WOMEN'S SAFETY AUDIT PILOT PROJECT

Prepared by

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for the

Cowichan Valley Regional District
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<u>Acknowledgments</u>

We would like to convey our thanks and appreciation to the many individuals, agencies and organizations who have contributed their time, energy and resources to the Women's Safety Audit Pilot Project. This project would not have been possible without the support of all of the people who joined in the task of building safer communities.

Our thanks to

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Women's Safety Audit Pilot Project is to address women's personal and public safety through examining community environments from the perspective of women and provide recommendations for improvements to physical environments and policies and procedures that guide development.

Violence against women is both a personal and public issue. Research has demonstrated that violence and fear of violence limits women's freedom and access to community life and that community design is an important element in overall strategies for prevention of violence. Approaches to build safer communities for women and children recognize the relationship between violence, fear and the built environment, and work toward solutions aimed at reducing opportunities for crime to improve women's sense of safety.

Safety audits are an important tool in community approaches to violence prevention. Through evaluating how safe a place feels, the process identifies ways to improve safety for women to increase freedom and access to community life. Safety audits are an effective tool to build women's participation and sense of ownership in community processes, and provide important information to planners and decision-makers.

This project evolved out of a collaborative process initiated by the Cowichan Valley Regional District who sought recommendations from a Select Committee on Violence Against Women, chaired by Director Lois Gage in spring of 1995, to address women's safety at the municipal level.

In December of 1995, the Cowichan Rape Assault Society brought forward a proposal to the C.V.R.D. to carry out a pilot project in Lake Cowichan. The proposal was accepted by the Regional Board of Directors who committed financial assistance of $9,000. A Regional Task Force has been formed to provide input to the project and work toward providing standardized methods and consistency in planning for women's safety across electoral areas.

The procedures for the pilot project involved community consultation via a survey and audits of places conducted with community volunteers.

Women's Safety Concerns
126 surveys were returned which revealed a high percentage of women have concerns for their safety in public and semi-public places and many women limit their (and their children's) activities as a result of concerns. The types of areas cited most often included parks and pathways, parking lots, and side roads; specific areas noted most often were the downtown area of Lake Cowichan and the Greendale trails area.

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Women's safety concerns were associated with factors which include isolation, inadequate lighting, design and maintenance, and the presence of people.

Women also indicated that they felt their safety was affected by a range of social factors, including societal attitudes and beliefs about women, drugs and alcohol, age, income, cultural beliefs, occupation, marital status and health.

Violence against women in relationships was noted as a community issue, often by women who knew someone living in an abusive situation. Geographical isolation, social isolation and lack of resources (income, transportation, emergency services) and support were noted as barriers to women living with violence in the home.

Concerns about violence among youth and younger children also figured significantly. This was a difficult issue to define. For example, while many women indicated that youth present an intimidating presence in public areas, many people also pointed out that the majority of youth are not violent, and that perceptions of youth need to be addressed in this regard. However, a number of young women who responded to the survey did indicate that they felt violence to be an issue among youth. As well, women with school-aged children, and school personnel were among those who identified violence as an issue for youth and one which has been associated with children's avoidance of school and recreational areas.

Many women said that violence against women needs to be addressed through changing attitudes and beliefs which allow violence to occur. Community awareness and education, violence prevention and support programs and services and law enforcement were frequently noted among solutions to address violence and improve women's safety in communities.

The Audits
Four audits were carried out which included the Lake Cowichan downtown area, the "Duck Pond" footbridge and park, the Greendale trails area, Youbou and Honeymoon Bay. Overall, observations of the participants reflected concerns in the surveys: lighting and isolation of places figured prominently as an obstacle to safety, along with maintenance and design factors. Recommendations to improve safety focused on lighting along roads, around public buildings, in parks and near recreation trails; improving sightlines and reducing potential hiding spots and entrapment sites through trimming vegetation; installing public telephones near recreation areas and better signage to improve legibility of areas. Other solutions to improve safety in public places offered frequently involved police response and various security measures.

Recommendations
Recommendations brought forward in this report are intended to address needs and reflect solutions identified by women of the communities. They cover improvements to physical environments in local areas, and to community planning policies and procedures. Safety audits should not be approached as a "quick fix to a temporary problem." Building safer

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communities will require long term efforts aimed at improving both existing environments, and the way we approach new development.   The C.V.R.D. planning department has already begun to incorporate safety considerations into procedures, through its enthusiastic participation in this process, and reviewing new development for safety concerns.   This report recommends proceeding further to institute women's safety into processes through incorporating public safety policies into community plans, ensuring all by-laws respect public safety, seeking regular input from women and women's groups, and improving accessibility of information.

Through their acknowledgment of issues and actions, community institutions send an important message that violence against women and children is a public as well as personal issue, and that the responsibility for maintaining safe environments is a collective one.
The Cowichan Valley Regional District has shown willingness and ability in this regard, and has provided an example of leadership for other areas.

This study has by no means covered all of the issues pertaining to women's personal and public safety. Many aspects can and should still be explored, such as concerns of women who are disabled, aboriginal women, immigrant women, seniors and youth.

This report recommends continued and further actions for community leadership, primarily, that the C.V.R.D. make personal safety a key consideration in all deliberations and decisions and promote equality to end violence against women and children in the district through ongoing consultation with and inclusion of women in community processes.

Implementation of recommendations will be essential for the success of this project, most importantly, to validate the input and involvement of the women who participated in this process. To the credit of electoral representatives and planning staff, some of the recommendations for improvements have already been addressed.

To assist in maintaining the momentum, we have recommended that the Regional Task Force be continued to advance and monitor the recommendations in this report, assist and support future safety audits and review development design. Finally, we have recommended that the Regional District assist and participate in a broad education and awareness campaign to promote women's safety and crime prevention.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Cowichan Valley Women's Safety Audit Project is a pilot project to examine rural community environments from the perspective of women and mak recommendations for improving women's safety.

This report will outline the rationale for undertaking women's safety audits in rural communities and present an overview of the process and methodology applied in the pilot project. We will summarize the results of the safety audits and present recommendations for solutions to improve women's safety in the studied communities.

In addition, we will also recommend measures to ensure ongoing consideration of women's safety both in the studied communities and the Region.

1.1. Women and Safety

In order to address women's safety in communities, it is critical to understand the significance of gender with respect to violence and crime and sense of safety.

National statistics reveal the following:

- Women are not safe in their homes, or on the streets, or in their communities. Large numbers of sexual and physical assaults occur in victim's homes, other residences, and many assaults occur in public places.

- One in three women in B.C. is assaulted by her husband or partner.

- One in three women in violent relationships fears for her life due to the severity of the violence.

- About 26% of wife assault cases get reported to police. One survey showed that less than 30% resulted in charges laid; under 20% got to court.

- Only 6% of sexual assaults are ever reported to police. Of those, only 16% make it to court.   (Statistics Canada, 1993)

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Many women live with the realities of violence.   For many more women, these realities translate into fear.

- Of women ever in the following situations.
  > 40% are worried about being home alone at night
  > 60% are worried about walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark
  >
  > 76% are worried about waiting for/using public transportation after dark
  > 83% are worried about walking alone to their cars in a parking garage
  >   (Statistics Canada, 1993)

Communities belong to all of the people who live and work in them. Yet, violence and fear of violence means that women's freedom and access to community life is severely limited.   When women feel their envirnments are unsafe, they limit their activities. This comes at a cost to both the individual and the community. Studies have counted over a thousand strategies women use to avoid danger, such as not going out at night or using recreational facilities, avoiding certain areas of their community, attending fewer evening activities including education, employment, public meetings. And, when women perceive their communities as unsafe, they also restrict their children's activities. (METRAC, 1991)

- The national economic costs of violence against women and children have been estimated at $4.2 billion per year for social services, education, criminal justice, labour and employment losses, health and medical costs.
  (National Crime Prevention Council, 1995)

1.2 Building Safer Communities

> *"Preventing acts of public violence calls for a variety of approaches. These approaches should modify physical and social environments, not just personal behaviour. Solutions need to be based on enhanced communities, not fortified privacy."*
>   (Guelph City Council, 1991)

Crime and violence against women is linked to inequality, and solutions to improve women's safety require a multi-dimentional and comprehensive effort. (National Municipalities Organization) Across Canada, municipal and community leaders are developing strategies to address violence through 'Safer Communities' approaches to crime prevention. The City of Toronto, and the Metro Action Committee on Public Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC) have provided leadership in this area, and their example has been used around the world.

Briefly, a safer communities approach looks at the relationship between fear, violence and the built environment. It begins by hearing the experiences of people who use potential crime sites on a daily basis, looking at places where people fear crime and improving them. Solutions to improve women's safety need to be rooted in local priorities, involve both individual women and the broader community, and include both planning and community development improvements to ensure ongoing consideration of women's safety. (City of Toronto, 1992)

Through setting goals and objectives and incorporating safety considerations into development processes, communities can,
> 1) convey an important message about the importance of safety and
> 2) effectively reduce opportunities for crime and improve sense of safety.
>
> (Whitzman, 1996)

"Planning for equality is not about planning for 'special needs.' This approach marginalizes such needs and perpetuates the idea that such needs deviate from a norm.... An integral part of planning for equality is to look at the needs of all, not to perceive any as 'special,' or 'different.' (Greater London Council, 1986, quoted in METRAC, 1991)

1.3 Community Design

Community design is an important element in overall strategies for prevention of violence and is a practical place to begin to improve women's personal and public safety by reducing opportunities for violence against women in public places.

Conceptions of safety vary, and it is important to remember that women's experiences (and use) of their environment are related to additional factors, including age, class, mental and physical ability, race, and culture. There is a growing body of research on women's conception of their community and the aspects of the physical environment which present opportunities for acts of violence. (METRAC, 1991)

Aspects of environments which are often identified in conjunction with women's safety concerns include inadequate lighting, isolation, places which offer potential entrapment sites, design elements such as lack of signage or emergency services, obstruction of sightlines and poor maintenance.

Factors that enhance safety and security in public places then, are those which reduce isolation and provide for awareness and clarity of surroundings and design, visibility and the ability to access emergency services. (City of Toronto, 1992) These factors apply to all aspects of the built environment, including buildings, parks and recreational areas, streets.

1.4 Safety Audits

Safety audits have been used in many different settings and have evolved as an important tool in community approaches to violence prevention. They involve consultation with individuals and community groups to raise awareness and provide input on areas of concern.   Audits are conducted with women from the community by walking through areas and examining characteristics which contribute to making a place feel unsafe.

Safety audits focus on making improvements to the built environment. However, design does not operate independently of the context in which it is located, therefore, it is also important to examine how spaces are used and managed. (WACAV, 1995) Solutions to improve safety need to be rooted in local priorities and involve the broader community. (Whitzman, 1996)

1.5 Women in Rural Communities:

Much of the research for safety audits has been done in urban settings and university campuses. However, recent research from Women's Action Centre in Ottawa-Carlton has provided information on aspects of successful audits and their application in rural communities.

In applying safety audit models in rural communities, it is necessary to consider conditions of rural living that negatively affect women's personal safety, which include:

- Geographical isolation
- Lack of essential and/or easily accessible emergency services such as crisis centres, medical clinics, police services
- Lack of public transportation systems
- Long distances women must travel to get to work and leisure
- Lack of adequate lighting.

