

news



WARREN HENDERSON/CAPITAL NEWS

Students from Heritage Christian School join the Stitches and Stories group to do some pre-Christmas knitting at Regency Northwood Retirement Resort in Kelowna. Some of the knitters on Tuesday morning were (left to right) Lorraine Austin, Talei Cama Moroka, Alice Lundy, Annie Robideau and Mary Lumsden.

Friendships tied up over knitting needles

Ladies at the Regency Northwood Retirement Resort expanded their knitting group with some unusual newcomers this year when teens from Heritage Christian School joined them.

The students had come to the retirement home in previous years to sing Christmas carols. This year they wanted to make a more personal connection with the seniors.

Delayne Cama Moroka, mom to two of the high school girls, said just singing to the seniors wasn't satisfying the students' nor the seniors' needs.

"They had been wanting to hook up with the ladies there for quite some time," Cama Moroka said of her daughters, Moana, 16, and Talei, 15.

The girls, along with several others from their school, had taken

up knitting to learn the traditional skill.

When they asked if they could join in the knitting group, the ladies were delighted.

Calling themselves Stitches and Stories, the group of about a dozen seniors always donate their knitted items—this year to the Society of Hope.

"The greatest thing is that I get to talk to them now," the girls said.

Kelowna woman killed in Highway 97 head-on collision

The BC Coroners Service has confirmed the identity of a woman who died after a motor vehicle incident near Kelowna on Dec. 20, 2014.

Frances Marie Strocher, aged 48, of Kelowna, was the driver and sole occupant of a car heading southbound on Highway 97 at about 12:50 p.m. on Dec. 20 when the car was in a head-on

collision with a semi-tractor-trailer unit near Duck (Ellison) Lake.

Strocher was deceased at the scene. The BC Coroners Service and RCMP Traffic Services continue to investigate. The accident closed Highway 97 for more than three hours on Saturday as RCMP, fire and ambulance officials responded.

DRUNK DRIVING

Curbing a dangerous habit

According to a Dec. 22 news report, a Salmon Arm man stumbled out of a pub, tripped over a curb and walked into a tree before getting into his car and taking off.

It was by the "grace of God," if you're into that belief system, that the drunken escapade ended with the drunk being the only victim of a single vehicle crash.

The Salmon Arm drunk is the tip of a very large iceberg. How large? A Ministry of Justice report available online indicates that British Columbia police forces are issuing approximately 2,500 alcohol or drug-related roadside prohibitions per month.

For every prohibition issued, an estimated 75 drunk drivers go undetected. My calculator tells me that's a total of approximately 187,500 drunk drivers per month.

It's not all doom and

Achieving Justice

PAUL HERGOTT



6096. We owe a debt of gratitude as well to the many volunteers of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the important work they do.

gloom. Good people are doing good things to help us stem the tide of resulting tragedies.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Paul Nesbitt and his team of "Designated Driver Dads," who have been helping to get our young adult children home from the bars in Kelowna since 2009. What community heroes.

They volunteer their time during the wee hours of the weekends (1 a.m. to 3 a.m. every Friday and Saturday), helping keep our roads safe. Pick up the phone and give him and his team for their amazing contribution: 250-862-

Clearly though, the statistics reflect how the important efforts of these good people are not enough.

What if each of us took a step forward with our own, small, contribution?

I am not talking about a financial donation, nor about joining Paul Nesbitt and his team of generous volunteers. I am talking about the smallest of steps that requires nothing more than a bit of awareness and courage.

Impaired driving is all around us. Instead of turning a blind eye this holiday season, speak up for road safety.

Yes, it takes courage to challenge a friend, your mom or dad, a son or daughter.

Have the discussion before judgment becomes impaired with alcohol. Bring up the subject of "getting home" at the beginning, rather than the end of the night.

Help our police officers. MADD has been promoting their "Project Red Ribbon," which includes a commitment to report suspected impaired drivers to the police.

It is an important commitment that could save an innocent pedestrian or motorist from a lifetime of injury consequences, or death.

If each of us takes one small step forward, together we will make a real difference.

I wish all of you a safe holiday season, and wish all of us a change in driving attitudes that carries into 2015.

Paul Hergott is a West Kelowna lawyer with Hergott Law.

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