

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach the 2025 seems the right time to over the last two years.



AGM and renew our BCAHA Executive, it reflect upon my feelings of accomplishment

Upper most in my thoughts are feelings of gratitude to our Executive members for their enthusiasm and support. Everyone has worked diligently in promoting our mandate of providing education, connecting our members and promoting auxiliaries throughout B.C. My thanks go to Ian Burke - Vice President (Powell River), Cathy Bayley – Acting Secretary (Delta), Allana Ferro - Director of Finance (Trail), Cheryl Fry – Director of Communication (Salmon Arm) and Diane Thornton – Past President (Langley).

*Our BCAHA Directors have worked diligently at representing their regional areas.

They have shouldered a vital role to our success. My thanks go to Fern Hansen (North), Amanda Laranjo (Okanagan Mainline), Heather Kennedy (Kootenay Boundary), Margaret Watson (Fraser Valley), Barbara Worwood (Lower Mainland) and Vicky Stubbs (Van. Is.) With 63 auxiliaries and close to 5000 members, there is always a lot going on and you have kept them busy.

*As a member of the Communications Committee, Sharon Egglestone (Prince George) has continued to produce quarterly issues of our high-quality newsletter!

BCAHA has been your #1 fan in sharing your successes with fellow members!

There is so much to learn from each other, as over half of our members now receive their own copy on their home computer. While still on 'communications', I do hope that you have noticed that your own BCAHA website has been expanded with more of your news and photos. Thanks go to Cheryl Fry for her skillful initiative!

*The many highlights of my past two years 'on the road', all focus around being able to really connect with our member auxiliaries. The 'Outreach' programme, after the struggle of the Covid years, has shown me the pride and determination of our united efforts. Whether your group is large or small, in so many ways we're all the same. You are motivating, caring and welcoming community members.

Your hospitality was simply outstanding!

My enduring thanks for the opportunity to serve you these past two years. As you may notice – Congratulations on our 80th Anniversary are in order! Carole J. Murray



WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PRESIDENT CAROLE





Bieutenant Sovernor of British Columbia

January 30, 2025

Diane Thornton
President
British Columbia Association of Healthcare Auxiliaries
5734 184 B St
Surrey BC V3S 7E3

Dear Diane Thornton:

I have been proud to be associated with the British Columbia Association of Healthcare Auxiliaries during the years of my term as the 30th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

I've had a fabulous run of nearly seven years, and it has been a privilege and a delight to have honoured and promoted so many excellent associations and dedicated citizens who have enriched the lives of British Columbians.

As my term is now concluding, thank you for your many contributions to British Columbia. My very best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

The Honoyrable Janet Austin, OBC

Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

Sovernment House 1401 Rockland Avenue Victoria British Columbia V8S (V9



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21—April 23

Electronic 2025 AGM

April 27-May 3

National Volunteer Appreciation Week "Volunteers Make Waves"

May 10

'BC Auxiliary Day'

News from Smithers

We had a \$7.00 fill the bag sale for 3 days. Customers were so excited. Was such a big hit as well. So fun.









Two Fraser Valley Installations

Fraser Canyon & Hope Lodge



Langley



North Vancouver Lion's Gate Auxiliary Hospital charity thrift shop reopens at new location.



Long-time Lions Gate Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop volunteer, 93-year-old Helen Galan, is happy to see the shop up and running at its new location at 132 16th St. West in North Vancouver.

Stepping into the new store, customers will be treated to modern flooring and lighting, accompanied by the same charming staff and sensible prices that have kept people coming back to the business for decades.

Securing the current location was a bit of a challenge, explains Auxiliary chair Aren Evers, as the organization had to find a space that accommodated the retail and donation aspects of the business, ideally in a familiar spot.

After some delays with permitting and building materials, they were finally able to reopen in November, continuing a legacy of stores supporting Lions Gate Hospital that dates back more than 100 years.

Despite a long, two-year wait, Evers said she's really proud of what the organization has accomplished with the new store.

"All of our customers have returned," she said. "That's a testament to what we do."

