The New View Society
40th Anniversary History Timeline
1973 to 2013

Celebrating 40 years

40 Years of Dedication to Community Mental Wellness
The History of New View Society
40th Anniversary 1973 to 2013

New View History in the 1970’s

New View Society incorporated – 1973
First Chairperson – Mayor Jack Campbell
First Executive Director – Sharon DiSanto

In the late 60’s – early 70’s, downsizing began at Riverview hospital. Individuals living with mental illness were moved into the community – mainly into boarding homes with room and board, and not much else. Social isolation became a major problem and many wanted to go back to the hospital as they missed recreation and work programs. The former patients were the trailblazers, having to adapt and change from the life they had been living, some for decades.

The Mental Health office had a staff of five women at the time, including Dr. Shauna Little, and along with Boarding Home Program staff, including Sharon DiSanto, they very quickly saw there were no supports that came with the downsizing. These women saw an immediate need and went to work. They secured free space in an old City building – most of us have heard of the tales of the old Dalkey Building – and without any funding, a Drop-In was formed, staffed by volunteers. This allowed for individuals to come for a cup of coffee, a game of cards and a listening ear. There were no buses in our area at the time, and volunteers were recruited to drive individuals to appointments and activities. Kay Swalwell began as one of these volunteers.

Legend has it that the original funds for the society were forty-eight cents in a coffee mug (although there is a certain discrepancy as to exactly how much it was). With a Local Initiative Program Grant from the Federal Government, the first staff person was hired. New View was able to grow when they got client hour funding from the Provincial Government under the Achievement Centre’s program. Other funding was found through L.E.A.P and Canada Works Grants and other sources, including the United Way, beginning in 1978.

On August 13, 1973, the New View Society was formed and incorporated.

In 1975, the New View Society hired 3 workers and started programs in the Dalkey building. Thirty-six people attended programs, but time was limited as other groups were using the building as well. Dr. Little told New View that there were no funds in the mental health budget for any new programs to remedy the situation; however, the occupational therapist and the treatment staff were able to set up activity programs in the Dalkey Building, which was owned by the City of Port Coquitlam (who donated the space and paid...
New View History in the 1970's

FIRST FINANCIAL STATEMENT

[Content of the financial statement]

NEW VIEW SOCIETY
2607 Shaughnessy Street
Port Coquitlam, B.C.

October 25, 1976

Are you handicapped and having problems with:

TRANSPORTATION
LEISURE
EMPLOYMENT
USING YOUR TIME CONSTRUCTIVELY

There are many other people in the area experiencing these problems.

The New View Society is an Activity Center formed within the past three years, serving the handicapped of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, and North Vancouver.

At present we offer activities such as Bingo, Ceramics, Pottery, Macrame, Embroidery, Pool, and Croquet. We also have tours to local restaurants and tea rooms. We will also start new programs that are of interest to those we serve.

As well as being involved in activities, it gives the handicapped a chance to work together and work out some mutual difficulties and problems.

We have the use of a bus and presently are getting a lift on it for wheelchair users.

If you are interested in participating in this activity center or would like more information please contact:

S. DiSanto
Director, New View Society
Telephone: 942-1933
2617 Shaughnessy St.,
Port Coquitlam, B.C.

[Contact information for other members of the society]
New View History

our first brochure!

NEW VIEW SOCIETY
ACHIEVEMENT CENTER FOR
HANDICAPPED ADULTS
1027 Shawheens Rd.

NEW VIEW SOCIETY, a Non-Profit Society serving Port
Shoemaker, New Shoreham, Co. and Narragansett. As a
Society sensitive to the individual needs of the
handicapped people in the area, our purpose is to
develop and coordinate activities, work situations,
and placement into other optional programs we have
access to.

The services we offer at the present:

Drop-In Coffee - held 3 to 5 daily; Monday to Friday.
Director - Ray DeWolfe - 941-5551

Recreation and Social Functions - held in the
community facilities. (Swimming, Hiking, Shopping
trips and outings).

The Corner Thrift Store
Director - Florence Baber - 941-5595

Located on the corner of Shawheen and Rhode.
Downtown of clothing and toy used items can be
dropped off daily except Sunday.

