

Auxiliary News

Winter 2012

A Tale Of A Tea



To borrow the words of Charles Dickens in A Tale of Two Cities, this year's Poinsettia Tea was in many ways the 'best of times' and in others the 'worst of times.'

To a guest walking into the BestWestern Ballroom, there was splendour to be seen all around. The poinsettias were strategically placed around the room courtesy of volunteer and conscripted family labour, and Linda Sedgwick Sharpe's centerpieces were simple, natural and elegant. The Men in Suits (John Metson, David Yazbeck and John Fenner) were well turned out and most efficient in guiding guests to their tables.

After greetings, tea was served by our volunteer staff, under the direction of Kathy O'Malley Hamilton. The volunteers, Jane McIvor, Sandy Ducharme, Ruth Morrison, Marie Van Dusen, Beth Ormsby and Nancy Logan, did a wonderful job of delivering the hot tea and the goodies to appreciative guests. The wine bar did a brisk business.

And then the Northumberland Shout Sister Choir swept into the room to captivate us with rich

and lovely music. Their talent and energy lifted the mood of the room from happy to ecstatic. Audience participation - hand-clapping, singing along - was notable and infectious.

The draw prizes were beautifully presented and attracted a good deal of attention. The poinsettias were fresh and vibrant and carried away into the early evening by guests who had enjoyed a really exceptional gala afternoon.

That's the 'best' part of the story. Here comes the 'worst' part.

For whatever reasons ticket sales were down this year, stalling at 146, yielding \$4380.00. Sponsorships were also lower than usual: \$1200. Draw prizes brought in \$1900. With some miscellaneous revenue from table centres and poinsettias our total revenue was \$7735.00.

On the other hand, costs were up in all areas. Our expenses - food, poinsettias and entertainment - totalled \$5,085.17. Our total profit for the event was \$2,649.83.

So we are rethinking our fundraising activities over the next couple of years. The Poinsettia Tea has, over the 7 years of its existence, raised

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President's Report ...



Seven months later, and the learning curve continues.

A busy summer, with the usual challenge for Coordinators trying to fill vacation gaps in schedules, many of which they themselves fill. Petticoat Lane hosting their inventive sales blitzes have added to the already impressive contribution of this hard working group of volunteers. In September another two Tag Days, led by the dedicated Marg Dennis and her team. This fundraising event involves many of us over 2 days and is yet another example of the dedication and commitment of our membership.

In October, through a collaborative process with the hospital, we put the word out for volunteers for ICU and had immediate response such that we are able to cover most of every week in two shifts. Patricia Fenner is the Coordinator and does a shift herself – thank you all! Also in October we participated in the United Way led Volunteer Fair at the Cobourg Community Centre. Now, we have done various volunteer recruitment efforts over the years to very diverse results. This was a hands down success in that it drew a lot of people overall, and we garnered more new volunteers than we have ever recruited at any other similar event. The venue was perfect – a Saturday at the new CCC, and our booth location number 1 right by the entrance – what could be better?

In November and with the same theme of recruitment and retention of volunteers, I had the opportunity to attend the HAAO convention in Toronto. The keynote speaker was Michael J. Fox and his speech left me laughing at his innate funniness, humbled by his straight-forward, courageous approach to life challenges, and inspired by his belief that you have to know your strengths and find a way to make them work to benefit others.

Do you smell the tea? November again and the Tea went beautifully. I'll not spend too much time on it here as it is well and extensively covered later in the newsletter. But suffice it to say that it went swimmingly and a good time was had by all – and then some.

Nothing that we do would be possible without the 'just do it' ethos of so many of you members and I can't thank you enough for finding this place to apply your goodness – patients, staff and our organization are enriched by your efforts and not much in this environment gets better than that.

Polar Dip coming up; try and look good in a bathing suit at 25 below. We're us, it should be a piece of cake!

Gayle Metson



A Tale Of A Tea



\$50,362.85. Not inconsequentially, it also raised our profile in the community. However, given this year's numbers, the consensus of our Board is that it may be time to put it on hold, temporarily if not permanently.

We still have our commitment to NHH to maintain so we are looking at several other activities... watch for news of a Spring Fever event that will be a departure from our norm and an exciting new idea.

In the meantime, I would be remiss if I didn't offer my personal thanks to all of our members and supporters who have been part of the Tea journey these past years. Your support, whether through heavy lifting or attending the event, has made it an occasion that I will remember with fondness and pride.

