



The Corporation of  
the District of Saanich



# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



**SAANICH**  
Building  
Assets  
Intentionally

*In Saanich, our philosophy is that  
**YOUTH ARE A VITAL RESOURCE**  
and must be involved and engaged in decisions that affect them.*

Municipal Youth Development Strategy 2003



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**INTRODUCTION,  
RATIONALE,  
STRATEGY, GOALS,  
CONSULTATION & FORMAT**



## INTRODUCTION

The District of Saanich is a picture of "average Canada." We have rural areas, suburban centres and small pockets of urban life, while bordering on a larger urban centre. According to the 2001 Statistics Canada Census, Saanich is home to 11,930, 5 -14 year olds and 7,375, 15 to 19 year olds. Our statistics reflect the national trends in employment, divorce rates, alcohol and drug use, violent crime and school drop out rates. It is for this reason, the fact that we are very "average," that it is vital to reflect on what being average in Canada today means for youth and youth serving organizations. Most importantly being "average" means we are a community where most young people are well balanced, pleasant people who contribute to the community in numerous ways.

The Municipality of Saanich continues to be very committed to a pro-active youth development philosophy. We strive to and succeed at providing a broad range of high quality accessible facilities and services. We continue to operate two very successful youth centres and work with many community partners to offer decentralized youth programs. Our four community recreation centres continue to expand and enhance program services for youth. In addition, we work hard to meet the specialized needs of youth who are new to Canada, economically disadvantaged, youth with disabilities and youth at risk.

In 1991, the newly formed Community Services Section developed the first *Community Plan for Youth*. The intent of this plan was to focus on creating positive active living choices for the youth of Saanich. The plan brought together numerous community partners in an effort to implement base levels of service to meet the needs of youth. Our 1998, Youth Strategy focused on maintaining and developing our core services and on meeting the needs of the small percentage of youth in our community who may be disenfranchised and labeled "at-risk." To a large extent we have accomplished what we set out to in our 1998 Youth Strategy. We have expanded our programs and services to better meet the needs of diverse groups of youth and we have begun to focus on youth development as the cornerstone of the work we do.

The 2003 Municipal Youth Development Strategy continues to set direction for addressing the Municipality's role with and for youth. This document reflects back on our 1998 Municipal Strategy for Youth Services and identifies how we as an organization can continue to contribute to youth development in the community. In this current strategy we have developed and broadened our use of the Asset Development model, focusing on how we as an organization develop assets in youth. The asset development model has been embraced by many local youth serving organizations and provides a shared language and vision in our efforts with youth. This new strategy emphasizes the role the entire municipality can play in developing a healthy community for youth. It is critical for individuals, organizations and the broader community to acknowledge their part in healthy youth development.

*Perhaps the most urgent task facing American society is rebuilding a sense of community, of "village," in which everyone reclaims or accepts their shared responsibility to-and stake in-nurturing the youngest generation.*

(Search Institute, 1998)

## **RATIONALE**

### **A critical stage: For young people and society**

The years from 12-24 inclusive are critical for human development. They build on the experiences of childhood and generate the foundation skills for adulthood. This is also a critical stage for wider society. Young people test society's values and norms, enhancing their capacity to adjust to a rapidly changing world.

### **We know we can do better**

There is a great deal of evidence on what young people need to develop in positive ways. In a new report commissioned by the Laidlaw Foundation and released Dec. 2001 by the Canadian Council on Social Development and Canadian Policy Research Networks, it states:

***“Participation by young people in structured recreation appears to play an important role in fostering active citizenship, social inclusion, improving physical and mental health, increasing self esteem among adolescent girls and encouraging better academic performance. Given such important beneficial effects, access to structured recreation is vital.”***

Organizational constraints often involve a failure to attend to the needs and wants of youth with regard to recreational matters, program rigidity, lack of coordination among agencies responsible for providing youth recreational services, and a general lack of regard for young people's wants and needs. Also, the “Access to Recreation Programs in Canada” report found that limited facilities, high equipment costs, and lack of volunteers were significant barriers to participation. While Saanich has been active in addressing all these barriers to participation for youth, there is still much more to be done.

### **A Municipal Youth Development Strategy implies that youth initiatives are as important as other community initiatives.**

As an organization, the Municipality plans for important initiatives such as parks, economic development, transportation and environmental concerns. Including a Strategy for Youth Development lets people know that youth have a high priority in our community.

### **The Municipality of Saanich is investing considerable resources in the form of services and programs to youth.**

It is always wise to review and evaluate these services in light of economics and benefits to youth.

### **Instead of seeing youth as a problem, a Youth Development Strategy helps the community to better respond and provide support services and resources to youth, as an enhancement to our community.**

Using a developmental framework, we are able to take inventory of the strengths of our youth in the community, rather than looking at the problems. We are able to use what we know about youth to give them the tools to develop as productive and happy citizens.

## **STRATEGY, GOALS, CONSULTATION AND FORMAT**

### **Goals**

The goal of the Municipal Youth Development Strategy is to set direction for addressing the Municipality's role with and for youth. The Strategy was developed in consultation with the following groups. Feedback received from these groups has been incorporated into the strategy recommendations.

### **Consultation Process**

#### **Youth**

More than 300 youth over a period of two years were surveyed in small group formats and at "Speakers Corners" held at four local schools. The surveys and feedback provided from the youth can be found in the Appendix.

#### **Youth Serving Agencies**

Representatives from youth serving agencies, including schools met to discuss the following:

- our services and programs for youth and how we can serve youth better;
- our proposed vision, goals and action plan for the 2003 Youth Development Strategy;
- the direction we are taking and how it fits with the overall direction of youth services in the community;
- need for networking among Saanich Youth Services Agencies.

#### **Parks and Police Departments**

Both the Parks and Police Departments were consulted and asked to provide action items from their respective departments in relation to their work with youth.

#### **Recreation Staff**

Recreation Managers and Programmers met to discuss the direction of the strategy and implications for their centres and the department.

#### **Municipal Directors and Parks and Recreation Committee**

Municipal Directors and members of the Parks and Recreation Committee were informed of the direction of the strategy.

#### **Strategy Format**

The 2003 Municipal Youth Development Strategy provides, a vision, philosophy, guiding principles and overriding goals for our work with and for youth.

- In addition, the strategy outlines broad recommendations to be used as a framework for future planning.
- These core items form the *Municipal Youth Development Strategy - Building Assets Intentionally*.
- It is suggested that this core document be reviewed within five years of adoption of the plan. Attached to this core document are specific action items for the years 2003 and 2004.



- The intent is for individual departments or sections to develop annual work plans with specific action items in relation to the Municipal Youth Development Strategy.
- It is also expected that individual departments or sections will be accountable for these specific action items through their annual planning process.
- Finally, it is intended that this document be integrated with the corporate planning process now under way.

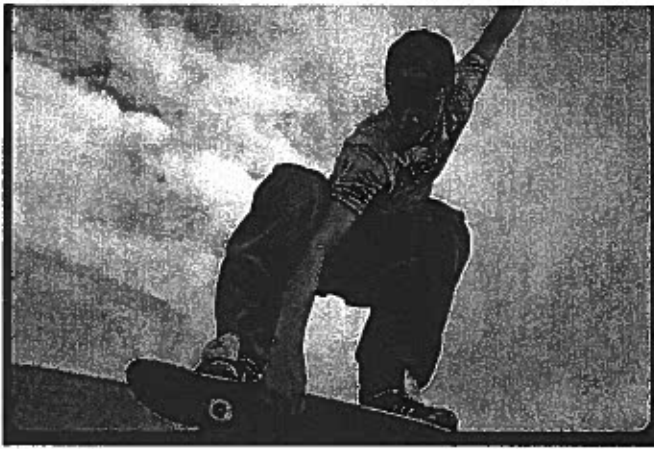
# **1998 MUNICIPAL YOUTH STRATEGY**

## **REPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION**



## **1998 MUNICIPAL YOUTH STRATEGY REPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

In April 1998, a Municipal Youth Strategy Report submitted by Saanich Recreation Services was endorsed by Saanich Council. The 1998 report focused on a number of recommendations to enhance services for youth, and was developed after consultation with youth, parents, schools and many youth serving agencies. Most of these recommendations have now been completed, while some have become unnecessary due to changing demographics or circumstances. A complete list of the results of these recommendations and outcomes follows.



***Youth at Play at Saanich Recreation Facilities***



## APPENDIX - 1998 MUNICIPAL YOUTH STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES

### The Corporation of the District of Saanich

<b>A. RECREATION AND LEISURE (GENERAL) INCLUDING PREVENTION PROGRAMS</b>			
<b>'98 Recommendation</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Accomplished</b>	<b>Forward to 2003</b>
<b>Development of a third Youth Activity Centre in the Royal Oak / Broadmead area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plans have been developed to build a Youth Activity Centre at Saanich Commonwealth Place, as part of a larger re-development at that Centre.</li> <li>- A Federal/Provincial Infrastructure grant has been submitted, and we are awaiting a response.</li> <li>- A youth group called "YAHOO", comprised of youth from the area, have been extremely active in developing awareness of the needs of youth and promoting active programming for youth.</li> <li>- These young people, mentored by Recreation staff, have also begun fund-raising towards the equipping of an Activity Centre.</li> </ul>		✓
<b>Urgent need to increase two half time Youth Workers to full time</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This was accomplished in the 2000 budget, and has allowed us to attract highly trained and motivated staff for the youth program.</li> </ul>	✓	
<b>Police Liaison Officers assigned directly to Youth Activity Centres</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This recommendation has not been implemented.</li> <li>- There has been better support by Police to youth staff in responding to issues, however there is still a clear need to work more closely together on prevention programs.</li> </ul>		✓
<b>Continue to develop recreational programs and promote them through the Youth Activity Calendar (YAC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are now over 500 youth programs offered annually through the Saanich Recreation Department to meet a huge variety of interests and needs.</li> <li>- Many of these programs are advertised in the YAC, which has been streamlined to two issues a year.</li> </ul>	✓	✓ ongoing
<b>Increase hours for skate park outreach to work with youth and neighbours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staff hours have been increased in order to keep the youth centre at Gordon Head open longer hours during skateboard season, and to connect with youth at the park.</li> <li>- Skate park Committee operates during peak use time yearly.</li> <li>- A part-time skate park host works in the park in July and August to facilitate use.</li> </ul>	✓	

<p><b>Make full use of reciprocal use agreements in both District 61 and 63.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There continues to be challenges in implementing the reciprocal agreement with District 61.</li> <li>- The District #63 agreement is less problematic</li> <li>- Developing Cooperative planning with District 61 and 63 for facility development at Colquitz and Royal Oak schools</li> <li>- A pilot project with four senior high schools in order to enhance relationships between principals, key school staff, and recreation programmers from each Community Recreation Centre has been established.</li> </ul>		✓
<p><b>Secure funding for after school activities that are low or no cost to youth participants</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A number of successful projects have been implemented including: Reynold's Drop In activities on Friday nights, Yahoo group meetings at Royal Oak and Claremont, Hampton Girls Group, Craigflower Family Nights, Grade Seven Leadership Program and after school activities, and the continuation of the very popular Marigold Friday Night Floor Hockey.</li> </ul>	✓	✓
<p><b>B. ADVOCACY</b></p>			
<p><b>'98 Recommendation</b></p>	<p><b>Outcome</b></p>	<p><b>Accomplished</b></p>	<p><b>Forward to 2003</b></p>
<p><b>Development of a Black Book Project (Directory of Youth Services)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This project was taken on by Ministry of Child and Family Development staff, as a way to involve youth in an employment project. - The Book is complete now, and almost ready for distribution.</li> <li>- A web site has also been established.</li> </ul>	✓	
<p><b>All Municipal Committees should have a mandate to have a youth member appointed to represent the interest of youth in community operations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While there was some effort made by various committees to invite youth participation, there has been no comprehensive plan for the recruitment of youth to municipal committees.</li> </ul>	X	
<p><b>Municipality should continue to sponsor the "Municipal Youth Council" in order to give youth the experience of understanding how municipal government works.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recreation Community Services, with some financial assistance from Healthy Saanich, has run several successful Municipal Youth Council programs.</li> <li>- However, in consultation with youth, teachers and local schools, a new plan for including youth in local government was developed that is more conducive to youth needs.</li> <li>- This new program called "Local Government and Youth" began in the spring of 2002.</li> </ul>	✓	✓ ongoing

