

BOARD REPORT

This month's report from the Board provides information on:

- Advocacy initiatives, and the Provincial AIDS Strategy
- Communications, and
- Financial issues facing the agency

Advocacy

The provincial government has initiated a process for developing a comprehensive Provincial AIDS Strategy. This is a critical document to "get right" as it will help to guide the regional health authorities who will soon be responsible for managing how local health dollars will be spent. This includes how provincial AIDS money will be allocated. The strategy includes input from approximately 17 representatives of AIDS involved agencies, from across the province. (Ted Matthews, Chair of AVI is one of these reps).

The strategy should be drafted by March. In the meantime, AVI's management and Board are setting a schedule to develop an AIDS Strategy for the CRD region. This local plan will incorporate the principles and goals set out in the Provincial document. This local Strategy will enable AIDS serving agencies to better inform local decision makers of the issues and commitments surrounding AIDS, before they make funding decisions. For example, it will clearly describe the very real explosion of HIV/AIDS within the injection drug using population. It is critical to this agency that needle exchange initiatives are adequately funded, and able to respond effectively to the massive increase in HIV within this group. Similarly, the Strategy will address the emerging issues of increasing HIV infection in young gay men, the aboriginal community and men who have sex with men.

Communications

AVI is a million dollar agency; has over 30 full and part time staff; dozens of active volunteers; and shares space and works in partnership with VPWAS and VARCS. We are an agency that has undergone great change over the past year as the principles of partnership, accountability and communication have been vigorously pursued. Our new staff bring whacks of great ideas, energy and enthusiasm to their jobs, while our longer-term staff continue to offer experience and knowledge of the people we are here to serve. For me, this change is great! It is positive, has produced terrific results and reflects the true reality and diversity of our communities.

It also means there will inevitably be differences of opinion as the agency moves in new directions and makes decisions that not everyone supports. It also means the "rumour mill" is regularly cranked up, and stories circulate both within and outside of the Centre. This is only natural, as we all probably enjoy a bit of gossip more than we want to admit. But for those who are truly interested or concerned with the "stories" they hear, I really encourage you to pick up the telephone or drop in and speak to Ruthann, Karen or me (or another member of the Board). All of us are committed to providing you with answers to the questions you have. Our phone numbers are listed at the front desk of the Centre (384-2366). In addition, Ruthann and Karen are available at the Centre most days, or simply by making an appointment to chat with them.

(Board Report continued on next page)



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.



BOARD REPORT *continued*

Financial Issues

We are currently completing funding proposals for Federal (ACAP) and Provincial resources. It is not a surprise to anyone that both levels of government are interested in finding ways of re-allocating funds, and containing costs (i.e.: no increases). This can be incredibly frustrating for front line service workers and agencies such as AVI who witness the incredible growth in people accessing our services-while continuing to try to "do more with less".

AVI may experience some reduction in grants from the senior levels of government. This underlies the need for agencies such as AVI to continue to develop really solid partnerships with other agencies and to remain focused on accountability so that the money we do spend, goes to those who need it most.

It also means that we are going to have to continue to find ways of ensuring that we are delivering the programs and services people want, in the most efficient way possible.

All members and supporters are welcome to get involved in the work at AVI and the Centre. There is a great feeling as you wander through the Centre these days, and I encourage everyone to get involved, bring their ideas, hear others, and to help all of us develop options and solutions to the challenges we face. That is sort of why we are here isn't it?!

- Ted Matthews, Chair Board of Directors

NEW HOURS AT THE CENTRE

Effective Monday, February 2, 1998 the office hours for the Victoria HIV/AIDS Centre will be:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00pm and Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 8:00pm.

Wednesday evenings will be open for the Peer Drop-in, the Resource Centre and AVI Client Services. A reception volunteer will also be here to answer the phone and direct people around the Centre.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

EDUCATION SERVICES

Education Services is looking for volunteers who are internet-savvy for conducting regular searches for new information regarding HIV and related subjects. This work can be done either at home or at the VHAC. Volunteers are also needed to help maintain the AVI website, and should have some knowledge/experience with web-page design and maintenance. Those interested are asked to call Theresa for more information.

