

REPORT TO PVS - NEWSLETTER 2018

Marnie Simon - PVS Board member - grants and programs

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS (Marnie Pemberton Seniors rep)

1. Better at Home Advisory - meets monthly except during summer

Major issues addressed in 2018:

- Services for seniors aging in place in Corridor
- Transportation for seniors & disabled in Sea to Sky Corridor-lobbying for HandyDART services Whistler and Pemberton
- Presentations available for seniors

Actions:

1. July - Letter from BAH advocating for Support for Instituting a HandyDART Bus for Whistler and Pemberton sent to media, local municipal & provincial political organizations and Sea to Sky Rotary and Lion's organizations.
2. July-Aug Sue Lawther & Marnie Simon (Whistler & Pemberton BAH reps) - meetings with VOP/RMOW mayors & councils, VOP CAO & local BC Transit reps.
3. Meeting at UBCM between BC transit & RMOW & VOP members to discuss possibility of needs assessment for HandyDART services.
4. Sep. meeting between VOP CAO & Marnie to update response of UBCM meeting
5. Nov update from Sue Lawther on communication with RMOW

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

a) LETTER: Friday, July 27th, 2018

Attn: Village of Pemberton and Resort Municipality of Whistler Mayors and Councils,

Support for Instituting a handyDART Bus for Whistler and Pemberton

The Better at Home program provides assistance to seniors in the Sea to Sky Corridor with non-medical services such as housekeeping, grocery shopping, transportation to medical appointments, etc. The program is funded by the Province of British Columbia through the United Way and administered by Sea to Sky Community Services.

Through Better at Home's volunteer-based transportation services, we have become acutely aware of the increasing local and long distance transportation needs for seniors. We are not able to fill all of these needs and have had to rely on referrals to other services. We regularly refer to the Squamish handyDART service.

The Taxi Supplement programs in Pemberton and Whistler are no longer running. Pemberton and Whistler's seniors population growth has led to an increased handyDART need. In the recent Seniors Advocate report titled *Seniors Transportation*;

Affordable, Appropriate and Available (May 2018) recommendations include “Continued efforts need to be made for increasing the availability of HandyDART services. Priority should be given to the 6 transit systems with no HandyDART ...” and “All British Columbians regardless of where they live should have access to Taxi Saver vouchers if they qualify.” In order to get all of our seniors and community members with special needs to programming and services that are vital to their sense of independence and community, we must provide accessible and reliable transportation services.

We are advocating for a shared handyDART service operating in and between the communities of Pemberton and Whistler as well as a Taxi Supplement or Taxi Saver Program to enhance the current transit system.

Thank you for your interest in improving the lives of our more vulnerable community members and augmenting handyDART services in the Corridor. Please contact me if you have questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,

Karen Clarke, Better at Home Coordinator
on behalf of the **Better at Home Advisory Committee**
604-892-5796 ext. 272 or karen.clarke@sscs.ca

CC: Jordan Sturdy, MLA West Vancouver - Sea to Sky

Pamela Goldsmith-Jones, MP West Vancouver - Sunshine Coast - Sea to Sky Country

b) July - BAH update: Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) is conducting the first phase of a study for the need for and implementation of Handy DART service in Whistler.

Currently Handy Dart is available in Squamish and under the management of the BC transportation. The outgoing chair (Karen Clarke) of the Better at Home Advisory Committee sent letters to the mayors and councils of Whistler and Pemberton plus MLA for Sea to Sky Jordan Sturdy and Pamela Goldsmith Jones MP to lobby for their support of a request for implementation of Handy Dart service for Whistler and Pemberton.

The letter was acknowledged at the last meeting of the RMOW and will be discussed along with the ongoing needs assessment for Whistler at a planned meeting with Mike Richmond (Pemberton Mayor) MP Jordan Sturdy and Nicki Gilmore the CAO of the Village of Pemberton, at the UBCM meeting to be held in Whistler next week.

c) Sep - Marnie Simon (Pemberton rep on Better at Home advisory) met with Ms. Gilmore on Weds. 5th September to share information about the current actions being taken to implement Handy DART service for the north end of the Sea to

Sky corridor and lobby for Pemberton and Area C. to be included in the TAG needs assessment being conducted for Whistler. Alternatively, it was suggested the Village of Pemberton and SLRD conduct a separate assessment following the same format as the Tag study. The rationale for this request is that it is vital that the Pemberton and district communities receive the same Handy Dart service as other communities in the corridor.

