

Annual Reports From Women's Hospital Auxiliary

All Committees Outline Year's Work For Milton District Hospital Patients

The following are the reports submitted at the recent first annual meeting of the Women's Auxiliary of Milton District Hospital.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year 1959 shall long be remembered as an important one for the members of the Women's Auxiliary of the Milton and District Hospital, as it marks the founding of this organization. It was in January of that year that several interested women called a meeting to form this Volunteer Service Auxiliary and later in February the officers were elected. Mrs. Peter McWilliams was the first president.

Immediately the organization started to grow, several committees were appointed and all members worked together with the same purpose in view. Many problems, challenges and opportunities confronted this group of women, but in true fashion, they persevered with courage and willpower and today the result of their efforts is worthy of recognition. The idea of the auxiliary as a service organization has become well established and is the ideal medium through which service can be most effective for the hospital.

235 Members

It is gratifying to find that 235 women have been accepted as members, 177 of these active and the remainder willing to contribute financially, but not wishing to participate actively. It is our aim to have the auxiliary membership representative of Milton and the surrounding district and to increase the membership and the interest in our hospital.

During the first year, due to various reasons, there were a few changes made in the personnel of the auxiliary board. It was with regret that we accepted the president's resignation, but increased responsibilities in her home necessitated a release from office and it was in January of this year that I agreed to accept this responsibility. As the volunteer services increased, it was necessary to establish new committees and appoint conveners of these committees. On the other hand, the many willing workers on the central supply committee were idle, due to modern methods now used. Consequently, the members were transferred and are now serving elsewhere. Gradually the early difficulties having been overcome, we can be assured of an opportunity of being able to give greater service in the forthcoming year.

Opening Highlight

It was indeed a happy occasion and the highlight of the year when the Milton District Hospital was officially opened in November and our auxiliary shared in the festivities. It was the privilege of the executive and the board members to preside at the attractive tea table and serve the many visitors who toured the hospital.

May I express sincere appreciation and thanks for your loyal and untiring assistance, for without your help and confidence, the Women's Hospital Auxiliary could not have attained the degree of success that it has. We are grateful to all who have contributed time, talents and gifts during this our first year and may we aspire for even greater achievements in the coming year.

Mrs. T. A. Hutchinson,
President.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I feel that in my life, at least, this is quite a unique experience, to be privileged to present the charter secretary's report.

Since its inception in January, 1959, the work has become more and more interesting to me, and will, I am sure, prove a most rewarding experience as time goes on.

It was immediately evident at the beginning that the auxiliary would need funds to carry on, so with this in mind, Mrs. F. McNiven and Mrs. F. S. McQuat arranged bridge parties in their homes, Mrs. F. Joyce had several coffee parties and a sale of small articles in her home and Miss Helen Tremayne made and sold marmalade. Following these came a rummage sale, convened by Mrs. H. W. Kelson, which was most successful.

Appreciate Donations

The garden party held in September at the home of Mrs. John Ostler was most delightful and successful, and will be held again this September. Many donations of all kinds were made to make this affair one to remember. Not only tangible donations, but many hours of time and effort on the part of the members' husbands and friends are gratefully acknowledged.

Throughout the year there have been generous donations from the Scotch Block Women's Institute and the Catholic Women's League. An electric kettle, electric hot-plate, stainless steel tea pots for the patients' trays, more than 300 books for the library, knitted articles for the gift shop, Christmas trees and many other Christmas decorations, a beautiful chest of sterling silver for the draw at the garden party, a layette for needy mothers, and magazines were all gratefully acknowledged.

The gift shop cart donated by Ray Olan and the library cart donated by Mr. and Mrs. Chester Service are gifts that will be in use for many years to come, helping immeasurably to bring comfort and service to the patients.

The tag day in November, convened by Mrs. K. Y. Dick and Mrs. G. M. Hood, was another event. The donations of cans and tags contributed considerably to the success of this day. A bake sale was also held, convened by the gift shop committee.

At Conferences

I was privileged to attend No. 5 regional spring meeting in Brantford in April, the fall regional meeting held in Peel Memorial Hospital, Cooksville in September and finally in October, the annual convention of the Provincial Women's Hospital Auxiliaries. Comprehensive reports of these meetings were given at the board meetings.

