

JANUARY 1983

Hospital wins three year ok

JAN 10, 1983

Lawrence Brown, Hospital Board Chairman, announced today that the hospital has received notice of a three year accreditation status.

"Since most publicity the hospital receives is unfavourable, we want this community to be aware that they are fortunate in having high quality health care available", said Mr Brown. "Although we do not do everything right, all of the time in everyone's eyes, we've been able to attain the highest standing which can be awarded to a Canadian Hospital - three year accreditation."

The Hospital Board will be issuing a press release shortly telling us who and what Accreditation is. We will tell you more when the information is available.



Christopher Odynski first saw the light of day at 1:35am Sunday. Although he was - all 7 pounds 15 ounces of him - unquestionably the first baby of the new year here, he doesn't qualify as winner of the Alaska Highway News contest because his parents Jeanne and Dave Odynski are from Norman Wells, NWT. Two more babies were born this morning one of whom will be the official winner.

JAN 4, 1983



Rene Shand and Dianna Sears of Alpha Sigma chapter, Beta Sigma Phi, presented Clair Harwood with a cheque for \$1,000 to go towards the birthing room; \$5,000 has now been collected and an additional \$5,000 is needed to complete the special delivery facility. So keep it in mind and give generously because we'll need it if the current trend in births develops into another baby boom.

JAN 7, 1983

JAN 6, 1983

1983
JANUARY



LAUREL HADLAND receives the first prize she won in the Beta Sigma Phi raffle, drawn December 18. Maryann Anderson made the presentation on behalf of the Zeta Kappa chapter. Sherry Hofstrand displays the sweater she won as second prize. Proceeds from the raffle go towards a birthing bed for the hospital.

Nice work at the hospital

by Nigel E Hannaford

Of matters medical.... First, it's nice to have somebody agreeing with you. In the course of doing this job, one encounters complaints about everything from people who think they've been done badly by. The hospital is frequently the object of these attacks.

My usual advice is that those who think they have a problem with the hospital should state their case to the hospital board or the hospital administrator. They almost never have before they come to me, for some reason. The reason I say that is that I have a feeling they're doing a pretty good

job over there.

Now, my feelings have been confirmed by the Canadian Council of Hospital Accreditations. They think our local hospital is so good that they have given it a three year accreditation instead of the usual two.

This is no small achievement. These things are not lightly handed out. Some hospitals have to be accredited annually and their administration and boards go into a sweat before the accrediting team arrives.

Nice going, hospital management and staff. You must be doing a lot right over there.

JAN 10, 1983



JAN 11, 1983

ABE NEUFELD (right) and George Broadhurst were recognized for their contributions to the Mukluk Rendezvous and to the Hospital Board, respectively. Names were selected by various civic groups and the awards were sponsored by the Mukluk Society.



The city's Kinette's Club has come up with a blood warmer for the Emergency Ward of the Fort St John and District General Hospital, at a cost of \$1,025. Emergency's head nurse Claire Musselman received the cheque from Linda Wright, (left) Kinette president and from Janice Hamp (right) treasurer, yesterday morning. The group raised the money from a raffle and the sale of cook books and colouring books. The Kinettes are wives of members of the Kinsmen

Club and the organization was formed in 1942 by Elspeth Rogers, wife of the Kinsmen founder Hal Rogers, in an effort to keep the organization alive during the war. The Fort St John club was chartered in 1970 and has 18 members. Apart from the annual Mother's March, the Kinettes locally rent Santa suits, sponsor a bike-a-thon and pursue other targets as required. FEB 15, 1983

FEBRUARY 1983

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1983



It was a happy day when the Sagusteno Extended Care Centre officially opened in the East Wing of the Fort St John hospital yesterday. Recognizing the need for extended care but realizing that with the current budget situation the planned 35 bed unit which would be added to the Peace Lutheran Care Home is a long way off, the Hospital Board

agreed to convert the 15 bed East Wing into an 11 bed extended care unit as an interim measure. The cost for the necessary renovations and equipment will be shared by the provincial government and the regional hospital district. The name means east of where the sun rises in Cree Indian.

MAY
1983



There's something warm and cuddly about a quilt and this one is off to somewhere where those are desirable qualities - Ronald MacDonald House in Vancouver, a temporary 'home away from home' for the parents and families of children undergoing treatment for cancer or other life threatening diseases. This quilt was made by the Fort St John Hospital Auxiliary; holding it is Dottie Snippa, and other quilters were Lorna Best, Dianne Knott, Marion Sodergren, Gert Berean and Terry Robbins. **MAY 17, 1983**

1983



GAYLE WAGNER started as a practical nurse on the hospital surgical unit on July 3, 1973. She later worked in pediatrics and now is an accounts clerk in the business office. Here she receives a 10 year service pin from Gloria Pope.



