

Hello Summer



BC Association of
Healthcare Auxiliaries

June 2025 Newsletter



PRESIDENT ALLANA FERRO'S MESSAGE



May 2025

As I sit here to write my President's Message, I look out my kitchen window and the rain has stopped. The sun is out and the new bright colours of green indicate spring is turning the corner to summer.

I have been very busy and enjoying every minute! In the first month I attended the Okanagan Mainline Area Conference in Vernon, the Castlegar & District Hospital Auxiliary AGM, dropped off pins to the Chilliwack Hospital Service League and installed the new Executive members for the Richmond Hospital/HealthCare Auxiliaries.

In 2024, there were 62 member auxiliaries within BCAHA and they continue to make remarkable inroads. Every year we seem to increase our bursaries, healthcare donations and volunteer hours.

Adult Volunteers	Junior Volunteers	Volunteer hours	Bursaries	Donations To HealthCare
4,637	297	926,019	\$351,000	\$10,648,000

Every Auxilian within BCAHA should be so very proud of their donation in time to their Auxiliary. During my Presidency I will be available to each and every member of BCAHA.

Enjoy your Summer!

Allana Ferro

At the 2025 OMA Area Conference, President Allana Ferro presents Past President Carole Murray with a BCAHA Lifetime Award for her many years of dedicated service to the auxiliaries in British Columbia.



THANK YOU CAROLE MURRAY

OUR BCAHA PAST PRESIDENT

SHE TRAVELLED EVERYWHERE!



VANDERHOOF



100 MILE HOUSE



TAHSIS



ALBERNI



PRINCE GEORGE



ASHCROFT



GOLD RIVER



COWICHAN



VERNON



KOOTNEY— BOUNDARY



VANCOUVER ISLAND



CASTLEGAR



SQUAMISH



DELTA



CHILLIWACK



MISSION



FRASER CANYON



SUMMERLAND



VANDERHOOF



LANGLEY



REVELSTOKE



SALMON ARM



LADYSMITH



CLEARWATER



STUART LAKE



TERRACE



WILLIAMS LAKE



KAMLOOPS



SUNSHINE COAST



COMOX VALLEY



RICHMOND



Carole also visited
KASLO
NAKUSP
PORT HARDY
SMITHERS
BURNS LAKE
QUESNEL
MERRITT



BC Association of
Healthcare Auxiliaries

Helping Healthcare the Auxiliary Way

Minutes of the BCAHA AGM – April 21 – 23, 2025 (held electronically)

A quorum was present, as there were 81 registered voters and a total of 54 members voted.

Survey Voting Results:

Motion to approve the agenda – M/S/C (unanimously)

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2024, BCAHA AGM
M/S/C (unanimously)

Motion to approve the BCAHA Annual Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2024, as presented – M/S/C (unanimously)

Motion to approve the firm of Gregory, Yick & Associates Chartered Accountants be appointed as professional Accountants for the BCAHA until the end of 2026 Annual General Meeting – M/S/C (unanimously)

Motion that all Acts, contracts, proceedings, appointments and payments made, done and taken by the Directors and Officers of BCAHA since last Annual General Meeting held April 15, 2024, be approved, ratified and confirmed.
– M/S/C (unanimously)

Motion that section 5.15 of the BCAHA Bylaws 2022 regarding Role of Secretary be amended as outlined - M/S/C (unanimously)

Motion that section 5.15 of the BCAHA Bylaws 2022 regarding the Role of the Director of Finance be amended as

Election – for position of BCAHA Vice President for 2025 - 2026

Fern Hansen – 40.74%

Valerie Wright – 59.26%

End of BCAHA 2025 AGM electronic survey.

Thank-you everyone for your participation. Apologies to those who did not receive the link. Sometimes we don't have your most up to date information and sometimes your email settings don't allow what it considers 'junk' email to come through.

