



nelson  
**CARES**  
society

## December 2008 Newsletter



### Upcoming Events

**Christmas Party hosted by Services for Community Living** for our Residential and Supported Employment Clients – Monday December 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 8 p.m. at Mary Hall @ the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Selkirk College Campus. Turkey Dinner & Christmas Carols. The cost is \$10 - \$20 sliding scale. Please RSVP by December 2<sup>nd</sup> to Melanie, 352-6011 x. 11.

**Staff & Board Seasonal Gathering** - Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Savoy Bowling Lanes from 5 – 7 p.m. Strap on your bowling shoes and join us for pizza and sweets. Silent Santa – gifts can be homemade, recycled or new, approximate value \$10. RSVP to Leisa by Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 250-352-6011 x. 10 or [info@nelsoncares.ca](mailto:info@nelsoncares.ca). Everyone is encouraged to join in!

### **"Name that Newsletter"**

We are still open to your suggestions for a name for our quarterly newsletter. Please submit ideas to Leisa at 250-352-6011 x. 10 or [info@nelsoncares.ca](mailto:info@nelsoncares.ca)

## Message from the Board Chair

At the Society's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in September, our Board of Directors was re-established with the elections of new members: Ron Little, Jan Biava, Tina Shields and Gayle Schindler. They joined the returning members Kitty Wright, David Boyd, Ramona Faust, Frank Marisco, Nick Toner, Jillian Harvey, Phyllis Nash and me. We left behind retiring members Josie Thombs, Jessie Renzie, and most notably, Donna Macdonald, our past chair.

At our first Board Meeting in October this board elected its Executive: I became Chair, Jillian Harvey remained as Vice-chair, Phyllis Nash continues as Secretary, and Frank Marisco comes as Treasurer from his position as Chair of the Finance/Audit Committee.

Our new Board is gaining momentum in becoming familiar with the ever-increasing and expanding work of our Society's programs. Aided by the capable leadership of Rona Park, who became our Executive Director last Spring, the Board is confident that all the activities of the Society are on target and on budget. The Board greatly appreciates the dedication and skills of the program managers to maintain viable programs and support enthusiastic program staff who, in turn, deliver life-sustaining support and care to some of our community's most vulnerable citizens.

"Affordable Housing" has become a bit of a buzzword lately. Housing is at the heart of everyone's need for safety and security. To have available accommodation that one can afford is an increasing challenge in any community. Nelson CARES Society has been actively involved in offering affordable housing for several years through Ward Street Place, and the Board is intent on developing additional places of accommodation to support those in need in Nelson.

The Board also takes seriously the effects of global warming as another challenge that must be confronted. The Earth Matters Program tackles these environmental issues head on with its programs to develop "Community Composting" and the "ECO Store", which you will hear more about in the coming months. (check out their wonderful website at [www.earthmatters.ca](http://www.earthmatters.ca)). These are just two program areas of Nelson CARES Society. They pose some financial challenges for the Board but will yield great social outcomes for the community of Nelson. On behalf of the Board and our staff I extend an invitation to all who are able to participate with us in developing a "healthy, safe and inclusive community where complete respect for all individuals is an ordinary, everyday occurrence"

**Jody Dudley, Board Chair**

**Please note:** In an effort to minimize our impact on the environment, we would be pleased to send you future quarterly newsletters via email. Please email [info@nelsoncares.ca](mailto:info@nelsoncares.ca) to let us know.

## Parenting After Separation Information Sessions



The Advocacy Centre contracts with the Ministry of the Attorney General to provide Parenting After Separation sessions in the West Kootenays. These are free information sessions designed to help parents make informed choices about separation -- choices that take into account the best interests of their children. The sessions are led by facilitators who are experienced in helping families.

Topics covered include:

- the impact of separation on parents and children
- strategies to help families adjust to the changes
- the child support guidelines
- family dispute resolution options including conciliation, mediation, counseling and the court process
- effective ways to communicate and problem solve to build a positive parenting arrangement

Parenting After Separation is useful for parents who are dealing with or may benefit from information on child custody, access, guardianship and/or support. Both parents are encouraged to attend; however, they will be scheduled to attend at different times. The program provides information only. It does not provide legal advice.

The next two sessions are January 19, 2008 and March 2, 2009, 6:00 - 9:30 pm. A new schedule will be available in the fall.

The sessions are free; however, childcare is **not** provided and parents must register prior to the session. For more information, please call Brenda Woolner at 354-2010. If you would like any brochures or posters about the sessions, please call The Advocacy Centre at 352-5777.

**Food Drive** - Stepping Stones staff have initiated a drive for food donations in support of both the Nelson Food Cupboard and Our Daily Bread soup kitchen. From now till the end of December, non-perishable foods or cash donations (tax receiptable) can be dropped off either at Stepping Stones (in Ward Street Place) or at Nelson CARES administration office, 182 Baker Street.

## Staff Comings and Goings....

*We are pleased to welcome the following people to the Nelson CARES Society Staff:*

Lisa Hogle, Services for Community Living  
 Dominique Fraissard, Services for Community Living  
 Anna Planedin, The Advocacy Centre Student  
 Scott Rahilly, Stepping Stones  
 Pamela Lyness, Stepping Stones  
 Jeremy Marczak, Stepping Stones

## Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative

In mid-November the Kootenay Boundary Regional Resources Co-operative (KBRRC), that Nelson CARES Society is a proud member of, has officially changed its name to the Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative (KBCSC) to better reflect its membership. The KBCSC will be expanding its services to members in the upcoming year.

