



Salt Spring Island & Mayne Island Branches

GIFT EXCHANGE

4th. Quarter, 2009
Issue 55



Christmas is coming!

Please share gifts such as: phone cards; gift certificates; toiletries; Art and craft supplies; Christmas goodies; warm clothing; financial assistance for the Human Exchange.

Sadly, our mail box at Grandma's House was tampered with. Therefore we ask donors to mail gifts to the main Society address: VHES Box 8534, Victoria, BC, V8W 3S1

Memo that your gift is for the SSI Branch of VHES.

More info: 250-920-5056

LOCAL HEROINE NOMINATED

Our society has nominated Pat (Neddy) Harris of the Salt Spring Island Land Bank society for the 2010 Unsung Hero Award, offered through the Community Council in Victoria.

At our VHES Salt Spring Island Branch, we appreciate greatly the undying efforts of this indefatigable activist with a social conscience of enormous proportions who raises funds for the Land Bank Society.

- She almost single handedly raised the money for us to keep our Grandma's House project, when our previous rented house was sold;
- she continues to write grants in support of improvements to Grandma's House;
- she also supports numerous projects that aim at providing housing for the under-employed and the unemployed—individuals and families.

She has worked on researching at least 18 properties that at first showed real promise for community housing. Each one took time and money to research and all but three had obstacles too great to overcome. But Neddy never gives up. Obstacles are a challenge to her because she knows that without land, secure affordable housing will continue to remain an unrealized top priority that we can only talk about.

If there is a shortage of funds for a project, Neddy's Land Bank Society salary is the first thing to go. In a world where the gap between the rich and poor grows daily, a woman who is so unselfish and so dedicated to those less fortunate deserves recognition as an "unsung heroine"! And the Society for which Neddy works - the Land Bank - is a vital financial force in creating the community housing that Salt Spring Island and so many other places need in these days of growing homelessness.

Neddy's latest victory is the Bracken Ridge project on Rainbow Rd which is well on the way to becoming a reality. Thank you Neddy!

Don't forget to use your Smile Card when shopping at Thrifty Foods AND to save your grocery tapes when shopping at the Country Grocer. We are very grateful for the donations from these two businesses.

On Mayne Island: Christmas Gifts and goods that can be used by families may be left at 313 Mariners Way. Phone: 539-5310

SSI Island Branch: Our Sincere Thanks To:

- **The Salt Spring Foundation** for ongoing support and allotment of funds.
- **The Anglican Church Outreach** for very much appreciated funding.
- **Our Lady of Grace Catholic Women's League** for welcome donation.
- **Counselors and staff of SS Community Services Society** for networking with us and for supporting our occupants.
- **Island Opportunity group** for offering to partially fund the insulating of the 100 year old Bittancourt Manor.
- **Margaret B.** for financial support; for very helpful supplies for the Houses.
- **Irene C.** for finding needed items for the houses and for distributing newsletters.
- Financial Gifts also from **Mark S.** (monthly gift for people with mental illness); .
- **Thrifty Foods** for ongoing gifts; **GVM** for discounts/ grocery tape program.
- **Copper Kettle** for networking assistance. **Imagen** for much support.
- Our dedicated **Landlords** for their services and co-operation.

Mayne Island Branch: Our Sincere Thanks To:

- **Bob S** and **Bonnie S** for truckloads of welcome gifts to the Salt Spring Houses and to Mayne Islanders.
- **Myra C** for toys, wool, clothing and other items generously delivered. Blessings on your future when you leave Mayne Island Myra.
- Financial Gifts from **Yvette B; Laszlo B., Pat R.** and **Chapel users.**
- **Pat R.** for gifts of many kinds delivered to the door.
- **Marg. B.** for offer of linens and mattresses.
- **Anne and Bernard R.** for a Sony Trinitron Television in excellent condition.
- **Joyce K.** for continued gifts of veggies and fruits and frozen meat.
- **MonicaWorks** for maintaining our Web-site and patience in waiting for payment.
- **Lina B.** for supporting our endeavours and waiting for her fees for expertise to arrive.
- **Joanna W.,** and the **Mayne Isl. Thrift Store** for many gifts of blankets and linen.

All who have dropped off goods anonymously or whom we missed. **We thank you all.**

In the Gulf Islands, Monetary gifts (With memo re usage) may be mailed to:

VHES Box 8534, Victoria BC, V8W 3S1

Email: grandmas@saltspring.com Outside Victoria Society pager: **1-800-691-9366** www.humanx.org

Patricia's Cell: **250-920-5056**