

34 YEARS
OF SERVICE

OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES



Newsletter

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2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 2:30 pm, Monday, May 9

Sports View Lounge, Oak Bay Recreation Centre

The purpose of the AGM is to receive Annual Reports, elect Board Directors, and honour our volunteers. Volunteers will be presented with pins for 5, 10, and 15 years of service. There will also be awards for 25 and 30 years of service!



Barry Kelly, Board of Directors Chair

If you wish to attend, please contact the office by May 1, call 250-595-1034 or obvs@oakbayvolunteers.bc.ca



20 year award recipients at 2010 AGM, Jacquie and Nan, celebrate with Nan's daughters. Jacquie Storey, Jennifer Lutzer, Nan Walmsley, Gillian Chater

DO YOU KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS?

Oak Bay Volunteer Services (OBVS) is always looking for ways to better serve those in our community and to welcome new clients who have temporary and/or ongoing needs. How well do you know your neighbours, their situations, and their needs?

There may be a single parent on your street with very young children who could use a hand with shopping or walking the dog because the needs of the children don't let the parent get out as regularly as necessary. We have volunteers willing to perform these services.

An illness or accident may render a neighbour of any age temporarily unable to get out to shop or to

perform many of the usual maintenance and repair functions around the home. We have volunteers willing to take on short-term jobs.

The loss of a drivers' license or vehicle may make a previously independent person more housebound and socially less active. If you notice a neighbour is no longer driving, or doesn't seem to have visitors, perhaps OBVS could provide drives to medical and

other appointments or make reinsurance phone calls on a regular basis. We have volunteers willing to commit to frequent and ongoing contact with our clients.

If there is a neighbour you help on a regular basis, when you are away on vacation or not available for some other reason, perhaps one of our volunteers could step in temporarily.

Do you know of anyone on your block: young, elderly, or anywhere in-between, that could be helped by becoming a client of OBVS? Please phone the office (250-595-1034) to find out more information, or access the website: www.oakbayvolunteers.bc.ca.

Oak Bay Profiles

Alun Rees

By Bronwyn Taylor

Born in the small mining village of Llantrisant in South Wales, UK, Alun is far from his roots and has seen the world on the course of his journey. By the age of eight, Alun had moved from his birthplace to Abertridwr, and then to Barry, where he attended Grammar School. From Barry he went to Cardiff University to study Industrial Relations, Economics and English. Unfortunately his studies were interrupted by the requirement for young men to enlist in National Service. After completing the required two years of National Service, Alun enrolled in Loughborough College in England and earned a B. Sc. and a teaching degree. Years later he completed both a B.A. and a B.Ed. at the University of Victoria.

When I asked Alun about meeting his wife, Gillian (also one of our OB Volunteers), all he said, with a twinkle in his eye, was they met when teaching in London and it was a "quick romance." They were married in 1961 and flew the same day to Bermuda to take up teaching jobs. If that isn't spontaneous, crazy, or hopefully planned, I don't know what is!!

Gill returned to the UK when she became pregnant, but Alun stayed in Bermuda to complete his contract. Upon his return, Alun took a commission in the Royal Army Education Corp. Their first daughter, Dariol, was born later in 1962.

A self-proclaimed adventurer with itchy feet, Alun resigned his UK Army commission in 1963 in order to take a teaching job at Brentwood College on Vancouver Island. Gill and Dariol arrived three months later on the Empress of Canada. The young family spent five happy years at the College, during which time Gareth and Jane were born.

In 1968 Alun left the private school system to teach first in Duncan, and

then in the Saanich School District until 1982. In 1992 he retired from St. Michael's University School. For most of his career Alun taught English and P. E. P.E. came up casually in our conversation, but led to many interesting connections to Alun's life.

Backtrack to when he finished high school in Wales. While a student at Cardiff University, Alun was also a professional soccer player for Chelsea. This meant frequent travel between London and Cardiff. In Alun's words, "I was losing at both ends - academically and athletically." He was released from Chelsea to play for Cardiff City, which took care of the travel, but his professional career was also interrupted by the mandatory National Service. Alun's pro soccer career ended at the same time he finished his term in the National Service, so he enrolled at Loughborough College to complete his teaching degree.

