BC Association of Healthcare Auxiliaries

June Newsletter 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Wasn't that a party?

Over 230 of our members recently gathered to bring our mandate to life!. If you've ever wondered just what BCAHA does for you, here's some of what just happened at our Kamloops April Conference -

- Promoted education, built effective communication
- Connected auxiliaries
- Linked & strengthened auxiliaries at the heart of healthcare
- Raised profile of auxiliaries
- Promoted best practises
- Provided educational resources and support
- Helped members keep current and connected

Our theme was "Putting Your House in Order". Therefore, our speakers tied their topics into the spirit with "Keeping Your House Safe", "House Rules", "Insuring Your House" House for Sale" and "What you may NOT sell in your House". Regarding the amazing birdhouses-well, you just had to be there!

My next 'on the road again' adventures in June, will hopefully take me to Salmon Arm, Revelstoke, Clearwater and McBride. In the early fall I hope to do a big swoop to the two auxiliaries at the top of Vancouver Island, then up to Prince Rupert. There will be an interesting run from Prince Rupert east to Prince George, then south, down to Quesnel and a visit to Merritt (Nicola Valley). These visits are planned to coincide with the North AGM in Terrace this September.

Bella Coola, you're so unique and special that maybe BC Ferries should consider taking a 'hard' right turn on their beautiful 'Inside Passage' route and allow me time to drop by? We'll have to work something out, I promise!

It was an honour to visit with the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley groups through January, February and March. Joanne and I were able to drop by the Kamloops Afternoon Auxiliary before the April conference started.

If the weather holds, I'll be able to finish off 2024 with early October visits to Mackenzie, Dawson Creek and Ft. St. John.

I do have apologies to offer to Chemainus Health Care Auxiliary. Diane Thornton (then President), Nadi Bottomley (Van. Is. Area Director) and I did have a great visit to their Thrift Store on October 11/22. However, their photo was omitted from the Vancouver Island visitations.



Collectively, we are growing stronger every year! Through our volunteer efforts in 2023, we were able to donate over 10 million dollars to enhance healthcare in our province. That total included direct hospital donations, bursaries and community outreach.

Well done everyone!

Please keep yourselves safe from the wildfire danger that this summer may bring to our communities.

Carole Murray



Carole Murray and Joanne Bydal visit the Kamloops Afternoon Auxiliary before the AGM!!



We were welcomed to Kamloops by Mayor Reid Hamer-Jackson

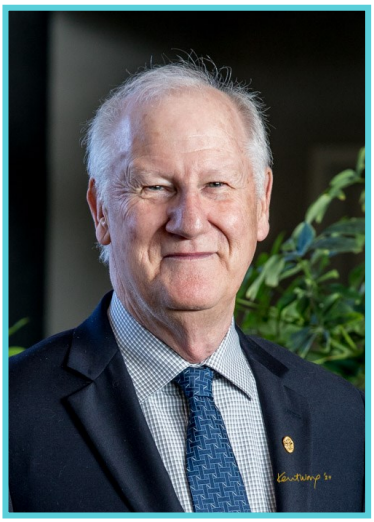
THE BCAHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, KAMLOOPS 2024





President:

Carole Murray



Vice-President:

Ian Burke



The BCAHA Executive



Allana Ferro Director



Linda Hudon Secretary



Cheryl Fry Director



Diane Thornton Past Pres.



Amanada Laranjo Area Rep



Heather Kennedy Area Rep



Yvonne Chard Area Rep



Joanne Bydle Area Rep



Fern Hansen Area Rep

BCAHA CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

KAMLOOPS APRIL 21-24



We Came From Around The Province



REGISTERING AT THE KAMLOOPS HOTEL



EAGLE RIDGE



DELTA



DELTA



DELTA



DELTA



DELTA



DELTA



MISSION



KAMLOOPS





DELEGATES FROM THE NORTH! TERRACE, SMITHERS, FT ST JOHN, DAWSON CREEK,PRINCE GEORGE, MCBRIDE, FT ST JAMES, VANDERHOOF, BURNS LAKE, WILLIAMS LAKE, QUESNEL, BELLA COOLA



PRINCE GEORGE



ABOTTSFORD



CHILLIWACK





SUNSHINE COAST

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



















The speakers, the dais, a **MOMENT OF SILENCE** and voting on motions.



