



Volunteer Update

June / July 1989

Volume 2, Number 6

Welcome the New Board of Directors

The Annual General Meeting of A.V.I. was held at the Unitarian Church on Superior Street, on Tuesday night, June 20th. The following people were elected to serve on the 1989/90 Board of Directors:

Larry Frost — President
Dr. Rae Graham — Vice-President
Arnold Clark — Secretary
Brian Smith — Treasurer
Alison Campbell — Director-at-Large
Lynn Cummings — Director-at-Large
Ken Libbey — Director-at-Large
Gail Miller — Director-at-Large
Christie O'Connell — Director-at-Large
Allison Terrico — Director-at-Large
Robin Thompson — Director-at-Large

Congratulations to all the newly-elected members, and best wishes for the coming year. We would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing Board members: **Wayne Cook** (Past President), **David Birnbaum**, **Brent Carmichael**, **Janet Hacker**, **Shirley Hunter**, **Donato Petriello** and **Mike Tanner**. Thank you all for a job well done!

Volunteer of the Year

An annual award for outstanding volunteer service has been established by A.V.I. It is named in honour of **Shawn Costello**, gifted dancer and dedicated volunteer, who died suddenly in February. **Lynda Raino**, Shawn's dance partner, was on hand at the AGM to present the award, which this year has been awarded to Shawn himself—in fond memory and appreciation of all he did for us. In years to come, an extraordinary volunteer will be selected by the members and volunteers of A.V.I., to receive the **Shawn Costello Memorial Award** which will be presented at each Annual General Meeting in perpetuity. The handsome plaque is a gift from an anonymous donor who was greatly moved by Shawn's virtuosity.

My Moves On...

My—

How to say thank you? How to say goodbye? Hard-edged compassion, raucous wit, incisive knowledge, passionate commitment, righteous anger, unflagging tenacity, enduring loyalty...

We have laughed and struggled with you, quailed before your anger, been inspired by your "change-the-world" work, and been awed by your tireless efforts for the street folks you work with.

We have loved you, My, and saying goodbye is hard. May all good fortune be with you and with Claire. Au revoir!

The Names Project Canada Quilt

The Quilt - A Spread of Hope - will be displayed at the Vancouver Art Gallery from **noon July 12 until 5 pm July 16**. This moving event provides an opportunity for A.V.I. and VIPLWAC volunteers to participate with groups like ourselves from in and around Vancouver, to heighten our mutual understanding, and to reinforce our awareness that the issue which unites us is a global one. Volunteers willing to share the experience of the Quilt may attend an orientation session at A.V.I. either **June 29** or **July 4** prior to committing (at the very least) three hours to a shift at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

For those who will be in Vancouver who have an active interest but cannot commit as much time, we need people to read names over the loudspeaker for five-minute intervals. A.V.I. and the VIPLWAC will benefit financially from our involvement. Please contact **Suzanne Sutton** or **Ken Libbey** for more information.

And don't forget those lovely shirts!

Names Project T-shirts and sweatshirts are available from the main office for \$15.00 (T-shirt) and \$30.00 (sweatshirt). Buttons are also available for \$2.00 each. Hurry, there are only a few left!



Support Coordinator Resigns

Ron Hebert has handed in his resignation for the position of Support Coordinator. The position of Support Coordinator requires a considerable commitment of time and of caring, both of which Ron has given to AVI and to our clients. Thank you very much, Ron, for all you have done. We regret your decision to leave, as we are the losers, but wish you very well in the next phase of your life and look forward to hearing from you from time to time.

As I think most of us are aware, A.V.I. truly needs to find the funds with which to hire a full-time support administrator/counsellor/teacher. At this point a decision has to be made whether to look for a new volunteer to take the position or to rapidly find the funds to make the position a salaried one. Such a decision will have far-reaching effects on the future of A.V.I.'s support services and is one that will be made, I hope, soon after a new board and Executive Director are in place. In the meantime, the Support arm will function under the joint administration of Alan, David and Li. The process of drawing up policies and procedures for support is currently underway and this will help to ensure smooth operations until we have a new Support Coordinator. Please contact Li or myself if you have comments, concerns or suggestions.

- Naim

The following is Ron's letter of resignation.

June 19, 1989

Dear Naim:

As of June 19, 1989, I am resigning from my position as Support Coordinator for AIDS Vancouver Island.

In the six month period from January to June of this year that I have been a volunteer for AIDS Vancouver Island, I have experienced a wealth of knowledge and comforting support in being a part of this organization. In working with truly dedicated people my own growth has been greatly enhanced.

In order for me to continue in this growth, I must go on to discover new learning experiences in other areas of my life.

I wish to acknowledge and thank all those responsible for contributing to my experiences of growth and well-being.

Lovingly,
Ron Hebert.

AIDS Vigil 1989

The Vigil was held on Sunday, May 28, at the Unitarian Church and was well attended. Speakers were **Dr. Frank Jagdis**, who spoke from a physician's point of view about the AIDS crisis; **Judith English**, who led the memorial segment of the service; and **Ken Libbey**, whose powerful speech is excerpted below. Music was performed by **Jeff Ronnenbergh**, **Deborah Overes** and **Michael Yoder**. The Vigil was organized and hosted by **Lella Gmeiner**, who did an outstanding job.