(Women's Action Centre Against Violence, 1996)

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2.0   COWICHAN VALLEY WOMEN'S SAFETY AUDIT -
PILOT PROJECT
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The Cowichan Valley Regional District provides a unique example of a regional initiative to address violence against women through a Women's Safety Audit Project. This project evolved out of a collaborative community process initiated by the Regional Board of Directors who sought recommendations from a Select Committee in spring of 1995 to address women's safety at the municipal level. A pilot project was proposed to apply existing research on Safety Audits based on the METRAC model, and new research on their application in rural communities from the Women's Action Centre in Ottawa-Carlton.

The pilot project focused on the Cowichan Lake area, and included the Village of Lake Cowichan and surrounding areas of Honeymoon Bay, Mesachie Lake and Youbou. The purpose of the project was to carry out safety audits of areas in these communities, to make recommendations for improvements and to evaluate the process to provide a basis for audits in other areas.

A Regional District Task Force comprised of representatives from eleven electoral areas and municipalities and several community agencies was formed to provide input to the project and work toward providing standardized methods and consistency in planning for women's safety across electoral areas.

2.1 Project Goal:

The goal of this project is to create safer communities for women and children in the Cowichan Valley Regional District through examining women's experiences in the context of their social and physical environments, and recommending changes to both community environments, and policies and procedures that guide development processes.

Objectives :

The primary objectives of the project are to:

1.   Assess public and semi-public places for obstacles to women's safety;

2.   Review relevant municipal and community planning practices and policies for inclusion of women's safety concerns;

3.   Develop recommendations and an action plan to improve women's safety, to be provided to municipal officials.

Cowichan Rape Assault Society, 1996

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In addition to these stated objectives, it is hoped that this process will :

- increase awareness and understanding of issues of violence against women, and the implications for communities;
- promote dialogue between community leaders, planners, women and women's organizations, and bring women's safety into the focus of community development considerations;

- serve as a base of information that will result in concrete actions to improve women's safety; and

- serve as the beginning of a process that will continue to grow and develop.

2.2 Overview of Process and Procedures

2.2.1 Project Development/Background Research:

As part of the development of this project, background research included a review of literature on safety audits and numerous interviews with program personnel with experience in other areas (Appendix E).

Several individuals, agencies and organizations in the Cowichan Region were contacted and asked to provide input about process and content (Appendix E).

A meeting with the Regional Task Force was held to discuss the process and review the survey.

2.2.2. Community Consultation

The purpose of community consultation was to obtain information on safety concerns of women and to provide direction for audits of places in the communities. Consultation was approached through a survey directed primarily at women (Appendix A). The survey was designed to be as open-ended as possible to allow for independent responses. An information sheet was attached which contained telephone numbers for questions and comments, to conduct telephone interviews, or to access counseling services.

After much deliberation about the method of distribution, it was decided to make the survey available at various public and private locations throughout the Cowichan Lake area and to seek out and present it to various individuals and community organizations. While it was anticipated that survey response might be lower than if it was mailed, this decision was based on concern for potential backlash for women in violent relationships.

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Advertisements about the project were placed in local newspapers announcing the project and locations where surveys could be obtained. Six presentations were made to various community groups, including seniors, women's groups, students and parent advisory committees. Project staff contacted Aboriginal women and Indo-Canadian women in the Lake Cowichan area to request participation in the survey process.

2.2.3. Audits:

Locations chosen for audits were based on recommendations by women in the communities via the surveys and discussions, and included:

1. Village of Lake Cowichan:
       Downtown Area/South Shore Road, Duck Pond/Footbridge Area, and the
       Greendale Trails area.
2. Youbou:
       General Audit for lighting/traffic;   Post Office and Arbutus Park; Community
       Centre/School area;   Lakeside subdivision area.
3. Honeymoon Bay:
       General audit for lighting and isolation;   Central park and residential area.

Once audit locations were chosen, volunteers were contacted and meeting dates and times were arranged.   Prior to meeting with volunteers, staff undertook a preliminary tour in and around designated areas. We then met with volunteers to discuss procedures and questions for audits.

Each person was given a checklist of factors to note, and a form on which to record observations and recommendations (Appendix C).   The basic questions were: "What about this place makes me feel uncomfortable?" and "What changes would help me to feel safer?" While the intent of a safety audit is to critically assess places for safety concerns, we also asked participants to note things that contribute to a positive sense of safety.

Audit walks took approximately two hours, generally from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. The number of participants, including staff, ranged from three to eight. At the end of the walks, participants handed in their forms to audit staff who compiled and prepared summaries of observations and recommendations. The areas were revisited by staff in the daylight hours to review comments/data, confirm locations, take photographs. A follow-up meeting was held with participants of Youbou and Lake Cowichan audits to present the results of the Community Survey and some of the audit results, and to obtain input for recommendations.

A progress report and draft recommendations based on community input and research were compiled and submitted to local Task Force representatives and C.V.R.D. planning staff for review. A final draft was compiled for review by the Regional Task Force. Members were asked to review the report with respect to clarity, data interpretation and

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analysis, feasibility of recommendations and action plan, and to submit comments and suggestions back to project staff.

2.2..4 Study Limitations

A number of potential limiting factors to the project were identified during initial stages of planning and noted during the process. Problem areas were defined as follows:

1. In general, experience with safety audits in rural communities is limited.

2. Sample: Surveys were distributed to various locations throughout the communities for women to pick up and fill out, and through presentations and discussions initiated by audit staff.   Women who were not able to obtain surveys at locations and women who were not aware of the survey would not be included.

3. Sensitive nature and content: some women may have declined to participate due to personal views or concerns for their personal and public safety.

4. Catchment area: the catchment area for this study included three fairly distinct communities, with some unique concerns. In retrospect, this was a fairly large undertaking. Also, the survey was entitled "Lake Cowichan Safety Audit Survey" which was noted as a possible deterrent for some women. (Survey returns from Honeymoon Bay/Mesachie Lake and Youbou were relatively low).

5. Survey language and definition of safety:
>   (i) some women commented that when they read the survey, they did not identify themselves as having safety concerns, but when given further information about the nature of the survey, did identify safety concerns.
>   (ii) Due to social climates, women's lifestyles naturally incorporate safety mechanisms and therefore when asked about limitations to lifestyle due to safety concerns, women may not perceive or define their actions as 'limiting.'
>   (iii) Some women commented that although they felt animals were a safety concern, did not see this survey as appropriate for that concern.

5. Seasonality: Ideally, audits need to be done at different times of the year to take into account different effects of weather, daylight, etc. This study was done during late spring/early summer when daylight hours were at their longest.   The time of day and seasonal activities made it difficult for some volunteers to participate.

6. Ownership of project: Project staff did not reside in any of the communities. In addition to the potential for an "outsider" effect, staff did not have the benefit of historical knowledge of the community or geography. (However, these can also contrast as benefits).

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3.0 RESULTS

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3.1 Safety Audit Survey

Of approximately 350 surveys distributed, 125 were returned via drop off or mail. One
formal telephone interview was conducted and a number of informal interviews took
place resulting from telephone calls. A statistical data base from the survey was compiled
and comments summarized. A detailed statistical summary of results is provided in
Appendix A. Figures 1 to 5 provide a graphic representation of data.   The following is
a narrative summary.

Personal Data

Age of Respondents: ranged from 13 to 79 years

Under 2o years	40.5%
21 - 39 years	26.2%
40 - 59	29.2%
60+	4%

Residency: ranged from a few months to 50 years;   Mean = 12.5 years.
Work: about 30% of women work in the home, 57% work out of home.
Children: about half of the women who responded have children at home.

Women's Perceptions of Safety:

Just under 80% of women feel concerned for their safety in public places at least some of
the time.   About 40% of women feel concerned for their safety at least some of the time
at work and at home. Almost half of women said they never feel concerned for their
safety at home;   40% never feel concerned for their safety at work, and 17.5% never feel
concerned for their safety in public places.

Experience of crime and violence:

41% of women said that they have experienced verbal assault,
20% of women said they have experienced theft/robbery,
19 % have experienced harassment/stalking,
12.7% have experienced physical or sexual assault.

Worry about crime and violence:

Between 37 - 45% of women said they worry about physical assault, sexual assault,
harassment/stalking, verbal assault.   60% of women said they worry about theft/robbery.

Factors Affecting Safety:

Women noted many factors related to their safety, with the highest percentage indicating
people's attitudes about women in general, followed by drugs/alcohol and age, income,
cultural beliefs/attitudes, occupation, marital status, racism and health.

Places where safety is a concern:
Women noted kinds of places as well as specific places in their communities where they feel concerned for their safety.   Places noted most often were the main road and downtown area of Lake Cowichan, including areas around Saywell Park, the 'Duck Pond' and trestle, and the Greendale and trails area. Other places cited were local bars, Mah On's Store, Joan's Market and Subway, the Arena, Johel Road, Hammond Road. Schools included A.B. Greenwell, L.C.S.S., Stanley Gordon and Pallson.

Kinds of places noted were: Side roads, back allies, trails, parking lots, beaches, parks.

The aspects about places most noted with respect to feeling unsafe were lighting, isolation, maintenance and people. Women noted that groups of people/teens/men caused them concern in areas. Some women noted aspects such as drunkenness, fighting, verbal and physical assault. Isolation of workplaces (eg: low number of staff on duty), animals, general and summer traffic, the presence of vandalism/ litter, poor bus service, were also cited as making places feel unsafe.

Places Women feel safe:
Most women said they felt safe at home and in familiar places with people at night; during the day, the general community, home and familiar places were cited most often.

Limit Activities:
Over half (53%) of women said they limit their activities due to concerns for their safety. Staying away from certain areas and not going out at night were methods noted most often (57), making sure to go out with a friend, taking precautions around parking locations and other security measures such as carrying personal alarms, weapons, taking a dog along were also noted. Approximately 38% of women with children said they limit their children's activities due to concerns for safety. Not letting them go out at night or go out alone, doing phone check-ins, were aspects noted most.

Risks:
Over half (56%) of women said they take risks out of necessity sometimes, 12% often. Examples given included hitchhiking, walking alone, having to go somewhere even when they felt uneasy.

Solutions:
Solutions women offered with respect to making their community feel safer: Better lighting was the solution offered most frequently; followed by security/ surveillance and law enforcement measures, including more/better/more visual policing; Neighbourhood/ Block Watch programs, alarms at work and public surveillance measures such as security cameras.

Also noted were the need for: A shelter/respite for women and teens; changes to people's attitudes and behaviours, as well as changes in personal routines (eg: not working night shift) and behaviours (eg: not getting into power struggles with youth). Some women

noted that they felt safe enough in their community; a few said they didn't know and a few said nothing would make them feel safer.

COMMENTS
Women offered many comments and suggestions on surveys and in discussions and interviews. Comments have been summarized and grouped into categories.

Community
Many women said that they appreciate their rural community setting and noted elements that contributed to their sense of safety such as familiarity, knowing their neighbours, and community activities. Several women said that they felt very safe in their communities, never locked their doors, never limited their activities and never felt unsafe in public places even after dark. However, women also expressed concerns about crime and safety relating to growth and change, increased traffic and population in summer, isolated areas (including some workplaces) and animals (dogs, cougars, bears). Alcohol use was also noted as a concern.

Women at work
Women expressed concerns about working nights, particularly in places where there are only a few staff were on duty. Discrimination, harassment, fear of theft or assault, witnessing of derogatory comments about women, and abusive behaviour were noted as concerns.

