



BC Association of  
Healthcare Auxiliaries

## 2017 Annual Report



Sunshine Coast



Campbell River



Vanderhoof

## BCAHA: Helping Healthcare the Auxiliary Way

What better vehicle for launching BCAHA's new tagline, "Helping Healthcare the Auxiliary Way", than in our annual report, designed to highlight achievements at the local level? The tagline evolved through lively online and in-person discussions among BCAHA Board members about what differentiates the gifts Auxilians offer to healthcare, from the support received from other sources – such as various levels of government, and other philanthropic organizations. We heard comments such as, "The funds raised are important – but the compassionate human touch adds another dimension", and "Some of our thrift stores have been helping the environment

through reuse and recycling for decades, at the same time raising amazing amounts of revenue to support healthcare." This input helped define many differentiating aspects of 'the Auxiliary way'; in this report, you'll find just four of these aspects – compassion, community connections, sustainability, and laughter and learning – illustrated with stories and photos from member Auxiliaries across the province. And of course, you'll also find key facts and figures about BCAHA's operations in 2017. Please share your copy with anyone who has an interest in healthcare, especially if you believe they might make an excellent Auxilian!

Harrison Hot Springs, where Mother Nature provides mineral springs long recognized as a source of inspiration and energy, is the perfect location for camaraderie and learning to flourish during BCAHA's 2018 Leadership Forum in April. Great ideas are sure to spring from workshops and discussions on topics chosen to enlighten and inspire Auxiliaries, as delegates meet and strengthen relationships with fellow Auxilians from across the province.

## COMPASSION...the Auxiliary Way

Timely, effective healthcare saves lives every day, while well-run residential care facilities enhance the quality of life for those no longer able to live on their own. But even with the best of professional interventions and support from care providers, sometimes patients, residents and families may feel stressed or lonely. During those moments, the gentle presence, warm smile and helping hands of an Auxilian can ease life's journey. This compassionate approach is a great gift, although its worth cannot be measured in dollars. Pictured here in Trillium Lodge, an Auxiliary volunteer assists a resident to enjoy her meal.



A sudden requirement for assistive devices – whether sparked by surgery, an accident, or a debilitating condition – can be a costly concern. Loan cupboards like this one, which has been operated by the Sunshine Coast Auxiliary since 1985, offer well-maintained equipment which can be borrowed for a very affordable fee, as well as the supportive, listening ear of an Auxilian.



The birth of a baby is cause for celebration, although sometimes fatigue and fluctuating hormones can leave a new mother feeling a little overwhelmed. What a boost it must be to receive lovely baby gifts, in this case, presented by an Auxilian from the University Hospital of Northern BC.



Sometimes a compassionate, understanding gift results in a great big grin! This Duet Bicycle, purchased by the Revelstoke Hospital Auxiliary, made it possible for the wife of a "Cottages" resident to share her joy in "a pretty special experience – Lincoln's smile was huge – and my heart almost burst to see how happy this made him!"

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS... the Auxiliary Way

The more effectively we reach out to our neighbours, the more likely they are to support our efforts as Auxilians, whether by joining our ranks or contributing to our cause. This may take the form of reaching out to other key organizations who share our vision of healthy communities; an outreach opportunity at a local shopping centre; skills shared in a community of camaraderie with fellow Auxilians; or a fun-filled float in a local parade, as demonstrated here by the Auxiliary to Fraser Canyon Hospital and Fraser Hope Lodge.



Community partners can provide a big boost to Auxiliaries intent upon strengthening their ability to raise funds for local healthcare. Just ask members of the Burns Lake and District Healthcare Auxiliary, whose Thrift Shop expansion project received a generous \$40,000 contribution from the Nechako-Kitimaat Development Fund Society.



Taking your Auxiliary's story out to the local mall, as shown in this photo from Eagle Ridge Hospital Auxiliary, can educate a wider audience of potential Auxilians and donors on ways to share their time and talents; special events and programs aimed at raising funds to support health care in their community; and how those revenues are put to best use.



A quilting bee is a great way to build community among those who contribute their time and talents to creating something beautiful together, as members of the Afternoon Auxiliary to Royal Inland Hospital demonstrate here. Raffleing off the resulting beautiful creation attracts attention, while raising funds to support healthcare locally – a win/win/win way of connecting with the community.

## SUSTAINABILITY...the Auxiliary Way

Auxiliary thrift stores have long received and resold gently-used clothing and household items to bargain hunters, or those who prefer to reuse and recycle, rather than buying new – a key aspect of environmental sustainability. Last May, the Grand Forks Hospital Auxiliary held a Mother's Day draw to entice even more customers to their Thrift Store, pictured here. Sustainability also applies to Auxiliaries ensuring the longevity of their operations, for example by ensuring each new generation is aware of their work; celebrating significant milestones in a visible way; and 'moving with the times' when change is required.



What better way to reinforce the value of Auxiliaries to young people who have already demonstrated their interest in healthcare by their educational choices – and perhaps, to their friends and families – than by supporting their aspirations with a bursary? The Auxiliary to Cowichan District Hospital presented their 2017 bursaries to this group, whom they describe as "exceptional young ladies, with very big dreams!"



Vernon Jubilee Hospital Auxiliary celebrated its 110th birthday with cake and coffee in the hospital foyer. More than 200 guests attended, including ten past presidents of the Auxiliary; Interior Health CEO Chris Mazurkewich, who presented the Auxiliary with a beautiful trophy to honour their anniversary; other local and regional health leaders; hospital staff, and many members of the public.



