

## SMALL COMFORTS = BIG CARING THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING OUR CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Clockwise from top left: Mayumi is delighted with the addition of new instruments including maracas, bells and easy to clean green drums. Leroy helps display our new aromatherapy smells and diffusers. Dave and Recreation Therapist Maren show off 4 new members of our family: Life-like and adorable Perfect Petzz providing a comfort and joy. We have added two more Alzheimer Music Players to complete each Unit's song library.

With our 2021 Holiday theme of **Small Comforts = Big Caring** we reached out to our community of families and friends asking them to support a variety of therapeutic tools. The response was as **amazing** as it was **generous**.

Thanks to YOU we are able to purchase all the items on our 'Wishing Upon a Star List': music players, instruments, companion pets, aroma therapy, busy boards, bus blankets and portable chairs. What a jolly gift from our community!

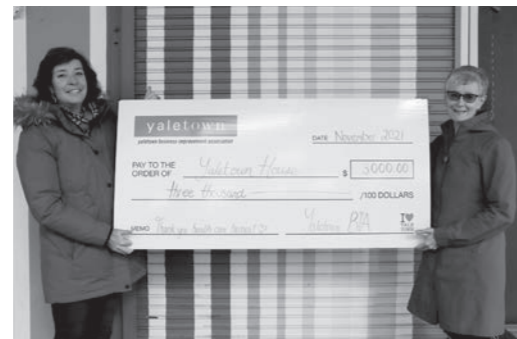
## The Yaletown Lions Club takes giving to a new level with a donation of \$35,000

Our world turned upside-down in 2020 and continued into the following year. As a result, the Yaletown Lions sadly had to cancel their 2021 Fundraising Gala. However, the story does not end there: somehow the Lions Members found a way to keep the spirit of giving moving forward. Thanks to the generosity of their sponsors and guests, the Lions continued to support Yaletown House and other local charities. For 2021, not only did the Lions meet the challenge, without a Gala, but exceeded the gift substantially by giving us \$35,000. This generosity is a testament to the collective good of people in times of uncertainty. We will allocate the \$35,000 towards replacing our Wander Prevention System, which has become an urgent and top priority. Since the Club's inception in 2008, Yaletown House has received over \$335,000. Thank you for 14 years of community service. The Yaletown Lions have outdone themselves . . . once again!

Zooming in to say hello to Carol and Lynn; the Lions' generosity and kindness shine as always



## Yaletown Business Improvement Association donates \$3,000 plus gift cards

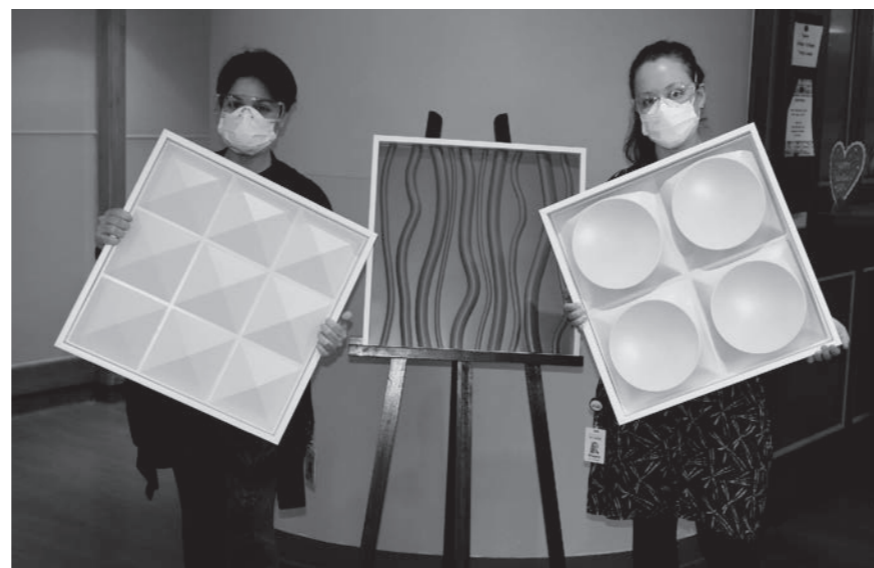


Thanks to our good friends at the Yaletown Business Improvement Association (YT-BIA) who recently donated \$3,000, which will be allocated towards the courtyard garden upgrades.

Not only benefitting our residents, the YT-BIA also partnered with Earls Restaurant to provide dining gift cards for all of our hardworking health care workers as part of our staff recognition. Bravo!

