



PARTNERS

OF THE SAANICH PENINSULA HOSPITAL & HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

SPRING 2019



LESLEY WEBB

is retiring, and it's bittersweet

When photographer Beverly and I arrived at Lesley's home on January 10th, we were greeted by mouth watering smells of baked squash, tomato soup and roasted garlic – much different than our reception in the Foundation office!

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Volunteers

Barbara Harwood

Beverly Lewis

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We sat and chatted about Lesley's days working as the Administrative Assistant at the Hospital Foundation office. She was hired for the position in May 1999, and was immediately tossed into the madness of organizing the golf tournament. That was Lesley's introduction to what was going to be a very happy, but very busy, 20 years.

Lesley was born in Victoria to parents who emigrated from London, England. After marrying her high school sweetheart, John, they built both beautiful homes and a family of 3 children. When her children were well-settled in school, Lesley upgraded her business skills at Camosun College. She was then successful in securing the job at Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation. In 2000, when Karen became Executive Director, they both recognized that it was going to be a most rewarding working relationship. Their respect and appreciation for each other is obvious to anyone who visits the Foundation office.

To a large number of donors Lesley is, in her own words, the "Front Person".

She has met many wonderful, interesting people over the years, and has enjoyed all of the relationships she has built as a result of this job. She has felt privileged to have had the opportunities afforded by working with the Foundation and she values the community support that she feels the Foundation has worked hard to earn. She is also grateful for the support given to her, by both the Foundation and the hospital when her husband John was terminally ill.



Young Lesley skiing on Green Mountain



At 17 with John on the West Coast Trail



Lesley and family



At home with some of her many handmade quilts.



Kayaking in Haida Gwaii

I thought I knew a great deal about Lesley (gleaned from my years as a volunteer). I was mistaken. Lesley has numerous hidden talents. I know Lesley is efficient, courteous and incredibly patient in her Front Person position, but I had no idea of her incredible skills - not only culinary, but her sewing, her understanding of the use of colour, her ability to learn new arts and her knowledge of gardening.

Lesley has made more than 50 quilts, several of which she showed us as we stood in awe. She is a member of the Victoria Quilter's Guild and many of her quilts are made entirely by hand. She has embroidered exquisite tapestry cushions, she does jigsaws and Sudoku for fun, and has a collection (in her memory) of the most wonderful sayings by famous people. Her favourite that day was from William Morris who said "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful or to be beautiful".

Lesley, you will be missed at the Hospital. We all wish you happiness and good health as you continue to follow your dreams.

By Barbara Harwood ■

Foundation thanks SPH Staff for a job well done

There was great excitement on December 12, 2018 as the hospital cafeteria took on a very different look. Santa hats were the order of the day and the smell of roast turkey permeated the corridors. It was time for the annual staff appreciation event, hosted by the Foundation.

Staff members were greeted by Foundation Board members Shelley Mann and Bev McIvor. As guests entered the dining room, Elaine Hughesman offered glasses of eggnog or juice to help pass the time while waiting in line. Nobody was concerned about a short wait because it gave time for a chat with friends. The dinner was served by Michele Holmes, Ted Daly, Chris Straub and Wayne Helgason.

Lesley Webb and Chryseis Green handed out napkins, cutlery and dessert as staff moved to the beautifully decorated tables. The Christmas tree stood proudly in the corner.

Dr. Ambrose Marsh was the Master of Ceremonies and he awarded prizes to those who had the correct answer to the quiz questions. The atmosphere was filled with laughter and feelings of camaraderie. Dr. Marsh introduced the Foundation Board Members and on behalf of the Foundation, thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication. Dr. Ambrose is no stranger to anyone at the hospital. He was Chief of Staff for 17 years (now Medical Director, Saanich Peninsula and the Gulf Islands), and during those years made a lasting impression for his humour and his respect for all.

