



Saanich Volunteer Services Society

The Friendly Visitor

Fall 2010

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

Earlier this year, the Saanich Council heard appeals from 48 worthy organizations asking for funds from the Community grants program. We are relieved to report that Council has, once again, approved our request for \$42,000 in operating funds along with the continued use and maintenance of McRae house. SVSS has been supported by Council since 1992. Mayor Leonard's message "Saanich is proud of the success of the Saanich Volunteer Services Society and grateful to the staff and volunteers for the services they provide" recognizes the contribution we are all making toward a healthy community.

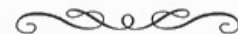


What's happening at McRae House

- The exterior of McRae house was repainted. Many thanks to Saanich and to the fabulous painters, Arnie and Mark, for making the house look so smart.
- Thanks to a grant from New Horizons for Seniors we are able to purchase a new efficient, power

smart fridge and stove for the office.

- Through the generosity of the Rotary Club of Royal Oak our diligent volunteer receptionists are working at a new desk & sitting on an ergonomically correct desk chair while they book those drives.
- Ruth & Madeleine did a great job of gardening this summer.
- Another staff member celebrates a "big" birthday in October.
- After a successful AGM, we welcome a new Board member to the Agency.
- Welcome to our new receptionist: Kathleen Sharp.
- And thanks to Ruth for her years of being Thursday morning reception – she'll remain as a volunteer with the Agency doing gardening, special events, and as an on call receptionist.
- Staff have completed upgrading their computer skills.
- An updated website is happening thanks to Kelly Darwin at Seriously Creative Design.
- After a false start, the swallows nested & the babies have fledged & flown away for another year.



Join us at our annual Christmas Party on Thursday, December 9th, 1:30 - 3:30 at McRae House.

RVSP to 250-595-8008 by December 2nd.

The office will be closed and no drives will be accepted for the afternoon of December 9th in order that all volunteers may attend the party.

Your new Board of Directors:

The Annual General Meeting saw the election of a new board member. Joining the team is Ms Barbara Armstrong. Look for a profile on Barbara on page 6.

Officers elected to the executive for the 2010-2011 year are:

- President: Damian Kowalewich
- Vice-President: Iris Dann
- Treasurer: Marj Hewitt
- Past President: Haji Charania
- Directors: Molli Holser, Janik Manhas, Theresa Vogel, Barbara Armstrong

We Welcome New Volunteers to the SVSS Team!

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Barbara Armstrong | Bill Muir |
| Katherine Black | Susan Muir |
| Guy Blais | Maureen Phelan |
| Bonnie Boychuk | Malcom Pinchin |
| Margaret Boyes | Annette Pinchin |
| Gloria Dale-Johnson | Ruth Robinson |
| Adrian Fine | Kathleen Sharp |
| Lily Jinman | Wendy Street |
| Helen Lindo | Pat Suess |
| Jeff Loenen | Gillian Tucker |
| Wendy McLeod | Donna Zwiers |

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Serving Our Community



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

Well, everyone its good-bye to summer and hello to fall and a new season of activities here at McRae House. Hope you all enjoyed the visits from relatives, the camping trips and holidays to far-off places and are ready to continue supporting us by driving, visiting, gardening or whatever volunteer task that I find for you to do! A special thank you to all the volunteers who came through for us in a big way over the summer when we were so short of drivers. Even with your help we occasionally had to tell clients we couldn't get them to their appointments. In fact, we were forced to cut services to everyone in this crunch and hope to have returned to the usual level by the time you read this. And that should be reason enough right there for you to tell a friend or family member about your volunteer experience with SVSS and encourage them to join our team.

We were pleased at our 17th AGM in June to present awards to several of our outstanding volunteers for years of service to the agency. Receiving five year awards were Gus Zilke, Elaine Foster, Haji Charania, Carol Jackson, Sharon Chabot, Chuck Neilson, Vic Rouse, Ann Ishiguro, Herb Mohrman and Bob Enwright: ten year awards went to Keith McDougall, Nettie DeBruyn, Rory Kirby, John McGregor and Mel Kitson and 15 year award recipients were Bob Brown and Leigh Bailey. If you missed the AGM and didn't receive your award I have it here at the office waiting for you. Congratulations to all.

Now that summer is over I will be continuing our efforts to get criminal record checks re-done. If you've been here for 3 years or more you need to have the check repeated - a new policy adopted by our board. It doesn't cost you anything but it must be done in person after you get a letter from me. I will be calling or emailing to ask you to stop by, pick up the letter and head down to Saanich Police.