Private Industry
Director - Joan Long - 941-5615

A place of employment in a productive oriented
industry.

Campus activities:
Director - Pat Bonseren - 931-4531

- cafeteria training program held at Brown College
- Aquatic Center: The goal is to provide an opportu-
nity for potentially employable handicapped admis-
to learn and enter the work force.

Woodworking Training Program held at Brown College
Director - Bryan Cameron - 931-6585

A woodworking program held at Brown College
Director - Florence Baber - 941-5695

This house is being purchased and furnished, and
all other household items are needed. The goal is to
provide a low cost independent living arrangement for
five handicapped adults.
PoCo’s New View Society Aids Handicapped People

Mental illness is not a rare disease in society. People tend to think of the mentally ill with stereotyped attitudes. They see them as non-compliant or brainwashed individuals.

The speaker is Mildred de Haan, President for the New View Society, NYS, a Port Coquitlam group of concerned community members, dedicated to aiding emotionally disturbed individuals. It also wants to meet the needs of handicapped and disabled people by establishing a service workshop in that city.

Headed by Mayor

First proposed in 1971 and headed then by Mayor Jack Campbell, the society has been in active existence since February of this year. At its first meeting, the need for sheltered workshops in Port Coquitlam was assessed; the number and possible locations for the workshops were discussed, and community support was a major issue.

The four months of research revealed a desperate need for sheltered facilities. District 43, Mrs. de Haan declared, has an acute problem for the 50,000 emotionally handicapped people living in the area. Currently, such individuals, some recently released from Kerner, are living here. No programs provided to re-adjust them to the world.

Servicing a large population for “Activity Therapy” under the guidance of one therapist. A second is the monthly social event given by volunteers from the Canadian Mental Health Association.

In the eyes of New View workers, these services are vitally important. Steps to correct the situation are being taken

The NYS president and chairman of the Board of Directors for the New View Society, NYS, have been instrumental in the establishment of the new society.

News Clippings

PoCo group welcomes local members, money

The New View Society, which has been established to provide sheltered workshops for emotionally handicapped individuals, has welcomed several new members, including the Port Moody Chamber of Commerce and the New View Society of Port Coquitlam. The group has been instrumental in the establishment of the new society.
Selling more than charity

by DIANE RAPSKE

"Sheila loves her work. She will leave her apartment much earlier than she needs to, and come and sit with her friends for an hour before starting her work at the Thrift Shop," said Eunice Wills, manager of the shop.

Sheila White in her mid-forties, is one of a continually growing number of happy clients at the New View Society and Thrift Shop in downtown Port Coquitlam.

White wasn’t always happy. There was a time when the pressure of her job as a registered nurse, and the turmoil of her marriage problems, caused her to retreat from reality. After her mental breakdown she could only sit fearfully in the shadows of her apartment, hiding from everyone. "She couldn’t even face the sunlight," said Eunice.

With the assistance of the staff at New View Society and the new friends she made, White began to enjoy life again. "Now she’s a competent, sensible, sensitive lady," stated Eunice, "and she is a fantastic help at the shop."

The New View Society is a non-profit organization funded by the Ministry of Human Resources and the United Way. It was originally started eight years ago, as a drop-in centre for those who were recovering from psychiatric problems and had just left the hospital. The patients were mostly elderly, and the centre not much more than a social club.

However the society realized the centre had to expand, and two years ago, began a program of rehabilitation and achievement.

“Our clients are all ages now, many in their early 20’s," stated Staff Member Kay Swalwell. "Most are referred to us by the Port Coquitlam Mental Health Centre. Here they not only do crafts such as ceramics and light carpentry, they learn how to enter the working world again."

Swalwell stated, "Some work at the thrift store next door with Eunice. There they learn responsibility, punctuality, the importance of good appearance, being able to take direction and able to work alone without constant supervision."

"We let them experience mild degrees of pressure, such as completing their work by a certain time."

"If they want, they can go to the Douglas College Winslow campus and with the help of Douglas College technicians and our three staff members, learn how to..."
Program for disabled

by Jim McNaughton

Douglas College in conjunction with the New View Society of Port Coquitlam has implemented a program designed to benefit the disabled.

