



**BC Association of
Healthcare Auxiliaries**

September Newsletter 2025

BCAHA PRESIDENT ALLANA FERRO'S MESSAGE



What a busy summer!

In May, I visited Chilliwack Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop, attended the Richmond Hospital Auxiliary AGM, then met up with our new Director of Finance, Mary Derksen to deliver a few boxes of files and then on to touch base with Secretary, Cathy Bayley.

In June, the Executive met in Vernon for 2 days of meetings and planning for the 2026 AGM/ Conference. First day, we discussed committees, budgets, updating forms and a discussion regarding the Director of Communication position, Cheryl Fry has served for 5 years and as per our Bylaws we need a new Director. Cheryl has agreed to stay on until the end of the year. If anyone is interested in this position, please contact Carole Murray. Second day, we dedicated to the planning of the 2026 AGM/ Conference in Vernon.

Come early August, I took my grandson to Penticton for a week of Hockey Camp which allowed me to meet with Val Wright, Co-Chair for the Conference. This proved to be very productive!

With the smell of Fall in the air, this brings the Area AGM and Conferences. There will be attendance of 1 or 2 Executive members at each AGM. I am looking forward to meeting Auxilians from throughout the province!

Allana Ferro

BCAHA President

YOUR BCAHA EXECUTIVE WORKING HARD AT A 2026 CONFERENCE PLANNING MEETING IN VERNON!!



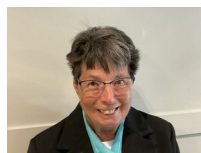
Allana Ferro
President



Carole Murray
Past President



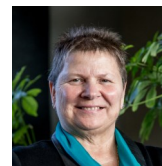
Val Wright
Vice President



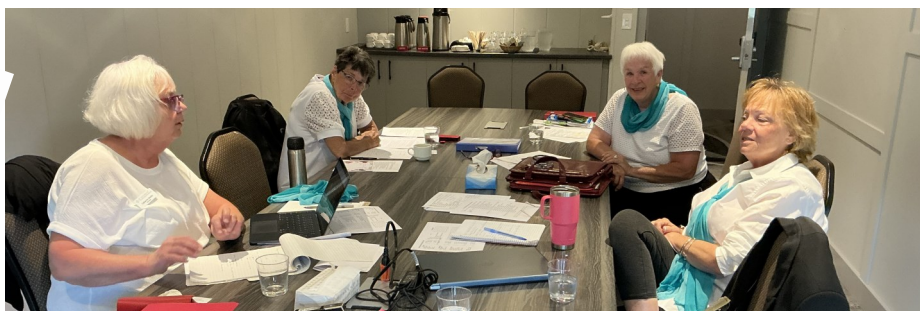
Mary Derksen
Finance



Cathy Bayley
Secretary



Cheryl Fry
Communications



Bursaries & Scholarships



BC Association of
Healthcare Auxiliaries **Tribute Fund Awards**

BCAHA TRIBUTE FUND DONATIONS

BCAHA Bursaries are funded by the Tribute Fund. Has your auxiliary or any of its members considered making a donation to the BCAHA Tribute Fund Bursary in honour of a deceased member? We are a non-profit charitable organization therefore we can give tax receipts to individuals who make a donation to BCAHA. Send cheque and name of the individual to be honoured to the:

Director of Finance:

c/o Mary Derksen
8780 Citation Dr, Richmond BC V6Y 3A3
butchandmary@telus.net



BCAHA BURSARY AWARD WINNERS FOR 2025



\$2,000.00 BCAHA 2025 Bursary to Michell Inte

Oh my gosh! What an awesome opportunity!

I am in deep gratitude in you all for selecting me as a recipient for your bursary and assisting me through my financial endeavors in post secondary. I am more than honoured to represent BC Association of Healthcare Auxiliaries through my studies! Thank you so much.

\$2,000.00 BCAHA 2025 Bursary to Kassidy Chernoff



Hello, my name is Kassidy Chernoff and I live in Salmon Arm BC. I recently graduated from Salmon Arm Secondary, and I now will be attending UBCO starting in September. During my high school years, I was a very active member of my school community. I have been a part of leadership, student advisory, and youth voice. Additionally, outside of school I have also worked with many youth of our community, through teaching dance and volunteering my time at one of our elementary schools.

Outside of school, I grew up dancing at a local dance studio, from age 4 to 17. At a young age dance became my passion and taught me valuable life skills. Dance helped me make a choice of what I wanted to do with my future. Being a dancer, we take great pride in our health, and life choices. This made me start looking into programs at various universities that involve the study of human health. I made the decision to pursue the Health and Exercise Science program at UBCO which focuses on how movement impacts your health.

I'd like to thank the BCAHA committee. I am truly honored and grateful to have been selected as a recipient. Receiving this bursary has a very meaningful impact on my academic journey. With your support, I am able to pursue my education in Health and Exercise Sciences at UBC Okanagan. Your generosity is helping me get one step closer to achieving my academic and professional goals for my future. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity and giving back to my community in the future, just as you have so generously done for me. I feel deeply inspired by your commitment to helping others succeed, and I hope to one day be in a position where I can give back to students the way you have given to me.



