

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

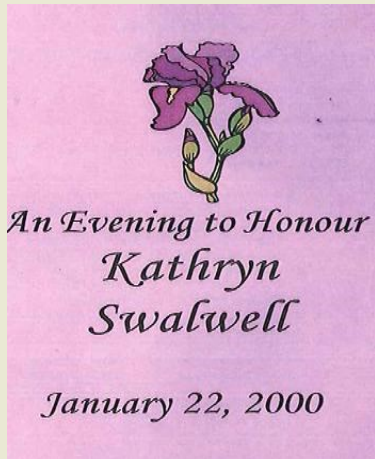
Celebrating 40 years



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



New View History—in the 2000's



Sharon DiSento



-the New View staff-



-the gang-



New View History

January 22, 2000

To Whom it May Concern:

It has come to our attention that a Ms. Kay Swalwell has been investigating the job market for appropriate placement following her firing (that's retiring) from New View Society. Locating a suitable position will be a very challenging undertaking! Over the years Ms. Swalwell has developed numerous attributes that may be of great interest to a new employer. We will attempt to put some order to her vast experience. In view of this monumental undertaking a review of Ms. Swalwell's attached resume is in order. In addition, to further her marketability we highly recommend visual aids to be used in an attempt to further unveil her **unusual** abilities.

Over the past 25 years Ms. Swalwell has made it a point to be accessible long hours (and we do mean long). She shows particular interest for working evenings, with a special aptitude for doing all-nighters. Of course it is essential that any new position require that she be available on weekends and statutory holidays, this is when she is at her best.

She has developed the uncanny ability to work around, or rather **with**, bureaucracy and sees red tape as a mere glitch in the system. She has performed wonderfully as executive director of New View Society. She has developed the ability to juggle roles. For instance, she is a well known advocate of others, always a friend with an ear to bend, loans officer in an emergency, exquisite cook, and all round mother hen. This may translate into an identity problem, but that's another matter!

Ms. Swalwell appears to have a spectacular gift for creating financing. If deemed to be a worthy cause for the betterment of any member of the New View Society she implements Robin Hood's Code of Ethics. To finance these causes, it has been speculated that she may have single handedly excavated a tunnel from 2050 Mary Hill Road to her local bank. Regardless of this accusation, she has managed to transform New View Society, from a once dilapidated room to an inviting heritage home. She continues to amass other significant real estate holdings all for the sake of New View.

Ms. Swalwell is chic and stylish but can put her fashion sense aside to meet the challenging requirements of the job. Rumor has it that once following a vacation she returned to work wearing a bikini. She has been known to don an apron while preparing an impromptu luncheon or dinner for 20 or 30. She is not shy about wearing her pajama's to the office. She has been seen wearing wellington boots mopping up after floods. From our research we could best describe her as a Shell Buzzer type but with a feminine twist. For instance a toilet plunger is not a foreign object to her. But it would be best to wipe up, I mean out, her plumbing expertise as the plumbers union is attempting to flush out imposters.

It could be said that her most endearing quality is people skills. Be it a Bingo Hall or political event this woman can work a room. A bureaucrat may think they have just met their new best friend. Little do they know that they have just been woven into her plan for New View and at some later date their services will be called upon.

We particularly draw your attention to her flair for celebrating life's most important moments, from baby showers to weddings. However, it has come to our attention that during one such soiree she hosted at New View, the neighbors requested police attendance to calm the crowd.

In closing, Ms. Swalwell poses a particular challenge. We certainly consider her worth her weight in bingo cards and offer our company's services in attempting to place this most extraordinary woman.

