

32 YEARS
OF SERVICE

OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES



Newsletter

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Thursday May 28, 2009, the Oak Bay Volunteer Services will hold its Annual General Meeting. The meeting is for the purpose of receiving Annual Reports, electing the Board of Directors, and recognizing the service of volunteers. Pins are awarded to those who have given 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service.

This year's meeting is in the Sports View Lounge at Oak Bay Recreation Centre, beginning at 2:30 pm. If you wish to attend, please call the office by May 20. RSVP to 250-595-1034

Gill Rees accepts 10 Year Pin for her husband Alun Rees from Mayor Christopher Causton at last year's AGM.

Photo by Ivan Watson.



Grants

Oak Bay Volunteer Services received two generous grants this year.

Coast Capital Savings

Coast Capital Savings recognizes the volunteer efforts of its staff. Any employee who participates in the program and completes a minimum of 50 hours of personal volunteer work each year receives a minimum of \$250 to donate to a chosen charity. For Councillor Hazel Braithwaite's 773 hours of volunteering, she earned \$1000 which she generously designated to OBVS. The presentation was made at our 5th Annual Blighty's Bistro Fundraising Dinner in February. A huge thank you, Hazel.

We commend Coast Capital Savings for encouraging volunteerism, and contributing to the funding needs of local charities.

Victoria Foundation Supports New Database

The development and purchase of IVDMA, our new Integrated Volunteer Data Management Application, was supported by a \$2500 grant from the Victoria Foundation. Oak Bay Volunteer Services took the lead for the development of this new volunteer database. It manages client, volunteer, donor and other information all in one program, as well as producing statistics and reports.



Sally Horton, the database developer, worked with OBVS to implement and test a prototype. Joan Halvorsen, OBVS Executive Director, commented, "This has been a very rewarding and huge project. It is great that not only Oak Bay Volunteer Services will benefit, but that other agencies will also benefit from an integrated volunteer database!"



Oak Bay Profiles

Oak Bay Volunteer Services often profiles individuals involved with the organization. Many of the clients and volunteers have fascinating stories that need to be told. We hope you will enjoy this feature.

-Oak Bay Volunteer Services.

Glen Urquhart

By Bronwyn Taylor

Every spring the Oak Bay Volunteer Services office experiences a flood of requests for the particular skills of volunteers such as Glen; he is a "Tax Man," a service he has provided to our clients for the past eighteen years.

Born, raised and educated in Montreal, Glen eagerly awaited graduation so he could fulfill his dream of joining the Royal Canadian Navy, which he did in 1960. His first posting was at Dockyard in Victoria, in the Venture Program, which operated between 1955-1966.

Glen chose the air branch over the surface branch of the Navy "because of the higher pay." Having made that choice, it was the Navy who decided his fate from that point forward, assigning him to a helicopter squadron.

For the next twenty-nine years Glen flew search and rescue helicopters off air carriers in the North Atlantic, from a base in Edmonton over the Western Arctic, Prairies and mostly in BC. "It is easier to get lost in a plane in the mountains of BC than it is on the prairies." Glen also flew missions during the Cold War; "We flew around watching the Russians, and they did the same to us." By the time he retired in 1989, Glen had earned the rank of Commanding Officer of the Rescue Coordination Centre for Western Atlantic and Eastern Canada.

At retirement, Glen and his wife Lorraine moved from Halifax to Victoria "for the weather." It was at this point he decided to volunteer. He began as a guide at Craigdarroch Castle, and the following year he started doing tax returns for OBVS.

In 1993, when Lorraine contracted rheumatoid arthritis, Glen began his work for The Arthritis Society, which he continues to this day. He is an advocate for patients



and represents the Arthritis Society from the consumers' point of view on the University of Victoria Human Research Ethics Committee. Glen was also a member of the working group that produced a guide for physicians and patients on how to diagnose and treat osteoarthritis. You can view the document at www.bcguidelines.ca.

When Glen began calculating tax returns for OBVS clients he went to the house, entered all the information by hand, the client signed on the spot, and the tax return form was mailed in a stamped envelope. Now he takes his laptop, enters the data, takes it home to connect to the internet to e-file, then gives the client a paper copy of the return for their files. Are electronics making this less personal? Not really, because Glen visits clients to collect all the information and returns with the copy for their files.

Over the many years Glen has been helping clients with tax returns, he has developed relationships that both parties hope will endure. Obviously, Glen has diverse interests and skills so we are fortunate to be able to claim him as one of our dependable volunteers.

