

Left Coast Events (pt ii) - Victoria & Islands - December 12th, 2005

Written by

Monday, 12 December 2005 04:20 - Last Updated Monday, 12 December 2005 04:20

Left Coast Events (pt ii) - Victoria & Islands - December 12th, 2005

1. Noah Kasper CD Release Party - Dec 18th
2. December 2005 HARP NOTES with Alison Vardy
3. Water Watch Coalition - Dec/Jan
3. Live Coverage of WTO Ministerial - Dec 13-18th
4. concerning stan 'tookie' williams - scheduled for execution dec 13th
5. Jaiya's West Coast Solstice Tour - Dec 14-20th
6. EcoNews Excerpts
7. Annual New Year's Day Poor People's Levee Tour - New Year's Day
8. MAYOR'S INAUGURAL SPEECH
9. Call for Candidates

contributions, considerations, concerns:

* i'm collecting letters, articles, photos, cartoons, etc. for the camp public display on the 12th. If you have anything to contribute, please send it to me by the 10th.

* sunday's tc front page reads "photographer of lennon's bed-in dies on a victoria sidewalk at 72", with a link to the article.

<https://www.pej.org/html/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=38>

84&mode=thread&order=1&thold=0

* The Sound of Rat, presented by Theatre In a Can, at Little Fernwood Hall through December. Info: 360-585-1111

* From: Phil Lyons

A reminder: the next full meeting of those interested in belonging to the Coalition, especially those belonging to the Victoria branch, will be held on Wednesday, December 14th, 7:00-8:00 pm at the Legislature.

* From: "Jane P. Brett"

Wednesday Night Peace Vigils at the Legislature - 7:00 - 8:00 pm - Peace ambassadors are needed to help with the vigils.

* From: Nadhia Sutara

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CAFE SPIRITUALITY: OpenSatsangDiscussion.ca sharing, contemplation. Wednesdays at 7 pm at Jame

* Falun Dafa (meditation) at Fernwood Community Centre, 1240 Gladstone, Wednesdays, 5-7 pm. Also,

* Engineers Without Borders meets Wednesday's 7:30pm in Cle D125. The meetings will generally be d

* The Victoria Folk Music www.victoriainstrumentsociety.com every Sunday night at 7:30 pm, 1110 Hillside. Info:

* Victoria's Food Not Bombs is searching for volunteers to help prepare, cook, and clean-up on Sundays

* Inner City Aboriginal Society - <http://members.shaw.ca/icas>

* "Richard Sanders"

Election Issue: Canada DID Join Missile Defense

The results of my research on "missile defense" is contained in three lengthy issues of the Coalition to C

Issue #57: "Canada's Role in so called 'Missile Defense,'

Part II: Sea-based, Theatre Ballistic Missile Defense"

<http://coat.ncf.ca/TBMD>

* Do you know where the parties stand?

<http://www.votebyissue.org/cbc>

* From: "Rosa Mertens"

PLS. SIGN/SPREAD this PETITION to BELGIAN AUTHORITIES to STOP the SILENT MURDERING of

<http://new.petitiononline.com/18112005/petition.html>

* From: "Len Walker"

Thankx for putting up the <http://www.tsunamihaven.org> here is the beginning of our application to be

<http://www.tsunamihaven.org>

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* From: "Rebecca Y., Care2 Action Alerts"

As the holidays approach, we at Care2 and ThePetitionSite are looking for meaningful ways to give and

* From: "KillerCoke.org"

Learn the truth about The Coca-Cola Co. "We believe the evidence shows that Coca-Cola and its corporate
Campaign to Stop Killer Coke/Corporate Campaign, Inc. Director Ray Rogers

Visit www.KillerCoke.org

* From: "UBCIC Current Events"

UN Convention on Biological Diversity - Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j)
23 - 27 January 2006 - Granada, Spain

<http://www.biodiv.org>

* From: Eva Manly

Urgent Action: Captives in Iraq(

CFSC is keeping close watch on the harrowing situation facing the four men (including Quaker Tom Fox)
Follow this link to sign the [petition](http://www.petitionspot.com/petitions/freethecpt)

* From: "working TV"

new online @ working TV <http://www.workingtv.com/remember-me.html>

REMEMBER ME - december 6 - National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women. A
event, on Sunday December 4, 2005 at the Vancouver Public Library, organized
by Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. Webcast produced with the generous support of the B

* From:

ALERT: EPA TO ALLOW PESTICIDE TESTING ON ORPHANS & MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN
Take action now at http://www.democracyinaction.org/oca/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=

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[1532](#)

* From: angela bischoff

Below is a link for an excellent audio interview with Peter Breggin on the Nobody Show, WEOS 89.7FM

<http://www.math.missouri.edu/~rich/psych/breggin.mp3>

(transcript at <http://www.math.missouri.edu/~rich/psych/breggin.txt>)

In this interview, he deals with the dangers of antidepressant drugs, ritalin, electro shock, the profession

Peter Breggin is a doctor, teacher, therapist and author of many books including Toxic Psychiatry, The A

Dr. Breggin argues that society is becoming increasingly dependent on prescription drugs to solve psych

For more on Breggin's work see <http://www.breggin.com> /

* From: "Clarity Press, Inc."

