

Century House Association President's Report - 2023

Wow, 2023 seems to have flown by. Century House attendance has continually grown through the year with an average of 200 people going through our doors each day. It is wonderful to see so many familiar faces returning and lots of new members. New Westminster's Century House Association continues to be a welcoming place for many seniors.

Tim Hicks, our webmaster has given me some Century House Association Webpage statistics for the year. Our home page has been viewed almost 70,000 times! I don't think it will surprise you to know our Connections Café is the most popular page. If you are interested in seeing more stats from the website, we'd be happy to share them with you. Century House Association has two Facebook pages. The Century House Association page has 168 followers and we appreciate the work done by Gail Craft who has volunteered to look after it. The restricted Century House Association Good Cheer FaceBook page has 292 members and we are appreciative of Carole Wylie's volunteer work to maintain that page. It was created during the pandemic, as a way to spread cheer electronically. Only good cheer posts were allowed during that time it continues to be a requirement to this day.

Jenna Speers, City Staff Volunteer Co-ordinator provided me with volunteer stats. Wow, our wonderful volunteers continue to contribute so much of their time to Century House. In 2022 volunteers contributed 23,470 hours compared with the 2023 hours of 32,195 making that an 73% increase. I know we're probably missing more hours because some of us forget to log in our hours. Why are the hours important. They help when we apply for grants. It helps the City know that the seniors of this City contribute many volunteer hours throughout the city. Thank you to all who volunteer.

We have seen several City Staff changes at Century House in 2023. We welcomed Erica Mark, Manager, Recreation Services and Facilities. Salisha Ali, Supervisor for New Westminster Youth & Seniors as well as Jenna Speers part-time Volunteer Co-ordinator. Shelly Schnee, Program Co-ordinator who has worked at Century House for 18 years has recently announced her retirement beginning at the end of January. Through 2023 we had city staff members working at Century House while their exciting new home tēmōsewtx^w Aquatic and Community Centre was being built. They will all be able to enjoy their new home in late Spring. We have enjoyed getting to know these city staff members during their time with us. It has been great that they have been able to see first-hand how busy and active we are serving the seniors in our city.

We've enjoyed helping support programs that have been displaced by the closing of Centennial Community Centre while tēmāsewtx^w Aquatic and Community Centre is completed.

This year we added a new Activity Group General Discussion. The Group enjoys discussing many interesting topics. We had another successful Death and Dying group of workshops organized by Century House Association Peer Support and New Westminster Hospice Society. Century House Association hosted successful senior advocacy workshops organized by Curt Albertson, Anne Ladouceur, Val MacDonald, Carole Wylie, and City Staff Members Shelly Schnee and Hannah Galvin. One of our members brought it to the attention of City Staff that bullying was happening at Century House. The City and Century House Association members are working together to find solutions to this unfortunate problem. Members of this group are Pat MacDonald, Margaret Smith and City Staff members Shelly Schnee, Hannah Galvin, and Jenna Speers.

The Century House Association Bursary Committee marked its 25th year of helping local youth from New Westminster Senior Secondary School obtain bursaries to help with post-secondary studies. This Committee works extremely hard for months going over youth applications before they settle on three lucky young people to receive a \$750.00 bursary.

Our 2023 Summer Bazaar was another huge success thanks to the hard-working Captains, their committee members and many more volunteers. Resulting funds help with operational expenditures through the year with the Clarion taking a big chunk of the funds. Work has already begun for this year's Summer Bazaar.

The 2023 Winter Craft and Bake Sale was also a success. We added something new this year we rented out several tables to Century House Association Members who are crafters but not members of our Craft Activity Groups. We also invited the Queensborough Community Centre Crafting group to join us. The sale committee felt these additions were beneficial so will continue with this format.

Our Events Planning Committee continued in 2023 to provide the Century House Association members with many wonderful events. The committee works hard to continue surprising us with new and interesting events. I can hardly wait to see what 2024 brings us from this committee.

Our bus tours operated by Joy Brown continue to be extremely well attended. As anyone who has joined Joy on a tour knows she never disappoints. We have also added smaller bus trips organized by city staff member Hannah Galvin. They too are well attended and enjoyed by our members. A Century House

Association volunteer acts as a bus hostess to make sure the trip goes smoothly and that no one gets lost.

Something that seems to have caught the attention of many of our members this year is our relatively new Line Dancing Activity Group. It is great seeing so many men and women getting a good workout while having a blast! I wish I didn't have two left feet or I'd join. Thank you to the volunteers who work at keeping the class so much fun.

New rectangle tables will be a welcomed addition in 2024 and the Century House Association has passed the motion to order 15 roundtables.

Your Century House Association Executive has worked very hard through 2023. Treasurer Gloria Haug, put in many extra hours on the Century House Association Financial Policy. It was recently reviewed and passed by the Century House Association Executive and it is in our Policy Manual. Vice-President Bibiana Lampert spent many hours putting together the new licensing information required for Century House Association. It took a team to finalize these items and many more operational items through the year. We hope you read the Chairperson meeting minutes every month to keep up to date on what your Board and Chairpersons are doing on your behalf. You can find them on the Century House Association Bulletin Board and on our website. You can see the Century House Executive meeting minutes on the Century House Association Bulletin Board each month.

Thank you to all Century House Association members and City Staff for your support during my 2023 term of office. This concludes my report.

Joy St. John
President - 2023
Century House Association