- Al Zwiers

Speakers' Bureau & Resource Centre

January was a busy month in this end of the dept. The new year started with a bang in the Speakers' Bureau with Speaks ranging as far as Lake Cowichan and Saltspring Island. The Education Worker took part in a skills building workshop for 50 parents at Cedar View Jr. Secondary. The goal for the evening was for parents to build skills for talking to their kids about STD and pregnancy prevention. The Education Committee is working on a mandate and acquisition policy for the Resource Centre. This will be very useful as several new volunteers took part in a Saturday Resource Centre Training workshop and are eager to act on the new and refreshed focus of the Resource Centre and put the new acquisition policy to work with this year's purchases. Several of the Education Volunteers staffed our usual table at the Victoria Health Show. It was a great success.

- Jim Wilton.

Men's Outreach Project

Also from the Education front this month is the Men's Outreach Project community forum for gay and bisexual men. The forum will take place in Victoria on February 12 at 7:00pm at the Open Space Gallery and February 11 at 7:00pm at Flo's Diner in Nanaimo. The topic for this forum is **The Body Beautiful, A forum on Body Image...For Gay & Bi Guys of all Shapes, Colours and Sizes.**

REGIONAL & REMOTE SERVICES

In early January a workshop was held to plan events and activities for 1998. Twenty-five volunteers and PWAs attended and gave input into charting the year's course. Our calendar is now full with fun and exciting events; the first is a cards and games evening!

We've also managed to book some important learning opportunities. By the time you receive this newsletter we will have had undertaken our first Treatment Decision Making Skills Workshop. In February a nutritionist is presenting information to HIV+ Support Group members.

Support Group meetings usually fall on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Contact Carolyn Pickett for a calendar of Support Group meetings and special outings. Our Art Therapist, Carolyn Whitney, who recently gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, is resuming sessions in February. Congratulations to our new baby, Carolyn! We would also like to extend our congratulations to Carolann Stoll who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl as well.

Volunteers, Ruth and Joanne, are our new Volunteer Coordinators. Both are doing great work and deserve high praise! Contact them for a calendar of outings, educational workshops and volunteer opportunities.

Kudos to volunteers, Jacquie and Paul, who are the editor and publisher of our first newsletter, as yet unnamed. There is a contest with a fabulous prize for naming our newsletter. Contact Jacquie or Paul with your entry: good luck! Jacquie and Paul are also accepting submissions for print.

There is a lot happening in the office. Thanks to all those who participated in the planning meeting and thanks to everyone helping to create dynamic and effective Regional and Remote Services. Hours are as usual: 9-5, Monday to Thursday. We can also be reached by phone at 753-2437.

- Guy Tohana



AIDS Vancouver Island

FEBRUARY 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 <i>Eating Disorder Awareness Week Call</i> Workshop - Meditation Techniques Education Committee Mtg Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	4 Resource Centre Open - 6-8pm Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre	5 <i>1-800-665-1822 for info</i> Workshop - Intro to Astrology Staying Negative Support Group 7pm Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	6	7 8
9	10 AVI Board meeting 6:00pm at The Centre Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	11 The Body Beautiful MOP Community Forum Nanaimo @ Flo's Diner 7pm Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre	12 The Body Beautiful MOP Community Forum Victoria @ Open Space Gallery 7pm Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	13 Artist For AIDS Lottery Draw & Reception 7pm at the Fran Willis Gallery	14 15 
16	17 Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	18 AIDS 101 6-8pm Training Rm. (call Jim Wilton) Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre	19 Staying Negative Support Group 7pm Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	20	21 22 VHAC Volunteer Chocolate Potluck 7-9pm
23 PWA Dinner at the Centre 5:30pm	24 Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	25 Resource Centre Open - 6-8pm Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre	26 Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	27	28

