

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

Celebrating 40 years



***40 Years of Dedication to
Community Mental Wellness***

New View History—in the 1990's

New View History in the 1990s

1990—Around the time of the 15th anniversary, an ambitious plan was undertaken, which came to fruition in 1990 when Maplewood Manor was opened, providing 20 more housing units for members. Around this time a semi-independent living program was started as well as the Community Living support program, providing adequate housing for people with mental illness who were paying too much for rent and not eating properly. The New View umbrella was growing rapidly. **May 10, 1991**—A Ribbon cutting ceremony was held at 11:00 a.m. to ensure that tenants pay no more than 30% of their income for rent. By December, 1991, the Maplewood project was completed.

1992-1999—New Hope at New View—the New View Society hired a second home support worker in anticipation of the long-promised increase in government funding for mental health services. The government announced that an extra \$6 million was available for health services in the province. **Fall-1999** A New View— Port Coquitlam's New View Society provides opportunity.

Sharon DiSanto, President, "people tend to view the mentally ill as patients and miss the essence of the person. Our emphasis is on helping the individual to be an equal and valuable person in the community."

Kay Swalwell, Executive Director, "Everyone has a gift... that's what we want to tap into."

Rod Owen, SEP Programs Manager, "people with a mental illness face a lot of stigma from employers, even more than those with physical disabilities."

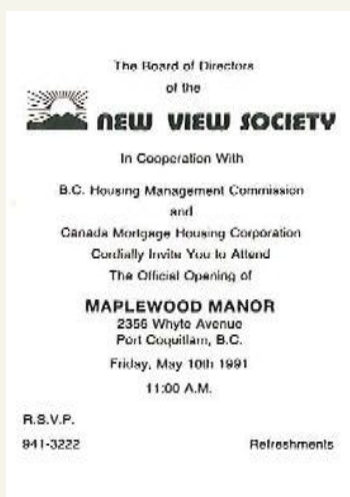
A contract with the Simon Fraser Health Board provides primary support for the operation of the Clubhouse. Other income is received from agencies such as the United Way, and the BC Gaming Commission.



Forms of housing are made available by agencies such as BC Housing, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and the Ministry of Health.

In the late 1990's—"The Place" drop-in centre was opened on Elgin Avenue in the commercial section of Port Coquitlam. The drop-in

provides recreational and social supports for individuals living with a mental illness in the community.



Port Coquitlam City representative

New View History

Maplewood Manor—from the beginning...



-where it all began-
-2354- 2358-



-first - the elevator shaft-

-work began May 1990-



-even the dog has to supervise-



-more supervisors-



and now we're ready to move in-
December 1990



-first lobby-



-back yard Dec. 1990-



New View History

Maplewood Manor Opens May 10, 1991

Special housing project set to open

On May 10 the New View Society celebrates an important achievement — the opening of Maplewood Manor — a new housing project in Port Coquitlam that will provide 20 homes for lower income persons with mental illness.

Elmer MacKay, minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and Norman Jacobsen, minister of Social Services and Housing, announced a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open this new project on Friday, May 10 at 11 a.m. at 2356 Whyte Avenue, Port Coquitlam.

Several tenants and the board of directors will be available to tour the project with media representatives.

The New View Society is a strong community-based group that had its beginnings in 1973 and now operates three social housing projects, including two group homes. Maplewood Manor is the first such project in the Tri-City area for people with mental illness,

and the tenants have been able to develop their own support system.

The Mental Health Services Division of the provincial Ministry of Health is funding the New View Society to provide rehabilitation for clients, through life skills and vocational training and supportive counselling.

Dr. Shauna Little and Kay Swalwell have been central figures in the New View Society.

Maplewood Manor was approved under the 1989 social housing budget. It is part of a joint federal/provincial commitment that has delivered about 9,200 units of social housing in British Columbia since 1986.