The program is located at the Coquitlam campus and is in keeping with the United Nations proclamation of 1981 as the year of disabled.

Ann Kitching, principal of the Coquitlam Campus, said that the program consists of placing workers in the College cafeteria and woodwork shop.

"The disabled learn solid job habits and obtain an improved self-image. I've noticed such a wonderful improvement in their attitudes and self-images since they have started," said Kitching.

Pat Sorenson, cafeteria supervisor, said that the whole atmosphere of the program is "great". "At first I had second thoughts about supervising the program, but I found it to be very challenging and very rewarding. The students and faculty have been very understanding", she said.

According to Sharon DiSanto, executive director of New Views Society, many of the disabled students go on to work in the cafeteria after working in the workshop.

"In the cafeteria they learn to deal more effectively with the public and learn new job skills," she said.

Janet Hill, a student in the program, said she's using it (program) to prepare herself to re-enter the work force.

"I have no criticism of the program and I hope to go on to take a personal management course at BCIT," she said.

Four students from the program have been placed in jobs, and others are now in the process of being placed.

The first graduate from the cafeteria was placed at Nel's Diner on the Surrey Campus of Douglas College.

Canadian Pacific Air employees benefit fund contributed close to $2,000 toward the purchase of machinery for the cafeteria and wood shop and also donated a cash register for use in the cafeteria.

The Port Coquitlam Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion also donated a meat slicer and a milkshake machine.

"I am very pleased with the generosity of the public" Kitching stated.

Cashing in

PoCo Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 133 present, New View Society with cheque for the purchase of an industrial microwave oven for use in their kitchen at Coq. Douglas College. Left to right: Hugo Haynes, Legion Vice Pres. Executive Director, Duane Fritchett, Sharon Di Santo New View Society, President of Legion, Pat Sorenson cafeteria manager.
News Clipping

“New Sewing Machine Donated”

Quilt production at the New View workshop will soon be doubled thanks to a new sewing machine donated by the Beta Chi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi. Presenting the machine are (left to right) Pat Fitzgibbons and Carol Maclean, president of the sorority. Looking over the new machine’s Mara McLean and New View resident director Gail MacLean.
Handicapped society searching for a bus

The New View Society for handicapped adults needs a properly equipped bus.

The Society's Centre, at 2607 Shaughnessy in PoCo is open daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. — which is of no use to the handicapped people who would like to use the centre but have no transportation, said Mr. Islay Evenson, member of the Society's Board of Directors.

"If we're lucky, we can borrow a bus," said Mrs. Evenson. "But that still excludes the people who must use wheelchairs. We need a bus with a lift for the paraplegics."

Mrs. Evenson is also chairman of the Society's building fund committee.

"Port Coquitlam council donated the Delke building for our use, and we're grateful for that," said Mrs. Evenson, "but we're sharing the building with two other groups — the Boys and Girls Club and Cadets."

She said this meant that whatever project the group was involved in had to be cleaned up and put away pending arrival of one of the other organizations using the building.

Inevitably, this limits the scope of the Society's activities at a time when, said Mrs. Evenson, there is a great need for expansion.

There is a substantial waiting list, she said, of handicapped adults whose involvement in the New View Society could well be the only outlet for their social and recreational needs.

Not to mention the need for what can only be described as a sense of worth. One of the prime aims of the New View Society is to instruct handicapped adults in basic everyday procedures most of us take for granted — such as cooking, budgeting, shopping and self care.

The Society will also, on request, arrange for night school or correspondence courses for handicapped clients, but a long-range goal of the Centre is a workshop — achievement centre — a project that would include training facilities and could not take place in a building shared by other groups.

Several of the approximately 105 handicapped people involved in the Society already hold down competitive jobs (albeit not at competitive wages) and several people have potential for such jobs, but need training.

Others, while unable to enter the work force competitively, could be productive in a sheltered work program.

The Society envisions an odd job employment centre, including gardening, painting, babysitting and housecleaning.

Not all handicapped people involved in New View are physically handicapped. About one third of them are socially or emotionally handicapped, that is, they are former Riverview patients who must readjust to the idea of living once again in society. Another third are mentally retarded.

"We'd like to have different facilities for these different groups," said Mrs. Evenson. Currently, she said, lack of space is making it very difficult to set up the variety of programs that would meet the needs of all.