Thank you for improving the lives of seniors and recognizing the commitment of our health care staff. We are very grateful for the community connection.

Left to right: Carol Crichton and Members of the Human Resources Team hold up the donated gift cards. Executive Directors: Annette O'Shea (Yaletown BIA) and Carol Crichton (Yaletown House)



## Second Floor Special Care Project

With the arrival of lounge furniture, outdoor furniture, wall art, an electric fireplace and the Snoezelen\* care, all that is remaining is a Smart TV to be set up for entertainment, leisure and interact programs. Thanks to New Horizons for Seniors, who provided \$24,500 in funding, we have created a space dedicated for leisure and therapeutic programs for our special care residents.

*\*The Snoezelen Multi-Sensory cart and tools reduce agitation and anxiety. It also has been proven to engage and delight the user by stimulating reactions and encouraging communication.*

Lo, 2nd floor Recreation Therapist and Shayna, Art Therapy display several of the new 3D Touch Art Panels for Special Care. Snoezelen in action with our Recreation Therapy Team. New lounge furniture, including a sofa and 4 chairs helps to create a living room feel.

January 31, 2018 was a day that Aleta Brown remembers well. It was the day that not only did Vancouver Island Health (VIH) advise that there was finally an available care home bed on the mainland in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) for her mother Dolly Llewellyn, it was at Yaletown House—the home she wanted her mother to move into.

At 95, Dolly, who was living independently in her own apartment in Nanaimo, with some home support, needed much more care due to a fall that resulted in several fractures. She was also alone now as her longtime partner John had passed away eight years earlier. It only made sense to move Dolly closer to Aleta who lived in the community of Yaletown. It was not the easiest move as Dolly was fiercely independent and although the topic of moving had been discussed at length, Aleta not only faced the challenge of a sudden move across the Salish Sea (Georgia Strait) but also selling the idea to Dolly. But thanks to Aleta's extra special effort in decorating and personalizing Dolly's room with art from her grandson and certificates of achievement, Dolly settled in fast. Aleta added that the exceptional level of care and the host of activities such as music, bingo and pet visits were also contributing factors to helping Dolly adjust better. As an added bonus, she now got daily visits from Aleta who brought in treats, from Pho noodle soup, Seafood chowder—Aleta described herself as a short-order cook on the run. However, when the pandemic hit, everything stopped, and Aleta—like everyone else with loved ones in long term care, waited for 4 months for a visit. Once restrictions were slightly lifted, and Dolly now 97 had more age-related health factors, Aleta was designated an essential visitor and permitted limited scheduled visits with her mom. Donning full personal protective equipment (PPE) for each visit, Aleta saw her mother as much as was permitted; she was grateful. As restrictions lifted further, Aleta was able to resume her daily visits and this continued until Dolly passed away in September 2021 at 98.

Born in Alliston, PEI, Dolly raised two children, Malcolm and Aleta, with her late husband Irving. Not a stay-at-home Mother, Dolly worked in menswear sales in PEI and Mississauga, Ontario.

According to Aleta, Dolly was an excellent sales person, competing in a male dominated business and consistently receiving top sales awards and long-term service recognition for loyalty and commitment to the company.



Dolly Llewellyn with her grateful daughter, Aleta Brown.

Retirement took Dolly and her partner John to Nanaimo in 1990 where she became very active in the community joining a bowling league, learning ballroom dancing and joining the local church. Extremely handy at home, John would joke that anything could be fixed by Dolly if she had a hammer and crowbar. They enjoyed many years of travel together as John was a retired airline pilot and the pair visited Australia, New Zealand, England, Scotland, France as well as Canadian destinations, including the North West Territories. Twenty-seven trips to Hawaii prove that this tropical paradise was their favourite destination. After diligently caring for John for several years due to his rapidly declining health, Dolly was on her own again—now in her mid 80's. But she moved forward with grace and perseverance thanks to her positive attitude, always looking for the upside of life—this was key to her resilience.

Aleta could write a book on the challenges she had to overcome to move her mother from one health authority (VIH) to another (VCH). She is not bitter in anyway but it was a long journey with winding roads and shifting gears. Once the good news call came on January 31st, everything had to happen faster than she thought imaginable. Aleta gives credit and thanks to Andrena Smith our Social Worker, who somehow made the impossible journey come together and was there to extend a warm welcome to Dolly upon arrival. Aleta says that Yaletown House was not only the best place for her mom, it was the only place where she wanted her to be. Now she wants to give back. She has registered as a volunteer, remains on the Board of Directors' Care and Support Committee as a Society Member, and made a donation to the Foundation in loving memory of her mother Dolly. She has nothing but praise for Carol Crichton, Executive Director and her Team, she thanks everyone for their compassionate care, professionalism and respect for her mom. She says she will never forget the kindness; nor will she forget January 31, 2018.

