

**Winter 2010**

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**Board of Directors**

**President** *Joan Lynum*

**Treasurer** *Andrew Brown*

**Secretary** *Tonnar Brace*

**Directors**

*David Christie*

*Horst Hofmann*

*Dave Henry*

*Deborah LeClair*

*Edith Ross*

**Survey Time**

Just around the corner is March, survey month. In preparation for the flurry of survey activity, Howe Sound has employed an electronic partner called Survey Monkey to streamline and assist in the collection and analysis of responses. The surveys are open to consumers, personnel, and stakeholders to gather important feedback information on all of our programs and services. Anyone else who is interested in completing our survey and providing valuable feedback can access the form on our website in the survey section <http://www.howesound.net/surveys.php>

It will be available until Monday, March 15, 2010. If you prefer to receive your survey by mail please contact the head office and we will mail them out to you.



**New President for the HSRSS Board of Directors**

The society would like to issue a warm welcome to Joan Lynum who was elected as our Society president. Joan is no stranger to the Howe Sound Board with over a decade of service under her belt. Joan has an excellent command of contracts and services and has been a great asset to the board throughout her time with us. Her upfront manner and down to business approach have been exceptional for keeping the board on track. According to Society founder Tonnar Brace, even before her time on the board Joan was very active in the downsizing of Woodlands, and a key figure when we set up our first group home Windsong in 1988.

**Children's Services Department**

In mid-2009 Howe Sound ventured into the realm of service provision to children and youth. Within a few short months of launching the Children's Services Department, we found ourselves inundated with referrals and the buzz has continued right through to the end of the year with no sign of slowing down.

Sarah Rutherford, Manager of Children's Services, has been busy with a steady stream of children and youth requiring support services. Howe Sound now operates two youth housing resources in the Vancouver Coastal Health Region, has a number of SIL 1 to 1 contracts, and oversees homeshare arrangements throughout the Lower Mainland.

**UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES**

FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

*possibilities*

## New Westminster Headway Celebrates Three Years

Headway New Westminster just celebrated their three year anniversary on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2010. A successful party was held with tasty food and interesting people. The Society would like to thank members, funders, and stakeholders for their enthusiastic support over the years. Headway New West, originally known as Headway Coquitlam, was moved to it's present location in May 2009 to be closer to SkyTrain and accommodate more people. Lucy Kelly has been heading up the Program for most of the time since inception and has more recently been joined by Gabrielle Pape who coordinate's the centre onsite. Centre activities include (but are not limited to):

- Tai Chi
- Baking Class
- Toonie Lunch
- Activity Club
- Art Studio
- Walking Club
- Music trivia
- Bowling Club
- Current Events
- Game tournaments
- Cooking Class
- Wheel of Fortune
- Movie Night
- Bingo
- Super Star Lunch



Headway New Westminster is also the home base for our Community Leisure Program.

Far from being static the program is breaking new ground with a new partnership with Neil Squire Society underway. Together we will soon be offering online "Career Development" courses beginning in early March. Headway is also co-hosting monthly evening BRAINSTORM meeting with B.R.A.I.N for our members. We are also offering on-site aerobics for our members. Finally, Headway will be assisting members to participate in Fraser Valley's support group "Re-Wired" starting January 7<sup>th</sup> 2010.

## Collective Agreement Coming to an End

April 1<sup>st</sup> marks the end of the 2006-2010 collective agreement and with it Howe Sound is hoping for a smooth round of bargaining. The stakes are high, particularly this year. The government, reeling from a large recession and a drop in tax revenues is looking to save money wherever possible. Across the table the BCGEU which represents the majority of Howe Sound Staff members is pressing for improved benefits and job security in lieu of any actual wage increase. Proactive early bargaining discussions between CSSEA, an organization representing employers in the community services field, and the union have only been partially successful. There are conflicting reports but it appears no tentative settlement has been reached yet although the parties have reached an agreement in principle on a number of items.

## Strategic Planning Underway for 2010-2013

The entire society has been engaged in compiling data for the 2010-2013 Strategic planning process. We are very fortunate to again be joined by Naomi Horsford who has volunteered to help us navigate through the complicated process of plotting out the next three years of growth for the society. We would like to thank both Naomi and our exceptional board of directors for their pivotal role in spearheading this process.

## Milestones

Three dedicated Howe Sound employees are celebrating their ten year anniversary with the Society this year; Shari Clark, Gord Rees, and Sheila Renyard. As is the society custom, each was rewarded with an inukshuk this fall. Congratulations and thanks everyone for all your years of dedicated service.



Gord Rees

Sheila Renyard



Not Pictured: Shari Clark

## Farewell Arthur

This January, a member of the Howe Sound family passed away. Arthur Sorenson was a long time resident of Windridge since 2005. In 2008 he moved into family care to enjoy a quieter lifestyle under the dedicated care of Somollo sisters, Darienne and Sara, who are exemplary caregivers in the SIL and AIL programs respectively. Arthur was a devoted hockey fan with an abiding love for his home team the Calgary Flames, he enjoyed a number of gentle activities but over the past two years was increasingly challenged with health concerns. After a battle with pneumonia Arthur passed away in hospital just before Christmas. He is survived by his sister Nancy.



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**Thank you for your support!**

## Membership Form

**Yes! I would like to become a member of Howe Sound Rehabilitation Services Society.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Type of Membership:

Individual \$5  Family \$5  Business \$25

**Membership information is confidential.**

**New Members will receive future newsletters via e-mail.**

**All membership fees are for a lifetime membership.**

Please send me newsletters by mail instead.

## Donation Form

**Yes! I would like to help Howe Sound Rehabilitation Services Society support people with acquired brain injuries, physical, cognitive, and developmental disabilities.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Enclosed is a donation of:

\$25  \$50  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Donor information is confidential.**

**Donor information will be used only for Society purposes.**

I would like my donation to be an anonymous donation and do not want acknowledgement in Howe Sound Rehabilitation Services Society's publications.

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A tax receipt will be mailed to the name and address specified on this form.

**Thank you for your support!**

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