

# Auxiliary News

A Quarterly Newsletter

January 2011

## What's the Twist, you ask? Well here's the deal.



No matter how successful a fundraising format may be, every once in a while a tweak or a twist is a fresh idea. With this in mind, the 2010 Poinsettia Tea committee set about discussing how we might freshen and improve our signature event.

There were actually three changes from other years – the cash wine bar, a humorist to replace the fashion show and the centralization of ticket sales at NHH. The combination of the first two attracted several new groups of tea-goers. The tea was no longer a 'hen' party and Neil Crone attracted several new ticket-buyers. Ann Wilson's willingness to assume the box office role for the event gave us a much clearer picture of ticket sales and assisted immeasurably in assigning seating to attendees of whatever number. This change made the opening

minutes of the event much less stressful.

The Ballroom ambiance was right up to snuff with the beautiful Viking Nurseries poinsettias providing a stunning backdrop and lovely golden birds as centerpieces. The poinsettia placement was overseen by Linda Sedgwick-Sharpe who was also responsible for the 28 table centres. Linda's touch always 'ups the ante' on elegance and class.

The 'servery' volunteers, under the direction of Kathy O'Malley Hamilton came early, stayed late and to quote Kathy: "They set about their tasks...and worked very well together. The ability to anticipate what needed to be done extended throughout the Tea and into the clean-up...The A-Team of servers performed for this event."

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# President's Report ...



As the Christmas season becomes a memory and the New Year is upon us, it's hard to avoid reflecting on the activities, challenges and successes of the year past. I'm aware of all of these elements in the organization to which we belong, and in the hospital family of which we are an important part.

You will soon be hearing about our plan to revisit and revamp our Strategic Plan. We are undertaking this for several reasons.

One reason is that a Strategic Plan is not a static, fixed-in-time document. The plan drafted and put into place in 2006 has served us well and many elements of it are still valid. However, we would be foolish not to acknowledge that change occurs and that we must be part of the change and examine what we need to do to go forward.

One potential concern is the need to continue to attract new volunteers to our organization. We must position ourselves as a vibrant volunteer organization in order to refresh our ranks. As a result of the advances made by our HR group, we have an accurate picture of our areas of strength as well as our areas of need. Thus the Strategic Planning Committee – made up of Board members and chaired by Past President Dale Hodge – is addressing our public image with a view to attracting men and women who will join us in our volunteer activities and enhance these activities with their skills and energy. Through the board members responsible for each service area we will be seeking input from you and know that you will have valuable insights into positive activities that will move us forward. Toward the end of March, we are planning another Open House aimed at showing our 'stuff' to the community. I'm sure we can count on your support.

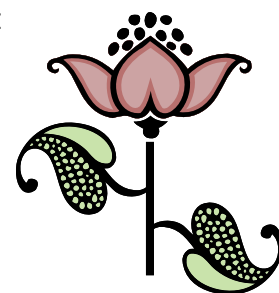
Our hospital has had a challenging year in many ways but as we look back, we can appreciate the need to make changes in the way we operate. It will be up to our members to support the Board and Administration as they move forward with these changes. I'm going to take the liberty of including part of Robert Biron's holiday message to the NHH family.

"Reflecting on the past year, my thoughts turn gratefully to the NHH family who collectively help so many members of our community with comfort and healing. I think of our outstanding Accreditation Report, to our short wait times, and to our excellent patient safety record. All of this, while our Hospital is in the midst of transformation – one that will ensure long-term sustainability.

My thoughts also turn to those who have made progress possible for NHH. Champions of change – too many to list – who will position our Hospital as a centre of excellence on so many fronts – from geriatric care, to restorative care, to quality improvement and inter-professional practice. Indeed, we have a bright future."

We are part of this change and must position ourselves to be part of that bright future. Thank you for all that you will do to shape and sustain that future. I feel privileged to be on the journey with all of you.

*Patricia Fenner,*  
President



*... continued*

Again, Kathy's words: "The food was plentiful, especially the sandwiches ... refills were available and served by our volunteers."

The addition of savory quiche to the food offering complemented the wine. Judging from the traffic to and from the mezzanine, the addition of the wine bar was a welcome notch-up.

The proximity of the beautiful gift baskets to the wine persuaded many of our guests to purchase tickets on the prizes. Prizewinners are listed in the next column.

Neil Crone's presentation reminded all of us of the highs and lows of parenthood with insightful humour. Many of us recognized "been there, done that" moments in his presentation.

Now the bottom line. Our generous sponsors and friends contributed \$5050.00 to cover our costs. Ticket sales totaled \$6,270.00 The proceeds from the draw and centerpieces came in at \$2830.00. An expense line of \$6,186.81 gives us an event profit of \$7963.19 for Poinsettia Tea 2010. Over the six years of its existence, the event has raised \$40,567.94 to support our commitment to patient focused equipment for NHH.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of spirit exhibited by volunteers on the committee; by volunteers who helped on 'the day' with the food service and the draw prizes; by spouses, in-laws and one CEO were once again "Men in Suits." Thanks to all for contributing to this success.

*Event Photographs on page 4.*

## **POINSETTIA TEA PEOPLE**

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### **EVENT SPONSORS:**

Lynn Hardy, Vandermeer Toyota, Cameco, Langhorne Irwin Wharram Spry, Lynch Rutherford Tozer, MacDonald's, York Super Pharmacy, Generous friends of the Auxiliary.

