

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.

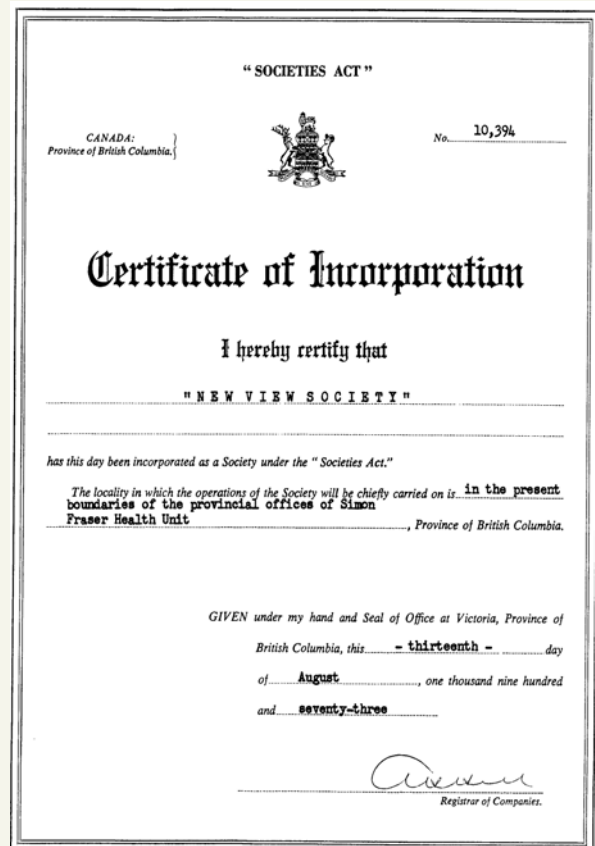
The Mental Health office had a staff of five women at the time, including Dr. Shauna Little, and along with Boarding Home Program staff, including Sharon DiSanto, they very quickly saw there were no supports that came with the downsizing. These women saw an immediate need and went to work. They secured 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.

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

NEW VIEW SOCIETY
FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF
February 28, 1974 - April 29, 1974

PREVIOUS BALANCE:

February 28, 1974 \$ 4,619.00

CREDIT:

Membership Fees 4.00
TOTAL 4,623.00

DEBIT:

V. Best - Workshop Course 25.00
L.I.P. T/A #265-14 4,320.00
4,345.00

BALANCE \$ 274.00

respectfully submitted

S. McKenzie
S. McKenzie
TREASURER

SMcK/mh

NEW VIEW SOCIETY
2697 Shaughnessy Street
Port Coquitlam, B. C.

October 25, 1976

Are you handicapped and having problems with:
TRANSPORTATION
LONELINESS
EMPLOYMENT
UTILIZING 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 2 years, serving the handicapped of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, and West.

At present we offer activities such as Bingo, Ceramics, Pottery, Macrame, Swimming, Pool, and Crafts. We also are branching out into carpentry and woodworking. We will also start new programs that are of interest to those who attend.

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

We have the use of a bus and presently are getting a lift on it for wheel-chairs.

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

S. DiSanto
Director, New View Society
Telephone: 942-5633
2697 Shaughnessy St.
Port Coquitlam, B.C.
(Dalkie Building)
Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

NEW VIEW SOCIETY

Directors

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Address</u>
Dr. S.G. Little, Chairperson	Psychiatrist	2232 Elgin St., Port Coquitlam
Patience McArthur, Treasurer	Administrator	2232 Elgin St., Port Coquitlam
Adele DePaul	Administrator	819 Surrey, New Westminster
Marilyn Muncaster	Case Aide	403 Sixth St. "
Ardice Buchanan	Public Health Nurse	2338 Clarke Port Moody
Rita LaChance	Psychiatric Nurse	2232 Elgin St., Port Coquitlam
Jim Seddon	School Counselor	1140 Alderside, Port Moody
Florence Reber	Social Worker	1019 Gatensbury, Coquitlam
Janice Griffiths	Social Worker	125 McInnes, New Westminster



New View History

-our first brochure!

