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## PENINSULA NEWS REVIEW

### Electronic guy will do 'whatever they need'

By Christine van Reeuyk - Peninsula News Review

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If you have plenty, you should always give plenty, that's how Bill Dean sees the world.

"I've been doing the burial society for about 25 years, in Calgary and here," he explained.

"I've always been a volunteer. My wife doesn't like me underfoot," the Sidney grandfather added with a chuckle. "I feel everybody should give something. I'm not financially very rich so I can give time and that's the main thing."

He's been giving of his time and expertise for years, with Beacon Community Services, BC Aviation Museum and at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital. Last Wednesday, he was honoured for that work with a Hearts of the Community award for overall service to the community. The awards, put on by the Peninsula News Review and Beacon Community Services, were handed out in a sold-out free event at the Mary Winspear Centre.

"While I'm active I volunteer. I get an enjoyment out of it and I hope I bring enjoyment to other people too," Dean said. "Everybody needs help in some form or other. It gives you inner self satisfaction. You can help somebody."

He's the relief guy at the aviation museum, but has a scheduled shift at the BCS thrift store. "I've been there since it's opened, six years now I think it is, and I do a regular shift Monday and Wednesday," Dean said. Though he's there nearly every day, repairing electronics.

"I started about 25 years ago with the Jewish burial society, doing traffic control and all the things that go with funerals."

He moved here in 1997 and continued with the chevra kadisha or Jewish burial. He found no difficulties adding to those volunteer services. "People always want volunteers," he said.

At Allegro Performing Arts centre he's everything from ticket-taker to janitor.



Volunteer Bill Dean works the counter at the Aviation Museum when he's not at the Beacon Community Services Thrift Shop.  
Christine van Reeuyk/News Staff

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"Whatever they need me to do," Dean said. "You don't do one specific job when you volunteer, you do whatever they can put you to work at."

"I think everybody should do it. Even my granddaughter volunteers at the hospital," he said. No one's ever asked him why he volunteers, and Dean took a moment to think about it. "It's just something I've always done and I like doing it."

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