Following our open meeting in June, we welcomed Mrs. K. Fraser, regional representative for region No. 5 of the Women's Hospital Auxiliaries who spoke to us, the theme "Prepare for Tomorrow". In January, we were delighted to welcome Mrs. Phyllis Vaughan, St. Catharines, the immediate past president of the Ontario Hospital Women's Auxiliaries. She spoke of the work of the auxiliaries in general and told many of her informative and interesting experiences as president.

During this term of office, I have sent out 70 letters of thanks for donations of all kinds, and I would like to thank Mrs. Chester Service and Mrs. Peter McWilliams for their help in writing some of the letters for me. Cards have been sent to our members who have been confined to hospital.

I am pleased to report that our auxiliary is now affiliated with the Women's Hospital Auxiliaries of the province of Ontario, with headquarters in Toronto. As a result of this affiliation, we also belong to region No. 5 of the Hospital Auxiliary Association.

Mrs. G. G. Hamilton,
Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Receipts	
Membership fees	\$ 219.00
Bridge parties	86.75
Coffee parties	54.25
Marmalade sale	15.00
Rummage sale	234.43
Garden party	997.40
Tag day	364.78
Donations	50.00
Sundries	95.99
Total	\$2,117.60

Disbursements	
Garden party	\$ 104.35
Material for hospital garments	192.88
Gift shop	345.00
Special occasions	50.00
Library service	25.00
Two sewing machines	375.00
Cupboards, aux. room	300.00
Smocks for volunteers	56.00
Chairs and tables	155.48
Hospital Assoc. fee	25.00
Sundries	84.42
Bank balance	404.47
Total	\$2,117.60

Mrs. Charles Anderson,
Treasurer.

WAYS AND MEANS REPORT

The inaugural meeting of the ways and means committee of the Women's Auxiliary of the Milton and District Hospital was held at the home of the convenor on February 24, 1959.

During the first meeting, much discussion took place regarding the raising of money and the projects to be undertaken. Mrs. Joyce had given us an excellent start by organizing coffee parties.

During March of 1959, we held two successful bridge parties, one at the home of Mrs. F. McNiven and the other at the home of Mrs. F. S. McQuat and a total of \$86.75 was realized.

Rummage Sale

On April 24, 1959, a rummage sale was held by the ways and means committee and with donations of used articles and the help of willing workers, we raised \$234.43. This was under the convenership of Mrs. H. W. Kelson.

From that time on, during the summer months, plans were made for the garden party held September 12, 1959. At this time I would like to thank all of those who gave so generously of their ideas, time and energy in making this a success, not only financially but from a standpoint of public relations, working together as members of the W.A. and from many other angles. The sum of \$997.40 was raised. This included \$388.75, which was made through the sale of raffle tickets for a chest of silverware so generously donated

by the McGlashan Silverware Co.

I would like to thank Miss H. Tremayne for her donation of marmalade, the sale of which gave us another \$150.00.

Big Tag Day

On the first Saturday of November, 1959, we held a tag day. Due to the fact there were no expenses involved, our total for the venture was \$364.78. This was under the joint convenership of Mrs. K. Y. Dick and Mrs. G. M. Hood.

It is difficult for me to say thank you to the many members of the Women's Auxiliary who supported us throughout our projects of fund raising, but I would like to name the members of my committee: Mrs. K. Y. Dick, Mrs. Noel Holland, Mrs. C. C. Lucas, Mrs. George M. Hood, Mrs. H. W. Kelson, Mrs. F. McNiven and Mrs. F. S. McQuat, and in all sincerity say a special thank you to them for carrying the load during the past few months.

On May 6, we held a rummage sale, the receipts of which are not as yet all turned in. We are planning a repeat on the garden party with some changes, to be held Saturday, September 10, and as the time draws closer we will keep the members of the W.A. posted as to our plans for that day.

Mrs. John Ostler, Convener.

GIFT SHOP COMMITTEE

"Good afternoon, is there something you would like from the tuck wagon today?"

This is the greeting given to each patient in the hospital, seven days a week, by a smiling volunteer worker of the gift shop committee. The patient may request a package of cigarettes; a toy to send home to a lonesome child; or a knitted set to adorn the new arrival on the momentous trip home. Often the volunteer is asked to mail a letter, make a phone call, or to just listen to a lonely person who has had few visitors with whom to talk.

Safeguard Babies

The new mothers in the obstetrical department are provided with a sheet explaining our services and listing items for sale. This avoids the necessity of taking the tuck wagon into the room, thus safeguarding against the possible spread of infection. Each new baby takes home a pair of hand-knitted booties.

