

2014 – 2015 Review

“All great changes are preceded by chaos.” *Deepak Chopra*

For some of the Auxiliary members, 2014 may have seemed a bit chaotic. Yet, the accomplishments were extraordinary and defined the mission and direction for the future.

In June 2014, after months of planning, the Second Street Tuck Shop closed, the end of an era but the beginning of a new chapter in the life of the Auxiliary. For the first time, all Auxiliary activities would be situated in one location. Teamwork would flourish as members who had never worked together (in fact, many did not even know each other) were finally working side by side towards the same goals. Mr. Sutherland, Vice-President of Operations, CCH stated at the March 2015 Annual General Meeting “that the volunteers have played, and will continue to play, a vital role at the CCH”.

The Gift Shop, the Information Desks and the H.E.L.P.P Cart, along with the service areas of spiritual care, geriatrics, and preadmission clinics continued their tradition of serving patients, families and staff. Our success was measured not just in positive feedback. The Auxiliary donated \$60,000 to the hospital for needed equipment - this year, the donation was designated for a colonoscope and two adult patient beds.

Many new members were welcomed and integrated into the service areas. Their added help with fund-raising events such as the Spring and Fall luncheons was invaluable. A monthly newsletter was initiated by Margaret Riley and as one member commented, “Thank you for the interesting Auxiliary Newsletter, it is nice to keep up with what is going on, especially when I am unable to get involved. Keep up the good work”.

In April 2015, the Auxiliary hosted the HAAO Spring Conference at the Best Western. 150 volunteers from the Eastern Region attended. The speakers were Carolyn Brennan and Laurie Dojeiji, who spoke on Healthy Foods in Champlain Hospitals Initiative and Cornwall’s own Craig Smith, a noted presenter on communication. Each participant went home with a token of our appreciation, a river stone engraved with the words “Volunteers Rock”. This motto was coined by Volunteer Canada to celebrate volunteers. As they said “*A volunteer action is like a stone thrown in a lake: its effect has a direct impact. At the same time, like ripples, volunteer efforts reach out far and wide to improve communities. Undeniably, volunteers rock*”.

With a new Board of Directors installed in March 2015, the Auxiliary volunteers can look forward to another banner year, blessed with old and new friendships and the knowledge that their contribution makes a difference.

Snowflakes melt alone - but together they can be traffic stoppers! *Anonymous*