\$2,000.00 BCAHA 2025 Bursary to Amrit Radhawa

I am writing to sincerely thank you for awarding me the bursary to support my university education. I am truly grateful for your generosity and the opportunity given to me. Your support means so much to me and is a great encouragement as I pursue my goals. Thank you for believing in my potential.

Amrit Randhawa



Provincial Bursaries



Dr Helmcken Memorial Hospital Auxiliary

The 2025 CSS student that received the bursary this year is Felix Jones. The bursary of \$1000 was presented by our treasurer (former CSS V. Principal) Tracy Buck.



A Bursary Presentation in Squamish

Marie Worth, a Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary volunteer, presented a \$1,000 Student Health Education Bursary to Jaya Grumman. Jaya will be pursuing further studies in the Health Sciences field. Congratulations Jaya!

Bursary Presentations in Delta

DHAS celebrates the awarding of 10 bursaries to deserving students.



Bursaries Given in Mackenzie

Cloe Budreau—\$1000.00—X-ray Technician

Kylie Avwry—\$1000.00—Sonography



Financial Assistance Given in Prince George

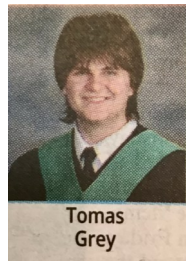
Auxiliary to University Hospital of Northern BC Scholarship – Recipient Aliyah Barta – Nursing at UNBC \$1000.00

Bonnie Walberg Memorial Award – Cam Brisbin – Nursing at UNBC \$2000.00

Bonnie Walberg Memorial Award – Katelyn Shaw—\$500.00

Bursaries Given in 100 Mile House

Each of these students from Peter Skene Ogden High School, received a \$500.00 bursary from their hospital auxiliary.



Dawson Creek Awards Helps Keep Local Students in the Area

Previous to starting to work with the Nursing program at our Northern Lights college, our auxiliary presented 2 awards of \$1000. each to a Grade 12 grad who was going into the health care field. This meant that our funds were going to UBC or UofA etc. and we never saw the students back in our hospital again. When our Northern Lights College started offering a bridge program for nursing, it was a good fit for us. The 3 students in the picture are already living in the Dawson Creek area and plan to continue locally which is a win-win for us.

The Dawson Creek and District Auxiliary Society of Local Health Care Award was created by the Dawson Creek and District Auxiliary Society of Local Health Care to support Dawson Creek Practical Nursing students on their educational journey. The award value is two awards of \$2,000.00* (tuition credit) plus the cost of Regulatory Exam - Practical Nursing (REx-PN).



Kayla Jensen, Tristan Lefebvre, and Andrea Huber.

A Special Award Given in Chilliwack

A Chilliwack Hospital Auxiliary member was very proud to give out this bursary.

On the left is a member Dayle Jensen, next to her is recipient Elizabeth Latulippe and next to her is her proud grandmother Bonnie Latulippe (one of our members) and the Principal Mrs. Vicker.

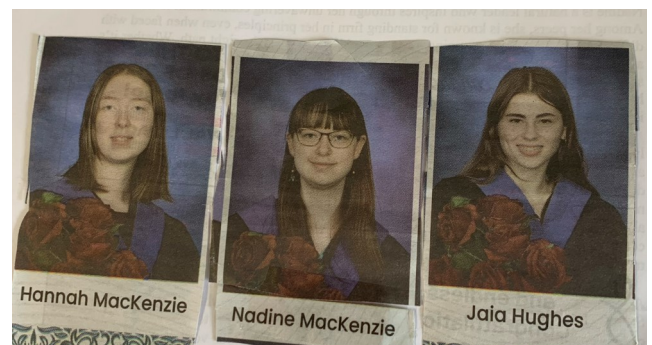


What made this so special is that Elizabeth did not know her grandmother was handing out the award.

Our auxiliary does not choose the recipients. We leave that up to the school. Elizabeth is going to be a doctor.



Arrow Lakes Health Care Auxiliary in Nakusp awards three \$5000.00 bursaries



Royal Inland Hospital Afternoon Auxiliary Student Volunteer Bursary Recipients

Each student received \$1000.00



Daniel Hahn



Jhutti Simran



Isabella McDivitt



Angelina Sambrusly



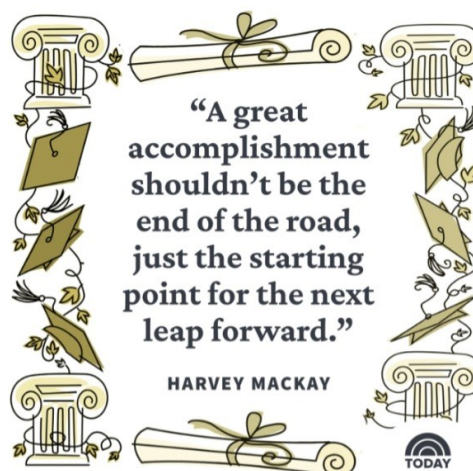
Jasmine Amakwe



Naomi Columbus



Brogynn Gelsvik



Burns Lake & District Health Care Auxiliary Awards Bursaries

Burns Lake & District Health Care Auxiliary offers two \$3,000.00 bursaries each year to students graduating from the local Lakes District Secondary School who are planning a career in any field of study related to Human Health Sciences and/or Mental Health and Addictions Fields.

