

December 2023



A message from our President, Doreen Bocking.

“The leaves have fallen”.

Hello everyone. It’s hard to believe that we are near the end of 2023. Thank you everyone for your time, hard work, and commitment to the Volunteer Association as well as HRH. Your smiles and hello’s have made our visitors, patients and staff feel comforted and welcome.

We have had a busy fall season. Our September shoe sale was a great success once again. We sold over \$55,000 worth of shoes with our proceeds being \$10,602. Thank you to all who helped over the four-day event.

On November 15, we held our annual Holiday Bazaar and raised more than \$5000. Thank you to those that helped with the sale, baked all the goodies and donated items to sell.

We recently presented a \$120,000 cheque to the hospital for 2 Apollo PH Medium mannequins (used for teaching surgical techniques), part of our commitment of \$400,000 for 2023-2024.

Also In November, the volunteer executive presented their fall report to the Humber River Board of Directors. This report provides them with our achievements and future contribution goals.

It’s almost time! You may have heard all the noise coming from behind the wall on Main Street. We look forward to December when Starbucks will open its doors.

As the year comes to a close, I wish you and your family and friends a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Doreen



***Season’s
Greetings!***

Coming Events

Monday December 11
Starbucks opening

Wednesday
December 13, 2-4 pm
Holiday Celebration on the
Piazza

Monday March 25 to
Wednesday March 27
Miller Shoes 3-day sale of
winter shoes and boots.
Set up Sunday, March 24

Thursday, May 9
Mother’s Day Sale of
Vintage China and Crystal

Wednesday, June 12
Volunteer Association
Annual General Meeting

At the beginning of each HRH Volunteer Association Board meeting, the Volunteer Mission Statement is read:

The Humber River Hospital Volunteer Association encourages community partnership with the Hospital

- 1. By providing care and comfort to patients and their families.**
- 2. By raising funds to be used for the betterment of the Hospital.**



Shoe Sale Report

The 3-day September Miller Shoe Sale was again a great success. We sold almost \$56,000 worth of summer shoes at only \$60 each. After taxes, our share was \$10,602. The Sunday set up crew showed their experience and the set up was completed in about two and a half hours which allowed us to open on schedule for the three o'clock "Friends and Family" event. There were many old and new faces helping with the Sunday set-up (Norma, Maureen, Tanya, Harimo, Casho, Doreen, Joan, Pauline, Lan, Kim, Lorraine, Amina and Dalal) but we owe a large debt of gratitude to Pauline Kishimoto's family and one of their friends (Daniel, David, Fay and Frank) who single handedly unloaded all the boxes from the truck. Many of the Sunday volunteers also helped during the three day sale and also Fidel, Erane, Marianne, Alma, Joyce, Karen, Liz, Shanti, and Teresa (who came with a friend to buy shoes and stayed for two hours on Wednesday afternoon to help tape boxes). It takes a village! As usual, the sale ended at 12 noon on Wednesday and a willing group of co-op students arrived to help with packing up the remaining shoes.



We are a Charity!

December is the month where many people consider making charitable donations. Until recently, all donations to the Humber River Hospital Volunteer Association had to be cash or cheque because we had no other system in place. We have registered our charity with **Canada Helps**, which is a web site that supports all Canadian charities and is a destination for donating and fundraising online. They automatically transfer money into our account and issue tax receipts. Thanks to Christine Fisher and Louisa Ceci in Volunteer Services, our profile on Canada Helps has recently been updated. At this time of year, when you meet with friends and family, if they are considering donating to a charity, please suggest that they consider the Volunteer Association. The web site is www.canadahelps.org and the search is "Humber River Hospital Volunteer Association". The money we raise is used to purchase capital equipment the hospital has asked for. We are still committed to purchase one more mannequin (\$60,000) and a CO2 Laser (\$200,000).



Used Books Wanted and a Thank You

The success of Erane Bocking's Isolette Program depends on used books. Visitors are asked to make a donation in exchange for a book. This program brings in at least \$1,000 each month. Erane's isolettes have gained fame across North America as Barb Collins, our hospital CEO, frequently includes the program when she speaks to other hospital CEOs. We recently received a donation of hundreds of books from the Malton's Lions Club. Please bring your books to the sign in room on level 1, the Gift Shop, or Volunteer Services on level 3.



Halloween Spirit Event

On October 31st, the fundraising committee again set up Monica Calderon's (a former volunteer) spooky Halloween HRH backdrop for a photobooth. Only one hospital department team entered the pumpkin carving contest this year but they did a wonderful job. Congratulations to Cardiology and thank you for your spirit. Volunteers involved in the event were Marianne Iozzo, Jane Mueller, Pauline Kishimoto and Erane Bocking. The best costume award definitely goes to Jane.