LOUISE LAMBERT started as a laundry aide in the hospital on June 20, 1973. She now works as a housekeeping aide. She received a 10 year service pin for her efforts from Hospital Board vice-chairman Gloria Pope last week.

JULY 6, 1983

1983

JULY, 1983



Connie Carlson started in the local hospital as a laboratory aid on May 28, 1973. Here she is being awarded a 10 year service pin by Hospital Board vice-chairman Gloria Pope. In 1975 Carlson transferred to the emergency section as

a nurse's aid and in 1976 she transferred to the central supply division of the hospital. Two other 10 year pins were presented at the same time (see page 7)



Watched by many hospital workers and residents, one of Okanagan's helicopters piloted by Maynard Bergh tried out the hospital's newly completed helipad yesterday as part of an official opening. Below, Mrs Di Brooks hands over a cheque from the

Women's Auxiliary Fund to Hospital Board chairman Lawrence Brown. The money will be put towards the cost of a patio at the east end, built at the same time as the pad.

New helipad for general hospital

A facility that will make handling injured bush workers easier and safer was officially opened yesterday at the Fort St John General Hospital. A helipad, paid for by the Hospital Women's Auxiliary at a cost of nearly \$14,000, was christened by the arrival of a

proved sites.

Hospital assistant administrator Millie Asling added that the east location was chosen rather than the emergency door at the west end because it was uncluttered by overhead phone and power wires.

"It would have been excessively

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AUGUST 1983

expensive to go underground," she stated.

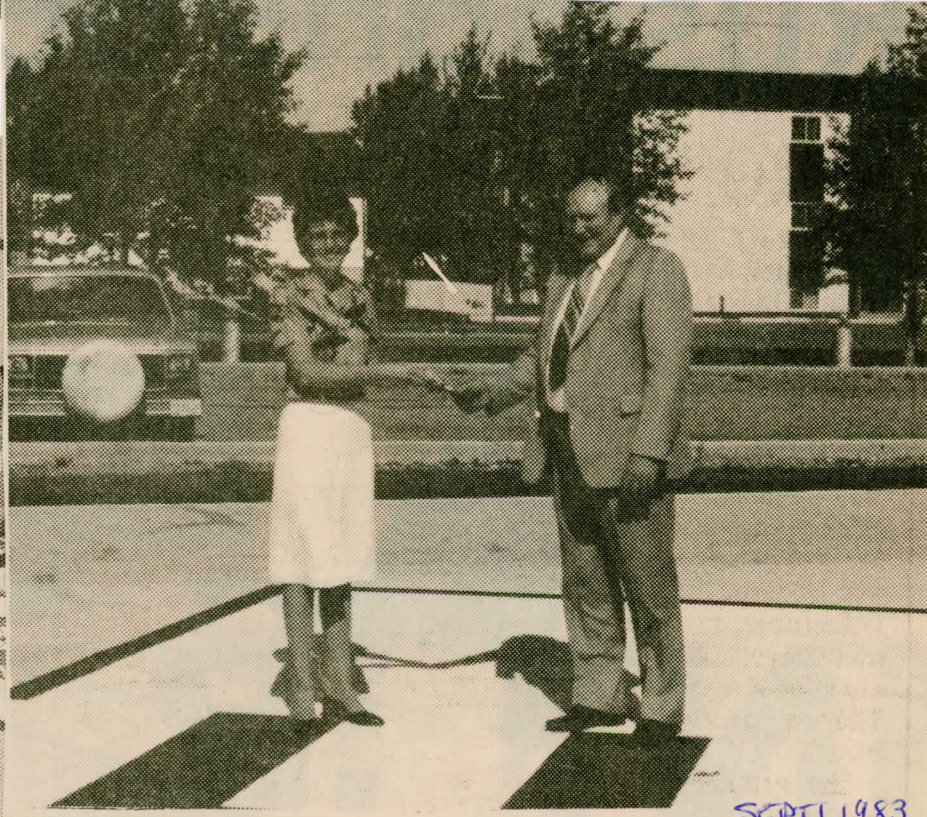
A second project was undertaken at the same time as the helipad, a patio for patients in extended care, also at the east wing of the cross shaped hospital. The patio involved a shelter, some tarmac and an ornamental fence at a cost of \$8,200, paid for from the Hospital Women's Auxiliary Memorial Fund. The fund is a repository for people who wish to make donations in memory of deceased friends and relatives.

helicopter from Okanagan Helicopters, piloted by veteran pilot Maynard Bergh who had played quite a part in arranging for the new pad.

