofton in attempt to bring as many blocks on board as interested. The Manager continues to serve as Island Director on the BC Block Watch Society.

287 children were fingerprinted at community events, child care centres and by parental requests. We continue to work with Child Find BC and our office

coordinates equipment and supplies for Duncan, Lake Cowichan and Shawnigan Lake Detachments.

Four of five scheduled Mature Drivers (55 years+) "Living well, Driving well" sessions were held. This program is offered in partnership with BCAA Traffic safety Foundation. Trained volunteers instruct a 2 ½ hour session that provides senior drivers with tools to assess and evaluate their driving skills and abilities as they age. 68 drivers completed the courses. North Cowichan Parks & Recreation help in program delivery by advertising and hosting a session or two in their program guide and facilities. A "Scooter Rodeo" was also hosted at Sherwood House in conjunction with Medi-Chair – this provides an opportunity to present safety information and proper use of motorized scooters to owners and potential owners.

Citizens on Patrol covered 22,275 Kms in the Jeep Patriot purchased in 2008 through fundraising and donation by the Duncan Rotary Club. Vehicle shifts are deployed generally seven times per week with additional foot and bike patrols, weather permitting. COPS contributed 2,939 hours in vehicle patrols and 272 on foot/bike patrol.

COPs also conduct the Lock out Auto Crime and Stolen Auto recovery programs while on duty. Both programs contribute to community awareness on preventing auto theft as well as notification to the police of possible recovery of reported stolen vehicles. Those plate numbers that are inputted with a resulting "possible hit" are reported to the RCMP for follow up response. Volunteers checked over 177,802 vehicles and reported 1,229 possible hits \*(Including expired/no insurance tags, possible "hits" and abandoned vehicles) with the Stolen Auto Recovery program and issued 807 notices (i.e. valuables in site, unsecured vehicle, decal buildup) for Lock out Auto Crime.

The Manager made 52 presentations to local clubs, organizations, and businesses representing students, seniors, immigrant women, retired business professionals, volunteers, loss prevention officers, parents and children on a variety of topics. The most popular in 2009 were personal safety, identity theft and fraud prevention, counterfeit awareness, fireworks safety and general interest. Interest in community policing and crime prevention programs was also generated through participation at both set up and manned by volunteers for Crime Prevention Week, Volunteer Fair, Day of the Child, Silver Tsunami and more. Again, we are unable to attend every opportunity but make the most of those we can.

The Manager and/or volunteers participated and contributed into community meetings on the Official Community Plan for North Cowichan at Neighbourhood meetings – as this provided opportunities to ensure community safety was supported as well to establish broader community awareness in programs such as Block Watch and volunteer opportunities. Other examples included two town hall meetings in Chemainus, Health Promotions Committee, City of Duncan's Age Friendly initiative, Homeless/Panhandling Forum, Safer Futures Safe Needles Disposal, Traffic Safety Committee, and RCMP Regionalization Committee. The Graffiti Reduction Task force concluded in 2009 with some of the recommendations moving forward and adopted by the Duncan DBIA and City Council. Information sharing with the RCMP and officer diligence in investigating resulted in several arrests of juveniles that were dealt with through alternative measures.

There were six proactive home security assessments conducted, four referrals from the RCMP following residential/business breach of entry and/or thefts and two CITED assessments conducted. CPAC continues to promote CPTED as an important component to the planning and development phases within the Municipality and City.

The Community Policing offices in Cowichan Bay, Chemainus and Duncan continue to provide a service; however, the recorded number of interactions dropped from the prior year. This maybe a partial result of interactions not being recorded in the daily logbook. Volunteers recorded 1,807 interactions with the public including non-emergency complaints, referrals, traffic inquires and general assistance. Hours of the offices varies in the communities with the Duncan office serving as the "home base" for many of the programs. Cowichan Bay functions as a quasi-tourist information office, particularly in the spring and summer months. Despite yeoman efforts by the Chemainus office volunteers, the new location of the office and community meetings, residents/businesses in that community have not taken full advantage of the programs and services. The three offices are generally open for a total of 80 hours/week, subject to volunteer availability and closed on statutory holidays and Christmas break, resulting in a contribution of 3,538 open hours in 2009.



