
BC Association of
Healthcare Auxiliaries
December
Newsletter
2025

BCAHA PRESIDENT ALLANA FERRO'S MESSAGE

Fall 2025

What a beautiful and colourful province we live in and the people are amazing, especially all the Auxiliary members I have met with their powerful commitment to their Auxiliaries and communities.

This year, every Executive member of BCAHA participated in the Outreach Program and were involved in various AGM/Conferences within the Areas. It gives them a better insight into how the Areas function and what their needs are. They often had to deal with: the miles to attend meeting, a ferry ride, mountain passes, larger city traffic and then the weather rain, sun, major snowfalls and now the newest of the weather events, forest fires. I hope this program continues especially on the off year of our Provincial AGM/Conference. You always make a special bond when you meet auxilians face to face.

The guest speakers and entertainment at the Area AGM and Conferences were very beneficial and engaging. From the Handbell Ringers from Vernon in the Okanagan Mainline, to the Old Time Fiddlers and chicken dancers from the North. There was the beach theme on the Island, Robusters and Red Cross speakers in the Kootenays and then the Fraser Valley topped it off with Rick Hanson, the "Man in Motion" as their guest speaker.

I must commend every Area Director and their host Auxiliary for jobs well done!

WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM

BC ASSOCIATION OF HEALTHCARE AUXILIARIES!





Looking forward to seeing you at the 2026 BCAHA AGM/ Conference in Vernon at the Prestige Vernon Lodge & Conference Centre!

PROVINCIAL AGMS

North Area AGM/ Conference September 12-14, 2025

Hosted by Auxiliary to G.R. Baker Memorial Hospital in Quesnel with 9 Auxiliaries in Attendance.



Auxiliary to GR Baker Memorial Hospital celebrating their 115 year Anniversary



St John Hospital Auxiliary Society Vanderhoof



BVD Hospital Auxiliary Society Smithers



Auxiliary to University Hospital of Northern BC Prince George



Dawson Creek & District Hospital Auxiliary—Past Area Director Fern Hansen



Entertainment Saturday Night - Auxiliary to GB Baker Memorial Hospital Volunteers dance the "Chicken Dance" to the Old Time Fiddlers



Stuart Lake Hospital Auxiliary

"Volunteers are proof that the world still runs on kindness."

PROVINCIAL AGMS

Kootenay Boundary Area AGM/ Conference September 22, 2025

Theme - "Keep Moving"

Guest speakers were from the Kootenay Robusters, Red Cross & Friends of the Rossland Range

6 Auxiliaries were in attendance



Kootenay Boundary Area Presidents with Area Director, Heather Kennedy (KB AGM)



Allana Ferro thanks past KB Area Director, Heather Kennedy (KB AGM)



Allana Ferro installing the new Kootenay Boundary Area Rep, Vivianne Hadikin (KB AGM)

Vancouver Island AGM/Conference Sept 19/2025



Theme was “Ride the Wave” 6 Auxiliaries were present

President Allana Ferro installed the new Area Director Cathie Poje from Auxiliary Society for Comox Valley Healthcare



Valerie Wright, Vice President and Allana Ferro, President



Nadi Bottomley, a past Area Director, Carole Murray, Past President, Allana Ferro, President, Val Wright, Vice President, Cathie Poje,New Area Director

PROVINCIAL AGMS

Fraser Valley Area AGM/ Conference October 7, 2025

Theme - "Focus on Tomorrow" Hosted by the Mission Healthcare Auxiliary



Rick with Mission Healthcare Auxiliary



Langley Memorial Hospital Auxiliary with Rick (Fraser Valley AGM)



Margaret Watson - Fraser Valley Area Director, Val Wright - VP, Allana Ferro - President, Carole Murray - Past President, Mary Derksen - Director of Finance



Rick and Allana



Rick and 'the girls'!!

"Your time is the most precious gift — and you've chosen to give it away for the good of others."



Watch for the BCAHA Stats and Dues!

The deadline date is **January 15, 2026**

Forms are on the website and will be emailed to you from Cathy Bayley, Secretary.

Forms can be submitted online and dues can be e-transferred.



Royal Inland Hospital (RIH) EVENING AUXILARY

AMBO DHALIWAL'S 90TH BIRTHDAY BASH

On June 14th Ambo's family celebrated her 90th birthday by hosting an open house at Hal Rogers. Ambo is a beloved long-time member of our auxiliary, so many members were delighted to celebrate this birthday milestone with her.





