

**PLANNING FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES
COWICHAN BAY,**

NOVEMBER 22 2004

WORKSHOP SUMMARY REPORT

**Prepared by:
Terri Dame**

Background: Safer Communities Planning

Safer Communities Planning is based on the Safer Communities Approach to crime prevention. This approach recognizes that the defining feature of a safe community is the ability of all of its citizens - regardless of gender, race, age, sexuality, language, income or ability - to participate fully and freely in all of its environments. This requires that citizens both feel, and are, safe, and that they have meaningful opportunities to participate in local decision-making processes.

A safer community is much more than the absence of crime...it is a liveable community, a healthy community, and an economically viable community.

Safer communities planning includes:

- Community and social development
- Planning, design and management
- Safety and security

It is based on an understanding of both the physical and social obstacles to safety, combines short and long term thinking, includes BOTH planning and community development improvements and is integrated into all decision-making processes.

Planning for Safer Communities therefore,

- Looks at the realm of physical, social and economic factors
- Begins with focus on the most vulnerable
- Involves the whole community in discussion of issues and solutions
- Builds a comprehensive strategy

The Cowichan Bay Planning for Safer Communities Workshop

The 'Planning for Safer Communities' workshop for Cowichan Bay was held on November 22nd, 2004 and was sponsored by the Cowichan Bay Community Safety Society in partnership with the CVRD Community Safety Advisory Committee and Safer Futures (CWAV Society).

This three hour workshop was prompted by a desire on the part of CBCSS to promote broad community dialogue about proactive planning for Cowichan Bay beyond the establishment of their local community safety office. The workshop was designed therefore, to:

- present information on principles of community safety and crime prevention using the Safer Communities model,
- assist participants to understand and apply the critical elements of crime prevention and social development, and
- develop goals and design a series of steps to begin a process for community engagement.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Community Safety: Exploring the Issues

Defining a safer community

The Safer Communities Approach to addressing crime

Participatory Exercise: understanding diverse issues

What are our goals for a safe and healthy community?

What would your ideal vision of Area D region look like?

How do we get there?

Next steps

Who needs to be involved?

In the following pages, we will present an overview of the results of the evening: participants' goals for building and maintaining a safer community in Cowichan Bay, and the steps that were identified as being needed to begin such a process.

Participants' Expectations for the Workshop

The workshop was attended by 29 people from the community (see Appendix A for participant list). Participants expressed a variety of expectations for the workshop (refer Appendix B). Among the most common reasons for attending, was a desire to connect with others in the community, to learn about safer communities planning, to share information, issues and ideas, and to work together.

However, several people indicated a desire to discuss specific issues such as traffic and pedestrian issues, and a youth center. It was notable that some participants felt strongly that although Area D is a good place to live, that it was important to be proactive in planning for future safety and well being in order to maintain the current level of safety.

Setting Goals for a Safer Cowichan Bay

Goal setting was framed through addressing the miracle question which asks participants to envision their safe community, to articulate exactly what that would look like and how that might be different from what they are seeing now.

Table 1 summarizes participants' responses along six general themes –

- Freedom to use and participate in community
- Core values of a safe community
- The physical environment
- The social environment
- The economic and natural environments

The following statements are offered as a reflection of those ideas:

In a safe Cowichan Bay, all residents, regardless of age, gender, income, race/ethnicity, or abilities, would have freedom to live, work and play, as well as be part of their community, without fear; and where everyone would be and feel valued and respected. We would see a community where children and youth are active in all parts of the community, where people know each other, interact and take care of one another, particularly of the most vulnerable.

A safe Cowichan Bay is built on core values of inclusiveness and diversity, of collective working, trust and responsibility. Cowichan Bay is a community where everyone participates and has a sense of ownership and belonging, and where special efforts are taken to ensure full participation and information sharing.

Cowichan Bay recognizes that a safe and healthy community depends on a solid and well-planned foundation, especially for its most vulnerable residents. A solid foundation includes adequate and meaningful employment opportunities, safe and affordable housing, universal transportation, access to adequate food and nutrition, recreation and leisure, community supports and a quality environment. A solid foundation is not achieved in isolation but also requires understanding how all of these elements work together.

Planning for Cowichan Bay's future as a safe and healthy community reflects these values. This involves considering the social, economic, and environmental well being of the community in short and long term planning and development, and integrating safety and accessibility into all planning processes. A safe and healthy community would promote mixed developments and include principles of safety and access in their design and management. It would promote safe pedestrian walkways, bike paths, parking areas, and a vibrant and welcoming community environment.

As part of planning, Cowichan Bay also promotes community social development and well being through fostering connections, and providing local supportive programming and services for children, families, youth, seniors and the general community. It has a recognized center of community that provides a place for meetings, events, recreation and various kinds of programming.

