

ARC News

July, 2003
Volume 7, Issue 4

For the AIDS Resource Centre — Okanagan & Region

*No great deed
is done by
falterers
who ask for
certainty.*

- *George Eliot*

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Divas Do Kelowna

By Daryle Roberts, Executive Director

Photography: Brad Bishop, courtesy of bradbishop@shaw.ca

Where else but at our May 9th event could you see Liza, Reba, Barbra, Tina, Shakira, Aretha and . . . Dame Edna all in one night?

After two years of planning, ARC's Evening with the Divas presented an original and highly entertaining event at the Performance Centre. Former Board member Lorri Gasser and her daughter Alexis were able to persuade three of Vancouver's top female impersonators to stage their Las Vegas-style show here as a fundraiser/awareness event for ARC.

The trio of Willy, Carl and Michael, *aka* Miss Willy Taylor, Carlotta Gurl and Mandy Kamp put on a wonderful show with professional costumes, music and choreography. They were ably comple-

mented by the Okanagan's very own Divas Robert and Dean, with Diva Wrangler Ellen Churchill offering her insights and hilarious commentary as Mistress of Ceremonies. All the ladies volunteered their time for ARC.

As B&B host for the Divas, I was particularly amazed at the transformation from Thursday's arrival to Friday's show. I saw a consid-



Smooth moves: Vancouver Divas Mandy, Willy and Carlotta

erable amount of luggage and four men (including roadie Steve) going up the stairs at Doyle House but I wasn't quite prepared for the magic that would unfold Friday night.

With the wigs and gowns in place, make-up applied, Michael and Altair's music cued, and Dan Tohill's professional lighting, the Divas provoked gasps of amazement and spontaneous cheers from the audience. The rousing finale had everybody dancing the Neutron Dance and feeling that Kelowna wouldn't ever be quite the same again.

Thanks to all our Divas, including Honorary Diva Melissa Hill, who coordinated the project on the

(Continued on page 3)



What a party! Clockwise from left: Daryle, Alexis, Mandy, Sofonda, Carlotta, Lorri, Rick Golke (ARC President), Willy.

Glen Hillson

A statement from the BC Persons With AIDS Society

"It is with the deepest sorrow that I, on behalf of the British Columbia Persons With AIDS Society (BCPWA), announce the passing of Glen Hillson, one of the greatest AIDS activists BC, Canada and the world have known," said Malsah, Acting Chair, BCPWA.



Photo of Glen Hillson by Britt Permien

Hillson, 51, died June 12 at Vancouver's St. Paul's Hospital of complications due to AIDS and co-infection with Hepatitis C virus. He had been admitted to St. Paul's Hospital on June 5 after several months of ill health.

For the past four years, Hillson had been Chair of BCPWA. "He was an extraordinary Chair and demonstrated tremendous leadership," said Malsah. "Persons living with HIV/AIDS have him to

thank for a strong, dynamic and effective organization that represents their interests and isn't afraid to fight for what they need and deserve."

One of Glen's many achievements includes helping to secure the Monthly Nutritional Supplement Benefit implemented in 2002. He was instrumental in the quality and success of *living +* magazine—arguably the best health consumer magazine published in North America.

"The people of BC and Canada owe him a debt of gratitude for his tireless work in defense of Medicare in particular, and for his promotion of citizen involvement in the health care system generally. A lifelong advocate of evidence-based decision-making, Glen was unimpressed with titles and offices. If you

were right, he would fight with you through every layer of bureaucracy, every closed door, every utterance of prejudiced opinion and bad science. If you were wrong, he would fight your error with every telling fact and logical argument, every political ally, and every organizational strategy he could muster."

"Glen Hillson was a pillar in the community. He worked with unrelenting resolve, stern determination and unwavering commitment. He was a man of vision, wisdom, and compassion. He earned the respect and admiration of those who had the privilege to know him. He will be dearly missed," said Malsah.