Until now, helicopters have landed on the car park or even on the grass oval at the east door. Although no accidents have occurred due to the superior skill of the pilots involved, the use of a helipad will not only facilitate handling of patients, but ensure that the machines insurance is not voided by landing on unap-



HOSPITAL FUNDS



PRESENTING A CHEQUE from the Hospital WA is Dottie Snippa, (left). The cheque, received by Board Chairman Lawrence Brown, was to cover the cost of the newly completed helipad.

SEPT. 1, 1983

ENJOYING A RIDE in on an Okanagan helicopter for Tuesday's helipad opening, were Chester Simmons, hospital engineer,

Marion Sodergren of the Women's Auxiliary, Maynard Bergh (pilot) and Millie Asling (assistant administrator).

SEPT 1, 1983



Meet your Hospital Board for 1983-84... After last night's elections at the Hospital Society Annual General Meeting, the board consisted of (left to right) Sheelagh Garson, Gloria Pope, John Wetzel, Shirley Pomeroy, Marie Bailey, Lawrence Brown (chairman),

Pauline Hannaford, Grant Timmins and Abe Goertzen. Hannaford and Brown were re-elected for three year terms last night, while Goertzen was elected for the first time, also to a three year term.

SEPT 29, 1983

September 29: 1983
 Hospital board elected
 Laurence Brown and
 Pauline Hannaford were
 re-elected to the board of
 the Fort St John General
 Hospital at the Hospital
 Society's annual general
 meeting. Abe Goertzen was
 also elected to the board.

1983
 SEPTEMBER

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE
FORT ST. JOHN AND DISTRICT
HOSPITAL SOCIETY**

will be held on

WED., SEPT. 28th, 1983

at 1930 hours **(7:30 p.m.)**
in the

ASSEMBLY HALL
of the
FORT ST. JOHN GENERAL HOSPITAL

PRESENT MEMBERS in good standing may renew their memberships at any time prior to the commencement of the Annual Meeting.

NEW MEMBERS or former members who again wish to join the Society, must be members of the Society for at least one month to be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP COST: \$1.00

Memberships may be obtained at the Fort St. John General Hospital Business Office, daily between 0800 hours and 2000 hours (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

NOV 19, 1983

Oct 5, 1988



hn Hospital posed for a group picture
nnual general meeting last week. From
gh Garson, Gloria Pope, John Wetzel,
Salley, Lawrence Brown (chairman),
immins and Abe Goeritzen. Hannford,
elected at the AGM.

Letters to the Editor

Many helped make bazaar a success

NOV 7, 1983

Editor,
Alaska Highway News

The Women's Auxiliary to the Fort St. John General Hospital would like to thank the following people for making their bazaar on October 29, 1983 the succes it was.

The Legion for the use of their hall and kitchen; the donors for the Lucky Seven Prizes, Len's Electric Ltd, Peace Country Rental &

Sales Inc., D & G Ventures Ltd., Harold Esau Construction Ltd., Action Concrete, Ward Pontiac Buick GMC 1980 Ltd., D & G Oil Services Ltd., & Ja

Mar Trucking & Farms Ltd. Mrs Gert Berean for donating the Tea Prize, all auxilians and candy stripers for their donations and help. A special bouquet to the kitchen staff for a job

well done and last but for from least the public for their great support.

Following are the names of prize winners from the bazaar: Tea Prize, Meldoy Soychuk; \$50 Money Doll, Rita Nichols, Prince George; \$25 Money Doll, Vi Benni; The Lucky Seven Prizes, Pillow, Joyce Stevens; Handmade Crystal Lantern Light, Lorna Gray; Xmas Apron and Oven Mitts, Joy Alexander; Jewellery Case, Marion Kreiger; Kitchen Basket, Lorraine Russel; Glass Figurine, Vi Woodward; Cereamic Cookie Jar, Anna Waite.

Hope to see all of you again next year.

Marion Sodergren
President of
W.A. to the F.S.J.
General Hospital

Hospital surviving the recession qui

The conversion of an empty wing of the Fort St John and District General Hospital into the 11 bed Sagusteno Extended Care facility is the major extension of service made in the hospital during 1982-83, according to reports tabled at last week's Hospital Society Annual General Meeting.

The facility serves those people who require more continuing care than they can expect to receive at home, but who are not terminally ill. A similar project sponsored by the Peace Lutheran Care Home will be a few years in getting started.

"The board fully supports the plans of the Peace Lutheran Care Home to eventually build a larger extended care facility," commented

board chairman Lawrence Brown in his report to the meeting. "It is not possible at this point in time though. The conversion of the hospital's east wing has proved to be a reasonable interim measure."

NUCLEAR MEDICINE NEXT?

Brown added that he hoped the next addition to the hospital would be sophisticated diagnostic techniques familiarly known as 'nuclear medicine'. The siting of these advanced facilities in Fort St John would require the co-operation of the Ministry of Health, which led Hospital Administrator Ric Wilson to speculate that they might be a while coming.