<p><b>Saanich Recreation Services should review the Municipality's role and become active in the redevelopment of the successful "FOYER" youth group concept to enable youth to help program plan activities.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In consultation with youth and staff it was decided that FOYER had reached the end of its "active life" and a "graduation ceremony" was held to celebrate the success of the group and to formally bring closure to the participants.</li> <li>- With the demise of a centralized group, the way was cleared for development of a number of other initiatives that were more suited to including larger numbers of youth.</li> <li>- Some of these initiatives include: Skate Park Committee, YAHOO group in the Royal Oak area, Extreme Team in Saanich West, Girls Groups and Boys Only Groups at each of the youth Centres, Grade Seven Leadership Group at Craigflower School.</li> <li>- All of these groups serve to give youth a voice in their own planning of activities in their neighbourhoods.</li> </ul>	✓	
<p><b>Mayor and Council will declare "Youth Week" from May 3 to May 10, 1998. Subsequently that Mayor and Council recognize Youth Week on an annual basis and that youth programs be promoted that are planned specifically for this designated week.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The declaration of Youth Week has happened each year in Saanich since the adoption of the 1998 Youth Strategy Report.</li> <li>-In 2002, a region-wide youth week was implemented with activities centered around themes like employment, education, recreation and the arts.</li> </ul>	✓	✓ ongoing
<p><b>That an annual Youth Forum be held to update this Youth Strategy and report to the community on the progress of the strategy.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recreation Community Services has developed a forum called Speakers Corner which is a workshop facilitated by youth in the local Secondary Schools.</li> <li>- These forums enable youth to discuss issues of importance to them, and give staff an understanding of these issues.</li> <li>- These forums have been summarized in this report and the information used to produce further recommendations.</li> </ul>	✓	



<p>That a committee be developed that consists of youth and Municipal representatives to collaborate in the development of Youth Recognition Awards to recognize personal achievements and positive contributions by youth to the community and their fellow citizens. Presentation of awards would take place during Youth Week starting in 1999.</p>	<p>- The Youth Volunteer Awards have been administered jointly with Saanich Volunteer Services Community Volunteer Awards. - The Saanich Volunteer Services discontinued its program in 2002, however the Youth Awards will continue to operate under Recreation Community Services.</p>	✓	✓
<p>Work with the community to develop a special "Youth Appreciation Day" during the year. Businesses would give discounts and special promotions, Saanich could open recreation Centres for special events and drop in activities free of charge. Prince George currently has such a day that we could model.</p>	<p>- This will incorporated under youth week, as more than just one specific day. - Instead, we will strive to make businesses and public facilities more "youth friendly" on a regular basis.</p>	X	✓
<p><b>C. Intervention Strategies for High Risk Behaviours</b></p>			
'98 Recommendation	Outcome	Accomplished	Forward to 2003
<p>1. and 4. Secure funding for the continuation of the Dallas "Reconnect" program for the purpose of connecting drug involved youth with positive leisure activities. Expand the "Reconnect" model into the community in cooperation with other youth agencies.</p>	<p>- Dallas has continued to offer leisure assessments to its high risk clientele. - Recreation Community Services has been working in cooperation with Spectrum School to run the leisure assessment component of their program for high risk youth.</p>	✓	
<p>2. Rock Solid Program - continued support for this prize winning, innovative program.</p>	<p>Rock Solid Program was offered in some Saanich schools</p>	✓	✓
<p>3. Continue to support the annual Police Camp.</p>	<p>Police Department continues to offer Police Camp</p>	✓	✓

<p><b>5. Development of an outdoor adventure program for high risk youth who could be referred to the program for assessment and acceptance.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some efforts were made to offer this kind of specialized program however we didn't have adequate resources to offer this kind of program.</li> <li>- Staff did increase their efforts to include youth labeled "at-risk" into our programs with some success.</li> <li>- In addition, staff training was provided on Recreation with "at-risk" youth.</li> <li>- In an effort to ensure our outdoor adventure programs are accessible The "Trippin Out" program was re-designed as the Outback Program.</li> <li>- The new Outback Program is more affordable for low income families while continuing to offer outdoor education skill development and adventure programming.</li> </ul>	<p>X</p>	
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**D. Interagency Cooperation**

<p><b>'98 Recommendation</b></p>	<p><b>Outcome</b></p>	<p><b>Accomplished</b></p>	<p><b>Forward to 2003</b></p>
<p><b>Continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss interagency resource sharing. Maintain an active membership in the "front-line coalition" for youth service workers, and develop projects with the input and direct support from other agencies such as the Y, Ministry of Children and Families, Mental Health, Dallas, etc.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Family Matters pilot program operated for one year in partnership with the Ministry of Child and Family Development and other community partners. After one year of operation we identified that our mandates were significantly different which made it difficult for the program to continue.</li> <li>- Community Services, in cooperation with Saanich Neighbourhood House have invited agencies to "re-group" and attend an information sharing and networking meeting tentatively titled "Kids Come First". Efforts are still being made to re-establish this group.</li> <li>-This group will replace the front line coalition that existed</li> <li>An inter-municipal youth Programmers committee has been struck to offer joint services, programs and special events</li> </ul>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p><b>Continue to develop a cooperative approach to recreational programming in the schools.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Several very successful initiatives have been happening, including the Reynolds Project for which \$17,000 was received from Attorney General's office to promote a number of programs for students and community members.</li> <li>- As well, programs continue in many schools throughout Saanich. Activities range from Girls Groups to floor hockey leagues, badminton to computer training and many others.</li> <li>- A pilot project with four local high schools has been implemented and will continue into 2002, as we attempt to establish closer ties with Principals and teachers within each school.</li> </ul>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓ <b>ongoing</b></p>

<p><b>Offer services to schools such as Career Day workshops, seminars for students on activities available in their neighbourhoods, Health Fair promos and work in cooperation with student councils and leadership groups.</b></p>	<p>- Recreation staff continue to offer Career Day workshops, Health Fair promotions, programs for leadership groups and student councils and even curriculum assistance with such activities as our Model United Nations Program and our new Youth and Local Government program.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓ ongoing</p>
<p><b>Attend Parent Advisory meetings at all local schools to share information on programs and encourage parents to develop programs within the school for after school hours.</b></p>	<p>- Youth Programmers have establish ties with local school advisory committees and attempt to keep them informed of activities of interest to their schools on a seasonal basis PAC's are consulted on specific neighbourhood projects such as the Royal Oak/Broadmead YAHOO project - The number of PACS make it prohibitive to visit each one regularly.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓ ongoing</p>
<p><b>Facilitate the development of "full service" youth centres for youth from our existing program centres. Services could be offered through other agencies using our facilities, eg: substance abuse programs, counseling, employment programs.</b></p>	<p>- We continue to increase services such as employment information, educational programming for youth and staff and counseling referral, but do not offer a full range of services through the centres due to costs associated with such an undertaking - With provincial government cutbacks, it is unlikely that our Youth Centres will achieve this goal in the near future.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓ ongoing</p>
<p><b>E. FAMILY SUPPORT</b></p>			
<p><b>'98 Recommendation</b></p>	<p><b>Outcome</b></p>	<p><b>Accomplished</b></p>	<p><b>Forward to 2003</b></p>
<p><b>Assist in the development of Grade 8 orientation package and presentations to Grade 7 parents, which will serve as a "first alert" for behaviours that families should be aware of.</b></p>	<p>- Not implemented - There was no support from the school district level</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>
<p><b>Develop and maintain a lending library for parent resources concerning youth issues. Advertise the existence of the library, and solicit financial support for its continuation through local service groups.</b></p>	<p>- Library is stocked and available through Community Services Office. - Parents may access books through the Youth Centres, and Youth staff may recommend titles to families struggling with issues. - No funding has been secured for ongoing continuation of this library.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓ ongoing</p>
<p><b>Facilitate Parent Education courses through the Recreation Centres</b></p>	<p>Recreation Services has and continues to offer courses such as The Parent Child Connection, Parenting with Compassion and Side Stepping the Power Struggle</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>ongoing</p>

**ASSET DEVELOPMENT -  
THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGY FRAMEWORK**



# ASSET DEVELOPMENT - THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

## Asset Building Introduction

Adolescence can be a challenging and exciting time. In order to navigate this transition from childhood to adulthood youth need a full range of skills, abilities, opportunities and healthy relationships. What many people may not be aware of is the list of "Assets" provided by the Search Institute that are cited as directly affecting the future of adolescent lives. Through extensive research forty critical factors have been identified for young people's growth and development. "When drawn together, the assets offer a set of benchmarks for positive child and adolescent development" (Search Institute, 1989). Developmental Assets fall into two broad categories: external assets and internal assets. Within each of these categories there are four types of assets. See the Appendix for a complete list of the forty assets.

### External Assets

1. Support
5. Commitment to learning
2. Empowerment
3. Boundaries and expectations
7. Social competencies
4. Constructive use of time

### Internal Assets

6. Positive values
8. Positive identity

These assets clearly show how important the roles are that families, schools, congregations, neighborhoods, youth organizations, and others in communities play in shaping young people's lives. An asset building vision requires all of us to focus our energy on "...nurturing the positive building blocks of development that all young people need" (Benson, Peter L., 1997)

Asset Development provides the framework for the Saanich Municipal Youth Development Strategy. As community leaders, we understand that asset development in youth is highly critical in developing a positive future, a positive life. Whether we may play the role of an external support as one of the "non-parent" adults in these young people lives, or that we ensure that youth are made to feel valued and connected, we know that our role may be a pivotal one.

*"Asset building is any action or activity carried out by an individual, family organization, or community that contributes to the development of assets among children and youth" (Search Institute, 1998)*

### Empowerment

"Empowered young people feel good about themselves and their skills. They grow up feeling treated with respect knowing their strengths, and sensing that they can make a difference in the world."  
Benson, Peter, L. 1997

## **The Power of Asset**

Developmental assets are not only building blocks of healthy development but they can be predictors of behaviour. The Search Institute has identified three important functions of assets. Developmental assets:

- protect young people against risky behaviours such as drug and alcohol use, school failure and violence;
- enhance the lives of youth in that they promote positive healthy choices that enable youth to thrive, and;
- build resiliency in young people which helps them cope with challenges and difficulties.

*“Search Institute has found that these assets are powerful influences on adolescent behavior—both protecting young people from many different problem behaviors and promoting positive attitudes and behaviors. This power is evident across all cultural and socioeconomic groups of youth.*

*Yet, while the assets are powerful shapers of young people’s lives and choices, too few young people experience enough of these assets. The average young person surveyed experiences only 18 of the 40 assets. Overall, 62 percent of young people surveyed experience fewer than 20 of the assets. In short, most young people do not have many of the basic building blocks of healthy development” (Search Institute, 1989).*

## **Asset Building Organizations**

Mobilizing individuals and organizations is key in the development of assets in young people. Just as all individuals have a role, all organizations have a role in creating a healthy community for youth. As a Municipality we have a responsibility to play a lead role in mobilizing community involvement in asset building and in examining our internal practices to ensure we are doing everything we can to contribute to youth development. An asset building organization “...looks at itself, reflects on its strengths, and makes changes to become an asset leader.” (Search Institute, 1989)

As a society we not only have to embrace the notion that it takes a whole community to raise a child we also have to pay particular attention to rebuilding that community into a place where young people are given every opportunity to develop healthy lives. In order to rebuild this community we need to shift the way we think about youth.

