

President's Message

This past year has been dominated by one topic, Covid-19, but there has also been another topic that has received as much attention, and that is, healthcare. For more than 12 months, in many communities, the healthcare system has been severely strained beyond the normal healthcare challenges by the increased demand for personal protective equipment, respirators, and specific ICU medical supplies. Sadly, it has been a stark reminder that healthcare cannot be taken for granted.

Since the 1890s, concerned citizens – at first women only – organized themselves into groups to assist in the establishment of hospitals and to raise funds for much-needed medical equipment and supplies. These groups were the first Hospital Auxiliaries. Throughout the Spanish Flu epidemic, the Great Depression, two World Wars, the changes imposed by women entering the workplace and the subsequent decrease in volunteerism, and the current pandemic, Hospital Auxiliaries, now known as Healthcare Auxiliaries, have, for the most part, managed to sustain their fundraising support.

Many of the current BCAHA Member Auxiliaries have risen to the challenge of operating thrift and gift stores despite Covid-19 restrictions. Other Member Auxiliaries, without thrift and gift stores, have managed to survive by reinventing themselves and employing new fundraising ideas. Auxilians have been directly involved in raising awareness of the dedication of frontline healthcare workers in some communities by organizing drive-by recognition rallies, and other Auxilians have now been called to volunteer in vaccination centers around the province.

The ongoing efforts of our Member Auxiliaries are further enhanced and strengthened by our partnership with the six health authorities. BCAHA sincerely appreciates their continued support.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to congratulate all our members who have successfully met the Covid-19 'challenge' and emerged victorious. Through it all, you have been both bold and brave! As you continue to forge ahead, 'Be Safe and Be Kind,' Helping Healthcare the Auxiliary Way!

Sincerely,

Diane Thornton

Diane Thornton



FINANCIAL STATEMENT	Operating Fund	Tribute Fund	2020 Total	2019 Total
Current Assets				
Cash	\$49,443	\$13,759	\$63,202	\$44,026
Investments - GIC	\$145,000	\$30,882	\$175,882	\$90,884
Accounts receivable	\$772	-	\$775	\$772
GST receivable	-	-	-	\$4,494
Prepaid expenses	\$2,494	-	\$2,494	\$10,986
Capital Assets	\$1,479	-	\$1,479	\$3,286
	\$199,191	\$44,641	\$243,832	\$154,448
Current Liabilities				
Accounts payable	\$56	-	\$56	\$5,540
GST Payable	\$60	-	\$60	-
	\$116	-	\$116	\$5,540
Fund Balances				
Unrestricted	\$199,075	-	\$199,075	\$106,012
Restricted	-	\$44,641	\$44,641	\$42,896
	\$199,075	\$44,641	\$243,716	\$148,908
	\$199,191	\$44,641	\$243,832	\$154,448

Our Impact

VOLUNTEER HOURS
680,175

DONATED TO HEALTHCARE
\$8,062,963

AWARDED AS BURSARIES
\$270,628

NO OF ADULT VOLUNTEERS
4810

NO OF JUNIOR VOLUNTEERS
256



COVID-19 Still Helping Healthcare the Auxiliary Way



Survived Spanish Flu in 1918 • Surviving Covid-19

Surviving Pandemics of the Past

Chemainus Healthcare Auxiliary Beginnings

In this year of Covid, there has been much interest in the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918 to 1921. But in fact, the Chemainus Auxiliary had its beginnings in a typhoid epidemic of 1899. An emergency hospital was set up in a private home and the Women's Auxiliary was organized on Sept. 25, 1899 to assist in the relief work during the typhoid epidemic.

This spurred on momentum for a permanent hospital and in January 1900, when the temporary hospital was closed, the society turned its efforts towards raising funds for the furnishing of a permanent hospital.

As the war was ending and the Auxiliary was looking towards raising funds for replacement of the patched linens, the Spanish Flu pandemic was reaching the Cowichan Valley. Records show that by Nov. 14, 1918 beds at both Duncan and Chemainus hospitals were full.

As an aside, the Chemainus Valley Museum holds in their archives the minutes of the Chemainus Hospital Board from that period. An Emergency Board meeting was held on Dec. 5, 1918 and the question was raised about establishing an emergency hospital for cases of the Spanish flu. There was much discussion about the risks of taking flu patients into the regular hospital as well as how to pay for an emergency facility. The Museum holds the original telegram received from the BC Provincial Government indicating that any hospital receiving grants from the Government must accept influenza cases at their own cost.

The Spanish Flu officially struck the Cowichan Valley on Oct. 9, 1918. By the end of October, cases were increasing in Duncan and outlying areas. By Dec. 31, 1918 some restrictions were lifted and schools were reopened on Jan. 6, 1919. In total, it was four months from the first case until the Cowichan Valley was free of Spanish flu although there were smaller local additional waves in January 1919 and February 1920.

Submitted by: Sharon Stocco, Historian, Chemainus Health Care Association

Arrow Lakes Healthcare Auxiliary and the Spanish Flu

In 1907, Nakusp was serviced by a small hospital called the Cottage Hospital. Soon after in 1908, Arrow Lakes Hospital Auxiliary was formed. Its primary focus was fundraising for the hospital, but members occasionally were asked to volunteer as night nurses.

Nakusp was unaffected by the Spanish Flu of 1918, with only a few cases occurring in nearby Sandon. However, it was realized that if the epidemic should occur, Nakusp was woefully unprepared. The current hospital was too small and lacked equipment to cope.

Work got underway to build a more substantial hospital and the Auxiliary got to work raising money for equipment through teas, bake sales, whist drives, raffles, dances and a pickle and jam shower.

