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From despair to dignity

In Rwanda, a bustling clinic propels women's recovery from rape, effects of genocide



SARAH PETRESCU
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KIGALI, Rwanda

Dozens of women chatted while toddlers played and babies cried in the waiting room at the downtown Kigali health clinic run by the U.S.-based Women's Equity to Access for Care and Treatment, or WE-ACTx.

The bustling, cheery atmosphere of the clinic contrasts with the grim reason it exists — to bring treatment and dignity to women raped and infected with the HIV virus during the country's 1994 genocide.

"We see about 100 patients every day at this clinic," said Joseph Hakizimana, 29, the organization's country clinical co-ordinator and one of its founding employees. With three clinics and two mobile units, they serve almost 5,000, nearly half of those receiving free, life-saving, anti-retroviral medication. "We can still do more, especially in the rural areas where women and men don't even know to get tested."

Hakizimana is passionate about community-driven action in addressing HIV/AIDS in Rwanda. He will be in Victoria this week to speak about the power of grassroots women's organizations in creating access to care and treatment of HIV/AIDS, a pandemic that affects all of Africa.

"Because of a lack of doctors, nurses, infrastructure and the aid organizations who concentrate themselves in cities, many people are not being reached," Hakizimana said.

Hakizimana was a high school student in Butare during the 1994 genocide, in which 800,000 people were killed in 100 days, and 250,000 brutal rapes occurred. The trauma and the aftermath moved him to study nursing at university and to volunteer to work with his mother's organization IMBABAZI, helping AIDS orphans and widows in the rural Cyangugu province, the farthest from Kigali.

"I loved it. That was a huge motivator for me," said Hakizimana.

His ensuing work with genocide-survivor groups led him to become one of WE-ACTx's first employees in 2004.

The organization formed after American journalist Anne-Christine D'Adesky was contacted by a group of Rwandan women who were raped and infected with HIV during the genocide. They were dying while the men who raped them were being treated in jail awaiting trial.

> See **DIGNITY**, Page D7



PHOTOS BY SARAH PETRESCU

Above: Friends Maria Bahizi, left, and Miriam Jean work on colourful items for sale at the We-ACTx clinic in Kigali. The work initiative is a project of the clinic that helps women dealing with HIV.

Left: Joseph Hakizimana, the manager of the We-ACTx clinic, has been working to help women with HIV since the Rwandan genocide in 1994. He will be in Victoria April 23 to talk about his work.

KIGALI STORY TOLD IN VICTORIA

There are two opportunities on Wednesday to hear Joseph Hakizimana's talk, The Power of Women's Grassroots Organizations in Creating Universal Access to Care and Treatment, about his work with the Kigali health clinic and HIV/AIDS in Rwanda:

■ at 10:30 a.m., in the David Strong Building (Room C126) at the University of Victoria and

■ at 7:30 p.m., in Gibson Auditorium (Young 216) at Camosun College. Admission is by donation.



INSIDE MONITOR

Good — if aged — sports

The Major finds that time has taken its toll on the finest athletes of his generation at the club in Major's Corner this week.

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Seven Days in pictures

Soldiers and sailors ship out, and a fugitive is captured — we look back at the most striking images of the past week.

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Rise of the virtual prowlers

Whether you're posting vacation photos on Facebook or paying bills online, your life is becoming an open book to cyber snoops.

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TIMES150th ANNIVERSARY1858-2008COLONIST

RWANDA CLINIC HAS VICTORIA CONNECTION



Joseph Hakizimana, 29, is the country clinical programs co-ordinator for Women's Equity to Access for Care and Treatment in Kigali, Rwanda. The organization was formed in 2004 when three American women discovered that HIV-positive men in prisons were receiving life-extending treatment, while the women they raped during the genocide were not. Hakizimana will be in Victoria this week to talk about grassroots HIV/AIDS organizations in the aftermath of genocide. In today's Monitor section, Times Colonist reporter Sarah Petrescu writes about her visit to Hakizimana's clinic in Rwanda in February in the second instalment of stories from her Jack Webster Foundation's Seeing the World Through New Eyes fellowship program, a partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency. She also writes about the friendship that developed between one of the clients at the clinic and a Victoria woman and how letters they wrote to each other helped them each to cope with the effects of being HIV-positive and to become leaders in their respective communities. Monitor, D1.

