

President's Report for 2010

First and foremost I would like to thank everyone for their continued efforts on behalf of our Senior Peer Support group. It may seem, at times, that there is no longer a need for our services but it only takes one appreciative client to make it all worthwhile.

Betty is continuing to interview any referrals we receive in order to place them with a Support person - not an easy task.. Fortunately she still finds time to attend many meetings in an attempt to keep us up to date with all the changes in the Health Care System as it affect us. Thank you Betty.

We certainly need more members and if anyone has any ideas on how to attract them please let us know. Without more members there is a bigger workload for the rest of us. Having said that we also need more clients - its a vicious circle but we can deal with it.

How can we encourage more people to join us? We have advertised in the local newspaper, put up posters in all the public places to make the public more aware of our group and the services we can offer, even mentioned it to friends and neighbors but we still have very little or no response. We need ideas on how to attract people to our group.

As many of you know, Adele McKeegan will no longer be with us as she will be travelling in Europe for the next 3 years and is hoping to teach English as part of the experience. We hope she enjoys the many experiences to come and we wish Bon Voyage.

We had a quiet year in 2010 - compared to 2009 - in that we only had the Falls Follow-up Clinic in May and the Legion Open House in June neither of which needed much organizing on our part. Unfortunately the attendance at the Open House was very poor and the Legion will be doing some re-organizing of the event for next year.

2.

The Seniors & Teens Lunches have been a great success and will continue as long as we can get the funding. Unfortunately New Horizons said the project did not qualify for their funding but Heidi Trautmann of Community Services was able to come to our rescue with funding through YIP (Youth Inclusion Program). With this help from Community Services and the donations from local merchants we will be able to continue with the lunches for this year. We will need more help next year but we will deal with that later.

The Caregivers Drop-in was very disappointing with only 3 or 4 regular visitors. We tried all the usual things to get the word out to people but it still seems that in general the word 'Caregiver' means trained medical staff. We even changed our meeting place from the Legion Hall to Cheam Village in an attempt to bring our group to the attention of more people, but to no avail. We have, however, decided to continue at least for the next few months.

In January 2011 we arranged for Jillian Armit of the B.C. Alzheimers Society to give a talk on 'Coping Resources for the Alzheimer Caregiver' which created a lot of interest and may be the boost that our Caregiver Drop in needs.

In January Judith Fitzsimmons, Manager, gave us a tour of the new 1 & 2 bedroom apartments at Cheam Village. I think everyone was amazed at the spaciousness, the attention to detail and the facilities available to the tenants.

So we now face another year and we need ideas to create more interest and enthusiasm in our group and bring Senior Peer Support to the attention of the general public. Whatever it takes we must keep up the good work.

Here's hoping that we can make 2011 our best year ever.