

THE UPDATE

a publication of AIDS Vancouver Island

SEPTEMBER 1993

Volume 7, Number 9

AVI's Beginnings

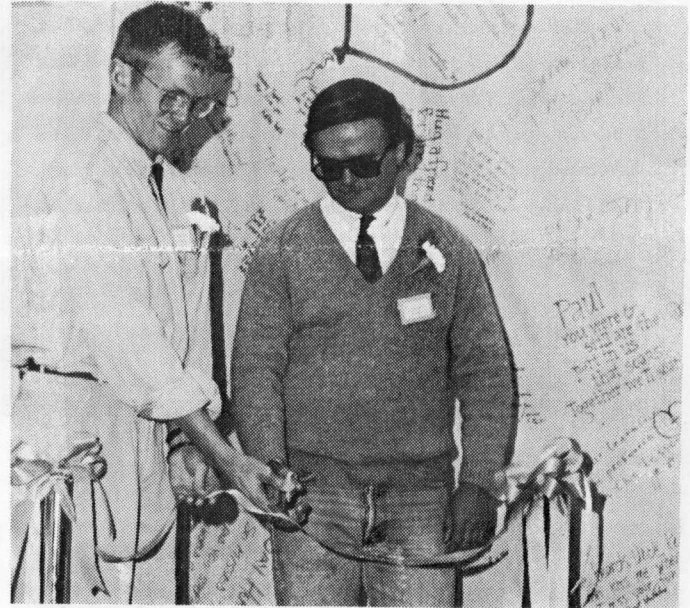
A Conversation between Wayne Cook & JoAnn Reid

On July 20th, 1993, I had the privilege of visiting Wayne Cook at his home on a quiet cul-de-sac in Fernwood. A friend was tending the flower beds that Wayne takes such pride in and a couple visiting from Ontario greeted me at the door. I hadn't seen the renovations Wayne had described to me so I was delighted to check out the "new" kitchen. Yes! Lemon coloured walls and a grey ceiling can work fantastically when Wayne has a hand in it. The Grant Leier poster on the wall adds just the panache I have come to expect from Wayne. Very nice.

By now Wayne is ready to receive yet another visitor and our conversation begins - Wayne's recollections and personal opinions reflect the candor for which he is well-known:

JoAnn: Wayne, I asked if I could do this interview with you because you are one of the founders of AVI and the one person who has been involved continuously with the organization in one way or another throughout the years. I thought it would be interesting for our readers to know about the history of AIDS Vancouver Island and your involvement.

Wayne: In 1983 when I was still in Ontario I read my first article on the "gay disease" as it was called then. Two years later, after coming to BC, I was out sailing with my friend John and we were discussing this disease and that there was information in Vancouver but nothing going on here. One Sunday evening we were at the IGS Coffee House and talked with 2 other people who were interested in the issues. Soon there were 5 of us -- Grant Sullivan, Roy Salonin, Don MacIver, John Spencer and myself -- and we met in John Spencer's kitchen one evening to decide what we wanted to do. We went full steam ahead getting information from New York, San Francisco and Vancouver. It was September 17, 1985. Our initial plan was just a Helpline. Don had the phone line in his house with call forwarding and we would each take a turn in our own home from about 7:00 - 10:00 pm answering calls. We started advertising and some of the original little posters with the question mark are still up in town.



Wayne Cook (l) & Don MacIver (r) open new offices March '91.

I can remember having my ironing board set-up in my apartment with literally only 2 or three pamphlets - one from San Francisco, one from New York and maybe something from Vancouver. The Vancouver stuff was very explicit because we were speaking to gay men about specific sexual activities but it caused quite a bit of controversy in the general community. We had to get our friends to understand how this virus, we believed, was being spread. There was still a lot of doubt out there in 1985. It wasn't until November 1, 1985 that they started testing for HIV antibodies which caused a great deal of anxiety and was reflected in the number of calls we got on the Helpline. In October 1985, there was an excellent play being produced at the Belfry Theatre. The gay and lesbian group from UVic managed to organize a benefit night and two of the actors from England approached us with a donation of well over \$500.00 from the performance! It was wonderful. We spent the fall and winter writing up a proposal outlining our mandate and what we wanted to do. We sent off this beautifully concise proposal with a budget to Ottawa. The two arms of the organization at that time were support and education. I would like people to understand that the true mandate or the true focus really hasn't ever changed.