Patricia Fenner



Petticoat Lane

The highlight to the start of Fall was our second annual "Afternoon of Bling and Bliss". The day was raining cats and dogs, the same as last year. Customers were lined up at the door half an hour before they were scheduled to open. When they did over 20 wet customers literally poured in. Customers continued to flock in over the entire afternoon until the doors closed after 4:00PM. They munched on deserts and snacks offered to them by our amazing team of volunteers.



Although jewelry is the main feature clothing, bedding, shoes, purses, just about everything the store had to offer, flew off the shelves as customers cashed in on this fabulous annual sale, which brought in \$1,657.69. We all look forward to 2012 and our 3rd annual "Afternoon of Bling and Bliss". Thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make this event possible, and to all our donors and customers.

At the end of November we had our second annual "One month Before Christmas Sale". Everything was 50% off. Shoppers were lined up half an hour before opening but everyone agreed it was definitely worth the wait. We rang in a whopping \$2,070.65. The month of November brought in a total of \$11,83.86, beating last year's \$10,700.22. (Also in November we held a meeting of team leaders. The major issue was the reconstruction of the shelving in the store. The material used is not strong enough and there is virtually no support. This project will hopefully take place in January. If anyone can donate the necessary material, that would be very helpful in keeping the cost to a minimum. I will be approaching the Re Store for any possible donations.)

The One Month Before Christmas Sale produced such positive result we thought we'd try it again. "Another Chance Sale" was held December 9th. December 22, the 1st day of winter, was

a "mostly white sale" and the 23rd, our last day of the year, a "mostly green and red sale".

2011 was a great year. We were proud to present the Auxiliary with a cheque in the amount of \$40,000.00. This represents mountains of donations, faithful customers and hundreds of hours of hard work from volunteers. It's truly remarkable the amount of volunteer hours that are necessary to achieve these results. Volunteers sort through the mountains of donations then turn them into an organized, clean, functional store. As a result Petticoat Lane's clients come from north of Peterborough, west of Toronto and as far east as Montreal. Everyone has the same comments: excellent quality, good prices, it doesn't smell, and it's for a good cause.

I would like to thank all the team leaders and their volunteers. That is what the whole store is all about: team work. But we need more volunteers. Many are spending over 10 hours a week, a few as many as 25. We cannot function efficiently without more help so if any of you have a few spare hours to give to Petticoat Lane, please contact Fran Varden, 373-9210, or me, Lorrie Phipps, 372-0887. It's a lot of fun and a few hours go a long way to helping out.

And finally: Petticoat Lane's Second Annual... "SIMPLY SUNDAY". Join us for an afternoon of bargain shopping at -50% off regular prices. Hunt for hidden treasures that have been kept especially for this sale. Sip on a complimentary cup of coffee or tea while exploring. Petticoat Lane is featuring jewellery at up to 75% off the regular price.

Remember, Valentine's Day is just around the corner.

Lorrie Phipps/Phyllis May - Coordinators



Poinsettia Tea



Poinsettia Tea



Poinsettia Tea



Tag Days 2011

The 10th annual Tag Day event was held on September 8th and 9th and enjoyed the support of businesses in Cobourg, Port Hope and, this year, Colborne Pharmacy. At each location, volunteers enjoyed support from passers-by. The final total raised was \$4,572.71, slightly ahead of last year and above our budget forecast.

We had the locations to staff 58 shifts on both days but in the end staffed only 35 on Thursday and 39 on Friday. This underscores one of the concerns about the future of the event, as it seems that fewer of our volunteers are able or willing to staff the locations. Organizing the staffing for the various locations is a daunting task, requiring dedication and determination, qualities which Event Chair Marg Dennis demonstrates year after year. The support of the committee, made up of Dale Hodge, Ruth and Paul Morrison, Kathy O'Malley Hamilton, Trudy Irwin and Mary Gill, and the money counters is central to the success of the event.

The Strategic Planning exercise being undertaken by the Board in 2012 will focus on our ongoing fundraising events as well as other areas of activity in which we serve.

Congratulations and appreciation are extended to all who undertook the challenge in 2011.



