



OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES



VOL. 33 NO.1 • JANUARY 2013

35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION HONOURED MANY!



Oak Bay Volunteer Services celebrated its 35th Anniversary on September 19, 2012. The event honoured the founders, long time volunteers, long time donors and many other supporters.

Volunteers with 20 Years or more of service: Gerhard Fischer, Bob Carter, John Hurlburt, Jacquie Storey, Nan Walmsley, Doris Dinsmore, Louise MacMinn, Cindy Ayles, Bert Dinsmore, Dan van Stolk, Lyne Moreau, Judy Parkhurst, Frances Petley-Jones.

Words of gratitude were expressed by all elected officials present as they gave thanks for the work of volunteers given to assist individuals in the community. Oak Bay-Gordon Head MLA Ida Chong spoke of "the commitment of volunteers she has witnessed over the years" and that she is "grateful to all who serve the community."

Oak Bay Mayor Nils Jensen commented on "how essential" the services are and that "Oak Bay Volunteer Services builds community."



MLA Ida Chong



Mayor Nils Jensen



Councillor Cairine Green



Kenny Podmore

Kenny Podmore, Town Crier, with much pomp and ceremony presented the proclamation from the District of Oak Bay honouring 35 years for Oak Bay Volunteer Services. Parts of the proclamation declared, "From humble beginnings, today's Society harnesses the collective energy, passion and expertise of dedicated community volunteers to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Oak Bay and to ensure that essential support is available for those in need; NOW THEREFORE the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the District of Oak Bay does hereby proclaim its profound gratitude for the selfless work carried out by the members of the Society and extends to all volunteers, past and present, a sincere thank you for a job well done. May the Society continue to flourish as an integral part of our community."



Councillor John Herbert



Councillor Michelle Kirby

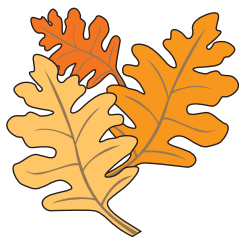


Councillor Tara Ney

Tribute was given to the founders who were instrumental in starting the services. June Preston, the Board Chair in 1978, addressed those at the anniversary and encouraged volunteers to "keep showing up because you're not done yet."



Founders: Harvey Ratson, Joan Feyer, Marilyn Callahan, June Preston, Barbara Narver



Oak Bay Profiles

Hugh Quetton

By Bronwyn Taylor

When I called Hugh Quetton to ask if he was willing to be profiled in the Newsletter his reply was that he had nothing special or interesting to tell me, but by the time he went upstairs to consult his calendar, he decided he might have some things to tell after all. I was not disappointed.

Hugh spent his pre-war childhood about 50 miles west of London, England. When war broke out friends of the family in New Hampshire, USA suggested he come to live with them for the duration. Hugh's father, an electrical engineer, met this couple when he was working in the United States. They had visited the Quettons in England, so they were not strangers to Hugh. At the age of 13, Hugh and his mother sailed the Atlantic and New Hampshire became his home.

Hugh had the benefit of an advanced British education as well as being sent to private school in the States. As a result, at only 16 years of age, he began Yale University. "It was not a very good idea, as I was a mid-teen rubbing shoulders with young men," said Hugh. At 17 he went to New York to volunteer for the British Army, rather than being drafted into the American Forces. He went by convoy back to the UK where he was assigned to the Berkshire Regiment. Hugh showed me his cap and badge, which he still wears proudly when he sells poppies each November.

Following the war, Hugh returned to the States to complete his education, and graduated in 1949. On a student visa, he had to leave the country at the end of the month in which he graduated. The closest place that appealed was Montreal. In those days British subjects could get Canadian passports after five years residency "without having to answer questions such as, 'Who is Sir John A.?' " It was in Montreal he met his wife when she came to visit her sister, a friend of Hugh's. They were married shortly after.

Hugh and Frances have two sons, one daughter and six grandchildren. They live in Toronto, Sudbury and Vancouver so do not get together all that often. Three years ago the senior Quettons rented a large house in Metchosin for two weeks, and all the families came. Siblings were reunited and cousins had the opportunity to get to know each other better. All had a good time!

