



NEWSLETTER

Auxiliary to the Abbotsford Regional Hospital

Winter 2024



Winter Wonderland

We hope everyone managed to stay warm and safe during the onslaught of cold temperatures and the snow piling up on our roadways and homes. Thankfully, we have a very caring Volunteer Resource Staff and Auxiliary Gift Shop management who sent us reminders to stay home while the conditions were dangerous.



Gift Shop

Our gift shop remained closed for several days during our recent inclement weather event. Since our “2 volunteers per shift” policy has been implemented, it is important to let your partner know that you are not able work that day as they cannot work alone. If you are not certain who your partner is then contact one of the numbers below:

-Judie Dreger, Scheduler – 778-387-2701

-Maggie Gardiner, Manager – 778-808-0591 or 778-856-9283

***Gift Shop Hours** have expanded once again. Aside from our Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm shifts, we now have 2 shifts on Saturday and an evening shift on Thursday and Friday. Thank you to our volunteers who are taking on these shifts. As you may have noticed, some of our volunteers have volunteered to do more than one shift a week. THANK YOU for your dedication and hard work!

***Judie Dreger** is our new Gift Shop Scheduler as of the month of December. Thank you, Judie for taking on the challenging task of ensuring we have 2 gift shop volunteers on every shift!

***December sales** totals were up from the past 2 years. Hopefully, this will be a continuing trend, despite our weak economy.

***Retaining suppliers** for the gift shop has been challenging. The companies that supply our special baby products has either changed ownership or cannot supply the quality products we are looking for. As you know, we have not had a confectionary supplier for a few years and it is only thanks to the efforts of Margaret Cornies, who scours the dollar stores and big box stores, that we are able to maintain a decent supply of candies and chips. Our card supplier has also retired which has left a gap in our stock of cards. Management continues to work on these issues.

***Shoplifting** is a common curse for all retailers. Please remain aware of customers as they enter the shop and greet them with a friendly hello. Monitor the activity of each customer when possible.

***A Book Cart** is a recent addition to our gift shop. It has a prominent position outside our shop door. Payment is by cash donation. A container for depositing the money sits on the counter behind the cash register.



We are requesting donations from our members to keep a steady supply of appropriate magazines and books on the cart. These donations can be dropped off at the Gift Shop.

Auxiliary Funded Programs

The auxiliary is proud to be funding some very special programs.



The Ballet program started a few years ago at Cottage Worthington and has recently resumed after a pause during Covid. Members recently voted to support the ballet program for 2024. This special program benefits both the young ballet students who receive free lessons from trained instructors as well as the residents who engage with the students while they are learning their dances.

Puppy Love is the other funded program that benefits Cottage Worthington. Donated funds and the Hospital Foundation also support the same program in the ACE unit of our hospital. Our Auxiliary volunteers help with these events when they occur. 8 to 10 week old puppies are brought to the respective facilities to encourage residents and patients to engage with the puppies. The program allows the patients to cuddle and hold the puppies which in turn encourages them to move about as part of their rehabilitation.



Equipment funding: At our December meeting, members agreed to support the request from FVHCF of \$10,000 for a C-Arm which is a diagnostic imaging tool required for heart procedures such as pacemakers and valve replacements.



Successful Fall Fund Raising Events

Christmas Gift Basket. Marilyn Egan has made her last Christmas raffle basket as she is retiring from this Convenor role. Thank you, Marilyn for the many years that you have dedicated your talents to create beautiful Christmas and Easter baskets. Hopefully, another member will soon be able to take on this role and keep up this tradition.

Congratulations to this year's Christmas basket winner, Cheryl G. from Abbotsford.



November Vendor and Bake Sale. Thank you to Gail Bostrom, our talented organizer, and the many home bakers who contributed their delicious baking to the November Bake Sale which raised \$1,184.00. Well done, Gail and bakers!



New Year Baby

As is our tradition, our Auxiliary presented a lovely gift to the Christmas Baby born in our Abbotsford Regional Hospital. Little Aria was the first baby arriving at 11:47am Christmas Day!



FVHCF Gala

A carnival themed gala was held on November 18 which raised over \$110,800. Thank you to the Auxiliary members who volunteered their time to assist with the set up and running of this important fundraising event. As you are aware, the Health Foundation is more far reaching than just our community of Abbotsford. All proceeds benefit programs and vital equipment endorsed by Fraser Health in the communities of Abbotsford, Mission, Chilliwack, Hope, Agassiz and Harrison Hot Springs.



Conferences

BCAHA Area Conference was held on October 3 and hosted by the Hope Auxiliary. 9 of our members drove to Hope to attend this well-organized conference. The theme of the conference was titled, Giving Hope Some Hope. Several guest speakers made presentations including Dr. Aseem Grover, site Medical Doctor for Fraser Canyon Hospital. It is interesting to learn about the challenges each Health Area encounters within their community. A delicious catered lunch was provided, and members had the opportunity to enjoy some social time with each other.



BCAHA Provincial Conference

This year's conference will be held in Kamloops – April 21 to 24.

Theme of this year's conference is "Put Your House in Order". It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about our Provincial organization, meet Auxilians from around the province, learn from some interesting, knowledgeable speakers and have some fun. Expenses will be paid by the Auxiliary. New members are encouraged to attend. Please submit your interest to attend by February 5. Contact Janet at (604) 854-6361.



Meeting Schedule Changes

Hopefully, all our members are aware of the change in our monthly meeting schedule. Due to recent poor monthly turnouts, we now are holding 4 meetings a year rather than the traditional monthly meetings.



We had a September and December meeting in 2023. The December meeting was especially enjoyable. We had our usual meeting followed by a lovely social time. The food was delicious, and the door prizes were abundant.

March 18 is the date of our AGM meeting which involves the election of our new executive and convenors. This will be followed by our year end meeting on June 17 for the celebration of years of service and the installment of our new executive.

QA Carole Keighley

One of our newer Auxiliary members, Carole Keighley, has been working hard to edit, refine and organize our QA (Quality Assurance) documents. Thank you, Carole, for taking on this challenging and time consuming task.

Important Dates

Monday, March 18	7pm	-	Auxiliary AGM meeting
Sunday, April 21-April 24		-	BCAHA Provincial Conference
Monday, June 17	6pm	-	June dinner, Installment of Executive and Honoring Years of Service

Dear Auxilians

May you be proud of the work you do.

The person you are and the

DIFFERENCE you make!