Winners
(left)
Monica
(right)



HOLIDAY BAZAAR



Erane and some of her knitted goods

The annual Holiday Bazaar was held on Wednesday November 15 in the hallway by the Portals of Care and brought in \$5,195 to the Volunteer Association. As usual, the sale involved the participation of a small army of volunteers some of whom started at 7 a.m. and worked through until after 3 p.m. Erane Bocking again filled several tables with hand knit adult and children's sweaters, scarves, hats, and baby blankets. She spends a great deal of time knitting during the year and then prices and packages each item. Her beautiful work is much in demand. Pauline Farrace also contributed knitted items. Other items for sale included home baked goods, donated "as new" items, china and crystal, and vintage jewellery. Erane, Joan and her team, Volunteer Services (Louisa, Amy and Laura) and Irene Moffat contributed to the baked goods table which was quickly cleared of items by eager hospital staff members. Irene has been bringing baked goods to this sale for years but she says this will be her last year. That is what she said last year. She is 93! Joan works with a team of women who live in the same apartment building and they have contributed baked goods for the last 5 years. Volunteers involved in the sale included Mirella, Elvira, Marianne, Erane, Doreen, Pauline, Teresa, Jane, Karen, Nicola and Joyce. Welcome to our new young faces, Ana (top centre picture) and Nanye (bottom left picture). Again, apologies if your name was not included. Thank you everyone who contributed in any way by donating baking, giftware, jewellery or your time. It was wonderful seeing some new, young faces volunteering at this event.



Irene



Gift Shop News

It is with regret that we had to say goodbye to Sherene Sinclair, our Gift Shop Coordinator, who has moved to Alberta to be with her family. We are very fortunate to welcome Vaizhaly Ravindran who has a long history with the Gift Shop. Vaizhaly started volunteering in the summer of 2015 as a grade 11 student and stayed to volunteer year-round. She has been in the Gift Shop almost since opening day. She was hired by the Gift Shop as a "Lead Sales Associate" in 2017 when it became clear that we required more time invested by experienced people. Until recently, she mostly supervised the weekend volunteers. Vaizhaly has a Bachelor's degree in Honours Kinesiology. Welcome Vaizhaly! Drop by the Gift Shop for Christmas shopping and to buy new Christmas decorations. Remember, you always get 10% off.



Vaizhaly

Call for Nominations



We are currently looking for volunteers to sit on the Volunteer Association Board for 2024-2025. All of these positions are non-paying. Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday morning each month. Please consider joining us for one of our committee positions this year. It is a great privilege to work with such a dedicated group of people. This is a very rewarding area to be involved in helping our Association to continue working for the betterment of the Hospital. One of the responsibilities of the Volunteer Board is to help decide how the funds we raise will be spent. There is a posting in the Volunteer Services office providing further information.

Erane Bocking and Mirella Quattrin
Nominating Committee Chairpersons

Starbucks



Finally, its happening! After many delays (permits, plumbing issues, etc.) our Starbucks franchise will open on December 11. Our new Management Team will be Kathleen Cabillan and Sheka Sandoval and we have hired 15 new baristas. Everyone involved is currently undergoing training. This picture shows what the layout is for our new franchise. Hours of operation will be 6:30 am to 7:00 pm Monday to Friday and 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday and Sunday.

Wanted Vintage Crystal and China

The Volunteer Association is again asking for donations of china, crystal, Royal Doulton figurines, etc. for our Mother's Day sale in May. Please keep us in mind as you gather with family and friends over the holidays. Cups and saucers and serving pieces are always in great demand. Thank you.



The Mainstream is a publication of the Humber River Hospital Volunteer Association

Executive Board: Doreen Bocking, *President*; Mirella Quattrin, *Past President*; Wendy Kaltiainen and Angelo Poto, *Vice Presidents of Equal Standing*; Jane Mueller, *Executive Secretary*; Marianne Iozzo, *Executive Treasurer*; Fidel Di Caro, Liz Pedzinski, Dennis Levesque, and Karen McNamara-Mucha, *Members-at-Large*.

Committees: Erane Bocking, *Constitution and By-Laws*; Marianne Iozzo, *Finance*; (vacant), *Fundraising*; Joyce Conway, *Membership*; Erane Bocking and Mirella Quattrin, *Nominating*; Pauline Kishimoto, *Gift Shop and Public Relations*; Pauline Farrace, *Vendor Program*; Rita Sanford, *Advisor to the Executive Board*.