Our Bursary Committee awarded these to two very worthy students this year who despite working part time to earn money for their future education continued to be Honor Students with Distinction every year.

Abby Gray has registered at the Kelowna Okanagan UBC for a four year Bachelor of Nursing program and plans on graduating to work in one of the small Northern communities. Abby has also won academic and sports awards. Abby's grandmother lived in our local long-term care home for five years and Abby spent many hours visiting and helping her with the activities there.

Lina Nguyen has registered for the four year Nursing Baccalaureate program at the College of New Caledonia in Prince George. She plans to take the first two years at CNC and the following two years at the University of Northern BC. Lina worked many hours at her family's business but still managed to volunteer at our local long-term care home where they considered her an exceptional volunteer.

Eagle Ridge Hospital Auxiliary

2025 Bursary Winners.

Vice President Teresa Warner presents awards to:



Jennifer Hu

Jennifer was a student at Charles Best Senior Secondary School in Coquitlam. Jennifer wishes to become a Family Physician. The experiences she and her family encountered in trying to find a family physician strengthened her resolve to pursue this career. Jennifer has been accepted at the University of British Columbia in their Bachelor of Science program. Jennifer has been actively involved at Charles Best as co-founder of the Health Science Club. The club was created to create awareness of mental health and self-care issues. Jennifer was also very active in the Real Acts of Caring club where she participated in fundraising activities, visiting an animal shelter and a care home and lobbying several municipal governments for recognition of a Real Acts of Caring week. Jennifer is also a member of the 201 Royal Canadian Sea Cadets where she is the corps Second-in-Command.



Louiz (Betty) Lim

Betty was a student at Archbishop Carney Regional Secondary School in Port Coquitlam. Betty wishes to become a pediatrician. She has been accepted into Simon Fraser University. Betty is a Concert Choir and Chamber Choir member and has mentored younger members. She has been active in programs through her school assisting Grade 8 students transition to High School and facilitating spiritual retreats and community outreach programs. Betty has volunteered at both Eagle Ridge Hospital Manor and Lakeshore Care Centre where she has assisted residents at mealtimes and with recreational activities.



Tiffany Yao

Tiffany was a student at Charles Best Senior Secondary School in Coquitlam. Tiffany is planning to obtain a Bachelor's degree in psychology so she can work in the mental health field. She currently uses her TikTok guitar live stream to raise awareness and create a safe space for people who need to be heard. Although Tiffany has a part time job to help fund her education, she still managed to be President of Miracle Movement at Charles Best SS and raised monies for BC Children's Hospital. She was Vice President of Robotics, working to build and program robots. In her community she has volunteered 800 hours with the Teochew Federation, organizing cultural events celebrating her heritage and 300 hours at CA Church. Tiffany has also volunteered 500 hours as a pharmacy assistant at a local drug mart.

Alberni Health Care Auxiliary members June Windley and June Pederson presented 5 Alberni District Secondary School (ADSS) graduating students with \$4000.00 each towards their further education in health care related fields.



The Stuart Lake Hospital Auxiliary is proud to announce **Luka James** as this year's bursary recipient! Luka was not only the successful applicant for our annual bursary—awarded to a local student pursuing a career in healthcare—but she also served as one of our junior volunteers, generously giving her time to support and uplift residents in Long Term Care. Luka's compassion, dedication, and drive have left a lasting impression on both residents and Auxiliary members alike. She will be attending UNBC this fall with the goal of becoming a doctor, and we couldn't be more proud to support her as she begins this exciting journey. In the photo, Luka receives her bursary from Helen Fredericks, who manages our Junior Volunteer program and had the pleasure of working closely with her. Thank you, Luka, for your meaningful contributions—and best wishes for all that lies ahead!



Castlegar and District Hospital Auxiliary Bursary Recipients

Aryana Mawer is a student at Stanley Humphries High School. Her plan is to attend the University of Calgary to earn a Bachelor of Science degree for four years with a goal of pursuing a Master's degree in physiotherapy afterward. Aryana is Co-President of the Executive of her graduating class. She also plays volleyball and coached the grade 8 girls' volleyball team. She enjoys playing guitar and outdoor sports like snow and water skiing.

Kaitlin Windsor is a student at Stanley Humphries High School. Her career goal is to become a pharmacist which she will achieve by completing her undergraduate degree in biochemistry at Selkirk College and afterwards apply for the Pharmacy program at the University of British Columbia. Kaitlin was an active participant in the Rotary Interaction Club and has recently started Tech tutoring with seniors to assist them to use and set up technologies. She participated in the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser. Kaitlin work part time as a pharmacy assistant at Shopper's Drug Mart and loves to spend time outdoors camping and exploring natural settings.

Bursary Recipients from Auxiliary to Cowichan District Hospital (Duncan)

From Quw'utsun Secondary School

Abigail Duncan Noelle Stelle Olivia Harper

From Frances Kelsey Secondary School:

Camellia Propp Lina Duong Miller Fletcher



Bursary Recipient for the McBride & District Hospital Auxiliary.