Please check the calendar and plan on attending any workshops that interest you. You will be notified by email prior to the workshop so if I haven't got your email address you should get it to me soon. Then all you have to do is watch for an email from me! Don't forget to RSVP for all sessions. Please note that our Christmas party (I know, we're talking Christmas already?) will be held on Thursday, December 9th from 1:30 - 3:30. Its open to clients and volunteers so if you're a volunteer visitor you might plan on bringing your client along for the event.

As always I encourage you to keep me posted on how your visits, drives, shopping trips, etc. are going. My door is always open and I'm just a phone call or email away any time you'd like to share. Hope your volunteer experience is everything you want it to be and thank you for your time.



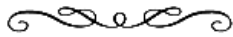
If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read anything at all.





Monday, October 11
Office Closed Thanksgiving

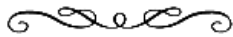
Thursday, October 21
Volunteer Info Session
Practical Tips for Supporting
Passengers in Your Car'
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.



Thursday, November 11
Office Closed
Remembrance Day

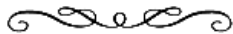


Tuesday, November 23
Volunteer Sharing Session
Volunteer Visiting – Part 1
"WHO Do We Visit?"
12:30 – 3:30 p.m.



Thursday, December 9
SVSS Christmas Party
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**Friday, December 24, 2010 -
Monday, January 3, 2011**
Office Closed
Christmas Holidays



The Hon. Gary Lunn,
PC, MP, Saanich-Gulf Islands



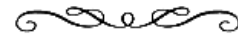
#1—9843 Second Street
Sidney, B.C. V8L 3C7

Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon. to Fri.
Phone: 250-656-2320 Fax: 250-656-1675

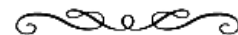
**Be sure and mark
your calendars NOW
with these dates**



Saturday, January 29
'Orientation to the Agency'
- for new volunteers and those
Interested in volunteering
10 a.m. – 12 noon



Thursday, February 10
Volunteer Sharing Session
Volunteer Visiting – Part 2
'HOW Do We Visit?'
9:00 a.m. – 12 noon



"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



Our website is being updated! Sincere appreciation to Kelly Darwin of Seriously Creative Design for helping us create a renewed and more interactive website. Be sure to check us out at www.saanichvolunteers.org

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SVSS volunteers Joy, Christine, and Helen working hard in the kitchen at the weekly socialization and learning group On the Go Again. The snacks are provided by Saanich Silver Threads but the three ladies do all the work at the meeting; prep, serve and clean up. All jobs performed with a smile.



Peggy, another SVSS volunteer, enjoys a cup of tea with OTGA participant Joyce. Peggy helps with facilitation, set up and take down of tables and chairs, and any other task that comes her way.




On the Go Again is a collaborative program of Saanich Volunteer Services Society and Saanich Silver Threads. It meets weekly every Wednesday afternoon. For more information contact Lynn Hanman, SVSS Community Services Coordinator.




License plate holders are still available – drop in to McRae House and pick up yours! These are a great way to promote the agency and let people know how to reach us. We also have name tags! If you don't have one, please drop in to the office and have your personalized name tag made up so you can wear it whenever you are out with our clients.

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**Ruth
Chudley**

For eight years Ruth has been one of our volunteer receptionists. Every Thursday morning she could be found at the front desk greeting people and booking drives. Ruth has decided to leave in order to pursue other interests which will take up her Thursdays. We are not saying a final good-bye though as she will still be a presence at McRae House as an on-call receptionist, resident gardener and bird protector and special events volunteer.

Ruth has lived in Saanich for more than 40 years and enjoys being part of the Saanich community. Retiring from a career that included nursing, elementary school teacher and health statistician, Ruth was looking for a volunteer job where she could utilize her people skills to help others and answered the call from our agency in September of 2002. Booking so many drives over the years has left Ruth with a deep admiration for the volunteer drivers in our program, and, although she says she's encountered some 'unusual situations' in her volunteer work, she's always retained her great sense of humour no matter what the circumstances!

We look forward to seeing Ruth here at the office whenever her schedule permits and take this opportunity to thank her for her long-time commitment as our 'Thursday morning girl'.

New Director



**Barbara
Armstrong**

Financial
Advisor,
BA French,
BComm
Finance, MBA,
CFRE

Saanich has been home to Barbara, her husband Rockwell and five children, for the past 14 years. Her employers have been the Women's Assault Centre, BC Cancer Foundation and the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria where she held director roles as a professional fundraiser. In 2008, Barbara expanded her training in financial advisement and joined Edward Jones Investments. She is past president of the island chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and continues to participate in a wide variety of volunteer roles with St. Vincent de Paul, Ballet Victoria, Vancouver Island Sexual Health Society, as well as professional associations.

Barbara looks forward to joining the board of the Saanich Volunteer Services Society, and to giving a hand in any way that is needed.

Supporting Saanich
Volunteer Services

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