

**Belleville General Hospital Auxiliary Celebrates
City of Belleville Proclamation of
“BGH Auxiliary Volunteer Week”
September 19th to 23rd, 2016**

Health care is an ever-changing landscape. Our hospital continues to face the change and challenge of health care reform in our Province. It's important we continue to take pride in our hospital. It's also important that we take the time and effort of acknowledging the one truly consistent and unwavering element of healthcare: the dedicated hospital volunteers.

For nearly 78 years, the Belleville General Hospital Auxiliary has supported patients, visitors and staff. The Auxiliary not only operates over 20 volunteer programs, but they also raise an impressive amount of money each year to aid in the purchase of much needed medical equipment. The Women's Hospital Auxiliary was organized April 28, 1938, at a meeting held in City Hall Council Chambers. In October of 1974, the name was changed to the Belleville Hospital Auxiliary to reflect the inclusion of men as volunteers. BGH Auxiliary provides a variety of volunteer services for the patients and staff of Quinte Health Care. Fundraising projects are designed to augment the equipment fund of QHC, Belleville General Hospital, including the operation of the long-time downtown business, “the Opportunity Shop” for the past 67 years. The store supplies an economical and environmentally friendly option to the residents of Belleville and area, while raising funds in support of local health care. A recent example of the power of our ‘Opp Shop’ volunteers is the \$100,000 commitment to Cancer Care at BGH.

Investing time and effort into our community hospital is a way of supporting everyone in our community. Health care touches all of us. Last year, over 250 BGH Auxiliary volunteers contributed in excess of 32,000 hours. If we use that as a base number, over our 78 years, that's equivalent to approximately 2.5 million hours in support of our local hospital. The steadfast efforts of the BGH Auxiliary for nearly eight decades in the City of Belleville deserved of a week of its own. This proclamation was presented to City Council on June 13th and passed into motion on this date!

Week's Activities included:



Mayor Christopher cut the ribbon at the opening of Volunteer Week.

An Open House was held on Sept 21st at BGH for citizens, of Belleville, to explore all our in-hospital services and learn how to volunteer at BGH – helping out patients, visitors and staff. Our slogans *Help Us – Help Others* and *Time Well Spent*.

A Daily Volunteer of the Day was selected each day between Sept 19-23 by the BGH Auxiliary Executive and featured in our 5-High email bulletin and on our bulletin board, for all to view.



Donation of \$20,000 to the BGH Foundation for Cancer Care – the first installment of a \$100,000 commitment over 5 years from our retail second hand store The Opportunity Shop.

An Appreciation Volunteer Tea for BGH Auxiliary was held on Sept 22nd with fancy desserts, china tea service and fellowship was enjoyed by Auxiliary members and served to us by QuinteHealth executive staff. A lovely afternoon.



Our Annual General Meeting was held on Sept. 20th with 65 members enjoying a delicious roast beef dinner and totally enjoyed guest speaker Mark Philbin, a local radio host talk about volunteering in the community.

Draws took place on Sept 23rd with over 45 draw prizes being won.

All in All it was a great week – a lot of work for committee members Sharon Ostman, Leah Johnson, Jane Batey, Louise Kouri and Nancy Dafoe – but well worth the effort. The Auxiliary received lots of radio and newspaper coverage – which got the Auxiliary name out into the community– which in turn we hope attracts new volunteers – because as you know we always need more volunteers to man all of our services. The Auxiliary plans to host more open houses and appreciation teas in the future.

- **Leah Johnson**, Belleville General Hospital Auxiliary President