



# Langley Hospice News

Volume 13 Issue 4

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October 2006

## Camp Waterbugs, Dragonflies & Memories

Camp Waterbugs, Dragonflies, and Memories, Langley Hospice's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Camp for grieving children and teens, was held at Camp Elkgrove on O Avenue, Friday evening through Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006. It was through the generosity of the Vancouver Foundation, the Elks, and the time, energy and hearts of the volunteers, that this wonderful camping experience was made possible.

All the way from Hope to Vancouver, campers and volunteers gathered for this very special weekend. In all, there were 22 campers accompanied by 31 volunteers. Some volunteers fed our bodies, while other



volunteers (and campers as well) fed our spirits. No one could have imagined how gentle, loving, fun filled, and magical the weekend would turn out to be.



The first evening began with activities that helped us to get to know one another.

We made imaginatively designed name tags, talked with one another in a circle, sang songs, and the children and teens began to gather some grief tools to help them not only on this weekend, but for the many difficult days we all experience after the death of someone significant in our lives. Each child and teen chose a bag, a beautiful hand made quilt, a snugly decorated bear, and a journal to begin the journey through the weekend.

Saturday morning began with a delicious pancake breakfast and a walk to the pond where we heard a story of the cycle of life in a book called *Waterbugs and Dragonflies*, and all the time we were at the pond and throughout the weekend, real dragonflies entertained us. Once we arrived back at camp, therapeutic musical and expressive art activities, as well as a trip through the farm petting zoo, created many special memories throughout the day.

During one art activity, campers hand painted candle holders in memory of their special person. The musical activities included using drums and various instruments as tools for the exploration of feelings associated with grief as well as just having fun. The afternoon's water balloon fight and tug-of-war generated much laughter and was voted best activity of the day.

When Saturday evening arrived, and because of camp fire restrictions, the candle holders were set on two boards across the concrete fire pit. The candles created a beautiful camp fire experience as we all listened to music brought as a memory item by the campers. This music reminded each one of his or her special person who had died. That evening, as we sat around our candle-lit fire, each camper shared a story about the items they had brought for our very special memory table. When we went back indoors, sadness gave way to laughter and fun as we sang songs, performed skits and even ate squiggly worms.

Sunday morning came too quickly and the campers excitedly gathered and prepared songs, skits, and jokes as they designed their own closing ceremony.

Volunteers and family members laughed, cried, and were in awe of the children and teens that morning. Everyone's heart and spirit was once again well fed and nourished by their wonderful closing ceremony.



At the end of the closing ceremony, we had a very special surprise in store for everyone. Twenty-two monarch butterflies in clear containers tied with ribbons (raised and cared for by a very beautiful woman and her husband) were gently opened and released. Like the dragonflies that accompanied us all weekend, the butterflies landed on hands and arms, and in the hair of campers before taking flight. One butterfly even lingered in the main hall until all the campers and volunteers had left. The memory of the butterfly release will perhaps linger in the hearts of those at **Camp Waterbugs, Dragonflies, & Memories** for years to come.



We want to say thank you to all the campers who accompanied us that weekend and a special thank you to all the family members who made sure they were able to attend. Thank you to all the Langley quilters who made quilts for our camp, our kitchen volunteers, our music therapists, our art activities volunteer, our water balloon/tug-of-war director, and our butterfly lady. Last but not least, thank you to each and everyone of the volunteers who gave of time, energy and heart, and who traveled from near and far to accompany us throughout this special weekend.

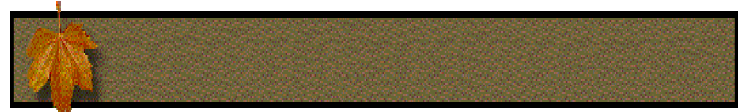
Terry Androsky



**Volunteer Hours**  
June 1—September 30, 2006

- ♥ Client Volunteers                    1,233 hours
- ♥ Store Volunteers                    5,032 hours
- ♥ Office, Events, Board  
  Newsletter & Other                678 hours

Thanks to all of you for your generous commitment to Langley Hospice!



## Happenings...



Several volunteers from **Scotiabank** branches in the Langley area helped to strengthen Lower Mainland communities on September 21, 2006 by participating in The Vancouver Sun United Way Day of Caring. This year the Scotia Bank

employees enjoyed taking a day out of their regular routine to make a difference in their community and learn about the programs available through the Langley Hospice Society. The project involved a day of painting to help revitalize the exterior of their administration and program offices. The painting supplies and stain were donated by Otter-Co-op. Thanks to Scotiabank employees and Otter Co-op for making a difference in our community.

The Safeway's "We Care" program was established in all 214 Western Canadian (Thunder Bay to Victoria) Canada Safeway stores in 1998. This uniquely successful, locally focused program matches Safeway store employees with local charities in need. Since the inception of the grass-roots program, over \$12 Million has been raised across Western Canada for people in need. This has been an amazing year for the Safeway "We Care" campaign at the Fraser Crossing store and Langley Hospice. We at Langley Hospice are very proud and appreciate the dedication and hard work of the employees at our Safeway, raising over \$5,000.00. Safeway staff and Hospice volunteers joined forces in support of hospice care in our community. Thank you Safeway!!



The **Langley Hospice Foundation** proudly presented a cheque for \$87,702 to support our programs and services at the recent Annual General Meeting on September 18. The money was raised through Second Story Treasures Thrift Store and several fundraisers.





**June—September 2006  
Donations Made in Memory of:**

<i>Connie Ansley</i>	<i>Fern Landry</i>	<i>Edgar Rasmussen</i>
<i>Jeffrey Wayne Bakker</i>	<i>Neila Larsen</i>	<i>Caroline Reschke</i>
<i>Robert Barr</i>	<i>Dick Looy</i>	<i>Howard Rowe</i>
<i>Kathleen Bjorknas</i>	<i>Arlene Low</i>	<i>Ray Russell</i>
<i>Janet "Elaine" Brown</i>	<i>Evelyn Macrae</i>	<i>Anthony Scott</i>
<i>Harry Casey</i>	<i>Rita Martens</i>	<i>Sylvia R. Shaw</i>
<i>Arlo Doner</i>	<i>Mary Matthews</i>	<i>Micheline Smith</i>
<i>Bill Downer</i>	<i>Moira McMullen</i>	<i>Robert Edward Smith</i>
<i>Marjorie "Peggy" Drew</i>	<i>Margaret Ann Meszaros</i>	<i>Verne Smithman</i>
<i>Bea Erickson</i>	<i>Heather Mohr</i>	<i>Shirley Strachan</i>
<i>Howard Gladwyn</i>	<i>Frank Noga</i>	<i>Maxwell Summers</i>
<i>Shirley-Ann Groot</i>	<i>John George Palmer</i>	<i>Ed Tremblay</i>
<i>John Harder</i>	<i>Maria Margareta Pfeifer</i>	<i>Marjorie Wallace</i>
<i>Irene Jenkins</i>	<i>Marlene Poole</i>	<i>Stanley Warden</i>
<i>Stella Kroeker</i>	<i>Ferne Porter</i>	<i>Mona Watts</i>

*Henderson's Langley Funeral Homes (annual newsletter sponsor)*

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**Mission Statement**

Langley Hospice Society, a community-based, non-profit organization, provides compassionate support to help people live with dignity and hope while coping with grief and the end of life.

