

The Auxiliary Reporter

The Newsletter of the Nanaimo Hospital Auxiliary

Spring 2016 Edition



Presidents Report -

By Phil Robling

Our Auxiliary is a registered charity in BC and as such has to govern itself according to the Societies Act of BC. Recently new legislation was passed by the government to streamline the Societies Act. As a result it requires all charities to examine their Constitution and Bylaws and make sure they conform to the guidelines set out in the new legislation.

Your Executive has been doing this with an aim to completing it before the legislation comes into force in November – though we actually have two years from November to complete it, if we miss the deadline.

All changes to our constitution/bylaws must be approved by the membership, so we are planning to have this ready to present to you in the Fall. We will almost certainly seek legal counsel once we have the changes finished, to make sure we are doing what the Act requires.

One of my goals as President has been to resolve the Thrift Store Building Fund. What do I mean by this?

Some ten years ago when the fund was established, it was the goal of the Executive at the time, to save enough money so one day we could purchase our own building. Each year since then, we have been putting aside a portion of the Thrift Store revenue for this purpose and we have accumulated about \$800,000 to date. To my knowledge, no timeline or deadline was set for deciding when to do something. It is now time we look at that, so we have set up a committee to gather data on this issue.

A lot of water has passed under the bridge in the last 10 years and we have a very successful Thrift

Store by any measure. But we should look at the facts and make a rational decision about what to do. So again, in the Fall we will present our findings to the membership, for discussion, and look at the options available.

2016 Annual General Meeting

The 2016 AGM took place at Beban Park on March 21. There were over 131 members and 11 guests present that enjoyed a fabulous luncheon. The highlights of the meeting were the presentation of a cheque for over \$340,000 to the hospital. A majority of our donation this year will support the acquisition of much needed ultrasound machines for the Emergency and ICU



departments. Department heads explained how patient experiences in various areas of the hospital will be improved by the efforts of the Auxiliary.

The 2016 Executive was installed at the meeting. This was the first year in recent memory that there was more than one member nominated for a position. All incumbents from 2015 returned to their respective

Did you know... That we aren't the oldest Hospital Auxiliary in British Columbia? Chemainus started theirs in 1899, one year before us.

2016 AGM (cont.)

positions. Two new members were elected, but both had to resign citing personal reasons. (The Thrift Store Assistant Coordinator - Jacqueline Mottershead, and the Assistant Treasurer - Joyce Barker)

Update: Diana Blunt has stepped up to support Lois in the ever demanding Thrift Store environment as Assistant Coordinator. Marlene Bell will take over the role of Assistant Coordinator for the Gift Shop.



*Top row (l to r) Jennifer Doyle (Volunteer Manager), Ron Orr, Louise Baker, Goldie Sankovic, Lois Ohlhausen, Jacqueline Mottershead, Tammy Kettlewell, Angela Watters
Bottom row (l to r) Pat Young, Phil Robling, Roberta Miller*

Upcoming Fall Tea

The Auxiliary will be putting on a Tea this fall to be held in Nanoose Bay. It will feature an antique fashion show and vintage car display. Plans and preparation will continue throughout the summer. More information will be available in August.

The Summer Picnic was a smash

On a very warm Saturday afternoon about 50 Auxiliarians gathered in a hidden gem of a venue, the German Cultural Centre, for a great relaxing time and wonderful food.

Tom Eymundson (an active Thrift Store volunteer) and the Nanaimo Accordion Band entertained us with wonderful renditions of favorite songs.



The homemade burgers were really tasty. A secret recipe by Goldie.

The prize for the most beat up lawn chair was won by Marty Hoogerdyk. It was truly a disaster. She certainly welcomed her prize of a new lawn chair.



(Anonymous comment from the "Beefs and Bouquets" section of the Nanaimo Bulletin)

BOUQUET To the person who knitted and stuffed the little chickens that were put on the dinner trays of hospital patients on Easter Sunday. Much appreciated.

Auxiliary Comfort Donations are helping at the Hospital

Patients have often come to the hospital from a distance, or under stressed financial conditions. The hospital staff offers to help those in need by giving them gift cards for gas or meals when they are discharged. These gift cards are purchased with funds donated by the Auxiliary. Gift tags recognising the Auxiliary as the generous source will now accompany the cards. Hospital Staff suggested that we create these cards in order for people to know



Not only that Bonnie has been keeping up with making up the emergency toiletry packs, and her and other members have been sewing up cancer hats for our hospital Cancer Clinic. Also this Easter season for our tray favours, we all knitted up little chicks and stuffed them with a plastic egg filled with chocolate eggs. We have received many favourable comments about these favours to cheer up the patients. We have already begun to make more for next year. Talk about tray favours, one of our members has already finished all of our little



stocking tray favours for Christmas. Then for the Neonatal unit we have made and donated many little knitted or crocheted hats and wraps. Also we knitted or crocheted some lap covers for the seniors at Dufferin Place.

As you can see we have been a very busy group. Right now we are breaking for the summer months, although some of our group members will probably be busy making items at home already for our November Christmas sale.

Our Vibrant Craft Group

By Penny Whittaker

Even though our group has not had access to our supplies to be able to make items for the sale, surprisingly enough with using our own supplies from home and making what we could with what we had, we did very well at our Spring Sale in April. We made just over \$2200, which we all thought was well done.