Peter L. Benson in his book “All Kids are Our Kids,” has identified twelve cultural shifts required in order to rebuild a developmental foundation for youth.

- We need to shift from a community where deficit language is predominant to a community where asset language is common. Adolescence is often viewed as a time of stress and conflict. We expect adolescents to rebel and we often see them as problems. By shifting our language we can shift our attitudes and begin to see adolescence as a time of opportunity and promise.
- We need to shift from focussing on troubled or troubling youth to focussing on all youth.

- We need to shift from focussing on children 0 - 5 to focussing on children 0 - 18.
- We need to shift from a community of age segregation to an inter-generational community.
- We need to shift from a culture of self-interest to a community where we share responsibility for youth development.
- We need to shift our focus away from programs and services to building relationships with youth that facilitate youth development.
- We need to shift from a fragmented agenda to a unifying vision around developmental assets.
- We need to shift away from conflicting messages to consistent messages about what is important and what is valued.
- We need to shift our energies away from efficiency towards intentional redundancy. In other words youth need opportunities to develop assets in every aspect of their life, in their homes, at their neighbourhood store, on the bus and in their schools. Youth Development is not the isolated mandate of one or two organizations, instead the broader community must take every opportunity to develop assets in young people..
- We need to shift our perspective of youth as objects to youth as a resource and actors in the process of change
- We need to shift our tendency to react to issues or problems with short-term solutions to a long-term commitment to positive opportunities for youth.
- We need to shift away from a culture of civic disengagement to a culture where citizens connect with one another to mutually support and share responsibility for one another.

*“Much of the work of asset building occurs for free. It is the stuff people can do in their everyday lives, supported by the intentional and planned efforts of organizations and institutions. Because asset building depends as much or more on relational energy than programmatic energy, the initiatives are cost-effective”.*  
 (Search Institute,

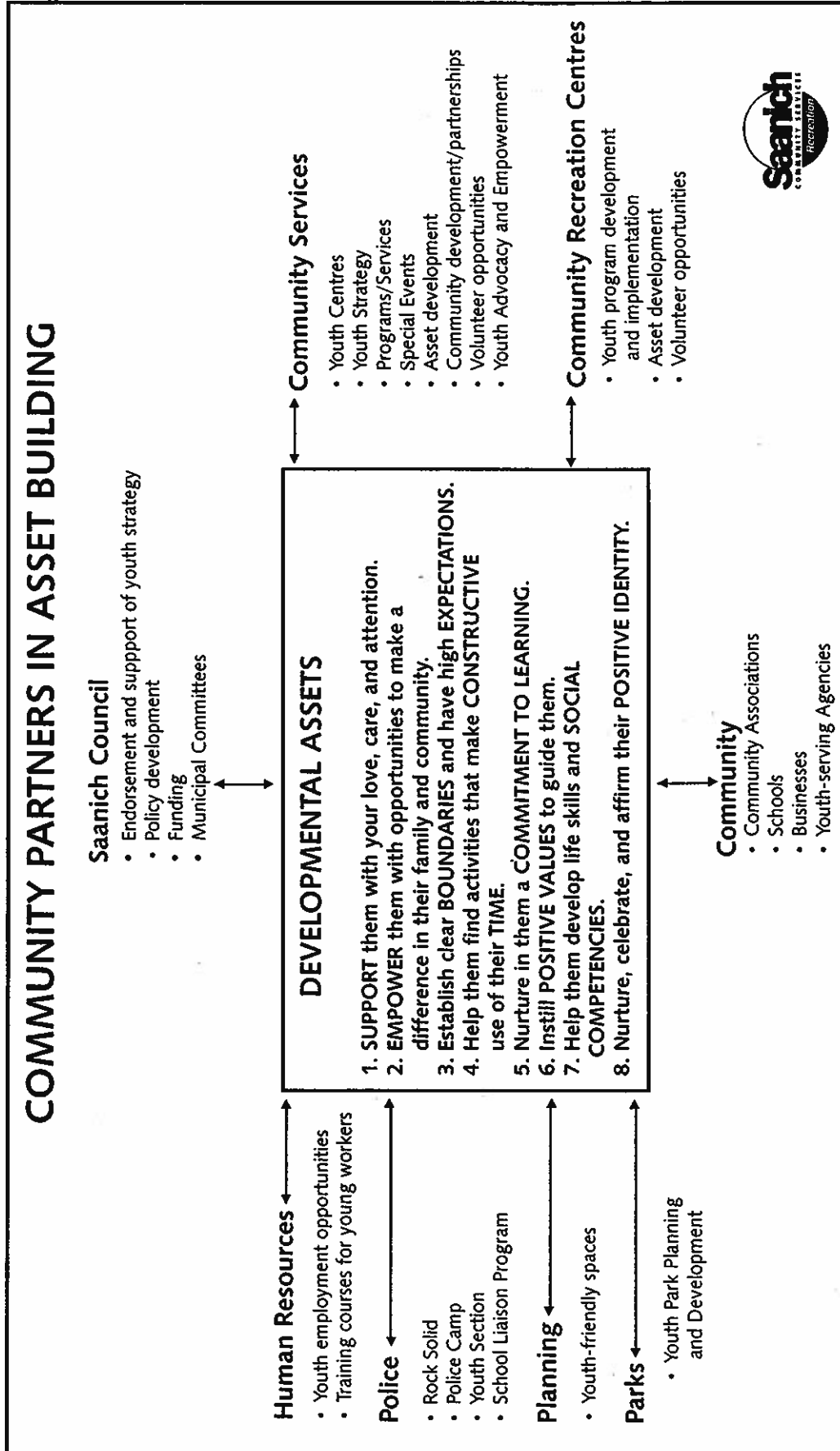
The Youth Development Strategy identifies how we can work toward becoming an asset rich organization. ( See Diagram I) An organization where:

- We focus on young people’s strengths and we use those strengths to deal with problems
- Everyone in the organization believes they can build assets in young people.
- Young people are resources.
- Building developmental assets is a way to interact with young people
- We affect all young people who come into contact with us.
- All adults are accountable for their actions toward young people.
- We build assets intentionally
- We take responsibility for working with others to improve the lives of young people

(Adapted from Starkman, Neal, 2002)



Diagram 1



## APPENDIX - 40 DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS

### External Assets Internal Assets

Search Institute has identified the following building blocks of healthy development that help young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.

### External Assets

Category	Asset Name and Definition
<b>Support</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Family Support-Family life provides high levels of love and support.</li> <li>2. Positive Family Communication-Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.</li> <li>3. Other Adult Relationships-Young person receives support from three or more non-parent adults.</li> <li>4. Caring Neighborhood-Young person experiences caring neighbours.</li> <li>5. Caring School Climate-School provides a caring, encouraging environment.</li> <li>6. Parent Involvement in Schooling-Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.</li> </ol>
<b>Empowerment</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Community Values Youth-Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.</li> <li>8. Youth as Resources-Young people are given useful roles in the community.</li> <li>9. Service to Others-Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.</li> <li>10. Safety-Young person feels safe at home, school, and in the neighborhood.</li> </ol>
<b>Boundaries and Expectations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Family Boundaries-Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.</li> <li>12. School Boundaries-School provides clear rules and consequences.</li> <li>13. Neighborhood Boundaries-Neighbours take responsibility for monitoring young people's behaviour.</li> <li>14. Adult Role Models-Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behaviour.</li> <li>15. Positive Peer Influence-Young person's best friends model responsible behaviour.</li> <li>16. High Expectations-Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.</li> </ol>
<b>Constructive use of time</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17. Creative Activities-Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theatre, or other arts.</li> <li>18. Youth Programs-Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community.</li> <li>19. Religious Community-Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.</li> <li>20. Time at Home-Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" two or fewer nights per week</li> </ol>

## INTERNAL ASSETS

**Category**                      **Asset Name and Definition**

<p><b>Commitment to Learning</b></p>	<p>21. Achievement Motivation-Young person is motivated to do well in school.                  22. School Engagement-Young person is actively engaged in learning.                  23. Homework-Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.                  24. Bonding to School-Young person cares about her or his school.                  25. Reading for Pleasure-Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.                  26. Caring-Young person places high value on helping other people..</p>
<p><b>Positive Values</b></p>	<p>26. Caring-Young person places high value on helping other people.                  27. Equality and Social Justice-Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.                  28. Integrity-Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs.                  29. Honesty-Young person "tells the truth even when it is not easy."                  30. Responsibility-Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.                  31. Restraint-Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.</p>
<p><b>Social competencies</b></p>	<p>32. Planning and Decision Making-Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices.                  33. Interpersonal Competence-Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.                  34. Cultural Competence-Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.                  35. Resistance Skills-Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.                  36. Peaceful Conflict Resolution-Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.</p>
<p><b>Positive Identity</b></p>	<p>37. Personal Power-Young person feels he or she has control over "things that happen to me."                  38. Self-Esteem-Young person reports having a high self-esteem.                  39. Sense of Purpose-Young person reports that "my life has a purpose."                  40. Positive View of Personal Future-Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.</p>

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# **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

## **A VISION FOR SAANICH**



## A VISION FOR SAANICH

**Our vision** is of a community where adults value and care for youth and nurture them. Where youth have the ability to participate fully in the life of the community in a healthy and positive way.

**Our mission** is to become engaged with all levels of the community in order to support and empower youth to reach their full potential as active and contributing members of the community.

**Our youth development philosophy** guides every aspect of our organization from policy development to staff interactions with youth.

*In Saanich our philosophy is that youth are a vital resource  
and must be involved and engaged in decisions that affect them.*

**Our Guiding Principles** will provide direction for us in our day to day efforts to intentionally build assets in young people.

In Saanich:

- we strive to support youth;
- we empower youth by involving them in decisions that affect them;
- we give young people responsibilities and expect them to do well;
- we provide opportunities for constructive use of time where youth can develop their skills and abilities.

The District of Saanich has the opportunity and capacity to be a leader in the creation of a healthy community for youth.