The New View Society has applied to the Department of Human Resources for funds with which to purchase an equipped bus and a building for their exclusive use. No reply has, as yet, been received.

The Centre is currently operating with an Achievement Centre Grant from the provincial government, based on the number of clients served, for about $25,000 per year — a sum that barely covers wages for the three Centre workers, and certainly precludes the purchase of expensive equipment.

But, said Mrs. Evenson, as the Society serves handicapped people of the three municipalities — Port Moody, Port Moody and Coquitlam — why shouldn't the three councils provide assistance?

"You know," she said, 
"there are lots of programs and funds for handicapped children. What do they expect happens when those children become adults? That they roll over and die?"
$9,000 for Dalkey

Port Coquitlam council has agreed to spend up to $9,000 to upgrade the Dalkey Building. Port Coquitlam, to meet the standards under the Fire Marshall Act and the National Building Code.

The leisure activities committee has discussed the upgrading of the Dalkey Building in the past and now recommends that the city proceed immediately to upgrade the building.

The improvements will include improving the egress system, to have one five-foot entrance door recessed and made to swing outwards onto Shaughnessy Street, two 44 foot exit doors, illuminated exit lights for the above doors and white lights outside these doors.

Also emergency lighting will be added throughout the building, along with an automatic fire alarm system, and an enclosed furnace.

The Dalkey building is used by a number of local groups such as the Nu-View Society and the PocoMo Boys and Girls Club.

Alderman John Keryluke suggested that along with these improvements the city should also look at correcting the short comings in the building that make it hard for the handicapped to utilize it. One thing that is needed is a railing in the washroom.

Keryluke stated that the city should consult the people that use the building to see what their needs are.

A representative from the Nu-View Society was present at a recent council meeting to show concern that the building is upgraded.

The representative also pointed out that the society is having problems with vandalism to the equipment it stores at the building.

The society feels the vandalism is from within and requests more security in the building.
New Life For Old Building

An old building in Port Coquitlam will give handicapped people a "new lease on life."

The New View Society has obtained the former Schinz property, on Wilson Ave. near the river, for a centre for people with physical or mental handicaps. The eight acre property, including a ranch style house with full basement, was purchased by the city because it is in an area subject to flooding. It will be rented to the society for $1,000 a year, with the first year's rent to be paid by the United Good Neighbour Fund.

The society will move in as soon as the house gets a "new look". It will have a new roof, and be connected to municipal water.

The non-profit, charitable group was established two and a half years ago. Last year a survey under the direction of Mildred Delhousier, former Port Coquitlam Welfare Administrator, determined there was a need for a centre that would give life more meaning for handicapped people in School District 43.

THREE WORKERS

The society hired three workers in January, and started programs in the Dalkey building, another city-owned structure on Shaughnessy St. At present about 36 people attend programs, held daily except Saturday and Sunday. Most are middle aged.

The survey and workers have been subsidized by the federal Local Initiatives Program which pays salaries of people hired for winter employment. The present $10,000 grant will last until June when, says society President Dr. Shauna Little, at which time it is hoped a grant will be available from the provincial government.

The program includes crafts, recreation, carpentry, and a "drop in" coffee program, with "customers" supplying the brew. Garth Beachman teaches carpentry, Rouel LeMarseille looks after crafts, and Lucille Libster looks after organization. Greg Badger, a provincial health department community care worker and secretary of the society, is in charge of the workshop.

"We will have much more room," says Dr. Little. "We hope to get contracts so the shop can supply things to companies. Our customers are mainly on small incomes, so this will help them earn some more money."

OUTSIDE WORK

The length of tenancy has not been established. If it is long, the society hopes to start a greenhouse, with help from the New Westminster Sheltered Workshop.

Most of the customers live within walking distance of the shop, and the rest are able to use buses. Using buses helps them feel more independent, says Dr. Little.

It is hoped to make the centre available to people in wheelchairs. For this, volunteer drivers will be needed. Dr. Little said the local branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, which helped establish the program, and the SHARE society might be asked to help.

No meal facilities are planned, but most people can get home for lunch.

