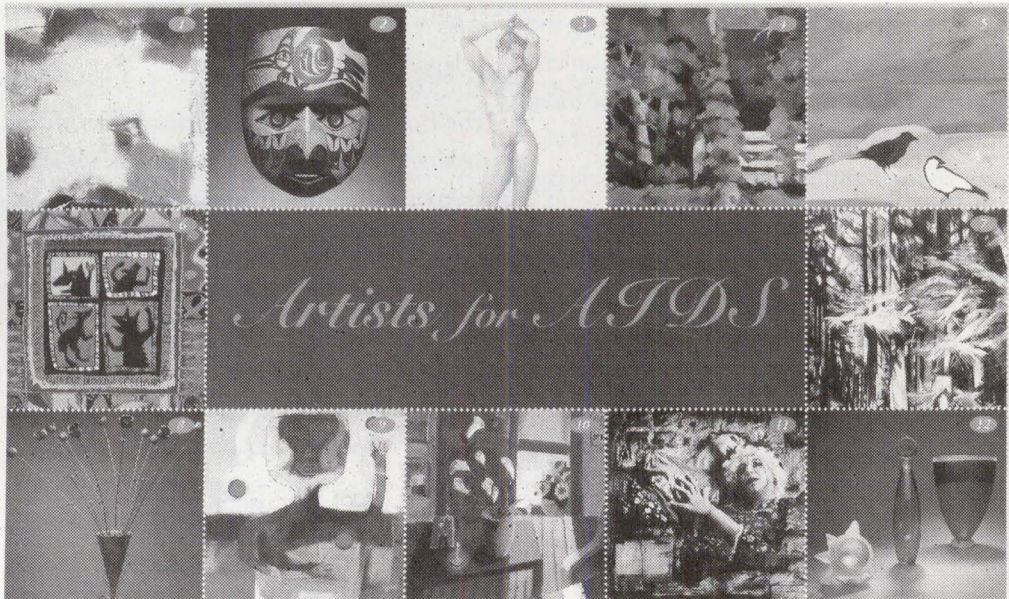




Scenes from the Artists for AIDS Lottery launch party



 **AIDS
Vancouver
Island**

AIDS Vancouver Island

shall confront

outreach
Acquired

Immuno-Deficiency

education
Syndrome,
prevent its spread

through education,

support
support all those
infected and affected

by the disease,

advocacy
and advocate

on their behalf.



PRINTED IN CANADA ON RECYCLED PAPER

COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

This is our annual Year In Review issue. We have printed, in a condensed form, reports from the various departments at AVI as well as a message from the Chair of the Board, Ted Matthews, and a message from the Executive Director, Ruthann Tucker.

But first we must dispense with a little business, the **Artists for AIDS** Lottery.

The **Artists for AIDS** Lottery is well underway. The collection of 12 works of art will be on display until the draw date, February 13, at the Fran Willis North Park Gallery, 200 - 1619 Store Street.

Valued at more than \$15,000 this multi-media collection features the work of Sharlotte Beauchemin, Ken Flett, Carol Frank, Rowland Hill, Grant Leier, Manish Om Prakash, Gary

Pearson, Rick Thomas, Tim Paul, René Sagastume, Phyllis Serota and the artists of the Starfish Glass Gallery - Gary Bolt, Morna Tudor and Lisa Samphire.

AIDS Vancouver Island and its partner agencies Victoria AIDS Respite Care Society and Victoria Persons with AIDS Society are counting on the lottery to raise much needed funds for support services to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Lottery tickets are only \$10.00 each and make a great gift. To order your tickets, call Linda at 385-5062. Tickets are also available at the Body Shop at Eaton Centre, all Starbucks locations, Bolen Books in Hillside Mall, the Fran Willis Gallery, the Sally Cafe and Sally Bun.

