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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 99

October - December 2013

AT THIS TIME OF FESTIVITY AND SHARING OF GIFTS WE ARE HAPPY TO CELEBRATE
THE GIFT OF A NEW HOME FOR MEN IN NANAIMO.

MARY GORDON HOUSE WILL OPEN ON DECEMBER 1ST, 2013



The House is named to honour the memory of
co-founder of the Human Exchange, Mary Gordon,
who gave us our motto:

"Every meeting of persons can be an exchange of life's gifts."

Mary passed into spirit on June 4th, 2011 after a life filled
with joyous love of others and of all creation. Her birthday was
December 1st – *the very day this House begins taking residents.*

< Photo of Mary was sent to us by her family through Sue Gordon

CONGRATULATIONS TO

ALL THE HARD-WORKING VOLUNTEERS
AT OUR VHES NANAIMO BRANCH,

who are planning an -- OPEN HOUSE

Monday the 16th of December -- 12 noon to 4 PM

-- 1435 Waddington St

Please see Insert for acknowledgement of
Nanaimo community partners



A sad announcement re Victoria Telecommunity Network loss

Gareth Shearman, after a lengthy battle with cancer, died, October 14, 2013. He spent much of the last year working to ensure that **Victoria Free-Net** could continue in his absence. Our deepest sympathy and prayers to Mae, his beloved wife, and to all their family and friends.

Gareth and Mae have worked selflessly for the non-profit Community for years and are appreciated internationally.



HaidaRavenArt

lonfrench@live.ca
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<http://www.saatchionline.com/lonfrench>

I'm a Haida Artist who lives in Victoria, BC. I was born in Terrace, BC in 1966 and grew up off the reserve for most of my life. As a child I lived in Prince George, BC and then Haida Gwaii for a year and then moved to Victoria, BC at age 10 and have called this city my home since. Old Massett Village Council is my band and I belong to the Raven clan under the Bear. I was taught how to draw by George Hunt when he was teaching native art at S.J. Willis Secondary in Victoria but never pursued it until 2011. Since I've started I've done over 50 paintings and going strong. I hope you enjoy my art and purchase some to put on your walls.

LON FRENCH

**The Human Exchange philosophy
includes supporting the development of
gifts and talents
of low income men and women
so that these gifts
are not lost to our communities.**

See also:

<http://humanx.org/publications/art-work/>

Contact Lon French at

lonfrench@live.ca

**Please visit Lon's page on facebook,
like and leave a comment @
<https://www.facebook.com/HaidaRavenArt>**

<http://www.imagekind.com/artists/HaidaRavenArt/HaidaArt>

THE LAST COMMAND

So many get on their knees and pray.
But how many love their neighbour each and everyday.
They see the poor and needy and walk away.

Live every day as if it was your last,
One day you will be right.
If you didn't love your neighbour
how do you expect to see the light.

Lost sheep being sheared by the world's ways.
They stumble in the darkness because they
refuse to change their ways.

"The hardest thing in life to conquer is yourself "

Wallace Weldon Steeves

Report from Charlie Pyott House:

from Steve Foley, Facilitator

There are going to be some changes taking place here as we have 2 ,possibly 3, guys moving on to their next destination! We all wish them well in their future endeavours. The guys that are moving would like to wish everyone on the board a thank you.

I was upset to find out about the young man- who had just applied to live at McGivney House- over dosing, and passing on, I didn't know **Daniel Long** personally but I noticed that his family asked for donations to the Victoria Human Exchange Society or Our Place in lieu of flowers.

For more info: <http://www.mccallbros.com/daniel-patrick-paris-long/>

Report - Judy Thomas House-- Sidney

Fall has been quiet at Judy Thomas house. One girl is dealing with medical issues and will be with us through Christmas, while two others have moved on. We have filled one vacated room, so now just one to go.

Would like to thank dear Shirley and Joe Rigby of St Vincent de Paul at St Elizabeth's church for the gift card to get our house a Thanksgiving turkey and for the offer of help whenever needed.. also thanks to Holy Trinity for collection to assist our Sidney Houses.

Always a really big thank you to Jeanette & Sandy Santarelli our land lords for keeping everything working properly, and for patience with our imperfections. It's appreciated!

Erin B. – Facilitator

Report - Frances Thibeau House – Sidney

November sees us with a house full of grateful fellows one of whom we are getting to know. Last month, St Vincent de Paul members who were cleaning out their dry goods were kind enough to drop some off – well timed for the October new fellows who were without funds. The donors also took some to the Womens' house. For Thanksgiving we were spoiled with the gift of turkey and the trimmings. Our good landlord, Aaron, has made further improvements to the house structure. Thanks everyone and merry Christmas to all!