Your BCAHA Executive for 2025 – 2026:

President – Allana Ferro (Trail)

Vice President – Valerie Wright (Summerland)

Secretary – Cathy Bayley (Delta)

Dir. of Finance – Mary Derksen (Richmond)

Dir. of Communications – position vacant

Past President – Carole Murray (Sunshine Coast)

Respectfully submitted,

Carole J. Murray

Carole J. Murray

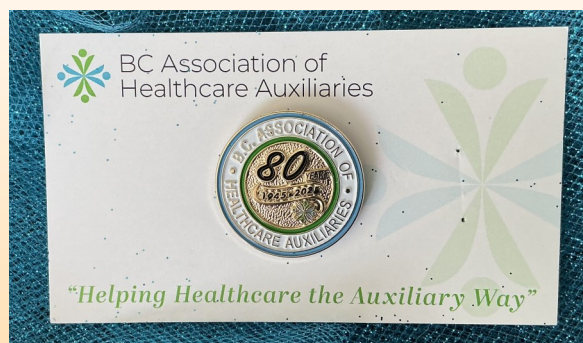
BCAHA Past President



This year BC Association of HealthCare Auxiliaries will be marking it's 80th Anniversary with an **80th Year Commemorative Pin**. Each Auxiliary will receive 2 pins to give to a valued Auxiliary as a token of our appreciation for their countless volunteer hours.

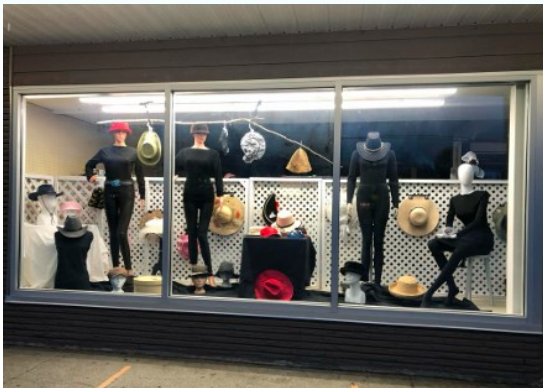
Congratulations to these Auxiliaries celebrating special Anniversaries:

Victoria Hospital of Kaslo Auxiliary	March, 1905 – 120 th Anniversary
Tahsis Hospital Auxiliary	May, 1905 - 120 th Anniversary
Auxiliary GR Baker Memorial Hospital	March, 1910 – 115 th Anniversary
Slocan Community HealthCare Auxiliary	March, 1910 – 115 th Anniversary
Invermere HealthCare Auxiliary	May, 1910 – 115 th Anniversary
BVD Hospital Auxiliary	March, 1920 – 105 th Anniversary
Mission HealthCare Auxiliary	Spring, 1920 – 105 th Anniversary
Chilliwack Hospital Auxiliary	Spring, 1935 – 90 th Anniversary
Chilliwack Hospital Service League Auxiliary	April, 1935 – 90 th Anniversary
Powell River HealthCare Auxiliary	April, 1945 – 80 th Anniversary
McBride & District Hospital Auxiliary	May, 1960 – 65 th Anniversary
Dr Helmcken Memorial Hospital Auxiliary	March, 1970 – 55 th Anniversary



AUXILIARY NEWS

NEWS FROM ALBERNI AND THEIR THRIFT STORE—THE ATTIC



We are trying a \$1.00 day on the second Wednesday of each month for all clothing and shoes. Our first one went really well.



The Attic is ready for June brides!!



Karen Oliver and Judy McInnes taking a well deserved break at The Attic



Alberni celebrates St Paddy's Day in style.



AUXILIARY NEWS

NEWS FROM SQUAMISH

Bunnies and Eggs Brighten Hospital Entrance

Once again, Marie Worth has brought her creative flair to the main entrance of Squamish General Hospital by decorating the planters with a cheerful seasonal display. Marie, a dedicated and talented member of the Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary, worked alongside her husband Tony to bring the charming arrangement to life.

Tony spray-painted wooden bunnies—picked up from a local dollar store—a soft shade of blue, while Marie added fluffy pink tails for a whimsical touch. The bunnies were then tied to the dogwood branches in each of the two planters. To complete the festive look, four brightly coloured eggs were nestled into the display.

