



# Aux Tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

## Board

**Patricia Fenner**  
*President*

**Linda Smith**  
*Acting Vice President*

**Yvonne Green**  
*Past President*

**Donna Bright**  
*Director, Finance*

**Sharon Gerber**  
**Janet Trevail**  
*Directors, Patient Care*

**Gayle Metson**  
*Director, Communication & Public Relations*

**Mary Ryan**  
*Director, Volunteers*

**Young Mee Kim**  
*Acting Dir., Fundraising*

## Coordinators

Dorothy Allen  
Maureen Bronkhorst

June Collins  
Rhonda Cross  
Sally Duncan

Susan Eddy  
Nancy Foden  
Selena Forsyth  
Yvonne Green

Dale Hodge  
Betty Knight  
Jane McIvor  
Betty Milne

Virginia Mitchell  
Ruth O'Donnell-Konecny  
Shirley O'Neil

Jean Orviss  
Cam Perrault

Catharine Ramsey  
Linda Sedgwick-Sharpe  
Jim Upper  
Sandra van der Veen  
Vera Wellman

## From the Office of the President

In December, I indicated that we would soon have a full Board slate. I am delighted to announce that we have nominated Linda Smith as Acting Vice President and Young Mee Kim as Acting Director, Fundraising. Their appointments will be confirmed at the AGM in May. They have both taken to their new responsibilities in fine style and will, I'm sure, be an asset to the Auxiliary in their new roles.

As we approach the end of the first year of the restructured Board, it is appropriate to give you, the membership, an overview of our progress.

The Auxiliary Board has jelled into a team, each member taking responsibility for the duties attached to the positions, personally accountable for developments and challenges in each area. Directors, particularly those in patient care areas, meet regularly with Coordinators of various services to identify problems and to share solutions.

As a Board, we have a variety of life experiences and interests as well as experience in other volunteer activities. When issues come up for discussion, it's always interesting and valuable to hear the different perspectives around the table. Some members are new to the organization, others have some years in their pockets and that is an asset. We are less inclined to hear the "we've always done it that way" mantra, but neither are we unaware of our history. We are more likely to look at fresh ways of approaching issues.

On the Human Resources front, our Policy and Procedure manual has been under revision because of the change of governance structure. New position descriptions had to be developed for members of the Board and for Coordinators and Volunteers as well. This is, for the most part, complete. In addition, we have recast some policies to make them more relevant. The Membership Policy is an example of that. It lays out very clearly the process by which one becomes a volunteer, how placement is done and monitored and how the needs of the volunteers can be better met. Jim Upper as HR2 has taken on the management of the database and is working to make it more user-friendly and useful.

The Board has made the decision to continue our recruitment efforts. By the time you read this, we will have had our second Volunteer Open House, seeking new members to refresh our ranks and to meet the ongoing challenges of service to the hospital.

We will ask your approval at the AGM to make the Strategic Planning Committee a standing committee of the Board so that we can continue to provide a moving assessment of our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. This will require a minor change in our Constitution and Bylaws. Look for further information in this newsletter.



Patricia Fenner

(cont'd from page 1)

The slate proposed for the AGM is also in the newsletter. You will find that, with your approval, I intend to serve for another year, as the Constitution allows. It's not that I aim to be President for Life, as Mr. Castro seems to have in mind, but Linda Smith has requested that she have a little more time to absorb what she would like to know about the organization before she becomes President. In fairness to her and with the good of the Auxiliary foremost for all of us, I have agreed.

### **Constitution and Bylaws - Draft Amendment**

*The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by two thirds majority vote of the Auxiliary members in good standing, present and voting at a general meeting of the Auxiliary membership. Amendments may be proposed by any member in good standing, but must be approved by a majority of the Auxiliary Board and sent to the membership at least two weeks prior to the general meeting at which they are to be presented. Following approval by the membership, amendments shall be effective immediately.*

The following draft amendment will be presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

#### **ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES**

Moved that Article IX which now reads:

1. The following Standing Committees shall exist to facilitate the achievement of the purpose of the Auxiliary: (a) Constitution and Bylaws and (b) Nominating.

Be amended to read:

1. The following Standing Committees shall exist to facilitate the achievement of the purpose of the Auxiliary: (a) Constitution and Bylaws, (b) Nominating and (c) Strategic Planning.