Island records fall with late-April snow

Victoria's old mark was set in 1955; several are injured

JEFF BELL
Times Colonist

All of that April snow yesterday was more than surprising; it was record-setting.

David Wray of Environment Canada said accumulations at Victoria International Airport reached 6.4 centimetres by 11 a.m. — more than any April day since 1940.

"The last record for Victoria International was 1955 on April 14, and that was 5.1 centimetres."

But the big record dump came in Nanaimo, where the city hadn't seen measurable snow on April 19 since 1947. As of 11 a.m., 24 centimetres covered the ground at the airport.

"The previous record for Nanaimo airport was 1981, April 12, with 4.9 centimetres. So this was quite significant."

On the Malahat, heavy overnight snow prompted the RCMP to close the highway for about an hour and a half early yesterday. Still, icy Malahat conditions around mid-morning led to at least a pair of accidents, one near the top of the Bamberton hill involving two



Firefighters and paramedics assist the victim of an accident yesterday morning on the Malahat near Tunnel Hill.

pickup trucks.

Three people were believed to have been taken to hospital.

There was also a run of accidents on snow-covered roads around Greater Victoria — where accumulations ranged from heavy to non-existent, depending on the area. One morning crash involved three vehicles at the bottom of an icy Marigold Road hill, near Interurban Road.

The short, steep hill was so treacherous that emergency personnel kept its ambulance at the top and wheeled a stretcher down to the crash site. One person was taken to hospital, said Saanich Fire

Department Capt. Kevin Shields, but all injuries appeared to be fairly minor.

Keeping the ambulance off the hill was the best approach to take, Shields said.

"They would have been involved in the accident if they tried to make that hill, it was nasty."

The heavy mid-morning snow kept crews extremely busy, he said.

"There were three different units at three different accidents at pretty well the same time."

Yesterday's accumulations prompted Saanich police to issue an advisory that

motorists travel only if necessary.

Blame the snow, at least in part, on an arctic front that found its way to the Island.

Wray said the bulk of the flurries had eased off by mid-afternoon, and temperatures had risen a fair amount.

"It's still several degrees below normal for this time of year. Victoria's normal temperatures are lows of plus-5 and highs of 14."

Environment Canada's forecast called for clouds and sun today, along with a 60 per cent chance of flurries or rain. The high temperature today is expected to be around 7 C.

Similar conditions are called for in Nanaimo.

On the other side of the Rockies, as much as 15 centimetres fell on Calgary, just as residents were trying to dig out from Friday's big drop. Blizzard conditions were forecast into today across much of Alberta as a storm moved north from Montana. Saskatchewan residents, meanwhile, were expecting as much as 50 centimetres of snow by this morning.

In contrast, Ontario residents were facing a smog warning as a heat wave swept across the south and eastern parts of the province, with temperatures as high as 24 C.

Sewage tax hikes could exceed \$700

Oak Bay residents would pay most, Langford least in new annual fees

ROB SHAW
Times Colonist

Treating Greater Victoria's sewage will cost residents as much as \$700 a year in extra taxes, according to new estimates by the Capital Regional District, and some municipalities are already warning the costs seem too high to bear.

The hardest hit is Oak Bay, where average homeowners can expect to shell out \$712.98 in additional annual taxes by 2017, when the entire sewage treatment system is projected to be online.

Langford residents are forecast to pay the least, \$157.49 annually, followed by \$197.81 in Colwood, \$408.45 in Esquimalt, \$430.88 in View Royal, \$464.85 in Victoria and \$471.12 in Saanich.

"It's an astounding figure," said Oak Bay Coun. Nils Jensen, who noted his community will also be paying \$10.7 million to upgrade the old combined sewer system in Uplands. "We are going to take a double hit."

COST OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PER AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD, BY 2017 (Potential cost per year)	
Colwood	\$197.81
Esquimalt	408.45
Langford	157.49
Oak Bay	712.98
Saanich	471.12
Victoria	464.85
View Royal	430.88

SOURCE: CRD

The estimates are the most detailed look yet at how a planned \$1.2-billion sewage treatment system — the most expensive project ever undertaken in the CRD — will hit the pocketbooks of taxpayers.