Glen Hillson was born and grew up on a farm in southern Saskatchewan, with a stint in his teens in the Yukon. Moving to Vancouver after attending university, he went to work for the city, and eventually became an organizer for the union, representing city outside workers, now the Canadian Union of Public Employees. Diagnosed with HIV in the early 1980's - he was one of the first so diagnosed - Hillson was all but dead of complications due to AIDS in 1996 when he was rescued by the advent of protease inhibitors. It was after this life-saving intervention that Hillson became active in the Treatment Information Program at BCPWA, and was appointed to the society's board to fill a vacancy in early 1998. At BCPWA's AGM in the fall of 1998 he was elected to the Board and subsequently to the Chair, a position he held until his death.

Hillson was also active with the Canadian Treatment Action Counsel (CTAC), serving as a Board member and Vice-chair. He attended CTAC's inaugural meeting in February, 1997 and has been an integral part of CTAC's success since that time.

Hillson is survived by his life partner, Gerald Obre, and by his mother, three brothers, other family members and many dear friends.

Editor's note: Topher Talks will be back in our next issue—thanks, Topher, for your flexibility in the face of this sad breaking news.

AIDS awareness



(Continued from page 1)

ground for the Centre, and to the many volunteers who supported it through to its end. A special thank you to Lorri and Alexis, who believed in the event and pushed for it to take place. The talk is that the Divas will be back next year for two nights. As they had such a great time here in the Okanagan, the Divas want to come back, and three additional performers would like to donate their time and talents to this fabulous fundraiser.

Mandy, Sofonda, Carlotta, and Willy



Kate Alexander, Editor

This newsletter is the official publication of the AIDS Resource Centre—Okanagan & Region (ARC). It is published four to six times a year. The materials in this newsletter are meant to be consistent with ARC purposes which are: a) to promote awareness of HIV/AIDS, b) to develop and provide educational resources, c) to support those infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Even so, the opinions and comments within this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect ARC policy. The newsletter does not endorse the use of any particular treatment or therapy. The Board, staff and volunteers of ARC do not accept the risk of, nor responsibility for any damages, costs or consequences of any kind which may arise or result from the use of information featured in this newsletter. Persons using the information provided through this newsletter do so by their own decision and hold the society's board, staff and volunteers harmless. Submissions for publication may be sent to our office at any time; publication deadline is three weeks prior to publication date. Submissions will be returned if a request is made in writing and an address is provided. Reprinting and distributing this newsletter is openly encouraged.

ARC's Board of Directors

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AIDS Awareness now year-round

By Daryle Roberts, Executive Director

The Diva show was one of no less than six events happening as part of our expanded **Awareness and Fundraising Plan**. We are trying, with some creativity, to expand our reach to different segments of the community. Here are some of the other events in ARC's awareness calendar:

The **7th Annual Okanagan AIDS Walk on September 21, 2003** leads off the year's events, raising funds to support ARC's clients for emergency needs such as medications, housing, hospital TVs and food. Pledge forms will be available August 1 at our office.

Next is the 2nd Annual **Night of a Thousand Dinners**, being held this year on November 1st. Interested hosts invite 10 friends each for dinner for at their home; each guest makes a \$25 tax-deductible donation, which we use for a nutritional program to assist our clients. A hundred hosts making a total of a thousand dinners would raise us a tidy \$25,000. If you'd like to sign up as a Host, please call Melissa Hill at 862-2437 or

e-mail: events@arcok.com.

The **Red Ribbon Campaign** runs the last week of November each year, during National AIDS Awareness Week.

The 2nd Annual **ARC Gala and Silent Auction** will take place February 14, 2004. This event features a local entertainer, a fancy buffet and a silent auction of donated items, all to raise funds for education and prevention programs.

Of course, the **Divas** will be back, bigger and, if it's possible, better, next May.

Our first annual **Battle of the Bands** took place on June 14th. The event promotes AIDS awareness to the youth of our community (see page 5 of this newsletter for details).

