

Winter 2024

Newsletter

Office Hours: M-F 9 a.m. - Noon
Telephone: 905-945-2253 Ext. 11391
Website: wlmauxiliary.ca



CELEBRATING

“80 Years”

1944 - 2024

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Presidents Report - January 2024



Happy 80th Anniversary!!

Hi Everyone.

I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season, and like me, are looking forward to an exciting new year.

To close out the old year, we were again the recipient of a most generous donation from the Rankin Run for Cancer and from a local family, which has refilled the coffers somewhat going forward into 2024.

A major challenge for current volunteers and attracting new folks is still parking. However, we will be allowed to park in the old Coles lot on Main using a code system in the payment equipment, instead of having to pay. When the code is made available to us, I'll let you all know the details.

The new hospital build is progressing well and you can now see it from Main St., peeking above the existing hospital. The next major milestone for the build is to make the building watertight so that there is no water damage when the crew starts working on the inside.

Looks like, when the new hospital completes, it is proposed to be renamed "West Niagara Memorial Hospital", to more accurately reflect the geography in which the hospital is located and the broader communities the hospital serves. Any input you may have about the renaming should be emailed to WLMH@hhsc.ca.

Gail and I are still talking to the consultant and have a high school student working with us to modernize our current media presence.

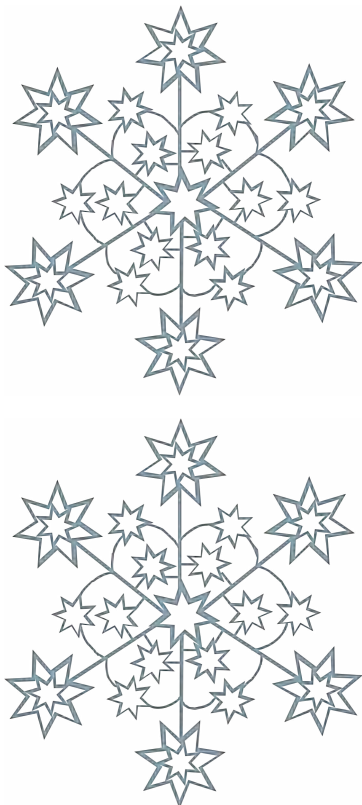
As we progress into the spring season, we have a St Patrick's Day Dinner, prepared by Chef Brad, a Bake Sale in March and our AGM in April, so a busy time ahead for the next couple of months.

The coffee shop now has six certified food handlers with another few volunteers waiting for a spot to open up at Niagara Region Public Health to be certified. The goal is to have 50% of the current staff certified.

Your Executive is also looking at some form of celebration to commemorate our 80th Anniversary. Stay tuned for more information on this.

So..... onward into Spring leaving the cold and gloom behind hopefully.

Fred Lilley
WLMA President



Designer/Editor
Roz Lilley

Volunteer Coordinator Report

Our current active membership as of mid-January 2024 stands at 118 volunteers, which remains below pre-pandemic level. Approx 85% of the active volunteers are currently back on-site, while the remaining 15% are either waiting for additional placement areas to reopen or for personal reasons.

Shortage of parking remains an impediment to expansion of volunteer services throughout the hospital, but we are exploring solutions to this with Parking Services.

In the meantime, we are currently considering the return of volunteers to the Emergency Department (ED) Waiting Room. It's been 10 years since our Auxiliary volunteers were stationed there and with patient volumes increasing in the ED, hospital staff have asked if our volunteers could help. Duties will include welcoming people when they arrive in the waiting room, answer basic questions that visitors may have and help them navigate the hospital as needed. To begin, the focus would be on the busiest times in the ED from late morning to mid afternoon.

If you have an interest in volunteering in the ED, please contact me at hollinshea@hhsc.ca

Reminder: In addition to signing in/out for each shift at the Information Desk, this is a reminder to all active volunteers that it is important to please keep track of your volunteer hours for 2024. Record your hours after each shift, so you're less likely to forget. Timesheets are provided for this purpose and kept in a binder at the Information Desk, while the Gift Shop and Coffee Shop have separate binders for their volunteer time sheets. Alternatively, you may wish to track your hours at home. At the end of the year all volunteer hours are totalled and reported to the hospital. Also, to recognize volunteers who attain milestones such as their first 500 hours and every 1,000 thereafter at the Annual General Meeting, the Auxiliary relies upon individual cumulative total hours.

Wendy Hollinshead, Volunteer Coordinator

Student Volunteers

High school students from Blessed Trinity Secondary School and West Niagara Secondary School volunteer with our Auxiliary. Students cover three late afternoon shifts (4pm to 6 pm) Tuesdays to Thursdays in the Coffee Shop. Hospital staff and visitors are always pleased to see the students.

Students also support the Auxiliary's special events throughout the year. At our December Breakfast with Santa event, we had fifteen, enthusiastic, Santa's "Elves" help serve breakfast to families, guide little ones in choosing gifts from Santa's Clauset, wrap gifts and oversee a table of raffle items. Everyone had a great time!

We are always ready to welcome new student volunteers, do check us out.

Christine Gudas-Murphy, Student Co-ordinator



H.E.L.P.P.



We are looking to start up the Breakopen tickets again but need volunteers to cover off 15 shifts or as many 2 1/2 - 3 hr shifts as possible.