NEW VIEW SOCIETY
ACHIEVEMENT CENTER FOR
HANDICAPPED ADULTS
2697 Shaughnessy St.

NEW VIEW SOCIETY A NON PROFIT Society serving Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Coquitlam and Ioco. As a society sensitive to the individual needs of the handicapped people in this area, our purpose is to develop and co-ordinate activities, work situations, and placement into other optional programs we have access to.

The Services we offer at the present:
Drop In Coffee - held 9 to 3 daily, Monday to Friday.
Director - Ray Gwalwell - 943.5633

Recreation and Social Functions - held in the community facilities. (Swimming, Pottery, shopping trips and outings).
The Corner Thrift Store
Director - Eunice Wills - 944-7337

Located on the corner of Shaughnessy and Elgin.
Donations of clothing and any used items can be dropped off daily except Sunday.

Avanade Industries
Manager - John Lange -

A place of employment in a production oriented industry.

Campus Cafeteria:
Director - Pat Sorenson - 931-4921

A cafeteria training program held at Douglas College Coquitlam Campus. The goal is to provide an opportunity for potentially employable handicapped adults to train and enter the work force.

Winlow Woodworks:
Director - Bryan Carson - 931-4655

A Woodworking Training Program held at Douglas College Coquitlam Campus. The goal is to provide an opportunity for potentially employable handicapped adults to train and enter the work force.

Group Living Home:
Director - Florence Reber - 941-3676

This home is just being purchased and furnishings and all other household items are needed. The goal is to provide a low cost independent living arrangement for five handicapped adults.

News Clippings

Thursday, June 6, 1974

PoCo's New View Society Aids Handicapped People

"Mental illness is not a popular issue in society. People tend to think with stereotype attitudes. They see those with emotional problems as being second or third class citizens."

The speaker is Mildred de Haan, researcher for the New View Society. NVS, a Port Coquitlam group of concerned community members, is dedicated to aiding emotionally disturbed individuals. It also wants to meet the needs of handicapped and disabled people by establishing a crafts workshop in District 43.

HEADED BY MAYOR

First proposed in 1971 and headed then by Mayor Jack Campbell, the society has only been in active existence since February of this year. At the time research was begun: the need for sheltered workshops in Port Coquitlam and area was assessed; the finances and possible locations for the workshops were studied, and community support was analyzed.

The four months of research revealed a desperate need for local facilities. District 43, Mrs. de Haan declared, has no on-going program for the 90 or so emotionally handicapped people living in the area. Currently, such individuals, some recently released from Riverview Hospital, have few programs provided to re-adjust them to the world. A world they have rejected, are possibly afraid of or find overwhelming.

SERVICES INADEQUATE

One such program is the weekly meeting for "Activity Therapy" under the guidance of only one therapist. A second is the bi-monthly social evenings given by volunteers

from the Canadian Mental Health Association.

In the eyes of New View workers, these services are woefully inadequate. Steps to correct the situation are hampered by a lack of funding. The NVS is determined to petition all levels of government for funding to supplement the shoestring LIP grant it now receives.

NO IDEAL BUILDING

Unfortunately, grants are difficult to get unless an organization has been in operation for a set time. For the newly formed NVS, this requirement is obviously difficult to meet.

The lack of a proper building has also slowed the society's progress. Mrs. de Haan's "ideal building" - the building adjoining their Kingsway office - was not available for them. The Dulkey building is now being considered as semi-permanent quarters for the workshop. NVS President Dr. Shauna Little is optimistic that a more suitable building will be found once the public is aware of the Society's need.

Thus far, community attitudes towards the project appear to be mixed. Dr. Little stated that attitudes are

changing and that "Port Coquitlam is a very progressive community and deserves credit" for the moral support and participation provided by its members.

While attitudes are more positive, finances are still a handicap. "We've started", was Dr. Little's comment.

"All we need now is some money". And a building. And volunteers. Anyone interested in supplying any of the three is invited to phone the New View Society at 941-5616, or contact Mildred de Haan or Shauna Little at 1254 A Kingsway, Port Coquitlam.