As the AIDS Resource Centre evolves to meet the needs of the communities we serve, we will continue to bring forward events that raise funds to support our programs and bring awareness about HIV/AIDS to all segments of society.

Starbucks Make their Mark

Starbucks Coffee Company has a corporate policy of supporting local AIDS organizations, and the Kelowna and Westbank branches are no exception to this generous rule.

The Starbucks *Make Your*

Mark Volunteer Program encourages volunteerism among teams of employees. Starbucks supports them in their effort to get involved with their communities by matching volunteer hours with cash donations to local non-profit organizations.

In our case, Starbucks employee **Paul Nixen** led a team of co-workers who volunteered a total of 100

hours at the AIDS Walk. Not only did ARC benefit from their help, but Starbucks donated \$1000.00 to ARC.

And, if you need yet another reason to love Starbucks, they regularly donate coffee to our clients.

Thank you, Starbucks!



Staff Changes at ARC

We've seen some big changes over the last couple of months—first **Navin** left us for a shiny new post with an international development agency in Johannesburg, South Africa. Then, **Mark** headed back to Grand Forks when HIPPO funding ended. He's building a house there and working part time at a bee farm. **Willow's** practicum is over, and she found a job at CASEY (Community Against Sexual Exploitation of Youth).

Meanwhile, we welcome three fresh faces. We identified the need for a skilled human resources and administration professional, to help Daryle avoid those 20-hour days. **Lance** has the diplomacy for that challenging job. **Beau**, an OUC business student, will help Melissa with the AIDS Walk and Kate with the tangled web of information in her office, and **Hin** is the computer whiz whose job is to get our multiple databases sorted out and to train us how to use them..

Lance Talbott Administrative Manager

My family and I moved to Kelowna last summer. Being new to B.C., I spent what remained of last year helping my family settle in and working hard to 'network' in the community. We also had a fun winter learning to ski (with some spectacular falls). Now that the good weather is here we are looking forward to spending time by the lake.

I have spent many years working with community-based projects including a charity that looked to divert young people away from crime. I worked in numerous Inner City areas with organizations



that were trying to help people and communities deal with problems caused by drug misuse and also the sex industry. I learnt from a practical perspective that a properly supported 'Four Pillar approach' can offer an effective

response for both individuals and the community. I wanted to find a job that allowed me to continue working in the community. I am very excited to be working at ARC. In my spare time I volunteer with the Restorative Justice Program run by the Boys & Girls Club here in Kelowna and also for Canadian Blood Services.

Beau Manning Fund Developer/Education Assistant

I will be working for ARC until mid August in a Co-op position. I will be graduating with a degree in business from the Okanagan University College next year, and will finish my studies in the Netherlands on a foreign exchange program offered through OUC.

I live in Lumby with my parents and my sister.

I have lived there for the past 19 years, and really enjoy the area. I enjoy most sports, particularly Hockey.

I am really thrilled to be here; the staff and volunteers have treated me wonderfully, and I am looking forward to spending this summer with everyone at the AIDS Resource Centre.



Hin chong Database Manager

for over four years. My favorite of the four seasons in Canada is spring.

I have just finished my third year in Computer Information Systems at Okanagan University College and am working on my first Co-op work term

My name is Hin Chong. I was born in Brunei and have been in Kelowna



for Okanagan Aboriginal AIDS Society (OAAS) as a Database Manager. Creating a user-friendly interface using Microsoft Access has been a real challenge; nevertheless, I really enjoy it.

I like to play sports, especially badminton. So if there are any sports events, please remember to invite me. ☺

Battle Of The Bands

ARC hosted our first Battle Of The Bands at the Performance Centre on June 14. Nine local youth bands competed for the audience's and judge's votes, and the top three got to perform 15-minute sets, which were recorded. Following a second vote, our winning band, Heirborne, played a longer set, also recorded. CD's showcasing the event's best bands are

on sale at ARC.

