



BC Association of
Healthcare Auxiliaries

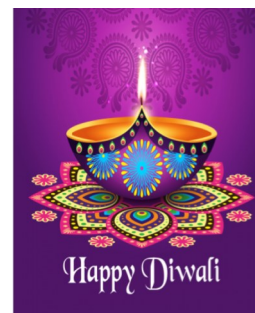
December Newsletter 2022

PRESIDENT'S GREETING!

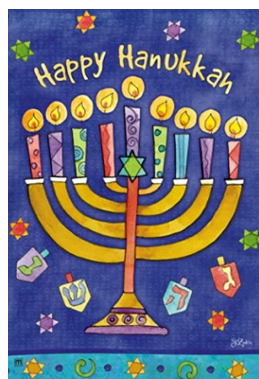
Bringing Light into Darkness!

It is a well-established fact that time does appear to speed up the older we get. This past year for me has gone by quite quickly, perhaps it is because we are out and about doing more, trying to put Covid behind us. I feel that I just finished writing the December 2021 newsletter a few months ago. 😊

We have new family next door to us. Their families emigrated from India several years ago. They celebrated Diwali also known as the Festival of Lights on October 24th this year. I had a lovely conversation with them as to what they do to celebrate this important yearly event. Diwali gets its name from the row of clay lamps that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness.



When I was going to University, I lived as a mother's helper with a Jewish family and I was included in their family Hanukkah celebrations. In 2023 Hanukkah runs from December 18th to 26th. Hanukkah is often referred to as the Festival of Lights as they light their Menorah.



This year I will celebrate Christmas with family and friends as we always do. The Star of Bethlehem the Christian faith, bringing darkness.



figures predominantly in light where there was

As we go forward into 2023, we should all what we all have in common no matter or what faith we belong to as it all comes gathering, good food and letting light into our lives.

celebrate and embrace what holiday we celebrate down to family and friends

Warmly, Diane

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MISSED OPPORTUNITIES!!

Are you missing opportunities to record the special events of your auxiliary? Taking photos is a wonderful way to help your members and the communities you serve to realize just how fabulous your auxiliary is.

- Cheque presentations to your health care facility
- Equipment that you've purchased
- Christmas activities
- Luncheons
- Bursary presentations
- AGM swearing in ceremonies
- Rallies in support of healthcare workers
- Special sales at your businesses
- Area conferences



We LOVE photos here at the BCAHA newsletter and we'd love to share your successes and activities with the rest of the province. So get out your cell phones and snap away!

bcahanewsletter@gmail.com





The Honourable Janet Austin

Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

requests the pleasure of the company of a representative from

British Columbia Association of Healthcare Auxiliaries and

guest

at the

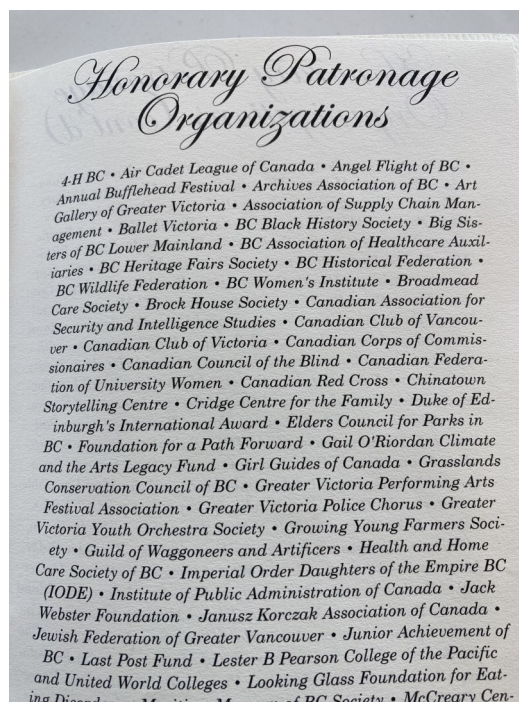
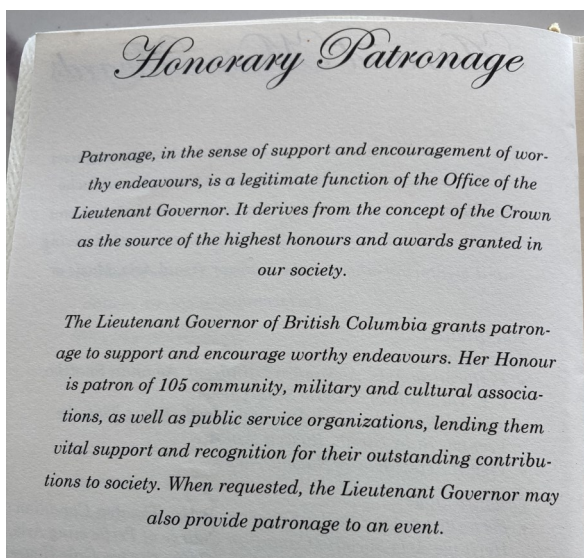
Platinum Jubilee Reception

Honouring Patronage Organisations and Awardees

on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 3:30pm

at Government House, 1401 Rockland Avenue, Victoria

The BCAHA is invited to Government House in Victoria to be honoured as a Patronage Organization of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. The event was attended by President Diane Thornton and Vice-President Carol Murray.