North Shore News

The Dr Helmcken Memorial Hospital Auxiliary went western

this year at the Annual Christmas luncheon. Yee haw!!





THINGS MONEY CAN'T BUY:

- 1. Manners
- 2. Morals
- 3. Respect
- 4. Character
- 5. Common sense
- 6. Trust
- 7. Patience
- 8. Class
- 9. Integrity
- 10. Love



As of December 2024, Eagle Ridge Hospital Auxiliary passed the \$2 million mark by donating \$2,012,377.73 to provide patient comforts and equipment to Eagle Ridge Hospital, a regional Hospital in Port Moody BC. Eagle Ridge Hospital Auxiliary began in 1976 before the hospital was built and were part of the group fund raising and advocating for its creation.

In early years they held plant sales, bake sales, and afternoon teas. In later years they held Annual Balls, sold tickets and beer at the local race track, held Stanley and Grey Cup draws, raffles, chocolate sales and penny drives. In 1979 when Coquitlam Centre opened, Woodwards asked them to host the refreshment stand and they sold coffee and donuts for \$.10 each. In 1984 the hospital Gift Shop opened. On the first day there were 19 customers and they made \$19.45.

In 2013 our Thrift Shop opened in Port Coquitlam. To this day our Fund raising continues to be diverse. We still successfully run the Gift Shop and Thrift Shop and offer hand crafted goods and run a Craft Sale each year, but we also sell higher end and specialty items using online outlets such as Poshmark and Facebook Marketplace.

Our methods of fundraising may have changed, but our dedication to our hospital and its patients remains the same. We provide discharge clothing and toiletry items to those that require them. We also support a Music Program at the Eagle Ridge Manor Care home, and last year we increased our Bursary program to four bursaries of \$2500 each.

Our funds have provided ERH with wheelchairs, microscopes, ice machines, blood pressure machines, chairs and more chairs, patient lifts, ECG machines, stretchers, pressure mattresses, televisions, emergency preparedness equipment and the list goes on.

Our larger donations have included \$250,000.00 toward the ER expansion in 2021 and an additional \$125,000.00 toward two Orthopedic video towers for the OR in 2024. All of this was provided by an Auxiliary of only 100 members.

I'm incredibly proud of the work that we do and the people that perform it.

We've come a long way from penny drives and \$.10 donuts.

Julie Colquhoun

Thrift Store Co-Manager and Publicity Chair



Golden Rules for Living

(Author Unknown)

- 1. If you open it, close it.
- 2. If you turn it on, turn it off.
- 3. If you unlock it, lock it up.
- 4. If you break it, admit it.
- 5. If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.
- 6. If you borrow it, return it.
- 7. If you value it, take care of it.
- 8. If you make a mess, clean it up.
- 9. If you move it, put it back.
- 10. If it belongs to someone else, get permission to use it.
- 11. If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.
- 12. If it's none of your business, don't ask questions.

Thoughtful Soul



News From Ladysmith





LHCA's New Executive Director

Tara McHugh - Lee

Introducing our Newly Installed Executive 2025/26

L to R: Jim Brown, Lynda Baker (Directors at Large), Sara Stayte (Treasurer), Anna Costello (Co-Treasurer), Gail Murray (Secretary), Anne Spalding (Membership Director), Ruth Goodbody (President), and Eithne Reichert (Past President).

Missing: Jean Sparkes (VP and Interim Grants Director) and Linda Stephenson (Personnel Director)

On Feb 6, 2025, with approval from our general membership, we received the go-ahead to promote Tara McHugh-Lee to the salaried position of **Executive Director**. Alongside, Deanna Noonan, and Mario Gauvin, Tara's thoughtful leadership will continue to flourish

The **Executive Director (ED)** role is a new departure for all of us. The board felt that the increased scale, revenues, and pace of our Thrift Store operations warranted the elevation of Tara's responsibilities to this position.

