



Pacific HeartBeat

NEWSLETTER



January 2013

President's Report

By Alfred Buchi

Looking back on 2012, I am pleased to report that POHA was again able to provide major funding for heart surgery patient resources, including information booklets and DVDs to Royal Columbian, Vancouver General, and St. Paul's Hospitals.

Telus and the Heart and Stroke Foundation are continuing their support for our heart pillow program, and we thank them for it. Cardiac surgery patients greatly appreciate the pillows.

In addition to the heart pillow, our visitation program is another ongoing success story for the POHA. In 2012 we saw some volunteers retire after many years of service, and welcomed several new volunteer visitors. We are always pleased to welcome new volunteers and members to the group.

If you are a golfer, I invite you and your friends to our annual golf tournament, a fun-filled event organized by our volunteer members. Details follow in this newsletter.

I would like to thank Gaming Policy & Enforcement Branch of the B.C. Government and the Founders Cup Foundation for their funding and continued support of our organization throughout the years. Our annual golf tournament and POHA membership fees also provide an important source of funds.

I look forward to continuing to work with you all in 2013.

Best wishes to you all for the New Year!

A CHRONOLOGICAL LOOK AT OPEN HEART SURGERY AT VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL

By Bill Turpin

The following time line has been developed with the assistance of Dr. Lawrence Burr, retired cardiac surgeon at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH).

1957 - Oct. 29: Doctors Peter Allen, Philip Ashmore, WG (Bill) Trapp and Ross Robertson performed the first open heart surgery at VGH Heather Operating Room #3 on nine-

year-old John Evans. The surgery, the repair of an Atrial Septal Defect, was described in a letter written by VGH student nurse, Norma Guttormsson who observed this first operation with the heart lung machine ever to be performed in B.C.

1960 - First permanent cardiac pacing was provided using epicardial wires and powered by a large pulse generator.

1962 - First transvenous infraclavicular subcutaneous pacemaker implanted.

1962 - First artificial heart valve implanted.

1962 - First artificial permanent pacemaker inserted.

1967 - VGH took over the second and third floors of The Willow Chest Centre. This expanded space provided two large operating rooms with overhead viewing galleries, one regular-sized operating room, a 10 bed ICU, a step-down unit plus pre and post-operative ward space.

1969 - June: First coronary bypass surgery performed by Dr. Peter Allen.

1972 - The cardiac surgery unit was temporarily moved to Shaughnessy Hospital while The Willow Unit was modernized.

1972 - First nuclear-powered pacemaker (A plutonium 238 power source was used in a Medtronic Model 9000 pulse generator) in Canada implanted by Doctors WG Trapp and Lawrence Burr.

1987 - The Jim Pattison Pavilion was opened providing contemporary cardiac surgery operating rooms coupled with ICU facilities.

1988, Dec. 6: First heart transplant surgery in BC performed by Dr. Virginia Gudas.

2003 - UBC Division of Cardiovascular Surgery established a cross-site cardiac surgical group between VGH and St. Paul's Hospital which in 2004 established a joint wait list for patients requiring urgent cardiac surgery resulting in a significant decrease in wait time for cardiac surgery in BC.

2005 - Dr. Peter Skarsgard established a minimally invasive valvular surgery program.

2008, Feb. 11: Doctors Richard Cook and Peter Skarsgard performed the first robotic surgery in BC using the four-armed da Vinci "S" robot on a coronary bypass patient.

While the foregoing provides a very brief summary highlighting the development of open heart surgery at Vancouver General Hospital and mentions but a few of the dedicated medical professionals involved, the program's growth was not without its "diversions", two of which follow.

In 1957, after an invoice arrived for equipment thought to have been donated to the unit, an impromptu fund-raiser was held in a local legion hall where an evening of bingo was

dedicated to raising the needed funds. At the time, bingo was illegal in Vancouver so when a police raid pushed its way through the front door, the event's enterprising organizer - a Mr. McDonald - bolted out the back door with the evening's proceeds in hand which he delivered to the Department of Surgery the next day.

On another occasion a surgery had to be put on hold when it was discovered that the perfusionist (the attending doctor responsible for the heart-lung bypass machine) was in jail. During the previous evening he had been in attendance at the showing of a "blue" movie at a local union hall when the police arrived and he was hauled off to jail. It took the efforts of the whole surgical team appearing before a magistrate attesting to this doctor's good character and explaining that he was the only perfusionist in the program to have the doctor released after being chastised by the magistrate so that the planned surgery could begin.

POHA Donates to Local Hospitals

This past year, POHA has made a number of donations to local hospitals. Below are 3 pictures:

1. A donation of \$3000 being made to Peace Arch Hospital for the purchase of a sleeper chair.
2. A sleeper chair that has been purchased for Burnaby General Hospital.
3. A donation of \$2500 to Langley Memorial Hospital for the purchase of Cardiac Educational DVDs.

Sleeper chairs can be reclined completely and used as a bed. They are available to family and friends of critically ill patients so that they can spend the night with the patient. Typically sleeper beds and educational DVDs cannot not be purchased through funds normally available to hospitals.