HELP

Reference Material
NOT FOR LOAN
AVI Resource Centre

ICTORIA) HELPLINE: 1-800-665-AIDS (2437)

THE UPDATE

The Update is published monthly as a service to members. One-year subscriptions are available for \$15.00. Typed submissions and letters to the Editor are welcome, c/o AVI #304-733 Johnson Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 3C7. The Update will print no sexist, racist or homophobic copy and will cover issues and events from perspectives which will initiate positive change in the work done by and for AIDS Vancouver Island. The appearance of any advertisements, treatment information or letters to the editor, do not imply endorsement by AIDS Vancouver Island. Submissions may be edited for conciseness and grammatical correctness. AIDS Vancouver Island will not be responsible for errors or omissions.

CONTRIBUTORS

Editor.....Bryan K. Young

Thanks to: Christine M., Frances H, Didi M, Holly N, Ana T, Colin B, Robert G.

(continued from page 1)

JoAnn: So where was the funding coming from during 1985 - 1986?

Wayne: Nowhere really except for that donation. A lot of it, like the phone bill, was coming out of our pockets but we didn't have an office at that point either. In January 1986, we finally got a little room at 514 Government Street. It was no more than 10' X 10' and we used it in the evenings to answer phones and counsel anyone. The rent was only \$25.00/month, thanks to the generosity of BCBC, where Don worked. They also provided us with some clerical support at that time as we struggled to become known. The first support group started in January with Grant as the facilitator. We moved many times over the next few years - first in the summer of '86 to the old CRD Health building on Cook Street (rent free) until it was torn down; then to the medical building at Cook & View Streets. We were in a number of different suites in that building. It took us until 1991 to find a permanent home at 773 Johnson Street which should suit the needs of the organization for a number of years. The summer of '86 was our first contact with CRD Health. We have enjoyed a long and supportive working relationship throughout the years.

JoAnn: No wonder the official opening of the offices at 773 Johnson Street in May 1991 was such an emotional and exciting experience...

Wayne: Yes, we finally had a home. But back to our first funding proposal. It wasn't until October 1986 that Health & Welfare Canada approved some monies for AVI. They foolishly, I think, approved only one position (Executive Director), cutting out the support and education positions. We were expected to provide all the services but didn't have the resources so it hampered our progress.

None of us had any experience as far as organizational structure, the dynamics, the evolution... We sure learned a lot. There were several Executive Directors over the years and each time we went through turmoil there would be people in town on their side or on our side.

JoAnn: That can be very fragmenting within the AIDS Community.

Wayne: Yes, but we continued to grow. In the spring of 1987, we applied for a United Way Outreach Grant and to our surprise received close to \$5,000.00. This led to us becoming the first non-profit AIDS organization in North America to have full membership in the United Way. The local United Way took a bit of flack over it, I think. We also started using government programs like the Job Development Programs through Canada Employment. It allowed us to buy supplies and equipment and to train staff. The drawback is that it takes time and energy from existing staff, but if you are clear as to what your program is going to be you can get a lot accomplished. Our "Update" which is one of the best in the country right now, started from one of these programs.

Nairn Hollott, AVI's first Education Coordinator, was volunteering her time on a daily basis doing education sessions. Everyone was working so hard.

Our Street Outreach program started in 1988 and we were one of the first non-profit volunteer based organizations in Canada to start one.

JoAnn: It sounds like AVI has been very progressive throughout its history. You must take a great deal of pride in this, Wayne.

Wayne: Yes, although I've been very frustrated over the years because we should have had a lot of feathers in our cap but we were constantly being overshadowed by Vancouver and the larger centres. However, the main objective for me in all those years was the organization and it really does become part of you.

JoAnn: It has a way of doing that, doesn't it?

Wayne: Yes, it certainly does. We have come a long way.

JoAnn: Some people would say we have grown too fast, too soon. How do you feel we are living up to our mandate?

Wayne: In the Support Program, I think we are doing extremely well with the behind the scenes things that many people don't see -- the one on one counselling, the direct financial support, the crisis intervention, finding homes, etc. But as far as getting PWA's involved in the organization and involved in support groups we seem to have slipped because we just assumed or allowed the PWA organization to do that. I think the Living Room is under-utilized and we need to provide services to gay and bisexual HIV+ men. I know there is anger, discrimination and homophobia that other people who are HIV+ don't experience. I know for myself, I'm angry that there is

EDUCATION

compensation for haemophiliacs. We all found out at the same time that there is a virus out there and to my death bed, I will not give up on getting some sort of public attention about that issue. We all have the same financial hardships, loss of employment, need for vitamins, responsibility for children and dependants. It is a poverty stricken disease. But don't get me going on this, JoAnn.