Snapshots from Government House



**Diane and Carole
were treated like
Royalty at
Government
House.**



The Meet and Greet! (Note the ‘travelling green bag!’)



Van Isle Caledonia Pipe Band.



Meeting Bonnie Henry.



Meeting Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin.



Mingling with other guests.



Honourable Mr. Austin with their dear Westie McDuff. Happy Birthday Sir!

The Ultimate Volunteer Tea

On behalf of all our BCAHA member Auxiliaries, President Diane and I attended, by special invitation, a Platinum Jubilee Reception honouring Patronage Organizations and Awardees.

In the words of the programme, “patronage, in the sense of support and encouragement of worthy endeavours, is a legitimate function of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. It derives from the concept of the Crown as the source of the highest honours and awards granted in our society. The Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia grants patronage to support and encourage worthy endeavors. Her Honour is patron of 105 community, military and cultural associations, as well as public service organizations, lending them vital support and recognition for their outstanding contributions to society”.

Although the lovely ballroom at Government House (Victoria), was well filled, it was a relaxed, friendly affair. Guests mixed and mingled, enjoying the beautiful setting, amazing food and superb wait staff. Her Honour, Janet Austin’s remarks were heartfelt as to the role ‘we’ all play in making B.C. a better place because of our service. She took time to meet and thank everyone individually after the formalities were done!

Upon our departure, each guest received a beautifully wrapped gift box of Murchie’s Teas, as well as the Queen’s Jubilee lapel pin. However, I’m sure Diane will agree, it’s our memories of this wonderful afternoon that will last forever!

Submitted by Carole Murray - BCAHA VP

REMEMBERING HER MAJESTY



AREA CONFERENCES

IN SMITHERS AT THE NW CONFERENCE

President Diane joined five Auxiliaries in the Northwest Area for their first in person Area Conference since Covid. The theme of the conference was “Aprons” and we were all encouraged to wear an apron as they all have a story. Everything was good - the venue, the food, the speakers, the weather and as always the fellow volunteers. Diane also got to visit the Smithers New to You Thrift Store. Thank you Northwest for a very enjoyable time.

Diane had never been to Smithers before (drove past but did not stop) but she loves taking photos of water. This one is of the Buckley River at Witset First Nations Village.

"APRONS"



Diane and Charlotte with Candice Crump
NH Volunteer Coordinator.



AREA CONFERENCES

LOWER MAINLAND AREA CONFERENCE AND AGM

On October 4, 2022 20 Board members attended the BCAHA Lower Mainland Area conference and AGM, hosted by director Yvonne Chard, It was a very educational and enjoyable day spent at the Holiday Inn in North Vancouver.

The highlight was having Isobel Mackenzie as guest speaker. She is the highly acclaimed Senior Advocate for BC. Isobel chose not to show her power point presentation and instead talked informally with the group for more than sixty minutes. The group were able to ask questions, and learned a lot about the issues and options re health care for the elderly. Two other valued speakers were the President and Vice President of the BCAHA. Diane Thornton gave a presentation on Communication, and Carole Murray provided ideas for volunteers working in Residential Care facilities.



AREA CONFERENCES

The 2022 Vancouver Island Area Conference was held in Campbell River on October 12 and 13. Although our numbers were down due to lower income over the past two and one half years, Twelve of the fifteen Island Auxiliaries were in attendance. A President's reception on Tuesday afternoon gave the presidents an opportunity to meet each other and to exchange ideas and experiences over a glass of wine before dinner. A buffet dinner was enjoyed by Delegates, BCAHA President Diane Thornton, Vice President Carole Murray, and Keynote Speaker Lynda Avis. Lots of networking and fun we're had and bidding was opened on the silent auction.

Our Keynote speaker Lynda Avis, arrived as Amelia Earhart in her trusty bi-plane. Her message was based on Amelia's life and her determination to lead the way into the future. We were encouraged to focus on the future and follow the example of Amelia by being willing to try new things, looking to the future, and encouraging innovation.

Diane and Carole brought us the BCAHA Roadshow that they have presented to Area Conferences across the Province. They covered many topics of interest during their presentations, followed by a delicious buffet luncheon.