CRD staff compiled the numbers after a request from politicians in January. But the estimates are far from complete. The municipalities have not formally agreed on how to share costs, and so the figures are based on how individual communities already charge for sewer and water usage. Some use property tax assessments — which can produce big bills in expensive communities such as Oak Bay — while others are moving toward consumption-based billing.

Because of the discrepancies, CRD staff recommend hiring a consultant to sort out cost-sharing issues. The provincial and federal governments have already agreed to pay two-thirds of the \$1.2 billion.

The CRD now screens its sewage to remove solids and discharges the waste into the ocean. In 2006, the province ordered the region to start planning treatment plants.

The CRD's current plans call for at least four plants, located at Macaulay Point in Esquimalt, Clover Point in Victoria and undetermined locations in East Saanich and Colwood. Sludge could be trucked from Esquimalt to Hartland Landfill in Saanich.

Local politicians, who will discuss the tax estimates at a CRD sewage committee meet-

ing Wednesday, expressed mixed reactions.

"I don't think those costs will fly in Oak Bay or in Colwood," said Colwood Mayor Jody Twa. "Maybe we should be looking at a lot of smaller plants throughout the region, some private and some public. I think we've been going down a road simply because we've been told we have to. And I'm hearing a lot of people around the table saying, 'Are you sure?'"

Victoria Coun. Dean Fortin said, "no one likes having their taxes increased," but that residents have shown a willingness to pay for environmental initiatives.

But Saanich Mayor Frank Leonard said that remains to be seen.

"Political parties and politicians are quick to point to polling that says there's massive support for sewage treatment. I guess this will be the test for it," Leonard said. "For taxpayers to say they don't want it now that they know how much it will cost, well, it's a little late."

Local municipalities will not be able to spend on much else in coming years as taxes rise for sewage treatment, a new \$269-million tower at Royal Jubilee Hospital and \$60 million for an expanded watershed, Leonard said.

The tax estimates use capital and operating costs from the latest consultant reports and assume borrowing of six per cent interest over 25 years and inflation of 2.5 per cent. The tax increases are phased in, starting at as little as \$1.79 per average household in 2008 and rising sharply in 2012 as the first plants come online. The CRD did not define an average household.

The CRD also calculated smaller tax increases if communities pay only for "dry weather flow" at the plants. However, the larger estimates include the CRD's chronic problems of rainwater entering through decaying old pipes.

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RECOVERY IN RWANDA



SARAH PETRESCU, TIMES COLONIST
Josee Mukamusoni came to the We-Actx clinic after contracting HIV when she was raped during the Rwandan genocide. She now works at the clinic.

Dignity rises from the ashes of unspeakable horror in Rwanda

> From Page D1

D'Adesky made international news of the injustice but said it was, "a time when words were not enough."

With the help of two friends — a scientist and a doctor — and the collaboration of grass-roots women's groups and the government in Rwanda, they were able to form the clinic, which has been a hub for research, primary health care and family support since its inception.

Hakizimana said he is in awe of the women he works with. "They led this movement. They are very active," he said. "To be raped or cut by a machete and then find out you are sick from it. To have to explain this to your children who are now old enough to know how HIV is transmitted and want to know why they are positive, this is not easy."

Several of the women who came to WE-ACTx as clients now work there.

Josee Mukamusoni's gleam when she talks about her work in the family programs belies the hell she went through during the genocide.

"My goal is to have all the families I work with get tested and know their status," Mukamusoni, 42, told me in Kinyarwanda through a translator. "I have so much gratitude for this work. I was rock bottom and now that past is fading."

Mukamusoni and her husband, a petroleum product salesman, lived in Butare with their three children before the genocide. He was killed along with most of their relatives.

Mukamusoni broke into tears as she described the night her daughter died.

"I had two of the children on me, one on each hip like this," she gestured. "The military men came and she was shot in my arms."

Mukamusoni is also a victim of rape. She suspected she might have HIV when the man who assaulted her died of AIDS in prison in 1998. The stigma of rape and HIV prevented her from getting tested until 2004, when she came to WE-ACTx and found out she was positive.

"Rape was just a weapon of war for them, to cause a slow, painful death of disgrace. Women were treated like animals, abused in their own houses after the men were killed," said Mukamusoni.