Getting our **HOUSE IN ORDER!!**





AWARDS WERE PRESENTED



Delta Hospital Auxiliary 55th Anniversary



Chemainus Auxiliary 125th Anniversay



Armstrong/Spallumcheen Healthcare Auxiliary 90th Anniversary



Auxiliary to UHNBC Prince George 105th Anniversary

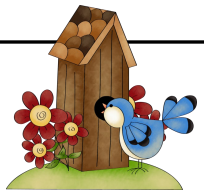


Auxiliary Society for Comox Valley Healthcare 118th

Bella Coola Auxiliary

45th Anniversary

Presentation to be Announced





Summerland Health-Care Auxiliary 115th Anniversary



Ladysmith Healthcare Auxiliary 115th Anniversary



Afternoon Auxiliary to the Royal Inland Hospital 125th Anniversary

If we're not moving ahead, we're falling behind.

THERE WERE SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS





















THERE WERE MEETINGS AND ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS















THERE WERE GAMES









AND PRIZES























AND FOOD!!!





THERE WAS SHOPPING: FROM VENDORS, FOR CRAFTS & THE SILENT AUCTION





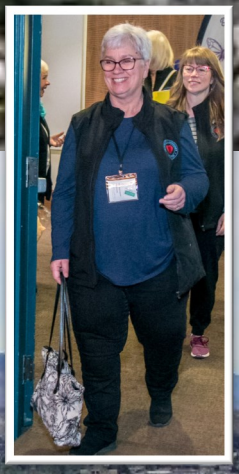
























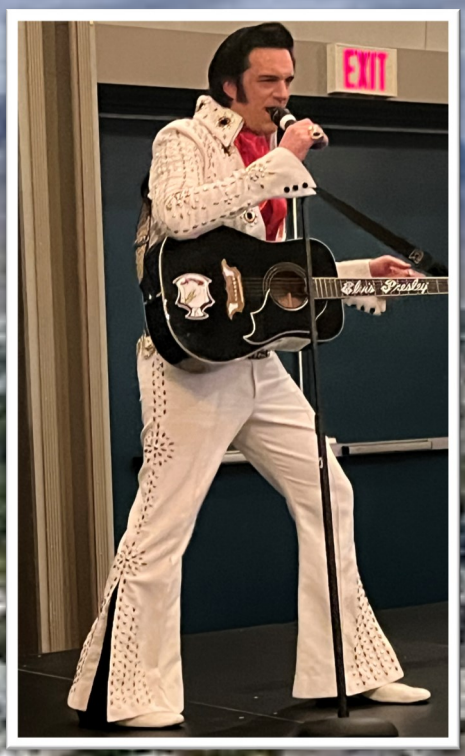




ELVIS CAME TO ENTERTAIN US

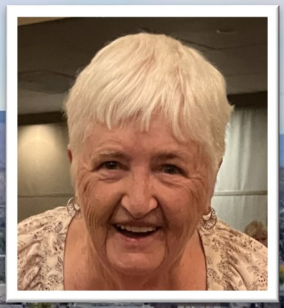


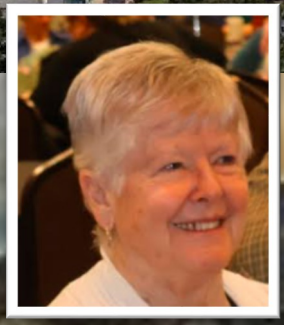














THE CONFERENCE CLOSING SPEECH WAS GIVEN BY PAST PRESIDENT LYNDA AVIS

"BUILDING A STRONG HOUSE TOGETHER"



Lynda's closing Speech on Wednesday morning was a motivating one, with the theme of **BUILDING A STRONG HOUSE TOGETHER.**

To the delight of the attendees, Lynda dressed as a hippie to illustrate her theme of, we are better and stronger together. Hippies lived together, travelled together, grew food and ate together and protested together.

