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**THE VICTORIA
HUMAN EXCHANGE
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**

Welcome to our world, a world of
Friendship, where every
meeting of persons can be
an exchange of life's gifts -
a Human Exchange

Edition 105

April--June 2015

Reminder

**YOU are invited to join us for our 23rd Birthday Celebration
and Annual General Meeting**

SATURDAY JUNE 13th - 1.00pm to 3.00pm

at CHOWN PLACE HALL 3060 Harriet Rd.

Thanks to the generosity of the Chown Place Fellowship



We will again
invite **Rose Henry**
(left) to speak to
us on important
issues of justice in
the First Nations
community

Jo-Anne Layton
(right) has kindly
offered to lead
community singing

And is bringing
Sooke musicians!!



If possible, please bring finger food and a gift for the Gift table

**As ours is a grass-roots Society, we want several Directors who personally know
the challenges of poverty/unemployment/addiction/ mental illness.**

**If you are willing to serve, please contact us at: Victoria: 778-533-0788, (Brian).
250-920-5056, (Patricia) 250-668-6008-in Nanaimo.**



Sooke is an incredible little town bursting with brilliance
and talent. The picture shows Sooke's **Carol Whitney**.

Carol's most recent musical venture has been playing the
handpan-- which is known also by the intriguing name of
"singing steel". Carol agrees to entertain us on June 13th

HOUSE REPORTS

Fran Thibeau House Sidney

Spring HAS sprung; who's turn is it to mow the lawn???

Regrettably, the gents in the house all have health problems, but we're looking forward to planting some vegetables this year when we're finally all healthy again. I know that the guys are grateful to have a safe, quiet & clean house to recover from this little setback. One had his jaw ground down to make ready for new teeth; one has a bad lung infection and took himself to the hospital; and the third is seeing a specialist for a problem that prevents him getting a good night's sleep.

An extra special thanks to Bev & our friends at the **Lion's Food Bank** who, besides their usual cheerful & helpful sharing of their food, recently passed along to us some much desired perishables-fruit! So, the Thibeau gents are especially appreciative of the on going support of the Food Bank & our local grocers who supply them.

Our neighbors, Mike & Tara, who have always had a smile & a kind word for our guys, are moving to a bigger house to accommodate their growing family. Thanks M & T, & all of the best.

And as always, thanks to our good landlord for house maintenance. David S. Facilitator

Judy Thomas House

As spring has sprung up on us here at Judy Thomas house, keeping busy is not a problem



The weather however left us having to get a fellow in for first cut and trim of the lawn. Since then we have been able to keep up . Pleased to say I had a call today from SVDP and will be getting a weed-eater tomorrow morning, so I'm very happy and grateful about that

With Easter upon us Josephine from SVDP will be helping with a \$25.00 Fairway card for us ladies to enjoy an Easter dinner that is much appreciated. Thank you so much SVDP. You have helped in many ways. Our good owners, Jeanette and Sandy Santarelli continue to do needed maintenance like removing a rug from the downstairs bathroom

One of our ladies is going into hospital soon for a long waited surgery – insertion of a pacemaker. The second is still doing part time work at a close by restaurant. The third is about to start an employment course through Work BC at Beacon Community Services and hoping to gain permanent employment towards the end. Myself, I am dealing still with medications being changed and still working on getting the body to accept and work properly as well as find ones that will be covered by my medical plan. Of course all of us are always looking for permanent housing which is a must and hoping to find something soon . Its spring cleaning time so little by little and we are all going through clothing etc to donate to SVDP Thrift stores. One run has been done and another almost ready. I thank all the girls for chipping in and doing their part at keeping the house in good order.
Happy Springtime to all - Erin xoxoox

House Reports continued:

Everything looks good at the Victoria men's houses. Ken, the Owner, brought me 2 pieces of carpet to do 2 more rooms at **Charlie Pyott House**. With the help of some of the fellows, I am going to rip the old carpets out and cut and put new pieces in then paint the 2 rooms so they are prepared for new occupants moving in on the 1st of April.