## Programs and Services offered:

CPAC had responsibility to provide and deliver the following programs to the community in 2009

- Speedwatch
- Block Watch
- Citizens on Patrol
- Community Policing Offices
- Coastal Watch
- Child Identification
- Auto Theft Prevention ( Lock out and SARS)
- Bicycle Rodeo and Identification
- Crime Prevention Through environmental Design (CPTED) and Home/Business Safety Audits
- Living Well – Driving Well
- Counterfeit Awareness and Business Fraud Prevention ( EDIV Commercial Crimes/ Bank of Canada)
- Attendance and participation at neighbourhood and community meetings and “task forces”
- Requests for presentations on a variety of safety and crime prevention topics
- Property References
- Business Watch (shop lift prevention, safety in workplace, safety audits, etc)
- Special Projects ( Crime Prevention week, Crash Corridor, Musical Ride, Torch Celebration, Summer festival)
- Crime Free Multi-housing

### **Challenges and Opportunities for 2010:**

- to work with and integrate the new cadre of Auxiliary volunteers. It is hoped that by late spring 2010, the class will have graduated and can assume leadership for many of the crime prevention programs. This improved linkage to the RCMP and program volunteers will help to stimulate involvement and interest in the volunteers, the programs and the community at large as well as provide consistency when the RCMP members assigned to the CP section are reassigned or transferred.
- to review in conjunction with the North Cowichan Duncan RCMP options for the Restorative Justice Program. Many deficiencies in the current program have been identified and despite attempts to resolve them, remain unresolved. Funding, type of program, leadership commitment, resourcing (office, security clearances, etc) and training of volunteers will need to be identified and in place prior to CPAC making a "bid" for this program.
- to recruit, train and motivate new volunteers into the existing complement, especially for the COPS and Speedwatch programs. To move existing volunteers into Team Leader functions for each program which will provide more educational opportunities for the volunteers, reduce the work load on the Manager and provide for succession planning.
- to continue to fundraise \$10- 15,000 annually to meet the financial obligations for the programs and services.
- to conduct a community blitz in Crofton specifically for the Block Watch program. This will be done in early spring 2010. The goal will be to have a Block Watch Captain/Co-Captain for every street.
- to proactively deal with the spin off effects of the 2010 Olympics – including continued deployment of volunteers in Coastal and Business Watch programs.
- to provide supplemental training to volunteers for Home Security assessments, computer (webpage) and LERN.
- to determine if CPAC should re-introduce the Court Watch program
- to provide input into the RCMP strategic plan through consultation with the community and volunteers through the Board and community meetings

- to complete the designation of CFMH on the two complexes – focus on the ones identified as problem, with many repeat calls for service.
- to determine need for greater support for the regional implementation of the Nuisance Substance Bylaw enacted in North Cowichan, based in number of residential home grow operations. This would require statistical documentation from RCMP and support of area politicians. (When other areas were approached in 2005-07, only North Cowichan adopted the bylaw.)
- to continue to offer proactive and prevention programs that provide awareness and education opportunities to the broad public (i.e. Organized Crime, Drugs, Personal Safety).