Yours truly,
Mr. Will Ficksetup

(aka Nurses from Tri-Cities Mental Health Centre) *HAPPY RETIRMENT KAY!*



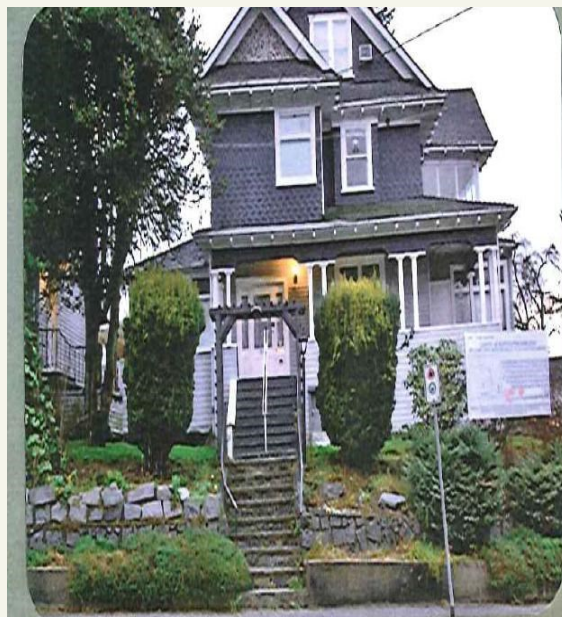
New View History

New View History in the 2000's

2006—The New View Society needs help to stay in heritage house built in 1913. The electrical, foundation and fire codes all need to be upgraded. The staff and New View Society are finding that a younger generation of people need services tailored to people under 30 years of age.

June 2006—Families of the New View Society, who are trying to cope with mental illness are telling their stories to Tri City Mental Health Addictions Advisory Committee. The purpose was to improve hospital admitting plans and tackle affordable housing for mentally ill.

August 2006—The New View Society was looking to sell the property they've owned for 22 years at 2050 Mary Hill. They could not afford the \$750,000 upgrades to the fire and building code necessary to the building. They were given a one year deadline to vacate the building. The other option was to tear down the existing building and build a new one. By November 2006, the building was listed for \$1.2 million but there were no interested buyers.



February 2007— At this point in time, the New View Society provided services to more than 450 people with mental health needs. This included housing support for more than 180 individuals, employment services, a Clubhouse and a drop-in centre. 2050 Mary Hill had been taken off the market, initiating a feasibility study to optimize the use of the property to build a duplex (housing for 10) on half the property, and a fundraising campaign to build a new Clubhouse and office complex on the other half.

May 2007—It was reported that the homeless population was at 162, including POCO, Coquitlam and Port Moody. The New View Society recommendations were to improve the situation, to build a local facility with at least 10 beds, along with a Clubhouse. The Society asked Port Coquitlam council to consider assisting the society's efforts to redevelop its existing property, as the Society was required to vacate the original building by August and the cost to rebuild was approximately \$2 million.

May 11, 2007—Councillor Greg Moore had appealed to Port Coquitlam council to help fund New View Society. If New View Society's housing services are discontinued, it was estimated that an additional 200 people were at risk of being homeless. Each month, New View saw an average of 140 people at the Clubhouse, 40 people at the employment programs, logged 450 visits to the drop-in and helped 200 clients receive housing supports in the community.

May 16, 2007— The New View Society had less than 2 months to vacate 2050 Mary Hill Road. Job training, computer and craft programs moved in July to a temporary location at 2248 Elgin Avenue. The New Clubhouse was then located above "The Place" drop-in centre, also at 2248 Elgin Avenue. New View had to drop its hot lunch program. Sandwiches were still offered.

May 18, 2007—BC Housing approved a feasibility study to investigate the possibility of developing housing for people with mental health issues and/or addictions. The New View Society requested that the city provide capital for the development.

July 7, 2007—The City of Port Coquitlam turned down a proposal to purchase the New View Society's historical building for \$1.2 million. The New View Society had vacated all but the main floor, and was to offer services at the new Elgin location which had been leased for 3 years. Some programs had to be scaled back. Space was very small, but a pool table was able to fit.

September 2007—The New View Society launched its \$2 million capital campaign to rebuild the Clubhouse and provide office space. It was hoped that Port Coquitlam would reduce building fees for the proposed Clubhouse. A Committee agreed to consider our request to provide a grant or forgive the fees.

June 2008—Ray Rutherford, a heritage buff, had planned to buy the 94 year old Charles Lobb House (New View Society Clubhouse) and move it to Salt Spring Island. The sale price \$1. The plan was for the building to be trucked and barged to Salt Spring Island for a cost exceeding \$350,000. Unfortunately for Mr. Rutherford, his dream did not come to fruition and the building was scheduled for demolition.

January, 2009—Building demolition and reconstruction of a new building, with a modest budget, began. A fundraising campaign was set up to rebuild on the demolished site of the Charles Lobb building to house the New View Society.

14 Tri-City News Wednesday, December 19, 2007

A dollar, a dream & a piece of PoCo's past

By Diane Strandberg
THE TRI-CITY NEWS

Next June, one of Port Coquitlam's finest grand dames will be folding in her skirts for a barge trip to Salt Spring Island.

