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## First Responder Referendum

The upcoming vote on Cortes to approve funding for first responder training is a chance for the community to confirm our dedication to improving the quality of life and health on Cortes Island. In time-critical emergencies like cardiac, respiratory or severe allergic reactions minutes are critical. Furthermore, accident sites must be secured and paramedics cannot go to work unless the site is secured and/or the victims have been extricated from crashed vehicles.

Cortes has a dedicated hard working group of paramedics but it takes time to mobilize an ambulance. Only a full crew can respond and this can take 30 minutes or more. First responders can fill this gap known as the “golden hour” in which rescue is most effective. While paramedics cannot drive directly to a site without a fully crewed ambulance first responders can arrive by private vehicle within as little as five minutes with the ability to administer first aid until paramedics take over.

The decision to dispatch first responders is made by the 911 operator depending on the nature and urgency of the call. This decision can make the response time very short and highly effective.

First responders do not compete with the BC Ambulance Service, they complement the ambulance service: they complete the pre-hospital circle of care needed for the best possible outcomes for our islanders.

The CCHA Board urges voters to vote in favour of establishing trained first responders to fill a vital gap in services. The cost is not much. How much is a human life worth?

*Signed by the CCHA Board*

## Drop In Flu Clinic

Wednesday, November 27th  
10:45 am - 12:45 pm  
Manson's Hall

Please bring your CareCard or other government I.D. (valid driver’s license) to the clinic, and remember to wear a short sleeved shirt.



### **Many Thanks to Laura Ellingsen**

*Laura Ellingsen joined the CCHA Board in 2012 and has worked tirelessly to ensure there are after school youth programs and family support available to the Cortes community. Under Laura's watchful eye and sensitivity to the Cortes community, youth programs have expanded to include afterschool activities for ages 6 to 17 including an after school sports program. Not an easy task when programs are funded thru grants and donations.*

*We would like to offer our heart-felt thanks to Laura for all her help. She will be greatly missed.*

#### **CCHA Family and Youth Programs**

**Family Support** – Desta Beattie Co-ordinator. The FSC Program provides support to Cortes Island families directly and through community building.

**CCHA Cougar Sports** - Ages 8 – 15.

**Teen Scene** –Ages 13 -17.

**Adventures in Leadership** – Ages 10 - 12

**Kids in Action** –Ages 6 - 9.

See [www.cortesfamily.ca](http://www.cortesfamily.ca) for more information

#### **Welcome Jodi**

We are happy to welcome our new Youth Program Manager, Jodi Peters to our youth program team. Jodi has been overseeing the coordination and administration of our Youth programs since early spring and is well acquainted with Cortes families. Her assistance is much appreciated.

#### **Thank You to Laurel Bohart**

The staff and Board members of the CCHA would like to extend a big thank you to Laurel Bohart for her many years of work and dedication to the community at the Cove Pharmacy outlet in the Health Centre.

#### **Welcome to Tess Kashetsky**

Laurel has retired from her position and we would like to welcome Tess Kashetsky. She is the new face at the pharmacy.

### **Augmented Home Support is on "Life Support"**

This is a funding appeal.

For the last 6 years CCHA has been able to scrape up the money to provide an Augmented Home Support (AHS) program that seeks to assist persons just out of hospital and our seniors who need some extra help at home to remain on Cortes. This has been very successful for a number of island residents, ensuring that they are able to remain here if they so desire, and not be forced into a move they may not want.

Funding has come from the Grant-in Aid money administered by Noba Anderson, our Regional Director, donations from generous Cortes Islanders, and some Gaming Grant dollars. It costs about \$20,000 a year to provide the service. We have never charged anyone excepting a small co-payment for meals when needed.

The goal has been to get Island Health (IH) to acknowledge that keeping people at home and supported is not only good for the clients but saves IH a great deal of money by reducing hospital admissions and emergency room/ambulance trips. In conjunction with our great doctors at the clinic, a dedicated nursing staff and the community paramedic we have been very successful in both of these objectives. What we have not been able to do is coax the relatively small amount of money needed to run the program from IH. The answer is always that "there is no line item (budget) for this." We continue to press IH for funding in spite of their denials.

Once again, we are asking the community to donate to save this program. This time around there is no "knight in shining armour" to ride in and fund us. Our applications to several foundations for funding have remained unanswered. We have enough money to continue to the end of the year. When that is gone the Augmented Home Support program will be gone.

If you feel that it is important to help seniors stay on Cortes as they age please donate to CCHA to support this program. Your contributions are tax deductible.

Thank you for your consideration.

#### **For Emergencies: Dial 911**

For appointments call  
the Health Centre @ 250-935-6718  
from Monday to Friday

You may also call  
The B.C. Nurse Helpline at 811