- Linda Garnet & Stacy Leblanc

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The past year has been one of profound change for our agency. The principles of partnership, accountability and communication have been applied to our programs and operations in a vigorous and radically new way. Many people, including the Board, management, staff and volunteers, have taken enormous risks in support of these principles. Some of the benefits have been dramatic and immediate, while others will pay dividends for years to come.

Partnerships

AVI has demonstrated real leadership in the area of building partnerships. The Inter-agency Committee took the lead in working with our partner agencies, VARCS and VPWAS, to identify opportunities to work more effectively together, reduce duplication of programs and services, and to share resources in a way that would increase the benefits to the people we serve. The leadership and success of this initiative is best illustrated by the move of the three community based AIDS agencies into a single, shared facility. We made this decision in recognition that "one-stop" service delivery allows the agencies to work more collaboratively, increasing our ability to meet the needs of people, both infected and affected by HIV/AIDS—and we did it on our own, without pressure from funders or government.

The principle of partnership is also being applied in our work with Up-Island AIDS agencies (NIAC, PASTA and MIAS). Once again, we have put real and measurable effort into restructuring our relationship with these agencies so that we can eliminate unwanted duplication and overlap, share resources, and provide enhanced support to all of our partner agencies who deliver AIDS related programs or services.

Accountability

At this time, all organizations in the public sector are being challenged to increase their systems of reporting and accountability. At

AVI, the management, staff and volunteers have worked hard over the past year to enhance accountability systems throughout the organization. Many of our programs and services have been restructured, placing greater emphasis on providing our clients with opportunities that develop individual skills and resources and encourage personal independence.

The Board has moved to make its decision-making process more open and accessible to its membership. Greater involvement in setting agency priorities and budgeting has enabled the Board to become more responsive to the changing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Communications

Increased communication within the agency and throughout our community has been a Board priority. This has been accomplished through the distribution of regular Information Bulletins on topics such as agency budgeting and changes to the Financial Assistance Fund, and initiating a Report from the Board in the monthly volunteer newsletter. The Board has also initiated monthly Information Sessions, providing another opportunity to gather and exchange information and ideas.

Finally, we've shifted the location of the Street Outreach office to ensure convenient service to clients. We've also recruited Board members from across the community and the Island to strengthen our skill base and map out a strategy for skill development among everyone involved with the agency.

I want to acknowledge and sincerely thank the management, staff, volunteers and partners who have helped to make these changes a success. I'd also like to acknowledge the contributions of Charlotte Hughes, Gary Murphy, Ruthann Tucker and my colleagues on the Board of Directors. You have provided the courage, leadership and innovation which have made these changes possible. You are truly inspirational! Thank you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

In British Columbia, people living with HIV/AIDS are living longer. Although deaths as a result of AIDS are on the decline, HIV infections within the population are increasing. The largest risk group of people becoming infected with HIV is now injection drug users, followed by young gay men and, finally, women. The face of HIV/AIDS is changing in our community.

Both in anticipation and response to these changes, AIDS Vancouver Island is continually improving the effectiveness and efficiency of its programs and partnerships. Most recently, we have restructured our client service programs to ensure that the greatest number of people possible can have access to the agency's resources. New financial assistance programs now offer people living with HIV/AIDS emergency funds, bus passes, and start-up money to access BC Persons With AIDS Society's *Complementary Health Fund*.

AIDS Vancouver Island has also made a public commitment to identify and address areas of service duplication with our partner agencies in Victoria—the Victoria Persons With AIDS Society and Victoria AIDS Respite Care Society—and "up-island" with the North Island AIDS Coalition, Mid-Island AIDS Society and the Port Alberni Support Team for HIV/AIDS.

One area, in particular, has been restructured to enhance the role of volunteers within the three Victoria-based agencies. The position of Coordinator, Volunteer Services now coordinates the work of all three agencies. Utilizing resources from all three groups, we have been able to reduce duplication in training. Volunteers now have a broader range of opportunities through this integrated approach.

