



ARROWSMITH COMMUNITY JUSTICE SOCIETY

VOICES

Our Vision is a community in harmony

Welcome to the Fall edition of the ACJS newsletter. We hope that you find it very haunting and scaaarrrry – Happy Halloween!



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



On September 19th we had our Information Night with the RCMP and Victims' Services at the Parksville Civic Centre. It went very well and I have received many compliments on our presentation. I would like to thank all those who came out in support of ACJS. It felt great to look out there and see so many of you and it made me relax and have fun.

After the Info Night, I was asked to present the RDN with our stats and program progress for the year and this has been submitted, ready for the RCMP to present to the RDN.

ACJS has had two significant articles printed in our local newspapers recently. The first article was

about our new program, the Community Dispute Resolution Program, which will be up and running within the next six months.



This program will be addressing community disputes between neighbours or businesses before they escalate into criminal matters. We are not mediators, counselors or therapists but we will attempt to resolve some of the civil issues the RCMP can not deal with. If we can not assist the parties involved, we will be directing them to professional resources already established in the community. The RCMP are eager to use our new program and believe that it will free up a lot of their time. We will be asking our current volunteers if they wish to upgrade some of their existing training to work in the new program

I would like to thank all of the volunteers for your dedication and loyalty to ACJS. Your hard work never goes unnoticed and is appreciated.

Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting

Date: Monday, November 19th, 7:00 pm

Place: Knox United Church in Parksville

Agenda:

1. Sharing the Vision for our Program Expansion: this is exciting material so PLEASE come out for an introduction to the ACJS Community Dispute Resolution Program and participate in a lively discussion.
2. Presentation to the Volunteer of the Year.
3. Coffee, goodies and socializing.

Volunteer Voices

Jo D'Ath Shiu has been visiting the nine new volunteers who participated in the March training sessions. Her report follows.

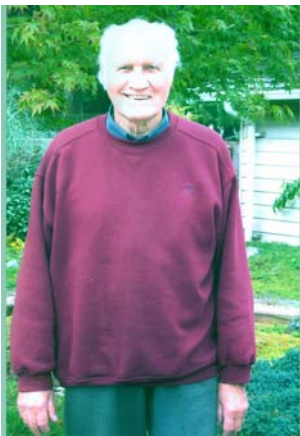
During the last training session of new volunteers, my first thought was "what a wonderful group this is." I hope some of you have had experience with the conference process.

My intention after the initial phone contact with all the trainees was to meet with each one personally. Half way through I realized that four newcomers lived up in the Bowser area.



Summer came with the usual vacations and all that company we have from other places that love to come to the Island for a visit. A recent mishap another person had with my car and I, has postponed my intention even further. However, my brand new intention is to see all the remaining Bowserites soon - surely before winter.

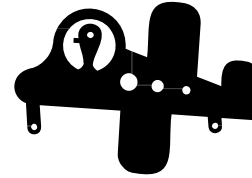
Frank Collins



Frank Collins began his association with the Arrowsmith Community Justice Society in 1998 when he was selected as a member of the original Steering Committee. For nine years he has continued to make a valuable contribution, serving as a board member, a case facilitator and a committed

promoter of our program. Although Frank has limited his participation recently, he continues to provide sage advice as an honorary board member and welcomes us to his beautiful home whenever we hold our volunteer supper meetings. We treasure

his support and think our members might like to know more of his story, which follows.



Frank was born in Courtenay in 1921 and grew up in North Vancouver. After graduation from high school he worked in Kelowna for a year before entering university. In 1941 he began service with the RCAF where he became a pilot. He spent some time as a flying instructor before he was posted overseas and attached to the RAF. He spent his tour of duty flying missions in Lancasters. Sadly, his two older brothers, also pilots, were killed while on active duty.



After the war Frank earned a forestry degree at UBC and subsequently entered the lumber industry as a marketer. He married and settled in Youbou as a sales manager for BC Forest Products. His four children - three daughters and a son were born while the family lived in Youbou. During the time he spent there Frank became interested in the work of the John Howard Society and became involved in helping a prisoner return to society.



After a period of seventeen years in Youbou Frank felt he needed a change and undertook the management of three sawmills in Prince George. However, he soon found that he did not enjoy the

work and after a year Frank was happy to return to a marketing position in Tsawwassen.



In 1982, Frank decided to leave the lumber industry. He and his wife Verlie started a landscaping business. Their venture prospered and fostered an interest in gardens. While living in Tsawwassen he became involved again with the John Howard Society. He began to visit a prisoner in Matsqui for one hour every Saturday. He soon discovered that only 5% of the inmates received visits. Prisoners got the message that society had rejected them. There were times when Frank wondered if his visits were really worth the effort. But one day the inmate said to him - "your visits are the only thing that keeps me going." Frank has never forgotten these words and has continued his involvement with prisoner rehabilitation. He realized also that these efforts without commitment could not succeed.



The Collins family moved to Vancouver Island in 1994 after retirement. Here they enjoyed island life and began to create a garden. This garden is very meaningful to Frank, physically and creatively fulfilling. It is an oasis, a serene retreat, lovingly nurtured by his devoted care. Its regenerative benefits have encouraged him to "invite us all to his next significant birthday - April 2021."

Nowadays Frank has reduced his Restorative Justice activities because he cannot be insured for case work at his age. He has become an active volunteer for the Hospice Society as a one-on-one caregiver reliever. However, he wants to maintain contact with our organization because he values the friendships he has formed and he continues to contribute to the development of our philosophy.



We are all in his debt and are grateful that he is willing to participate in our activities.

Retiring Volunteers



ACJS would like to say good bye to Barb Barry, Maggie Passmore, and George Jones who have recently retired from ACJS. The Arrowsmith Community Justice Society would like to thank them all for the dedication and hard work they have provided over the years.



We would also like to wish them the best in their new endeavors and leave them with an open invitation to return in the future should they wish to do so.



Community Voices

The following is a reprint of an article which appeared in the Oceanside Star on September 22nd after Linda's presentation at the Parksville Community Centre. It was written by Danielle Bell.



PROGRAM WILL HELP KEEP THE PEACE

Oceanside will have a community dispute resolution program within the next six months, to address conflicts before they could potentially escalate into criminal matters for police.

"Police field a horrendous amount of calls about civil complaints they can't deal with," said coordinator Linda Cherewyk of the Arrowsmith Community Justice Society. "We're hoping to take some of that burden off (police)."

The society has operated a restorative justice program for the last nine years. Some of the existing 32 volunteers will now take additional training for the new program.

While the restorative justice program is based on police referrals, the dispute program can be accessed by anyone, said Cherewyk.

"It can be as simple as a guy cutting down his trees with a chainsaw at 10 a.m. and his neighbour is sick and needs to sleep at that time," said Cherewyk.

Another example could be siblings disagreeing over the type of long-term-care their senior parents should receive, she said. The parties would meet, have their say, and listen to each other in a safe, respectful environment, said Cherewyk.

And though volunteers are not therapists or mediators, they have a wealth of professionals they can point to should participants require further assistance.