Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary

Who we are and what we do

Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary

Supporting Healthcare on the Sunshine Coast

A Long History of Caring on the Coast

The dedication of St. Mary's, the Anglican Columbia Coast Mission Hospital at Garden Bay (Hospital Bay), Pender Harbour in August 1930. (Photo Courtesy of Sunshine Coast Museum and Archives)

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Humble Beginnings

- There has been an auxiliary on the coast since 1937 when the Pender Harbour Branch was formed to raise funds for an X-ray machine for the fledgling hospital.
- Halfmoon Bay Auxiliary was established in 1955
- As the population grew, it became apparent that a larger, more centrally located hospital was required. In 1959 the Sechelt Indian Band donated land in Sechelt for a new hospital.
- In 1960 the Gibson Branch was formed to assist in a plebiscite for permission to relocate St. Mary's.
- In 1961 an auxiliary was also formed in Sechelt.

Operation taking place at St. Mary's Hospital, Pender Harbour c.1930

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St Mary's Hospital, Sechelt *Shishalh* Hospital and the Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary

The new hospital was opened in 1964 and the Garden Bay site was closed.

Roberts Creek Branch was formed in 1964 and Hopkins Landing in 1981. In 1984 the 6 auxiliaries became one and formed a Society to become St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary Society. In 2015 when St. Mary's Hospital changed it's name to Sechelt Hospital we became the **Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary Society** to reflect our healthcare commitment to all of the coast.

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Our Mandate

We are committed to providing volunteer services and raising funds to enhance the quality of healthcare on the Sunshine Coast.

- Our **Branches** raise funds for many health initiatives. We currently have 5 active Branches – Pender Harbour, Halfmoon Bay, Sechelt, Hopkins Landing and Gibsons.
- **Sechelt Hospital Thrift Store:** We have operated this since 1967 on property willed to the Hospital Foundation. In 1981 the Foundation built a new building on the site for the Thrift Store and it has grown steadily since then and been improved upon to become the treasure it is today. It is our most lucrative source of fundraising income.

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Our Services

- **Sechelt Hospital Gift Shop:** From humble beginnings, since 1973 we have operated the Gift Shop in dedicated space provided by the hospital. The main purpose is to provide patients with items they need to make their stay in the hospital as comfortable as possible. It provides toiletries and comfort items and great gift ideas to visitors and staff.
- **The Loan Cupboard:** Shortly after the Sechelt Hospital opened the Director of Nursing, Wendy Hunt, recognized a growing need in the community for equipment for patients leaving the hospital to use at home on a short term loan. Together with another nurse, Marie Montgomery, who was a member of the auxiliary they started the Loan Cupboard. The Auxiliary has operated it ever since. It started with 6 pieces of equipment. Today there are more than 750 items on the inventory.

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We raise money for healthcare on the coast, but we do so much more:

- Provide care and comfort services to the residents of **Totem Lodge, Shorncliffe** and **2-South** extended care facilities.
- Hold birthday parties for residents of Totem Lodge, Shorncliffe & 2-South
- Provide hair care services for care residents.
- Fund training for extended care staff and volunteers.
- Provide hanging baskets and bedding plants for Shorncliffe/Totem gardens.
- Make “worry dolls” for children in the hospital.
- Knit caps for every new born baby at Sechelt Hospital.
- Make PPE for healthcare workers.

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Youth Programs and Bursaries

We also:

- Sponsor a program for junior volunteers where they have the opportunity to work alongside health care professionals. Help youth to evaluate what it would be like to have a health care career. Volunteer hours are often required on applications for post secondary education.
- Send local junior volunteers to participate in BCAHA youth conferences.
- Provide bursaries every year for Grade 12 graduates who are entering a health care program. Memorial funds are often directed as bursaries for 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students who are pursuing health care careers. Our junior volunteers are always considered when making bursary decisions.

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Legacy & Mature Student Bursaries

- **Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary Legacy Student Bursary ($2,000)**

  The purpose of the bursary is to support Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary members and direct relatives of members (spouses, children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews) in healthcare related, nursing, medical school, upgrade training.

- **Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary Mature Student Bursary ($2,000)**

  Capilano University, Sechelt Campus Health Care Assistant Program

  This bursary supports eligible candidates who are returning to school as a career change and who would otherwise face financial hardship in doing so.