# **FEAR OF CRIME SUMMARY OF THE LITERATURE**

**Prepared for Safer Futures, CWAV Society**

**by Jane Worton**

**January 2010**

## **Table of Contents**

1. Why is fear of crime important?
2. How is fear of crime measured?
3. What contributes to fear of crime?
  - Disorder model
  - Vulnerability model
  - Social integration model
4. What can be done to reduce fear of crime?
5. Further research
6. References

*The purpose of this review of the literature surrounding fear of crime is to better understand what indicators around fear of crime mean, what contributes to fear of crime, and how communities can organize to reduce fear of crime. Of particular interest is research which relates to the demographic and geographic realities in the James Alexander and Cairnsmore neighbourhoods.*

## **1. Why is fear of crime important?**

- "fear of crime has been posited as the motor behind an increase in private security and 'gated communities', restrictive and discriminatory bylaws against the homeless and other vulnerable groups, and an increasing disregard of civil liberties by government and civil society – especially in regard to visible minorities – in the past twenty years" (Whitzman, 2005, p. 2716)
- Fear of crime reduces the frequency with which residents engage in recreational and social activities out of the house (Crank, Giacomazzi & Heck, 2003)
- Fear of crime "constrains social behaviour and thus results in avoiding such situations, which in turn accentuates fear" (Liska, quoted in Kitchen and Williams, 2010)
- While not directly related to crime rates, fear of crime is part of the broader concept of understanding the impact of criminal events.
- Deteriorating neighbourhood conditions may negatively impact mental health.
- Residents in lower socio economic neighbourhoods feel their neighbourhoods are unfairly stereotyped as being high crime, noting that these divisions reinforce negative images and contribute to a cycle of crime (Kitchen and Williams, 2010).
- The vast majority of Canadians are satisfied with their personal safety from crime. Fear highest for those who believe they live in higher crime neighbourhoods. People who frequently walk and use public transportation have lower levels of fear. (Statistics Canada, 2008)

## **2. How is fear of crime measured?**

Franklin, Travis, Franklin, Courtney, Fearn, Noelle (2008) "A Multilevel Analysis of the Vulnerability, Disorder and Social Integration Models of Fear of Crime" in *Social Justice Research*, 21, 204-227.

- Different researchers and respondents may mean very different things when discussing fear of crime. Crime refers to a wide variety of threats, but most research is intended to focus on crime in public spaces; fear may be intermittent or constant (frequency), and have varying degrees (intensity).
- Quick tick surveys are not appropriate to quantify the complex human emotional and practical response to crime.
- Differences in definition of fear and crime do not facilitate comparison between studies.

Approaches to studying fear of crime tend to reinforce dichotomies around expert / rational and lay / irrational. Suggesting that lay people are responding irrationally to their "actual" risk of crime, as assessed by the researchers. (Lupton and Tulloch, 1999)

Jackson, Jonathan (2005) "Validating new Measures of the Fear of Crime" in *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 8(4), 297-315.

- Most surveys on fear of crime report on intensity of respondents' feelings, not frequency. However, fear is not a constant state, but as people remember the high fear times, they paint an exaggerated picture of fear.
- Some researchers suggest "worry" is a more appropriate term.
- Fear of crime is a set of related constructs, and needs to be measured as such.
- Examples of incivilities: vandalism/ graffiti; rubbish in the streets; dogs out of control / creating a mess; drug taking in the open; drinking in the street; teenagers hanging around; not enough things for young people to do.
- Examples of community cohesion:
- the levels of informal social control
  - people can be relied upon to call the police if someone is acting suspiciously
  - if children or young people are causing trouble, local people will tell them off
  - if I sensed trouble, I could raise attention from people who live here for help
- the extent respondents thought they lived in a friendly, supportive and trusting community
  - this area is a close, tight knit community
  - this area is a friendly place to live
  - this area is a place where local people look after each other
  - most people who live in this area trust one another

### **3. What contributes to fear of crime?**

Three models: Vulnerability, Disorder and Social Integration

One study found disorder, then social integration, then vulnerability most closely linked to fear of crime. (Franklin, Franklin & Fearn, 2008). Many critiques of disorder model note lack of evidence linking disorder to serious crime (Hinkle and Weisburd, 2008).

