

Posted by

Monday, 07 February 2005 08:14 - Last Updated Monday, 07 February 2005 08:14

1. **Black History Month - events & info** - Feb 2005
2. **Guatemala Gold Mine**
3. **A Place to Live - housing solutions in the CRD**
4. **Concerns about Fernwood Community Association**
5. **Victoria Indymedia Searching for Helpers**
6. **The struggle of Alfredo Porras - discussion - Feb 10th, Malaspina**

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#### **contributions, considerations, concerns:**

\* From: "Leonard Thornton" <celestialleo@hotmail.com>

Ongoing meditation group, conducted by Leonard Thornton for the past 25 years. Open to all who are sincerely interested in individual awakening and planetary healing and transformation. Group meets

#### **Tuesday evenings from 7:30-9 PM**

. For more information, call Leonard at 598-4303.

\* From: CafeSpirituality@yahoo.ca

Cafe Spirituality: Open discussions and sharing on a broad range of spiritual topics. Bring your suggestions. Bring your questions.

#### **Wednesdays**

at 7 pm at James Bay Coffee and Books, 143 Menzies (opposite Thrifty's). By donation or buy a coffee. For more information call 360-0052.

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#### **Wednesday Night Peace Vigils at the Legislature - 7:00 - 8:00 pm - Everyone Welcome!**

\* The Victoria Folk Music Society offers live music every

#### **Sunday night at 7:30 pm, 1110 Hillside.**

Info: [www.pacificcoast.net/~vfms](http://www.pacificcoast.net/~vfms) or <http://www.jeffwarner.com>

\* From: "Salmonberries" <bcfmwu9@islandnet.com>

The Eighth Annual Corporate Piggy Awards will take place on April 10th at the Roxy Theatre. If you're involved with a group that does, or would like to do, political theatre, contact Art at [bcfmwu9@islandnet.com](mailto:bcfmwu9@islandnet.com) or 388-4168.

#### **\* Submissions for the April/May issue of Victoria Street Newz will be accepted until March 15th - <http://streetnewz.communitypipe.org>.**

\* From: [gettingdown@riseup.net](mailto:gettingdown@riseup.net) (by way of Alan Rycroft

the organizing committee for this years mayday events will meet this

#### **saturday Feb 12 at 3:00pm at the Fernwood community centre**

(as the fca is

booked) all are welcome and we strongly encourage groups to send a representative for this short preliminary meeting to get to know each other and discuss the many great ideas being floated for mayday. a small social will

follow. if you have any questions or comments please call shane at 381-9772.

\* From: David Arthur Johnston <hatrackman@yahoo.com>

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This is a link to the interview given for the 'homelessness marathon'-  
<http://132.216.18.132/download.php?date=20050201&start=17%3A35&end=18%3A00&codec=mp3&kbps=32&stream=stream>, an over-the-phone interview to a friend in Montreal. Apparently, it aired this last Tuesday and was very well received. My friend heard good comments from many people. It will air again on Monday (Feb. 7th) and then as part of a national broadcast that runs from sunset on Feb. 14th to sunrise on Feb. 15th (Montreal time). This 'Homelessness Marathon' will be aired on over 20 different community and university radio stations across Canada. This event originates at- <http://www.ckut.ca/homeless.html> and will also be airing on the Victoria University station- <http://cfuv.uvic.ca/> . I will be going to court to face sentencing for the fourth breach of the 'Mischief' conviction that I did not agree to or signon

**Feb. 11th at 9:00 AM in the Provincial Court of BC in Victoria, BC.**

\* PACIFIC SOUTH WESTERN ADVOCATES Who is going to give psychiatrists and police Mental Health Assessments?

<http://broadpowers.com/>

\* From: "Zeta Lay" <[director@uvic.ca](mailto:director@uvic.ca)>

There is a conference on imperialism coming in February.

<http://web.uvic.ca/polisci/cspt/conference/>

\* From: "Sharx Nghifitikeko" <[asnghifi@uvic.ca](mailto:asnghifi@uvic.ca)>

Check out the website of the African Development Organisation I am part of: [www.afrud.org](http://www.afrud.org).

