

The Auxiliary Reporter

The Newsletter of the Nanaimo Hospital Auxiliary

Winter 2015/2016 Edition



Presidents Report -

By Phil Robling

Firstly I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2016. Thank you for all you have done for our Auxiliary and our community in the past year.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Christmas Appreciation Party, you made it a tremendous success, and we intend to have other events like that during the year.

December 31st was the end of the Auxiliary's financial year, so now we start the serious business of figuring out how much money we will be able to donate to our hospital. In February we'll have a general meeting to approve those funds. We also plan to recommend some changes to our organisation structure, to bring us into line with the demands of the Auxiliary as it is today.

After three years as editor of our newsletter, I am very happy to pass this responsibility to Ron Orr, who is now our Public Relations chair. More about Ron in the newsletter.....

- Phil

Under The Keyboard

By Ron Orr

Many of you have seen me around the Thrift Store and the Gift Shop. I joined the Auxiliary last April because Lynne Tourond said they were looking for a person with computer skills to help them. Since then I have helped the Executive with various computer needs. The most important tasks I take care of are the Auxiliary web site, and the Membership duties.

Like many people these days, I have a background in computer management. Actually I have more of a history in cartography (map making) and its transition to computerized mapping. I retired from the Alberta Government a few years back as a "Geospatial Architect". My, how technology has progressed!

My first challenge was to rebuilt the Auxiliary web site into something that is easy to look at, and easy to maintain. One thing I had fun doing is enhancing the history web page. Most people know that this Auxiliary has been in existence since 1900. But did you know that you can actually view the minutes of that very first

meeting? I have made those minutes available from the history page, plus three or four more interesting minutes from the very early days. You can find them by reading the history page and clicking on the coloured words on the page, which link to relevant



Ron helping move the Craft Workparty material

meeting minutes. (Our web site address is <http://www.nrgauxiliary.ca>)

It has been an absolute pleasure to meet everyone, and I enjoy

Did you know that the Women's Auxiliary of the Nanaimo Hospital donated about \$20,000 to the hospital back in 1925? That amounts to over \$270,000 in today's dollars!

Under The Keyboard (cont.)

every minute of my experience with the Auxiliary. If you see me wandering around, please stop me to chat.

Why the title "Under the Keyboard"? That's probably my favorite sitting position!

The Christmas Luncheon

By Goldie Sankovic

The Christmas appreciation party was held at Beban park on December 14th. It is the first time that an event like this has taken place. The executive felt that the auxiliarians should be recognised for their hard work throughout the year. We were very pleased that so many people attended and had no second thought about changing the location to accommodate the 120 attendees. We were not able to accommodate all of you that wanted to attend because there was no time left to change to an even larger room!

Thanks Phil for arranging the entertainment. The Notables Quartet were exceptional and they certainly had everyone in the Christmas spirit by the end. It was a wonderful surprise that the hospital staff (Jennifer, Marci, Greg and Laura) appreciated the efforts of the Auxiliary by creating a special version of the 12 days of Christmas. Thanks Roberta for getting Phil to wear the elf costume. It was a warm addition to our Christmas party.

The remarkable length of the buffet table was thanks to Thrifty Foods, Quality Foods, and some dedicated volunteers. Thanks to all of you that participated in this event. I look forward to you joining us for our picnic this coming May.

I wish you health and happiness for 2016.

- Goldie



Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless. ~Sherry Anderson

The Thrift Store Turns 10

-by Lois Ohlhausen

It was 10 years ago that Annie Waters and Dianne Ross stood in an empty room with the lofty goal of selling gently used items as a means of increasing our source of funding to support hospital patient needs. That goal was quickly reached and the Thrift Store has been rolling along ever since with the support of many dedicated volunteers.



*Opening Day
Oct. 29, 2005*

Today there are 137 volunteers that sort, price, clean and sell. Customers comment quite often that our thrift store is bright, clean and a pleasure to shop in. We have doubled the retail space since opening to accommodate the increasing donations.



Coffee and goodies

On October 29th we celebrated the store's 10th anniversary and offered a 10% discount to everyone, as well as free coffee and cookies. Customers were eager to attend, to the point that the lineup extended to the back of the store.

The future looks bright also. We recently signed a 5-year lease extension at the same location. In the future we will be having more theme sales and auctions. Come and join the fun.

Recent Fundraisers

The Bridge Tournament took place October 5th. There were 44 participants and the prizes this year were exceptional. Twelve companies donated prizes, food and supplies. Special thanks to Goldie for putting on a wonderful experience.

We held a raffle in December to support the pediatric ward. Most tickets sold quickly. The three prizes of a \$200 gift certificate to La-Z-Boy, a \$150 diva basket created by Tammy from the Gift Shop, and a \$100 grocery basket crafted by Goldie were all well received.

The Craft and Bake Sale was a huge success. The bake sale raised \$1,000 and the craft sale raised \$6,285. Thanks to all Auxiliary members that took part by donating their time, their delicious baking, and their wonderful (and very desirable) hand-made items.

Meet Jennifer Doyle

Jennifer is the NRGH Volunteer Resources Manager. Many of us have seen or met her. But more of us know her for her very informative newsletter "The Red Lanyard".

Jennifer is instrumental in managing over 700 volunteers and has enthusiasm for her job that is second to none. Even though she is new to the position (taking over from Lynne Tourond) she is a veteran when it comes to engaging the people she cares about... the volunteers.