Patients, visitors, and staff alike have expressed their appreciation for the effort, noting how the thoughtful decorations help create a warmer, more welcoming entrance to the Hospital.



NEWS FROM PRINCE GEORGE

The Auxiliary to UHNBC has an amazing group of talented quilters who create beautiful items to raffle at their Thrift Shop. The proceeds from this April raffle are helping to fund new eye surgery equipment for our eye specialists at the University Hospital of BC in Prince George.



Looking for a way to promote your Auxiliary? Prince George had bookmarks made to give out with each book they sell in their Gift and Thrift shops. Volunteer applications are found on their website which is on the bookmarks.



AUXILIARY NEWS

NEWS FROM TRAIL— Across the Pond and Back! A grateful visitor pays it back to the Trail hospital

An article from the Trail Times April 24th— Reporter Sherie Regnier

A recent act of kindness is warming hearts across the Kootenays, thanks to one very grateful visitor from the UK and a dedicated team of volunteers at the Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital (KBRH) in Trail. Anita Fricke, secretary of the Trail Hospital Auxiliary, told the Trail Times that a woman visiting family in Castlegar ended up spending much of her vacation at KBRH — definitely not what she had planned. Despite the circumstances, she was struck by the exceptional care she received from the physicians and staff, as well as the warm hospitality found in the hospital's Gift Shop.

"She made several visits to the Gift Shop during her recovery and was genuinely impressed by the variety and quality of merchandise," said Fricke. "She even asked one of our volunteers if the shop would accept hand-knitted items as a thank-you once she returned to the UK." True to her word, about a month later, the Gift Shop received a large parcel from overseas.

Inside were lovingly crafted baby sets — small blankets paired with matching toques and booties — along with several colourful afghans. "The craftsmanship is beautiful," Fricke shared. "It's clear these pieces took months of work. It was such a generous and heartfelt gesture." This story is a powerful example of kindness coming full circle. What began as quality medical care and simple human compassion became a cross-continental expression of gratitude — proof that generosity knows no borders. The Trail Hospital Auxiliary would like to extend a big thank you to this thoughtful donor, Fricke said, and to all the physicians, staff, and volunteers who make KBRH a place of care, comfort, and connection. For those inspired by this story, Fricke encourages locals to consider volunteering.

"We're always looking for helping hands," she said. "Come be part of something meaningful." Applications are available at the Gift Shop, and volunteers can assist there or in the Cast Clinic or Colpo Clinic.



NEWS FROM CASTLEGAR AND DISTRICT AUXILIARY



Castlegar and District Hospital Auxiliary held their 2025 AGM and luncheon on May 14, 2025. Our new board of directors are Kelly Waage (President), Barb Makortoff (Vice President), Elaine Truscott (Treasurer), Joy Andersen (Secretary), Angela Jmio (Director), Janice Parsons (Director) and Elaine Wasney (Director).

The new board and membership expressed thanks to outgoing board members Rosalie Ingham, Patricia Jacklin, Bettie Beattie, Wendy Schwab, Violet Krest and Vivianne Hadikin for their service.

Submitted by Kelly Waage (President)

AUXILIARY NEWS

MORE NEWS FROM SQUAMISH

National Volunteer Week

To celebrate National Volunteer Week, Julie Erb, President of the Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary, hosted a special event to recognize and thank our dedicated volunteers for their invaluable contributions. Their efforts in raising funds help support the purchase of vital equipment for the hospital. Guests enjoyed coffee, tea, and cake, along with the opportunity to connect and socialize with fellow volunteers.



Linda Gillies, Vice President and Julie Erb, President with the poster that Julie created for National Volunteer Week

The Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary is fortunate to have a number of talented members who sew, crochet, knit, and quilt. Among them is Erica, a dedicated knitter who has been lovingly creating baby outfits for our hospital gift shop for many years. Every stitch reflects her care and craftsmanship, and her beautiful creations are always a favorite with our customers.



