

Nanaimo Hospital Auxiliary

Newsletter - Spring 2015

President's message

Being your President for the next year is not only a great privilege and honour, but also a great responsibility. The entire Executive Board, are all unpaid volunteers - just like you, and for the next twelve months you have made us custodians of this Auxiliary. Our Auxiliary has become a significant business raising over \$700,000 each year with nearly 270 members.

There is a lot of work for us to do. This year our focus will be on four objectives.

1. increasing the awareness, with the community, of who the Auxiliary is and the great work we do.
2. creating a policy and system to better recognize the contribution and service of all individual members
3. resolving the Thrift Store Building Fund
4. improving communications so you the members know what is happening and why it's happening

I can't promise that we'll completely achieve all of this but we are definitely going to try. We will report to you on the progress of these objectives throughout the course of the year.

In any event we can't do all this alone, but I know we count on your support to make it a success.

Regards,

Phil

Annual General Meeting

There were nearly 100 members and 14 guests who attended the AGM on March 16th, a huge success! Once again the catering from Spice of Life was excellent and many very positive comments were received from all the attendees. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped organize this very successful event. Like last year, the highlight of the AGM was the presentation of the cheque for \$250,000. to the Hospital Foundation. This money is to be specifically used to help fund the completion of two new emergency operating theaters. In addition over \$60,000. was donated to individual departments.



The New Executive was installed at the AGM



Back row standing, left to right

Lois Ohlhausen, Thrift Store Coordinator;
Tammy Kettlewell, Gift Shop Coordinator;

Louise Baker, Corresponding Secretary;

Darlienne Howes, Recording/Membership Secretary; Pat Young, Treasurer;

Seated, left to right

Roberta Miller, 1st Vice President; Phil Robling, President; Anne Smith, Past President

Goldie Sankovic, 2nd Vice President

British Columbia Association of Healthcare Auxiliaries (BCAHA)

Their annual conference was held in Richmond from April 19th to 22nd. Significantly our Past President Lynda Avis was elected to become President of BCAHA. This is a befitting honour for Lynda who devotes so much time to the service of the community.

Nanaimo sent 16 delegates to the conference and they won first prize in the fashion competition, dressed in their 60's era "poodle skirts" designed and crafted by Lois Ohlhausen.

Well done ladies!



Lynda Avis



Volunteer Services

Lynne Tourond has retired after 31 years' service with VIHA. She is known to all of us and has given our Auxiliary support, guidance and help over all those years. During Volunteer Week Lynne held an appreciation dinner on behalf of VIHA, for her volunteers, but we couldn't miss the opportunity to show Lynne our own appreciation of her service, and affection for her. Phil Robling presented her with a beautiful globe on behalf of the Auxiliary.



Phil with Lynne

Craft Sale

Our Craft Group led by Penny Whittaker held their annual Spring Craft Sale on Friday April 24th. The sale as usual featured much sought after individually crafted items and raised \$3,700.



Sales at the Thrift Store continues to thrive, with sales up about 14% for the first four months of this year, compared with the same period last year.

The store received a generous donation of some "antique" furniture and decided to sell it through a silent auction. Over \$300 was raised at the auction.

Thrift Store News



Furniture for the Silent Auction



A Happy Customer

Gift Shop News

The dedicated volunteers continue to provide wonderful service in the hospital but many of them are working too many extra shifts because the shop badly needs more, new volunteers. On the brighter side there are wonderful new summer hand-bags, scarves and jewelry in the Gift Shop, so let's get shopping!

Other News

Logo

After nearly eight months of effort we have a logo. The logo is vital to creating an "identity" for us and will appear on all future letters, emails, and official documents.

General Telephone Number

We now have a general Auxiliary Telephone number: 250-585-0409.

This is the number that will, going forward, appear on anything to do with the Auxiliary, and this number should be given to anyone wanting to contact the Auxiliary.

Website ReBuild

Over the course of the next few months our website

www.nrghauxiliary.ca

will be rebuilt with new structure, content and photos. We are fortunate to have a volunteer, Ron Orr, who is extremely technically capable, who will be doing this.

Email System

Official electronic communication with the Auxiliary will now be done through our own email system. This is to maintain a professional look, consistency and privacy of personal email addresses. You have begun to see this in emails already sent to you; Phil Robling's email is now:

phil.robbling@nrghauxiliary.ca

The email addresses of all the Executive will be posted on the website.

All of these changes will increase our Auxiliary's image and awareness in the eyes of the public at large, and the organisations with which we deal.