

Squamish Seniors Society*

March 2024



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"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail" – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Newsletter

President's Message

It has been a busy time since my February message to you. Our Friendship Tea proved to be a great success, with many compliments to Nan, Director of Programs, and her generous volunteers. Our appeal for volunteers has been answered with a number of members stepping up to assist with our social and educational programs and we extend a heartfelt thank you to each of them. We have many more ideas, so if you have some time to lend a helping hand, please do so for the benefit of our fellow members.

The St. Paddy's Pub Nite was a sold out event! It was great fun enjoyed by all. Your appies were fantastic. The singers were in fine form singing favourite Irish tunes; and Ian was superb as our MC, with musical entertainment and singalong Irish favourites. We even played Trivial Pursuit with an Irish theme. There were table prizes and a winner of the 50/50 draw. All-in-all it was a winning night all around. Thanks again to Nan and her many volunteers.

You can see how critical volunteers are to the success of programs we want to offer members. It was somewhat of a disappointment to learn through our recent survey that while many like and appreciate the various activities and social events, few were willing to commit to helping out. Remember: "Many hands make for lighter work"...give it a thought.

A huge thank you to Laura, Director of Communications and External Relations for her excellent summary of the survey results. We have our work cut out for us prioritizing members' suggestions as we continue to 'listen' to you.

We are listening to you. As your new President, and for a variety of reasons, many members approached me requesting a name change for our society. The Board listened and offered the opportunity for all members to suggest a possible name change. All 22 suggestions were shared with you and eventually the top 3 names were selected for a vote at the last General Meeting. Once the choice for the new name (Squamish Seniors Society) was selected by the members, it was submitted to the Registrar for the BC Societies. However,

we were told that they could not approve that particular name as it was not unique enough to distinguish our society from others. In a short Special General Meeting following the information session about the new Federal Government Dental Plan for Seniors on March 26, we will vote on the name that members chose second overall. A 2/3 vote of members in attendance in favour of the name change is required for the name to change. Of course, if the number of supporters is not there, there will be no name change. The new name being suggested is **Squamish 55+ Society**. The Dental Plan presentation begins at 4:00 pm, and our Special General Meeting begins at 5:30 pm - see you there!

My husband and I went on the recent bus trip to Bowen Island. What a wonderful experience! I would certainly recommend taking one of the many bus trips offered through the District of Squamish to seniors.

Enjoy a wonderful day!
Marlene Russell
President

Friendship Tea

We had a great turnout for the Friendship Tea on February 20. A big thank you to Dora Wint for creating the beautiful live centrepieces. One lucky person from each table got to take them home.

There were goodies galore, and our favourite entertainer, Ian, played a lovely compilation of melodies throughout the event.





General Meeting

February 24 was our first General Meeting and was well attended. We welcomed guest speakers, Keely Kidner from the District of Squamish who provided a brief summary of the Age-Friendly Community Grant; and Dr. Brenda J. Millar and Pip Parr, Hospice Nurse, who shared information about MAID (medical assistance in dying).

We also voted on the new name for the Society. If you recall, the membership selected 3 choices through an on-line survey: Squamish Seniors Society, Squamish 55+ Society, and Alive After 55 Society. After hearing from each of the individuals who submitted the names for consideration, the membership cast their votes and Squamish Seniors Society was passed.

Unfortunately, the BC government has rejected our application for the new name. As a result, we will be holding a Special General Meeting on March 26 to address this one item. The Agenda Package for the Special General Meeting was sent to all members March 12.



Surveys

A special edition Newsletter with the February on-line survey results was sent to the membership February 12.

Squamish Public Library Community Survey

The Squamish Public Library invites you to share your thoughts and ideas in their [community survey](#). They are renewing their strategic plan and need your input. Your responses will help them decide what the library should prioritize, add, change, or keep on doing. The survey will take about 7 minutes to complete, and responses are anonymous. The survey is available until March 24.



Telus Low-Cost Plan for Seniors

One of our members has provided a link to **Mobility for Good for seniors** from **Telus**. This program is designed for low-income seniors and provides access to a discounted smartphone and low-cost mobility rate plan for seniors receiving a Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) amount of \$6,500 or more annually.