It was obvious by the smiles on the faces of everyone in the dining room, that the event was a great success. *By Barbara Harwood* ■



John Currie & Dr. Richard Wait



John and Richard became a team, mastering the art of raffle ticket sales at our golf tournaments, and they had a great time doing it. We've chosen a photo of the two of them together: unlikely, but extremely effective 'partners in crime'!

We would like to acknowledge the hard work and creative thinking of two long-serving Foundation Board Members, John Currie and Dr. Richard Wait. Both gentlemen passed away during the third week of February.

In the words of Dr. Ambrose Marsh: “For many of us older physicians, Richard Wait was part of the new SPH. He was the Gastroenterologist at SPH before Dr. Kathie Koziol, as well as serving before that at RJH. I met him when I was an intern in 1979. He shared an office with Dr. Harry Hyde (general surgeon twice removed) in my building on Beacon Avenue in Sidney. He was classically trained; he was also a bit of a Renaissance physician. He read the New England Journal of Medicine weekly and could often quote it ‘chapter and verse’.”

Dr. Wait was also instrumental in convincing the Board of the Foundation to fund the first CT Scanner for SPH. He had a broad and deep network throughout the health authority, and used it to help the Foundation see new opportunities to help our hospital develop.

John Currie was kind and caring, but rigorous in his role as Foundation Board member. He was known for his keen interest in the minutiae of bylaws, bringing many bylaw modernizations to the Foundation’s annual general meetings. He, like Dr. Wait, saw and encouraged opportunities for the Foundation to support the hospital in new ways, but always looked for the supporting business case. Karen Morgan looked to him as a mentor, as well as board member. “John would argue a point with me until I almost exploded with frustration. However, after the fact, I always recognized that he was trying to guide me to the correct solution to a problem. I feel I learned a great deal from him, and respected his wisdom, patience and kindness.”

We will miss them, as well as the energy and commitment they brought to the work of the Foundation. *By Karen Morgan* ■

Meet Lindsay Meissner **Coordinator of**

Lindsay joined the Saanich Peninsula Hospital in September 2018, and like so many at SPH, loves her work.

Born on the mainland, Lindsay grew up in Chilliwack. She came to the Island to study at Royal Roads University. She has a degree in Communications, plus a graduate certificate in sustainable Community Development.

Although Lindsay's office is in our hospital, her responsibilities include the Peninsula Health Unit, the Lady Minto Hospital and the Health Units at Quadra and McKenzie and on Salt Spring Island.

Most of the 150 volunteers at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital work with residents in the Extended Care Unit, many also work in the Palliative Care Unit, Emergency, the Information Desk, Medical Imaging, South Medical Unit and in Lindsay's office. They range in age from 17 to the mid 80's.

How does Lindsay select volunteers? There is an interview during which Lindsay ascertains the specific area of interest. Obviously there



has to be a definite interest in health care and a desire to give back to the community. If the applicant shows those capacities, there is online training and the necessary Criminal Record Check. Then the applicant is mentored by a volunteer in the area which Lindsay believes will give the best experience



We 
Celebrating Na

Volunteer Resources

and satisfaction. Students are encouraged to apply, but she knows the demands of study, and sometimes part-time work, can be limiting.

One of the greatest gifts you can give is the gift of time.

Lindsay was a “Candy Striper” as a teen, and has volunteered in many capacities along the way. Before coming to SPH, Lindsay worked in the adult literacy department of the Native Friendship Centre in Prince George. She loves hiking, cycling, camping and snowboarding in her free time, but she really enjoys the company of her volunteers. She is particularly concerned for the welfare of the volunteers. As she says, “Volunteering should not be stressful.”

While Lindsay was in the garden being photographed by Beverly, I saw a note on her wall: “One of the greatest gifts you can give is the gift of time.” If you want to be a volunteer at the Hospital, knowing you will be respected and recognised, give Lindsay a call. You will enjoy meeting this gentle person.

By Barbara Harwood ■



Thank you for making your donation twice as nice!

