

dream



Tri Cities

what's happening

2026 January Edition
Prepared by Colleen Penrowley



Message from our Presidents, by Shari Workman

2026 is shaping up to be an exciting year! If you are a fan of sport, you will be glued to the TV watching our Canadian athletes compete for Gold at the winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina, Italy in February.

Coincidentally, 2026 is the 50th anniversary of Canada hosting its first Olympics in Montreal in 1976.

It is the 25th anniversary of Chris Hadfield's first spacewalk. Chris and I (Shari) were born in the same city, so I feel a connection to this one.

Those of you with veterans in the family may know it is the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Speaking of anniversaries, 2026 will mark the 100th anniversary of SI Vancouver, which was the first chartered club in Canada in 1926. We will celebrate at our Western Canada Region Conference from April 23 to April 26 in Richmond. We hope many of you can attend this momentous occasion.

The Chinese New Year animal for 2026 is the Horse, specifically the Fire Horse, beginning on February 17, 2026, following the Year of the Snake (2025) and preceding the Year of the Goat (2027).

The Horse symbolizes strength, talent, and freedom while the Fire element adds enthusiasm and energy, making it a year of potential transformation.

I (Shari) was born in the year of the Fire Horse, so I am hoping for great things in 2026!

As always, Megan and I wish to thank you for all that you do in making SITC the amazing club that it is.

Wishing you health and happiness,

Shari and Megan

Your Executive They're here to serve you!

