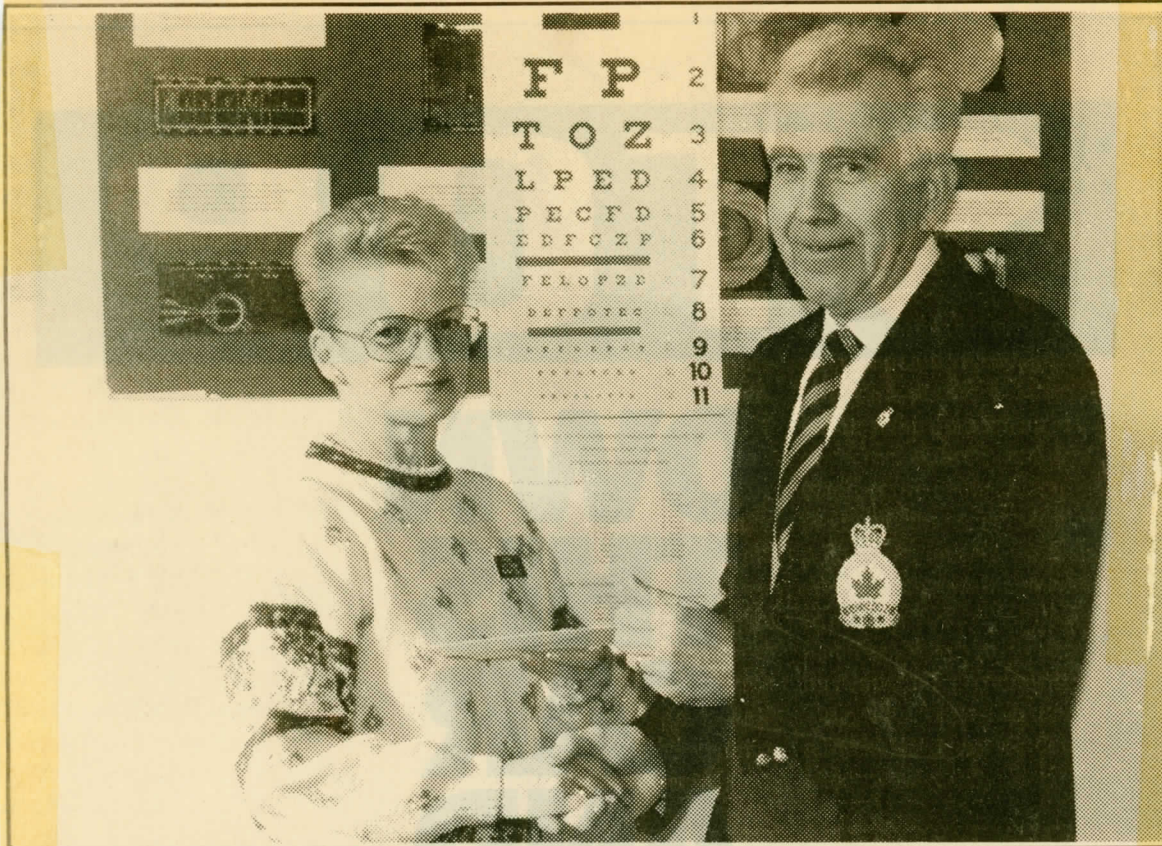


HELP FOR THE EYE CLINIC

Thursday, March 11, 1993



Receptionist Carol Martin accepts a cheque for \$2,500 from local Royal Canadian Legion first vice-president Syl Gauvreau to go towards the Fort St. John General Hospital's eye clinic.



Hospital health, records and admitting director Colleen Rimbey (left) accepts cheque for \$500 from honored royal lady Edith McKittrick of the local Order of the Royal Purple. The money is intended for the hospital's eye clinic.

Hospital asks to dispose of waste in city landfill

DAVE WILLIAMS

AHN Staff

Fort St. John

Council wants little part of a proposal to dump biomedical waste in the city's landfill.

The Fort St. John General Hospital has asked the city if biomedical waste could be disposed of in the city's sanitary landfill in case of a breakdown in the facility's incinerator.

Mayor Steve Thorlakson said the disposal of biomedical waste is "such a potentially sensitive issue" that council should stay as far away from the question as possible.

He said council has gone on record in the past as stating the disposal of hospital waste is an issue to be handled by the provincial ministries of environment and health.

"It's just an area that requires a great deal of caution," Thorlakson said.

Thorlakson said the once accepted method of disposal by incineration is losing favor under new provincial government regulations.