Page 4C — THE GAZETTE — Wednesday, May 24, 1978



New View Society members sort through goods at Thrift Store. Items are under \$2 and proceeds pay the rent.

PoCo group welcomes local members, money

The New View Society, a Port Coquitlam group, is spreading its message to the Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge area.

There are a few starts: First — the Society has opened a Thrift shop in a store behind the Commercial Hotel in Port Coquitlam. Prices for most goods are under \$2 and, as well as the clothing, toys and other goods on sale, the Thrift shop will serve as an outlet for the

creative works of society members, ranging from wood work to pottery.

Second — the society, which already has one Pitt Meadows member among its membership of 100, has doors open for those who feel they may benefit.

The society, formed in 1973, deals with handicapped adults. "There is no prejudice as to the type of handicap, sex, age or potential," says a Society briefer that has gone to the government seeking funding to help purchase the building the group currently leases.

Goals are listed — to provide activity, social skills and self-care skills to handicapped adults; to provide a sheltered work situation; and to provide work training with the goals of

becoming financially independent.

The group started to serve the people of Port Coquitlam and has since grown to take in Coquitlam and Port Moody.

The presence of residents from Pitt Meadows and New Westminster shows the potential for more growth. "We'll accept anyone interested in volunteer work," says Gail MacLean, a director of the Society. "What we are trying to do is get our feet on the ground now. So far Thrift shop sales are paying for the rent of the building."

If the building can be purchased, interior renovation will see office space and occupational and recreational facilities developed to provide a

more complete center. Present programs of the society include social and recreational activities, educational programs, self-care skills, a ceramics course and a craft program.

The group is proposing an expanded workshop to provide a sheltered workshop to provide a outlet for work-related activities, work-related training in a number of skills including cashing, inventory-taking, public relations and purchasing.

Those wishing further information about the Society can drop into the Thrift shop or telephone 941-4232 or 942-5633.

News Clipping

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-fourties, 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 everything. "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



Selling . . .

Eunice at New View watches over the goods and the people . . .

News Clipping

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 woodworking 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 micro wave oven for use in their kitchen at Coq. Douglas College. Left to right. Hugo Haynes, Legion Vice Pres. Executive Director; Duane Pritchett, Sharon Di Santo New View Society, President of Legion, Pat Sorenson cafeteria manager.

News Clipping

"New Sewing Machine Donated"



1977.

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 Higgs and Caroll Duggan, president of the sorority. Looking over the new machine is Mavis Malcove and New View assistant director Gail MacLean.



News Clipping

Handicapped society searching for a bus

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

The Society's Centre, at 2697 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 Mrs. 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 the 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 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 with 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 Coquitlam, 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?"



News Clipping



THREE NEW VIEW SOCIETY clients, assisted by a Society worker, enjoy a pottery class sponsored jointly by the Society and PoCo Parks and Recreation.

\$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 exit 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 Keryluk suggested that along with these improvements the city should also look at correcting the shortcomings in the building that make it hard for the handicapped to utilize it. One thing that is needed is a railing in the washroom.

Keryluk 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.



News Clipping

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 Neighbor 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 DeHaan, 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 Beechman teaches carpentry, Rouel LeMarseilles looks after crafts, and Lucille Isbister 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, 2266 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

1977

By STEPHEN PYLE

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, this 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

New View wants PoCo House

April 19, 1977.

... FRUSTRATION FOLLOWS DENIAL

By DON MACDONALD

I am particularly frustrated with the way the Port Coquitlam Council has treated my proposal of moving the New View Society from the Dalkey building to the PoCo House. They seem to be hunting for reasons not to do it rather than address the real reasons for the move.

Before dwelling on the council's behavior, however, let me relate some background information. The New View Society is an organization attempting to help socially, mentally, and physically handicapped adults adapt better to our society. New View's program which includes craft activities, career counselling, self-help skill activities and job orientation is currently based at the Dalkey Building. Of the one hundred adults served, twenty-five are ex-patients of Riverview Hospital.

