

Castlegar & District Hospital Auxiliary

President's report to the end of 2025

The purpose of the Hospital Auxiliary is to raise funds to help local agencies increase the health and well being of the citizens of Castlegar and area. In order to do this, our volunteers give their time three days a week to operate our thrift shop which is aptly named the Treasure Shop.

Our number of volunteers increases and decreases as the lives and personal circumstances of our volunteers change. The challenge for us is to maintain a level of volunteers that can meet the needs to serve our community. Currently we have 40 volunteers and 8 are new to the Treasure Shop.

Thanks to the goodwill of our community 2025 has been a great year for donations and sales at the shop. It has also been a good year for donations to the community. We have allocated \$111,606.82 towards scholarships for college and high school students who are studying towards a career in health care, meal programs in schools and daycares, equipment for firehalls and we provided funding to feed our community through Operation Feast and the food bank. With these donations we have been able to make a difference for those agencies who are providing service every day to those in need. We have also donated to KERPA (Kootenay Emergency Response Physician Association), the Community Health Centre and the Regional Hospital in Trail to provide equipment and support for those requiring health care in our area.

Our Treasure Shop volunteers have participated in several community events including the Thrifter Bus and the Downtown Business Association's Ladies Night Out and December to Remember.

We have also had some challenges this year. For the last 16 years we have had pick up of our non-salable clothing from the shop. It was then taken to Vancouver to a clothing recycling depot. This fall we, and all the other thrift shops in the West Kootenay, were notified that this service was to be discontinued. A West Kootenay wide working group has been struck with the Recycling Council of BC to look at other options for this clothing other than having it go to the landfill. This work is ongoing.

On a more positive note I want to say that thrift stores, by their very nature, reduce, reuse and recycle every day and are a very important part in the reduction of our community's landfill waste. Although currently we do have to send many non-salable items to the landfill, we recycle as much as we can. This includes taking shoes to Value Village (our volunteers will take as many bags as they can when they are travelling to areas throughout BC), bags of blankets and towels to the SPCA and T-shirts to the high

school to be repurposed and resold as rags to local businesses. We also donate clothes and children's toys to daycare family programs and recycle metals, plastics and electronics at our local recycling centres.

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