



## **Agassiz-Harrison Senior Peer Support**

### **President's Report for 2016**

Once again I am able to begin my report on a slightly more positive note with the announcement that we welcome another new member to our group, Rosa Jensen. Rosa joined us early in 2016 and is proving to be a valuable member.

On a less happy note we have decided, that due to Jim Johnson's health problems and the need for Bonnie to be his care giver, to make them *Honorary Members* and thank them for all their help in the past. We look forward to seeing them whenever they are able to attend out meetings.

Our *Seniors Only* and *Seniors & Teens* lunch projects are progressing satisfactorily. With the boost from the grant we received from the *Kent Harrison Foundation* and with the very careful budgeting by Bonnie Bozak, our caterer, we are able to continue to provide the lunches on a "by donation" basis. We had an unfortunate crisis in December when we had to cancel the *Seniors Only Christmas* lunch due to heavy snow falls. However this has been re-scheduled for January 2017.

The *Knit & Natter* group rented 2 tables at the *Lion's Christmas Craft Fair* which was held at the end of November and raised almost \$600.00 which will help to keep our funds in a comfortable position for another year.

One area of real concern is the *Friendly Phone Program* which is organized by Sheila and which has been appreciated by many seniors over the past few years. However the number of clients has dropped and we need more seniors to make it worthwhile. We realize that many seniors are frightened by the thought of

'telephone scams' which makes them very wary of a call from anyone they don't know. How can we find out about seniors in need our our services when they are terrorized by the thought of intruders and scams. We have to find the answer.

In October a *Senior Health & Wellness Fair* was held at *Cheam Village*. Many organizations had booths with lots of information available for anyone interested. The speakers were *Isobel McKenzie, Seniors Advocate for B.C.*, and *Dr. Milne*, one of the new doctors from the medical clinic. This was very well attended by approximately 100 people.

We start the New Year with the hope that we can encourage more people to join our group. There are still too many seniors and shut-ins out there in need of our help but we have to rely on other people to contact us about them. The *Information Booth*, which has been set up at *Cheam Village* should be a starting point but how many people even know that it exists or how to use the computer. There is a lack of communication somewhere and we need to find it if we are to be of service to our seniors.

In closing I would like to thank you all for another year of conscientious efforts to bring our services to the people that need us – our seniors. We are fortunate to have a group such as ours in Agassiz.

*Eunice Royal 2016*