For more than ten years the Rotary Club of Cobourg has had two big sales at a storefront on King Street: poinsettias in November and spring plants in March. Spearheaded by the unstoppable and formidable fundraiser Bill Patchett the sales have raised many thousands of dollars, all donated to Rotary’s Polio Plus campaign.

Last summer Bill asked me if the auxiliary would be interested in partnering in this fundraiser. The proceeds would be split between the Rotary Club of Cobourg and NHH Auxiliary. It took about .5 of a second to say “Yes!” to this extraordinary and generous offer. I knew it would take the organizing of many hours of volunteer time but I knew that we could pull it off. And we did.

Towards the end of the sale it occurred to me that Bill would probably ask us to work with him again on the spring plant sale. The thought was barely out of the thought bubble when: surprise!

Bill asked me if we would be interested in selling spring plants with the Rotary club. Rotarians would be selling on King Street as usual at the same time we were selling at the kiosk. This partnership would be a little different: The NHH Aux would be the recipient of ALL the proceeds. WOW!

I know you will join me in sending many thanks to Bill Patchett for this amazing fundraising opportunity. We look forward to working with him again this coming November and next March.

- Selena Forsyth
President’s Report

The 2015/2016 year came to an end at our AGM on May 24th. We were proud to see 57 of our volunteers receive pins for 5 to 45 years of service and a record of 85 volunteers and guests attended. Our Director of Finance, Brian Driscoll received high praise for his humorous but upbeat financial report, and his heartwarming video, with appropriate music, showing our dedicated volunteers in action. Our volunteers at Petticoat Lane, the Little Treasure Shop, the Crafters, Plant Sales, the Bridge Group and the HELLP Lottery raised $200,000 to donate toward hospital equipment. This year we have decided that our funds will purchase 2 “state of the art” birthing beds and we have made a commitment of $100,000 a year over the next 5 years to help fund a Clinical Information System (CIS). Other hospitals in our region will also share in the funding and share the access to patient data. We have funds left over from 2015/16 which will allow us to provide the hospital with 4 new Vending machines as well.

Earlier in June, Petticoat Lane held a sale to raise money for the Auxiliary and at the same time held a Coffee Morning so that customers could support the NHH Foundation as well. VP Selena Forsyth set up a partnership with the Rotary Club of Cobourg to take over their usual Christmas and Spring Plant sales and all proceeds came to the Auxiliary. Volunteers from all departments acted as salespersons and we raised over $14,000!

We are now in the enviable position of having sufficient volunteers and in fact, have a waiting list for available service areas. All of this is excellent news, but there are some concerns that we must face in the coming year. By our next AGM we will be losing at least 3 of our board members and we will not have a viable Board. I urge our Coordinators and the membership to encourage each other to investigate taking a place at our Board Table. Volunteers are always welcome to attend Board Meetings (third Monday of the month at 10 a.m.). Please come and talk to any one of the board members and find out whether this might be another avenue of volunteering that you might wish to explore.

Our Board has set up a committee to develop criteria for a $1000 scholarship to be awarded each year to a student volunteer in memory of Dixie Mikel. Another committee will research the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards and we hope to have some recipients identified by next year.

Our NHH Auxiliary has received praise from the NHH Board of directors and from the NHH Hospital Foundation, who recognize you all for your hard work and dedication for so many years and we are proud to accept this well-earned regard. Your presence is a gentle and valuable part of the hospital experience that Northumberland Hills patients receive.

Thank you for all you do!

Pat Page Hoisak
President, NHH Auxiliary.
Petticoat Lane

This December 6th the store will have been in existence for 48 years. During this time there have been many volunteers and many changes. The store has evolved into a "real" store where customers from all over Ontario come to shop. Petticoat Lane is a store to be proud of for many reasons. The objective, hospital equipment, is the major reason but it branches out to so many more areas: re-cycling, bargains, treasure hunting and a strong social gathering place for not only the volunteers, but also the customers.

The following are a few highlights of the past six months:

Cruise Wear & More Sale during the month of January brought sunshine into the store. We rang in $1,528.95 for the two day sale. Not only does it boost our sales but adds colourful clothing to the dreary shades of black, brown and grey. Total sales for that month was $12,065.85.

February’s fundraiser, Simply Sunday, was amazing as always. We were visited by the crew from Snapd who wrote a very positive article on the occasion and the store along with some nice photos. The amount of time all the volunteers put into this occasion is always worthwhile. We rang in a whopping $3,449.60 in three frantic hours. I would love to do a head count of how many customer come to this sale!

March brought us a wee St. Patrick’s Sale and our Easter Sale. I am not sure whether it was the weather that brought in so many customers but we rang in $13,170.35 for the month. April was highlighted by our 6th Annual Munroe Street Sale. This two-day sale rang in $2,911.55. Total for the month was $17,217.80.

The two day Mother’s Day Sale in May was a big hit. Women love their clothes, shoes and jewelry! We rang in $1,915.25. Total sales for the month were $14,986.05.