With a dotting chaperone, Ray Rutherford, by her side, the 94-year-old Charles Lobb House will be stripped of her deck and sun porch, dislodged from her foundations at 2050 Mary Hill Ave., hoisted onto a truck and gently transported to a barge on the Pitt River for a journey across the Strait of Georgia.

Her new home will be a 2.5-acre property on Salt Spring Island overlooking the water, where she will be sung to sleep each night by screeching gulls and the ocean breeze.

Rutherford expects the former New View Society clubhouse will be happy in her new home. He hopes so. Moving and restoring the house will be a massive undertaking — costing as much as building a brand new home. But saving the house is better than the alternative — demolition.

Rutherford, a PoCo resident for 18 years, said he has always admired the stately building while out walking with his wife and 11-year-old daughter.

"It has that dignity and a kind of presence," he said.

He came up with the idea of moving it to Salt Spring after hearing it would have to be torn down to make way for housing and a new clubhouse. He pitched the idea of moving the house to Gisela Theurer, the New View Society's director of rehabilitation, who was just as excited as he was to save the building because of its importance to New View clients over the last 24 years.

Rutherford is getting a contract drawn up and expects to take possession of the house — sale price: \$1 — in early January. In the spring, he will hire a contractor experienced with older homes to begin the laborious work of detaching newer additions from the original

IN QUOTES

"It has that dignity and a kind of presence."

Ray Rutherford, on the 94-year-old Charles Lobb House, which he's planning to buy and move to Salt Spring Island

nal structure and removing the veranda and sun porch to prepare the house for the move. Rutherford is confident the contractor he's planning to hire will do a good job. "He realizes how it was, the original structure."

Nickel Bros. will orchestrate the move, which will be a tricky operation. The house will have to travel down Mary Hill Road and turn a corner onto Shaughnessy Street for the trip to a barge on the Pitt River at Citadel Landing. Some wires and lamp standards may have to be removed temporarily, and Rutherford expects the job to take about two days, including the trip to Long Harbour and the house's placement on its new foundation on Salt Spring.

Rutherford is looking forward to the trip. "We'll watch it inch forward and go on its way," he said.

Once the grand old lady is settled in her new home, Rutherford will putter about replacing her woodwork and Edwardian-era stained glass. The Surrey school teacher plans to retire in two years and will move his family to Salt Spring to live.

Then, like any dotting father, Rutherford will restore Charles Lobb House to her original grandeur.

"I can do that forever in retirement," he said.

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Ray Rutherford on the porch the Charles Lobb House on Mary Hill Road in Port Coquitlam.



New View History

Warmth, Companionship, Healing

Historical Lobb House place of refuge and hope for many.

Article by Diane Strandberg of THE TRI-CITY NEWS.—December 2008.

For nearly 100 years the Charles Lobb House at 2050 Mary Hill Road was a Port Coquitlam landmark. It was also a convalescent home, an historic building many people wanted to save, and for 22 years, was also a comfortable gathering place for people who didn't feel accepted anywhere else. Soon it will be just a memory. The basement that used to house a wood shop, the kitchen painted tangerine, the ornately wall-papered living room, the sturdy banister and solid stairs, and yes, the rickety attic where crafts and office duties were done will all come down in a haze of plaster and dust and wood chips.

And that's okay, says some of the staff and clients of New View Society, who recently shared fond memories over coffee and muffins. For some things are more important than wood, plaster and cedar siding. These things are: *Working together, Acceptance, Love, Companionship, Sharing, And of course, Parties.* Judging by the number of people wearing costumes in photographs chronicling New View's stewardship of the building since 1984, "it looks like there was a Halloween party every month," jokes Gisela Theurer, director of rehabilitation. But more, much more went on in the building that many took for granted until a safety inspection warned of trouble ahead unless it was renovated at huge cost. To hear the staff



and clients talk about the Charles Lobb House, the building that many wanted to move and save, it was not just an impressive piece of Edwardian era architecture. It was a refuge, a place of learning, a home. But at first, it was just a building. "We were impressed by its spaciousness," recalls Kay Swalwell, New View board of director and society founder, who bought the building for \$100,000 for a clubhouse to accommodate New View's recreation, housing and job skills programs for people with mental illness. "The spaciousness would allow us to create a place where people would come in various stages of mental illness to be comfortable and safe."

Working together... In the beginning a lot of work had to be done to turn the aging building into a useful facility. Everyone pitched in to clean and paint and over the years the building was nicely maintained. "We kept it polished," acknowledged Chris Racine. How the kitchen became that shocking shade of orange is still a bit of a mystery, but it took a bunch of people to fix the basement door to keep the skunks out. "We just saw that it had to be done, and we did it," said Louise Jolicoeur, a long time staff member, who said everyone just picked up hammers and saws and got busy.