Women at home
Concerns noted by women with respect to home included theft, break-ins, harassment, witnessing violence in the neighbourhood and the presence of youth in numbers around neighbourhoods.

Attitudes and Beliefs
Social and cultural attitudes and values with respect to equality of women were noted as underlying factors affecting women's safety in the community. Some comments pertained to broader social attitudes which allow violence against women to occur. Some were more specific to the community in which they live, and the latter included violence as a norm, intolerance of differences, attitudes about women in general, particularly women with low income and single parents.

Violence Against Women in Relationships
Women noted violence against women in relationships as a community concern and an issue that needs to be addressed. Factors such as income, isolation (both geographical and social), lack of transportation and adequate emergency services (such as a shelter and policing) and awareness were noted as obstacles to safety for women experiencing violence in the home. A need for increased education and awareness of existing support systems, prevention and support services to enhance awareness and education about this issue was expressed.

Isolation

Geographical - Women noted that rural communities are desirable and advantageous places to live because they are rural. However, geographical distances to services such as emergency housing, social assistance, educational facilities, and lack of public transportation to some areas are obstacles to safety. Inadequate or non-existent public transit, particularly in outlying areas, was also noted as a safety issue for teens.

Social - Women noted factors such as reluctance of leaving an abusive relationship due to fears around views of friends, family, community. Additional barriers of income, class, language, awareness of and familiarity with support services were also noted.

Visibility

Visibility in a small community was noted as having both advantages and disadvantages. For some women, familiarity, being known by and knowing their neighbours is very positive. However, some women noted negative aspects of visibility in their communities, for example, fear of speaking out about issues, being 'different', being 'talked about'.

Law/Law Enforcement/ Security and Policing:

Women expressed a need for better enforcement of existing laws and creation of better laws to prevent violence and address offenses; more police presence, follow-up contact by police after reports, and increased sensitivity of police to women's reports and concerns. More crime prevention programs such as Block parents were noted as needs. Commissionaires were noted as helpful.

Children and Youth:

Concerns about violence among youth and younger children, (physical, verbal assault, including verbal/sexual abuse, threatening behaviour/intimidation) youth on the streets, alcohol and drug use, the need for parent supports, and intervention were expressed. The results of violence among youth was associated with not being able to or fear of using public places; for example, children not wanting to attend school, fear around use of recreational areas/facilities, restaurants, stores. Education and awareness about violence issues and tolerance of differences, to be directed at both sexes, were noted as needs for youth of all ages. Programs, activities and a "place" for youth were cited as needs.

Figure 1

CONCERN FOR SAFETY AT HOME, WORK, IN PUBLIC PLACES*
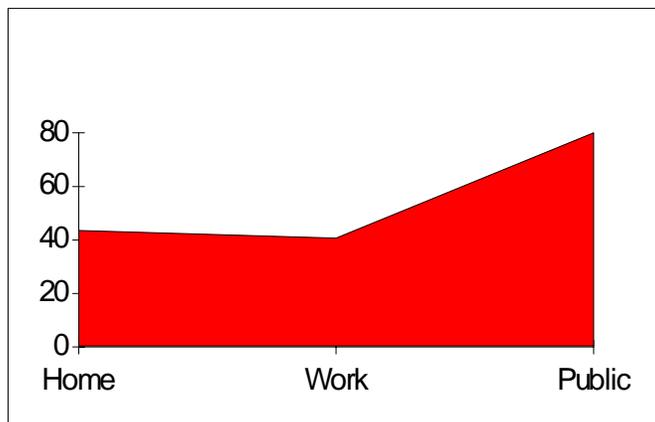
* Percentage of Respondents indicating concern for safety
sometimes or often by place

Figure 2

WORRY ABOUT CRIME / VIOLENCE *
By Type of Offense
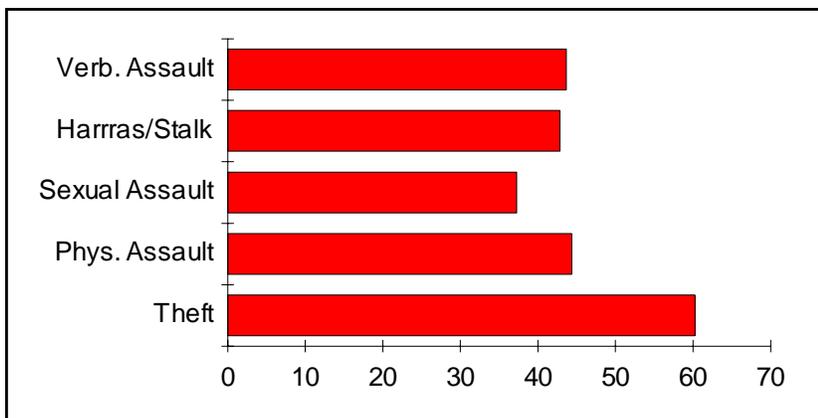
* Percentage of Respondents who indicated worry about crime/violence by type of offense

Figure 3

CONCERN FOR SAFETY AT HOME, WORK, IN PUBLIC PLACES**
By Age Group

Concern for Safety - Home

%

Concern for Safety - Work

%

Age

Concern for Safety - Public Places

%

Age
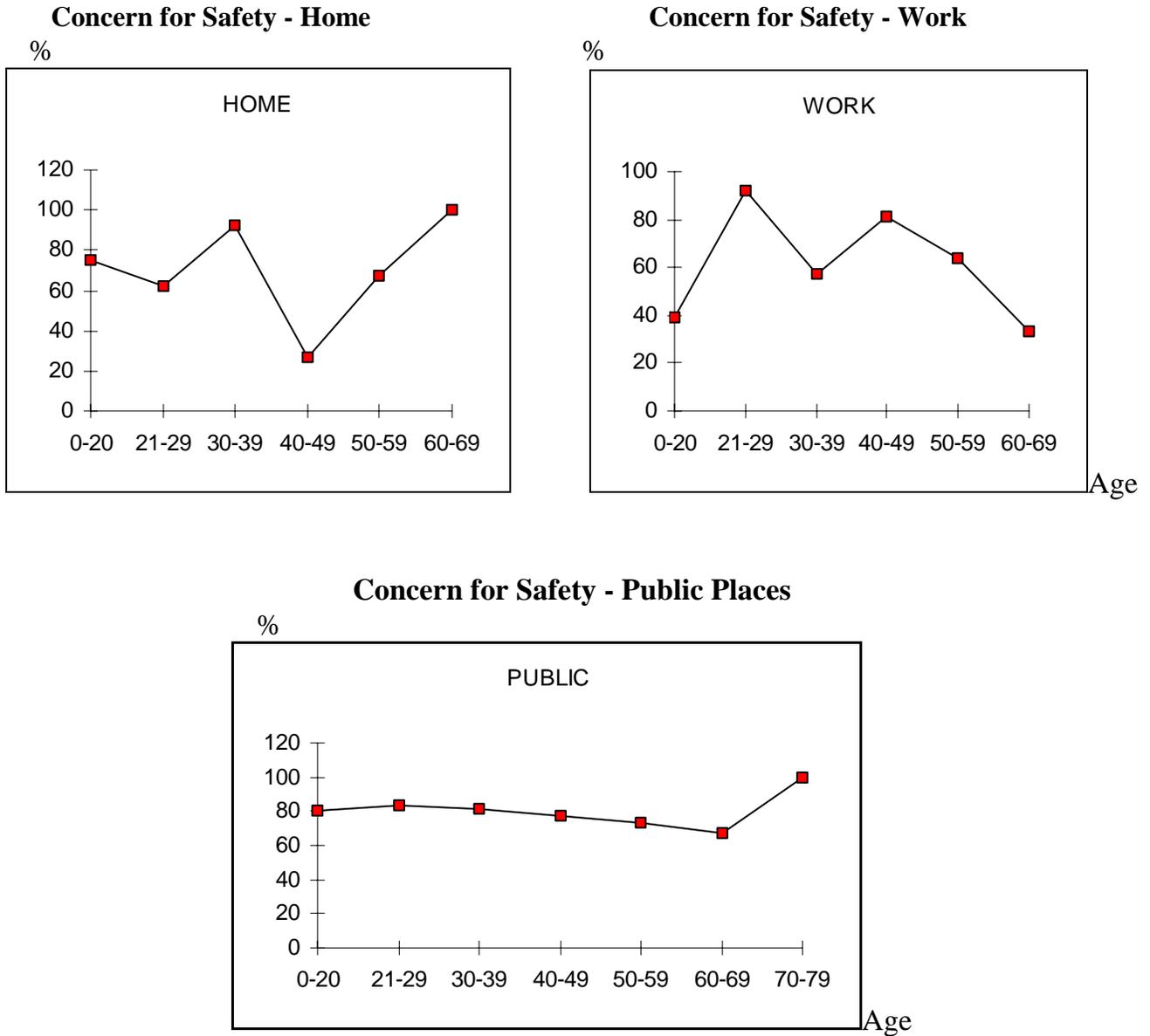
*Percentage of Respondents who indicated concern for safety sometimes or often
(by place and age group)

Figure 4

WORRY ABOUT CRIME / VIOLENCE
By Type of Offense and Age Group
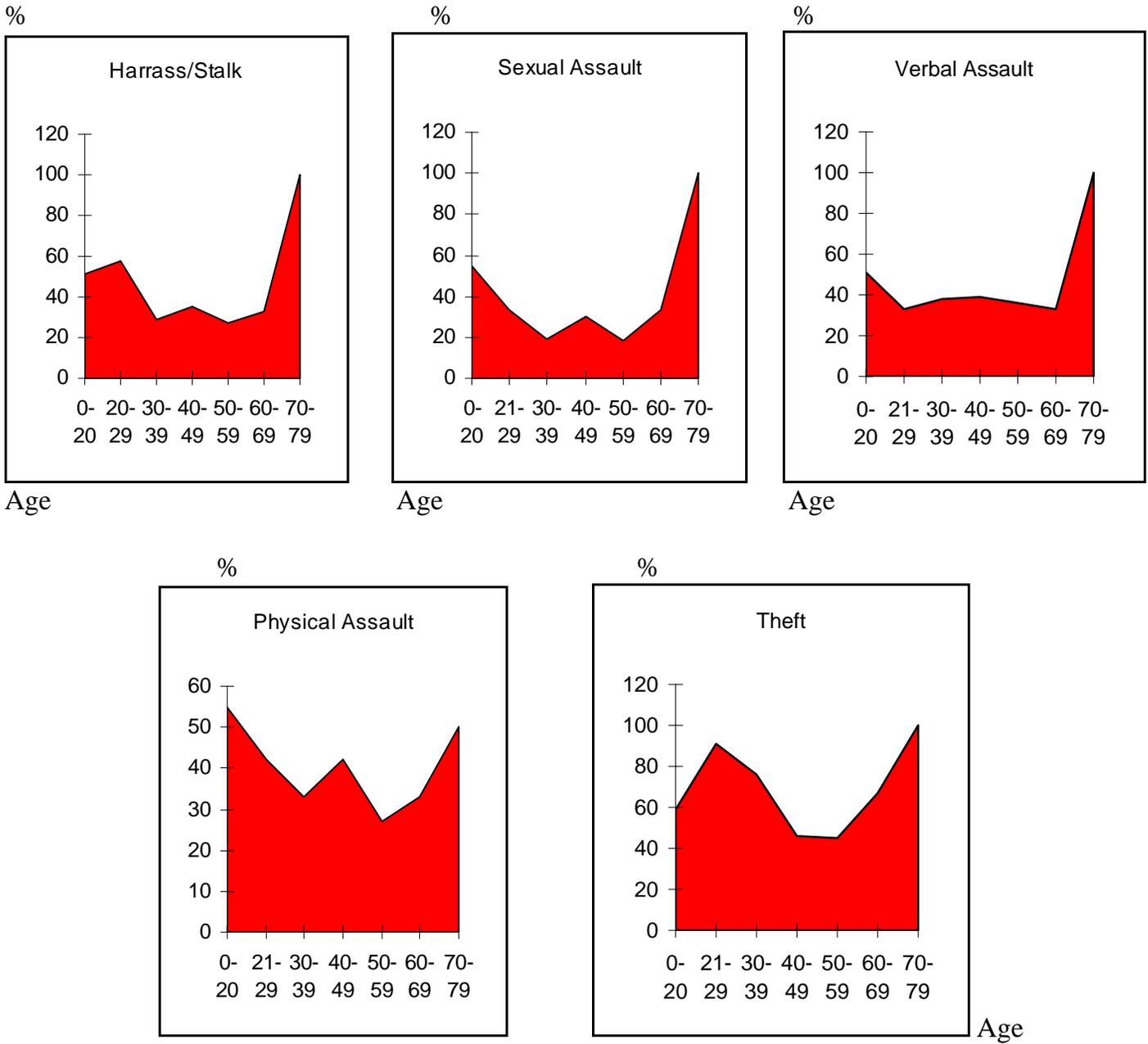
%

