

President's Report

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COMING EVENTS	
November 23, 2008	Poinsettia Tea
February 22, 2009	Polar Bear Dip

Tag Days: Fundraising at Ground Level

Over the seven year history of NHH Auxiliary Tag Days, a significant amount of money has been raised to support our fundraising for hospital needs. At September's Board meeting, Ruth Morrison advised the members present that the total amount raised by this event was \$42,429.05.

On the face of it, organizing Tag Days should be a no-brainer. Marg Dennis puts together a working committee; permissions are sought from Town Councils; locations for taggers are arranged; tags are made and strung, the trays are dragged from the Fenner play house; taggers collect their trays and fan out to their locations; runners collect the trays; counters count. Sounds simple.

The one element not in the list is securing Auxiliary members to tag. Each year it becomes more difficult to recruit people willing to take on the task. With a total of over 600 members at last count, it is hard to accept the fact that so few are willing to participate. The total number of taggers needed to cover this year's sites was 110 over two days. Unfortunately the response from members contacted was not sufficient to staff all locations. On Thursday, there were 12 shifts not covered, on Friday 14. Thus this year's revenue was \$4760, down by \$3420 from last year's total.



Tagging is not an onerous job. Most people are pleasant, respectful of our goals and donate what they can. The event reaches people who would not otherwise be able to contribute to the hospital and makes those who give feel good, whatever their circumstances allow them to donate.

Members have various legitimate reasons for not taking part. Some have health concerns, some are unavailable during the day, some just don't want to do it. We are all volunteers in an organization that has two parts to its mission – the support of patient care services and fundraising. They are equally important and vital to the functioning of our hospital. Food for thought.

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Board & Coordinators**Dale Hodge**
*President***Janet Trevail**
*Vice President***Patricia Fenner**
*Past President***Donna Bright**
*Director, Finance***Sharon Gerber**
*Director, Ambulatory Care***Gayle Metson**
*Director, Communication
and Public Relations***Kathryan O'Malley
Hamilton**
*Director, Inpatient Care and
Program Support Services***Mary Ryan**
*Director, Volunteers***Young Mee Kim**
*Director, Fundraising***Brenda Worsnop**
Recording Secretary

Dorothy Allen

Liz Brock

Maureen Bronkhorst

Lavinia Clark

Sandy Ducharme

Sally Duncan

Selena Forsyth

Yvonne Green

Margaret Grepe

Sylvia Lefebvre

Patti McGlone

Ruth Markle

Jane McIvor

Virginia Mitchell

Ruth O'Donnell-
Konecny

Shirley O'Neil

Jean Orviss

Mary Park

Linda Sedgwick-Sharpe

Sandi Spencer

Eleanor Tryon

Jim Upper

Sandra van der Veen

Fran Varden

President's Report**Dale Hodge**

Summer is over, wet as it was, and we hope all enjoyed happy and healthy times. With the colours changing and fall setting in, services are back to normal. Thanks to all of you who filled in where needed to keep services covered throughout the summer months.



The Northumberland Hills Hospital is truly a wonderful small hospital, embracing leading edge technology and dealing with the future. There are changes happening. In November, Joan Ross will be retiring after more than ten years of excellent leadership, and a new CEO, Robert Biron, will take over. We would like to welcome him and his family to our community.

For health and safety reasons, the kitchens and Bistro will undergo some renovations during the month of November and the telephone system will be upgraded to meet new support standards. Medications in many areas are now being administered through a Pyxis System to improve efficiency and safety. Patient Safety Indicators are being reported on the hospital website as required by the Province. So NHH is keeping up with the times and in many ways is being a leader in revamping technology.

The Auxiliary is also trying to keep pace with new systems by looking at their organizational methods, staying in the information loop with the hospital family, computerizing the shop retail system and compiling an email communication list that keeps more volunteers informed on an immediate basis. In an environment of leading edge technology, it is important that the Auxiliary keep pace with the progressive future of the hospital.

We also continue to support the hospital with our fundraising. Tag Days, Wine Tasting, Petticoat Lane and the Little Treasure Shop are all being very successful in their revenue endeavours. The Poinsettia Tea is booked for November 23 and Polar Bear Dip for February 22, 2009. This year we have agreed to dedicate our proceeds to two patient related areas: new support carts for delivering meal service to patients in a safe and timely way, and a mobile ultrasound unit with advancements for better image quality.

Above all, the assistance we give to all NHH clients is always our most treasured asset. Thank you for being such a caring and cheerful team.

Finally, our Fall General meeting held on October 21st was a festive occasion. We celebrated the Auxiliary's 85th anniversary and Petticoat Lane's 40th anniversary with dessert, refreshments and a talk on local history by guest speaker, Rob Mikel.

Dale Hodge, President



Fall General Meeting

The ladies are left to right: Dale Hodge, Janet Trevail, Marlene Stothart, Brenda Worsnop, Marg Chapman at the Fall General Meeting.



