



Aux Tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

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

From the Office of the President

Showboat composer Jerome Kern may have rhapsodized that the living was easy in the summertime. He obviously wasn't a member of the Northumberland Hills Hospital Auxiliary. The fish may have been jumpin' somewhere, but it was pretty much business and "busy-ness" as usual for our members.

It isn't easy to keep all services fully staffed at the best of times; but, in the summer coordinators have the extra challenge of scheduling around vacations. For the most part, all services operated at almost full strength. Everyone is to be commended for leaving the delights of garden, lake, and hammock to ensure that the hospital and our shops and lottery kept moving and growing.

Our Auxiliary Board with its new structure has had three meetings since the AGM in May. The June meeting was a large one, including outgoing and incoming coordinators. July's meeting focused on patient care areas while in August the emphasis was on fundraising and communication.

In the area of fundraising, our bulb sale is wrapping up, tag days are just ahead of us and a book sale is scheduled for the end of September. Poinsettia Tea plans are well advanced.

The hospital is currently in the first phase of its accreditation process and at least five of our members are involved in the preparatory sessions. Shirley O'Neil, Yvonne Green and Sharon Gerber are representing us in the Ambulatory Care discussions, Mary Ryan will be part of the HR team and I am sitting on the Leadership and Partnership group.

We have been saddened by the deaths of two of our active members, John Cobbe and Jim Cameron. Their loss will be felt keenly by their families, no less so by their friends and colleagues in our organization.

"Easy" Summer is moving on. Let's welcome September with enthusiasm and renewed purpose.

Patricia Fenner



Patricia Fenner

Auxiliary Members — Mark your calendars!

Plan to attend the
Fall General Meeting
October 24, 2006
1:00 p.m.

Education Centre
 Northumberland Hills Hospital

Tickets at
 Little Treasure Shop
 Petticoat Lane
 September 25th — October 18th
 \$5.00



*Linda Sedgwick-Sharpe (l) and Dale Hodge (r),
 Co-coordinators of the Little Treasure Shop*

Nominations Committee

Bronwen Coburn has resigned as Coordinator of Complex Care/ Rehab Patient Services. We are pleased to have Rhonda Cross currently interning in this department and willing to assume greater responsibility in September. In the interim, special thanks to Mary Ryan for her support.

Judith Masters has resigned as HELPP Lotto Treasurer. We are pleased to announce that Sylvia Lefebvre has taken on this assignment.

The Director of Fundraising role is open.

Yvonne Green

Here's a number for you!

Did you know that in the first six months of 2006, Auxiliary volunteers contributed **9,453** hours in Direct Patient Care at the Northumberland Hills Hospital? This number doesn't represent the total contribution of volunteers since it doesn't include non-patient care activity such as Petticoat Lane, the Little Treasure Shop, HELPP Lottery and executive hours.

Give yourselves a well-deserved pat on the back. You make a difference!

New Faces – Fresh Ideas at LTS.

At a well-attended lunch meeting in June, Dale Hodge and Linda Sedgwick-Sharpe were introduced to volunteers working in the Little Treasure Shop. The meeting gave volunteers an opportunity to discuss items of interest to all and to make suggestions for making the shop even more successful.

In Dale and Linda we have not only new coordinators but new members of the Auxiliary, both having joined after our March Volunteer Open House. They bring both energy and experience to their new role.

Dale has been a volunteer at Sick Children's since 1983 and during that time served in the gift shop for 12 years. During that time, despite competition from other shops in the hospital, the 5 Fifty 5 Shop not only survived but prospered. Dale brings many interests to her "retirement" home here and characteristically says: "I do enjoy the challenge of making something that is good work better."

Linda brings her well-known skills as a decorator to the shop. She has been a volunteer in many community organizations, a teacher of decorating courses at Sir Sandford Fleming College, a Dragon Boat Club participant, and a member of the Chamber of Commerce Special Events Committee. Her "touch" in selection and display of product is already apparent in the shop.

Dale and Linda have many ideas for attracting customers to the Little Treasure shop as a shopping destination, among them the offer of free parking for purchases over \$25.00.

Come see for yourselves!

Poinsettia Tea – Sunday, 26th November, 2006

Exciting News

During the summer months, your 2006 Poinsettia Tea Committee has been hard at work planning this year's event and it promises to be an elegant, convivial and entertaining afternoon for our guests. This is, after all, the jewel in our fundraising crown and your committee is dedicated to making it even more successful than last year.