Please register to become a member or email me about an African play we are putting on.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/blackhis/a022103.htm>

\* From: "working TV" <[workingtv@telus.net](mailto:workingtv@telus.net)>

New on the web @ [workingtv.com](http://workingtv.com)

Naomi Klein, Terry Engler, Harsha Walia:

[stopwar.ca](http://stopwar.ca) forum on 'democratic rights in the time of war'

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

[workingtv@telus.net](mailto:workingtv@telus.net)

\* From: ICIS-Institute for Cooperation in Space <[alw@peaceinspace.com](mailto:alw@peaceinspace.com)>

Waffling on missile defence plan hurts Canada, experts say

By BETH GORHAM

[http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20050206.wdiplo02](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20050206.wdiplo0206a/BNStory/National/)

[06a/BNStory/National/](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20050206.wdiplo0206a/BNStory/National/)

\* From: "Barbara Laird" <[barb@telus.net](mailto:barb@telus.net)>

A card that will enable caregivers/companions to enter free of charge when accompanying a person with a disability to a Famous Players theatre. Here is the application form and website:

[http://access2.ca/english\\_default.html](http://access2.ca/english_default.html)

\* From: glen <[gpetersss@shaw.ca](mailto:gpetersss@shaw.ca)>

Here is a list of stuff you might find interesting [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/comox\\_valley\\_buyselltrade](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/comox_valley_buyselltrade)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/comoxvalleyfreecycle>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cowichanvalleyfreecycle>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dist69freecycle?yguid>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VancouverIslandPersonalServices>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vifreecycle>

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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vicheapskates>

\* From: "ccook" <[lex@highspeedplus.com](mailto:lex@highspeedplus.com)>

<http://gorillaradio.blogspot.com/>

\* From: Karen Wonders <[kwonder@gwdg.de](mailto:kwonder@gwdg.de)>

2003 tree-sit in Belgium is being supported by children. Also check out <http://www.foert.org> (for those of you who read Dutch - Richard!) The Berlin film-maker Kay Messeberg who filmed the Berlin tree-sit is coming to Vancouver in early March to make an ARTE film on activism in Canada and I have encouraged him to take a trip to the Cathedral Grove protest camp.

<http://belgium.indymedia.org/news/2003/05/66049.php><http://belgium.indymedia.org/news/2003/05/66163.php>

<http://belgium.indymedia.org/news/2003/05/63615.php>

\* From: Lise Wrigley <[wrigleywriting@shaw.ca](mailto:wrigleywriting@shaw.ca)>

A week or so ago I watched a PBS special on mercury poisoning. The documentary focussed on a normally bright boy who had been doing very well in school, and then his concentration went out the window, his grades plummeted and he had increasing difficulty using his thumbs. The kid loved tuna fish sandwiches and often had two a day. Mercury poisoning. Two months of "cold turkey" and his brain functioning started to return. Tuna might be tasty, but in California they now have warnings posted in the fish market and tuna aisle about permissible amounts to eat (why bother?) and warnings saying you should NEVER eat sword fish, shark, or a third one I no longer remember. Albacore tuna is also supposed to be particularly bad.

[http://www.pbs.org/now/classroom/classroom\\_kids.html](http://www.pbs.org/now/classroom/classroom_kids.html)

I also recommend you go to the PBS website main page ([www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)) and look for the show NOW where you can learn more details about that documentary - plus - check out this website: <http://www.momsagainstm Mercury.org/>

\* From: [sbaileys@telus.net](mailto:sbaileys@telus.net)

Where does the time go? another blink and another four months have passed by for me here in Mexico since my last update in September. I have placed this update and fotos in a pretty nifty personal internet Blog site at:

<http://stevemexicoupdate.blogspot.com/>

\* From: "Bruce Wallace" <[research@vipirg.ca](mailto:research@vipirg.ca)>

The Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG) is currently seeking applications for the position of EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. This is a part-time permanent position that would suit a candidate with strong leadership and administration skills, who has experience working in the non-profit sector and in organizing activist campaigns. For full details please refer to the job posting on our website at [www.vipirg.ca](http://www.vipirg.ca). The deadline for applications is February 9th, 2005, at 1:00pm.

