



## People For a Healthy Community on Gabriola Society

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

Date: August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009

#### **Reflection and Changes for PHC**

For the past twelve years PHC has provided services for women experiencing or at risk of violence. In November 2008 a pager support line and public education to community organizations has been supported by volunteers, RCMP, donations, and grants from the Canadian Women's Foundation, Crime Prevention and Direct Access Gaming. R. Elaine Young was hired to coordinate the programs and complete the required development and continuous training of volunteers. After nine months of operation PHC has decided to suspend the program in order to develop a plan that is better suited to respond to the unique needs of Gabriola Island. PHC are grateful to have had Elaine and honor her great work in the program as well as organizing other events throughout the year. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Women experiencing or at risk of violence can still access support by calling PHC's business number; their call will be forwarded to one of our trained volunteers.

PHC also announces that due to urgent family matters in Ontario our present Executive Director, Barbara Saunders, will be leaving PHC and the Island at the beginning of September.

These changes have prompted the Board of Directors to look to the community for the development of strategies for PHC to serve our community in the most needed and essential ways. To this effect a Community Needs Assessment will be undertaken this fall in which Gabriola residents will be asked to participate in setting the direction for the future for PHC.

The Food Bank continues to be busy and volunteers are always needed to pack food or work in the kitchen during the hot lunch days of Monday and Tuesday. The gardens also require volunteers to bring in the harvest, plant winter vegetables and put the beds to rest for the winter. Please call the office to lend a hand.

Stay tuned for news and participation in the Community Needs Assessment.

For more information please call .....