JoAnn: I don't have enough tape to let you go on, Wayne. Let's talk about membership at AVI. What does it mean to someone who has been involved since Day One?

Wayne: I think there is a misconception where people think that membership is joining to get something back. To me, you join because you believe in the mandate, the philosophy, the direction it is going and you want to be part of it. It is a vote of confidence in the organization. At AVI, it is mainly our volunteer base anyway.

JoAnn: No, it isn't really. Only about 50% of volunteers are actually members.

Wayne: Well, why aren't we requiring people who are full-fledged volunteers, working within the organization, to be members?

JoAnn: Do you think membership should be compulsory for AVI volunteers?

Wayne: Yes. For my professional membership, I pay big money to be a member of RNABC [Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia]. And I used my RNABC membership to seek support for AIDS related issues. At their AGM in Vancouver, I put forward resolutions seeking support to lobby the provincial government for funding for AIDS education and support. The next year I put forth resolutions on sexual orientation. They were controversial but they passed. So I could have sat back and said nothing but I preferred to use my RNABC membership to benefit projects at AVI. Membership gives you a voice in the organization.

JoAnn: I want to thank you Wayne for playing such a significant part in the direction and growth of AIDS Vancouver Island. In my role as Coordinator of Volunteers at AVI, I have always considered you my barometer of success or failure -- always straightforward and honest but also quick to praise when it is due. With your permission we will continue this conversation in the next edition of the Update when we talk about your journey as a long-term survivor of HIV disease.

*JoAnn Reid
Coordinator of Volunteers*

The Speakers' Bureau Training held August 7 and 8 at AVI was a great success. Thanks go to co-facilitators Bart, Barb and Aaron and to our guest speakers Frank and Susanne. We now have eight new speakers aboard from the Greater Victoria Area. Moreover, five volunteers from the *North Island AIDS Coalition* (NIAC) took part and will take their skills up-Island. It was good to meet all those who attended for their input and sharing of ideas. We look forward to working with you all in the coming months!

The *Women and AIDS Project* held a tremendously successful forum on August 11 dealing with some of the physical to social and psychological aspects of living with HIV/AIDS. A very moving and courageous account was given by a woman who is HIV-positive. Over 50 women attended and five female panelists presented.

On August 12, Barb attended a seminar called "Train the Trainer" in Vancouver. It was very informative but very condensed. Eight hours was certainly not enough time to cover anything but the basics. The physical environment was very blah and the tea tasted more like "wood chips" - not to be recommended for Curt's tea drawer! On a more positive note the Nelson Street Guest House was wonderful - great people, food, decor, and good beds!

AIDS Awareness Week (Oct. 4-10) is in full swing. A steering committee of volunteers and staff has been meeting regularly and has succeeded in whittling down the shopping list of potential activities to 4 or so events. The events relate in some fashion to this year's theme of "Promoting Health for Everyone," with a special focus on improving the quality of life for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS. Proposed are a workshop series on Salt Spring Island followed by an evening of music and dance with local folker Shari Ulrich (Oct. 9) and a health education session targeted to PWAs and their caregivers (Oct. 8) which will be co-sponsored by the PWA Society - Victoria Branch. There will also be a safer sex night (shouldn't all nights be?) at several bars in Victoria and a showing of films on AIDS-related issues at UVIC's Cinecenta, along with coverage in the local media. Through AVI's new Island Outreach Project, this year's *AIDS Awareness Week* poster will be distributed to community venues from Duncan to Campbell River.

From August 19-21 a working group on HIV Research Priorities in Canada met in Toronto. The aim of the forum was to formulate recommendations for new directions in drug treatment and research strategies in Canada for the coming years. Bill Davis, a member of AVI and the PWA Society, attended and he will no doubt return armed with invaluable information to share with PWAs and their carepartners.

Lastly, there are some goodbyes to be said to Didi Mitchell and Bryan Young, our fearless summer students, whose field placement ended by September 1. Didi was our resident computer whiz, dry wit, Holly's right arm and just a darned good egg. Bryan quickly became the environmental conscience/whip at AVI, queer activist, and resident wordsmith. He is returning to UVic in September to begin an M.A. in English.

Finally, a "bon voyage" to Susanne Klausen. This time our energetic leader is headed east to study at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Susanne assures us that she will return to our fair city in a year. But, alas, perhaps she will be seduced by the lovely fall colours and the charm of that university town.

Cheers all!

Aaron and Barb

VOLUNTEER NEWS

AVI VOLUNTEERS ON THE MOVE...

It's September and several of our volunteers have left Victoria to pursue their studies and careers in far off places.

