



Agassiz-Harrison Senior Peer Support

President's Report for 2019

Once again, in 2019, we were faced with problems – the need for more volunteers being the most pressing. It has become increasingly difficult in all areas of volunteering to recruit new members. It would seem that all we can do is keep spreading the word and hope we get some response.

Our lunches are still proving to be very successful due to the delicious meals prepared by Bonnie Bozak. We also have 4 new volunteers to help with the lunches – Penny, Jerry, Anne and Joyce their help makes a great difference. One of the problems is knowing how many seniors will be attending the lunches, this makes it difficult to estimate the amount of food required and still keep to the budget. We are very fortunate in that Bonnie is very good at making the food stretch between 60 – 70 seniors. Even though we phone the regular seniors there are a few new ones each time and we would hate to have to turn anyone away. The seniors really appreciate having the Elementary School students helping serve the meals and it is good training for the students too.

The *Knit & Natter* group is still going strong with several new members. We are still knitting for *Family Place* and *Community Services* for inclusion in the *Christmas Hampers*. Once again we had tables at the *Christmas Craft Fair* and made just over \$400.00. In April we provided a basket of knitted items for the *Kent Harrison Foundation Fund Raiser*. We are still visiting *Chem Senior Care Home* (now *Agassiz Senior Care Centre*) and there has been an amazing change with the residents. Initially we had quite a few people knitting or crocheting but now they prefer to do jigsaw puzzles or look at magazines. So, at least, we are still visiting them and enjoying it.

The *Friendly Phone Program* still needs more seniors to take advantage of the service. It's quite obvious that seniors are afraid to answer their phones with all the 'scams' that are around these days. If you know of anyone who would benefit

from this service, or if you have any ideas to help, please contact Sheila.

In September Betty wrote to the *Seniors Advocate* (Isabel McKenzie) to ask if anything could be done to look into several concerns about seniors living alone with no one to care for them. Also the feeding of patients in hospital when they are unable to feed themselves and cannot even reach the food trays. How/who makes the decisions about such matters. It may take time to get results.

In October we received a donation of \$50.00 from *Superior Doors* in Chilliwack. This was the result of Eunice explaining about our Senior Lunches, to the young man fitting her new garage doors.

In December Betty informed us that she had to have hip surgery and would be unable to help for a month or two. We hope all goes well.

Before finishing I wish to say many thanks to Betty and Sheila for taking care of the preparation and submission of the Annual Report on, and Application for, the Grant from the *Kent Harrison Foundation*. We are very fortunate to receive this grant, without it we would have to make a charge for the lunches to cover the rising cost of food. Once again thank you to Betty and Sheila.

At the start of each New Year we hope that we will be able to encourage new members – what an opportunity they are missing. If only we could get one or two to give it a try I feel sure they would be amazed at the pleasure it gives.

Thank you every one for all the hard work that has been put into our projects and hopefully we will have a better year in 2020.

Thank you.

Eunice Royle, President