

**President's Report**

*A message from the president, Patricia Fenner.*

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**Polar Bear Dip**

*Story continued from page one, with more pictures from the successful event.*

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**AGM**

*Annual General Meeting information and reports.*

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**Reports**

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**Volunteer Open House**

*Shall we join the ladies? Find the answer on page 7.*

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**Historian**

*Do You Remember?*

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**Upcoming Events**

*Visit here to find out the dates and locations for upcoming events, including the Annual General Meeting.*

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## Weather Fails to Dampen Dippers' Spirits

If it hadn't been for the weather, everything was perfect. Behan Construction was clearing the dipper destination. The Cobourg Fire Department tent was ready to warm volunteers and dipper registrants. The school busses were in place and stylishly curtained. St. John Ambulance was ready to assist if the need arose. Hot chocolate was on the way.

But it rained. And rained. The surface to be covered by the dippers ranged from snow to slush to mud to water. The wind blew.

Would the dippers appear? Would spectators arrive to cheer them on? Was the event in peril?

And then they came – down the hill over the previously described terrain. Dippers and supporters. The former clad in strange and wonderful costumes. The latter already wet.

Following them, the spectators. A crowd of respectable size gathered around the frosty swimming hole. Umbrellas were the dress code of the day. So were smiles and laughter.

In all, 20+ dippers, ranging in age from 10 to 53 (we think) and in geography all the way from Ottawa, plunged into the gray waters of the lake. And came out quickly. Except for one or two who did it twice. There's no accounting.

In terms of accounting, the bookkeeping isn't quite finished. But the dollar figure on the day is in excess of \$5331.78. The generosity factor in terms of dippers, pledgers, spectators and volunteers can't be measured.



**Board of Directors****Patricia Fenner**  
*President***Dale Hodge**  
*Vice President***Yvonne Green**  
*Past President***Donna Bright**  
*Director, Finance***Sharon Gerber**  
**Janet Tremain**  
*Directors, Patient Care***Gayle Metson**  
*Director, Communication  
and Public Relations***Mary Ryan**  
*Director, Volunteers***Young Mee Kim**  
*Director, Fundraising*

Dorothy Allen

Maureen Bronkhorst

Sally Duncan

Nancy Foden

Selena Forsyth

Yvonne Green

Dale Hodge

Betty Knight

Dorothy Lowe

Ruth Markle

Jane McIvor

Virginia Mitchell

Ruth O'Donnell-  
KonecnyKathryan O'Malley-  
Hamilton

Shirley O'Neil

Jean Orviss

Cam Perrault

Lorrie Phipps

Linda Sedgwick-  
Sharpe

Eleanor Tryon

Jim Upper

Sandra van der Veen

Vera Wellman

Brenda Worsnop

**President's Report****Patricia Fenner**From the President's Desk  
April 2008

I've had more than the usual writer's reluctance/block in settling down to write this last report. So many possibilities – how to decide on a theme.

I think I've settled on a version of the "What I did on my Summer Vacation" essay so beloved of imagination-strapped teachers. My version, however, will be "Things I Learned as the President of the Northumberland Hills Hospital Auxiliary."

*Patricia Fenner, President***Thing One: Health Care Funding - Through the Looking Glass**

Having lived through the Mike Harris years in education, I thought I knew pretty much everything that it was healthy to know about government funding in education. How the 'one size' grant system was successful in pleasing no one; how rare it is that government attempts to understand a problem before springing to a solution. I was wrong – there was more to learn. Health care funding is even worse. Four years of sitting on the NHH Board led my learning curve through rabbit warrens that Lewis Carroll would have deemed absurd. "Yes, we'll provide the operating funds for capital equipment. Good for us. Now you, community hospital, find the funds to purchase it." Just one example of many.

**Thing Two: Responsibility, Ingenuity and Integrity - Alive and Well at NHH**

Throughout this process, it's been heartening to observe the concerted skill of an Administration determined to provide the best possible leadership for the hospital and its staff. Supporting them, it's also been a positive experience to see the diverse skills and personalities of volunteer Board members bring to grappling with fulfilling its fiduciary and moral responsibility to the community. It has been an honour to be part of that group.