The hospital has recently been experiencing mechanical problems with the incinerator it has been using to dispose of an estimated 80 lbs. of biomedical waste each day.

Hospital administrator Millie Asling has stated the facility may need to move to an alternate method of waste disposal if the incinerator fails.

Councillor Jack Keough described the issue of biomedical waste disposal as a "minefield" the city doesn't want to get involved with.

He questioned if the city should establish a temporary storage site for medical waste within the existing landfill.

The Ministry of the Environment has placed a deadline of June, 1994 for the phasing out or upgrading of existing incineration facilities to tough new standards.

The ministry has also indicated that if incineration facilities are shut down prior to the deadline, landfilling of non-anatomical biomedical waste is an acceptable option over the interim.

The regulations regarding the disposal of biomedical waste are similar to the precautions imposed for asbestos.

Although the city will likely participate in a meeting with the hospital and Ministry of Environment, council members have indicated they want to stay as far removed from the issue as possible.

Local hospital jobs threatened

DAVE WILLIAMS

AHN Staff

Fort St. John

Jobs at the Fort St. John General Hospital are on the line with possible wage and benefit increases for the province's health care workers, administrator Millie Asling says.

Asling said ongoing negotiations with the province's health care workers have prompted a delay in formation of this year's local hospital budget.

She said the hospital has been granted no budget increase for this year, but will have to accommodate cost increases in drug, supply and utility costs.

Asling staff costs — which account for 80 per cent of the hospital's expenses — could potentially rise from one to four per cent this year.

"Anything else you do is quite insignificant compared to cutting staff," she said.

"If you have to make a significant reduction in your costs, then you don't really have an alternative. We're certainly trying to avoid layoffs."

Asling said the last layoff was one staff member about a month ago in the nuclear medicine department.

"We haven't issued any other layoff notices and I don't have any in my hip pocket at this point in time," she said.

Asling said this year's budget deadline has been extended indefinitely until wage, work week and benefits for health care workers are worked out through a provincial tentative framework agreement.

"Until that's settled, we really don't know what some of the implications for some of our wage costs and benefit costs will be," Asling said.

"We're just working away at what (expenses) we know for sure and waiting for some report on what that framework agreement will entail."

She said it's presently uncertain when the agreement will be completed.

Asling said she doesn't presently know if hospital staff should be worried about losing their jobs and won't know until wages and benefits have been worked out at the provincial level.

She noted major layoffs have already taken place at hospitals in the southern part of the province.

"I think everyone is very concerned about their job right now," Asling said.

"The staff are certainly well aware of the fact that we had no budget increase this year and that we are going to be in a very tight financial position, so I'm sure they have concerns."

Area women could fall through cracks without mobile breast screening centre administrator says

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

Fort St John
Peace country women will fall through the cracks of the health system without the mobile breast screening program proposed by Fort St. John General Hospital, a regional hospital administrator says.

"Women need a doctor's referral to go to Fort St. John for the service, and without it close by a lot of women won't bother to have it (breast screening) done," said Heather Wilson, Hudson's Hope's Health Diagnostic & Treatment Centre administrator.

A proposal to offer the mobile service throughout the Peace region from Fort St. John General Hospital to the Screening Mammography Program of B.C. (SMPPBC) was rejected recently.

Wilson added the board at Health Diagnostic & Treatment Centre will pursue funding for the mobile breast screening program.

Fort St. John Hospital administrator Millie Asling expressed disappointment with the refusal.

"We have not been able to get any funding from the screening mammography program to pay the

operating costs," Asling said. Without the funding, women from Chetwynd, Hudson's Hope and Fort Nelson have to go to Dawson Creek or Fort St. John for the service, or go without, Asling said.

"They (SMPPBC) say there is not a big enough demand in the area to fund two programs," Asling said.

Funding for the breast screening program comes from the SMPPBC, a service that is free for women over the age of 40. Women can use the service at various facilities in B.C., including two days each month at Dawson Creek, said Leanne

Hamilton, an X-ray technician at Dawson Creek Hospital.

Because Fort St. John does not offer a screening service, women need a doctor's referral for a diagnostic exam, which is covered by B.C. Medical, Hamilton said.

Hamilton said the lack of funding will not affect them directly, but if it was available, it would be used.

"The object of the whole Screening Mammography Program is to get as many women in to have it done as possible, so if it was in Fort St. John more women would utilize it," Hamilton said.



Department of Spectroscopy, Engineer Roger ...

