



Ventures Voices

Community Ventures Society

Volume 1, Issue 1

JOY KNOWS NO BOUNDS

On June 8th, 2002 at 4:00pm, Pat Howson and Joseph Ward joined with family and friends to witness their Commitment Ceremony. Reverend David Howard (the former Minister from Woodlands) and lifelong friend performed the ceremony.

Pat and Joe were as excited as any couple on their wedding day. The 32 year wait only made the ceremony that much sweeter.

Pat looked wonderful in her

wedding gown, face beaming and eyes sparkling while repeating her vows to Joseph.

Joseph was very handsome in his tux and looked so sincere and serious as he repeated his vows to Patricia.

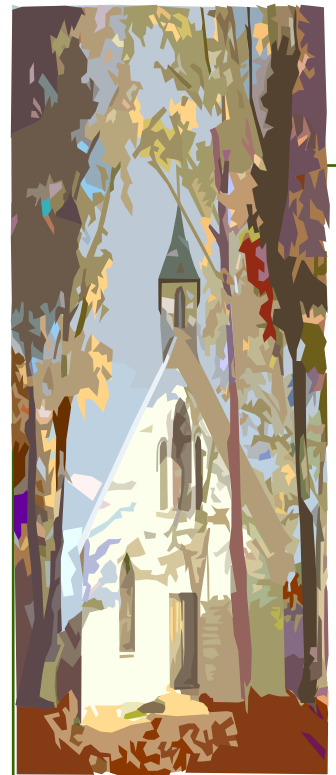
It meant so much to both Pat and Joe that Terry and Jean Howson came all the way from Penticton for the event. They also appreciate the efforts of staff and friends in making the day

very special.

After refreshments, the couple went to Blue Mountain Park for pictures.

Friend, Muriel caught the wonderful ceremony on video as well (Pat and Joe would love to show anyone who would like to see it).

Pat and Joe had a honeymoon weekend at Whistler the following weekend and had a marvelous time



FAMILY CONNECTION A HIT

On May 30th a group of Respite Families and Caregivers got together with Sandra Williamson, Salina Sachedina, Katherine Urquhart and Mike Keating to listen to a wonderful presentation from Cathy Anthony. As many will know Cathy An-

thony has been actively involved with the Coalition for Community Living in the work to create a new Governance model for the delivery of Community Living Services and supports for families and their sons and daughters with disabilities.

Cathy gave a wonderful overview of the process of setting up the new governance model and got us updated on what to expect next. The evening gave us an opportunity to connect with each other, enjoy some dessert and share a laugh.

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PNE Day

By Faye Headridge



We went on lots of rides. My favorite ride was the roller coaster, but I liked all the rides

We had hot dogs, chips and pop for lunch. I had 7 up instead of my usual water.

We got neat baseball caps with CKNW Picnic written on the front

Everyone had a great time. I had a great time - especially the rides.



UNTITLED

By Lana Hennessy

People may be disabled
People may be special needs
But remember God gave these people talents
And potential as well
All they need is a little help
To be all they can be
And in them you all will find a wealth
Of talent as well
For every person is worth something
And has a true story to tell!

Learning from the Past

By Lana Hennessy

What I learned at Whistler shocked me. I was reading a article on Woodlands Cemetery [at BC Association for Community Living's Conference]. A lot of these people who died at Woodlands Institution didn't have a memorial. All that showed were their names, the day they were born and died, and the plot number.

They were buried and forgotten. I didn't think this was fair or right for them to do.

These people were once living human beings too! They had a right to be remembered. What right did those people have to bury them and forget them like they weren't worth anything?!. Like they were a piece of trash! It totally appalled me! I felt we should have a memorial for these poor souls who were treated so horribly! They had a right to be remembered too! Just because they had a disability didn't mean they weren't worth anything!

Everyone is worth something. Each person born on Earth is born there for a reason and with a purpose – disabled or non-disabled!

The way these people were treated as Disgrace of Nature! And of Humanity! If they had given

these people a chance and the help they needed they would have found out those people were just like them! All they needed was a chance and some extra help! They had potential too! They weren't a piece of trash!

