

CLBC Redesign



By Kaye Kennish
Executive Director

The only thing you can count on is change and change is coming to the way the Garth Homer Society is funded. The GHS receives most of its funding through Community Living British Columbia (CLBC), which for the past several

months has been working through a "redesign" process with service providers.

The process itself has a degree of complexity. New Funding Guide Templates, incorporating formulae for determining funding levels for numerous budget items, have to be submitted. Guide to Support Allocation (GSA) levels must be determined for each client. The intent behind the process however appears simple. CLBC is looking to find "efficiencies" in whatever

way possible, and the process will be implemented in such a way as to achieve that end.

Everyone wants to see taxpayers' money spent wisely, and certainly the requirement to go through this process has led to the identification of reasonable savings that we otherwise may not have found. As the process moves forward, the challenge will be to reach agreement on what distinguishes legitimate "efficiencies" from a denial

of resources sufficient to maintain the high standard of service to clients for which GHS is well known.

Time will tell what impact CLBC's redesign process will have on the vulnerable people served by GHS and other service providers. In the meantime GHS continues to do what we are here for – to support people with developmental disabilities to maximize their independence, and to enjoy real inclusion in our community.

You made it happen!

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you both the \$30,000 Pathways Seniors Expansion Project and the Customized Employment Pilot Project have met their goals.

Pathways Seniors Project

It's Tuesday afternoon and Joanne is feeling tired. As a senior at GHS she appreciates having a chair in which she can rest when she feels weary. Thanks to your generosity she can now take a nap in a comfy power assist chair that's easy to lower herself into.



Your response to our Seniors' Appeal met our target of \$15,000.

That amount will be matched by a private foundation. We will be able to purchase four more chairs and train staff in recognizing the signs of dementia in clients.

Customized Employment Project

Sarah was struggling at work. Her visual impairment made it hard for her to do her tasks at a grocery store bakery. She couldn't see to mop floors clean and kept getting in the way of her coworkers. With newly acquired Customized Employment training, Sarah's job coach, Allison, came up with a solution. She identified tasks using familiar, repetitive motions that Sarah could do even when she had difficulty seeing. Then she negotiated with the employer to create a *customized position* around these tasks. Sarah is now succeeding at her job and her coworkers love having her at work.



Thanks to your support, and the United Way, Vancity and the Workplace Innovation for Training Program we have almost completed training staff to support more clients like Sarah with Customized Employment.



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OUTLOOK

Golf links donors to Garth Homer Society clients

GARTH HOMER CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Every year 140 or so golfers gather on the links at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre for fun and fine golf to support the GHS Transportation Fund. Without the GHS vans it would be impossible to help people with developmental disabilities become more integrated and included in the community. Five days a week the vans are transporting clients to volunteering and recreational activities.

To join the fun you can register online at www.golf.garthhomer.com or call Sue at 250.475.2270 ext. 224 to register over the phone. If you don't have a foursome we'll pair you up. Registration includes golf, a great buffet dinner, silent auction and lots of fantastic prizes including a vacation in Hawaii. **Register before March 17th** and you could win a deluxe spa experience at the Ocean Palm Spa.

HIGHLAND PACIFIC GIRLS NIGHT OUT TO BENEFIT GARTH HOMER SOCIETY

We're excited to announce a new golf fundraiser this year thanks to Highland Pacific Golf Course and Investors Group Girls Night Out.

Every Monday night from April to August 40-60 women play a round of golf and enjoy dinner at the fantastic Highland Pacific Golf Course. Sponsors are invited to host product display nights featuring fun and great prizes.

To secure your spot as a sponsor please contact Kari Frazer at 250.475.2270. To register for Ladies Night contact Highland Pacific Golf Course at 250.478.4653



www.golf.garthhomer.com

Peninsula Co-op Powers GHS



Peninsula Co-op Board Member Mel Hernblad with Kaye Kennish, GHS Executive Director



Best friends Bill and Alvin pose beside their van picture.