## Our Garden needs to grow—more—and we need your help

We call it our 'Little Oasis in the Big City'—it is a place where residents can enjoy the beautiful sounds of birds in the trees above; it is a place where residents welcome their family member and share the day's events over a cup of coffee; and it is a place where plants come alive with the help of the Horticulture Therapist. It is our place—it is our much loved Courtyard Garden.

Thanks to tremendous donor contributions, our Courtyard Garden is becoming even better. While pandemic restrictions delayed our renovation plans, over the past two years we have been able to undertake several projects:

- The rotting planters have been replaced with brick and fit in beautifully with the existing building facade. In fact, we have received comments from Staff and Residents admiring the changes with one staff member saying the new planters "improve the whole outdoor space".
- Light weight but sturdy, durable, year round patio furniture was delivered in January.
- Coming this spring, a new ground surface, levelling the walkways is scheduled for installation.
- Lighting and a sound system for events is being sourced.
- And, prior to the arrival of Spring 2022, extra effort will be placed on enhancing the growing season with new plants, shrubs and trees.

We are forever grateful for everyone's interest, support and especially patience in helping us to improve the Courtyard Garden.

**Thank you for growing our success!**



### But we still need your help!

Please consider donating towards Horticulture Therapy—services that not only beautify our outdoor spaces, but also offer programs that encourage seniors to learn a new activity or rediscover a past interest, provide needed social interaction and offer opportunities for physical exercise. You can be a part of our success too.

Please consider supporting Horticulture Therapy.

All gifts of \$500 and above will have their name etched on a donor leaf affixed to the Donor Appreciation Tree with our gratitude.



## Volunteers—Thank you for your patience, commitment and flexibility

**From playing Santa Claus, to playing a song, or assisting as a bike companion—we love our volunteers!**

It has been a challenging time to keep our valued volunteers engaged. The care home has experienced a lot these past two years—from no volunteers allowed, to easing restrictions and allowing some back in a limited capacity, to returning to no volunteers. Through these ever-changing times, our wonderful volunteers have listened, understood and accommodated our situation. When we do see them - it's amazing. We cannot fully express our gratitude as they walk through the front door with a smile, or we see them playing crib in the lounge or delivering flowers to a resident's room. There is a burst of happiness and sometimes a tear, "They're back"

"Big gratitude to the volunteers for their support and patience over the past two years. Thank you for staying in touch and sending encouragement. The staff, residents and family members welcome you back and look forward to a great spring and summer!"  
—Cori Witvoet, Volunteer Coordinator



**Volunteers**  
Michael, Duet Rider  
Jeff, the piano man  
Al, Santa Claus

## Memorial Gifts

In lieu of sending flowers to the bereaved, families and friends may choose to make a memorial gift. An acknowledgment of the gift will be provided to the appropriate family member(s) and the donor will receive a tax receipt and thank you card. The name of the resident is permanently placed on our Memorial Recognition Wall. Memorial Gifts help us support services that directly benefit our residents.

We would like to recognize the families and friends of:

- Dolly Llewellyn
- Rita Doucas
- Sidney Jongbloed
- Brian Hewer

And thank them for their kind contribution in loving memory.

## YES! COUNT ME IN

More Ways to support Yaletown House

**Be a part of our success.** Donations can be made:

1. By cheque payable to Yaletown House Foundation  
1099 Cambie Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 5A8
2. Online at [www.yaletown.org](http://www.yaletown.org) using CanadaHelps. Did you know when you donate securities directly to a charity, capital gains tax is eliminated, allowing you to donate more. For more information about donating securities online, go to [canadahelps.org/en/donate/donate-securities/](http://canadahelps.org/en/donate/donate-securities/)
3. By phone 604 806-4210 using Visa/MC

*We respect your privacy and never disclose, trade, or share your personal information.*

*Charitable registration #89249 4444 RR0001. All donations are tax deductible.*

**All donations will receive a tax receipt for 100% of their gift and a thank you letter from the Executive Director. Thank you for contributing to the well-being of Yaletown House residents!**