Rotary Club donates \$20,000 to eye lane clinic

1/11/82
4/11/82



Present for the transfer of a cheque for \$20,000 from the local Rotary Club to the hospital's eye lane clinic are hospital engineer Roger Lythall (on ladder), administrator Millie Asting (left), Rotary Club president Egon Weger, ophthalmologist Dr. Bruce Woodburn and ophthalmologist Dr. Frank Buffam. The Rotary Club's donation brings the total contributions to \$28,000.

New BCHA Board Members

The picture on the right shows four of the five new directors to BCHA's Board. Immediately left Brian Stamp was not available when the picture was taken. He has, through, from left to right: Mr. Fred van Hilberg, Mr. Barbara Greenlaw, Mr. John McShane, and Mrs. Flo Van Euse, the 1993-94 President of the B.C. Association of Health-Care Auxiliaries (BCHA). Here's more about them:

Fred van Hilberg

Northeast Area Council representative, Fred van Hilberg, a trustee of Fort St. John General Hospital, holds an interpretive translator degree, 1 course diploma in linguistics, a business degree from Germany, business experience with CBA Pharmacuticals, Montreal, and International Construction, Victoria. He has been with Construction & Construction Management Ltd., Victoria, from 1978 to present.

Among his many volunteer services, Fred is the Honorary Counsel for the Federal Republic of Germany, a position he has held since September of last year. Besides being a trustee of Fort St. John Hospital for seven years and active in the Northeast Area Council, he was also Director for Dyspraxia/Dislexia (1987-89) and Dyspraxia (1987-89), in the role that he was a member of Big Brothers, Fort St. John, and over the years has been a volunteer for many agencies and local groups.

Barbara Greenlaw

Barbara Greenlaw, elected by the Lower Mainland Area Council, is a trustee on the board of the B.C. Cancer Agency. She holds a Diploma of Nursing (B.C.) from the Victoria General Hospital School of Nursing, Victoria; Bachelor of Nursing, McCall University, Montreal; and Master of Arts (Education), Simon Fraser University, Burnaby.

Her professional experience has included being general duty nurse in medical surgical units in Victoria General Hospital (Victoria) and Montreal General Hospital, Chief Instructor and Senior Instructor and Faculty

Mr. Fred van Hilberg, Mr. Brian Stamp, Barbara Greenlaw, John McShane, and Mrs. Flo Van Euse.



Member, B.C.T.U. Program Coordinator, St. Paul Development, Vancouver General Hospital, and from 87 to 93 Education Consultant, BCHA. He is now an independent Education Consultant.

Barbara's professional and community involvement has included membership in a number of nurse organizations, and a worker in the United Way Campaign.

John McShane

The representative of the East Kootenay Area Council, John McShane — B.C. Fernie District Hospital — brings to the BCHA Board an extensive background in administration. He obtained his Bachelor of Commerce degree and Certificate in Hospital Administration from the University of Saskatchewan. He attended the Health School of Saskatchewan Management, which was administered by International Health Services in International Administration, Ministry of International Affairs, B.C. By 86 John was a Certified Health Executive, Canadian College of Health Services Executives, and also was awarded the Certificate in Long Term Care, University of Saskatchewan in 1993. He received his Master of Science in Administration, Central Saskatchewan University.

His career path has included being a job analyst, health care and municipal administrator in Alberta and B.C. He joined Fernie District Hospital as CEO in 1988.

John is a former board member and board chairperson of Victoria Union Hospital, Lasby; current (and former) Chairperson of

the East Kootenay Area Council. Significantly for our times, he initiated the development of the Elk Valley Health Care Council.

Mrs. Flo Van Euse

The provincial Auxiliaries representative, the current President, Mrs. Flo Van Euse, owned and operated her own business in Simlsha for 26 years.

She has been involved in the Auxiliaries since 1967 when she joined the Valley Valley District Hospital Auxiliaries and rose through the organization to become President, and served as the Auxiliary Representative on the hospital's board for three years, during which time she became Vice-Chairperson of the board.

Since then she has been President of the B.C.'s Hospital and Auxiliaries to the Vancouver Lake Hospital, Victoria Area, and Elk Valley, and more recently joined the board of the Kootenay Auxiliaries to the Pentstemon Regional Hospital.

She served as Second Vice-President, BCHA, in 1989-91; and as First Vice-President this past year.

Mr. Brian Stamp

Brian Stamp, representing the BCHA's Vancouver Island Health Council, is a resident of Campbell River. He has nine years of experience as a hospital trustee, and is currently Board Chairperson of the Campbell River and District General Hospital.

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