



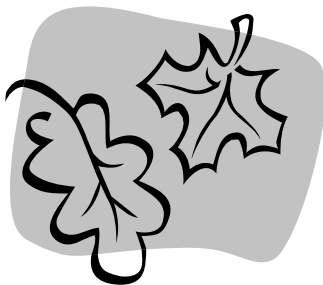
ARROWSMITH COMMUNITY JUSTICE SOCIETY

VOICES

Our Vision is a community in harmony

ACJS VOICES

Welcome to the Fall edition of the ACJS newsletter. As you can see, the name has been selected. "VOICES" was suggested by Joyce Daman and we thought it captured the intent of the newsletter perfectly; that is, we want this to be a forum for ACJS voices. Joyce will be receiving a small token of appreciation for her wonderful contribution. Thank you to all the members who sent in their suggestions.



If you have items that you would like to see in the next Newsletter (winter) or ideas for items please send them to either Ruth Addy (rgaddy@shaw.ca) or Dorthe Jakobsen (Dorthe@shaw.ca).

Coordinator's Voice



It has been a very active summer for Arrowsmith Community Justice.

Generally, the months of June, July and August are painfully slow in receiving cases from the RCMP. Not this year! It has been a whirlwind summer for cases. Over the last two months we have received 13 cases and I am pleased to say that all available volunteers are working cases.

I think we have finally turned the corner as we are receiving Mischief, Property Damage, Minor

Assaults and Arson cases. This indicates to me that the RCMP are recognizing the role that Restorative Justice can play in the community and they are definitely supporting our program. A big thank you to the members of the Oceanside RCMP Detachment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those volunteers who have given up some of their summer to work all these cases. I know it's hard to work in the nice weather and around summer vacations. I appreciate all your dedication and hard work.

On another note, the month of April was National Volunteer month and in celebration of this ACJS had gifts to give all of our volunteers at the RCMP luncheon in Parksville. So if you were not able to make the luncheon and receive your gift, please contact me at 954-2968 and arrange to pick up your gifts. Leave a brief voicemail if I'm not in and I will return your call. Until the next Newsletter, bye for now!

Upcoming Events

Active Volunteers' Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 24, 5:00-7:30 pm,
Dinner provided
Place: Frank Collins' home at 1096
Eaglecrest Drive, Qualicum Beach
Topic: Contract Writing and more!

AGM Meeting

Date: November 20, 2006, 7:00PM
Place: Qualicum Beach Civic Centre,
Windsor Room
Activities: Exciting speakers, Elect new Board members, present awards, volunteer of the year, meet and greet!



Volunteer Voices

Frank Collins



Following our volunteer training and support meeting on April 10th, we were joined by members of Frank's family and friends to toast Frank Collins for this milestone birthday.

Here are some reflections from Frank himself.

“Looking back at my 85th birthday party, I recall it as a light-hearted affair, and fittingly so. But it was also an occasion, for me at least, for some humbling reflection. As I slip into what I can only describe as a sort of blissful senility, I have come to regard, more than ever before, the importance and the richness of friendship and relationships.

This RJ community is a very significant component of my life and so it was a special privilege to share that day with people I have come to know, and to respect and to love. My sincere thanks to you all.

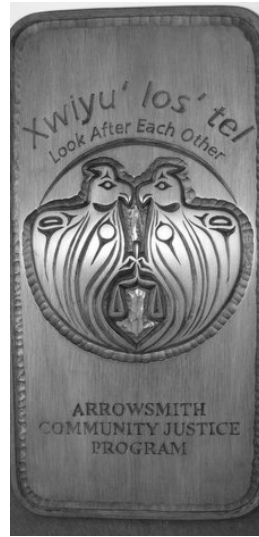
And of course, the offer still stands. You are all invited to my next significant day - April, 2021”

Bill Wilson



Bill Wilson, one of our newer volunteers, has carved a beautiful representation of the ACJS logo on a plaque. Bill presented his carving to ACJS

members, represented by Linda Cherewyk, Caryl Wylie and Rollie Koop, on August 1st. The following is Bill's story based on a recent interview.



You would know at once, as you walk up the driveway to Bill's home, that creative people live here. The surrounding gardens are lovely, beautifully shaped and full of interesting plantings. Bill, his wife Verdelle and their little dog Emma will greet you at the door and welcome you into a house that is filled with splendid examples of wood carving, stained glass and intricate embroideries; a feast for the eyes.

Bill is a tall, white-haired fellow, with a whimsical turn of mind and a lively interest in our world. His life is a record of a variety of experiences. You are soon aware there are many new avenues he is likely to discover as he explores the internet and continues his travelling.

Bill's story begins in Chilliwack. His father was involved in construction and logging and so Bill acquired his formal education in Hope, North Vancouver, Merritt and Revelstoke as his family moved around British Columbia. He was a Sociology major at Simon Fraser and graduated from BCIT as Public Health Inspector. During these years, he also managed to include a 3-month trip to Europe and a 6-month trek around the world. He claims experiences also in dump truck driving, log booming grounds, carpenter's helper in an underground power station, as a baker's assistant and much, much more. Among other things he learned that "if you fall in the water while on a log boom in the early morning you will have a long hard day" and that "sugar and salt are not interchangeable in baking".