Because of you we’ve received over \$650,000 since this pledge challenge was launched. Long-time donors Don and Ruth James, through the James Family Foundation, had challenged the community to match their pledge of \$650,000 to this year’s fundraising efforts. So, your donations doubled to \$1.3 million!

We’ve nearly reached our Annual Campaign goal; less than \$500,000 to go! It’s your donations that help us support patient focused, team-based medical care and bring family doctors to the Saanich Peninsula and to our hospital. With your continued support we can help ensure every resident on the peninsula has a family doctor.

April 7-13, 2019

our volunteers

ational Volunteer Week

Behind the Plaque

This is story about a man who passed away far too soon, and the loving family that honours his memory – with both a plaque and a sunroom.

Denis Muloin was born in Winnipeg in 1959 to Doreen and Maurice Muloin. The family moved to Montreal in 1961 where Denis began his school life. He played soccer and scored 100% in advanced maths. At age 17, he asked his parents to let him live with his maternal grandmother in



Sidney. Recognizing his spirit of adventure, his parents said yes. Denis transferred to Parkland School and graduated in 1977.

Denis became an avid cyclist, and through his passion for the sport he enthused other people. His skill as a cycle mechanic led to him becoming the manager at the Sidney Russ Hays Cycle store, a position he held for 20 years. He was an advocate for mountain biking and helped to establish the bike park at Hartland. Denis was involved with the South Island Mountain Bike Society and an organiser of mountain bike racing.

He cycled in both Canada and the United States, and was known as far south as

California. He was liked and respected by his customers, too. A local gentleman who had a bike sent over from the U.K. asked Denis to assemble it for him when he had time to spare. “Time to spare” was rarely on Denis’ agenda, but he somehow found it and delighted the owner.

When Denis was hospitalised with cancer, his family was so impressed by the care shown to him before he died in April 2014, that they decided to raise funds for a sunroom, as well as other needs they saw in the Palliative Care Unit, through an annual Family Fun Bike Ride. The fifth ride will take place on Sunday May 26th, 2019 starting at Mattick’s farm and progressing along the Lochside Trail to Sidney. If you join us this year, you will see many of his family members participating.

The commemorative plaque in the sunroom was made by friends of Denis and is a reminder of his love of family, the outdoors, his advocacy for cycling and his wonderful smile. *By Barbara Harwood* ■

Fun, Family Ride to Celebrate and Remember



Last May I signed up for the Denis Muloin Ride for Palliative Care along with my husband and 12 year old son. As cyclists ourselves we loved learning about the impact Denis had on the cycling community here. To ride in his memory seemed special, and to also raise funds for a place that made a difference to him and his family, well that was significant.

On the day of the ride the weather was perfect for a spin along the Lochside Trail. We put the bikes on the car and drove down to Lochside Park for a leisurely start. The Foundation had laid on coffee and pre-ride sustenance, my son was happy to add a little extra fuel in the form of a pastry and a banana (plus a granola bar in the pocket for later!) It was a relaxed, party atmosphere as everyone gathered, and we were able to see that this truly was an all-ages, all-abilities ride. There were kids on bikes, and in bike trailers; cruisers, mountain bikes and road bikes; as well as recumbent bikes and even trikes.

Because it was a ride not a race, there was no need to jostle for position at the starting line, and

in fact everyone gathered first to hear a few words about Denis and the reason for the ride. Then it was time to set off – to the north, towards Sidney. We were a little bunched together to start, but as everyone settled into the pace they wanted to ride, the groups gradually strung out along the trail. If you've never ridden along the Lochside Trail there's lots to see. Some chose to stop to look at the animals at a farm, others pressed on to the airfield by Mitchell's Farm to see if there was any action there.

There were many opportunities to stop and turn around, but those that were keen cycled into Sidney for coffee or lunch before riding back to the start. My family group made it comfortably to Sidney, but we weren't all so eager to ride back. We sent dad back for the car and continued on towards home.