On the left is Jessica Buck, the recipient of the bursary and on the right is our president, Pat Elliott presenting the Bursary at the 2025 McBride Secondary School Graduation Ceremony.



Fraser Canyon Hospital and Fraser Hope Lodge Bursary Recipient

In June **Naomi Wright** was presented with the Fraser Canyon Hospital and The Fraser Hope Lodge Bursary. She will be attending the UBC Okanagan Campus to take her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.



Chemainus Healthcare Auxiliary

Bursaries

Both recipients will be going to study in Health Care

Ruby DuMez - \$5000.00 Social Science degree to become a Mental Health Worker. Ruby worked in our Thrift Store

Payton Morey.—\$5000.00

Bachelor of Kinesiology to become a Physio-therapist

The Chemainus Healthcare Auxiliary wishes them success in their future studies.

Langley Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Bursaries

Each recipient received \$1000.00



Amur Budwal - Edith Rose Bursary
Respiratory Therapist



Damanpreet Khairi - Marion Ward
Scholarship - Nursing - RN



Esther Wang - Linda Steier scholarship
(VolunTeen).

Grand Forks Hospital Auxiliary Bursary Recipients

Grand Forks Secondary School – Hailey Giesier, Emma Lewis and Ayura Zibin all received a scholarship worth \$2,000.

Boundary Central Secondary School, Midway – Kieriana Guillet, received a scholarship worth \$2,000.

An Individual Bursary went to Jenna Campbell for \$2,000 to assist her in taking the Access to Practical Nursing Program.

All recipients are entering into health care related studies.



Bulkley Valley Hospital Auxiliary Bursaries

B.V.D. Hospital Auxiliary gave out a total of 8 bursaries. We have three different high schools to give to. Smithers Senior Secondary received 5, Bulkley Valley Christian received 2 and Ebenezer Reformed School received 1 for a total of \$9,500.



Cormorant Island Auxiliary Bursaries

We have 4 recipients for 2025. Each award is for \$500.00.

The recipients are:

Jaylynn Hutcheson, Dominic Alfred, Hailey Svanvik, Lilianna Mckinney.

Congratulations to all!!

THE HARDER
YOU WORK
FOR SOMETHING,
THE GREATER
YOU'LL FEEL
WHEN YOU
ACHIEVE IT.

SC Healthcare Auxiliary June 2025 Bursary Award Recipients

The Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary (SCHA) was proud to award the following June 2025 bursaries to these well deserving students. The recipients in the three categories of bursaries are:

Volunteer Bursaries, supports a graduating secondary school student who is recognized and honoured for their volunteer work in healthcare. Each received \$2,000 toward their ongoing healthcare studies.

Nardeen Ibrahim. A graduate of Chatelech Secondary, Nardeen emigrated from Syria in 2016. She has embraced life on the Sunshine Coast and began volunteering her time at Shorncliffe long-term care in 2023 and later at Silverstone Care Centre connecting with residents through recreational activities such as karaoke, bingo and walks in the garden. Nardeen will be attending UBC in Sciences with a long-term goal to work in healthcare.



Hailey Kwasney. A graduate of Chatelech Secondary, Hailey began volunteering her time at Shorncliffe long-term care in 2023 and later at Silverstone Care Centre. She showed tremendous compassion and dedication and enriched the lives of those she interacted with. She bonded with residents over shared interests like music and language and enjoyed playing board games with them.

Hailey also volunteered at the Red Serge gala, fundraiser for cancer research assisting with set up, serving, bussing and take down. Hailey will be attending UBC to pursue a career in psychology.



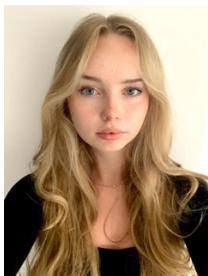
Anna Reznick. A graduate of Elphinstone Secondary, Anna began volunteering her time at Shorncliffe long-term care in Grade 10. She showed tremendous dedication in taking the bus from Gibsons each week to give comfort and friendship to the residents there. When Shorncliffe closed, she began volunteering at Christensen Village in Gibsons, in their music program and providing one to one visits with residents. Anna will be attending SFU studying Health Sciences with the goal of becoming a physician.



Anna with Christensen Village resident, Nettie

Legacy Bursary, supports active SCHA members and their direct relatives.

Madeline Groves (Maddie) received a \$4000 SCHA Legacy Bursary. Her aunt, Julie Hasenberg continues to volunteer tirelessly for the Auxiliary which allows Maddie to apply for a Legacy Bursary. Maddie will enter her 2nd year at the UBC Okanagan Campus in the Nursing program. Her passion is to provide care to the homeless population and those struggling with addiction. She strives to become a street nurse and deliver healthcare to marginalized populations. She excelled in her first year and we wish her success as she continues her education.



Graduating Students Bursaries . These bursaries (managed by School District 46) support graduating students pursuing studies in the healthcare field. Recipients of \$2,000 each were:

Semiat Biliaminu - Semiat plans to attend the University of Victoria to study science, with hopes of pursuing medical school in the future.