Check out the names of the bands:

- AKU (Punk/Metal)
- Disposable Pop (Rock)
- Disuse (Metal)
- Everruin (Rock/Heavy Metal)
- Heirborne (Alternative)
- Hippicritz (Punk Rock)
- Predator Virus (Metal/Hard

Rock)

- Stabbed in the Face (Metal)
- Withdrawn (Rock)

This was a very exciting first for the AIDS Resource Centre, and we were proud to see it succeed.

Thanks to our sponsors, Sun FM for helping to make it happen.



"Fix" hits the Okanagan

By Brian Mairs, OAAS Program Coordinator.

FIX: The Story of and Addicted City has had a major impact wherever it has been shown. Okanaganites had a chance to see what the fuss was all about when the award-winning documentary toured the Okanagan Valley.

It competed successfully with hockey playoffs in Oliver, sold out in Vernon and Penticton, and while at the Kelowna Paramount, sold more seats than *X-2* on their opening weekend. The demand was enough that the Paramount asked for a return engagement, and the show ran for an additional week in Kelowna, finally closing in the on May 15.

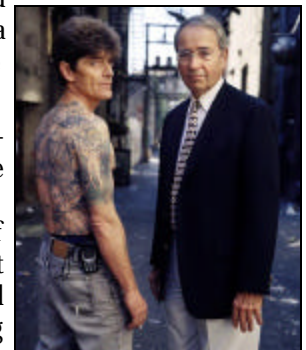
What made this show unique were the community forums that followed each of the early screenings. The forums featured local health professionals and outreach workers who answered questions from the audience about the drug crisis, which so deeply affect not only Vancouver but also communities in the Okanagan. Audiences also had a chance to ask questions of people who were directly involved in the movie. Director

Nettie Wild moderated some of the forums, and former Mayor of Vancouver; Philip Owen was a special guest while the documentary was in the Okanagan Valley.

In the time since the screenings, we received dozens of telephone calls from people wanting more information about harm reduction and how it relates to the Okanagan Valley. The Mayor of Kelowna has requested community input so that the Central Okanagan can develop a policy and action plan to increase community safety, using some of the practices discussed in the film.

We could not have brought the documentary to the Okanagan Valley without the support of our volunteers who handed out flyers and posters throughout the Okanagan Valley, and without the assistance of the community speakers who gave up their evenings to educate the public about this issue. My sincere thanks to all of those involved.

Editor's comment: Brian deserves a big round of applause. He really believed in this project and worked tirelessly to bring this important film to our communities.



Dean Wilson, chair of VANDU and Philip Owen, former Vancouver mayor in a scene from *FIX*

Exact Moments

He's been clean now for 6 months.
tainted the last 4 years

He remembers the precise day and situation
a fossil forever weighing on his mind

like we remember where we were
when Kennedy was shot
Martin Luther King
the day the Challenger
blew up

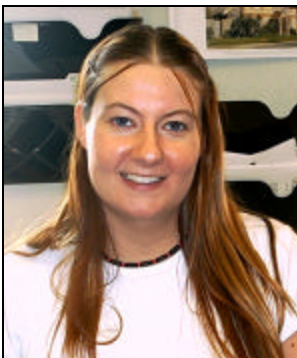
He remembers the very moment
too sick for a fix
he shared the needle
this time didn't clean it

can still vividly see those
drops of blood pooled in the barrel
before sinking it

can infinitely describe the exact moment
he became HIV positive
changed his life forever

Donna Michele Hill

Volunteer corner



Volunteer Profile Alison O'Leary

Alison, a nurse at KGH's renal ward, has volunteered with ARC for 18 months, both as speaker and as client support assistant.

Why did you first get involved with ARC?

As a nursing student, I saw lack of AIDS knowledge and even prejudice in the medical community, and I felt a need to

remedy that. AIDS care and education is the kind of work I really want to do. I have a passion for palliative care.

