



BC Association of
Healthcare Auxiliaries

June 2026 Newsletter



BCAHA Newsletter – June 2026

President's Message



It was a pleasure to serve our Auxilians at the 81st AGM and Conference. There were 206 registered with 50 Auxiliaries in attendance, 3 BCAHA Life members and 2 guests, Dr. Robert Halpenny, President and CEO of Interior Health and the City of Vernon's Acting Mayor Brian Guy.

I was privileged to recognize Ambo Dhaliwal, a distinguished member of the Evening Auxiliary to the Royal Inland Hospital. Ambo joined her Auxiliary in 1966 making her a 60-year member in good standing, and she is still going strong.

All the speakers, from Keynote Speaker Maddy Laranjo to Closing Speaker, Dr. Nic Sparrow were well versed in their topics. There was something for everyone to take home to their members. We have collected all the data from the evaluation forms and will make 2028 even better.

The hotel was not suitable for our needs, because of the long hallways, the inability to accommodate our meals and the lack of space for vendors. We realize this was an issue and the committee will be looking for a new venue.

The red and white theme certainly brought everyone to life and the entertainment certainly helped.

I would like to thank Val Wright for all her work on the Conference and her positive work ethic as Vice President. Also, many thanks to Cheryl Fry for her endless work as Director of Communication. She will be around for a couple months as she works with our new Director Ryan Tandiana. I look forward to working with Amanda Laranjo the newly appointed Vice President.

The Board also appointed 2 Area Directors; Carol Wagner from Dawson Creek for the North Area and Zarah Tinholt from Vernon for the Okanagan Mainline. They will serve until their areas' next AGMs.

It was a joy to reacquaint with auxilians I have met, and I always enjoy meeting new auxilians.

Enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing you at your area AGMs in the Fall!

Allana



During several beautiful spring days in mid April, the Vernon Prestige Lodge welcomed delegates to the BCAHA Provincial AGM/Conference. Auxiliaries from all over the province shared good sessions, good food, good conversation, good craft tables, good silent auctions, good photo contest and good entertainment. The sessions and photos can be found on the BCAHA website under Members Area/Past Conferences.

CERMONIES AND RECOGNITIONS



Welcome to Vernon by Acting Mayor Brian Guy



WELCOME Opening Speaker - Dr Robert Halpenny, President & CEO Interior Health



The AGM is called to order by president Allana Ferro.



A moment of silence for members no longer with us.



Ambo Dhaliwal - was honoured by VP Amanda Larano, for her **60 years** of service to the Evening Auxiliary to the Royal Inland Hospital.



Gail Maglio & Lucia Medeiros, on their 60th Anniversary for 100 Mile District General Hospital Auxiliary

THE SESSIONS



MOVEMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Keynote Speaker—Maddy Laranjo BHES, MSW, RSW Clinical Counsellor and Registered Kinesiologist Group-Fitness Movement Instructor - on the right.



CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Respectful Conversations
Practical Tools for Navigating
Conflict with Confidence. -
Deborah Fox



THRIFT SHOP SEMINAR

Diane Thornton past, past president .



RECRUITMENT SEMINAR

Subrina Morteith

OTHER SESSIONS



FUN TOPICS! Presidents/
Vice Presidents/Policies,
Procedures/ Bylaws -
Shannon Toop