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Past Presidents

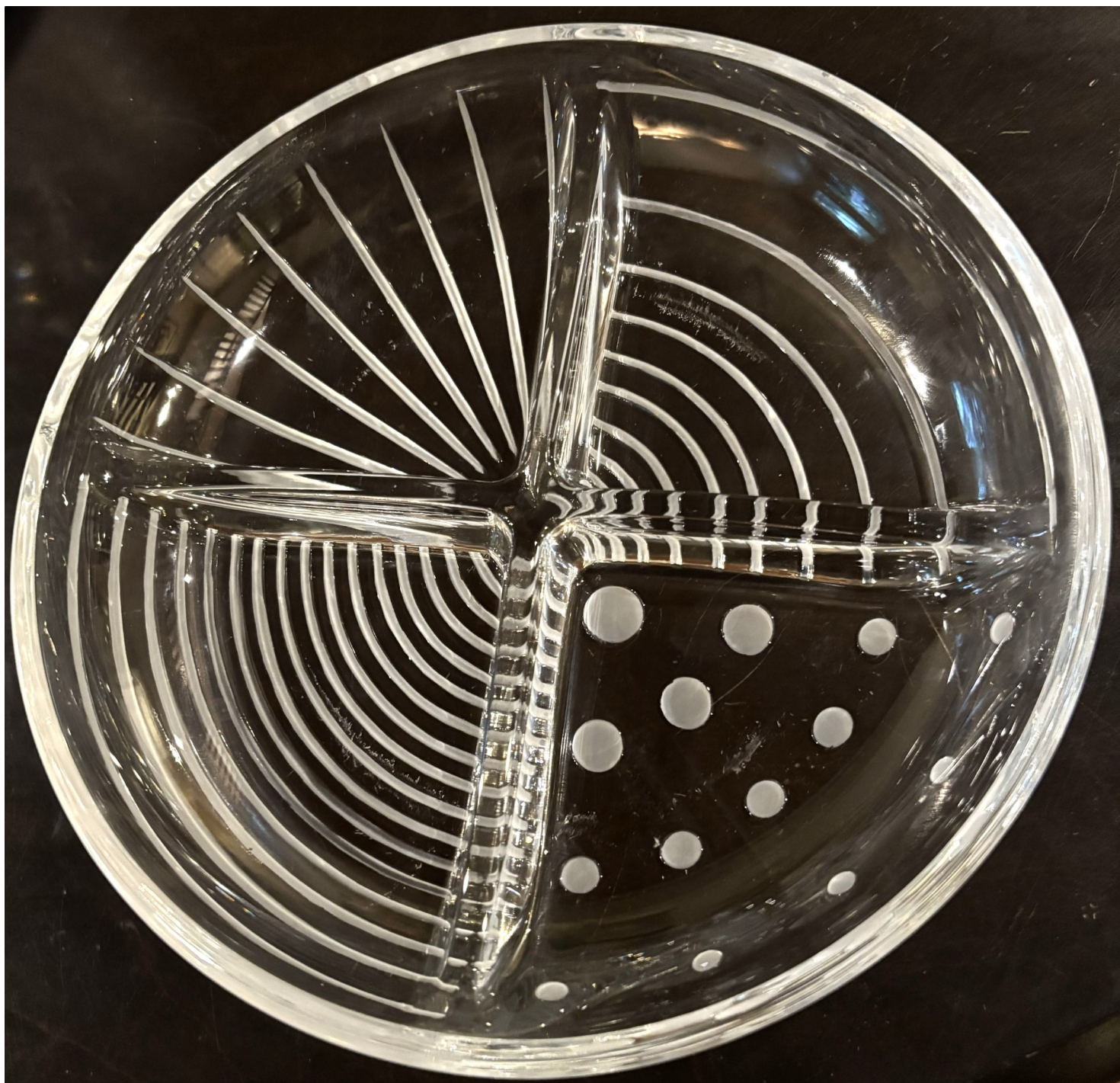
January Birthdays

Darlene McCann—January 12

Kristina Chung—January 24

Cindy Paddington—January 28

is this your dish?



Janice would like to get it back to its owner!

upcoming

JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 SITC meeting	8 Warm Place sponsorship & gala mtgs	9	10 BK Donation Day
11	12	13	14	15 LYD deadline	16	17
18	19	20 SITC social	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 SITC Meeting	5 Warm Place	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 SITC Social	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

awards

Submitted by Nancy McCurrach

The countdown is on!

The deadline for **Live Your Dream and Club Award applications** is **January 15, 2026**. This deadline applies to all awards combined, so we encourage everyone to submit their applications soon, and for club members to please share social media posts.

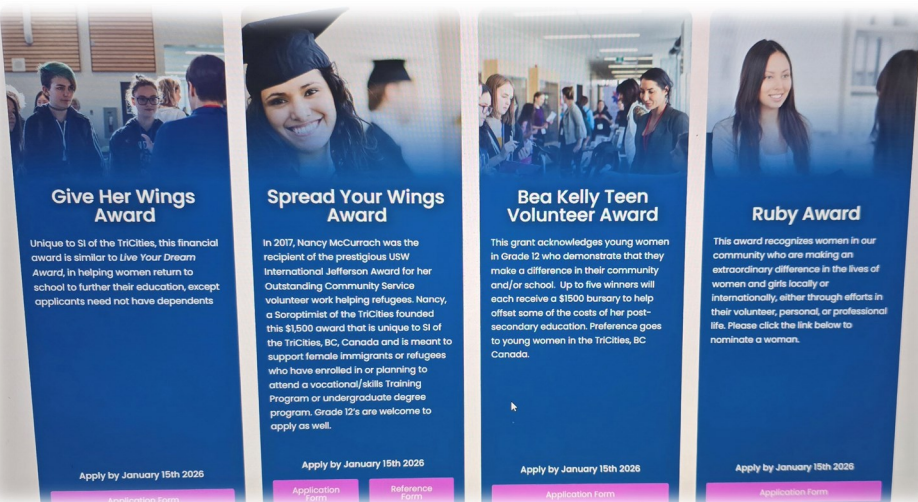
Applications received to date:

- Five Live Your Dream Award applications (*Three to be selected*)
- Five Bea Kelly Volunteer Award applications (*Five to be selected*)
- One Spread Your Wings Award application (*One to be selected*)
- Zero Ruby Award applications (*One to be selected*)
- Zero Give Her Wings Award applications (*One to be selected*)



While we are grateful for the strong response so far, we are still looking for additional candidates and hope to receive a full range of nominations. Please continue to share our social media ads and posters throughout the **Tri-Cities** to help spread the word.

Nav and Nancy are also grateful for the help of our new Awards Committee members. Please join us in giving a warm welcome to **Joan Turner, Lora Covinha, and Cindy Pattington**.



Thank you for your continued support.
Warm regards and **Happy New Year!**

Your Award Co-Chairs,
Nancy and Nav
Awards Committee



bea's kloset

Submitted by Linda Kozina & Darlene McCann

Darlene and I assisted a woman on Friday. Just an ordinary tired stressed looking woman coming in to shop for two teens, but the shop was anything but ordinary. We will name her "Trish" for this recount of our extraordinary encounter.