What is it you find most rewarding about volunteering here?

That has to be working one on one with terminally ill patients to better their journey. But the education and awareness side is also very rewarding—to know that you might have prevented even one HIV infection makes it worthwhile. And, the friendships—the clients I visit, their friends and families, the staff

and other volunteers here—and I find ARC such an open, unprejudiced environment compared to mainstream Kelowna.

Who influenced your values?

My mom, who cared for mentally disabled people taught me to hate discrimination; also my best friend, who is a feminist. I met her through a Kelowna City Council youth group called Generation Y Unites.

Thanks so much for all your time and caring, Alison!

More directors' Bios

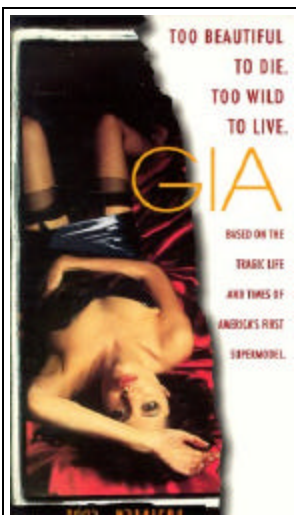
Colleen Cardiff is a Chaplain/Minister employed by the Woodlake Pastoral Charge in Winfield. Previously she has been a Social Worker, Professor in a Community College and Hospital Chaplain. This is her second year on the board.

Julie Desautels has been a board member for the past 3 years, and is currently serving as

the vice president. She writes: "I have been with ARC since 1994 (when ARC was known as K.A.R.E.S.). My volunteer work has ranged from public speaking to care teams and everything that falls in between. I am the Outreach Worker for Okanagan Aboriginal AIDS Society, and a Council Member for Red Road HIV/AIDS Network."

John Langston is both a Board member and Registered Clinical Counsellor volunteer for ARC. He has extensive experience in working with families, couples, children, and adolescents.

Cliff Turner, a retired Public Health Inspector from Saskatchewan, was a charter board member of K.A.R.E.S. His primary interest has always been prevention, whether of illness, prejudice or discrimination.



Film review: GIA

By Alison O'Leary, ARC Volunteer.

I had never heard of this very powerful movie until a friend recommended it to me, knowing about my involvement with ARC and interest in HIV/AIDS. So I decided to rent it, and was pleasantly surprised.

Gia is a film that was released in 1998 and stars Angelina Jolie and Faye Dunaway. It is based on the true story of a girl named Gia Carangi, who decides to leave her dull life in Philadelphia at age 17 to pursue a career in modeling. She heads to New York and with her stunning beauty, potent sexuality and wildly extroverted personality, quickly becomes one of America's top fashion models. In the 1980's, when the look in the fashion industry was blonde haired and blue eyed, Gia's dark-haired, pale-faced look was unusual, and became sought after by leading fashion magazines.

However, Gia's rise to the top starts a downhill slide as she becomes heavily involved with cocaine and heroin, as a way of dealing with her turbulent relationships and with the pressures of fame and fortune. The movie tells of Gia's emotional battle between love for her family and girlfriend, and for the drugs she becomes addicted to, and how choosing one over the other could be the biggest decision of her life.

Being a big fan of Angelina Jolie's, I thoroughly enjoyed this film, made early in her career; it's one of her best acting roles to date. I highly recommend renting the movie, but make sure you have Kleenex handy.

I had a bit of a problem trying to find *Gia* on VHS at Blockbuster in Kelowna; although you'll be ok if you have a DVD player. But for those of you who, like me, aren't technologically advanced, Roger's Video carries it on VHS.

I hope you will enjoy this amazing movie as much as I did.



