



**1974-2024**

**Serving Greater Victoria &  
the Southern Gulf Islands**

**Helping people. Empowering  
communities. Improving lives.**

***Lighting the Way for 50 Years!***

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Beacon Historian  
February 2025



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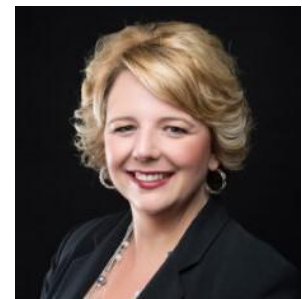
## **Beacon Community Services History: Let's dig into it!**

2024 marked Beacon Community Services' 50<sup>th</sup> year of service - Helping People, Empowering Communities, Improving Lives. Articles highlighting the evolution of the society and the services it has offered over the years are now published on the Beacons.ca website and are available at the SHOAL reception desk.

Did you know that Beacon has always been governed by a volunteer Board elected at each Annual General Meeting (AGM), and that the terms for the Directors were structured so that as nearly as practical, half (1/2) of the Directors were elected at each AGM? The current Board Chair is Joan Easton. Can you guess how many Board Chairs there have been over the 50 years? To find out more, check out the article titled "*Welcome the Board*".



As you know, the Board Chair leads the Board in overseeing Beacon's governance and strategic direction. Meanwhile, the operational management is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who reports directly to the Board. Although Beacon was formed in 1974, it wasn't until 1982 that an Executive Director was put in place to manage the society, and the title Chief Executive Officer (CEO) wasn't used until 2010. Tricia Gueulette is the current CEO. Are you a tiny bit interested to know who else has been in this role, and who served the longest term? To find out more, check out the article titled "*Who's the Boss!*".



Some of you many recall that Beacon Community Services was not always the name the society used. Over the years, it has been doing business under four different names. It's first name was *Saanich Peninsula District Community Resources Society*. Isn't that a mouthful! The name Beacon Community Services was adopted in 2005. The term, Beacon, was chosen as it best reflected the agency's purpose – a source of light or inspiration, a way to illuminate a safe path, to act as a guide through difficult territory. To find out why the name changed over the years, check out the article titled "*What's in a Name!*".



Do you know where Beacon's head office is located? Well, today it is at 2723 Quadra Street in Victoria. It moved there in 2010. Are you curious to know where the head office was located prior to that? Interested to find out why they moved each time? Do you recognize this building<sup>1</sup> and the role it played for the society? To find out where they moved to and why the moves happened over the years, check out the article titled "*Oh Dear, Do we have to Move Again?*"



Did you know that since 1974 Beacon has offered services to enable seniors to live independently, comfortably and safely in their home for as long as it makes sense? Would it surprise you to know that medical drives have been provided since 1977? Did you know that in 2007 the services expanded to include the Sidney Healthy Options for Active Living (the SHOAL Centre). In 2024, Jennifer Van Es, Director SHOAL Centre & Senior Services, ensures that appropriate services continue to be provided. To find out how the services for seniors have evolved, check out the article titled "*Helping Seniors Live Independently*".



In 2024, over 500 volunteers, ranging in age from 12 to over 90, are engaged in delivering programs that support children, youth, families and seniors. Volunteers are the heart and soul of Beacon, delivering programs that support children, youth, families and seniors. In fact, the very first person to deliver a program was the volunteer youth



<sup>1</sup> Photo courtesy Google Maps June 2009



recreation coordinator, Camille Martin<sup>2</sup>. To find out how volunteers have been involved, check out the article titled *“Volunteers – Thank you for all you do”*.

Anne Johnston<sup>3</sup> played a key role in opening the first Thrift Shop. Do you know who helped her? Do you know when the first store opened? Did you know they were originally called Peninsula Old and New (PON) Shops? To learn more about the history of the thrift shops, check out the article titled *“Thrift Shops – What a Success Story”*.



History Articles	
Welcome the Board	Who's the Boss?
What's in a Name?	Oh dear, do we have to move again?
Helping Seniors Live Independently	Volunteers – Thank you for all you do!
Thrift Shops – What a success story!	
Coming Soon	
Yes, we can help you find a Job!	Supporting Families with Quality Child Care
Homelessness Prevention & Shelter Services	
Not Yet Completed	
Helping Teens Succeed	Early Childhood Development Programs
Family Support Services	Housing Solutions for Seniors

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<sup>2</sup> Photo courtesy of The Review Feb 15, 1984

<sup>3</sup> Photo courtesy of The Review Dec 5, 1984