People with low self-rated quality of life are more likely to have high fear of crime. (Kitchen and Williams, 2010)

#### Disorder

- Disorder understood both as social (loiterers, inconsiderate neighbours, loose dogs, unsupervised / unruly teenagers, gangs, panhandlers, and public drinking) and physical incivilities (disorderly surroundings, abandoned cars, vandalized property, trash, vacant houses and deteriorated homes). (Franklin, Franklin & Fearn, 2008; Carro, Valera and Vidal, 2010).
- Weak linkage between disorder and fear of crime in rural communities experiencing economic boom. (Crank, Giacomazzi & Heck, 2003)

Hinkle, Joseph and Weisburd, David, (2008) "The irony of broken windows policing: A micro-place study of the relationship between disorder, focused police crackdowns and fear of crime" in *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 36, 503-512.

- Broken windows policing suggests that disorder in a community leads to fear of crime among residents, which then leads to their withdrawal from the community, leading to a decline in a neighbourhood's informal social control, finally contributing to an increase in crime frequency and severity.
- Advocates of broken window policing recommend police crackdowns on minor offenses and disorder e.g. loitering and can include physical disorders e.g, dilapidated buildings through code enforcement and community development.
- Broken window policing must be conducted in a way to reduce disorder and also to prevent increases in citizen fear that a crackdown may contribute to.
- People commonly report fear of crime being heightened in particular environments: dark, lonely, unattractive or uncared for places. However, despite a long time focus on the built environment as a means to reduce crime and fear of crime, many researchers contest the idea that fear can be 'designed out' of built environments. Rather, Pain advocates planning strategies that aim to reduce fear by encouraging people to make more use of particular spaces (Pain, 2000).
- Disorder may bring communities together rather than atomizing them. (Taylor, 1996)
- Helping residents know more about each other may lead to stronger responsiveness to disorder (Taylor, 1996; Kruger, Reischl and Gee, 2007).
- Critics of the disorder model note that the prevalent response to crime is a sense of safety not fear, and that in the absence of crime, fear emerges (Kitchen and Williams, 2010).

#### *Perception of the police (connected to perception of disorder)*

- Perception of strong infrastructure and social control e.g. police can handle problems, there are adequate activities for youth, the neighbourhood is in good condition (Crank, Giacomazzi & Heck, 2003).

Lord, Vivian, Kuhns, Joseph, Friday, Paul (2008) "Small city community policing and citizen satisfaction" in *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management*, 32(4), 574-594.

- Negative experience significantly decreases satisfaction with the police; positive contact in response to an enforcement issue does little to increase it.
- Younger people less likely to have positive perceptions of the police. Caucasians usually have more favourable impressions of the police. Residents of neighbourhoods with persistent and complex crime and disorder problems have more negative attitudes to the police.
- Adopting community policing did not reduce fear of crime or citizen satisfaction with the police but did increase awareness of police presence.
- Personal, voluntary contact with the police mediates many of the factors which tend to contribute to negative perception of the police. (Weisburd and Eck, 2004; Lord, Kuhns and Friday, 2008).



Weisburd, David and Eck, John (2004) "What Can Police do to Reduce Crime, Disorder, and Fear?" in *the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 593, 42-54.

- Studies do not support that community meetings, neighbourhood watch, storefront police offices or newsletters reduce crime, but they do reduce perceptions of disorder. Door to door visits also reduce crime and disorder.

### Vulnerability model

Perceptions of personal vulnerability facilitate fear of crime. Physical vulnerability explains women and older people's increased fear of crime. Social vulnerability explains heightened concern in economically distressed high crime communities, racial and ethnic minorities, people living in poverty, people with lower education. Vulnerability factors impact fear of crime differently depending on how it is measured (perceived risk vs. worry of victimization). (Franklin, Franklin and Fearn, 2008)

*Residents of vulnerable communities can be unhappy to have the differences in fear of crime pointed out.*

#### *Race*

Quillian, Lincoln and Pager, Devah, 2001 "Black Neighbours, Higher Crime? The role of Racial Stereotypes in Evaluations of Neighbourhood Crime" in *American Journal of Sociology* **107(3)**, 717-767.