Diane Normandin admiring Erica's knitted sweater and bonnet.

Shoppers at the Squamish General Hospital Gift Shop have been delighted to discover a unique seasonal treat: hand-crafted fabric Easter eggs filled with chocolate.

These special creations are the result of a collaboration between three dedicated members of the Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary Society. Margaret Wilcox generously donated the fabric, Eleanor Pino brought the eggs to life with her design and sewing skills, and Julie Erb added the finishing touch by filling each one with delicious chocolate Easter eggs.

Margaret Wilcox and Eleanor Pino showing their basket of eggs. Julie Erb is absent from the photo.



AUXILIARY NEWS

OMA NEWS



This is Lynda Avis (Flying Nun) at the OMA conference. She was the closing speaker

NEWS FROM SHUSWAP LAKE

Through income generated at the hospital's gift shop, book sale and a very successful Christmas gift wrapping station, the Shuswap Lake Health-Care Auxiliary was able to purchase a blanket warmer. Delivery was made in February for use on Level 2 of our hospital. This was a significant expenditure for our Auxiliary. We are proud to contribute to the comfort and care of local patients.



Pictured, left to right, are Brenda Laurenson, Vice-President, Edie Swanson, President, Arline Allison, Secretary and Ashley Boechler, Treasurer.

MIGHT THIS IDEA FROM SUMMERLAND WORK FOR YOUR AUXILIARY?

Summerland Health Care Auxiliary

Health & Safety

Health & Safety falls under the leadership of 2nd Vice President. Our Health & Safety group is made up of volunteers from our regular membership. The mission of our group is to look at, review and correct any safety issues in the shop. We have seen many positive changes to the safety side and are always looking for anything that may benefit the physical and mental health of our volunteers. Here is a list of items/suggestions that the Health & Safety committee completes. The committee meets every 2 months or as required.

- Defibrillator, ensuring it is kept charged and in running order. An annual defibrillator training session is setup for volunteers, hosted by the Summerland Fire Dept.
- First aid kit(s) are kept inventoried and stocked.
- Incident reports are reviewed by the Health & Safety committee, to ensure completion of the reports, as well as any follow up.
- checking the Thrift shop surroundings and correcting anything that may pose a Safety or Health risk to our volunteers. Example: floor mats, hooks, step ladders to name a few.
- a suggestion box was setup for volunteers to bring to the committee's attention any items that may require a follow up. All suggestions are reviewed, fixed and reported at the monthly general meetings.
- sanitization of the water cooler, every 3 months.
- 911 procedure lists were setup at each phone at the Thrift store, to ensure our volunteers calling 911 have the address etc. at their fingertips.
- a Health & Safety bulletin board was setup to post information pertaining to Health & Safety , brochures of upcoming events (example: memory cafes, diabetic workshops) there is also tips posted regarding safety (example: how to lift, preventing falls from ladders etc.) A list of the Health & Safety committee members is also posted on the board.
- making sure the work areas are kept clutter free
- Follow the Code of Conduct while performing our duties.
- attached are documents used for Incident reports, 911 call procedures.

Any questions do not hesitate to contact:

Linda Snider
2nd Vice President
Email: lsnyder1@telus.net



AUXILIARY NEWS

NEWS FROM RICHMOND



The Richmond Hospital Thrift Shop is very proud of our wonderful volunteer youth. They start by collecting hours for their school credits and in most cases continue on serving the community with their service. The first picture is our restoration, which hopefully will be finished by end of the summer.



MORE NEWS FROM SQUAMISH

In May, the Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary held its annual White Elephant Sale in front of the hospital. The event aimed to raise funds for the purchase of an ultrasound machine for the emergency room.

Plants proved to be a popular item, and our homemade baked goods were such a hit that we quickly sold out. One of our members baked an impressive 182 cookies, carefully packaged in individual servings.

We also introduced a new approach to selling pre-loved clothing: one table featured items priced at two dollars, while another offered five-dollar pieces. This setup was well received, as customers enjoyed browsing for bargains—and there were plenty to be found.