Andrew S, with a future in Medicine, to Montreal; Jayn T, pursuing a degree in Art Therapy, to New York; Tim T, working on a degree in Urban Planning, to Ontario; Susanne K with her sights on an M.A. in History, to Ontario; Robert G, following his dream of an M.A. in English, to Manitoba. Barb H has accepted a position at the University of Northern B.C. in Prince George. Congratulations to all of you and our sincere thanks for your contributions to AVI. What talent!

Volunteer Opportunity

Position: Resource Centre - Computer Technician

Term: A six month commitment of three hours weekly is required with position to start Oct 1/93.

We require an individual with practical experience in computer science or the appropriate educational background. Must possess good interpersonal skills, solid oral and written skills, a non-judgemental, gay-positive attitude, and a willingness to attend monthly staff meetings.

Responsibilities include the implementation of a new software package to assist with the Resource Centre activities, and the training of other volunteers & staff as needed. This individual will provide leadership in making the software package and the library very user friendly to all volunteers, staff, and public.

Please submit resume in confidence by September 20/93 to Aaron Severs, Coordinator of Education Services, or JoAnn Reid, Coordinator of Volunteers.

CHALLENGING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

Are you committed to the goals of AIDS Vancouver Island: education, support and advocacy? Can you contribute a minimum of 8-12 hours per month to Board and committee assignments?

AIDS Vancouver Island has a volunteer challenge for you! We are looking for individuals with

- * energy
- * enthusiasm
- * flexibility
- * leadership skills
- * experience
- * vision

Directors of the Society are volunteers who attend Board meetings, work on committees, task forces and special projects.

Candidates for vacant positions on the Board have the following qualifications:

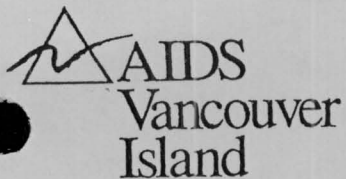
1. They are members of AIDS Vancouver Island (at least one month prior to the October 2 Annual General Meeting)
2. They have experience and/or interest in FUNDRAISING and FINANCE (the Board urgently requires persons with experience in the above areas) as well as personnel issues, public relations, and program planning.
3. They have completed AIDS Vancouver Island's Basic Orientation (or plan to do so this fall).

Does this sound like you? If so, contact Bart Wittke (479-2782) or JoAnn Reid (384-2366) for more information on how you can contribute to a dynamic and growing organization.

THANKS TO PRIMETIMERS

Thank you to the members of PrimeTimers Victoria who have so generously given of their time and support in working with The Men's Project. Their energy, enthusiasm, and sense of fun were put to good use in exploring some of the "wilder" areas of Victoria.

On top of this commitment of people resources, their community spirit was quickly followed up by their recent donation to the Emergency Assistance Fund. Thanks, GUYS!



Win One of Five Prizes in Five Minutes Just by Using the Lead in your Pencil!

Our Coordinator of Volunteers, JoAnn Reid, needs your help. Over the summer a computer database system was set up by one of our summer students as a way of keeping track of all you volunteers, your wealth of skill and all the time you generously give to this organization. To that end, we have developed a Skillsbank and would like to put all the information we receive into her computer. But first she needs your help to fill in all the blanks. In exchange, we will have a draw for prizes on Thursday, September 30th.

You could win: One of two gift packs from Rubber Rainbow located in Market Square, Safer Sex coffee mug or a T-shirt -- both also from Rubber Rainbow, or a Shampoo, Cut and Blowdry from Moda Fina Hair Studio in Mayfair Mall.

So, get out your sharpened HB's, slap in your X's, plop the form in the mail, and that's it! Hoping to hear from you soon -- and thanks for your time.

Below please tick off only those skill areas which you would like to be called upon from time to time donate as a service to AVI's clients, services or events. If the question concerns training, and you do not have the requisite experience, please leave the space blank.

Name _____ When did you start helping AVI? ____/____/____

Is the address/phone number we have on record correct? Yes ___ No ___. The correct address/
phone number is: _____

General Skills

___ Cashier ___ Carpentry ___ Cooking/Baking ___ Gardening ___ Sewing

Special Events

___ Catering ___ Casino ___ Do you have BC Govt. Casino Training? ___ Bingo ___ Do you have BC Govt. Bingo Training?)

___ Are you interested in working on or at Special Events or Fundraising Events like World AIDS Day or Bizarre Bazaar?

___ Do you have some specific skill in the performing arts, like singing, or dance or acting? Yes ___
No ___

If yes, please list _____

Driving

From time to time, PWA's might need food delivered, or AVI might need to ask volunteers to drive someone to a function. Occasionally, we need donated items picked up.

