



For Immediate Release

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**Christmas cards made by community on Bowen Island for seniors in retirement homes for the holiday season**

Vancouver, BC -- The COVID-19 pandemic means many people are going to spend the holiday season without their friends and families. The feeling of loneliness and isolation is going to be especially heightened amongst the seniors in retirement homes in the coming days. In an effort to alleviate this and bring some joy to the seniors, BCSLA has teamed up with the community from Bowen Island which was initiated by Ann-Marie Delawsky and her family who created their own Christmas cards to distribute to seniors.

The Christmas cards were made by Ann-Marie and others as an effort to bring smiles to the seniors in care homes during this difficult time. “I get full eyes instantly when I think of isolated seniors. It has been such a hard year for care homes, the seniors, their families, staff, and the medical teams. I just want everyone to know they are being thought of all the time,” said Ann-Marie Delawsky, a resident of Bowen Island. “Both my parents are 85 and I’m usually with them on Vancouver Island at Christmas, but not this year. My thoughts are with the seniors at this time.”

Over 300 Christmas cards were given to Executive Director, Ava Turner at George Derby Care Society/Derby Manor Independent Living and General Manager, Michael Traquair at Mulberry PARC.

“Thank you for constant support to all the Residents and Staff Derby Manor. Your thoughtfulness helps us to spread Christmas joy among our residents. Thank you Ann-Marie Delawsky who initiated this with her family and the community from Bowen Island. Your gift is greatly appreciated.” said Ava Turner, Executive Director at George Derby Care Society.

“We are deeply touched and grateful for the time and caring thoughts expressed by each individual in creating these beautiful Christmas cards for our residents at Mulberry. Our plan is to deliver a card to each resident in our Christmas stocking which will bring great joy to them at a difficult time for many. It is during these unprecedented times, that these kind thoughts and deeds touch each one of us and warm our resident’s hearts.” said Michael Traquair, General Manager at Mulberry PARC.



**About BC Seniors Living Association:**

BC Seniors Living Association is a voluntary, membership-driven organization dedicated to being a valuable source for member development, education and growth. The organization works to promote and protect the best interests of its members in BC. The four cornerstones of BCSLA is actively advocating, educating, mediating and celebrating retirement communities and their residents. For more information, please visit our website: [www.bcsla.ca/](http://www.bcsla.ca/)

Social Media:

Twitter: @BCSeniorsLiving, Facebook: BC Seniors Living Association

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