Every Tuesday Joanne gets in a van with her friends and support worker and heads out from the Garth Homer Centre to enjoy seeing the city and having a cup of coffee at a coffee shop. Joanne has difficulty getting in and out of vans so she appreciates the specially modified van that is part of the Garth Homer Society fleet. Thanks to Peninsula Co-op Joanne will be enjoying her coffee outings for the next three years.

Peninsula Co-op's sponsorship of a GHS van covers gas

costs for the van which is essential for getting clients out to volunteer jobs and recreational activities. At the same time Peninsula Co-op lets the community know about its support by displaying its logo on a van wrap.

Stanya Watson, Community Relations Manager for Peninsula Co-op says it wasn't a hard decision to sponsor the van. "Our slogan is moving ahead by giving back and this is the perfect example of that. We like knowing we're improving the quality of life for people with devel-

opmental disabilities in our community."

Garth Homer Society Executive Director Kaye Kennish says the support from Peninsula Co-op is invaluable to the organization. "This van wrap sponsorship allows us to put money we were spending on gas into direct programming. We appreciate Peninsula Co-op's commitment to making the community better for all of us."



Raise the Roof!

For the second time in the past year GHS day custodian, Russ, could be found poking his head into the ceiling of the building trying to stop yet another leak.

The Garth Homer Centre on Darwin Street is 34 years old this year and showing its age, particularly on the roof.

The Society spent \$56,500 to repair half of the roof in 2008 and another section urgently needs fixing now. We need to raise \$30,000 immediately to replace the portion of the roof that is leaking. By next winter we need to replace the remaining roof at an additional cost of \$45,000.

Please help us raise these funds by donating online at www.garthhomer.com, by phone at **250.475.2270** or by sending your donation today to

Garth Homer Society
813 Darwin Ave.
Victoria, BC V8X 2X7

Please help us **RAISE THE ROOF** with your donation.

\$1000 = 175 sq ft

\$500 = 87 sq ft

\$100 = 20 sq ft

\$50 = 10 sq ft

Every donation helps.
Please complete the form below and show your support today.



Serious Coffee helps RAISE THE ROOF!

Proceeds from all coffee sales will help us to replace the roof.

How it works: Phone in your order or drop by GHS with payment and by the 15th of the next month we will mail you a certificate to redeem at any Serious Coffee location.

You can request whole beans or custom ground when you pick up your coffee. The cost is \$15 per pound.

Call **250.475.2270** to order your coffee today!

Or visit the website for more information

www.garthhomer.com

www.garthhomer.com

YES! I want to help GHS Raise the Roof

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

Tel (home): _____ Email _____

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____

I would like to donate to: RAISE THE ROOF! Other _____

I am sending my donation by cheque payable to *Garth Homer Society*.

I prefer to contribute through Visa MasterCard

Card # _____ Expiry _____

Cardholder Signature _____

Your Legacy

A planned gift in your will such as a bequest ensures people with developmental disabilities will continue to participate fully in the life of our community for years to come.

To find out more about creating your legacy, contact Kari Frazer at 250.475.2270.

COMING UP AT GARTH HOMER SOCIETY



LOCAL SPONSORS



Tickets

\$20 adults

\$15 students

Available at

Ocean River Sports

Russ Hays Bicycle Shop

Garth Homer Centre

MARCH 17 | 7:00 pm

RADICAL REELS

Hanging on by your fingertips takes on a whole new meaning when it comes to extreme climbing as you'll see in the short film *Tuzgle* - one of 9 high-adrenaline films making up the Radical Reels Film Festival produced

by Banff Mountain Film Festival.

These films showcase those who test the edge of human endurance on skis, bikes, ropes, longboards and kayaks.

More info: **250.475.2270**



"Tuzgle"

*Nina Caprez
climbing in
Argentina*

GHS in the spotlight!

Clients and staff alike had a great time when Garth Homer Society played host to Ryan Awram and Chris the Roadie from the **Q100.3 FM** in January.

CBC Radio's "On The Island" featured two interviews about the increasing emergence of dementia in seniors with developmental disabilities.

Hear interview segments **www.garthhomer.com** under the Media tab



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