The District of Saanich has the opportunity and capacity to be a leader in the creation of a healthy community for youth. While the Recreation, Police and Parks Departments have the most direct impact on youth, all departments and individuals within the organization have a role to play in building assets in youth. The goal of this strategy is to guide Saanich in its efforts to become an asset building organization. In Saanich we will work toward realizing our vision of a healthy community for youth by making a commitment to the following three overall goals for the municipality:

**Our goals are to:**

**1. Mobilize our own internal capacity to build assets in youth through programs and services**

For example, we can:

- affirm and acknowledge asset building programs and practices already taking place
- shape programs to advance an asset building vision
- identify on a yearly basis which assets we will focus on developing through our programs and services

**A great idea for developing assets through programs!**  
Empower youth through community service projects such as yard work, gardening and raffling off a meal.  
Sherwood Park AB  
(Stevenson, Cory, 2003)

**2. Create internal policies, systems and practices that build assets in youth**

For example, we can:

- include asset building in our mission statement
- intentionally build assets in teenage employees
- develop practices that involve youth in decisions that affect them
- ensure that youth feel welcomed in our buildings

**A great idea for initiating a practice that involves youth in decision that affect them!**  
Ask a group of 11 - 14 year olds to create a community assessment. Kansas City Missouri (Search Institute, 1998)

**3. Collaborate with individuals and groups in the community in order to mobilize the community's capacity to build assets in youth.**

For example, we can:

- Partner with others in getting the word out about asset development
- Provide leadership and resources to the community in asset building efforts
- Collaborate with community members and other organizations to build assets in youth

**A great idea for partnering with others in getting the word out about asset development!**  
Have housing developers integrate assets into their development plans for the community so that it becomes an asset building community.  
Mesa, Arizona (Search Institute, 1998)

# LONG TERM RECOMMENDATIONS





## **LONG TERM RECOMMENDATIONS**

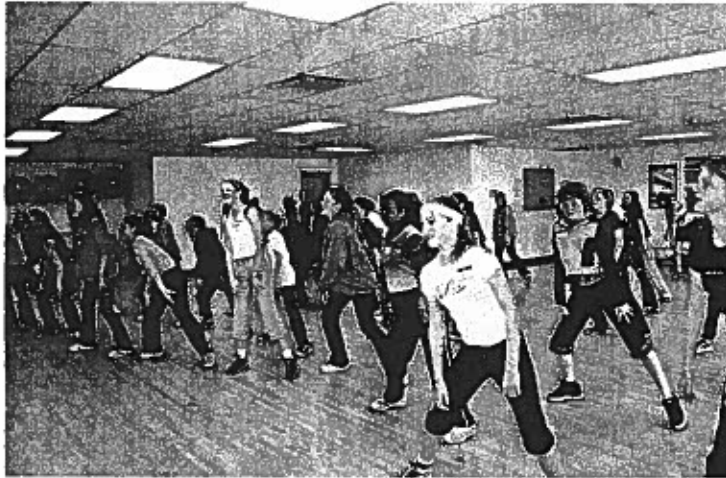
Developing a healthy community for youth through the asset development model is an ongoing and long-term process. The following overall recommendations are intended to guide us in the work that we do with and for youth over the next five years. In addition, the recommendations provide a framework for the development of more specific goals that move us toward our vision of a healthy community for youth. Following these broad recommendations are more specific action items for the years 2003 and 2004.

### ***For the District of Saanich to:***

1. Assess and identify how current programs, policies and overall operations build assets in youth.
2. Include the Youth Development Strategy in annual department work planning processes in order to identify additional ways to build assets in youth.
3. Ensure the Youth Development Strategy is incorporated into the Corporate Plan.
4. Involve and engage youth in decisions that affect them and in the evaluation and development of youth programs, services and facilities.
5. Foster asset development in the community and in other organizations.
6. Identify and initiate ways we can be connecting, supporting and including youth of diverse cultural backgrounds, youth with disabilities and youth at risk into our programs and services.
7. Identify and initiate ways we can be supporting youth who are economically disadvantaged in accessing programs and services.
8. Inform the public that Saanich builds assets in youth.
9. Support efforts to have staff trained in asset development.
10. Improve promotion of youth programs to reach youth more effectively.
11. Intentionally build assets in youth by applying the following guiding principles in the work we do.

**Youth Development Guiding Principles In Saanich:**

- we strive to support youth;
- we empower youth by involving them in decisions that affect them;
- we give young people responsibilities and expect them to do well;
- provide opportunities for constructive use of time where they can develop their skills and abilities.



***Girls Fest***



***Local Government and Youth***

## **ACTION ITEMS - 2003 - 2004**

### **For the Recreation Services Department to:**

1. For Recreation Centres and Facility Operations to review current hiring practices and implement ways to recruit and select staff who have the ability to develop positive relationships with youth and support and empower them.
2. For Community Services to be a resource to Centres and Facility Operations in their efforts to hire "youth friendly" staff.
3. Improve promotion of youth programs to reach youth more effectively. Consider use of the internet, youth forums and presentations and information tables at schools as suggested by youth surveyed for the strategy.
4. Continue to pursue cooperative facility development opportunities with School Districts #61 and #63, and revisit both school district agreements to ensure they are working effectively.
5. Work towards the development of a third youth centre in the Royal Oak/Broadmead Community.
6. To seek municipal support for increased personnel support for the expanding youth services.

### **For Recreation Centres to:**

1. Work with youth by developing Youth Advisory Committees, regular youth forums or other youth involvement mechanisms in order to develop and enhance youth programs and services.
2. Complete an inventory of their current schedules to ensure that their allocation of time and space is equitable to youth in comparison to other user groups.
3. Complete an inventory of their current youth programs to ensure that they are offering programs for youth in their community equitably. For staff to consider feedback received for this strategy from youth that indicated a need for more:

basketball programs	drop in opportunities
seminars	sport leagues
girls programs	dances
special events	coffee houses
out trips	youth only access to facilities

4. Use the asset building model when making decisions about centre policies to ensure that decisions they make build assets in youth.
5. Ensure activities of user groups support our efforts to build assets in youth and inform these user groups of our use of the asset development model.

**For Community Services to :**

1. Develop and implement a staff training package that will:
  - train senior staff to train their staff in the Youth Development Strategy and Asset Development;
  - include materials for our Recreation staff orientation packages;
  - train all youth program staff, front desk staff and Facility operations staff;
  - identify further ways to share resources, information and ideas about asset development within the department.
2. To act as a resources to other departments to enable them to develop yearly action plans pertaining to youth that are consistent with the asset development model and the Municipal Youth Development Strategy.
3. Develop a plan for a community wide initiative to promote the asset message and motivate individuals and organizations to intentionally build assets in young people.
4. Be a resource to Recreation Centres and other departments in their efforts to initiate youth participation in planning and program development.
5. Continue to work with youth and local businesses to develop a plan and program that improves understanding, communication and respect between businesses and youth. The plan will use the asset development framework and will acknowledge businesses that are youth friendly.
6. To develop an annual youth services plan for the Youth Activity Centres (see appendix).
7. Develop a plan with RIV to address the leisure needs of youth with disabilities.

## **ACTION ITEMS - PARKS - 2003 - 2004**

### **Saanich Parks Department - Recommendations for the Youth Strategy**

The 2001, District of Saanich Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommends that the Recreation and Parks departments:

“Address the provision of outdoor youth recreation facilities as a high priority”

In fact, the results of the community survey that was done for the master plan show a significant need for youth-oriented outdoor facilities. Of those who responded 22% supported development of skateboard parks and 18% supported development of sport courts compared to 13% who supported sport fields. In addition, the master plan suggests that the need for outdoor youth facilities is more significant than indicated given that only 9 percent of survey respondents were under 19 years of age.

Results of the surveys completed for the Youth Strategy are certainly consistent with the master plan survey findings. Youth told us that they need BMX bike tracks, skateboard parks and basketball facilities in particular in the Saanich west area.

#### **Recommendations**

1. For the Parks and Recreation Departments to identify how they will address the provision of outdoor youth recreation facilities and ensure that youth are actively engaged in this process.
2. For the Saanich Recreation and Parks departments to continue to explore the possibility of the development of a BMX Bike Park..
3. Saanich Recreation and Parks departments, along with local youth and community members assess the feasibility of developing a second skateboard park.
4. Saanich Recreation and Parks departments along with youth and community members explore the possibility of an outdoor youth facility.
5. For the Parks Department to include youth in any public consultation processes related to parks and trail development and for the Recreation Department to support Park's efforts in working with youth.

## **ACTION ITEMS - POLICE - 2003 - 2004**

### **Recommendations - Saanich Police Department**

1. Police Liaison Officers should be assigned directly to the Youth Activities Centres where they would have an opportunity to develop relationships with youth, some of whom do not attend school. They could also work in cooperation with youth staff to develop prevention programs that could be delivered in the community. These police officers could come from the Patrol Platoons.
2. Continue to support the Rock Solid Program a prize winning, innovative program that brings a gritty and realistic vision of the consequences of violence among youth. Using an interactive, multi-media presentation, a team of police officers and young actors bring an "in your face" look at bullying and intimidation, and some successful strategies for defeating violence.
3. Continue to provide the WITS program to elementary schools in Saanich. WITS or Walk Away, Ignore, Tell Someone is a anti-bullying program designed for elementary school students and offered by School Liaison Officers.
4. Continue to support the Saanich Police Dragster Program. This innovative program that uses a unique 1970 front engine Dragster, marked out with Saanich Police colours and a custom built emergency light bar. This Police race car is used as the "Flagship" for the Program to hook the attention of kids of all ages, while important safety and life skill messages are discussed. Presentations are given at elementary, middle and high schools as well as summer camps and other community events.
5. Continue to support the Police Camp, a unique opportunity for fifty young people from lower Vancouver Island schools. Youth work hard to meet the rigorous selection criteria and those chosen attend a six day "boot camp" looking at the working life of a police officer.

# APPENDICES





## APPENDIX - COMMUNITY SERVICES - YOUTH SERVICES - OPERATIONAL PLAN - 2003

As we wind up the process of creating a new Municipal Youth Strategy, which utilizes Asset Development as its framework, we need to find strategic ways to incorporate these concepts into the daily and yearly business within our centre. Asset development encompasses eight key areas on which we will be able to build our services over the next many years. While most of these assets are natural spinoffs from our daily business it will only be possible to fully incorporate all these concepts by strategically addressing each of the areas in a set time frame. The two areas we have identified this year as targets are: Empowering Youth and Communication.

This year our goal is to more effectively communicate our core values, as it relates to Asset Development, to our staff, our buildings and our public. We have identified a number of steps we can take to make this a reality this year:

### Teen Centres 2003

#### COMMUNICATIONS

2003 PLAN	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR/ EVALUATION 2003	STAFF	STATUS
Youth Strategy	completed and adopted by council	Teri	
<p>Increase communication with Police Department, Patrol Platoons and Youth Investigation Officers assigned to teen centres where they will have higher profile with youth and work with staff to develop prevention programs.</p> <p>- Meet with Intermunicipal youth programmers</p> <p>Establish regular meeting for youth workers to network</p> <p>Establish regular meetings with Lambrick and begin joint programming</p> <p>PAC - meet with PAC in centres catchments</p>	<p>- Establish regular communication methods such as meetings, mailings etc.</p> <p>- Develop at least one prevention program with youth staff and police</p> <p>- Establish regular police presence at teen centres</p> <p>- Meet twice a year with Police and Lambrick School to discuss policing needs in the Lambrick Area</p> <p>10X/yr</p> <p>Meet 6 times per year</p> <p>Have CAP/Leadership/Cultural Diversity/Staff all use the teen centre for one meeting and meet with YP to discuss possible partnerships.</p> <p>meet with 3 pacs per year per centre to share information</p>	<p>-Youth Programmers</p> <p>Youth Programmers/area programmer</p> <p>Area programmer</p> <p>GHRC YPI</p>	<p>- held meeting with school, Youth Officer, Rec. manager and youth programmers.</p> <p>- communication regularly with Youth Officers</p> <p>- increased police presence noticeable</p> <p>Organized one meeting but due to low attendance the group thought it best to amalgamate with Healthy Schools as this group already has regular attendance by youth serving agencies.</p> <p>Have met with leadership/....</p>
		Youth Programmer	ongoing - will be meeting this month

<p>Healthy Schools</p>	<p>maintain attendance at monthly meetings and work in partnership on programs when appropriate Partner to deliver DASH conference in May Seek Healthy Schools funding to support program initiatives when appropriate (Oct deadline)</p>	<p>Area programmer</p>	<p>- attending monthly meetings - partnered in Conference (May)</p>
<p>Reestablish a working relationship with YMCA outreach workers</p>	<p>meet twice yearly with staff have outreach workers use our centres for client meetings call on workers to assist us with risk youth provide free or low cost program opportunities to client</p>	<p>Youth Programmers</p>	<p>Met with both workers March 2003 and have established a plan to utilize y workers where appropriate. Y workers will use teen centres for outreach meetings with youth. Provided passes to Y workers for youth use. Will have Y workers attend a fall staff meeting to meet teen staff yearly.</p>
<p>Develop a Communication Strategy that clearly indicates our commitment to Asset development in our centres</p>	<p>Incorporate asset development into regular training / feed back with auxiliary staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Display written acknowledgments of the 8 categories in our centres and buildings. (Consult with auxiliary staff to find communication styles that will work both for staff and youth in getting the message out and seen)</li> <li>▶ Incorporate asset assessments into program reports and updates</li> <li>▶ Develop monthly challenges for teen centre staff in meeting asset goals . Include regular debriefings with staff to assess the impact on staff and youth.</li> <li>▶ Develop an initiative that clearly demonstrates one component of Asset Dev. Ensure asset dev material is displayed throughout our centres</li> </ul>	<p>Area programmer/ Youth Programmers</p>	<p>- Asset Development has become part of every staff meeting and training  - using asset language in program reports</p>