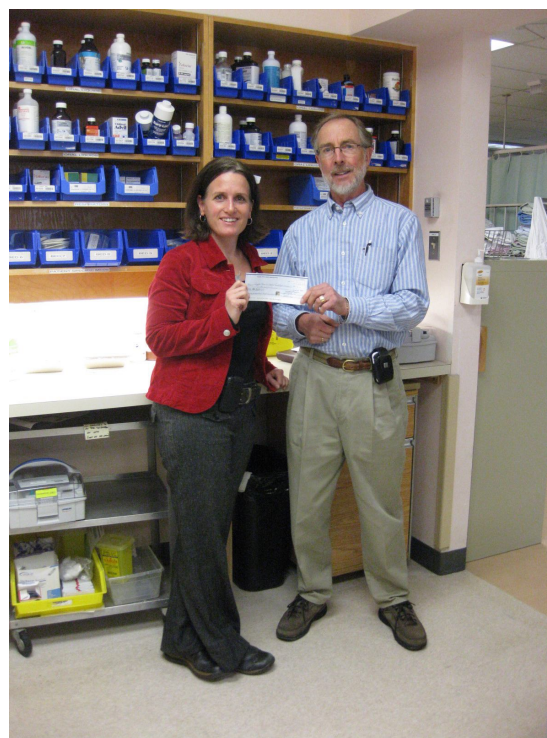


Laurel Shears, Head Nurse of 3C the Cardiac Care Unit of Burnaby General Hospital (BGH)



Peace Arch Hospital (PAH)

Selina Yano, Director, Annual Gifts & Donor Relations (PAH); Anne Brownlee, Patient Care Coordinator 4th Floor Medicine (PAH); Carole Kisielius, Manager Clinical Services, Hospital Medicine, Porters and Home IV (PAH); Patrick Hagan (POHA Board Member)



Langley Memorial Hospital (LMH)

Monica Pfenniger, Manager Critical Care (LMH); Mike Martin (POHA Board Member)

POHA SUPPORTERS

A "heartfelt" thank you to the following for making Donations or In Memoriam Gifts to the POHA from Dec.1/11 to Nov.30/12

Accent Art	Al & Coralyn Dececco	Norma Kraetor	Ray & Jean Pelletier
Alyaz Alibhal	Fred & Marie Donatiello	Jaide Kuraishi	Fred Remus
Robert J. Axford	Steve Dornan	Cullis Lancaster	Gordon Rice
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Joan Crofts	See Bun Ko	Helen Orenchuk	Reginald Wand
Arnold Dagenais	Peter Kobliuk	Bert Ouimet	Walter Wishlow
Allan Dailey	Frank Kozakiewich	Constantin Papoutsis	

In December 2012, we received a very generous donation to acknowledge that POHA "offers patients moral support and encouragement pre and post open heart surgery". This donation was in lieu of sending Christmas cards.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

We always need more members to join the ranks of the volunteer visitors.

If you are able to spend 1 to 2 hours every couple of weeks to give support to open heart surgery patients, one of the following team leaders would be very happy to tell you more about the opportunities available at one of the following hospitals:

Vancouver General	Alfred Buchi	604-581-5508
Royal Columbian	Mike Martin	604-535-3195
St. Paul's	Vern Halverson	604-261-2153

Annual General Meeting Saturday February 9th, 2013

Place: Unitarian Church
949 West 49th Ave. (Oak & 49th Ave.)
Vancouver, BC
Time: 1:30 PM
Speaker: TBD
Topic: TBD.

Membership Registration desk will open at 1:00 PM
Refreshments will be served after the speaker's presentation.

POHA 29th Annual Golf Tournament
June 21st. 2013
By Roger Kocheff Chair POHA Golf Tournament

The date and location for the 2013 POHA golf tournament have been booked:

Friday June 21st. Poppy Estates.
3834 248th. Street, Aldergrove

The format will be the same as last year. We are working on a new hole-in-one prize but have not yet finalized the details. We hope to include this news in the registration package, which will be in your hands in late April 2013.

Also, there will be a new blind draw, for free entry into the 2014 Tournament. This would be drawn from all "early" registrations for this year's Tournament. There will be more details on this in the registration package.

Please plan to attend. For more tournament information or to learn how to help with phoning, prizes or general help for the tournament, contact me at:

604-467-2904 or rkocheff@telus.net

Please send Golf Tournament Information to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Mail to: 11961-203 St., Maple Ridge, V2X 4V2

It's that time again!

It's time to renew your Pacific Open Heart Association membership. Membership is still only \$10.00, unchanged in over 20 years !! Funds from memberships are used to cover operating costs of the Association such as the production of our brochures (in several languages); postage; Annual General Meeting expenses; the purchase of poinsettias for patients who are recovering from open surgery during the Christmas holiday. None of our volunteers or directors receives any form of compensation and never has. Any surplus funds from membership renewals are donated to hospitals for sundry equipment in the cardiac wards. So please renew and help support the good work that POHA has been doing for over 25 years. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP REQUEST

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

I am interested in - being a visitor:

- being a volunteer:

- Golf:

Please send all correspondence to:
Pacific Open Heart Association
PO Box 3979 MPO, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Z4
Telephone: 604-582-6229

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