HIV now a reportable disease

By Terri Ross, Client Support Worker

As of May 1, 2003 HIV/AIDS became a reportable disease. What this means is, if you choose to be tested for HIV and you test positive, you will now be asked to volunteer names of your sex or IV-drug using partners. Public Health nurses will get in touch with them and encourage them to get tested. You can still choose between nominal (with name) and non-nominal (initials and birth date) testing. The Ministry of Health believes that this will help reach high risk people, and help engage them in care, support, and prevention programs.

Public Health nurses throughout BC are taking courses to learn sensitive and appropriate ways to break the news to partners—without loss of confidentiality for the person who tested HIV positive. Also to address concerns about confidentiality, section 6.1 of the *Health Act* adds accountability—if this law is broken, health care workers could face a fine of \$200,000.00 and/or 12 months in jail.

If there are any problems with HIV becoming a reportable disease, or with partner notification,

the Ministry of Health will attempt to remedy them. They are willing to take HIV off the list if need be.

Thinking about an HIV test? Some things to consider

- The clinic staff should inform you before you are tested that HIV is reportable.
- If you do not want your name to go to the local medical health officer, should you test positive for HIV, you may choose to use a code (non-nominal testing). The form includes a check box that clearly identifies your choice to the laboratory.
- You should think about how you might be able—and whether you would want—to notify partners should you test positive. It is up to you.
- Public Health will be ready to assist you with partner notification and keep your name confidential, where this is desired.

For further information you can read the full report on HIV Reportability at www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho/other.html.

Support update

Chris Jenner is now working permanent part-time as ARC's second Client Support Worker. She even has her own office.

"Where, oh where are my Penticton clients," Chris cries. Find her at the 2nd floor of Penticton Health Unit on Carmi Ave. every second Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. She really is a nice person!!

If it's Wednesday and you can't find Chris, that means that she has set up camp at the People Place in Vernon on 27th Avenue from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

She invites all Kelowna clients to come visit her at the office every Monday, and Tuesday or Wednesday depending on the week. Confused yet? See our notice board on the back page. But remember, wherever you see Chris, she needs you to make an appointment first! Call 1-800 616-2437 or 862-2437 in Kelowna.

Vacation time!! Yes, even your hard working Client Support Workers need a break. Chris will be on vacation from July 3rd to the 14th, while Terri will be away from July 28th to August 8th. Have no fear, Chris and Terri will be covering for each other during those times. Please ensure that you call ahead and make an appointment.

Thank you.



20th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial

By Melissa Hill, Volunteer/Project Coordinator

On Sunday, May 25th, when a small group of people came to honor those that have passed, the weather was cold and dreary but spirits were high. A common cause and commitment bound each person there, no matter a person's reasons for coming. Some had come to remember or say goodbye, others to share thoughts and words of thanks for those who continue to champion for those infected, affected, or at risk.

This year, eight more names were added to the list, the greatest number in many years. This really

speaks for the message that people are dying of this illness; it is still a life-threatening disease.

Among the messages carried to the vigil was one of great frustration at the complacency of those who see, know, hear, and yet do nothing—death by ignorance. People who have seen their friends living a long, healthy life and have begun to think of HIV as a manageable condition instead of what it really is, a fatal disease.

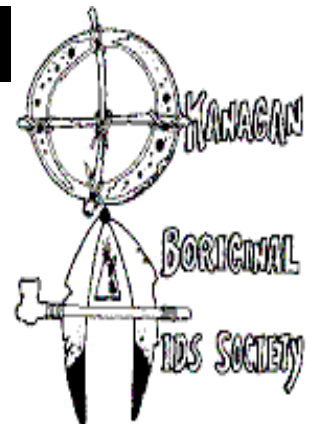
For all those who gave that hour on a cold Sunday evening, thank you, and for those who took the time to think even a moment on the lives lost, the battles waged and the tears shed, again thank you. Lastly, for the eighty-seven names on the list, know that you are not forgotten—your spirit carries on.



OAAS Accepted By CAS

By Brian Mairs, OAAS Program Coordinator.