She used 5 pillars in building a strong house:

- Good Communication,
- Perseverance,
- Teamwork,
- Using your imagination,
- And having a sense of humour.

She ended with the song, "Wherever we go, whatever we do, we're gonna go through it together." Second time through , she asked delegates to stand, link arms, and sing it together, like they meant it! They sure did!!'

Lynda also gave a workshop on Best Practice, Policies and Procedures on Tuesday afternoon.

She was definitely delighted in being a recipient of one of Elvis's red scarves!!!







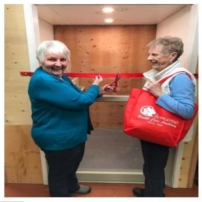
AUXILIARY NEWS!

News from the Chemainus Health Care Auxiliary

Our elevator!!!

- A special thanks to Mel and Jade along with John. Jade's perseverance paid off, and now we can safely move people and goods up and down stairs.
- Mickie and Eileen got to cut the ribbon and take the official first ride. (Note Eileen's stylish bag!







News from the Eagle Ridge Hospital Auxiliary

Favorite note from Barb Warwood President and Manager of the Thrift Shop

So, I was going through the manager's closet a couple of weeks ago. I pulled out some cameras and a box that looked like it held a camera light. I passed it off to my husband, who is a retired Private Detective. When he opened the box it actually held vintage photographs. He was able to find the family. Today I was privileged to give them back to the family of the person who had passed away. They had donated it, by mistake, to the thrift shop. Happy smiles all round. We also had a customer call to let us know we had not charged him for an item he had purchased. He wanted me to know he would bring in the $1.50 later in the week. We have some of the best customers!!



Sharon and Gloria ably manning the helm at the gift shop.

I told a friend who was auditioning for a play to "break a leg." Evidently they did because now they're in the cast.



News from Dr Helmcken Memorial Hospital Auxiliary in Clearwater



Dr Helmcken Memorial Hospital Auxiliary held their Annual Spring Garden Party. The theme this year was "What's the Buzz" featuring all things bees. The music, by local musicians, provided an instant party atmosphere. It was a very nice afternoon, lots of good food, great donated auction items and such generous bids from those attending.





The Dr Helmcken Memorial Hospital Auxiliary had their AGM May 2, 2024 in the meeting room at the hospital. Area OMA Rep, Amanda Laranjo, travelled from Vernon to attend the event and install the new executive officers.

Pictured: back from left - Amanda Laranjo (OMA Rep), Bonnie Harms (Historian), Sue Ludtke (Social Convener), Brenda Foulkes (Corresponding Secretary), Marilyn Collison (Past President, Gift Corner Convener), Marion Hall (Vavenby Rep), Gail Capostinsky (PR),

front:Carol Pastorek (President), Joanette Goddard (Past BCAHA President), Tracy Buck (Treasurer), Penny Christenson (Recording secretary & Membership). Missing: Bobbi Bordeleau (Vice President), Mary Neathway (Thrift Shop Convener) & Sharon Young (Clearwater Rep).

AUXILIARY NEWS!

News from the Cowichan District Hospital Auxiliary



Here is a mock up of the replacement for Cowichan District Hospital scheduled for completion in the fall of 2026 with the grand open set for the following spring (2027)

The Auxiliary to Cowichan District Hospital is proud to have made an early financial contribution toward our new hospital development by way of a down payment of $45,000 offered to the Cowichan District Hospital Foundation. Our funds will go to new equipment that the hospital will need. We are confident that the capital campaign developed by the Foundation will provide a big boost to funding the hospital.

The Auxiliary coordinates with the Foundation on a regular basis, but we also have an accumulation plan of our own dedicated to assist in financing the new hospital as we learn of specific developments. In addition we continue financial support for existing care and comfort activities and address wish lists that the hospital administration circulates when equipment deficiencies come to light.

