



THE VCN USER NEWS... YOUR 'ON-LINE' NEWSLETTER

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VCN will NEVER request your password via email.

Further, VCN advises you NOT to email your account information to anyone.

Simply contact the VCN Help Desk, 411 Dunsmuir Street, 2nd Floor,or... After February...

...The New Woodwards Bldg, 280-111 W. Hastings St, (2nd Floor W2), Vancouver, BC, Canada

Open Monday to Friday, 10 AM to 4 PM ...voice: 604 257 3811 ...fax: 604 257 3808

VCN GRAND WINTER BOWL-ATHON!!!



CAPYI Interns enjoy VCN's Bowlathon at the nostalgic Commodore Lanes on Granville. More on Page. 7 Editor's Pic

THE IMMINENT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING... JAN 2012...

Hello VCN members and guests... Please join us for VCN's Annual General Meeting.

When: at 6 pm (registration at 5:45) on Thursday, January 26th, 2012

Where: at 411 Dunsmuir Street, 3rd floor, Vancouver BC V6B1X4 ... Tel: 604-257-3804

Everyone is welcome to the meeting but only members can vote. ...So if you have not renewed your membership, please do so at the event! ...Light refreshments will be provided.

Schedule... Registration and Refreshments: at 5:45 pm

- AGM AGENDA...**
1. Call to order 6 pm
 2. Approval of Agenda
 3. Approval of Minutes of the previous AGM
 4. Presentation of the Financial Statements and
 5. Appointment of Accounting Firm to Perform the Annual Review Engagement
 6. Staff Report on current programs,
 7. President's Report
 8. Volunteer Recognition
 9. Nominations and Election of Directors
 10. Other Business
 11. Adjournment

President Jim will provide a brief update of VCN and its key services, specifically the CAP and CAPYI, approved for 2012, VCN WebTeam, BC Housing project, Tech Team project, low-cost tech support, discussion of the financial position and challenges VCN faces in 2012 and beyond..

THE 2012 BOARD... If there are no nominations from the floor, the present slate will remain... Jim Sayre, Chantal Iorio, Michael Felczak, Craig McLachlan, Pedro Mora, Brendan Houle, Travis Keyworth, and Anthony Swain. ...However, if you feel you have something to offer VCN as a volunteer director, especially if you have none profit administration experience.

VCN is a worthwhile activity, and we can always use willing volunteers.



The VCN Board & Staff enjoy a light moment during the summer of 2011

Editor's Pic

FROM THE FRONT DESK...

Remember that Since the early 1990's, VCN's mission has always been to bring the benefits of the information highway to everyone., and our services, all help to achieve that goal. People can access the internet in three basic ways. Having a smart phone plan with internet access, using an internet café, library or other public place with public use computers, or by using a home computer with a modem, highspeed, or wireless connection.

There is no one "right" way to do this, but Public internet sites are a crucial part of the solution. Dial-up remains an important service, until something better comes along that provides quality high speed access for everyone, first nations people, low income folks, seniors, new immigrants,.

We invite your comments and suggestions.

CAPYI PROGRAMS...



CAPYI coordinator David at his desk at VCN Woodward's W2

Staff Pic

CAPYI INTERN.... DAN ...

My name is Dan, an intern in the 2011 Industry Canada Community Access Program Youth Initiative. I represent Vancouver Community Network and am posted at the Oasis building of the Neighbourhood Housing Society in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

I am 24-year-old ex-Calgarian who moved to Vancouver last summer after finishing my undergraduate studies at the University of Calgary. After completing a Bachelor of Arts in Communications Studies with Distinction, I decided to leave my comfort zone to utilize my skills in a new city.

Before leaving Calgary, I worked with university students with physical and learning disabilities, and after previously spending much time in downtown Vancouver, I sought work in the non-profit sector.

The CAPYI internship is the catalyst for my initial foray into this sector. My time thus far at the Oasis has been truly rewarding, complete with a variety of challenges and successes. I have enjoyed interacting with the great residents of this complex, with many of them highly responsive of my presence. A most important component of my time here has been my willingness to engage and build a rapport with the residents. This forged strong mental



CAPYI Intern, Dan His Pic

relationships, making them comfortable in returning regularly for assistance.