Are you willing to drive? Yes ___ No ___ Do you own a car? Yes ___ No ___
Do you own a van or truck? Yes ___ No ___ Other form of transport? _____

Education and Other AVI Programs

Public Speaking Do you have AVI Speakers Training Helpline Do you have AVI Helpline training? Community Liaison work (i.e.: Display Booths) Volunteer Training
 Library/Resource Centre Maintenance Working with Library Software Helpline
 Do you have Helpline Training? Street Outreach Island Outreach (Serves areas north of the CRD, and the Gulf Islands) Women & AIDS Project (For women only) Men's Project (Aimed at public sex environment [parks, bathhouses] peer education. For men only.)

Communications

Postering or Leafletting Donor Solicitation Media Contact (Do you have experience dealing with the media in an interview or press release capacity: _____)

Public relations Please outline any experience you have in this area: _____

Support Related Issues

Support Have you received AVI's Support Training? Being a Buddy
 Advocacy Shopping and Cleaning Treatment Issues Accommodation Searches
 Transport Hospital Visits

Do you have any specialized professional skills that you would like to offer to PWA's and/or their friends or family? (Examples: Legal services, massage, reiki, psychotherapy, naturopathy, etc...)
Please outline _____

Office and Newsletter Related

Wordperfect® *Aldus Pagemaker*® AVI's Monthly Newsletter (Production)
 Collating/Mailing AVI's Monthly Newsletter (Writing) General Office Work
 FAX Machine Photocopying Accounting Data Entry or *DBase IV*®
 Maintenance or Repair (at AVI or at the Street Outreach Storefront)

Languages

English French Spoken French written Am. Sign Language Other

Specialized Skills & Other Areas

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors. Please briefly note relevant community group experience _____

Are you interested in volunteering at AVI in an advisory capacity? What professional skill(s) would you like to offer? (I.e.: Legal, medical, counselling, etc...) _____

DIRECTORY

**AIDS INFO LINE
(VICTORIA)
384-4554**

**TOLL-FREE INFO LINE
1-800-665-2437**

**ADMINISTRATION
384-2366**

**EDUCATION
384-2368**

**FACSIMILE MACHINE
380-9411**

**ISLAND OUTREACH
PROJECT (COURTENAY)
335-1171**

**ISLAND OUTREACH
PROJECT (FAX)
335-1178**

**SPECIAL EVENTS
384-5595**

**SUPPORT
384-1511**

**STREET OUTREACH
(OFFICE)
384-1345**

**STREET OUTREACH
(PAGER)
388-6275 - #1542**

**VOLUNTEERS
384-2368**

LOCATION OF EVENTS

Those in *italics* are scheduled for the Living Room 305 - 733 Johnson Street. Personal services require appointments - please sign up on the Living Room bulletin board.

All other events, unless indicated otherwise, occur at AVT's main office 304 - 733 Johnson Street.



AIDS Vancouver Island

September 1993

S/S	M	T	W	T	F
<i>Living Room drop-in hours (unless booked) are as follows - Monday 2 - 5 Tuesday 1 - 5 Wednesday 12 - 3 Thursday 1 - 5 Friday 1 - 5</i>					
			1	2	3
			Women's Group 5:00 pm - 7:15 pm Women & AIDS Project 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Family Friends & Lovers Support Group @ 7:30 - 923 Burdett Street		
4 5	6	7	8	9	10
"Living with AIDS" 6100 Dumont Dr. Nanaimo, BC 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Massage Therapy - LaDonna 11:00 am - 2:00 pm HIV+ Men's Support Gr. 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Body Work - Frank 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	Helpline Meeting 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Family Friends & Lovers Support Group @ 7:30 - 923 Burdett Street	AIDS Awareness Week Meeting 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Gay Men's 12 - Step Support Group @ 7:00 pm	
11 12	13	14	15	16	17
Tai Chi Open House 1615 Douglas St. 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Massage Therapy - LaDonna 11:00 am - 2:00 pm HIV+ Men's Support Gr. 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Body Work - Frank 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Joe the Barber 1:30 - 4:30 pm Support Services Committees Meeting @ 6:00 pm	Library Meeting 1:00 pm - 2:30pm Women's Group 5:00 pm - 7:15 pm Women & AIDS Project 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Family Friends & Lovers Support Group @ 7:30 - 923 Burdett Street	Gay Men's 12 - Step Support Group @ 7:00 pm	
18 19	20	21	22	23	24
SUPPORT VOLUNTEER TRAINING 10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Massage Therapy - LaDonna 11:00 am - 2:00 pm HIV+ Men's Support Gr. 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Body Work - Frank 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Support Volunteer Meeting 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	GVAIN Meeting - Vancouver @ 3:00 pm Family Friends & Lovers Support Group @ 7:30 - 923 Burdett Street	Speakers' Bureau & Education Committee 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	PWA RETREAT Denman Island
25 26	27	28	29	30	
Workshop - Tenants: Let's Join Together	Massage Therapy - LaDonna 11:00 am - 2:00 pm HIV+ Men's Support Gr. 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Body Work - Frank 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Board Meeting @ 6:30 pm	Family Friends & Lovers Support Group @ 7:30 - 923 Burdett Street	Gay Men's 12 - Step Support Group @ 7:00 pm	
PWA RETREAT Denman Island	PWA RETREAT Denman Island				