In the 2023 calendar year, our wish list payouts amounted to $81,000. Early in 2024 we determined that fresh wish items we are willing to support amount to a further $73,600 for equipment that we expect will be useful to current hospital functioning but also should move to the new facility in a couple of years.

Our ability to contribute funds to these projects is through the success of our volunteer activities, including operating the Gift Shop at CDH, our Hospital Auxiliary thrift store (HATS) at 79 Station St, and tremendous help from friends of the Auxiliary-- knitting with our Needlers to create cozy treasures to sell at the Gift Shop and seasonal events, and collecting bottles and cans to support our Cairnsmore activities. We also appreciate other "Friends" who assist in the background with recycling and disposal details in order to keep our operations running efficiently.

News from Vanderhoof

Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign. All proceeds of this campaign are kept local and support charities right here at home. Once again Tim Hortons has selected the St. John Hospital Auxiliary Society as the recipient of the proceeds, and we are so grateful for their support.

Below is a photo of a couple of Auxiliary members and Richard Martens, the owner of Vanderhoof Tim Hortons, after applying hundreds of happy faces to cookies.



CELEBRATING VOLUNTEER WEEK

A THANK YOU POEM FROM LADYSMITH

When I sit here and wonder how to start a thank you note to our volunteers I don't know where to begin. Not because there is nothing to say, it is because there is so much to say - Tara

For our volunteers there is no job that is too big or too small,

They pitch in and help with it all.

From cashiers, tagging, receiving, working the bench, and washing the dishes,

They come in and get right to work to help raise money to fulfill donation wishes.

Some volunteer one or two days a week, two to four hours at a time, sometimes come a little bit more,

To them helping their community is never seen as a chore.

Each and every day when I walk in this wonderful place the faces I see,

Remind me that there is no better place to be.

The store is always full of fun and laughter while they work and that's the best part,

But what makes this place so special? It's the love you feel from a volunteer's heart.



AUXILIARY NEWS!

News from Summerland

This past April at the BCAHA Conference in Kamloops, our president, Shannon Toop, received recognition of our auxiliary's 115-year anniversary.

Thank you for your support, folks.



News from Eagle Ridge Hospital Auxiliary in Coquitlam

Thanks to our customers, donators and volunteers. You make it all happen for patients at Eagle Ridge Hospital



News from Auxiliary to Cowichan Hospital



Bent needles

Auxiliary to Cowichan District Hospital struggles to attract attention to our website. Then someone posts two bent old knitting needles and it goes Vireo. A member of our knitting group (Needlers) asked her husband to take some of her old knitting needles and bend them into hooks. A couple of the hooks made their way into HATS and were displayed in our thrift store.

A picture posted on Canadian Knitter attracted a lot of attention, along with plenty of positive comments. We got people talking and our auxiliary noticed. When it comes to recruitment we need to be clever and creative. Sometimes it is the simple things that attract the most attention.

News from Ladysmith

In 1985, the Doris Gallagher Memorial Gardens were created and maintained by volunteers from the Auxiliary. Located behind the Hospital for enjoyment of patients, staff and public.

Doris Gallagher was the sister of Ruth Atkinson, a long time Auxiliary volunteer. Ruth founded the Memorial Gardens in her sister's memory in 1985. Ruth Atkinson passed away in August 2021. Noah Atkinson is Ruth's grandson and is one of our volunteers.



AUXILIARY NEWS!



News from the Vernon Morning Star Newspaper

She was hesitant, at first, to join the fun her mom seemed to be having with the Vernon Jubilee Hospital Auxiliary. It was more than six years ago when mom Elaine, buyer for the hospital gift shop, asked her daughter, Amanda Laranjo, to join her with the auxiliary. "I was reluctantly recruited by my mom, the gift shop buyer, which is a busy but fun role for her," said Laranjo. "She loves it."

And so does daughter.

Laranjo was then asked in 2023 to sit as the Okanagan Mainline Area director with the B.C. Association of Hospital Auxiliaries, the provincial body that offers support, education, and resources to all auxiliaries within B.C. She recently returned from the 2024 provincial conference in Kamloops, where nearly 230 volunteers attended.