**Thing Three: West Northumberland - Generosity Grows Here**

West Northumberland is a generous community. The community is generous with its financial support (see Thing One: Funding, above). Our Auxiliary fundraising efforts have met with monetary success over the past four years, enabling us to support the NHH Foundation's efforts and to fulfill our own commitments with relative ease. But the generosity doesn't stop with the dollars. People of the community step up with energy and commitment to make fundraising work beyond the numbers. We've had fun raising money!

**Thing Four: Charity - May Begin but Doesn't Stop at Home**

Volunteers are by definition giving people. They give for a variety of reasons and in a myriad of ways. One of the things I've learned with pleasure is that our volunteers give because they believe the cause is worthy. They give to be part of something exciting and meaningful. They give of themselves with regularity, reliability and generous hearts. This hospital would not be what it is and where it is without the generosity of its volunteers.

**Thing Five: A Great Job - Well Worth Doing**

Thanks for your support. I wouldn't have missed it! I extend best wishes and support to Dale Hodge as she assumes the role.

## Shall we join the ladies? You bet!

On its way from being a Cottage Hospital to its current state of being Northumberland Hills Hospital, there have been institutional name changes that impacted on the Auxiliary. We were once known as the “Women’s Auxiliary to the Cobourg General Hospital” and, in fact, in a recent interview on the local radio station, the interviewer insisted on referring to the “Ladies Auxiliary” despite best efforts to bring him into this century.

At the present, we have between 40 and 50 male members, the majority active. Gerry Walker has the distinction of being the first male Auxiliary President. Jim Upper has served in several executive roles – Treasurer, Inquiry Desk Coordinator, and now familiarly known as HR2, the keeper of the database. Volunteers such as John Tait, Ross Adams, Howard Foster and Jerry Chatten have done their “time” on the Inquiry desk with their spouses. Robert Stubbs has been an ID stalwart. Male volunteers have been part of the HELPP Lotto team, have taken part in Complex Care Rehab Special Events and have served the public in the Little Treasure Shop as well as doing duty in areas of patient care.

Our recent Volunteer Open House showcased male volunteers in action. Welcoming and touring duties were performed by Gerry Walker, Cam Perrault, Paul Raven and Don King otherwise known as the ‘Vending Guys’. Bill Logan gave potential volunteers information about the Help Desk where male volunteers, such as Bill Henry, Warren Harvey and Anthony Skinner fill many shifts.

The third Volunteer Open House, thanks to the efforts of all involved, allowed interested visitors to observe committed women and men giving their time to a worthy cause. “You can’t buy that kind of advertising” as Jim Gordon, (also a member) would say.



## Constitution and Bylaws Report

*Yvonne Green*

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.

Any member in good standing wishing to make an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws must submit same in writing to Yvonne Green – Chair, by April 11, 2008.

## Nominating Committee Report

*Yvonne Green*

Any member in good standing wishing to nominate a member in good standing for an office within the Board's Organizational Structure may do so by submitting a written nomination to Yvonne Green – Chair by April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Members on the Nominating Committee are; Mary Ryan, Shirley O'Neil, Patricia Fenner, Yvonne Green ( Chair). Betty Knight is our resource.

The following is our proposed slate for 2008-2009.

### Proposed Slate: 2008-2009

#### Elected Positions

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| President                                 | Dale Hodge      |
| Vice President                            | Janet Trevail   |
| Past President                            | Patricia Fenner |
| Director, Finance                         | Donna Bright    |
| Director, Volunteers                      | Mary Ryan       |
| Director, Fundraising                     | Young Mee Kim   |
| Director, PR & Communications             | Gayle Metson    |
| Director, Ambulatory Care                 | Sharon Gerber   |
| Director, Inpatient Care/Program Support: | TBA             |

## Proposed Slate: 2008-2009

### Appointed Positions

#### Director, Finance •

Treasurers

Little Treasure Shop  
Petticoat Lane  
HELPP Lotto  
Crafters

Liz Brock  
Fran Varden  
Sylvia Lefebvre  
Dorothy Lowe

#### Director, Volunteer •

Coordinators

Student Program

Human Resources 1  
Human Resources 2

Mary Ryan &  
Shirley O'Neil  
Betty Knight  
Jim Upper

#### Director, Communications and Public Relations •

Coordinators

Recording Secretary  
Corresponding Secretary  
Newsletter Distribution  
Telephone Committee  
Photographer