The Vancouver Island Area Annual General Meeting was attended by 47 Delegates from 12 Auxiliaries. Nadi Bottomley was acclaimed as the new Vancouver Island Area Director to BCAHA and was installed by the BCAHA President Diane Thornton. A Town Hall question and answer session rounded out the day and audience participation was lively with great discussions on each topic.

The final event of the day was the announcement of the winners of the Silent Auction and best wishes for safe travel back to our homes.

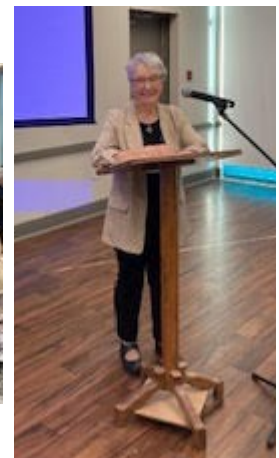


AREA CONFERENCES

FRASER VALLEY AGM

A book is like a hospital for the mind!

Maggie Gardiner - Abbotsford



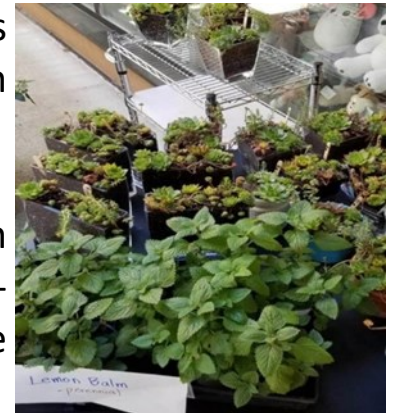
AUXILIARY NEWS

Plants, Plants and More Plants in Squamish

byCarolynn Robertson

Our Gift Shop is always looking for new ideas for items that our customers would like to buy. In April 2022, one of our members offered to bring in plants to sell in the Gift Shop. She overwhelmed the Gift Shop with a variety of plants including strawberry plants, vegetable plants (pepper, spinach, zucchini) perennials (bleeding heart, lilac), several types of herbal plants and even two small spruce trees. The Shop set up tables outside the front door of the Squamish General Hospital to entice visitors and staff. The plants were such a best seller that two other members brought in succulents and phlox. These quickly sold out as well.

But our plant selling days were not yet over. A couple in the community became involved and gave us an abundance of cucumber and tomato plants. In August we were gifted with more succulents as well as lemon balm plants.



At one time it seemed we were running a nursery, but it was a successful venture with just over \$1,000 in sales.

In Prince George, Auxiliary to University Hospital of Northern British Columbia President Lindy Steele, presents a Life Membership to Annabelle Ross for her many years of service looking after the 'books' for the auxiliary businesses.



AUXILIARY NEWS



BC Association of
Healthcare Auxiliaries

Helping Healthcare the Auxiliary Way

To: Member Auxiliaries in Lower Mainland Area
Date: October 25th, 2022

The BCAHA Board is pleased to announce that Ian Burke from the Powell River Healthcare Auxiliary is joining the Board as an Assistant Area Director for the Lower Mainland Area. Ian will be working with Yvonne.

Yvonne is unable to travel any long distances because of her husband's health issues but she will remain in place and will take care of the financial business for the Area along with the primary contact and will arrange Area Conferences and President's meetings as required.

Ian will be taking over responsibility for his own Auxiliary in Powell River along with the Auxiliary to Lions Gate Hospital, Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary and the Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary Society.

Ian's email address is itburke@telus.net

Welcome Ian and we look forward to this new initiative of sharing the work load, maybe a possibility in the future for other areas.

Diane Thornton, President



Area Directors: -Left to Right

Wendy Schwab-Kootney Boundary

Joanne Bydal—Fraser Valley

Nadi Bottomley—Fraser Valley

Fern Hanson—Northern

Val Wright—Okanagan Mainline

Ian Burke—Lower Mainland

Yvonne Chard—Lower Mainline

(away)

AUXILIARY NEWS

IN RICHMOND

“ Richmond Hospital/Healthcare Auxiliary’s Board members are pleased to report that monies raised this year through their Thrift Shop, Gift Shop, Lottery Booth, and generous donations by the public, have allowed us to finance several blanket warming cabinets for the Hospital, music therapy programs for patients at long-term care homes, 4 bursaries of \$2,500. to students pursuing medical education programs and much more. The Auxiliary is also donating clothing for patients both in the hospital and long-term care residences who are in need, as well as bedding and clothing to homeless and newly homed people and families in the greater Vancouver community.”



Back left to right: Valerie Burkimsher, Debby Newton, Airie Sigurgeirson, Mary Derksen, Al Martin and Janet Mac Kay.

Front: Area Director Yvone, Chard, Ursula van Duin and Colleen Kason.