Bill claims that it took him "a long time to figure out what to do with his life". He discovered during his years as a Public Health Inspector in Surrey that this was not the kind of work he enjoyed and so he became the owner/operator of a salmon trawler and spent fourteen years salmon fishing. Later experiences included RV resort management and Real Estate.



Finally, Bill and Verdelle were free to quit work and go RVing. Every year they spend about three months travelling and visiting in Arizona, California and the Baja. And Bill has the freedom he needs to work on his carving. He began to work with wood about 25 years ago. He loves Native Indian Art and at first concentrated on wood-burning objects. But one day Verdelle, who was studying Anthropology, brought home some Native designs and suggested he might like to try some carving. Bill likes to tell the story of how he became an award-winning craftsman. He entered five pieces in a local competition, was considered too accomplished to be a beginner and placed in the intermediate category. His work was given a first, second, third and two honourable mentions. It was only later that Bill discovered he was the only entrant in his competition. All the Indian carvers had chosen to enter their own show.

In addition to the Indian motifs, Bill likes to carve little sayings and name plates. He is amused by the idea that "most of the world's wisdom can be found on bumper stickers." For these plaques he will sometimes invent his own fonts.

Bill derives great personal satisfaction from his work. He loves the flexibility and beauty of the wood medium. His brown eyes sparkle as he describes how carving steadies his mind "because you bleed if it doesn't".



Thank you, Bill, for your unique and valued contribution to our society.

Did you know?

The debrief team can be accessed at any time during the conference process. The procedure would be to contact Linda to facilitate the access.

Directors' Voices

Annually, the volunteers who work within the ACJS program need to be named for insurance purposes and because of the cost involved, the RCMP can only insure those who are actively working within the program. Therefore, the ACJS Board recently adopted a classification of its volunteers and members.

Board Members – Entitled to all volunteer communications (newsletters and e-mail), training and support, and to vote at the AGM. Board members are currently covered by ACJS Director and Officer Liability Insurance.

Active Volunteers – (*those volunteers currently available and/or working as part of the conference team process including debrief team, trainers, etc.*) Entitled to all volunteer communications (newsletters and e-mail), training and support, and to vote at the AGM. Active volunteers are currently RCMP Liability Insured.

Volunteers (On leave)* - (*those who notify the coordinator requesting a leave.*) Entitled to all volunteer communications (newsletter and e-mail). Will be contacted annually to determine status. After 1 year, would not be insured and would move to inactive status.

Volunteers (Inactive)* - (*those who have not been available to work as an active volunteer for more than a year and have not requested a leave*) Are not eligible to attend volunteer training and support meetings. May pay \$5 annual dues to retain member privileges. Are not insured.

Members (Paying) – (*those who do not work actively within the organization but wish to be part of ACJS, \$5 annual dues or in kind offering*) Entitled to notification of the AGM, a copy of any communication made available to the general public, vote at the AGM. Are not insured.

*Any member on leave or inactive status who wishes to become active again should contact Linda Cherewyk at the office (954-2968). We are offering refresher courses to update knowledge of policy, procedures and practice.



Voices of Justice

Following is an excerpt from the book "Changing Lenses" by Howard Zehr:

Retributive justice, restorative justice. The world looks quite differently through these two lenses. Retributive justice, we have. It may not do what needs to be done, or even what its practitioners claim it does, but it "works" in the sense that we know how to carry it out. Justice which seeks first to meet needs and to make right looks quite different from justice which has blame and pain at its core. The following chart attempts to contrast some characteristics and implications of the two concepts of justice.

Retributive Lens	Restorative Lens
Blame-fixing central	Problem-solving central
Focus on past	Focus on future
Needs secondary	Needs primary
Battle model; adversarial	Dialogue normative
Emphasizes differences	Searches for commonalities
Imposition of pain considered normative	Restoration and reparation considered normative
One social injury added to another	Emphasis on repair of social injuries
Harm by offender balanced by harm to offender	Harm by offender balanced by making right
Focus on offender; victim ignored	Victims' needs central
State and offender are key elements	Victim and offender are key elements
Victims lack information	Information provided to victims
Restitution rare	Restitution normal
Victims' "truth" secondary	Victims given chance to tell their " truth"
Action from state to offender; offender passive	Offender given role in solution
State monopoly on response to wrongdoing	Victim, offender and community roles recognized
Offender has no responsibility for resolution	Offender has responsibility for resolution
Outcomes encourage offender irresponsibility	Responsible behaviour encouraged
Offender denounced	Harmful act denounced
Offender's ties to community weakened	Offender's integration into community increased
Offender seen in fragments, offense being definitional	Offender viewed holistically
Sense of balance through retribution	Sense of balance through restitution
Balance righted by lowering offender	Balance righted by raising both victim and offender
Justice tested by intent and process	Justice tested by its "fruits"
Justice as right rules	Justice as right relationships
Victim-offender relationships Ignored	Victim-offender relationships central
Process alienates	Process aims at reconciliation