Celebrate the present, while honouring the past: in celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2017, Trail Hospital Auxiliary reflected back on their original book of minutes from June 1943, shown here. In those days, the Auxiliary supported the Trail Tadanac Hospital, built in 1926; since a 'new' 150-bed hospital was opened in 1952, the Auxiliary has continued to support local healthcare.



A youth program can not only bring youthful energy to an Auxiliary, but also offer young people a chance to learn more about healthcare, like these participants in an orientation session with Chemainus Auxiliary. It may even entice them to join their local Auxiliary when they have completed their education – or, just possibly, to encourage a family member to sign up today!

## LAUGHING AND LEARNING... the Auxiliary Way

Auxilians are great multi-taskers: they can laugh and learn at the same time. One need look no further than this roomful of boot-scooting Auxilians at the 2017 BCAHA AGM and provincial conference in Kamloops, learning new moves with good humour and agility. The conference also featured excellent networking opportunities, and sessions designed to refresh and augment Auxilians' skills and knowledge in a wide range of relevant areas.



Membership in the Health Care Protection Program (HCPP) offers important reassurance to member Auxiliaries, as it does to the health facilities with which they partner. At the 2017 BCAHA provincial conference, Milaine Moen, Senior HCPP Risk Consultant in the Risk Management Branch and Government Security Office, provided valuable information about the program's features and benefits.



Online learning may seem daunting to those educated when technology was a futuristic concept, yet it can help sustain Auxiliaries by keeping them current. To prepare for moving to their lovely new gift shop in the recently-opened North Island Hospital Comox Valley, members of the Auxiliary Society for Comox Valley Healthcare (formerly St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary) each successfully completed 15 hours of online learning – not a minor feat!

# President's Message

Since its establishment in 1945, Member Auxiliaries of the BC Association of Healthcare Auxiliaries have collectively donated over \$200 million in support of healthcare in this province. In 2017, BCAHA Auxiliary volunteers continued in this proud tradition of commitment, generosity and compassion, donating just under \$9 million to purchase specialized medical equipment, and providing \$277,000 in bursaries to support youth pursuing careers in healthcare-related fields.



These figures are impressive, to be sure; but behind them lie other accomplishments, harder to quantify but equally important. Auxilians not only raise funds; they also commit countless hours to provide individual support and comfort to patients and their families, in hospitals, health centers, and long-term care facilities. It is often the Auxiliary volunteer who designs a finger puppet to cheer a child awaiting surgery; who distributes warm blankets to patients undergoing cancer treatment; who takes a long-term care resident for a walk in the garden; and who visits with a patient who has no family. Recently, a long-term care resident remarked to an Auxiliary volunteer, "Thank you for coming. YOU are my reason for getting up in the morning!"

The ongoing efforts of our members are further enhanced and strengthened by our partnership with the six Health Authorities, as well as through the support of various corporate sponsors who graciously fund program events during our area and provincial conferences, and the Health Employers Association of B.C. who helps meet our association's administrative needs. BCAHA sincerely appreciates the support of each of these organizations.

At the end of my three years as BCAHA's President, I offer a profound "thank you" to our members for entrusting me with this responsibility, and to those who have served alongside me on the BCAHA Board for their hard work and support.

And on behalf of the Board, congratulations to all our members. We wish you continued success, "Helping Healthcare the Auxiliary Way."

Warmly,

*Lynda Avis,*

President

STATISTICS	2016	2017
Member Auxiliaries 31/12/17	80	76
Auxiliaries Reporting	78	74
Adult Members	6,392	6,083
Adult Volunteer Hours	1,234,129	1,159,324
Youth Members	653	596
Youth Volunteer Hours	21,481	18,377
Bursaries to Youth	241,340	277,000
Funds Donated to Health Care	7,879,012	8,594,137
Total Funds Donated	8,120,352	8,871,137

FINANCIAL STATEMENT	Operating Fund	Tribute Fund	2017 Total	2016 Total
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash	67,451	11,356	78,807	31,000
Investments - GIC	80,000	30,887	110,887	50,884
Accounts receivable	413	-	413	297
GST receivable	1,804	-	1,804	7,100
Prepaid expenses	2,465	-	2,465	5,750
	152,133	42,243	194,376	95,031
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Accounts payable	2,390	-	2,390	2,831
Deferred contributions	60,405	-	60,405	4,320
	62,795	-	62,795	7,151
<b>Fund Balances</b>				
Unrestricted	89,338	-	89,338	48,965
Restricted	-	42,243	42,243	38,915
	89,338	42,243	131,581	87,880
	152,133	42,243	194,376	95,031



**Pictured at the October, 2017 Mid-Term BCAHA Board meeting are BCAHA Board members.** (back row, left to right) Winette McEwan, Northwest Area Director; Charlotte Aked, Director of Finance; Fran Miller, Lower Mainland Area Director; Cheryl Fry, Okanagan Mainline Area Director; Anne Marie Smith, Secretary; Allana Ferro, Kootenay Boundary Area Director; Arline Allison, Fraser Valley Area Director; Sharon Egglestone, Northeast Area Director; Claire Wessan, Vancouver Island Area Representative; (front row) Tim Sader, Director of Communications; Valerie Tribes, Immediate Past President; Lynda Avis, President; and Marge Anderson, Vice President.



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