**Yvonne Green**

### **Nominating Committee**

*It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee:*

1. To notify the Auxiliary members of the Offices to be filled and the deadline date for receipt of nominations.
2. To receive the nominations in writing three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting and to verify the eligibility of all persons nominated.
3. To obtain in writing the consent of all such nominees to stand for office.
4. To present the complete list of all nominees to the Annual Meeting and to call for further nominations from the floor. Consent must be obtained from any member so nominated.

At the Annual General Meeting on May 15, 2007, the following slate will be presented. The position of Vice-President and Director of Fundraising are to be confirmed by the eligible voters present. Any further nominations must be received in writing by April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

- President - Patricia Fenner
- Vice-President - \*Linda Smith
- Treasurer and Director, Finance - Donna Bright
- Director, Volunteers - Mary Ryan
- Director, Patient Care - Ambulatory - Sharon Gerber
- Director, Patient Care - Inpatient and Program Support Services - Janet Trevail
- Director, Communications & Public Relations - Gayle Metson
- Director, Fundraising - \*Young Mee Kim
- Past President - Yvonne Green

To date we have one non-elected role to fill. We are seeking a Recording Secretary.

**Yvonne Green**

#### **Membership Fees**

Northumberland Hills Hospital Auxiliary membership renewal for the current year (2007) is now past due. If you haven't already paid, envelopes are available at Petticoat Lane or the Little Treasure Shop. The cost is \$5.00. If you are unsure whether or not you have already paid, please call Jim Upper at 905-372-9361.

## Emergency Room/Fast Track

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, we are continuing to provide assistance to patients coming into the area. Our volunteer roster consists of 28 adults and 6 students. Coverage during the winter has been down due to our snowbirds flying south, but as they return within the next few weeks, we will be back up to normal.

During the last several months, I have been privileged to be a part of the Ambulatory Care Accreditation Team and it has been a real learning experience for me, having a front row seat to the inner workings of a modern hospital. This experience has given me even more of a realization of what a professional and caring staff we have, and an understanding of how much our volunteers are contributing to the hospital. Let's all give ourselves a pat on the back!

**Shirley O'Neil**

## Palliative Care

Everything is running smoothly thanks to a great bunch of volunteers. We are making nightgowns for the patients in the unit. It makes such a difference to both the patients and their families, creating a more homelike atmosphere. If anyone can help with either cash or material, it would be greatly appreciated (2.7metres of cotton per nightgown) as we finance this project through donations. If you have any questions or wish to donate, please contact me at 905-372-4048.

**Sally Duncan**

## Dialysis

### Some interesting facts:

- The Dialysis unit opened in the Northumberland Hills Hospital in 2003.
- The patient number has increased from 16 to the present 65.
- Currently, there are six patients being bussed from Peterborough three times a week.
- Nine of our patients are from Campbellford.
- Many of our present volunteers have been working in this department since the hospital opened.

Kathleen Fair, Team Leader, and all of the nurses are very caring and conscientious.

I thank every one, staff and volunteers alike, for their dedication and support. We welcome Caroline Williams and Don King as our most recent Auxiliary volunteers.

**Vera Wellman**

## Northumberland Hills Hospital Auxiliary Annual General Meeting

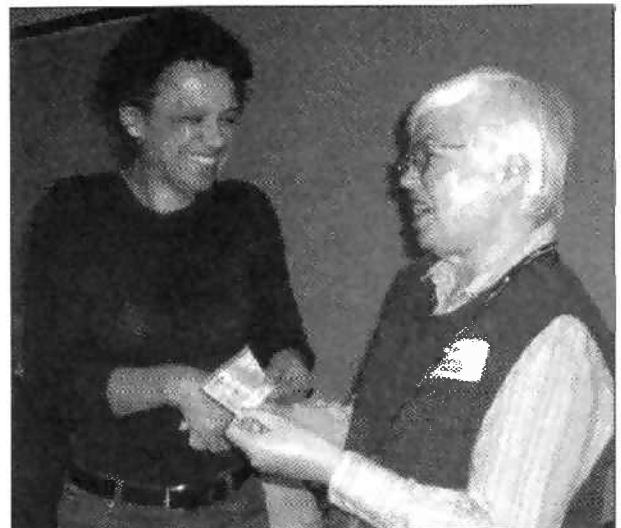
May 15, 2007  
Lions' Community Centre  
Cobourg

