



WHAT'S UP?

News from The Auxiliary of the Montreal General Hospital
June 2013



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Another successful year for your Auxiliary has flashed past and we are all impatiently waiting for summer weather to arrive. I want to thank all of you who worked so hard on Early Bird, the Card Party, the Dinner Theatre, Christmas tree Children's Concert, patient Christmas bags, the Westmount Organ Concert & Lunch, Book Nook and/or Hospitality Corner cafeteria and shop. The hours you put into the MGH are very much appreciated as is the spirit you each do your job with!

We are looking forward to holding another Card Party and a Dinner Theatre evening this fall. We hope you will rush in to help organize and attend these events.

Unfortunately, there will not be an Early Bird next fall. The attendance and profit does not justify the enormous effort required to make it happen. We have a "secret agent" who has tentatively agreed to put it back on its feet in the fall of 2014 and perhaps it will be so missed people will flock to support it!

In closing, I wish you happy gardening, straight drives, deadly serves, cherubic Grand-children and all other good things for your summer.

Susan Curry

HOSPITALITY CORNER

The Hospitality Corner thanks all the patients, volunteers and staff who have supported us over the years. Through your generosity we have been able to continue our donations. We have donated over \$5,000,000 to The Auxiliary and \$500,000 to the Research Institute since we started.

Our Staff and Volunteers have again provided outstanding service to all our clients. We hope to remodel the snack bar in the early autumn in order to continue to maintain this service. We apologize in advance for the inconvenience that this will cause.

Please support the Hospitality Corner: the Snack Bars, the Gift Shop and our Catering Service. By doing so you are directly supporting the Montreal General Hospital.

Bernie Buckley

MGH Hospitality Corner Catering

Yves Coderre

Food & Beverage Manager

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HISTORY OF HOSPITALITY CORNER

It all began in a cupboard on the top floor of the Western Division of our Montreal General Hospital. That is now the Montreal Children's Hospital - but, when our Auxiliary began, it was our headquarters. It was there that someone noticed that the nurses, in their traditional pink, blue, or white uniforms, were all too often having to scurry out to buy new white stockings because even a narrow run showed very clearly.

It's fun to imagine the Board meeting where the new Auxiliary decided to undertake a whole new service - to have white stockings available for nurses.

Next came serving coffee and tea and even toast with a double slice toaster! We felt we were rivals of the Ritz Café.

Another memory: the earliest, eager if inexperienced volunteer buyers, totally unaware that there was any particular difference between "Wholesale" and "Retail", spotted some attractive items in an American Gift Shop. Full of enthusiasm, she bought a selection to add tempting variety to our own display. Not much profit there! Further, there was import duty to be added. However, the newly informed buyer apologized and graciously made a gift of it all to Hospitality Corner.

Hospitality Corner is filled with memories and laughter and heart-warming reports. Probably that is why it has continued to grow, as that first cupboard did, expanding more than once into adjacent space.

And that space is filled with variety and imagination. No more white stockings but toys, purses, stationery, scarves, bed jackets and the big seller - jewelry. Not to be forgotten is good food. Altogether, our shop can now be considered a four-part operation. There is the Gift Shop, the Snack Bar (including the Cedar & Pine Cafes) and the Catering Service with its ever-increasing clientele. As for number four, the traveling wagons bring shop selections to a patient's rooms as permitted. They also carry sundries such as tooth paste, toothbrushes, soap etc. for patients' needs, some transported, perhaps by a wagon labeled "Lou-Mobile"! That's another delightful Hospitality Corner story!

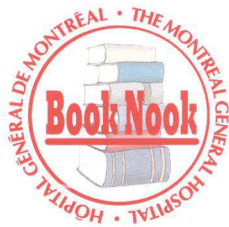
All in all, it is understandable why Hospitality Corner can report a satisfactory profit for the past year. Pleasant results, considering the shortage of volunteers has meant needing more professional help, along with opening for shorter hours. Nevertheless, \$31,000 was donated to the Research Institute and \$300,000 has been donated to The Auxiliary for patient care and new equipment. It forms the major percent of your Auxiliary's contribution to the Hospital for 2012-13.

The continuing variety of stock, along with the shortage of special voluntary help explains why, this year, the Early Bird Show will not take place. It was started when two regular buyers went to New York and had such a successful two days of purchasing - wholesale - that they longed for space in which to show customers what was available, reminding them to do their Christmas shopping early. It was another happy success in its prime - but now the showing will take place within the more spacious Shop itself.

By the way, remembering the first servings of tea and coffee, it is of interest to know that our waitresses in the Snack Bar and Cafes receive tips. These all go to the MUHC Research Institute and since the custom began in 1984 well over half a million dollars has been donated!

And it all began in a cupboard!

Barbara Whitley



The Book Nook is operated by The Auxiliary and Volunteer Services of the Montreal General Hospital.

It is open Monday to Friday 10 am - 3 pm and is located in the 6th floor Cedar entrance lobby.

The Book Nook sells used books, which are donated, with all proceeds going to patient care.

Volunteers are needed, either full days from 10am-3pm, or mornings or afternoons as available.

If you are interested to volunteer, please call Brenda at The Auxiliary office, Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays at 514-934-1934, local 43009 or e-mail her at mgh.auxiliary@muhc.mcgill.ca.

WESTMOUNT BRANCH

On February 12, 2013, the Westmount Branch of The Auxiliary hosted "For King and Country" Organ Recital and Lunch at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul.

Guests were entertained by Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm playing a selection of music that included The Coronation March, Handel's Water Music, Thalben-Ball's Paganini, Elgar's Nimrod and ending with the Pomp and Circumstance March.

Following the musical interlude, guests were invited to have lunch in Kildonan Hall, which was decorated by Gertrud Barwick with maroon and purple table cloths and centerpieces of crowns.

Proceeds from this event will go towards patient care at The Montreal General Hospital.

Edna Ralston

CHAMBLY - SAINT LAMBERT BRANCH

One year ago, it was with sadness that the few remaining members of the Chambly - Saint Lambert Branch decided that they could not continue to function with only a handful of workers. They did continue with smaller scale activities for the past few years but even this was no longer possible.

Their Card Party Luncheons were fantastic! These ladies managed to organize, personally prepare and serve these events with phenomenal skill.

The funds raised and contributed to The Auxiliary MGH were exceptional! The balance in their bank account was sent to the main branch.

The Board of Directors of The Auxiliary appreciates the dedication of all these ladies of the Chambly - Saint Lambert Branch over the past years. We are thankful for their continued support as members and look forward to seeing them at future events.

THANKS FROM NOVA MONTREAL

NOVA Montreal would like to take this opportunity to thank The Auxiliary of The Montreal General Hospital for their generous donation in support of community healthcare services.

NOVA Montreal, formally The Victorian Order of Visiting Nurses, provide palliative care services for clients who wish to end their days peacefully at home; respite care for families of seriously ill children and home support services to help clients independently remain in their home.

NOVA Montreal counts on the generosity of donors to continue this valuable work. Thank You.

From the Editor

As the newly appointed Editor of the Newsletter my goal is to keep you all informed of the happenings of The Auxiliary, but also news of the MGH at large and our relationship within the MUHC.

Although the MGH will physically remain at our present Mountain Site, the new hospital is becoming a visible reality. I find it extremely exciting and I am thrilled to be part of this process.

We have a superb group of talented, experienced and dedicated men and women on the Board of Directors of the MUHC. We also have a very dedicated staff of doctors, nurses, technicians, and non-medical support staff. We are in safe, competent hands in each department of the MGH.

During the year I will ask members of the MUHC community to write articles for this publication.

Andrea Ritchie