



Spring Newsletter Saanich Neighbourhood Place

Dear Community,

Well, March is certainly marching past, and I marvel at where the time has gone. It's nice to hear birds chirping and to see buds swelling on the trees, teasing us with the good weather ahead.

It continues to be a busy place at around here, with a [full calendar of programs](#) for families in all stages of parenting. We have seen an increase in participation in our Saturday Dad's Drop-In Playgroup, more expectant parents join our Best Babies

program each week. 'Family Dinner Seconds' – a weekly take-out dinner on Mondays, has been a welcome addition to our food equity programs. Jacquelin and the Family Support team have been busy as ever, with new families accessing outreach services, attending our SAFER programs, and offering in-class programs at schools around the region in partnership with the Saanich Police Department and School District 61.

We are also excited to have been invited to offer parenting programming in the Wilkinson Road Corrections Facility. This new program is designed to assist fathers access services, resources and information that will help them rejoin their families when they go back to their homes. We have started a 'Toddler Kindergym' in our Child and Family Centre, providing an active play opportunity for little ones aged two and under.

Upcoming programs and registration information are posted on the website at www.snplace.org and our social media platforms.

This year, Saanich Neighbourhood Place is getting set to review our Strategic Planning. We are working with a consultant to assist in this important work, and look forward to inviting you, our community partners, to participate in helping us determine our direction in the coming years. We will be reaching out to invite folks to complete a [short survey](#) as we hope to gain insight and gather suggestions about how we could be serving our community more effectively.

Saanich Neighbourhood Place offers programs across the District of Saanich, as many of 'our' families live at some distance from our main locations at 3100/3120 Tillicum, we are seeking more locations. We are looking for a new home for our programs previously offered at the Royal Oak Schoolhouse location, which now is closed. Some of our programs will be relocated to our Pearkes site, but not all can be accommodated there.

Fundraising is an ongoing effort for organizations like ours, and we have been the beneficiaries of many great groups, businesses and foundations. Most recently, we have received a generous donation to our kitchen project from Western Coast Insurance Services, and also from a dedicated local neighbourhood residents' efforts.

We appreciate all donations, which help us continue the work of helping our community.

March is 'Make it Monthly' at Canada Helps, an opportunity to consider making a 'set and forget' donation pledge through our Canada Helps' platform. A new monthly donation pledge will also generate an extra one-time \$20 contribution from Canada Helps to our organization. If you can, please consider donating to Saanich Neighbourhood Place. All donations help, and are tax deductible. To donate, please visit the 'Canada Helps' button on our website: <https://www.snplace.org/donate.html>

I leave you with our sincere thanks for the support of individuals, foundations and service groups over the past year. Saanich Neighbourhood Place is so fortunate to have a wonderful group of dedicated people to serve our community, and we are grateful for the contributions of time, resources and funds that make it possible.

Sincerely,

Corinne M Hilton
Executive Director
Saanich Neighbourhood Place



Strategic Planning Engagement Process

Saanich Neighbourhood Place (SNP) is in the process of developing a new strategic plan for the organization. As part of this work, the Board and Management are gathering feedback from SNP program participants, volunteers and any folks who utilize our various services, on our strengths, challenges and future priorities.

We would like you to please fill out the [survey](#) and provide your input into the future direction of SNP. The information you share will be used to support us in our planning process.

Please fill out the survey no later than April 28, 2023.



Royal Oak School
Heritage Colour Placement
Stuart Stark - Heritage Consultant - 2007

Farewell and Thank You RONH

We are sad to say good-bye to our Royal Oak School House location which offered many of our fun programs to families in the Royal Oak area. SNP had been in the space since 2018, and we have many wonderful memories of the families in the community.

We are currently looking for an alternative space to relocate to in the Royal Oak area. If you know a place that might be a good fit for us, please drop us a line at corinne@snplace.org



Make It Monthly March

For the month of March, when you make a new monthly donation of \$20 or more in support of Saanich Neighbourhood Place through CanadaHelps, they will make a one-time \$20 donation to our organization!

Monthly donations are a great way to make a big impact and help us achieve our goals for the year. With you help, we can make our work such as family services and food security programs possible. While many of our SNP programs are free to participants, they are not free to provide, and we rely on the financial support of donors to continue to provide a wide range of services.

Setting up a monthly donation not only helps us reduce a significant amount of time and effort put into processing donations, but also benefits donors as they get a Tax Receipt for their donation. It is a win-win situation for all of us.