<p>Develop a Strategy to assist our buildings staff to understand and adopt Asset development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Share a story about a youth with building staff - help them make a personal connection to youth</li> <li>▶ Have youth share a thank you opportunity with staff in the building</li> <li>▶ Explore program expansion to include youth use of other areas of the building.</li> <li>▶ Explore program partnership with centres (perhaps quarterly working on one joint youth program)</li> <li>▶ Assist centres in developing a marketing strategy for youth market</li> <li>▶ set up marketing reps as each school to disseminate information to peers</li> </ul>	<p>Youth Programmers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- several partnerships with centres, e.g., 'Welcome back'; 'Building Bridges'</li> <li>- partnering with centre programmers to market opportunities</li> <li>- Fall '03</li> </ul>
<p>Asset Development Speaker Bureau</p>	<p>Designate a key staff to receive training and be available to CS to share asset message with internal groups</p>	<p>Area programmer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- staff has attended trainer's training (A Richards) and has delivered a couple of training sessions.</li> </ul>
<p>Cultural Bridging: recognize the implication cultural backgrounds may have on the attendance or non attendance of various cultural groups within our centres.  Promote youth centres as being welcoming, inclusive and safe for youth of all cultural backgrounds  establish a benchmark of participation by youth of various ethnocultural groups</p>	<p>Begin benchmarking by recording number of visits by ethnic youth.  be more deliberate in celebrating diversity within the centre.  Celebrate various significant cultural dates and incorporate them into monthly planning within the centre Incorporate 'education' opportunities into those activities with a cultural spin.  work with ICA to begin to get a better understanding on how programming or marketing can reach those groups not previously attending our centres.  hold focus groups to receive direct feedback from youth from different cultural backgrounds.</p>	<p>Youth Programmers</p>	<p>Began this April 2003</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- programs to celebrate culture such as Girls Group Sushi Night.</li> </ul> <p>Met ICA staff April 11 to look at partnership opportunities for summer</p> <p>Very successful summer partnership with ICA.</p>

**MARKETING/PROMOTIONS**

<b>2003 PLAN</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE INDICATOR 2003</b>	<b>STAFF</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Intermunicipal youth web site maintained</li> <li>▶ Develop 2 high end marketing brochures for Teen Continuum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ track number of hits per month/day/week for bench marking</li> <li>▶ Completed brochures</li> </ul>	Sadeep  Area Programmer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ongoing: 18,000 hits in 6 months</li> <li>- completed</li> </ul>
<p><b>YAC:</b> redevelop our marketing tools to reflect our current promotional needs Maintain Spring/summer YAC as is</p> <p>Establish Marketing reps at 4 local schools to take on marketing role in each school to assist with both community services and centre youth marketing</p>	<p>replace the fall YAC with a series of teen flyers to better target market youth CS programs</p> <p>job description established reward program developed approval by each school to recruit a youth - by June recruitment of youth by sept 30<sup>th</sup>.</p>	Area Programmer  Youth Programmers	<p>1<sup>st</sup> two completed April- we have a series of four flyers that target market a specific program or service. Second series to be completed by August.</p>

**EVALUATION AND REPORTING**

<b>2003 PLAN</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE INDICATOR 2003</b>	<b>STAFF</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Develop participant evaluation: generic form for teens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ completed and utilized forms</li> </ul>	Teri	

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

<b>2003 PLAN</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE INDICATOR 2003</b>	<b>STAFF</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<p>Provide Senior staff training opportunities to become experts in Asset Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Ensure that all staff receive an orientation to the policy and procedure for teen centre operations</li> <li>▶ Ensure that all staff receive an orientation to the asset development and establish a work plan for implementing asset development into teen centre operations</li> <li>▶ Staff receive training in emergency and evacuation procedures.</li> </ul>	<p>Provide opportunities for senior staff to become intimately familiar with Asset Development</p> <p>Mandatory training 2x per year . One in Oct and one in January. Policies/procedures/asset development as standing items all programs reflect the asset development approach and evaluated on this basis  all staff trained</p>	<p>GHRC Youth Programmer attended train the trainer type workshop April 2003</p> <p>Youth Programmer</p>	<p>February training completed</p> <p>- staff attended orientation at Pearkes, October training schedule</p>

<p>▶ Work with Intermunicipal youth programmers group to develop regional training opportunities for programmers</p>	<p>one training session per year</p>	<p>TBA</p>	<p>plans for intermunicipal training in October</p>
<p><b>FACILITIES &amp; EQUIPMENT</b></p>			
<p><b>2003 PLAN</b></p>			
<p>- formalize expansion plans for Pearkes and GHRC; 2005 funding in place</p>	<p>???</p>	<p>Linda/Vicki</p>	<p><b>STATUS</b></p>
<p>Establish a plan for Teen Facility in the Royal Oak/Broadmead Area</p>	<p>▶ establish potential location &amp; funding sources identified ▶ solicit community input through monthly youth group and periodic adult consultation ( Revisit goals with youth committee/ adult committee) - Determine options if youth centre doesn't come through - Written Plan</p>	<p>Charlene Sadeep</p>	<p>- go ahead given for Youth Activity Centre at SCP - meeting with community to discover needs</p>
<p>Have all parties agree to priority of BMX project and develop a conceptual drawing</p>	<p>Parks Support/ Council Support/ Community Support</p>	<p>Sadeep</p>	<p>- ongoing</p>
<p>Develop a replacement plan for outdoor equipment</p>	<p>▶ New equipment obtained for TOAD, Outback, Family camping ▶ long term replacement plan in place</p>	<p>Resource Officer/Area Programmers</p>	<p>- plan started with inventory - budget plan will be forwarded</p>
<p>Develop the field area at Lambrick to allow for better use of the dead green space</p>	<p>meet with parks to establish a plan for whole park work with Kari to find \$10 000 to install irrigation and resurfacing of the green space Hold community meeting to ensure support.</p>	<p>Resource Officer/Area Programmer</p>	<p>Applied to Molson and Lions April 2003 - Molson grant received, 2K</p>
<p>Skate Park</p>	<p>ensure the smooth operation of the park - establish the skate board committee for spring/summer - host b-b-q for skateboarders host annual community meeting to ensure issues are being addressed</p>	<p>Youth Programmer GHRC</p>	<p>Hired a staff host for April -June for 5 hours per week to assist in park operation - committee met a couple of times in Spring - major Skatepark cleanup &amp; BBQ in May - community meeting held in May. All issues addressed (attended by Youth Officer too); part of Youth Week</p>

**PUBLIC LEISURE EDUCATION/CUSTOMER SERVICE**

2003 PLAN	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR 2003	STAFF	STATUS
work with Intermunicipal youth programmers group	attendance at events, media exposure, departmental exposure	S.V.A	monthly meetings
Establish a skate park host program to ensure strong community support	▶ host to work April - August.	Youth Programmer GHRC	host hired in April

**PARTNERSHIPS/SPONSORSHIPS**

2003 PLAN	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR 2003	STAFF	STATUS
Create stronger ties with Lambrick Park School	- visitation and partnership programs with CAP, Leadership/Staff/Diversity group/	Youth Programmer	- ongoing: met with then Vice-Principal to discuss local issues - ongoing interaction with randy Falls, Vice-Principal - met with leadership group in spring - leadership group volunteered for Skatepark cleanup day in May
Knights Alive Funding	submit application in February of funding for GHRC project	Area Programmer	submitted
University of Victoria CYC Students . ,	Maintain 2-3 students each year to assist in programs	Youth Programmers	2 practicum students this fall
Youth Fund- work with Kari to establish a gift giving fund that will support youth centres and youth program development		Resource Officer/Area Programmer	ongoing project with Legacy Foundation

**PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT/PROGRAM**

2003 PLAN	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR 2003	STAFF	STATUS
To offer vibrant, well received, healthy and socially worthwhile public recreation programs to citizens of Saanich. Maintain current service levels on existing programs			

<p><b>Program Development</b> Utilize the concept of <b>youth empowerment</b> to evaluate current programs and to redevelop or develop all new programs.</p>	<p>Programs will all reflect some element of youth empowerment</p>	<p>Youth Programmers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Xtreme team</li> <li>- TOAD</li> <li>- Guys Groups, Girls Groups</li> <li>- all emphasize empowerment</li> </ul>
<p>Reynolds Community Network</p>	<p>Implement a 6 week activity program each fall to meet youth and share program information for the year.</p>	<p>Area Programmer Sadeep Plan?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- networking in place with school and businesses</li> <li>- no current committee at this time</li> <li>- current</li> </ul>
<p>Develop programs not currently offered by centres and in response to community need</p>		<p>Youth Programmers/Area Programmer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- researching community need</li> </ul>
<p><b>Continue to provide literature and health contacts to youth</b></p>	<p>Current information maintained and distributed as needed</p>	<p>Youth Programmers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- done in our centres and on our activity calendars</li> </ul>
<p><b>Local Government and Youth &amp; Speakers Corner</b></p>	<p>Look at combining the two programs See if we can tap into existing leadership conferences and host a forum as part of their day. Ensure this program is delivered in some form once per year</p>	<p>Area Programmer/Youth Programmers</p>	
<p>Toad-Revitalize the program for fall 2003</p>	<p>minimum enrolment - 18 youth seek funding to help support program costs</p>	<p>Area Programmer</p>	
<p><b>TTT:</b></p>	<p>- Establish a roving committee to visit schools and evaluate talent and promote TTT</p>	<p>Area Programmer</p>	
<p><b>Candlelight Dinner Theatre (Nov.)</b></p>	<p>reconnect with Claremont or pass on opportunity to host to another school</p>	<p>Area Programmer</p>	



<p><b>Youth Week Events:</b></p>	<p>Closing Event - Partner with School District 61 to host as youth and youth and parent conference in May. 1. Acts of Kindness 2. Colquitz Creek Cleanup 3 Awards week for youth, youth agencies, programs and workers.</p>	<p>Area Programmer/ Youth Programmers</p>	<p>- Building Bridges event for parents and youth - all completed in May</p>
<p><b>YAHOO:</b></p>	<p>reestablish a program in the Royal Oak area to ensure a practical connection to local youth</p>	<p>Area Programmer</p>	<p>currently meeting with community members</p>
<p><b>Duke of Edinburgh:</b></p>	<p>Continue to host a site for the program and support the program through youth programmer hours and fee for service trips. Have minimum of 10 youth registered</p>	<p>Youth Programmer Pearkes</p>	<p>hosted out of Coredoor</p>
<p><b>Outback</b></p>	<p><b>redevelop the program to meet needs of youth</b> 85% enrollment 10% life spots enrolment through contacts with agencies serving this clientele</p>	<p>Area Programmer</p>	<p>offered spots to Colquitz /YMCA outreach workers</p>
<p><b>Summer Internship:</b></p>	<p>full enrollment with 90% completion and 50% of youth returning to employment in the field with Saanich in the next 3-5 years ▶ honoraria funding through Legacy Foundation</p>	<p>Youth Programmer GHRC</p>	<p>- 8 playground placements - 1 Outback (one person) - 1 Skatepark - very successful</p>
<p><b>Teens in Action:</b></p>	<p>90% enrollment and completion create year round volunteer opportunities</p>	<p>Youth Programmer GHRC</p>	<p>- enrollment almost full - contacts retained for year round volunteering</p>
<p><b>Tillicum Drop In</b></p>	<p>Establish a free sports drop in program at Tillicum School - minimum participation 12 youth per night</p>	<p>Youth Programmer Pearkes</p>	<p>Program started April 2003 - Spring Hoops - continuing</p>
<p><b>Marigold hockey</b></p>	<p>transition this hockey program to a centres and expand to a league</p>	<p>Youth Programmer Pearkes</p>	<p>Programmed and advertised two leagues Western and Eastern league.</p>