PALESTINE, PALESTINIANS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

by Francis A. Boyle

has been named a Reader's Choice by Amazon World Books for the month of November, 2005.

* From: Tate Hausman [<mailto:tate@freerangegraphics.com>]

Since we launched Grocery Store Wars this spring, the team here at Free Range has been hard at work

Victoria's Dirty Secret

<http://www.victoriasdirtysecret.net/secret> /

Have you always wanted to know what Victoria's real secret is? We found out, and its downright ugly - s

Late Night with Conan the Barbarian

<http://www.conanvskcop.com>

The Governor has two weeks to decide what to do about California's infamous youth prisons. See how

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Extreme Auto Makeover

<http://www.suvsolutions.org/suv-tv-extreme-auto-makeover.html>

Meet Cy, Pam and Phil, the Extreme Auto Makeover team that's could give us smart cars for the 21st ce

* From: "Delores Broten"

YOU are invited to become a <http://www.member.org> member of the Independent Air Clean Water Clean Paper For Our People

<http://www.rfu.org/phpbb/index.php>

* last time i picked up the victoria street newz, at canadian freightways, i learned they have a collection o

* From: Geneva Hagen

Have you heard that the provincial NDP have added Guaranteed Livable Income to their platform? As of

* From: "Cosmic Debris"

Please click on the following link to read our Special Christmas Issue:

http://www.cvnet.net/cosmic/newsletter_christmas.html

* From: "WCWC Vic"

FINAL PUSH BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION:

KEEP BC'S COAST OIL-FREE!

PLEASE sign the online [petition at: bcoilslick.org](http://www.bcoilslick.org) /

* From: Larry Kazdan

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY - key facts

<http://www.vcn.bc.ca/wfcvb/hrkeyfacts.html>

* From: GreenFacts Press

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Genetically Modified Crops explained - We are regularly confronted with genetically modified foods, be it
GreenFacts asbl is an independent, non-profit, organization based in Brussels, Belgium, and a consensus driven

* From: Catherine Etmanski

Thanks to all of you who have been organizing around World AIDS Day ? so many great events happen

<http://share.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?sid=8CctGTJm0bMQS>

Click on ?View Pictures? and then ?View as a Slide Show?.

* From: The Future of Food

What is the truth behind the unlabeled, patented, genetically engineered foods that have quietly filled U.S. grocery store shelves for the past decade? Find out and take part in THE FUTURE OF FOOD!

To view the trailer visit:

<http://www.thefutureoffood.com/trailer.htm>

For more information about the film, visit:

<http://www.thefutureoffood.com> /

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### 1. Noah Kasper CD Release Party

with The Ecclestons

Sunday Afternoon December 18th, 2005  
at The Central Bar & Grill  
708 View Street in Victoria

2 PM to 6 PM all ages gig, families welcome  
Tickets: \$5 at the door  
For more information 250 339 4705

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CD RELEASE PARTY FOR NOAH KASPER

"Fresh from dead I managed to survive, if the liver fits wear it proudly"

Sunday Afternoon December 18th, 2005

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Noah Kasper (multiple transplant recipient) was a young Victoria musician who dreamed of releasing a CD of his original tunes. He was a good guitar player, saxophone player and vocalist but he was an exceptional songwriter. He died in March 2004 after almost five years of illness and suffering, just before his 25th birthday. But throughout his illness Noah continued to work with Lonny Koch of Trinity Sound in Victoria. Since Noah was unable to finish the CD before he died his family and friends followed his detailed instructions and finished it for him. All eleven songs are written and performed by Noah and a twelve page booklet is included with the CD.

On Sunday Afternoon December 18th a CD Release Party will be held to celebrate the long awaited release of Noah Kasper's CD "If The Liver Fits Wear It". The Ecclestons will be featured at this all ages event (families welcome) which will take place at the Central Bar & Grill at 708 View Street in Victoria. The Ecclestons will play from 2 PM to 6 PM and tickets are \$5 at the door. This CD Release Party will be a wonderful opportunity for all those folks and their families who cared about Noah to get together and have some fun. Many folks helped Noah to realize his dream of releasing a CD of his original material and this is a chance to celebrate. The Ecclestons are an uplifting Celtic band and are always very entertaining. See you there! For more information please phone 250 339 4705.

