

35 YEARS
OF SERVICE

OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES



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2012 VOLUNTEER AWARDS



Fifty people attended our Annual General Meeting in May. Twenty-eight volunteers were recognized for various years of service, including long service for 25, 30 and 35 years of helping Oak Bay residents. We honour all these volunteers for their dedication!

Award Recipients in attendance: Lyne Moreau, John Hurlburt, Anne Kent, Barbara Chambers, Ena Vandermale accepting for William Vandermale, Penny Watson, Ivan Watson, Bronwyn Taylor, Dawn Bailey, Janet Flanagan, Christine Whitbread, Claire Eraut

5 YEARS

Rosalyn Alexander
Jeanne Cavaye
Sean Clazie
Barbara Chambers
Margaret Drummond
Claire Eraut
Karen Hahn
George Janota
Anne Kent
Margaret Lotto
Steve North
Barry Thomas
Penny Watson

10 YEARS

Dawn Bailey
Murray Cook
Janet Flanagan
Gillian Geddes
Bronwyn Taylor
Christine Whitbread

15 YEARS

Frank Ainsworth
Nelson Antoine
Alun Rees
Ivan Watson

20 YEARS

Gerhard Fischer
Margaret Foreman

25 YEARS

John Hurlburt

30 YEARS

Lyne Moreau

35 YEARS

William Vandermale

YOU ARE INVITED! 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Oak Bay Volunteer Services is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. In commemoration, we are holding a 35th Anniversary Celebration on September 19, 2012 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Sports View Lounge at the Oak Bay Recreation Centre. There will be entertainment, refreshments, and recognition of long time volunteers, donors and other supporters.

If you would like to attend, please contact the Oak Bay Volunteer Services office no later than September 10 by calling 250-595-1034 or sending an email to obvs@oakbayvolunteers.bc.ca.

READ AND REMEMBER!

Included with this news- Bay residents. If someone you letter is a bookmark special- know comes to mind who ly printed as another way to might have time to volunteer, commemorate 35 years of or if you know of someone providing one-to-one service who might benefit from being to members of the commu- a client of Oak Bay Volunteer nity. Each time you open your Services, take a moment to book you may be reminded of give them a call of encourage- the services we provide to Oak ment to become involved.

ANNUAL DONATION CAMPAIGN STARTS NOW

Oak Bay Volunteer Services relies very heavily on donations from individuals in the community. Please give as generously as you can in these challenging economic times so we can continue to provide the services on which many of our clients depend. Know that we are grateful for every donation, whatever the amount. Charitable donation receipts are issued.



Oak Bay Profiles

Harvey Ratson

By Bronwyn Taylor

Harvey was born in St. Boniface, MA in 1946, younger brother to Malcolm Raymond, who now lives in Philadelphia with his family. His father was from Flin Flon and his mother a war bride from Brighton, England. Harvey has a lovely wife, Patricia, and a great daughter from his first marriage, Eden.

Current hobbies include fresh and saltwater fishing, attending auctions and garage sales, listening to all kinds of music, cooking, baking and traveling. When he and Patricia travel, the types of sites they visit whenever possible include galleries and the local cemetery. "There is so much interesting stuff to be learned from looking at the past!" he said.

Arriving in Victoria from Calgary in 1978, Harvey wanted to do something for his new community so registered with the Oak Bay Volunteer Services, at that time under the direction of the Oak Bay Community Association. He volunteered to do pruning, gardening, some driving, as well as being a member of the Board of Directors until 1980. As a volunteer, Harvey explored the back streets and alleys of Oak Bay. In fact, he found a crowded chicken coop in the yard of one of his clients where the chickens took turns leaving the crowded coop to explore the neighbour's yard and then return to the coop. All the seniors Harvey helped during those two years were "great!" He was most impressed by how seniors were living and trying so hard to maintain their independence.

Harvey was employed by McCallum Motors for several years and in 1989 began doing backstage calls at the McPherson and Royal Theatres setting up complex staging. By 1992 Harvey was employed at both theatres as custodian, and in 1995 to the McPherson exclusively, until his retirement in 2009. Not his final retirement, however! Harvey still does staging for major performances at the theatres and Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre; taxing physical work that means Patricia cooks dinner that night!

