



For Immediate Release: July 30, 2009

At Age 78, West Vancouver Resident to Attend his 31st Vancouver Pride Parade - Against The Odds -

Vancouver, BC – Vancouver's Pride Parade is Sunday, August 2nd. The streets will be lined with hundreds of thousands of people, many of them young and enjoying the prime of their lives. Bob, age 78, will also be there, attending his 31st Pride Parade. Although the first parade was small and the date is fuzzy in his memory, Bob remembers its grand procession from English Bay to Stanley Park.



Bob's attendance this year will be noteworthy. A study from the University of Toronto shows that the statistics are staggeringly against the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgendered) community later in life when it comes to health care options and quality of life opportunities. 75% live alone (versus 33% non LGBT), 90% have no children (vs 20%), and 80% are single. Recent reports out of Chicago claim that lesbians and gays over 65 are twice as likely to live alone and 10 times less likely to have a caretaker if they get ill. All of these statistics point to a challenging process of LGBT aging, increasingly alone and unsupported.

Until November 2008, Bob was the exception to the majority of LGBT. He and his partner of 58 years lived together in their own home and enjoyed a busy, self-directed life. After the death of his partner Jim, however Bob was on his own. His West Vancouver home had become difficult to manage, there were no children to assist him, only one niece, and just a few friends remaining in his peer group. Bob's active lifestyle of outings and travelling seemed to be coming to a standstill.

Bob reached out for help. He called a Vancouver source of PRIDE, Plum Living Home Health Care Services. Plum Living is Vancouver's only organization to offer home care, personal support, and nursing care specifically intended for the LGBT community. Bob needed their service for everything from changing the light bulbs to cleaning to outings to rallying a support team to keep him in his own home. And, this weekend, a member of the Plum Living team will help him get a front row seat at the Pride Parade.

"There is no way I would be here in my home today without them (Plum Living), and I sure wouldn't be going to the parade," says Bob.

"Plum Living offers unique options for members of the LGBT community in Metro Vancouver. No longer should factors such as societal prejudice, lack of education for health care professionals on LGBT issues, and reluctance to openly communicate issues of sexual orientation or gender identity be barriers to health care and quality of life," says Dean Malone, CEO of Plum Living. "For us every day is a privilege to be able to provide care for members of our community."

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Plum Living Properties & Health Services Inc. is a Vancouver-based company that provides *outstanding* and unprecedented home health care services specifically intended for the LGBT community, our friends, and families.

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