"I feel sad hearing these stories. They remind me of my own. But helping gives me a way to do something and, at least, help pay my rent. Life does go on."

Generating income is another leg of the WE-ACTx project, with an inventive 25-

FACING AIDS IN RWANDA

Some of the latest statistics compiled from the UNAIDS 2006 Update on the Global AIDS Epidemic and the United Nations 2008 Country Report

- In 2006, about two-thirds of all persons infected with HIV (about 25 million) were living in sub-Saharan Africa.
- AIDS deaths in sub-Saharan Africa represent 72 per cent of global AIDS deaths.
- People living with HIV/AIDS in Rwanda: 190,000
- AIDS deaths in 2005: 21,000
- 75.8 per cent of women never tested for HIV.
- 78.1 per cent of men never tested for HIV.

year-old, Frank Mugisha, at its helm.

"Everyone was coming here saying, 'Frank, food, we need food,' because poverty is a real issue and it's hard to treat people who have nothing to eat," said Mugisha, who co-ordinates the income-generating craft co-operative, Ineza. "We needed to do something sustainable, that didn't cost a lot of money."

Mugisha insisted I see the project for myself.

"It's very cool," he said. So we took a taxi across town to a small gated house where a dozen or so women sat side-by-side sewing everything from yoga bags to little brown dolls on antique foot-pedal sewing machines.

"The designs are the best ever," Mugisha beamed, showing off the reversible purses, lap-top bags and aprons he designed with the head seamstress, Sophie Nyiranawumuntu. They looked to western tourists and magazines for inspiration.

"You won't see anything else like this here. Even the fabrics are the most beautiful and rare we could find."

The women in the co-operative receive weekly wages, transportation, food and yoga classes. A constant stream of international visitors and aid workers purchase the items, as well as retailers in the U.S. and now at the online store at www.manosdemadres.org. spetrescu@tc.canwest.com

Sarah Petrescu travelled to Rwanda and Mozambique as a winner of the Jack Webster Foundation for Journalism 'Seeing the World through New Eyes' Fellowship — a partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency for emerging journalists to report from developing countries.

Information overlords

The convergence of computer culture and high-tech surveillance gives others increasing access to your life

KATHERINE DEDYNA
Times Colonist

Credit-card purchases, business calls monitored for quality assurance and closed-circuit TV in stores. Internet sales, cellphone calls, BlackBerrys with global positioning systems and Google searches. They're all part of the surveillance society we increasingly inhabit — one in which our movements, identity, transactions and interests can be tracked.

We give out some info because we want to: Think Facebook. But thanks to the convergence of computer culture with everything from security cameras to ID cards, there's a growing potential for others to peek at our personal information without our permission.

The capacity to manipulate, disseminate and profile personal information has escalated at an "extraordinary" pace, says University of Victoria privacy expert Colin Bennett.

It's all very complex, which is why for the next seven years Bennett, four graduate students he'll hire and researchers from four other universities will take part in a \$2.5-million research project called The New Transparency: Surveillance and Social Sorting, headquartered at Queen's University in Kingston.

The grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council is a signal that the encroachment on private life is worth close examination.

"The potential for the linkage of these data across technologies is far greater than it was before," Bennett says.

"A lot of this technology is converging and so camera feeds can be downloaded to the Internet — it's all coming together."

