



Agassiz-Harrison Senior Peer Support

President's Report for 2017

This year has been full of ups and downs, which seems to be the norm. We still need new members and new ideas in order to be able to provide the seniors of Agassiz with some of the help they require.

On a sad note we learned that Jim Johnson had passed away. He and Bonnie were members of *Peer Support* for many years but moved to Ontario when Jim's health deteriorated too much for Bonnie to cope with, and to be near their daughters. We shall miss them both and sent our condolences to Bonnie.

Our *Seniors Only* and *Seniors & Teens* lunches continue to be very popular and we cater for 65 – 70 seniors each time. Bonnie provides delicious lunches and manages to keep within our budget, which is amazing with the cost of food.

The *Knit & Natter* groups have been taking part in several charity programs including knitting purple hats for the '*Shaken Baby*' project through *Vancouver Children's Hospital*; the other project is the '*Fish and Chip*' baby sweater project. Babies born in poverty stricken countries are often wrapped in newspaper for warmth (like fish & chips in England). These items are gratefully received and are distributed through a third party. Once again we had tables at the *Lions Christmas Craft Fair*, at the end of November, our return was rather disappointing, compared to previous years, but will provide us with funds for another year. As with everything else we need new and more up to date ideas.

Our *Friendly Phone Program* is still a cause for concern with the number of seniors taking advantage of the program now down to just a

few. There must be some way to get information about this service, to the seniors, without scaring them. If anyone has any ideas about this please contact Sheila.

In March Bobbi Jacob, Director of *Agassiz Harrison Community Services*, received a grant to set up a Committee to invite speakers to talk on a variety of topics of interest to seniors. Betty, Eunice and Robin volunteered to help with this project and the first talk was given by Stewart McLean on April 27th and was well attended. Talks continued every 2 weeks with many and varied topics such as Gardening, The Wetlands, Genealogy, etc. and the talks will continue thru February 2018. Unfortunately, Bobbi resigned her position with AHCS in December 2017 but the talks will continue as she planned.

At the start of a New Year we are full of hope and enthusiasm and trust that some of our ideas will come to fruition. There is, as always, a great need for volunteers but very few people are able to appreciate the satisfaction that comes from helping others. It's not always easy and there are often problems to be solved, but what the heck we can give it a shot. It's worth it.

In closing I thank each and every one of our team for all the time and effort that has been put into making 2017 another successful year. There are still a few problems but hopefully we can sort them out this year. Especially if we can encourage a few more volunteers to join our group.

Thank you.

Eunice Royle 2017