The new hospital opened in 1924. Patient transferral from the Cottage Hospital to the new hospital was carried out by the Boy Scouts and it was noted all "went smoothly." With the opening of the new hospital Nakusp residents sighed with relief as the residents felt well-prepared should an epidemic strike.

Long before Covid-19 changed history, BC's hospital auxiliaries dealt with repercussions from the Spanish Flu. Many auxiliaries that were started before the Spanish Flu are still members today.

Kamloops, 1899	Afternoon Auxiliary To The Royal Inland Hospital, Evening Auxiliary To The Royal Inland Hospital
Chemainus, 1899	Chemainus Healthcare Auxiliary
Ladysmith, 1909	Ladysmith Healthcare Auxiliary
Summerland, 1909	The Summerland Healthcare Auxiliary
Quesnel, 1910	Auxiliary To G.R. Baker Memorial Hospital
Princeton, 1912	Princeton Hospital Auxiliary Society
Chilliwack, 1911	Chilliwack Hospital Auxiliary, Chilliwack Hospital Service League Society
Salmon Arm, 1911	Shuswap Lake Healthcare Auxiliary
Invermere, 1911	Invermere Healthcare Auxiliary Society
Langley, 1912	Langley Thimble Club Now Langley Memorial Hospital Auxiliary
Ashcroft, 1913	Ashcroft And Distric Healthcare Auxiliary
Alberni, 1913	Alberni Healthcare Auxiliary
Penticton, 1913	Auxiliary To The Penticton Regional Hospital Society
Comox, 1914	Auxiliary Society For Comox Valley Healthcare
Prince George, 1919	Auxiliary To University Hospital Of Northern B.C.
Revelstoke, 1920	Revelstoke Hospital Auxiliary Society
Bulkley Valley, 1920	B.v.d. Hospital Auxiliary Society
Mission, 1920	Mission Healthcare Auxiliary Society

Surviving Covid-19: Highlights from BC Auxiliaries in 2020

Just as they did in pandemics of the past, Auxiliaries stepped up to help manage the repercussions from Covid-19.



Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary

Our service sites may be closed, but you may still see our wonderful Healthcare Auxiliaries volunteering in the community.



Ladysmith Auxiliary

The Ladysmith Auxiliary was formed in 1909 and not only survived, but thrived through the Spanish Flu, two World Wars and a number of epidemics.

Photo from Ladysmith Chemainus Chronicle: Mayor Aaron Smith and Building Committee Chair Pam Fraser cutting the ribbon on the newly expanded Thrift Store.



Christina Lake Healthcare Auxiliary

Our members filled "Blessing Bags" with hygiene items, treats, healthy snacks, warm winter wear etc. to be distributed in Grand Forks.

Bella Coola Healthcare

I was asked to let other auxiliaries know what the Bella Coola Healthcare Auxiliary is doing in these unprecedented times. We had an email vote to donate all monies left in our account to our hospital for the purpose of buying needed equipment and/or supplies to help in the fight against Covid-19. We also advertised with posters on our local Facebook bulletin board page, to encourage donations for the cause.

- Paula Fralick



Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary Society

Because of Covid-19, the Gift Shop was closed in early March. In July, Vancouver Coastal Health gave the Society permission to re-open, providing the Shop followed strict protocols established by health officials. Hospital management was very supportive in helping the Gift Shop to reopen.

Some of our Auxiliary members volunteered to staff the Shop. One member works in the Shop and a second member ensures that only one customer at a time is in the Shop. It is encouraging to receive support from hospital staff, visitors and patients. Together we can make a difference!

Notes from the History of the Auxiliaries Division of BC Hospital Associations 1967

“ Women's Auxiliary to the Nanaimo Reginal General Hospital

The Great War, followed by the influenza epidemic, created serious problems for the Auxiliary. The President turned her home into an extra laundry and sewing and old dance halls were turned into makeshift hospitals, staffed by Auxiliary volunteers.

“ The Women's Auxiliary to Vancouver General Hospital

In 1917 the Auxiliary undertook to furnish, equip and maintain for three years the military annex, raising, with some help, \$24,000.00 for this purpose.

“ The New Westminster Auxiliary to the Royal Columbia Hospital

When Ward "F" was turned into a military hospital during the First World War, the Auxiliary divided into two groups. The military Auxiliary served Ward "F" and the other group the rest of the hospital. The influx of 80 soldiers created terrific linen problems and raising more money seemed to be the only solution. Following the strain of the war years, the flu epidemic took further toll. Meetings became fewer and the Auxiliary ceased to exist sometime between 1922 and 1925. In November 1924 a group of younger women and girls in their late teens formed the present auxiliary.

“ The Summerland Ladies Hospital Auxiliary

When a tragic fire in 1919 destroyed the hospital completely, the Auxiliary successfully rounded up supplies from the community and located in a temporary building where the sick could be care for.

“ The Ladies Auxiliary to the Princeton General Hospital

Nor was the community spared the consequences of war. Word was received of those who would not return, the influenza epidemic of 1918 took its toll, and many of the hospital staff were stricken. Ladies of the Auxiliary recall making great pots of soup and delivering them by democrat to the hospital for the flu victims.

“ Alberni Auxiliary to the West Coast Hospital

About to close for lack of funds, the hospital was forced to cope with the flu epidemic. The Auxiliary paid for fumigating and repairs, purchased an x-ray machine, paid for fire hydrants, and later bought an operating table and double McLary range for the kitchen.

“ The Senior Auxiliary to the Penticton Hospital

At the outbreak of World War 1, they raised another \$1000 and sent large quantities of linens to assist a Canadian hospital ship. During the flu epidemic of 1918, they helped in an emergency hospital set up in the Aquatic Building, and also supplied soup and gruel to the ill on the local Indian Reservation.