On Wednesday, October 7th, 2015, we presented a cheque in the amount of $78,484.00 to Northumberland Hills Hospital President and Chief Executive Officer Linda Davis. Although the cheque was presented by our auxiliary past-president Gayle Metson and vice-president Selena Forsyth surrounded by members of the fundraising team it was, in reality, presented by all 352 members of our Auxiliary.

However, the cheque amount represents much more than it shows. With this cheque our total 2015 calendar year donations total $353,484. Even more significant, this cheque brought the total amount the auxiliary has raised in the 12 years since the hospital was built in 2003 to $2,000,000.00. That’s two million dollars!

A lot of hard work, dedication and commitment went into generating this incredible sum of money. Here’s a breakdown:

- The Hospital Equipment Lottery Project for People (commonly known as the HELPP Lottery) accounts for about 5% of the total, or $87,600.
- The Little Treasure Shop, together with proceeds from the vending machines, accounts for about 30% of the total, or $604,000.
- Miscellaneous initiatives — the crafters group, bridge group, donations, membership dues, fundraising events like the Polar Dip, Wine tasting in the Park and The Poinsettia Teas— account for 22% of the total, or $446,606.
- And then there’s Petticoat Lane. Our thrift shop at 25 Munroe St. accounts for 43% of the total, or $861,784.

We usually turn over our fundraising proceeds to the hospital in a low-key manner.

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President’s Report ... NOVEMBER 2015

here is both good news to share and concerns to bring to every one’s attention. At our AGM in June we announced that Richard Holland would be our new Director of Finance. Unfortunately, Richard is not able to join our Board until 2016 and so, in the interim, Brian Driscoll remains our Director of Finance in addition to his current position as Director of Fundraising. We are thrilled that we will continue to have his expertise and optimism at the Board table! One other piece of the good news is the cheque we recently presented to CEO Linda Davis for $78,480! We cannot thank our fundraisers, the volunteers who work at Petticoat Lane, Little Treasure Shop, Crafters, H.E.L.L.P. Lottery and the Bridge Group, enough for their dedication and efforts in raising this money. This brings our total contribution to NHH to $2 million since the hospital opened in 2003!

In June, we presented the hospital with $275,000 to purchase, among other items: Roam Alerts, Vital Signs monitors, funds to upgrade the indoor climate control system, a freezer and fridge for dietary needs, an industrial dishwasher, wheelchairs, and mattresses. All of these items have been ordered but not all yet delivered.

As you are aware, attracting and keeping volunteers is one of our ongoing challenges. Similarly, encouraging volunteers to commit two years to sit as members of the Auxiliary Board is a difficult task. Past President Gayle Metson, Vice President Selena Forsyth and I met with Yvonne Green, Past President of the NHH Auxiliary to discuss ways in which we might proceed with strategic planning on this issue. Currently, our Board members are contacting hospitals (most of them small and rural) within the Central East Ontario area to find out how they are managing this need. Some hospitals have a paid recruiter. Others have no Auxiliary board. We want to know the advantages and pitfalls of any changes to the status quo. An NHH Auxiliary Strategic Planning Committee has been formed and will, among other things, review the collected data and provide a collective template for future plans.

We are planning a couple of initiatives: Betty & Gerry Walker (volunteers in charge of the Vending machines) have suggested that there be signage on the machines to indicate that the proceeds from the sales go directly toward buying equipment for the hospital. We also hope to be able to nominate some of our long serving volunteers for Ontario Service Awards.

Thank you to each and every one of you for all you do for our hospital and for the smiles and comfort you give to our patients.

Pat Page Hoisak
President, NHHA
Petticoat Lane’s Bling Fling!
President, NHHA Pat Page Hoisak

Thank you to each and every one of you for all you do for our hospital and for the smiles you bring. We hope to be able to nominate some of our long serving volunteers for Ontario Service Awards.

The proceeds from the sales go directly toward buying equipment for the hospital. We also heard some ideas on having signage on Vending machines (including junk food) to indicate that our Auxiliary is selling it. We have suggested that there be signage on the machines to indicate that the proceeds go to the hospital. If anyone is interested in helping to put the signs up, please contact me.

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The Board is a difficult task. Past President Gayle Metson, Vice President Selena Forsyth and I met to discuss ways in which we might attract and keep volunteers. Similarly, encouraging volunteers to commit two years to sit as members of the Auxiliary is something we need to explore. We would like to have our Auxiliary become involved in a volunteer recruitment forum with Yvonne Green, Past President of the NHH Auxiliary to discuss ways in which we might attract more volunteers to sit as members of the Auxiliary.

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$2,000,000.00. WOW!

When we realized this installment would put us past the $2-million landmark, we decided to make an occasion of it. And what an occasion it was!

Congratulations to everyone on an extraordinary accomplishment. Every penny of the money raised over the years has gone to the purchase of vital equipment for our hospital. You should be very proud.

**Brian Driscoll,**
Acting NHH Auxiliary treasurer.

### Annual General Meeting

Another successful and fun AGM for the Auxiliary was held on May 19th in the Education Centre at the hospital.

Once again, our Director of Volunteers, Linda Smith and her team put together the Volunteer Recognition part of the program, and presented pins to 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 40 year volunteers. Our Director of Communications, Selena Forsyth took their pictures, some of which you will see in this edition.

Our Director of Finance, Brian Driscoll, prepared a wonderful slide presentation of our volunteers in action in virtually all our areas of service, complete with music and commentary, and ending with a slide that showed that our Auxiliary, since the new hospital opened, has raised just under $2M dollars for the hospital! Brian presented a cheque to Linda Davis, CEO, on behalf of the Auxiliary.

Patricia Fenner, out-going Past President, and Chair of Nominations, presented a slate of Officers that was approved, and Pat Page Hoisak is our new President, with Selena wearing two hats, as Vice President and Director of PR & Communications. Amy Penny, Marg Hilborn and Linda Smith continue in their positions, Brian Driscoll remains as Director of Finance for one more year, as well as Director of Fundraising, and Gayle Metson is now Past President.

Out-going President’s remarks included a sincere thank you to Patricia for her large contribution to the board, and to the existing board for their hard work, good humour and friendship. Linda Davis, CEO of NHH, brought greetings, as did Jack Russell, Chair of the Board of NHH, on behalf of the board.

It was an informative and really enjoyable afternoon, which is as it should be for this wonderful Auxiliary.

**Gayle Metson,**
Past President
ATTENTION: Volunteers - Membership Fees - 2016

Yes, it’s that time of year Membership Fees for 2016 now due. Please submit your fees between now and the deadline date JANUARY 31, 2016.

- **ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS**: It would be greatly appreciated if you would please submit your membership fees for 2016 before you leave and complete a Status Change Form stating the date leaving and returning. You can obtain this form from your Coordinator or find one in relevant slot in Auxiliary Office.

- Membership fees may be dropped off at the Little Treasure Shop (LTS) at the hospital. Print your name clearly on the envelope and indicate it is your renewal for 2016, insert your $5.00 membership fee and sign the record book in LTS to ensure safety of your renewal.

- If you have not paid your 2015 membership fees yet, please include these fees with your 2016 fees and indicate on the envelope you are paying for both 2015 and 2016 fees.

**NOTE:** Membership cards are only issued to members renewing for more than one year.

Thank you - your cooperation is appreciated

**Carmel Murphy**
HR Coordinator – Membership Information

**REMEMBER:** 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 in any official Auxiliary capacity or event, or at Petticoat Lane. Please note you will not be scheduled for a shift if membership has not been paid.