TABLE 1: PARTICIPANTS' VISION OF A SAFE AND HEALTHY COWICHAN BAY

| FREEDOM TO USE AND PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY | CORE VALUES |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No doors are locked ▪ See no fear ▪ Children playing anywhere ▪ Doors are unlocked, ▪ Neighbours know each other ▪ Teens are PLAYING basketball in the park, fishing off the wharf and ball hockey ▪ Playing together with kids from the Reserve in either lace (in CB or on the reserve) ▪ All women of all ages feeling safe . . . ▪ Everybody is walking streets safely and all businesses are accessible ▪ Everyone knows each other ▪ People help each other ▪ Every body gives and earns respect ▪ People wander (safely) across main street ▪ Seniors and children living in community feeling safe (no need for GATES) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inclusiveness ▪ Accessibility ▪ PROACTIVITY ▪ Sense of belonging ▪ More community participation ▪ All cultures valued and respected ▪ Nurturing ▪ Care about each other ▪ A whole community raising ALL of its children ▪ “Loving tender care” committee ▪ Openness – no mystery ▪ Trustworthy, honest responsible people ▪ Everyone is singing ▪ Smiles and comfort ▪ Everyone would be friendlier, happier ▪ Family values re established ▪ Personal responsibility |
| THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT | THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blended lifestyles ▪ More, non-glare lights on streets(?) although some like it dark ▪ Side walks (?) ▪ Notices in multiple languages ▪ Parking ▪ Sidewalks ▪ Bike and walking paths ▪ Interesting and safe parks ▪ Building bylaws – fire smart construction ▪ Low income and high income mixed together ▪ Removal of through highway ▪ Traffic calming and change of traffic patterns ▪ Safe and accessible for marginalized populations to attend all meetings ▪ Traffic flow in neighbourhoods consider safety and decrease of crime ▪ Parking for everyone – set up to enhance and preserve community beauty. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FAMILIES supported by community ▪ Youth center ▪ Seniors continue to live here ▪ Community with them ▪ Support services ▪ Home-based living ▪ Adequate support for families with young children, childcare, complete central support system, Ec Ed ▪ Bigger community hall and activities ▪ CB telephone directory (with photos (?)) and info ▪ Education about diversity ▪ People are maintaining the speed limit because more police presence ▪ Sports programs available through volunteering and community services and schools ▪ A & D programs and rehab more available ▪ Community support by community members (local businesses) ▪ Day care, after school programs |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nutrition! Community gardens, golden arches gone, coke gone . . . ▪ Youth friendly community ▪ Block parties (neighbours getting together) ▪ Annual BBQ's everywhere ▪ Affordable quality daycare and housing ▪ No addictions ▪ Restorative justice |
| THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT | THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable – waste generated doesn't exceed ability of land and water to absorb ▪ Developers who build healthy homes, affordable for all, with careful planning to care for earth ▪ Safe AIR, safe WATER, safe food ▪ Every car is HYBRID or better! ▪ The Bay is clean enough to swim in ▪ People ensure environment clear of combustible materials (homeowner responsible) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work for all people that is meaningful ▪ Adequate food for all people ▪ No hunger nor homelessness ▪ Everyone has money for food, adequate income with good jobs ▪ A lot more employment ▪ Social economic is healthier ▪ Economy, social very diverse |

Moving from Words to Action

Participants worked in groups to discuss ideas for next steps. The following table summarizes ideas and responses to what the next steps be and who needs to be involved.

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| NEXT STEPS | KEY QUESTIONS |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Re-evaluate and update OCP (1984?) ▪ Develop a plan – short term / long term ▪ Local Area Plan process ▪ Canvas Community ▪ Assessment of needs ▪ Identify all resources and services available in community ▪ Develop community emergency plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safety in design, traffic issues, parking ▪ Better public transportation ▪ Should Cowichan Bay incorporate? Will this help develop a community plan for this area? ▪ Community Plan questions: ▪ Keep seniors in Cowichan Bay ▪ Affordable housing ▪ Food security issues – community Kitchens / gardens etc. |

| WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED? | OBJECTIVES FOR INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage a core group ▪ Bring in expertise re-issues ▪ Engage local expertise ▪ Community safety champions ▪ Leadership – someone / group to take leadership role ▪ Create a “hub” group to broaden outreach – more diversity – engage whole community ▪ Broad community involvement ▪ Form an action group to gather information for each priority project ▪ Committed folds who will dedicate time and energy to meet the goal ▪ Leader Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to know how to communicate (get in touch) with marginalized individuals and groups ▪ Find different ways to involve different people ▪ Identify root causes ▪ Activities that build trust ▪ Involve First Nations ▪ Community events ▪ Create community event with Cowichan Tribes ▪ Involve fringe groups (youth / seniors) ▪ Resource booklet ▪ Community bulletin board ▪ Involve a variety of groups, e.g., 4-H, PAC ▪ Community policing as community awareness, resource, info ▪ Organized clothing exchange ▪ Seniors activities ▪ Youth events ▪ Daycare |