NEWS FROM SALMON ARM

This article was in the Salmon Arm Observer recognizing the amazing volunteers who have volunteered from five to 53 years.



Shuswap Lake Health Care Auxiliary members recently gathered to celebrate their own with pins recognizing between five and 50 years of volunteer service at Shuswap Lake General Hospital and Bastion Place. Pictured are (back row, from left) Carolyn Black, Joan Willey, Pat Allman, Glenda Lepine, Marlene Robertson, Arline Allison, Irene Sansom, Joan Sargent, Louise Nadeau; (front, from left) Edie Swanson, Deanna Little and Joyce Halliday. (Contributed)

Salmon Arm hospital's 'Ladies in Red' recognized for years of volunteering

Salmon Arm Observer Staff

Two dozen ladies in red were recently recognized for their years of volunteer service at Salmon Arm health-care facilities.

Members of the Shuswap Lake Health Care Auxiliary (SLHCA) recently celebrated their own, with 24 of them receiving pins in recognition of their years of volunteering, from five up to 53 years, at Shuswap Lake General Hospital and Bastion Place.

"Affectionately known as 'the Ladies in Red' as we wear red jackets when helping patients and visitors find their way in our hospital," said SLHCA president Edie Swanson.

The SLHCA also operates the hospital's gift shop and assists shoppers by wrapping their gifts in December.

"Readers look towards our semi-annual book sales," said Swanson. "Proceeds go towards purchasing requested items for our hospital and Bastion Place."

A recent purchase was a blanket warmer for the hospital.

Happy to welcome new volunteers, Swanson said the SLHCA offers an "opportunity to make new friends, have fun and be greatly appreciated by those we assist while volunteering."

For further information, please email secretarys-lhca@gmail.com.

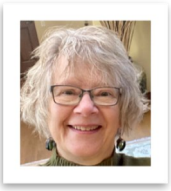


AUXILIARY NEWS

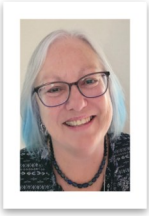
NEWS FROM LADYSMITH



Welcome Laureen Styles
LHCA's new Vice President and Candidate for 2026 President



Welcome Sandra Ayer!
LHCA's New Secretary



Welcome Jaci White!
LHCA's New Director

NEWS FROM 100 MILE HOUSE

100 Mile District Hospital Auxiliary had a jam making day in October. We made 28 jars of jam to be sold at our gift shop at 109 Mile Hospital.



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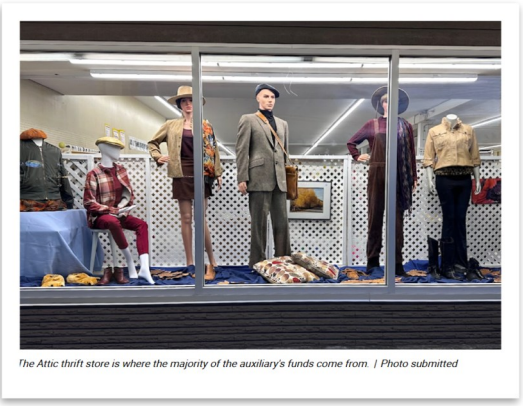
NEWS FROM PRINCE GEORGE

Just before Halloween, a gentleman came into our gift shop and handed the auxiliary $200.00. He wanted us to purchase stuffies for the kids in the children's ward. He told us that he was dying and wanted to do something to make the kids feel better. Kinda warms the heart!

Corinne Printz delivers stuffies to pediatrics.

EXCERPTS FROM AN ARTICLE IN THE ALBERNI VALLEY NEWS

GIVING BACK: Treasures from The Attic support local health care.



The Attic thrift store is where the majority of the auxiliary's funds come from. | Photo submitted

The Alberni Health Care Auxiliary (AHCA) started in 1913 under the name of "Port Alberni Branch of the Women's Auxiliary to the West Cost General Hospital." After 112 years, the focus of our auxiliary has not changed. Providing funds towards purchasing of equipment for the WCGH and most recently home and community care and our local public health unit. Since 2018 we have funded the purchase of equipment to the hospital, home and community care and public health unit to over $1.5 million. Some of the equipment purchased includes: crash carts, ureteroscopes, ventilator, chemotherapy chairs, portable blood analyzer, a hospital bed for Ty Watson House, green light laser for prostate surgery, vaccine refrigerator, early pregnancy loss kits and portable bedside ultrasound machines to name a few! The majority of our funds are earned from the thrift store (The Attic) and topped up from the Gift Shop at WCGH. None of this would be possible without the dedicated volunteers involved in the day-to-day operation of the Gift Shop and The Attic thrift store.