Harrass/Stalk

%

Sexual Assault

%

Verbal Assault

Age   Age   Age

%

Physical Assault

%

Theft

Age

*Percentage of respondents who indicated worry about crime/violence by type of offense and age group

Figure 5

LIMIT ACTIVITIES*

Age
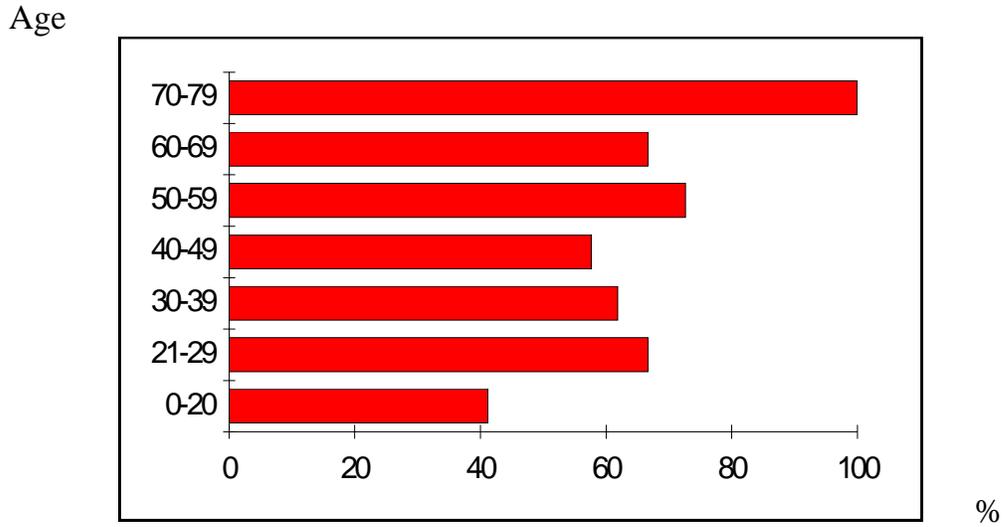
****Percentage of respondents who limit their activities due to concerns for safety
by age group**

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3.2 Community Safety Audits
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The following section provides a detailed summary of audits undertaken in areas of the communities. For each audit we have summarized observations, conclusions and recommendations. For each set of recommendations, we have marked some with an asterisk to note improvements that may be achieved with a minimum of expense and effort, and therefore, might be implemented immediately. Many recommendations may require additional budgetary expenditures and/or requests for action from other agencies such as the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and B.C. Telephone. We have recommended that the Village of Lake Cowichan and/or the C.V.R.D. take action in requesting or carrying out implementation.

Several physical factors emerged consistently with respect to women's sense of safety in all of the areas audited.

Lighting:
In all of the areas audited, lighting was noted as being inadequate, often contributing to a sense of isolation and poor visibility of potential hazards, particularly with respect to entrapment spots, sightlines and movement predictors.

Isolation:
Parking lots and recreational areas were noted significantly.   However, participants noted that better lighting would improve safety through increasing visibility in particular locations. Public telephones in proximity to recreational areas were recommended to enhance a sense of security through providing a means of access to emergency services.

Sightlines:
Audit findings indicated recreational trails/pathways as specific problem areas, particularly where foliage obscures vision. Participants recommended regular maintenance to trim vegetation to increase visibility.

Design, Signage and Maintenance:
Most of the places audited were found to be aesthetically pleasing, and maintenance was not considered to be a serious problem, with the exception of derogatory graffiti on a main street.   However, inadequate maintenance of existing lights in common open areas, vacant buildings and in and around community buildings figured significantly. More and better signage and proper illumination of existing signage was recommended to improve legibility of areas, and mark emergency services.

Having a mix of land uses, such as the presence of houses near recreational areas, was often noted as positive.   Signage that points out community services and 'ownership' (for example "Respect Your Parks" and Neighbourhood Watch signs) was seen to contribute to a sense of security.

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SUMMARY OF SAFETY AUDITS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.2.1. *(a) DOWNTOWN LAKE COWICHAN - SOUTH SHORE ROAD AREA*
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GENERAL IMPRESSIONS:

    The Downtown area of Lake Cowichan has many features which contribute to a positive sense of safety and demonstrate community interest and involvement. Audit participants felt this to be in general, a safe area, particularly when in the company of the group. On this particular evening, there were other people walking through the downtown area, but not in as many numbers as are known to be seen on some evenings.

LIGHTING:

    Lighting was noted as good to uneven. L.C.S.S. school parking lot light was out, and there was no light at the Card lock. Petro Station (old gas station is a well-used bathroom stop when bar closes)- there were no lights at all at the time of the audit walk.

    Inadequate lighting behind Arena. One participant noted that it feels unsafe when leaving night time recreation activities.

SIGHTLINES:

    Generally good, with notations about areas between buildings and the walking tunnel across the road from the 'Duck Pond.'

ISOLATION:

    Isolated areas noted were the Railway Museum/Saywell Park, Beaver Trail, Central Park. Beaver Trail was noted as a known "party area".

ENTRAPMENT SITES:

    Potential entrapment sites are trees by the high school field; Old trains on 'Beaver Trail'; Old Petro Can station.

MAINTENANCE:

    Overall, the area is quite well-cared for with some attractive features such as nice new brick on sidewalks, several well-maintained 'heritage' buildings, the high school and parks are also very clean and well-kept. (Audit staff noted maintenance personnel on several occasions). Some exceptions were noted: Some abandoned lots and buildings. Uneven sidewalks in places, some with drop-offs (Lakeview & S.Shore) which are known hazards. Graffiti at the front of LCSS (on a cement retaining wall facing the main road) and in the walking tunnel across from Duck Pond bridge.

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DESIGN:
>   There are ample telephones throughout the area (all in working order); however,
>   one nearest Arena was not indicated with signage.
>   No crosswalk at U Brew (this is a natural crossing area).

ADDITIONAL NOTATIONS:
Mah On's Store has been noted as a popular gathering spot for youth. The area is
generally well-maintained; however, suggestions for improvement included screening the
garbage area. No people were around at the time of this audit; however, people have
reported that they feel intimidated when there are youth gathered here.
It was observed that there is a vacant lot adjacent to the store. It was suggested that this
might be an alternative place for young people to gather rather than in front of the store
on sidewalks and that this might be achieved through installing benches and cover (an
awning), and working with youth to encourage them to use the other area.

RECOMMENDATIONS :

1. That the Village of Lake Cowichan request the appropriate departments/authorities to:

(i)   Install lighting at Central Park, behind sports arena, on the wooden sign at
           S. Shore & King George Road;   *(MOTH)*
(ii)   Add signage to increase visibility of telephone near arena; *(CVRD Parks)*
(iii)   Add a crosswalk at Lala's Snack Shack;   *(MOTH)*
(iv)   Upgrade and repair existing sidewalks, with particular attention to
           increasing visibility of or repairing hazards such as drop-offs.(+) *(Village)*
(v)*   Trim vegetation to create better sightlines in Beaver Trail. *(CVRD Parks)*
(vi)*   Remove or paint over graffiti, especially at high school.   *(SD 66; Village)*

>   (+) *shortly after this walk, audit staff noted that a planter was installed on the*
>   *sidewalk at Lakeview and South Shore to block a drop-off. Acknowledgment*
>   *should go to the participant on the audit and the Village of Lake Cowichan for*
>   *taking such quick action to increase pedestrian safety.*

2.* That the Village of Lake Cowichan request owners of vacant lots and buildings to
       ensure adequate lighting and maintenance of properties.

3. That the Village of Lake Cowichan contribute resources and staff to
       (i) investigate the possibility of creating an alternative space for youth to gather in
       the area of Mah On's Store through liaison with Lake Cowichan Community
       Services, R.C.M.P. and Lake Cowichan Senior Secondary, the owner(s) of the lot
       adjacent to the store and community organizations;
       (ii) if such a project is feasible, assist in facilitating and coordinating
       implementation to construct/purchase and install benches and cover.

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(b) GREENDALE TRAILS AREA (CP Trestle, Greendale & South Shore)

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SAFETY IMPRESSIONS:
> This is a popular recreational area with significant natural amenities as well as a small developed park area with benches at the entrance to the bridge and trails. Positive features also noted were nearby houses which contribute to safety. However, the area generally feels unsafe at night although participants noted that being with a group improved their sense of safety.
> Steep paths are potentially dangerous in darkness.
> The area is noted for people 'hanging out.'

LIGHTING:
> Very little lighting in the area. At the time of the audit, the light at the beginning of the trail/bridge was burned out. However, it was noted that Kinsmen have plans   to install lighting.

SIGHTLINES:
> Some sightlines are obscured by foliage.
> Inadequate lighting also contributes to lack of visibility.

ISOLATION:
> The area was described as very isolated; however, it was noted that homes are close by and could be accessible if an emergency arose.

MOVEMENT PREDICTORS:
> Pathways and trails are movement predictors.

ENTRAPMENT SITES:
> Bridge and area under bridge are potential entrapment sites. It was noted that the noise of the water would be louder than calls for help.
> Trails also offer many hiding places.
> However, existence of small paths off main trail leading to houses is positive.

MAINTENANCE:
> Generally very well-cared for, but feels abandoned.

DESIGN:
> This route is a popular short cut to town, but there are no signs or indications of where paths lead when you are traveling from downtown.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

1**.** That the Village of Lake Cowichan request the appropriate departments/authorities to:

(i)   Install lights on the bridge and facing the trail.   *(CVRD Parks; Kinsmen)*
(ii)*   Trim foliage on the trail to increase visibility.   *(Village; CVRD Parks)*
(iii)   Install a public telephone at the South Shore Road entrance.*(BC Tel)*
(iv)   Construct and install signage with a map and directions to services at the
           entrance to the trail.   *(CVRD Parks)*
(v) *   explore measures to increase safety with respect to motorbike traffic on the
           bridge.   *(CVRD Parks; RCMP)*

(c) "DUCK POND / FOOTBRIDGE" AREA (CN Trestle)
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GENERAL IMPRESSIONS:
        This area feels dark and isolated at night; however, good maintenance of the park
        area, existing amenities and homes located on either side of pond area generate
        positive safety impressions. It was noted that this area experiences increased
        summer traffic, which also lends to greater sense of safety.