Brenda Worsnop  
Eleanor Tryon  
Jean Orviss  
TBA  
Sandi Spencer

#### Director, Ambulatory Care •

Coordinators

Admitting  
Cardiology  
Chemotherapy  
Day Surgery  
Dialysis  
ER/Fast Track

Selena Forsyth  
Yvonne Green  
Maureen Bronkhorst  
Brenda Worsnop  
Margaret Grepe  
Shirley O'Neil

#### Director, Fundraising •

Coordinators

Little Treasure Shop  
  
Petticoat Lane  
HELPP Lotto  
Bridge Marathon

Dale Hodge &  
Linda Sedgwick-Sharpe  
Lorrie Phipps  
Ruth O'Donnell-Konecny  
Ruth Markle

#### Director, Inpatient Care/Program Support Services •

Coordinators

Complex Care/Rehab  
Complex Care/Rehab Special Events  
Palliative Care  
Maternal Child Care/Med Surg  
Diagnostic Imaging/Women's Health/CT  
Inquiry Desk  
Help Desk  
Lab Office

TBA  
Dorothy Allen  
Sally Duncan  
Virginia Mitchell  
Jean Orviss  
Jane McIvor  
Sandra Ducharme  
Sandra van der Veen

## Little Treasure Shop Report

*Linda Sedgwick-Sharpe and Dale Hodge*

When you walk through the doors of the Little Treasure Shop, you are immediately surrounded by a sense of calm, fun, inspiration and an experience of something very different and unique. We offer our customers things they need, things they expect and surprise items that thrill them.

We never get stale and continue to keep on top of what our customers want. Our inventory changes often, which means that tomorrow, next week or even today, many of our items may not be available. It also means that usually we have merchandise coming in as fast as it leaves so we offer an ever changing variety of wonderful finds. The only thing that remains constant is that we are always changing.

Our LTS is indeed a treasure and has generated thousands of dollars in funding for our hospital for which we can be very proud. We are pleased to report that this year, we have donated \$45,000 on behalf of the auxiliary.

None of our success would be possible without the constant support of our fabulous volunteers. They all help tremendously in the day-to-day operations of our shop. They not only dedicate their time but also serve as a daily reminder to our customers of the shop's special purpose.

As mentioned earlier, change is a constant and we are pleased to announce that Liz Brock will be our new Treasurer, having had a background in business and commerce. Liz will be replacing Virginia Tetz and Mary Gill. We can't thank Virginia and Mary enough for their talent, commitment and dedication. It is deeply appreciated.

Our management team has been consulted and, with the approval of the Board, a decision was made to purchase a computerized Point of Sale system. This technology will help with accountability, inventory tracking and reporting. We will be sending a team to Toronto for training and will pass that information on to our volunteers.

While the purpose of our shop remains the same, the process is changing so that we can continue to LOOK FORWARD AND STAY ONE STEP AHEAD!

## Dialysis Unit Report

*Vera Wellman*

Time Flies! The Dialysis Unit offering Hemodialysis commenced in October 2003 when the Northumberland Hills Hospital opened in Cobourg.

Fay Farmer, Margaret Grepe and Ruth McDonald have volunteered since November 2003, and Ron Templer is a

### *Dialysis Unit Report Continued*

faithful Auxiliary member that makes patients' packs every Monday morning. This dedication started in 2004,

The Auxiliary Craft group have crocheted many line covers which are very much appreciated by the patients.

I wish to express my thanks to each of the Dialysis' volunteers. Your devotion has made my job very easy! Kathleen Fair is the Team Leader of this unit and it is very uplifting to spend time with the excellent staff and cheery patients.

## Newsletter Distribution Report

*Jean M. Orviss*

How does the Newsletter get to you?

The Newsletters are received from the printer in bulk, and then we have a dedicated small group to sort and assemble them for distribution. They are separated into bundles for home delivery by this group and many other volunteers.

"A Very Special Thank You" to all who assist us in any way to complete the entire process.

## Membership Reminder!

*Jim Upper*

As of March 4, 2008, about half of the membership (approximately 300) had paid their membership fees for this current fiscal year, February 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009. If you have not paid your membership dues yet, the cost is \$5.00 and you may pay at Petticoat Lane in the Midtown Mall in Cobourg, or at the Little Treasure Shop at the hospital.