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NEWS FROM THE SUNSHNE COAST



Working Together As One!

We are proud to share that this year's SCHA Fall Bazaar & Marketplace was a tremendous success. The support we received from all areas of the auxiliary in this traditional Hopkins hosted Fundraiser was amazing; we even had community members helping us set up in the Gibsons Legion on Nov 6. On Nov 7, the tables were full and volunteers were ready to welcome everyone in during the sale. The jewelry is always a very popular section followed closely by the crafts, household, silent auctions, books and our baking was sold out by noon. The lunch tables were full of people enjoying the delicious soup, sandwiches and dessert. This event wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support of our amazing members and our community. Thank you for helping make it such a special day!

We're delighted to report that the event raised $21,755.15 and the proceeds will be shared by the Foundry which offers free and confidential support for young people ages 12 to 24, in person and online, including: mental health care, substance use support, doctors and nurses, youth and family peer support, work and education programs and the Gibsons Legion.



Anne Selder, SCHA CEO



SC Healthcare Auxiliary in it Together WE ARE ONE

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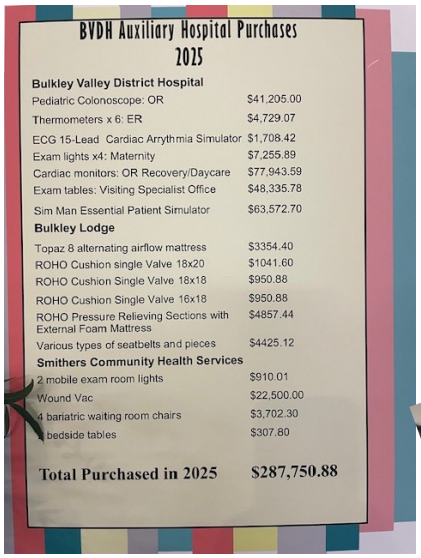
Why did the volunteer bring a ladder to the charity event?

Because they heard the donations were through the roof!



NEWS FROM SMITHERS

Smithers hospital auxiliary and gift shop were gifted with an appreciation dinner from our hospital and the chefs were from our Bulkley Lodge.



BVDH Auxiliary Hospital Purchases 2025

Bulkley Valley District Hospital	
Pediatric Colonoscope: OR	$41,205.00
Thermometers x 6: ER	$4,729.07
ECG 15-Lead Cardiac Arrythmia Simulator	$1,708.42
Exam lights x4: Maternity	$7,255.89
Cardiac monitors: OR Recovery/Daycare	$77,943.59
Exam tables: Visiting Specialist Office	$48,335.78
Sim Man Essential Patient Simulator	$63,572.70
Bulkley Lodge	
Topaz 8 alternating airflow mattress	$3354.40
ROHO Cushion single Valve 18x20	$1041.60
ROHO Cushion Single Valve 18x18	$950.88
ROHO Cushion Single Valve 16x18	$950.88
ROHO Pressure Relieving Sections with External Foam Mattress	$4857.44
Various types of seatbelts and pieces	$4425.12
Smithers Community Health Services	
2 mobile exam room lights	$910.01
Wound Vac	$22,500.00
4 bariatric waiting room chairs	$3,702.30
4 bedside tables	$307.80
Total Purchased in 2025	**$287,750.88**



The **New To You Store** in Smithers is ready for Christmas!! Many volunteers came out to help set up!



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NEWS FROM EAGLE RIDGE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Who We Support!

We try to recycle or re-donate what we cannot sell at the Thrift Shop. Eye glasses, batteries, cell phones, textiles, electronics, books and metals are either ethically recycled or re-donated. We also quietly pass on donations that we either cannot sell, which would go into recycling or worse into the garbage.

Cindy one of our Friday morning cashiers also volunteers with The Red Cross. We pass on medical equipment such as walkers, bath stools, crutches and other medical related donations and Cindy takes them to the Red Cross. Karen and Elton collect old sheets that are turned into bandages by volunteers and then sent to a clinic in Africa.

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We are mindful that clothing recyclables generate revenue to the Auxiliary. However, in some cases individual volunteers may store out of season items that we would recycle to be passed onto homeless outreach recipients once the season comes around (warm coats). Some brands of clothing that we do not sell but are still usable are passed on to a women's shelter.



Old towels are taken to a Cat Rescue.

