

Revolutionary Design In Hospitals Described To YCHA



(Photo by Ron Fawn)

A highlight of the joint meeting of York Central Hospital Auxiliary and York Central Hospital Board of Trustees Thursday of last week at Summit View Gardens Restaurant was presentation of awards to two former junior auxiliary members who have gone on to train in hospital-oriented careers.

Pictured at the left is Barbara Lennox, a nurse-in-training at St. Joseph's Hospital in Toronto, who won the Ina Pocknell Award, a \$300 cheque presented by the YCHA in memory of a former president, the late Ina Pocknell. At the right is Shelagh Campbell, now

BY MARGARET LADE

York Central Hospital Auxiliary whisked through a full agenda of reports, presentations, and messages from special guests at a meeting in Summit View Gardens Restaurant on Thursday of last week in order to allow ample time for a presentation by the guest speaker, Architect Pamela Cluff, who specializes in design of facilities and environments for the handicapped.

More than 200 people turned out to the meeting, a joint meeting of the YCHA, the hospital's board of trustees and association members, the junior auxiliary and guest from local organizations concerned with the wellbeing of the elderly and the handicapped.

Many revolutionary ideas in design for facilities for long-term care patients were presented by Mrs. Cluff in an address well illustrated with color slides.

EMPHASIS ON DIGNITY

Emphasis was on the need to preserve the "human dignity" of the person, whatever his age, illness, or handicap, who might possibly spend a third or more of his life in an "institution".

The meeting was opened by YCHA President Peggy Temple, who welcomed the trustees, junior auxiliary, and representatives of the community.

Treasurer Margaret Norris presented the auxiliary's financial report, and Mrs. Lou Pamenter the reports of conveners. As construction of the new hospital addition moves ahead, she said, the future planning committee headed by Ann Featherstonhaugh is concerned with detail plans for a new gift shop to meet the greater demand for service.

The gift cart committee headed by Rene Bamford has visited other hospitals, and a new gift cart of improved design was ordered and is now in operation. In December there will be a new convener for the cart, Ruth Ann Walker.

VOLUNTEERS TRAINED

During October, reported Mrs. Parmenter, six new adult volunteers and two junior auxiliary volunteers were trained to work in the gift shop convened by Helen Sand.

MEMBERSHIP CONVENOR

Margaret Heard reported a 1973 membership of 564 — 378 active memberships, 131 junior auxiliary memberships, and the remainder associate or life members.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES CONVENOR

Helen Gater reported that during October 168 adult volunteers contributed 1,333 hours to the hospital and 53 teenage volunteers contributed 350 hours, a total of 1,684 hours.

VOLUNTEER UNIFORM

Before presenting area chairmen's reports, Convener Ruth Biggin explained the uniform she was wearing — a pale blue full length apron worn over a white blouse, which is to be worn by volunteers who are working directly with the patients in paediatrics and emergency. It is comfortable and practical, said Mrs. Biggin, easy to work in and easily recognizable so that the nursing staff may call upon them immediately.

OTHER ADULT VOLUNTEERS

wear coral smocks, and the junior auxiliary, "Candy-strippers", wear uniforms of white and coral stripe.

"The patient service we are undertaking now will be, I believe, the nucleus of the service to the chronic care floors which we hope to supply when our new hospital opens," said Mrs. Biggin.

STRONG BRANCH SUPPORT

Reporting for the various

branches, Mrs. Biggin said Allanbrae Branch has been unusually active, holding a penny auction and taking orders for Christmas Cards and gifts items. Buttonville Branch is preparing for a Christmas Euchre Party, and East Central Branch had a demonstration of how to make Christmas decorations from household articles.

Gormley Branch had a successful Old English tea, and King Branch a very successful luncheon. Oak Ridges Branch is working on Christmas gifts for hospitalized children — coloring books, toys, etc. Pleasantville Branch had scheduled a penny auction and bake sale for November 21.

Richmond Heights Branch had a successful desert bridge and country store with a Centennial Theme, and had made plans for a wine and cheese party November 21. Richvale is the quilters' branch and made three crib-size quilts for the gift shop. It also held a travelling bake sale in November and will be making the Christmas Decorations for the hospital staff party.

THORNHILL IS LARGEST Thornhill branch reported the largest membership — 78. Its main fund raising project for the fall was a very successful bridge and boutique.

Cheques were presented by Gormley Branch Convener Ursula Shepherd, King Branch Convener Rene Bamford, and Richmond Heights Branch Convener, Mrs. Biggin.

Junior Auxiliary Chairman Brenda deForest presented a report and a cheque. The juniors had made Hallowe'en favors for hospital trays, and its Curtain Club theatre night was a sell-out with the Candy-strippers acting as usherettes and serving refreshments after the show. Some members had served at the annual dinner for past and present members of the board of trustees, doctors and their wives in October, and also served for the YCHA "Oom-pa-pa" night and the Thornhill bridge night in November. They will again decorate the lobby at the hospital for Christmas, and plan to sing carols on the floors a few nights before Christmas.

CERTIFICATES, PINS

Mrs. Georgina Stevers, senior advisor to the junior auxiliary, and her Assistant Mrs. Pat Robinson, presented certificates and pins to 32 members of that group. Pins were awarded to eight girls who had worked regular shifts at a particular job for 24 months.

Pins were awarded to Brenda deForest, Sheree Higgs, Debbie Joyce, Michelle Lucas, Colleen McCullough, Sharon Neilson, Donna O'Hara and Dana Plaxton.