If you are unsure whether you have paid or not, the coordinator of the service area in which you work should have a list that you can check. If you have an associate membership, contact Jim Upper at 372-9361 or email me at [jmupper@sympatico.ca](mailto:jmupper@sympatico.ca)

**Remember, if you work in the hospital, you are only covered by the hospital's liability insurance if your membership has been paid.**

## H.E.L.P.P. Report

*Ruth O'Donnell-Konecny*

We have been very successful with our sales at the Lottery desk these past few months and profits have increased the most since we moved to this new hospital. This increase is mainly due to the fact that we have increased our hours by adding an early shift from 9-11:30 and 2 shifts on the week-end from 2-4. It deserves special mention that one of our most dedicated volunteers has offered to work these additional shifts.

A big thank you goes out to one of our long standing volunteers, Don Macklin, who retired from the Auxiliary at the end of 2007. We also have had to say farewell to Joan Kelly, Grace Black, Eleanor Hallett, Jean Luk, Marg Sage, and Mary Marche Johns. We have missed you all and want to thank you for your many hours of time spent on the Lottery desk.

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our Team!

Thanks to all of our volunteers for their time and efforts on the desk and our treasurer Sylvia Lefebvre who has worn a path to the bank.

## Crafters Report

*Lavinia Clark*

We are delighted to have exceeded our Financial goal for the year 2007 through hard work and perseverance. Our Tuesday bazaars (second Tuesday in each month) have proven a very successful venture, increasing our revenue, which is most encouraging.

Maria Hartwig has continue to work for the dialysis patients with the small tube pouches which are beautifully crocheted. The rest of the ladies provide modern designs whilst still working on the "old faithfuls" - mitts, hats and other warm garments.



Our dear Minnie Konsmo has decided to hang up her car keys after 30 years with the Auxiliary, however has promised to keep knitting her lovely socks and mitts and visit with us once in a while. We look forward to this very much as she will be missed by us all.

Dorothy Allen, our long time coordinator, was honored during the Civic Award night on February 28th with the Mayor's Award of Distinction, not only for the many hours she spends volunteering at the hospital but also for her work with the Probus Club of Cobourg and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

We are fortunate in having such members who give of their time and talents.

## Human Resources Report

*Mary Ryan*

The volunteer office is in the process of reorganizing; all membership files are now alphabetized and separated into active and associate binders. We will be asking all volunteers to complete a current profile so that all information is up-to-date, and all forms in regular use such as "change of status" are now housed in the small filing cabinet in the workroom. In addition, we are planning to have the office open on a regular basis and anyone wishing to contribute extra time toward making this happen should contact me.

A short education program is now being offered at each board meeting, focusing on the service/services of the month. Suggestions and ideas are always welcome as we need your input re subjects of interest.

The Auxiliary Board meets the 3rd Monday of every month except December and any volunteer is welcome to attend. Monthly orientation is the same evening as the board meeting, so it is important that coordinators/directors have a current list of their needs that morning. Please note that all new members, including students, receive wheel chair training at this time.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** every volunteer in our organization, including students, has signed a CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT.

This is a reminder that breaches of this policy can lead to DISCIPLINARY ACTION -- up to and including IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL. Please review the blank document in your manuals and carefully monitor yourself.

**STUDENT VOLUNTEERS:** Our student program is doing very well -- small numbers (approx. 22) but wonderfully dedicated young people. They are truly goal-oriented and planning on further education, many in healthcare-related fields. Last year we did not have a Dixie Mikel award nominee and this year it will be difficult to choose between the eligible candidates!

## Palliative Care Report

*Sally Duncan*

The Palliative Care Unit is running smoothly thanks to the caring, compassionate volunteers. Each volunteer brings their own special and unique gifts to the unit. We have just completed a new set of (39) of nightgowns in which we changed the style, a round neck instead of the V and made them in different sizes. The nursing staff and patients are very pleased with them.

**Just a thought for your Auxiliary**

You've seen pictures like this before in your newsletter. In this particular instance, Joy Amin is presenting Jean Orviss with a \$500 retiree donation cheque from Bell Canada.



That's just part of the story. Several of our volunteers access the Volunteer Recognition programmes of former employers who acknowledge the value of the service retirees provide to their communities by volunteering. As an organization, the Auxiliary has appreciated that our volunteers choose to direct their generosity toward our fundraising goals.