"Conferences are a great time and offer opportunity to network with other auxiliaries across the province," said Laranjo."Through collaboration and workshops, we spent three days working to not only enhance, but also celebrate our fundraising achievements. They are fun."

Since 1986, the VJH Auxiliary has contributed more than $3.2 million to the hospital, which includes $160,000 for an Intensive Care Unit room in the Polson Tower; $60,000 for a CT scanner; and $20,000 for a sacred space room.

The VJH auxiliary is run by volunteers. The auxiliary donates to buying hospital equipment and providing comfort care for the patients, raising money through sales from the gift shop and through various fundraising events.

Laranjo is hoping to have some new blood join an auxiliary that has six lifetime members that have been part of the group for more than 20 years. The auxiliary has a board of nine, including Laranjo, three associate members, and 49 active members to date.

"Our oldest members that have been volunteering for the past 60, 56 and 46 years," she said. "Many others for over 30 years. It's a unique bunch but we are clearly aging out."

Volunteers are not restricted to committing any particular length of time. Board positions are two years but the auxiliary has amended its bylaws to allow for up to eight years.

"Same as in most non-profit societies, we have a handful doing the majority of work," said Laranjo. "But it's such a good cause to belong to. Every one of us at one time or another has needed or will need the medical support of our hospital."

Roger Knox—Reporter for the Vernon Morning Star

News from the Auxiliary to UHNBC in Prince George

Members of the Auxiliary to UHNBC helped the Spirit of the North Foundation raise funds during the May 9th Spirit Day Radio-Thon on May 9th. They have pledged over $44,000.00 to upgrade the breast cancer screening equipment that they purchased last year for $60,000,00.



AUXILIARY NEWS!

News from the Auxiliary to the Abbotsford Regional Hospital



Marilyn Goodwin's 50th

No, we are not celebrating Marilyn's age, but her incredible number of years of service as an Auxiliary Member. Marilyn is a true role model for all volunteers. She exemplifies the dedication and commitment that a volunteer can offer to their community. We are proud to call her our friend and fellow Auxilian.

Through her fifty years of service to the hospital, Marilyn has been involved at every level of volunteerism. She began her service at the former MSA Hospital in 1974 and despite her young age, she wasted no time taking on responsible roles. Within the year, she was volunteering as a 'Guide' for the opening of the newly built expansion of the Extended Care unit and served as a 'Social Hostess' for meetings.



To these duties she added the roles of Phoning Convenor, Smock Washer and Shop Scheduler. Four years after the start of her volunteering, Marilyn also took on the role of Treasurer. To this day, Marilyn is our 'accounting expert'.

In the 1980s, Marilyn took on the roles of Membership Convenor as well as Second Vice President, First Vice President and eventually the prestigious but time-consuming role of President. Marilyn has helped our organization to forge ahead with new initiatives that have remained with the auxiliary to this day. These include the 'Years of Service' pins that are still presented annually, and the Christmas and Easter basket draws. She was involved as a member of the committee that reviewed our Constitution, By-Laws and Policies and Procedures.

In 1988, Marilyn became our President. Along with this responsibility she was convenor for the young Candy Stripers as their leader. As our new hospital was being planned, Marilyn was involved in representing our Auxiliary in ensuring that the Gift Shop had a prominent space in the foyer of the hospital.

Marilyn has been a strong supporter of members, not just executives, having the opportunity to attend area and provincial conferences. In the 1990s, Marilyn also took the positions of Auxiliary Area Representative and Hospital Board Representative. In 2008 Marilyn was busy moving our gift shop to its shiny new location in the Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre.



In her 50 years of service, Marilyn has become our wealth of knowledge. If you have a question about anything concerning the gift shop or the Auxiliary, Marilyn knows the answers. She corrects our gift shop money errors with a smile. She is always there to help wherever and whenever needed!

Thank you, Marilyn! Congratulations on this amazing achievement!





AUXILIARY NEWS!

News from 100 Mile House

Some of our members went out to lunch together at a local restaurant in 100 Mile House to celebrate Volunteer Day!