<b>12:00 Social time</b>	<b>Tickets \$15.00</b>
<b>12:30 Lunch</b>	<b>Little Treasure Shop</b>
<b>1:30 AGM</b>	<b>Petticoat Lane</b>

Tickets on Sale April 16, 2007



*Above, Joy Amin (L), volunteer in Diagnostic Imaging, Womens' Health presents a cheque for \$500 from her previous employer, Bell Canada, to Coordinator Jeun Orviss; and, below Bonnie Greer (R) presents a cheque to treasurer, Donna Bright, bringing the Crafters' Group donation to \$5000.*





### **Patricia Fenner, President**

An Ottawa native, Patricia attended Brescia College at UWO and, like most of her generation, went into teaching in such hot spots as Morrisburg, Deep River and Streatham, Surrey. Looking for something a bit more lively, she worked for a time for Maclaren Advertising in Toronto and then, in New York City as Office Manager and Convention Coordinator for the Young Presidents' Organization. A dream job. Imagine going to work every day in the Seagram Building on Park Avenue.

Marriage took her to Libya, then Malta and 2.7 children. The other .2 was born in Toronto where the family lived until 1999. The move to Cobourg was serendipitous. Her by now extended family includes seven grandchildren, all of whom think "Codurg" as they call it, is the centre of the known universe.

Local volunteer commitments have included Northumberland Services for Women, six years on the Cobourg Public Library Board of Trustees and, since 2002, the Auxiliary.



### **Sharon Gerber, Director Ambulatory Care**

Sharon moved to Cobourg, in December 1973 (as a newlywed) when her husband accepted a position with General Foods. She left a teaching position with the Hastings County Board of Education in Belleville to take a position with the Northumberland County Board. She taught grades 6, 7 & 8 rotary and Kindergarten on a full time basis. She decided to stay home with two young children and supply taught K-8 on a regular basis for many years in many Cobourg schools and tutored students as well.

Sharon is a member of the Cobourg Community Hockey Executive, canvasser for Cancer, Heart and Stroke and the United Way, a volunteer with Parents' Group at CR Gummow Public School.

She says, "Once the children were older, I decided I wanted to volunteer in a local organization. I looked carefully at various organizations and found the hospital appealed to me the most. I have never looked back. I have found my volunteer work to be very rewarding and enjoy being part of such a great organization."

She joined the Hospital Auxiliary in 1998, starting as a volunteer in Med/Surg, then Coordinator of Admitting, Coordinator of Day Surgery and now Director of Ambulatory Care.



### **Mary Ryan, Director Volunteers**

Mary was born and raised in Colborne. After graduating from Colborne High School and St Joseph's School of Nursing in Peterborough, she went on an adventure to the USA.

First stop was Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland for further education in her chosen specialty. She met her husband-to-be, moved to NYC where she worked at Mount Sinai Hospital. Thence to Brooklyn NY, worked at Maimonides (the largest Kosher Hospital in US. After marriage, she moved to Long Island, worked at 300-bed hospital (a satellite of North Shore University Health Care System), from which she retired as Director of Perioperative Services after 28 years of service.

Other volunteer activities include Hospice, blood donor clinics, K of C Auxiliary and the Cancer Society.

There's a novel in here somewhere!



### **Young Mee Kim, Director Fundraising**

Young Mee and her husband moved to Northumberland area in 1998 to open the Cobourg Health Shoppe at 76 King St. W. She recently sold her store and retired from her position as National Sales Manager with an international herbal company. Health and wellness have always been an integral part of her life and volunteering at the Northumberland Hill Hospital seems a natural progression in her retirement. She is looking forward to her new position as Director, Fundraising for the Hospital Auxiliary and is having great fun working at the Help Desk on Wednesdays.

In her spare time she enjoys playing golf, tennis, badminton, running, entertaining, cooking and being "bestest auntie" to her niece and nephew.

### **A Little Poetry for You**

In matters controversial,  
My perception's very fine,  
I always see both sides of things,  
The one that's wrong and mine.

I try to watch the words I say,  
And keep them soft and sweet;  
For I never know from day to day  
Which ones I'll have to eat.



### **Janet Trevail, Director Inpatient Care & Program Support Services**

A Registered Nurse, Janet graduated from Women's College Hospital. She divided her working life between Women's College and North York General, having experience in a variety of areas. She followed that with working for the V.O.N., both in Toronto and Cobourg. Retired now to Grafton, she counts her two children and four grandchildren as part of a rich life. (Surely she meant to add Sid and Pepper to her list of joys!) Janet joined the Auxiliary in 2004 and has worked at the Inquiry Desk and Cardiology.