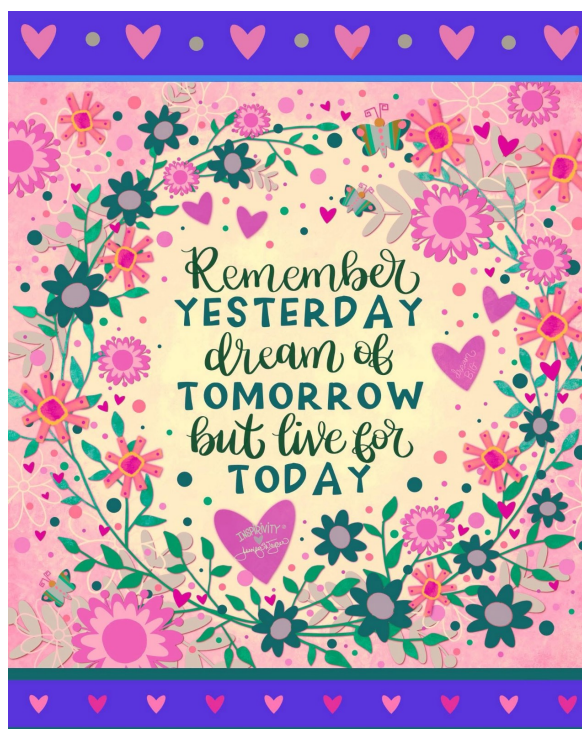
FRAUD—Rachael Zubick

CRIMINAL RECORDS REVIEW PROGRAM —Julie Filgate

TREASURER'S GST/PST—Tracy Buck

GIFT SHOP—Margaret Garner

SECRETARIES—SOCIETY ACT/FILING—Carolyn Ferris



**RAISING MONEY FOR THE BCAHA
TRIBUTE FUND BURSARIES**



The Silent Auction



The Candy Bar!!



50/50 Ticket Sellers

Vivianne Hadikin - Kootenay AD and
Douglas Edgar, Vernon Hospital Auxiliary



One of the 50/50 winners
presenting her winning ticket!



The Crafts Table showed off
auxiliary crafting skills!!

The Photo Contest



THE COMMERADERIE





THE LAS VEGAS ENTERTAINMENT



THE CLOSING SPEAKER—DR NIC SPARROW, THE HEART OF THE KOOTNENAYS



Dr Nic Sparrow, founded Kootenay Emergency Response Physicians Association(**KERPA**) in 2016. It is a registered charity and fully funded by community donations. They respond to calls with an immediate threat to life to support the emergency services on scene at the most critical calls in the Kootenay Region. There are no charges to patients or MSP.

KERPA's goal is simple ... Saving lives and helping the most critically ill and injured patients in our community and supporting the emergency services.



KERPA has grown and now includes 2 fully equipped Emergency Response Vehicles



NEWS FROM SUNSHINE COAST.....Recognize the recycled HATS??

There was a wonderful turnout for the May Days Parade in Pender Harbour. The weather cooperated and 19 smiling Auxiliary members participated. Many thanks to Mary Jackson for organizing and "encouraging" everyone to join in. Mary brought the "hats" back from the Conference in Vernon. A big thank you to Ann Matthewson who drove the bus from Sechelt - with five Auxiliary members on board - this was so much appreciated - as they didn't have to find parking. They are looking forward to trying to double these numbers for the July 1 Canada Day parade!



NEWS FROM SALMO

On Friday, April 24, 2026, the Salmo and District Healthcare Auxiliary made its donation to our (local) Salmo Wellness Centre/Clinic. Working with Interior Health, we raised just over \$32K by the end of 2025 to purchase a portable cardiac workstation for our Clinic. The equipment was received at the Clinic in mid-April 2026 and we all gathered there for a photo op on April 24th.

Back row (lt to rt) Ardeth Speers, Lynn Wakelin, Sharry Heighton, new cardiac workstation, Judi Cozzetto, Kathy Manning, Dr. N. Dixon-Warren; Front row (lt to rt) April Hearn, Teresa Perrin, Doris Livingstone



NEWS FROM PRINCE GEORGE



The Auxiliary to UHNBC (University Hospital of Northern British Columbia) was pleased to present a cheque to their foundation for \$184,888.80 to fund Ophthalmology Cataract Equipment and a Pediatric Heart Defibrillator.

NEWS FROM ABBOTSFORD

Celebrating 105 Years

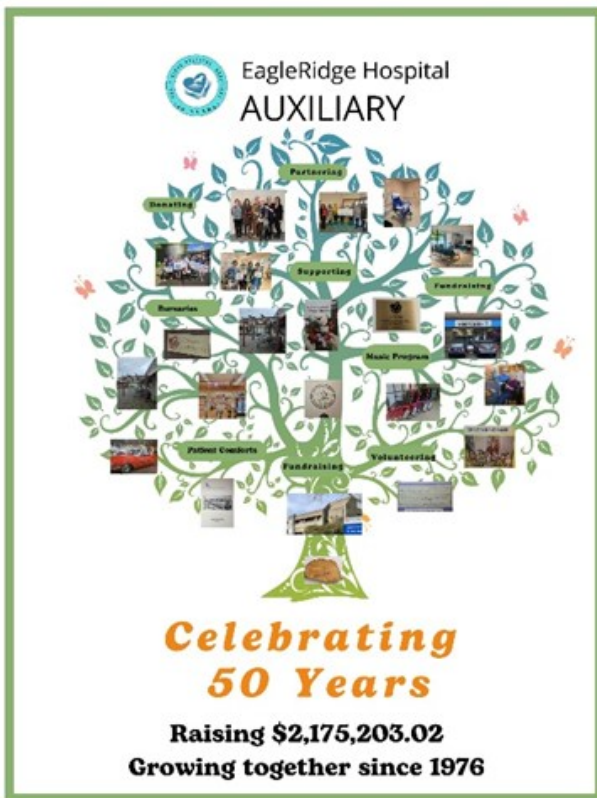
Our Auxiliary is celebrating 105 Years! We are the second oldest Auxiliary in the province! We are proud of our many years of contribution to our community. From a cottage hospital with 14 beds, we have supported multiple transitions to our current state of the art Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Center.