Our Auxilary is also having a garage/yard/bake sale on June 15 held at the 100 Mile parking lot !

News from Richmond



We are all very excited to be recognized by our Mayor Malcolm Brodie with a picture of our Board of Directors and an article in our Local paper for the Proclamation May 10, 2024. We will be starting the restoration work on our 1893 building soon to bring it back to its original heritage. The start date continues to change due to City regulations, but soon. Our auxiliary continues to donate to the Richmond Hospital, Minoru Residence and Richmond Lions manor for recreation and music therapy.

We will again participate in the Canada Day parade and be proud to have the two buses which have been donated by the Auxiliary in the parade along with some residence. Our Gift Shop, Thrift Shop, Lottery and Tuck Shop continue to generate income for us to continue to make our contribution to these very worthwhile facilities. Mary Derksen

****

TESTIMONIALS

Part of our mandate is to provide "Education, Resources and Support" for our members ! Here is what some had to say about our effort to do this.

Have a great day and thanks again for all of your help!
Chelsie

Cheslie Stubbs, MA
Economic Development Officer
Community advisor
Village of Gold River.

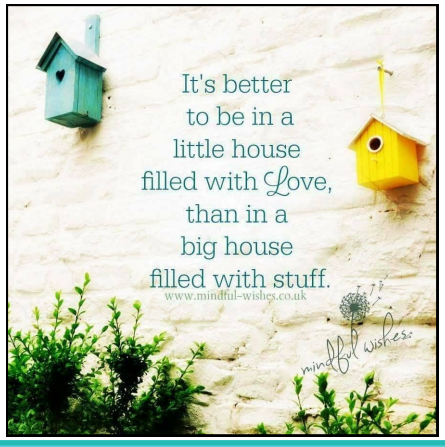
On another topic, I was very impressed with the latest issue of the newsletter. The format and overall look has evolved over the last couple of years, much more sophisticated. Job well done, please let Sharon know. I do not have her email address.

Thanks Diane

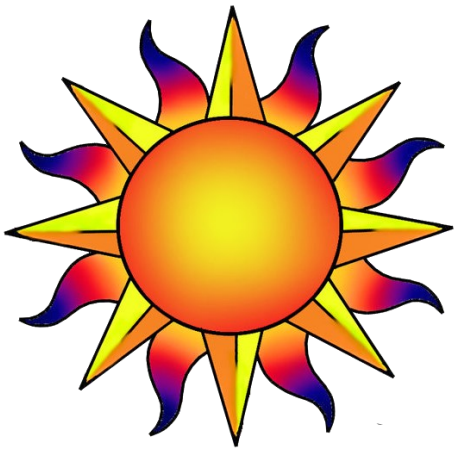
I would like to offer my Congratulations, and a special Thank you for your beautiful April Newsletter. I enjoyed reading it and getting some excellent tips and ideas for new projects. The tulips were a great touch to a gloomy rainy day in Squamish. Have a great conference in Kamloops.

Julie Erb, President

Together, we can make a difference.



What fabulous things are happening in your auxiliary?



If you would like to have anything published in the BCAHA newsletter, please send to the newsletter editor, Sharon Egglestone at:

bcahanewsletter@gmail.com. The newsletter is published four times a year! April, June, September and December!

If you would like to have anything published on BCAHA Facebook page or Instagram please send to Cheryl Fry at:

commdirector.bcaha@gmail.com

We love to hear from our Auxiliaries, and we love to BRAG about what you do in your communities. If you publish your own newsletter, we'd love to have a copy so we can share your successes with other auxiliaries. Please include us in your newsletter email list (**bcahanewsletter@gmail.com**) so we get a copy.

If you don't already receive our newsletter and would like to, please go to bchealthcareaux.org and go to the news section and click on 'newsletter'. You will be able to request to sign up by putting your information in, or you can send an email to **commdirector.bcaha@gmail.com** and I will sign you up.

Thank You so much, " We LOVE to hear what you are up to"!

Cheryl – Communications Director