Acceptance... "For me, the building, it's symbolic... for me it represents a home because inside a home you have friends and family," recalled Glenn Smith, who journeyed to B.C. 13 years ago from Nova Scotia, leaving his family behind. Today he runs one of New View's housing facilities, and says that old Clubhouse was an important part of his journey. "When you ended up there, it was a place you could be who you are and not be judged."

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Love... People could come and go depending on their needs. Sometimes they would disappear for months or years, only to show up again, claim a spot on a bench outside the door, and wait for someone to show up. They would always be welcome. If you needed company, you could join in a discussion, make a craft, join a work detail or play a game of pool. To be alone, you headed to the basement. "No matter what was going on there was always different groups of people because it was so big," said Smith. "People just left you alone if you needed space."

Companionship... When Racine first came to the Clubhouse he was having trouble adjusting to his medicine and it made him want to sleep all the time. So during a break from kitchen detail, he fell asleep on the couch only to wake up a few minutes later sputtering and spitting. Some joker had tipped the contents of a glass of water into his open mouth. "I woke up pretty quick," said Racine. "I think the camaraderie for me was most important."

Sharing... There were barbeques, and parties for every season, baseball games, outings, and special events. A time capsule was buried to mark the year 2000 but its location remains a mystery, despite several attempts at digging it up. "That place addressed our different elements," explained Kevin Mandley. For Charlene Bissett, the craft room was where she could make things of beauty, like a Christmas doll, and be stimulated as well as relaxed. When getting well it's important to be able to work on all aspects of the self: mental, physical, emotional, spiritual and intellectual. "After a while, they learn to be able to cope on their own," notes Smith.

That important work is still being done in other places. New View Society has offices in downtown Port Coquitlam and on Austin Avenue in Coquitlam, as well as at various apartments in the Tri-Cities. But it hasn't been easy to recreate the spirit and warmth of the old Clubhouse building on Mary Hill road. "We are always working on that, but it's hard," admits Theurer:

One day New View hopes to rebuild the clubhouse on the property that will soon be the site of a 10 bed housing facility for people with mental illness. It's a chance to move forward with confidence into the future. But for now, New View staff and clients will have to hold on to their memories because there will be very little building left.

2009—Legend has it that the New View Society (Charles Lobb Building) was haunted. In January 2009, the Paranormal Society of Vancouver approached Kay approximately two weeks prior to the demolition of the New View Society (The Charles Lobb Building built in 1911) at 2050 Mary Hill. The building was deemed a Heritage Building and there had been stories from the past that the house may have been haunted. The professional team from the Paranormal Society came in and set up their equipment one night with Kay Swalwell and one of the members. They met them at the building and stayed for many hours (and a lot of coffee) and allowed the team to set up monitoring equipment in the building, including the attic and the basement. They were there for over 4 hours but came to no conclusive evidence of paranormal activity. Thanks to the team at the Paranormal Society of Vancouver for all their hard work and efforts that night and for the opportunity to work along side you.
Very Exciting.



New View Wellness Centre



April 2009—The Honorable James Moore announced Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding to New View Society to aid in the construction of the new facilities, to support a 10 bed supportive housing facility and Clubhouse in the amount of \$575,000. BC Housing (Provincial Government) also contributed \$1.8 million towards the project, as well as \$89,383 in annual operating funding. Another \$10,000 in seed money came from the Federal Government. At this time, another \$300,000 was needed to be raised to re-

duce the mortgage and finish a commercial kitchen, complete the basement, buy appliances, and furnish the suites. The commercial kitchen was expected to be the heart of the building because it would provide 30 meals a day and provide job experience opportunities for New View members in a new catering business enterprise. The kitchen was used for job training so the New View Society Members would gain the necessary skills to get experience that would open doors for future employees.



November 10, 2011—Grand Opening—Building the new residential facility and Clubhouse took several years; first, the 1912-era Lobb House, named after the former city councillor who built it, was torn down for safety reasons. Then the clubhouse was built below the residential facility to save money. At first, there was no carpeting in the basement until staff and members purchased it with their own money. Fraser Health and New View fundraising have helped pay for some new furnishings and the new building

has all the comforts of home, including an inviting fireplace and patio. “In some ways, it was magical how it all came to be,” Ted Kuntz (Chair-person) said.



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)