

Auxiliary News

Autumn 2013

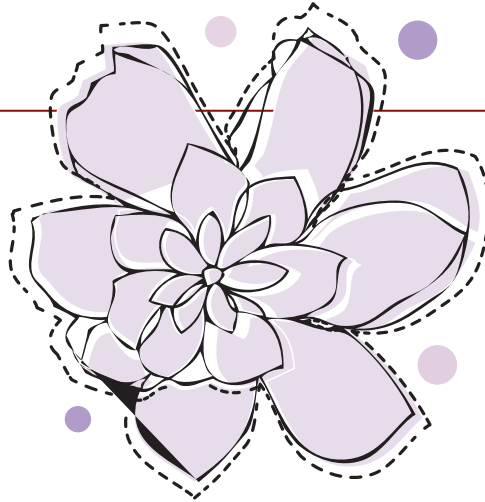
Spring Fever

On May 11th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., we held our second annual *Spring Fever*. Again it was held at Pat Scott's magnificent barn on the day before Mother's Day and again it was all about gardens and gardening.

Once again there were artists and crafters selling all manner of hand made magic, and local nurseries with plants and planters and baskets. This year we had the welcome addition of Port Hope's Furby House with gardening books.

Local caterer Tina Moorey was there, along with a new addition - the addictive Beaver Tails. And of course the decadent ice cream from Prince Edward County's Slickers.

Our speakers this year were Lesley Marie Boileau who discussed Intensive Urban Gardening, master stone wall builder John Shaw-Rimington who told us how to create dry stone structures, Melissa Spearing demonstrated The Art of Pruning, Paul Heydon explained "Why we should Garden with Native Plants" and Pam Lancaster of Ganaraska Regional Conservation Authority talked about



Water Conservation Gardening. Local Master Gardeners again had a booth and were available to answer all our gardening questions.

As usual there were amazing draw prizes to which all our vendors contributed and there was also a cast aluminum patio furniture set valued at \$200 and a spinner bicycle valued at \$400 donated by our very own magic Chinese stuff importer (Okay, with her husband!) Lorrie Phipps.

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Selena Forsyth
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Lorrie Phipps

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President's Report ...



hope you enjoyed the summer and this most glorious autumn and are back into the craziness that is the lead-in to Christmas. There are several changes/initiatives that are quite exciting to bring you up-to-date about since

our last newsletter, and I'll start with the new venue for Spring Fever 2014. It is reported in this newsletter, but I wanted to reiterate how inspired this choice of venue is: easy parking, all on one level, all tables, chairs, audio-visual aids provided, no clean-up or garbage disposal, later date so attendees more inclined to 'buy and plant' and best of all – NO WEATHER! While I will miss the beauty of Scott's Barn, I know that

this year's abysmal weather definitely contributed to the decline in attendance. If any of you are interested in being on next year's planning committee, let Selena or me know as we always need help.

The board's Director of Volunteers, Linda Smith, is Chairing a Volunteer Recognition of Service ad hoc committee of the board, to recommend a criteria and process for acknowledging our volunteers for their years of service. It is the goal of the board to have this in place for our AGM in May 2014, and you will get detailed up-dates of this initiative in the coming months. It is the right thing to do.

We are recruiting volunteers at an average of 4 per month, which is steady but still not enough to address the attrition, vacation schedule and all the gaps in most of the areas-of service schedules. We are not alone in this as it is the plague/challenge of ALL hospital volunteer components. At the recent HAAO Presidents' Meeting of the Central East Region that Patricia and I attended, there was focussed discussion about how to deal with the complex and perplexing challenge(s) of recruitment and retention of volunteers, which directly influences our capacity to populate current service areas. I will be attending the HAAO Convention in November and this issue is 'featured large' in the sessions; I will submit a written report to the board, for distribution in the Service Binders, on my takeaways from that day.

I had the opportunity to attend a day-long NHH board strategic planning meeting on September 5th about the huge challenges and opportunities that we have here in Northumberland. It was most thought-provoking. Our PATH initiative is truly a coup (and well-earned!) for NHH and is being closely watched by the province for the innovative data it will yield. The Interim President and CEO, Helen Brenner, gave an informative presentation to the NHH board in August on this initiative, and there will be another up-date either in November or in the first few months of 2014; we will keep you informed. Also at that day-long session, we had participation from our incoming CEO Linda Davis and that was a pleasure; NHH will be scheduling some kind of opportunity to have her meet with us in the new year.

NHHA is still in need of a Vice-President and we have discussed having this position be two people, one of whom is willing to take on the Presidency. Let me make a pitch here: the Human Resources team has made a lot of the tracking/volunteer follow-up much less time-consuming yet still comprehensive; agenda-planning with the board has made the need to hammer out many of the day-to-day operations at a monthly board meeting unnecessary, which has resulted in shorter board meetings that still retain the social element which is so important to those who attend. This job is very doable and very rewarding, and there is a lot of support at the Vice-President and President level to ensure successful leadership of the NHHA. Talk to me!