The Dalkey Building and the PoCo House are both owned by the city of Port Coquitlam. That is where the similarity ends. The Dalkey building is an old pool hall situated above the Shaughnessy St. underpass. It consists of one large room with three offices at one end and an open

room, storage room and washroom at the other end. Because the building is shared with the Army and Navy cadets and the PoCoMo Boys' and Girl's Club, the society has to limit its use of the space. The PoCo House, on the other hand, located at Wilson and Mary Hill road offers much. It is a large house separated in the middle by a walk-way so that, in fact, it is two residences. The main house, which I propose be used by the society, is ideal for their purposes. Besides having regular house facilities, it has a large recreation room and a level entrance which offers little difficulty to wheel chair participants. The back part of the house can be rented out to supply evening security and to pay for the upkeep of the house.

On looking at both buildings, common sense tells us that a much more effective program can be offered at the PoCo House. Not only can programs be separated but many more programs can be offered in the various rooms throughout the building. Compare this with what is offered at the pool hall where mentally retarded, physically disabled and socially handicapped adults

sit around a large table attempting to concentrate on their different programs. As an educator, I find the situation appalling and it further appalls me that the council has given "short-shift" to the idea of moving the group.

Let me elaborate on the "short shift". In February I wrote a letter to the mayor and council asking that the New View Society be given possession of the front half of the PoCo House. Two hours before the council's March 4 meeting, I heard by telephone that the Environmental Committee consisting of Alderman Keryluk and Alderman Ranger had recommended against the proposal. I attended the council meeting and naively asked that I be given the opportunity to discuss the issue with the committee. Council agreed with my request and a letter was sent asking me to meet with the committee on March 31. Because of holidays and what have you, I didn't receive the letter until April 4. I again attended the council meeting and Alderman Keryluk agreed to meet with me on April 7.

At last we met! I explained the reasons for my proposal and waited. Neither

Alderman Keryluk nor Ranger found fault with the proposition that: The PoCo House would be well used by the society and that more effective and meaningful programs could be offered there. Instead, Alderman Keryluk suggested that the city could not afford to give the society use of the house. I pointed out to him that the city's contribution would amount to about \$3200 per year and that this was a small sum in relation to the amount of service the city was receiving from the New View Society. Alderman Keryluk did not respond to the point and Alderman Ranger jumped in. He stated that he felt the city should not support the New View Society as the society served individuals released from Riverview and that this made it a provincial responsibility. I agreed with him about provincial responsibility but also pointed out to him that only a minority of the adults served by the Organization were ever in Riverview Hospital. Alderman Ranger did not respond to my comment but instead talked of other groups seeking accommodation, such as the boy scouts and the PoCoMo Boys' and Girl's Club.

There was no comment when I suggested that PoCo House was a less than ideal solution for these groups. At the end of the meeting nothing had changed except that I was more frustrated.

Prior to meeting with the Environmental Committee, I met separately with Alderman Laking and Mayor Campbell. Alderman Laking was incredible. He spent the whole half hour making up reasons for not letting the society use the house. As each reason was shot down he searched for another. I found the game silly and gave up on the man.

Mayor Campbell seemed much more considerate and showed a real concern for the individuals being served by the group. Mayor Campbell did mention, however, that he felt that the provincial government, and to a certain extent, Riverview Hospital, were not doing as much as they should in this area. I was sorry that I did not have the statistics at the time to show the Mayor that only twenty-five percent of the individuals served by the society were from Riverview — I think it would have made a difference. Mayor Campbell also showed

concern for the neighborhood around PoCo House. At this time, I assured him that there is absolutely no comparison between the adults being served by the New View Society and the former residents of the House.

The proposal to relocate the New View Society in the PoCo House seems solid. Some points should be made at this time. They are:

- 1) PoCo House is a public building and should be used for the public.
- 2) A \$3200 subsidy from the city to house the society in PoCo House is a bargain for the city in terms of service rendered.
- 3) Whereas the provincial government has a responsibility to help handicapped individuals — so has the city!
- 4) The city receives much revenue from the Riverview industry and it should be willing to bear some cost.
- 4) More effective and responsible programs for the handicapped adults can be carried out at the PoCo House.