- Most American white people say they would prefer neighbourhoods where no more than 30% of population is black.
- Whites perceive more crime in black neighbourhoods. The effect of the percentage of young black men is one of the best predictors of the perceived severity of neighbourhood crime.

Note: how might these findings relate to perceptions and stereotypes of heavy population of First Nations communities?

Black people living in mostly white neighbourhoods may be afraid to go out, travel to work or school or carry out everyday activities. Despite potentially greater risk of victimization for nonwhite people, prominent public racism supports higher levels of fear of nonwhite populations. (Pain, 2000).

#### *Gender*

Whitzman, Carolyn, 2005, "Stuck at the front door: gender, fear of crime and the challenge of creating safer space" in *Environment and Planning* **39**, 2714-2732.

- Most studies on fear of crime focus on fear in public spaces, but neglect questions about private and semi-private spaces where women often encounter violence.
- Men fear spaces but still go there (young men fear other groups of young men in public spaces; older men fear drunks outside pubs / clubs); women report they avoid certain public spaces after dark, especially when alone.
- Women are more likely than men to fear crime; gender is generally seen as a valid predictor of fear of crime.

However, Pain notes that women's fear of crime may have been overstated and men's fear of crime understated, due to inadequate methods in crime surveys, which have contributed to the stereotype of fearless men. (Pain, 2000)

Women's increased fear of crime beyond recorded crime rates may be partly explained by the high incidence of crimes against women which go unreported (and are thus missing from crime rates) and of the nature of the crimes (higher incidence of sexual crimes, more severe threat may explain higher concern). (Franklin, Franklin and Fearn, 2008; Scott, 2003)

### Social integration model

Franklin, Travis, Franklin, Courtney, Fearn, Noelle (2008) "A Multilevel Analysis of the Vulnerability, Disorder and Social Integration Models of Fear of Crime" in *Social Justice Research*, 21, 204-227.

- Those who are socially integrated into their neighbourhoods experience lower levels of fear of crime than those who are not well integrated.
- Critiques of this model include variety in measures for social integration, hard to compare. Often operationalized as ability to identify strangers in the area, and feeling part of the neighbourhood.
- (Note: email Mike for Duncan specific CCHS data on belonging), other measures: involvement in neighbourhood activities, engaging in neighbourhood information sharing, presence of friends or family living in the neighbourhood, perception of similarities among residents (!).
- Evidence suggests an inverse relationship between levels of social integration and fear of crime.

## **4. What can be done to reduce fear of crime?**

Whitzman, Carolyn, 2005, "Stuck at the front door: gender, fear of crime and the challenge of creating safer space" in *Environment and Planning* **39**, 2714-2732.

- Common safer communities approaches (increased lighting, CCTV, graffiti clean up, crackdowns on 'undesirables') may not lead to more socially responsible behaviour or greater social inclusion.
- Rather, need to be integrated with policy approaches to violence, e.g. public health, criminal justice, nonviolent resolution of conflict, community-security building and social capital effort.
- Gendered safe-community perspective: women's safety audit in Dar es Salaam suggests "women can be involved in improving drainage, building improvements, lighting and street signage as a way of reducing unemployment and alcohol use as well as physical violence on the street and in homes" (p. 2725). (Note: similar to lower scale Downtown Victoria Business Association street cleaning program)
- Suggested high level actions for creating safer spaces:
  - Provide a range of social spaces
  - Participate in partnerships with police, criminal justice, public health and civil society at the local level

- o Promote social inclusion and cohesion (e.g. public activities in local parks, block parties, walking clubs)
  - o Provide opportunities for public discussion of a range of social issues
- See: UN Safer Cities Programme, Soraya Smaoun, menu of interventions based on "women's right to be safe in the city, 2000, p. 32

Bennett, Susan (1995) "Community Organizations and Crime" in *the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 539, 72-84.

