

# UNDER THE BRIDGE

## Newsletter for Last House On The Block Society



## April 2014

### SERENDIPITY STRIKES AGAIN

Last House on the Block Society is a community outreach for persons in recovery from addictions. Our first major project was the Scarf Project aka Santa Under The Bridge. We have a committee of volunteer knitters. They hand knit scarves which we later donate to community organizations to give to their clients as Christmas gifts. The project was started in October of 2013. By Christmas, we had approximately 40 scarves. We were able to help only 2 organizations and 2 events. Our goal for next Christmas is 200 to 300 scarves so that we may help more people.

This has been a particularly long winter with many days and nights of bitter cold. At some point, a good Samaritan took a bag of knitted scarves and taped them to a pole in downtown Halifax. There was a note in the bag saying that the scarves were free for the taking. A photo was taken of this and it was posted on a popular social media site. Someone who knew about our project saw the photo and gave us credit for this act of kindness. However, we did not do it.

News travels fast on the internet. Local media had already contacted us and wanted to do a story on the whole thing. I explained to the reporters that we had no idea who donated those scarves because that's not what we do. I then gave them a summary of what Last House on the Block Society actually does and they decided they wanted to do a story on us. On Monday March 10, there was a 2 and 1/2 minute clip on Live at Five which included both stories in one.

As a result of that interview, Last House on the Block Society acquired six more volunteer knitters and a donation of \$500 from one of our supporters. Our goal for next year now seems within reach.

Nancy, who came up with the idea for the diversity scarves, works for a well-known seniors

organization and they decided to do a story on this for their newsletter. That appeared in the April 2014 issue of Connections. So, the ripples are spreading and what began as a simple idea has become a major contribution to the lives of those less fortunate than us.

This article was written by a volunteer director of Last House on the Block Society. We encourage our readers to submit their own stories or articles. So if you have a story about life under the bridge or on the streets or if you are working or volunteering in this field, we'd like to hear from you. There is no payment for stories, articles, poetry or artwork submitted, however we will provide you with a printed copy of the newsletter.

Submissions should be addressed to:

Last House on the Block Society, 38 Trentonian Lane, Dartmouth, NS B2W 0C4.

You may also email them to us at : [lasthouseontheblock@outlook.com](mailto:lasthouseontheblock@outlook.com)

## So What Do The Scarves Look Like?

The scarves we provide are called diversity scarves. They are made from 3 different colors of wool, from odds and ends and often from discarded balls of wool. The idea is that many who suffer from addiction often feel discarded by society, yet when they break the chains of their addiction and go on the road to recovery they become a creation of warmth and beauty, like the diversity scarf. The three colors also symbolize that no matter what our gender is, or what our drug of choice may have been, it is our diversity that adds to our beauty.

Here are some of Tanya's scarves



These are some of Karen's scarves.



A sample of Christine's scarves



Some scarves from Kim



These are some of Nancy's. Two of these are still in progress, hence the knitting needles.



## How They Are Made

Nancy has provided us with the basic pattern.

You use three different colors of wool all knitted together as one. Thick wool and thin wool can be used together.

Using size 10 knitting needles cast on 20 stitches, in rib of knit one pearl one until scarf is of a length to go from your hip around your neck and down to your other hip. This makes the scarf reversible and nice and thick to keep people warm.

We call it a diversity scarf because it is usually made from odds and ends and discarded bundles (although it can be made from new yarn as well) which when combined, becomes a creation of beauty and warmth. Each scarf is unique and can be worn by any

gender from any fellowship symbolizing that although we are each unique, our diversity only enhances our beauty.

## About Us

Last House on the Block Society is a non-profit organization that provides community outreach and/or information services to men and women in recovery from addictions to alcohol, drugs and gambling.

By directing persons in recovery to treatment services, self-help meetings, life skills, leisure activities, training and employment agencies, and by offering them support and encouragement, we hope to help them build a positive self-image so that they may re-integrate back into society.

Whenever possible, we will donate items of clothing to persons in recovery from addictions.

## Board of Directors

				
Bernie	Larry	Nancy	Heather	Deanna

## How to Contact Us

Our mailing address is:

38 Trentonian Lane, Woodlawn Village, Dartmouth. NS, B2W 0C4

Check out our website:

<http://lasthouseontheblocksociety.weebly.com>

Like our facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/LastHouseOnTheBlockSociety](https://www.facebook.com/LastHouseOnTheBlockSociety)

or become a member of our facebook group:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/lasthouseontheblocksociety](https://www.facebook.com/groups/lasthouseontheblocksociety)

Follow us on Twitter @lasthouseonthebloc

or just send us an email and ask a question:  
[lasthouseontheblock@outlook.com](mailto:lasthouseontheblock@outlook.com)

Submissions for Under The Bridge should be sent to the Editor, either by mail or email to the address above.

## How To Get Involved

There are different ways to help with Last House On The Block Society.

You can donate money or items (as many of you do). Please visit our website for info on how to donate. You can be one of our knitters (if knitting or crocheting is your thing). You can volunteer for fundraising events by getting on the fund-raising committee. Or if you'd like to be directly involved in the decision-making process, you can make application to serve on our voluntary board of directors. Its a two-year term. We currently have 6 board members which is enough to operate the society, although our full complement is 11 board members. If you are in recovery from an addiction, we would prefer one year clean or sober.

This newsletter was compiled, manufactured, and distributed by one of the founding directors of Last House on the Block Society. All costs for publication, printing, and distribution are donated.

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