Jessica DeBoer - Jessica will be attending the University of British Columbia to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree, with ambitions of attending medical school.

Fiona Josna Felex - Fiona will be pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Calgary. She hopes to become a travel nurse in the future.

Kylie Halvorson - Kylie will be attending post-secondary to pursue a career in nursing.

Caia Minatsis - Caia plans to go to post-secondary for Kinesiology so she can later become a Physiotherapist or Chiropractor.

Peyton Oliver - Peyton will be attending UBC's Faculty of Arts this fall and is hoping to be a paediatric speech language pathologist in the future.

Anna Reznick - Anna plans on attending SFU to pursue a career in the medical field.

AUXILIARY NEWS

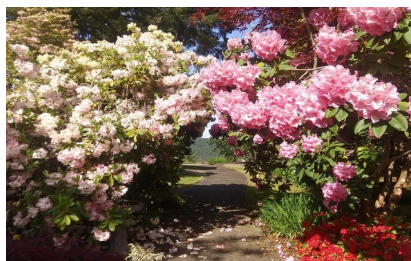
NEWS FROM LADYSMITH

Ladysmith Auxiliary welcomes Kelly Kerr as their new Doris Gallagher Memorial Gardens Coordinator.

I have worked in the legal field and insurance industry for 25 years. My husband and I moved from Calgary to Gabriola in 2016 where I started a small landscape/gardening business. In 2023 we moved to Ladysmith. Now I focus on my husband, dog and home. I love refinishing furniture and being the family handy(wo)man!

I / we fall in love with Ladysmith a little more, every day. The Doris Gallagher Memorial Gardens are just one more thing to

love.



NEWS FROM THE SUNSHINE COAST

An Extraordinary Gift for Sunshine Coast Hospice

Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary board members present Coast Hospice with a \$250,000 contribution towards the equipment of the first dedicated hospice on the lower Sunshine Coast. Our mandate is to enhance the quality of healthcare on the Sunshine Coast from Port Mellon to Egmont. Our members overwhelmingly voted to support this initiative that will give families a peaceful transition for their loved one. Mossy Rock is certainly a peaceful and tranquil location."

Anne Selder, CEO Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary

The Sunshine Coast Hospice Society and Vancouver Coastal Health are partnering to transform an existing Roberts Creek house into our community's first dedicated hospice, designed to provide eight suites in a comfortable, home-like setting for residents in their final days, and compassionate support to those who love them. Work on the Mossy Rock project has begun, and the new facility is expected to open in late 2026. The project was recently given a boost by a very generous gift from the Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary.

"We are grateful to SC Healthcare Auxiliary members for supporting this important legacy project that represents a great leap forward in the provision of end-of-life care on the Coast, for now and for generations to come," says Ellen Adelberg, President of the Sunshine Coast Hospice Society Board. "The Healthcare Auxiliary is a long-standing supporter of our work, and this gift shows how much they believe in our ability to realize this vision of a permanent home for hospice care on the Coast." "We are overjoyed to receive this most meaningful gift from the Healthcare Auxiliary so early in our capital campaign," adds Tess Huntly, Executive Director of Coast Hospice. "We invite other Coast families, local businesses, and organizations to follow their lead and join us as we establish this intergenerational legacy of compassionate hospice care for everyone on the Coast."



From left to right: Jacqui Jones-Cox, SCHA; Ellen Adelberg, Coast Hospice; Maureen Hamblin of SCHA, and Tess Huntly, Coast Hospice.



AUXILIARY NEWS

More News from the Sunshine Coast

Now in its ninth year! We are pleased to be able to help these local non-profit programs with the funds they need to run. The SCHA couldn't do this without all of its members support, thank you!

ADAPTIVE FITNESS PROGRAM - Health Services for Community Living Department - HCS Sechelt - \$3,065.45

A fitness program for those with developmental challenges.

SCCSS – ARROWHEAD CLUBHOUSE - \$10,000
To offer a social environment and programs for people with mental illness.

SCCSS – BELLIES & BABIES - \$10,000
To provide individual and peer support for pregnant women and postnatal mothers.

SCCSS – BETTER AT HOME - \$10,000
To support seniors with simple non-medical day-to-day tasks so that they can continue to live independently in their own homes.

SCCSS – DAD'S MATTER - \$10,000
To facilitate an 8-week group program for fathers to build positive parenting skills.

HMB – CHATELCH COMMUNITY SCHOOL ASSC. - \$8,000
A breakfast program run by volunteers to provide healthy nutritional breakfasts to school children 5 days a week.

SCCSS – KIDS IN MOTION - \$6,000
To provide financial assistance with recreation, activities and equipment for children ages 0-18 with support needs on the Sunshine Coast.

SCCSS – PARENT & TOT - \$8,000
A family program of stimulating play groups for children 0-6.

SUNSHINE COAST HOSPICE SOCIETY - \$8,000
To grow the community capacity to provide compassionate care by training new volunteers and monthly in-service sessions.