- Community organizations are well suited to generate and maintain resident participation, address broader social causes of crime and form partnerships in community policing.
- Community organizations tend to emphasize process over product.
- Community crime prevention programs run by community organizations appear to last longer than those run by police or other agencies.
- There are concerns that "crime prevention programs may be used by some groups to protect themselves from others" (Bennett, 75)
- Crime reduction literature which focuses on the unpredictable stranger neglects the much more common risk of violence from an intimate connection, as well as further reinforcing the situation of oppressed groups on the boundaries, who may be at the highest risk of violence and abuse. "Othering" obscures power relationships involved in fear of crime. (Pain, 2000)

Wagner, Allen (1997) "A Study of Traffic Pattern Modifications in an Urban Crime Prevention Program" in *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 25(1), 19-30.

- Project Porchlight – asks residents to keep their porchlights on from dawn to dusk as a deterrent and as a show of support for the crime prevention effort. (Note: similar to Victoria Burnside Gorge initiative, linked to BC Hydro and high efficiency lightbulbs)
- Operation Safe Street Newsletter – regularly published newsletter, designed to keep residents apprised of the current crime situation and to offer crime prevention tips and advice. (Note: similar to new Vancouver Police initiative).
- Project Quiet Street – modification of vehicular traffic patterns to discourage non-resident traffic. Gives neighbourhood boundaries (follows defensible space theory). Inaccessible street layouts associated with low residential burglary rates. Street closures meant more residents used streets and parks. Reduction in commuter traffic meant more people recognised neighbours (fewer faces). Controversial: businesses concerned about restricted traffic. Barriers only put in if residents wanted them, reviewed in 6 months.

Interventions that increase neighbourhood social contact buffer the effects of neighbourhood disorder on fear and mistrust (Kruger, Reischl and Gee, 2007).

Carro, D, Valera, S, Vidal, T (2008) "Perceived insecurity in the public space: personal, social and environmental variables" in *Qual Quant*, 44, 303-314.

Presents three factors contributing to personal insecurity:

- Personal competencies: age, gender, social support, fear of crime and self protection
- Neighbourhood perspective: previous experiences in the neighbourhood and its surroundings
- Dangerous environment: physical (visual control, illumination, vandalism, time of day) and social (potential aggressors, available social support).

## **5. Future research**

Residents generalize from specific incidents they saw to all categories of troubling behaviour; therefore surveys must be specific in asking "what have you seen", rather than "how serious are these problems". (Crank, Giacomazzi & Heck, 2003)

## 6. References

- Bennett, Susan (1995) "Community Organizations and Crime" in *the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 539, 72-84.
- Carro, D, Valera, S, Vidal, T (2008) "Perceived insecurity in the public space: personal, social and environmental variables" in *Qual Quant*, 44, 303-314.
- Crank, John, Giacomazzi, Andrew, and Heck, Cary (2003) "Fear of crime in a nonurban setting" in *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 249-263.
- Franklin, Travis, Franklin, Cortney, Fearn, Noelle (2008) "A Multilevel Analysis of the Vulnerability, Disorder and Social Integration Models of Fear of Crime" in *Social Justice Research*, 21, 204-227.
- Hinkle, Joseph and Weisburd, David, (2008) "The irony of broken windows policing: A micro-place study of the relationship between disorder, focused police crackdowns and fear of crime" in *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 36, 503-512.
- Jackson, Jonathan (2005) "Validating new Measures of the Fear of Crime" in *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 8(4), 297-315.
- Kitchen, Peter and Williams, Allison (2010) "Quality of Life and Perceptions of Crime in Saskatoon, Canada" in *Social Indicator Research*, 95, 33-61.
- Kruger, Daniel, Reischl, Thomas and Gee, Gilbert (2007) "Neighbourhood Social Conditions Mediate the Association Between Physical Deterioration and Mental Health" in *Journal of Community Psychology*, 40, 261-271.
- Lawlink NSW "Plan It Safe: Community safety and women's fear of crime"  
[www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/swp/swp.nsf/pages/swp\\_2](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/swp/swp.nsf/pages/swp_2), accessed February 1, 2010
- Lord, Vivian, Kuhns, Joseph, Friday, Paul (2008) "Small city community policing and citizen satisfaction" in *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management*, 32(4), 574-594.
- Lupton, Deborah and Tulloch, John (1999), "Theorizing fear of crime: beyond the rational / irrational opposition" in *British Journal of Sociology*, 50(3), 507-523.
- Pain, Rachel (2000) "Place, social relations and the fear of crime: a review" in *Progress in Human Geography* 24(3), 365-387.
- Quillian, Lincoln and Pager, Devah, 2001 "Black Neighbours, Higher Crime? The role of Racial Stereotypes in Evaluations of Neighbourhood Crime" in *American Journal of Sociology* 107(3), 717-767.
- Scott, Hannah (2003) "Stranger danger: Explaining Women's Fear of Crime" in *Western Criminology Review*, 4(3), 203-214.
- Statistics Canada "Perceptions of fear and crime" accessed March 6, 2008