APPENDIX A: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| Name | Organization |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Albin Falt | Cowichan Bay Arms |
| 2. Barb Cameron-Woods | AMICIS |
| 3. Bob Claus | APC Chair |
| 4. Carol-Ann Rolls | Community Policing |
| 5. Carrie Whitney-Brown | Pritchard Road |
| 6. CST. Jennifer Prunty | RCMP – Community Policing |
| 7. Dan Butler | APC member |
| 8. Dave Ferguson | Fire Department |
| 9. Gina Talbot | CBCSS |
| 10. Jason Finlayson | Osborne Realty |
| 11. John Hellamond | Valleyview |
| 12. Katherine Johnny | Planning |
| 13. Kathy Skovgaard | CWAV |
| 14. Lew Penney | CBCSS |
| 15. Lori Iannidinarso | Parks Commission, Community Kitchens |
| 16. Mike Tansley | CVRD Director |
| 17. Morris Cleveland | Black Coffee Whippetree |
| 18. Nancy Watters | Bahai |
| 19. Nick Kaminski | CWBS |
| 20. Rachel Penney | CWBS |
| 21. Rita Davis | Interested in Youth |
| 22. Ron Walker | CP Volunteer |
| 23. Sandra Goth | Cowichan Family Life |
| 24. Scott McNeil | Wooden Boat Society |
| 25. Shahla Atrichi | Exploring Diversity |
| 26. Stephanie Walter | Parks Commission |
| 27. Tony Van Der Mortel | Property Developer |
| 28. Webster Parker | Amici's |
| 29. Wendy Shaw | Realtor |

APPENDIX B: PARTICIPANTS EXPECTATIONS FOR THE WORKSHOP

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| Find out what it is all about |
| Information for apartment complex |
| Issues and how are people feeling |
| Planning department – want to take information back to CVRD |
| What's happening |
| Share information |
| See new faces |
| Learn from folks how can better serve community |
| Keep our community as safe as it is now |
| Vision |
| As a decision maker, listen |
| Interest in how community develops – design etc. |
| Get to know people here |
| Contribute to meet needs |
| Keep it safe, talking together |
| Share ideas for communication action |
| Community police station information |
| CP programs meeting needs |
| Concern re: 30 km zone – how to make it safe |
| Youth needing places to go |
| Traffic, parking, walking, what is going on |
| Safer designated walking areas |
| Traffic concerns and what are problems and needs |

APPENDIX C: EVALUATION COMMENTS

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| <p>What I liked best about today's session</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation ▪ Participation ▪ Exercise ▪ Well presented and a good mix of participants ▪ The comfort factor ▪ Exercises ▪ Food and beverages ▪ The wide range of people from the community present ▪ Strongly visionary ▪ Great food ▪ Good leadership ▪ Interactive ▪ Info sharing, lots of perceptions (misconceptions) and varied degree of knowledge of community resources ▪ Networking ▪ Some familiar faces, some new – even a few re-acquaintances ▪ Good food ▪ Lots of input ▪ Almost everyone had something to say ▪ Expression of diverse concerns, experiences, expectations, suggestions and goals ▪ Ambitious agenda ▪ Broad schemes ▪ Very well run, very informative ▪ Food ▪ Good mix of people ▪ Way to go Gina, Terri Colleen ▪ The frank and honest conversations that I partook in ▪ Information ▪ Ideas ▪ Presentation ideas, steps ▪ Clarification of issues ▪ Brainstorming ▪ Like the hospitality table, what a nice touch ▪ Feeling of hope that there is still a strong sense of community and that people are actually yearning for one. ▪ Good turn out of people ▪ Good ideas and may be solutions ▪ Good food ▪ Interactive – 1st activity well planned ▪ Stayed on track and on time ▪ Food ▪ Seeing friends ▪ Meeting new people ▪ Good location ▪ Hearing lots of ideas – enthusiasm |
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Cowichan Bay Planning for Safer Communities Workshop Report

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Everything was perfect ▪ Now we need Action Action Action ▪ Thanks ▪ The opportunity for the community coming together to discuss working to build a safer and stress free community ▪ Well done Terri ▪ Gina was very good getting everyone together ▪ Nice community |
| What I liked least | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Could have been longer – just getting into it ▪ Room was too cold ▪ Length of time taken ▪ More concrete proposals / info about THIS place ▪ Still at “visioning stage. Which may be where need to be at the mtg. Thought it was going to be more goal focused. Would have like some short term / long term objectives ▪ Needs more time ▪ Reinvention at wheel ▪ Is this just another route to incorporation? ▪ Some attitudes counter productive to the overall goals of the session ▪ Thought it was all good ▪ No person from Highways dept ▪ No Native people who I think are left out of our community dreams ▪ Late at night – darkness when leaving ▪ Not long enough |
| What would have made the session better for me: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I hope a champion group is identified ▪ Well it was pretty good! ▪ Hard to come up with something ▪ More sharing of what is happening ▪ Which of the things mentioned are already underway, and which are in motion? ▪ Reality . . . does Cowichan Bay really value “affordable housing” ▪ More info about what an OCP would do or not ▪ Set a priority with clear objectives / goals to move towards resolve. ▪ Would give individuals and community a sense of accomplishment and success ▪ Larger group, ▪ More representation ▪ More publicity ▪ More in depth thoughts toward positive action ▪ Thank you to the people who organized it ▪ Switch groups one time so I could get to meet others who weren’t at my table ▪ Build something with the Lego ▪ More diverse participants – esp 1st Nations ▪ To involve the first Nations ▪ Daytime meetings are better for me, but not for everyone I suppose. |