LIGHTING:
        While there are lights at either end of the bridge, it is very dark in between. The
        dark colour of the bridge contributes to poor sense of lighting.
        Bathrooms (interior) are very dark; some lights are not working; there are no
        windows.

SIGHTLINES/MOVEMENT PREDICTORS:
        Chain link fencing on bridge handrails was noted as good in terms of visibility
and   surrounding vegetation, and trees do not seem to obscure vision.
        However, sightlines are affected by the narrowness of the bridge and "indents"
        as well as bushes under bridge.

ENTRAPMENT SITES:
        Bridge, bathrooms, underside of ramp on bridge are potential entrapment sites.

MAINTENANCE:
        While the level of maintenance of the general area was quite good, participants
        noted that bathrooms in the park required maintenance in terms of lighting and
        aesthetics.
        Cobwebs on bridge, peeling paint were noted quite significantly.

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DESIGN:

      Signage and easily accessible telephone were advised for this area. Due to the volume of public use in this area, and the fact that this is a swimming area, participants noted that a public telephone nearby would be helpful in the event of an emergency.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Village of Lake Cowichan request the appropriate departments/authorities to:

(i)   Construct and install directional signage for the park at the South Shore entrance.
(ii)   Install a public telephone - possible locations - at park entrance on Main Street, March Road entrance to park area, bench area, playground.   *(BC Tel)*
(iii)*   Complete fencing along bridge handrails.
(iv)*   Provide maintenance to improve appearance, for example, removal of cobwebs.
(v)   Install lighting in public washrooms and ensure regular maintenance of lighting.
(vi)   Install lighting at the entrance to the trestle bridge, in the park area, near the river shore.

2. That the Village of Lake Cowichan review current and projected budgets and

(i)   implement as soon as possible, all recommendations which are feasible within current budgets and frameworks (those marked with and asterisk * are ones which may fall into this category);

(ii)   refer recommendations which pertain to other departments/agencies or which can be undertaken (or assisted by community organizations) to the appropriate bodies with requests for timely implementation.

(iii)   forward its action plan for implementation, outlining anticipated time frame to the Regional Task Force by February, 1997.

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3.2.2. YOUBOU

(a) YOUBOU GENERAL
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1. General Comments:

Impressions:

> In general, the entire village area of Youbou is very well-maintained and reflects community pride and involvement. Houses and yards are well kept, and the community hall and school are also nicely maintained. Overall, the area reflects a welcoming atmosphere. One person noted that graffiti is always cleaned up quickly. One participant noted that the rural village setting and familiarity of residents adds to sense of safety.

Concerns noted:
Traffic:

> Main road has high volume large vehicles; difficult to walk generally, facing traffic.
> Speeding concerns were noted.

Community:

> A problem noted was that children are sometimes not able to use places because of threats/intimidation by other kids. In particular, youth in cars intimidate kids on skateboards. (It was noted that kids in cars are not as visible and don't attract or receive as much disciplinary attention as kids on streets).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Cowichan Valley Regional District request the appropriate departments/ authorities to:

(i)*   Write a letter to Timberwest requesting trucking personnel to be reminded of pedestrian safety. *(Area I)*
(ii)*   Review speed limits through the village area with respect to pedestrian safety.
(iii)   Explore possibilities for widening of shoulders. *(MoTH)*
(iv)   Consider a flashing light at the entrance to Youbou to alert motorists to speed limits. *(MoTH)*

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(b) LAKESIDE ESTATES
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General Impressions:
This is an attractive area, recently developed with park trails - well-maintained.
However, there are as yet, no street lights at all, and at night this contributes to poor
visibility and feelings of isolation.   People walking here at night have difficulty seeing
ditches.   Also, some vacant lots have tall broom which obscures sightlines.

Public beach access and trail area:
Also very attractive, the natural features of the area are very positive and the trail areas
are well-kept. The trail connects the two subdivision areas, which, in itself, is a positive
safety feature.
However, it is unclear to someone who does not live here that this is a public trail and
that it comes out in another subdivision area.
Also, the sign noting "dawn to dusk" hours of the park is small and not visible at night.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Cowichan Valley Regional District request the appropriate
departments/authorities to:

(i)   Install street lights in this subdivision.   *(MoTH)*
(ii)*   Construct and install directional signage indicating beach access and trails, at both
         entrances as well as highway.   *(CVRD Parks)*
(iii)*   Request owners of vacant lots to ensure adequate maintenance, particularly with
         regard to tall vegetation which inhibits visibility.   *(Area I)*

(c) ARBUTUS PARK & POST OFFICE AREAS
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Post Office Area:
General Impressions:
         The Post Office Area Feels isolated, generally unsafe, particularly at night.
         However, nearby, the entrance to Timberwest property contains lawn and treed
         area that is well-maintained. Participants noted this to be very positive, but noted
         lack of lighting past the post office area.
         It was noted that a safety building will be located here in future, and that this
         will greatly improve the area.

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Recommendations:
>Ensure adequate lighting around safety building, particularly on the lake side. If the community bulletin board remains, it would be helpful to locate it near the road and provide regular maintenance.

Arbutus Park and Trail Area:
Impressions:
>This is a very attractive area and very well- maintained. Houses near by make the park area feel quite safe and welcoming. Lights were on in houses which added to a sense of security. It was noted that sprinklers are set to come on at night in summer and that this helps to keep night traffic to a minimum.
>
>However, there are some visual obstructions and potential hiding/entrapment spots through trail. The trail is a movement predictor and fairly isolated. In addition, it was noted that safety of the footbridge would be improved with the addition of handrails.

Recommendations:

1. That the Cowichan Valley Regional District request the appropriate departments/authorities to:

(i)* Trim foliage through trail, particularly broom, to add visibility. *(CVRD Parks)*
(ii) Improve bridge structure, add rails. *(CVRD Parks)*
(iii) If not already planned, plan to install a public telephone at or near the new safety building. *(BC Tel)*

(d) COMMUNITY HALL / SCHOOL AREA
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Impressions:
The area feels welcoming and safe for the most part.
It is generally very well-maintained and well-lit, the only notations being the school playground and upper parking lot near the hall.

The upper parking lot of community hall feels isolated and offers potential hiding and entrapment spots with dense vegetation and no lighting.
The connecting road/trail behind school is a potential hiding spot/entrapment site.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Cowichan Valley Regional District request the appropriate departments/authorities to:

(i)   Install lighting for community hall overflow park lot (a motion detector was suggested so that it would only be on when that area was in use) and school playground.   *(SD 66; Youbou Community Hall; CVRD Parks)*

(ii)*   Clear tall broom near overflow lot to improve visibility and remove potential hiding places.   *(CVRD Parks)*

(iii)   Consider creating a barrier to road/trail behind school.

2. That the Cowichan Valley Regional District review current and projected budgets and

(i)   implement as soon as possible, all recommendations which are feasible within current budgets and frameworks (those marked with and asterisk * are ones which may fall into this category);

(ii)   refer recommendations which pertain to other departments/agencies or which can be undertaken (or assisted by community organizations) to the appropriate bodies with requests for timely implementation.

(iii)   forward its action plan for implementation, outlining anticipated time frame to the Regional Task Force by February, 1997.

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3.3.3. *HONEYMOON BAY GENERAL AUDIT*

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General Impressions:
The area is generally very well maintained. Many signs of community pride and involvement are evident, such as the signs posted at Central Park which say "Respect Your Parks" and "Children Playing" through the residential area between 2nd and 6th Avenues. The school area was well lit, and it was noted that vegetation in the vicinity was thinned recently to improve visibility. No litter or vandalism (outside of graffiti on the park concession stand) was evident.

General Notations:
Through the residential area of the village, pedestrian/bike pathways exist but are narrow or non-existent in outlying areas.   Pedestrians were noted walking along gravel shoulders. Speeding cars were noted by audit staff on the evening of this audit; one car passed another through the village area where there was no passing lane.

Dogs (sometimes aggressive) were noted as an issue in Honeymoon Bay. Loose dogs bark at and intimidate people, and people have been bitten. It is often difficult to catch these animals and though the pound travels through the area regularly, it is difficult to have strays picked up at the time a need arises.

A pub is planned for Honeymoon Bay across from the general store. While the plan and location per se may not be considered an issue, drinking and driving coupled with lack of lighting and narrow pedestrian walkways, is considered to be a potential problem.

LIGHTING:
Several areas were noted as lacking lighting: Central park; Honeymoon Bay Community Hall (entrance) ; the corner of Park Avenue at the entrance to Central Park; the entire length of 5th Avenue; Park Avenue and March Road where the new park has been developed and 'Paradise' Beach ; at the corner past the first bridge.

Lily Beach:
Lily Beach is an attractive, well-maintained area with amenities for public use, including a parking area, bathroom and access trail. However, at night, the area is extremely dark. Even with the presence of a house at the end of this road, both the trail and parking area feel very isolated. While the beach/park area is environmentally significant and is not intended to be used intensively, lighting the parking lot would enhance safety for beach users leaving at dusk. Motion detector lighting might be an option.

Bus stops:
Audit staff noted that many bus stops from Mesachie Lake through to Honeymoon Bay are located on the opposite side of the road to houses and lighting.   Several of these stops were dark and isolated, even ones that are located adjacent to businesses and residences.

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Several bus stops through the Honeymoon Bay village area are also located opposite to houses and street lights. There were no users of the service present on the audit walk and therefore were no definite conclusions about their safety . However, bus drivers were praised for sometimes going out of their way to make special stops for regular users. One participant felt she would not stand at one particular designated stop if she were waiting at night, but rather would wait across the street under the light.

SIGHTLINES:
The trail at the end of Charles Road: although it is very short, it is difficult to see through this trail to the main road. This is an also an example of a movement predictor (i.e., a potential attacker can predict that a person entering the pathway will exit the other side). It was noted that this is not an 'official' pathway (i.e. it has not been designed for actual use) but is commonly used as a shortcut for pedestrians and sometimes cars.
A "Children at Play/Crossing" sign between 1st and 2nd Avenue on the main road was obscured by foliage.   Central Park and residential area: it was noted that cars often park along narrow roads; this obscures vision for children venturing across streets to the playground.

ISOLATION:
There were many people, both adults and children, around before dark, lending a very friendly and comfortable presence to the area. However, by approximately 10:00 p.m. no people were noted outside.

DESIGN:
While there are many signs indicating children, crossings and other services, several lacked visibility. 'Children at Play' signs located throughout Central residential area between 3rd and 6th Avenues are very positive, indicating a great deal of care by residents for children's safety. However, these are for the most part, posted on the left side of the roads which detracts from visibility of drivers. Better signage to caution drivers and other measures to reduce speeding in and around Central Park area were noted as necessary. The park is located adjacent to the main road and children playing in the park could be better protected through control measures for speeding as mentioned, and additional fencing around the park to contain toddlers.

Signs indicating street names and stop signs in the residential area under strata ownership are on small posts, and lack visibility even for pedestrians walking in close proximity. While this may be a conscious design choice for those residents, measures to increase visibility of these signs should be undertaken.
House numbers: it was noted that house numbering has been in transition and that some numbers have yet to be changed. Also, at night house numbers were not visible from the street.   This detracts from legibility of neighbourhoods (i.e., being able to identify where you are both for personal and public safety reasons).