LOCATION OF EVENTS

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



*Not sure what to get your
special Valentine?
Give the Gift of Art*

*Artists for
AIDS
Lottery 1998*

*Purchase an Artists For AIDS Lottery ticket for
your Valentine at the following locations:*

*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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS *continued*

CLIENT SERVICES

More changes in support services

It seems that just when we begin to get comfortable with how things are, they change again! **Echo Haelstromme** is leaving her position as a Client Services Worker at the Centre and moving back to her old position at Street Outreach Services. We will be hiring another Client Services Worker for the Centre just as soon as that is possible. Unfortunately, hiring always takes longer than we need it to. But let me assure you that Client Services remains an essential part of the Centre and will continue. Echo will be greatly missed at the Centre. Please join me in wishing her good luck in all her future endeavours.

Evening hours at the Centre

We are changing our hours in order to create a time for people who have jobs during the day to come to the Centre. Beginning February 2 the Centre will be open from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays our hours will be 9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. The resource library will continue to be open on Wednesday evenings. The peer support drop-in will also continue on Wednesdays and an AVI Client Services staff will be available by appointment. The office will be open with a volunteer receptionist on duty.

- Karen Whyte

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Thanks to the many of you who responded to our information letter of December 4, letting us know your status as a volunteer. All feedback was appreciated. If you have not yet responded, please send back the information form or give me a call as I will be updating the volunteer database based on people's responses.

Michael Yoder (Volunteer Education Manager) has organized a number of workshops and inservices which address a wide range of topics. Please let us know any that you would like to

be involved in so we can save you a space. Michael will be arranging workshops in the future and he is happy to hear your ideas.

Volunteer recognition week (April 19 - 25) is fast approaching. A group of volunteers met on January 16th to brainstorm a list of recognition ideas that could happen in April. If you have ideas or comments you would like to discuss, please give me a call. Volunteer Services will be planning more recognition events more often to give volunteers and staff a chance to get to know each other. The volunteer group will be generating a survey of recognition ideas and asking volunteers to rank those which they like best.

Also - Saturday, February 21 from 7 - 9:00pm we'll be holding a Victoria HIV/AIDS Centre Chocolate Party for Staff and Volunteers of AVI, VARCS and VPWAS at the Centre. This will be a potluck affair, and family are always welcome! We'll provide coffee, tea and juice (and maybe even goodie bags).

Many thanks to all of you who have made our first months so welcoming

- Theresa Aspol and Michael Yoder

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Last issue we wrote about the department's last year in review. This month planning has begun for our 1998/9 work. Each year the work of this department becomes even more critical as the demand for our services continues to increase, and the level of government funding continues to decrease. This year we will be reviewing our current portfolio of special events and seeking our new and diverse sources of funding. One of the administrative challenges this department is facing is the need to streamline the process of charitable receipting. What has been a manual process in the past, has now been automated which

should ensure that receipts are sent to our donors in a timely manner. We thank you for your patience while we worked out this important process.

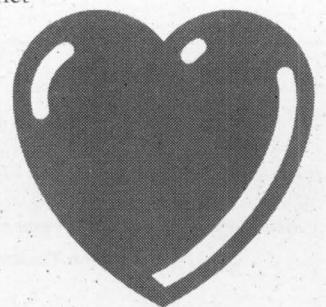
Artists for AIDS Lottery Time is running out!

Tickets are still available for the 1998 Artist for AIDS fundraising lottery. The Artists for AIDS fundraising lottery comes to a close Friday February 13 with a closing reception at Fran Willis Gallery, 1619 Store Street. Everyone is encouraged to join us at this event which will begin at 7 pm. Draws for all the lottery pieces will be at 8 pm.

Purchasing a lottery ticket is a great way to support the services for people with HIV/AIDS that are delivered by the three agencies of the Victoria HIV/AIDS Centre - AIDS Vancouver Island, the Victoria AIDS Respite Care Society and the Victoria Persons with AIDS Society. Each \$10.00 ticket entitles you to enter into the draw for one of the 12 diverse pieces of artwork that make up this year's collection.