During his career Hugh worked for two major oil companies as an analyst, report writer, PR spokesperson and editor at the middle management level. His hobbies over the years have included curling, cars and reading, the last two leading to interesting stories indeed.

In 1953 Hugh designed and built possibly the first fiberglass car body in Canada, on an old Ford V-8 chassis. He drove his beloved car for 14 years, "until Frances needed a new washer and



dryer." Always interested in history and literature, Hugh had the habit of taking card notes whenever he came across something that struck him as humorous, interesting or quirky. When he retired in 1985, Hugh took all these cards and used them to write a book, "I'll Drink to That!" Each day of the year describes a slice of history and a drink to toast it. Hugh generously loaned me the book, which I thoroughly enjoyed, sampling the slices of history, not the tipples, though some sounded as intoxicating as the anecdotes.

Hugh volunteers with the Legion and was a driver for Oak Bay Volunteer Services for about 10 years. Now he prefers more sedentary jobs such as doing the water bills. "It is more social, and the people are nice," he said. Hugh also said that OBVS is family-like, "so call me more often." That is an offer we certainly cannot refuse! Thank you, Hugh, for all you have done and continue to do for the Society.



STAFF (left to right)
 Ruth Platts,
Office Coordinator;
 Joan Halvorsen,
Executive Director;
 Kelsey LeClair,
Services Coordinator.

Newsletter:

Editor: Joan Halvorsen

Writers: Bronwyn Taylor, Irene Robirtis, Joan Halvorsen

Design: Dan van Stolk **Photos:** Ray Larson

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

Like us on Facebook and let your friends know about Oak Bay Volunteer Services.



35th Anniversary Celebration

To provide some history, it was in 1974 when the BC Ministry of Human Resources encouraged local communities to determine needs of the community, and the most appropriate way to meet those needs. The Oak Bay Interim Advisory Committee was formed.

A community survey was completed in 1976. It found a large untapped desire amongst all age groups to volunteer, as well as a large number of residents over 65 facing loneliness and isolation. The OB Community Association was incorporated and took as its first project the establishment of Volunteer Services. In 1977 Oak Bay Volunteer Services was started! In 1981 the Volunteer Services was incorporated as its own Society, the Oak Bay Volunteer Services Society.

At the celebration, long term donors were recognized for their important contribution in supporting the organization in such an essential way. Appreciation was expressed to all donors and supporters.

Plaques with thanks were presented to Richelle Osborne of Blighty's Bistro and Ame De Paoli of BC Wineguys for their years of support for the annual fundraising dinner.

The sponsors of the door prizes given out at the celebration were thanked for their support including: Amica at Douglas House, Bungalow Gifts, Oak Bay Heritage, Safeway, Serious Coffee, and St. Luke's Players.

A new banner was on display designed by volunteer Dan van Stolk who has been doing the graphic art for twenty-seven years for Oak Bay Volunteer Services.

Colourful and entertaining dance sets were performed by Viva Mexico Dancers.

It was noted that throughout the 35 years, many aspects of the operations have changed, but the genuine caring of people reaching out to help others of all ages, and making significant differences in individual's lives, is still the primary focus.



Long Term Donors: Bob Carter, Bill Feyer, Pen Brown, Doris Dinsmore, Cindy Ayles, Nan Walmsley



Ame De Paoli



Richelle Osborne with daughters Olivia and Kennedy



Dan van Stolk



Viva Mexico Dancers: Alfredo Franco Cea, Lorena Alvarez

Gifted Giving to Oak Bay Volunteer Services Society

"Gifted Giving" means different things to different people; there are several ways one can make a monetary gift for immediate benefit, or for a benefit to be paid in the future.

Gifts or grants to an organization can be made with the help of a financial planner, lawyer, accountant or life insurance expert. These experts can also advise you

on the tax implications of your chosen method to donate.

You can leave a gift to a not-for-profit organization in your will or estate plan, assuring your assets continue to help others into the future. Anyone can arrange to leave a charitable gift from his/her estate, no matter how large or how small, as it means a donation to a

cause important to you. A charitable bequest will only take effect if you specify so in your will.