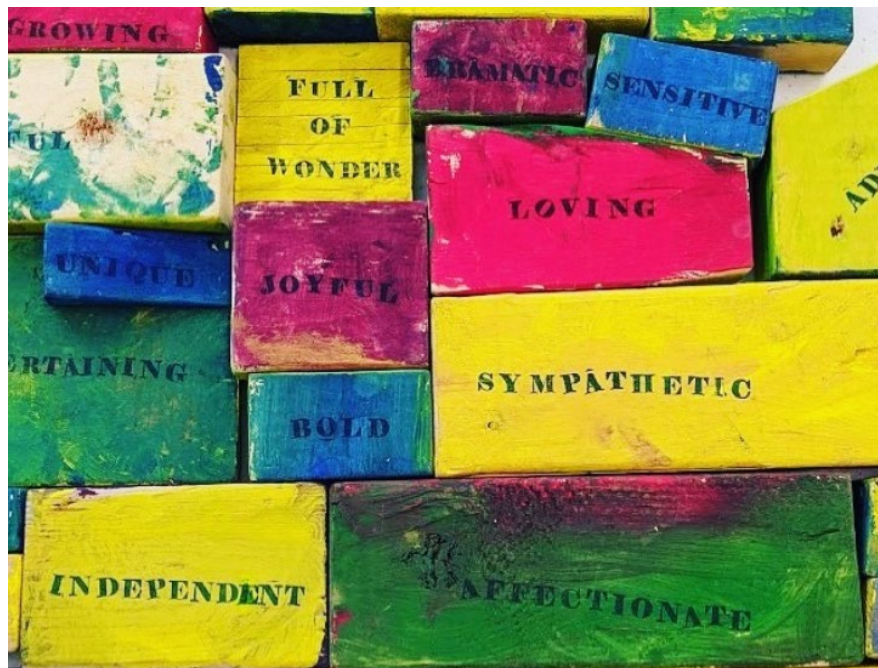
We are thankful for ongoing community support and please note, all donations are tax deductible.

Donate to SNP

SNP Updates

Regular Programs During Spring Break

Our regular programs (except for Community Kitchens and Family Dinner/Entrée to Go) will be running during Spring Break. Please note that our drop-in programs are only for children four years and under (Toddler Kindergym: two years old and under). Due to limited space, their older siblings who are five and up cannot attend these programs. Thank you for your understanding.



Spring Programs 2023

We are pleased to announce in-person Spring Programs. We have had a great turnout in our Winter Programs, and we would love to have you join us again this Spring. We offer creative, educational and supportive programs for all ages which are free or by donation to attend. Our Spring programs will start in April and registration is now open. [Check out the calendar here.](#)

New Programs in Spring 2023

Empowering Moms: A Healthy Approach to Motherhood
My Tween & Me

Popular Regular Programs 2023

Dad's Drop In
Baby Groups
Best Babies (pre/post natal support)
Playgroups for under 5
Kindergym
Parent Child Mother Goose
Young Parent Play & Connect
Community Kitchens
Toddler Kindergym

We will be operating programs in two of our locations at Saanich Pearkes Recreation Centre and SNP's Child & Family Centre (behind the Pearkes Rec Centre). [Visit our programs calendar](#) for more information and email us at admin@snplace.org or phone 250-360-1148.

SNP 2003 Spring Programs



Spotlight on Family Services Programs – Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre

(VIRCC) Parenting Program

At SNP we strive to be responsive to community needs in all of our program areas. Last July, our Family Services Program was presented with a unique opportunity to partner with the Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre to offer a series of parenting program sessions for the folks at Vancouver Island Regional Corrections Centre. After conversation staff from VIRCC and completion of a security clearance, we were ready to begin offering parent programs to dads, expectant dads, and all those who wanted to learn more about parenting.

We learned that many parents are required by MCFD and/or family court to complete parenting programs in order to have parenting time or visits with their children, but no parenting programs were currently being offered in any provincial institution for men in BC. We adapted some of our Parenting Toolbox programs (Emotions & Parenting and Ages & Stages) to be delivered in two session blocks with different cohorts of fathers (determined by VIRCC). Folks were invited to sign up and all participation was completely voluntary.

We are very happy to report that these programs have been very well received and

the partnership with VIRCC is continuing while we look for additional funding to be able to provide the program on an ongoing basis. From September 22 until now, we have provided 16 sessions to 48 participants, with more scheduled in upcoming months.