\* From: Sharon Schaan <[sharon1000@shaw.ca](mailto:sharon1000@shaw.ca)>

Maintaining our right to purchase dietary supplements freely rather than as "drugs" is the substance of Bill C420 now pending in Parliament awaiting its second reading in March. A health organization of which I am a member sent out an alert to let Canadians know of the urgent need to support Bill C 420 in order to prevent the implementation of CODEX an international definition of all supplements as drugs. The message is, "if the CODEX

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Directive is not stopped, there will be only one medical world: the pharmaceutical world."If you are concerned about that possibility, do check in with Kos Publishing where Helke Ferrie is championing the freedom to obtain natural supplements. Check into

<http://www.kospublishing.com>

to

see what you can do to support Bill C420.

\* From: "Johannes DeViet" <jdeviet@skynet.ca>

Please visit our Web site: <http://www.gamblingwatch.ca>

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1. BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Did you know that:

Canada has its own history of slavery, segregation and discrimination of and against Blacks? Sir James Douglas, British Columbia's first governor was of mixed heritage born of a Black mother and Scottish father?

In the 1850's Vancouver Island was under threat of being annexed by the U.S. and this was prevented in part by the immigration of several hundred free Blacks from the U.S. to Vancouver Island at the invitation of Sir James Douglas? Not all Blacks who immigrated to Canada were escaped slaves on the Underground Railroad? During the 1868 Yale Convention, a Black man, Mifflin Wistar Gibbs, was instrumental in debating British Columbia's joining the confederation of Canada rather than annexation to the U.S.? The first school in South Saanich was built by a Black man, Charles Alexander who was also active in the building of Shady Creek Church the first church in South Saanich? Many of the first Blacks to British Columbia were businessmen and women, some first teachers, lawyers and dentists? Vancouver Island's first law enforcement organization was a Black militia known as the Victoria Pioneer Rifles (African Rifles)?

The first teacher of the Cranberry? Cedar school near Nanaimo was a Black woman by the name of Emily Stark? A Black teacher John Craven Jones taught school on Salt-Spring Island being paid only in kind by the pioneer families? In 1886 a Black dentist William Allen Jones was the first person to register under the British Columbia Dental act? A Black Canadian doctor, discovered a process for storing plasma? Deas Slough, (near the George Massey tunnel in Vancouver) is named after a Black man John Sullivan Deas who was a leader in the early years of B.C.'s salmon canning industry? A Black man Harry Winstone Jerome world-renowned athlete, founded the Premier Sports Awards Program used by many provincial school districts? These are just a few of the accomplishments and contributions of British Columbia's Black Community. Source: A Resource Guide on Black Pioneers in British Columbia - The British Columbia Black History Awareness Society

February is Black History Month

Welcome to The British Columbia Black History Awareness Society, a non-profit society, formed in February 1994 to continue the work started by THE BRITISH COLUMBIA BLACK HISTORY AWARENESS COMMITTEE, namely celebrating the achievements of Black people in British

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Columbia as part of Black History Month. The Society expanded its' objectives to include creating an awareness of the history of Black pioneers in British Columbia; stimulating interest in the study of the contributions of persons of African ancestry to British Columbia and Canada; and celebrating the historical achievements of Black people in arts, education, government, sports, science, etc. in British Columbia and Canada.

The Society's mandate is:

Educate, disseminate and support Black British Columbians' achievements past present and future

Bring together diverse groups of people who have an interest in promoting, educating and learning about British Columbia and Canadian Black history
Promote diversity in the British Columbia social, economic and political spectrums
Encourage youth and children to develop an interest in the achievements of Black people in British Columbia and Canada as well as developing an interest in their community and the world.
How does this benefit our Community?
Provide a sense of community for people with an interest in British Columbia Black History and Black History in general
Provide a means for creating new friendships especially for those new to Vancouver Island
Provide social and educational activities for families and individuals

Develop or gain skills in public/community relations, communications, project management, operations and administration

While the society operates year round, our prime focus is Black History Month. Some black history month activities we have planned are:

Children's Story Telling and craft sessions:

Saturdays February 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th 2pm-4pm @the Quadra Arts Centre 3031 Quadra St. (at Finlayson) - Storytelling is a traditional means of sharing history, bringing people together and preserving culture. Teaching the children a craft related to the story gives them a tangible memento and furthers their cultural experience. Activities conclude with a cultural snack.

