

ASHNOLA AT THE CROSSING IN KEREMEOS.



By Lenora A. Hayman

It was a pleasure on Fri. 22nd June 2018, to join a happy group of supporters, on a 4hr bus trip, from Vancouver to Keremeos, to celebrate the one year anniversary of Ashnola at the Crossing.

Originally The Crossing at Keremeos opened in January 2009 and was BC's first and only long-term residential addictions treatment centre for boys and girls, 17 -24 years old. It was closed in March 2015, but thanks to the Central City Foundation, Pacific Community Resources Society, Provincial Health Services Authority and BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services, it was reopened as Ashnola at the Crossing in March 2017.

The Central City Foundation bought 58 acres, in the countryside, at 3865 Highway #3 Keremeos, about 55km southwest of Penticton. The Central City Foundation owns Ashnola at the Crossing, but provides it rent-free to PHSA and BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services (BCMHSUS), who fund this worthwhile program.

The beautiful cabins have 22 beds and there are 20 members of staff. There is a workshop, a school classroom, supervised by 3 teachers, spacious living rooms and a vegetable garden. An excellent kitchen under Chef Kirsten Steele and staff, provided us with



delicious appetizers, such as bison with Saskatoon berry glaze, scallops, dragon fruit, lychee nuts and wonderful home-made ice coffee!

The youth stay from 3 to 6 months to regain their health, develop self-esteem, self-respect, and also gain skills and a good work ethic to finish high school and become employable and reconcile with their families.

Best wishes everyone for continued success with this worthy facility.



Photos:

TOP LEFT: Alex Terbasket & Michelle Shaw.
TOP RIGHT: Manfred Bauer, Jennifer Johnstone, Lynn Pelletier, Ingrid Kastens, Connie Coniglio & Steve Esau.
BOTTOM LEFT: Monique Painchaud, Jeffrey Jung & Lenora Hayman
BOTTOM RIGHT: Jennifer Johnstone, Lynn Pelletier, Connie Coniglio, Christianne Kearns, Eliza Terbasket & Coola Louis.