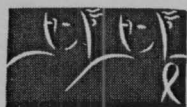



THE UPDATE



MAY 1996

 AIDS Vancouver Island

VOLUNTEER NEWS

JoAnn Reid will be taking a 6 week leave from her duties as Coordinator of Volunteer Services. She informs us that the Spring showers are making those darn weeds grow, and she must attend to them. Hope your time off is pleasurable and rejuvenating JoAnn! During her absence **Bridget MacKenzie** will very ably take on the role of Acting Coordinator of Volunteer Services. **E.J. Davis** has accepted a 6 week contract to work part time to back fill Bridget's position. Together they will be responsible for the next core training session to run May 22 to June 12, 1996. (*Hopefully in our newly renovated Training Room*)

COMINGS AND GOINGS:

April has been a very busy month with many of our University volunteers on the go. **Marion S.** has left for the Yukon to spend her summer working with Family and Child Services...

...**Liisa** is returning to Calgary to work for the summer....**Shauna** has accepted a job in Princeton. Good Luck to each of them. **Kit**, a long time volunteer with AVI is recovering from major surgery...we wish him a speedy recovery. All of our thoughts and prayers are with him. **Leam McLachlan**, an AVI Board member and speaker passed away this month. Many of our volunteers will remember Leam as an eloquent speaker at Core Training who was always able to give them such practical pointers on working with PWAs. He will be missed.

As this issue goes to press before the Volunteer Recognition Night....we will have to fill you in on the names of all those recognized, in our June issue of The Update.

- Marilyn Branco



MAR SIN LEAT, UILLEAM.

One of the bright lights has gone out at AVI. On April 3, 1996, Leam McLachlan passed away. I don't think there is anyone at AVI who was not familiar with Leam, if not by name, at least by his face. AVI became more than a source of support for Leam; it became his second home. Until his health faded Leam was a regular fixture at AVI, the Living Room became his command center. Some days he just came for the company. Often, he would spend time doing Helpline. When he was well, The Speakers' Bureau was a high priority and he believed education was important and necessary. He was also a champion to Support Services (just ask Roshni)! I think he believed this was one of the important services that AVI has to offer and made sure everyone knew it.

Leam was elected to the Board of AVI at the last General Meeting and felt it was important to have a PWA voice represented on the Board. *From what I've learned, his was heard.* He was a strong believer in independent living for PWA's, and was a strong advocate, not only for himself, but for others as well. He believed in voicing his concerns about his plight at every opportunity whether it was to a government minister, or Alicia and Roshni. If he saw injustice, he was never silent. Leam also sat briefly on the Board of the PWA Society and served on the Island Outreach Committee and PWA Caucus.

Leam's life outside of AVI was also extremely important. He was fiercely proud of his Celtic heritage; as only a Scotsman can be. He made a point of learning all he could of his background and made sure that what he knew was passed on to others. He was an accomplished Highland Dancer and played in a Pipes and Drum band. He earned a Teacher's Certificate for dancing. Leam also practiced and taught the ways of Wicca. When his energy level was low, television became one of his pleasures. Cooking shows, home decorating and Martha Stewart's Living were among his favorites.

No one of us can claim to know all about Leam; but as a member of his Care Team, I wanted to share the bit I knew. I believe that we are meant to meet certain people and the way we clicked confirmed this for me. Leam had a dry wit, to the point of sarcasm and was known to be irascible (*just ask any Home Care worker he ever fired*)! I am glad he was a part of my life. He never accepted mediocrity, especially in people, and he never gave it. We will all miss your bright light in our lives. Mar sin leat, Uilleam.

Janice Hepburn, AVI Volunteer

HELPLINE: 384-4554 (GREATER VICTORIA) 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, or via EMAIL at avi@islandnet.com. 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.

Erik Ages (editor) c/o casper@islandnet.com

NewsLetter Committee: Marilyn Branco, Kevin Knox, Michelle Purdon, Stacy LeBlanc

COMMUNITY RESEARCH

COUNT YOURSELVES IN!!

