



FUN at Mount
St. Mary



From the Desk of Sara John Fowler, CEO

Greetings All and welcome to the summer edition of Mount St. Mary Connections.

The Resident & Family Advisory Group held their quarterly meeting and discussed items including:

- Resident and family involvement in care planning as presented by Social Worker Jessica Dunlop. A survey will be sent to families and residents over the summer as part of this quality improvement initiative.
- The *Teepa Snow* videos on dementia care were well received and there will be a family education session for a group viewing presented in the fall.

Planning is well underway for the new Dementia Program housed in St. Francis and St. Luke on Unit. Contractors are being engaged to provide the necessary access to the Peace Garden and we await designs from landscape architects regarding transforming the outdoor space to a Dementia Friendly Garden.

The keynote speaker at the Medical & Dental Staff AGM held in late May, Dr. Trevor Janz, is a dementia care expert in the province, and his session was well received by attendees including some family members. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Michael Vaughan was elected as the President of the Medical & Dental Staff, and Dr. Mike Miles as the Vice-President. We thank our physicians for the dedication and service to Mount St. Mary and our residents.

The Marie Esther Society owns and operates Mount St. Mary Hospital, and the AGM was held in late June. We are pleased to announce the reappointment of our Board of Directors and the appointment of new Board Director Ms. Jane Crickmore. Our Annual Report to the Community is posted on our website. If you would like a hard copy, please contact Candis Elliott at 250-480-3100 ext. 3210.

Welcome Neil Johnson, Director of Finance

Neil Johnson, born in England, emigrated with his family at an early age. They lived in several places in BC, finally settling in Victoria. Always proficient with numbers, Neil chose a career in accounting. After obtaining his Certified General Accountant designation he started his career in a private accounting firm, then turning his focus to financial management, he worked at Glenlyon Norfolk School, BC Ambulance Service and Island Health. Neil is a father of four. He has a passion for hockey and, after playing himself, he became focussed on coaching his children. This past year his youngest daughter played Junior Hockey in London, Ontario winning both the league and provincial championships. His other joys include travelling and savouring good food with his wife Jan.

Neil was drawn to join the Mount St. Mary team by his desire to be part of a management team providing for the direction and fiduciary care of a not-for-profit organization. He values his role of providing financial stewardship and supporting the team in maximizing financial resources while providing quality care.

Neil appreciates seeing people moving about day-to-day in the comfortable and home-like atmosphere of Mount St. Mary, and enjoys his part in creating a safe haven for residents.



Open House Celebration & Room to Care Update



Thanks to the generosity of supporters including the Estate of Vera Wille, foundations, corporations, and individuals, renovations to the fourth floor started in May and will wrap up in September. Once completed, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the building will be finished and we've heard from residents how much they enjoy the fresh paint and repaired walls (that also have a protective surface on them to prevent future damage), new heater covers, bathroom floors, and furniture. We are thrilled with how it looks and our residents appreciate their "new" home!

Fundraising for fifth floor renovations have started and \$450,000 is needed to complete the final stage of this project which will ensure all of our residents have a room they are proud to call home.

Family Supported to Enjoy Outings

Complimentary passes from the Canadian College of Performing Arts dress rehearsal of the *West Side Story* production were made available to four residents and family members. Resident Janice Calnan is pictured (R) with daughter Rebecca at the theatre.

Rebecca shares her experience.

~ Thank you Jane and Anne for the lovely idea for Mom and I to enjoy the musical. Our family have always been big fans of the arts and Mom has seen many big musicals over the years. She had so much fun at West Side Story and recognized some of the tunes. I thought it would be a late outing for her and gave her the option to head home at intermission. Her reply was "Oh, no, let's stay and see how it ends!"

This outing gave me renewed confidence to take Mom out again as I established the necessary routines, and I found the theatre ushers to be most helpful. We then enjoyed the Alice in Wonderland ballet joined by my son. Thank you for all of the caring and loving things that you do.



Your Support Has An Impact

Many of the things that make Mount St. Mary Hospital wonderfully different from other facilities and that enhance the lives of our residents and families are only possible because of donations. This includes music therapy, pastoral care, and our *Voices in Motion 3 Choir*, as well as, specialized equipment (i.e. mattresses, ceiling lifts, parallel bars) and the room renovations.

Did you know that residents and family members can support these programs and equipment with a monthly donation through the resident's account? The minimum donation is \$2 per month and it can be changed or cancelled at any time. We are also able to accept monthly donations through pre-authorized bank EFTs and credit card payments. For more info, contact Jane at 250-480-3138 or jbowers@mountstmary.ca

MSMH Family Education Series Spring Session



Pictured (L), are the Target Theatre players at their production of *Can You Hear the Birds* held in the MSMH Chapel in the spring. Reviews by families, friends, residents, staff and volunteers were great!

Proudly supported by local hearing loss organizations, the play focused on issues relating to the lives of those living with hearing loss. Written using verbatim accounts from patients and professionals alike, the production draws on hours of research material and interviews and offers coping mechanisms for an issue important to those living with this often-invisible disability.



~ raised \$35,000
for our residents!

June 8th was a perfect day for Mount St. Mary Hospital's Spring Fair. Children were joyous while participating in fun activities and others enjoyed the tunes of our volunteer musicians. Staff, family members and volunteers donated delicious pies, cookies, and preserves to fill the bake table and beautiful pieces of donated jewelry were also for sale. The silent auction was very popular and raised lots of money for our residents. The *Mac & Cheese Cook-Off* featuring five local chefs and restaurants was a huge success and a highlight for many guests. There was also a BBQ, and the afternoon ended with free cake for all.

Thank you for being part of our 4th annual Spring Fair. Together we raised over \$35,000 (net) for Mount St. Mary Hospital *Room to Care Campaign*. These funds will be used to repair and refurbish some of our resident rooms giving the residents a space that brings them comfort. Thank you again for your kindness and compassion.

If you have any recommendations or suggestions on fundraising ideas and opportunities, we look forward to hearing from you—please contact Jane at 250-480-3138 or jbowers@mountstmary.ca