It took some doing, but OAAS was accepted as a full member of the Canadian AIDS Society (CAS) at their AGM on June 21 in Montréal, coincidentally National Aboriginal Day. The application process took over 30 pages of information including letters of support from other AIDS Service Organisations with whom we work. Specifically, our thanks to ARC, Healing Our Spirit, Red Road HIV/AIDS Network and AIDS Services Kamloops for letters of support. My personal thanks to Chris McKenzie for publicly endorsing our organization at the AGM. This membership provides OAAS with national support for local issues, and we are looking forward to a positive and long-term relationship with CAS.



(250) 862-2481

www.oaas.ca

remembering Alex Archie

The Aboriginal HIV/AIDS community pays tribute to all those whom have surrendered their lives to AIDS. In particular, I want to honor the many Aboriginal brothers & sisters that we have lost over the decades.

The most recent is Alex Archie. "The family would like to acknowledge the numerous family members that Alex has adopted over the years." Alex entered and became a part of many lives over the years, and was loved and held close by all.

My deepest prayers are that a cure is found for HIV, that it doesn't have to advance to AIDS. My prayer is that our youth will be protected from this debilitating disease and that the sacrifice made by those lost to AIDS was not in vain.

Today, we hold a burning candle in their memory, and they leave us with their warrior spirit. They give us the strength and determination to continue our fight against AIDS.

I remember a time in Salmon Arm, where an HIV/AIDS workshop was being presented to the Aboriginal Community. The presenters were Larry Johnny, from the Adams Lake Indian Band, living in Salmon Arm, Alex Archie, from the Canim Lake Indian Band, living in Vancouver, Elizabeth Benson, from Healing Our Spirits, and Julie Desautels, from the Adams Lake Indian Band & the Okanagan Aboriginal AIDS Society. It was great to see how we worked together, bringing this important information to

the community. We had a great time with each other that day, a little ribbing and teasing but all in fun.

On Saturday, May 10, 2003, Alex's friends and family walked along the road and through a pasture: listening to the crowd as they talked about Alex's childhood: growing up here, how he played and with whom. I was asked who would carry the monkey statue 'See No Evil' for Alex. I carried that monkey and gave it back to Alex Archie at the gravesite. I wondered what Alex was trying to tell me.

During the singing and drumming, there were some people that cried and some that wept. I believe that it was not that we had lost Alex to HIV/AIDS, but that he was taken from us at the young age of 37.

As we walked away from Alex's gravesite, three of us from that presentation group, Larry, Elizabeth, and myself: I looked

over the field where he grew up and it looked so peaceful. It was then that I knew, Alex was HOME and HE IS AT REST.

My words, and my promise to Alex Archie; "I will continue where you left off." I will continue in the Harm Reduction presentations. Alex, you gave us the torch to carry on; we will not let it go out until the virus is stopped.

Julie Desautels of Okanagan Aboriginal AIDS Society wrote this article with help from Bernice Doucet-Ryan of the Red Road HIV/AIDS Network.



Prevention news

Unsafe Sex!

Not in Today's Day and Age, Right?!

By Dave Bonell, ARC Volunteer

I wouldn't go to the bathhouse, as I've been told most gay men wouldn't go to a bathhouse. A bathhouse with large shower rooms, dark steam rooms, tiny little rooms, large "social" rooms, and men with skimpy towels. Nor would I ever go to Stanley Park, with its muddy trails, condom littered bushes. Me – never been there!

However an "acquaintance" of mine was in Vancouver last week and "he" went to one of those places.

This friend of mine is HIV & Hep-C Positive. In one of those "social" rooms a very good-looking, healthy-looking man was being pleased by numerous other men. My friend watched (he actually did only watch), and he listened.

There were no condoms present. Numerous men had anal intercourse with the sexy guy, as well as getting in a train constantly switching positions. Others came, joined and left. My friend was invited to participate. His body wanted to, man did it want to, but he chose not to. (Don't worry he did have safe fun later).