Petticoat Lane Cheque Presentation

The \$35,000 cheque was presented to President Dale Hodge at the Fall General Meeting from Petticoat Lane by Fran Varden, Treasurer.



Crafters Report

Lavinia Clarke

The Crafters had a busy summer working on restocking our items for our Fall and winter bazaars. Meanwhile Maria Hartwig continued with her work of making crocheted tube holders for the Dialysis patients which are very much appreciated. Dorothy Lowe was busy making the pretty cushions which will give comfort to our breast cancer patients and are also appreciated.

A request for 35 red tea cozies for the Poinsettia Tea is on our agenda so it is knitting needles at the ready for the next month or so.

Our ladies continue to provide quality items for our bazaars which will continue on the last Friday of each month. We have introduced an added bazaar on a Tuesday mid month which is proving very successful.

Please come and visit us.

Ambulatory Care Report

Sharon Gerber

We welcome Yvonne Green, coordinator of Cardiology, and Maureen Bronkhorst, coordinator of Chemotherapy, back to Ambulatory Care. Both have been on an extended leave of absence. Thank you to Eleanor Cobbe, who assumed Yvonne's duties and Eleanor Tryon, who assumed Maureen's position during this period. Their time, dedication and commitment during these past few months have been greatly appreciated.

Shirley O'Neil, coordinator of ER/Fast Track, Margaret Grepe, coordinator of Dialysis and Brenda Worsnop, coordinator of Day Surgery have recently had meetings with the volunteers in each of their respective departments. Mary Ryan, Director of Volunteers, Dale Hodge, Auxiliary President and I have attended these meetings. Confidentiality was one of the main topics discussed at each meeting and the importance of confidentiality was emphasized. Coordinators are encouraged to hold these group meetings 2 or 3 times each year.

These meetings enable volunteers new to a department to meet the others volunteering in the same area, inform everyone of new policies and procedures, discuss problems, answer any questions volunteers may have, discuss upcoming events and any other items of interest. Thanks ladies for organizing and chairing these meetings.

Each of the 6 coordinators in Ambulatory Care are aware that the winter months are fast approaching and some volunteers will be leaving, to holiday in the south, for extended periods of time. This creates a shortage of volunteers in some departments and coordinators often have difficulty finding volunteers to cover some shifts. If you are able to work extra shifts in your area, please contact your coordinator.

Lottery Report

Ruth O'Donnell-Konecny

Things have slowed down quite a bit as of late on the Lottery desk. We have had to say good bye to a few volunteers and several are on leave till January 2009. We are looking for new volunteers to join our team.

HR2 Report

Jim Upper

As of September 30, 2008, only 56 members have not paid for their membership. Did you get a phone call from me? If so, and you have not yet paid, you are one of the 56. Remember: you are not covered by the hospital's liability policy while working at the hospital if you are not a paid-up member.

On a related topic, membership cards are now available when you pay your membership. Remember to ask for it.

Petticoat Lane

Lorrie Phipps

Petticoat Lane continues to do a booming business. Northumberland Hills' households must have been doing some frantic house cleaning this summer.

The amount of donations have been astronomical. We were blessed with garage sale leftovers by the hundreds and our volunteers worked feverishly to sort and ring in all the sales. June was a half price month, which was very profitable; July was an abnormally busy month; and in August sales were slower, however, the donations continued to pour in. **Petticoat Lane is in desperate need of new volunteers to help cope with the mountain of donation and sales!** E-Bay did not work out as well as hoped, however we did make a few good sales; we will try again later on. We purchased a very showy glass display unit for our more valuable goodies. It was a great summer of hard work from all of our valuable volunteers and especially from the team leaders and I thank them all.

Tag Days: Fundraising at Ground Level Continued

Committee members include Ruth and Paul Morrison (and money counters Marg Johns, Jerry Chatten, Carol Henley, Marg McDougall. Mary Jane Pocock, Agnes Stuart, Marion Gerech, Noreen Brown, Jean Wade), Mary Gill (and her 'stringers Virginia Tetz, Reta Bevan, Pat Hawkins), Vera Wellman, Shirley O'Neil, Mary Ryan, Clara and John Manning, Margaret Millar and Young Mee Kim.

The efforts of these members and all the members who tagged and to Marg Dennis are much appreciated.

Patricia Fenner



Parking at NHH: A Hot Topic!

As we go to press, changes in the parking system are under way. Change is never easy and change in parking regulations seems to be a hot button issue.

In this transition period, the following changes have been made. The fee has been raised to a \$5.00. This change was made in order to increase hospital revenues and contribute to the budget-balancing exercise required by the LHIN. In time, this flat fee system will be changed again to a system that will charge patrons for time spent rather than 'one size fits all' at present.

