



## NEWS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Oct. 31, 2014

### **Fruit Growers give \$100,000 'treat' to Beacon Community Services**

SIDNEY, BC – Beacon Community Services today gratefully received a \$100,000 donation from the Saanich Fruit Growers Association to support Beacon operations at the SHOAL Centre, in Sidney.

The Saanich Fruit Growers Association began almost 100 years ago, and was a co-operative association of large and small farmers. They shipped strawberries and logan berries for fresh market sales and wine-making. The farms provided employment and the central processing location, the 'fruit shed' on Keating Cross Road in Saanichton, provided seasonal work during harvest season until the late 1970s.

In more recent years, the property has been leased to businesses with an agricultural focus. With the recent sale of the land to Integrity Sales and Distributors, the Association's members have chosen to donate funds to local and community causes.

"We want to acknowledge the fact that the Association played a role in the lives of those in the Saanich Peninsula," said Association President Harold McCarthy. "Supporting good community work honours that tradition."

"News like this certainly gives new meaning to 'Hallowe'en treat,' "said Beacon's Board Chair Keith Rolfe, thanking the Association for its gift. "Best of all, the benefits will be year-round."

Beacon CEO Bob Boulter noted that the SHOAL Activity Centre has more than 850 registered members, hosts thousands of drop-in visitors, and also houses important community services such as Beacon's Youth Employment and Volunteer Services programs. "This is a really gratifying recognition of the work our volunteers and staff do on behalf of the community. But, even more gratifying, it will directly support our efforts to help people and improve lives through Beacon's programs," he said.

Established on the Saanich Peninsula in 1974, Beacon Community Services has evolved to become one of BC's largest non-profit social services organizations. It serves more than 6,000 clients across the Capital Regional District, including through programs and services in: Child, Youth and Family Services; Counselling and Mental Health Services; Employment and Training Programs; Housing, Assisted Living and Licenced Dementia Housing; Adult/Senior's Recreation Services; Volunteer Services; and Home Support Care. Many of Beacon's community programs are supported by funds from its seven thrift store operations.

More information about Beacon Community Services can be found at [www.beaconcs.ca](http://www.beaconcs.ca)

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*Beacon Community Services Board Chair Keith Rolfe (L) and CEO Bob Boulter (M) accept a \$100,000 donation from Harold McCarthy (R), President of the Saanich Fruit Growers Association. Beacon Community Services at SHOAL Centre, October 31, 2014.*