As most not-for-profit organizations operate on uncertain contributory amounts and deadlines associated with their budget and fiscal year, it is helpful for the organization to know in advance that funds may be forthcoming, and

your generosity can be recognized in advance.

If you are considering leaving a gift in your will for Oak Bay Volunteer Services, please contact Joan Halvorsen, Executive Director. It helps us to plan for the future and understand how your gift can best be honoured and celebrated if that is what you would like. (250-595-1034)

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A brief General Meeting was held December 6, 2012. The following directors' terms are until the next Annual General Meeting, which will be in May of 2013.

Grant Clozza is a Certified General Accountant who recently retired from his management position with the Government of Canada. He enjoys playing ice hockey, sailing, and walking along the waterfront in Oak Bay. Grant is a volunteer driver for OBVS, as well as our secretary.

Claire Eraut moved to Victoria in 1978 to take a senior position with the provincial government. Now retired, he is a founding member and treasurer of the Community Association of Oak Bay, and as an OBVS volunteer driver, delights in meeting a variety of clients. He also enjoys gardening, walking and traveling.

Donna Harrison is the mother of two young children, a volunteer driver for OBVS for the past 1 1/2 years, and part of the sandwich generation. Her background is social research and evaluation, which she hopes to return to soon. When not working part time Donna is a gardening fanatic. She is Board vice-chair.

Heather Lund moved to Victoria in 2007 after living in Ottawa for 25 years where she worked for a large non-profit children's services agency as Manager of Finance and Administration. Heather prepares income tax returns for clients of OBVS, and looks forward to working with the Board, staff and volunteers as the treasurer.

Andy Ogle, a retired journalist from Edmonton, has lived in Oak Bay for three years and has volunteered with OBVS for the past year helping with gardening and minor home repairs. He's also a volunteer with the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific (Glendale Gardens) and a board member of the Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association.

Bronwyn Taylor, a retired teacher, began volunteering 11 years ago while on an educational leave. Outside interests include a variety of fitness activities, reading, and cooking. She volunteers in the office, contributes to the OBVS newsletter, and serves as Board chairperson. Bronwyn is completing the 2nd year of a two-year term.

Thank you to the previous Board members for their many years of service to the community, and their continuing support for Oak Bay Volunteer Services.

STRATEGIC PLAN

A new strategic plan for Oak Bay Volunteer Services to guide us through the next three years is being developed. Any comments or ideas for future direction are welcome.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL AWARD

Bob Carter was the recipient of a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal Award. He has volunteered extensively with Oak Bay Volunteer Services and the CNIB.

Bob Carter wearing Queen's Jubilee Medal



VALUED ELDER RECOGNITION AWARD

Andy Anderson received a Valued Elder Recognition Award from the University of Victoria Centre of Aging. He has volunteered with groups such as Oak Bay Volunteer Services, Better Business Bureau of Vancouver Island, BC Fruit Testers Association, Thrifty Foods Sendial Program, RCMP Veterans Association, Rotary International, and Sidney Lions Food Bank.



Andy Anderson

SURVEYS

Thanks to clients and volunteers who participated in recent surveys. We appreciated the feedback and were pleased to find that the services are so valued. A client commented, "If I didn't have the OBVS I don't know what I'd do." A volunteer commented, "I'm so glad I found OBVS this has been a great fit for me."



FUNDRAISING DINNER

FEBRUARY 7, 2013

*Blighty's Bistro • Auction • Draw Prizes
Dinner with wine from BC Wineguys*

It is again the time of year for our Annual fundraising dinner at Blighty's Bistro on Oak Bay Avenue. The evening promises to be very enjoyable with an elegant menu and outstanding beverages.

The tickets are \$125.00 per person which also puts you into the draw for one of the many door prizes.

A tax receipt will be issued for a portion of this amount.

If you are unable to attend, NON-attending tickets sell one for \$50.00, two for \$75.00 and three for \$100.00. All will qualify for both the door prize draws and a full amount tax receipt!

Tickets can be purchased at Oak Bay Volunteer Services in the lower level of the Municipal Hall at 2167 Oak Bay Avenue.

Phone 250-595-1034 for more information.