News From Oliver The South Okanagan Health Care Auxiliary Society

2024 was a very busy year for the Oliver Thrift Shop as we continued to keep our doors open during the ongoing construction of a new store addition. Despite the construction we still managed to meet our 2024 commitment to the Penticton General Hospital Oncology Unit of \$50,000 and gave out 2 Student Bursaries totalling \$5,000. Now our store addition is nearing completion. We expect to fully open later this year. The addition will give us: -a safe, bright and updated sorting/pricing area for volunteers -an organized donation area to receive goods from the community -change rooms for customers -more floor space to display merchandise All this accomplished by our team of dedicated volunteers (over 70 men and women) and the support of caring community donors and customers in Oliver and the surrounding area.



Barb Carstairs, Carol Howes, Jo Ridgway, Carole Kraft (Past President) & Sally Ginter (Past CEO SOS Med Foundation)



Larry Rites, Dennis Frewin, & Aldo Bonaldo



Jennifer Calhoun

"Carole enjoyed a fun brunch with Eagle Ridge President Barbara Worwood (aka Lower Mainland Area Director Barb) following a visit to their expanded Thrift Store".





Even Sundays are busy for this crew!

Tahsis—A little bit of history

Jan 3-10 2022 Power outage

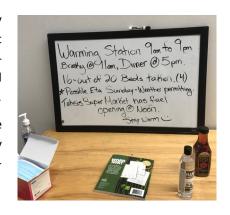
The Tahsis hospital auxiliary was hard at work back in January of 2022. The North end of Vancouver Island suffered a 10-day power outage that effected the communities of Kyuqot, Oclucje, Ehatis, Zeballos and Tahsis. During this community emergency the hospital auxiliary stepped up to the plate and volunteered to man the warming center after hours to ensure our overnight guests of 20 individuals remained cared for. They assisted with coordinating the warming centre, assisted in ensuring individuals received daily meals and kept a over seeing eye on our most vulnerable. This emergency was during Covid which lead to the ladies ensuring tables, chairs and doors were wiped down regularly.

Debbie Vansolkema worked closely with BCEHS and ensured the most vulnerable received their daily medications and ensured BCEHS assessed and treated any injuries that occurred.

We are so blessed to have this fine team of individuals in our community of Tahsis and I look forward to working with them in the future.

Thank you

Virginia Mountan









In Squamish



The Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary Society warmly welcomed the first baby of 2025, Zowawar Singh Aujla, with a beautiful basket of items selected from the hospital's Gift Shop. Zowawar was born at 4:30 a.m. and weighed 3.08 kilograms

Proud parents, Sapinder Singh and Jaspreet Kaur with their newborn son.

At its AGM on February 20, 2025, the Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary elected its new board of directors.

From left to right:

Treasurer: Diane Normandin Vice-President: Linda Gillies

President: Julie Erb

Secretary: Carolynn Robertson



Love is in the air or more precisely, right at the front entrance of Squamish General Hospital. Two beautifully decorated planters, adorned with dogwood branches and red wooden hearts, warmly greet patients, staff, and visitors.

These heartfelt decorations are the handiwork of Marie Worth, a dedicated Auxiliary member, and her husband Tony. Marie purchased the wooden hearts at a dollar store, while Tony cut the dogwood branches and spray painted each heart red.

Their thoughtful gesture brightens the entrance, spreading a little extra warmth and kindness to all who pass through.



Squamish Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop Donates \$10,000 for Ultrasound Machine

Carolynn Robertson, Treasurer of the Gift Shop, recently presented a generous \$10,000 donation to Diane Normandin, Treasurer of the Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary. These funds will go toward the purchase of a new ultrasound machine for the Hospital's emergency room, helping to enhance patient care and medical services in the community.

To track our fund-raising progress for the ultrasound machine, a talented member of the Auxiliary prepared a thermometer. As of the end of February, the Auxiliary has raised \$50,000 of its \$65,000 goal.







In Chilliwack

Chilliwack members receive service pins.

From left to right is Joan Richardson with 25 years; Jean Northgraves with 40 years and Judith Clout-Knowles with 25 years.



