



*Accessible Housing Society*

# Ramping Up!

**Volume 1, Issue 1**  
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## WHERE, OH WHERE, HAS LOTTERY FUNDING GONE?

The charitable sector in Alberta took a major hit on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002 with the announcement that the Community Lottery Boards would cease to exist. This cut, as part of the Province's budget, has adversely affected the Accessible Housing Society (AHS). AHS is looking for alternate means to fund the current and future proposals that were to be submitted to the Calgary Community Lottery Board (CCLB) for funding.

AHS had one proposal on the table for the March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. It was a request for an intercom system for the 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension Group Home. The current system is 26 years old and there have been great advances in intercom technology and adaptability since then that the society would like to see implemented in the 12-bed group home for physically disabled adults in order to enhance resident care and safety. This request will not be reviewed by the CCLB.

AHS has received over \$140,000 in the past four years from the CCLB for projects that would not have qualified under any other provincial funding program.

The Community Lottery Board funding for 2002, approximately \$51 million, represents 0.2% of the projected \$1.8 million in revenue the province expects from gaming activities. With an unexpected increase in oil prices, it has been suggested that the

province may revisit the decision to cut the Community Lottery Board funding as the public response has been loud and constant.

The Community Lottery Boards are volunteer boards that allocate funds within each community based on local criteria, needs and proposals. The CCLB has been very effective at stewarding funds, approximately \$60 million over four years, into Calgary and into community-oriented

projects that would not get funded otherwise.

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## AHS BOARD MEMBER HAS "SPIRIT OF GOLD"

Helen Rojek, Accessible Housing Society (AHS) board member was presented with the United Way, "Spirit of Gold" award for Outstanding Agency Volunteer. Congratulations Helen and thanks to her many supporters for joining us to celebrate this wonderful achievement!!

Jolayne Davidson, AHS Director of Development (left), Helen Rojek (center) Dianne Nickel, AHS Executive Director (right)





## GOOD NEWS ON THE HOUSING FRONT

*From Dianne Nickel,  
Executive Director, AHS*

The AHS Registry reports the turnover of accessible units continues to be very minimal, with only six subsidized adapted units available since January 2002, and one group home placement. Four units were available at market rents. In May, there are only two known vacancies.

The Private Landlord Rent Supplement program, one of the few options for affordable units, is under cost containment, with supplements being withdrawn for units vacated

in the private and not for profit sectors. This is reducing the number available units on the market.

After many years of limited options, there is good news of potential improvement to the supply of wheelchair accessible units.

The Calgary Homeless Foundation, the Calgary Homebuilders Foundation and Horizon Housing Society are building an affordable housing project on Glenmore Trail SW that will include five wheelchair accessible units with roll-in showers, and a four-bedroom unit for people with brain injuries.

Accessible Housing Society has applied for funding to build six wheelchair accessible units, and a seventh shared living unit for people with brain injuries. The Universal Rehabilitation Society of Alberta is our partner in this potential project.

A Federal Government Housing Initiative has been announced that would provide \$68 million over five years in Alberta, subject to the Province matching the funds. This welcome news could provide a needed stimulus to the creation of affordable housing for people with mobility problems and other special needs in Calgary.

## AHS GROUP HOME VALUABLE TRANSITION TOOL

Monte came to the Fourth Dimension group home, owned and operated by AHS in October 2000. He had broken his neck in a motocross race in January of 1999 and since then life had dramatically changed for this 31-year old father of two!

Hospital staff had taught him to manage his own care once discharged. But discharged to where? As a quadriplegic, Monte found himself homeless! The house he was currently living in was not wheelchair friendly and he had to seek an alternative residence.

Monte decided to have another house renovated but he couldn't stay in the hospital until his new home was ready for occupancy. He needed a place that was wheelchair accessible, offered attendant-care and would let him stay until the renovations were complete and he could arrange for private care.

The 4-D group home was his choice. This spacious 12-bedroom facility in NW Calgary offers transitional hous-

ing while providing 24-hour care. The group home can house 10 full-time residents. It was luck that a room came available that month.

When Monte first moved into 4-D he wondered about ever being on his own again.

"I thought I would need someone to be with me 24 hours a day," says Monte, "I thought I had completely lost all my independence. But at 4-D I saw the residents were independent even though they required help with their basic care."

"They did various activities throughout the day – all on their own! They went shopping, to movies and even to doctor and dentist appointments. When they were home and required help, staff was available! It was great to see this level of independence in people with disabilities."

"What surprised me most was the amount of staff time each resident actually received per day! Unlike the hospital where it was difficult to

get help, the 4-D staff are able to spend more time with each person. This really increased the resident's quality of life."



"I've kept the same regime I had when I was at 4-D here at my new place. I have live-in help but also employ several part-time care attendants."

"By the time I left 4-D in August 2001, I was more confident about living in the community again. I knew if I was ever in a pinch someone from the 4-D staff would rescue me! I made some good friends at found it was a valuable experience."