SEED ?

The re- evolution of Hip-Hop and Greenlaw Ave: Friday, February 11th - SEED is a musical production from Masabo Culture Company of Vancouver. The performance by a collective of international musicians traces the history of music from traditional African to modern Hip-Hop including performances by a former member of the National Ballet of Cote d'Ivoire, professional rappers, singers, hip hop artist and capoeira performers. Local band Greenlaw Avenue will also be performing. Location T.B.A.

Cultural Heritage Day:

Saturday February 12, 1pm - 5 pm Quadra Arts Centre, 3031 Quadra (at Finlayson) ? A day of cultural sharing displays, food, music

Soul Gospel with Checo Toomaso:

Saturday, February 19th 7 pm St. Saviours United Church 310 Henry St. formerly with Marvin Gaye and Lionel Ritchie's Commodores, Checo is a vibrant and knowledgeable resource on soul and music. Come prepared to clap, dance and sing. Leave feeling, renewed revitalized and refreshed.

Commemorative Black History Month service

at Shady Creek Church 7176 East Saanich Rd.: 9:30 am Sunday February 27th - Karen Hoshal, a direct descendant of the Alexander family will present on Black Pioneers, special guest Louise Rose.

Cemetery Walking Tour,

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Saturday, February 27th 2pm: with BCBHAS Board member Valin Marshall and John Adams from The Old Cemeteries Society.

Help raise money for B.C. Black History Awareness Society by purchasing Greenlaw Ave's amazing new album - Time and Energy

Cd's will sell for \$15 - \$5 dollars from every sale will go towards B.C. Black History Awareness Society, available for pick up through out the month of February at the Quadra Arts Center (3031 Quadra) during store time on Feb 5, 12, 19 and 26.

For More info and song clips go to www.greenlawave.com

Black Habits (BH) launches online on February 1, 2005 in honour of Black History Month. <http://www.blackhabits.com>

For more information contact Me-Kon @ 727-6454 or mh1969@shaw.ca

From: Me-Kon Hays <mh1969@shaw.ca>

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Honouring Black History Month on VisionTV

Special presentations include movies, docs and dramas

A decade ago, the Canadian government adopted February as Black History Month in this country. The motion was introduced in the House of Commons by Jean Augustine, Canada's first female African Canadian Member of Parliament.

Originally established in the U.S. nearly 80 years ago by African American scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the celebration known today as Black History Month pays tribute to the social, cultural and political achievements of Black men and women. VisionTV honours this tradition with a series of Black History Month programming specials, including movies, dramas and documentaries.

VisionTV is the proud presenting sponsor for the Ontario Black History Society's array of Black History Month celebrations and events in 2005. For more information about the Ontario Black History Society, please visit their web site at: <http://www.blackhistorysociety.ca>

Black History Month Programming Highlights:

Documentary ?

Seeking Salvation

Tuesdays, Feb 1 & 8, 10 p.m. ET, 7 p.m. PT, 11 p.m. A.T.

For generations, the church has been the heart and soul of Canada's Black community: a place of belonging for those who have been excluded from society, a source of dignity and strength for those who feel downtrodden. The rich history of the Black church in Canada is the subject of this two-part documentary, which traces the evolution of Black Christianity in this country through four centuries, drawing upon rare archival images, glorious gospel music and compelling interviews with clergy, historians and other experts.

Movie ?

Race to Freedom: The Underground Railroad

Thursday, Feb. 3, 8 p.m. and 12 a.m. ET, 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. PT, 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. AT

This 1994 family film stars Janet Bailey and Courtney B. Vance as escaped slaves fleeing to Canada. They are helped on their way by the legendary Underground Railroad - a secret network responsible for smuggling thousands of slaves to safety. The cast includes Tim Reid as Frederick Douglass and Alfre Woodard as Harriet Tubman.