Can't come to the CD [release party kasper.com](http://www.releasepartykasper.com) to order the CD by mail.

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bobbie blue  
[bblue \(at\) islandnet.com](mailto:bblue@islandnet.com)  
phone 250 339 4705

From: bobbie blue

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2. December 2005 HARP NOTES with Alison Vardy

WEST COAST HARPS
Retail Sales of Lever & Lap Harps

West Coast Harps is now alive and growing!
For details on new and used harps available visit:
www.westcoastharps.ca or www.westcoastharps.com

Yes! We are now importing lever and lap harps for you to sample and compare.

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Currently we have Wm. Rees Instruments Harpsicles 26 and a Blevins Consort 34 in stock. Other models can be ordered through us at competitive prices.

Another Era Luthier 36 and 32 string lever harps will be arriving in the new year.
As will Sharpsicles

We also handle consignment sales of used harps.
All instruments will be listed on our website with photos and specs as they arrive.

+++

HARP PERFORMANCES

Victoria, BC

For further details go to:

<http://www.alisonvardy.com/alison-vardy/concerts.htm>

Monday December 12 - House Concert, Esquimalt 7:30 pm hosted by Pondsides Music -
Tickets \$12 - Reservations at 361.1830 (Juliana) or 598.6679 (Alison)

December 15 - Bastion Square, Victoria, BC - Celtic Christmas Concert

December 3/4 and 17/18 - Streetside Events, Victoria, BC

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ALISON'S HARP CDs

Easy to purchase on-line and we pay postage anywhere in the world!

We ship the same day you order.

You can sample all the tracks first and then purchase from these pages on Alison's website:

Island Suite (2003) - 50% Alison's compositions + traditional music from the British Isles, Ireland, France, Macedonia, Greece, Spain and Eastern Canada (Quebec, Cape Breton) all arranged by Alison for solo harp.
74 minutes of delightful variety.

<http://www.alisonvardy.com/harp-music/island-suite-cd.htm>

Apasionada (2000) - 50% Alison's compositions + traditional music from South America, Israel, the British Isles, France, Spain and Macedonia arranged by Alison for harp.
65 minutes of international audio tasting.

<http://www.alisonvardy.com/harp-music/apasionada-cd.htm>

Harping On (1997) - A more traditional smorgasbord of harp music from Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, South & North America, plus 4 of Alison's compositions.
58 minutes of relaxation.

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<http://www.alisonvardy.com/harp-music/harping-on-cd.htm>

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Please pass on this Harp Notes Newsletter to anyone think may be interested.

Thanks for your interest

Best wishes

Alison Vardy

mailto: [alison \(at\) alisonvardy.com](mailto:alison(at)alisonvardy.com)

Alison Vardy, Harpist - 1722 Carrick Street, VICTORIA BC V8R 2M2 CANADA

From: Alison Vardy

3. Water Watch Coalition

Please mark your calendars with the following upcoming meetings and events:

1. Campbell River Water Watch asks City Council to cancel contract to privatize water sampling and mo
2. Next meeting Victoria Water Watch Coalition - Tuesday December 13th, 7:00 pm, UVIC SUB 025
3. Next meeting of Comox Valley Water Watch Coalition - Wednesday December 14th, 5:00 pm, 5511 Is
4. Comox Valley Water Watch holds Town Hall meeting - January 17th, 2006 - Union Bay Hall - MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SPREAD THE WORD

1. Come out and support the Campbell River Water Watch Coalition Monday December 12th, 2005 at 7:

Coalition members will be asking council to build on a motion passed by the previous council in November

the CRWWC will request that, in light of the below motion, the City cancel the process to contract out the

WHEREAS management of Campbell River water services has been carried out by municipal/city worke

WHEREAS contracting out of water services is a form of privatization;

WHEREAS public water is a right not a commodity;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that any proposal regarding privatization of a public utility be decided by a v

All are welcome!