As well as this helpful service directly to the patient, the visitors are able to pick up almost any item they wish, including gifts which are attractively wrapped upon request, from the showcase located in the vestibule of the hospital. A worker is on duty here each afternoon and evening.

The gift shop committee began its service on Friday, December 18, 1959, four days after the first patients were admitted. At this time, the tuck wagon was taken to the patients four afternoons a week, but the need was soon realized for daily operation of this service. Thus, approximately 776 hours have been given, to date, by 58 volunteers.

Co-Convenor Named

In December, it was felt that the convenor could be assisted greatly by a co-convenor. Mrs. Norman Pearce accepted this responsibility and has handled the details of the committee's work in her own pleasant manner. Soon afterwards, we approached two other committee members to assist with the purchasing and financial responsibilities, namely Mrs. Arthur Hampson and Mrs. Tom Marsh. May I here inject a word of sincere appreciation to them for all their excellent support.

At the auxiliary's first open meeting in June of last year, we expressed our hopes for the future of the committee, and it is most gratifying to now look back and see these hopes realized. All our equipment was donated so that we are now able to repay the advance of \$300 which the auxiliary made to us.

Our weekly intake has risen from \$31 to a recent high of \$120. Through the generous contribution of their time and energy by several local women, we have been able to offer for sale lovely hand-knitted items. May I say to them a sincere "thank you".

No Discouragement

Many times a worker has become discouraged at the small total on her sales record, especially when the amount paid to the baby-sitter totals more. However, when we hear of the numerous expressions of appreciation of our services from the patients and hospital staff, then we are ready able to say, "It is well worth any sacrifice on our part."

We look forward to future service with expansion of our facilities as finances permit. In closing, may I thank each worker of this committee for their interest and dependable work. May I urge any woman who feels she would like to take part in this satisfying work, to

contact a member of the committee. Here is a real opportunity for service.

Mrs. C. W. Hiltz, Convener.

GIFT SHOP

Year ending March 31, 1960	
Disbursements	
Purchase of stock	\$1,027.81
Office supplies	34.12
Bank charges	1.00
	\$1,062.93

Receipts	
Advance from board	\$ 300.00
Donations	60.00
Gift shop sales	968.83
Bake sale	83.05
	\$1,411.88

At March 31, 1960:	
Bank balance	\$ 327.77
Cash balance	21.18

STATEMENT OF PROFIT YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1960	
Assets	
Bank balance	\$ 327.77
Value of inventory	310.73
Cash balance	21.18
	\$ 659.68

Liabilities	
Advance from board	\$ 300.00
Profit from gift shop	276.64
Bake sale	83.05
	\$ 659.68

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Last January, the members of the library committee began visits with the book carrier to the medical-surgical patients of Milton District Hospital. In the months prior to the actual beginning of the service, much work was done in collecting and cataloguing books. We provide an unlimited number of books to patients during their stay in hospital. When a patient is discharged, the books are left at the nursing station where they are picked up on the next library day.

Our library is completely the product of donations. A book

carrier with accommodation for hard cover and pocket books, magazines and library equipment was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Chester Service. Our collection of over 400 hard cover and 200 pocket books has been donated by members of the community. Many people have kindly taken books from their own libraries for us. In particular, I should like to thank Mrs. G. Fraser, past president of Hamilton General W.A., who arranged for excess books from her hospital's library to be given to us and Tom Anderson, who arranged for excess public library books to be given to us. Mr. Anderson was also most helpful in cataloguing our books.

New Books Offered

We try to supply books covering a wide range of interest and in addition to our own books, we receive 30 public library books every three months so that we can offer some of the new books to the patients.

Current magazines are carried on the cart and are also supplied to the two waiting rooms. Obtaining recent magazines is something of a difficulty. Mrs. C. A. Martin is in charge of collecting magazines for our use and would appreciate hearing from anyone who has any to donate.

Increase Service

Unless otherwise instructed, the library volunteers visit each room. A patient may borrow as many books as he can read during his hospital stay. From January to April, two volunteers took the book carrier around once a week on Thursday morning. This month since our committee has increased to 23 members, we began a twice weekly service. Books are now loaned out Tuesdays and Fridays. Each committee member works once a month.

We are pleased to know that our free library service is be-

coming more popular. Many patients look forward to the librarians' visits and the books are helping to make long hospital stays more pleasant. At present the obstetrical section is not serviced by the library cart. However, we hope to be able to set up separate library facilities in the future.