This is by no means an exhaustive list as many ad hoc items are sent on their way to give them a second life and to support our neighbours and the community.

NEWS FROM QUESNEL—Celebrating their 115th Anniversary at their Fall Conference



















From all over the North, auxiliaries gathered to help Quesnel celebrate!

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!





NEWS FROM SQUAMISH



Rummage Sale

The Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary held a successful rummage sale in August in front of the Hospital. Our customers were thrilled with the bargains they were able to find.





Rick and Linda with their display of handcrafts

Brackendale Fall Fair

Once again, the Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary set up a booth at the annual Fair which was held in September. It was an opportunity to become better known in the community. In addition, the Auxiliary was able to sell a variety of handmade items as well as raffle tickets. It was a very successful day.





Members looking after the bake tables

Christmas Bazaar and Silent Auction

Excitement filled the air at the annual Christmas Bazaar hosted by the Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary. This year's event took place throughout the hospital lobby and adjoining corridors, creating a warm and festive atmosphere. Auxiliary members were dressed in their holiday best, ready to welcome the steady stream of visitors. Many customers arrived early to scoop up the ever-popular baked goods, which sold quickly as always.

Handcrafted items were another top draw, along with the beautiful wreaths and plants. The Silent Auction also generated great enthusiasm. Bid sheets for twenty-nine donated items were displayed along a hospital corridor for the week leading up to the bazaar. By the time the auction closed on the afternoon of the event, we had received an impressive number of bids. Our sincere thanks go out to the local businesses whose generous contributions made the auction possible. Overall, it was a wonderfully successful bazaar and silent auction, made possible by the continued support of our Squamish community and the hard work and dedication of our members. Thank you to our hospital administration as well as housekeeping and maintenance staff for their assistance in making it possible to host the bazaar at our hospital.

AN INTERESTING IDEA FROM LADYSMITH





Scammed!???

What to do if you lose money or your personal information is stolen ~

- ➢ Gather your thoughts, stop contact, and collect evidence.
- ➢ Notify your financial institution and credit card company.
- ➢ Contact your local police department to make a report.
- ➢ Report to Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre Toll free: 1-888-495-8501
- ➢ Contact the two national credit bureaus:
  - » Equifax Canada Toll free 1-800-465-7166
  - » TransUnion Canada Toll free 1-877-525-3823
- ➢ Consider contacting the Better Business Bureau: Toll free 1-888-803-1222
- ➢ Protect your identity and avoid follow up recovery scams.

The Attic Version of The Night Before Christmas

The Attic was hopping

As people were shopping, shopping, shopping.

The volunteers were working as fast as they could, With hopes that their customers understood.

The donations were coming in, way too fast



And time just seemed to be flying past.

From clothing, shoes, jewellery and dishes.

Curtains, bedding, toys and fishes.

Books, puzzles, decorations and trees.

The volunteers hollered " Slow down please ".

Now Judy, Heather, Ursula and Shaoron,

Peter, Ian, Tim and Gordon

Were dressed in their smocks and gave a big huff. As they were all covered in glitter and fluff.

The staplers were clicking,

And the stickers were sticking.

The pens were pricing, but never too high. "Price it low, so it will go"

They remembered with a sigh.

When out in the store, there arose such a clatter. Not 1, but 2 plates had shattered.

The ladies were quicker than you think And had it all cleaned up before you could blink.

The aisles were clogged with Christmas cheer, As the December "Bag Sale" was finally here.

The baskets and carts were full to the brim, As the shoppers found many treasures within.

We often had to stop and pause,

Knowing that it's all going to a very good cause.

As the end of the day draws near,



We have nothing to fear.

All of our hard work deserves a big cheer.

As the last customer leaves,

It's not too hard to believe,

What a wonderful community it is, for you and for me.

From Shaoron, Ursula and I,

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas

And a Happy New Year.

By Alison Daniels

BC Association of Healthcare Auxiliaries

Provincial AGM/Conference

April 19 –22, 2026

"You are the ♥ of your community!"

Prestige Vernon Lodge & Conference Centre

3914 32nd Street, Vernon BC

250-545-3385

When booking a room, please identify yourself

as a Conference delegate.

Room rates starting at $149.00 + taxes

** Room Rates held until March 21, 2026*

Conference registration $199.00 per delegate.

** * * Photo Contest * * * Silent Auction * * * Craft Table * * **

Save the date!



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 the BCAHA Facebook page or Instagram please send to Cheryl Fry at:

commdirector.bcaha@gmail.com