



Salt Spring Island & Mayne Island Branches

GIFT EXCHANGE

2nd Quarter, 2011

Issue 61

UPDATE from BITTANCOURT MANOR:

Everyone here is eagerly looking forward to warmer weather!

We went through some rough patches with people who missed the kindergarten lesson to play nice, and had some car malfunctions, to which the Catholic Womans' League generously responded to keep the available car on the road.

We have been doing little fix it jobs in the house, spruced up the deck for lazy coffee breaks to gaze at the sea; and are lining up spring cleaning projects starting with the garden.

We have contacted some "garden angels", who are committed to food security and helping folks start gardens as supplemental local food source. The increasing food prices and further increase projections suggest having a kitchen garden a "must do" situation.

Through the on-line Salt Spring Exchange we have been given a freezer which we anticipate filling with fresh green beans, peas, beets, whatever is in abundance and lots of blackberries from our 1/4 acre patch through which we plan to make paths and stake.

We have been tracking the sun's path over the property to see where earliest sunny patches lie with perennial plants in mind, i.e. asparagus, artichokes, rhubarb, garlic, and winter crops such as chard and kale.

We have pruned the rose and lilac bushes and are tackling pushing back more blackberries which threaten to snag us in tangles as we walk behind the house. There are daffodils up in the little beds, with first peas, arugula and spinach ready to pop up when the flowers have spent their glory.

Easter is coming, and we will host a meal to invite our volunteers; thanks to the generous donation from Thrifty Foods. Happy Spring to everyone!

Cheers, Judith



LETTER BOX

from Valerie T. who stayed at Bittancourt before taking a temporary position as a teacher in London Ontario...

I have just finished "poverty issues" with the grade 12 students. There is a young lady here, a student, who is on scholarship. She does a lot of service projects. She comes from a socio-economically disadvantaged family. I told her about VHES and she was quite interested. I'm wondering if some of your information, brochures could be sent to me to give her? She is in Gr. 11 and has to research poverty, society, and solutions that have a spiritual component to relief efforts - understanding of the need for dignity and security. *Sounds like VHES!* The students have to do an essay, and all the articles included are going to give them a perspective and resources they just don't have here. I want to advocate for VHES and I've got some ideas. blessings and prayers for you all, Valerie.

NOTE: Valerie's article was in Streetnewz and in our 1st Quarter newsletter.

Every Meeting of persons can be an exchange of life's gifts – a Human Exchange.

SALTSPRING BRANCH -- SINCERE THANKS TO:

- **SSI Foundation** for accepting a new Application for funds for Grandma's House and for Bittancourt Manor.
- **The Land Bank Society** for renovating Grandma's House to accommodate finally more homeless males. Thanks Neddy for all your hard work!
- The **CWL of OLOG** for assistance to keep our House vehicle on the Rd. Thanks Richard M. for your patience and trust.
- **Financial Gifts: Mark S.** for monthly gift for people living with mental illness; **Margaret B.** for a generous donation of funds and **Country Grocer** tapes; **Mrs Hannah B.** for kind donation through **Judith W.**
- **Barbara P.** for offering to help in any way she could at Bittancourt. Barbara goes back to the beginnings of this House when we took in seniors who were not yet able to access Greenwoods or suitable housing. Thanks to **all the occupants** for caring about the house and each other.
- **Teresa F.** for supporting Judith and advertising vacancies in the house. **Judith** for obtaining a freezer through **Salt Spring Exchange** and giving us such a well written update in this paper.
- **Counselors and staff of SS Community Services Society** and the **Salt Spring Transition House** for networking with us and for supporting our occupants. **Food Bank** for being there!
- **Cydney S.** of the MHS D for her real caring and ready co-operation in difficult circumstances.
- The Lifeline project of the Unitarian Church for supporting persons who were unable to pay rent.
- **Irene C.** for clothes for men; towels and **Country Grocer** tapes.

MAYNE ISLAND BRANCH –

Many thanks to all who sent funds to assist with the insurance on our chapel meeting place and retreat centre on Mayne Island. We are working hard to obtain funds to recommence the hosting of Day Retreats for folk living in our Houses. More Info: 250-539-5310

- Financial Gifts from **Laszlo B., Yvette B.,** and **other Chapel supporters.** *Many thanks to those who helped with Chapel Insurance costs.*
- **Joyce K.** for continued gifts of meat, veggies and fruits, kindly delivered.
- **MonicaWorks** for maintaining our Web-site and uploading the newsletter.
- **Lina B.** for accounting; doing Budgets and extra financial statements and much advice.
- **Pat and Ferdie R.** for a bed delivered to The House that needed it.
- **Malcolm & Kathy at Remax** for photocopying; **Gulfport Realty** for free mail drop.

In the Gulf Islands, Monetary gifts should be mailed to:

VHES, Box 8534, Victoria BC V8W 3S1 & memo'd SSI or Mayne branches
Email: grandmas@saltspring.com Outside Victoria pager: **1-800-691-9366**

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