Alun's involvement in sport, combined with his wanderlust, provided the Rees' with opportunities to visit every continent in the world: as a volunteer with Canadian Amateur Sports promotion and development (especially rugby), to watch son Gareth captain the Canadian team as it played in three rugby World Cups in Europe (twice) and in S. Africa, and to embark on house exchanges "which allows you to see the world for only the price of the airfare." As we read this Newsletter, the couple will be on a house exchange vacation in California.

The Rees' are very proud of their children, all graduates of UVic, who have followed in their parents' footsteps as educators. Jane and Dariol live in Victoria and are on the staff of St. Michael's University School. Gareth, who taught at Eaton College, with Prince William as one of his students, is now in private business in Vancouver. Alun and Gill have five grandchildren: four in Victoria and the youngest in Vancouver.

In addition to his extensive volunteer-



Alun in the 2009 Tea Party Parade

ing in the world of sport, Alun has been a volunteer driver with OBVS since 1997, not just driving clients, but the "float/car" in the 2009 Oak Bay Tea Party Parade. He borrowed his son-in-law Rob's convertible that a group of us decorated to the 9's as we waited for the parade to start. The procession was long and slow, and since the car was a standard shift, it didn't like spending all that time in first gear. At the downhill slope of Hampshire toward the Bowker intersection, the car's radiator rebelled and the car quit. The irony is, that the muscle that pushed the car over to the curb was from the James Bay rugby team, always the rivals of Alun's Castaway-Wanderers Oak Bay team.

Alun is also a volunteer on the Board of Directors of the Demezey Memorial Abbeyfield Legacy Society, commonly known as Kildonan House (931 Foul Bay Rd.)

The Rees' have never regretted their decision to come to Canada. Alun says it was the smartest move they ever made. "Canada embraced us, and it was a wonderful place to raise a family." Alun and Gill are proud to now be Canadian citizens.

Alun's personal philosophy is that one should pay back to any community that has been good to you, without any expectations. He has good times, good experiences, meets good people, and most importantly, hopes he is helping members of our community through his ongoing commitment to the OBVS.

TONY and MIGNON FENTON TRUST

Christine Seaville interviewed by Bronwyn Taylor

Oak Bay Volunteer Services latterly received its second grant from the Tony and Mignon Fenton Trust. The Fentons were residents of Oak Bay, fortunate to be able to remain in their home during their senior years. Through his will, Mr. Fenton established this perpetual charitable trust for the purpose of providing assistance to the infirm elderly in Oak Bay, who require home care in order to remain in their homes.

In his later years, Tony Fenton was a client of Oak Bay Volunteer Services. Prior to this time he led an extremely interesting and diverse life - living in many parts of the world, before settling in Oak Bay. Christine Seaville, Tony's cousin and only relative living in Canada, tells the following story.

Tony Fenton was an only child, born in Borneo, who didn't speak much English until he was 7 years old because the servants spoke little English. At the tender age of seven, with limited English, Tony was shipped off to a British boarding school. Tony's parents were interned in a Japanese POW camp during WWII. With no home to go to, Tony spent school holidays with either his aunt's family (my grandmother) or another family from his mother's side. He never really knew his parents.

After serving briefly towards the end of the war in the Air Force, Tony moved to the Far East to work in the palm and coconut oil exporting business while his parents returned to Guernsey. When Tony was 38 years old, the company whom he worked for was bought. He was given a very generous severance package, and through wise investing, found himself in the enviable position of never having to work again.

Tony returned to London, met his future bride, Mignon, and they were married in the early 1960's. They traveled extensively, including trips to their home in Barbados. In 1980 Tony and



Tony and Mignon at their Oak Bay home

Mignon were on a ship destined for Carmel, CA. They had a stop in the Pacific Northwest and very much liked the scenery and climate. Shipmates suggested a trip to Victoria, which they did and liked it so much they purchased a home in Uplands. It was barely furnished for a long time, as they waited for their belongings to be shipped from England. It was in this home that the Fentons began their tradition of semi-annual grand cocktail parties. Mignon was a cordon bleu

cook and Tony the consummate host.