Excerpts from Ken's speech:

"As to blame, there is no solace in knowing who or how or [why], just as there can be no satisfaction in laying guilt in any direction. The only failure involved was that of the system. I could not prevent what I did not know, [or] protect what I did not understand. For parents, whose purpose it was to provide advice, to share and teach the lessons of their own experiences, there must be the realization that they could only show us what could be, not what would be. It is their understanding and support that we need, not their unfounded guilt. Each individual made their own decision and they must live with the result, not the circumstances that brought it about. It is now - and our Future - that is important and neither sympathy nor guilt nor any amount of time spent suffering over the past will ever produce a cure for AIDS...

"...I know that what I have is a strange gift, one not given to everyone. I now have the chance to look at life differently, to begin again through the eyes of fresh, undying enthusiasm that will allow me to not waste one precious minute of the time I have left.

"...For those who are sick and hurting, it is our responsibility to help them, to show them the joys of life and how to feel the strength of hope. To those who do not understand, who still believe they are unaffected by AIDS, it is our duty to educate, to open their eyes to the truth, to do all that is in our power to see that **not one more person shall become infected with this disease because they did not know.**"

Executive Director

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee for the new Executive Director now includes **Suzanne Sutton** as the Volunteer Representative and **Li Decosas** as the Staff Rep. The Committee will shortlist candidates and begin interviews by the end of June.

New Reports

AIDS Personnel Policies

CAS - the Canadian AIDS Society - has conducted a research survey of Canadian businesses re: AIDS policies. The results have recently been published. We have a copy of **AIDS and the Canadian Business Community: A Research Study**. It is available in the main office.

Needs Assessment Report and Recommendations

The report is completed and will be presented to the Board of Directors at the July Board meeting. Results will be very helpful in directing future activities, policies and training procedures in the Support program. Many thanks go to **Terry Garnons-Williams, Lella Gmeiner and Ron Hebert** for all the hard work and long hours they put into this study. This report will be available at the main office after it has been presented to the Board of Directors at the July Board Meeting.

Street Outreach Report

The Executive Summary of the Street Outreach Report will also be available from the main office after it has been presented at the July Board Meeting.

VIPLWAC Walk-a-Thon

The VIPLWAC Walk-a-Thon, originally scheduled for July 23, has been changed to **Sunday, August 13, 1989**. We apologize for the changes, but in order to obtain sponsorship, we had to again postpone the date.

We also are looking for 5 to 10 Marshals, to act as security and to help direct the Walk-a-Thon. If you are interested in volunteering, please call **Peter Lancaster** at 384-1511 or 380-1648, or leave a message in his file folder in the main A.V.I. office. Thank you.

- Ken Libbey for VIPLWAC

Will Power

Notice to all volunteers: A.V.I. is holding a workshop on Wills, Estates and Life Insurance Policies on **Thursday, July 20**, at the A.V.I. Office. Everyone is invited. For more information, please contact Li at 380-9411.

Helpline Training

Training is underway for new Helpline volunteers, who are in the process of training with an experienced Helpline "buddy". Welcome!

Take a Choirboy Home!

The Vancouver Men's Chorus and Louise Rose will perform for the annual AVI benefit at a late November date yet to be fixed. The VMC are 70 strong and are looking for beds! Let me know that you are ready, willing and able. I will confirm the date as soon as possible.

- Suzanne Sutton

And now, it's time for...

Technical Difficulties

...the continuing story of those folks upstairs.

The Technical Support Program extends a warm A.V.I. welcome to **Todd Eacrett**, our new Database/Statistical Person (I hate that word "clerk"...). Todd is a recent graduate of U.Vic where he majored in sociology. Welcome aboard, as it were.

We are now officially "on-line" in that we are accepting actual work, both from the main office and from other non-profit organizations. If you are interested in having us do some word processing, desktop publishing or other computery-type stuff for you, come on up to room 222 and discuss your needs with us. We won't byte...

Word Perfect Training

Office volunteers and staff who are interested in learning to use Word Perfect 5.0 (it is easier than Microsoft Word!) can get in touch with **Kat** in room 222, 384-1511. If enough people are interested, we'll have a class. Otherwise, Kat is available by appointment to conduct one-on-one tutorials.

Volunteer Update Deadline!

The deadline for submitting material for inclusion in the next Volunteer Update is **Wednesday, July 19**. As you have probably noticed, the Update is now produced using state-of-the-art technology and an editor who suffers from an advanced and probably terminal case of perfectionitis. It also goes out to be printed on a laser printer. This means that it takes a little longer to put together than it used to. I can accept articles on disk in Microsoft Word or Word Perfect; if your material is handwritten and/or needs editing, please try and get it to me as early as possible. Thanks!

- Kat Cruickshank, Editor/Publisher



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 Canada Day
2	3 Office closed	4 Helpline meeting Quilt Orientation 6:45 pm	5	6 Business meeting 12:30 pm	7	8
9	10	11	12 Names Project opens Vancouver Art Gallery 12:00 noon	13 Names Project Coordinators' meeting 10:30 am Business meeting 12:30 pm	14 Names Project	15 Names Project
16 Names Project closes Vancouver Art Gallery 5:00 pm	17	18 Board meeting 7:30 pm Begbie Hall, Royal Jubilee Hospital	19 Wills & Estates Workshop 6:45 pm	20 Business meeting 12:30 pm	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27 Coordinators' meeting 10:30 am Business meeting 12:30 pm	28	29

Special Thanks this month go out to **Lella** for her work on the Vigil; **Terry, Lella and Ron** for the Needs Assessment Report; **Ron** for his contributions as Support Coordinator; **Suzanne** for hosting the **Volunteer Barbecue** on June 24th; Outgoing Board Members **Wayne, Brent, Janet, Shirley, Donato and Mike**; and of course **My Lipton** ...we are really going to miss you, My! Look out, Southern California!!