Kathy Mason and Diana Murphy receiving their 5 year pins.



Here are some of our members along with Margaret Watson our area director and her secretary Joanne Bydal. After our general meeting we went for lunch at Kelly O'Briens.





of our Thrift Shoppe after 26 years in March but we will persevere with sale events and do the best we can. Our bake sale/raffle held on Dec 7. We made over \$7500

We don't have a lot to celebrate these days with the closing



Chilliwack Installation of Officers

In Dawson Creek

The Dawson Creek Hospital Auxiliary purchased 6 Staxi transport chairs for our hospital and the ER. A local company made the license plates for the back and the staff thinks these chairs are wonderful!!





In Burns Lake



The Burns Lake auxiliary worked very hard to raise \$220,000.00 for this ultra sound machine for their hospital.

In Shuswap

New Blanket Warmer Purchased

Winding up our 2024 fundraisers with a very successful Christmas Gift Wrapping Station at a local mall, Shuswap Lake Health-Care Auxiliary members were thrilled to hear of the arrival and installation of the Blanket Warmer at SLGH. This was a significant purchase for our group, and we are very proud to contribute to the comfort and care of SLGH patients. Following our annual AGM in February, we will resume our fund-raising activities in hopes of providing more needed equipment for our local hospital in 2025.



In Rossland

Here's a photo of our thrift store Parade entry at the Rossland Winter Carnival at the end of January. It's always a lot of fun as we bask in the cheers from the crowd!



In Abbotsford

AUXILIARY TO THE ABBOTSFORD REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Our Auxiliary is experiencing a lack of wholesale baby clothes businesses able to supply our needs. We need baby scratch mitts, various hats and clothing.

Our current supplier is not filling our orders and is very unreliable in replying to emails asking where our order is etc etc. Plus, her line of items appears to be shrinking in choice. We have had various mistakes made with our orders, as well.

Does any other Auxiliary have a company they deal with and can recommend to us.

We did not get any responses to our Facebook inquiry.

If you can help, then please contact our Auxiliary through our Webpage –

abbotsfordhospitalauxiliary.ca or

email – <u>abbotsfordauxiliary@gmail.com</u> Thank you



Sangeeta Rana

The Auxiliary to the Abbotsford Hospital recently purchased a colposcope for \$42,000.00. Colposcopy is a diagnostic procedure to check your cervix and the wall of your vagina for abnormal tissue. The colposcope is a special lighted microscope that magnifies the tissue that lines your cervix and vagina thus allowing early detection of cancer or other abnormalities allowing for early treatment.





Chemainus Celebrates 125 Years in 2024

Our Auxiliary is the oldest BCAHA auxiliary. Needless to say we wanted to celebrate our **125**th **ANNIVERSARY** in style, Sept 23-25!



The celebration started with putting the finishing touches on our sparkling Thrift Shop. We invited the public to tour the Thrift Shop and warehouse, to enjoy entertainment and refreshments and enter for draw-prizes.











We had a dedication of metal park benches and a refurbished sign and a group photo at the Chemainus Health Care Centre, followed by a complimentary lunch at the Legion, for our volunteers. About half of our membership pose for our 125th Anniversary photo. We were so pleased to have such a good turnout given the gloomy weather. Even so, only about half of our members could make it to the photo shoot.

Thelma Simmonds, our enthusiastic LIFE member in her centenary year, cutting one of the anniversary cakes.

On our actual anniversary, Sept. 25, we celebrated at the Thrift Shop, Waterwheel Park and the Museum. We generously received coverage from CBC radio, CHEK TV and The Courier and The Citizen newspapers. We had marvellous community support that made us aware of how much our Auxiliary is respected and appreciated,

We had great fun hosting the Upside Guys of CHEK TV, describing our history and our operations. To top it off we offered gratis horse and carriage rides between the Thrift Shop and Waterwheel Park. This exposure resulted in a number of new volunteers.

