



# German-Canadian Benevolent Society of BC

## HAUSPOST

June 2020

### **55th Annual General Meeting** **55. Jahreshauptversammlung**

Due to the ongoing pandemic of Covid-19 the annual general meeting will be held in September 2020. We will be sending out a notice to all members in August advising you of the date and format of the AGM.

### **Board of Directors**

#### ***Vorstand***

The Board would like to inform you that Heike Roth recently stepped down from the Board of Directors. Heike served on the Board for seven years. Throughout her tenure Heike served on various Board Committees and most recently was the Vice-President of the Board. The Board expresses their deep gratitude to Heike for her valuable contributions.

The Board is pleased to announce the appointment of three new directors. You will find their brief bios on the next page.



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## Biographies of Board Members

### **Christine Craik**

Christine brings over 20 years of experience working in the design industry, specifically in senior living, multifamily and geriatric healthcare interior design. Currently an Associate and Senior Interior Designer with Kasian Architecture, she strives to create environments in which others can healthfully and happily live their best lives. She has received her Registered Professional membership with the ASID, IDC (IDIBC), NCIDQ and IIDA, and she is a Board Certified Healthcare Interior Designer with the AAHID. Christine is a member of the BC Care Providers Association, the International Council on Active Aging and the Canadian Association on Gerontology. She brings a depth of knowledge and experience having worked on complex projects in the senior living and wellness sector, including: luxury independent living, assisted living, memory and dementia care, complex care and geriatric behavioral health environments in the United States and Canada.



*Christine Craik*

### **Kathrin McMath**

Kathrin moved from Germany to Vancouver in the mid 1980s at the age of 8. She attended a German school in Guildford for several years to retain her Deutsch. Kathrin has worked in healthcare for over 20 years and is currently the Executive Director of Finance & Operations for Menno Place in Abbotsford. She is a Chartered Professional Accountant and holds a Master's in Health Leadership.



*Kathrin McMath*

### **Rudolf J. Kischer**

Rudolf Kischer is a partner at the immigration law firm MKS and has 20 years of experience practising Canadian immigration law.

He has served as a consultant to the UNHCR and lectured for years at the University of British Columbia on immigration practice.

Mr. Kischer has held a variety of positions on the Executive of the Canadian Bar Association and has been a member of the National Consultative Committee on Practices and Procedures with the Immigration Refugee Board in Ottawa.



*Rudolf J. Kischer*

## CEO Report, Jutta Purchase

### News from the Home

The past three months brought many, unprecedented challenges and uncertainties. Many of you most likely have been following the sad news about the terrible toll the Covid-19 pandemic has taken on long-term Care Homes in Canada. You may have heard on the news that the German-Canadian Care Home was listed as having an outbreak of Covid-19 in mid-March. The Medical Health Officer declared this outbreak because one of our employees contracted the virus. As a result, the Care Home was under outbreak precautions for the incubation period of 14 days. I am grateful that none of the residents or additional staff at the German-Canadian Care Home got infected. Much of the credit goes to my leadership team and staff for their tireless efforts and compassionate and skillful care.

### Celebrating our Staff

The sudden onset of the pandemic thrust our staff into a new reality. There was a lot of fear and stress, particularly when we were under outbreak measures.

Everyone worked long hours under difficult conditions. To recognize this extraordinary feat, we held a “Healthcare Heroes Week”, with fun

activities and gifts for each employee. Above is a little collage of the gifts given to staff.



*Collage of gifts given to staff*

In this context, I want to express a sincere thank you to René Aulinger who made a very generous donation in support of our staff fighting Covid-19 at the German-Canadian Care Home.

### ComfortZeit—Innovation in Seniors Care

The Society has always pursued an innovative building design and modern care approach. Key features include a small-house environment and decentralized care delivery model. Both of these innovations play a key role in improving resident well-being and reducing the risk of infection in long-term care. The tragic outcomes currently unfolding in long-term care highlight the pressing need for change.

The new German-Canadian Care Home will be impactful in a significant way and showcase our commitment to high quality seniors’ care.

### Fundraiser Events in Support of the Outreach Program

In early March, the German-Canadian Business Association organized a wonderful Fundraising Event in support of the Outreach Program. Guests celebrated in the *Weinstube* at the *Alpenclub* with Schnitzel, German beer and lively entertainment provided by the S-Bahn. The Event was attended by MLA, George Chow and raised over \$11,000 in support of the Outreach Program.

Thank You to the German-Canadian Business Association, Beatrice Schreiber, President, Elke Porter, and all the generous donors for their support.

### Redevelopment of the Care Home

I would like to give you an update on the progress of the Redevelopment of the Care Home. Early this year, the Board re-engaged with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and both parties reaffirmed to move forward with the replacement of the existing and outdated Care Home buildings. There are some new team members on both sides of the table and they are eager to make the new Care Home a reality.



*Model of the Care Home after Redevelopment*

## Bouquets

*"There is a special aura at the German-Canadian Care Home. A loving and caring approach to residents is felt unmistakably. This sense of genuine care is not only given to the resident but also to the family ... it gave me back a spark of life, literally"*

Quote from a family member

## Outreach Events

Dear Members and Friends,

The news about Care Homes has been truly disturbing. Our Outreach Committee is thankful that Jutta Purchase and her care team have been successful in protecting the residents from Covid-19! Surely, everyday life isn't easy for everyone in the care home. As you can imagine, the Outreach Program isn't feasible in its current form, at least for the next few months. Therefore we will develop an interactive program on our website, which we hope you will enjoy. Even if we aren't able to meet in person right now, our thoughts and good wishes are with you. Please continue to stay in touch.

Carola von Hahn

## Thank You to Donors

### Oak leaves / Eichenblätter

Oak leaves are placed on our donor wall in recognition of donations of \$500 and more.

We thank the following donors for their generosity:

- Dr. Günther F. & Antya H. Schrack
- Parc Communities Management Ltd.
- Prospera Credit Union
- Werner & Helga Hoing Foundation
- Bartl Alter Ego Trust
- Estate of Else Maurer
- Tae Helgeth

## Welcome to the Society

- Gerd & Erika Solbrig
- Christine Craik
- Kathrin McMath
- Rudolf J. Kischer

## SOCIETY OFFICE

The Society office is staffed by Jean Pascal Meimers every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 am to 5 pm. Jean Pascal (JP) speaks German & English. You may phone him at 604-713-6562 or e-mail: [society@gcch.ca](mailto:society@gcch.ca)

## GERMAN-CANADIAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF BC

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## OUR MISSION:

"Providing quality care and support for the aging"

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Petra Kuret	President
Mark Sulzberger	Treasurer
Alex Sayn-Wittgenstein	Director
Ulf von Dehn	Director
Carola von Hahn	Director
Christiane Craik	Director
Kathrin McMath	Director
Rudolf J. Kischer	Director
Richard Wittstock	Director
Jutta Purchase	CEO