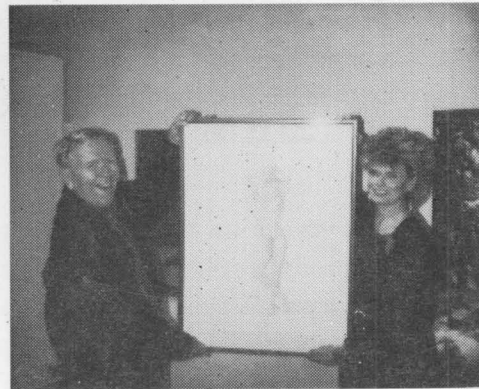




"Resource Development Coordinator Linda Garnet and Fran Willis Gallery owner Fran Willis"

**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**



And the winner is... Well there's actually twelve of them. Friday, February 13 was the draw and wrap-up party for the 97/98 Artists for AIDS Lottery. Suzanne MacLellan, Lawrence Aronovitch (pictured above, left), Bob McNeel (pictured above, right), Linda Mulhall, Barb Bishop, Jane Shumka, Carol-Ann Welch, Ang Green, Jim Stuart, Ann Semeniuk, Linda Barnard and Les Harper took home pieces from the following artists: Rowland Hill, Tim Paul, Maniash Om Prakash, Sharlotte Beauchemin, Carol Frank, Grant Leier, Rick Thomas, Gary Pearson, Rene Sagastume, Phyllis Serota, Ken Flett and the Starfish Glass Gallery (Lisa Samphire, Gary Bolt, Morna Tudor), respectively. Congratulations to all the winners!

On behalf of AIDS Vancouver Island, The Victoria Persons With AIDS Society and the Victoria AIDS Respite Care Society we would like to acknowledge Fran Willis and all the staff of the Fran Willis Gallery for their commitment and support to this project. We would also like to extend our thanks to Bolen Books, Starbucks Coffee, The Body Shop and Silk Road Tea Co., as well as all the volunteers and supporters who took the time to sell tickets. We would also like to thank everybody who purchased tickets to support this event.

**Victoria Walks for AIDS '98**

Didn't we just have a Walk? Yes! Victoria Walks for AIDS continues to grow and planning is a rather large undertaking, so we like to get a headstart on the event. David Feys will serve as the Chair for 1998 and CHEK TV's Michaela Pereira will serve as Honorary Chair. The date has been set as well: Sunday, September, 27, 1998. Anyone interested in volunteering for the Walk should contact Theresa Aspol, 384-2366. Stay tuned for further information and updates.

**Fund Development Committee**

Linda Garnet, Coordinator of Communications and Resource Development, would like to welcome June Beattie to the Board. June will be serving as the Chair of the Fund Development Committee. The FD Committee will be meeting in the very near future to do some short term and long term goal setting.

The next few months will be somewhat quiet, keyword somewhat, for Communications and Resource Development and we'll be using the quiet time for evaluating and planning.

-Stacy Leblanc



*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.*



## EDUCATION SERVICES

### Men's Outreach Project

The Men's Outreach Project held the third in its series of forums in February called The Body Beautiful. held on successive evenings in both Nanaimo and Victoria, response and attendance at the events was excellent.

Held for the first time in Nanaimo, the men attending enjoyed some lively discussion on body image, media and pornography, and how these affect us as gay and bi guys. Many thanks to Russell and Peter of Flo's Diner for hosting event.

The Victoria forum was held at the Open Space Gallery and was well attended with more than 40 men, some of whom had heard about the success of the event the previous evening in Nanaimo and made their way over the Malahat to participate. Many thanks to Todd Davis and the Open Space for hosting us.

Don't forget the Staying Negative group is still meeting every second Thursday at 7pm. This program offers support to gay and bi men to stay HIV negative. Check the calendar for dates and feel free to call the MOP at extension 311 with any thoughts or ideas.