I will also have to rent a truck and do another dump run soon. I am starting to compile a list of things at Charlie Pyott. Aka: broken dryer, old carpets. One fellow moved to Vancouver and left a lot of his crap because he downsized when he made the move which frustrated me because now I am stuck with clearing up yet another guy's stuff.

That is why I wish we could charge damage deposits. Don't think it's possible since they are not allowed for transitional type housing but it would save a lot of work for me. I picked up a donation of useful goods from the *St Dunstan's Anglican Church in Gordon Head* on Friday. Many thanks to them.

And over at **McGivney House** we continue to benefit from the Knights of Columbus support, including the proceeds of a pancake breakfast at St Patrick's school -- thanks to all involved!!

The *St Vincent de Paul Society* has donated house supplies and food which is so appreciated.

One of our men who has book-keeping experience has kindly offered to assist the Society with banking business like recording Income and writing cheques for Expenses. Our Utilities and Supply bills get higher all the time so we are very grateful to those individuals and Agencies who assist with

Funding. Please see Page 4 of this newsletter for a list of donors.
.....Brian Smith

THINGS WE WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE

House supplies such as:
light bulbs,
garbage bags,
laundry detergent,
toilet paper,
cleaners,
paper towels,
shampoos,
baking pans.

Cash donations through our *CanadaHelps* button on our web-site home page or mailed to our Box number (see foot of page 4)

Provincial Employees Community Services Fund



Over the late 50 years, the PECSF has donated over \$40 million dollars to local BC communities.

Our Charity recently received our second disbursement for the last Annual Fundraising drive. We want all Employees to know that our ID is: DC1077

If they wish to support transitional housing for homeless persons - with zero tolerance for substance misuse.

SINCERE THANKS TO:

*We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia,
through a Direct Access Grant.*

- **St Patrick's School**—students and staff gave proceeds of a Pancake breakfast on Shrove Tuesday which amounted to \$700.00 for needs of the men at McGivney House. **The Knights of Columbus, from St Patrick's Council** bought the ingredients and cooked and served the pancakes.
- **St Vincent de Paul Society** for goods donated to the Victoria men's houses and **Donna of St Vde P. in Sidney** for vouchers for Easter turkeys. **Maria R. of Sidney Rotary Club** for invitation to apply for funds for Sidney Houses.
- **Sidney Lions Food Bank** for generous sharing, especially when a new occupant arrives.
- **The Sisters of St Ann, Esther's Dream Foundation** for accepting our application for funds.
- **District of Central Saanich** grant to the Sidney Houses next June. **Town of Sidney** for annual Grant of \$1500..
- Financial gifts from **Lois M, Bernardine L. and Anonymous** for monthly donations; all who give through **Canada Helps-- Mark S., Vikki M., Kathy T., Susan D., and others. Naden Military Band; Superannuates—through United Way. Provincial Employees** through designated **Community Service** funds . Our ID is **DC1077**
- **Maytag** for reduced price Dryer when ours gave out at the **McGivney house. Brian** for pick up and thanks to a friend for loan of truck.
- Thanks to **all our generous Landlords** for working with us to house men and women in need . **Ken G** for promise of donation . The **City of Victoria** for considering reducing property taxes paid by the Owner of the VHES Victoria Houses, because they are used for charitable purposes.
- **Our friends at Chown Place** for booking Hall for next AGM and always providing food /drinks for meetings.
- **Wes M.** for distributing newsletters; arranging for Easter turkey s from Social Concern Office for Men's houses in Victoria; and for approaching **Cobs** and **Country Grocer** for food for the June 13th AGM.
 - Thanks to all who use **Thrifty Smile Cards** and so give to us through shopping. Thanks **Thrifty Foods**.

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If you do Facebook please LIKE us and tell others about it.

Go to our Homepage on our web-site www.humanx.org

Cell phone - Patricia: 250-920-5056 See facilitators contact info on Home page

Mail DONATIONS to Victoria Human Exchange Society to:

709 Yates St, Box 8534 – Victoria Main Post Office, Victoria BC - V8W 3S1

And donate by using the Canada Helps button on the Home page of our Web-site.

