



Salt Spring Island & Mayne Island Branches

GIFT EXCHANGE

4th Quarter, 2012

Issue 67



Thank you to all those who took part in the competition to find a new name for our women's house on Salt Spring Island. The one we decided on honours a woman whose home has always been open to persons who have no place to go. Her name is **Nancy Wigen**. We met Nancy when we first came to Salt Spring Island. She had in her home a First Nations man whom she had found sleeping in the doorway of the Church of Our Lord near Beacon Hill Park in Victoria. Nancy and her husband Syd (RIP) invited **Ray Sam** to live with them and she developed his artistic talent—we still have sketches by Ray

and paintings by Nancy herself in our Grandma's House. Sadly, Ray was lured back to the street by a friend who visited him and he died there. Nancy was broken-hearted but never stopped sharing her home. She also raised funds for us through the All Saints by the Sea Outreach. And these annual funds still support men and women in our 2 Salt Spring houses. Thank you Nancy!

The other contender for the honour, Sally Sunshine, (Klapkiew) still has dreams of a therapeutic farm in the South End so her name will go with that venture. We pray that this dream will come true! Sally welcomed Art, Linda, Stephen, Ken, and Pauline when we first came to Salt Spring Island in 1993, seeking a "Grandma's House."

New Facilitator takes over running of Nancy Wigen House

We warmly welcome **Lisa Osbitsch** from Duncan who has accepted the challenging position of Facilitator of our VHES Women's short-term housing on Salt Spring Island. Lisa's qualifications include training in conflict resolution and program Administrator/Community Support Worker.

Response from Nancy Wigen:

Thank you for this honour. I hope to be worthy of it.

This publicity has given me a chance to talk to people about the Human Exchange Society, which is a good thing. There are many who don't know, and should know, about the need for a safe place to live for those who would otherwise "fall through the cracks". Fear and ignorance keep most people from getting involved.

Even picking up a hitch-hiker is too scary for many, but in the 60 years since I learned to drive, and the countless number of people I've picked up I have never been harmed, and only 2 or 3 times have I had someone really unpleasant in my car. I have met some very interesting people by sharing my car this way. Most are courteous and grateful, the only difference between us being that I am fortunate enough to have a car, and they don't. Late evening hitch-hikers are often restaurant workers just getting off shift, standing in the dark and rain hoping someone will stop for them. It's a privilege to be able to help, and to make sure they get home safely.

Ray Sam was a special blessing. We met his mother and other relatives in Whitehorse a few years ago when my son Peter was working there for the summer

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

Sincere thanks to:

- ◆ **Toby F. , Trish N., Jamie A., Neddy** of the **Land Bank** and others for responding promptly to our advertized need for help at **Nancy Wigen House**. **IODE** for funding given through Cherie at **Copper Kettle**. Thank you for depositing the funds Cherie! Thanks **Nancy** for donation!
- ◆ **Liso O.** for enthusiastically embracing the position of Facilitator for Nancy Wigen House. All SSI service providers have welcomed her to their group. In particular, **Teresa, Copper Kettle, SSI Community Services staff , Jordan of Grandma's House** and **Kiran D. of SSI Transition House** for support to **Lisa**. Thanks for furniture pick up **Jordan** and **Trish!**
- ◆ **Gail** at the **Driftwood** and the **Island Tides Newspaper** for articles in their newspapers.
- ◆ **Rick S** of Island Insulators for quote for Nancy Wigen under floor insulation.
- ◆ **SSI Pest Control** for further generous services and advice on deterring rodents.
- ◆ **Electronic Arc** for maintenance performed cheerfully on our computers and fax machines.
- ◆ **Neddy of the SSLBS** for suggestions and practical help with work around both houses.
- ◆ **The SSI Foundation** for accepting our application for future funds.
- ◆ Thanks to and many businesses especially **Mouats, Thrifty Foods** and **Country Grocer**.
- ◆ **The Anglican Church of All Saints by the Sea** for ongoing financial assistance.
- ◆ **Irene C., Fordene K.** and the **Lady Minto Thrift Store** for furniture and bedding.
- ◆ Our **Landlords**, for partnering in the housing of persons in need of supportive accommodation.

MAYNE ISLAND BRANCH - More Info: 250-539-5310

- ◆ Generous donation from the **Agricultural Society**. Invitation to address the **St Mary Magdalene Women's Auxiliary** meeting in February.
- ◆ **Anneli S.** for excellent linens, footwear and clothing. **Pat & Ferdie R.** for many gifts.
- ◆ **Bill** and **Kathy W.** of **Re/Max** for furniture transported to Victoria—with difficulty!!
- ◆ **The Mayne Island Thrift store** for responding to our need for warm bedding.
- ◆ **Joyce K** for many boxes of veggies and fruit generously delivered.
- ◆ **ALEA** for printing brochures free when needed. Gulf-port Realty free mail drop. **Lina B.** for ongoing book-keeping services
- ◆ **Wayne T.** for picking up and dropping off in connection with our Society needs.

VHES, Box 8534, Victoria BC V8W 3S1 & memo donations to **SSI** or **Mayne Branches**
Email: grandmas@saltspring.com *Outside Victoria* : **1-800-691-9366**
www.humanx.org

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