-Marc Mertens

### Speakers' Bureau and Resource Centre

February saw the Bureau presenting to 18 different groups in the community. Of special note is the increasing number of elementary schools requesting speakers and/or workshops. This is significant in that it is unprecedented in recent years and is purely the result of recent successful presentations and word of mouth advertising by the SB clients. The Bureau also presented an unusual workshop for the Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre. Complete with interpreters, this was also a first. March will see the Bureau presenting the first of monthly workshops for users of SOS.

The Resource Centre volunteers are making rapid headway catching up on the work and

cataloguing the new materials as they come in. Check out the list of new books on the RC Bulletin Board. Stay tuned for new regular RC hours to correspond with the new Drop-in hours.

-Jim Wilton

## VOLUNTEER SERVICES

### Volunteer Community Garden

Almost nothing is more satisfying than when a volunteer comes up with an idea and s/he is able to go ahead and make it happen. A few months ago, Randy, a volunteer with the Centre, decided he wanted to start a community garden. Volunteers would work together to grow produce which would be used in the Bean Scene and given out at the food bank. Peppers, corn, beets, beans, lettuce, garlic — all is possible to grow says Randy.

Randy is in the process of locating a plot of land for the garden. In addition to donated land, Randy would appreciate any other items which could be used toward making the garden a success. Seeds, tools (used are fine), plastic and wood and flower pots are all items which could be put to good use. If you have items or services you would like to donate, please give Theresa a call at 384-2366.

The volunteer group continues to talk about recognition ideas and more information will follow in the next issue.

-Theresa Aspol

## REGIONAL & REMOTE SERVICES

Support group meetings fall on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Contact Carolyn Pickett for a calendar of Support Group meetings and special outings. On Monday February 23 a nutritionist from our local hospital is presenting to the Support Group. On Tuesday February 24 Support Group participants and volunteers are meeting at Frank Crane arena for ice skating. It is rumoured that special guests, Tanya

Harding and Nancy Kerrigan, are booked for a heartwarming, theatrical reunion. Art therapy has stared up again on Wednesday nights. Sessions now start at 5:00 pm.

Volunteers and staff are enthusiastically preparing for the 6th Annual Queen's Benefit on Sunday March 22. Come to Nanaimo and rock to tunes by local bands. Call Dana for ticket information. Office hours are 9am - 5pm, Monday to Thursday.

-Guy Tohana

## VIDEO REVIEW

TATOO: ART BENEATH THE SKIN, is a Big House Production by the Lifer's Group at Joyceville Penitentiary that examines the illegal practice of tattooing in prisons. The establishment claims that tattooing constitutes a health risk and levies fines, additional time to be served and time in isolation as a way of enforcing the no tattoo rule. The charges range from that of self-inflicted wounds to possession of illegal equipment, although it can be carried out using a simple sewing needle and thread and dyes obtained by burning paper and adding water to the ash.

The risk to health is very real as the rate of Hep C in prisons runs from 30 to 50%. The rise in Hep C rates is often a precursor to the rise in HIV which is stated on film as 1%. Hep B is also implicated.

However, both inmates and prison doctors claim that sterile conditions could be easily achieved and that the ban is an unreasonable encroachment on lives that are already heavily regimented. Inmates see tattoos as a means of artistic self-expression citing them as the only thing they have that cannot be confiscated. If you agree, they invite you to make your feelings known to your MP.

-Caryl Peters





# AIDS Vancouver Island

**MARCH 1998**

## DIRECTORY

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

**TOLL-FREE HELP LINE  
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](mailto:info@avi.org)**

### LOCATION OF EVENTS

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

M	T	W	T	F	S/S
2	3 Workshop -Visual Art 7-9pm Education Committee Mtg. 5-7 pm 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 Food Safe 6-9pm Staying Negative Support Group 7pm Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	6	7 8
9 Writer's Workshop 7-9pm	10 Workshop -Visual Art 7-9pm AVI Board meeting 6:00pm at The Centre Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	11 Resource Centre Open - 6-8pm Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre	12 Food Safe 6-9pm Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	13	14 15
16 Writer's Workshop 7-9pm	17 Workshop -Visual Art 7-9pm Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	18 AIDS 101 6-8pm Training Rm. (call JimWilton) Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre	19 Food Safe 6-9pm Staying Negative Support Group 7pm Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	20	21 22
23 Writer's Workshop 7-9pm	24 Workshop -Visual Art 7-9pm 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 29
30 Writer's Workshop 7-9pm	31 Workshop -Visual Art 7-9pm Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm at S				