The BCAHA encourages all auxiliaries to SHARE all the wonderful activities and events that are happening in their auxiliary. If you check out the BCAHA website, you can read about all the different auxiliaries in the province through their web pages, Facebook posts, and newsletters . You can get some terrific ideas for your own auxiliary. The BCAHA is there to help if you'd like to create a newsletter or a Facebook page.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

On Vancouver Island



Visiting Comox

Comox President Cathie Poje and her fine group of volunteers have made the very best of having to temporarily relocate. New home, hopefully for sometime in 2023?



Visiting Campbell River President Vicky Stubbs (in red) is proud of the new ways they are using to move merchandise like 'pop-up' sales and 'tailgate' parties. Their Gift Shop is a gem. Thanks for the tour DJ!

Visiting the Vancouver Island Area and District AGM

Vancouver Island Area District AGM (Campbell River) flew in a surprise guest speaker!

Saying 'thank-you' to Amelia Earhart (aka Lynda Avis) are Area Director Marge Anderson and BCAHA President Diane Thornton.



Visiting Chemainus Chemainus President Donna McCasky and VI AD Nadi Bottomley welcomed Diane and Carole to show off their busy Thrift Store. Actively supporting multiple community activities and up to date with electronic messaging and payment platforms, they have paid managers and make good use of student volunteers.

Visiting Ladysmith The Ladysmith Auxiliary is thrilled with their new Thrift Store addition! Lots and lots of space, abundant work areas and natural light. So jealous!

Need an attractive idea? Ladysmith President Ruth Goodbody shows off their eye-catching poster.





Did you know that the BCAHA Executive is always sharing news and information with your president? The BCAHA board is here to support all of our member auxiliaries and part of that support includes sending pertinent information to help auxiliaries run smoothly.

In October President Diane sent a memo regarding the HCPP (HealthCare Protection Program) to each president. This program covers insurance for all auxiliary volunteers in all of the provincial health authorities. In November another memo will go out regarding age appropriate duties for young volunteers.

The latest info on these topics has been or will be circulated to your President. If this could concern your place of service, please ensure that you've been informed.

Some auxiliaries have BCAHA updates on the agendas of their executive and general meetings. If you have a newsletter, these memos could also be included there so the membership is well informed.

DO YOU HAVE AN ERIKA?

Sherry Neilson arrived in Ft. St. James on August 31, 1969. Shortly after arriving in town, she was asked by her new friend Arvilla Silver if she would like to go to a meeting of the Hospital Auxiliary. Thinking it would be nice to have an evening out she said yes. Fifty-three years later she is now a life time member of the Stuart Lake Hospital Auxiliary Society. She was always willing to get involved. She helped get the hospital constructed in the Fort and was instrumental in the charity registration with the CRA. She worked hard to earn money to purchase items for the hospital and she assisted and lead many Luncheons, dart shoots, and fashion shows. She helped with the two North East Area Conferences that we hosted here. She held many positions on the Auxiliary executive including President, Treasurer, and Assisted with the Federal Government Charitable Tax receipts and the latest as Auxiliary Historian. Sherry, is leaving the Fort but her auxiliary would like to thank her for her many contributions to Fort St. James. They will miss her but hope she enjoys her new home.



The six most important words: I admit I made a mistake
The five most important words: You did a good job
The four most important words: What is YOUR opinion?
The three most important words: If you please
The two most important words: Thank You
The one most important word: We
The least important word: I.

(Anonymous)

izQuotes

A HISTORY LESSON

Highlights in the development of the British Columbia Association of Hospital Auxiliaries.

An organization known as the Women's Auxiliary to the British Columbia Hospital's Association existed in the 1940's.

On June 5, 1945, a meeting of representatives from women's auxiliaries to hospitals in the vicinity of Greater Vancouver was held. It was proposed that the women's auxiliaries to hospitals in B.C. form an organization of their own, apart from, but in affiliation with the British Columbia Hospitals' Association.

On November 21, 1945, the Annual Meeting of the women's auxiliaries to B.C. was held in Vancouver. At this meeting the first constitution was read and adopted. The name of the new organization was "Women's Hospital Aids Association of the Province of British Columbia". The purpose of this organization was to be to facilitate the exchange of ideas and to act as an advisory body to affiliated groups.

Thus, the provincial association was born.

Excerpt taken from "Years of Caring" – An Anthology of Histories of British Columbia Hospital Auxiliaries.

(to be continued in next issue)



You too can be in the newsletter!! Send your articles and photos for the Spring edition to:

bcahanewsletter@gmail.com

Or

vpresident@bchealthcareaux.org

*As you grow older, you will discover
that you have two hands.*

*One for helping
yourself, the other
for helping
others.*

—Audrey Hepburn

