



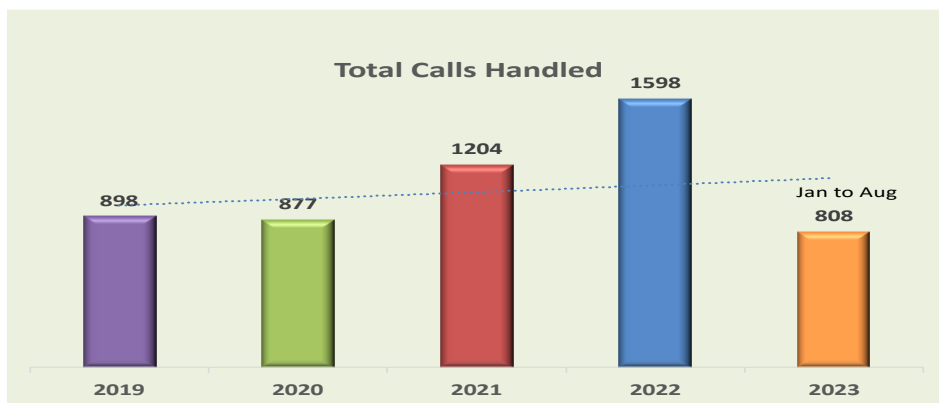
Volunteer Newsletter

Vibes from Vicki



It's been a lovely summer, and time to gear up for the Fall! This means applying for grants, completing our report to Island Health on the RTH Program, giving them stats and success stories, etc. Those successes are due to you, our volunteers and we I can't thank you enough for all your hard work.

The Senior Link Line (and email) has been very active with folks needing information and assistance on 36 different topics. A huge thank you to Christian, one of our board members, for creating this chart to show you how many calls and emails the line receives annually. There is another available on the topics we respond to and if anyone would like to see please send me an email to ed@sssbc.org.



I'd like to highlight the hard work of the Senior Link volunteers: they not only use our Directory to answer these calls but also do their own research to meet the needs of our community!

We have added a Public Relations Committee to SSS headed up by Kirk Schwartz. Some of you may know with his help we have podcast, and you tube channels. Check them out here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGActb1E2Vc> and Podcast: <https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/B87ETtnzmAb>. **Kudos to Kirk for keeping us in the digital presence!!**

Another of our Board Members, Maria Hewitt has come across this fabulous idea and wanted us to share with you. **“It takes a village”** usually refers to the importance of community involvement in raising a child. But as Return to Health and Senior Link volunteers, you have, in effect, become a “village” meeting the needs of those getting back on their feet following a hospital stay. Did you know that there is a growing Village Movement to improve seniors’ ability to remain at home as they age?

As of 2023, more than 250 so-called “Villages” have been established internationally to provide practical and social support to seniors wanting to live independently at home. This grass roots neighbour-to-neighbour model involves connecting isolated and vulnerable seniors with volunteers. Villages are not-for-profit organizations and are funded through membership fees and donations. They operate with minimal overhead and paid staff. The Villages vary in their focus, but many offer social and educational programs, health and wellness activities and volunteer assistance with transportation, light home maintenance, and technology coaching.

If you want to learn more, go to [Village to Village Network](#) the website of an organization that offers information, guidance and support to Villages and those wishing to develop one.

Lane’s Volunteer/Education Coordinator’s Report



It’s been a busy time for our volunteers, we have had 30 new clients coming on, while also supporting our existing clients. This has kept our volunteers hopping! The summer picnic was full of fun and good food; several of our board members, volunteers and staff played “speed dating” to get to know each other. It was so nice to have fun together and to celebrate the work we do.

I have also been busy working on the training for the Wellness Navigator Volunteer Coaches to take place in October as well as giving presentations in the community about the RTH program.

If this role interests you please reach out to me at education@sssbc.org

Every day I see the impact of our work and I am humbled by the opportunity to take part in such a wonderful program with such a great team. Thank you!



Appreciation



Your work is extremely impactful to our clients. Here are some comments we have recently received “*they (volunteers) are very very good, so excellent! This program is very beneficial to seniors! D. and C. are so kind, very nice and gentle, very helpful, they bring me for groceries as well! They bring me to visit my husband.*”

I. was spoken of very highly by her client; he was grateful for the wonderful conversations and grateful for the ride and company.



James' RTH Coordinator Report

I would like to concur, that it does takes a village to support our seniors. I am grateful for the individuals who volunteer their time providing leadership, and compassion, while serving the seniors of our community. There are so many individuals who work and give of their time to enhance the lives of the seniors in our community. With everyone pulling together we can collectively provide the supports and services to those who need it. It was nice to meet so many of the volunteers in person over the summer of 2023.

Firstly, it was the Annual General Meeting where volunteers and members of Seniors Serving Seniors organization came together to support the Board of Directors of Seniors Serving Seniors organization. I am witnessing firsthand how many people it takes to truly support the seniors in our communities. There have been so many individuals who have provided compassion, leadership, and guidance to get us to where we are today. So many hands continue to work together to build a better community for our seniors.

It was a pleasure to meet many other volunteers at our picnic at Gorge Park. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet in person the individuals who give their time and expertise to support the seniors. Thank you all for your continued support.