“There are good ships and wood ships, ships that sail the sea, but the best ships are friendships, and may they always be” - An Irish Toast



Click on: [Mobility for Good for Seniors](#) for more information and how to apply.

Squamish Community Bookstore & Computer Lab

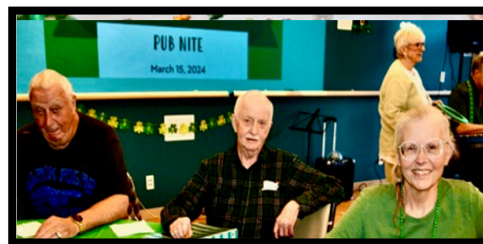
With Spring just around the corner, now is a great time to think about decluttering. Why not start with your bookcase? The Squamish Community Bookstore is accepting book donations now. All the books donated are sold for \$2 each and proceeds support programming at the Welcome Centre. This is a great opportunity to give back to the community.

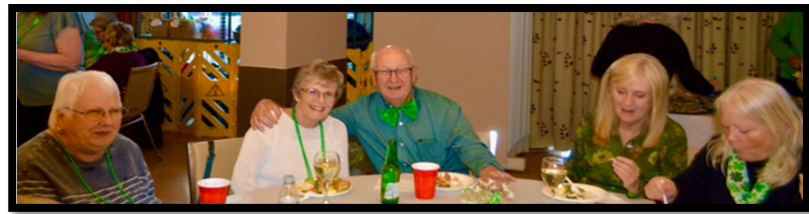
The computer lab has two computers available during bookstore hours for \$1.00 per half-hour, black & white printing, and free public wi-fi access. In addition, there is a free laptop loan program for Squamish residents.

The Squamish Community Bookstore is part of the Squamish Welcome Centre, and is operated by Squamish Volunteer Centre Society, a registered charity. Please visit their website welcomesquamish.ca, Instagram pages, or call the front desk 604.815.4142 for more information.

St. Paddy's Day Pub Nite

The St. Paddy's Day Pub Nite was sold out in 2 days, and our Social Committee pulled out all the stops to bring you a sensational event! Our favourite Irishman, Ian, was on-hand as our Lucky Charm MC for an evening of shenanigans and provided musical entertainment, including sing-alongs, for everyone's enjoyment.





A big thank you to Nan and all the enthusiastic volunteers, Ian & the Sunshine Choir, and dancers who made this night a success!

Upcoming Events

We encourage you to visit our website regularly and check the “News & Events” page to stay informed.

Education Event: Canadian Dental Care Plan. March 26 from **4:00 pm to 5:15 pm** at the 55 Activity Centre. Patrick Weiler, MP, will share information about the new dental care plan for seniors and answer your questions. Pre-registration is required (100 guest max). You can still register for this presentation by sending an email to: events@squamishseniorscentre.com.



Special General Meeting – Society Name Change

The Society will hold a Special General Meeting **March 26 from 5:30 - 6:00 pm** at the 55 Activity Centre to vote on changing the name from Squamish Seniors Centre Society to Squamish 55+ Society. This will be a very short, but important meeting. If there is not enough support to change the name, then the current name stands, and the Society name will remain Squamish Seniors Centre Society. Remember, your voice matters, so please join us to hear more and help us continue our journey to revitalize the Society. If you did not receive the Special General Meeting Agenda Package that was sent March 12, please let us know.

Special General Meeting
Members Only

March 26 5:30 – 6:00 pm
55 Activity Centre

Stacked: A Spring Anthology, organized by local author Lisa Duncan, will be an engaging evening of storytelling and poetry featuring 9 local authors. Join Lisa and her guests at 7:00 pm on **April 17** at the BAG (Brackendale Art Gallery). Tickets are available through eventbrite.ca and proceeds (minimum donation of \$5.00) will be given to PearlSpace (formerly Howe Sound Women’s Centre Society) and the Squamish Welcome Centre.