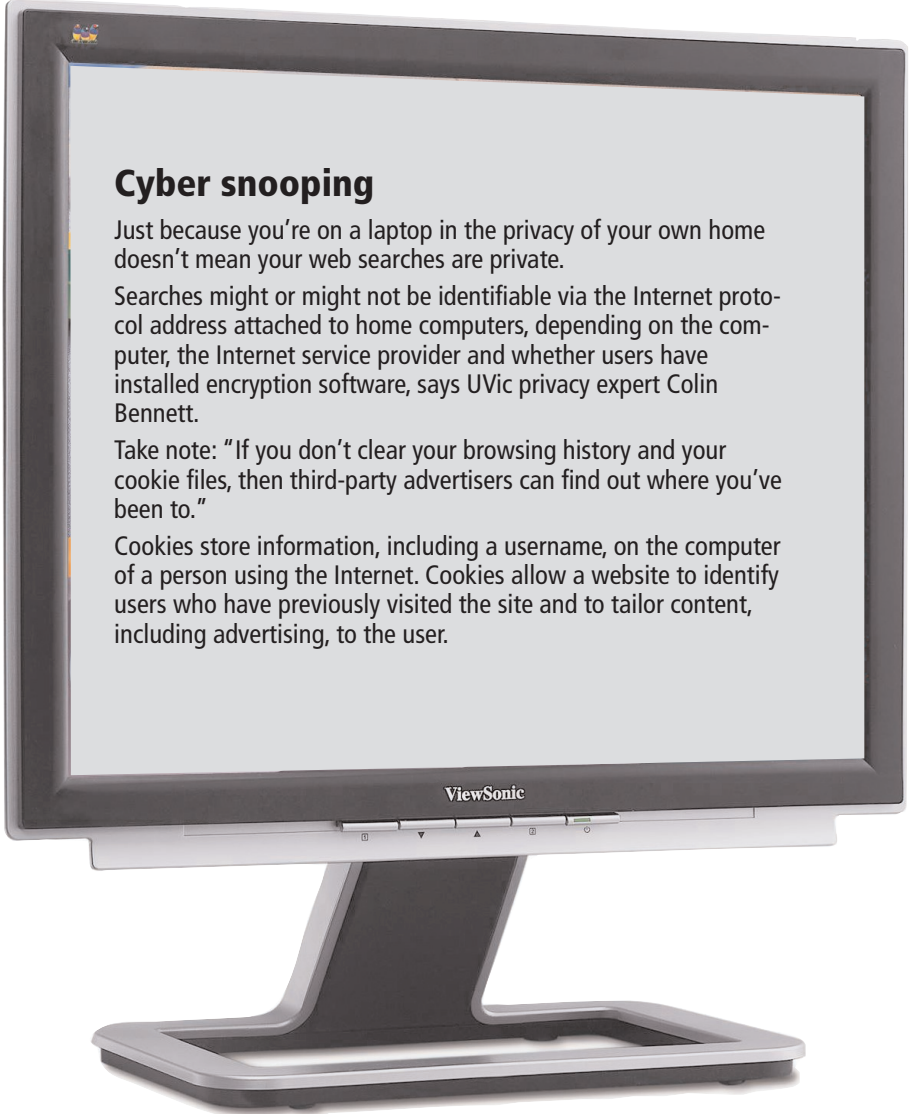
Which means that personal information — connected to an individual by name or other identifier such as a social insurance number — is at greater risk for "transparency" or being seen by others.

"There's a lot of research that suggests that individuals need privacy," he notes. "And they need to be able to have a set of behaviours and understandings about themselves which are not accessible by other people. We are losing that, gradually."

The researchers will try to pin down the social effects of increased monitoring on the fabric of society, on the levels of trust between individuals and organizations and on "social relations generally when people know that they are being watched in such an extensive way," he says. Many people are complacent but there's also an awful lot of concern. "But they don't think about it regularly."

The convergence of surveillance technologies has implications for civil liberties, privacy and discrimination — the last because "some people get more surveillance than others ... And those people tend to be ethnic minorities or lower down the social ladder."

"We don't want to get too pessimistic or paranoid about this, but the more data that's collected, the more inaccurate data gets collected," says Bennett, a political scientist and author of the forthcoming book *Privacy Advocates — Resisting the Spread of Surveillance*.



Cyber snooping

Just because you're on a laptop in the privacy of your own home doesn't mean your web searches are private.

Searches might or might not be identifiable via the Internet protocol address attached to home computers, depending on the computer, the Internet service provider and whether users have installed encryption software, says UVic privacy expert Colin Bennett.

Take note: "If you don't clear your browsing history and your cookie files, then third-party advertisers can find out where you've been to."

Cookies store information, including a username, on the computer of a person using the Internet. Cookies allow a website to identify users who have previously visited the site and to tailor content, including advertising, to the user.

He points out that some monitoring is needed to make our complex global society work now that we no longer rely on face-to-face interactions.

Bennett will co-ordinate research on cyber surveillance — how e-mails, cell calls, web browsing and Google searches can be tracked and used to profile individual and group behaviour.

When people make a cell call, for instance, the number, the location and time of the call are all tracked.