I host my CAP site predicated on interacting with the tenants individually. In my first week, I held an open focus group meeting and distributed a survey that included ideas I had, and also a space for a more qualitative individual response. The majority of responses noted the residents felt one-on-one assistance would be more effective, as opposed to me hosting classes. As a result, I have had the chance to gauge the needs of the residents, as well as their unique learning styles, and build close relationships.

In my fourth week here, I am impressed with the number of residents who come to me often not only with computer-related queries, but who also want to talk to me on a personal level. I have spent time setting up e-mail accounts, formatting resumes and helping residents make use of employment resources, navigating various social media like Facebook and Twitter, and using physical devices like digital cameras and removable media. When I am not assisting somebody, I spend my time fixing devices in the lab, such as the printer, or I go to residents' apartments and help them with their personal computers.

I have had the opportunity to not only share my knowledge of Information and Communications Technologies with the residents, but also to learn from them things I didn't know. This two-way conveyance of knowledge is what makes each day spent at the Oasis so fulfilling! ...Dan

CAP-Y INTERN.... IAN ...

I have been working as a CAPYI intern at Fraserside Community Services Society for the past month teaching computer lessons to the public. I applied for this position because I am interested in both technology and education, and



CAPYI Intern, Ian His Pic

felt that the CAP program was an ideal opportunity to gain valuable experience. I recently completed my BSc from SFU in biology. I am by no means a web design expert, but am quite computer literate. I have enjoyed working at Fraserside so far were the majority of my lessons have been on internet, e-mail, and Microsoft Office use.

The previous computer knowledge of my students ranges from none at all to those that are competent but want to learn how to use more complicated programs like Excel. Since Fraserside also offers employment services, a large portion of my students want to learn computer skills that will get them a job.

My goal is to provide individual curricula to start at the level the student is at and to help them improve their computer skills. I feel a great sense of achievement when the students start becoming independent and able to solve computer problems on their own. ...Ian

CAP-Y INTERN... PERRY...

Hello! My name is Perry, and I hail from sunny Southern Alberta. I have lived in Vancouver for three years, originally moving here to attend grad school at SFU. Since finishing my M.A., my wife (who is also from Southern Alberta) and I have fully settled into our West Coast lives. We love being so close to the mountains and ocean, the wonderful beaches, camping and hiking, and the cozy, small town feeling that Vancouver retains despite being a big city.

My background is in urban social geography and community development. I have a M.A. in Latin American Studies and a Graduate Certificate in Development and Sustainability Studies from SFU, and a B.A. in urban and regional studies from the University of Lethbridge. Over the past seven years I have designed and managed a number of research projects related to community economic development, climate adaptation, food security and urban social equality in Chile, Ecuador, Cuba, Mexico and Canada. I have recently begun to translate my academic and research background into practical experience, volunteering and working for a variety of non-

profit and private sector community development organizations based in Vancouver.

My CAP internship is at EMBERS (www.embersvancouver.vcn.bc.ca), a community economic development non-profit operating in Vancouver's inner city. The main focus of EMBERS programming is to increase opportunities for economic and social development/ empowerment for individuals facing barriers (e.g. ex-offenders, addicts in recovery, single parents, individuals identifying as First Nation, recent immigrants, artisans etc.). The CAP program has allowed me to put my social science background to good use, assisting people in their efforts to lead productive, sustainable futures according to their own values and goals.

I am currently working as part of the Communications Team at EMBERS. We are charged with developing and implementing a communications plan to enable us to better reach and serve our target populations. As part of that role I spend a significant amount of time helping EMBERS' clients learn how to access our on-line documents, set-up and use email and

use word processing software to create and update resumes. I also work with clients who have particular computing/ web needs, acting as an intermediary between them and specialist consultants who provide them with e-communications, website development and graphic design etc. support (two consultants I work closely with can be found at www.brynhewko.com & www.blockhousegroup.com).

Over the course of this internship I hope to make small but meaningful impacts at EMBERS, helping people overcome the social, economic and technological barriers that they face in the job market. Along with my fellow CAP intern Becky, we hope to host one-on-one and group workshops over the next few months to help individuals with specific challenges they face, e.g. using the Internet to search for jobs and services, writing resumes, using email to contact employers and references etc. I am really appreciative of this opportunity and am excited to see what the next few months will bring! ...Perry



Staff Pic

VCN's Technical Coordinator Steve, with CAP-Y interns Anne & Winnie

BILLY BISHOP PC SITE UPDATE....

