



Welcome Spring



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is such a happy sight to see the bouquets of flowers that Sharon is using as graphics in this issue! It makes me feel so energized to see my small garden come back to life.

Hopefully, our AGM/Conference 2024 in Kamloops, will create the same feeling amongst our attending members. It never fails to fill me with enthusiasm sharing this special time with each other! New members have often told me that conferences helped them gain a true sense of just what being an auxilian can mean.

The 'Winter' months didn't mean that I was able to hibernate. Rather, January and February allowed me the time to continue with outreach to the nearby auxiliaries in the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley. Several changes in Executive Officers always means great new people to meet and new plans to hear discussed. Many thanks to their Area Directors, Yvonne Chard and Joanne Bydal for facilitating these visits.

I hope you are already making plans to celebrate **Auxiliary Day on May 10th.**

We tend to think that everyone in our community should be aware of the many ways our varied efforts support healthcare. 'Meet & Greet' can soon show that this is not always the case! Don't be downhearted! Just renew your commitment to tell your story to everyone who will listen. Invite your Mayor for a photo-op that day - add your hospital administrator as well?

Go to their offices if necessary. Notify your local newspaper. Banners, posters and balloons are great eye-catchers.! Well worth the local publicity you should receive.

Best wishes to all the new officers taking on important roles in their auxiliaries!

BCAHA stands ready to offer support if needed.

Carole J. Murray
President BCAHA



**DON'T FORGET TO CELEBRATE
VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 16-22 2024**

**DOES YOUR AUXILIARY
WORK IN A LONG TERM
CARE FACILITY?**

Check out the following Facebook link to get some fun game activities for those in your care!!

Mini Olympics at Extended Care?

Playtime for Extended Care?

Are they having any FUN yet?

FUN & GAMES for Extended Care?

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/M1t9UAm1nshMRUnk/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2024!!**



Auxiliaries all over our province welcomed the first babies of 2024 into their communities with gifts and well wishes to the new parents. Please check out the BCAHA Facebook page to see how welcoming we were!



AUXILIARY NEWS!

IN FT ST JOHN

The Fort St John Hospital Auxiliary celebrated our 90th Anniversary February 2022 and kicked off activities with a complimentary Staff Appreciation Breakfast sandwich, following with the purchasing extravaganza as the Auxiliary has taken the adjacent Peace Villa under our care. We provided 10 tilt commodes, 10 Broda chairs, and 10 Staxi chairs plus we contributed financial assistance for activities that had been on their wish list.

Each year we continue to offer two-\$2,000 bursaries to medical orientated students plus the \$5,000.00 Margaret Miller Scholarship. We also contributed \$20,000 to Northern Health as our share to purchase a specialty bronchoscope and assisted in donating over \$5,000 for 20 replacement TVs in the Peace Villa. Our contributions stem from the snack and hot beverage machines located throughout the hospital and Peace Villa. But mostly, our members volunteer many hours to operate a very busy and active Gift Shop located in the Hospital. Our seventeen original founding members would be so proud of the accomplishments and we pray this continues.

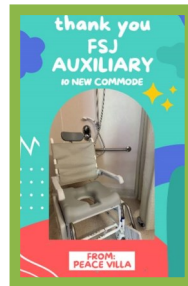
On December 08, the Auxiliary hosted an Appreciation Day for all our valued customers and friends who supported us throughout the year. We held our first celebration one year ago, once again we served packaged cookies and hot apple cider.

Respectfully submitted,
Fort St John Hospital Auxiliary
Rosalie Brandl

We celebrated Auxiliary Day with a special display in front of our Gift Shop!



We purchased 10 Tilt Commodes for \$28,110.



We purchased 2 metal benches for the Rose Garden for \$3,932.



We purchased 10 Staxi Chairs for \$16,840.



We received grants totalling \$39,146 from the following organizations for the purchase of 10 Broda Chairs.

- CN Rail \$25,000
- Ovintiv \$10,000
- Pembina Pipeline \$ 4,146.



THE SUNSHINE COAST HEALTHCARE AUXILIARY - SECHLT BRANCH

On March 21st, the Sechelt Branch of the Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary presented a \$3500 cheque to the Sunshine Coast Community Services program "Together Against Violence" in support of Yew Transition House and the Thyme Second Stage Programs. The Yew First Stage Transition House provides short-term housing for all women and their children who are experiencing, or are at risk of, violence and abuse. The Thyme Second Stage Program provides safe subsidized housing, advocacy and support for a 12-18 month period for women and their children who have experienced abuse.

