

**Garth Homer Society Annual General Meeting**  
**September 15, 2010**  
**Chair's Report**

This has been an important and productive year for the Board of Directors of the Garth Homer Society. Whereas in 2009 we were focusing on the fundamental issues of governance and policy, this year attention was placed squarely on the future of the Society.

To this end the Board convened four times to consider strategic initiatives consistent with some of the recommendations made in the recent CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) review and Board planning efforts of the last several years. Some of the abiding issues on which the organization needs to make progress include:

- the need to adapt programming to demographic trends and changing client interests and needs
- the need for revenue diversification, more effective fundraising, and improved financial security
- the need to build a stronger Garth Homer brand and external profile, and improve communication
- the need to improve outreach and partnerships

The report is being finalized by our consultant, Mitchell Temkin, but it is clear that the Society must depart from purely incremental planning and consider strategies that are more transformational in nature and adapt to the challenging external environment in which Garth Homer finds itself, including:

- the rapid aging of the client population, as outlined in the Society's own research report, *Aging and Developmental Disabilities, Strategic Issues for Service Agencies*
- the shift in CLBC's funding focus — a change which will likely introduce a kind of partial market dynamic in to the provision of disability services
- the ongoing governmental economic concerns, which is likely to result in years of fiscal restraint and deficit reduction.

To quote my learned predecessor, Todd Webber, "Simply changing how one plays the game may not be enough. It is the playing field that is changing."

So, taking these factors into consideration, there's a busy year ahead but I am confident that the vision and effort of the Board combined with the skill, experience and dedication of Kaye, her management and staff is capable of making Garth Homer Society a dynamic, sustainable and relevant provider of social services well into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Respectfully submitted

Bruce Homer  
Chair, Garth Homer Society Board of Directors