

Reference Material  
**NOT FOR LOAN**  
AVI Resource Centre

volunteer

# UPDATE newsletter



DANIEL COLLINS PHOTO

## EDUCATION

In the last issue of the Update you received a postcard from AIDS Action Now! This card was raising money to purchase an ad in the Globe and Mail imploring Prime Minister Chretien to renew the National AIDS Strategy (NAS).

The NAS has been a critical source of funding for AIDS education and prevention, research and care during the past five years. This current phase of the NAS, Phase II, is scheduled to end at the end of March 1998. So far, the federal government plan is to 'sunset' this strategy, in short abandoning its commitment to community-based AIDS work.

The NAS has, over the years, funded many different components of AIDS work. At AVI, for example, we receive four different 'envelopes' of funding through the NAS. We receive funding for the Men's Outreach Project; Strategic Planning; and General Operations through the AIDS Community Action Program (ACAP). The 'Men Who Have Sex With Men' research project (now known as the MARS Project; see elsewhere in this issue) is funded through the National Health and Research Development Program (NHRDP). Both the NHRDP and ACAP are funded through the NAS. Clearly, the withdrawal of this funding would have an enormous impact here at AVI. In the Pacific region AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) receive approximately 31% of their total budget from the NAS. In other parts of Canada this figure dramatically increases. For instance in Atlantic Canada many of the AIDS organizations there rely on funding from the NAS for at least 75% of their budgets. The end of the NAS would mean that many ASOs in the Maritimes would be forced to close.

The impact of cancelling this source of income would be devastating for many people living with HIV/AIDS.

In collaboration with other member groups of the Canadian AIDS Society, a national umbrella organization for ASOs, AIDS Vancouver Island will be participating in events to secure a commitment to renew the NAS. AVI will be writing each of the MP's on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands requesting an urgent meeting to discuss the impact of not renewing this program. The ASO's in the Pacific region have made a commitment that every MP in this area will be contacted and strongly urged to support the National AIDS Strategy. We will also be participating in a March during the XI International AIDS Conference to protest Canada's lack of commitment to HIV/AIDS.

We will be keeping you informed of our work to secure a National AIDS Strategy Phase III and invite you to join us in this fight over the next few months. However, one of the most important things you can do to assist us in this work is to write a letter to your local MP telling them why the National AIDS Strategy is important for you and others in your constituency. We have included a list of all of local MPs in the enclosed insert for your convenience.



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

## IMPORTANT

**The AVI 1996 Annual General Meeting will be held Saturday, October 19, 1996.** More information regarding the AGM will follow in future issues of the UPDATE.





# UQUET

volunteers and the participation of 1100 walkers on October 1, 1995. Since January 1996, Norman joined the AVI Fund Development Committee that meets twice a month and is chaired by Alan Elder.

Recently, Norman served as Volunteer Coordinator for the annual fundraiser, Artists For AIDS. He is also Volunteer Coordinator for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Victoria Walks for AIDS being held September 29, 1996. Norman expects an even greater success this autumn. Based on the gratifying community response last year, it is anticipated that this year's event will involve more participants, volunteers and walkers.

Norman's night work at the Sally Café allows him to do daytime volunteering. Consequently, he is often in the AVI office most weekday mornings. Many of us volunteers have benefited from our association with AVI where we have learned new office techniques and upgraded our communication skills. While Norman spent one quarter of the time promoting the Artists For AIDS fundraiser, he spent the balance of the time learning the record keeping Access for Windows (a data base program) from

Coordinator, Communications & Fund Development, Erik Ages, to whom he is immensely grateful.

Norman Brulotte's other interests include bicycling, gardening, and travelling. He takes extensive travels involving varied destinations, every five years for 3-4 months. In 1979, he travelled throughout Europe. In 1984, while Norman was a high school teacher in Edmonton, teaching social studies and history, he spent 10 weeks studying Mandarin in China. He travelled to Taiwan in 1996, and New Zealand in 1993. He is also an avid reader.

Norman is an active member with Prime Timers Victoria. He was their principle caterer for the food concession at the Queen Victoria Cup Softball Tournament that was held in Topaz Park during the Victoria Day weekend, May 20 and 21, 1995.

