



# German-Canadian Benevolent Society of BC Deutsch Kanadisches Hilfswerk von BC

November 2021



## Hauspost

November 20, 2021

### CHRISTMAS FEST

a non-profit, online fundraising event for the  
German-Canadian Care Home,  
Vancouver BC

#### How to participate:

- Visit our website: [www.ggch.ca](http://www.ggch.ca)
- Click on the link "Christmas Fest"
- This will take you to our Christmas Fest site. The auction is open from November 3rd to Nov. 20th.
- You can participate in the Christmas Fest in 3 ways:
  - a. Register for the auction and start bidding
  - b. Pre-order your favorite foods, meal options include Potato Salad, Sauerkraut & Sausages; Potato Salad, Sauerkraut & Meatloaf or a container of freshly cooked Sauerkraut.
  - c. Make a donation
- The auction closes at midnight of 19 November 2021. We will notify the highest bidder and arrange for the pickup of the item.
- There will be a curbside pick up for all the pre-ordered food items on Saturday, 20 November 2021 between 11:00 hours and 15:00 hours. Pickup is outside the care home building on 2010 Harrison Drive. There will be many staff and volunteers on hand to help.

**Please support this important fundraiser for the German-Canadian Care Home.**

**We hope to welcome you again in person in 2022!**

#### A warm & welcoming invitation to our online Christmas Fest

Due to the ongoing Covid19 pandemic, we are not able to hold our much-cherished Christmas Fest at the German-Canadian Care Home. Despite the Covid restrictions, we want to spread a little bit of Christmas spirit and find ways to connect with our members and friends. We therefore moved the Auction and Food Sale online, [www.gcch.ca](http://www.gcch.ca).

We hope that you will participate, spread the word among your friends and bid on the many, attractive items which were all donated by generous sponsors. Please see the instructions "How to participate" on the left of this page.

Our Director of Recreation, Rosemary Kustner, would be pleased to help if you need support:  
(604)-713-6531 or [society@gcch.ca](mailto:society@gcch.ca)

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# Dear members and friends,

I trust you had an enjoyable summer, perhaps with some travel around our beautiful province and time with family and friends. Over the past few months, we have continuously adapted to the ever-changing guidelines and directions. The safety of residents and staff remain at the forefront and we continue to learn each and every day.

Effective 12 October 2021, all staff, volunteers, visitors and other service providers must be fully vaccinated to enter the care home buildings. This will add another layer of protection and significantly reduces the risk of an infectious outbreak.

Several learnings from Covid have been incorporated into our practice. Nursing staff no longer rotate throughout the building but are permanently assigned to one neighbourhood. There are many benefits to this change, such as improved relationship building between staff and resident, a sense of community and a calmer environment in general.

Unfortunately, the Christmasfest will again be a virtual event, with an online auction and food sale. The preparations for the regular Christmasfest typically take several months; due to the uncertainties around Covid restrictions we made the decision to keep the event the same as last year. We hope many of you will again bid on auction items and order some of our delicious German food.

We look forward to the upcoming Christmas season, and several small social events with residents, staff and families.

I want to thank our members, friends and donors for all your support, words of encouragement and well wishes. Wishing you a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas season and good health, happiness and prosperity for the new year.

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## Thanks to our Donors

Oak leafs are placed on our donor wall in recognition of donations of \$500 and more. We thank the following donors for their generosity:

**Fred & Christa Kleine**  
**Kurt Gagel**  
**Dineke van Renesse van Duivenbode**  
**Fritz Ziegler Fund**  
**Heinz & Margery Wilke**

## Annual General Meeting

The 56th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held virtually on September 21, 2021. Twenty-seven members joined the meeting via their computers from the comfort of their own homes.

Jutta Purchase, CEO, reported on the many challenges the care home community experienced throughout the past year. The care home staff and leadership's priority throughout all of this has remained the goal to provide the best possible environment, care and quality of life for residents. The pandemic has highlighted many of the shortcomings of long-term care and the long-standing vision of the Society for the redevelopment project, the small house and decentralized operational model .have been affirmed.

Petra Kuret and Alex Sayn-Wittgenstein started their second three-year term and Dr. Robert Shaw was elected by acclamation.