Girls who had worked regular shifts at particular jobs for 12 months received certificates. They were Cindy Anderson, Judy Barrett, Patsy Barton, Laura Blanchard, Anne-Marie Bulfin, Lisa Cadigan, Nancy Coleman, Debbie Coles, Mary de-

studying hospital dietetics at the University of Guelph, who received the \$100 YCHA Award. In the centre is Mrs. Dorothy Spears, a former YCHA president, filling in for the auxiliary's immediate Past President Sandra Silcox who was a guest at the wedding of Princess Anne on November 14 and had not yet returned to Canada.

To qualify for the awards, the girls must have spent two years as active members of the junior auxiliary, be recommended by their school principals, and approved by an awards committee of the YCHA.

SPECIAL AWARDS

A former president of the auxiliary, Mrs. Dorothy Spears, presented special awards, the Ina Pocknell Award and the YCHA award to former junior auxiliary members, Barbara Lennox and Shelagh Campbell, who are going on to hospital-oriented careers.

Hospital Administrator James Hephurn paid tribute to all auxiliary members, assuring them that, without their financial support and their services, York Central Hospital would not be the hospital it is today.

With the present economic squeeze and the completion of the addition now under construction, the auxiliary is more important than ever to the smooth functioning of the hospital, said Mr. Hephurn.

"Don't feel you are not paying your way. You certainly are. Do not give up. We need you, we want you. Keep up the good work," said the administrator.

CHAIRMAN'S APPRECIATION

Mrs. Grace Jackson, chairman of the hospital's board of trustees, expressed appreciation at the opportunity for the board to meet with the auxiliary. When the hospital's new wing is completed, more than doubling patient capacity, psychiatric care and extended care units are whole new areas that all associated with the hospital will have to go into.

She expressed special appreciation to representatives of nursing home and special

care facilities who accepted the invitation to attend the meeting. They obviously recognized the necessity for getting together and working more closely together with the active-treatment hospital.

Guests represented homes for the aged, the chronically ill, the physically handicapped and the mentally retarded.

SPECIAL ARCHITECTS

In introducing the guest speaker, Dr. Leon Koyl of the hospital staff mentioned the Architect Pamela Cluff and her architect husband, A. W. Cluff, had spent many years designing schools, then in the last 12 years had turned their interest chiefly to designing hospitals, and in particular, extended care units for the elderly and the handicapped.

With the opening of the hospital expansion, staff and volunteers will have to grow with it, to know what will be involved in treatment of the chronically ill and extended-care patient. In these various new areas of responsibility, said Dr. Koyl, it will be a learning and growing experience for staff as well as volunteers.

Mrs. Cluff, in her speech, and in commenting on slides she showed, stressed many times the great need for helping the elderly, the chronically ill, the mentally

retarded, to maintain their dignity as human beings. The "self concept" of the patients must be given prime consideration, from the moment of admission on.

DEPLORES SEGREGATION

A person admitted in his 60's, she said, might well spend 20 or 30 years in an extended care facility. She deplored segregation of men and women, of the mentally alert from the retarded and senile, although, she said, it would not be good for many of those concerned to have a majority of mentally inadequate patients in the same unit as these who still possessed full mental alertness.

Provision should be made for the wheelchair patient in designing extended care units. Hills, stairways, doors, etc. should be insurmountable even those who were relatively normal. She showed slides of washrooms with guardrails, wash basins, tubs and toilets that gave the handicapped a degree of the independence and privacy they need.

Privacy, too, was emphasized. Slides contrasted the long 20-bed wards of the Florence Nightingale era with what were to many of the audience, revolutionary concepts — single rooms, brightly colored living units, recreation areas, small dining rooms, beauty parlors and barber shops.

The eyesight of the elderly offer dims, said Mrs. Cluff, and the guests should be encouraged to maintain their independence, to stay in their own home or apartment. Services such as Meals-on-Wheels are invaluable in helping to achieve this desirable alternative. It is also much less costly to the community, in expenditures for constructing, equipping, staffing and administering resident facilities for large numbers of people.

The young person in need of long-term hospitalization should also be considered as a human being, the "young mingling with the old, the normal with the abnormal, enhancing chances for all to adjust to more normal life patterns than exist in the 20th Century. People, whatever their infirmity, should have a choice regarding as many of the simple details of their environment as possible, and with people living longer now, the provision for extended care should be a consideration of

every hospital. CLUSTERS OF ROOMS Mrs. Cluff suggested clustering of about four rooms with washroom and lounge to give a domestic rather than an institutional setting. Sensitive design of any services, she said, which are directed toward the vulnerable such as the sick and elderly, requires careful evaluation of how these individual's "total" needs are affected by the spatial and psychological components of their environment and the social behavior appropriate to those settings.

LOSS OF PRIVACY AND SELF-DETERMINATION

Loss of privacy and self-determination should be minimized, said Mrs. Cluff. She asked, for example, if unnecessary noise such as public address systems, intrusive unnecessarily upon the privacy of the residents.

STAYING INDEPENDENT

Only about 10 percent of the over 60's are institutionalized, said the speaker, and as many as possible should be encouraged to maintain their independence, to stay in their own home or apartment. Services such as Meals-on-Wheels are invaluable in helping to achieve this desirable alternative. It is also much less costly to the community, in expenditures for constructing, equipping, staffing and administering resident facilities for large numbers of people.

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