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2. The next meeting Victoria Water Watch Coalition will be held Tuesday December 13th, 7:00 pm, at th

We will be discussing The purpose of the Greater Victoria Water Watch Coalition, the long term and sho

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3. The Comox Valley Water Watch Coalition will be meeting on Wednesday December 14th, 5:00pm to

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4. The Comox Valley Water Watch Coalition will be holding a public Town Hall meeting on Tuesday Jan

from across the island the opportunity to learn more about the risks of water privatization, and the implic

MARK YOUR CALENDARS, SPREAD THE WORD, AND STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Co-ordinator, Island Water Watch Campaign, Canadian Union of Public Employees, BC Division

250-616-2156

[ldickout \(at\) cupe.bc.ca](mailto:ldickout@cupe.bc.ca)

Island-WaterWatch mailing list [WaterWatch \(at\) lists.cupe.ca](mailto:WaterWatch@lists.cupe.ca) <http://grace.cupe.ca/mailman/listinfo/island-waterwatch>

From: Phil Lyons

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4. Live Coverage of WTO Ministerial

This is Thatcher Collins, a staff producer at KPFK FM Los Angeles. Next month, I'll be producing live coverage of the WTO Ministerial in Hong Kong, from the convention centre, along with reports from the streets and side events. I'm making a special effort to reach out to Canadian community radio stations. Since a lot of the stations I'm emailing are college radio stations, you might consider using the WTO broadcast to fill in for people in finals or on break. (Details below.)

cheers,  
thatcher

ABOUT

When the World Trade Organization (WTO) meets in Hong Kong this December, Pacifica stations will be offered coverage live from the Hong Kong Convention Centre produced by two experienced WTO watchers (Anuradha Mittal of the Oakland Institute and Thatcher Collins of KPFK Los Angeles). They

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will host panel discussions and reports covering issues such as immigration, factory workers, regulation of genetically-modified foods, international environmental agreements like the Kyoto Protocol, agriculture trade (and the effects on rural communities), the regulatory powers of local government, adding new members like Saudi Arabia, licensing of AIDS drugs and flu vaccines, and regional agreements like CAFTA. Moreover, the extraordinary growth of the Chinese economy has made China a subject of debate, conjecture and even blame. The Hong Kong protests. Among all the important international trade and finance meetings (IMF, G7, FTAA), the WTO ministerial is the only meeting with numerous recordable events and a climax ending in agreement or collapse.

### WHY CANADIAN STATIONS?

Well, in part, I'm hoping that my friends and family in British Columbia might hear the broadcast. Back when I was living in Bellingham (WA), I did a lot of Canadian coverage for Free Speech Radio News (FSRN), including stories on softwood lumber, Native Youth Movement protests, union protests in Victoria, and the G8 Summit in Calgary/Kananaskis. For my coverage of the last two WTO Ministerials (Qatar and Cancun), I included a fair number of Canadian voices. At WTO meetings, Canadian officials are great sources since they are in the thick of things yet not American nor European, plus they tend to be more approachable and talkative than other governments—they even remember me (unlike the US officials). Two weeks ago, I interviewed a San Francisco based activist who is going to Hong Kong, but is from Vancouver. In other words, you can expect a lot more Canada-related coverage from this broadcast than you would from other radio productions coming from US-based Pacifica. And if you know of any local radio producers/reporters who are going to Hong Kong, we would seriously consider including their work in our broadcast.

### DISTRIBUTION

Pacifica stations and affiliates can get this coverage over the KU band satellite, but I'll be posting all of the coverage online too. But I could distribute the coverage in other ways, since I'll be using ISDN to connect to our satellite in Berkeley. At the last WTO ministerial in Cancun, I helped the Council of Canadians distribute online radio programs for community radio stations (the same system could be used, perhaps).

### SCHEDULE

#### Events

December 8-18: People's Action Week (alternative summit and protests)

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December 9-10: independent media conference

December 13-18: WTO Ministerial Conference

Live over ISDN/Satellite

December 14th - 15 minute segment, taped, available online

December 16th - 7:05 AM to 8:00 AM PST (1 hour)

December 17th - 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM PST (1 hour)

December 18th - 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM PST (2 hours)

On Saturday and Sunday, to accommodate KPFK LA and KPFA Berkeley, I will repeat that day's show immediately afterward, giving us this schedule in California (PST):

Friday 7-8, Saturday 9-10, Sunday 9-11

Mp3 files and podcast:

<http://www.oaklandinstitute.org>

More information:

Thatcher Collins, [tcollins \(at\) kpfk.org](mailto:tcollins@kpfk.org) , 818-383-4985 (mobile)

<http://www.kpfk.org>

From: "Thatcher Collins"

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4. concerning stan 'tookie' williams

November 16, 2005

For: Toronto Mayor David Miller

cc: Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty

cc: Honourable Prime Minister Paul Martin

Dear Mayor Miller, Premier McGuinty and  
Prime Minister Martin:

I am writing on behalf of multicultural

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Canadian supporters of Nobel Peace Prize Nominee Stan 'Tookie' Williams regarding his upcoming December 13th execution based on what we believe is a wrongful conviction, in the hopes you will consider joining Nobel laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Oscar winner Jamie Foxx in asking California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to consider granting clemency for Mr. Williams.