We lost Reta Bevan recently, and it rippled through the Auxiliary and parts of the hospital as well. Many, all of whom knew that she was very ill, just couldn't believe she had actually succumbed to the cancer because she was on death's doorstep so many times that we started to believe that she would never be beat! The Auxiliary sent flowers to the family and many attended the viewing and/or the funeral. She will be greatly missed and long-remembered.

In closing, let me say again how important you all are to the hospital; at the recent 10th anniversary celebration of the new hospital location, our Auxiliary was able to say that we have contributed over **500,000** hours of volunteer time to NHH.

Be proud.

Gayle Metson
President, NHHA

Spring Fever

It was all quite wonderful. However it was freezing cold and definitely made a difference to the number of visitors to this great new event and therefore to our profits. We have thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity at Scott's Barn and are forever indebted to Pat for having us. We felt however that a change was in order so decisions have been made.

We are going to hold the 2014 Spring Fever at the Cobourg Community Centre. All indoors, lots of parking, easily found and needless to say accessible. And the weather in there is perfect! We are excited. There will be room for more vendors, more garden stuff, more speakers, basically more of whatever we want. The Centre provides everything from a laptop to tables to chairs to a snack bar. Which brings us to food: we can't have any. It's against the centre's rules but we are not overly concerned about that. Our profits from the food were next to miserable!

The other change is the date. We decided that Mother's Day was too early because of the uncertain weather. We still wanted to keep it early enough for planting so decided that we would have it on the last Saturday in May. Every year. Nobody really plants until early June anyway and we don't think we did a whole lot of Mother's Day business. Unfortunately, in 2014, the last Saturday is the beginning of the Northumberland ParaSport Games. There is not a space to be had anywhere in the County. So for this year only we will have it on May 24th. (Planting weekend is the one before.)

There you have it. The committee is pretty pumped about this. Hope you are too. And if you have any interest in helping us out we need new blood on the committee. We have lost two members and need to replace them and a couple more wouldn't hurt. Call me.

~ Selena



Spring Fever 2013
UNIQUE GARDENING EVENT
Saturday May 11th
The day before Mother's Day
10am-4pm

MASTER GARDENERS
will be available to answer all your questions

Free Admission

fabulous **DRAW PRIZES**

Perfect for Mother's Day

SEMINARS
Dry Stone Structures
Intensive Urban Gardening
The Art of Pruning
Why Garden with Native Plants
Water Conservation Gardening

vendors caterers gardeners speakers & **MORE!**

proudly hosted by
NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

At Scott's Barn
160 Mclean Road
GRAFTON
Check website for directions
www.scottsbarn.ca

donations gratefully accepted

Spring Fever



Petticoat Lane



Petticoat Lane



Sometimes a Great Notion...the Story of Petticoat Lane

A trip through the Auxiliary scrapbooks clearly outlines the notion that became Petticoat Lane. In the notice for the November 1968 meeting the following appears under the heading of Old Business and Discussion: re the advisability of opening an 'Opportunity Shop.' This would be an outlet for the sale of nearly-new clothing, miscellaneous household articles and would be staffed by volunteers. Pat Haworth and some members of the Executive recently

toured the Opportunity Shop at Belleville Hospital and they were impressed by their financial success."

A message from Petticoat Lane on November 27th reports the following:

"A store has been rented at 201 Third Street which should give us enough room to get the project started and paying its own way. The floors have been sanded and refurbished,

walls, ceilings and woodwork painted and some minor alterations made to the layout for efficiency. Shelving, storage racks and fittings are now being installed." Our target for store opening is Friday, December 6th, though this will depend on several factors such as merchandise and volunteers."

It's interesting to note that five volunteers were available to pick up goods from donors' homes and that there was a consignment policy put in place with a 50/50 split for the donor and the shop for donated goods. The message goes on to list other donations required: an ironing board, a steam iron, 4 hardwood chairs, 2 bookcases and two full-length mirrors.

Despite considerable start-up hurdles, Petticoat Lane did open on December 6, 1968.

At this point, one is tempted to say, "The rest is history." But what a history it's been.

The shop soon outgrew its original space and by July 1969 had relocated to larger premises at 93 King Street West. By April of 1970, Pat Haworth was reporting that purchasers were coming from as far away as Lindsay and Bancroft and that customers were asking for more 'open' hours.

Themes that run through the Petticoat Lane story include flexibility – they quickly realized that their growth required them

to pick up and move the shop, from King Street, to Division Street, to King Street again and thence to the Midtown Mall and finally (for the moment) the current location on Munroe Street – "behind the beer store."

Another theme that has characterized the group is financial acumen and thus, profit. By December 1983, a newspaper report reveals that the proceeds from Petticoat Lane

over 6 years had amounted to \$452,000 since 1969. Consider the effort that went into these efforts were hands-on volunteerism – selecting, repairing, cleaning, pricing, display... and on it goes. One item at a time.

