

33 YEARS
OF SERVICE

OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES



Newsletter

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New Challenge for Office Volunteers

Things are changing for the team of OBVS office volunteers. Beginning October 1st, the metal boxes of file cards with the information on clients and volunteers alike were relegated to the file cabinet as the office staff and volunteers began to use the new Integrated Database to record requests for services and find volunteers to provide the services. Ruth Platts has been training the office volunteers, and offering support as all learn to navigate the system efficiently.

Nan Walmsley, office volunteer, says, "I've been answering the telephone at Oak Bay Volunteers for almost half of the 20 years I have been with this wonderful organization. To use a word from a much younger generation, it's one of the 'funnest' things I've done. Over the years those who call us for drives and other services become like friends although we seldom meet. The volunteers who fill all the varied requests are so willing to go that extra mile that it makes you realize that there is no other job you would be happier doing."



Nan Walmsley



If you have good computer skills, 3 hours a week, and the desire to give to your community consider becoming an office volunteer. We are always asking for more drivers, but OBVS does so much more. Without people in the office to answer the phones, none of the services could be provided to our clients.



MORE THAN JUST DRIVES: Visitors available

Our most frequently requested service is for drives to medical and other appointments, with a wonderful group of volunteers who provide this service, yet we have equally enthusiastic volunteers who prefer to provide other services such as walking with clients or visiting with them in their homes. As the colder weather approaches and the days close in, many people do not get out as much as they might like and may begin to feel a bit isolated. It may not occur to someone to ask for company, such as having a visitor to talk with over a cup of tea, read, play a game of cards or Scrabble, or help sort through old photos. These are a few of the things our volunteers like to do, so don't be shy—ask!



Steve North and Irene Lodge

Annual Blighty's Bistro Fundraising Dinner

Yes, folks, it is that time of year again. Tickets are now available for this, our biggest fundraiser of the year, being held February 10, 2011. The food will be delicious, the wine divine, and there will be some fantastic draw prizes. Dinner tickets are \$125 (a portion of which is tax deductible), or you can purchase 1, 2 or 3 non-attending tickets for \$50, \$75 or \$100 which gets you in on the many draw prizes. All non-attending tickets are totally tax-deductible.

Donate in Time to Earn a Tax Receipt

A recent editorial in the Oak Bay News concerning charitable giving was titled "Doing More with Less", and that is precisely the position in which OBVS finds itself. Overall our grants do not even come close to what is needed in order to provide services to our clients. Please generously support our annual donation campaign, which continues through to the end of December. Charitable tax receipts are issued for all donations.



Oak Bay Profiles



Grace in Iceland

Grace Yuen

By Bronwyn Taylor

Grace was born in Hong Kong into a family with two brothers who now live in Vancouver and one sister who still lives in Hong Kong. She worked in the Human Resources Department at a garment factory before emigrating to Canada in 1975, spending only six months in Vancouver before returning to Hong Kong to marry. Grace and her new husband lived in Vancouver, Ottawa, Calgary and Saudi Arabia before moving to Victoria in late 1989.

Their first child, a daughter, was born in 1977. She currently lives in New York State and teaches music at the University of Fredonia. Their son, born in 1981, resides in Victoria and works in computer science specializing in communications.

Grace's dedication to volunteering began long before she came to Canada. In the early 1960's she became involved with Girl Guides and Scouts. After moving to Canada and having her children, Grace appreciated she was able to be "a stay at home Mum" to raise her daughter and son, but that did not stop her from getting involved in the community. Wherever the family lived, Grace enrolled her children in the local activity centre and asked how she could help, "so long as the kids could tag along and I could choose activities that fit with their schedules."

While in Calgary Grace became a Brownie leader, taught healthy cooking classes to seniors, and craft classes in the First Baptist Seniors Home. There she showed residents how to make pom-poms, which they sold, along with other craft items. Some of the money was given to charities and the rest was used to throw parties for residents on special holidays. Grace was also involved in the lunch program at her children's school, including teaching crafts one or two lunch hours each week.

Grace's husband is a computer systems engineer. In 1987 he had the opportunity to work in Saudi Arabia. They thought it would be "fun", so they packed up the family and went abroad for two years. Never idle, Grace was soon teaching international cooking to four and five year olds in a British school. She also helped organize annual bazaars to raise funds that went to the local women's vocational school.

By 1990 the family was settled in Victoria and Grace became a parent volunteer at Monterey Elementary School. Her daughter is a violinist; Grace became one of the rehearsal managers for the Victoria Youth Orchestra. When her daughter moved on to Oak Bay Secondary, Grace drove students to rehearsals and chaperoned school trips.

In 1994 Grace joined the Oak Bay Volunteer Services as a volunteer driver, something she enjoyed until two years ago when her arthritis made it difficult to drive and lift clients' equipment. She can still be called on in an emergency, but prefers tasks in the office such as preparing mailings, or shopping, visiting and making reassurance phone calls. Grace also gives her time to Seniors Serving Seniors.

Aside from volunteering, Grace is kept busy walking her two dogs, designing jewelry, gardening, ("I love to see things grow, but I'm a lousy gardener," she quipped.) cooking, and most of all traveling.