Craft Co-op:	Restructure / refocus the program to run oct/ nov for xmas fair and feb/march for spring fair pots and posies. Reduce months and make time used more intense with a focus on the craft sales	Youth Programmer Pearkes	- Co-op student undertaking this program
Girls' Fest:	enrollment of 50 girls find sponsorship to assist with	Youth Programmer Pearkes	completed - 50+ girls enrolled
Wheels:	Transition program to a user fee basis Transition program to GHRC programmer if possible Maintain relationship with Riders cycle Offer a informal riding program to centre youth	Youth Programmer GHRC	- program running out of GH Programmer - is now a user fee program but very affordable
Girls' /Guys' Group:	Maintain enrolment at 10 participants per program	Youth Programmer Pearkes Youth Programmer GHRC	- ongoing programs
Sun Jam: host annual event	Reconsider the family component &/or hold a am session just for little and beginner skaters with demos and lessons.	Youth Programmer GHRC	- hosted Skatejam in July - am session for beginner skaters
Coffee Houses:	look at holding an outdoor event at GHRC this spring and continue with Pearkes program. Draw from TTT for performers	Youth Programmer GHRC	in plans
Ghost Story Tours/Christmas Lights:	-utilize CYC students, youth volunteers and Xtreme team to lead tours	Youth Programmer Pearkes	scheduled for December
R.A.D. Pro-D Day:	re look at and see if program is affordable - must be cost recovery activities	Youth Programmers	
Xtreme Team:		Youth Programmer Pearkes	ongoing
Volunteer Awards	Implement a youth, youth group, youth work/agency recognition program	Area Programmer	- Youth Awards to teens in May (Youth Week)

Welcome Back: host events each September	attract 100 youth per centre	Youth Programmers	- Coredoor September 3 event - Backdoor event September 26
Halloween:	partner with Gordon Head to host a family event next year (as it falls on Friday this year and it is a real concern the amount of teens in the park area during this time on Friday and Sat Halloween nights.) Continue to work with Pearkes to incorporate teen activities into their annual event.	Youth Programmer GHRC	
End of year events: Increase awareness of the centres by inviting schools to make use of the centres for wind up parties for free	3 school uses per centre	Youth Programmers	invited Lambrick to meet out of centres
Social Shakers	10 x times per year explore option of grade 8/9 dances for fall 2003	Youth Programmers	ongoing
Youth Friendly business	in planning process		
Life	to meet with Social Housing to review needs	Sadeep	starting this Fall

## COMMUNITY CENTRE PROGRAM SERVICES SUMMARY - 2002

### Drop in Programs and General Admittance

Swim lessons and aquatic leadership courses

Teen Swims

Drop in Sports and lesson programs

Skate lessons and drop in programs

### Clubs and Partnership Programs

Dive Club

Swim Clubs

Hockey and Skate clubs

Pacific Sports

Elite sport opportunities

Squash and Tennis Club

Dance Clubs

Dart Club

Computer Games Club

### Dance

Breakdance - Beginner (10-15 years)

Breakdance - Level 2 (10-15 years)

Hip Hop Camp (12-16 years)

Jazz Funk - Teen (13-16 years)

### Daycamps

Aqua Extreme (13-15 years)

Learn to Horseback Ride (13-17 years)

Personal Image - Fashion Basics - Teen (13-15 years)

Prospect Lake Golf Camp (12-16 years)

R.A.D. Pro-D Day 911-14 years)

### General Interest

Craft Co-op (13-18 years)

F.I.A.B. (11-18 years) (computer gaming)

School's Out for-Summer (13-16 years)

### Martial Arts

Kick & Box

Self Defense for Females

Tae Kwon Do - Teens (13 years and up)

Wing Chun King Fu

### Outdoor Programs

Rowing - Youth Recreation (13-16 years)

### Performing Arts

Acting (12-17 years)

Singing for Teens (13-18 years)

### Social Programs

Reynolds Teen Night (12-16 years)

Social Shaker (Grade 6-8)(10-13 years)

Spinning Works (13-18 years)

Teen Coffee House (13-18 years)

Youth Dances (Grade 6-8) (12-14 years)

### Special Events

Christmas Light Tour

Egen Gibfest (11- years & up)

Ghost Story

Welcome Back Kick (13-18 years)

### Sports

Baseball Performance Training (12-15 years)

Commonwealth Junior Triathlon Club (13-19 years)

Golf and Swim (11-14 years)

Golf, Weights and Swim (13-16 years)

Teen Basketball and Swim Drop-in (13-16 years)

Teen Co-ed Weight Training (13-17 years)

Teen Total Fitness (12-15 years)

Teen Weights for Girls (13-16 years)

Teen Weights for Guys (13-16 years)

Marigold Hockey (12-16 years)

### Visual Arts

Computer / Photography

Japanese Style Animation (11-15 years)

Pottery - Teen Potters (13-16 years)

## **Community Services Current Youth Initiatives - 2002-2003**

### **Youth Activity Centres**

Community Services operates two Youth Activity Centres within two Saanich Community Recreation Centres: The Backdoor at Gordon Head and the Coredoor at Pearkes. These centres serve pre-teens and teens in the local neighbourhoods and provide safe, drug and alcohol free, spaces for youth to gather in a supervised environment. Over 12,000 visits by youth were recorded in 2002. As well, staff at each centre strive to provide interesting and exciting activities that develop assets in youth. Over 28 youth programs are delivered through the youth centres each year including youth leadership programs, teen skates and special events, ghost tours and Xmas lights tours, youth coffee houses, social shakers, open house events and weekly fear factors challenges. The program options change weekly and yearly. Plans are underway for a third youth activity centre in the Royal Oak Broadmead area in the near future.

### **Local Government and Youth**

A program designed to introduce high school students to the processes of municipal government. Key municipal staff and council members provide an overview of the workings of local government, and students have a chance to ask questions and make suggestions that will be shared with all municipal departments.

### **Speakers Corner**

Speakers Corner is a forum for discussion which has been hosted at several Saanich High Schools over the years. The purpose of Speakers Corner is to provide youth with an opportunity to express their concerns and opinions directly to service providers within the community. The goal is to develop innovative solutions, raise awareness and improve youth related services.

### **Teens in Action**

This is a Recreation Leadership program for youth interested in learning more about a career working with children, or in recreation. Every summer, teens between the ages of 13-18 participate in training workshops and volunteer placements. To date, over 1000 young people have participated in this valuable community program.

### **TOAD (Teen Outdoor Adventure Development)**

Youth participate in organized fund-raisers to cover the cost of training, certification and various out trips. This program is specifically designed to give participants new skills in outdoor activities such as back country hiking and camping, snowshoeing, kayaking, climbing, surfing and more. As well, participants learn about environmental stewardship, flora and fauna identification and biology.

### **Out Back" Adventure Day Camp**

This program ensures that youth 12-16 experience outdoor adventure in a safe and fun environment. Youth participate in weekly camping trips to various outdoor recreational areas in our region, learn outdoor skills and experience wilderness adventure. The program is based on strong leadership, support, encouragement and fun.

### **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

This prestigious achievement award is presented to youth 14-25 who make a personal commitment to self-discipline, self help and self reliance. Participants choose to be involved in community service, personal fitness and outdoor leadership, and meet monthly as a group to discuss and plan for activities. Two overnight trips are organized to assist participants in fulfilling this requirement at each level.

### **Girls Only/ Guys Only groups**

Significant research exists to suggest that young people need to feel a sense of belonging and acceptance among peers in order to thrive. One way that this can be accomplished is to provide safe and fun environments in single gender groups, supported by knowledgeable and caring leaders. In these groups, positive self esteem can be fostered through activities of interest to the group, workshops and discussions. Groups meet weekly at both the Coredoor and the Backdoor throughout the year.

### **X-Treme Team**

The X-Treme team is a group of young people 13-18 years old, who work to create, initiate and maintain youth projects in the Tillicum area and at the Coredoor Youth Activity Centre. This dynamic group assists with supervision of activities, plans out trips, does fundraising for special projects and serves as a leadership committee for the Coredoor Youth Activity Centre.

### **Wheels in Motion**

With bikes donated by the Saanich Police department and maintenance provided by Rider's Cycle, a group of youth hit the trails at Hartland Mountain Bike Park every second Sunday. This popular program provides an adventure filled activity for youth who may not have access to mountain bikes. It has, however, become so popular, that many other youth are joining in with their own bikes, and a core group of participants enjoys this supervised outing.

### **YAHOO (Youth Actively Helping Organize Opportunities)**

This is a group of students from the Royal Oak/Broadmead area that help to organize activities such as dances, trips, programs etc, and set direction for youth initiatives in the area. The groups main focus has been to raise awareness of youth needs in their community, but they have also begun the task of fundraising in order to help support a youth centre in their area in the near future.

### **Summer Employment Internship**

Youth who have an interest in working with children are encouraged to first attend Teens in Action to gain some initial skills in leadership. By the time some participants are 16-18, they are ready to learn more employment skills. In the Internship program, youth receive more intensive training working in junior leadership roles on the playground program. Youth who successfully complete the program receive a \$500 honorarium from the Saanich Legacy Foundation.

### **Girls Fest**

This is an annual one day conference for girls aged 11-14. Each year, the conference provides girls with the opportunity to build self esteem and confidence through mini-workshops and team building exercises. The focus is to involve young women in as many positive group experiences as possible. Over 50 girls attend each year.

### **Youth Awards**

This is an opportunity for the District of Saanich to acknowledge the great things youth are doing in our community. The awards are presented for numerous contributions by youth, youth workers and youth serving agencies. Ceremonies take place each year during Youth Week.

### **Intermunicipal Programmers Group (GROOVY)**

Saanich Youth Programmers participate in a network of intermunicipal youth programmers from Panorama, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, City of Victoria, Juan de Fuca, and the YM/YWCA. The focus of this group is to better coordinate youth recreational opportunities throughout the Greater Victoria area. This group has done this through special events, creation of an intermunicipal youth web site, common policy development, positive promotions of youth services and sponsorship of youth events and programs.

### **Youth and Business - Partners for the Future**

Community Services is working in partnership with local businesses and youth to develop a program that will foster healthier communities in which economic imperatives of business and social needs of youth are complimentary, mutually supportive and well understood by both youth and business. The aim of the program will be to encourage businesses to invest in youth through increased employment opportunities, and to establish better relationships between local youth and the businesses in their areas.

## **Youth Park**

With the success of the Lambrick Youth Park, the Community Services Section has recently been involved in the planning for another youth park in the Tillicum area. This park would feature BMX bike trails to provide a safe, high energy activity that will be an asset for youth in our community. As well, Community services continues to work with Parks to develop plans for future outdoor youth spaces and parks.

## **Spectrum Youth Internship Program “Leisure Explorations”**

The “Leisure Exploration” program is an innovative approach to connect youth at risk with recreation programs. This program assists high risk youth to develop life skills using recreation and leisure assessments, training and direct personal experiences with new leisure activities. Through a series of orientations and regular participation at recreation centres youth develop a feeling of familiarity and belonging, and the recreation centre becomes a safe comfortable and welcoming space to participate in socially acceptable activities. As financial need is often a barrier to participation, these youth receive a membership to the centre.