PWA SOCIETY VICTORIA BRANCH

OFFICE AND LIBRARY: 613 Superior Street. Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Monday through Saturday. Phone 383-7494.

SUPPORT MEETINGS: Thursdays at 7:00 pm for all HIV positive persons and their primary support partner. We share information and experiences related to our common condition.

MASSAGE AND SHIATSU: By Frank on Saturdays by appointment. By donation.

ACUPUNCTURE CLINIC: By Dore Vanden Heuvel, Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine, on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment. All positions booked; waiting list available for new clients. By donation.

ENTERTAINMENT: A limited number of complimentary tickets are available to our members for local theatre productions.

CLOTHING: Lots of clean useable clothing available free.

WELFARE PROBLEMS: Roshni Narain of AVI will be in the office September 15 and 29 to provide local advocacy with Social Services and support counselling. Drop-in and appointments.

HAIRCUTS: Joe the Barber will be in Tuesday September 21. By appointment. Free.

FOOD BANK: Orders in by Wednesday 4:00 pm; pick-up and/or delivery on Thursday afternoon.

SOCIAL/MOVIE EVENINGS: Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Refreshments provided. Transportation available for shut-ins and the non-ambulatory.

BIKE HIKE: All fun-loving people are invited to participate in a bicycling trip on Sunday September 26 to Goldstream Park to watch the salmon spawning. Meet at the Wellness Centre at 10:30 am. Please bring a lunch. Call Bill for details.

PWA Health Education Series #18: "Medical Update: Current Status of HIV And OI Therapies," by Mark Katz, MD and "The Status of Immunotherapies," by Jeff Galpin, a video presentation filmed May 1993 by the PWA Action Coalition, Los Angeles. **Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 pm.**

PWA Health Education Series #19: "Current Trends in Antiretroviral Therapy," a video presentation by Julio Montaner, Director, AIDS Research Program, St. Paul's Hospital/UBC and Co-Director, Canadian HIV Trials Network. This timely presentation, recorded just a few weeks after the Berlin Conference, will give an overview of current medical thinking on when and how to incorporate antiretroviral therapy for HIV

management. **Thursday, September 23 at 7:00 pm.**

PWA Health Education Series #20: "Highlights from the Canadian HIV/AIDS Research Priorities Conference" (August 20-21, Toronto) presented by William Davis. **Thursday, September 30 at 7:00 pm.**

STAYING HEALTHY WITH HIV: The bulk order of manuals from the May workshop will be arriving shortly and will be sold at cost to the membership. This will be the 2nd revised edition.

KUDOS: Thanks to the anonymous donors who provided us with all the bread, and the fresh fruit and vegetables in August!

WE ALWAYS WELCOME DONATIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS AND CLEAN RE-USEABLE CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS. WE ALSO WELCOME VOLUNTEERS OF ANY HIV STATUS.

2nd Notice!

AIDS Vancouver Island Annual General Meeting 2 October 1993 - 2 pm Location: 733 Johnson St.

Please join the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of AIDS Vancouver Island for the 7th Annual General Meeting. Included on the agenda are summaries of the past year's accomplishments, financial reports, elections of new volunteer directors, refreshments and farewells to retiring directors. In short, a recognition of where we've been, and where we're going, together.

The AGM is open to all members of AVI and all our other friends and supporters. To vote in the AGM election, or be nominated for election to the Board, you must be a member in good standing one month prior to the meeting.

Ensure that you have a current, paid membership: contact James at AVI to renew, and cast your vote.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Canadian AIDS Society Pacific Regional Directors Ron Parker and Rick Marchand recently spent a day with AVI last month as an update to their work in bringing national issues back to B.C.

