



**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING our 23rd Birthday Celebration
and Annual General Meeting on SATURDAY JUNE 13th**

at CHOWN PLACE HALL--thanks to the generosity of the Chown Place Fellowship

Sandy Rempel, President of Chown Place Fellowship who was once on the Board of the Sooke Transition House, welcomed us to the Hall and praised our work lessening homelessness.



Jo-Anne Layton introduced the Sooke Musicians: **Annie Morrisette** who played her keyboard and her mandolin; **Dave** who subtly accompanied her on the violin and **Carol** who charmed us with her handpan.

Jo-Anne herself sang and led community signing which we all enjoyed. Please go to the Events page on our VHES web-site for fuller account:

<http://humanx.org/events/>

The photo at left shows **Sandy Rempel, Carol Whitney, Annie Morissette** and **Dave**.

Below: **Jack Moreau** of the Knights of Columbus, who conducted the Elections and outgoing Chair, **Patricia** who read the Chairperson's Report.



Board members for 2015-16

Patricia Robinson; Brian Smith, Frank Hollett, Lee Beauvais, Robert Lovely, Erin Burden, Patricia Fitzgerald, Wes Mellors; Debbie Scott, Bonnie Smart, Debi Andrews, Mark Andrews, Timothy Brown, Paola Levet, Dave Gillespie, Graig Shore.

We warmly thank all these Directors, the entertainers and the Board of Chown Place for allowing us free rental of the lovely hall.

Lunch was provided by **Cob's Bakery, Country Grocer** and **Patti Robinson** who made a fruit & veggie plate, coffee and tea; **Lois Marcoux** who contributed cookies and others.

Our Public Relations person **Wes Mellors** picked up the food and the 23rd Birthday Cake from **Thrifty Foods, Broadmead**. Thank you Wes!



HOUSE REPORTS

Fran Thibeau House - Sidney

The Biggest thanks goes to **Erin**, our facilitator at the VHES's Sidney women's house for picking up & disposing of all of the broken appliances & furniture from our men's house. So, what a RELIEF; we have some room! Thanks Erin and the VHES for renting the BIN.

And, speaking of relief, thanks to all of our friends at the **Rotary Club of Sidney by the Sea** for funding a refurbished computer that is 'just' FAST! And, thanks to **Neal of Brentwood Micro** for supplying the CP & for walking us through the computer's new set-up & extras. Also a great RELIEF having his kind teaching skills for our calls for 'HELP'!

In terms of our occupants, one of our fellows had to move on in order to accept the long term accommodations that he was looking for. All the best to him & welcome to our new resident a young fellow who is employed but needing a place to stay while looking for affordable long term housing.

Also we need to replace someone who fell off the wagon so we welcome back ever cheerful **Dave W.** who, by no fault of his own, had to leave his apartment. Dave is looking for a career working with seniors (not at the care giver level). Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks to **Bev** & our good friends at the **Lion's Food Bank** for their extra donations of food & SMILES at the end of the month. And to ongoing offers of help from the **St Vincent de Paul Society**.

I may have forgotten to mention in our last newsletter our thanks to our landlord, **Aaron de Yaeger**, for jumping into action for a couple of plumbing malfunctions at the house. Once again, what a RELIEF.

Thanks Aaron & thank goodness that you are also the most congenial plumber on the Peninsula!
David S.

Judy Thomas House Sidney

We will have room in July for a new person, as one of our ladies has been accepted by BC Housing after 6 years on their list. She will be leaving us end of June. She was in Jail, and after treatment in Vancouver for 6 months, arrived here last April 2014. She has worked so hard in every level -- taking courses, attending AA/ NA meetings... decided to stay in Victoria instead of moving to England with her mom. She has come such a long way!..So proud of her! We will miss her but we can visit.

A second lady is still waiting for heart operation as the last one was put off due to her poor health.

The third person is working part-time and recently received her certificate for Food Safe, also has taken Wimmis, and Squirrel training. (Computer used in restaurants instead of the old Till) in case you may have been thinking she is teaching them tricks in the backyard couldn't resist. !!!!
Myself, still dealing with health issues and keeping busy.