## **Girls on the Move**

This tried and true programming approach to getting girls more active in their teen years run at several sites in the community. The program is design to build self esteem and comradery among a population often riddled at this time in life by uncertainty and media image bombardment.

## **School Based Programming**

Staff work closely with schools and youth to design and operate school based programs that provide safe recreation programs that provide alternatives to drug and alcohol based activities that teens are engaging in during this key time in their development. These initiatives include, floor hockey programs, parent and youth conferences, basketball drop in programs, family fun nights to mention a few.

## **Craft Coop**

With initial funding from the Attorney General’s Community Mobilization program this project allowed youth to learn about the business of self employment by developing craft products that were marketable. Youth “borrow” funding to build crafts and then market those crafts at sales organized by Saanich staff . Youth keep all profits from their efforts. The fairs have become so popular that tables are a ‘sell’ out each year and some youth make several hundred dollars at each event.

## **Totally Teen Talent**

This annual talent show event showcases the amazing talents of youth throughout the island. Starting as a modest affair 9 years ago the event now sells over 600 tickets to the event and attracts over 100 youth each year to auditions. With the support of CH tv each year the youth are showcased both at a live show and on local tv programming.

## **Candlelight Dinner Theatre**

A more modest affair than Totally Teen Talent this event features local performers at the popular McMorrans restaurant during an evening of fine dining and local performance. With an attendance at around 100 people this is a great opportunity for youth to fine tune there public performance skills.

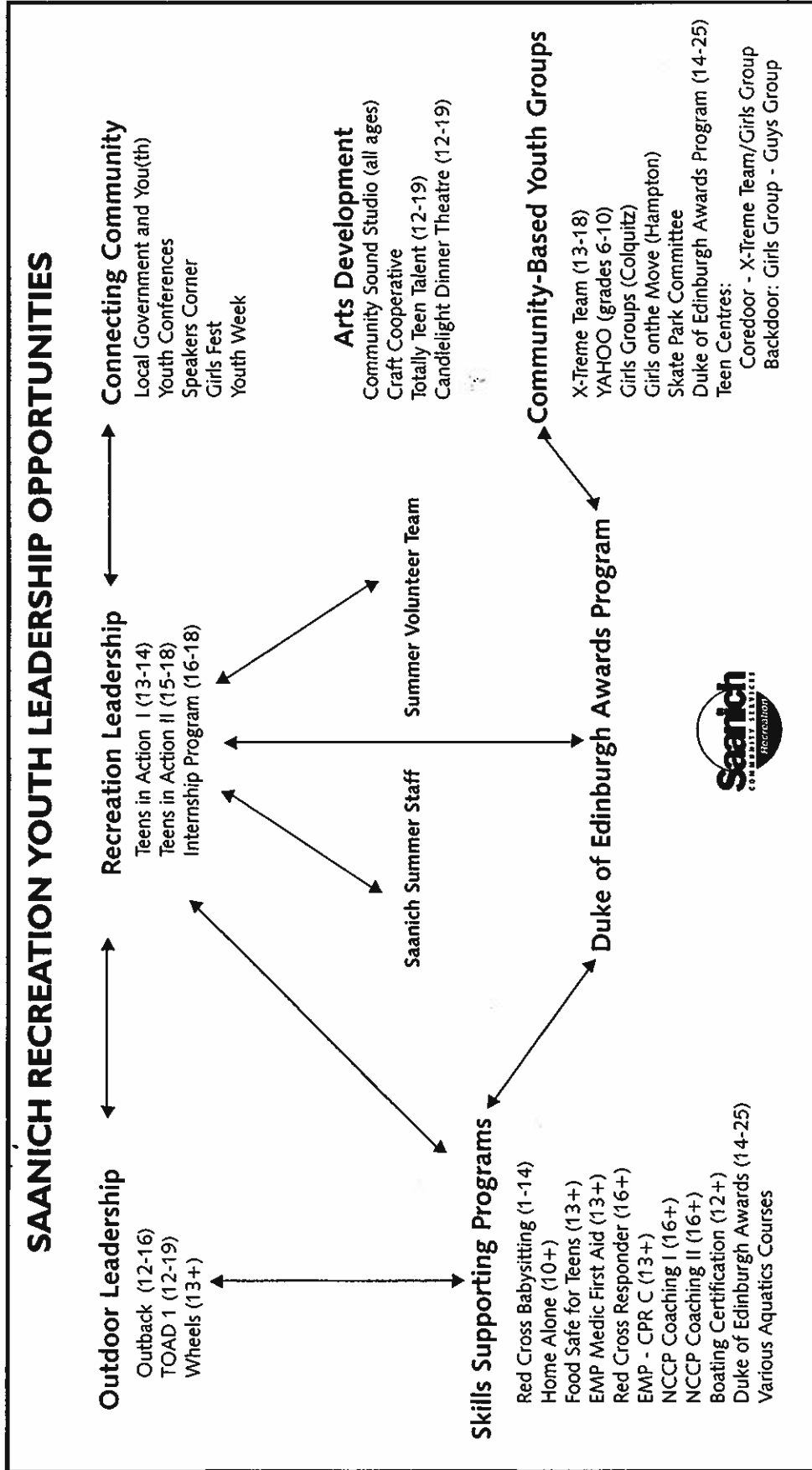
## **Youth Week**

This is a National event held throughout Canada. Youth Week is a celebration of efforts, energies and positive contributions youth put into their communities all year long. There are several countries internationally that celebrate Youth Week. Each year an inter-municipal recreation group works on this event to bring a higher profile to the great accomplishments of youth and to provide some extra activities and events for youth to enjoy.

## **Skate Jam**

This annual event draws a crowd of hundreds to appreciate the sport of skateboarding. Lambrick Park plays host to national standing skaters to those just beginning in the sport. It is a great opportunity for the skate community to showcase their talents and battle some of the old public mis-perceptions of skaters.

Diagram II







## **YOUTH INPUT FOR STRATEGY**

- **Youth Surveys**
- **Speakers Forums**
- **Royal Oak School Forum**

### **Youth Survey Results**

#### **Survey Demographics**

During 2001, the Community Services division of Saanich Recreation Services conducted community surveys regarding Youth Services and Municipal Government. The survey was conducted from January through November 8, 2001, it encompassed users of our facilities, youth park users and youth forums.

- In total 120 individuals completed the survey.
- The age range was from 12 - 18 years old.
- The average age of the participants was 15 years old
- 55% males completed the survey, 45% females completed the survey.
- All youth who responded were attending either public, private or alternative school at the time of the survey.

This survey was designed to explore the following questions:

1. What is the Saanich Municipal Government doing for youth right now? What is missing?
2. How many Municipal Departments can you name? What could these departments be doing to better serve youth in Saanich?
3. How would you currently share information with the Municipality if you had something to say, or something that needed doing? Is there a different way to contact the Municipality that might be better or easier for youth or youth serving agencies?
4. If you could tell Saanich Council to do three things for youth, what would they be? Share your top three priorities.
5. Is there anything you would like to tell the Municipality of Saanich about youth in Saanich?
6. Would you be willing to meet together again in an effort to address some of the above issues?

The following are highlights from the survey questions

#### ***What is the Saanich Municipal Government doing for youth right now? What is missing?***

##### **A. The perception of youth was that Saanich:**

- Provided Teen Centres

- Provided life skills through Teen centres
- Provided a safe place to come to
- Built skate parks
- Built Recreation Centres
- Kept the City Clean

**B. Youth thought the following items were missing:**

- Seminars for youth (peer counseling)
- Good advertising of centers and programs
- More money for programs
- Better interaction between municipal staff and youth
- More interactive programming
- Skate parks in the Tillcum area ( around spectrum school)
- Increase funding for youth programs.
- Make more accessible teen areas, more teen centers with more drop in hours.
- A pool at Pearkes Recreation Centre.
- More programs like On the Move which the girls like to attend
- Add on to the existing skateboard park
- Centre where only teens are allowed separate from the rec facility
- BMX Mt bike trials
- More basketball courts
- More Soccer fields
- Basketball league drop-in
- Teen Centre needs to be bigger

**Quick Overview:**

The survey results indicated that youth are looking for more programs, increased hours of operations and more youth parks.

***How many Municipal Departments can you name? What could these departments be doing to better serve youth in Saanich?***

- Gordon Head, Commonwealth, Pearkes, Cedar Hill
- Teen programs and the Recreation centers.
- Fire

- Police
- Health/CRD
- Parks and Recreation
- Memorial arena
- Parks & Recreation
- Waste, Recycling
- Power Company
- No suggestions on what these departments could be doing to better serve youth
- More H2O slides
- Bigger pools, more diving boards
- Sports day, more soccer
- More equipment at teen centres
- Listen to youth
- Education

**Quick Overview:**

Youth named a number of municipal departments with Parks and Recreation on the top of the list, next to Police. The suggestions for how the departments could better serve youth ranged from improvements physically for existing buildings to education.

***How would you currently share information with the Municipality if you had something to say, or something that needed doing? Is there a different way to contact the Municipality that might be better or easier for youth or youth serving agencies?***

- By phone
- Write a letter
- Talk to the staff at the center
- Tell a youth programmer at the teen center
- Tell friends
- Internet
- Walk in to the Mayors office and tell him
- Tell the Backdoor staff
- Tell a youth worker
- Phone City Hall or go down and talk to them in person
- Talk to administration

- a suggestion box
- Toll free message line
- In a youth forum
- Phone
- No suggestions on how to make it easier to contact the Municipality.
- Something over the internet would be the easiest
- Send City Hall a message about what they should be doing
- Be able to speak to them face to face
- Go to City Hall
- Phone City Hall
- Talk to staff at the community centres.
- Get a petition with a 1000 plus signature and bring it to them and talk to them about it
- Fill out a survey and give it to an important person
- Go in person to the Municipal Hall

**Quick Overview:**

Youth expressed that the internet, staff contacts and youth forums would be the best way to keep them informed. They also felt that presentations or tables set up at schools to supply information could provide a further link of communication.

***If you could tell Saanich Council to do three things for youth, what would they be? Share your top three priorities.***

- Outdoor pool
- More skate parks
- more awareness and interest in the programs (people giving money to come see where their money is going)
- new equipment (stuff that will last)
- more storage
- access to a gymnasium
- more room for the teen centers
- We would love more funding for teen oriented places and programs
- More hands on experiences and involvement
- Can you speed up the processes
- More hours at the Teen Centers /larger spaces
- Better Equipment

- More basketball
- More spending on Youth
- Less expensive programs and to decrease the swimming fees.
- Happy with the way things are
- Extend current skate park make a beginner's skate park
- The Backdoor to open longer
- More skate competitions
- More video games
- Have a graffiti wall
- A Biking Program
- Ski Trip
- Teen Centre open sooner and longer ie: 5:30-9:30
- Longer hours 6:00-10:00 or 6:30-9:30
- More competitions
- Donut shop on site
- New games - Play station
- Vending Machine or concession in the teen centre
- Washrooms more accessible
- Trails to ride in Mt. Doug
- Mondays-Fridays open at lunch time
- Bigger centre with more hours-open right after school
- More pool table
- Girls Group is a good idea
- Make Teen Centre bigger and add air hockey
- Galloping Goose closer to Gordon Head
- Better soccer fields
- More rec. centres
- More parks
- Another teen centre near Gordon Head
- less expensive swimming fees
- Build a bike park
- Bike clubs
- Mt. Bike Trails

### **Quick Overview:**

While there were a number of items that came up frequently, the top three were: Increased hours at our Teen Centres, more special events, develop more outdoor youth parks(skateboard and BMX bike), and better access to recreation centres.