### **Donna Bright, Treasurer and Director Finance**

Donna has been CEO of the Cobourg Public Library since 2002. A former teacher, she has lived in such far-flung spots as Lesotho, Nigeria, Botswana, Yellowknife and Rankin Inlet. She is a member of Rotary, a CPL Home Service Volunteer, and lists her interests as people, travel, reading and writing. Donna has three children.

Anyone who has watched Donna manage a tight library budget will know that she is professionally thrifty!

### **Words to Live By**

The person who rows the boat generally doesn't have time to rock it.

Gossipers are like blotters. They absorb a lot of dirt, but usually get it backwards.

Tact is rubbing out another's mistake instead of rubbing it in.

A gossip is one who can give you all the details without knowing any of the facts.



### Yvonne Green, Past President

Yvonne is a retired Elementary School Principal, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Queen's University) and a Master of Education Degree (University of Toronto). In her spare time she loves to read, hike and research wild flowers. Last summer she discovered yellow trilliums in Tennessee and spent a week heli-hiking in the Caribous and rafting on the Bow and Athabasca Rivers.

Yvonne says she joined the Hospital Auxiliary because she was impressed with the long-term commitment of so many members. "I knew it must be the place to volunteer!"

### Tips for Volunteers

- Don't criticize
- Ask questions
- Be willing to learn and keep learning
- Welcome supervision
- Be loyal
- Be dependable
- Be a team player
- Be alert to your surroundings
- Be considerate of others
- Be objective
- Be a cheerleader



### Linda Smith, Acting Vice President

A lifelong Cobourg area resident, Linda retired in 2003 from a 31-year career in primary education. As a volunteer, she has been involved in minor hockey and the Cobourg Y. Now that she has some leisure time she enjoys sewing, gardening and spending time with family and friends. She joined the Auxiliary in 2006, wishing to give back to the community.

Her acceptance of the role of Vice President will certainly allow her to do that.

## Historian

### Annual Report - 1947

Another year of our Hospital work has ended. It gives me great pleasure to present the annual report.

The regular meetings have been held in the Nurses' dining room. Mrs. Jamieson, our president has presided. She is so interested in the welfare of the hospital that it makes us all enthusiastic. Mrs. Wheler our very efficient treasurer has always given us an excellent report of our hard earned money, wisely spent.

The treats have been continued as usual and are much appreciated. The annual bridge was held at the C.C.I. on April 9<sup>th</sup> and was very successful.

The Tag Day was held on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was most successful. The proceeds were \$835.57.

Many useful articles have been purchased. Papers and magazines were provided. Books were purchased for the library.

At Christmas time the Auxiliary provided gifts for the nurses.

Mrs. Smither has been a very faithful librarian. She visits the hospital every Saturday and cheers the sad and lonesome.

The balcony is to be winterized and we are planning to assist in this work.

Groups of our members have met on Friday afternoon to make maternity pads which are always in demand.

Refreshments are served at the conclusion

of each meeting and a pleasant, sociable time is enjoyed.

We were all very sad this year when we heard that Miss Graham had resigned. She has been a wonderful superintendent and carried on bravely during the difficult war years. A beautiful purse was sent to her with our very best wishes for a happy well-earned rest.

This year we have joined the Hospital Association. We feel we have had a successful year and hope it may continue in 1948.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Olive Denton**

**Yvonne Green**  
Historian

## Crafters' Group

Like the Auxiliary itself, restructuring has taken place in the Crafters' Group. Bonnie Greer, Bazaar Chairperson, organizes the month-end bazaars in the hospital, and other bazaars held off site. She recruits assistants, and with their help, sets up and takes down displays, handles the money, and is in charge of raffles held throughout the year. Sometimes during the sales, requests are taken for special items and passed on to Lavinia Clarke who is our Production Manager.

The hospital Bazaar runs on the last Friday of the month from 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Customers may include staff members, mobile patients, and members of the public. Comments are noted and passed along with the results of the sales to the volunteers who produced the items. Sales for January were \$240.00. Volunteers who have made things appreciate learning how buyers like the goods.