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Cowichan Valley Regional District request the appropriate
        authorities/departments to:
(i)   Install street lights at locations noted above, and further investigate the need for
            additional lighting throughout the area, including bus stops.   *(MoTH)*
(ii)   Improve pedestrian/bike pathways on main road.   *(MoTH)*
(iii)*   Trim vegetation on Charles Road trail and/or construct a vehicle barrier. *(CVRD
                                                                                        Parks)*
(iv)*   Install Signage: *(MoTH)*
                Stop or Yield signs at the Hall end of 2nd and 3rd Avenues;
                Children at Play signs (visibly posted) through the park area;
    *   Improve Signage:
                Street and stop signs in strata areas*(Strata Council)*;
                require installation of standard signage or use other measures such as
                reflective lettering and adjustment of location to increase visibility.
                Existing 'Children at Play' signs through Central residential area should be
                located for better driver visibility.
(v)   Investigate installation of speed bumps through Central Park area.
            (MoTH)
(vi)   Construct fencing in Central Park near the main road.   *(CVRD Parks)*
(vi)   Investigate measures to limit parking on 2nd and 3rd Avenues.   *(MoTH)*
(vii)*   Encourage residents to change house numbers where needed, and to illuminate
            numbers (with lighting or by using reflective materials) for emergency purposes.
(viii)*   Explore safety measures regarding the proposed pub. Options might be:
            a) encouragement of monitoring and reporting by residents of any driving
            infractions posing a threat to residents; careful monitoring by staff of alcohol
            consumption and a requirement to notify R.C.M.P. of potential hazards.
            (**N.B.: While this requirement may already exist, pub staff would benefit from
            community support).
            b) community-based education and awareness to create a strong and visible anti-
            drinking and driving message for pub patrons.

2. That the Cowichan Valley Regional District review current and projected budgets and

(i)   implement as soon as possible, all recommendations which are feasible within
            current budgets and frameworks (those marked with and asterisk * are ones which
            may fall into this category);
(ii)   refer recommendations which pertain to other departments/agencies or which can
            be undertaken (or assisted by community organizations) to the appropriate bodies
            with requests for timely implementation.
(iii)   forward its action plan for implementation, outlining anticipated time frame to the
            Regional Task Force by February, 1997.

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3.3 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

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The Women's Safety Audit Project for Cowichan Lake was a pilot study investigating women's safety in rural communities of Lake Cowichan, Youbou and Mesachie Lake/Honeymoon Bay.

As previously mentioned, the majority of women's safety audits have been conducted in urban areas and university campuses; however, many responses given by women in these rural areas echo national statistics and conclusions of studies undertaken in Canada and elsewhere.

Women's Safety Concerns
For example, about 40% of women indicated concern for their safety at home and at work at least some of the time. This number parallels national statistics of 40% for women who are worried about being home alone at night.   Similarly, the combined percentages for women who are concerned for their safety in public places sometimes or often (80%) - compares with national statistics for women worried about walking alone in their neighbourhoods (60%), using public transportation (76%) and walking alone to their cars in parking garages at night (83%). (Statistics Canada, 1993)

Responses of women indicating worry about crime and violence in the Cowichan Lake area compare with data from a 1994 British Crime Survey, which found that 48% of women worry about sexual assault, 68% about theft and 35% about harassment. (Hough, 1994)

Due to the varying frequency rates of the age groupings, particularly seniors, correlations with respect to age and worry about crime and violence in this study should be interpreted with caution.   Outside of consistently high percentages for senior women who comprised a small percentage of total respondents, women in their teens and twenties show the highest percentage for worry about most types of violence, and may be an indication of higher vulnerability of young women to certain types of violence.

Perceptions vs. "Reality"
It is important to stress that while this study focused on perceptions of safety and worry about crime and violence, these perceptions must be taken seriously. Crime statistics for the Cowichan Lake area (refer Table 2) are considered to be relatively low (although, when considered in light of what is known about under-reporting of crime and the subtlety of many forms of violence, the figures might be viewed differently).   When discussed in comparison with actual crime statistics, women's fears are often viewed as disproportionate and unwarranted. However, when the relationships between crime and fear of crime are examined more closely, it can be seen that worry and fear of crime by women are both relevant and justified.

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The 1994 British Crime Survey demonstrates a clear link between worry about crime and risks and vulnerability. In short, people who are more at risk (they concluded that women, people with low income, ethnic minorities are at higher risk of crime) worry - with good reason - about becoming victims of violence.   Thus, fear of violence is intelligently grounded in the knowledge of risk, as well as direct and indirect experience. Their analysis also challenges the notion that the type and magnitude of women's fears are inappropriate.

> *"Discussion of women's fear of crime has tended to contrast fear with the risks of serious random violence committed by strangers. This is...clearly inappropriate for anxiety about sexual attack, family violence and harassment. This analysis provides support for the view that the lack of safety felt by many women stems not from the threat of life-threatening attacks, but from behaviour which they experience routinely at the hands of men - domestic violence, harassment at work, sexually insulting comments and being ogled or followed."* (Hough, 1994)

Thus, routine, subtle acts of violence which women may experience on a day to day basis (for example, approximately 40% of women who responded in the community survey said that they have experienced verbal assault), need to be considered in terms of the seriousness of impacts to women's sense of safety in their communities.

Impact of Fear
When women have concerns for their safety they will limit their activities (or engage in other defensive measures) to avoid potential danger.   Over half (53%) of the respondents indicated they limit their activities through various strategies due to concerns for their safety and almost three quarters of women with children limit their children's activities.

Limitation of activities is often viewed as socially acceptable and even necessary to the extent that it is negligent *not* to take precautions (Howe, 1995) However, the consequences of such limitations should be viewed in terms of potential impacts to communities.   Studies in urban areas have demonstrated links between fear of crime and social and economic decline. (METRAC, 1991)   This is not to suggest that communities in the Cowichan Lake area will suffer a demise, but rather to illustrate that the limitation of women's ability to fully participate in their communities has implications beyond the individual.

Physical Factors Affecting Safety
Women identified many places in their communities where they felt unsafe and aspects about places which felt unsafe.   Darkness and isolation were physical factors most often linked with feeling unsafe in places; it was also significant that people were often

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identified in conjunction with places.   In other words, places often do not feel safe because of the presence and/or activities of people.

In many cases, youth were identified as causing concern.   In examining this concern, two views should be pointed out: first, that youth 'hanging out' in places are not committing a crime, it is merely their presence which is perceived as intimidating. This view leads to the conclusion that we should not target youth as the problem, but rather, should address the perception of youth.

However, given the previous analysis regarding the validity of fear, and the fact that young women were among respondents who identified youth as intimidating in places, neither can we conclude that perception is the sole problem.

Many women said that they enjoy their rural community and lifestyle offered by the area and its amenities.   Pride of and praise for community spirit and the abundant efforts of individuals and groups were commonly expressed.   However, it is also clear that many women desire change.   Suggestions for changes to physical environments to improve safety were often coupled with calls for social change to address the root causes of violence against women.

The solutions that have been offered include both tangible environmental changes, as well as social and political changes.   They imply collective effort and a comprehensive approach. Some solutions will be achievable in the short term, while others will be long term goals, attainable through ongoing efforts.

Limitations
Several limitations have been noted with respect to survey sample and inclusiveness of the process. Therefore, caution with respect to interpreting some statistics in terms of most to least problematic is advised. For example, because only a small percentage of respondents indicated class or race as a factor affecting their safety, it should not be assumed that these are only minor concerns.

While this study confirms much of what is known about women's safety concerns, there are many concerns which still need to be addressed. Questions around safety of youth, senior women, women with disabilities who experience a much higher rate of assault, who have particular difficulties with mobility; questions around safety of aboriginal women with respect to self governance and issues of membership and property ownership; questions around difficulties experienced by immigrant women who face barriers of language and culture, are only a few which warrant further attention.

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4.0   RECOMMENDATIONS

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4.1 Community Safety Issues

While the focus of this project has been on public safety, it is clear that women's safety needs to be addressed at every level, in all jurisdictions. Women in the studied communities identified many factors which affect their personal and public safety, some of which need to be addressed through avenues in addition to or outside of environmental design.   Violence against women in their homes, public education and awareness of violence issues, law enforcement and the criminal justice system, and youth violence were cited as issues that need to be addressed to increase personal and public safety.

This section summarizes needs and solutions identified by women in the communities and offers recommendations for local actions.   Most of the these also have implications for action which involve other community and regional service agencies/organizations. For the purposes of this report, recommendations outlined pertain primarily to actions which can be undertaken by municipal governments.

A. Violence Prevention / Support Services

Needs /Solutions Identified:
- *Safe House/Respite facility for Women and Teens.*
- *Enhance communications and coordination between community agencies, organizations, local government, and responsibility for follow-up actions.*
- *Community employment programs for youth.*

> *"Increasingly, economics dictate that on one level of government, social service agency or community group can tackle an issue such as violence against women alone."*
> (National Municipalities Organization)

It is recommended that the Village of Lake Cowichan, Areas F and I:

1. Continue and enhance support for local programs and initiatives directed at reduction and prevention of violence against women and children.

2. Contribute resources and the participation of staff and politicians to assist in planning and delivery of community initiatives for violence prevention.   Assist in exploring further avenues of community support, cooperation and collaboration in the development of facilities and programs to address violence against women and children.

3. Continue and enhance efforts to obtain a Safe House/Respite facility for Women and Teens in Lake Cowichan.

_____

B. Community Awareness and Education:

Needs /Solutions Identified:
- *Increase education in schools (all levels) about violence issues, including but not limited to sexual assault, verbal abuse, physical assault, tolerance of differences.*
- *Involve Lake Cowichan Community Services/Child & Youth Committee, Cowichan WAVAW, Schools and School District 66; explore ways to involve local businesses and media.*
- *Increase awareness of violence issues and of available services for women experiencing violence in relationships. Work to ensure awareness programs are accessible for all women, including Aboriginal and Immigrant women.*
- *Address perceptions of teens through increasing positive messages in community media. Focus support on youth groups who are a positive force in the community.*
- *Inform Safety Audit participants of results and progress.*

It is recommended that municipalities and electoral areas:

1. Contribute resources to develop, support and participate in a community campaign for education and awareness about violence issues, to be directed to the general public, women experiencing violence in the home, youth, seniors, businesses, school personnel, R.C.M.P. and other public bodies.

2. Publicize changes/improvements made as a result of audits in a timely manner.

3. Encourage a safety audit program for local businesses and schools.

C.   Transportation:

Needs/ Solutions identified:
- *Improve bus service in general, and in particular, weekend service between Youbou and Lake Cowichan.*
- *Enhance provision of emergency transportation for women who need to leave the community due to violence.   Explore a car pooling program.*

It is recommended that the C.V.R.D.:

1. Review transit services to define specific areas of need for improved bus service for the Cowichan Lake Area and prepare recommendations by December, 1996.

2. Acquire additional resources to improve bus service for the 1997/8 fiscal year.

3. Ensure all bus stops are provided with adequate lighting, and where possible, emergency information is posted within view of users.