### **Question # 5 - Is there anything you would like to tell the Municipality of Saanich about youth in Saanich?**

- We're (teens) not all bad, reputations are not true, "We're not that bad"
- We do appreciate what Saanich is doing for youth.
- places like the teen center are important
- we are good kids
- there's still too much bullying around Saanich
- We like our no Violence /drug free areas
- Didn't have anything to tell the Municipality about Saanich youth.
- Want more freedom
- Don't be so strict
- "Less adults yelling at us"
- Adults accuse teens of doing wrong
- Happy, no comment

### **Quick Overview:**

The common theme of this question was that youth felt they were not trusted and there was a general lack of respect. We heard from many youth of negative encounters at businesses, schools and our recreation centres. We heard from youth that at some businesses they are only allowed in three to four at a time. Youth also expressed being treated poorly by maintenance staff at our recreation centres. In conclusion, they feel as if they are being discriminated against due to their age, appearance and their social skills.

### **Question # 6 - Would you be willing to meet together again in an effort to address some of the above issues?**

- They DO wish to be contacted. ( 20%)
- No. (80%)

### **Emerging Trends - A Summary**

Most surveyed told us we were doing the right things and going in the right direction. We also noticed that the emerging theme was the development of more Teen Centres and to increase the

number of hours our centres are currently opened. It was also noted that the request for outdoor youth parks in the Saanich West area was overwhelming. The two most popular types being Skate parks and BMX Mountain Biking parks.

Youth feel they don't have as strong a voice in their community as other groups (i.e. seniors). They felt marginalized not only in our recreation facilities but in businesses as well. They want to get the message out that not all youth are involved in negative behaviour. They felt that the lines of communication between those funding youth services and youth is key to providing successful youth programs.

The kinds of specific programs they are interested in are more special events, youth seminars/forums, organized out trips and basketball/sport drop in leagues.

Information was also a hot topic. Youth felt that if tables were set up at the schools providing information we could better access them.

### **SPEAKERS CORNERS**

#### **Purpose:**

To provide youth with an opportunity to express their concerns and opinion directly to service providers within the community.

#### **Goal:**

To develop innovative solutions, raise awareness and improve youth related services.

This report will summarize the findings from three different Speakers Corners held in Saanich over the past three years.(1999-2001) The schools that participated were: Lambrick Park Secondary, Colquitz Jr. Secondary and Spectrum High School. At each Speakers Corner the youth were asked to brainstorm ideas on recreation. More specifically, they were asked: "What type of recreation programs should be available to youth and what are the barriers to participation." Each discussion group was facilitated by recreation professionals from Community Services.

The following section will summarize what Saanich youth are telling us about recreation; the best way to get information to them; the barriers to participation; and what kind of programs and activities they want.

Here's what they said.....

1. They are not getting information about programs in a way that is easy for them to access.

#### **Quotes:**

"We don't know what the YAC (Youth Activity Calendar) is and where to find it."



“We have never seen the YAC before today and we don’t like the lay out of it.”

“ We never know what is going on or where to find the activities.”

**Solutions they came up with:**

- have a monthly newsletter on the internet. Have youth sign-up and do a monthly mail out to youth - create a list serve;
- have a Saanich website where they can find out about current events;
- Advertise on local TV and Radio
- more classroom visits, announcements during home room, info. tables set up at lunch
- build a mailbox (like Monday Magazine has) to put the YACs in and put it outside the office. Put Saanich logos on it and spray paint it to make it look interesting
- fold the YAC differently to make it more interesting. Use artwork by youth instead of pictures;
- advertise in the school newsletter
- have a liaison; someone who goes to our school who can pass on information.

**Comments:**

This was a common theme from every Speakers Corner. The youth are not reading the YAC because it is not presented to them in a way that is attractive and simply because it is not visible enough. Bringing the information to them while they are in school was the most common suggestion for how we can get information to them about our programs.

2. Money can be a barrier to participation.

**Quotes:**

“We don’t have a lot of money to spend but, we still would like to participate.”

“Transportation can be a barrier. Taking the bus makes it more expensive for us.”

“We don’t have much money, some programs talk to much.”

**Solutions they came up with:**

- 2 for 1 passes
- discount prices for programs
- more drop-in programs
- a shuttle to pick youth up at a central location to take them to programs
- give away passes to encourage activity

**Comments:**

When you look at the list of activities they want many of them are drop-in activities which they because they are low cost and have no long term commitment.

3. They want to have access to facilities for youth only drop-in time.

**Quotes:**

"We would like to go to Gordon Head Recreation Centre for a time just for teens, Friday evenings would be great. Swim use the weight room and have drop-in programs all at the same time."

"We would like to see a variety of programs that keep our interest. We want to try new and exciting things. We do not want to get locked into a 6-week commitment."

**Solutions they came up with:**

- Drop-in roller hockey in the lacrosse box on Sunday afternoons.
- Access to a gymnasium for drop-in and leagues
- build a new gym, it would be well used
- Friday night swim at Gordon Head Recreation Centre

**Comments:**

Again, drop-in activities are suggested over and over. All three Speakers Corner discussions came up with requests for drop-in programs and access to a gym or something where they could have access to a facility for teen only time.

**Activities they want:****Indoor drop-in programs:**

- basketball: 3-on-3 tournament, slam dunk contest, drop-in
- roller hockey
- indoor soccer
- dances
- boxing, kick boxing, karate

**X-Treme Sports:**

- waterskiing, jet skiing, tubing
- rock climbing
- white water rafting

- paint ball
- sky diving

**Outdoors:**

- camping
- day trips
- BMX track

**Arts/Dance:**

- glass blowing
- dance classes: Break dancing, jazz, swing, classical
- Carnivals
- coffee houses
- talent nights
- art classes

Activities that are highlighted were most requested by the youth during all three Speakers Corner Events.

**Summary:**

This is what the youth are telling us we need to do in order to serve them more productively:

**Promotion:**

- promote programs through the internet by creating a list serve
- promote programs in the schools through announcements, school newsletters, information tables set up in the schools and electing a school liaison
- build an eye catching mailbox for the YAC and put it up in front of school offices
- advertise on local TV and Radio stations

**Cost:**

- they don't have a lot of money but, they are willing to pay for programs as long as that cost is reasonable: \$3 for drop-in and \$7 max for other programs

- they would be more encouraged to participate if they could have access to discounts, 2 for 1 passes or free passes. This would encourage them to try out the programs and they thought it would help increase participation.
- they would also like to have help with the cost of transportation. Discounts for bus fair or organize a shuttle that could pick them up at a central location.

**Youth only drop-in activities:**

- They would like to have access to facilities like the pools or rinks for youth only drop-in times
- they would like a variety of drop-in programs to meet their need for variety, excitement as well as no long term commitments
- they would like to have access to a gym; they would like to see a new gym built

**Most requested activities:**

- anything that involves basketball: drop-in, slam dunk contests, 3-on-3 tournaments
- drop-in roller hockey
- x-treme activities like rock climbing, paint ball, kick boxing
- BMX track
- dances
- coffee houses

**Royal Oak Middle School Forum October 2002**

**History**

In 1998 the Municipal Youth Strategy identified the need for youth programming in the Communities of Royal Oak and Broadmead. In 1999 Community Services organized community meetings with youth and adults to develop a youth strategy. Through the community meetings it was recognized that a youth committee was needed for the area.. A youth committee was formed in the Spring of 1999 called Y.A.H.O.O. - Youth Actively Helping Organize Opportunities. .To date the Y.A.H.O.O. group has:

1. Conducted youth surveys at Royal Oak Middle school and Claremont.
2. Hosted a youth conference at Royal Oak Middle School.
3. Organized dances at Saanich Common Wealth Place
4. Fundraised for trips and for a Youth Centre
5. Presented at Parks and Recreation Committee

The challenge with Y.A.H.O.O has been with membership and the original push of a youth centre for the area, which has been tabled until a suitable location can be found. The loss of space at Saanich Common Wealth Place has lost some momentum for the group. The committee is made up of mostly grade 8 students who are involved with the program for a year and then move onto Claremont. Some of the original members of Y.A.H.O.O are still volunteering at the youth dances at Saanich Commonwealth Place, but most have not.

### **October 28, 2002**

Recently Community Services hosted a youth forum at Royal Oak Middle School to see if the middle school population was still interested in participating in a youth committee. We also wanted to find out if youth felt there was a need for youth services and a youth centre in the Royal Oak area. The following questions were posed to nineteen students:

1. Are there Recreation Activities lacking in the Royal Oak/Broadmead Area?
2. What issues are of high importance to you?
3. Is there an interest/need to form a youth committee?
4. What are your top ten activities/sports/programs?
5. Is there interest in developing a youth space in this area?
6. What would you like to see in a drop in space?
7. Where would you like to see a drop in space located?

### **Responses to Question Number 1 - Are there Recreation activities lacking in this area?**

- paved parking lots
- LAX Team (Lacrosse Team)
- Mountain biking trails
- Skateboard Park
- Arcade
- Hockey Rink
- Soccer Nets
- Turf Field
- Sand courts for Volleyball
- exercise bike
- basketball courts close to Royal Oak
- more sports teachers
- more baseball fields
- more hocky rinks
- more skateboarding facilities

**Responses to Question # 2 - What issues are of high importance to you?**

- money
- gas prices
- more buses
- not enough variety (sports, dances)
- age barriers
- all age activities available everywhere
- more buses (transportation)
- you can sign up for buses
- no youth web sites
- more sports shops closer to your home

**Responses to Question # 3 - Is there an interest to form a youth committee in this area?**

- yes!!
- need another group to organize more activities
- it'll encourage people to participate in sports and community activities, and school
- increase more activities

**Responses to Question # 4 - Top Ten activities?**

- dances
- Sports: soccer, baseball, basketball, hockey, lacrosse, volleyball, mountain-biking, gymnastics, football, horseback riding, golf
- eating - cooking
- drama
- metal working

**Responses to Question # 5 - Is there an interest to develop a youth space in this area?**

- All nineteen students said yes

**Response to Question # 6 - What would you like to see in a drop in centre?**

- pool
- pinball table
- tv - satellite with cable, DVD, XBOX/ps2
- free food
- open all the time (Friday, Saturday, Sunday); after-school

- slush puppies
- graffiti / spray paint on walls
- next to field
- multi-purpose court
- turf
- swimming pool
- microwave
- restaurant
- hot tub
- concession
- bathrooms
- computers, computer classes, internet; MSN messaging; printers, school supplies
- place to work on school projects
- age limit - show Go Cards
- arts / crafts area

**Responses to Question # 7 - Location of Youth Centre?**

- Saanich Commonwealth Place
- Royal Oak Middle School
- One in every Recreation Centre
- Broadmead - shopping centre?
- Roger's Chocolates area - Vanalman?
- NOT downtown

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# 20 Ways to Build Assets by Showing Kids You Care

1. Notice them.
2. Ask them about themselves.
3. Be yourself.
4. Cheer their accomplishments.
5. Introduce them to new experiences.
6. Expect their best; don't expect perfection.
7. Catch them doing something right.
8. Laugh at their jokes.
9. Suggest better behaviours when they act out.
10. Listen to their favourite music with them.
11. Delight in their discoveries.
12. Be available.
13. Create a safe, open environment.
14. Daydream with them.
15. Make decisions together.
16. Magnify their magnificence.
17. Build something together.
18. Let them make mistakes.
19. Inspire their creativity.
20. Love them, no matter what.

For more information on any of our programs  
or on Saanich Youth Strategy and Asset Development,  
please contact Saanich Recreation Community Services  
475-5494 Ex. 3447.