There's an air of excitement around the centre as people look forward to being in the new location. They will do some of the repair work themselves.

Many people are referred by public and mental health workers, but people can even refer themselves. The centre tries to work out programs for each person. These people have a limited concentration time, so many do not stay the whole day.

There are about 20 society members, and more are needed. The annual meeting will be 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26 in the Simon Fraser Health Unit office, 226 Wilson Ave.

When the centre opens volunteer instructors will be needed. Furniture and tools will also be required.

A warning to the "wise vandal" -- the society plans to have a caretaker looking after the property all the time.
Mayor Cool About Mental Aid House

By STEPHEN FYLE

A society rendering aid to physical and mentally handicapped people released from Riverview, has asked Port Coquitlam to supply improved facilities.

In the New View Society recently asked council if it could use space in the city-owned PoCo House on Wilson Street, instead of the current Dalkey Building facilities.

The group contends it can only use the Dalkey Building on a limited basis. The city-owned Dalkey Building is also used by other groups, so this means New View can only be operable five days a week during the day.

“We are really grateful of having the Dalkey Building,” said society chairman Dr. Shauna Little last week. “But because we don’t have full use, it limits our program.”

Dr. Little explained many of the 60 handicapped people would like to make a valid contribution to society and a workshop atmosphere would be a means to that end.

However, many of the tasks performed would involve leaving items around a workshop for days at a time before they are repaired. With other groups using the Dalkey Building, this makes it impossible.

“I don’t think this is fair to the other groups,” Dr. Little contended. “If something went missing we wouldn’t like to be in a position of perhaps blaming them.”

Port Coquitlam is currently allowing the society use of the Dalkey Building rent free and the program has fared well because of this, Dr. Little admits.

Also, the Human Resources department in Victoria has provided some funds through an activities grant.

Dr. Little says this has helped, but the society is currently operating on a “shoe string budget.”

“These people need something,” Dr. Little said.

She explained the society already provides crafts and limited workshops, but needs more.

The letter asking for PoCo House was sent to the city by Don MacDonald, president of the Western Association for Youth.

“PoCo House is a public building and it should be used by the public,” he emphasized.

He says the city should be happy to provide facilities for such a group of people because much revenue is generated for Port Coquitlam by Riverview.

“There is a certain debt involved,” he said. “The province is paying Riverview wages.”

He said those on the New View program want to live normal lives and they should be allowed that right. “Many of them will never make a large contribution,” MacDonald said.

Council was not warm to the idea, when first presented with a letter from MacDonald. The letter expressed an opinion that the Dalkey Building facilities were “appalling.”

However, Dr. Little did not agree with this assessment.

MacDonald will meet with the environmental protection committee soon, under Phil Ranger and John Keryluk.

Mayor Jack Campbell believes if the group is to get improved facilities, the provincial government should foot the bill.

Campbell said last week many people just released from Riverview go straight into Port Coquitlam because of its close proximity to the institution.

“There’s no programs for them,” Campbell fumed. “They put them straight into boarding houses. There should be something for them to do.

New Westminster and Port Moody both have programs.

But Campbell is doubtful of giving another group free run of Poco House. He cites past problems with a narcotic rehabilitative program. Neighbors were unhappy with the situation and Campbell feels the program caused more trouble than good.

However, Campbell must have an open mind toward the New View Society, judging by previous record. He’s a former chairman.
News Clipping

April 19, 1977.

By DON MACDONALD

The New View Society is an organization attempting to help socially, mentally, and physically handicapped adults adapt better to our society. New View’s purpose includes self-help, socializing, self-help, and job orientation. The New View Society is the first of its kind in the Okanagan Valley.

The New View Society has two main objectives: to provide a supportive environment for adults who have been labeled as being socially, mentally, or physically handicapped; and to provide a support system for their families.

The New View Society’s main goal is to provide a supportive environment for adults who have been labeled as being socially, mentally, or physically handicapped. They offer a community where individuals can feel comfortable and safe, and where they can develop meaningful relationships.

The New View Society offers a variety of programs and services to help its members achieve their goals. These programs include:

1. Transportation services, which provide transportation to and from community events, activities, and social outings.
2. Employment assistance, which helps individuals find and maintain employment.
3. Social programs, which include recreational activities, group outings, and social events.
4. Support services, which include counseling, support groups, and other resources.