Refreshment Committee

Elaine Elliott continues to contribute her expertise, leadership and support to the group planning this year's tea menu. Without a doubt it will be vastly different from last year, and we cannot wait to see what tasty morsels will be tempting us at this year's tea.

Fashion Show Committee

Ruth O'Donnell-Konecny is leading an enthusiastic group of women who have planned what will be an extraordinarily entertaining display of holiday fashion for our guests. In addition to Absolute Vogue, who did such a superb job last year, many new participants have been included. Taking this production to a whole new level, however, is the inclusion of Tara Barrows, radio personality of the new Northumberland radio station "The Breeze" who will provide commentary for the fashions displayed.

Entertainment Committee

Judy Masters is once again arranging for our guests to be entertained by musicians of the Northumberland Orchestra. They were undoubtedly one of the best elements of last year's tea and everyone is very much looking forward to hearing their lovely music again this year.

Sandi Spencer is hard at work purchasing the same top quality Poinsettias she acquired for us last year, and everyone who attended was delighted to be taking home such beautiful plants. Watch for details of a super-prize raffle!

Behind the scenes and working tirelessly to keep the group focussed and on schedule is our President and Poinsettia Tea Committee Chair, Patricia Fenner. If that alone was not sufficient responsibility, Patricia is also bringing her skills and finesse to the art of procuring for us some financial sponsorships which will greatly improve the tea's financial success.

All in all, a wonderful group effort, one that is sure to bring to our community an afternoon of great enjoyment and to our Auxiliary a major financial reward. Kudos to all involved!

Mark November 26 on your calendar so you don't miss this special afternoon!



Shirley O'Neil (l), ER Coordinator accepts a cheque from Gail Winstone, an enthusiastic volunteer

Volunteers bring many gifts

Auxiliary volunteers give to the hospital in many ways – time, energy, commitment. For some retirees, there is the added opportunity to receive funds from their employers to be donated to a volunteer cause. Gail Winstone, who joined the Auxiliary in 2003, is a former employee of Scotiabank. She was delighted to learn that the bank approved her request for a donation through the Scotia Employee Volunteer Program. The gift is a generous one — \$1000.00.

Gail enjoys her volunteer time in Emergency and on the HELPP Lotto desk. She is enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve and the bonus of meeting new people in the Auxiliary. Her positive attitude is an example to all of us.

Complex Care/Rehabilitation

We regret to report that Bronwen Coburn has resigned her coordinator position due to ill health. We thank her for her loyal service and wish her a speedy recovery.

We have been able to provide summer volunteer coverage from Tuesday through Friday. This has been accomplished through the extraordinary teamwork of a few volunteers who willingly changed days or worked extra shifts. Your contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

Mary Ryan

Historian

Women's Auxiliary Annual Meeting – 1937


It was reported that membership in the Auxiliary had increased by 40% and attendance at meetings had also increased. Equipment supplied to the hospital included: 3 gatch beds, wooden stool for the x-ray department, a two-burner gas plate, a kitchen stove, six flash lights, a bed pan sterilizer, a two-burner electric plate, four bed trays. A Special Gift Fund had been set up. Members were encouraged to make donations on birthdays or special anniversaries. The fund would be used for special emergency requirements. \$88.08 was already in the fund.

*The Hospital Story
Cobourg 1897 – 1980
J. Russell McIlraith*

Yvonne Green



Bonnie Greer (l) & Reta Chatten selling tickets on a quilt.



Our Annual Christmas Dinner
will be held at
WOODLAWN INN
420 Division Street, Cobourg
Tuesday, December 5th, 2006

Seating for 65
Tickets on sale by Oct. 1st
at Petticoat Lane and The Little Treasure Shop
or call 905-372-6263



Dorothy Allan (l) and Joyce Sherwood overseeing the baked goods table at Victoria Hall on June 10th.

Palliative Care

With the help of the volunteers in our unit we have been able to cover all our shifts this summer. Thanks ladies, you did a great job. We have installed curtains in all the patients' rooms. They give the rooms a cozier look, more like home. We wish to express our condolences to Eleanor Cobbe on the loss of her husband.

Sally Duncan



Tag Day Planning

Here's a committee of volunteers meeting to plan the "Tag Day" in Port Hope, Cobourg and surrounding districts. Lakefront Utilities kindly offered their office along with their multiple phone lines for our volunteers to contact and schedule volunteers to do the tagging.

Shown left to right are Mary Jane Pocock, Ruth Morrison, Stewart Cunningham (of Lakefront Utilities), Connie Sherwin, Marg Dennis, Jean Orviss, Gwen Arthur and Marg McDougall.