Lavinia Clarke is in charge of the production line. If you enter the Auxiliary Room on a Tuesday morning, you will see a group of ladies drinking coffee, chatting about many things – possibly the latest episode of Coronation Street - or passing on recipes. You may think, "What are they doing? They look like they are having fun!!" In actual fact, as well as having fun, we are very busy organizing, creating, and producing the many items available at the bazaars.

We provide favours for the patients' tables to celebrate each holiday throughout the year, and encourage patients who are mobile, to participate in the production of the crafts, in the hope that this will make time pass faster for them.

However, the primary goal of our group is to meet its pledge of \$5,000 annually to the Auxiliary.

Requests for special orders are increasing due to the excellent quality and design of our products. A chef's hat and apron, created by Dorothy Lowe, is now in the proud possession of a child in New Zealand, granddaughter of an Auxiliary member. Maria Hartwig crocheted 100 miniature skating boots as favours for the wedding of a family member of one of our staff. The latest project is an order from the Port Hope Pipe Band, for 25 pairs of cabled kilt socks, 20 inches long, and some, for size 12 feet! "We are extremely proud of our 5 knitters who form the Sock Squad," says Lavinia.

Throughout the last year, the Crafters have ventured out into the community to different venues – Victoria Hall, Farmers' Market, Christmas bazaars at Trinity United Church, and Port Hope High School.

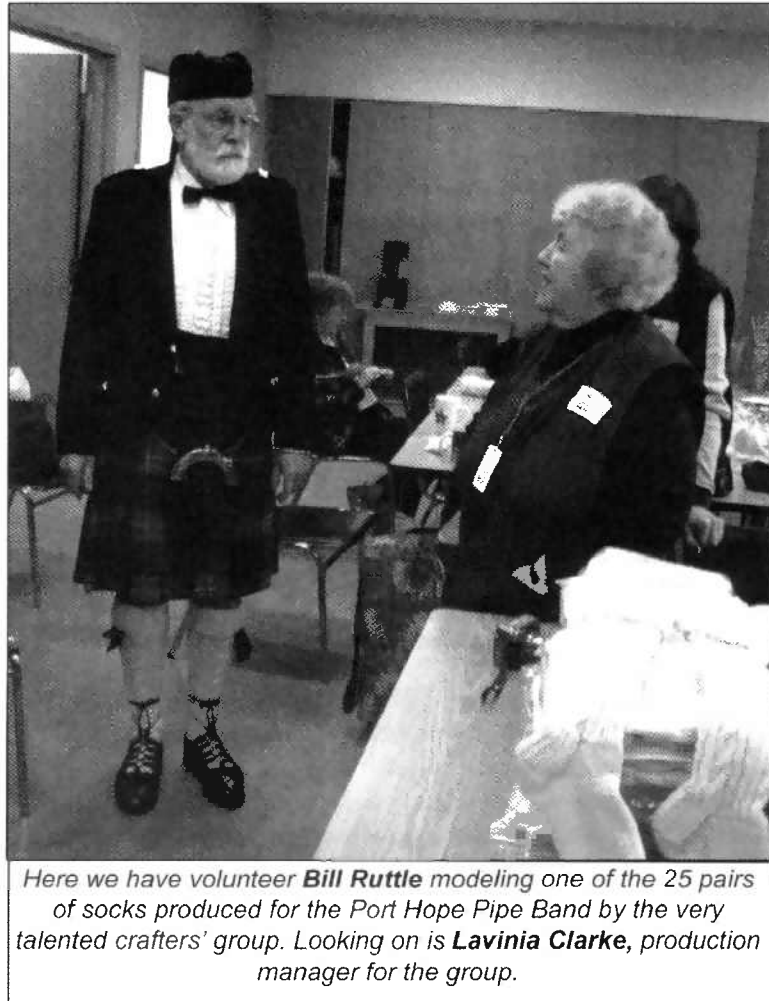
We appreciate the work and enthusiasm of the dedicated volunteers who participate. If you are interested in joining this lively group, please call us.

**Bonnie Greer**

**Lavinia Clarke**

## Believe It or Not

Recently, we had a customer return to Petticoat Lane and give us \$4.50. She had made a purchase last year for 50 cents and when she got home she realized the price tag said \$5.00. There are some honest people!



*Here we have volunteer **Bill Ruttle** modeling one of the 25 pairs of socks produced for the Port Hope Pipe Band by the very talented crafters' group. Looking on is **Lavinia Clarke**, production manager for the group.*

