



Nanaimo Branch of the Victoria Human Exchange Society

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Issue 7

Nanaimo report

Things have been busy in Nanaimo so far in 2014. There have been many comings and goings, some good, some not so much.

Mary Gordon house is doing okay. We had to evict 1 man for drug use and we did intakes on a few who never showed up. We have 3 residents and another intake scheduled for Mar 24th from Guthrie House.

Esther's house has had a few guys come and go. One eviction in Feb and another in Mar. We are very fortunate to have 3 really strong men there that intend to stay for a while.

We received a request from our landlord at Esther's House asking us to voluntarily increase the rent by \$200. per month saying he is running a \$400. loss per month. There are currently only 3 residents in the house. It has been several months since that house has been full. We are not meeting our monthly costs through the rents we receive and are depleting our funds very quickly. Currently, including the rent, it is costing us about \$1800. per month to run this house. In order to meet that cost we must be full. On the months we are full we are able to put a little away to carry us through these leaner months.

As per our lease agreement we have made many improvements to the property. We have installed a new furnace, got you a great deal on a kitchen range, a new tub and surround, a dryer, a sump pump in the basement, a new deck in the back. The house is kept in good repair and the reputation in the neighbourhood has been restored.

We do appreciate all he has done with the low rent we pay. At this time there is no ability to pay any more. We do have a lease and when the time comes to renew that lease we will have to revisit our ability to pay more.

We had a discussion about the diminished number of intakes and decided to be proactive. We have drafted a letter that we will send to each of the treatment centres on the Island; we will enclose some pamphlets and contact information. It can't hurt and could generate some good clean referrals.

We have included the link to the web site and this may generate some referrals for Victoria as well.

Sincerely, Debbie Scott
for the Nanaimo branch, Victoria Human Exchange Society

Sincere thanks

- to all the Volunteers, Debbie S; Mark and Debi A.; Bonnie; and Bonny C. as well as others who assist.
- To all donors of goods, services and funds. CRA receipts are issued as required.

Every Meeting of persons can be an Exchange of Life's Gifts – a Human Exchange.