Candidates must be residents of the Sunshine Coast for a minimum of one year, be a minimum 25 years of age and will not have been registered in a full-time school program for a minimum of five years.

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Gifts to Graduating Students of Capilano University's Health Care Assistant program

- Graduating Gifts to students of Capilano University's Health Care Assistant program in Sechelt. This gift is made possible by both Hopkins and Halfmoon Bay Branches special "Celebration/Memorial" funds which receive donations in honour of birthdays, anniversaries or any happy event, as well as memorial remembrances for loved ones, together with the Auxiliary Education Fund.

"This money is a huge help financially but it is also rewarding to know that there's people like you wonderful humans out there, cheering on us Health Care students"

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Granting Program

- This supports Agencies and Organizations whose initiatives have a health benefit for the residents of the Sunshine Coast. Grants are to a maximum of $10,000.
- Applications have to be received by February 28th of each year and successful applicants must submit a report detailing the outcomes of the project by the start of the next granting cycle. Any excess grant funds must be returned SCHA.
- For example our 2021 successful applicants were:
  - **Arrowhead Clubhouse** - $10,000 (to increase hours of service)
  - Vancouver Coastal Health- Sechelt Health Unit - $10,000 (for development of a parent education website)
  - **Sunshine Coast Community Services-Family Resource Programs** - $10,000 (for Bellies & Babies and Parent & Tot drop-in programs)
  - **Sunshine Coast Community Services - Dads Matter** - $10,000 (to develop an online program)
  - **Sunshine Coast Hospice Society** - $10,000 (to develop an online volunteer training program)
  - **Pender Harbour Health Centre** - $6,200 (to purchase an otoscope, two aneroid sphygmomanometers and a portable computer to tie into satellite feeds in remote unserviceable areas)

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Granting Recipients – 2021

Catherine Leach & Megan Baker
SCCS – Dad's Matter

Denis Fafard – SC Hospice Society

Shirley French & Megan Baker
SCCS – Parent & Tot, Bellies & Babes

Jill Stones – Arrowhead Clubhouse

John Rathbone & Suzanne Richter
Pender Harbour Health Centre

Janelle Belyea, Kelli Hansen, Alison Dobbie &
Melanie Miller - VCH - Sechelt Health Unit

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What we Funded in 2020

Even in the midst of a Covid19 Pandemic we still managed to give significant monetary support for healthcare needs on the Sunshine Coast

- **$750,000** In reserve for future Mental Health or Operating Room facilities
- **$55,000** Donated to community Healthcare Services through our Granting Program
- **$12,000** Awarded in bursaries
- **$5,000** Donated to food banks
- **$100,000** Donated to the Hospital Foundation's COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund
- **$3,200** Award donated to us by the **100 Women who Care, Sunshine Coast** which was then donated to the Community Task Force for Overdose Prevention

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Our Amazing Volunteers

- We currently have about 350 volunteers with diverse skills and backgrounds. Their common goal is to make a difference, help improve healthcare on the Coast and along the way have fun and camaraderie working with like-minded volunteers.
- We always welcome new volunteers to join one of our 5 branches. In normal times apart from fundraising, we need volunteers at the Loan Cupboard, Thrift Store, Hospital Gift Shop, or helping out at Shorncliffe, Totem or 2nd Floor South care facilities.
- We have also helped by making masks & PPE for healthcare workers and transit users.
- Even in the past year we have raised significant funds through our Thrift Store, on-line sales, making masks, making and selling pies and selling plants.
- Prospective volunteers can contact us via our website: www.sunshinecoasthealthcareauxiliary.com

  or email us at: schealthcareauxiliary@gmail.com

Celebrating our 75th Anniversary April 2017

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Going Forward

- We will continue to raise funds to enhance the quality of healthcare and thus help improve life for residents of the Sunshine Coast
- We will continue to work in collaboration with the Sechelt Hospital foundation to assist with hospital needs
- As we are one of the most successful Healthcare Auxiliaries in BC we will continue to build upon our strengths and improve our service.

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Contact Us

- Please visit our website to learn more about us and what we do:
- www.sunshinecoasthealthcareauxiliary.com
- Email us at: schealthcareauxiliary@gmail.com
- Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SunshineCoastHealthcareAuxiliary
- Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/suncoastaux
- Follow us on Instagram: www.instagram.com/schealthcareauxiliary/

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