"We're going to be trying to figure out exactly what happens when you [make] routine transactions in everyday life," he says, with researchers looking at where the information goes, who has access to it and what rules exist to protect privacy.

He has already mapped out, in 21 pages, the information flow involved in booking an airline ticket at (web.uvic.ca/polisci/bennett/pdf/cpsa99.pdf).

A permanent record, processed in the U.S., is made in every case, with similar treatment for hotel and rental-car bookings.

Legal protections for personal information in B.C. are "pretty good" compared to the rest of the world, he says. "But our laws, just like many others, have a lot of exemptions for various things, and organizations over the years have figured out how to use those exemptions in order to process more and more personal information."

"We're going to try to find out whether the laws are adequate."

Bennett will also look at the way B.C. employs surveillance cameras at the 2010 Olympics and the long-term consequences if those cameras are retained once the Games are over — as occurred in some sites in Sydney and Athens.

"Is it really necessary to have that kind of level of surveillance and the entire infrastructure that supports that at enormous cost for the long term?" he asks.

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THE IMPACT OF CHANGE

UVic political scientist Colin Bennett cites six changes in technological surveillance that affect everyday life:

1 The miniaturization of devices for collecting audio information, visual information and data that makes them easier to conceal.

2 The "obsession with security" stoked by the security industry.

3 The crossover and contracting out between public and private sectors.

4 The decentralization of the capture of information thanks to web cams and cell-phones.

5 The explosion of social networking Internet sites where people post personal information without being aware of consequences.

6 The move to globalization that sends a lot of Canadian information about Internet purchases for overseas processing.



DEBRA BRASH, TIMES COLONIST

University of Victoria privacy expert Colin Bennett will be part of a \$2.5-million project to examine the social effects of increased high-tech monitoring on society. The research will look at where information goes, who has access to it and what rules exist to protect privacy. "We're going to be trying to figure out exactly what happens when you [make] routine transactions in everyday life."

RECOVERY IN RWANDA

Letters extend ties that bind

How a friendship between a Rwandan genocide survivor and Victoria woman helped them each cope with HIV and become community leaders

SARAH PETRESCU
Times Colonist

KIGALI, Rwanda

Emerithe Nakabonye smiled proudly as she came into the living room holding a remnant of a rusty sign bearing the faded word “Legumes.” It is the only piece of her husband’s art she owns. It is the one scrap she was able to rescue after Interahamwe militia-men dragged the young commercial painter into the road and killed him during the 1994 Rwanda genocide. They pillaged the house he built and left Nakabonye to spend months hiding their four children in the plantain groves that filled the area before it became a Kigali ghetto.

“Life was so easy before. We were happy,” Nakabonye, 43, said as she served a generous lunch spread in honour of the visiting reporter — matoke (fried plantains), goat stew, rice and isombe (a traditional dish of pureed cassava leaves and spinach). Her nephew Kenneth Mudenge, 24, translated from Kinyarwanda. “Now they’ve nicknamed this area after the AIDS ward at the hospital because there is so much HIV here.”

Nakabonye moved her family back to their home after the genocide but the pain from that period persists. She was repeatedly raped by a neighbour who infected her with HIV, as were many women in the neighbourhood. She relives the atrocities she experienced and witnessed every Sunday during Gacaca court, the community justice meetings set up to expedite the trials of thousands of accused clogging local jails.

Entire neighbourhoods are required to attend and testify about the murders and rapes that took place, often at the hands of their neighbours, friends and even family members.

“Gacaca is good but the problem is when you have to see someone who killed your relatives live next door,” Nakabonye said, looking at three of her grown children — Eric, 23, Patrick 18, and Sonia, 14 — who came to listen in. “It is very difficult.”

Nakabonye’s friendship with a Victoria woman is what she credits as the source of her hope and inspiration to go on.

“Because of Peg and Positively Africa I did not feel desperate anymore,” Nakabonye said, referring to Peggy Frank and her Victoria non-profit society Positively Africa, which supports HIV-positive groups in several African communities.

The two women are working on a book about their own HIV-positive stories and the friendship that has led them to become advocates in their respective communities.

Frank was introduced to Nakabonye through a pen-pal program at a retreat with the Positive Women’s Network in 2002.

