

Pender Island Health Care Society

Newsletter



June 2020

At a special Annual General Meeting held on April 20, the following new Directors were elected for a two-year term, Urs Boxler, Keith Gladstone and Bruce Waygood. For more information on these and all the other Directors please go to the following URL address: <http://www.penderislandhealth.ca/board-directors>

The Pender Islands Health Care Society has completed its 39th year of serving the community by repairing, upgrading and managing the building that is home to the many health services delivered to Pender residents and visitors.

The Centre opened in 1980, funded privately with money from the Lions Club and built on land generously donated by the Marler family. The CRD also made a substantial contribution – the first of many.

In 2006 the emergency room was added, again funded by generous local donations and a significant grant from the CRD. The ER was provisioned by the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA). For a detailed history please access the following:

<http://www.penderislandhealth.ca/our-history>

Many users of the Clinic are unaware that it is not funded by the Provincial Health Authority. In recent years there has been approximately a \$35,000 cash shortfall between funds received for rent and administration fees earned in implementing community support programs and general operations. This shortfall is the main reason we must always ask for donations and are so very grateful for what we receive.

Here are three recent examples of how the Society seeks out

and gratefully receives outside financial assistance to maintain and upgrade the facility.

In 2019 Nu-To-Yu, Green Angels Wood Choppers and the CRD came together to cover the \$16,000 cost of a new phone system for the clinic. Calls are dropped no longer and the reliable new system has been especially appreciated given the increase in phone use because of the pandemic crisis we are now facing.

In 2018 the installation of the solar panels on the Medical Centre roof was funded by a \$20,000 grant from the CRD. These panels help reduce the electricity costs for the Centre.

More recently a private donor paid for new commercial grade laundry facilities needed for the extra laundry being processed due to Covid 19 sanitary requirements.

Upcoming urgent expenses include replacement of heat pumps, renewal of the septic field, upgrading the water system and remediating the unexpected flooding and damp in the crawl space. We have requested a grant from the FCC (Farm Credit Corporation) to help fund the septic field and water system work.

No funds are available to cover depreciation of the building and its equipment. As the building ages and equipment wears out, the Society is facing a cash crunch and the Board of Directors has struck a Fundraising Committee to explore the options for obtaining a more secure, continuous source of funding for the Society. We want to get to the point where we don't have to continually come to our community with "hat in hand" asking for money to cover our operating expenses.

Long term funding possibilities include applying to the Capital Region Hospital Board (CRHB) (a part of the CRD) for a capital grant to cover capital expenditures over time. These funds are only available to Health Care Facilities as designated by the Ministry of Health. PIHCS is not a designated Health Care Facility but just a Society so a change in our designation is required. The amount of information required to obtain a successful grant is detailed – it is, after all, asking for taxpayers' money –and the PIHCS has hired a part time assistant, Shannon Brayford, to help the Executive Director and the Board prepare the necessary documents and engage experts to report on the state of the building. A review of the building envelope and operating systems has been initiated. The facilitation of a fresh strategic plan will be partially funded by the Lions Club.

Your Support Can Truly Make a Difference

The PIHCS relies on community donations to assist with equipping and operating the Health Centre. To ensure a balanced budget in 2020-21, our goal is to raise \$75,000.

Should a request to change the Society's designation and, after that, a grant application submitted to the CRHB / VIHA be inexplicably unsuccessful then alternate sources of funding must be found.

There is the possibility of getting on the tax roll as Galiano Island has done. That can't happen until a referendum is approved in the next election cycle. Preparation for that approach will require extensive community out-reach including detailed public discussions. It is not the Society's preferred alternative at the moment. Another option would be applying to private foundations for on-going core funding.

While waiting for the funding problem to be resolved the Society will apply (if the Society qualifies) to the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA), through which the federal government will provide funding to eligible financial institutions so they can provide interest-free loans up to \$40,000 to qualifying businesses. A quarter of this loan (up to \$10,000) is eligible for complete forgiveness and requires no minimum monthly principal payments until December 31, 2022.

An alternate source of federal funds is the CECRA (Canadian Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance). We are exploring if we fit the criteria for this recently announced assistance.

During this pandemic crisis the Society cannot collect all its rent revenue, and yet must follow the continuously evolving Provincial Health Guidelines and Requirements to counter Covid 19. The additional costs for disinfecting and protecting the building to keep it safe for everyone to come to the facility will result in about an additional \$25,000 budget short fall. We are in a tight place and need help to meet this unexpected shortfall.

We have a suggestion. As an unanticipated windfall, many Pender pensioners will be receiving the COVID \$300.00 OAS benefit. Perhaps if enough Penderites would consider donating all or part of this sum to the PIHCS we could cover our expenses until we can source a more secure funding. Tax receipts are issued for all donations received over \$10.00 and will make donors a bit happier at tax time.

Please help if you can.

Pender Island Health Care Society

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone# _____ Email _____

Donation Amount \$ _____
(Tax receipts are issued for donations over \$10)

Cheque Card: Type _____

Card # _____

Expiry Date (m/y) _____

CVC _____ (number on back of card)

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

**Please mail, or drop-off your contribution at the
Health Centre, to the**

**Pender Islands Health Care Society
5715 Canal Road, Pender Island, BC V0N 2M1**