This VCN Public Access Computer site at Kitsilano’s Billy Bishop Legion, has Wi-Fi, a hi-Speed computer, printer... and pleasant atmosphere. Originally conceived as a home from home for ex-servicemen, Legion lounges are now a relaxing place to meet friends for a quiet drink, with its old English Pub décor, roaring fire and comfy seating, ‘The Billy’ is one of the best. Guests and prospective members are welcome.

The Billy Bishop Royal Canadian Legion #176, is located a block east of Arbutus, a half block north of Cornwall, on Laburnum

St. ...Easily accessible via the #22 MacDonald Bus .

The lounge opens at 4pm daily and at 2pm Sunday for a Meat Draw. Roast Beef dinners are held many Friday evenings. Associate membership is nominal, allowing you

to enjoy sporting events with friends on their excellent home theatre system. We are particularly pleased that this site is open evenings, when many other sites are closed. This Public Access site is a VCN initiative, and not a Federal funded CAP Site. ...ED



The Billy Bishop Legion looking south-west along Laburnum St. in Kits Point area.

Editor’s Pic

VCN WEB TEAM NOW AT WOODWARDS!!



The room is comfortably spacious, with a pleasant view from the large windows. Web guys Taz (L) and Hugh(R), relax for a recent photo op moment. At this comfortable Woodwards complex, VCN staff, ,

The Web and Tech Teams hold regular conferences here most Monday afternoons.

THE NEW VCN TECH TEAM...



Systems Admin & Tech Team leader Chris, centre, and his VCN Technical flying squad!

Staff Pics

LINUX AND OTHER USER GROUPS... Update. This co-operative teaching project is seeking a suitable meeting site. VCN looks forward to coordinating with these and other such groups, whenever possible, to advance our common goals.

A VCN Exclusive!ACTION AT THE VCN WINTER BOWL-ATHON...



Editor's Pic

Director Brendan, upper left, watches the CAPYI Intern in action at the VCN Bowl-athon.

GREAT FUN AT THE COMMODORE!!!

Bowling is a long time Canadian tradition, especially popular across the Prairies in winter, when outside fun social activities were difficult in the harsh weather.

VCN CAPYI Interns, directors and staff enjoyed a wonderful couple of hours at the classic Commodore Lanes on Granville Street downtown Vancouver.

Victoria & David organized the event, the first bowling I've tried since leaving Calgary in 1962! Got a strike anyway! It was billed as a 'Grand Annual' event... Maybe sooner? Let's hope so. ... Tony the Ed.



VCN Web Team's Taz, (L) chats with Directors Brendan (R), and Tony the Editor



Pics by The Editor...

2011 Admin Staffer Victoria, reacts enthusiastically to Tony the Ed's fluke Strike

!

HELP DESK & SERVICES...**HI THERE, SUPER-USER!!!**

This is a message from the VCN Help Desk advising that your mail inbox is occupying 15 Megabytes. This is an unusually large size and it may indicate that you no longer use your VCN email account. If you still wish to receive VCN email, please reduce the size of your inbox.

If you need help with this, please email, call, or visit the Help Desk for instructions as follows...
 VCN Help Desk (open Mon to Fri, 10 to 4 PM) Email: help@vcn.bc.ca Voice: 604 257 3811
 Loc'n: 111 West Hastings, at Abbott. The New Woodwards W2 block, 2nd floor, Vancouver
 Just in the Atrium off E. Hastings, on the right, above the W2 Snack Bar
 Five blocks west of Stadium Skytrain station

TAKE CARE... No law says you must respond to clamouring e-mails!

From time to time we all get disturbing messages in our e-mail. Virtually all of them are scams by bad people attempting to obtain your personal and internet information such as log-in passwords, credit card or banking information. If these were legitimate requests, it would be via a verifiable business letter via Canada Post, with checkable phone numbers, people, and all.

If you are unsure, call the number listed on your bank statement or credit card. Ignore the rest, unless you have initiated things yourself, and expect a specific response. ...It's your a judgment call, Just because it's on a computer, doesn't mean it's true! ...Stuff like so...

WARNING!!!! CONTINUED PHISHING ATTEMPTS....**DO NOT FALL FOR THIS OR SIMILAR STUFF.....**

VCN users should ignore stuff like this that appears in their inbox! ...

We are currently upgrading our Message Centre database. We are deleting all unused vcn.bc.ca accounts to create more space for new ones. In order for your account not to be suspended or deleted, you will have to update your account by providing the information listed below: etc etc etc....