PENDER HARBOUR HEALTH CENTRE - \$10,000
For medical equipment - Ophthalmoscopes, Otopscopes, Exam Lights and Pulse Oximeters.

SECHELT LIBRARY – CHAIR YOGA - \$3,500
To provide a gentle chair yoga program for adults and seniors who find regular yoga sessions too challenging.

THE SUNSHINE COAST HEALTHCARE AUXILIARY CELEBRATES CANADA DAY



Katharine (Katie) Caple

Recipient of a King Charles III
Volunteer Medal (2025)

**Congratulations on 50 years of
amazing service!**

(Currently, Katie volunteers time
for one of our Sunshine Coast ex-
tended care facilities)

Long before Katie became a valued Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary member, she was involved as a member with the Girl Guides of Canada. Her own childhood participation years included both Guides and Rangers. Then, when her daughter, Rachel, became interested in the same programme, Katie volunteered to be the 'telephone mother' for the group. Looking ahead, as they say, the "rest is history"! That small helping role morphed into being promoted to leader (1981) and then a District Commissioner for 10 years.

Katie currently serves as a Trainer for all British Columbia, specializing in music/arts for other Guide Leaders. She has lead 'campfire' ceremonies for 900 attendees! No wonder that nothing the SCHA could ask of her would faze her at all.

Highlights – National Camp in Newfoundland (30 days).

Enjoying the many people she has met.

AUXILIARY NEWS

NEWS FROM SQUAMISH

Canada Day Celebration in Squamish



The Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary proudly hosted a booth downtown during this year's Canada Day festivities—and what a truly wonderful and memorable day it was!



We only wish all of our members could have been there to experience it firsthand. Time and again, we were moved by the heartfelt gratitude from community members who stopped by to thank us for the work we do. One especially touching moment came when the mother of the first baby born in 2023 personally expressed appreciation for the baby gift we provided. Another memorable interaction was with a chemotherapy patient who thanked us for the blanket warmer we donated to the hospital—a

gesture that has made a tangible difference in their care and comfort. The warmth and appreciation shown by so many in our community left a lasting impression and was truly heartwarming. It was a beautiful reminder of why we do what we do.

WE DID IT!! In just the first six months of the year, we successfully raised **\$65,000** to purchase a new ultrasound machine for the Emergency Department at Squamish General Hospital.



Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary Society Hosts June Potluck

In June, the Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary held a potluck luncheon for its members. Organized by Barbara MacPherson and Helen Denis, the event brought together 21 members who shared a wide array of delicious dishes. The afternoon offered a wonderful opportunity for members to connect, catch up, and enjoy each other's company. By all accounts, the luncheon was a resounding success.



AUXILIARY NEWS

NEWS FROM ALBERNI'S ATTIC

We are having Christmas in July. So get ready for some great deals on Christmas!! Kathy T and her helpers have been working hard getting everything sorted and priced. A huge thank you to you and your crew!!



NEWS FROM CLEARWATER

Dr Helmcken Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, Clearwater, BC

Two years ago we were asked to help fund a new x-ray machine for our local hospital. The existing machine is well over 20 years old and getting very tired.

Fundraising started with change in a jar at our Thrift Shop to a major commitment from the Wells Gray Community Forest Society. Enough funds were raised to pay for the machine. It is now operational. This was truly, a community effort.

Those, besides the Hospital Auxiliary, that donated and directed their funds toward the purchase of the x-ray machine are The Wells Gray Community Forest Society, The Curiosity Shoppe, Roland and Ann Neeve, Fritz and Ursula Schaer, Murray Stockton, Clearwater Carpet Bowlers, Trinity Shared Ministry, The Legion, Linda MacLennan, Nicole Hebert and Vavenby Thrift Shop customers.



NEWS FROM CHILLIWACK

Chilliwack Hospital Auxiliary has exciting news about a new fundraiser. We are now able to sell lottery tickets at our new kiosk at Chilliwack General Hospital. We are currently being trained for the job and are to start selling on July 14. Hours to start are 10am - 2pm Mondays to Fridays. This is good for us because we're always looking for ways to fundraise after our Shoppe closed.

Our trainees are ready to go!!



AUXILIARY NEWS

NEWS FROM THE OMA CONFERENCE

The April OMA conference received positive feedback on both the speakers and overall event organization. We had a dynamic and dedicated committee comprised of members from three auxiliaries- Vernon, Armstrong, and Shuswap. The committee included:

- Carolyn Farris, who created our name tags, took thorough notes, and set up our Zoom meetings.
- Gail Muylle, my OMA secretary and our "Procurement Queen," brought the fun to every meeting while sourcing fantastic items for our welcome bags. These included pens, notepads, toiletries, flower seeds with affirmations, chocolate bars, sesame snacks, tea bags, mints, and local information. She also secured amazing door prizes.
- Marg Farris, contributed wonderful ideas and ensured each table had beautiful centerpieces that were auctioned off in our silent auction.
- Edie Swanson & Arline Allison, coordinated the Shuswap quilters to handmade lovely cloth welcome bags, adding a personal touch to the event.
- Jackie Keesey, designed our thank-you cards and assisted me with editing and proofreading our schedule and conference signage.
- Nancy Lewis, our OMA treasurer, kept all our finances running smoothly behind the scenes.