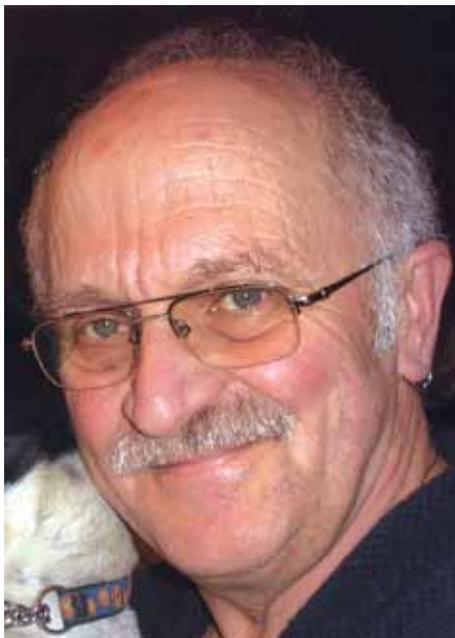


Photo by Patricia Walker

Harvey's return to the Oak Bay Volunteer Services as a driver was accidental. He came to the office to ask Joan Halvorsen for a reference letter to volunteer at the Monterey Centre, and her response was, "No, if you want to volunteer, it should be for us." and so it is.

Harvey dedicates his entire Thursday to driving: a group from Shelmarie Resthome in the morning and an ongoing drive in the afternoon taking one of our gentlemen clients to his programme at the Oak Bay Recreation Centre. He says the Shelmarie folks are amazing. "You never know who or what you are going to get. They have questions and stories and you hear parts of their lives you would never find out otherwise."

On Tuesdays Harvey drives a variety of other clients. For him, "The biggest thing I get from driving is seeing each senior as an individual person rather than 'just a senior', and hearing what they want to share about their lives. They have amazing stories to tell!"

While Harvey's parents were alive he often flew to Calgary to visit. After his father died, Mrs. Ratson came to Victoria for a visit, but didn't take to the dampness. Despite this, on one visit to his Mum, Harvey overheard her tell a

nurse she wanted to move to Victoria. He soon had the wheels in motion and when the call came that a bed was available at Glengarry Hospital, Harvey had three days to complete her move. He attributes the logical side of his nature to being raised by his English mother. "Change what you can and accept what you can't," is his philosophy. "Mum was slightly over 5', but when she roared, she roared!" Harvey laughed when recalling how he and his brother would pick her up and put her in her room until she calmed down.

Volunteering has been part of Harvey's life for many years. In 1967 he spent 3 ½ months in Israel on a kibbutz during the Seven Days War. He said it took months to reacquaint himself into Canadian society after living with only the bare necessities. "We have no idea how people elsewhere live, when we live with an abundance of everything."

In 1976 his wife decided they should escape the Calgary winter and visit Qualicum. He had no idea where they were going, but on arrival marveled at "seeing green, seeing flowers, and even seeing roses!" If he'd known how beautiful it is here, he would have moved to the Island even sooner than he finally did. Within a week of returning to the filthy snows of Calgary, the decision to move west was made. Harvey did acknowledge the spectacular nature of prairie summer storms, but it was not enough to make up for the ugly winters.

We are glad you are here, Harvey, and that you plan to stay. We are also very appreciative of your commitment to driving our clients and for all the other things you do and have done for the Oak Bay Volunteers Services.



Volunteering in 1978

Sophia Seemann receives Young Exceptional Star (YES) award



Sophia Seeman, Joan Trumble

Sophia received a YES Award from the Oak Bay Child and Youth Committee, Mayor and Council in May. The following is the speech given by Joan Trumble of the Kiwanis Club of Oak Bay in honour.

Sophia joined Oak Bay Volunteer Services as a volunteer in the summer of 2011 on her own initiative. She had already helped at the Victoria Symphony Splash in security and listed her reason for volunteering as "helping community."

Oak Bay Volunteer Services provides one-to-one direct volunteer services to individuals. Sophia showed great enthusiasm offering to assist in many different categories. She was matched with a lady in her 90's that has various health concerns, to visit and play scrabble.