We were able to accomplish spring cleaning here and for the men's house due to rental of a large drop off Bin and we would like to thank the Society very much for that as we got rid of rubbish and household goods that were no good to us or even for thrift store. It helped to dispose of sooo much here at Judy Thomas as well as Fran Tibeau House (mens house)....

Thank you again to **Rotary Club of Sidney by the Sea** for our new beds, mower, weed eater, laptop, etc. Very happy. And for help as always from the **St V de P.**

Sandy and Jeanette Santarelli, our wonderful landlords, are planning to paint upstairs kitchen this year and looking forward to that. Once again: Thanks VHES for a roof over our heads! **Erin** xo

House Reports continued:

McGivney House

The photo below is of Lee B. who has left McGivney House but not the Society—He remains a volunteer Board member who assists with financial accounting matters. He is now beginning his training as an Addictions Counsellor at Camosun where he recently graduated from BEST. *Congratulations Lee—you have certainly come a long way!!*



The five men living at McGivney at the moment are all working hard on their recovery, random drug tests ensure that no-one remains in the house who is a danger to the others' sobriety. Shayne is enrolling in School for September. David is still working on his disability and also has a strong recovery program. Colin has just been accepted for disability and is doing counseling for his mental barriers. Patrick has started working but not neglecting his meetings and recovery program. As Facilitator I empathize with the men as they make good choices and I assist the Society as a Board member & treasurer. Thanks to Ken Gibson for continuing to support and share the maintenance on both houses. And the Knights of Columbus for their continued financial support. *Brian*

Charlie Pyott House

At this house, Darcy is dealing with counselors and doctors to get a better way to cope with life and he is still trying to balance his appointments with his recovery program. Kenzie is learning to cope with the death of his wife and attends a lot of meetings for trauma and addiction. Troy just moved in yesterday; we will work on discovering how best to support him. Robert is continuing to support me by learning the facilitator's role and has a very strong recovery program. He is also willing to use his skills as a vehicle mechanic to choose a truck for the Sidney House Facilitator, Erin, and to perform repairs on said truck. Thanks to all those who support this House. *Brian*

Annie Morissette was born without sight. At age 3 she showed interest in music. Her parents Connie and Ken made sure she studied at the Royal Victoria Conservatory of Music plus took other courses and she plays many instruments. Her favorite musical genres are Blues, Jazz and Rock.



Annie on her electric banjo plays the Florence Kellern Waltz from Nova Scotia- at our June 13th 23rd Birthday Celebration at Chown Place Hall

SINCERE THANKS TO:

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

- Warm thanks to **Annie M., Carol W., Dave and Jo-Anne L.** who drove all the way from Sooke to entertain us on June 13th. Such talent! See Events page of our VHES web-site: <http://humanx.org/events/>
- **The Sisters of St Ann, Esther's Dream Foundation** and the **Knights of Columbus** for generous support.
- **BTD Co.** for excellent service at our **Sidney Houses**—can recommend this company if you need BIN service.
- **St Vincent de Paul** members for cash gift/ sewing machine. **Rotary Club of Sidney by the Sea** for welcome funds!
- **Town of Sidney & District of Central Saanich** for grants to the Sidney Houses. **Sidney Lions Food** for being there.
- Financial gifts from **Lois M.** 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**
- **Gail and Jon M.** for gift of furniture when they downsized their accommodation.
- Thanks to **all our generous Landlords.** Appreciation to all our **volunteer Facilitators and Board members**
- Our friends at Chown Place: **Sandy R.** President of Chown Place Fellowship, **Patti R., Frank and Dee H. Frank** for making and selling marmalade and giving VHES the proceeds...and for bringing a cheque from **the Saunders Family of Saunders Subaru.**
- **Wes M.** for approaching **Cobs** and **Country Grocer** for food for the June 13th AGM. Also a full slab Cake from **Thrifty Foods.**
- **All the new Board members** and those who allowed their names to stand again..some of them facilitators of houses. Special thanks to **Brian and Lee** for financial work. And **Robert I.** for help with vehicle repairs.
 - Thanks to all who use **Thrifty Smile Cards** and so give to us through shopping. Thanks **Thrifty Foods.**

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

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

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