



**GREATER VICTORIA
HOUSING SOCIETY**

Since 1956

VISIONS

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Spring 2011

Going Greener

The **Greater Victoria Housing Society** works constantly to ensure not only a safe and comfortable environment for all our residents, but reviews ways of making our buildings greener for the benefit of our communities and the long term health of our buildings.

Over the past year we partnered with various levels of government, BC Hydro and local suppliers to help us meet our goal of making our buildings more energy efficient and thereby reducing operating costs with the end result allowing us to maintain lower rents to ensure affordable housing for the future.

In partnership with BC Hydro we installed energy efficient lighting in the majority of our buildings and energy saving kits in the majority of our suites. We also replaced older fridges with energy efficient models in two of our buildings. This program resulted in dollar savings and reduced energy usage allowing us to become “greener”. Expected payback on this work is within two to three years.



With financial support from various levels of government we also received substantial funding to do a major window upgrade with one of our larger buildings, we installed high efficiency windows on the south side of the building, allowing units to be cooler in the summer, warmer in the winter and once again saving energy usage and costs.

Another green initiative we under took was to replace in-ground corroding tanks at three buildings, putting in double walled, out of ground tanks thereby reducing the risk of potential environmental contamination.

June 2 - 5, 2011



First held in 1981 and now known as the Times Colonist Island Savings Open, this tournament is the longest running Canadian Tour event in Canada and is a major event on the Victoria and Vancouver Island sports calendar. The Open is a significant contributor to the Capital Region’s business and tourism sectors. It showcases golf in Victoria and supports amateur golf, youth golf and charity. The Open is the only annual sports activity that is featured on the Golf Channel. The Open enjoys incredible support by local media and is renowned for its fine volunteers making the Open the very best in Canada.

One of the great legacies of the Open is support of local charities. This year we are pleased to be one of two charities who will receive financial benefit from this event. 100% of all gate receipts, along with other fundraising activities held during the Open will benefit the **Greater Victoria Housing Society** and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Contact Us for your \$10 day tickets or \$15 week pass now. Each admission ticket gives you a chance to win a \$2,500 GIC donated by Island Savings Credit Union.

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Our Housing Supports Great Families

When Dorothy and her family left a cramped and expensive basement suite to live in a **Greater Victoria Housing Society**-owned townhouse, the move allowed her to stay at home with her three young children while her husband works as a counselor at the city's youth crisis centre. Our housing allows her to give her autistic son the extra attention he needs. "The space here is good for him, he has his own room," Dorothy says. Without affordable housing, Dorothy says the family would be living in a basement suite with both parents working to pay the rent. Now, they can save money, pay for unforeseen expenses, and plan for the day when they can buy their own home. Dorothy sees affordable housing as a steppingstone to improve her life that has also helped her grow as a person and better society. "We're trying to get ahead," she says. "This gift of a home we've been given – which alone is quality of life – we're really thankful for that."



New Board Member

"Affordable housing helps make a community strong, vibrant and healthy."



Scott Garman was born and raised in Victoria, and received his Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Victoria in 1995. Scott then articulated for his Chartered Accounting designation with KPMG, receiving his CA in 1998. Over the next ten years, Scott held various Controllershship and VP, Finance roles with both public and private companies, mainly in the high tech, franchising and real estate industries. Scott completed his Master of Business Administration from Queen's University in 2005. Recognizing a love for sales and real estate, Scott received his Residential Real Estate License in 2008. Scott moved back to Victoria in 2008 and is an award winning residential Realtor with Macdonald Realty .

Frequently Asked Questions

Who funds the Greater Victoria Housing Society?

The **GVHS** receives about 49 percent of its revenues from the provincial and federal governments, and 51 percent from tenant rent payments and other sources of revenue.

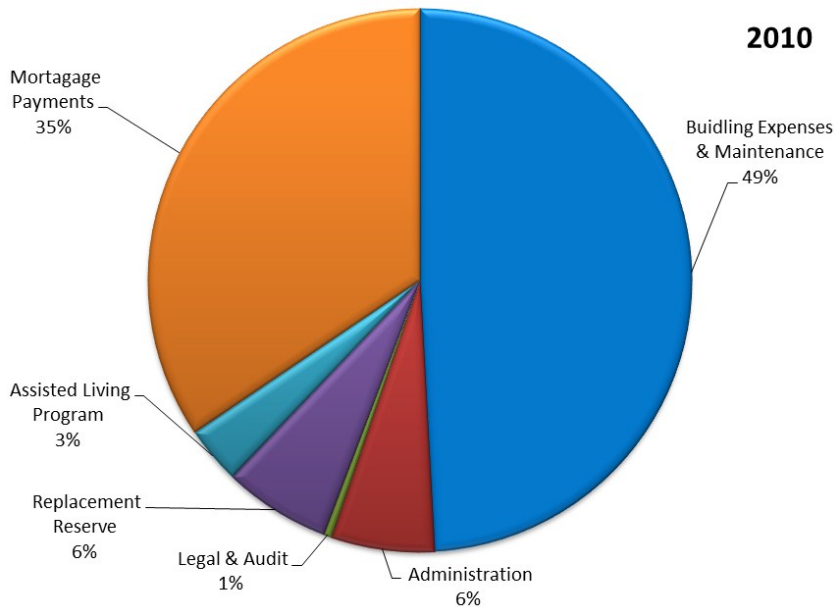
How are affordable housing projects funded?

The **GVHS** uses a number of ways to fund each housing project. They include: Public and private partnerships; Land acquisition at below market prices; Land donations; Land leased from a municipality; Deferred payments for land; Charitable donations and grants; Donations of labour and materials; Low interest rate financing or interest free loans; Municipal, Provincial and Federal grants and subsidies.

How does affordable housing contribute to creating sustainable communities?

Affordable housing affects the individual, the family, and the community as a whole. A good mix of housing within urban neighbourhoods allows communities to be diverse and resilient. People have a greater opportunity to live close to where they work and are more likely to rely on local businesses and services to meet their various needs, thereby creating a more inclusive, user-friendly, and energy efficient community.

Where the Dollar Goes



“Affordable housing creates a foundation for a thriving economy and social ease.”

Thank You

The **Greater Victoria Housing Society** would like to acknowledge and thank all those who support our mission of providing affordable rental housing in Greater Victoria. A special thank you to our most recent donors.

Corporate Donors



CRD Cheque Presentation
 Ian Batey & Eric Dahli of the Greater Victoria Housing Society;
 Christopher Causton of the CRD;
 Stuart Horoyd & Loreen Vandekerkhove of the Greater Victoria Rental Development Society

Individual Donors

Ned Boniface, Maria Doninalli, Hank Mathias, Craig Vanni

In Memory

- February: John Plaxton, Colwood Lodge
- March: Douglas Aune, Constance Court
- April: Colin Ferris, Esquimalt Lions Lodge
 Janet-Lee Saunders, Campbell Lodge
 Lizabeth Cotton, Sitkum Lodge

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“Dedicated to Providing Affordable Rental Housing in Greater Victoria.”