For more information on these Programs, contact the Sunshine Coast Community Services at 604-885-5881.

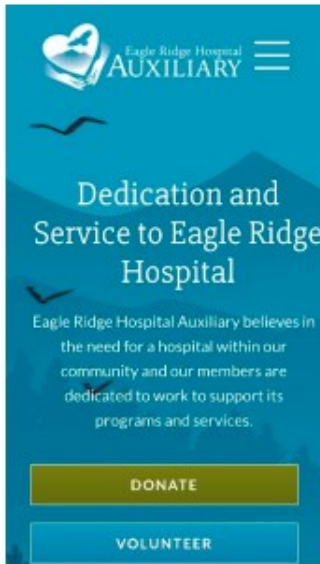


Left to right: Catherine Hanson, Chair, Sechelt Branch of the Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary, Karen Watmough, Manager for Sunshine Coast Community Services program "Together Against Violence" and Carla Wilkinson, Treasurer, Sechelt Branch of the Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary.

AUXILIARY NEWS

IN COQUITLAM AT THE EAGLE RIDGE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

We Have a New Website!



After a lot of back and forth, we have finally launched our new website. Our vendor Longevity Graphics has done an amazing job helping define what should appear on our site and on the new look and feel of it. We now have the ability to accept donations online. Also, all application forms will be editable. This means that you can fill out the form online and either print it or send it back as a PDF. As we have replaced 10-year-old technology, I know my work as the Website Admin will be less onerous and without the tendency to break things. If you get a chance take a look at:

ERHA.CA

IN MACKENZIE

The Hospital Auxiliary Volunteers are really proud of their recent Hospital donation of \$65,000.00. Seen here presenting a cheque to Pamela Hengeveld Hospital Administrator. This donation will go towards the purchase of a new Cardiac Patient Monitoring System. This new networked digital system will offer significant improvements in quality of care by enabling continuous monitoring of cardiac patients in the emergency department and acute care unit.

This donation was made possible by the hard work and dedication of the Thrift Store Volunteers, our loyal customers and the Mackenzie and Mcleod Lake residents who donated their unwanted items to our organization. Thank you everyone.



IN LADYSMITH

By consensus it was agreed that members' service in other BC auxiliaries will be recognized by the LHCA, provided the length of time between volunteering at another auxiliary and joining the LHCA is not excessive. To be investigated further by the executive for a future motion at a General Meeting.

BCAHA recognizes collective personal service in multiple BC Auxiliaries as long as length of time...is not excessive.

IN ROSSLAND

Through sales at the Rossland Thrift Store and the work of their team of dedicated volunteers, Rossland Health Care Auxiliary members proudly present their \$100,000 Orthopedic Enhancement Project donation to Rebecca Smyth, KBRH Health Foundation Board director (right).



Our latest donation to Trail Hospital for a dialysis chair.

AUXILIARY NEWS

IN COMOX



The Comox Valley Society for Comox Valley Healthcare play hard and work hard. Here are some members having lots of fun modelling some fashions from their thrift store!



Here is a picture of one of the results from all the hard work of the volunteers with the Auxiliary in the Comox Valley.

They recently donated \$100 000 towards the purchase of a new electric bus for Providence Living at the Views. Thank you volunteers!

IN DELTA—A 3 MILLION DOLLAR DONATION

ON THE SUNSHINE COAST

Finally, Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary is able to accept the last of our BCAHA 2023 Anniversary Presentations! They have been making good use of electronic meetings rather than in person. Past President Warren Jones and current CEO Anne Selder accept 85th Anniversary congratulations from Carole Murray.



The 'blue coats' have done it again!

On Monday, members of the Delta Hospital Auxiliary Society (DHAS) made a record \$3 million donation to the Delta Hospital and Community Health Foundation's (DHCH Foundation) 'Coming Home' Campaign. The donation is the latest major contribution to the Foundation's \$18.25 million campaign for a new long-term care community and is one of the largest gifts ever received from a hospital auxiliary in the province. The DHAS has been providing volunteer services, patient care and comfort and funding from their entrepreneurial efforts to Delta Hospital since 1969. As one of B.C.'s most successful hospital auxiliaries, the DHAS has more than 300 dedicated volunteers who donate nearly 60,000 hours each year, working at the Auxiliary's businesses - Dogwood Gift Shop, Courtyard Café, the Delta Auxiliary Thrift Store and Lifeline – all wearing their famous blue coats and cheerful smiles as they represent the community with pride.

