

35 YEARS
OF SERVICE

OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES



VOL. 32 NO.1

MAY 2012

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Wednesday, May 30 at 2:30 pm

This meeting is the perfect time to rub shoulders with volunteers, meet some of our clients, and make new acquaintances!

The 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Oak Bay Volunteer Services Society will be held Wednesday, May 30th in the Sports View Lounge, Oak Bay Recreation Centre at 1975 Bee St., commencing at 2:30 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive annual reports, elect Directors to the Board, and recognize long volunteer service. This will be Mayor Nils Jensen's inaugural presentation of recognition pins to our volunteers.

If you wish to attend, please contact the office by May 25th.

The number is 250-595-1034.



Award recipients at 2011 AGM: Judy Parkhurst, 30 years and Louise MacMinn, 25 years

35th
Anniversary!

In 1977 Oak Bay Volunteer Services began providing volunteer services to individuals in the community!

What else was going on that year?

The controversial issues in Oak Bay were:

- how to deal with sewage outfall
- where to place the needed pumping station
- should Oak Bay financially support moving the Greater Victoria Public Library from the heritage Carnegie Building to a new Government building?

Elsewhere in the world:

- the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Amnesty International
- optical fibre was first used to carry live telephone traffic
- Apple Computer Inc. was incorporated
- the rings of Uranus were discovered
- Space Shuttle Enterprise made its first test free-flight
- 'Star Wars' was released and was the highest grossing movie of all time until 1983
- 'Saturday Night Fever' had everyone dancing to the disco beat
- Elvis Presley died at age 42
- New York Yankees took the World Series
- Wimbledon was won by Bjorn Borg and Virginia Wade





Oak Bay Profiles

Ivan Watson



By Bronwyn Taylor

This profile introduces you to an outstanding young man. Ivan Watson was born in Toronto but grew up on the island. His parents moved to Victoria when he was nine years old and the family has resided in Oak Bay ever since. Ivan attended Willows Elementary School, Glenlyon for his secondary years, and completed an undergraduate degree in Political Science and History at UVic followed by a Masters in Leadership at Royal Roads. His extra-curricular interests include: reading, tennis, running, theatre, travel and writing. The latter led Ivan to a career in communications, which he has been able to combine with his passion for travel.

Ivan's first job was in MP David Anderson's office in Ottawa. After

graduating he worked for two and a-half years on Parliament Hill before returning to Victoria to work for the B.C. Government. During this time Ivan spent a year based in Belgium dealing with European and International Affairs. "It was a phenomenal experience; I was able to visit 15 countries." He now works at UVic in marketing and communications.

Ivan expressed having a special relationship with his grandparents, which led to his affinity to helping seniors in the many ways OBVS offers service to our clients. He began with OBVS while still in high school and has done nearly every job we have: walking, visiting, office phones, driving, writing, mounting displays, and is currently our 'resident photographer'. Ivan attributes these early experiences to making volunteerism a continuing and integral part of his life: he was elected to the National Board of Directors for United Way of Canada where he recently led the development of a new national brand framework, has volunteered with Leadership Victoria leading marketing and communications and the Red Cross, and in 2009 Ivan received a Victoria Leadership Award for emerging leaders (see our May, 2009 Newsletter). Now he

helps to organize the annual ceremony.

Part of Ivan's philosophy is, "You can't build a strong community unless you know where we came from and you know and understand the compelling stories of those who came before." He is fascinated by the strong sense of community in Oak Bay; something he feels is unique nationally.

Ivan is looking at the possibility of recording oral histories for the 35th celebration of OBVS; so contact the office if you have a story to tell, as we know many of you have.

Further, he believes, "If you have the ability, you have the responsibility to contribute to society." It is obvious he has the ability, and he takes the responsibility seriously. He appreciates he is fortunate to have been given a good education, to have worked with amazing mentors and to have served on ethical boards. He believes you repay their (mentors') faith in you by doing the best job you can. Ivan wanted to express special thanks to his most important mentors and role models, his parents Jon and Penny.

Now you see why this writer feels Ivan Watson is truly an outstanding young man.

OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES

101-2167 Oak Bay Avenue Victoria, BC V8R 1G2
250-595-1034 • Hours 9-12 & 1-4 pm weekdays
obvs@oakbayvolunteers.bc.ca • www.oakbayvolunteers.bc.ca

Editor: Joan Halvorsen • Writers: Bronwyn Taylor,
Ivan Watson, Joan Halvorsen
Design: Dan van Stolk • Photos: Ivan Watson



United Way
Greater Victoria
Funded Program

United Way

Our thanks go to the United Way Greater Victoria for awarding us a grant. This was our first request for funding from the United Way and we're extremely pleased and honoured to be successful. As a result of receiving this grant Oak Bay Volunteer Services is now a community partner with the United Way Greater Victoria.

