

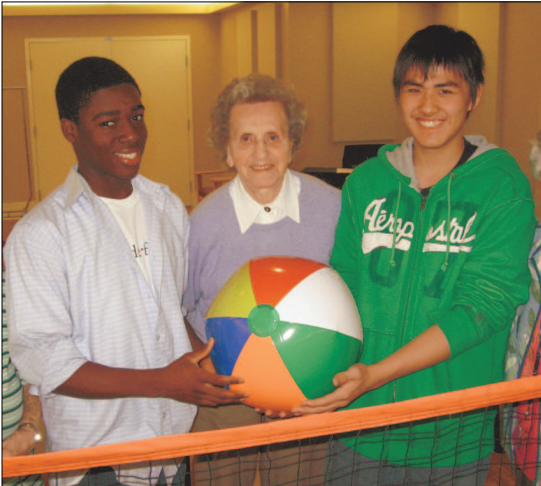
# Elim Village Voice

A newsletter by the residents and for the residents of Elim Village —  
a Christian retirement community

May 2010

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## Volunteers Surround Residents With Kindness



*Among their many other activities at Elim, volunteers John (left) and Danny (right), both from local high schools, retrieve the volleyball when it goes out of bounds at the Saturday morning games at the Emerald.*

If you would like to donate a gift of time  
in whatever capacity,  
Elim has a place for you!  
Call the Elim Office: 604-583-3546

Someone needs to keep the plants in the common areas properly watered. A volunteer does that. Someone needs to provide counseling to those who have met with grief and loss during their lives. That's what a group of professional counselors have volunteered to do. No matter what type of service or length of commitment, every volunteer contributes significantly to life at Elim Village.

All residents show daily acts of kindness to their neighbours or serve the village in other ways, but structured programs also exist that actively recruit volunteers in a formal manner. Elim recognizes these volunteers by inviting them to spring appreciation events every year.

At the appreciation tea for Emerald and Harrison volunteers, grateful recreation staff said, "We feel honored that you would find time to spend with us... You make such a difference in the lives of the residents. Your time and help is the greatest gift you can give us and we hope you get something back from us too."

The pastoral care ministry held a volunteer lunch to recognize the 197 volunteers who contribute to Sunday worship services at the Emerald and Harrison, help with concerts or who are part of the pastoral care team or the professional counseling team.

Many people of all ages donate a variety of "gifts" to the village, often quietly. Pastoral Care Associate, Terri-Anne Bergen, summed up the sentiments of all staff and residents when she said, "Some volunteers spend a huge amount of time at Elim. Some give an hour here or there. Whatever is given in the Lord's name is what's really important. It's not how much, it's the generous spirit. You all come with a smile and a happy heart. And we thank the Lord for all of you."

## Therapeutic Garden Update

By the Elim Residents' Garden Committee

We have now raised more than \$13,790 for the Harrison therapeutic garden, leaving only \$1,210 till we reach our goal of \$15,000, which will double with a matching grant from the Elim Foundation. No fixed date for the project has been set because so much of this type of work is weather dependent. However, the garden project is in the queue of jobs that the landscape designer has lined up for summer so eventually you will see some activity.

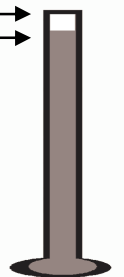
Meanwhile, thank you again for all who contributed to the fundraiser. This garden truly will be a gift from the community for current and future Harrison residents to enjoy for years to come.

### Garden Fundraising Almost There!

Goal: \$15,000  
Raised: \$13,790

Only \$1,210 to go!

All donations will  
be matched by the  
Elim Foundation.



**"Then they came to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, so they camped there by the waters." Exodus 15:27 (NKJ)**

## Quacked About Elim



Picture by George Yntema

We, editors of the *Elim Village Voice*, received many phone calls, emails and even some pictures regarding the newest residents of Elim Village. They generally live in the lower pond and like all other residents, come and go as they please.

The arrival of these residents sparks competition for us because according to eyewitness accounts of certain activity taking place in the pond, we may soon *not* be the youngest chicks on the block anymore.

## Elim Community Garage Sale

The garage sale is not far away now and everyone's dreaming of good deals on **June 4 and 5**.

Residents' Council has been discussing the allocation of the anticipated proceeds so that they have maximum community benefit. Council decided to use part of the proceeds to upgrade the wiring in the Oasis family room and auditorium. That way when residents hold large functions they can brew lots of coffee without constantly blowing the fuses. Council will also invest in some extra dish racks for the commercial dishwasher in the Bistro. This will significantly help speed the clean up for the volunteers after a big event. The combined estimate for these projects is approximately \$1,800.00

Council is also investigating installing blackout blinds in the south windows of the auditorium. Wonderful natural light pours into the auditorium but washes out any video presentation on the screen during the day, especially on sunny days. A flagpole for the center of the village is also under consideration. These two projects are larger in nature so council may have to save up for these, depending on how much revenue the garage sale generates.

Excitement grows as the garage sale nears. Thank you to Richard and Betty Oostra and their crew of volunteers for organizing this event. If you have any questions, call them at 778-395-6693.

## From Elim Housing Society

The Harrison will be undergoing a process known as "accreditation". It will be overseen by Accreditation Canada and will ensure that the Harrison is meeting the highest quality of standards in the residential care industry.

Many of you have seen the signs in the Harrison that are counting down the days till the process begins. It officially starts on May 3 with two weeks of interviews with residents and staff. The information is then collected and given back to the Elim Accreditation Team to review the findings and develop action plans to address areas that require attention. The initial phase culminates in October with a visit by the accreditation surveyors (experts in the long term care field) who will meet with staff and management and assess our preparedness for the next phase of the accreditation process scheduled for 2011.

Everyone who provides care at the Harrison is eager for the challenge, not just to meet the standards, but to excel in providing care.

## In Short ...

### Grief & Loss Support Group

This newly formed group sponsored through Elim's pastoral care ministry, meets from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of every month in the multi-purpose room of the Emerald. This group is led by professionals who volunteer their time. All residents, staff and the general public are welcome.

### Mark Your Calendar

Looking ahead...Elim Housing Society will hold its Annual General Meeting for membership on Wednesday, June 9, 2010. Members will receive official notice in May.

### Elim Garage Sale

Friday and Saturday, June 4 & 5

### Upcoming Concerts in the Oasis

#### Gloria Dei Chorale

Saturday, May 8 at 7 p.m.

#### Pacific Academy Orchestra

Saturday, May 22 at 7 p.m.

## In Loving Memory

*The Atlin:*

Jane Conroy: 1922 - 2010

*The Carmanah:*

Victor Bender: 1920 - 2010

*The Emerald:*

Terry Hodge: 1918 - 2010

*The Harrison:*

Inga Melby: 1911 - 2010

Robert Stott: 1971 - 2010

