

## **History of Lodge**

The history of the Lodge begins back in 1968 in Parksville, with a gentleman by the name of Everett Blish. Mr. Blish was a counsellor with the Senior Citizen Counselling Service whose duties involved interviewing and advising older people in the district.

As a result of his work he determined that there was a need for a facility that would meet the needs of seniors in the area.

A meeting was arranged with representatives from the three Old Age Pensioners groups in the District, and a decision was made to poll the area organizations and Service Clubs with a questionnaire to determine the type of care most desirable.

When all this information was analyzed it was determined that a Personal Care Unit for seniors was the greatest need. Application to form a Society was approved in 1969 and Arrowsmith Lodge was chosen as the name of the facility.

The Society's Ways and Means Committee held their first meeting in the Noble's garage in Coombs. They needed to raise 10% for a CMHC loan which was \$30,000 and they did. They achieved their goal through card parties, bingos, teas and raffle sales, but above all through personal canvassing and collecting.

The Parksville Progress Newspaper was also very helpful by running a dollar - thermometer in the paper and providing general publicity every week.

The present five acre lot was bought for \$8,800 and local citizens cleared the land and donated the proceeds of the timber to the Society.

The first three wings were opened in November, 1971. When the fourth wing was added three years later there were 59 residents in total.

The property was landscaped by Society members and Lodge residents. An orchard of thirty fruit trees was planted through extra donations in memory of the late Arthur Gibbs who had been a resident of the lodge.

Mr. Blish acted as Administrator and Mr. Haworth who was in charge of Lodge and Society accounts served faithfully for those early years without any remuneration of any kind, in order to allow the income of the project to stabilize.

Over the years the Society received immeasurable help from the Parksville Lions, the Kinsmen, the Canadian Legion, the Kiwanis, the Natural History Society, the Churches of all denominations and many others in the community.

In November of 2004, plans were drawn up for a 66,013 gross square foot building which consists of a ground level floor that houses 59 complex care residents, 1 respite bed, and 15 secure area residents. The basement, which is also ground entry, contains all of our storage, an education room, our kitchen, and laundry services. Construction started in early 2005.

Construction was completed by fall of 2005 and we started the 'big move' into the new building that could accommodate 75 residents. All 59 residents were moved out of the original Arrowsmith Lodge in October of 2005 and we were quickly filled up by people in need shortly after that.

The dust didn't even get a chance to settle from the much anticipated move into the new lodge before construction began on the original site to be refurbished into a 30 suite Assisted Living site. By the middle of

2006, Cokely Manor had opened its' doors to the community as a residence for elders who were fit to live on their own but unable to maintain a household without supports in place. Cokely Manor offers a suite with a full bathroom and kitchenette, 2 meals per day in a common dining room, light housekeeping, activities, and care as required. Cokely quickly turned into its own little planet where everyone knows everyone and they all help each other through their journeys.

In 2011, Arrowsmith Rest Home Society changed their name to Arrowsmith Health Care (2011) Society. This change was inspired by the vision of the Society to create a 'campus of care' where the *entire* wellbeing of a person who passes through our doors is taken into consideration. The idea was that people could entire our campus through the Adult Day Program, progress to Assisted Living, and then have Complex Care available if needed.

In 2016, BC Housing approved the replacement of Cokely Manors roof system. The project is expected to be worth greater than \$500,000, fully funded by BC Housing.

As well, in 2016, the Foundation had raised enough money through fundraising efforts to create the first 'sensory therapy' room in the Oceanside area. The room is designed to reduce agitation and create a calm environment that gently stimulates all the senses. The idea is well documented to show positive results with dementia. Beautiful new dining room chairs were also provided by the Foundation this year, adding a new and fresh look to all of our dining rooms.

We are a completely subsidized organization. Our funding providers are Vancouver Island Health Authority (Arrowsmith Lodge, Cokely Manor, and the Day Program) and BC Housing (Cokely Manor).