Participants and staff from VIRCC have shared the comments below in their evaluations, and we look forward to providing more parenting education opportunities in the future.

Participants' Feedback

"I liked the ideas and the feedback we talked about."

"It was just really nice to be offered some credible programming to better myself as a father."

"Getting to participate while incarcerated is really important!"

Staff Feedback

"We have received nothing but positive feedback and there have been requests for more sessions."

"The program has been very well received by our inmates. I have received entirely positive feedback regarding the importance of the program from all the fathers who take it."



SNP Kitchen Fundraiser

Join Fun Cooking Classes as We Raise Funds for a New Kitchen

Our well-loved kitchen is in need of a renovation and SNP is offering inexpensive and fun cooking classes to make the upgrade. Bring your friends to participate in this series of inexpensive and fun-themed cooking classes. We are going to make all sorts of sumptuous meals and goodies including Sushi, Italian Gnocchi, Kombucha, Yogurt, Scones and more! Or you can make a great meal out of what's left in your fridge (Black Box Challenge). Our classes are filling up fast, so please get your tickets while they last. Each ticket costs \$27. 96 (\$25 plus fee) and you can add more to the ticket price to make an extra donation! [Please purchase your tickets from here.](#)



Appreciation for Our Sponsors and Donors

We would like to offer our heartfelt appreciation for all the support and donations we receive at Saanich Neighbourhood Place. Some of our most recent donations include generous gifts to our kitchen project from Western Coast Insurance Services, CUPE local 2011 donation, Broad View United (SNP partnership and annual fundraiser), Corporation of the District of Saanich (proceeds from Purdy's fundraiser), Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, and also from dedicated local neighbourhood residents who care so much about our community.

We appreciate all donations. Our work here cannot be done without your help and we celebrate the generosity of our communities, individuals and businesses who donate to make our work here possible.



Children's Books

We received a fabulous selection of children's and parenting books from [Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House](#). Their generous book donations every six months allow children in our care to enjoy a wide variety of books. Reading books to children will not only spark their imagination and stimulate curiosity but also help them develop their minds, ability to focus, concentration, social and communication skills. Many thanks to [Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House](#) for their gift of reading.



Did You Know? SNP Staff Survey...

In January, we conducted a survey of our teams as a way to check in about how we are doing as an employer. Our team has more than doubled with the addition of our Child and Family Centre in 2021, and now includes about 40 paid staff in addition to our volunteers. Though only a handful (17.4%) of the team have been here longer than 6 years, many of them (65%) have had opportunities to grow and change positions within the organization. Happily, all of our team members report feeling that the mission and values of the organization are reflected in their employee experience and that they are able to make a valued contribution each day to further the work of serving the community.

Also noteworthy, our staff like working here, and recommend us as an employer in general. [We are hiring!](#)



SNP's Board of Directors

Saanich Neighbourhood Place is a registered charitable society that has a volunteer Board of Directors who donate their time and expertise to help 'govern' the organization. Governance boards provide guidance and support to a paid staff team, and are different from an 'operational' board, who may actually do the work of the society as well as take on high level governance work.

At SNP, our board can have a maximum of eleven folks on the Board. We currently have 10 members on our board, and they are:

Erin Holler - Chair. Erin works at Sooke Family Resource Society, CCRR consultant and Family work

Marian DeMonye - Vice Chair. Marian works with Parker Johnson as their Marketing and Community Investment expert

Denton Grose - Treasurer. Denton is a partner at SCHIBLI :: STEDMAN :: KING Accountants

Allison Savigny - Secretary. Allison owns Inform Planning

Dotan Amit - Director. Dotan works with the Provincial Government

Donna-lynn Thorpe - Director. Donna is an ECE and Strong Start Facilitator in SD61

Kim Morris - Director. Kim has worked with School Districts all over the province as CFO

Barb Dorrington - Director. Barb is an HR professional

Fiona Fung - Director. Fiona works with the Provincial Government

Nicholas McKnight - Director. Nick is a lawyer with McConnan Bion O'Connor & Peterson



Recycle For SNP

Did you know you can donate to Saanich Neighbourhood Place by mentioning our name when you return your cans and bottles? Throughout the year, Island Return It in Esquimalt sends all the proceeds from empties to SNP when you say you want your

recyclables donated to us. A small act of kindness like this allows us to run our programs so we can help families in need.

With gratitude, we respectfully acknowledge that we work and serve on the unceded lands of the L'kwungen speaking peoples of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

View our land acknowledgment [here](#).