Drama ?

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Kink in My Hair

Monday, Feb. 7, 10 p.m. ET, 7 p.m. PT, 11 p.m. PT

For years, Novelette Campbell (Sheryl Lee Ralph) has owned a small but successful salon in the heart of Toronto's Caribbean community. Now, some troubling news threatens to bring all her hard work crashing down: her former lover ? and father of her daughter Michelle (Shakira Harper) ? has passed away; it was he who gave Novelette the money to open the shop, and now his daughter (Kim Roberts) demands repayment of the ?loan.? Tonya Lee Williams, star of *The Young and the Restless*

, is Executive Producer and Director of this hour-long drama. The show, created by Trey Anthony and Ngozi Paul (both of whom also co-star), is based on Anthony's hit stage play *da Kink in my hair*

. One of the winning projects from VisionTV's Cultural Diversity Drama Competition.

Movie ?

In the Heat of the Night

Tuesday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m. and 12 a.m. ET, 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. PT, 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. AT

When a wealthy white industrialist is found murdered in rural Mississippi, local cops finger a black man (Sidney Poitier) as the prime suspect. But they're wrong: he's Virgil Tibbs, a Philadelphia homicide detective who reluctantly agrees to help them find the real killer. This 1967 film won five Oscars, including Best Picture.

Movie ?

Mississippi Burning

Thursday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m. ET, 5 p.m. PT, 9 p.m. and 9 p.m. AT

Director Alan Parker based this controversial 1988 thriller on a real-life event: the murder of three activists in rural Mississippi during the civil rights struggle. Gene Hackman and Willem Dafoe star as a fictitious pair of FBI agents who must decide whether to compromise their own morals to bring the killers to justice. With Frances McDormand and Brad Dourif.

Drama ?

St. Jamestown

Monday, Feb. 14, 10 p.m. ET, 7 p.m. PT, 11 p.m. PT

James Santiago thought he was done with St. James Town. But St. James Town isn't done with him. Now a successful network television producer, James (Mark Andre Poyser) returns to his old Toronto neighbourhood after a former mentor is gunned down. Drawn into the mystery that surrounds the shooting, James soon finds himself at a crossroads in his own life. This raw, hour-long drama was created by the producer/writer/director team of Romeo Candido, Leonard Cervantes and Caroline Mangosing (who also co-stars). One of the winning projects from VisionTV's Cultural Diversity Drama Competition.

Movie ?

Lilies of the Field

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m. and 12 a.m. ET, 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. PT, 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. PT

Sidney Poitier's performance in this inspirational 1963 drama earned him the Academy Award for Best Actor ? the first time that prize had ever gone to an African American. He plays an itinerant handyman who stops for water at a remote Arizona farmhouse run by a group of German nuns, only to be persuaded to stay and help build a chapel in the desert.

Movie ?

Bopha!

Thursday, Feb. 17, 8 p.m. and 12 a.m. ET, 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. PT, 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. PT

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Actor Morgan Freeman made his directorial debut with this 1993 adaptation of Percy Mtwa's stage play about a black South African family torn apart in the midst of the struggle against apartheid. Danny Glover stars as Micah, a police sergeant whose world begins to collapse when a sadistic superior (Malcolm McDowell) demands harsh measures against local student protesters ? among them Micah's own son. Alfre Woodard also stars.

Drama ?

Hotel Babylon

Monday, Feb. 21, 10 p.m. ET, 7 p.m. PT, 11 p.m. PT

The head chambermaid is a former engineer. The cook was a chemist. And the handyman used to be a police inspector. Meet the late shift employees at Winnipeg's Hotel Zebulon, known to one and all as 'The Babylon.' Skilled professionals in their homelands, they came to Canada seeking better lives. What they got instead was menial work, meager pay and terrible hours. But in this hour-long drama, they find themselves caught up in a series of events that will put their old talents to the test. Awaovieyi Agie, Soo Garay and Rishma Liv Malik star. The program is based on an original concept and characters created by Gerry Atwell, who produced with Glace W. Lawrence. Charles Officer directed. One of the winning projects from VisionTV's Cultural Diversity Drama Competition.

