

33 YEARS  
OF SERVICE

# OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES



Newsletter

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MAY 2010

## Annual Pre-Valentine's Dinner was a Smashing Success!

Enthusiastic diners enjoyed delicious food and great company while supporting an excellent cause.

Every year, OBVS hosts its "Love Your Community" Pre-Valentine's fundraising dinner at Blighty's Bistro on Oak Bay Avenue. This year's event, another sell-out, was held on Thursday, February 11th. Blighty's owner Richelle Osborne and her talented team never fail to amaze us with their gourmet food and creative decorations. Our

guests enjoyed a wonderful evening, with lots of good humour and volunteer cheer.

Every year, dinner tickets sell out very quickly. A tax receipt is issued for a portion of the ticket cost. You can also support us by purchasing non-attending tickets which allow entry for draw prizes and are fully eligible for tax receipts. Mark your calendars as next year's dinner is scheduled for February 10, 2011. Book your ticket early if you don't want to be disappointed!

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM will be held on Thursday, May 27, at 2:30 pm in the Sports View Lounge, Oak Bay Recreation Centre on Bee St.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive Annual Reports, elect a Board of Directors, and recognize the service of our volunteers. Mayor Causton will present pins to those who have completed 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service. There will also be awards for 25 and 30 years of service!

If you wish to attend, please call the office by May 19.

RSVP to 250-595-1034.



Carin Gallie, Ian Gallie, Ann Feyrer, Mary-Anne McNeney, Eric and Carmelle Nielsen, Mike McNeney, Phebe Chartrand

Pam and Brian Copley

Nicky and Victor Lotto

## We would like to thank our generous sponsors for their support in making the dinner such a rousing success:

Admiral Inn  
Barclay's Jewellers  
BC Wineguys  
Blighty's Bistro  
Derma Spa  
French Vanilla  
Grafton's Bookshop  
Ivy's Bookshop

Joan Ayles  
Nicholas Randall  
Novus Consulting  
Ottavio's Italian Bakery & Deli  
Rogers' Chocolates  
Side Street Studio  
Ted Harrison  
White Heather Tea Room

Additionally, a very special thanks to Hazel Braithwaite who presented us with a cheque for \$1000 from Coast Capital Savings.



Hazel Braithwaite, Barry Kelly



# Oak Bay Profiles

## LORNA BEST

By Bronwyn Taylor

Lorna Best, our client, is truly an amazing woman! How many of us would go camping to celebrate our 104th birthday, albeit in a Winnebago? Approaching her 107th birthday, she is still going strong.

Lorna was born on the fourth of July, 1903 in Gilbert Plains, Manitoba. Her father emigrated from England to become a farmer. Little did he know farming the prairies was very different from the smaller farms back home. After three or four unsuccessful attempts, in 1921 he became the village secretary-treasurer, a position he held until his untimely death in 1925. "He died of septicemia, as there was not penicillin back then."

Lorna was the oldest of seven: four boys and three girls. "It is ironic that I was the oldest, yet I'm the one left". Her last remaining sibling, a brother, died only last November in the Parkwood, Coquitlam. At fourteen Lorna began an after school and weekend job in the local jewelry store. After grade 11, "There was no grade 12 back then," she enrolled at Success Business College in Winnipeg. Unfortunately Lorna did not complete her programme; her father's sudden death made it necessary for her to return home to work in order to help her mother support the younger children. After a short time at the jewelry store, she assumed her father's position as village secretary-treasurer.

When Lorna married in 1928 it was expected that she would resign her position. Their daughter was born in 1929, and her husband Gilbert (known as 'Bus') added the responsibility of village secretary-treasurer to his successful fire insurance brokerage business. It was really becoming a family affair, to be carried on later by



At 105th Birthday in 2008

an uncle. Lorna showed me a picture of the line of Municipal Clerks—four of her family in a row. The high point in her life was the birth of her son in 1936; "After so many years, we didn't think we would have any more children."