### Nelson CARES Society 2009 Memberships

**2009 memberships are due in January.**

Memberships are \$2 per year. Benefits to being a Nelson CARES Society member include: voting at the AGM, receiving a quarterly newsletter to keep you up to date on all Society events, and adding a community voice in support of all initiatives that Nelson CARES Society sustains or develops. Please contact Leisa @ 250-352-6011 x.10 or [info@nelsoncares.ca](mailto:info@nelsoncares.ca) to renew your membership.

**Thank You for your Continuing Support**

## Craft Connection supports Nelson CARES

For every purchase made at the Craft Connection & Gallery 378 during the month of December, 1% of the sales will be donated to Nelson CARES Society.

The Craft Connection and Gallery 378 are located at 378 Baker Street, Nelson.

Thank you to the staff and artisans at the Craft Connection and Gallery 378. Your generosity is very appreciated.



## Message from the Executive Director

I am now at the end of my first six months of employment with Nelson CARES Society, and I am pleased to say that my learning curve is levelling off, and I have moved into "cruising speed". It has been a real pleasure to get to know the staff and especially to appreciate all that they (you) do to provide such quality services to the community. It humbles and pleases me to see such dedication. Thank you all very much for all you do. It has also been my pleasure to work with such a committed volunteer Board of Directors. I appreciate their (your) direction and support as I navigate the leadership of the organization in the community.

Over the past few months, I have been working with the Program Managers and the various Board Committees to tackle a few key areas. We are creating a new Job Evaluation Wage Grid for all non-union employees of the agency. We have enrolled our agency in the Municipal Pension Plan so that come April 2010 all employees will have the option to participate in a new form of retirement savings plan. There is lots of information available on this plan, so please call me if you need more info. We are working with BC Housing on the possible purchase of the Stirling Hotel Building not only to preserve the low-income housing stock located there, but also as a potential home for Nelson CARES Society programs and administration offices. We will keep you posted on that! The plans for upgrading of Ward Street Place will take on some renewed efforts in the new year as we formally seek public and private funds to assist us.

Several staff recently attended Health and Safety seminars, and we will be adding this information to our (long) list of policies and procedures that need development. In November, the Board adopted the revision to three key human resource (non-union) policies – Sick Leave, Benefits, and Family Responsibility Leave. Program Managers will be orienting all staff to these changes.

And finally, as the holiday season nears, I know that everyone often gets busier both on the work front and personally. However, it is my hope to see all staff and Board members at our Seasonal Gathering at the Savoy Bowling Lanes, December 18<sup>th</sup>, from 5 – 7 p.m. We are a large organization, and having us altogether in celebration would be wonderful!

Merry Christmas/Happy Hanukkah to all!  
Rona Park, Executive Director



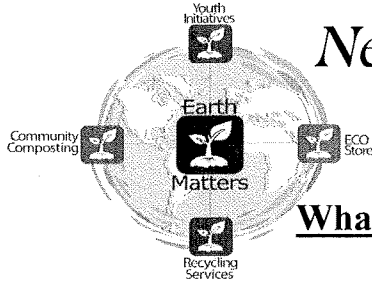
Got a medical problem? Call 8-1-1,  
British Columbians can now dial 8-1-1  
to get 24/7 health information and  
medical advice and help navigating  
B.C.'s health-care system.  
[www.healthlinkbc.ca](http://www.healthlinkbc.ca)

Merry Christmas and a Happy  
New Year to all!  
From the staff and Board of  
Nelson CARES Society



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## *Nelson CARES Society*

### Program Profile

#### What is happening at Earth Matters?

##### Our Roots

Earth Matters began in the spring of 1995 when two local youth were inspired to create a summer pilot project for high school students called "HANDS-ON". Building on its success, Earth Matters evolved out of "HANDS-ON" as a youth-driven program focused on involving young people in giving back to their community. Through grant-based projects, Earth Matters has delivered a diverse range of environmental and social justice programs that have responded to the community's needs over the past 13 years. Earth Matters is a program of the Nelson CARES society.

##### The Transition

Earth Matters has been dependant on grant-based funding for all of its operations, resulting in the development of quality programs that are financially unsustainable in the long term. In an effort to find more sustainable ways to continue this work, we are embarking upon the development of three social enterprises with profits being used to support ongoing youth-initiatives and other Earth Matters initiatives. The new program structure of Earth Matters will have four arms, each managed individually with common guiding principles to maintain our environmental and social responsibilities.



Community  
Composting

Currently in the business plan stage, Earth Matters Community Composting enterprise will provide Nelson residents with home compost pick up services through established garbage routes. The facility will consist of aerated bins that will transform organic waste, wood waste and biosolids into composted soil that will be available for purchase. For more information on Earth Matters Community Composting contact Colleen Matte at (250) 352-6011 ext.17



ECO  
Store

Also in the business plan stage, the Earth Matters ECO Store will market earth-friendly products and services through a store front and internet-based business and will provide employment and training opportunities for individuals with disabilities. For more information on the Earth Matters ECO Store contact Billy Jones at (250) 352-6011 ext.14



Recycling  
Services

Originating as WalDan Recycling, this service employs individuals with disabilities and job coaches to pick up recyclable materials from local businesses. This successful micro business has been operating for several years and will continue to do so under Earth Matters' new umbrella of programs. For more information on Earth Matters Recycling Services contact Florence Christophers at (250) 352-6011 ext. 15.



Youth  
Initiatives

The youth initiatives arm of Earth Matters will continue to maintain Cottonwood Medicinal Herb Garden, Hendryx Street Forest Garden and provide youth with support to develop their own innovative community projects. For more information on Earth Matters Youth Initiatives contact Anna Kirkpatrick at (250) 352-6011 ext. 17.