AUXILIARY NEWS

IN GRAND FORKS



First formed in 1946 with a membership of ten, the Grand Forks Hospital Auxiliary was incorporated as a non-profit society in 1981, and has grown to include a current volunteer base of approximately 90 members. Our purpose is to raise funds in support of our local hospital, as well as for other health-related programs within the Boundary and West Kootenay areas of the Interior Health Region

Our fundraising efforts centre around the operation of our Thrift Store, located at 7239 2nd Street, in Downtown Grand Forks. All store inventory comes from the generous donations we receive from the community, whether it be from private citizens or local businesses. We whole-heartedly acknowledge that we could not achieve the fundraising levels we do if it were not for the amazing support we receive through these donations, as well as through the customer loyalty we enjoy in the shop.

Since 2000, the Auxiliary has regularly posted a running total of all monies raised through the operation of our store. We are extremely pleased to announce that in November 2023 we surpassed the \$3 million mark, a milestone the entire community can be proud of.

The money is made available to the Hospital for equipment purchases in response to an annual "wish list" forwarded to us by the hospital's administration. We try to accommodate as much of the list as we can each year, knowing that the new equipment will be used for significant improvements to patient care and comfort at Boundary Hospital. In 2023, for example, we were able to fund \$177,000 for the highest-priority requests.

In addition to enhancements at our own local hospital here in Grand Forks, we also consider requests for funds from other regional facilities and programs. In 2023 for instance, we were able to contribute \$25,000 to Trail Hospital's "Orthopaedic Enhancement Program" for improvements to its surgery and operating suites, and in 2022 a significant donation was made to its post-natal unit: Both units being heavily utilized by patients from our area, and the broader region.

As well in 2023, we were very pleased to contribute \$5000 to the recently-formed Kootenay Emergency Response Physicians Association (KERPA), a BC Government accredited unit headquartered in Nelson. KERPA's mandate is to facilitate on-site physician attendance at critical trauma incidents such as traffic accidents, as well as other medical emergencies, and on a volunteer basis.

- We participate in the annual "Coats for Kids" drive. In addition to donating warm winter coats and jackets, we also supply hats, mitts, gloves, and scarves for distribution by local organizers.
- Each year, we provide scholarships to Grand Forks and Midway High School graduates who plan to study in a health-related field.
- In consultation with local service providers, we assist with store vouchers to help fire victims and those sheltering from domestic abuse.
- -We operate the hospital "Gift Bar," a tiny satellite gift-and-thrift located in the Hospital's main reception area.
- At Christmastime, we donate money towards the purchase of Christmas care/gift packages for our residents in long-term care facilities, and we decorate the hospital for the holidays.
- We recycle: Unsold t-shirts are up-cycled into shopping bags for our customers; unusable cotton garments are cut up for rags, which are purchased by several of our local businesses; and some metals and materials that would otherwise be thrown out are set aside for reinvention by local artisans.

it is inspiring to know that with the continued support of this remarkable community, our local and regional hospitals and the people they serve will benefit from our collective efforts long into the future.

AUXILIARY NEWS

IN PRINCE GEORGE



Happiness is when the Prince George Auxiliary and The Spirit of the North Foundation remembers patients on Valentine's Day at University Hospital of Northern British Columbia. (UHNBC)



On The Sunshine Coast

Getting Ready For the AGM!

'Putting your house in Order!' We started to play with this theme and you won't believe where it took us!

The table centres will be many kinds of 'houses'. Anne Selder, CEO of the Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary, holds up two of her favourites - the 'Bank of Canada' and an 'outhouse'!

It's certain that we will be able to raise further funds for our Bursary Tribute Fund as delegates out-bid each other for these amazing creations!



IN VERNON

On March 15, 2024 VJH Auxiliary President Valerie Rowntree (R), and Elaine Siemens (L), Public Relations Director, attended a presentation of the new "state of the art" CT scan at the Vernon Jubilee Hospital. The new CT scan increases the production by 36% with more accurate scans.. Our Auxiliary had donated \$60,000.00 toward this \$1.2 million dollar machine. A proud moment for the hospital staff, the Foundation and many generous donors that were in attendance.