PRE-VALENTINE'S FUNDRAISING DINNER

Once again, our annual "Love Your Community" fundraising dinner at Blighty's Bistro was a sold-out success. In addition to the fabulous food and wonderful wines, special thanks go to our generous supporters:

Blighty's Bistro	Rogers' Chocolates
BC Wineguys	French Vanilla
Admiral Inn	Ottavios Italian Bakery & Deli
Lorraine Peck	Victor Lotto
Barclay's Jewelers	Grafton's Bookshop
Nicholas Randall	White Heather Tea Room
Clara Haslett	Ivy's Bookshop
Darlene Gait	

Be sure to mark Thursday February 11, 2010 on your calendar for our 6th Annual Pre-Valentine's Fundraising Dinner.



Margaret Trone (Server), Takashi Hiroaka (Chef), and Richelle Osborne (Owner)



Dr. Nik Beringer enjoys dessert



Barry Kelly, OBVS Board Chair, as Master of Ceremonies

White Heather Tea Room donates teas for clients and volunteers

Agnes Campbell, proprietor of the White Heather Tea Room is donating 'Afternoon Tea for Two', once a month for an Oak Bay Volunteer Services client who may find it difficult to get out.

A volunteer picks up the tea and takes it to the client's home, or in the case of volunteer Janet Flanagan, she picked up the tea and client, Lois Grant, whom she has volunteered with for six years. They then enjoyed the tea at Janet's home. Janet put out her best linens and spring flowers, and they had a lovely high tea: sandwiches, quiche, scones, cream and preserves, as well as a variety of sweets. "Everything except the pot of tea," quipped Janet. "It is a very generous offer, and absolutely delicious. The White Heather does things so beautifully."

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION: Victoria Soul Gospel Choir

In order to recognize the special position volunteers have within the community, Jack Petrie of Newport Realty and an Oak Bay Rotarian, arranged free tickets for OBVS volunteers to the "Victoria Soul Gospel Choir Concert" on April 4th.

Proceeds from the concert went towards the purchase of bathing equipment for Oak Bay Lodge. Comments were that it was a "toe tapping, foot stomping, room rocking event" and "A lively night, full of energy, especially the lead singer!" Thank you to Newport Realty for generously donating the tickets.

GARDENING

Spring is here! Call us for small gardening jobs or balcony gardening. We have several volunteers who can help with this if you can't afford to pay or if the job is too small for paid help.

VICTORIA'S LEADERSHIP AWARDS: Ivan Watson

Ivan, a volunteer with us in many capacities since 1997, is this year's recipient of The Vancity Youth Award. This award recognizes an emerging leader, between the ages of 20-30 years, who demonstrates community leadership and support for social justice, economic self-reliance or environmental responsibility.

"A driving force behind the United Way's youth initiatives both locally and nationally, Ivan served as founding Youth Council member, devised the inaugural "Youth Now" conference, spearheaded their strategic plan and served on the Board and Campaign Cabinet. He created United Way of Canada's youth engagement group and helped write the national youth strategy. As President of the Youth Canada Association, Ivan coordinated national conferences, trained youth in facilitation, mediation and conflict resolution, and developed the peace and conflict sessions for the United Nations' World Urban Forum. Ivan is a graduate of Leadership Victoria and completed a B.A. from UVic and M.A. from Royal Roads where he served on their Board of Governors."

His father, Jon Watson, accepted the award on Ivan's behalf because Ivan was overseas working with the European Union in Brussels at the time of the presentation reception at the Empress Hotel in February. Also attending the event was OBVS Executive Director



*Jon Watson, Ivan Watson wearing his OBVS 10 Year Pin
Photo by Joan Halvorsen*

Joan Halvorsen, as she had written a letter supporting Ivan's nomination.

In Ivan's own words, "I've always believed in making a positive difference in the community. I think that if you have the ability, then you have the responsibility to promote positive change, and I've been fortunate to have learned from some incredible mentors who've led by example." So much so, that Ivan even enlisted both his father and mother to our ranks of OBVS volunteers.

Oak Bay Emergency Program

As part of Emergency Preparedness Week, on May 3rd the OBEP held an Evacuation Centre Exercise at the Oak Bay Recreation Centre. Members of Block Watch and other organizations in the Municipality solicited volunteers to be evacuees, evacuation centre staff, food services personnel, set-up and strike, security/traffic control, and a variety of other positions. It was a first for Oak Bay.

For other emergency preparedness programs and workshops available free to local residents, visit www.oakbayemergency.com or contact Sonja Ruthe at 250- 514-5249.

Community Association of Oak Bay

In conjunction with the Emergency Evacuation Exercise, the newly formed CAOB held a Community Fair. Local agencies and organizations had display tables, the Oak Bay Volunteer Services being among them. We also had an article in their first newsletter which was a supplement printed as part of a recent Oak Bay News edition.

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, Joan Halvorsen
Design: Dan van Stolk
Photos: Jon Watson, Ivan Watson, Joan Halvorsen