Our enthusiastic members enjoyed mingling with visitors and working together as a team towards our fundraising goal. The sale was a great success!



AUXILIARY NEWS

NEWS FROM THE SUNSHINE COAST

In It Together We Are One

The SCHA is adapting to the changing face of volunteerism and recently held a vote to amalgamate its four branches into one. Of its 368 members 232 voted in favor of the new structure. A strategic planning committee was formed to facilitate the role out with the slogan "In it TOGETHER we are one."

We are excited for this new structure which will allow our organization to continue to serve the residents of the Sunshine Coast, enriching healthcare in the most meaningful way.

What has your Auxiliary done to address the challenges with your volunteer base?



Photo.

SCHA Strategic Planning Group Leads; Anne Selder, Margaret Matthews, Jacqui Jones-Cox, Catherine Hanson and Maureen Hamblin at the Sechelt info session.



NEWS FROM 100 MILE HOUSE

Our auxiliary was at The Eclectica Choir on Mother's Day Afternoon. The choir admission was by donation and the proceeds were split between our Auxiliary and another in town. It was a beautiful afternoon.

Gail and Roberta are at the donation table.



NEWS FROM CLEARWATER



Dr Helmcken Memorial Hospital Auxiliary AGM executive for 2025-26



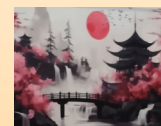
Gail Capostinsky receiving a 55yr. service pin from President Carol Pastorek .



Tracy Buck receives the Heart & Hand Award from Past-president Marilyn Collison



Joan Slingsby stands in front of the Pagoda-Table Sponsor wall at our recent Japanese Garden Party fundraiser.



AUXILIARY NEWS

NEWS FROM SMITHERS

BVD hospital auxiliary/ NEW TO YOU (Thrift Store) volunteers were gifted with a wonderful dinner and games and if wanted could learn line dancing



Our new to you store was able to make a pledge to the hospital and Bulkley lodge \$262,290.09 for 2025.



AUXILIARY NEWS

NEWS FROM THE COMOX VALLEY

Volunteer Appreciation week April 27 to May 3rd we staffed an information table at the Driftwood Mall for two days and on BC Auxiliary Day May 10th a table at the Comox Valley Hospital. All three days were very well received and we handed out many brochures. People were in awe of the scope of the work we do and amazed that in one year (2024) we donated \$657,565.20 to healthcare in the Comox Valley.

April was a banner birthday month at The Views long term care facility. We honored 24 residents with flowers. The adult daycare program at Cumberland Lodge received \$500. to purchase umbrellas, cushions for their metal outdoor chairs, garden supplies and a bookcase. Our Vice President Marie Skinner attended the BCAHA AGM in Kamloops and wishes to extend our congratulations to the new President Alana Farro.

We also funded a summer youth volunteer supervisor at Providence Living at The Views. Two applications for our \$5000. bursaries have been received and we are hoping for another to fill the three available before the May 30th deadline. A new computerized cash register has been installed at the Gift Shop, all staff trained and report loving the ease of the new system. Guest speakers at the May general meeting were Denise Metcalf and Roxane Coghlan of Comox Valley Lifeline Society. Their presentation emphasized the importance and advantages of wearing an emergency lifeline. Despite major infrastructure work taking place on the thoroughfare leading to the Thrift Shop our loyal customers are accepting the ever changing detours and finding us with only a slight downturn in numbers.