Though the last of her generation, Lorna has a large and loving family spread across the globe. Her son lives in Merritt, her daughter in Calgary, the nearest is a grandson in Pt. Moody, a nephew in Seattle, nieces in England and Australia, and 18 great grandchildren in various places. The niece from England visits every year and the one in Australia had phoned the day or so before our visit. Her son and daughter both visit several times a year. Lorna's recently deceased brother sent her flowers every month commencing her 100th birthday; her nephew in Seattle has continued the tradition. As a matter of fact, there were several vases of flowers spotted

around her apartment, making it a cheery place indeed.

In 1980 Lorna left Manitoba for Victoria at the behest of her brother and sister. They felt she should be living in a warmer climate, so she moved to an apartment in Esquimalt. Lorna is still a member of St. Paul's Church on Esquimalt Road. Though she no longer attends services, she stays in touch with the many friends she has in the congregation. The ladies of St. Paul's knit a lovely prayer shawl cum lap rug that Lorna uses to keep warm while reading or watching television. In her words, "It is important to feel connected to a group."

Other ways Lorna stays connected are through weekly bridge games with fellow residents at the Oak Bay Lodge and "lots of cribbage, I had a 29 hand once!" She also takes most of her meals in the dining room. To keep her mind active Lorna does crossword puzzles, reads large print books and the headlines in the newspaper to keep abreast of current events. The book she is currently reading is "Dreams From My Father" by Barack Obama.

Lorna and her husband loved to golf and to travel. They took many road trips, often spent winters in Florida or Arizona, and traveled frequently to Calgary to visit their daughter. As a widow, Lorna "drove three times to Mesa, Arizona with her car and two friends." Her travel highlights were to visit her father's birthplace of Bristol, England, and cruises to Alaska, Hawaii and the Bahamas.

Describing herself as a loner, Lorna enjoys quiet evenings at home reading or watching TV. She feels she has had a good life, is glad she came to Victoria, appreciates the care and attention she receives as an independent resident of Oak Bay Lodge, but "doesn't want to get sick and have to move downstairs with a roommate." I don't see that happening any time soon.

## Tony and Mignon Fenton Trust

Oak Bay Volunteer Services Society has received a grant generously donated from the Tony and Mignon Fenton Trust. The Fentons were long time residents of Oak Bay who were fortunate enough to be able to remain in their home through their elder years. Tony Fenton died in May 2007 and through his will, established the Tony

& Mignon Fenton Trust; a perpetual charitable trust (private foundation) established for the purpose of providing assistance to the infirm elderly in need of home care in Oak Bay, without which such infirm elderly persons would be unable to remain in their homes.

Scotiabank, the Wealth Management division of Scotiabank, administers the Tony & Mignon Fenton Trust, including the annual granting of funds from the trust. The Trustees are pleased to be able to grant to this very worthy organization assisting the elderly in Oak Bay.

## WANT A SAY IN HOW HEALTHCARE IS DELIVERED IN BC?



*There are 4 ways to get involved:*

- 1. Join the Patient Voices Network Registry**  
Sign up to receive information on healthcare issues and participate in health surveys and polls.
- 2. Become a Peer Coach**  
Train to become part of a team of BC-wide peer coaches and help others in your community make healthy behaviour changes (e.g. increase physical activity, healthier eating, quit smoking).
- 3. Get activated in the community**  
Help identify healthcare issues in your community and work with healthcare professionals to find appropriate solutions.
- 4. Shape the system**  
Help shape primary healthcare by becoming actively involved in the system (eg. participate in a speaker's bureau, sit on a Patient Advisory Board, attend conferences).

The Patient Voices Network provides opportunities for patients and families in BC to participate in primary healthcare changes. This is a new campaign of Healthy Heart Society of BC, in partnership with the BC Ministry of Health Patients as Partners initiative.

### Patient Voices Network

450-1385 W. 8th Avenue Vancouver, BC V6H 3V9  
Tel 604.630.5862 • Toll Free: 1.888.742.1772

**Sign up for FREE! Your voice counts...**

[www.patientvoices.ca](http://www.patientvoices.ca)  
[connect@patientvoices.ca](mailto:connect@patientvoices.ca)

### VIHA FUNDING REDUCED

The Vancouver Island Health Authority has reduced the funding to Oak Bay Volunteer Services by 25%. Our annual amount is now \$7,942.00 instead of \$10,590.00. Other similar organizations also received a 25% reduction.