_____

D.   Law Enforcement/ Policing / Surveillance:

Needs /Solutions identified:
- *Increase number and visibility of police in communities.*
- *Enhance efforts to establish Neighbourhood/Block watch programs.*
- *Enhance police response to "domestic" assault/abuse and harassment reports.*
- *Enhance police 'follow-up' with respect to reports.*
- *Continue and enhance police efforts to enforce traffic safety.*
- *Continue surveillance by commissionaires.*

It is recommended that the Village of Lake Cowichan, in collaboration with Areas F and I:

1. Support and encourage Lake Cowichan R.C.M.P. to enhance efforts to implement programs such as Neighbourhood/Block Watch, with particular attention to personal safety for women.

2. Support efforts to increase staff for Lake Cowichan R.C.M.P. detachment and explore the addition of auxiliary police to augment community services.

3. Encourage and support community programs which assist and enhance the effectiveness of police response to reports involving but not limited to spousal assaults, sexual assaults and harassment.

E.   By-law Enforcement:

Needs/Solutions identified:
- *Enforce dog by-laws and be vigilant about enforcement and fines.*
- *Educate the public about regulations.*

It is recommended that the Village of Lake Cowichan and Areas F and I:

1. Request the C.V.R.D by-law enforcement officer to
      (i) notify dog owners of regulations and fines and to publicize a notification of such at least once per year.
      (ii) continue and where possible, enhance enforcement of regulations.
      (iii) review dog by-law to ensure content and strength of enforcement.

2. Request enhanced surveillance from S.P.C.A..

Cowichan Rape Assault Society, 1996

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4.2 Community Planning and Design:

The audits revealed many environmental factors that contribute (or detract from) safety and security in places, and offer soulutions to improve those places. However, in the interests of long term safety, it is important that community environments be designed to reduce opportunities for acts of violence and to make people feel safe and secure. Councils, advisory committees and staff can take safety and violence prevention into account in planning processes and when reviewing community plans and other by-laws.

Planning for safer environments begins in the early stages of development through setting goals and specific objectives, followed by policies and guidelines which ensure safety and violence prevention are an integral part of a community's development process.   Planning for safer communities means actively seeking the perspectives of people who use potential crime sites on a daily basis, particularly women, children, visible minorities, people with disabilities and seniors.

The following recommendations are offered as means to improve women's safety through including safety concerns into processes that influence development and design.

1. Ensure that women's safety considerations are incorporated into planning processes through:

   (i) incorporating goals, objectives and policies for public safety in official community plans.

       EXAMPLE:

       "Council shall promote public safety and security in x by encouraging the appropriate design and development of buildings, streets, sidewalks, street lighting, parks and other public and private open spaces. Public safety and security shall be important considerations in all development approvals. "
                                   (Safe City Committee of Toronto, 1994)

   (ii) developing and incorporating specific guidelines for safety which address the design of public and semi-public places, including but not limited to parks, streets and municipal properties.

   (iii) Amending any parts of plan(s) and other by-laws which conflict with safety objectives.

2. Develop and provide staff training programs on designing and planning safer environments for women.

_____

3. Ensure representation and input of women in public processes through seeking consultation and encouraging participation of individuals and community groups. Ensure representation from women of diverse backgrounds, including Aboriginal women, Immigrant women, Seniors, Youth, Lesbian and Disabled women.

4. Ensure information materials regarding community planning are accessible to people who may not be familiar with planning concepts or language. Work with community organizations/agencies to make information accessible to people whose first language is not English.

4.3 Safety Audits

Community design and planning that takes safety into account will help reduce opportunities for violence against women and improve sense of security. In the short term, safety audits are useful in examining existing environments from the perspective of women. Safety audits need to be an ongoing process which is easily accessible, easily advanced and monitored.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Cowichan Valley Regional District:

1. Compile a comprehensive safety audit package for distribution to municipalities and electoral area representatives and their advisory bodies; community groups and organizations; businesses and schools.

2. Start a safety audit program for civic workplaces, buildings and properties.

3. Encourage schools, and business and labour organizations to start safety audit programs in and around workplaces.

_____

4.4 Community Leadership in Violence Prevention

> *"Municipal leadership can provide the energy and direction needed to reduce women's fear and victimization, to promote equality in our cities, and to preserve our communities."*   (Status of Women Action Group, Victoria, 1993)

Municipalities can play an important role through support of and active involvement in violence prevention. In addition to influencing environmental design, local governments can be effective through establishing partnerships and assisting in the development of coordinated efforts, making recommendations to other levels of government, agencies, and lobbying for funds.

Through their acknowledgment of issues and actions, community institutions send an important message that violence against women and children is a public as well as personal issue, and that the responsibility for maintaining safe environments is a collective one.

It is therefore recommended that the Cowichan Valley Regional District make personal safety a key consideration in all deliberations and decisions and take a leadership role in promoting equality and ending violence against women and children in the Cowichan Valley through:

1. Continuing to include consultation and build partnerships with women's organizations and community agencies concerned with violence against women.

2. Supporting community activities and specialized community services concerned with violence against women.

3. Maintaining sexual harassment policies in municipal workplaces and providing regular training and orientation to all staff on sexual harassment. Seek input from labour and women's organizations to evaluate and review policies. Conduct regular safety audits of workplaces.

4. Ensuring a comprehensive pay equity and employment equity program for municipal staff.

5. Making recommendations to other municipalities, institutions or levels of government to address violence against women.

_____

4.5 Regional Task Force

During the course of this project, the Regional Task Force met twice under limited time conditions. Much of the discussion focused on procedures for the pilot project and review of results.   Initial discussion around Task Force role and procedures developed agreement regarding its role; however, further development of the Task Force role, its goals/ objectives, philosophy, policies and procedures, would aid operation and effectiveness.

However, despite the short time frame and limited meeting time, the Task Force has identified an urgent need for broad community education and awareness around violence issues, including itself in terms of increasing awareness and understanding of the various issues concerning violence against women.

"Attitudes and behaviours that tolerate violence against women should be challenged. Political institutions should take the lead."   (Vancouver Safer City Task Force, 1993)

It is therefore recommended that the Cowichan Valley Regional District:

1. Commit resources and personnel toward the continuation of the Regional Task Force
    as a body to:

(i)   ensure advancement of and monitor recommendations in this report and
          subsequent audits in a timely manner;

(ii)   facilitate liaison between various bodies addressing safety issues; i.e.,
          liaise with women and community organizations regarding women's safety issues
          and solutions, to ensure change through advancing community - based
          recommendations;

(iii)   assist in developing objectives and guidelines for comprehensive development
          review processes to better assess proposed development projects for safety and
          crime prevention;

(v)   assist and support future safety audits;

(vi)   further its development of its ability/expertise in the above noted categories.

2. Contribute resources to and participate in a broad education and awareness campaign
    to promote women's safety and crime prevention.

_____

5. 0. CONCLUSION

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> "*A safe (community) means that all people, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, language, disability, age or sexual orientation, have an equal right to freedom from fear and violence. We as a community have a responsibility to address the issue of violence because it belongs to everyone.*"   (Guelph City Council, 1991)

The Cowichan Valley Regional District has devoted substantial support, resources and staff time to the Safety Audit Project.   Policies and procedures in support of violence prevention and community development have been and are continuing to evolve to include consideration of women's safety. These commitments and actions demonstrate both willingness and ability to create change where change is needed, and to institute women's safety into planning and development processes.

However, it is clear that there is much work to be done. This report contains many recommendations, some of which will be achievable in the short term while others will be long term in nature. During the time in which this pilot project was carried out, some of the recommendations for local actions contained in this final report were addressed.

We are aware that some of the recommendations will entail expenditures, some of which may be substantial and may involve seeking additional means of funding from other levels of government and funding agencies. Other recommendations will depend on individual and collective efforts to support change. These will need to be addressed by planning and prioritizing actions.

This study has attempted to bring the voices of women in the communities to the foreground, to increase understanding of women's experiences and perceptions, and to bring a new perspective to planning for community development. As such, it has been an exercise in public input to the process of community planning and development, and should be a "smaller version of a larger experiment."

We recognize that there is much more to learn and understand with respect to women's safety in communities. We hope that this study will be viewed as only the first step in a continuing process, and form the basis for further discussion and action.

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Table 1

SELECTED POPULATION STATISTICS
BY AREA AND SEX, 1991

AREA	Females 15 Yrs +	Males 15 Years +	TOTAL
Lake Cowichan	850	870	1,720
Youbou	430	525	955
Mesachie /Hon.Bay	640	675	1,315

Source: Statistics Canada, Census, 1991

TABLE 2

SELECTED CRIME STATISTICS** LAKE COWICHAN 1994					
Offence	**# Reports**	**# Persons Charged**			
		Adult Male	**Adult Female**	**Youth Male**	**Youth Female**
Total Assaults	118	45	7		
Aggravated S.A.	1				
S.A.	7	4			
Assault level 1	92	36	6		
Assault Level 2	15	3	1		
Assault Level 3	1	1			
Break and Enter	113	7	2	9	
Vehicle Theft	17				
Theft > $1,000.00	45				
Theft < $1,000.00	194	2	1	2	
** Source Statistics Canada 1994					

REPORTED CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS (i.e. Assaults)*					
	1994	**1995**			
Lake Cowichan	78	72			
Youbou	10	14			
Mes. / HB	10	5			
Total	**98**	**91**			

REPORTED SPOUSAL ASSAULTS* By sex of offender					
	1994	**1994**		**1995**	**1995**
	Male	**Female**		**Male**	**Female**
Lake Cowichan	12	5		14	4
Youbou	5			6	1
Mes. / HB	3			2	
Total	**20**	**5**		**22**	**5**
* source: Lake Cowichan RCMP Detachment					

LAKE COWICHAN WOMEN'S SAFETY AUDIT SURVEY

1. Your Age _____
2. Your work?   home___   out of home_____   paid____   unpaid____
3. Are there other people who live with you?   yes___   no___
4. How long have you lived in Lake Cowichan?   _____

5. Do you have children   under 5 years old_____   5-10 yrs old_____
                                 11-15 years old _____   15+ yrs old _____

6. Are you ever concerned for your safety
      At home   ____ often   ____sometimes   ___never
      At work   ____ often   ____sometimes   ___never
      Public places   ____ often   ____sometimes   ___never

7. Have you ever experienced or been worried about any of the following in your community?
      (Never, sometimes, often?)

	Experienced	**Worried about**
Physical Assault	_____	_____
Theft/robbery	_____	_____
Sexual Assault	_____	_____
Harrassment/Stalking	_____	_____
Verbal Assault	_____	_____

Other_____

8. Do you feel your safety is affected by any of the following?
___Income or economic conditions   ___Job/Occupation
___Marital status   ___Disability
___Racisim   ___Sexual orientation
___Cultural beliefs / attitudes   ___Age
___Health___Drugs/ Alcohol___People's attitudes about women generally

9. Please name places in your community where you would feel concerned for your safety

    at night?

    in the day?

10. What is it about these places that makes them feel unsafe?

11. Have you ever limited your activities due to concerns for your personal safety?
             YES_____   NO_____

     If yes, how? (eg., not going out at night, stay away from certain areas, carry
          personal alarm, etc.)

12. Have you ever restricted your childrens' activities due to concerns around safety?
             YES_____   NO_____

     If yes, how? (eg., don't let them go out alone, do phone check-ins, etc.)

13. Have you ever taken "risks" because you had to? (eg., walked alone, hitchiked, etc.)
     Never_____   sometimes_____   often_____

14. Please name places where you feel safe

 at night?

 in the day?