In July of this year, the Victoria Persons With AIDS Society and the Victoria AIDS Respite Care Society joined AVI by moving into a single shared facility known as the Victoria

Victoria HIV/AIDS Centre

January In-services

Open to all volunteers of the Victoria HIV/AIDS Centre.

In-services are an ongoing process to educate volunteers in the various aspects of work with people with HIV. We encourage volunteers to attend as many in-services as possible, and especially those which impact directly on their work in the community.

Please call Michael Yoder @ 384 - 2366 ext. 322 to register your space at the in-service.



Monday, January 12

Women & HIV.

- *Information about the issues faced by women with HIV. A panel of positive women will discuss their experiences.*

7:00pm - 9:00pm
Training Room



Monday, January 19

Victoria Street Community Association (VSCA).

- *Issues for street-involved HIV+ people, dis-spelling myths about street-involved. VSCA Programs and Services.*

7:00pm - 9:00pm
Training Room



Monday, January 26

Prostitutes' Empowerment Education and Recovery Society (PEERS).

- *Issues for prostitutes with HIV, dis-spelling myths about prostitutes. PEERS Programs and Services.*

7:00pm - 9:00pm
Training Room

Victoria HIV/AIDS Centre Winter Workshops

February/March 1998

Open to all staff, volunteers and members of the Three ASOs. Some workshops require a fee to cover costs. Register with Michael Yoder (ext. 322) or Theresa Aspol (ext. 312)

@ 384 - 2366. Deadline for February sessions is January 20.

Deadline for March sessions is February 20.

Meditation Techniques (limit 10 participants)

- Inter-faith forms of meditation and how they may work for you.

Instructors: to be announced.

Tuesday Evenings: February 3, 10, 17, 24

Introduction to Astrology (limit 15 participants)

- Gain an understanding of the basics in astrology - where it began, meanings and traits of the signs, how it all works, and more!

Instructor: Carmen Leveille

Thursday evenings: February 5, 12, 19, 26

Visual Art (limit 8 participants) COST: \$10.00 per person for supplies.

- Gain basic skills in art including perspective, color, form, collage, etc. You don't need a lot of experience in art to join this group - just the desire to create and explore.

Instructors: Betsy & Diane Whalen

Tuesday evenings: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Writer's Workshop (limit 10 participants)

- Gain skills, explore techniques and write! You don't have to be a great writer to join this group - just bring an interest and enthusiasm.

Instructors/Facilitators: Don Vipond & Michael Yoder

Monday evenings: March 9, 16, 23, 30

Food Safe (limit 12 participants) COST: \$10.00 for testing and certificate (if successful)

Certificate program in food safety. Suggested for all carepartners and anyone working with food.

Instructors and dates in March: to be announced

WIN-WIN!



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Linda or Stacy @ 384-2366

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Artists for AIDS Lottery 1998

Tickets Available At:

Bolen Books, Fran Willis Gallery, Starbucks Coffee, The Body Shop, Silk Road Tea Co. & Starfish Gallery or Telephone AIDS Vancouver Island

385-5062

\$10.00 per ticket

View the collection at the Fran Willis Gallery



AIDS Vancouver Island

JANUARY 1998

DIRECTORY

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

**TOLL-FREE HELPLINE
1-800-665-2437**

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

**STREET OUTREACH
1220 Commercial Alley
Tel: 384-1345**

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

**AVI WEBSITE
<http://www.avi.org>
E-Mail: info@avi.org**

M	T	W	T	F	S/S
			1	2	3 4
5	6 Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	7 Resource Centre Open - 6-8pm Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre	8 Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	9	10 11
12 Women & AIDS In-service 7-9pm Training Room	13 AVI Board meeting 6:00pm at The Centre	14 Resource Centre Open - 6-8pm Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre	15 Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	16	17 18
19 Victoria Street Community Assoc. In-service 7-9pm Training Room	20 Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	21 AIDS 101 6-8pm Training Rm. (call Jim Wilton) Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre	22 Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	23	24 25 Victoria Health Show @ the Conference Centre
26 Prostitute Empowerment Education & Recovery Society - PEERS In-service 7-9pm Training Room	27 Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	28 Resource Centre Open - 6-8pm Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre	29 Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	30	31

LOCATION OF EVENTS

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

HIV/AIDS Centre (VHAC), located at 304-733 Johnson Street. In just over six weeks, we were able to allocate space, choose the name and move in together. By sharing one facility, "one stop" access for the communities we serve and the general public is now a reality.