To ensure that tenants pay no more than 30 per cent of their income for rent, annual subsidies totalling \$230,000 will be advanced to the society. The federal government will cover two-thirds of this amount through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), and the provincial government, through

the British Columbia Housing Management Commission (BCHMC), will contribute one-third.

"This project shows how differ-

ent levels of government can work together to provide suitable shelter to those in need," commented MacKay.

"Making the nonprofit system

work requires support from many individuals and organizations," added Jacobsen. "I am personally very proud to share responsibility and to be part of this process."



12 THE TRI-CITY NEWS, May 8, 1991

Maplewood opening good news for tenants

By Kate Poole
Staff Reporter

For 20 Port Coquitlam residents, life will never be the same. It will be better.

The New View Society is officially opening Maplewood Manor, an apartment in PoCo with 20 suites affordable to people with a mental illness.

"They were living in inadequate housing or housing they couldn't afford," said Kay Swalwell, executive director of New View. "They were living in basement suites but mostly they were paying rent they couldn't afford and not eating properly because of it."

The new apartment has 20 self-contained one-bedroom suites, "but we tried to make it look like a big, old house," she said.

A nice place to live is important to all people but critical for people with a mental illness, Swalwell said. A mental illness makes it difficult to cope with stress and, when living conditions are poor, that saps most of their resources. Freed of that stress, the residents can work or go to school. A condition of the independent living, she said, is a commitment to doing something during the day.

The project was completed in December but the society waited until the lawns were in and the

weather more predictable before having the opening ceremony, which takes place May 10. In four months, the residents have already established a support system, Swalwell said. "They have made it into a little community."

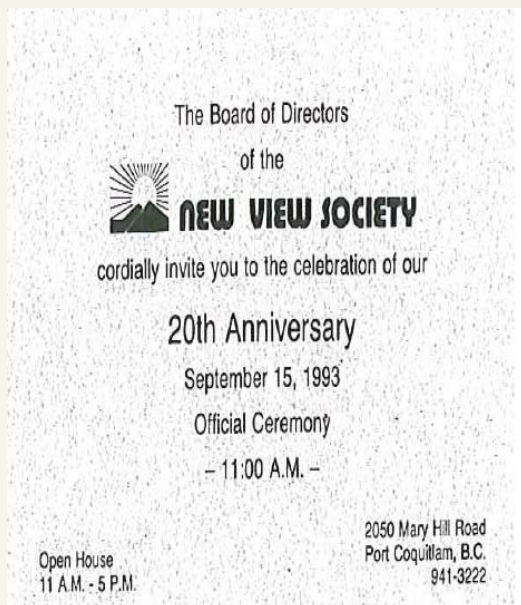
The larger community is also providing a support system. The project is funded by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the B.C. Housing Corporation and will be subsidized so residents pay no more than a third of their income for rent. The health ministry is providing services, including rehabilitation through life skills and vocational training and counselling.

New View History



-what a day!-

New View History



Ian Waddell



Mike Farnworth



Chris Kline
Mental Health Services

*"dedicated to supporting
persons challenged by mental illness"*

Welcome.....Sharon DiSanto
Mental Health Services.....Chris Kline
City of Port Coquitlam.....Mayor Traboulay
City of Coquitlam.....Mayor Sekora
Member of Parliament.....Ian Waddell
Member of Legislature.....Dr. Barbara Copping
United Way.....Rod Santiago
Society Members.....Eileen de Haan
Nick Booth
Community Presentations.....Mike Stark
Lunch.....Everyone.



Sharon DiSanto
- 1st Executive Director



Dr. Copping



New View History

New View Society

PROVING HOUSING
AND EMPLOYMENT
SUPPORT TO
BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Lee-Ann Ayres

It started out as a drop-in centre with a few cents in a coffee cup. Today, 23 years later, New View Society has grown into a full-time support for housing assistance and employment service, with 15 people on staff.

New View, in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, also offers transition aid from institution to community for people with schizophrenia and other mental illness and still acts as a drop-in centre, says executive director Kathryn Swalwell.