If you are gay, lesbian or bisexual and are presently part of a same-sex relationship, you may want to participate in this year's census. On May 14th individuals from Statistics Canada will be coming to your door to provide you with a Census questionnaire. And for the first time, same-sex relationships will be recorded and counted. While same-sex relationships are not listed on the form, you may check off the other box and write in "same-sex couple". Statistics Canada will record these responses and include them in the data. This is a first step toward the official recognition of same-sex relationships in Canada! Consider participating in the Census and count yourselves in! For more information, contact Stephen Samis, Coordinator of Research Projects at AVI.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Our column for this month is quite short but don't be swayed by the size--there are some important pieces of information here--really!!

SUPPORT SERVICES VOLUNTEER MEETING: These meetings are scheduled for the third Monday of every month and we have just realized that in the month of May, the third Monday will be a holiday and our offices will be closed. So, the meeting has been scheduled for a week earlier on Monday May 13. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend. Tentatively, we have an inservice arranged for "lifts and transfers", which will involve demonstration and practice of how to lift or transfer people who are ill, without hurting yourself or them. This has not been confirmed, but you are welcome to call us after April 25 and we will have this confirmed. See you on the 13th!

At the Support Services volunteer meeting in April, we had a discussion on ways in which we could make the meetings more meaningful for volunteers.

Some of the suggestions which came forward were: to have specific themes that would guide discussion; a real need for more inservices and a couple of topics were suggested; and that the meetings have more structure which could help people lead into discussions about their work. If anyone who was unable to attend the meeting, but you have ideas for us, please give us a call. Or, if you have ideas/suggestions for inservices, please let us know so we can begin to organize the meetings better.

PWA DINNER: A reminder that the PWA Dinner and Movie night is still on. For May, the dinner will be on May 27th and if you want to book ahead, the dinner in June will be on the 24th. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend to enjoy the delights which our Chef Janice will prepare!!

WINGS HOUSING: For all PWAs who have filled in a WINGS Housing application for a portable subsidy, please ensure that any changes to your application are reported to Mike or George. They chair the WINGS Housing Committee in Victoria, and you can leave them a message at Victoria PWA Society. It would be best to resubmit your application if there are significant changes and if you require assistance in doing so, Support Services staff will be able to assist you.

THREE MONTH RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: If you know someone who is planning to make Victoria their home, and are coming here from another province, please inform them of the three month residency requirement before they will be eligible for medical, pharmaceutical, and financial assistance from the Ministry of Social Services. AIDS Service Organizations around the province have so far been unsuccessful in advocacy efforts to have this decision overturned for PWAs. If a person does wish to move to British Columbia, they would need to be financially secure for three months and have sufficient medications with them to last them this period.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL Sunday, May 26 AT 7:00PM Courtyard of The Public Library

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Sunday, May 26 has been set for the AIDS Candlelight Vigil. The vigil will be held in the courtyard of the downtown library (940 Blanshard) and will begin at 7:00pm. The Candlelight Vigil is a commemoration for those who have died of AIDS, as well as an offer of support to those living with HIV/AIDS.

MORE SUPPORT SERVICES

Were it only that I had saved my back issues of the Update, I could have simply fetched my scissors and cut out previous introductions of myself which have appeared on these pages. Instead, I sit here at the computer trying to decide what to tell y'all about myself.

I have been associated with AVI for over 5 years now, I remember being interviewed by JoAnn in the office on Cook St.. (You think we are crowded here!) My volunteer time began on the helpline, (then a very frightening phone system); after a few months I was approached by Wayne Cook to allow my name to stand for the Board of Directors, a challenge I readily accepted. Another bit of volunteering I have done with AVI has been with the Education Department Speakers Bureau.

Since that time, oh so long ago, I have been asked to fill various positions at AVI on an acting basis including; Executive Director and Support Coordinator. Once these positions were filled with highly capable people, I returned to the Board as Vice-Chair, until the day that I was asked if I could "fill in for a while" at the Street Outreach Offices. That particular fill in lasted for two wonderful years. I leave the streets with a great deal of sadness, knowing that I will miss the many clients who utilize that service. To them I say "You will be close in my thoughts and I wish you a good life-health, peace and contentment."

Most recently, and the reason for these ramblings, I have been hired as a Support Worker with Support Services Department. I look forward to the challenge of this job, and to meeting the many PWAs, (the ultimate reason we are here), and volunteers that are vital to the continued good health of this organization.

Bart Wittke(?)
(we think).