*(Continued on page 3)*

## SERVICES PROVIDED BY AHS

### Housing Registry

- Assists clients to find accessible accommodation

### Personal Care Services

- Delivers care to 3 locations in Calgary

### Library Services

- Qualified staff can interpret information for your specific situation

### Assessment of Individual Need for Accessibility

- Assessing present housing as it relates to mobility requirements

### Audit of Homes and House Plans

- Barriers to independent living will be identified and solutions will be recommended

### Customized Building/Renovation Plans

- Specifications and drawings can be developed for specific solutions or for universal design standards

### Barrier-Free Design Workshops

- Call AHS to arrange a workshop for your group



## FUNDING PROGRAMS

Did you know that there are programs out there that may assist you financially if you need to renovate your home to improve accessibility? Each of the following programs has specific eligibility requirements. To determine your eligibility, call the individual program or call us at (403) 282-1872.

*Does your home need renovations to create or improve wheelchair accessibility?*

- Home Adaptation Program (HAP); through Alberta Community Development, (403) 310-0000, then ask for (780) 427-5760

- Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP); through CMHC, (403) 515-3000
- Home Adaptations for Senior's Independence (HASI); through CMHC, (403) 515-3000
- Easter Seal Ability Council; equipment only no renovations, (403) 235-5662

### AHS GROUP HOME VALUABLE TRANSITION TOOL

*(Continued from page 2)*

Monte lives successfully on his own balancing fatherhood with writing and consulting for the Canadian Motocross Racing Club.

*Monte is one of many young physically disabled individuals AHS has been able to help to integrate into successful community living over the 27 years it has been in operation.*

## A-GOLFING' WE WILL GO!

Please mark September 5<sup>th</sup> on your calendar! The Progress Club of Calgary North and the 7:30 News Business Club are hosting the Inaugural Accessible Housing Society Golf Tournament at the Redwoods Meadows Golf Course, 1:30 pm Shotgun start.

We are looking for golfers (\$250.00 entry includes cart, golf, prizes and

dinner) as well as sponsorships. Please call Jolayne at 282-1872 to register!



## GATHERING AT LEAHY HOUSE



From left, Martha Hart, Nancy McKenzie, Megan Mayell, Dianne Nickel, Linda Leahy

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002, Michael and Linda Leahy graciously opened their home to past and current supporters, board members and friends of the Accessible Housing Society.

Michael is the Chair of the Board's fundraising committee and he,

along with Board Chairman, Jake Mayell, Executive Director, Dianne Nickel, Director of Client Care, Erla Mottram, Director of Development, Jolayne Davidson and current board members got acquainted with those that had toiled on behalf of AHS in the past.

## DAY TRIPPING WITH DIANNE NICKEL

This article reflects the personal views of the writer. Please check for your personal requirements before setting out.

### Takakkaw Falls & Emerald Lake in Yoho National Park

Just two hours west of Calgary is the turnoff to the Kicking Horse Campground where spectacular Takakkaw Falls, one of the highest falls in North America, jets water from the Daly Glacier into the Yoho River. The road opens when the snow is gone. Check with Parks Canada (250) 343-6783. No tow vehicles are allowed on the 13 km drive to the falls; however, tour buses manage with no problem.

Stop to enjoy the confluence of the Kicking Horse and Yoho River, marked by a sign to your right. As you head down the long hill to Field, B.C., stop to view the spiral tunnel, accessible to the viewpoint.

From the parking lot that has designated stalls near the washrooms, a 1 km unpaved trail winds across a bridge and ends near the base of the falls. Spray mists out to the trail,

so bring something waterproof if you want to linger. Picnic tables in the area provide opportunity to enjoy the sun, scenery and a snack among the surrounding peaks.

Descending back to Highway #1, continue 2 km west and 8 km north to Emerald Lake. Stop enroute to visit the Natural Bridge. The trail around the lake is accessible for a short distance, a great spot to have picnic lunch, smell the pines and view the amazing colors of the lake. There is also a lakeside restaurant with patio.

With the longer days of summer, this can be a leisurely day. For those wishing to spend more time, there are two options as you head up the road to the falls. The Kicking Horse campground includes a designated wheelchair site with an asphalt path to the accessible washroom, and offers interpretive programs. The Cathedral Mountain Chalet Stephen Creek Crossing cabin is wheelchair accessible, with a bathtub and a space of 27" under the sink. There is a mini-fridge and a barbecue but

The evening, accompanied by solo pianist Al Standell, was a fun and social event, full of recollections and rejuvenation. Jake spoke on behalf of the society about the current fundraising need and appealed to those in attendance to join AHS again as supporters, either directly or through their network of friends and colleagues.

Thank you to Gary Nakamura of the Progress Club of Calgary North for his donation of a lovely Japanese print, won by Catherine Pearson. And a big thank you to the Leahy's for welcoming the AHS group with open arms!

no kitchen. There is a ramp into the adjacent restaurant and grocery store.