The Club House program provides pre-vocational, life and social skills – considered to be one form of psycho-social rehabilitation. Clients are dealt with individually with a strong

focus to build self-esteem and try to get people back into the mainstream society.

The program helps clients develop a number of skills and provides many opportunities. Barbecues, outdoor activities, music and games are organized. Communication jobs such as computer data entry, answering the telephone, kitchen work, lawn maintenance as well as crafts are done by residents at the Club House.

Support Housing offers semi-independent living and housing support to those living in independent units within the community and shared accommodations. A trained counselor has a contract with a client living independently and provides assistance when needed. Swalwell explains that the cost of housing is based on the individual's income.

"One third of (their) income goes towards housing...rent can be as low as \$192 a month."

The organization also finds employment for clients within the community at entry-level positions.

"We find employment places that are in a low-stress and empathetic environment," says Swalwell. "We have one gentleman who goes and cleans up at a factory."

The society was founded in 1973 by a group of interested people in the community and at Riverview Hospital. The organization is charity-funded by many different organizations and also works closely with the

local mental health centre, though it's not a medical institution.

New View works with about 200 clients a year. Swalwell says at any given time throughout the year, they support about 140 clients. Many people use various facets of the long term program.

"Some people come straight from the hospital and use all available services while others may just use a few of them," she says.

"Until they find a cure for schizophrenia, people can come here and stay here as long as they need it." ♦

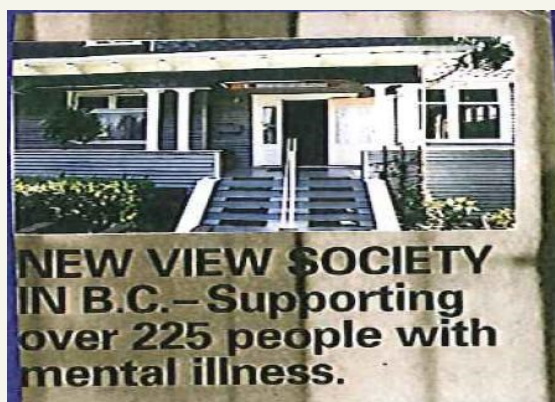
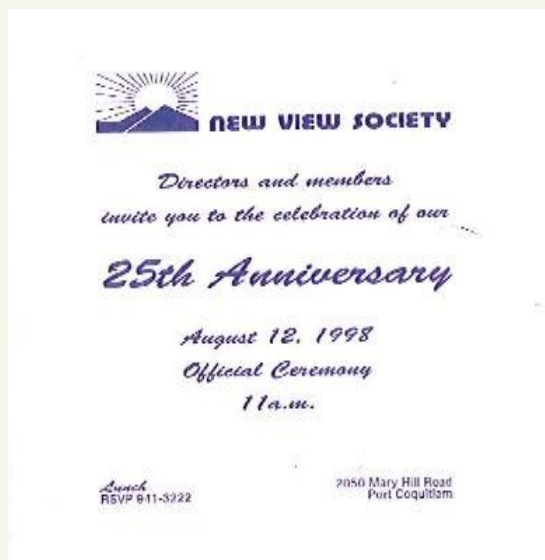
HELPFUL STEPS

Restlessness, anxiety and tension may be secondary effects of drugs or accompany positive symptoms for other reasons.

