



SEPTEMBER 2023 E-NEWS

Fall is upon us... the weather and the leaves are changing here in the Comox Valley! The change in season not only brought these colourful, cooler conditions, it coincided with a change in the Executive Director position at the Comox Valley Healthcare Foundation. I am happy I can offer more about this transition today.

Continuing employees, **Rhonda Stevens and Avry Janes, have accepted a shared leadership role**, creating a robust, collaborative approach to managing the work of the Foundation moving forward. Their familiarity with operations and their strong relationships with partners make them ideal for the job. Both have a sincere passion for our community that will serve us well in delivering our mandate. We are extremely fortunate to have two dynamic individuals that know and understand the Foundation leading us to the next level.

Both Rhonda and Avry joined the Healthcare Foundation in the summer of 2022 and have been working side-by-side with our former Executive Director to prepare for this change in leadership.

Jessica Aldred served the Foundation for the past three years and had an undeniable impact on the lives of residents in the Comox Valley.

On behalf of the board of directors, we would like to thank Jessica for her dedication to growing the Foundation's ability to support healthcare while nurturing genuine relationships with our partners and community. State-of-the-art equipment, training programs to elevate care, helping to reduce wait times, and attracting and retaining healthcare professionals to the region are just some of the many projects that have been supported generously by donors under Aldred's leadership.

Rhonda and Avry are enjoying their new role already and look forward to building on the incredible work of those that came before them.

Sincerely,

Bill Anglin
Board President
Comox Valley Healthcare Foundation



"We are grateful for the opportunity and appreciate our community's generosity in enhancing local healthcare. We look forward to doing great things together."

- Rhonda & Avry

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR TEAM



Stuffed Animals Finding Their Way to the Hospital

For many years the Foundation has managed a very special program at the hospital. New stuffed animals are donated by community members and businesses and then provided to the emergency room, pediatrics, and several other departments to help comfort kids who need medical care. Stuffed animals are wonderful for distracting, calming, or cheering up a child.

We recently put a call out for more stuffies as increases in young patients has put our collection of these furry friends in short supply. **What a response we received!**

We heard from many families who were the beneficiary of stuffed animals in the past and wanted to respond to our call as a way to honour the program that had such an impact on their children.



The Power of Passion to Enhance Local Care

Whether it is cycling, golf, running, or craft beer, your passions transformed into support for healthcare make such a difference! Our gratitude to the champions who make them happen and to everyone who supports these initiatives.

In June, the **Church St. Taphouse** hosted a charity tap for us, offering their house brew to customers with a pledge of \$1 per pint in support of healthcare close to home. Not only did their guests get behind this but so did the good folks at **Brian McLean** pledging to match the month long fundraiser resulting in a \$2K donation and a whole lot of fun!

Congratulations to **Natalie Pulsford** for winning the **Comox Valley Road Runners Back Yard Ultra** on July 22nd running 87.2 kilometres in 13 consecutive hours! Natalie

"Yay, I will let my kids know! They have both been on the receiving end at the hospital and it has soothed them so much in those moments! Time to give back!"
- Stuffed Animal Donor

We had a visit from **K'ómoks First Nation Elder Ramona Johnson** who has committed to collect hundreds of new stuffies to provide for the hospital.

And we had the pleasure of working with regular contributors like the **Auxilliary Society for Comox Valley Healthcare** who will be providing thousands of stuffies for the years ahead.

Our hearts are full!

To protect the vulnerability of sick kids, donated stuffies must be new with the tags left on. If you would like more information about this program, please be in touch.

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established her run as a fundraiser in support of long-term care at The Views and raised over \$1K!

A big thank you to **Sunnydale Golf & Country Club** ladies who recently made a generous donation in support of care for people with dementia.

At the end of August, **Chris Goble** and **Jen Block** rode 515 kilometres to raise awareness and support for mental health and substance use outreach in our community. We want to send them a big congratulations and a huge thank-you for their determination and commitment to support some of our community's most vulnerable through the **Revolution(s) Against Stigma Ride**. Their fundraising page will remain active throughout September and we invite our community to learn more and show support.

[SUPPORT THE RIDE](#)

We look forward to keeping in touch in the coming months! Please follow us on social media or visit our website for further updates and opportunities to stay connected.



COMOX VALLEY HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

[DONATE TODAY](#)

Great Care. Close to Home.

250-331-5957