Movies ?

The Defiant Ones

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m. and 12 a.m. ET, 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. PT, 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. PT

Sidney Poitier and Tony Curtis star as a pair of escaped convicts, shackled together and on the run in the Deep South. Despite their racial antagonism, the two develop an unexpected loyalty as they struggle together to survive. A thrilling blend of action and social commentary, this 1958 film ? winner of two Oscars ? was considered controversial for its time. Poitier broke through to stardom with his work here.

For details and information about the airing dates and times in your area, please visit our web site at: <http://www.visiontv.ca> (please check under the section "Schedules").

Best regards,

Eloisa Stella

Event Marketing Liaison

VisionTV and One: the Body, Mind & Spirit Channel

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Toronto, ON M5B 1X2

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estella@visiontv.ca

website:

www.visiontv.ca

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**2. OPEN-PIT CYCANIDE LEACH GOLD MINE IN GUATEMALA**

Thousands of indigenous villagers in Guatemala are protesting an open-pit cyanide leach gold mine. The Marlin gold mine is being developed by the Canadian-U.S. firm Glamis Gold in the



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western Guatemalan highlands. Starting last December, villagers in the neighboring province blockaded trucks carrying mining equipment for 40 days. One villager died and many others were injured when the Guatemalan government sent in the military in mid January to end the blockade.

The International Finance Corporation of the World Bank approved a \$45 million loan for the Marlin project in June 2004. The IFC did not first check to see if the local population supported the development of the mine. In fact, Guatemala's National Council of Indigenous Peoples has publicly called on the government to reject the project. Villagers say that Glamis Gold has failed to consult directly with them, and failed to inform them about environmental risks and impacts.

**Take Action!**

Send/amend the letter below. Tell the IFC to withdraw funding to the Marlin gold mine project, and Glamis Gold to halt Marlin mine development, until local indigenous communities have been consulted and give their consent to of the project.

You can take action by clicking on the "Take Action" button, or by replying to this message.

NOTE: If you respond to this alert by replying to this message, you

**must**

include the word MARLIN in the subject header.

Send a letter to the following decision maker(s):Glamis Gold ExecutivesInternational Finance Corp/World Bank Mining Staff

Below is the sample letter:

Subject: Stop the Marlin mine until indigenous villagers give their consent

Dear [decision maker name automatically inserted here],

I am writing to express serious concerns about Glamis Gold's proposed Marlin gold mine which has recently been the focus of large-scale protests by local indigenous peoples in the western highlands of Guatemala.

The affected populations say that they lack critical information about the project, including potential environmental risks, and that they have not consented to the development of the mine. In fact, they question whether this project will bring real benefits to them. January 11th marked the fortieth day of protest and the villagers' blockade of trucks carrying mining equipment. The Guatemalan government's decision to send in military troops to end the 40-day blockade of trucks carrying mining equipment resulted in the death of at least one villager and many injuries. This is tragic and disturbing and raises even greater concerns about the lack of dialogue and engagement with the community.

The Marlin project has the backing of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), which approved a \$45 million loan in June 2004 even though Guatemalan groups were cautioning that large segments of the local population did not support the project and were calling for increased consultation. IFC should recall that the World Bank management stated, in response to the Extractive Industries Review, that it would only support mining projects that enjoyed "broad community support." Current developments suggest this is not the case with the Marlin project. In support of the local communities and indigenous rights, I ask that:Glamis Gold engage in open and transparent dialogue with all potentially affected communities and halt further development of the mine until community concerns are addressed and full respect for the rights of affected communities can be guaranteed.The IFC suspend further processing of the loan and support the dialogue between the communities, the company, and the government. IFC should also insist on the establishment of an independent and thorough review of the project, including a complete environmental impacts assessment, an independent audit of the company's

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"consultation" with communities, and a review of the events leading to violence on January 11th.

The IFC visit the communities to be impacted by the project, along with conflict resolution specialists, and that they coordinate their visit with local NGOs and communities directly.

