

AUTUMN



NEWSLETTER

Kingston General Hospital Auxiliary

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – Chelsea Reynolds

A new season is upon us, and although it is still warm enough to be summer, the school buses and university students tell us otherwise!

Our Café continues to be extremely busy, and we hope to be able to add some volunteers to help support our hardworking staff. The Gift shop has some beautiful items for fall, all very stylish and cozy looking, and the Tuck shop continues to thrive and offer staff and visitors just what they need to get through the day (mostly caffeine and snacks!).

Plans are underway for our Lottery Booth to re-open, which is an exciting fundraising opportunity. We do need more volunteers for this so we can offer this service for more hours. If you, or someone you know, would be interested, please contact Kim Kelly in Volunteer Services.

We are working hard on our Teddy Bear Campaign, our 20th year! Bears have arrived, and ribbons are being added. Please see the next section for more information.

Another exciting event to return is the Christmas Bazaar, which will be held in the lower Atrium on November 22nd. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend and support the Auxiliary. Donations of baked goods will be appreciated.

We recently had a Board and Council meeting, and thanks go to Alan Archer, interim Director of Volunteer Services, and Lynda Laird, Manager of Volunteer Services, for attending. We appreciate the support, as well as from Kim, Sydney, and Julie!

TEDDY BEAR CAMPAIGN 2023 – Heather Breck

The 2023 Teddy Bear Campaign will launch in the Watkins Lobby on Monday, November 6 at 11:00 a.m. This is our first in-person event at KGH since modifying the campaign due to Covid-19 restrictions. This is our 20th campaign, and we are hoping to raise \$25,000 which will help us surpass \$500,000 in total funds raised for pediatric equipment at KGH. More than 300 white ‘Sentiments’ bears will be delivered to young patients at the end of the campaign. Again, this year, we have the support of the Royal Canadian Legion 560 and their Ladies Auxiliary. Their donation will cover the costs of the campaign so that 100% of funds raised will go directly to purchasing the equipment. Brochures, and letters to previous sponsors, will be mailed at the end of October. Information is also available online at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/t/51858> (scroll down the page to reach the section for the Campaign) or by contacting Sandra.Fletcher@kingstonhsc.ca. The cost to sponsor a bear, individually, or as a group, is \$100. Thanks for your support and we hope to see you at the launch!

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

For the first time since the pandemic was declared, we will be holding our annual Bazaar on November 22nd from 10 - 1. This will be a little different from previous years, but we hope to draw a good crowd. As no other space is available, the event will be held on Kidd/Davis 0, adjacent to the Atrium Cafeteria and will be limited in scope and items offered. There will be no Silent Auction this year, and no refreshments. We will have second-hand jewelry, knitted and hand-made goods, baking and a section with miscellaneous items including Christmas wreaths and other seasonal goods. Donations of baked goods and candy would be very much appreciated and may be dropped off at the main entrance beginning Monday, November 20th. The Gift Shop will offer a discount of 15% on that day.

CAFE – Convenor – Shirley Hicks

Seating in the Café is down from 99 pre-pandemic to below 60 but it is felt that this provides a comfortable and uncrowded seating arrangement. The cafeteria downstairs is now closed in the evenings and at weekends, which has increased our business during those times while things remain steady during the week. Although sales are up, so are food prices and our payroll. Additionally, it has been necessary to purchase some new equipment that

is efficient and not ready to fall apart. Due to the school year starting, our student workers have moved to part-time from full-time summer hours, so our Manager is looking for new full-time and part time workers.

Although things may be looking a little challenging to our bottom line now, our committee is hopeful that business will continue to do well and, with the increase in our prices, that we still have to time to recover.

GIFT SHOP - Convenor - Merna Manders

The Gift and Tuck Shops are both doing well. As the hospital reopened, customers increased in both shops. The Online Store (shop.kingstongeneralgiftshop.ca) has continued and is appreciated by patients and their family or friends who are unable to visit in person. Fall Fashions and accessories are arriving in the Gift Shop. Capes, tops, pants, sweaters, scarves, hats, and handbags in many styles and colours. We have an attractive selection of jewelry, and the Oxford Station earrings are the most popular jewellery item. The personal care line from Relaxus has several new products. A new Canadian company specializing in all natural products has an interesting line of personal care soap and skin lotion as well as an all-natural laundry powder. Many new gift items, plush toys, books, and baby items are now available in the shop. The Tuck Shop continues to be busy with regular and flavoured coffee, baked treats, sandwiches and wraps from the Golden Rooster. Donations of used books are always welcome. Dry cleaning services have resumed.

HUGS – Convenor – Judy Strahan

M. McFarlane, Nurse Manager on Kidd 5, thanked us for the program and said it was much appreciated. She mentioned that the annual birth rate at KGH is 2000 and this has been the average over the last 15 years, so it is not surprising that the program continues to be very busy. There are 2 volunteers, me, and Susan Jellinck, who make up the bags for mothers and their newborn babies. Our program relies on community groups and talented individuals to donate the items for the bags. As well, there are several dedicated volunteers who liaise with certain groups which helps make our program so successful. One group in particular, the Frankie Project, supplied us with a timely donation of receiving blankets. This project was developed by the parents who suffered the loss of a newborn while at KGH. Donations are always welcome!

We miss these Friends.....Shirley and Gloria (both now living in Toronto)



THE KGH AUXILIARY OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Will be held on Monday, October 30, 2023, at 11:00 am

At Cookes-Portsmouth Church Hall in Calvin Park

Lunch: \$20

Speaker: Stacey Gregory, KHSC Planning, with an update on the redevelopment project

If attending, please call 613-549-6666 Ext.6352 and leave a message.

OR

E-mail sandra.fletcher@kingstnhsc.ca

RSVP before noon on **Monday October 24, 2023**

N.B. Please be prepared to wear a mask for the meeting – chairs will be well spaced for infection control purposes.

NOTICE OF MOTION

It will be moved that: By-law VII – Auxiliary Services be amended by removing **Family Services** and adding **Patient Comforts**.