

Castlegar & District Hospital Auxiliary

2026 Annual General Meeting report

Welcome everyone. Thank you for attending our 2026 AGM. A special welcome to Allana Ferro, President of the BC Association of Health Care Auxiliaries and Vivianne Hadikin, our Kootenay Boundary representative to the BCAHA.

I want to start by thanking everyone for their support of myself and the board over the past year. Last year saw the reduction of our board from 12 to 7 so there has been some readjusting responsibilities and workload. I feel that, as a board, we have worked together very well and am looking forward to continued success over the next year. Six of us were lucky enough to be sponsored by the auxiliary to attend the BCAHA AGM and Conference in Vernon in April. The learnings that we took away from the conference will help us to continue to grow as a board and help others to successfully follow us when our terms are complete.

Over the past year, we are grateful to have recruited 8 new members and several others have return from absences. Our current number of volunteers is 40. Sadly two of our long term members passed away this past year.

We are currently open 3 days a week, 4 hours per day and this seems to work well. From time to time when donations are high we incorporate a non-opening workday to help us get through donation backlog. Thanks to the generosity of our community and the hard work of our volunteers this past year has been very good for donations and sales at the shop. It has also been a good year for donations to the community. Since our last AGM we donated over \$111,000:

\$55,137 to Interior Health for initiatives and equipment

\$17,369 to local fire departments for equipment

\$24,00 to community agencies to provide meal programs to those in our community who have food insecurity.

\$5,000 to Kootenay Emergency Response Physician Association (KERPA) for lifesaving equipment

\$10,000 to the high school and Selkirk College for scholarships and bursaries

The Thrift the Kootz bus continues to include us on their twice yearly bus tour and it is always a good time with Stef and her groups of thrifters. We also continue to put our more costly or unique donations up for auction approximately 6 times a year and our shoppers always look forward to bidding on items.

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Unfortunately we still have to send our unusable clothing to the landfill. We are, however, getting very creative in finding ways to give some of these items new life. Two of our members re-purpose clothing into bags and dog beds and we continue to donate towels and bedding to the SPCA, shoes to Value Village, t-shirts to the schools to be made into rags, toys and clothing to daycares and craft supplies to care homes. We continue to look for new opportunities to reduce our waste and it is a tribute to our ingenuity that we have been able to maintain the same Waste Management schedule for pick ups.

We also are very lucky to have our recycling team of Ellen, Tom and Larry who diligently take cardboard, electronics, plastics, metal and paper recycling out to their respective depots. This has also made a huge difference in the amount of garbage in our dumpster.

With the support of donations from the community and our faithful shoppers the volunteers at the Castlegar & District Hospital Auxiliary continue to make our area a better place "one donation at a time".

Respectfully submitted by:

Kelly Waage

President