At press time it appears that first day income has outpaced last year's results. With another day to go we are on the track for another very successful "Tag Day"! Many thanks to all who participated.

Ambulatory Care

My two year term as Auxiliary Representative on the Foundation Board is now over. The past two years, as a Board member, has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience. It has given me insight into just how valuable the Foundation is to the Northumberland Hills Hospital. It was a great learning experience and I thank the Auxiliary for giving me this opportunity.

I am looking forward to the next two years as Director of Ambulatory Care where I will be working with an experienced group of co-ordinators and dedicated volunteers.

I am currently participating in the Hospital Accreditation Program as a member of the Ambulatory Care group. We meet regularly on a three week basis to discuss and go through criteria for the Accreditation which will take place in the spring of 2007.

Sharon Gerber

ER/Fast Track

Thanks to an influx of 6 new volunteers within the last few months, fewer shifts are being left open. Currently, we're averaging approximately 60% coverage of the 21 shifts available each week, with evening and week-end shifts still not being too popular. Several of our volunteers come in every week, and we have an active sub list. As always, thanks everyone - my job would be impossible without you!

Shirley O'Neil



Shirley Hinman, Sheila Graham and Doris Moore
Provincial Life Members

Honours

Three of our long-term volunteers will be awarded the Provincial Life Membership in November this year at the Hospital Auxiliaries Association of Ontario convention in Toronto. They were nominated and will be awarded in the Longstanding and Reliable Service category as described by the HAAO. They have a combined service of 121 years and all three ladies are still very active in our Auxiliary. Doris Moore volunteers at Petticoat Lane, Sheila Graham with the HELPP Lottery and is well known as a long-term past coordinator of the Little Treasure Shop. Shirley Hinman can be seen behind the Inquiry Desk on a regular basis. Congratulations ladies—we're all proud of your accomplishments and hope you have many more active years with the Auxiliary.

Crafters

The crafting group never ceases to surprise! Just recently they were approached to provide wedding favours for a couple who had met each other at a skating party. Appropriately, the request was for little ice skates to adorn the tables. Always on the lookout for fund-raising projects that will highlight the skills of the group, our crafters took on the project with gusto! As it turned out, one of the newer craft group members, Mrs. Maria Hartwig, whose skill in crochet is outstanding, crocheted all 80 of the decorative ice skates and she worked on them over several weeks. The client was thrilled with the result and sent the following letter to the crafters' treasurer:

Dear Mrs. Lowe,

Re: Fax/Martin Wedding Favours

Craig and I would like to thank the Crafters Group for making the ice skate ornaments as wedding favours for our wedding. We are really thrilled with the results. I am enclosing a cheque for \$250 as a contribution to your organization to use as you see fit. Thanks again,

*Yours Sincerely,
Gail Fax.*

Many thanks to Maria, and congratulations to all the crafters! Your talents are greatly admired and appreciated.

Petticoat Lane Volunteers!

You are invited!

By now, Petticoat Lane volunteers will have received an invitation to a lunch meeting on Wednesday, September 27th at the hospital. The purpose of the meeting is to bring volunteers together to share ideas, to discuss proposed changes and to enjoy one another's company.

If you haven't already done so, please indicate your intention to attend by contacting Patricia Fenner at:

905-377-8049, or

patricia.fenner@sympatico.ca

by September 15th.

The shop will be closed that afternoon so all may attend.

The meeting won't be complete without **YOU!**

Triathlon – Another Great Fundraiser for the Hospital

During the weekend of August 12 and 13, I was privileged to be part of the HSBC Triathlon (as a volunteer, not a participant!!!) held for the 3rd year at Victoria Park. What a great weekend it was – perfect weather, participants of all ages, sizes, and skill levels, much activity, and a strong feeling of joie de vivre filling the park! There were events for beginners, Try a Tri, children, Kids of Steel, Duathlons, for those participants who wanted to bike and run only, and the full Triathlons, for the swimmers, bikers and runners.

More than 450 people participated, ranging in age from 3 to 80, and were assisted by 60 volunteers and staff members of Multisport Canada, organizers of the event. Many medals were awarded, but winning was not the goal of most of the people there. They had set themselves the task of completing the races, and were thrilled when they did. Strangers assisted strangers – someone needed a bike pump, no problem; another needed to borrow some shoes, size 7 or 8 (she had forgotten hers), and shoes appeared.