The New View Society is committed to providing a supportive environment for adults who have been labeled as being socially, mentally, or physically handicapped. They believe that everyone has the right to live their life to the fullest, and they strive to help their members achieve that goal.

Once bitten...

Readers may remember the saga of the Poco House. The house was purchased by the New View Society for over $100,000, but it was later determined that the house was not suitable for the intended use. The New View Society was forced to sell the house at a significant loss.

The New View Society is committed to providing a supportive environment for adults who have been labeled as being socially, mentally, or physically handicapped. They believe that everyone has the right to live their life to the fullest, and they strive to help their members achieve that goal.

There was no consensus when I suggested that the Poco House was a far better solution for the New View Society than the house they ended up buying. The New View Society ended up buying a house that was not suitable for their needs, and they had to sell it at a significant loss.

In conclusion, what can one say?... it started like a good idea...
News Clipping

"New View brings people one step closer to home"

By Sheila Francis

For people who have been institutionalized for years, a look back through one
medical specialty does not
supply the necessary courage and confidence to take that first
big step to an autonomy as
independent as possible.

They need a human perspective on a life that is now known to have
no future. To help them across that shaky bridge to
independent thought and
action — and of course to
happier.

Now, thanks to a community effort, there is the "New View Society", housed in the City
owned Dalkey Building, 222
Shaw Street, Port Coquitlam.

The society was created to
help the 60 people, with an average
age of 60, who are mentally
ill, physically disabled and living in the City's only mental health care facility
of the type. The society is making
a difference in the people's lives, and in its own way, it is making a
difference in the community.

The society's activities include:

1. Providing a place for people to meet and socialize with others who share their
experience.
2. Organizing events and activities for members.
3. Raising awareness of the needs of people with serious mental illness.

The society's goals are to provide a supportive environment for its members and
to promote their rights and
well-being.

For more information, contact the society at 604-854-7300.
Here are some stories from Kay Swalwell about the first years of New View Society, in the Dalkey Building across from the Golden Ears Hotel.

We were very poor. Our program funds were less than $1.00 in a mug. The amount differs with the storyteller, but 47¢ or 57¢, that’s it!! Everything was donated or borrowed or…? We regularly scanned the Help Wanted ads for employment opportunities but had to “borrow” the paper from the Golden Ears coffee shop.

Livestock: I was almost always the first person at the Dalkey Building each morning. First I rattled the double doors and gave the rats some time to disappear. One day though, I didn’t give them enough time, or one rat was particularly slow, because as I checked the washrooms (a euphemism for toilet and sink) the last three feet of toilet tissue was disappearing into a hole in the wall.

We shared this wonderful building with the Cadets (who used it in the evenings) and never cleaned off their feet after marching in the mud. We also shared it with the Boys & Girls Club on Saturday mornings, whose members obviously didn’t share our values regarding furniture. So—every day before beginning our programs, we cleaned! The facility may have been deplorable, but the people attending made it a very warm and supportive place. I remember being totally ticked when a well-dressed social worker came in and was heard to criticize our drop-in in no uncertain terms, calling it dirty and disgusting, to name two words she used (and she hadn’t met the livestock). Needless to say we scratched her from our list!

Very often, the one toilet in the building did not work, for a variety of reasons. Rita Punchak could have earned her plumbing ticket—just by the number of hours she spent plunging! When all else failed, we made a trip to the Golden Ears public facility.

Yet another day, there was a terrible odor in the hall. Rita checked everywhere—almost. Ed McGill decided to take all the couches apart, just to check. Guess what he found? A rat… which had died in the comfort of one of our couches!

Being in such close proximity to the Golden Ears Hotel brought its own problems. One of our community efforts was to provide a place where some youth, on probation, could “do” hours. Some were very compliant, successful at completing their hours and joining in with our Friday evening socials. Others, found temptation too close to resist.

The current parking lot behind the Legion Building was a big field at one time, stretching right to the river. We barbequed almost every Friday evening: for 30—40 people. We also wore out a number of sets of Uno Cards! Frequently we had visitors in that field — deer.