The committee met monthly via Zoom beginning in September 2024. Drawing from feedback received at the BCAHA conference, we incorporated breakout sessions to foster engagement and more focused discussions. Attendees could choose from three of five breakout room options: gift shop, thrift shop, fraud prevention, governance, and volunteer recruitment. To prevent attendees from sitting too long, we incorporated coffee breaks and offered homemade goodies. We also hosted a well-received town hall, where each auxiliary highlighted its history and contributions.

A total of 58 attendees from 11 of our 14 auxiliaries participated. I encouraged each auxiliary to send a board representative and newer volunteers as a way to inspire engagement. I utilized both an online application form and a printed registration forms.

The majority of members registered online, and I manually added the few written registrations to our online system. The online system was easy to use and helped streamline attendee tracking, breakout room selections, and dietary accommodations. Overall, we had a great group of members from the Okanagan.

While I do not yet have the final financial tally, conference registration fees, the silent auction, and the involvement of mostly volunteer speakers all contributed to maintaining financial stability and helped us avoid a deficit. Our committee was proud of our efforts and received positive feedback from the evaluation forms with a few good suggestions for future conferences.

Thank you,

FUN WAS HAD BY ALL!!



AUXILIARY NEWS

NEWS FROM EAGLE RIDGE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Barb Robertson aka Toy Barb received The Port Coquitlam Volunteer of the year award. Barb not only volunteers with us she also volunteers at the Wilson Senior's kitchen, Trinity church food bank drive and SHARE.



Port Coquitlam Volunteer of the Year

We seem to be on a bit of a run here as our **Jo Breden** won this award last year. Jo has been actively volunteering for over 25 years, including school committees and community service roles.

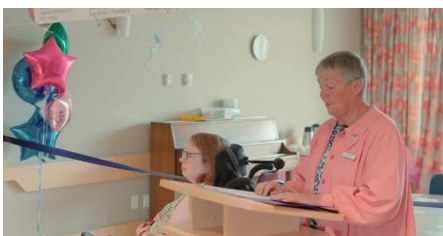


NEWS FROM DAWSON CREEK

Check out the **TOVER GAMES** video on the BCAHA Facebook page.

BC Association of Healthcare Auxiliaries

Fern Hansen, president of the Dawson Creek Auxiliary, explains how this interactive virtual video game keeps residents of Rotary Manor (a complex care facility) actively entertained. IT'S AWESOME!!



THE KASLO AUXILIARY CELEBRATES ITS HISTORY

Victorian Hospital of Kaslo Auxiliary Society



Early VHKAS history. February 7, 1902: twenty-one enterprising ladies of Kaslo formed the Kaslo and District Committee of the Victorian Order of Nurses of Canada, for the purpose of getting a hospital in their city of 6000 souls. Membership rose to sixty and in October 1903 their new hospital was opened. It was the first VON hospital built in Canada and cost \$5000. Money was raised to help furnish the hospital by donations, concerts, fancy dress balls and ever-reliable raffles. There have been tough times over the years, times when Kaslo has been without a hospital, but never without a Ladies Aid (Auxiliary). Kaslo and the Auxiliary have undergone many changes. The auxiliary, once peaked at 149 members, has held steady at about 25 for about thirty years. It has a new name, the Victorian Hospital of Kaslo Auxiliary Society (VHKAS), and also has registered charity status. The spirit of the Ladies Auxiliary remains strong and Kaslo responds generously by supporting teas, fashion shows, raffles, silent auctions, bake sales and the thrift store that was opened in 2002. In order to make money for the Activity Dept. for the Residents now living at the hospital, it was decided to have a Garage Sale on the front lawn at the hospital. Donations came from the community, Auxiliary members and the hospital staff. The Sale was a great success with lots of stuff left over. The left over was moved into the basement under the new wing, of the hospital. We decided to try to sell the leftover merchandise another Saturday. This led to the idea of a Thrift Shop. The income from the Thrift Shop was used for activities for the Residents. The Thrift Shop was run first by the Residents Council and then, since the ladies of the hospital auxiliary did all the work and ran the shop, it was eventually taken over by the hospital auxiliary. The auxiliary continues to this day to contribute to the Activity Department and maintains VCHC gardens. The Basement was eventually needed for the Primary Health Care Clinic, so the Thrift Shop had to move! The only place available at that time was the Old Fire Hall. On November 13, 2003, the Village authorized the lease for the old Fire Hall at their regular meeting. We had a new Home!! Many auxiliary volunteers helped clean and prepare for our Grand Opening. Many renovations have occurred to the property since VHKAS took occupancy. The Thrift Shop has been a great success. It has become a thriving business and a vital part of our community. As always funds raised are for extras that the hospital, renamed in 2003 the Victorian Community Health Centre (VCHC) of Kaslo, would otherwise have to do without. VHKAS is now contributing over \$20k annually to the health and wellbeing of Kaslo. All goods in the store are donated, and all labour is done by volunteers.