The month of June was abundant in sales. Petticoat Lane hosted a Biggest Coffee Morning for the hospital foundation and we managed to fulfil our pledge of increasing the amount we raised from last year to $867.75. We held a store-wide sale at the same time and rang in $1,565.30. A double whammy in fund raising for the day! Next was the Father’s Day Sale ringing in $847.00 for the one day sale.

The store’s storage area was bursting at the seams with Christmas items when we held our annual Six Months Before Christmas Sale. This year we changed it up a bit and put out Christmas items out for the entire month. The sale rang in $1,491.60. Total for the month was $15,254.15.

The past six years have brought about many positive changes to Petticoat Lane. The customers always comment on how clean it is and how tastefully the merchandise is displayed. And things continue to change. Phyllis May resigned due to personal reasons on July 13th. Her warm smiles and hugs will be missed by all. We wish her all the best. Through our strong team work the store will continue to prosper, just as it has done for the past 47 years.

Lorrie Phipps
Coordinator
Another very successful NHH Auxiliary Annual General Meeting took place on May 24, 2016 in the Education Centre at the hospital.

With close to 100 volunteers attending, it was quite crowded, and the mood in the room was convivial and proud to be a member of this exceptional Auxiliary. President Pat Page Hoisak opened the meeting with welcoming remarks, and introduced our board, the NHH board Chair, Jack Russell, the Hospital CEO Linda Davis, the Foundation Chair, Louise Stevenson, and our special guest, Tracey Lear, Chair, HAAO Central East Region. Pat then shared a summary of our past year’s accomplishments, and thanked the board and volunteers for their support and tireless efforts for the hospital.

Pat called upon Jack, Louise and Linda to bring greetings on behalf of the NHH board, the NHH Foundation board, and the NHH senior management and staff.

Following this, it was time to present Volunteer Recognition pins to those volunteers who have served from 5 to 45 years. This year, there were 57 volunteers eligible to receive pins, with several of them receiving pins for an incredible 45 years of service! Director of Volunteers for the Auxiliary, Linda Smith and her team ensured that no one eligible was overlooked, and that the presentations went smoothly.

The next part of the meeting was the formal business meeting, including a Financial Report by the Director of Finance, showing that Petticoat Lane, The Little Treasure Shop, Crafters, Bridge Club and HELLP Lottery, combined with flower sales from our partnership with Rotary of Cobourg, raised $12,620 for the hospital. Well done indeed!

The Nominations Slate provided by the committee Chair, Gayle Metson, was approved, and the board members will remain the same for the 2016-2017 year. All Coordinators and Treasurers on the slate were approved as well.

HAAO Central East Region Chair, Tracey Lear, then called the board members to the podium and conducted the induction of the board members to the Auxiliary.

Following this and photos, everyone was invited to enjoy a light luncheon prepared by the Bistro staff and virtually ‘inhaled’ by those present.

Many, many thanks to those who put this together every year, with thoughtfulness, care and great good humour!

Gayle Metson
Past President
Poinsettias and Spring Flowers

Over the years fund raising has taken on many forms for the Northumberland Hills Hospital Auxiliary. In recent years, the main fund raiser was the Polar Bear Dip, but with increasing concerns about health and safety for the participants, it was decided that partnering with the Rotary Club of Cobourg to assist in selling flowers at the NHH kiosk leading up to Christmas and Spring would be more rewarding and be a better use of our volunteer time.

From Friday November 23rd – Sunday December 20th 2015, the Northumberland Hills Hospital Auxiliary worked with the Cobourg Rotary to sell Poinsettia Plants. Over 25 volunteers gave freely of their time during this busy season to work the display. This was in addition to their normal volunteer shifts in the various departments throughout the hospital. Almost 200 hours were worked in support of this effort to generate $6,900! This money, together with the efforts of the other Northumberland Hills Hospital Auxiliary business units, helped to purchase $200,000 of much needed Medical Equipment for the Northumberland Hills Hospital.

During the period of March 9 – April 6, 2016, the Northumberland Hills Hospital Auxiliary once again teamed up with the Rotary Club of Cobourg to sell Spring Flowers in support of the Northumberland Hills Hospital. It was a heart warming, cheerful and tranquil setting for our volunteers to hang out. A total of 30 volunteers generated 194 hours to sell potted Daffodils, Tulips, Easter Lilies, Easter Egg Mums, Pansy Bowls and Hydrangea. Their dedication and hard work netted $5,720, which will go towards purchasing Birthing Beds for the Northumberland Hills Hospital’s maternity ward.

As the seasons come and go, the Northumberland Hills Hospital Auxiliary will be at the ready to support the Rotary Club of Cobourg in Poinsettia and Spring Flowers Sales as we collectively do our utmost to generate the necessary funds to purchase the state of the art medical equipment required to enable our hospital to provide exemplary medical service.

Brian Driscoll
Director of Finance
ATTENTION: Volunteers - Membership Fees - 2017

Yes, it’s that time of year Membership Fees for 2017 are now due. Please submit your fees between now and the deadline date JANUARY 31, 2017.

• ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS: It would be greatly appreciated if you would please submit your membership fees for 2017 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 2017, 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 2016 membership fees yet, please include these fees with your 2017 fees and indicate on the envelope you are paying for both 2016 and 2017 fees.

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.