Congratulatory speeches were given by the Mayor, Ian Burke on behalf of Carol Murray and other dignitaries. We had terrific responses in person and in social media about how valued the Auxiliary is and what a wonderful service we provide to the community

Entertainment had the public rocking at our bandshell, while, at the same time, the Museum opened its doors to show off the diorama created for our centenary in 1999 and provided a walk through history of the Auxiliary's 125 years of service. Our Historian's brand new story boards were on display.

The highlight of the evening was our presentation of our \$125,000 BIG CHEQUE in support of the new Cowichan District Hospital.



In Cowichan

In the last newsletter, we shared the news that the Auxiliary to the Cowichan District Hospital had just purchased a permanent home for the Thrift Store we operate. Well, it's been eight months and after spending a couple of months upgrading, renovating, painting and preparing, we moved in on October 1 and our new chapter began. There were some growing pains, as the space isn't exactly the same as the one we were familiar with. But things sort themselves out and we now have a much improved retail space, including an automatic door opener to accommodate wheelchairs and strollers. Our customers have commented very positively about the new space and we must be doing something right because our sales have increased quite dramatically.

At the other end, our donations have also increased and the new receiving dock and sorting area are significantly bigger and better organized, making life a lot easier for the volunteers who work in that area.

Come see for yourself, we'd be happy to take you on a tour of our operation. We're at 138 Craig Street in Duncan and are opening from 10:00 to 4:00 Tuesday to Saturday.



In Hope

This is the first installation for our Area Director Margaret Watson. The Auxiliary is from Fraser Canyon Health Care Auxiliary and Fraser Hope Lodge.





Theresa Cooke has been a volunteer for over 60 years. She is from the Fraser Canyon healthcare Auxiliary, and Hope Lodge.



In Fort St John

Another exciting and fruitful year at the FSJ Hospital Auxiliary. This was all made possible by the hard work and dedication of the core members of our Auxiliary working in the Gift Shop and handling our 6 Vending machines. At our AGM held February 17/25 some of our 27 members were recognized for their long-time support and achievements. Members present receiving service awards were Lil Turchanski – 45 years, Coleen Dunlop - 20 years, Donna Wrixon – 10 years & Elaine German – 5 years. Members not in attendance receiving awards were Sheila Hards-Volz – 45 years, Pat Lube – 5 years & Fay McQuarrie – 5 years.



Our outreach in the community included bursaries & a scholarship for students going into nursing & medical fields. Our commitments to Peace Villa have been 10 replacement TVs for resident rooms for \$3,800.00 & 2 heated food carts for \$16,000.00.

Another big expense to the tune of \$20,000.00 was helping our contractor with the mammoth physical job of moving our Memorial Garden including the memorial bricks & many rose bushes to make way for a much-needed extended hospital parking. Our new spot is a far more pleasant, convenient and conducive area including benches & trees, that can be enjoyed and seen by many. Our thanks go out to all that helped many in their 80s dig, pull, carry, suffer aching backs and even fell in the process. We are waiting with bated breath to see what survives the winter.



All this was made possible by the super sales in our unique and poplar gift Shop. Buying trips by our member Jean Gammage to the gift shows in Edmonton and Toronto paid dividends all year. Our annual customer & staff appreciation day in December where we displayed merchandise in front of our gift shop enticing customers into the shop helped us break sale records during the Christmas season. We served mulled cider, cookies & had door prizes for people in attendance.

The highlight and surprise of the year was the selling of over 80 snow globes. We were thrilled and relieved to sell out by Christmas with many a disappointed customer after.



One of our heart warmings and very successful endeavors this year was answering the call from our hospital admin to take around a comfort cart with water & cookies the third weekend of each month to give cheer and ease the long wait times in the waiting room and in Emergency. This has been so well received by the public & our members that take around the comfort cart that we are considering doing it two times a month.



In the Comox Valley

The Auxiliary Society for Comox Valley Healthcare held their 2024 AGM on March 18th and the numbers are in. We donated an amazing \$657,565.20 to healthcare by volunteering an astonishing 37,903 hours in our Thrift and Gift shops.

