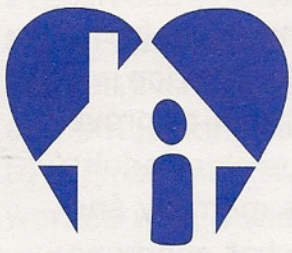


Fall 2011



Saanich Volunteer Services Society

"A Community of Neighbours
Helping Neighbours"

McRae House 1445 Ocean View Road Victoria V8P 1J8 250-595-8008



News from McRae House

Our Board of Directors met following the Annual General Meeting in June to elect the

slate of officers for the year. Damian Kowalewich continues as President; and Iris Burrows-Dann, Vice President; Pam MacDonald was elected as Secretary, and Evan Machin is our new Treasurer. We are all very appreciative of the time and energy these officers give to our work.

Retiring board members Haji Charania and Marj Hewitt were recognized at the AGM for the years of service to the agency. Both of these talented people can be proud of the impact they made to our success, generously sharing their wisdom and skills.

Donna & Ruth have kept our garden looking top notch.

A video session with Christopher Bowers and some of our clients and volunteers produced 20 wonderful SVSS stories – to see them go to YouTube & search for Saanich Volunteer Services.

After 18 years as our Wednesday afternoon receptionist, Maxine decided to pursue other activities. Kathleen also decided that she needed a change and we are pleased to welcome Trish as our Thursday morning volunteer receptionist. Good luck to Maxine and Kathleen and welcome to Trish!

We have been busy making changes to our website, if you haven't checked in; please take a look at **www.saanichvolunteers.org**. We are on Facebook too – hoping to make more "friends" to help a neighbour. We are always on the hunt for information to add to these sites, so don't hesitate to send in your suggestions to **contactus@saanichvolunteers.org**. Testimonials from volunteers and clients are very welcome, as are announcements about community events.

September 23, 2011 marks the beginning of our 20th year of service to the residents of Saanich. We expect to host and participate in a number of community events to recognize all of the people who have invested time and funds to create the organization that we have today.



2 Heather's Hasty Notes by Heather Fetherston, Coordinator of Volunteers

Happy Fall everyone. Although our summer seemed to take forever to get here we hope you had a good one just the same. Here at the office we took a few breaks over the season, recruited some new volunteers and continued registering clients seeking help to live independently. We would like to express a special 'thank you' to our volunteer drivers who again stepped up to the plate to do extra drives when we were short.

We appreciate your commitment.



Many of you were here at our AGM in June when we recognized several volunteers for their years of service to the agency. Our five year award recipients were: Joan Abel, Margaret Ashmore, Lydia Bigras, Dianne Black, Bob Carnegie, Janis Evans, Kevin Murphy, Jack McLellan, Pat Patterson, Judy Parkhurst, Karen Pokipala, Gloria Politano and Mary Webb. Ten year awards went to Mary King and Susan Zerb and fifteen year recognition gifts were presented to Marion Gray and Mina Maldonado. In addition we made a special presentation to Maxine Reed who retired as our volunteer Wednesday afternoon receptionist after 18 ½ years working with us. If you missed the event your award is here – just give me a call and I'll have it waiting for you. Congratulations and thanks to all of you.

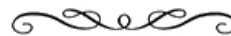
We are still having problems getting stats, and, as a result, we're missing volunteer hours that help us get funding. Drivers and visitors usually send theirs along but no matter what you do for us – a gardening

job, coming to a course here, serving tea, a home repair job – it's all part of your volunteer work and we need that stat – whether you are claiming mileage reimbursement or not. Please send these hours in at the end of every month and thank you as always.

Keep an eye on your emails from me to see what workshops are coming up and plan to attend one this fall. Remember that you must RSVP to these so we know enough of you will be in attendance to hold the session. If you don't punch 'delete' as soon as you see my name you can keep up-to-date with changes to the calendar and other SVSS 'goings-on'. Mark your own calendar now for our Christmas party which will be held on December 8th from 1:30 – 3:30 here at McRae House. You're welcome to bring your client and we're sure you'll get in the Christmas spirit with all the decorations and holiday goodies we'll have for you.

And....speaking of Christmas please note that the office will be closed for holidays from Friday, December 23rd to Tuesday, January 3rd. Seems too soon to mention it but it'll be here before we know it.

All of us here want to say thanks so much for all you do on your own time for your



MLA Victoria-Swan Lake
Rob Fleming



Working for *you*



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www.rob Flemingmla.ca



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SAANICH VOLUNTEER SERVICES SOCIETY

is pleased to invite you to our annual

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE



Thursday, December 8th, 2011

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

McRae House, 1445 Ocean View Road

Drop in as we celebrate the Holiday Season with
some of our favorite people - **YOU!**

RSVP by December 5th 250-595-8008

We'll gladly accept donations of non-perishable
food items for Mustard Seed and volunteer visitors,
please feel free to bring your client along to the party!