And some of the terms they used to call these people angered me! Terms like Retard, Crazy Lunatic, Insane and Stupid, made me cringe!

These people were verbally abused! Someone should have washed the people ,who called those poor souls names, mouth's out with castor oil, cod liver oil and soap!

And what about shock treatment! God and Nature didn't intend for people to be shocked with electricity! Did you know that a certain amount of electricity can kill a person. ?! How many of these people may have died because of that shock treatment and not their illness! That shouldn't have been done! Shocking a person with electricity to calm them down is nuts! No doubt Heaven was horrified too!

No doubt Heaven was horrified too! And God more than likely wasn't pleased as well! Nor Nature!

CREATIVITY EXPRESS CONTEST

Community Ventures Society

needs a

LOGO and a

NAME for our **NEWSLETTER**.

All members of our Community Ventures family are eligible.

OUR VISION & MISSION

Our vision is an inclusive community that equally values all its members. We will pursue our vision by engaging all community members in mutually supportive relationships.

OUR VALUES

We believe that one person can make a difference in building a community and in the life of another person.

We value relationships, dignity, quality, competence, excellence, flexibility, creativity, *integrity and diversity*.

We are committed to keeping current by reviewing research detailing “best practice”.

We comply with applicable laws, statutes, regulations and contractual obligations and take a professional approach to financial reporting and the integrity of transactions and records.

We respect that we are entrusted by the public to ensure that public funds are spent wisely, that no conflict of interest exists or is seen to exist, and that people with whom we have a relationship are not placed at undue risk.

We respect the privacy of participants, employees, and organisational information.

We are committed to truth, fairness, equity and respect for participants and their families, ourselves, our colleagues, and those with whom we are in contact.

We are committed to developing and demonstrating our own leadership, within the organization and within our communities.

We support the role of advocacy in the pursuit of inclusive communities.

We believe that in supporting individuals, we must support their families and communities.

Community Ventures Society

August 9th, 2002

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Blue Mountain Park.

Come and join us for a day of fun. All proceeds to United Way.



**COMMUNITY VENTURES SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
to the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
June 2002**

If ever there was a year that rewarded patience and calmness in the face of turbulent times the last twelve months has been such a time.

The new Liberal government has set its mark with a radical reinvention of the way in which government works and who will receive the benefits of public services.

After talk of 50 % then 35% and finally 17% cuts spread over three fiscal years - who knew which way was up. Then the surprise news that the Ministry would pass on up to 10% cuts this year due to deficits ...- oops actually they were in a surplus – who knew.

Hard to believe, but this activity paled in light of the announcements that the entire way Community Living Services was delivered by the Ministry for Children and Family Development, and the way monies for services was distributed would be radically altered.

The Community Living Movement responded quickly and largely in unison. Offering an effective, values based, family founded alternative to traditional government service models. Community Ventures Board members and staff were part of the profound lobbying effort to have government reduce the cuts and accept the Governance model offered by the Community Living Coalition. Meetings with MLA's, letter campaigns and active participation in the Coalition marked the energy and commitment of our Society.

In the midst of all this CVS staff continued to support our participants in active, vibrant, involved lives in their community and at home. We grew – Respite families went from 52 to 65 – Day program participants increased by 17%. New contracts with Ministry of Health were added. Our revenues increased by 9%. Relations with our Ministry partners have improved and our partnerships with other community agencies have greatly increased

Board and staff are actively engaged in Strategic Planning, Accreditation and CVS Communication planning activities.

There will be changes over the next three years. Given Community Living Services budget cuts and changes in Governance we will need to adjust. However, patience and a calm approach has served us well this year and will in the future.

Following my report, Lisa Bourget will report briefly on the Residential and Day Support Services and Sandra Williamson will report on our Children Respite Services. I want, particularly, to acknowledge Mil Hoggard's continued hard work in maintaining our Financial Services and Christine Boisvert ongoing efforts to keep the good ship CVS on an even keel. My personal appreciation goes to all the participants, their families, the staff, and the Board for the generous way I was welcomed and supported on my arrival last September.

Finally, I thank the Board, staff, participants and their families for each of their contribution to the wonderful community that exists here at Community Ventures Society.