Neither HIV, diseases, nor condoms were ever mentioned amongst the "boys" during this time of fellowship.

A short time later my friend was chatting with this leather clad dude and when asked if he was positive, Mr. Leather responded "no way, I'm not gay" when asked why he was in the Bathhouse he responded he was just very sexual and would be going home soon to "pound" his wife!

Well, if all that is happening in Vancouver, it's a damn good thing we live in the Okanagan!

The education about HIV/AIDS is there for the asking. But putting that education into action is all of our responsibility.

My friend had been around many HIV/AIDS persons over the years, and due to stupidity and complacency he ended up with the disease. He had all the education, all the knowledge, but obviously lacked the wisdom.

As far as being safe in our little Okanagan Val-

ley... my friend is sexy, healthy looking, gay and living here. One of his best friends is a muscle-bound hot, straight man who is HIV and Hep-C positive as well.

You can't tell by looking, you can't be sure by asking, you can only be sure by being wise. Use education you have received. If education is lacking or you need info, please, for all our sakes – call ARC...

Since the beginning of the epidemic, over 7,000 gay men in British Columbia have been infected with HIV.

POSITIVE PREVENTION

A new ad campaign at the BC Persons With AIDS Society (BCPWA) explicitly includes positive gay men in their prevention messages, and is the first prevention campaign in Canada to do so. The campaign includes four posters and postcards for distribution in venues frequented by gay men. Each poster deals with a particular situation where gay men may face challenges in maintaining safer behaviours. ARC loans laminated copies of the posters to gay community events.

To view all four posters, visit www.bcpwa.org/prevention_safesex.php



NOTICE BOARD



ARC News



Our next issue will focus on Women, and will be out in mid August. We are particularly interested in hearing about the experiences of women living with HIV. Please submit any articles you'd like to see in print by **July 18th**. Opinions, artwork, poetry, reviews, even recipes (except recipes for disaster) are welcome. Please limit your article to 500 words or less. Sorry, we can't guarantee to print all submissions.

E-mail your article to educator@arcok.com or drop it off at the office (hand-written is fine).

Speakers' Bureau

We provide interactive HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C education. Call Kate if you'd like a speaker to come to your group: 862-2437

Free Coffee

Starbucks provides FREE coffee for ARC clients. Please ask at the reception desk for your coffee the next time you come in to the ARC office.



Reiki & Healing Touch

Enjoy the relaxing and balancing benefits of a quiet hour with Toshie. Call 862-2437 to book your free Tuesday session.

Client Support Hours

Kelowna

Drop-in hours are Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. At other times, an appointment is necessary. Terri always works in Kelowna; Chris does all the travelling, but might be in Kelowna, too, depending on her schedule.

Vernon

Every second Wednesday, including July 2nd, 16th, 30th, August 13th and 27th.

Penticton

Every second Tuesday: July 22nd (only), August 5th and 19th.

Princeton

Please call for an appointment, which will be on the second Tuesday of the month.

Outside Kelowna, call 1-800-616-2437 to book an appointment. In Kelowna, call 862-2437.

ARC's Hours

Our client service hours are **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

ARC Membership

For a small fee, you can support ARC by becoming a member. For those who are already members, it's time to renew. Membership entitles you to vote on issues that affect the agency. Plus, you will receive this fabulous newsletter six times a year.

The fees for membership are:

\$12/year - individual; \$25/year - agency; \$100 - lifetime

Please take the time to fill out this membership application and drop it off at our office or mail it to:

ARC, 202-1626 Richter St, Kelowna, BC V1Y 2M3



ARC Membership application

Members must agree to uphold the aims of the Society and maintain confidentiality.

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Postal code: _____

E-mail address: _____

(Check here ? to receive ARC News by e-mail only)

Fee paid: ? \$12 (individual); ? \$25 (organization);

? \$100 (lifetime).

Make cheques payable to **AIDS Resource Centre**