We rely greatly on support from the community. Please consider making a donation or a legacy in your will.

### SOCIAL WORKERS SPEAKING UP: POVERTY COSTS

The Canadian Association of Social Workers has chosen in 2010 the theme "Social Workers Speaking Up: Poverty Costs."

"It negatively impacts well-being. It compromises human rights. It goes against Canada's image as a fair and equal country," says CASW President Darlene MacDonald. Poverty costs people their physical, emotional, social, and mental well-being. It has significant cost for government and society.

At Oak Bay Volunteer Services we address these issues through tax returns completed for individuals with low incomes, drives for people who cannot manage public transit or afford taxis, drives to the food bank, help to get groceries, minor repairs, and addressing concerns brought to our attention by volunteers regarding clients with low income, etc.

To quote Nelson Mandela, "Poverty is not natural. It is man-made and can be overcome and eradicated by the action of human beings."

## LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS IN CAREGIVING

By John Jordan, Barrister and Solicitor, Straith and Company

### Temporary Substitute Decision-Makers

Any person over 19 years of age in British Columbia has the right to refuse medical care, even if that care will prolong his or her life. However, what happens when the patient is in a coma and unable to state if, and what medical care he or she wants? These questions are dealt with in the Health Care (Consent) and Care-Facility (Admission) Act (the "Act").

The law presumes all adults are capable of giving or refusing consent, unless the physician is sure the patient is incapable of making those decisions. In order to refuse treatment, the patient must be capable.

If the adult patient is incapable and unable to consent, and the situation is an emergency, the physician may do what is necessary to keep that patient alive, absent of any knowledge that the patient would not approve of the medical treatment. Of course, if you have signed a representation agreement, the representative can make health care decisions for you.

However, if you have no representative or committee of the person, the physician can choose someone who comes within the categories set out in section 16 of the Act to become a "temporary substitute decision maker" (the "TSDM").

Section 16 sets out the potential TSDM's and the order in which they must be chosen. The physician will pick the first person who qualifies under section 16(2) and who is available, namely:

- the adult's spouse;
- the adult's child;
- the adult's parents;
- the adult's brother or sister; and
- anyone else related by birth or adoption to the adult.

If a member of the above group disputes the appointment of the TSDM,

the health care provider must choose someone authorized by the Public Guardian and Trustee. If there is a dispute over a decision of the TSDM, the decision must be referred to the Health Care and Care Facility Review Board. If the person has no family, then the Public Guardian and Trustee can act as your TSDM, but in my experience, this is not a role the Public Guardian wishes to take on.

The TSDM must be at least 19 years of age and a person who has been "in contact" with the person within the immediately preceding 12 month period, has no dispute with the person and be able to comply with the requirements as set out in section 19 of the Act.

Section 19 requires the TSDM, much like the requirements of a representative under the Representation Agreement Act, to consider, in deciding what course of treatment is in the person's best interests, the adult's known wishes, whether the adult's condition is likely to improve with the proposed health care, whether the benefit of the proposed health care is greater than the risk of harm to the patient, and whether there is a less intrusive form of health care that would be as beneficial.

Sections 17 and 18 of the Act set out the authority of the TSDM. The TSDM has only 21 days from the date of appointment to give or refuse consent to health care. This provision creates

certain problems with respect to timing where wait lists for medical treatment often extend beyond the 21-day period.

TSDM's do have authority to refuse health care necessary to preserve life, but only where that decision is "medically appropriate", the TSDM has considered and complied with instructions or wishes the adult expressed while he or she was competent and the health care providers agree the medical decision is appropriate.

It is clear that TSDM's are a stopgap measure, only to be used where a person has not, while they are competent, planned in advance for their health care through the execution of a representation agreement. Executing a representation agreement ensures the person's wishes are carried through for future health care decisions. Failure to do so may very well lead to frustration of those intentions. As always, planning for your future is prudent and ensures your wishes will be carried out.

#### *Editor's Note:*

The purpose of this column is NOT to advise people on their legal affairs or concerns, but to provide basic information for discussion with their own legal counsel.

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