Taylor, Ralph (1996) "Neighbourhood Responses to Disorder and Local Attachments: the Systemic Model of Attachment, Social Disorganization, and Neighbourhood Use Value" in *Sociological Forum*, 11(1)

Wagner, Allen (1997) "A Study of Traffic Pattern Modifications in an Urban Crime Prevention Program" in *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 25(1), 19-30.

Weisburd, David and Eck, John (2004) "What Can Police do to Reduce Crime, Disorder, and Fear?" in the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 593, 42-54.

Whitzman, Carolyn, 2005, "Stuck at the front door: gender, fear of crime and the challenge of creating safer space" in *Environment and Planning* **39**, 2714-2732.

**February 2010**

**To: CSAC**

**RE: CSAC Subcommittee Report (Community Advisory to Corrections liaison)**

**Jim Harnden, Theresa Gerritsen, Michelle Bell**

**Summary of Meetings**

**Held, December 9, 2009**

Preparation meeting was held to discuss a potential connection with the North Island (Nanaimo based) Citizens Advisory to Parole (Corrections Canada). Theresa had been in contact with Fred McRae, Parole Services to identify the correct contact person as the CAC Chair had resigned. The new chair is Bruce Avis. The main topic was to identify CSAC's role in addressing community safety related to offender release and supervision in the community. We identified primary questions that might concern citizens in this area. These questions included;

Under what circumstances and who can be notified of offender releases in the community?

How do assessments occur to identify the type of support services that an offender will receive while residing in the community?

What services exist in our region?

How many offenders reside in the community under release conditions?

How do we provide information and respond to concerns of the general public?.

What followed was a discussion of ways that CSAC might enhance its capacity to be responsive directly to citizens concerns about safety (offender release being a potential of one topic). Jim made suggestions of CSAC developing means to promote citizen interaction with CSAC potentially through the development of a pamphlet with tear off section and information provided on the CSAC website. It was decided to bring forward this discussion to the CSAC committee at the next meeting.

**Held, January 20, 2010**

Theresa met in Nanaimo with members of the CAC committee (Bruce Invis and Heather Tombs) and Fred McRae. The CAC's main interest was to seek a Cowichan Region representative to join their committee to act as a liaison between the two committees. The activity of the committee is to be active in the community to provide and receive information and input regarding Corrections, including the range of correctional measures applied by Parole Services. The group is highly active, providing public presentations and appearing at community events. Theresa notified CSAC members of this opportunity.

Further discussion about the way the two committees might work together, included;

-A possible further presentation to CSAC to respond to the specific question above.

-For their committee to be included in any relevant public community forums hosted by CSAC.

-For CSAC to consider that their group make a presentation to the CVRD Board.

-For their group to provide input into our own approaches to informing residents about offender release and to forward any concerns or questions that arise. These included the development of a potential FAQ sheet and information on the CSAC website.