Norman was the recent recipient of the Special Recognition Award for Fund Raising at this year's Volunteer Recognition Night. With his dedicated commitment, especially to AIDS Vancouver Island's fundraising, Norman Brulotte is recognized and appreciated as a cherished asset with its positive, ever-growing network of volunteers.

- John Hodder

The Nanaimo HIV/AIDS Education Project, co-sponsored by AVI and the Central Vancouver Island Health Unit, continues in Nanaimo with education to community agencies including HIV/AIDS policy development as the focus of this phase of the project. The project is also providing outreach to youth at risk and gay/lesbian/bisexual youth. A support group for gay/lesbian youth has been established. For information on the project, contact Mana at 753-2437.

A new Support Worker has been hired for the Nanaimo office, Denise Andersen. Denise comes to us from Alberta where she was involved in rural HIV/AIDS education and support work. Her addition to the staff will help us provide greater advocacy and support to people living with HIV/AIDS in Nanaimo. Welcome, Denise!

On the subject of support, we are looking at introducing a PWA dinner night in Nanaimo as well as an educational series for PWAs. Stay tuned! We're looking for input from PWAs in the area, so if you've got ideas about things you'd like to see happening in Nanaimo, please let us know by calling Shari at 753-2437.

We're also continuing with our preparation for the Canadian Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt display for Nanaimo next year. We need lots of volunteer support if this is going to be a success! We need people with organizational skills, individuals with experience in promotion, bookkeeping, working with volunteers, quilters, as well as many general tasks and assistance at the time of the display. We will also be working with people in communities across the Island to make quilts in their community to bring to the display in Nanaimo. If you are interested in being involved, would like to work on a quilt in your community, or just want more information, please call Shari at 753-2437 or 335-1171.

# ES

feeding approximately fifty of us with your gracious styles.

3. To all the PWAs we work with who have extended to us much patience as we tried to "creatively" manoeuvre our work through the renovation period.

Congratulations to Bruce Sproul, Support Services Volunteer of the Year, and to Janice Hepburn who took home the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Our next Support Services volunteer meeting will be on Monday July 15, 5:30pm. The next PWA Dinner is on Monday July 22nd at 5:15.

# ISLAND NEWS

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual AIDS Benefit at the Queen's Hotel in Nanaimo last month was a great success - raising much needed funds for the Financial Assistance Fund which provides financial support to people living with HIV. At the time we went to press with the UPDATE, we didn't have the figures tallied, but will let you know how big a helping for the FAF it was! Thanks so much to everyone who volunteered their time and to the businesses and artisans who donated the wondrous array of auction goodies. Also, A special thanks to the Queen's hotel for their support.



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# VICTORIA CARES

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A BENEFIT FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

6PM THURSDAY JULY 11TH 1996

VICTORIA CONFERENCE CENTRE AT THE EMPRESS HOTEL

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## THE EVENT

It's the most spectacular Gala Event ever held in Victoria,  
one of Canada's best-loved cities!

## RECEPTION 6PM

Music, wine, hors d'oeuvres & cocktails.

A Silent Auction of fine art and collectables opens for bidding.

Boutiques offering special discounts on fine merchandise, holiday  
and travel packages, household collectables, personal care products,  
fashions and fashion accessories open for guests.

## DINNER 8PM

Served by the Empress Hotel's dining staff,  
Dinner features a selection of West Coast cuisine  
and fine wines from British Columbia's Okanagan Valley.

Accompanied by entertainment, including a multimedia show.

## FASHION EXTRAVAGANZA! 10PM

Produced and choreographed by Jodi James Productions, the  
Extravaganza features a breathtaking line-up of fine couture, includ-  
ing the MAC Viva Glam Couture Collection.

More than 100 models will flood the runway accompanied by  
multimedia effects and digital sound.

The Evening will finish with dancing and cocktails.

## THE CAUSE

AIDS affects us all. Please help us support the growing demand for  
services to people living with AIDS. Proceeds go to three Victoria  
AIDS service organizations that provide support, a food bank, special  
dinners, education, community research, advocacy and outreach to  
Island communities. Together, they're making a difference.

## JOIN US!

Tickets are \$150 (Canadian Dollars) each, and come with a \$75 tax  
receipt (corporate and holiday packages are available by request).