### **POINSETTIA TEA COMMITTEE:**

Brenda Worsnop, Dale Hodge, Kathy O'Malley Hamilton, Laura Scrivener, Marg Hilborn, Patti McGlone, Sandy Ducharme, Selena Forsyth, Sharon Holmes, Yvonne Green, Sandy Ducharme, Gayle Metson.

### **SERVERY VOLUNTEERS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF KATHY O'MALLEY HAMILTON:**

Virginia Tetz, Ruth Morrison, Marie Vandusen, Jane McIvor, Sandy Ducharme, Gayle Metson.

### **ASSISTING WITH THE DRAW PRIZE DISPLAY AND TICKET SALES:**

Marilyn Chapin, Sharon Holmes, Donna Gow, Nancy Logan.

### **POINSETTIA TEA DRAW PRIZE WINNERS:**

Rhonda Cunningham, Suzanne Fennessy, Don Porter, Ann Wilson, Rita Golke, Sylvia Clancy, Joyce Pyatt, Ann Manser, Luanne Cable, Sandy Ducharme, Joan McKelvey, Heather Sculthorpe, Diane Lush.

### **MEN IN SUITS:**

Robert Biron, John Metson, David Yazbeck, Bob Fenner.





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## 2010 Poinsettia Tea



# Petticoat Lane's Latest "First"

Petticoat Lane's premiere "Collectables and More", held on December 5th, was a great success. Unfortunately, the photos did not fare as well. None turned out! That did not put a damper on the afternoon nor did the weather. Customers flocked in just before 1:00 p.m. to be the first to take advantage of Petticoat Lane's hidden treasures. There was also a display of Christmas items for sale. Besides the collectables, jewelry was a hot item. Customers also had a chance to browse through the store and shop for that special item of clothing they were looking for, all at great discounted prices.

Coffee, tea and goodies were enjoyed by customers. Mary of Cobourg was the lucky winner of the draw for the Old World Santa. Congratulations. At the end of the afternoon, Petticoat Lane's total sales were \$1,083.70. The total for the draw for Santa was \$59.00. A great shopping afternoon was had by all.

Petticoat Lane's regular sales for the month of November and December were \$19,530.36. A very profitable Christmas Season for the store. Wishing everyone all the best in 2011.

**Lorrie Phipps**





# Donations of all Sorts

As an organization we are committed to supporting the hospital in the patient care areas and by raising funds. We already do this in ways with which you are all familiar – our shops, the HELPP Lottery, the Crafters Bazaars and our four special events.

Just recently it has come to our attention again that there are other ways of making financial contributions. Some of you are already part of the Retiree Programs run by companies for which you have worked. Corporations such as Petro-Canada, Bell Canada and several of the banks are pleased to donate money to recognize their retirees' efforts in the community.

Another way of supporting our fundraising efforts is what is called a Third Party Event. The most recent of these was a raffle held by a Roseneath group called Club 39. Looking at only a few of their activities is enough to make your head spin. From line dancing through carpet bowling through creating crafts such as lap quilts for hospitals and nursing homes, they are certainly on the move. Their fundraising activity this year was a raffle for beautiful quilts from which a considerable profit was achieved. Part of that profit came to us in memory of Betty Milne, who was a member of our organization and of the club.

*In Memoriam* offerings are often stipulated by the family of the deceased, but can be made to other organizations as well and are acknowledged and receipted by our Director of Finance.

Some of our members have chosen to support our activities with sponsorships which can be acknowledged and receipted as the sponsor chooses.

Something worth thinking about.

## classified ads

*(Free if you play your cards right. Which means bribe the editor.)*

**WANTED:** A friendly greeter for the Inquiry Desk who will organize and coordinate the service - the Image of the hospital starts here.

**ALSO WANTED:** a self motivated team player willing to take on the coordination of special events - Wine Tasting (June) and Poinsettia Tea (November). Ideal for a creative person who likes to work his or her own hours and is not afraid to ask for money/donations and has a knack for getting people to say yes!



# Bake Sale

November saw the start of what we hope will become a tradition at NHH - staff and volunteers combining to raise funds for a United Way Bake Sale. Held in the Bistro at noon on November 25th and made lively by the donated professional skills of auctioneer Les Brittan, the event was a resounding success. United Way Campaign Chair Paul Racine, and United Way CEO Linda Kay were there to start the proceedings and to acknowledge the efforts of staff in organizing the event. Denise Kearsey, the NHH United Way Champion, and Jennifer Gillard crafted the noon-time event and were energetic cheerleaders as it progressed. The number of creatively displayed baked goods exceeded even their highest expectations.

NHH Auxiliary Volunteers were asked to take part in the event and did so wholeheartedly. CEO Robert Biron took away all of Ann Wilson's shortbread, contributing \$60 to the event total. It should be noted that the CEO has a way with macaroons, which also fetched a good price. John Metson provided baked treats that were as attractively plated as they were delicious! As for Patricia Fenner's 'buns', you'd have the check with Janet Burn to get the critique.

The end result was that \$1,450.00 was raised in less than an hour. As a community, we are well-served by the various agencies of the United Way and this was a win/win way to contribute to their work. It was also great fun and a good kick-off for the festive season. Let's do it again next year.



## *Coming Events*

January 13	Strategic Planning Meeting
.....	
February 19	Polar Dip
.....	
May 17	AGM

# Membership Renewal



It's that time of year again. Your membership should be renewed by January 31st.  
You can do that at Petticoat Lane or at the Gift Shop.



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