Her preference is to avoid modern cities and head to more exotic places, "places full of history." Grace's travels have taken her to Angkor, Cambodia; Petra in Jordan; the Great Wall and Terra Cotta Warriors in China; Iceland, Western Europe and Southeast Asia. At the time of writing Grace was preparing for a family trip to Russia, with South America next on her list of places to see. She often travels alone so she can do things on her own time, in her own way. "I have lots of energy. I like to do as much as I can in a day, and I don't have to compromise." Though she travels alone Grace often stays with friends, and she seems to have them all over the world.

As we sipped green tea, I commented on the beautiful set of Oriental chairs Grace has in her living room. "They were our wedding present," she replied. As in her home, Grace has blended her roots with western culture. The family observes traditional Chinese festivals as well as celebrating Canadian holidays. She also takes books from the library written in Chinese so she doesn't lose her language skills.

Grace's goal is "to keep on volunteering as long as my health allows. I like to get out; I don't want to be in the house all the time." She is grateful for the many friends she has made through volunteering; some of these friendships have been maintained for over twenty years. With all her energy and vitality, I can see Grace volunteering for another twenty years.

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VOLUNTEER AWARDS

We want to greatly thank the volunteers who were eligible to receive recognition for 10 years of services at our AGM and were not able to attend. We omitted their names in our previous newsletter and apologize. For ten years of wonderful service we thank Frank Ainsworth, Jim Arnott, John Herbert, Catherine MacDonald, Alan Mayhew, and Pam Nielsen!



WHY LEAVE A LEGACY?

For 33 years, Oak Bay Volunteer Services has been providing one-to-one direct support to individuals of all ages. These services include: drives to appointments, for shopping, and recreational drives; daily reassurance phone calls; help in the garden or minor repairs around the home; visits, walking, reading; completing tax returns and other such forms to name a few. Our services are provided 365 days a year and they help our clients to maintain their independence for as long as they are able.

Financial assistance from individuals is essential for us to continue offering these services.

A donation is usually an amount of money given once, monthly or annually, whereas a legacy is usually defined as a charitable donation

which is planned now, established in one's will, and received by the non-profit charity upon one's demise. This is not only for the wealthy; anyone can plan a legacy gift of any size. It is also possible to make a gift during one's lifetime or establish a trust fund. To set up any of these options one should seek legal advice. Leaving a legacy is an excellent way to support a cause that you value or has made a difference in your life, in this case, the Oak Bay Volunteer Services.

Legacies can be set up to be a fixed amount, a percentage of the estate, or something other than "cash." Other sources of funds can be Life Insurance Policies in total or in part, RRSPs or RRIFs, Securities, Charitable Gift Annuities, or Charitable Remaining Trusts to list a few. The

cash options are the most common and straightforward. The last three options allow you to designate where your money will go upon your death while you still have the use of your money during your lifetime. As you can see, there are many ways a person can support our non-profit organization, some more complicated than others, so it is always wise to consult your lawyer, financial advisor or accountant before deciding which method is best for your family and for OBVS. Additional information about these and other options is available at www.leavealegacy.ca.

Charities play a very important role in our society, and Canada Revenue Agency recognizes this by making donations, bequests and legacies tax deductible and in some cases tax-free.



Providing one-to-one direct help to individuals of all ages for 33 years

LEAVE A LEGACY

You can make a positive difference in the lives of members of our community now and into the future by making a bequest to OBVSS. There are several ways to leave a legacy to OBVSS, depending on your unique situation. Through your gift it is possible to receive significant tax benefits.

Contact the Oak Bay Volunteer Services office to make an appointment to discuss which planned giving option melds best with your situation and the needs of the OBVSS.

OAK BAY VOLUNTEERS SERVICES SOCIETY

Call 250-595-1034 today.

OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES *Newsletter*

ONE
in
85,229

Oak Bay Volunteer Services is one of thousands of Canadian registered charities.

Last year alone the Federal Charities Directorate

received 3,634 new applications for registration as a charity, and 411 applications for re-registration as a charity.

The number of registered

charities continued to grow in 2009. As of December 31, 2009, there were 85,229 registered charities, up from 84,011 on December 31, 2008.

Charity type	Public foundation	Private foundation	Charitable organization	Total
Poverty	2,019	2,626	13,354	17,999
Education	781	784	12,264	13,829
Religion	323	674	32,339	33,336
Other purposes beneficial to the community	1,901	782	17,382	20,065
Total	5,024	4,866	75,339	85,229

This table details the number of registered charities as of December 31, 2009 (by designation and charity type.)

This information was extracted from "Charities Connection" on the CRA website. (No. 4 - September 2010.)

Volunteers Get-Together

On October 25, volunteers who are involved with a client on an on-going basis got together to share ideas and offer tips to each other.



*Lyne Moreau
visiting with
Jean Logie*

OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES

101-2167 Oak Bay Avenue Victoria, BC V8R 1G2
250-595-1034 • Hours 9-12 & 1-4 pm weekdays
obvs@oakbayvolunteers.bc.ca
www.oakbayvolunteers.bc.ca

Editor: Joan Halvorsen • Writers: Bronwyn Taylor,
Joan Halvorsen • Design: Dan van Stolk



**IT IS YOUR GENEROSITY THAT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS IN OAK BAY.**



I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE A LEGACY TO OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Please contact me so I can get more information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

If you have left a Legacy, thank you. Letting us know greatly helps with our planning.

Please Clip this form
and mail to:

**OAK BAY
VOLUNTEER
SERVICES**

101-2167 Oak Bay Ave.
Victoria BC V8R 1G2

obvs@oakbayvolunteers.bc.ca www.oakbayvolunteers.bc.ca