“Homemade Beans” And then there was the time Rita Punchak and Karen Joseph Musil decided it would be a great idea to make homemade beans for lunch. They put the beans in a pot to soak overnight, and when I got there in the morning, the beans were coming under the door of a locked cupboard. There were beans everywhere—integrated with the usual mud left by the Cadets.

We desperately needed a fridge—but how to get one? A (very old) city building was being demolished. Guess what? There was an even older fridge in the building (but it worked). So two men from our group rescued the fridge! The next day, a city worker came to me, very indignant and belligerent, demanding to know if I had “touched” the fridge, the key word being “touched”. I could honestly look him straight in the eye and say no… but I didn’t volunteer the information about who had! It was only destined for the dump, but he was flexing his muscles! We had that fridge for a number of years, even risking moving it to the Whyte House.
The New View Society in Port Coquitlam has had some good times and some bad times in their efforts to bring about a better life for people with handicaps — be they mental, social or physical.

By Kay Whiting

One of their outstanding success stories is Hygrade Industries on Spring Street in Port Moody. Here eight persons, who would otherwise be unemployed, have a steady job and have an income of $800 each per month enabling them to get off welfare or their handicapped pension.

It is a custom cutting wood plant and they presently have a contract with a local firm to cut and mill the components to make doors.

They also have a tentative agreement for a contract with a large furniture manufacturer to mill their requirements. If it comes to reality another shift will be hired.

Administrator Sharon DiSanto said “We were able to get this started because the B.C. Handicapped Industries Guild gave us a loan to get up underway. We have been operating not quite a year and while still not being able to start paying it off we have come up to the expectations they had of us. They have members on our board and carefully watch and advise us”.

She went on to say this was an ideal situation. The business already existed but also glued the doors together. This was found to be not suitable to the operation was scaled down to the cutting of the wood. They bought the business, including the machinery, and the former owner stayed on as the manager.

Sharon said “We have a screening committee that decides who will be employed. Then try it for a month and if they can handle it they are taken on as staff. Some of our women tried it but the work was really too heavy so we have all men ages varying from their early 20’s to mid 30’s. We also have a waiting list of ten more who have been through the screening but as yet there is no work for them. We only keep this many on this list as there is no use giving them false hopes about the job. Our manager says he never had a group of better employees and this makes us all feel pretty good”.

But this is what makes Sharon and other members of the New View feel pretty awful too. There are so many who want to work if someone would just give them a chance.

We need a place to have an income from — such as a thrift shop, a place that can serve as an activity and a training centre, a place that can be a social centre and a place that is somewhat permanent.

Sharon added “There is no way we can achieve any other goals with just one room anywhere. They have a grant from the Ministry of Human Resources for $40,000 towards the purchase of a building. It expires at the end of March and they have not been able to find anything as yet.

“The rest would have to be financed through a loan. No one will give you a loan unless you can show a firm plan to have an income. So we need to have a contract with some firms that will have us do work for them. On the other hand what is the good of getting a contract if you have no place to do the work in” said Sharon.

“We would also like to be able to work out something with Incentive Crafts in Port Moody who will have to close soon if they cannot get more funding. They have some good wood working equipment. If we had a place we could go together. It does not what the group is called matters what they can make some remark good things there more or on a custom basis or for sale individuals. What we need is a long term contract to provide the finished product.” Sharon went on.

“We really do not know where to turn next” she concluded. “We could have got provincial funding to adapt the Royal Bank building to meet some of our needs but we had to have a five-year lease. We couldn’t get it. I think I have looked and investigated every lead in Port Coquitlam, Port Moody and Coquitlam. It is hard to do any programming or planning when you never have any firm idea of what will happen to you the next day. It is hard on us but it is more difficult for our clients. They don’t want much really — just a little independence”.

All they want is a little land — 1978
Dear Members and Friends,

As most of you are aware our current basic funding is from several government Sources: Fraser Health Authority, BC Housing and Canada Mortgage and Housing.

As well, over the years we have been supported by the Lottery Foundation, United Way, and a variety of grants, both Provincial and Federal.

However, for our special celebrations and activities we depend solely on donations from members and friends.

Thank you for your continued support

Sincerely

New View Society

(Tax receipts are issued for $25 or more)