

secrets&lies

ROBERTA MARTELL

Who are you anyway?

I'm the Executive Director of Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group, arbiter of urban sustainability and human systems dynamics, longboard surfer, and kitten foster-mom.

Why do neighbourhoods matter?

Because society exhibits fractal properties, the way neighbourhoods go is the way the world will ultimately go. I dare say to save the planet we each needn't do more than make our own neighbourhood sustainable.

What goal are you currently trying to achieve?

Here at Fernwood NRG we're immersed in "Project Supernova": doing all things, in all directions,

all at once — affordable housing, daycare, family support, alternate energy, community arts and recreation, economic development, and food security. It's going surprisingly well.

Is there anything you wouldn't try to do to build a better community?

No, as witnessed by our upcoming fundraiser, Fornicating for Fernwood. Bah!

What is it that you most dislike?

Pathos and laziness. Naysayers and slackers. Brutality, waste and greed.

What do you think is Victoria's best-kept secret?

The zero-waste, geothermally heated, locally supplied Cornerstone Café. That, and the fact that if we ever chose to, we could be a world-class green city.

Which talent would you most like to have?

I'd love to be fluent in calculus and the advance mathematics required to research physics. The universe speaks in numbers, not words.

What is your most compulsive habit?

Speaking truth to power. Can also be perceived as "yapping off". That, and speaking too fast.

What popular trend baffles you?

Researching the causes of homelessness. NEWSFLASH: It's because people don't have homes. Now let's get a wiggle-on and build some!

What is your philosophy of life?

To fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run.

Can you tell us how to get to Sesame Street?

From downtown, take a left on Fernwood. Near the square, you'll see Terry the Bubble Man. When you see the smiles, and smell the coffee you'll know you've arrived.