Stan 'Tookie' Williams is a former American gang leader turned internationally renowned author whose anti-gang and anti-drug children's literature has proven to reduce youth gang violence in cities such as Chicago whose schools have incorporated Tookie's books into their classroom lesson plans.

Considering your dedicated goal of eliminating recent gang related violence in drastically affected Canadian cities such as Toronto it should be of immediate interest that over 150,000 American youth have testified to being saved from gangs by Mr. Williams' personal mentoring over the past decade, something which youth in Canadian cities like Toronto will never have the benefit of receiving if Mr. Williams is executed next month.

In addition to correcting the wrongful conviction cases of David Milgaard and Steven Truscott the involvement of Canadians in the freeing of boxing champion Rubin 'Hurricane' Carter and South African President Nelson Mandela has proven our country's government officials, citizens, teachers and especially students have a track record of changing history through peaceful means at home, in the US and around the world.

Yet in the case of Stan 'Tookie' Williams it is not even freedom that we are immediately seeking, it is simply a clemency sentence of life without the

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possibility of parole so Tookie can continue his invaluable writing and mentoring work which has been endorsed by members of the Chicago Public Schools District, the American Library Association, the Swiss Parliament and even by Deputy Newark Mayor Ras Baraka and US President George W. Bush (among others).

I am confident that as representatives of the City of Toronto, the Province of Ontario and the people of Canada you will be interested in helping us show the international community that Canadians chose mercy over revenge and redemption over condemnation in late 2005 when Nobel Peace Prize Nominee Stan 'Tookie' Williams asked for our opinion and support.

Sincerely,

Raoul S. Juneja a.k.a. DeeJay Ra  
Founder/Chair of 'Save Tookie' Canada Fund

Lyrical Knockout Entertainment  
2002-2003 KESRI Award Recipient  
[holla \(at\) lyricalknockout.com](mailto:holla@lyricalknockout.com)

rom: "avtaar ra"

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5. Jaiya's West Coast Solstice Tour

Light returns to the west coast

Celtic-fusion trio, Jaiya brings their unique sound to Victoria, Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands with

Tour Dates:

December 8 - Salt Spring Island, All Saints by the Sea Anglican Church

December 11 - Vancouver, St. Mark's Anglican Church

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- December 14 - Victoria, Fairfield United Church
- December 15 - Duncan, Duncan Garage Showroom
- December 17 - Saturna Island, Saturna Community Hall
- December 20 - Pender Island, The Pender Community Hall

Tickets are just \$15 at the door, \$10 students/seniors, Kids under 12 free. Show time is 7:30pm, in Duncan

For more information and to view Jayma's music visit <http://www.jayma.com>

Deirdre Rowland
 Media Contact: Jaiya
 250-653-9387 Office
 778-888-9974 Mobile
[media \(at\) cmepublicity.com](mailto:media(at)cmepublicity.com)

From: Deirdre Rowland

6. EcoNews Excerpts

Mon 12 - Sat 17 Massage for Africa. Participating Registered Massage Therapists will donate \$5 from each session. Yvonne B. Poulin, RMT, (250) 816-2264 yvonne@earthfuture.com <http://www.africantouch.org>

Tues 13, 7:30pm VNHS Natural History Member's Night. Did you go on any trips this year? Tell us about them!

Wed 14, 7pm Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) Annual General Meeting, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Natural History Centre

Sat 17 Victoria Christmas Bird Count. Contact Ann Nightingale 652-6450

Fri 30, 7pm EcoNews New Year's Celebration and Parade Dressed Main Out Party, 881-1304

EcoNews, 395 Conway Rd, Victoria, B.C. V9E 2B9 Tel/Fax (250) 881-1304

[guydauncey \(at\) earthfuture.com](mailto:guydauncey(at)earthfuture.com)
<http://www.earthfuture.com/econews>

Deadline for January issue: Dec 24th

"Unless someone like you cares a whole lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."
 The Lorax (Dr. Seuss)

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7. Annual New Year's Day Poor People's Levee Tour

Somewhere someone said to build community, amongst other things, start a tradition. Well we did that with the Annual New Year's Day Poor People's Levee Tour.

