

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – NHCS –AGM

Wednesday, May 18th, 2011

The past year has been an extremely busy, and I believe most productive 12 months for the Board of Directors of Nanaimo Harbour City Seniors. Each of the elected board members has been a supportive and enthusiastic member of this team. We are indeed fortunate to have individuals who will step up to the plate and give so much of their time and talents to enrich the lives of our members.

Early last Fall, we appointed two students from the Vancouver Island University's Nursing Faculty, to our board. These two students, Ali Kerpan and Asheley Hughes, currently in their third year of studies, have been a very valuable presence at the monthly board meetings. They have not only brought the expertise of their chosen field to the table but they have also provided an excellent intergenerational approach to our various discussions, as well as acting as a physical resource in several different capacities during the year. This partnership between NHCS and VIU has proved to be highly successful and extremely beneficial to our membership.

The Board of Directors organized the annual poinsettia sale on December 2, 2010, and successfully sold 125 plants obtained from the VIU Horticultural Centre. Special thanks to Miriam and Doug Peacock, and Bruce Avis, for picking up the plants and assembling them at Bowen Center before the sale.

This year the numbers attending the Annual NHCS Christmas Dinner were down, however those members who attended enjoyed the camaraderie, and always wonderful menu items prepared by "Spice of Life." Board members helped with the decorations for the event and also made and served punch to the attendees.

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During this year, in my capacity as President of NHCS, I was invited on two occasions to speak about our various activities and programs; one opportunity was at a meeting of the Kinsmen Club of Nanaimo, and the second opportunity was at the Long Lake Chateau Retirement Home.

The Board of Directors is always anxious to financially support any NHCS group requesting help to either upgrade or purchase new equipment to benefit their particular activity. To this end, the NHCS Chorus, under the direction of Lionel Tanod, asked for assistance in purchasing a portable keyboard. The Chorus raised half of the purchase price, and the Board issued a check for \$789.00 which represented one half of the total purchase price.

A sub-committee of the board has spent considerable time putting together material and supporting documentation for a Grant Application to the Federal government's New Horizons for Seniors Program, to conduct a Forum focusing on Seniors and Crime. This application is now ready and as soon as the federal government sets a submission date it will be forwarded.

In response to a member's suggestion, the Board conducted a membership survey in order to determine the level of interest in a possible Nanaimo Harbour City Seniors travel opportunity. In examining the survey responses, the Maritimes was the most popular destination of those suggested.

In March, the Program Committee, Chaired by Miriam Peacock, organized an extremely successful "Maritime Medley" which featured the history, music and dance of the area, a travel documentary highlighting the magnificent scenery, and a superb luncheon replete with menu delicacies indicative of the Maritimes. The event attracted 125 participants and many positive compliments on the organization and content of the event were received. This medley, falling closely on the heels of last year's "Mediterranean Medley," was once again so successful, that the Board is already planning a similar event for next year.

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“Medley” participants who expressed an interest in a NHCS Maritime trip provided us with contact information, and the Board, in conjunction with Marcia Pike of Around The World Travel, has been working with these individuals on a trip proposal. This Maritime trip may not eventuate until next year but be assured, the Board will continue to pursue this venture.

Late in March, the Board undertook the sale of the tickets for the Annual Kinsmen Seniors Heritage Dinner. In past years, the City has handled the sale of these tickets through the Seniors Office but was no longer able to provide this service. In spite of our efforts in selling a good number of tickets for this event, those attending were down due to the fact that the Kinsmen did not advertise the event sufficiently. By the time the Kinsmen approached me to sell the tickets, the deadline for our Monthly Newsletter and thus an excellent advertising opportunity, had passed; and also, many of the seniors who have historically attended the event, no longer drive at night. It is unfortunate that the event was held on a Saturday night when the HandiDart system does not operate, thus eliminating that transportation option.

Once again, the Board of Directors has been involved in picking up free concert tickets from the Port Theatre’s, Theatre Angels Program, and distributing them to members who are present at the Thursday afternoon event. The Board would be very grateful if one of our members would take on this job and perhaps have the time to distribute the tickets more widely amongst the membership. These free tickets have provided much enjoyment to members who would not otherwise be able to attend such concerts.

The Board worked with our City’s Senior Coordinator to develop a new NHCS Program Evaluation Form. This form was distributed and was completed by 286 members and has provided valuable information on the success of the various NHCS programs and activities. A board sub-committee has begun collating the information gleaned from the forms and soon will be able to provide a report on the results.

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The City Seniors Coordinator, Michele Deurksen, has been cooperative, enthusiastic, and diligent in the performance of her newly acquired role, and the Board is most appreciative of her efforts on behalf of the NHCS membership.

At the beginning of the year, the Board of Directors set the following Goals and Objectives for 2010-2011:

- 1) To continue to raise the visibility and to promote membership in the Nanaimo Harbour City Seniors. **This has been accomplished: I have spoken to various community groups to promote our programs. Membership has been increased through the latter and through the NHCS website.**
- 2) To encourage participation in and the development of specific programs for the Active Senior. **This has been accomplished in part. The board has supported the innovative ideas of the new City Seniors Coordinator in introducing programs for the more Active Senior.**
- 3) To determine a specific project in order to apply for a New Horizons for Seniors Grant. **This has been accomplished.**
- 4) To continue to encourage active involvement of the general membership in committees and special projects. **This has been accomplished to a certain degree. A few members have volunteered to serve on committees this past year and two members not previously associated with the board have agreed to stand for Director's positions. We must continue to pursue further involvement of the general membership.**

This extensive report, documents the initiative, the work ethic and the high level of commitment demonstrated by this Board of Directors. It has been my distinct privilege to work with this extraordinary group of individuals this past year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynda Avis