In conclusion, what can one say? ... It seemed like a good idea ... pity, nobody listened.

Once bitten ...

Readers may remember the saga of PoCo House. The house which stands at Mary Hill and Wilson streets in Port Coquitlam for over two-and-a-half years was battered back and forth by press and politicians.

The house was used as a treatment center for some hard drug users but mainly as a drop-in center for young juveniles.

Eventually it was closed down, or rather just not continued. The house is now rented out.

Now the New View society wishes to use it for their programs which broadly cover helping handicapped adults.

Council has apparently already turned thumbs down on this request which according to New View sources require a subsidy of \$3200 a year. Without going

into the various arguments of the request and denial, one thing must be pointed out.

We cannot help but get the feeling from the rather stretched arguments on city side that a general fear of repeating a 'PoCo House' scandal has stuck in council members collective memories like a bone in their throats.

If this is a major factor in council's decision on the situation we can't help but comment that it is indeed a sad case of affairs when a city holds back from helping people just because it fears it may get into the spotlight again.

Burying a building to avoid complications is as sad as putting people away to avoid problems, and perhaps in council's myopic way this is what it will result in.



News Clipping

"New View brings people one step closer to home"

By SHEILA FRANCIS

For people who have been institutionalised for some time, a look back through rose colored spectacles does not supply the necessary courage and confidence to take that first giant step to rejoin society as an independent member.

They need a fresh perspective on life and an assurance that they have something to contribute. Until fairly recently there was no organization for patients re-entering the complex, workaday world from Riverview or Woodlands. No hand to help them across that shaky bridge to independent thought and action — and of course to happiness.

Now, thanks to a community effort, there is the "New View Society", housed in the City owned "Dalkey Building", 2677 Shaughnessy, Port Coquitlam, at no charge. Last month alone this activity centre catered for 45-50 people, with an average daily attendance of twenty. "We can only grow as much as the building will let us," explained Director, Sharon DeSantos.

The Society serves the handicapped of School District 43, with several additions from New Westminster. The majority of people attending the centre are in Mental Health boarding

homes, following stays at Riverview or Woodlands (mostly lengthy). The boarding home program enables former patients to live in private homes while remaining in a supervised situation.

"Independence" is achieved in different degrees. Sharon pointed out that while it was realistic for some people to aim at eventually living in a suite on their own, just to feel independent was enough for others who might never live outside a supervised setting.

Physically handicapped people can also help and be helped as the Society broadens its scope to include them. Big problem here is transportation, and New View is anxious to hear from volunteers willing to drive to and from their centre, even just one day a week.

Sharon took great pride in telling the story of the physically disabled man who recently attended the centre while preparations for a fund raising sale were being discussed. He immediately took on the task of 'phoning to ask for donations, proving to be extremely successful.

Sharon uses this little tale to illustrate her point that handicapped people are quite able and happy to help each other given the circumstances.

After 10 years in the mental

health field, setting up a program for New View, and seeing it be effective has been a pleasurable challenge for Sharon. "My biggest problem has been in dealing with the mentally ill and retarded together," she said. "Their needs are so different, we are now setting up separate programs.

"Activity" is the key word at the centre where the program changes every two months. Those attending are urged to use their talents, learn new ones and thereby relearn their own usefulness. From actual lessons in macramé and crochet to simple knitting sessions and stimulating afternoons at the "Bowlerama," (where use of the alley and two games are given free whenever New View people go) progress is made in basic socialization and rehabilitation.

Presently many projects are underway in preparation for the New View open house and bazaar to be held in the Dalkey Building December 2. The society is non profit and uses such events to raise funds and keep the community aware of its work.

Items being produced to go on sale are most impressive — beautifully worked plant pots, as a result of the ceramics

classes; artistic, colorful plastic flowers, already being sold for use on wedding cars; intricately crocheted key rings and finely embroidered pillow cases — just to mention a few.