Following the AGM, the board selected the new executives as follows:

- President:: Dr. Robert Shaw
- Vice President:: Richard Wittstock
- Treasurer: Kathrin McMath
- Executive Member: Alex Sayn-Wittgenstein



# Update on the Redevelopment

The redevelopment project has continued to slowly but steadily progress. Discussions with main external stakeholders which are Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), BC Housing and the City of Vancouver have continued to progress towards securing the necessary funding and development approvals.

The board had been trying to work within the 2015 VCH approvals but by 2019 the cost to build the new care home could no longer be met within the restraints of the 2015 budget. By early 2020 the board and VCH agreed to renegotiate the agreement. The pandemic initially stalled these discussions until early spring 2021. Biweekly meetings with senior VCH staff have resulted in the project having been fully costed to the satisfaction of VCH, and VCH board approvals for the project are anticipated by the end of the year. At the same time revised drawings have been submitted to the City of Vancouver. The revised design includes 178 beds of which 132 beds are expected to be funded by VCH and 46 beds will be operated on a private-pay basis. Meyers Norris Penny LLP was engaged to conduct a market study on the feasibility of operating the 55 non-funded beds on a private-pay basis.

A previously encountered hurdle with the City of Vancouver was a Community Amenity Contribution which is part of the development permit and essentially required the society to pay the City \$3 million. Through negotiations the requirement was waived in exchange for a number of affordable housing units in the rental building that is planned for the North-West parcel of the property and permission was granted to increase the units in the rental building from 52 to 76. This results in an increase in the land value of the rental building site, which will be sold to a developer.

Parallel to the negotiations with VCH and the City of Vancouver, discussions with BC Housing as lender are ongoing and the committee is working towards achieving a financing commitment by the fall to coincide with VCH approvals.

The redevelopment committee is pleased with the progress that has been made on the project and is hopeful that significant approval milestones will be reached in the coming year.



# BOUQUET

Good hearted people like the staff at German-Canadian Care Home make the world a much better place.

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Thank you for your time, expertise and commitment.



## Outreach Events

### Liebe Mitglieder und Freunde,

Jetzt ist es endlich so weit, das Outreach Programm kann wieder stattfinden!

Es sind verschiedene Sicherheitsvorkehrungen einzuhalten aber wir freuen uns trotzdem sehr, Sie nach so langer Zeit wieder bei Kaffee und Kuchen begrüßen zu können.

Am 30. Oktober um 14 Uhr wird unser erstes Outreach Programm stattfinden. Bitte melden Sie sich bei Waltraud Custer an.

Am 20. November findet unser jährliches Weihnachtsfest (Bazar) statt.

Am 4. Dezember feiern wir dann den Beginn der Weihnachtszeit, mit Musik und Gedichten.

Wenn Sie Interesse haben am Outreach Programm teilzunehmen, melden Sie sich bitte bei Waltraud Custer an, Sie wird Ihnen weitere Informationen über Programmablauf und Sicherheitsvorkehrungen geben.

Tel. 604 713 6500 oder Cell 604 263 4232

E-Mail waltraud.custer@gmail.com

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### Dear members and friends,

The time is finally here for the outreach program to start up again. There will be some health and safety measures that have to be followed, but we are excited that we can once again meet over coffee and cake.

Our first outreach event is scheduled for October 30th. Please register with Waltraud Custer.

On November 20th we will have our annual Christmas Fest, which is once again a virtual event.

On December 4th we will celebrate the start of the Christmas season with music and poems.

If you are interested in participating in our outreach program, please contact Waltraud Custer, who can give you more information on the planned program and safety measures in place.

Tel. 604 713 6500 oder Cell 604 263 4232

E-Mail waltraud.custer@gmail.com

## German-Canadian Benevolent Society of BC

Our Mission:

**"Providing quality care and support for the aging."**

The Society Office can be reached by phone at 604-713-6562 or email [society@gcch.ca](mailto:society@gcch.ca)

## Board of Directors

Dr. Robert Shaw	President
Richard Wittstock	Vice President
Kathrin McMath	Treasurer
Alex Sayn-Wittgenstein	Director
Carola von Hahn	Director
Petra Kuret	Director
Ulf von Dehn	Director
Christine Craik	Director
Rudolf Kischer	Director
Jutta Purchase	CEO

