

# Hospital Auxiliary . . . . The other half of the op



Mrs. Elna Cairns and Miss Gwen Ruckle freshen flowers for patient Fred Morris.

Nursing Director Mrs. Hartwig stands beside the portable self-contained incubator, a recent Auxiliary purchase. Baby Underwood "models"

Anaesthetic machine purchased by Auxiliary

**BY ELSIE MACDONALD**  
 Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital Auxiliary has 95 members, almost all of them engaged in volunteer work, either in the hospital itself or with the Thrift Shop. Some members do double duty. Last year more than 8,000 hours were donated by these dedicated workers to

benefit the hospital. Thrift Shop in Mouat's Mall has been in operation since 1971. It is the fund raising unit of the Auxiliary. Last year 65 workers put in 5,700 hours sorting, pricing, laundering and selling tons of donated articles. Gross sales totalled \$26,400. for the year. Net proceeds are used to buy new up-to-date equipment for the hospital. Since the present hospital opened in 1958 the Auxiliary has spent many thousands of dollars to make Lady Minto one of the most efficient of small hospitals. The question has been asked: "Why doesn't the government buy this equipment?" It is the policy of B.C. Department of Health Hospital Programs when a hospital is built to supply basic equipment only and to replace the same when necessary. All other equipment must be funded locally, with the government paying one third of the

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Mrs. Ethel Davidson and retiring president Mrs. Nora Chester assist Extended Care residents with craftwork. (L. to R.) Wendy Olsen Mrs. Webb, Mr. & Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Leggett, Mrs. Townsend, Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Chester.

Mrs. Sonja Baker demonstrates physiotherapy room. "Patient" Hoffman. All the equipment in Auxiliary.

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cost of surgical and medical equipment. Furnishings, television sets and the like must be fully financed locally. Lady Minto's rightful boast is the competent and compassionate nursing care given to all patients. This care is augmented by volunteers who add touches of comfort that nursing staff does not have time to give. Candy Strippers bring comfort in little ways. Patients are cheered by their young faces. These teen age girls are under the guidance of Mrs. Gerry Facca. Ten girls on the roster in 1975 gave 185 hours in service to the sick.

are the ladies responsible for this kindly gesture, and whose nimble fingers fashion the little favours. Lady Minto Extended Care residents are special people to the ladies who week by week give hours of volunteer effort to make the days bright and satisfying. Mrs. Ethel Davidson and Mrs. Nora Chester, working with staff therapist Mrs. Margaret Simons, and 18 other ladies, prepare suitable craft work for the residents - many of whom have been disabled by strokes - then guide and encourage them in creative projects and share their pride in the finished article. This work is done mornings Monday to Friday.

Flowers brought to the sick by friends are freshened daily by Auxiliary members. Working with Mrs. Elna Cairns are 16 ladies who put in 450 hours last year doing this commendable work. Sunroom library for patients is cared for by Mrs. Pamela Wilson. She comes weekly to tidy bookshelves and keep magazines sorted and up to date. One day may seem much like another to someone in hospital. The Auxiliary counteracts monotony by marking special days with decorated breakfast trays. At Valentine's, St. Patrick's, Easter, Halloween and Christmas, attractive hand made favours (plus small gifts at Christmas) and decorated serviettes are placed on morning trays going to all Acute Care and Extended Care rooms. Mrs. Gerry Layard and Mrs. Margaret Fisher

In the afternoons more volunteers serve tea to the residents, guided by Head Nurse Mrs. Helen Abolbit as to each one's likes and needs. Residents look forward to Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. These days bring special treats. Each Tuesday two ladies come from Galiano Island to serve tea and conduct a bingo game, with prizes from Galiano. Wednesday is Mrs. Margaret De Mulder's day. For two hours she is at the piano playing and singing the old favourite songs. The loving care given by nursing staff and devoted volunteers helps to make Extended Care Wing a happy place for those who must spend their lives in hospital. Last year the 26 volunteers gave 1,747 hours to make life brighter for the 15 residents.



Two Galiano Auxiliary members go to the hospital every Tuesday. In the picture are back row, left to right, Anne Platt, Amy Inkster, amazing are the ongoing sales. Truly one person's superfluity fills another person's need! Since the Thrift Shop opened four years ago, sales of donated goods have made it possible for the Auxiliary to give \$36,412. for the purchase of hospital equipment. Acute Care, Extended Care, operating room, case room, nursery, laboratory, X-ray, treatment

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