Their visit included a group meeting with AVI, the PWA Society - Victoria members, and Victoria AIDS Respite Care Society.

Their time in Victoria was well spent in discussing a variety of topics including:

- * the upcoming federal election and the opportunity this poses for the CAS membership to make AIDS funding an issue (including monies for treatment research and support).

- * the future of the Canadian Quilt and the opportunity for a new organizing body to begin the process of redefining the future of the quilt as a national memorial

- * the future role/structure of CAS and the problems posed by the geographic realities of this country;

- * the development of a major national fundraising event in 1994

- * the upcoming HIV/AIDS treatment seminar in Toronto and the future of the Emergency Drug Release Program.

The highlight for the day was the teamwork in place between local members of CAS and the Regional Directors. Very specific items were up for discussion and followup in place before the meeting ended.

Anyone interested in committing time and skills to the work of AVI as it relates to the CAS structure is encouraged to get in touch with either Dale Weston or Christine Morissette in Victoria.

MICHAEL GRAYDON SPEAKS TO MEN'S PROJECT

A huge thank-you to Michael Graydon of the AIDS Committee of Ottawa for his presentation last month to The Men's Project. His experience in putting together training workshops for outreach programs within gay and bisexual communities was put to good use as the AVI volunteers get set to develop a localized outreach program in Victoria.

OVER 40?

Prime Timers Victoria is a social, recreational, and educational organization for gay and bisexual men over 40. We meet on the third Sunday of each month at James Bay United Church, 511 Michigan Street, starting at 3 PM.

Come on down and check us out, or feel free to contact us at 384-2423.

FAREWELL TO MAIRI, HELLO TO LYNN

Mairi Scanlan, our Courtenay summer student, has spent a very successful sixteen weeks in working with the members of the North Island AIDS Coalition's steering committee.

Her primary goal was to develop a board & committee structure [including non-profit society status] and a future workplan for the Comox Valley. NIAC's highlights for the past six months include a recent Speaker's Bureau Training and the kick-off to the North Island Needle Exchange Project in Campbell River. A Needle Exchange Steering Committee is in place and plans are underway to begin street outreach in the next six months.

Mairi's incredible work and diligence has paid off and this was recognized by the members of NIAC at a recent barbecue in Courtenay. This occasion also served as an opportunity to introduce Mairi's replacement, Lynn Gaskell who comes onstream immediately.

Good News for VARCS

Congratulations go out to the member of the Victoria AIDS Respite Care Society for their work in the past year in becoming an Associate Member of the Canadian AIDS Society.

STREET OUTREACH

New Street Outreach Nurse for Victoria

Louise Alarie of Victoria has been hired as the new Street Nurse in AVI's Storefront office at 609 Johnson Street. Louise has been hired by CRD HEALTH to work in conjunction with Street Outreach Workers Jaine, Norman and John.

Louise will be on the street in the evenings, providing health care to people who currently access the street outreach programs. A schedule will be developed and advertised in the coming weeks to highlight times and dates for her services which include anonymous HIV antibody testing.

Louise has a background in nursing within isolated communities while employed in northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Her experience includes working within rural native communities not currently served by a physician or hospital.

Welcome aboard, Louise!

SUPPORT SERVICES

First, some information updates:

HIV positive members of AVI who are interested in purchasing a water filtration system for their kitchen taps should contact Curtis or Roshni in Support Services. Filtering one's water is an important means of preventing coming into contact with common bacteria that can be harmful to immunosuppressed individuals.

Also, HIV positive members who are interested in having a will or advance directive prepared, or in assigning power of attorney over their affairs, may contact Support Services, where we will put you in contact with some recently recruited lawyers prepared to undertake these tasks free of charge.

We are almost finished compiling the results of the most recent Family Physicians' survey and will soon mail out the Dentists' survey. Please see Curtis or Roshni for referral information for either of these professionals.

Finally, in the coming weeks HIV positive members will receive a survey of their own, seeking opinions on the kinds of services AVI should be providing. Please take the time to respond to this survey so that your views are represented.

Now, some important dates to write on your calendars!

The first meeting of a **new support group** for gay men recovering from compulsive behaviours is scheduled for Thursday September 9th from 7 until 9 pm in the Living Room. This unfacilitated 12-step group is open to all gay and bisexual men.

The **Victoria Tai Chi Society** is holding an open house on Saturday, September 11th, in their offices at 1615 Douglas Street, from 1 to 3 p.m. Those interested in finding out more about Tai Chi are encouraged to attend.