Petticoat Lane has met its financial commitment to the Auxiliary and NHH. Current figures indicate that in the past six years Petticoat Lane has donated \$415,000 toward

the Auxiliary's commitment to NHH.

This quotation from The Hospital Story is particularly apt:

"There is no doubt that Petticoat Lane has been successful far beyond the hopes of its founders. But let not the reader consider that success was automatic. Under other circumstances, and under different management policies, it might have been a dismal failure. In searching for the secret of its success, the reader might consider, first, the community need which it has satisfied, and second, the dedicated and efficient manner in which management and workers have satisfied – and continue to satisfy – that need."

True then – true now. Petticoat Lane can well be proud of its accomplishments in 45 years. The great notion is still going strong – and Petticoat Lane still needs volunteers!



Annual General Meeting

The AGM, held on June 28th 2013, marked the 90th Anniversary of the Northumberland Hills Hospital Auxiliary. Members arriving in the foyer were greeted by balloons which announced this notable achievement. In the Auxiliary Room we were able to look into the past while browsing through albums and artifacts showing images of our work, past and present. In the Education Centre where the meeting was held more balloons and floral centerpieces underlined the importance of the anniversary.

During a very enjoyable continental breakfast NHH Board Chair, Doug Mann, unable to stay for the meeting, made a point of visiting each table to offer his appreciation of the role the Auxiliary plays at NHH. Jack Russell, Board Vice-Chair remained with us for the meeting as NHH Board Rep. (It should also be noted that Jack, arriving early, made a valuable contribution to the set-up of the Education Centre. Much appreciated!)

President Gayle Metson introduced the other guests, including Interim CEO Helen Brenner, whose other titles include VP Patient Services and Chief Nursing Executive. We were also happy to have Sandra MacFarlane who, on an interim basis, is managing some of Helen's portfolio. Also attending were Cheryl Turk, VP Finance and Information Services plus a multitude of other titles, Elizabeth Vosburgh, VP Human Resources and again, other responsibilities, and Jennifer Gillard, Director Communications and Community Engagement.

In his greeting, Jack Russell commended volunteers for their great work in fundraising and patient care. He commented that his wife is now one of us, working with Virginia Mitchell in patient care.

Following his remarks, Laura Scrivener, Auxiliary Director Finance, presented Helen Brenner with a cheque for \$150,000. In accepting, Helen thanked the organizations for its fundraising and congratulated us on 90 years of service.

Rhonda Cunningham, on behalf of the Foundation, brought greetings and congratulations to the Auxiliary.

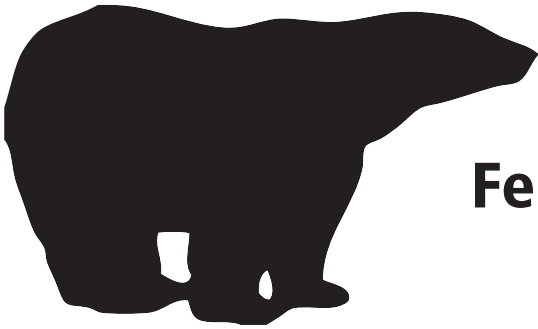
The business meeting proceeded smoothly with the approval of the Agenda, the 2012 Minutes, the Financial Statements, the 2013-14 Budget, the re-appointment of Lynch Rutherford Tozer as our official auditors, and a motion to approve the actions of the Auxiliary in the past year.

Virginia Mitchell conducted the nominations and election of officers in fine style. Coordinators and Treasurers were also recognized.

Following Gayle Metson's presidential remarks, Patricia Fenner ended the meeting with a well researched, albeit abridged, history of the Auxiliary, which included many humorous and touching moments. Members were then invited to enjoy the display of artifacts and, of course, cake and punch.



Coming Events



February 15, 2014, Polar Dip

Membership Notice



We are fast approaching the Auxiliary membership renewal deadline for 2014 – January 31, 2014 – payment by this date will cover you for the whole year.

All Auxiliary members are required to renew, unless you have a membership card that gives a renewal date beyond 2014.

Being an up-to-date, fee-paying member assures you of liability coverage should any accident or mishap befall you while you are acting as an Auxiliary member in any official Auxiliary capacity at the hospital or at Petticoat Lane. Please note you can not be scheduled for a shift if membership has not been paid.

If you are an Associate member (which means you have no active service area assignment) and you do not renew, then your membership will be considered expired and you will no longer receive communication from the Auxiliary. This will take place effective *February 15, 2014*.

You may pay your membership, \$5.00 for one year, at the Little Treasure Shop in the hospital or you may mail it to:

**The NHH Auxiliary Membership
Northumberland Hills Hospital
1000 DePalma Drive**

**Cobourg, ON
K9A 5W6**

If you are dropping your membership fee off at the hospital (Little Treasure Shop), please sign your name on the sheet provided at the shop and leave your membership fee with the volunteer there.

Thanking you in advance for your prompt attention to this notice and wishing you all a Wonderful, Healthy and Happy 2014.

**Carmel Murphy
HR Coordinator – Membership Information**