This, or similar, is NOT a VCN post!!! VCN will never request such information on-line!

You may wish to create an account with SpamCop. We have a guide on this page, <http://www2.vcn.bc.ca/email#spam>. It is under the title "SPAM Cop".

MEMBER or COMMUNITY NEWS ANYONE...???

...Where readers write us about anything vaguely related to VCN.

This section invites short articles from members or allied groups about stuff related to VCN or with a focus on collaboration with VCN, Like Free Geek recycling or VONIC... How you use VCN services, or might use new services, in 300 to 500 words. Any budding Tech Writers out there? Send them to... editor@vcn.bc.ca ... **We await your input!** ...But here's some already...

UNEXPECTED WIRELESS GLICHES...**Satellite Internet plan could interfere with planes' GPS**

|Last issue we told you of a plan to bring high-speed Internet to rural areas that could interfere with satellite-based air traffic control systems. The Air Transport Association and other aerospace interests are concerned that Technology Company LightSquared wants to rebroadcast communications via a network of 40,000 antennas, a kind of super WiFi. But ATA says it is "extremely concerned about spectrum issues and the possibility of inadvertent interference." FlightGlobal.com (2/4)

Last month LightSquared struck back and said devices to test its network were rigged.

LightSquared is fighting back against a government panel's ruling that its proposed network interferes with GPS systems and should be banned. After working with a former Federal Communications Commission chief engineer, LightSquared concluded that the tests were rigged, it says. "Transparency is the only way taxpayers can be assured that the testing process is not manipulated to benefit one particular set of self interests," the company said in a statement. BGR.com (1/18)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

Dear VCN Help, ...My Outlook Express won't 'send' on WiFi ...Baffled

Help Response... Copy your message & attachments to either a Firefox file or your VCN Web-mail and send from there.

Hey VCN... Is there a Free-net in Victoria? Can I gift VCN membership to a friend there? Bill S.

Help Response... Try <http://victoria.tc.ca> ...for WiFi Hotspots go... www.wirelessvictoria.ca ...For a gift VCN membership, provide VCN with the recipient's real name and address, provide a user name, and a donation to VCN. VCN log-ins do work at PAC sites and WiFi in the Victoria Area.

VCN welcomes our user's query letters

My personal thanks also goes to the various people who have helped with this paper in many ways; writing stories, designing poems, drawing cartoons, typing etc. Without their help, this paper could never have been published.



... (Old photo from The Ed's past)

And finally, a reminder... MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS...

With Governments generally cutting back on grants, it's critical for our continued service that VCN users don't forget to make a generous annual donation, or more!!! ...Thanks for remembering!!!

Your membership in the Vancouver Community Net is important to us, and we thank you for your financial support. Memberships are: \$25 Regular, \$40 Family, \$15 Low Income, 75 Premium, \$10/month Sustainer and \$200 is Really Special!

Note that *** Donations of \$25 and over are tax deductible!

The VCN Community e-mail & Web service is ideal for seniors who have obtained a new or used computer to keep in 'on line' touch with far off family and friends.

That's what I did. The computer must be 'dial-up modem' equipped.

So please give possible VCN users our contact number 604 257 3811,

or visit us at 111 West Hastings, at Abbott. The New Woodward's W2 block, 2nd floor, Thank you!

And that's it! CHEERS!!! Tony the Ed... Your VCN Newsletter Chair

And Now... The FINE Print...VCN has increased security measures against spam and identity theft. VCN users are reminded that for security reasons, having parts of the account name as the password is not recommended. There are various ways you can **request a new password**. You may come to the office with picture ID or phone the helpdesk at 604-257-3811. **Please note...** The VCN file system requires a 6 to 8 digit password combination of numbers and letters... **Please have the following information ready:**

For Individuals: - Name- Phone Number- VCN login- Keyword (mother's maiden name)- Your Birth date

For Groups: - Group Name- Contact Person Name- Contact Person Job Position- Phone Number- VCN login- Keyword

The VCN USER NEWS is presently an occasional publication by the Vancouver Community Network. Contributions in the form of articles, news items, letters and photo's are welcome, as are any comments. No payment is offered for any manuscripts, etc, submitted for publication here-in, and the opinions or advice are those of the authors.Photos are by Staff or as provided.

The Editor reserves the right to edit such submissions for brevity and clarity, without intentionally altering the meaning there-in.

...All rights are retained by the authors.