The move to a shared space has allowed us to expand the agency's advocacy role. AIDS Vancouver Island has been an active player in advocating for the renewal of the National AIDS Strategy (NAS), which funds many ASOs across Canada as well as important targeted projects like AVI's Men's Outreach Project. Our combined efforts with the Canadian AIDS Society and other local groups have resulted in an additional five years of funding for Phase III of the Strategy.

AIDS Vancouver Island also plays a lead role with the province through its participation in the Pacific AIDS Network, a coalition of community groups and agencies providing HIV/AIDS programs. The Pacific AIDS Network is working to establish a communications network throughout BC and the Yukon to link more than 60 member groups to facilitate our work. As the Society of Record for the Pacific AIDS Network, AVI is a key player in coordinating efforts to secure a Provincial HIV/AIDS Strategy.

Nationally, provincially and locally, AIDS Vancouver Island is working to ensure the continuation of programs and services which enable people with HIV/AIDS to live as independently as possible within the community; to have access to information, allowing people to make informed choices about safer sex and safer injection practices; and finally, to advocate for income security and affordable housing for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Last year, I stated that following a year of *strengthening the foundations*, 1996/97 would be a year of *focusing to meet the need*. I would like to thank Board members, staff and volunteers whose combined efforts over the past year have

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

EDUCATION SERVICES

April 1996 through March of 1997 was a year of significant change and growth for AIDS Vancouver Island's education department. The overall department budget almost doubled and staffing tripled in comparison to the previous fiscal year, allowing us to provide targeted prevention education to "at risk" populations.

Speakers' Bureau

Volunteers and staff presented 127 'speakers' and 14 displays to 4023 people. It remains one of AVI's most visible vehicles for the provision of direct HIV/AIDS education.

Gay Community Outreach (Men's Outreach Project)

The men's outreach project is a vital component of education services. It is designed for gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men, both HIV- and HIV+.

The goal of the project is to prevent new HIV infections by empowering men to make informed choices about their own sexual health.

Research

AIDS Vancouver Island is home to two important research projects: the evaluation of Education Services and the Determinants of HIV-Related Risk Behaviour—known as the *MARS* project. Both of these projects will help AVI's education services improve their ability to help prevent the spread of HIV and meet community HIV/AIDS educational needs.

Information Services (resource centre/helpline)

The resource library expanded and went 'on-line' during 1996/97. We now have a comprehensive and accessible collection of current educational materials concerning HIV/AIDS and related issues. Helpline volunteers responded to 2837 calls in 1996/97.

CLIENT SERVICES

At the end of 1996, AVI took a critical look at its financial assistance fund. The result is a more focused and ultimately effective client services department. By the end of the fiscal year, AVI was ready to offer skilled advocacy, professional short term counseling, a volunteer driven lunch program, and three sustainable financial assistance funds: the emergency assistance fund, the complementary health start-up fund and the bus pass fund.

STREET OUTREACH SERVICES

The largest increases in new HIV seroconversions in BC are occurring within the injection drug-using community and those populations most marginalized in our society. The goal of AVI's street outreach services (SOS) is to reduce the spread of HIV and other related diseases among street-involved people, particularly among injection drug users, sex trade workers and prisoners. SOS also provides safe disposal of used syringes for users, as well as training and pick-up of discarded syringes within the broader community.

Victoria

In July 1996, street outreach services moved to its new location in Commercial Alley. At the end of the fiscal year, SOS had 2751 registered clients. 1445 of these clients had accessed the exchange during the year for a total of 16,163 client contacts. 154,295 rigs came in, while 146,570 rigs were distributed, for an exchange rate of 105.3%.

