

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

National Edition

Northwest: Mostly Sunny. Isolated thunderstorms over the Oregon Cascades. Highs 60s and 70s coast, 80s, 90s and 100s elsewhere. Details, SportsSunday, Page 10.

VOL. CLXI . . . No. 55,826

© 2012 The New York Times

SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2012

Printed in Seattle

\$6.00

4 TR

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2012

SURFACING

A Creative Corner Of Victoria Mixes Old and New

VICTORIA, British Columbia, is a city whose former colonial ties to Britain are evident in the neo-Baroque government buildings and countless gardens that dot its landscape. But visitors who trade high tea at the Fairmont Empress Hotel for a stroll around the city will find that it defies easy stereotypes. Exhibit A is Fernwood, a short walk from downtown, home to classic Victoria hallmarks like historic buildings as well as a pirate radio station, a vibrant music scene and local fixtures like a man known for his obsession with blowing bubbles. Since the neighborhood began emerging from decades of blight in the mid-aughts, it has been the best place to explore the city's blossoming alternative culture.

ERICA GIES



PHOTOGRAPHS BY WENDELL PHILLIPS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

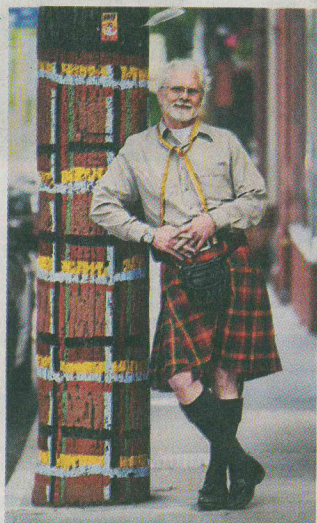
CORNERSTONE CAFE
1301 Gladstone Avenue
(250) 381-1884
fernwoodnrg.ca
/neighbourhood
/cornerstone-cafe

Cornerstone Cafe has a warm ambience that makes it a natural setting to relax and soak up music and art. The cafe, one of the retail outfits in a building rehabbed by the Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group for use as affordable housing, also stays true to its mission: its profits support affordable housing and child-care programs and a neighborhood street party called FernFest.

FREEDOM KILTS

1919 Fernwood Road
(250) 386-5458
freedomkilts.com

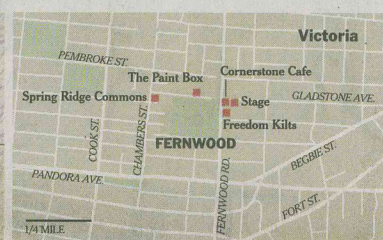
Man seeking skirt? Fernwood's got you covered. Steve Ashton, former yacht designer from the United States, has made a career of his passion for kilts, creating a new style, the Contemporary, designing the Official Tartan of the City of Victoria and running Freedom Kilts. The shop, which ships to customers on every continent, offers machine- and hand-stitched kilts in various styles and materials.



STAGE

1307 Gladstone Avenue
(250) 388-4222
stagewinebar.com

This upscale wine bar might seem out of step with the neighborhood's casual character, but it has won over patrons from Fernwood and beyond. It's easy to see why. Its outstanding small plates are made with local, organic ingredients. A favorite: roast acorn squash with capers, raisins and brown butter.



THE NEW YORK TIMES

SPRING RIDGE COMMONS

Corner of Chambers and Gladstone
springridgecommons.ca

Fernwood's community gardens and compost education center are a testament to its commitment to locally sourced food. Add to the list Spring Ridge Commons, a public space managed by the local nonprofit Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group where people are encouraged to cultivate and harvest its edible and medicinal plants, including cherries, plums and herbs.



THE PAINT BOX

1284 D1 Gladstone Avenue
(250) 590-7571
thepaintbox-victoria.com

"Fernwood has a funky, alternative, artsy vibe that is really conducive to being creative," said Emily Grav, owner of the Paint Box, an art school on Fernwood Square. Its pottery, painting and sewing classes focus on individuality as much as technique.