## BOARD REPORT

First of all I must say that I don't have the gift of prose that some of my colleagues on the Board so marvelously exhibit from time to time. However, since I actually volunteered to write this month's Report, here goes!

To begin with, two new directors were appointed to the Board to fill vacancies. At the December meeting, Robert Saarikko was elected. Robert is from Campbell River and has been an AIDS volunteer in the North Island Region for some time. He has also joined the Remote and Regional Committee which is a great help to Howard Williams who is the Chair of this committee. Welcome Robert!

A second vacancy was filled at the January meeting. June Beattie, who in her other life is the Payroll Manager for Pacific Coast Savings, was elected. June has already agreed to be the new chair of the Resource Development and Communications Department Committee. Way to go June!

And this folks, as they say, brings me to the subject of membership to the Board—which, by the way, is coming up. And that will most likely happen earlier than last year. So get organized. It is time to think that perhaps it is your turn to serve on that august body. A very important aspect of the Board, perhaps any Board anywhere, is the diversity of representation and opinion. AIDS Vancouver Island serves a wide variety people. It is therefore of utmost importance that representation reflect that diversity. Important decisions are made from time to time and it is imperative that your voice is heard. So start thinking about it **NOW!**

The Board meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at 6pm at AVI and

they are always open to the membership. The next Board meeting, March 10<sup>th</sup>, will focus on the budget for fiscal 1998-99.

Many changes are happening (what else do we live for??) at the provincial level—at least in the way funding will be administered. It has to do with Regionalization and what not!! So important decisions will be made and it is important that the agencies are up with the program. So come on down and get a preview of what next year could possibly be like. You might even like it.

-Norman Brulotte

### CAS CONFERENCE

As a long-time volunteer with the Nanaimo office, I found it exciting to have the opportunity of attending the recent CAS skills building symposium in Toronto. It was a very busy and full four days, with two sessions a day (beginning at 8:30 a.m. no less, compounding the jet-lag), plus a variety of activities to fill the lunch breaks.

I attended sessions covering a range of topics: testing issues for pregnant women (legal precedence and ethical issues); fundraising tips; internet searches; return-to-work issues for PWHIV/AIDS; and anti-viral treatment strategies.

I found the last two of particular interest as improvements in drug therapies are allowing more HIV individuals to remain or return to the workplace. At the same time however, insurance companies and governments are seeming too anxious to relieve themselves of the financial burden related to supporting the HIV case load, by redefining their standards of health for those with HIV. Qualifications are being based upon viral load measures, which by no means gives an accurate reflection of one's functional capacity or employment capability. There is an immediate and growing

need to address a wide range of issues to ensure the safety and security of positive individuals returning to work. Understandably, this will become a major advocacy issues in the future.

In treatment, there were two main points. Firstly, "Do it right!" (when the patient is ready, choosing combos delivering optimal benefit) is the motto to follow when considering starting drug therapy, as opposed to "Do it now!" (panic and/or pressure to act now). Secondly, treating virus in the brain. Because of the protective barrier surrounding the brain and spinal cortex, some anti-virals cannot cross into the brain. If only one drug of a combo is crossing into the brain, the virus is being subjected to a mono-therapy, a strategy which has long been proven ineffective. Any combo should have a minimum of two brain drugs (AZT, 3TC, d4T, IND, DELAV, NEV).

-Howard Williams

### More scenes from the Artists for AIDS Lottery Draw



Artist Rowland Hill, Fran Willis and Board Director Ingrid Olson making a draw

### 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 [update@avi.org](mailto: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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