Mrs. David Thompson, Convener.

EXTENSION REPORT

One dozen blue smocks were purchased by the Women's Hospital Auxiliary for use in the hospital and two dozen were ordered for members who wished to own their own.

The hospital laundry staff has kindly offered to launder the smocks owned by the W.A. twice a month, laundering half of them at a time.

Embroider Name

An enquiry was made to the purchasing of crests for the smocks, also an offer was made by one of the members to embroider "Women's Hospital Auxiliary" on the pocket.

Three members have ordered and paid for pins to be worn. These can be obtained through the Women's Hospital Auxiliary in Toronto for \$1.75 and I shall be pleased to take orders for these pins at any time.

Mrs. Austin Tufford, Convener.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The past year, our first year of inauguration of the auxiliary, has seen some 235 ladies join into membership. Of these some 177 members took an active part in work and associate members also helped out on donations for lawn party, bake sale etc. Knitted goods and hand-made toys were among donations from some associate members, showing their keen interest in the auxiliary, although not being able to take an active part.

Since our inauguration in January, 1959, when a few joined at the first meeting, our work has become well known within the town and district and many more have joined through the year, finding new friends and new interests as well as providing a service.

Groups within the active part of the Auxiliary number eight and some members have found time to join in two groups which have helped out. The groups are: publicity, membership, sewing and repair, ways and means, gift shop, flower, special occasions, library.

More Welcomed

The membership group itself has been mainly stayed by the faithful few and in order to cope with the renewing of memberships for 1960, it will be helpful if members or ladies wishing to join would fill in new membership cards which are on hand. Fees are \$1.00 per year, active and associate.

We look forward to a doubled membership in the coming year and many happy hours spent doing this service.

Mrs. Brian Best, Convener.

SEWING AND REPAIR

The following report includes the cutting, sewing and mending that has been done since the beginning of January 1960 and ending April 30.

The sewing committee was one of the early committees formed in 1959 with Mrs. Riddell as convener. Some months later I was asked to convene this department of volunteer service and with the help of 11 other willing workers, we have made 137 new articles and repaired 32 hospital gowns, two bed sheets, 10 baby binders, as well as pyjamas, pillow cases and baby gowns. Ten yards of factory cotton were purchased by the Women's Auxiliary and 120 yards were supplied by the hospital.

At first the sewing was distributed to the members at their homes, but after the completion of our Auxiliary room, we have availed ourselves of the cutting tables, the ample counter spaces and the two new sewing machines that were purchased and are now being used extensively.

I would like to express my appreciation to the following women on my committee: — Mesdames Clutton, Brownridge, Irving, French, Service, Taylor, Tufford, McMillan, Keene and Anderson.

Mrs. Andrew Woodley, Convener.

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Being the most recently formed committee, our first trip to the Milton District Hospital was on Tuesday, January 12, 1960. From this date to the end of March, we have been going to the hospital every other day, watering, arranging and caring for the patients' plants. During the month of April, for a try out, we went to the hospital every day but this plan did not prove successful at this time. This month we have reverted back to the old plan of going every other day.

None Destroyed

Work schedules and a few do's and don'ts are mailed each month to the volunteer helpers. Each volunteer is instructed not to destroy any plant or bouquet regardless of its condition, without first consulting the plant.

We go to the hospital 9.45 a.m. week days and in order that our members may attend church, Mrs. McKenzie kindly consented to have us go in at 9.00 a.m. on Sundays.

Originally the committee consisted of 19 volunteers but has since dropped to 16.

Appreciate Note

It was very encouraging recently to notice in the Canadian Champion, a patient at the hospital expressing her sincere

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GARDEN PARTY

MARTIN ST.
MILTON



Holy Rosary Church Grounds

SATUR., JUNE 25th

AMUSEMENTS

PONY RIDES

KIDDLAND OPENS AT 4.00 P.M.

FISH POND

MAMMOTH PENNY SALE
\$500 IN PRIZES

BINGO

FREE COFFEE
Courtesy Nestlé's of Canada Ltd.

● REFRESHMENTS

● HOT DOGS

● ICE CREAM

GRAND DRAW
\$500

SUPPER SERVED FROM 5 P.M. TO 8 P.M. RAIN OR SHINE

ADULTS - - \$1.00

JUVENILES - - .50

SPECIAL FAMILY PLAN
PARENTS WITH THREE OR MORE CHILDREN
\$3.50

COME AND ENJOY THE FUN