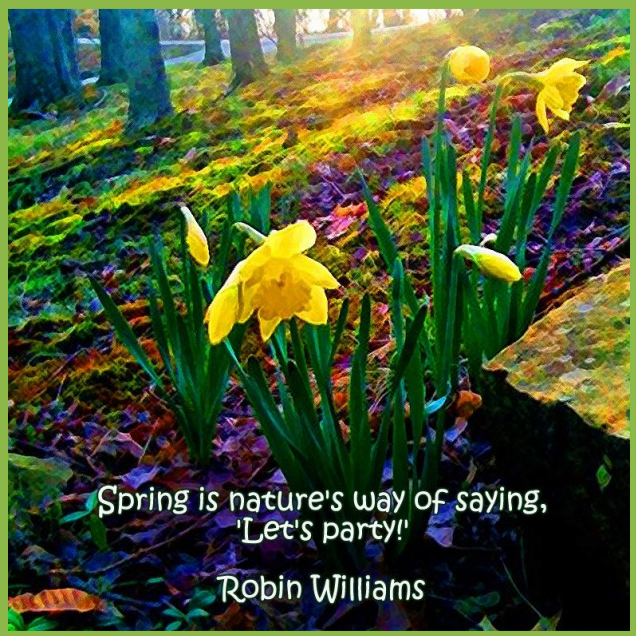
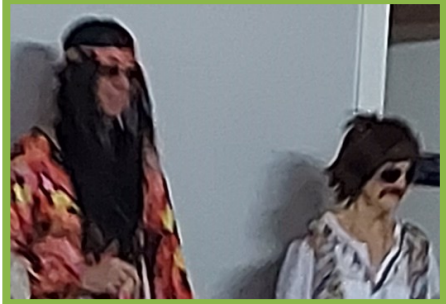
AUXILIARY NEWS

IN POWELL RIVER



Special bags of Christmas Cheer were made up and provided for our Powell River Seniors and delivered by the Auxiliary

Our Christmas Luncheon in December was visited by the Supremes and Sonny and Cher.



BCAHA OUTREACH PROGRAM

OUTREACH IN FRASER CANYON

Happily finishing her term as President, Marianne Cameron (centre) turns the reins over to co-chairs Laura Wejr and Bev Scherle, Flanked by AD Joanne Bydal & BCAHA President Carole Murray



OUTREACH IN DELTA

Always a treat to visit the beautifully stocked Gift Shop at Delta Hospital! Showing off merchandise to Carole, Candoe Jackson and Past AD Elaine Canning.



OUTREACH IN CHILLIWACK

Celebrating Chinese New Year and a great visit together. Back row L - R Joan Richardson, Joanne, Donna Goodey. Front L-R Sharon Panasky, Carole and Karen Houlden



Did you hear about the Zen Master who went up to a hot dog stand and asked them to make him one with everything?



Good Groaners!!

-I once dated a guy who broke up with me because I only have 9 toes. Yes, he was lack toes intolerant.

-I accidentally rubbed ketchup in my eyes. Now I have Heinzsight.

-I've started investing in stocks: beef, vegetable, chicken. One day I hope to be a bouillianaire.

- Did you know muffins spelled backwards is what you do when you take them out of the oven.

OUTREACH AT THE CHILLIWACK SERVICE LEAGUE SOCIETY

"So very sorry Chilliwack Service League. Joanne and I certainly enjoyed your meeting, but forgot to take a photo of your great group! Eighteen in attendance - wow!"



BCAHA OUTREACH PROGRAM



A shared lunch is a perfect way to keep in touch with each other! BCAHA President Carole (SCHA) and VP Ian (Powell River) enjoy a get-together with Sunshine Coast Past President Warren Jones and their newest 2024 CEO Anne Selder.

I always get uneasy when I go to the hospital. As soon as I put on that gown, I know my end is in sight.



OUTREACH IN SQUAMISH

Outreach to Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary Society.



Installation of Officers by President Carole Murray.

L-R: Barbara MacPherson
Julie Erb - President
Diane Normandin
Carole Murray

Absent from photo: Secretary
Carolynn Robertson



OUTREACH IN MISSION

Timmy's coffee and donuts enhance any meeting!