ISLAND OUTREACH

CALENDAR

- May 1 PWA-Art therapy Nanaimo
PWA-Yoga/meditation Campbell River
- May 6 PWA Support group Nanaimo
- May 8 PWA-Art therapy Campbell River
- May 15 PWA-Art therapy Nanaimo
PWA Yoga/meditation Campbell River
- May 20 PWA Support group Nanaimo
- May 22 PWA-Art therapy Campbell River
- May 29 PWA-Art therapy Nanaimo
PWA Yoga/meditation Campbell River

More next month, I promise.

FUND DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) is continuing to meet to discuss, among other things, ways of diversifying the funding base of AIDS Vancouver Island. The Committee acknowledges the tremendous support Victoria and area residents have given to community based charitable organizations and would like to see this kind of support continue. In diversifying their funding base, the Committee will look at additional fundraising events, including the possibility of developing a database for a direct mail campaign, aimed at further increasing revenue and developing awareness of AIDS/HIV related issues in the private sector.

Alan Elder, an SPC member, suggests that continual fundraising events provide a way for the community to actively show their support, through a number of different venues. The Committee has expressed their support for the upcoming 'Victoria Cares' event which will take place on July 11 at the Victoria Conference Centre. This evening fundraiser is being organized in conjunction with the Victoria PWA Society, with VARCS providing the administrative services and support for the event. The fundraiser is expected to be an evening of food, fashion and dancing and is being organized by Jaime Crouch of the Victoria PWA Society.

Alan also reports that the Board of AVI has also given the go-ahead for AVI to once again administer the Walk for AIDS which is taking place on September 29 this year.

- Michelle Purdon

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL Sunday, May 26 AT 7:00PM Courtyard of The Public Library

EDUCATION UPDATES...

Building on the success of the Latex Café Theatre Project, the Men's Outreach Project (MOP) is pleased to announce the hiring of Robb Stewart as Gay Community Outreach worker. Robb worked for AVI last summer as an assistant to JoAnn Reid and Erik Ages. A long time activist in Victoria, Robb will bring his considerable energy and enthusiasm to this work.

The Resource Centre will undergo a considerable overhaul over the new few months. The best news is that it will have its own space which will, hopefully, provide users with a calmer atmosphere in which to read or do research. We also plan to institute a new cataloguing system for books, a new borrowers and user system, and the whole system will be on a computer database that is friendly and accessible. AVI will be renewing and expanding its book holdings over the next six months. Many of the books are outdated and newer materials will be purchased. As well, we will be expanding the focus of the Centre. New material will focus on health promotion and harm reduction.

The entire education team - Peter, Echo, Stephen and Robb - will be going to Vancouver for a series of meetings during the last week of April. We will be meeting with a variety of people at AIDS Vancouver. There is a great deal to be learned from AV as Education Services renews and expands its programming. In particular, we will meet representatives of the Man to Man Project, the PARC Library, and the Training Institute.

A reminder that Helpline/Reception volunteer meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month at 5 pm. Please bring your thoughts, experiences and appetites to these meetings! Next meeting is May 29. See you there.

Editorial note: Thank you in advance for your patience, understanding and support. This is my first official newsletter and has been full of surprises. Next month's UPDATE promises to be better and hopefully with a graphic or two.

- Stacy Leblanc

FROM THE CHAIR

PLANNING FOR THE 21st CENTURY

The last three years have been a major transition for AVI. We have spent a great deal of time and energy looking at the needs of our clients and members, trying out new ways of being more responsive, and considering where to go for the future. This process is now in its final stages.

In the Fall of 1992, Network 92 - Vancouver Island AIDS Conference first identified strategic planning as a needed priority for AVI. By the Summer of 1993, we had conducted surveys of our volunteer services and the newsletter. A Board-staff retreat directed a significant amount of energy towards review and planning. With funding from the Federal Government, the process was officially launched. 1994 saw us engaged in hearing from the PWA Caucus and our stakeholders, initiating an in depth review of our policies and procedures, and actively participating in the creation of a more cooperative relationship with other Victoria ASOs. The following year, we began to focus on our role up island and, with the help of new Provincial funding, were able to open an office in Nanaimo.

Since the beginning of 1996, we have been consolidating what we have learned. We are now unionized. Our Board and management structures have been revised. By this Summer, we will have a strategic planning document to help guide us into the next century.