Sophia's dedication to this lady involves weekly visits for about two hours per time. The lady says "Sophia is a lovely sweet girl. She loves to sit with me and let me talk." Not

only do the two of them visit and play scrabble, they also play checkers and sometimes take out the records for a listen.

Sophia always shows responsibility in her volunteer work and takes initiative to keep the office informed about her activities. In addition to volunteering, she is involved with a wide variety of interests including cooking, sewing, reading, gardening and sports.

Her dedication is not only to the lady she visits, but also to the community. Joan Halvorson, Executive Director of Oak Bay Volunteer Services nominated Sophia for her outstanding achievement in community service and volunteerism. Oak Bay Volunteer Services and the Oak Bay community are very fortunate to have Sophia's great help as a volunteer!

Ladies and gentlemen – please help me in congratulating Sophia Seemann as a recipient of a 2012 YES Award.

Annual General Meeting



Acting Mayor Tara Ney presented volunteer service pins



William Vandermale, 35 Year Award Recipient



Lyne Moreau, 30 Year Award Recipient



John Hurlburt, 25 Year Award Recipient



Board of Directors: Eric Nielsen (Secretary), Jon Watson (Chair), Sharon Apsey (Director), Phebe Chartrand (Vice-Chair), Bronwyn Taylor (Treasurer), Hugh Creighton (Director)

Introducing Hugh Creighton: our newest member on the Board of Directors

Born in 1936, Hugh was educated at Monterey Elementary, Oak Bay High, and Victoria College (now UVic), after which he studied for and obtained designation as a chartered accountant. Hugh spent 11 years in the United Way movement, the final three as Executive Director of Victoria's own United Way. In 1976 he entered the real estate profession, and in 1978 founded his own property management business, which he successfully operated until retiring in 2006.

Hugh and his wife, Valerie, were married in 1983, and have four children and three grandchildren in their blended family. Hugh's main sports interest is rugby, a former player and now active supporter of Oak Bay's Castaways Wanderers Club.

For the past three years Hugh has served as a volunteer driver for "OBVS", a task he finds both enjoyable and rewarding. "You meet some very interesting people, and it's a way of giving back to the community." Welcome aboard, Hugh!

WELCOME TO KELSEY LECLAIR!

We welcome Kelsey LeClair as our new part-time Services Coordinator. Kelsey has a Bachelor of Social Work degree with Honors from the University of Victoria. Her background includes management and a focus in the areas of special needs child care, violence, substance abuse and addictions. She was born and raised in Victoria. Kelsey looks "forward to getting to know both the clients and volunteers of Oak Bay Volunteer Services." She says, "I have already been touched by the stories of many clients and inspired by the kind hearts of our volunteers. I am excited to be a part of the organization."

Kelsey joins Joan Halvorsen as Executive Director and Ruth Platts as part-time Office Coordinator.



Back row: Kelsey LeClair (Services Coordinator), Ruth Platts (Office Coordinator), Front row: Jayna Brulotte (Volunteer), Karen Wilson (Volunteer) at the AGM reception desk.

Email Addresses

If you have email and have not given us your current address, please provide it to the office so we can begin to send your newsletters electronically. This will result in huge postal savings on our limited budget. If you change your residential or email address at any time, please let us know.

Thanks to All Volunteers who Stuff Water Bills



Hugh Quetton, John Hurlburt, Ann Belither, Howard Evans, Honora Bowring, Bob Carter, Laurene Levinson

Every month volunteers happily stuff water bills. It is always a fun filled time as is evidenced by the laughter and comradery. This photo is of the volunteers who did the stuffing in July. Bob Carter who started doing water bills in November of 1989, says, "It is a great group. I have seen lots of people over the years and it is different every time." In reference to the number of water bills that go out, he adds, "Never have so many been looked after by so few!"

ONLINE GIVING: ANOTHER WAY TO DONATE

CanadaHelps.org is a way to make donations electronically without leaving the comfort of your home, or donating from afar if you are traveling for an extended period of time. Go to our website www.oakbayvolunteers.bc.ca to find the link.

The ease and convenience is appealing, but please note that all online donations are subject to a 3.9% fee, so if you mail your cheque to the office, or make your donation in person, you can be sure that the full amount of your gift will come directly to Oak Bay Volunteer Services.

OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES

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