(l-r) Wendy Mack (Pres.), AD Joanne Bydal, BCAHA Pres. Carole Murray, Linda F. and Pat Parent.



OUTREACH IN LANGLEY

Carole and Joanne dropped in on the Langley Memorial Hospital Auxiliary monthly meeting as part of our Outreach Program.



HISTORY LESSON # 5

THE LOWER MAINLAND PART I:

Auxiliary to the Arthritis Society

The Women's Auxiliary to the Canadian Arthritis & Rheumatism Society was formed in 1950. They provided services to assist the Society's Treatment & Educational Programme.

In 1960 the Blue Bird Shop was opened on Seymour Street to sell handicrafts which had been made by the patients throughout the year. From 1965 to 1985, they were instrumental in raising funds for the Rufus Gibbs Lodge to accommodate patients from out of town. Patients were then moved to Easter Seal House.

The Auxiliary to Burnaby Hospital

From seven groups (auxiliaries) in 1943, they amalgamated into two – North & South. The long-awaited hospital was opened in 1952. They provided Library services, organized the Candy Stripper programme and assisted with Blood Donor Clinics. By 1968, the two groups became the Ladies Auxiliary to Burnaby General Hospital. A further name change came in 1983, when they became incorporated under the Societies Act as the Auxiliary to Burnaby Hospital.

Auxiliary to Children's Hospital

From 1979 to 1981, and after much planning, it was resolved that the previous two auxiliaries would disband and be re-establish themselves under the Societies Act as the 'Auxiliary to Children's Hospital'.

Delta Hospital Auxiliary

Formed in 1969, with eight chapters in the Ladner and Tsawwassen area. They amalgamated in 1980 into four units – Gift Shop, Hospital Volunteers, Thrift Shop and Ways & Means.

Why Be A Volunteer?

It's not for the money, it's not for the fame and it's not for any personal gain.

It's just for the love of fellow man.

It's just to lend a helping hand.

It's just to give a little of self.

That's something you can't buy with wealth.

It's not the medals worn with pride.

It's just for that feeling deep inside.

It's that reward down in your heart.

It's feeling that you've been a part of helping others far and near.

That's what makes you a VOLUNTEER.

I asked the surgeon if I could administer my own anesthetic. He replied, "Knock yourself out!"



TESTIMONIALS

Part of our mandate is to provide "Education, Resources and Support" for our members ! Here is what some had to say about our effort to do this.

Hi Carole,

Thank you very much that is very helpful.
It is so nice to be able to discuss matters with you.

Shannon

MY NAME IS DOROTHY & I HAD A PARTIAL MASTECTOMY AT DELTA HOSPITAL ON TUESDAY, JAN 2/24. I WAS QUITE NERVOUS ABOUT THE SURGERY AND THE LOVELY HANDMADE PILLOW GIVEN TO ME WAS VERY COMFORTING.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE PILLOW PALS FOR THIS VERY THOUGHTFUL GIFT. YOUR KINDNESS WAS MUCH APPRECIATED.

LOVE DOROTHY



Hi Carole,

Hi Carole,
"Thanks for your quick reply. See you in April"

Sandy

South Okanagan Healthcare
Auxiliary

AGM REMINDER

APRIL 21-24

IN KAMLOOPS



**What
fabulous things
are happening
in your auxiliary?**



If you would like to have anything published in the BCAHA newsletter, please send to the newsletter editor, Sharon Egglestone at:

bcahanewsletter@gmail.com. The newsletter is published four times a year! April, June September and December!

If you would like to have anything published on BCAHA Facebook page or Instagram please send to Cheryl Fry at:

commdirector.bcaha@gmail.com

We love to hear from our Auxiliaries, and we love to BRAG about what you do in your communities. If you publish your own newsletter, we'd love to have a copy so we can share your successes with other auxiliaries. Please include us in your newsletter email list (**bcahanewsletter@gmail.com**) so we get a copy.

If you don't already receive our newsletter and would like to, please go to bchealthcareaux.org and go to the news section and click on 'newsletter'. You will be able to request to sign up by putting your information in, or you can send an email to **commdirector.bcaha@gmail.com** and I will sign you up.

Thank You so much, " We LOVE to hear what you are up to"!

Cheryl – Communications Director