Sincerely,

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If you received this message from a friend, you can [sign up for EARTHWORKS](#) .From: Payal Sampat <psampat@earthworksaction.org>

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### 3. A PLACE TO LIVE

Some years ago, when I worked in London UK as a holistic careers consultant, I discovered that three things would prevent a person from being able to visualize a clear pathway to fulfilling work. They were (1) not having a secure place to call home, (2) needing to work with a therapist to end self-sabotage, and (3) needing a holiday. Those of us who have a place we call home are very fortunate. Here in the Capital Region, there are 22,000 families for whom their housing is either unaffordable, too small, or a threat to their health. There are others who have no home at all. Our housing shortage is critical, and our rental vacancy rate of 0.6% is the lowest in Canada, meaning it's the toughest in which to find a place to live. If you are one of the many who can only find limited income, finding any housing, let alone good housing, is tough. Behind all this, there's these daunting facts: in 1973, the 10% richest families in Canada had 21 times more income than the 10% poorest families. In 1996, they had 314 times more. (All my facts come from the Community Council's Quality of Life Challenge). So what's the solution? The answer is to establish a Regional Housing Trust Fund, a stable, annual \$1 million fund that could be used to leverage private investment dollars and build affordable homes similar to those established in Edmonton, Calgary and Winnipeg, and in Langford, Colwood, Richmond, Whistler, Vancouver, Kelowna, Surrey and North Vancouver. This proposal is before our municipalities right now: all that it needs is your support. If you believe in the need for our world to be more just, and more kind, please call your local councillor. Yes, it means we would pay a small tax increase; sustainability means nothing if we can't support our own.

<http://www.communitycouncil.ca> ACTION OF THE MONTH (LOCAL): A PLACE TO LIVE Please call or email your local councillor, and ask him or her to support the Regional Housing Trust Fund Bylaw. Here are all their contact details. Out of interest, I have rated each council for ease of access to its councillors, who are our publicly elected and paid democratic representatives. Most do very well, but four are very bad. They clearly do not want to anyone to contact their councillors. Oak Bay wins the award for being the most obtuse and hard to contact.

Nevertheless, please persist: we MUST have this Regional Housing Trust

Fund! Victoria: [http://www.city.victoria.bc.ca/cityhall/mayor\\_cprof.shtml](http://www.city.victoria.bc.ca/cityhall/mayor_cprof.shtml) (Score:

10) Esquimalt: <http://www.esquimalt.ca/COUNCIL/municipa.htm> (Score:

10) Saanich: <http://www.gov.saanich.bc.ca/municipal/clerks/council/council.html> (Score:

10) Colwood: <http://www.city.colwood.bc.ca/departments/home/index.asp> (Score:

10) Highlands: [http://www.highlands.bc.ca/municipal\\_office/committees.html](http://www.highlands.bc.ca/municipal_office/committees.html) (Score: 10)

Posted by

Monday, 07 February 2005 08:14 - Last Updated Monday, 07 February 2005 08:14

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Metchosin:

<http://www.district.metchosin.bc.ca/councilmembers.htm> (Score: 10)

Sooke:

<http://www.district.sooke.bc.ca/mayorcouncil.htm> (Score: 10)

View Royal:

[http://town.viewroyal.bc.ca/towncouncil\\_meetcouncil.php](http://town.viewroyal.bc.ca/towncouncil_meetcouncil.php) (Score:

9)Sidney:<http://www.sidney.ca/PageFactory.aspx?PageID=54> (Score:

5)Langford:<http://www.district.langford.bc.ca/newsarticle.asp?TopicID=10> (Score: 3)Central

Saanich:<http://district.central-saanich.bc.ca> (Score: 2)North

Saanich:<http://www.northsaanich.ca/PageFactory.aspx?PageID=69> (Score: 1)Oak Bay:

<http://www.oakbaybc.org/contacts.htm> (Score: 0)

From: [guydauncey@earthfuture.com](mailto:guydauncey@earthfuture.com)

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#### 4. CONCERN FOR FERNWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

##### Hostile Takeover of Fernwood Community Association

##### PEJ News:

There is a serious situation developing at the Fernwood Community Association which I feel the Victoria public and especially Fernwood residents should be informed of. A group of people mainly from the Fernwood Community Center - FCC are attempting a takeover of the Fernwood Community Association - FCA.