Top left: Sandy Dreger, Gift Shop co-ordinator

Bottom left: Bea Tomkinson, Katherine Smith
Maxine Jones

Right: Elma Brannon Thrift Shop co-ordinator



Right: Cathie Poje President

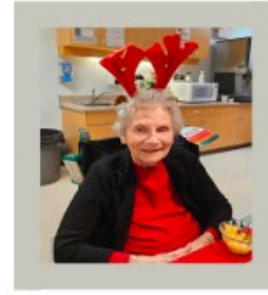
Left: Ann Vincent



AUXILIARY NEWS

NEWS FROM ABBOTSFORD

Our Auxiliary continues to stay active this spring. In addition to our ongoing efforts through the Gift Shop, fundraising initiatives like the Spring Bake Sale, and the heartwarming Puppy Love program, our members remain committed to direct service and community connection. Some of our dedicated auxiliary members are often found assisting residents of Cottage Worthington, a care facility operated by Fraser Health which provides care for seniors with complex health needs. Our Auxilians attend many of the social events and the residents truly enjoy dancing at festive events and take part in fun games such as dressing a baby doll.



During Volunteer Week (April 27–May 3), our members were honored with kind gestures, including lunches and messages of appreciation, from our Volunteer Management team. Our Historian, Gail Bostrom, helped spotlight our legacy by displaying scrapbooks and history books to hospital staff and visitors. We are currently seeking recommendations for a reliable wholesale baby clothing supplier. Our current supplier has been unresponsive and inconsistent, with shrinking product options and repeated order issues. We are particularly in need of baby scratch mitts, hats, and clothing for preemies and newborns. If your Auxiliary has a supplier you trust, please contact us via our website at abbotsfordhospitalauxiliary.ca or by email at abbotsfordauxiliary@gmail.com.



AUXILIARY NEWS

NEWS FROM EAGLE RIDGE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY



Introducing Pam Lawson

Pam Lawson, already our Crafting Chairperson has also taken on the Role of Ways and Means. In other words, Ways and Means to make additional revenue for the Auxiliary.

She starting crafting at a very young age, learning to sew, knit, and crochet by the age of six. She carried that love into her adult years and schooled in Interior Design. This vocation allowed her to consistently exercise her creative side with home staging ...using what you have in a creative way.

Later after her children were grown Pam and her husband Tom started doing mission work in Thailand and were blessed by the people and the culture. After each mission trip they came home more grateful and committed to help here where they could. They have been extremely active in their church and the wonderful programs the church offered and felt they had more to give. Pam applied to Eagle Ridge Hospital Auxiliary not sure where her talents and gifts could be used and she has been touched and blessed by everyone here.

Helping anywhere she is needed makes her happy and she is committed to the betterment of ERH in whatever form it takes.

I know we are grateful to have Pam with us for her talents and her commitment.



Post It Notes Testimonials

Thank you so much, Carole

I truly appreciate the extra time it has taken for you to reply to my questions when you already have a lot on your plate

I shall watch for the link to the call/meeting on Monday.

Susan

Chemainus Health Care Auxiliary

Thank you so very much, Carole, for your time, energy and consolations needed to help me with this question. I am happy to know why you have the Jan 01 to Dec. 31 for your terms.

We will review the information and see what works best for us. Will have a discussion with our board and see what would work best.

Cheers,

Elaine.

“Does your Auxiliary have an Extraordinary Volunteer!”

Life Membership in the BC Association of HealthCare Auxiliaries....

...may be granted to an individual Auxiliary member as a token of high esteem or simply to thank a retiring president. The **cost is \$200.00** and goes to the Tribute fund for bursaries. A Member Auxiliary may apply to honor one their members for one of the following criteria.

- 1 – The individual has served the auxiliary in outstanding leadership and/or executive role for a minimum of 10 years.
- 2 – The individual has served the auxiliary providing long-standing and reliable service and commitment for a minimum of 20 years.

Application is on the website “bchealthcareaux.org”.

WE ♥ VOLUNTEERS!



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



It's TIME



....to remind you that the BCAHA
Fall Newsletter
Submissions
Deadline is September 1st

Save the Date

2026 AGM & Conference
April 20-22 2026
Prestige Vernon Lodge
and Conference Centre
Vernon, BC

BCAHA has booked the entire **hotel rooms** and will be available after **August 1st**. To get the special rate you must contact hotel directly (250)-545-3385 and mention you are there for the "BCAHA AGM/Conference"

**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR
IN PERSON!!**

