

It takes a Village to raise a child

A short series to commemorate CISV Victoria's (Vancouver Island) 50th Anniversary (1965-2015)

As an international organization the success of CISV is through its membership and volunteers.



Village delegation 1972



Open Day - songs and dances at Centennial Square



Village delegations 1974

Victoria Village Handbook - 1975

When I look at you, I understand

A silent hello, words are forgotten, not needed anymore. They mean nothing;
A smile . . . everything

Friendships cemented by touch
A chain linked together forever
Sharing love brings warmth;
A feeling from the heart

Eyes meet
Faces smile
Peace

Many Walk So Some Can Travel



The 1971 Walkathon attracted 136 applicants, friends and former CISV members on a 15-mile march to raise funds for both the chapter and delegates traveling to a Village in Austria. At the 1974 event Victoria Mayor Michael Young cut the start line ribbon, a hotdog lunch revived walkers at the midway point, and first to finish was Eddie S (12 years old).

The 1970s was a decade of growth and development for CISV Victoria. Dozens of eleven year olds joined CISV and a series of meetings and mini camps were required to fairly determine the four children to attend the available Village. Fundraising was a significant part of the CISV year and the chapter worked up to 3 years for sufficient funds to reciprocate by hosting the next CISV camp.

CISV's profile in the community was becoming stronger. An annual Walkathon attracted large numbers of participants where CISV signage, and balloons generated lots of excitement. Local municipalities approved tag days, where JB volunteers collected cash donations in prominent locations in exchange for a wearable paper tag of the CISV logo. *"The parent meetings attracted 100s of people and the minutes were copied with a gestetner machine and distributed by mail"* (Rose K (2015) - Secretary 1971).

CISV Victoria hosted their 3rd Village at St Margaret's school. There was a lot to celebrate as we had already sponsored 50 youth as either Village delegates, or Junior Counselors. To save money the Canadian representatives at the 1972 & 1975 Villages were local delegations. Children traveled in formal clothes and the dedication ceremonies attracted our BC Lieutenant Governor, Consul Generals of visiting countries and local dignitaries. The Village Open Days were held at Centennial Square where the visiting children presented a concert of songs and dances dressed in costumes representing their country.

The peace message of CISV is becoming clearer as the participating children grow up. They are keeping in touch with friends they had made at camps since 1965.
 – Kay Hilton (1970)

There can never be a language barrier when everyone meets on the common ground of friendship, for all people are essentially the same” – Trudy C (1972)

My wish has always been to give back to CISV and sharing the wealth of knowledge, experiences and skills that my CISV mentors shared with me. – Mim C (2007) Member since 1971

The connections that grew from my 1972 camp made the world such a small place. If anyone called from that Village I would be there to help them. – Allison H (2014) Member since 1971

The songs from around the world I learned at CISV in 1972, I can still sing today – that for me was one of the highlights of the camp. We didn't share a language, but we shared songs and sang together. We sang and sang and sang. I taught my children those songs and now I hope to teach my grandchildren. Singing is the international language of humanity and where tolerance starts. – Briony P (2015) Village 1972



Camp was a wonderful opportunity for all of us to learn that people from other countries think and feel the same. We learned to laugh, and share together. We share a little of each other's language and a lot of each other's hearts. For these 4 weeks national barriers came down. CISV lived. – Shirley B (1971) Leader

Maintaining friendships after camp was difficult with written letters being the only viable option – Alison H (2014)

Dear Children . . . There are no words to express my enjoyment in having you here [at the Victoria Village] . . . I will always remember your gaiety . . . The love I have for you will stay with me forever” – Yolanda McK (1975) Peace through Understanding Village Director



CISV Village – Victoria, 1972

This year's Village had everything going for it, including a lot of planning and hard work. Being the adult delegate for the Village held in Victoria has been a time of realization of what the words “how alike am I to you” actually mean. No words can describe the good times and happy memories shared by all during that month. “How alike am I to you” is a feeling, magnified with each camp experience. It is caring for new friends and an insight into cultural differences and similarities and the essence of C.I.S.V. – Benny L (1972) – Leader

Issue #2 - 1970s

Acknowledgements

- Victoria Alumni Scrapbooks and memories
- 50 Years of CISV in Canada
- Victoria Daily Colonist

For more Information Visit:

<http://www.cisvictoria.ca>

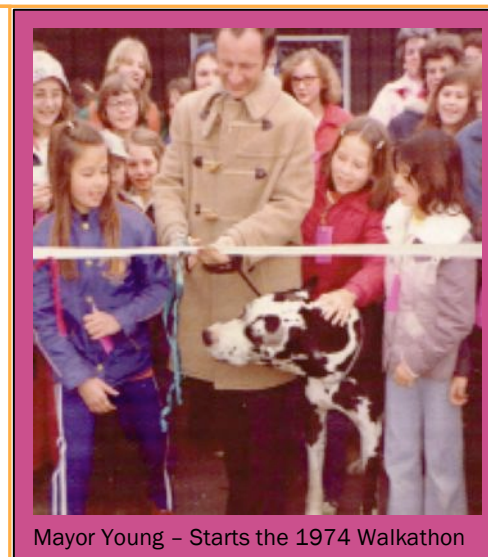
Contact our Chapter:

Communications@cisvictoria.ca

Canada Helps - Donations can be directed to Camp Hosting costs, Chapter needs, or the Participant Bursary Fund.



Vaughan - Village, England 1970



Mayor Young – Starts the 1974 Walkathon

