

"Enthusiasm" keynote

Busy Women's Auxiliary serves your hospital

"The aim of the Women's Auxiliary of the Milton District Hospital is to provide services to staff and patients which would otherwise be impossible through the normal routine and budget of the hospital."

And that, in a nutshell, sums up the reason why a dedicated group of 135 Milton and district ladies have, through their W.A. provided thousands of hours, thousands of dollars and thousands of other services for the hospital since even before the hospital was opened.

Auxiliary members, thanks to a variety of fund-raising projects including tag days, membership teas, a gift shop, their annual lawn party and an annual Maytime Ball, have created a steady influence on the well-being of patients using the hospital, and have been a great assistance to the staff as well.

Their funds are poured directly into the hospital in services and equipment. The physiotherapy department is stocked with the most modern equipment in the province, and all of it was provided by the members of the Women's Auxiliary.

Last year, the W.A.'s biggest year financially, saw the busy group fulfill a two-year pledge for \$10,000 in just one year. The money financed their large new gift shop, equipped a four-bed recovery unit and the new solarium, and bought additional

physiotherapy equipment. This year's goal has been set at \$4,500 which will equip a special care unit and furnish the new clinical classroom.

Early in 1959, while the hospital was still under construction, two members of the Hospital Board of Directors got the

W.A. organized. They were Mrs. Frank McNiven and Mrs. Chester Service, who were recognized for their initial work in forming the auxiliary when they were awarded life memberships in the W.A. last year. Mrs. P. K. McWilliams was the first president. President this

year is Mrs. D. Ptolemy.

That first year was a busy one, but actually it only set the stage for the seven busier years of progress that followed. The events of 1959 included a lawn party, rummage sale, tag day, a lawn party, establishment of the tuck wagon and library cart service, and soliciting donations (70 were received) to get the group off on the right foot. That year 235 paid membership, sewing and repair work was started, a flower committee was formed to arrange patients' flowers, and the special occasions committee began making decorations and favors for holidays and other noteworthy days of the year.

The group raised \$2,100 in its first year of operation — indicative of the Enthusiasm that is spelled with a capital "E" when you are talking of the Women's Auxiliary in Milton.

One major project the W.A. undertook for several years was the sponsorship of a semi-annual blood donor clinic in Milton. The local branch of the Red Cross eventually took this over, but not before the Auxiliary members got busy on the telephone and called out enough donors to break all existing attendance records for the local clinic.

The annual fund-raising events have been continued and expanded through the years. Donations pour fourth freely when the Auxiliary seeks support, and the crowds flock to their lawn parties and dances. The gift shop in the hospital has grown in service so rapidly it has been moved twice, each time to a larger location. The newest one opened last December with more room, longer hours and twice as much stock as previously handled to cope with the patronage it was receiving from hospital patients, staff and visitors.

In July of 1965 the W.A. launched another successful project, the introduction of Candy Strippers at the Hospital. These teenaged girls voluntarily work with staff and patients after school and in the evenings to gain experience in hospital work and render invaluable assistance to those they serve. They have proven to be a real asset to the institution and many girls have been steered toward a career in hospital work following their experience as a Candy Stripper.

"How any hospital could operate without a Women's Auxiliary is beyond my comprehension," according to John W. Ostler, chairman of the Board of Directors.

"The Women's Auxiliary is an integral part of the organization, a group which tends to promote the humanitarian side of a highly scientific institution — thus assuring a better balance of the services rendered our patients."



MILTON DISTRICT HOSPITAL Women's Auxiliary was founded in January of 1959, even before the hospital was opened, by Mrs. F. McNiven and Mrs. C. Service. The two founders were recognized last year when the Auxiliary presented them with honorary life memberships — the first presented by the busy W.A. (Staff Photo)



THE BIGGEST ANNUAL PROJECT of the Hospital W.A. is the September lawn party, held for several years on the spacious lawns of Dr. and Mrs. C. A. Martin in Milton. The candy booth, pictured here from last fall's financially

successful party, is always a popular booth and the goodies don't last long. Over the years the W.A. members have raised thousands of dollars and performed thousands of hours of service for the hospital. (Staff Photos)

May 12 is hospital day

Hospitals across the country are getting ready to celebrate their own special day on Friday, May 12, which is traditionally observed in Canada as National Hospital Day.

Why May 12 in particular? Dalton E. McQuaig, Administrator of the Milton District Hospital explains that the custom goes back many years. May 12 is the anniversary of the birth of the legendary Florence Nightingale, the English nurse-heroine who revolutionized nursing and hospital techniques in the last century.

Fittingly, the theme chosen for National Hospital Day in this Centennial year has an element of history — "Canada's Hospitals — Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow — A Heritage of Healing and Hope".

One way in which hospitals across Ontario will draw attention to this theme, said Mr. McQuaig, will be through the use of colorful restaurant place mats, recording some of the significant developments since the Sisters of St. Augustine from France founded this continent's first hospital at Quebec City in 1639. "I understand that about 300,000 of these place mats are being distributed by hospitals and their auxiliaries to restaurants in their communities," he said, "so we can be sure of an eye-catching display. Many hospitals are planning to put similar covers on the meal trays to their patients."

The local hospital is one of more than 200 community hospitals in Ontario.

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It is a pleasure to congratulate Milton District Hospital on the fine new facilities that will benefit the good people of Milton and District.

WE RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST YOU VISIT THE HOSPITAL ON SATURDAY, MAY 13th OR SUNDAY, MAY 14th

We wish to thank your hospital Board of Directors and the General Contractors for the privilege of serving them.