“We were told there were HIV-positive women in Rwanda who wanted to write with us,” said Frank, 54, at her Oak Bay home last week. “My letter went to Emerithe and, when I got one back, it was so moving to make that connection.”

Frank was a 32-year-old graduate student doing field research in Zimbabwe when she contracted HIV from one night of unprotected sex. It was 1987, a time when AIDS was considered a death sentence and Frank was the only woman among mostly gay men in what support groups there were in Vancouver.

“I thought, ‘That’s it; it’s over.’ I wouldn’t have a life, a degree, no family or be able to work in development,” said Frank. The virus did advance to full-blown AIDS over the next few years, forcing Frank to quit her job. “It was a very



Emerithe Nakabonye shares a smile with her nephew, Kenneth Mudenge, outside her home in Rwanda. Nakabonye, who works at the We-Actx clinic in Kigali and runs UMAHUZA, a support group for people with AIDS, has carried on a long-running correspondence with Oak Bay resident Peggy Frank, who started a non-profit agency called Positively Africa.

sad time to be in the AIDS movement. People were dying all around.”

Advancements in medication and a move to Saltspring Island helped Frank get back to health. It was there that she met her first husband David Rayment, whose portrait hangs on her wall.

“When we met I was so terrified to tell him I was HIV-positive,” said Frank. “But he said the most beautiful thing: ‘I have two choices. I can walk away and never get to know you or I can be with you for however long we have.’”

Rayment never contracted HIV but his words were tragically prophetic: He died in a crane accident in Ganges harbour in 1997.

“I remember looking at the stars that night and feeling complete loss but still a sense that life goes on,” said Frank.

Frank’s life moved on with her work helping others. It was through fundraising for development projects in Africa that she met her current husband, realtor Peter Bardon (who knew and admired Rayment). Their fundraisers include everything from art auctions to Africa-themed nights of entertainment.

“We were fundraising for the Village of Hope [in Rwanda] and it felt really good,” said Frank, an artist. This was around the time Frank and Nakabonye started writing to each other.

“At the time, I had isolated myself from any bad news to help me get better,” said Frank. “So I really didn’t know much about the genocide until I met Emerithe.”

Frank and Bardon went to Rwanda in 2005, where they met Nakabonye and were introduced to the WE-ACTx clinic and Hakizimana. Nakabonye was a client and now works there part-time.

“When I met Emerithe, we had just started Positively Africa and she was starting

UMAHUZA,” Frank said. “We had this amazing connection because of the parallels our lives took.”

Every penny Positively Africa raises goes to the African development projects it supports, including more than \$150,000 for projects in Rwanda, Kenya and Zimbabwe, among other places.

They also support Nakabonye’s HIV-positive community group UMAHUZA, buying items such as a telephone and grinding mill to help generate income.

I attended an UMAHUZA meeting while I was visiting Nakabonye in Rwanda. About 60 members of the group huddled in a mud-floor shack next to a local pastor’s house. Before I could be introduced, several people started to make demands.

“Where is the money for houses Positively Africa promised us?” one woman asked.

“We need motorcycles to get around,” a man piped in.

“What about food? Why can’t we get money for food?” said another.

In a country where aid workers drive brand-new white SUVs and base themselves out of mansions built by wealthy expatriates, it is understandable that the group would associate any white person wanting to help with infinite funds and resources to do so.

“It’s hard for me to hear that because I want to help ... and we will,” said Frank. While Positively Africa does have one part-time employee to help Frank and a board, it takes up most of her time and personal income. Frank’s goal is find a donor or sponsor to hire someone full-time, allowing her to take more of a support role.

“Right now I feel like the biggest crisis for Positively Africa is me because I’m about to crash,” said Frank. “We’re a small group that catches the projects and people who fall through the cracks. It is impor-



Peggy Frank goes over some of the letters in her Oak Bay home she has received from Rwandan HIV activist Emerithe Nakabonye. Despite barriers of distance and language, the two women have struck up a fast friendship.

tant work but it takes money and commitment.”

To find out more about Positively Africa, call Peggy Frank and Peter Bardon at 893-7064. spetrescu@tc.canwest.com

Sarah Petrescu travelled to Rwanda and Mozambique as a winner of the Jack Webster Foundation for Journalism Seeing the World through New Eyes Fellowship, a partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency for emerging journalists to report from developing countries.