Follow up meetings are planned between the Better at Home advisory reps and local councils and the TAG. Seniors action groups, Rotary and other community organizations in Whistler and Pemberton will also be approached to provide letters of support and lobby for the service.

c) **Nov BAH update:** Sue reported that she had been informed that the Whistler municipality would not bring HandyDART to Whistler due to the cost. Instead there is discussion about introducing a different provider model, such as Paratransit.*

- a. Sue will explore the funding options further with BC Transit staff and other community members.
- b. Marnie will continue to communicate with VOP and MLA Sturdy and lobby for HandyDART services.

***Paratransit** services may vary considerably on the degree of flexibility they provide their customers. At their simplest they may consist of a taxi or small bus that will run along a more or less defined route and then stop to pick up or discharge passengers on request.

Nov. mins - Activities/Events/Workshops planning for 2019:

- c. ICBC presentation on New Driving Rules - Marnie advised that ICBC said they would not drive up to Pemberton to present during the winter.
- d. Depression/Anxiety - VCH Mental Health Team can do these presentations in January. Options are the Pemberton Seniors Lunch and the WCSS 50+ programming on Thursdays.
- e. Frauds and Scams - Seniors First provides this training. Only needed in Squamish right now as other communities have had this recently.
- f. Government Seniors Benefits - It was agreed these presentations will be useful in all communities. Seniors are not necessarily being informed/or have access to the information on financial benefits, due to lack of online ability/ access to computer.
- g. End of Life Planning - A doctor presented on this at a Pemberton Seniors Events. VCH Social Worker Tom can also do these workshops.
- h. Falls Prevention Workshop - This workshop by a VCH physio was well-received in Squamish on November, 27 attended. Available to do in Pemberton or Whistler. It was mentioned that these would be better received in if marketed as a mobility enhancement or strengthening workshop.
- i. Diabetes and Health Heart - these workshops are presented by VCH nutritionists who are willing to travel past Pemberton.

3. Sea to Sky Community Response Network (CRN) Pemberton and/or PVSS representative). Role - member of network that acknowledges and supports the work of the CRN which is education and advocacy around the issues of abuse, neglect and self-neglect of older adults. Called on for input at times and can bring up issues appropriate for the role of CRN.

4. Sea to Sky Hospice Campaign Committee - member representing Pemberton region - over past 2 years raised over \$2million to build Hospice in Hilltop House Squamish. 4 bed unit with ancillary services. VCH responsible for operating facility. Ground breaking November 2018, planned opening late spring of 2019. Committee disbanded in October 2018. Remaining \$200,000 over run of funds to be raised by the Hospice Board and VCH (if required).

5. Sea to Sky Hospice Board - Joined November 2018 - Pemberton and region representative. Member of Governance committee - Reviewing and updating Governance and Organizational management protocols and documents.

6. Sea to Sky rep on BC Seniors Advocate Advisory - 2 day meetings every 6 months. (3 year commitment- joined Sep. 2016)

2017-2018 Reports available <https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/reports/>

Monitoring B.C.'s Seniors' Services

Reports:

Residential Care Survey

Monitoring Report

British Columbia Residential Care Facilities Quick Facts Directory

Caregivers in Distress: A Growing Problem

Every Voice Counts: Provincial Residential Care Survey Results

[Seniors Transportation: Affordable, Appropriate and Available](#)

Member of Rural Issues committee for BCSCA 2018

Issues a priority in 2018

Transportation in rural areas

Increased supports for seniors

7. Seniors Housing - ad hoc group to research providing Seniors housing on Lion's land.

8. Member of Friends of the Library Board - represent seniors in selection of programs etc.

Attended grant writing workshop December- exploring opportunities for 2019 grants.