Every year since 1997 the Poor Folks of Victoria have toured the various New Year's Day Levees (receptions by various mayors and the Lieutenant Governor) to begin the year. All the public are welcome and we remind the public that poverty has yet to take a day off. Thanks to area unions we've been able to rent a bus for the past couple of years and that's made it even more fun.

So bring your singing voice, your appetite and your sense of humour to Victoria City Hall 9:00 AM on New Year's Day.

Art Farquharson for
The Together Against Poverty Society

From: "Salmonberries"

thanks to Values-Based Business Network for providing this:

8. MAYOR'S INAUGURAL SPEECH

Alan Lowe
Tuesday, December 6, 2005
City of Victoria Council Chambers
2:00 p.m.

Good afternoon. I am honoured to have been re-elected for a third consecutive term as your Mayor. The last Mayor to have been re-elected for a third consecutive term was Percy Scurrah in 1960 when the terms were only two years in length. I thank you for your confidence and trust.

I would like to first recognize the Minister of Community Services, the Honorable Ida

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Chong, for taking time out of her busy schedule to join us today. As the Minister responsible for local government, she will be a significant partner and ally as we continue to address emerging challenges at the municipal level, and we look forward to working closely with her. I know she has a cabinet meeting at 3:00 and may have to leave early. Thank you Minister Chong for joining us.

Over the past six years Council has listened and worked hard on behalf of its citizens and I look forward to carrying on with, and completing, many of the initiatives that we have started.

Much of this work is not visible to those we serve but it is intrinsic to good government and a healthy democracy. Public consultation, relationship-building with senior governments, information gathering - all of these activities inform our decision-making and are necessary steps on the road to delivering effective public services.

Before outlining my personal vision for the next three years I would first like to thank outgoing Councillor Denise Savoie for her hard work and contributions over the past six years. Your passion for the environment and advocacy on behalf of your community has not gone unnoticed, and we wish you well in your future endeavours.

I would also like to acknowledge former Councillor Rob Fleming, our new MLA for Victoria Hillside. I had the privilege of working with Councillor Fleming on many initiatives throughout his 5 1/2 years on Council and I look forward to continuing that successful collaboration.

I am pleased that each of the incumbent Councillors have been re-elected for another term. I have enjoyed working with you all over the past three years and I look forward to the same productive working relationship over the next three years.

It is also my pleasure to welcome back Councillor Geoff Young after a six-year absence and to extend a warm welcome to our rookie Councillor Sonya Chandler. You could say that she is green in more ways than one!

Congratulations to all of you on your successful campaigns.

The next three years will be very exciting. My youngest son, now 15, just finished a school project on the Civil Rights Movement. Part of his project included Martin Luther King's famous quote, "I have a dream."

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Today, I think we can say that we all have a dream. We have a dream to make Victoria the most livable city in Canada. So what does that mean?

It means a City that is safe and vibrant, a city that is economically strong, a city that looks after its most vulnerable citizens, a city that is green and sustainable, a city that supports its arts and cultural communities and a city that offers an enviable quality of life.

As a Council and as a City we must focus on attracting investment and supporting local businesses while continuing to address the social challenges of a modern urban centre. While progress may appear to be slow at times, I believe our downtown is moving in the right direction.

One of the significant observations that emerged from the Downtown 2020 conference was that we cannot rely on the residents of outlying municipalities to support our downtown retailers. We must create our own residential base downtown to support these businesses while also encouraging other residents to visit the core.

With this goal in mind, City Council has supported the creation of housing in and around the downtown and we are finally seeing the fruits of our labour.

With a larger downtown residential community starting to take shape, we must now focus on providing amenities to those that live and work downtown.

We must enhance our waterfront walkways, we must create new plazas and pocket parks, and we must create greenway connections. These are amenities that we would like to have, but are seldom funded because of competing priorities.

In order to turn these ideas into actions, we must work closely with the development industry to determine how we can pay for these amenities. Today, I will be striking a Task Force with the Urban Development Institute to review how other Cities have implemented Development Cost Charges to pay for much needed infrastructure to offer a better quality of life to their residents. And I will personally be working with three members of the UDI, a member of the Downtown Resident's Association, and staff to bring back recommendations to City Council within 6 months.

Since the opening of the Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre in March of this year, over 600,000 people have attended events in the new facility. The 2005 Ford World Men's Curling Championships was a huge success, generating over \$20 million of economic

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benefit to the City. Skate Canada is returning to our City next year and we look forward to the announcement of other concerts and sporting events in the coming year.

This facility has created a synergy in the north end of downtown that we have never seen before in Victoria. On event nights, the downtown restaurants, bars and hotels are bustling and the parking problems foreseen by critics of the project are non-existent.

