

Chair's report to the AGM- March 22, 2023

d'Esterre Seniors Centre Association, Comox, B.C.

As the Chair of d'Esterre Seniors Centre Association I wish to acknowledge the strong support and dedication that the Board members have demonstrated to our Centre during the last twelve months. I also want to thank our employees Dei, Diane and Bill who always go above and beyond their job descriptions and have demonstrated a lot of flexibility as we adjust to changing conditions in the Centre. Thank you to our 100 volunteers who give many hours to the Centre. And thanks to close to 900 of you who renewed their 2023 membership. If we include the Permanent Members (persons over 90) and our Life Members we are quite likely to reach a membership of 1000 members by year-end.

Each one of you demonstrated resiliency and adaptiveness during our first full year of remaining open in the post-Covid period. 2022 was a banner year for this Centre in terms of numbers and accomplishments.

The Board also wants to acknowledge the support of our partner; the Town of Comox and particularly Councilor Chris Haslett who has been on our Board since March 2022. Our partnership with the Town is strong and enduring. The Town leases us the building, maintains it and keep the lights and heat on.

And we as an organization provide program services to 900 seniors in the Valley. While we're talking about "seniors", it's important to note that persons over 50 years of age can become members. Another question that a lot of people don't realize is that our cafeteria is open to non-members of any age. So spread the word to your friends. Why should they be deprived of liver and onions and seafood chowder!

We also acknowledge the support of the organizations that provided financial grants in 2022 and 2023. Those are the Federal government's New Horizon for Seniors and Government of BC Community Gaming Grant program.

A special thank you goes to our accountant and former board member Jacqueline Moore who produces excellent monthly financial reports and offers us professional advice on a mostly pro-bono basis.

I also want to acknowledge the work done by the chairpersons and members on our seventeen sub-committees, the Activities and Shop Coordinators, our Gift Shop, Kitchen and Office volunteers. Let's not forget all the "hidden hands" who do work on maintenance and set-ups, Special Events, New Releases, website management, seasonal decorating themes and so many

other activities. A few months ago, Ele counted 100 volunteers in this Centre. Out of 900 members that's a pretty good ratio of volunteers to members.

The 2022 year was a successful with a number of achievements:

-Staffing the Centre Coordinator position this past July. Staffing that position with a competent person has had a major impact on our service levels;

-Offering a full calendar of Special Events and the introduction of Saturday Informational Sessions;

-Every month a comprehensive and professional looking Newsletter goes out to some 1100 subscribers, 900 of which are members;

-A member survey was completed in August followed by a Strategic Plan session in November. Having a Strategic Plan and a Budget was an important factor in our success with our grant applications. This plan and our Budget will be our road-map for the 2023 year;

-Our financial picture is very healthy going into 2023 calendar year as you've noted from our Treasurer's report;

-Our major sources of income in the 2022 year were the Fitness Classes, Grants, Cafeteria, Membership Fees and Rental Income in that order.

The key priorities for 2023 are reflected in our Strategic Plan which is available on our website comoxseniors.ca.

To summarize in 2023, we plan to continue offering a wide array of activities and programs that support the physical, emotional and social well-being of seniors (anyone over 50) living in the Comox Valley.

Copies of this report will be posted on our website and on the bulletin board in the front entrance along with the minutes of this meeting and the year-end financial reports.

In closing on behalf of the Board I thank you for taking time out of your "busy schedule" today and for all the volunteer hours that you give to the Centre

Raymond Morin
President
March 22, 2023