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October 2011 Monday, October 10 - Office Closed -
Thanksgiving



Thursday, October 13, 10:00 – 12 noon - Sharing
Session

'Practical Tips for Supporting Passengers in Your
Car' RSVP

November 2011 Tuesday, November 8, 1:00 – 4:00 – Sharing
Session



Volunteer Visiting (Pt. 1): 'WHO Do We Visit?'
RSVP

Friday, November 11 – Office Closed –
Remembrance Day

December 2011 Thursday, December 1, 9 a.m. – 12 noon –
Sharing Session

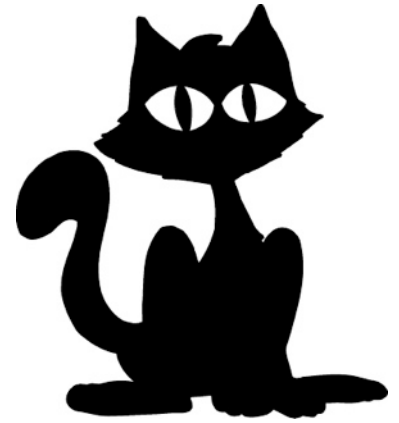


Volunteer Visiting (Pt. 2): 'HOW Do We Visit?'
RSVP

Thursday, December 8, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

SVSS Christmas Open House RSVP

Friday, December 23 to Tuesday, January 3 -
Office Closed for Christmas holidays



**Welcome New
Volunteers!**

Paulette Blais

Lydia Cook

Nancy Deas

Neil Edwards

Sandra Elworthy

Pam Erikson

Marie Gogniat

Melanie Hon

Michelle Johnstone

Kim Koczka

Kerry Macready

Graeme Olson

Carole Rowling

Jiwen See

Irene Skippon

Tana Thomas

Brenda Thompson

Laurie Witwer



"Those who can, do.
Those who can do more, volunteer."
Anon.

Volunteers, you are appreciated!

Lana Popham

MLA, Saanich South

lana.popham.mla@leg.bc.ca

250.479.4154

4085 Quadra St.

9:30 am - 5:00 pm

Monday - Friday

saanichsouth.ca



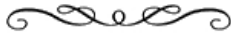
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And the survey said.....



We wanted direct feedback from our volunteers about their satisfaction levels, and to gather input on how we can improve our support.

Sixty seven of our fabulous volunteers recently completed an on line survey – 32% have volunteered for more than five years. A whopping 98.5% of the survey participants told us they have enough information to carry out their role and the same number feel rewarded and valued for their contributions! 67% of the responders felt our services are very effective. We received a wealth of suggestions on how we might recruit new volunteers - ideas range from word of mouth /referrals by existing volunteers, to social media and attendance at community events. We will be acting on many of the new ideas and ask that everyone “talk to your friends”, do a little do a lot, whatever your schedule allows.

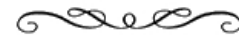


We’ve Missed Your Donations

We are glad to have our mail delivery back! In this electronic world we still need our friendly postie to deliver your donation cheques, so that we have the funds needed for our volunteer driver mileage reimbursement program.



Mary Webb, Joan Abel, Bob Carnegie, Karen Pokipala, Pat Patterson, Dianne Black, Margaret Ashmore and Gloria Politano pose on the front steps of McRae House after accepting their volunteer recognition awards at the AGM.



Thrifty Foods Smile Card fundraising program



Our Smile Card funding application has been approved again this year! Load up your cards or drop in to McRae House and pick one up! This is a painless way for you to support the agency - every time you shop 5% of your grocery bill will be donated to SVSS. This year’s \$2500 project will purchase a new chair for our sitting room and ergonomic office furniture for our hard working Community Services Coordinator.



By Heather Fetherston, Coordinator of Volunteers

Our 'On the Go Again' ladies are volunteers who assist at a weekly socialization and learning meeting facilitated by our Community Services Coordinator, Lynn. Volunteers Joy, Christine, Helen and Laureen pick up clients at their homes, take them to the meeting, help with tea and then drive them home again. The trip may also include loading up mobility aids in the trunks of their cars and assisting clients by offering an arm once at their destination. This is sometimes the only outing an isolated senior may have through the week and we are always being told how grateful the attendees are to the folks who make it all possible. Peggy readies the room before and after the meeting, helps Lynn with facilitation, researches possible speakers and is also an emergency driver; Joy, Helen and Christine stay for the session to serve tea and Laureen drives and assists in the kitchen as needed. Lots of laughter and chatting is shared throughout the afternoon and Silver Threads sends along some goodies to have for tea. Our 'On the Go Again' volunteers came to SVSS as a result of our column in the Saanich News (check us out under the heading 'Volunteer Notebook' every other Wednesday!). Thank you ladies – we appreciate your time and commitment and your passengers love you! This weekly programme is funded by the greater Victoria United Way in conjunction with our collaborative partner, Silver Threads Services.

Supporting Saanich
Volunteer Services

Diana
DEVLIN
250-744-3301



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CAMOSUN

www.dianadevlin.com