The building has also been a catalyst for economic development in the north end of our downtown core. I have heard of at least five large projects being contemplated within three blocks of this facility, and I believe that this is only the beginning of a renaissance in the north end of the city.

The former Bay department store has always been a bookend to the former Eaton's store to the south. This was our downtown strip. With the Bay Centre, the financial district, the tourists around the causeway and the new residential community in the Humboldt Valley, the south end of our downtown core has been anchored.

We need the same type of excitement in the north. We are no longer talking about just a department store, but an entire precinct to enliven the north end of our downtown core.

What do we see today? A few one storey retail businesses along Douglas Street, some surface parking lots, a few light industrial uses and a barren area in the evenings and weekends.

What is my vision? I envision multi-use buildings, higher densities due to its proximity to downtown, public spaces where people want to meet, a new residential community like Harris Green, a playground for children, restaurants and cafes, and a new learning centre anchored by a new central library, educational and recreational services. This area will be a close neighbour to a revitalized Rock Bay district and create a natural loop back into old town.

I believe that Victoria's future prosperity will be directly linked with our ability to effectively respond to the social challenges which afflict too many of our citizens.

City Council has set the framework for implementing our Harm Reduction Strategy. The four independent components of our strategy are prevention, treatment, enforcement, and housing. Although I am an advocate for a safe consumption site in our city, I believe that our most urgent need is treatment facilities.

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We need more detox beds immediately so that those wishing to tackle their addictions can receive the professional help they need within a stable living environment. I view this as a critical social priority for our community and we will continue to work in partnership with the Vancouver Island Health Authority to ensure that health dollars are allocated where they are needed most in our region.

Over the past three years, I have visited safe injection sites in Vancouver and in Europe. We have learned a lot from the in-Victoria solution. We have consulted with downtown service providers, we have met with the Downtown Victoria Business Association, Chamber of Commerce, and Tourism Victoria, and we have sought feedback from various community groups.

In all cases, I believe there is increasing awareness and understanding about the benefits of establishing a safe consumption site in our City that is integrated with other social services, housing and medical care.

With this in mind, the City will work closely with VIHA in the new year to seek an exemption under the Canada Health Act to allow us to establish a safe consumption site in Victoria. Complex issues require thoughtful responses and I am confident that the community dialogue that has taken place to date has laid a strong foundation upon which we can now take action. We will continue the community dialogue and seek public input as we further develop a made-in Victoria model.

With these facilities and services in place, we need to start taking back our streets. The streets and parks are for everybody to enjoy, not just for the few to congregate. There needs to be a balance between creating a healthy downtown business environment and supporting our most vulnerable citizens.

As a community, we cannot afford to work at cross purposes. We must work together. Most recently we have been challenged to act on this principle with the relocation of the Open Door to the 700 block of Johnson Street. The Open Door and Upper Room, now known as "Our Place," have been working with the City, the police, the Downtown Business Association, and local business and property owners to create a Good Neighbour Policy that will assist businesses and social services to successfully co-exist in the same neighbourhood. We thank the business community for rising to this challenge and we will continue to build on the good work that has been started.

I am pleased that the Premier will be continuing with his Task Force on Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Mental Illness. As a member of the Task Force, I was able to secure \$7.3 million for the redevelopment of the Open Door and Upper Room. These new, purpose-built facilities will offer enhanced services to those in need, which will benefit

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both their clientele and our community.

Communities are built one home at a time.

Too many residents in our community cannot afford a home of their own.

Municipal government can, and should, play an active role in providing affordable housing.

Over the next three years I intend to build on the work which has already been done by Council-work which has led to the creation of two affordable housing trust funds-to provide more people with more stable housing.

We need to think creatively. We need to look at various ways to leverage our municipal tax dollars with other sources of funding to increase our supply of affordable housing.

Every citizen deserves a safe, dry place to call home. We do not always have to build new! We need to utilize vacant space and existing buildings to expand affordable housing units and to attract more mixed development projects like Dockside Green where a minimum percentage of units are set aside for affordable housing ... the City has a role to play and I will ensure that we continue to play our part.

During our recent discussions with community organizations and residents about future planning for recreational and neighbourhood services, they told us how much they value their community centres. They value the family they have created at the centres, the proximity of the centres to their homes - many within walking distance, and the programs, services, and volunteer support they can access in the centres. We must now invest in the necessary repairs and additions required to enhance the services that already exist. Council is not going to close down community and senior's centres, as some would lead you to believe. Instead, we intend to work with our neighbourhoods to see how we can enhance these assets for their benefit and the community at large.