The couple had no children, but they were devoted to their dogs and to each other. Mignon eventually developed Alzheimer's disease. Tony nursed her tirelessly for many years, though it deprived him of the social and other stimulation he needed to thrive. I (Christine) lived here in Victoria from 1997-2000 while my daughters, of whom he was very fond, attended University of Victoria. One of my girls cleaned for Tony and we spent many holidays together as a family. When I returned in 2004, the decline in his health was dramatic. Tony lived about ten years longer than his wife, but in May 2007, at the age of 83, he also passed away.

Scotiabank, of Scotia Private Client Group, 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 once again to OBVS, a very worthy organization that assists the elderly in Oak Bay.

THANKS TO SERVICE CLUBS

Grants from Service Clubs enable Oak Bay Volunteer Services (OBVS) to continue offering one-to-one volunteer help to individuals of all ages. In the 2010-11 fiscal year, grants were gratefully received from three groups. There are direct links to the websites for each of these on the OBVS website at www.oakbayvolunteers.bc.ca in the section Funding and Support.

Kiwanis Club of Oak Bay

The Kiwanis have supported OBVS since 2008 and this year provided \$1,000. Their four major community activities are operating the Willows Tea Room, a seniors' residence, a residence for seniors on limited income, and one facility that provides complex care. They also support a wide variety of local and international causes. Watch for the reopening of the Willows Beach Tea Room on April 30th.

Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Council #7934

The Knights have supported OBVS annually since 1986! This year they provided \$400. Their activities are providing bursaries and scholarships to students of local Catholic schools, supporting elderly in the community, coaching & sponsoring teams, and more.

Royal Canadian Legion Britannia Branch #7

The Legion has supported OBVS since 2005 and this year provided \$500. Their mission statement "Is to serve veterans and their dependents, Promote Remembrance and Act in the service of Canada and its communities." Their community activities include supporting health, social, educational and heritage programs, filling a void in essential community services.

OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES

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OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES *Newsletter*

FUNDRAISING DINNER AT BLIGHTY'S BISTRO – OUTSTANDING

By Jon Watson

Our 7th annual Valentine's fundraising dinner at Blighty's Bistro restaurant was a resounding success! As usual Richelle Osborne and her fine staff outdid themselves in providing a superb gourmet dinner that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Richelle Osborne is the happy hostess

Mayor Christopher Causton proved to be a marvellous master of ceremonies and a very able auctioneer. Oak Bay Volunteer Services Society is deeply appreciative of the generous auction items donated by the Union Club of BC and by Victor Lotto, a well known local artist. The Union Club's donation of two nights' accommodation for two in a queen suite which included full breakfasts and a dinner credit for \$150.00 in its fine dining room raised hundreds of dollars for OBVS as did Victor's watercolour painting of a lucky bidder's home. In addition we were



Mayor Christopher Causton as MC



Sharon Apsey & Phebe Chartrand measure the full arm's length of 50/50 tickets for Mike McNeney

privileged to have Victor and his wife, Nicky, join us for the event.

Once again we are very grateful to Oak Bay Councillor, Hazel Braithwaite, who through her tireless volunteer efforts in the community contributed \$1000.00 from Coast Capital Savings to OBVS, the charity of her choice.



Jon Watson, Board Director & Councillor Hazel Braithwaite

Our sincere thanks go to everyone who attended the dinner and to those who bought non-attending tickets. Also, the community businesses and individuals listed below helped greatly by donating door prizes or auction items. A special thank you to Ivan Watson who once again acted as official photographer for the occasion and to Board members, Sharon Apsey and Phebe Chartrand, whose hard work in coordinating matters helped ensure that our annual fundraising dinner continues to be a hugely popular and successful event.



Matt McNeill, Ann Herbert & Frank Carson having fun



Lucy Gething & Gwynneth Evans enjoy the event



Carol Williams wins the BC Wineguys draw prize (and successfully bids for Victor Lotto's painting)



Bill Murphy-Dyson amazes all with his 'Memory Naming' of everyone present

Thanks to our generous supporters!

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