604 38~CARES  
FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION







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# RESEARCH

## INTRODUCING... THE M.A.R.S. PROJECT!

After much deliberation, we have chosen the name *THE M.A.R.S. PROJECT* for our islands-wide study of men who have sex with men (*M.A.R.S.* stands for "Men's Attitudes about Relationships and Sexuality"). We also chose the name MARS because: a) the symbol for men is also the symbol for Mars; b) Mars has generally been associated with men & war (hence the new recent best-seller "Men Are From Mars and Women Are From Venus") since the days of the Roman Empire when Mars was the god of war; and c) we just plain hope that the title will draw attention to the project across the Island and the Gulf Islands!

The project will be launched at this year's Pride Day Festival and the publicity materials for it will feature the art of Victoria-born artist Joe Average. As many of you know, Joe is an internationally-recognized artist whose work was recently chosen by Canada Post for the new AIDS stamp. Joe has very generously donated this bright and beautiful image to us at no cost to AVI. We are truly grateful to Joe for his kindness and we are really fortunate to have such a wonderful image for our project!

## 10 INTERVIEWERS REQUIRED FOR AVI'S RESEARCH PROJECTS

As many of you know, AVI has received funding for two major research projects: the evaluation of our Education Services (including the Speaker's Bureau, the Helpline and the Men's Outreach Project); and *THE M.A.R.S. PROJECT* an island-wide study of Men Who Have Sex With Men.

AVI volunteers are needed to conduct interviews for both projects. The interviews for the evaluation will be quite structured and designed to capture people's feelings about AVI's education efforts. The interviews for *THE M.A.R.S. PROJECT* will be quite unstructured and will be very personal. We will be asking study participants to discuss their

feelings about safer sex and other related issues. If you would like to volunteer to be an interviewer for either project, please contact Stephen Samis, Coordinator, Research Projects at AVI.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AVI EVALUATION PROJECT AT PRIDE DAY

Are you interested in meeting hundreds of people at this year's Pride Day Festival in Victoria? If you are, consider volunteering to help publicize the evaluation survey at Pride Day on July 7 at Fisherman's Wharf Park. Specifically, we require individuals to wander throughout the crowd to ask people if they are interested in filling out an evaluation survey - either on the spot or by taking it home and mailing it in (postage paid) to AVI.

We will hold a short training session to inform all volunteers about the project in advance of Pride Day so they will be able to communicate information about the evaluation to everyone. If you love talking to people and want to enjoy the festive atmosphere of the Festival, please consider helping out with the evaluation project. Please call Stephen Samis, Coordinator, Research Projects at AVI.

## WANTED: 10 TO 12 MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN!

If you are a man and you have sex with other men and would like a *free lunch*, please consider participating in a focus group to be held on either Saturday July 20 or Saturday July 27 at a yet to be determined place in Victoria. We will be meeting for approximately two hours to discuss the issues being explored through *THE M.A.R.S. PROJECT*, AVI's new research project about men who have sex with men.

The purpose of the focus group will be to help to determine the major issues, concerns and questions that will form the basis of our research project. The feedback from this group is very important to the success of the project and so we encourage you to attend. We are interested in hearing from all men who have sex with men including: gay and bisexual

men; men who consider themselves to be straight but who have sex with men; disabled men; men of many colours; young men (youth); older men (elderly); short tall men; in other words we would love to hear from all kinds of men who have sex with men!

If you are interested in participating in this **very confidential but not anonymous** (remember, it's a focus group) workshop, please contact Stephen Samis, Coordinator of Research Projects at AVI as soon as possible.

Finally, if you live outside Greater Victoria and would like to participate in a similar focus group, please contact Stephen through AVI's 1-800 number or write to me at our Victoria address and I will try to hold a group in or near your community.

Thank you for participating!!

## AIDS VIGIL EVALUATION

After more than 10 years, we have decided to carry out an evaluation of the Annual Victoria AIDS Vigil. We need volunteers to help create a questionnaire, to help distribute the questionnaire and to help actually survey some people at a variety of events/venues in Victoria this summer (for example the Victoria (Lesbian/Gay) PRIDE Festival on July 7, 1996; the up-coming Bizarre Bazaar, the 1996 Walk For AIDS, and also in both downtown Victoria and at one of the shopping malls in Victoria.

Since the Vigil Evaluation has no staff and a very small budget, volunteers are urgently required to help make this possible. For more information, and/or to get involved, please contact Stephen Samis, Coordinator, Research Projects at AVI.

Thank you for your help!