The FCC folks have taken out a large number of FCA memberships and are on the verge of pulling off a hostile merger (takeover) of the FCA which I feel threatens the FCA's political independence and the FCA building. There are strong rumours that a post merger FCC controlled board may mortgage the FCA building.

The present FCA Board is 100% against this takeover but the pro-FCC people have called for a Special General Meeting, which will happen in the next few weeks, at which time a vote will take place to force the FCC-FCA "merger".

If someone wants to have some input and vote at that meeting they have to take out a FCA membership within the next week to 10 days (before approximately Feb. 15th).I'm the first person to admit that the FCA is not perfect and is not fulfilling it's role as a neighbourhood advocacy center but this takeover could be the end of any and all FCA advocacy work entirely. The membership requirements for the FCA are that you have to live, work, study or volunteer in Fernwood (inside Hillside, Quadra, Fort, Shelbourne). Memberships are \$5. For membership information contact the FCA coordinator Kim McKay at 384-7441 or stop by the FCA office at 1923 Fernwood Rd. Tues. 12-6, Weds. 10-4 or Fri. 10-4.

Thanks for any support. Kevin Neish

[neish@victoria.tc.ca](mailto:neish@victoria.tc.ca)

From: "K Neish" <[neish@victoria.tc.ca](mailto:neish@victoria.tc.ca)>

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Posted by

Monday, 07 February 2005 08:14 - Last Updated Monday, 07 February 2005 08:14

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5. VICTORIA INDYMEDIA SEARCHING FOR HELPERS

Victoria Indymedia is back in action! We've been moved to a free server and have full publishing access again.

We have been functionally off-line for about three weeks since a major attack threatened to cost us thousands of dollars in pirated bandwidth.

This would be a good time to organize a public meeting and build the collective. Any interest?

Thanks for your patience.

radhippie monster d'primate,

aka: jim

From: Jim Hedger <jim.hedger@gmail.com>

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**6. THE STRUGGLE OF ALFREDO PORRAS**

Refugee Trade Union Leader to Speak

Colombian Trade Union leader Alfredo Porras will speak and show a video on

**Thursday, February 10th at 7:30 pm at Malaspina University College in Bldg 355 Rm 203.**

Alfredo will share a part of the Coca Cola story which Coca Cola would rather not have us know. The struggle of Alfredo Porras Alfredo Porras was a Coca Cola worker in Colombia for 20 years. He worked for a long time as Union leader where he was a key negotiator of worker's collective agreements. He worked on Human Rights issues and delivered humanitarian help for the people displaced by the war. In 1997 the Colombian army started a campaign of harassment against him including a movie like raid to his home in October of the same year. In January 1998 there was an attempt to assassinate him. The army alleged he was a Financial Chief of the ELN guerrilla group and Alfredo learnt that he had been declared a military object. He fled to Chile with help of an ONG and came back after one year to find more persecution. This increased even more after President Alvaro Uribe won the election. On December 31/02 Alfredo was arrested by the army. The media portrayed this case as a major blow to the guerrilla group. The case went to a special prosecution due to the importance and attention given to it in the media. The Special Prosecution declared that the charges were unfounded and dropped all of the charges as there is no proof that Alfredo was a rebel or that he had any involvement with the guerrilla group. The prosecution declared that he has been framed by the army. Despite the prosecution verdict, the army's 2004 report presented at the end of the year stated that the Financial Chief of the ELN was Alfredo Porras and that he was to be captured. After seeing this report Canada gives immediate asylum to Alfredo. He lives in Vancouver with his 10 year old daughter, 8 year old son and wife. They came to Canada in May 2004. Alfredo will speak about the struggle of the unions in Colombia, specifically the Coca Cola Union, and the violation against its members and workers. He will also speak about the price workers pay for globalization and the tragic toll paid by families and communities.

From: Eva Manly <ejmanly@islandnet.com>

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