NEWS FROM THE COMOX VALLEY

A highlight of our June meeting was the presentation of service awards of flowers, pins and special cake. Receiving recognition were:

I to r: Presenter - Caroline Hoon, membership chair; Pat Verchere, 25 years; Bev Smith, 20 years; Carole Dickson, 45 years and presenter Cathie Poje, Auxiliary president. Not present: Joyce Gordon, 20 years; Ruth Miller, 10 years and Kim Anderson, 10 years .



Suzanne MacDonald and Sandy Dreger manning our display at volunteer appreciation days.



I to r: Doug, Denise, Caroline, Cathie, Regina and Sandt

Marchers carry our big \$657,000. cheque representing our contribution to CV healthcare in 2024 at both the July 1st Canada Day parade in Courtenay and the August 4th Nautical Days parade in Comox.



Unit 4B patients Mari-lynn, Janet and Corry presented Auxiliary president Cathie Poje with a giant thank you card with their hand prints and signatures for the \$3201.00. Also pictured are activity director Irene (I) and Clinical Leader Elyse Hendry R.N.



Some of our donations:

CV Hospital. \$148,087.00. Half of the required amount to purchase a state of the art Mammat B brilliant breast imagine machine. The Hospital Foundation funding for the other half.

Glacier View Lodge \$3340 for a bath chair and a mesh bath chair.

Beaufort Society \$2000 for a new dishwasher, activity board and musical instruments.

CV Hospital Transitional Care units \$3200 for activities and treats for the holidays. Plus \$3400 to buy robotic pets, an activity board, white board tape and small kitchen appliances.

CV Hospital Foundation \$2500 for Stuffedies for pediatric patients undergoing treatment or testing at the hospital.

As all Auxilians know, summers are challenging to staff all our shifts but thanks to our dedicated members both the Gift and Thrift shops powered through. An even bigger challenge for our Thrift shop was and is the ongoing major infrastructure upgrade taking place on the main street to the shop. Ever changing closures and long detours making it difficult to reach us. Koodos to the construction crews for doing everything possible to keep our access open.

AUXILIARY NEWS

NEWS FROM RICHMOND

"How do you honour your extraordinary volunteer?"

"Spirit Award" is presented to Auxilians who display "energy, enthusiasm, determination and loyalty in a peaceful and cooperative manner."

The important criteria for receiving the Spirit Award is the recipient must be cheerful, have a positive attitude, show respect to others and kindness to all. They must go beyond the "expected" tasks such as being responsible for wherever they signed up to do either as a Board Member or as a Volunteer in whatever area work in.



These Volunteers of the Richmond Hospital/Healthcare Auxiliary were 2 of this year's recipients of the "Spirit Award".

Mary Japuncic is a 9 year member and the Manager of their Gift shop, purchasing all the snacks & sundries including supplies for the Tuck Shop in Minoru Residence.

Daphne Landry has worked in the hospital gift shop for 10 years and is always saying yes to any extra shifts. They also depend on her when large orders arrive to unpacking and price. She is a joy to work with.



Executive of "Victorian Hospital of Kaslo Auxiliary"



L-R

Wanda Ammon, Treasurer Molly Leathwood, Secretary Donna Cormie - Vice President Tyler Dobie - President Annie Ferncase - Director

NEWS FROM ABBOTSFORD

The Auxiliary to Abbotsford Regional Hospital has much to celebrate this season! At our **annual dinner on June 16**, we welcomed our newly installed executive team, who bring dedication and fresh energy to continue guiding our Auxiliary's important work. We are grateful to all who have stepped into leadership roles and to the members who support them.



We are also proud to announce a contribution of **\$74,000 toward a Hypo/Hyperthermia blanket and a Rapid Infuser Pump** for the hospital. These equipment, funded through the Auxiliary's efforts, will help enhance patient care.

In addition, our members, **Janet and Marie**, continue to share joy with residents in Cottage/ Worthington Pavilion residential care by offering regular entertainment.



Gertie McKeown Celebrates 100 years

A 100th Birthday Party was held for Gertie on August 31, 2025 in the Miocene Community Hall, hosted by her children and spouses, David and Bonnie McKeown, Marilyn and Marshall Meroniuk and Bruce and Brenda (ne: Kupsch) McKeown. Daughter Rhonda and Fran Bosley were unable to attend. Gertie was born September 04, 1925, in Salmon Arm, one of seven children and the only one born in a hospital.

She is a charter member of Dr Helmcken Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and a Lifetime member of BC Association of Hospital Auxiliaries. A number of hospital auxiliary members attended her party. It was wonderful to visit with Gertie and her large extended family. Gertie lived and worked and volunteered in Clearwater for almost 60 years. A valued and much loved member of our small community.



Barbara Worwood

In Remembrance

September 16, 1954 - August 19, 2025

Past President, Vice President

President & Past President Eagle Ridge Auxiliary

Thrift Shop Manager Eagle Ridge Auxiliary

BCAHA Lower Mainland Area Director

During her tenure Barb made significant contributions to the fundraising for the Eagle Ridge Hospital Auxiliary.

She was a respected leader and cherished friend.

She will be sorely missed.



WHAT FABULOUS THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN YOUR AUXILIARY?



If you would like to have something 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

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!!**