The process over these years has been exciting. Community stakeholders, clients, members, staff and Board have contributed enormously. Of course, it has not always been pleasant. Like most change, there has been frustration, anger, exhaustion, misunderstanding, confusion and threat. Yet this has all been necessary in order to respond effectively to our clients and members.

We are delighted to be emerging with clearer direction for our relationships with other ASOs, our programs and services, and our organizational and administrative structures.

- Bryan Teixeira

*With a heavy heart I write to you dear friend.
Through you, I have begun to live again.
Through you I can allow myself to feel again.
Through you I can allow myself to love again.
Through you I can be strong without closing off.
Through you, I can deal with what life has to hand me.
Yet, when you need me most dear friend,
I feel I am letting you down.
I cannot take away your pain and fears as you have mine.
I cannot take away your feelings of loneliness and
isolation as you have done with mine.
I wish to God I could take all of these
and more away for you.
I write this with a heavy heart my friend
for I feel powerless to help you as you have helped me.*

AIDS Candlelight Vigil



Sunday, May 26 7:00pm
Courtyard of the Public Library
(940 Blanshard Street)

DIRECTORY

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

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

**ADMINISTRATION
EDUCATION
SPECIAL EVENTS
SUPPORT SERVICES
VOLUNTEERS**
Tel: 384-2366
Fax: 380-9411

**STREET OUTREACH
(609 Johnson St)**
Tel: 384-1345

**ISLAND OUTREACH
(Nanaimo)**
Tel: 753-2437
Fax: 753-4595

**ISLAND OUTREACH
(Courtenay)**
Tel: 335-1171
Fax: 335-1178

**ISLAND OUTREACH
(Cowichan Valley)**
Tel: 746-0808
Fax: 746-8666

LOCATION OF EVENTS

Events, unless indicated otherwise, occur
at AVI's main office
304 - 733 Johnson Street.



AIDS Vancouver Island

MAY 1996

S/S	M	T	W	T	F
			1	2	3
4 5	6	7	8	9	10
		HIV+ Women's Support Group 5 pm			
11 12	13 Support Services Volunteer Mtg. 5:30 pm Board Meeting 6:30 pm	14 Support Services Committee Mtg. 5:30 pm	15	16	17
18 19	20 HOLIDAY VICTORIA DAY	21 HIV+ Women's Support Group 5 pm	22 Volunteer Core Training Begins 6:30 - 9:30 PM	23	24
25 Volunteer Training 9:00 - 5:00 26 Volunteer Training 9:00 - 5:00 CANDLELIGHT VIGIL - 7:00pm Library Courtyard	27 PWA DINNER & Movie Night 5:15 pm	28	29 Volunteer Training 6:30 - 9:30 PM	30	31

THE UPDATE

May 1996

THIS IS *YOUR* NEWSLETTER.....WHAT INFORMATION WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ?

Update Content

Please take a few moments to let us know what The Update means to you.

1. How often would you like The Update published? _____

2. Are there topics you would like to see covered that are not currently being dealt with? Yes ☐ No ☐

If so please list:

3. Would you like to see more photos used? Yes ☐ No ☐

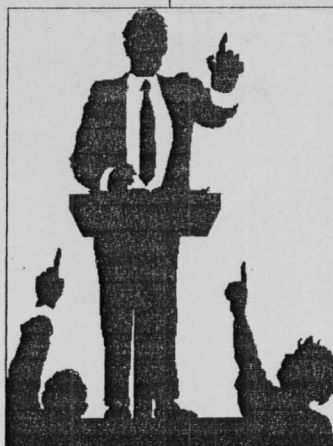
4. Would you like to see an Editorial Page? Yes ☐ No ☐

5. If we had a Speakers Corner/Letters to the Editor, would you use it? Yes ☐ No ☐

6. Would you like to see a Book Review Column?
Yes ☐ No ☐

7. Would you like to see the Personals/Classifieds section enhanced? Yes ☐ No ☐

8. Do you have access to the internet? Yes ☐ No ☐



This is Your opportunity to speak.

9. Additional Comments:

Please complete the following, (OPTIONAL)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

*Mail/fax/deliver your questionnaire to AIDS
Vancouver Island, #304 -733 Johnson Street Victoria
Tel: 384-2366 Fax: 380-9411*

Thanks, from your newsletter committee.