For the truly adventurous, there is a packed gravel trail to the walk-in campsites at Takakkaw Falls, with a portable accessible washroom.

Remember, nothing beats a great day in the mountains!





## SUPPORTERS OF AHS

Over the last few months, AHS has received wonderful support from the community. We would like to thank the following groups, individuals, companies and funding organizations who have helped make AHS the champion of barrier-free housing and design that it is:

- Anonymous Donors
- The Calgary Community Lottery Board
- Petro-Canada's Volunteer Energy Grant Program
- The Harry B. Cohen Foundation
- First Calgary Savings & Credit Union
- The Muttart Foundation
- The Calgary Foundation
- The United Way of Calgary & Area
- The Calgary Real Estate Board
- Fred Valentine and WOW Design - a Division of CPV Group
- Canadian Pacific Railway
- The Rotary Club of Calgary West
- Mayell Architect Ltd.
- Jarrod Oils Ltd.
- Shell Canada Limited

*And to our dedicated Board:*

<i>Jake Mayell</i>	<i>Michael Leahy</i>
<i>Bill Hewson</i>	<i>Cathy Yuzwak</i>
<i>Stacey Connors</i>	<i>Tamara Isaacs</i>
<i>Helen Rojek</i>	<i>Mike Rodomar</i>
<i>David Watson</i>	<i>Ursula Da Rugna</i>
<i>Mike Seth</i>	<i>Dennis Auger</i>

*Honourary Board Members:*

*John Collins*  
*Gerald Knowlton*

## A NEW LOGO FOR AHS

The Calgary Community Lottery Board (CCLB) approved a grant for marketing and promotion materials for AHS in February of 2002.

The materials developed will be used to raise community awareness of AHS and the accommodation needs of Calgarians with mobility challenges.

A call for proposals went out in

February. The firm chosen, Buzz Advertising, began to work its magic. Blair Strachan, the marketing expert, and Dana Longway, the creative force, met with AHS staff to get a feel for what the final result should be.

Working with Blair and Dana was a treat. They understood our communication goals, and created an image that would convey them.

The new logo conveys movement, freedom and independence.



Thanks to Buzz!

## HI FROM JOLAYNE - DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



Having started as the inaugural Director of Development for AHS in December 2001, I remain delighted to be part of an organization that has a history of integrity and a vision for continued success. I have been consulting with staff, residents, other clients and board members to assess what areas of fundraising will work best for AHS as it formally starts down the path of strategic fundraising.

When I am not thinking entirely

strategically, I am out with my new horse, Cashew, my soon-to-be spouse, Jonathan, his horse, Lucky, and our two well-loved dogs, Yoda and Hudson.

I have an open door policy (must be from being in the barn so much), so if ever you would like to discuss fundraising or "friendraising" opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact me at 282-1872 or via email at [jolayne@ahscalgary.ca](mailto:jolayne@ahscalgary.ca).

Happy Trails!



*Accessible  
Housing Society*

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*"Opening doors...to independence!"*

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## SOME "GIVING" MATH:

### EXAMPLE - Personal Donation

You have bank shares valued at \$100,000 and you want to donate them to your favorite charity. The shares have a cost of \$10,000. Assuming you are in the top tax bracket (45%) and your net income is sufficient to otherwise fully utilize the donation credit (unused donations can be carried forward for future use), the tax savings arising from the donation is:

Tax savings from the donation credit (45% x \$100,000) \$ 45,000

Tax on the taxable capital gain [45% x (\$90,000 x 50% x 1/2)] (\$10,125)

Overall tax savings \$ 34,875

*Note: The overall tax savings with a cash donation is \$24,750 (i.e. if you sold the securities and donated the cash proceeds of \$100,000).*

### EXAMPLE - Corporation Donation

You can also have your corporation make the donation. Assuming the same facts as above, except that your company is subject to a 50% tax rate, the tax savings arising from the donation is:

Tax savings from the donation deduction (50% x \$100,000) \$50,000

Tax on the taxable capital gain [50% x (\$90,000 x 50% x 1/2)] (\$11,250)

Overall tax savings \$ 38,750

*Note: The overall tax savings with a cash donation of \$100,000 is \$27,500.*

Another benefit from having your company make the donation is the potential to pay amounts out of the company's capital dividend account tax-free. Where a Canadian-controlled private corporation realizes a capital gain, the non-taxable portion of the capital gain is added to the company's capital dividend account. Therefore, where public securities are donated to a charity, 75% of the capital gain resulting from the donation can be added to the account. In the above example, \$67,500 (75% x \$90,000) can be distributed to shareholders free of tax.

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE TO AHS, PLEASE  
CALL JOLAYNE AT (403) 282-1872 OR EMAIL HER  
AT JOLAYNE@AHSCALGARY.CA