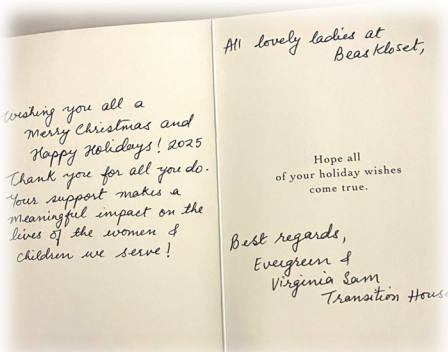
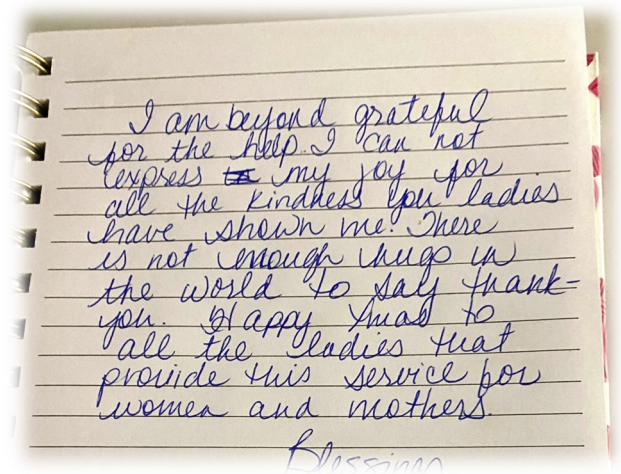
She was so grateful for the quilts we gave each of her teens, particularly for her autistic son, the teddy bear she said would be loved by her teen son. A little teary when she realized the quilts were home made, thank you Dogwood quilters. Trish said she loves homemade anything, so she went home with Christmas chat mats and placemats that matched her dishes.

She selected her dishes, cutlery and pots and pans with minimal interest. But when Darlene gave her a new crock pot, she stood straighter and we saw enthusiasm in her whole body. She had never owned a crockpot and was amazed by the meals she could prepare in one pot. Could she bake a cake? Could she make banana bread? Spaghetti sauce? Darlene told her how to make spareribs with CocaCola. I was thinking "why" but they were both excited about that combination.

There are times when these visits are routine. We know the many hours and efforts that the team put into volunteering, receiving and sorting items, stocking shelves and helping roll out everything to a car. And sometimes the appreciation isn't shown. It was, however, a joy to serve Trish who cried when we asked for payment - a hug. The next day Darlene and I still marvelled at the impact she made on us. I wanted to check for a crockpot recipe book for her.

Merry Christmas everyone. Know that our efforts, compassion and understanding do make a huge difference for women and their families.

With grace and gratitude,
thank you for all you do within our communities,
Darlene, Joanne and the scribe, Linda.



More for the BK newsletter...

It has been another busy month at Bea's Kloset with us helping 22 Moms and 24 Children.. Food Link Society continues to bless us with beautiful items for clients. In December alone they have filled Soroptimister Dave's cargo trailer twice.

A shout out to Julie who has been working hard sorting linens, emp-

tying boxes and organizing shelves before she leaves us for 6 months. She will come back to us in June as a new Grandma. We can't wait for pictures Julie and early congratulations from all of us.

We have introduced a new referral form to our referral sources that will help us get to know how clients better. Janice and Darlene met with a Program Manager with EFry who helped us with the content. It will help us when we apply for grants etc. to be able to give them the demographic's of our clients.

Happy New Year to you all and thank you for all you do to support Bea's Kloset.
Darlene and Joanne



Client Information Referral Form

Referring Agency _____

Referred By _____ Contact Phone _____

Client's First Name _____

How long have you known your client? _____

Is the client the primary provider for their household? If not, please specify.

What is the client's most recent housing situation? _____

Please tick what Bea's Kloset Mandate your client meets.

Domestic Violence _____

Ageing out of Foster Care _____

Homeless _____

Recovery House _____

Prison _____

Youth Agreement _____



warm place for women

Submitted by Nancy McCurrach

What a warm and welcoming night at Warm Place for Women. Thanks to the incredible volunteers from Soroptimist International of the Tri Cities, we served 69 women and 69 children, supported by 17 dedicated volunteers. Warm Place is a monthly social evening for women in need in the Tri-Cities. Thank you to all our guests for pre-registering, as it helped us plan for the evening.

The room was filled with joy as we celebrated the Christmas season—and even a fellow in a red suit stopped by to surprise the children!

Heartfelt thanks to our sponsors and partners:



- Aspiria Astoria Retirement Residence for the full turkey dinner, led by Chef Louis
- Pacific Coast Terminals for sponsoring gifts for every child
- Dale, (Karen's husband) for the festive saxophone music
- Darcel for sharing the great work of Share Family Services
- Toni Hawley for a special holiday gift for all adults
- Kinsmen Club of Port Coquitlam for providing the hall.
- Club members. Brenda and Joan for leading the “free room,” where children picked and wrapped a gift for their moms



Everyone left with a full belly. One of our lovely guests who has now come twice, lives alone and shared that she is very lonely and THIS was her Christmas! Our Hearts Are Full!



talitha koum

Submitted by Angela Cullen

Hoping all is well!
Just to update you.

Donna, Nancy and I did the session with the TK Ladies last month. We had 10 Ladies, 4 were sick and could not attend.