There is no parking allowed in the 'circle' except for physicians on delivery (babies, that is) and short term drop-off for Community Access drivers. The 'circle' must remain clear as a Fire Route and to allow for bus service to resume at the front door. Handicap Parking remains where it has always been – in the parking lot row closest to the main entrance. Tickets will be issued to cars parked illegally.

For the time being, the token system for volunteers remains the same. This is a work in progress. Stay tuned...

Coming Soon: Poinsettias, 280 of them!

By the time you read this, tickets will be on sale for the fourth Poinsettia Tea to be held on Sunday, November 23 at the Best Western.



This has been a successful and colourful event over the past three years, as well as having raised \$28,638 for our fundraising goals. This year, the price per ticket remains at \$30.00, the draw tickets will offer six chances at super prizes for \$20.00.

Each year we have done something slightly different and this year is no exception.

Our live music this year will be provided by the Stringwood Trio from Peterborough. The group consists of a harpist, flautist and cellist and is sure to provide a splendid musical element for the event.

Suzanne Delanty and Judy Masters, with the added creative flair of our very theatrical Brenda Worsnop, are putting together a fashion show that will dazzle. Our own retail outlets, Petticoat Lane and the Little Treasure shop will also be featured along with other new participants providing fashion ideas for all ages and events.

The Crafters and other assorted knitters are hard at work creating red tea cozies to deck the red teapots to ensure hot tea for guests. These knitters range from downtown Toronto to Brighton but are united in their enthusiasm and commitment to the cause.


Anne Reynolds, Mary Ryan and Gayle Metson have had a meeting with Roger Tessier at the BW and have the food in place. And, spread the word: there were no peanut butter sandwiches last year, nor will

there be this year. Kathy O'Malley Hamilton is having a 'jam' session.

Dale Hodge and Laura Scrivener are responsible for draw prizes to attract ticket buyers. Janet Trevail is looking after those who have bought tables in previous years and we will be working as a team to take care of the unenviable tasks from matching tables to floor plan to making sure everyone has the best table in the room.


The poinsettias have been ordered and are growing as we write; Linda Sedgwick-Sharpe has a brand new idea for table centres; men in tuxedos are being recruited; Virginia Tetz is doing the bookkeeping; Bob Fenner is getting ready to take the pool house shelves apart, yet again, for poinsettia display.

Many hands make light work and, we're sure, a memorable afternoon tea – with bells on!



**NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS
HOSPITAL**

AUXILIARY



Our Annual Christmas Dinner
will be held at
WOODLAWN INN
420 Division Street, Cobourg
Tuesday, December 9th, 2008

Seating for 65
Tickets on sale Oct. 15th!
at Petticoat Lane and The Little Treasure Shop
or call Mary at 905-372-9634

Petticoat Lane: still a bright idea at 40!

The notion of Petticoat Lane first appeared in Auxiliary records as an agenda item for the meeting of November 12, 1968. Item 5 read "Old business, and discussion re advisability of opening an 'Opportunity Shop'."

This venture was the brainchild of Mrs. Eric Haworth, clearly a force to be reckoned with. Her enthusiasm for this project was such that the hesitation and doubts of Auxiliary members "were dissipated by the persuasiveness." As Chairman (sic) of Petticoat Lane Shop, she was given a cash allowance of \$125.00. By November 27th, she had rented a shop; by December 6th the doors were open.

Local businesses assisted in the refinishing and furnishing of the shop, members were exhorted to bring in the goods to stock the shelves and schedule was drawn up for stocking, pricing and selling the donated goods.

The rest is history.

A successful enterprise from the outset, the shop staff celebrated its first \$10,000 (with a party, it should be noted) in September 1970.

Reading the various reports of the shop, it's obvious that two themes run through its history – the success of the venture and the ever-expanding need for space. By 1975 the shop had moved to Division Street; by 1977 Petticoat Lane had contributed in excess of \$160,000 to the Auxiliary's fundraising efforts.

Petticoat Lane at 40 is still booming. Volunteers still faithfully appear to perform their duties. The shop still could use more space. Donations of goods still appear with comforting regularity. The shop performs a valuable service to members of our community. And the cash keeps rolling in. Petticoat Lane's budget line for fiscal 08/09 was set at \$55,000, already accomplished by the Fall General Meeting. Approximately 80 volunteers are active in the enterprise.

The spirit of the dreamers is still alive. The good ideas still guide the course. The future is bright. But this year we also celebrate the past with gratitude.

Patricia Fenner

With information from **The Hospital Story**, by J. Russell McIlraith.



A REMINDER Confidentiality remains a serious concern; please be careful! All knowledge gained through your volunteer duties MUST remain within the hospital and is NOT to be shared with friends, family or coworkers.

A REMINDER Many people have some degree of bias/prejudice. Public discussion of these feelings is against the law and may result in legal action.

COMING EVENTS

November 23, 2008	Poinsettia Tea
February 22, 2009	Polar Bear Dip



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