NEWS FROM CHILLIWACK



A very special celebration took place May 1st at Chilliwack General Hospital. The Chilliwack Hospital Auxiliary celebrated 115 years of service by donating \$115,000 to the Fraser Valley Health Care Foundation! This generous donation will fund an echocardiography machine at Chilliwack General Hospital. The Chilliwack Hospital Auxiliary volunteers have raised over 7 million dollars for CGH over the past 115 years. Please join us in congratulating this incredible and dedicated group of volunteers!

NEWS FROM COQUITLAM



On February 25th two events were held to celebrate our 50th Anniversary as an Auxiliary. One was at our Thrift Shop where the deputy Port Coquitlam Mayor Steve Darling and Councilors Nancy McCurrah and Glenn Pollock attended. Coffee and cake were provided for our staff, guests and customers as well as a 50% off everything Sale. The second was at our Gift Shop at the hospital where The Port Moody Mayor Meghan Lahti and Scott Brolin Executive Director of ERH attended. Cake was offered to guests, visitors and customers.



The Eagle Ridge Hospital Auxiliary has given over
\$2,242,775.43 (as of Feb 2026) Since 1976

NEWS FROM LANGLEY

Pat Walker was recognized at our March AGM for **40 years** of volunteering at our Hospital Gift Shop and she is still there every week and is our best mentor for new volunteers.

Pat is in the middle flanked by Barb Stewart our current President on the left and our Past President Wanda Williams on the right.



The Alberni Auxiliary is recognized by a plaque on each piece of medical equipment purchased.



NEWS FROM 100 MILE HOUSE



NEWS FROM ALBERNI

Spring has finally sprung. The flowers are blooming. Our favorite time of the year. We want to thank everyone at The Attic and The Aux for your hard work. We have won 1st place in the Readers Choice Awards for the Favorite Thrift Store and 1st place for Favorite Charitable Organization. Well done everyone. Keep up the great work. Our auction is doing well so far this year. We have made just over \$3500.00. We will be taking a break from the auction for a few weeks as we will be away for the Aux Conference. We will resume the auction in May. Our clearance table is doing well. It's helping us get rid of items that have been around too long. Customers seem to like it. We have been getting lots of compliments on our display windows. It's so nice to hear. Most of the items that we use in the window are from what we find in the store. It's always amazing what people donate. The picture is from our spring window.

NEWS FROM CLEARWATER



Mad Hatter Garden Party, held May 3, 2026 in the Blackpool Hall. The hall was beautifully decorated in the theme, good music, good food and a full house of enthusiastic guests. The community, once again, supported the Hospital Auxiliary's fundraising event by donating some wonderful gifts and the event attendees certainly

showed their appreciation by paying top dollar for most items. A special thanks to Pearl for donating beautiful refinished furniture. A huge thank you to all.



Sue at the door

kitchen workers



Dr Helmcken Memorial Hospital Auxiliary
Editor: Gail Capostinsky – lgcapo@gmail.com
President: Carol Pastorek – cpastore@telus.net
Web page: dharma.weebly.com





If you would like to have anything published in the BCAHA newsletter, please send to your article or photos to the newsletter editor, Sharon Egglestone at: bcahanewsletter@gmail.com The newsletter is published four times a year! April, June, September and December! The submission deadlines are the 1st of each of those months.

If you would like to have anything published on the BCAHA Facebook page or Instagram please send to Cheryl Fry at: commdirector.bcaha@gmail.com