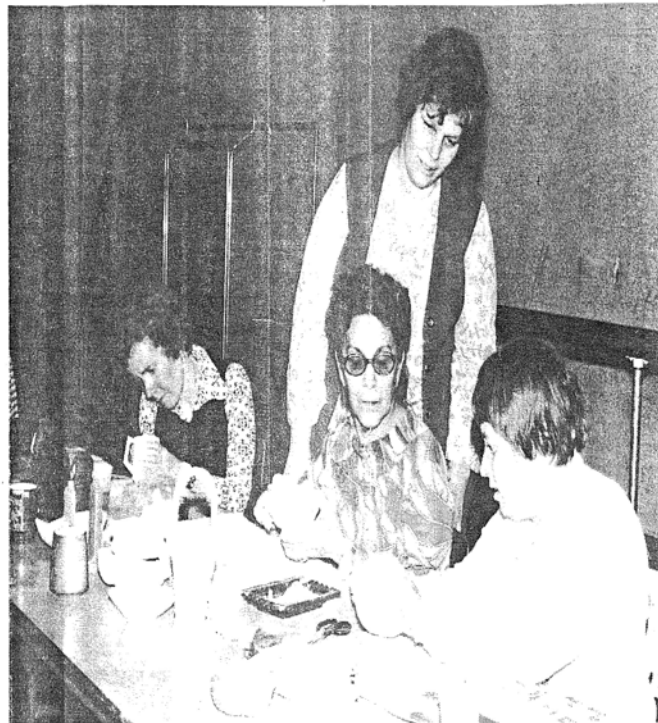
Most of us measure our self image against what it is worth to others, and people at New View are no different. Sharon is looking for outlets so that after New View has paid for the materials used in making items, they can be sold and the maker receive the remainder of profit. The wedding flowers have filled a need in this area, and Sharon hopes to find a florist who could use their ceramic pots on a regular basis.

Motivation is the one greatest stumbling block in the way of a person benefitting from what New View has to offer. "But the first step is just in being here," said Sharon, "for most people it's a struggle to be here."

Sharon is the only full time employee, and her salary is paid from a grant received from the Department of Human Resources. But as the centre opened six months before the grant became available in June of last year, she was paid during that time from donations made by the local Lions and Kinsmen.

Her "invaluable" assistant is Shirley Neveroski, who is paid only for one hour each day, but volunteers many extra ones. She says the work makes her "feel good," and both she and Sharon agreed that the morale and atmosphere were first rate. Shirley is one of three community services workers to help out at the centre. These workers are people on welfare who are allowed to earn \$50 per month.

New View was the brain child of its present chairperson, Dr. Shauna Little, a psychiatrist with the Mental Health Unit, and a head nurse at the Health Department, Sandy McKenzie. Dr. Little told the Progress it all started when she and Sandy



SHARON DISANTOS admires pottery handwork of some of the New View Society members. From left to right: Bar-

bare Scruton, Marie Stinson and Dorothy Mulligan. (Photo By Melanie Weatherbee)

where there could be activities, and eventually run a sheltered workshop type of program," explained Dr. Little. Society secretary is Patience McArthur and treasurer is Joan Jackson — all working voluntarily. A past chairman is present PoCo mayor, Jack Campbell.

If you feel life at the centre would be rather cheerless, or that people who have been institutionalized have therefore

lost both their intelligence and their sense of humor, you should have sat in at their group meeting as I did. An invitation to a costume party at Halloween led to a lively

discussion which hit a peak when a young girl pointed to a distinguished looking elderly lady smiling through a cigarette holder and said, "She can go as Whistler's Mother!"



Our first Drop-In —
- the Dalkey Building
- Shaughnessy St.
Port Coquitlam





Kay's Korner

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.

News Clipping

All they want is a little land

- 1978



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 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 so 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

Sharon went on to say they are desperate right now for other major things.

First they need a place for an all-around centre. The present building in which they are located on Flint Street is up for sale and they could be evicted anytime.

"We thought about trying to buy it but it is out of our reach.

"There is no way we can achieve any other goals with just one room somewhere."

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 50'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 somewhere.

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 do together. It does not matter what the group is called, what the group is called, matters what they can do. Handicapped people have made some remarkable things there more or on a custom basis or for sale individuals. What we need is 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".

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)