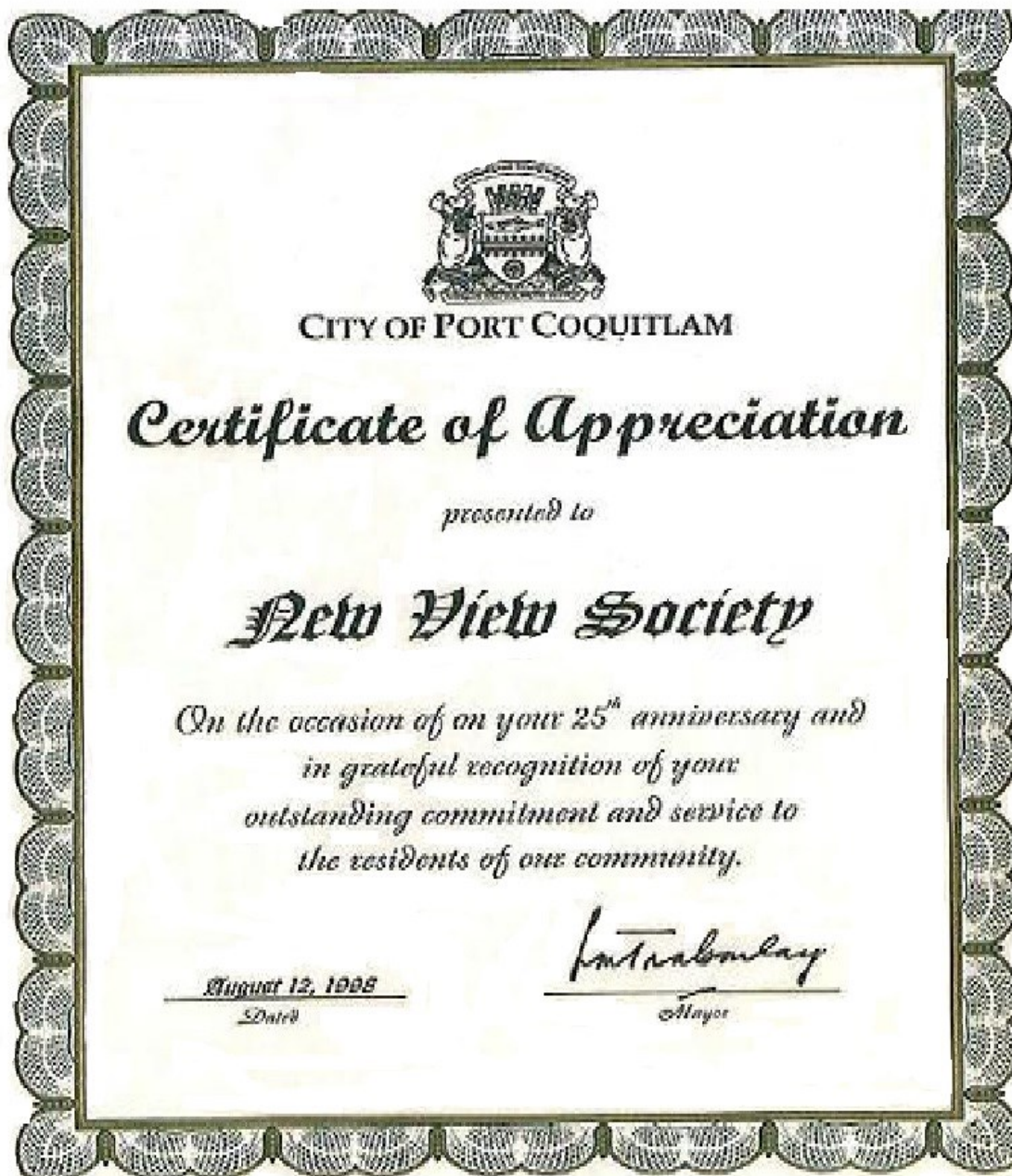
1. These symptoms are made worse by stimulants such as coffee, tea, cola drinks, chocolate and cold tablets.
2. Sedative medication helps, but should only be used under the care of a doctor.
3. Caregivers should understand this problem and not criticize the patient for pacing. Instead try accompanying him for a walk and encourage exercise.

1996 - article from Schizophrenia Digest.

New View History



New View History



New View History

PORT COQUITLAM'S NEW VIEW SOCIETY PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY

"People tend to view the mentally ill as patients and miss the essence of the person," says Sharon Di Santo, president of the New View Society in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia.

"Our emphasis is on helping the individual to be an equal and valuable person in the community."