Sewage treatment has been an issue that our City has been debating for decades. It is time to move forward and request senior levels of government to come to the table and assist us in funding a secondary treatment facility. Although this is a regional issue, the City of Victoria has been at the forefront with respect to negative publicity about our regional sewage treatment practices. Our tourism industry has also been threatened by

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this negative publicity.

Federal Environment Minister Stephan Dion was in Victoria 6 months ago and stated clearly that he would be requiring all cities in Canada to provide at least secondary sewage treatment.

In the past two years, St. Johns and Halifax have both received federal dollars for their sewage treatment facilities and I believe the time has come for Victoria to request our share of federal dollars for the same purpose. With support from the other levels of government and new technology now available, sewage treatment can be affordable for our community. Currently, the CRD is setting aside land in the event that Provincial protocols require us to implement a formal treatment plan. As a region we need to clearly articulate our plan and what it will cost. I will be scheduling a meeting with Barry Penner, the Provincial Environment Minister, in the new year to discuss how we can move forward together. I will also be approaching the federal government as soon as we have a new government elected.

Intergovernmental cooperation and support is essential for us to accomplish the goals we have set for our City. For the past eight months, we have been working intensely with the federal and provincial governments to prepare a Victoria Urban Development Agreement to help focus government attention on our community priorities.

The development of the Agreement has depended upon significant community input and dialogue with representatives from the business community, environmental groups, social service agencies, neighbourhood associations, community centres, the faith community, Aboriginal representatives and groups, and all levels of government including the CRD. More than 700 people have helped to create an action plan to move forward. The Urban Development Agreement should be signed in the new year, enshrining a new working relationship with senior levels of government and attracting resources to assist us in meeting our economic, social and environmental priorities.

Creating an enviable quality of life requires many things, including the existence of a vibrant arts and cultural sector. Council has, over the past two terms, followed through with its five year commitment to increase arts funding. The arts community deserves stable funding, and our community benefits from the wealth of artistic offerings which this funding enables. Victoria's commitment to arts and culture has been formally recognized with our city being named a Cultural Capital of Canada this year, receiving almost \$500,000 in direct federal funding for local arts and cultural programs.

So over the next three years, what would I like to see?

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I would like to see unprecedented growth in the north end of our downtown core,
the completion of a new community centre at Burnside Gorge,
the completion of the "Our Place" project,
the opening of a contact centre in Victoria complete with a safe consumption site integrated with other services,
an addition to our conference centre completed,
the City sign an Urban Development Agreement which will enable new money to flow into our community,
the completion of an updated Downtown Plan and updated neighbourhood plans,
a move towards green and sustainable projects,
making a secondary sewage treatment facility in Victoria a reality,
Victoria's new affordable housing trust fund leveraged with dollars from senior levels of government, the creation of
a revitalized network of recreation, community and neighbourhood centres, and
the approval of a new downtown learning centre anchored by a new downtown library.

In many instances the priorities I have identified represent another step forward on a journey that began

In other cases, these priorities reflect more recent deliberations and emerging needs.

Collectively, they comprise an ambitious agenda which will guide the work of Council over the next three

I look forward to working with my Council colleagues to achieve these goals. To be successful in securing Victoria's reputation as the most livable city in Canada I will need the support of both staff and Council.

Thank You.
Alan Lowe

From: "Values-Based Business Network"

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### 9. Call for Candidates

The time has come to get serious about putting up a CAP candidate in Victoria, Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca. I believe it is necessary to run candidates because no other voice will speak in defence of Canada on the coast. Catherine Whelan Costen has tagged the NDP for its lack of guts. see below. The Conservatives (overtly) and the Liberals (covertly) are pushing the North American Union concept.

Do you know anyone who has the moxie to stand up for Canada in our three local ridings. Let me know and we will organise help.

**Left Coast Events (pt ii) - Victoria & Islands - December 12th, 2005**

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Derek Skinner

Canadian Action Party gets to the heart of election issues

[http://www.canadianactionparty.ca/demo/The\\_Real\\_Issue\\_english0.html](http://www.canadianactionparty.ca/demo/The_Real_Issue_english0.html)

From: Derek Skinner

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concentration of power is not a feminist principle.

Victoria Street Newz - <http://streetnewz.communitypipe.org>

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"The problem with the world is that the fanatics are always so certain of themselves, while wise people a

Bertrand Russell

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If you wish to contribute [financially, intellectually, or any amount](http://www.communitypipe.org) will be graciously received and distributed

Please feel free to forward the newsletter to your friends and colleagues, or anyone at all, but please ac

Janine Bandcroft, B.A., B.Ed.

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