Donna led the ladies in making beautiful Christmas cards while they listened to Christmas music. Some addressed the envelopes and I mailed them to their families.

While this was happening, Nancy and I prepped the sugar cookie dough and the ladies used cookie cutters and baked many trays of cookie!

After the cookies cooled down and after their smoke break we decorated the cookies. They had fun!! At the end we all sat down to enjoy a Christmas Tea Party!

It was a great and spirited session!



gala, donations

Submitted by Renee Chadwick

Awards Gala

Mark your calendars for Thursday April 9th as we host the Roaring 20's Awards Gala. The annual fundraiser will be held at the Port Coquitlam Recreation Centre. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year so we will be leaning on our members to help in soliciting donations for the silent auction, gathering your friends and family and purchase tickets, and/or help on the day. It will take a club to make this a memorable evening. Stay tuned for future updates as our committee continues to plan.

Sponsorship and Donations

Do you know of a business we need to talk to in order for them to become a sponsor or partners with us. Please contact Renee Chadwick at reenechadwick61@gmail.com and provide contact information and she will follow up with an email, set up a meeting and provide the opportunities for them to get involved. A sponsor package will be provided to all who have reached out.

Community Chairs please be reminded that all donations whether big or small should be communicated to Meaghan Relkie. It is very important we do so in order for them to be recognized and acknowledged through the club.

pursonality

Submitted by Alison Berg as an email to club members, edited by Colleen

Hello wonderful Soroptimists!

Thank you so much for making the Pursonality Project such a success!

In total, we donated about 80 filled purses!

6 to the moms of the families the club sponsors at Christmas

14 to Bea's Kloset

60 to Elizabeth Fry Society (some will go to the women who utilize their drop-in programs, and some to the homeless women Samantha works with.)

I've included a few photos: one of Samantha Doucette from Elizabeth Fry and a few of the purses on my treadmill (Oh darn, another week of non-use), the baskets going to Bea's Kloset, and to our sponsored families!

Thanks to you and your friends for making this possible.



And from Daniela Hammond. I thought that the efforts of Rowena List (who used to be a Soroptimist member) should be noted for the Pursonality Project. She had a ladies gathering and collected all these purses:



thanking our sponsors

Submitted by Renee Chadwick

An Evening of Gratitude and Inspiration

Soroptimist International of the Tri Cities proudly hosted this evening on Wednesday, November 8th 2025 to celebrate and thank our generous sponsors and donors who make the club's ongoing programs possible. The evening was held at the Gathering Place in Port Coquitlam featuring refreshments and an assortment of finger foods as a small token of gratitude for the continued support of our mission.

The event provided a meaningful opportunity for connection and conversation, allowing sponsors and members to network, share ideas, and learn how others have supported the club's work in empowering women and girls. Guests gained insight into the impact of their

sponsorship dollars while building relationships with fellow supporters who share a commitment to service and community involvement.

We are always grateful for the generosity and partnership of our sponsors, whose contributions help sustain and grow programs that make a lasting difference in our community.



chamber events

Submitted by Joan Seaton

Happy New Year Hope everyone had a good holiday season, and you are looking forward to a great 2026.

Soroptimist International of the Tri Cities is a member of the Tri Cities Chamber of Commerce. This means that we are able to attend any Chamber event at the member price. Here are the Chamber events for January.

January 15 WiB Ring in the New Year 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

The Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business is thrilled to welcome the New Year with an evening of connection, inspiration, and celebration! Join us at the newly opened Milestones Fraser Bar Speakeasy in Coquitlam—where prohibition-era charm meets modern mixology and shareable bites. Enjoy an evening of networking, delicious appetizers, and refreshing cocktails as you connect with fellow women entrepreneurs and professionals.

Location - Milestones Fraser Bar, 2745 Barnet Highway, Coquitlam

Pricing : Member - \$75 + GST



January 28 Welcome to the Chamber Session 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Are you curious about what your membership includes? Join our welcome session to discover all the amazing benefits waiting for you! From exclusive discounts and offers to building connections through our network, we have everything you need to help you make the most of your membership. Our team will be on hand to answer any questions you may have and provide you with all the information you need

to get started. Don't miss this opportunity to unlock your full potential and experience all the perks of being a member. Sign up now and let's get started!

Location Chamber of Commerce Chamber Boardroom, #205 - 2773 Barnet Hiway

Save your money and help our business community flourish by choosing to #ShopChamber! Shop-Chamber is the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce's exclusive member-to-member discount program. Go to the Chamber website for a complete list of businesses participating in this program.

If you wish to be on the Chamber's mailing list, just go to the website and request to be put on the mailing list.

For more information and to register for any event, please go to the Chamber website.

If you have a problem, please contact me. joan@barrieseaton.com