All in all, a tremendous weekend, and the best part was that more than \$2,000 was raised for the hospital!

I'm planning on volunteering again next year. Come on out and join me for an energizing and exciting time.

Shirley O'Neil

Human Resources

Betty Knight, Jim Upper and I are gradually sorting out our individual roles within this new department. Betty is doing the orientations. She is planning at least one a month, and, we hope, will be able to standardize the date, for example, the 4th Monday. Jim is busy with record keeping and tracking. He is planning to develop a current data base on all volunteers. I have several projects underway:

1. Working with team leaders and program directors to develop programs to enhance the volunteer experience, and increase assistance to both staff and patients.
2. Working with the physiotherapy department to assure that all volunteers have been, or will be instructed in wheelchair safety.
3. Working on providing a Suggestion Box for the volunteer room. This will be a locked box and suggestions may be signed or unsigned. Gerry Chatten has graciously agreed to assist us with his carpentry skills. The Box should be ready in a couple of months.

Mary Ryan



Dixie Mikel Award recipients, Chun-Yu (Rachel) Zhang left, and Amanda Therrien, right.

bequest was first designed for student volunteers aged 17 – 19, who intended to enter the field of nursing. Several years ago, the Auxiliary Board broadened the eligible field of study to the wider world of health-related careers. The award winner must complete a minimum of 60 hours (over two years), demonstrate reliability, a positive attitude and performance in caregiving skills. This year two programme participants earned this award.

Chun-Yu Zhang, who came to Canada from China two years ago volunteered in Kincardine's hospital, the South Bruce Grey Health Centre, while learning to speak English. She took the English name of Rachel, entered our Student Volunteer Programme in January 2006 and worked Saturdays. She is now at Queens University pursuing a career in medicine.

Amanda Therrien is our second award recipient. Amanda joined the Student Volunteer Programme in November of 2005. She amassed a total of more than 140 hours in Diagnostic Imaging. Amanda is pursuing a career in radiology.

The Auxiliary presented the awards to these two deserving students on June 10, 2006 at the Northumberland Hills Hospital.

The Dixie Mikel Award 2006

In 1970, Dixie Mikel, an Auxiliary member at the then Cobourg District General Hospital introduced a Candy Stripper programme for young summer volunteers. The Dixie Mikel Award, created through her generous



The 2005-2006 Student Volunteer Programme at the Northumberland Hills Hospital held a graduation ceremony at the hospital on June 10, 2006. Shown (l to r) are Erin Fernhout, Gloria Gilbert, Hilary Dickson, Jocelyn Vandermeer (last year's Dixie Mikel recipient), Rachel Zhang, Amy Hubers and Amanda Therrien

The Little Treasure Shop

The Little Treasure Shop is having a good summer with rewarding sales results. A sidewalk sale helped to increase our income by about \$1400 and cleared some shelves for new product. It has also been encouraging to see the number of people who have been browsing and shopping with renewed interest.

There have been many changes in shop display and many new gift items, jewellery and the introduction of a small children's game and toy section. Webkinz, a cute plush animal with a secret code for access to an on-line computer game, will be in the shop very soon. Could be a MUST for the child's present you need and we are the only retail business in the area to carry this product.

A proper magazine rack will be installed in the very near future with regular delivery of an assortment of magazines. Stamps and phone cards are also now available.

We are on our way to the Gift Show so keep an eye on the shop for lots of new and exciting items and more new displays. Your promotion and support helps the shop and therefore the hospital - and that helps all of us.

As co-coordinators, we would like to thank all those who have so willingly volunteered and helped us in the shop, those who have donated wonderful knitted items and those who have just come to see ... and perhaps buy.

Dale Hodge and Linda Sedgwick-Sharpe



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS
HOSPITAL

AUXILIARY

1000 DePalma Drive,
Cobourg, ON K9A 5W6



Strawberries and Song

Once again we appreciate the generosity of Women in Harmony in donating the proceeds of their Strawberries and Song concerts to the Auxiliary. The music was up to its usual standard. The strawberries delicious and a gift of \$1215.00 was presented to us. Many thanks to Gwen Darling and Women in Harmony.

Refreshment Policy

It seems appropriate to clarify our policy relative to the complimentary beverage offered to our volunteers. Our choice of beverage is limited to one cup of coffee or tea each shift you work. Soft drinks, juices and bottled water are **not** included and are **not** complimentary. There is a machine in the Main Street Bistro that dispenses cold water and ice. We are all welcome to help ourselves to this water. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please speak to your coordinator.