There are other ways to contribute to our fundraising. The Auxiliary is a registered charity and can thus provide tax receipts for any monetary donation.

Over the past year, we have been the recipients of a funds from a trust set up by a former member as well as In Memoriam donations, particularly on the death of Isobel (Betty) Milne. We have also received bequests on the death of members.

As a charitable organization, we are somewhat unique in that we have almost no overhead, so it's safe to say that all donated moneys go directly to our fundraising goal. At this year's AGM we will be completing our

fundraising goal. At this year's AGM we will be completing our second \$150,000 commitment toward the

support of Digital Mammography. At the same time, we expect to announce a new target for our funds. We hope that this will be a goal that will attract support from our membership and from others outside the organization who attend/support our fundraising events.

**Wine Tasting in the Park**

**Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 p.m.**

**Lions Tent – Victoria Park**

**If you were part of the party last year, you'll want to do it again.**

**If you missed it, you'll know what you missed.**

**This year, make sure you're part of the hottest event of early summer.**

**Great music!**

**Wines from a variety of wineries!**

**Fabulous food!**

**\$25.00 – Tickets will go on sale in May**

**You could double your fun and be part of the committee!**

**All skills welcome.**

**Willingness also welcome.**

**To volunteer: 905-372-6811X4630.**

**Historian • Yvonne Green**

**1923 • Do you remember?**

- The USSR is established.
- USA President Warren Harding falls ill and dies on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Equal Rights Amendment is introduced.
- A 1923 *Ford Model T Tourer* costs just under \$300.
- Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin "*The Covered Wagon*" – a landmark silent western film.
- "*Yes, We Have No Bananas*" – a major hit in 1923 and one of the most popular songs of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- October 31, 1923: A Statutory Meeting was held by the provisional directors to approve a new

constitution and authorize the incorporation of the hospital under the name of the Cobourg General Hospital.

- November 30, 1923: The Women's Auxiliary to the Cobourg General Hospital was organized. About thirty ladies attended the inaugural meeting. The Annual membership fee was set at \$1, on the understanding that membership in the Auxiliary also constituted membership in the Cobourg General Hospital.

*"Honouring Our Past....."*

*.....Forging our Future"*

**COMING EVENTS**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>April 8 - May 8</b> | AGM tickets on sale • Petticoat Lane, Little Treasure Shop |
| <b>April 21</b>        | Auxiliary Board Meeting • Patient Care Focus               |
| <b>April 24</b>        | HAAO Region 7 Spring Conference • Whitby                   |
| <b>April 29</b>        | Volunteer Appreciation Event at NHH                        |
| <b>May 12</b>          | Auxiliary Board Meeting • Fundraising, Communication       |
| <b>May 13 .</b>        | Auxiliary Annual General Meeting • Lions Centre            |
| <b>May 20</b>          | HAAO Region 7 Spring Executive Meeting • Campbellford      |
| <b>June 16</b>         | Auxiliary Board Meeting                                    |
| <b>June 19</b>         | Northumberland Hills Hospital AGM                          |
| <b>June 26</b>         | Wine Tasting in the Park                                   |
| <b>September 12-13</b> | Tag Days   |
| <b>October 21</b>      | Fall General Meeting                                       |
| <b>November 23</b>     | Poinsettia Tea   |

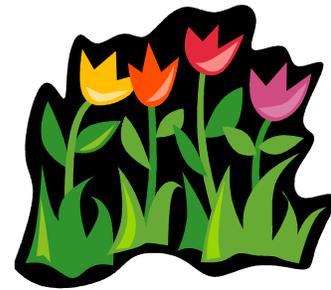
**The Northumberland Hills Hospital Auxiliary**

**invites you to attend its**

**Annual Meeting & Luncheon**

**Tuesday, May 13, 2008**  
**Reception: 12:00 p.m.**  
**Luncheon: 12:30 p.m.**  
**Meeting to follow**

**Lions Community Centre**  
**Elgin Street, Cobourg**



**Tickets on sale April 8 – May 8**  
**The Little Treasure Shop**  
**Petticoat Lane**  
**\$ 15.00**



**NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS**  
**HOSPITAL**  
**AUXILIARY**