The first meeting of the **HIV positive men's group** will take place on Monday, September 13th, from 5 until 7 p.m. in the Living Room. Colin Barrow, the facilitator, is a trained social worker and life skills coach. Please read Colin's article on the group in this issue and plan to attend the first meeting.

The next meeting of the Support Services Committee of the Board is set for Tuesday, September 14th at 6 p.m. in the Living Room. Any support volunteers are welcome to attend and become active on this committee.

The next **support training** weekend is scheduled for

Saturday and Sunday, September 18th and 19th. There are still spaces available, so please contact Curtis or Roshni if you are interested in attending. Participating in the training does **not** commit you to doing support work; however, there will likely not be another support training until March 1994. So, if you **think** you might be interested in doing support work in the coming months it would be to your advantage to take the training now.

The next **support volunteer meeting** is going to be held on **Tuesday, September 21st at 5 p.m.** in the Living Room. Please come and meet the new support volunteers (and show off your summer "sun" tans).

Finally, the next meeting of the **Greater Victoria AIDS Information Network (GVAIN)** takes place on Wednesday, September 22nd at 3 p.m. If you are interested in becoming involved on this committee, please see Curtis for more details.

Curtis Magnuson

Coordinator of Support Services

New Support Group for HIV Positive Men

Curtis has invited me to facilitate a support group for HIV+ men to commence Monday, September 13th. We will meet in the Living Room at AVI, 304-733 Johnson Street, from 5 to 7 p.m. It is my hope that the group will be co-facilitated but more on that later.

I believe the group will be useful to the largest number of men if it offers both an opportunity for the sharing of personal experience, as well as more structured time for the discussion and practice of the interpersonal skills fundamental to high self-esteem.

The importance of confidentiality will be emphasized, and the desire of many people for anonymity will be respected. The group should be a safe place for all participants, and to this end we will discuss the making of a commitment to attend regularly for a minimum number of sessions, unless unavoidably prevented.

Should you have concerns about attending a support group which might be eased by further discussion, please call me, Colin, at 384-2366, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., on Wednesday September 1st or Wednesday September 8th.

Colin Barrow

PWA Retreat to Denman Island

If you are interested in attending a retreat for PWAs on Denman Island, from Friday September 24th to Monday September 27th, please contact Curtis or Roshni at 384-1511 to obtain an application form.



A United Way Member Agency

The cost will be \$36.00 per person (for bed and breakfast) or \$20.00 (for tenting and breakfast). This will include three nights' accommodation, all meals, and travel to and from Denman. Our host will be Fillongley Bed & Breakfast. (Further subsidies are available through the PWA Society's Complementary Health Fund or the Emergency Assistance Fund of AVI.)

There is room for a maximum of 15 participants, so if you are interested call Support Services as soon as possible. This event, which will be drug and alcohol free, is open to HIV+ men and women. Participants will be expected to help out with meal preparation and participate in group activities to the extent that they are able.

BIZARRE SUCCESS

We not only survived Bizarre Bazaar, we lived to tell about it! Aside from those oh so minor details (having to break into our moving truck, running out of gas. . .), **WHAT A GREAT AND MOST BIZARRE DAY!**

I want to thank all of you, our very special AVI volunteers and staff, who helped organize, poster, telephone, bake, interview, price and sort, tote and haul, truck-drive and clean up. You made Bizarre Bazaar a \$3400 success story and a really fantastic day!

Congratulations to Bizarre Bazaar Raffle Winners!

Barbie Doll bed (hand made by Isabella L.) - Jean J., Tickets to *Pursuit of Happiness* who played at Harpo's - Sharlene K., Kaleidoscope Theatre Season Tickets - Orestila N., Dinner at Olde England Inn - Bob C., Lunch at Pagliacci's - Barb C., Quilt (handmade by Paul L. and Laura L.) - Mark M., Wreath (hand made by Archie I.) - Stephanie Edgington.

Holly Nelson
Special Events & Communications

VANCOUVER Island AIDS Society

(non-profit registration # 0756957-11-28)

MANDATE

"AIDS Vancouver Island shall confront Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, prevent its spread through education, support all those affected by the disease, and advocate on their behalf."

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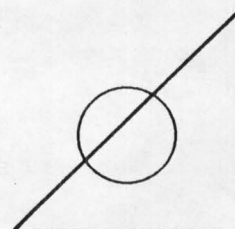


Booklets for survivors, families, partners and professionals about

"We have found these publications to be of great help to many of our clients."

SEXUAL ASSAULT & CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE

For information contact: The Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre
306 - 620 View Street Victoria BC V8W 1J6 Tel: (604)383-5370 Fax: 383-6112



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