New Volunteers

We are grateful to the many new volunteers who have joined us recently! We continue to welcome others who may be interested in joining us, particularly for drives, visits and walks. Following are quotes affirming the positivism of volunteering:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed,

it is the only thing that ever has." *Margaret Mead*

"Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop." *Dr. Dorothy I. Height, President and CEO of the National Council of Negro Women*

"Volunteers are paid in six figures... S-M-I-L-E-S." *Gayla LeMaire*

Leave a Legacy? I'm Not a Millionaire!

When we hear the words and phrases like "legacy," "bequest" or "leaving a gift for a charity in one's will" a common reaction is: "I can't do that because I'm not rich. I have to look after my children first."

But rest assured, even after looking after any children and/or others who are important to you, many of us can still make a meaningful difference to the community. This is even if you aren't one of Victoria's better known philanthropists. Many of us can leave

a small legacy behind for the community, for the wellbeing of others.

Making a gift in your will to a charity can actually be very easy. Some of the most popular ways are:

- Choose a fixed amount
- Leave a percentage of your estate
- Leave a percentage of the residual of your estate, after specific gifts like a home and the family treasures have been distributed to loved ones

If you are considering leaving a gift in your will for Oak Bay Volunteer Services, please give Executive Director Joan Halvorsen a call. It helps us to better plan for the future and helps us understand how your gift can best be honoured and celebrated if that is what you would like.

(250-595-1034)

Spring Has Sprung!

Now is the time for minor garden clean-up and repairs. Do you have a small job that could be done by a volunteer, such as flower beds that need weeding or edges that need digging, or a bit of pruning on a one-time basis? No job is too small to consider. The services are for those who cannot afford to pay a gardener.

FREE WORKSHOPS The Alzheimer Society of B. C. has several free workshops that will be offered in Victoria in June. For full details about the following including where to register online instead of using the phone numbers below, visit their website at www.alzheimerbc.org

Sat. June 2, 10 am – noon:	Getting to Know Dementia: register at 250-382-2052.
Mon. June 4, 9 am – noon	Accessing Services in the Community: register at 250-370-5641.
Six Tuesdays June 5 – July 10, 10 am – 12:30 pm:	Coping with Transitions in Dementia Caregiving: Dimensions of Loss and Grief: call 250-382-2052 to express interest. This series is for people who have a basic understanding about dementia and caregiving. If necessary, one can take the Getting to Know Dementia Workshop first.
Mon. June 11, 9 am – noon:	The Transition to Residential Care: register at 250-370-5641.
Mon. June 18, 9 am – noon:	Living in Residential Care: register at 250-370-5641.

OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES *Newsletter*

Celebrating our Vibrant Community at Blighty's Bistro Fundraiser

By Ivan Watson

Our eighth annual Valentine's Day fundraising dinner was held at Blighty's Bistro (2006 Oak Bay Avenue) on Thursday, February 9, 2012. Guests were served a wonderful gourmet dinner featuring such highlights as: cream of carrot soup, scallops, mushroom salad and fillet minion. Owner Richelle Osborne and her fine staff continue to amaze with their delicious and creative menu and the annual event has become a real highlight of the Oak Bay social calendar!

Board chair Jon Watson served as master



Sherry Wheeler, Patricia Walter, Dr. James Piercey, Carol Williams

of ceremonies and spoke about the role that Oak Bay Volunteer Services plays in helping people in need and in supporting a vibrant and healthy community.

Our Oak Bay Gordon-Head MLA Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development spoke about the key importance of volunteerism and Bill Murphy-Dyson once again dazzled us with his combination of an amazing feat of memory and fundraising.

We are very grateful to our generous sponsors and a full list is included in the sidebar.

A very special thank you to co-chairs Sharon Apsey and Phebe Chartrand who once again organized a highly successful event. Thank you as well to our wonderful and generous dinner guests and to our many friends who purchased non-attending tickets to support the society.

We are already receiving calls about next year's dinner. It is a testament to the strength of our caring volunteer community and the wonderful food and atmosphere of Blighty's Bistro that the dinner is always anticipated well in advance with such excitement!

Thanks to our generous supporters for a successful fundraising event!

A La Mode
Admiral Inn
Barclay's Jewellers
BC Wineguys
Blighty's Bistro
Charelli's Cheese Shop and Delicatessen
Derma Spa
Dig This
French Vanilla Home and Garden
Grafton's Bookshop
Ivy's Bookshop
Jayne Silvester
Joan Ayles
Nicholas Randall
Oak Bay Bistro
Oak Bay Flower Shop
Ramsey & Ramsey Flower Merchants
Rogers' Chocolates
Side Street Studio
Ted Harrison
Timeless Toys
Union Club of B.C.
Victor Lotto
White Heather Tea Room



Mike Apsey, Eric and Carmelle Nielsen



Doris and Bert Dinsmore, Bronwyn Taylor



Joan Halvorsen, Ruth Platts, Mary McMullan



Bill Murphy-Dyson, MLA Ida Chong, Jacquie Storey



Sharon Apsey, Ivan Watson



Phebe Chartrand, Mary-Anne McNeney, Ray Larson



Jon Watson