It was wonderful to be part of a true community event, surrounded by the family and friends of the man who inspires the ride. *By Deborah Rogers* ■

Denis Muloin 5TH ANNUAL
BIKE RIDE
FOR **PALLIATIVE CARE**

Sunday, May 26th, 2019



Information about donation collecting & sponsorship details coming soon to our website!



Peninsula Singers “hamming it up” at the annual Christmas concert

The Peninsula Singers - Still Making a Difference

On November 28th, the excitement mounted in the SPH’s Extended Care Dining Room, as residents and many family members gathered for the annual concert by the Peninsula Singers.

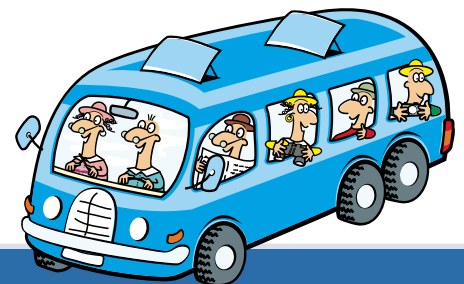
As the choir walked in, resplendent in their Christmas outfits, the applause began, and the anticipation for the commencement of the concert was electric. Lena Palermo led this very accomplished choir in their programme, and the performers obviously enjoyed their part in the choreography as well as “hamming it up” for some of the fun Christmas songs. Residents and guests were invited to join in and sing along with some of their favourite carols.

The choir does more than sing at the Hospital. The proceeds from three sold-out performances in the Charlie White Theatre at the Mary

Winspear Centre are donated to the Music Therapy program at the Hospital. Next up are the three spring performances, in late April 2019, for which the choir is now hard at work. The total amount of money donated to the Music Therapy program exceeds \$46,000! The 62-member choir, and the musicians who accompany them, are justifiably proud of both their professional accomplishments as well as their generous contributions.

Thank you Peninsula Singers for the joy you bring and the program you support in the hospital. *By Barbara Harwood* ■

Wheels on the bus We will be showing off our new wheels at the Sidney Canada Day Parade! Come down to Beacon Avenue on July 1st to see us and our brand new Residential Care bus. Made possible by a joint effort of donors to the Foundation and the SPH Auxiliary.





A new piano for the chapel!

Recently a Chickering and Sons piano arrived in the Chapel. The donation of this beautiful baby grand was made in memory of Florence Yong.

A venerable manufacturer, Boston's Chickering and Sons stopped production in 1983. This anecdote speaks to the quality of the instrument:

"P.T. Barnum persuaded Jenny Lind - the Swedish Nightingale - to undertake a concert tour of the United States. Barnum then commissioned the Chickering company to manufacture a custom grand piano for her nationwide tour. Coincidentally, as the tour began, Henry E. Steinway and his family arrived in New York as immigrants from Germany. Henry attended the opening night in New York, but showed little interest in the diva. His profound interest was in the Chickering piano, to which he dashed for such careful examination that he nearly had to be hauled away so the concert could begin." (from Wikipedia)

We're very grateful to the donor for this kind gift, which has been very well received by the volunteers who play piano for the Thursday Hymn Sing and other events.



Karen Morgan and CFUW representative Donna Miller

A Boost for Professional Development

Our sincere thanks to CFUW (Canadian Federation of University Women) for their donation of \$5,000. This donation will help a staff person that is pursuing a major upgrade in their education/professional status.

Anonymous Donor gives BIG with Air Miles

A special thank you to the anonymous donor who recently transferred to the Foundation a very large quantity of Dream Miles, 32,613 to be exact! We are able to use these for work-related travel (conferences or other education) and to "purchase" items for prizes and our fundraising auctions.



For those of you who would like to start collecting AIR MILES for the Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation, contact us at 250-652-7531 or 250-656-2948 and we would be happy to mail you one of our cards. Then when you shop at participating AIR MILES retailers such as Thrifty Foods, Shell or Rona you may give them our card and we will receive the AIR MILES!

DONATION INFORMATION



PARTNERS

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Please contact us at

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