

VOLUME 6 • OCTOBER 2019

THE BEAT

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR THE
SENIORS SERVICES SOCIETY OF BC

AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

On October 2nd, 2019, the Seniors Services Society of BC held its fall event. This year, the Society partnered with the Royal City Rotary Club of New Westminster to create *Age is Just a Number*.

The Roma Hall in Queensborough Landing hosted the event, and what an event it was! 170 guests attended a four-course dinner, complete with two silent auctions, a live auction, and entertainment by King Fish, the fire limbo dancer, the night was a smashing success with \$25,000 raised to support the Seniors Services Society of BC!

A very special thank you to the Royal City Rotary Club for partnering with the Society on this fabulous event!

Thank you to our sponsors:

Gold Sponsors: Vohora LLP, BC Housing, and Roma Hall!

Silver Sponsors: Starlight Casino, Select Medical Connections Ltd., British Hydraulics, and Essence Hair Studio!

Bronze Sponsors: Vancity, The Inn at the Quay, Nicomekl Farms Ltd., Bunches and Blooms Floral, Patti Goss Realty, Team Dave Vallee, and Nurse Next Door Burnaby, New Westminster and TriCities!



To view more photos of Age is Just a Number, please visit us on Facebook at:
<https://tinyurl.com/y6plc7zc>

THANKSGIVING

The time is upon us once again for turkey, mashed potatoes, pumpkin pie, and time with family and friends, being grateful for all that we have received over the past year.

We at the Seniors Services Society of BC have a lot to be grateful for. This last year has been full of change. We've started our new fundraising walk The Grand Parade; we partnered with the Royal City Rotary Club on the amazing Age is Just a Number; and we received funding for SHINE BC, our new province-wide housing info program.

Above all, what we have to be thankful for is you. Our members, our donors, our sponsors, our clients. If it weren't for all of you, we wouldn't be here doing the work we do.

Thank you. Happy Thanksgiving.

SERVICES WE OFFER

- Housing Information & Referrals
- Housing Outreach Support
- Seniors Loan Program
- Temporary Housing
- Housing Navigation Training
- Light Housekeeping
- Meals on Wheels
- Medical Transport
- Grocery Shopping
- Form & Tax Completion
- Social Programs
- Support Calls
- Santa for Seniors
- Volunteer Opportunities

A FOND FAREWELL

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Executive Director Kara-Leigh Bloch who has been with the Society for over ten years.

After much consideration, Kara-Leigh has chosen to step down in order to spend more time with her young family. Having started with the Society in 2008 as Housing Manager, Kara-Leigh took on the executive director position in 2010 and led the Society through much growth, including the creation and cultivation of the Housing Navigator Program (HNT), and the visioning of and securing of funding for the Seniors Housing Information and Navigation Ease (SHINE) program, which is currently in the pre-launch phase.

Kara-Leigh was well-respected by Society board members, staff, volunteers, and clients, and will be greatly missed. All of us at the Society wish her the best with her future endeavours.



Kara-Leigh Bloch with Seniors Services Society of BC
Seniors Housing Navigator Hina Lal

A WARM WELCOME

It is with pleasure that the Seniors Services Society of BC welcomes its new Chief Executive Officer (formerly titled Executive Director), Alison Silgado.

Alison comes to the Society from a long history of leadership in the non-profit sector, including having served as Property Portfolio Manager at BC Housing, Director of Supportive Housing Programs at Phoenix Drug & Alcohol Education and Recovery Society, and as CEO at Pacifica Treatment Centre Society.

Alison brings a dynamic energy to the Society and has quickly gained the respect and admiration of the Society's board, staff, and clients. A welcome addition to the team, Alison is sure to faithfully guide the Seniors Services Society of BC in the years to come.



Alison Silgado, new Chief Executive Officer
of Seniors Services Society of BC

IN MEMORIAM

As we go about our busy days here at SSS, there are precious moments that slow us down and remind us of the impact we have on the lives of our clients. Here is once such moment.

In August of this year, the Social Programs lost a very dear friend, Merrylee Flanagan. Merry was an active, long-term participant on the bus and was well liked by everyone, including clients, volunteers and the bus drivers. Merry had a kind heart and a smile that was warmly reflected in her eyes.

Her daughter Dawn, sent an email to let us know how much Merry enjoyed her outings on the bus.

"I wanted to send you my sincere gratitude for all that you have done for my mum. When my dad passed away in 2013 after a long battle with cancer, I figured my mum would not be long behind.

Dad was her whole world. She loved him so completely. I worried that she would die of a broken heart. But my mum was strong!

After months of grieving she signed up to go on one of the outings with the seniors....the rest was history! She so enjoyed the bus drivers and the volunteers and her new friends. She felt loved and accepted and cared for. What a blessing! Thanks for that!"

I feel gratitude, knowing that Merry felt loved, accepted and cared for. It makes the work we do feel worthwhile and impactful. Thank you to our volunteers and bus drivers who make this program such a success!

The picture to the right is of Merry and our volunteer Coral having fun last summer during the Hug a Horse program in Langley. The Hug a Horse Program aims to provide individuals with a meaningful opportunity to socialize, enjoy nature, and experience the calming effect of horses in a safe environment.

Merry, we will miss you.

Merrylee Flanagan
February 15, 1940 - August 28, 2019



In February this year, the Seniors Services Society launched our giving campaign 'Give 60+' to raise the funds necessary to support the seniors we serve. Whether it's 60 dollars a year or 60 dollars a month, the support of our community members makes all the difference!

Some examples of how \$60 helps seniors-in-need:

10 hot meals a month to a senior needing assistance

3 nights of temporary housing to a senior in a housing crisis

1 month of social outings for a lonely, isolated, or low-income senior

To support the Seniors Services Society at Give 60+, please visit us at:

www.seniorsservicessociety.ca/autodonate

Registered Charity Number #80138 8547 RR0001

Thank you for your support!



Merrylee Flanagan and
Seniors Services Society of BC Volunteer, Coral

A DEMO-VICTION DELAYED

In June of this year, an elderly couple renting the top floor of a house were astonished to find out not only had the house been sold without their knowledge, the new landlord wanted to “demo-vict” them: eviction for the purpose of demolishing and rebuilding.

Unsure of what to do and faced with the prospect of becoming homeless, the couple came to the Seniors Services Society of BC, where Seniors Housing Outreach Worker Ana began providing them with information on their rights as tenants, as the new landlord was failing to comply with BC tenancy law on several fronts, including providing demolition permits to prove he intended to tear down the house and rebuild, not just turn around and rent the house to someone else at higher rate. Ana also began helping the couple explore other housing options as it quickly became clear that regardless of any legal resolution, they would be unwelcome in the house they’d lived in for over twenty years.

With Ana’s assistance, the couple has managed to secure a new, affordable apartment in an area of their choosing. Ana continues to advocate for them, ensuring that they will be allowed to stay in their current residence until the apartment is ready for occupation. It has not been an easy summer or fall for the couple, however with Ana’s determination and support, they can rest assured knowing they’ll soon be safely and securely in their new home.



Seniors Services Society of BC
Housing Outreach Worker, Ana

SPOTLIGHT ON STATISTICS

June- August 2019



HOW YOU CAN HELP - BE A VOLUNTEER!

Seniors Services Society of BC is offering you the opportunity to engage with older adults (60+) in a friendly, vibrant setting. Connect with others who share your interest in helping others, and learn about issues that impact older adults

volunteer@seniorsservicessociety.ca
604-520-6621.

Learn more about our volunteer program at www.seniorsservicessociety.ca

“No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another.”

– Author Unknown