A former case worker with the British Columbia Ministry of Health, Di Santo was instrumental in casting the vision for a society that today provides support services for over 225 people who are coping with the challenges of mental illness.

In her work with women in the Mental Health Boarding Program in the early 1970's, Di Santo saw that people with a mental illness were often very lonely and had little to add significance and relevance to their lives. She began to collaborate with Dr. Shauna Little, a local psychiatrist who became the driving force in working with Di Santo and other mental health professionals in organizing a non-profit society to help these women.

Their goal was not just to help them fill their time, but to give them opportunities to use their talents and skills constructively. Traditional treatment, by focusing primarily on the illness, was missing the part about the individual as a person.

"There was no training available to provide guidance and direction," says Di Santo. "They were charting new territory and had to learn by doing."

NVS began humbly in 1973 using facilities provided at no cost by the City of Port Coquitlam, a commitment of \$500 per month from the province of B.C. for a staff member and a battery of volunteers. It now functions with an annual operating budget of over \$1.3 million, a staff of 18, and many volunteers. NVS owns three well-maintained homes of shared accommodation, a versatile apartment building and a beautiful clubhouse. Supported housing is provided for over 150 people with an additional 75 benefiting from the various programs NVS offers. But the essence of the society is its heart – its belief that the person with a mental illness has a valuable contribution to make.

"Everyone has a gift," says Kay Swalwell, the executive director.

"That's what we want to tap into. We don't just look for what the community can bring to the person with a mental illness, but we also look for what the person with a mental illness can bring to the community."

They began with activities such as crafts, knitting and ceramics, among others. By offering more services and work programs as it progressed, the society grew and developed into what it is now, a full-fledged clubhouse program that practices psycho-social rehabilitation through life skills, social recreation skills and opportunities, supported housing, and supported employment programs. Today its members tend to be younger than in the early years, both male and female, who are dealing with a variety of mental illnesses and challenges.

New View History



A New View

PORT COQUITLAM'S NEW VIEW SOCIETY PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY

Members of NVS are able to grow, develop and enhance their skills by attendance at various Clubhouse units. In the communications unit, instruction is given in introduction to computers, software applications, creative skills and the internet. The focus is primarily on teaching those skills that are useful for personal and employment purposes. The team also produces the quarterly newsletter *The New View Review*.

Donna Dickson, the instructor, says that the unit is unique because, "It's an outlet for members to express themselves by tapping into their creative and intellectual potential."

Doug Mackay, who's in charge of the food preparation unit, likes to refer to his crew as "The heart of the Clubhouse."

Every day, approximately 45 people enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by Doug and his crew. In a caring, nurturing environment, crew members learn the fine art of preparing nutritious and tasty meals. Shopping, planning and clean up are integral parts of the program. The group also supplies catering for special events at the Clubhouse such as summer barbeques and various social functions.

"EVERYONE HAS A GIFT....THAT'S WHAT WE WANT TO TAP INTO."

(KAY SWALWELL, NEW VIEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)

The maintenance unit teaches essential skills in household and outdoor maintenance. This group is often found cleaning and caring for the clubhouse buildings and grounds. With a focus on leadership and team building, the members are kept busy working on projects and tasks that they enjoy doing.

In the popular craft unit, members learn a large variety of arts and crafts, exchange ideas and also have the opportunity to socialize. Instructor Liz Lindquist keeps up to date on trends and introduces the latest ideas in new and different crafts to the group. A special project of this unit is making and donating lap blankets for residents of Hawthorne Lodge, a local residence for seniors.



New View History



The Supported Employment Program (SEP) has been running for 11 years and offers employment assistance for people who have a diagnosed mental illness. The objective is to provide members with a springboard into the world of work. The society solicits businesses for contracts competitively and must operate according to established business principles. SEP expectations are the same as those in the working world and it operates according to the B.C. Employment Standards Act. Recognition for achievement and motivation is an integral part of the program. "People with a mental illness face a lot of stigma from employers," says Rod Owen, the SEP Programs Manager, "even more than those with physical disabilities."