"There is little, if any, money available for new programs such as nuclear medicine or ultrasound

unless we can convince the ministry that they would be self supporting from revenues," he stated.

As well as maintaining services for local people, the hospital has also been able to provide some facilities for other medical centres in the region.

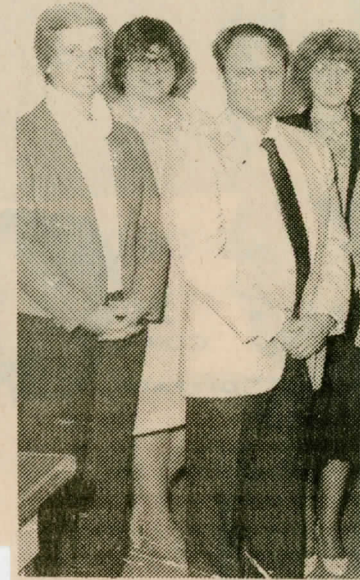
Wilson noted that Fort Nelson Hospital was now receiving management services from Fort St John and other hospitals were using Fort St John to provide diagnostic services.

TOUGH TIMES

Both Board and management concurred that the previous twelve months had been an unsettling one, with staff layoffs and wage negotiations having occupied a lot of time and energy.

Brown commented though that all hospital staff had been encouraged by the first class accreditation which the hospital had received in September 1982 and some of the other high points, such as the completion of the helipad and the extended care facility. Medical chief of staff Dr Wright echoed this in his report when he stated, "I would like to commend administration and the medical staff on their excellent efforts in allowing the Fort St John hospital to achieve the highest accreditation award given - that of a three year approval."

Wilson added, "There have been unpleasant days in management in 1982-83, but some really good ones that put everything back into perspective."



The board of the Fort St John after the Hospital Society's annual meeting. From left to right they are Sheela Shirley Pomeroy, Marie L. Pauline Hannaford, Grant T. Lawrence and Goertzen were

October
1983

Candystripers would like to n

The very successful Candy Stripers program whereby young girls voluntarily help nurses at the hospital and care home could have an uncertain future if a new adviser-coordinator is not found in the next few months.

Leona Paynter, who presently coordinates the 41 girls involved says the time spent and the cost of driving in and out of town

from her home in the Montney area is becoming too great.

"I am willing to start a new adviser. But I won't continue alone for another year to put it quite bluntly," Paynter said Wednesday.

She says she got involved with candy stripers four years ago when her own daughter Susan was a volunteer with the

organization.

Susan has gone on to nurse's training in Alberta and now is in her second year.

Paynter's records over the past four years show that about 40 per cent of the girls who have joined candy stripers locally have gone into the medical field when they finished high school.

OPEN TO BOYS

Candy stripers is open to both girls and boys 14 years old and over although efforts to get boys involved have been less than successful until now.

However girls have been quite enthusiastic about volunteering and numbers have gone up from 15 four years ago to the 41 at present. A few more could still be used.

To provide a volunteer on each of the five hospital wards and two for the care home seven days a week would require 49 people Paynter explains.

A present some wards go without a volunteer some days and some girls put in extra shifts to build up their record of hours.

Candy stripers are in the hospital and care home from 4 to 6pm every day. Each girl normally works one shift a week.

As unpaid volunteers the reward for their work is the satisfaction of helping people and the experience of having worked in a hospital situation which can be of benefit in obtaining work or getting into training programs when they finish school.

Part of the adviser's job is to keep track of the hours the participants work so they can be given the various awards that come with accumulated time.

The first award is a white cap after 20 hours service. Then at 75 hours they receive a pink band for the cap.

After 150 hours service they receive a pin shaped like a candy cane.

Following this they receive pins bearing their number of hours of service.

The girls spend 10 weeks at a particular station and then are rotated to another area. They work under the supervision of the nursing staff.

HELP NURSES

"The nurses assign the jobs. They are qualified to know the borderline between nursing procedure and what can be done by volunteers," Paynter explains.



CANDY STRIPERS Randi Hogenbom and Elaine Landry were at work in the paediatrics ward at the hospital Wednesday. Both girls are in grade 9 at Bert

Bowes school. Forty-one girls are presently helping nursing staff in the hospital and care home under the candy stripers' program.

meet new leader

Some of the jobs are washing and folding clothing, filling water jugs, handing out meal trays, making beds, reading to patients and helping them write letters, playing games with patients or just plain keeping them company.

New participants are

given a one day of intensive training to get them started before going into the hospital.

And no, they do not come around with the candy trolley. It is the hospital auxiliary that does that.

Candy strippers is supported by the hospital auxiliary which carries all

of the incidental costs of running the program, however.

It is a good training program for young volunteers and an important service to the community.

Anyone interested should contact Paynter at 827-3358.