David S. - Facilitator

Report - Edith Gulland House - Victoria

Edith Gulland house for women is getting ready for fall and winter. We have had women move on to more permanent housing; and, have had two new ladies join the house...with room for two more. We are hoping that these openings will be filled soon, as this house is expensive to maintain and the thought of closing the only house for women available in the Victoria area is heart wrenching. The reality is...all expenses, rents, etc. are increasing at every house; but, the income has remained low & the same for years. Edith Gulland house has provided housing and assistance to innumerable women, since

opening 6 years ago; but, unless we receive assistance to keep it up & running...it may have to close in the near future! Can you help us; so we can continue helping them??

Linda M. -facilitator

Report - McGivney House – Victoria

This Knights of Columbus sponsored House, continues to serve many homeless males from Victoria and other parts of BC—even other Provinces. We appreciate the Cobs Bread kindly delivered by Paul R. And the ongoing financial support of the Knights. Our good landlord is working on downstairs maintenance which includes the installation of a rug and we cannot take a sixth person until this is finalized. Thanks to all the volunteers and especially board members for supporting the men in this house.

“A Hand Up”

Such is the title of an article printed in November issue of Senior Living Magazine... written by Vernice Shostal . It may be read at:

<http://www.seniorlivingmag.com/articles/2013/11/a-hand-up>

Thanks Vernice for all you have done to support us, and for listing the many ways to contact us to donate or find out more!

Below, volunteer Jo-Anne L. & Artist Paul R.



bring gifts to the men's houses in Victoria.

SINCERE THANKS TO:

- **Sisters of St Ann, Provincial Sisters**, for generous donation.
- **Generous regular financial support** from the **Susan D.; Kathy T.; Lois M.; Marilyn M.; Gene and Helene D.; & Margaret K.** *in memory of Mary Gordon.*
- **Individuals and groups** who donated in memory of **Daniel Long** (link Page 2), especially the **Arts Health Network** and **Canada Helps** donors.
- **First Unitarian Church** for ongoing support for occupants with no money; the **McBains** for furniture. **Holy Trinity Church** for proceeds from Sunday Collection.
- **St Dunstan's Gordon Head (Anne H.)** tinned and fresh goods at Thanksgiving!
- **Provincial Employees** for more welcome funding from employees pay packages!
- **The Knights of Columbus**, for ongoing support and funds. Thanks Paul of St Patrick's Parish for **Cobs bread** and pastries kindly delivered.
- **Joe R. & Bob A.** & our other good friends at **Saint V. de P. in Sidney** .
- **Pauline M.** has brought many beautiful women's clothes, shoes, handbags and small gifts wrapped for our Christmas gift table—thanks again Pauline.
- Funds through **United Way** from **Naden Military Band** and **Anonymous**.
- **Ken G.** for donating oil to **Charlie Pyott House** tank! Maintenance at both Houses.
- **Wes M.** for many public relations tasks, including pick up of Christmas food and gifts and for volunteering to do banking and run errands for others..
- **Kirk H.** for perseverance as Facilitator of McGivney House.
- **Jill C.** who capably fulfills the office of treasurer in spite of ill health.
- **Jo-Anne L.** for gifts to the men's house & especially encouraging their talents.
- **Steve**, Facilitator of Charlie Pyott House, for keeping on in spite of ill health.
- **Amanda & Virginia B.** for gift of cedar table and chairs.
- **All volunteers**, especially **facilitators**, and all **Landlords** for sharing life's gifts.
- See **Front page & Inserts** for gratitude to **donors in Gulf Islands & Nanaimo**.

Please note that *because of rising postal costs*, we have reduced the Inserts to one—covering the 3 Branches of the society.

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia.

The Human Exchange now has a presence on Facebook and at time of printing we had 76 friends signed up. If you do Facebook please support us and tell others about it.

facebook

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

DONATIONS to Victoria Human Exchange Society : Box 8534 - Victoria BC - V8W 3S1

Pager # GREATER VICTORIA : 361-2762 *Anywhere else in North America: 1-800-691-9366*

Cell phones Linda 250-857-3905 Patricia: 250-920-5056 Web-site: www.humanx.org

Please note that anyone who wishes to donate to our Society on line may do so through the *Canada Helps button* on the Home page of our Web-site.