If you would be interested please email me at rozlil6@gmail.com or leave a message at 905-945-2253 ext 11391

Baby Hat Update

*2018: 436

*2019: 452

*2020: 21 (January - March 3rd) when the program was suspended - due to Covid)

*2021: "NO PROGRAM" - due to Covid

*2022: 112 (start up date - October 3rd - December 31st)

*2023: 296



As you can see, we have not achieved our former numbers, probably due to the fact some of our regular knitters over that long period of suspension have either retired or volunteering elsewhere. We still have a very reliable core group supplying us with plenty of beautiful baby hats. I think this program is a valuable and special asset to WLMH and it gives me great joy to see our newborns going home with one of our baby hats. Just another reason that volunteering is such a rewarding experience!

Anna M. Orr
Baby Hats Co-ordinator



Jill Howe, along with many others, taking part in a beam-signing ceremony, a tradition in the construction industry to mark a special milestone in the building process. The last beam needed to build the new hospital was placed on December 8th, 2023.





Fundraising



Events for 2023

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank everyone that supported all our functions throughout the year, and thank you to all that donated to our Christmas Spirit Basket it was very much appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you at our different functions throughout the year.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner	\$ 695.68
Bake Sale	\$ 325.15
Strawberry Tea	\$ 2,562.88
Craft Show	\$ 3,098.19
Poinsettia Sale	\$ 1,117.72
Christmas Basket	\$ 2,396.01
BWS	\$ 634.13

Total \$10,829.76

Kathy & Gillian Co-Chairs



The Auxiliary is Hosting a

St. Paddy's Day Dinner

on March 15, Doors open 5:30, Dinner At 6:00pm at

Mountainview Church, 290 Main St East, Grimsby

Choice of Corned Beef and Cabbage or Shepherds Pie plus Rolls, Salad and Dessert



\$40 per Person



Tickets Available at the Auxiliary Office at the Hospital

Tel: (905) 945-2253 Ext: 11391



Cash Wine Bar



All Proceeds to West Lincoln Memorial Hospital for much needed equipment

Events for 2024

St. Patrick's Day Dinner	Friday March 15th	Mountainview Church.
Bake Sale	Thursday March 28th	Front Lobby
AGM	Thursday April 18th	Mountainview Church
80th Anniversary	Thursday May 15th	Date and place to be confirmed
Soirée de Vin	Friday May 31st	More to follow
Strawberry Tea	Thursday June 20th	Mountainview Church
Craft Show	Saturday October 19th	Mountainview Church
Poinsettia Sale	Wednesday Nov 27th	Front Lobby.
Poinsettia Sale	Thursday Nov 28th	Front Lobby

BWS - Peach King Arena will be completely closed April 2024 - Looking for another venue.

Gillian



GIFT SHOP

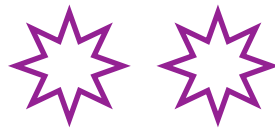


Keep warm and cozy this winter with our beautiful selection of throws, knitted lap blankets and shawls.



The Gift Shop Volunteers are pleased to present the Auxiliary with a total of \$23,000 for 2023. Thank you ladies, and you too Bob, for all your help!

Anne Marie Heywood, Gift Shop Coordinator.



All our bags are 25% off until the end of February.



Coffee Shop

Thanks in part to our famous BLT's, in 2023 we handed over a total of \$25,000 to the Auxiliary.

Craft Show

Held at Mountainview Church Oct 21, 2023





Fantasy of Trees

Once again our entry was beautifully decorated by Carol Reid and Marie McNiven.

The theme for this year's tree was "Wish"



Annual Poinsettia Sale

held November 22 & 23 in the front lobby



2024 NEW YEAR BABY

Meet Lily Ann Choma weighing in at 8lbs 10oz, born 6:15pm on Jan 1 2024 at West Lincoln Memorial Hospital. Proud parents are Hailey and Nick Choma from Dunnville Ontario.

Gift of Baby hat, West Lincoln Bear and a Gift Certificate for the Gift Shop were presented by Auxiliary President Fred Lilley.





*Breakfast
with
Santa*





Just a small update this month:

We are experiencing high volumes of patients in the ED and being admitted as is typically seasonal. We are seeing a lot of different respiratory viruses that are contributing to this. We are grateful for the support that the Auxiliary provide our patients and families especially at this busy time.

Staffing is stable, some vacancies but recruitment underway. No current outbreaks.

There is lots of work around the new build keeping us all very busy.

We have secured some increased parking for the auxiliary (hot off the press) I will let Fred add that piece.

Thank you to the Auxiliary for all you do, we could not provide the service without you.

Take care

Catherine Duffin

Director of Community Programs & Site Administrator, WLMH.

Welcome

to our new volunteers

Kay Woodward

Lynda Barr

Gloria Vause

Norma Starkie

Trish Toth

Mary Donaghy

Kesija Jojan

Jeannie Larocque

Chris Switalski

Cathie Wien

Condolences

Go out to:

Brian Johnson on the loss of his wife (January 2024)

Family of Doris Walker (January 2024)

Family of Mary Mota (January 2024)

Family of Norma Edge (January 2024)

Barb McDermid on the loss of her husband (December 2023)

Family of Jim Robertson (December 2023)

Family of Eric Taylor(November 2023)