Cowichan Valley

The Cowichan Valley needle exchange in Duncan is a mobile service operating two evenings every week. The Cowichan Valley exchange had 33 registered clients in 1996. 20,354 rigs came in while 19,538 rigs were distributed.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS (continued)

REGIONAL & REMOTE SERVICES

The Nanaimo office celebrated its first anniversary on World AIDS Day, December 1996. The office has become a vibrant centre of prevention and support work. The volunteers and staff fielded 2694 phone calls and talked with almost 1000 drop-in visitors. AVI has also made strides toward increased collaboration with other Vancouver Island AIDS organizations: Mid Island AIDS Society (MIAS), North Island AIDS Coalition (NIAC) and Port Alberni Support Team Association (PASTA).

Education

During 1996/97, volunteers and staff gave 63 presentations in the Nanaimo area and another 14 presentations in other parts of central and north Vancouver Island.

Client Services

At the end of the fiscal year, AVI Nanaimo had a case load of 51: 39 in the Nanaimo area and another 12 people in other regions of the central and north Island. One third of the people accessing support services out of the Nanaimo office are women. This large proportion of women indicates the success of the Nanaimo office in making the office accessible to women.

Community/Fund Development

AVI's regional and remote services department is enjoying growing support in the local community. 1996 saw Nanaimo's first AIDS walk. Just under 200 people raised \$10,000 to be shared between AVI and the BC Centre for Excellence.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Now in its third year of operation, the Resource Development and Communications department remains committed to collaborative public relations and fundraising, and much of the department's accomplishments were shared between Victoria's three AIDS service organizations and the agency's Nanaimo programs.

The knowledge and experience gained from joint projects is becoming increasingly valuable, and our systems for tracking donors and potential supporters remain affordable and more responsive than ever. Careful planning has also enabled the costs of public awareness and fundraising—and of special events in general—to steadily decrease. In addition, AIDS Vancouver Island's representation on the National AIDS Walk advisory committee has enabled strong input into the development of an emerging national project that will leverage future corporate sponsors, greater Canada-wide public awareness and further reductions in the costs of our AIDS Walks, the agency's signature event.

The success of Nanaimo's first AIDS Walk on September 29, 1996, held in conjunction with Victoria's Walk, was the first in a series of agency and community-driven initiatives that are generating increasing support from the Nanaimo community for AIDS awareness and support.

More than ever, cooperative effort and support from wider circles of the general community will be necessary to sustain and augment services for HIV/AIDS prevention and support programs.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The past year has been another transitional year for AIDS Vancouver Island, incorporating a greater level of funding initiated by the Province in the summer of 1995 into the Society's physical plant and a full year of programs.

As the Society's budget grows, the management of its expenditures requires more sophisticated controls and reporting systems. This year, the Executive Director, accountant and myself, as Treasurer, have worked to develop reports which provide information in a more accessible and therefore effective format to permit timely adjustments to program and administrative expenditures. I would like to acknowledge and thank Ruthann Tucker and DJ Bridgewood for their work in developing reports which are so readily understandable, and useful, to the Board.

All of the Auditors' recommendations from 1996 have been implemented, and work continues to improve the Society's systems to ensure the highest level of accountability for the money which is entrusted to AVI by our government funders and the public to accomplish the Society's goals

EDITORIAL NOTE

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to the membership for the lapse and lateness of the past couple of UPDATES. I will endeavor to get things back on track and get the newsletter to all of you at the start of each month. We should be back to normal by the February issue. Your understanding and patience is appreciated.

-Stacy Leblanc

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 to AVI #304-733 Johnson Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 3C7, or via EMAIL at update@avi.org. 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.

Ruthann Tucker (Editor in Chief) c/o ratucker@avi.org Stacy P. Leblanc (Managing Editor) c/o sleblanc@avi.org

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