The program also offers employment counselling, career planning, development of job search skills, resume preparation and interview skills. Graduates move to a variety of opportunities ranging from entry level to entrance in college or university. Owen is happy to report that he has seen over 125 graduates of SEP move to regular employment or higher education.

Another very important aspect of the society is the Community Living Support (CLS) program. Its objective is to help people with a mental illness live and stay in the community. Working closely with Tri-Cities Mental Health, the CLS worker, the nurse and the consumer enter into a contract to provide a wide range of services such as life skills, housing needs and problem solving, to name a few. The CLS worker meets with the consumer on a regular basis and they work together to meet the challenges of daily living. The program has been operating successfully for 10 years and presently has 110 clients.

A contract with the Simon Fraser Health Board provides primary support for the operation of the Clubhouse. Other income come from agencies such as the United Way and the B.C. Gaming Commission. Funding for the various forms of housing is made available by agencies such as B.C. Housing, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and the Ministry of Health.

Although the activities and programs at NVS are important, they would not be effective without the people – the people with the heart. "Don't ask anyone to live or work or eat where you wouldn't," says Swallow. Treating the mentally ill with respect, dignity and equality, as members of the community who have a valuable contribution to make, is a hallmark at NVS. "The most I've learned here is from the people who come here," says Di Santo. "Any community could do the same thing with the right equation of vision and leadership."

New View History

"Spending time with my Grandma at New View"



New View
It's a place of caring, warmth, support and loving.



Dear Judges, Teachers,
Parents, and Fellow Students:

My name is Meaghan F. and I plan to share with you some information about a place called New View. New View is a facility that supports people who suffer from a mental illness. New View is a not-for-profit society that helps to provide housing, work and social activities for clients who need some help getting back their lives. That means, that the society does not profit or make money by doing these things for the people.

What is mental illness you ask?
Mental illness is a disease that affects

your mind or your behavior. There are many types of mental illness. Some of the ones you may have heard of are depression, schizophrenia, manic depression or bipolar mood disorders. Mental illness affects everyone in a different way. There are treatments and medicine to help those that suffer: they are not always 100% effective. And, people need more than medicine.

***"Spending time at
New View with
my Grandma has
shown me a
different way of
life."***

New View is a comfortable place. Comfort makes people relaxed and makes them want to be there. I've often heard the people talk about the "homeyness" of the center, and how this is very comforting. It makes them feel good about going there.

Basically I guess, New View is about being together and being together helps people feel better.

When somebody is having a good day they can share this with the others there. The people who work there are trained in different areas to help this process happen.

New View supports over one hundred housing units in the Tri-City area. There is also a program that helps members to return back to the work force. There are a multitude of units that members can take part in to help them feel better. There is a craft unit, computer unit, reception duties, and an incredible cooking unit and several sports teams. They provide support to people who are rehabilitating themselves back to our community, Port Coquitlam.

***"I've often heard
people talk about
the "homeyness" of
the center, and how
this is very
comforting. It
makes them feel
good about going
there."***

The people that work at New View are always thinking of fun things to do.

They plan parades, camping trips, outings, picnics, barbecues, and lots of parties. These activities help to make everyone feel as great as they can be - to be a part of the community. Besides the activities, the members always comment on the support system that New View provides.

At New View they often think about a man named Nick. He had a mental illness and he died trying to cope with his illness. Nick wrote a terrific book called "The Jingo Troop". It's about a troop of monkeys and their life in the jungle - it's written for kids.

Spending time at New View with my Grandma has shown me a different way of life. It's taught me not to tease those who are different from us. Kids don't often think about how hard it might be to get up and start the day. A mental illness can make it hard to even get out of bed, let alone face the day. The people I've met have told me that having a place to go makes it easier to "get up and going". New View is somewhere to go where everyone is there to help each other.

*Written By Meaghan F.,
9 years old.*

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)