



December 21, 2010

## **LOCAL CHARITIES GO ALL IN FOR A ROYAL FLUSH**

The Garth Homer Society will ring in the New Year sitting pretty on brand new thrones thanks to the work of several non-profit organizations. OK the thrones are toilets ... but they're brand new low-flush toilets which will save GHS \$3500 a year in water consumption according to Kevin Reilly, Demand Management Coordinator at CRD's Water Services. GHS Executive Director Kaye Kennish says that means clients will benefit. "We'll be able to redirect that money into providing direct care for our clients, adults with developmental disabilities."

If it takes a village to raise a child, it's taking several organizations to flush out the toilet replacement project which will benefit not only GHS but the John Howard Society as well. The John Howard Society of Victoria is using the opportunity to provide basic plumbing training for their BladeRunners participants, at-risk youth up to age 30. After teaching basic plumbing skills, the BladeRunners participants will use those skills under the supervision of a journeyman plumber to replace 23 toilets at the Garth Homer Centre. Scott McKinty is the BladeRunners Coordinator for the John Howard Society. He says "this is an excellent opportunity to provide additional skills for his clients and allows the clients the opportunity to help a community agency"

The environment will also benefit from less water used and the old toilets will be recycled through Habitat for Humanity's ReStore. Andrew Sheret Ltd. is donating two toilets and providing the rest at cost. The Victoria Foundation has awarded a grant of \$6000.00 to buy the remaining toilets.

**What:** At risk youth learn basic plumbing skills and install toilets to help local charity.

**Who:** John Howard Society, Garth Homer Society

**Where:** Garth Homer Society  
813 Darwin Ave.

**When:** Thursday December 30, 2010  
Friday, December 31, 2010

**Contact:** Sue Elrington, Communications Coordinator, Garth Homer Society  
250.475.2270 ext. 224  
[selrington@garthhomersociety.org](mailto:selrington@garthhomersociety.org)

## **TOILET REPLACEMENT BACKGROUND**

Garth Homer Society has wanted to upgrade its toilets for some time but with other more urgent funding pressures the Toilet Replacement Project kept falling to the bottom of the list of things we could do.

In 2009 The Capital Regional District assessed the Garth Homer building and estimated that replacing the 23 toilets with low flush units would save 1,755,000 litres of water a year, saving the Society \$3,500 annually.

By completing the project before the end of 2010 GHS is also able to take advantage of a CRD rebate of \$75/toilet. The Victoria Foundation's generous grant covered the cost of toilets but without the help of John Howard Society GHS would be unable to install them.

### **Garth Homer Society**

The Garth Homer Society assists 150 adults with developmental disabilities become more independent and included in the community through employment, volunteering, recreation and community exploration. To find out more about Garth Homer Society's programs, visit [www.garthhomer.com](http://www.garthhomer.com).

### **John Howard Society**

BladeRunners is an established employment program that offers training and mentorship to at-risk youth (17-30years of age) The Ministry of Regional Economics and Skills Development are the stewards of the program while the Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society (ACCESS) serves as the manager. [www.johnhoward.victoria.bc.ca](http://www.johnhoward.victoria.bc.ca)

### **The Victoria Foundation**

The Victoria Foundation provides leadership by inspiring giving, by thoughtfully caring for the assets entrusted to us, and by investing in people, ideas and activities that strengthen our communities. [www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca](http://www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca)

### **Andrew Sheret Ltd.**

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In many ways Andrew Sheret Limited's history parallels that of Canada's. Both were built on a foundation of hard work from their earliest citizens and are maintained by a society that values an entrepreneurial spirit and a responsible social conscience. [www.sheret.com](http://www.sheret.com)