Tag Days 2011



Intensive Care Unit

For some time now volunteers have been active in a different kind of service area: the Intensive Care Unit. The volunteer's role is to act as a liaison between visitors and staff members in the unit. There are two three-hour shifts from Monday to Friday: 9:00 to noon and noon to 3:00. The role of the volunteer is to greet visitors, determine the patient the visitors wish to see and then check with nursing staff to make sure that the patient can receive visitors. Then the volunteer escorts the visitors to the patient's room, having first made sure that hand hygiene has been practiced. Should the visit be at an inopportune time, the volunteer conveys the message to the visitors and continues to monitor the situation until it is resolved.

Thus the volunteer presence serves at least three purposes. It frees staff from having to respond to the ever-so insistent buzzer, which can take them away from their bedside duties. It provides a human interface with family and friends which, depending on the needs of the individual visitors, can result in directions to other areas in the hospital, food and drink as well as information about the town services to visitors from 'away'. And it can sometimes result in conversations on a wide variety of subjects. The volunteer also serves as a presence on the corridor to 2B, which is another human, and often helpful, touch.

If you are interested in exploring this volunteer opportunity, please contact Patricia Fenner either by telephone at 905.372.6811, extension 4630 or at pfenner@nhh.ca. We'd be happy to provide you with all the information you need and welcome you into this service area.

In Memoriam

We will miss Charles/Charlie/Chuck Orviss who died unexpectedly on November 13th, 2011. With his wife Jean, he devoted many hours to many causes, including our Auxiliary. Chuck and Jean (or the 'Orvi' as they came to be called) were, in a way, a 'power couple' before the term was coined. Together they were generous in many ways, always putting others first. Chuck's intelligence and sense of the ridiculous meant that he didn't suffer fools gladly, but would help even fools out of whatever mess they had created. He would have been 92 on March 4th.

As part of his broader family we extend our sympathies to the Orviss family.

Palliative Care

The nurses, patients, family and volunteers associated with the Palliative Care Unit would like to thank the auxiliary for its continuing support in the purchase of fabrics for the making of the nightgowns and pillowcases. We would also like to thank the owners of Stitch Witch, the fabric store on Division Street, for their generosity in giving us a great discount on the fabrics.

Sally Duncan

Membership Renewal

We are fast approaching the Auxiliary membership renewal deadline for 2012: January 31; payment by this date will cover you for the whole year.

All Auxiliary members are required to renew, unless you have a membership card that gives a renewal date beyond 2012.

Being an up-to-date, fee-paying member assures you of liability coverage should any accident or mishap befall you while you are acting as an Auxiliary member at the hospital, at Petticoat Lane or any official Auxiliary function or event.

If you are an Associate member (which means you have no active service area assignment) and you do not renew, then your membership will be considered expired and you will no longer receive communication from the Auxiliary. This will take place effective February 15, 2012.

You may pay your membership, \$5 for one year, at the hospital at the Little Treasure Shop in the hospital or you may mail it to:

**The NHH Auxiliary Membership
Northumberland Hills Hospital
1000 DePalma Drive
Cobourg, ON
K9A 5W6**

If you are dropping it off at the hospital, please sign your name on the sheet provided at the Little Treasure Shop and leave your membership fee with the volunteer there.

Thanking you in advance for your prompt attention to this notice and wishing you all a wonderful, healthy and happy 2012.

**Brenda Worsnop
HR Membership Information
Coordinator**



Coming Events

January 16th	Board Meeting
February 13th	Board Meeting
February 18th	Polar Dip
March 19th	Board Meeting

Our Generous Sponsors for Poinsettia Tea:

Sponsors

- Cameco Corporation
- Langhorne, Irwin and Wharram-Spry L.L.P.
- SMM Law
- Dr. Anna Tucka
- McDonald's Cobourg

Draw Prize Donors

- Bubbles and Gems
- Capitol Theatre
- Friends of the Auxiliary
- Ganaraska Art and Framing
- Heaven on Earth Spa
- Indigo Books
- Indulgence
- Linda Hutzell Manning
- Capitol Theatre
- Marli Beer
- Meet at 66 King
- New Oak Tree
- Northumberland Players
- Peg McCarthy
- Pete Fisher
- Serenity Day Spa
- Shopper's Drug
- Susan Dewhurst

Draw Prize Winners

- Allie Jancovic
- Christine Stewart
- Brenda Worsnop
- Janice McKnight
- Irene Kavanaugh
- Marjorie Rickard
- Grace O'Neil-Watt
- Yvonne Green
- Helene McMichael



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS
HOSPITAL
AUXILIARY

Thank
You