The monies were donated as follows:

Comox Valley Hospital: \$291,824.11 to purchase:

Opthalmology Microscope; Sterile Equipment Wrapping Tables; Dental X-ray System; Bladder Scanner; ER Chairs; Barco Monitors and Pocket Talkers.

Providence - The Views: \$173,612.20

To provide Music and Art programs for the residents.

Glacier View Lodge: \$75,000.00

For Specialty Bathtubs.

To celebrate our 110 Anniversary:

We selected 11 organizations related to healthcare in the Comox Valley and gifted them \$10,000.00 each. Recipients were: Wheels for Wellness; Comox Valley Child Development Association: CV Lifeline Society; CV Therapeutic Riding Society; CV Senior Support Society; Sonshine Lunch Club; CV Food Bank; Dawn to Dawn; Action Against Homelessness; CV Search and Rescue;

CV Care Society; Care-A-Van and Eureka Support Society.





Bursaries: \$2000.00

\$5,128.89 also covered a variety of items in the Emergency and Wellness Centers, stuffed toys first for newborns and sick children and birthday cards and flowers for seniors in care.

We also honored two lifetime members

Marie Hunter and Carole Dickson

Held an outdoor Thrift Sale, started a Facebook page and Auction and honored our members with a great Christmas party. *A banner year.*

Submitted by Barbara MacDonald Member at Large

News from Alberni



\$400,000 gift promised to WCGH. Roberta presenting cheque at our annual Christmas Tea at the hospital.

The Alberni Auxiliary had a special shopping time for the Mommas for Mommas group to come in and pick out some free clothing for their children. Not as many came as we thought might, but the ones who did come were very appreciative of our generosity. We will definitely try it again.

Also P.A.S.S. (Port Alberni Shelter Society) was looking to get some dishes for their shelter. So, we will be donating some of our excess dishes to them. They get a lot of breakage at the Shelter kitchen, we are happy to give these items.

We are also going to try a \$1.00 clothing sale every 2nd Wednesday of the month starting April 9th.

The Attic

Wow, February sure let us know that it's still winter. Lots of snow and cold weather that also brought us blue skies. Lots of cold weather clothing has been selling well. Quilts, blankets, crazy carpets and sleds have been flying out the door. We've had volunteers sick and away on holidays, so thank you to those who have filled in for them. We have had some free advertising for the Auxiliary and The Attic. Ian Stanton set us up with "THE SCOOP". They were looking to do a feature on volunteers. We were all a bit nervous to be on camera, but it turned out great. If you haven't seen it, check it out!. The Scoop will also be doing a feature on The Hospital Gift Shop. Diabetes has been picking up items that have not been selling for us. However, after the end of February they will no longer be picking up from us. We need to find other opportunities to donate our excess to. We have asked some of our volunteers peers for ideas of what to do with it. So, if you can think of any groups that could use clothing or other things please let us know. We are going to try setting up some private opportunities for groups in need to come in and shop (as a donation to them). It would be for specific things such as clothing, dishes, etc. that we have an excess of.





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.





Carole.

Situation has been handled.

Thank you for bringing it to my attention.

Sincerely,

Peggy



Regarding the Healthcare Protection Program.

Hello Carole:

This is very helpful.

Thank you for your prompt reply.

Marlene



Marlene

Carole has asked that I talk with you about the HCPP coverage for your Auxiliary for Liability, Crime and D & O insurance. You can get the info off of

the website under members area forms and resources, but here is a copy of the certificates. Let et me know if there is

anything else I can help with.

Cheryl

VOLUNTEERING IS REWARDING Question:

DOESN'T

Can you please tell me if the attendance at conferences is open to all members.

Reply:

Absolutely open to all members reply. Kyle

Thank you so much for your prompt

2025

Save



Date

AUXILIARY DAY **MAY 10TH** 2025



2026



Date

BCAHA AGM & CONFERENCE VERNON APRIL 19-22

2026

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 be be be although 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

It's TIME





....to remind you that the BCAHA Summer Newsletter Submissions Deadline is June 1st