Valued at more than \$15,000 this multi-media collection features the work of Charlotte Beauchemin, Ken Flett, Carol Frank, Rowland Hill, Grant Leier, Manish Om Prakash, Gary Pearson, Rick Thomas, Tim Paul, Rene Sagastume, Phyllis Serota and the artists of the Starfish Glass Gallery - Gary Bolt, Morna Tudor and Lisa Samphire. The collection will be exhibited at the Fran Willis Gallery until the lottery draw date, February 13, 1998. Tickets can be purchased from all Starbucks locations; the Fran Willis Gallery; Starfish Gallery; or by calling Linda Garnet at AIDS Vancouver Island - 385-5062.

-Linda Garnet



BOOK & VIDEO REVIEW

BOOK REVIEW

OUR CHILDREN, THEIR FUTURE: A GUIDE TO FUTURE CARE PLANNING FOR FAMILIES LIVING WITH HIV.

This recent acquisition for the Resource Center was put together by families with HIV, guardians, lawyers and social workers to help families plan for their children's future.

Most parents at one time or another think about what would happen to their children if they should die while their children were still young. For HIV+ parents and others with life-threatening illnesses this question becomes very real and quite urgent. This booklet, a joint effort by The Teresa Group and the Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto) addresses many of the concerns faced by parents in these circumstances and it focuses on how to prepare your children for a time when you may not be able to actively care for them, how to choose a guardian (who may or may not be a relative) for your children, and how to deal with the anger or hurt feelings of a relative or friend who was not chosen to be that guardian. To a lesser extent, it outlines how to prepare for your children financially if that is an option.

The publication offers practical advice on subjects most of us know nothing about and gives suggestions on who can help answer questions you may have. There are a dozen "workpages" at the end to help you plan for your children's future - specific questions are posed to help you decide what is and is not important to you.

- Caryl Peters

VIDEO REVIEW

EVERYONE HAS A GIFT: BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF CAPACITY by John McKnight, Director of the Community Studies Program at Northwestern, Illinois.

This is a rather long-drawn out video that could have said what it has to say in about five to ten minutes instead of fifty-five! Nevertheless, it contains some good ideas about the wonderful diversity that can be found within a community as well as the reasons why some communities work while others do not.

McKnight's message is that we should focus on the assets within the community and stop trying to find answers from without. An example of this would be that when searching for someone to fill a post we should look for those people with the necessary qualities required for the job instead of immediately trying to fill that job with an expert who supposedly has those same qualities.

It sounds simple and yet how often are jobs filled by someone who has studied a specific problem academically rather than gaining relevant experience by living or working within the community? Instead of automatically looking for those with degrees and diplomas, McKnight suggests that perhaps we should look to what is closer to hand.

McKnight says that successful community building comes about by looking at people's "assets and capacities" rather than simply focusing on their "needs and deficiencies".

- Caryl Peters

GARDENER'S CORNER

As I look back to May when JoAnn leIDS Vancouver Island, I can't help but appreciate the amount of care and work she put into the plants.

Today, some 300 lbs of dirt later, nearly 100 plants are in full bloom right down to the Christmas Cactus in Al's office.

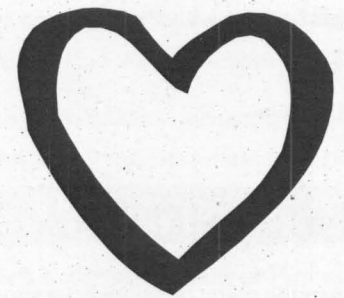
It's been a real pleasure these last 8 months to work with staff and volunteers.

My wish list is simple this month, that at sometime over the new year we take a moment out to remember those people no longer with us.

As we go forward into the new year, remembering the people who have paved the path to hope, I want to wish and thank everyone who takes time at the Centre to say good-morning -how are you- how's your day going. Sometimes knowing someone cares enough to ask really does help.

- David B.

Happy
Valentine's
Day



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.

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