

Report of the President, Wendy Schwab
Castlegar & District Hospital Auxiliary Society

August 10, 2020

Greetings to all auxiliary members and guests

What a year. I am so grateful that COVID-19 has not had an impact on our community as it has in larger city centers. We all stayed home, stayed safe and stayed healthy.

Thank you to our volunteers at the Gift Shop for recognizing early that the social distancing for patients in our health care centre was needed. In March the Gift Shop was temporarily converted into an extra waiting room. At the same time, I want to thank the Foundation for the use of their space to store all of the Gift Shop items.

The closure of the Treasure Shop due to COVID-19 has given us the opportunity to refresh and reorganize there. It was a huge undertaking reorganizing, painting and preparing the shop for reopening. Thank you to all of the volunteers who came in to help with the transformation. We are all indebted to you. The reopening of the Treasure Shop is a work in progress. Signage, sanitization, and social distancing are essential to maintain the health of our volunteers and customers.

Our area conference that was scheduled for September of this year is now put on hold until September 2021. I am looking forward to the day when we can back in our teams to work on our projects that we started for this conference. Being centrally located in the Kootenay Boundary gives us the advantage to attract a great turnout. I expect that all of the auxiliaries in the Kootenay Boundary area have been impacted in their fund-raising endeavors. Coming up with the registration fee may be a challenge for

some auxiliaries to send as many people as they would like. I have asked Columbia Basin Trust to help us with some additional money to keep our registration fee low which will provide an opportunity for more volunteers to attend. I will be meeting with Columbia Basin Trust in October to discuss this funding. I promise to keep you updated.

Since our area director was unable to attend our AGM today, I wish to share some statistics from the British Columbia Association of Healthcare Auxiliaries with you. We have nine hospital auxiliaries in the Kootenay Boundary area. The total donations our area made to health care in 2019 was \$818,016.65. Very impressive for the 464 members in our area. That total does not include the awards for scholarships and bursaries of \$29,200.00.

Our auxiliary donated \$48,316.91 to health care in our community. \$6,000.00 of that went toward the meal programs in our local schools. Over \$3,000.00 to the food bank. We donated over \$9,000.00 to Talarico Place for blinds and furniture, \$25,000 through the Foundation to purchase a new ventilator for our health care centre and \$2,500 in scholarships and bursaries.

I have now completed three years as your president. I have enjoyed representing all of you. Regardless of where I am as a board member or as a volunteer, I will always be grateful for this opportunity to be a part of this organization.

Take care, and continue to stay safe and healthy. Thank you for your hard work and support. I could not have asked for a more committed group of people to work with.

Wendy Schwab

President