15. What would help you to feel safer in your community?

At home_____
_____

At work_____
_____

In public places _____

> # WOMEN'S SAFETY AUDIT PROJECT
> # FOR LAKE COWICHAN

What is a Women's Safety Audit?

Safety Audits are ways to examine our communities and look at ways to make them safer for women, children and everyone. They involve asking women in the community about their safety concerns and then auditing areas they point out as feeling unsafe. Audits of places involve walking through and noting things like lighting, signage, hiding places, etc., and then looking at changes that would help to increase safety.

This information is also helpful for planning for the future.

What do we mean by safety?

Everyone has the right to feel safe in their community. Most people have concerns, but women and children are particularly vulnerable. If a woman feels anxious, nervous or afraid of being assaulted physically (being hit), verbally (lewd comments, name calling), sexually or psychologically (eg. graffitti that puts women down), she will not feel safe in her community.

By making our communities safer for women and children,
we make them safer and more useable for everyone.

What can you do?

We are asking women in the Lake Cowichan area to fill out this questionnaire which will give information about safety concerns. The information will be used to see what women's concerns are and what kinds of changes can help make the community safer.

Questionnaires can be returned to the place where you picked it up, or to Lake Cowichan Community Services, or mailed in the envelope attached.

Please feel free to keep this page.

If you need to talk to someone about your personal experiences, the WAVAW crisis line provides confidential assistance (748-7273) and is open 24 hours every day.

If you have any questions about this survey you can call Community Services at 749-6822 or Cowichan WAVAW at 748-7273.

We also need women from the community to help with audits of places. If you can help, please call either of the numbers noted above.

Your input is very important and will help to build a safer community.
Please return the survey no later than May 22, 1996
Thank you.

SAFETY AUDIT SURVEY   RESULTS

TOTAL NUMBER OF SURVEYS RECEIVED:
126

1. Age   RANGE 13 - 79 YEARS   MEAN = 31
2. Work   Home 31%   Out 57.1   Paid 58%   Unpaid 19%
3. Are there other people who live with you?   INCOMPLETE
4. Time lived in Lake Cowichan?   Mean = 12.5 Years
5. Do you have children   Yes 51.7 %
                                        No   47.6 %

6. Are you ever concerned for your safety (% of those who responded)

	%		%		%	
At home	7.1	often	36.5	sometimes	47.6	never
At work	4.8	often	34.9	sometimes	39.7	never
Public places	15.1	often	64.3	sometimes	17.5	never

7. Have you ever experienced or been worried about any of the following in your community? (% of those who responded)

	% Experienced	**% Worried about**
Physical Assault	12.7	44.4
Theft/robbery	19.8	60.3
Sexual Assault	12.7	37.3
Harassment/Stalking	19	42.9
Verbal Assault	41.3	43.7

8. Do you feel your safety is affected by any of the following? (% Of those who answered)

%		%	
27	Income or economic conditions	18.3	Job/Occupation
15.1	Marital status	4.8	Disability
15.1	Racism	23.8	Sexual orientation
19.8	Cultural beliefs / attitudes	30.2	Age
15.1	Health	42.1	Drugs/ Alcohol
46.8	People's attitudes about women		

9. Please name places in your community where you would feel concerned for your safety

PLACES	# OF RESPONSES	
Bushes	5	
Parks	3	
Beaches	1	
Isolated Areas	1	
Side Roads	22	
Sidewalks	7	
Back allies	4	
TOTAL		43
Groups of Strangers	1	
Groups of teens	26	
TOTAL		27
Johel Rd	2	
Hammond Rd	1	
Greendale/ Footbridge	12	
Trails	11	
Old Train tracks	1	
TOTAL		24
Parking lots	5	
Underground pl	2	
School parking lot	7	
Unlit parking lots	3	
TOTAL		17
Cowichan Comm. Ctr	1	
Local Bars	7	
Downtown/Main St.	20	
Saywell park	2	
Duck pond	5	
Tressel	2	
Mayons	4	
Joan's Market	1	
Subway	1	
TOTAL		42
LCSS	1	
Arena	1	
Stanley Gordon	1	
A.B. Greenwell	3	
Palsson School	5	
TOTAL		11

10. What is it about these places that makes them feel unsafe?

 # OF RESPONSES

ISOLATION/LIGHTING/MAINTENANCE

Isolation	17
Hiding spots	3
Poor lighting/darkness	37
Vandalism/litter	4
TOTAL	61

PEOPLE

Teens	13
Groups of men	5
People hanging out	11
People like to hurt people	2
Low tolerance for differences	1
Drugs/Alcohol/Drunk people	4
Fighting downtown	1
Abusive spouse	1
Verbal assault	1
Physical assault	1
TOTAL	40

Speeding	3
Not enough staff at work	1
Low # police patrolling	2
Dogs loose	1
Bears/cougars	2
Poor bus service	1
Tourist season	1
TOTAL	11

11. Have you ever limited your activities due to concerns for your personal safety?

YES   53%   NO   41.5%

HOW   **# OF RESPONSES**

Not going out at night	37
Stay away from certain areas	20
Personal alarm	3
Go with a dog	2
Avoid teens	3
Carry knife in car	1
Pepper spray	1
Don't use bank machine at night	1
Careful where to park car	1
TOTAL	69

*12. **Have you ever restricted your children's' activities due to concerns around safety?***

        YES   38.1%   NO   9.5%

*13. **Have you ever taken "risks" because you had to? (eg., walked alone, hitchhiked, etc.)***

Never	**24.6%**
sometimes	**56.3%**
often	**11.9%**

*14. **Please name places where you feel safe***

PLACE	**# OF RESPONSES**	
	Night	Day
Home	65	19
Familiar places/people	35	20
General community/Everywhere	8	36
Particular areas (lit/away from pubs/clear)		8
School/Club	2	11
Stores/businesses	2	2
Cowichan Comm. Ctr.		3

15. What would help you to feel safer in your community?

 # OF RESPONSES

Better lighting	32
Security/Surveillance measures:	17
(eg., locks,alarms,dog)	
Neighbourhood watch	12
People around/attentive	6
More RCMP (Patrols/Visibility)	29
Follow-up after break-ins (RCMP)	5
Better RCMP Response	2
More drug law enforcement	2
Awareness/Attitudes/Behaviour changes	8
Safe House for Women/Teens	2
Laws/teens/Place for teens	13
Law Enforcement/Legal System	3
More pay phones	1
911	1
Less dogs loose	1
Veg removal/sidewalks	1
Change my routine/behaviour	2
Don't know	3
Nothing (I feel safe enough)	8
Nothing	3

APPENDIX C

WOMEN'S SAFETY AUDIT
CHECKLIST*

Source: Women's Action Centre Against Violence, 1996

PHYSICAL FACTORS ASSESSED

LIGHTING
Is the lighting bright enough, even and in good repair?
Are walkways, directional signs or maps sufficiently illuminated?
Is lighting obscured by trees or bushes?

SIGNAGE
Do signs tell your where you are or how to get to emergency services?

SIGHTLINES
Are you able to see clearly what is up ahead
Are there places someone could hide in?

ISOLATION
Are there many people around the area?
Can you see where to get emergency services?
Do the surrounding land uses encourage people to be there?

MOVEMENT PREDICTORS
Is there an alternative route?
How easy would it be for an attacker to predict your movements?

ENTRAPMENT SITES
Are there small, confined areas where you could be hidden from view?
Is there more than one exit?
How easy would it be to get away if you were threatened?

MAINTENANCE
What is the level of maintenance in the area?
Does the area feel cared for?
Is there graffiti or vandalism present?

OVERALL DESIGN
Is it easy to find your way around the area?
What are your general impressions?

APPENDIX E - C.V.R.D. REGIONAL TASK FORCE

AREA TASK FORCE REPRESENTATIVES

Lois Gage	Youbou
Amanda Riley	Lake Cowichan
Oline Luinenberg	Lake Cowichan
Jill Harris	Cowichan Stn.
Wendi Knapp	Cobble Hill
Noreen Butt	City of Duncan
Glen Ridgway	District of North Cowichan
Faye Hollett	Ladysmith
Cathy Arnason	Youbou
Britta Mermel	North Oyster/Diamond
Carey Hokanson/Kathy Leblanc	Cowichan Bay

CVRD STAFF
Cheryl Wirsz, Planner
Katie Tompkins, Planner
Debra Hosey, Human Resources Manager

COMMUNITY AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS

Cowichan Spirit of Women
Helga Lambrecht

Cowichan Valley Immigrant and Intercultural Aid Society
Demy McEvoy

Hiiya'yu Lelum Society
Charlene Antintuk

Cowichan Valley Independent Living Resource Centre
Cathy Stevens

Cowichan Rape Assault Society
Kathy Skovgaard

Cowichan Police Advisory Committee
Bob Thompson

Nanaimo/Duncan and District Labour Council
Wanda Hop Wo

Ecumentecal Decade of Churches of Solidarity with Women
Gloria Cope

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON DRAFT REPORT

- Survey sample with respect to randomness and caution regarding interpretation of data.

- Survey sample with respect to inclusiveness and particular concerns. Need for more discussion and exploration of issues with respect to safety of youth, seniors, women with disabilities, immigrant women, aboriginal women.

- Language; implications of vulnerability further victimize women; i.e., vulnerability is not a condition of women, but rather violence is perpetrated upon women.

- Need to clarify crime statistics and definition of spousal assault.

- Need to include a process for follow-up with women in the communities, to encourage and assist women's involvement in community processes.

- Population statistics given do not reflect high growth rates.

- Caution stressed re; perceptions of youth in terms of violence and solutions offered.

- Concern re: cost of implementing solutions and implications for taxes.

- Need for more discussion around structure and role of Task Force, for example, will it and how will it fit into Regional Growth Management Plan?

- Philosophical disagreement with statement about planning for equality; women are different.

- Broader social issues are important. There is a need for more consideration and discussion around root causes of crime.   For example, approving pubs adds to safety concerns and requests for policing. Family support, prevention of problems is very important important. Need for emphasis on personal behaviour and responsibility which includes women in setting the highest standards for society.

APPENDIX F

CVRD TASK FORCE REPRESENTATIVES

Wendi Knapp	Cobble Hill	Area C
Noreen Butt	Duncan	
Glen Ridgway	North Cowichan	
Faye Hollett	Ladysmith	
Cathy Arnason	Youbou	Area I
Oline Liunenberg	Lake Cowichan	Area F
Britta Mermel	North Oyster/Diamond	Area H
Carey Hokanson	Cowichan Bay	Area D
Jill Harris	Cowichan STN	Area E
Amanda Riley	Lake Cowichan	Village of Lk. Cowichan
Lois Gage	Youbou	Area I
Kathy Leblanc		

CVRD STAFF

Cheryl Wirsz, Planner   Katie Tompkins, Planner   Debra Hosey, Human Resources

COMMUNITY AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS

Cowichan Spirit of Women
Helga Lambrecht

Cowichan Valley Immigrant and Intercultural Aid Society
Demy McEvoy

Hiiya'yu Lelum Society
Charlene Antintuk

Cowichan Valley Independent Living Resource Centre
Cathy Stevens

Cowichan Rape Assault Society
Kathy Skovgaard

Cowichan Police Advisory Committee
Bob Swanson, Chair

Nanaimo/Duncan and District Labour Council
Wanda Hop Wo

Ecumentecal Decade of Churches of Solidarity with Women
Gloria Cope