

## *Board Chairman*

Regional Health Services for the North Island remains a work in process. While St. Joseph's has functioned out of the eye of the storm; as it is the Vancouver Island Health Authorities (VIHA's) role to plan and determine services, it certainly is a matter that is important to our Board, Medical Staff and community.

Mr. Pontus and I met with Howard Waldner, Chief Executive Officer, and Jac Kreut, Board Chair, of the Vancouver Island Health Authority on January 27, 2009 as part of a consultative process initiated by that body. At that time Campbell River was definitively only to be 60 acute beds and regional



services were to be in one Comox Valley location. We noted the current future trends of ambulatory services and the need for interim solutions. Our Board subsequently met again with Mr. Waldner and Mr. Kreut and noted that our Ambulatory Care proposal; even as an interim, was equivalent to but one years worth of interest on the Regional Hospital project.

In the interim, the Vancouver Island Health Authority has agreed to maintain and provide the funding necessary to sustain the medical services provided by St. Joseph's at its present high level of care, grow as required to meet the needs, and employ all staff at either site upon completion of the regional hospital project.

It is evident that Mr. Michael Pontus, our President & Chief Executive Officer and his management and support staff have been working closely with Vancouver Island Health Authority staff at various levels over the past year to continue to provide and improve health services to the residents of the Comox Valley and North Island. Nuclear medicine, CT scans, cataract surgery, and joint replacement surgery are but a few increased services for the Valley.

St. Joseph's Board, in addition to carrying out its regular duties, has dealt with a number of issues this past year. These range from privileging concerns, to new Medical Staff appointments, to new Medical Staff Bylaws and Rules, to amendments to our Affiliation Agreement with the Vancouver Island Health Authority to include information technology sharing, to Ambulatory Care plans, to Accreditation, to internal renovation projects, and to ethical policies to name but a few.

Additionally, I was privileged to attend the official opening of the new digital mammography machine with our late MLA, the Honourable Stan Hagen on December 19, 2008. Mr. Hagen is also acknowledge for supporting St. Joseph's acquisition of a CT service which has grown from 2500 scans a year to 8000; and has been upgraded again this past year.

I have again been fortunate to work with our talented Board members who bring their individual expertise to the various Board Committees and, through that process, to the Board table. Special thanks to the President of the Medical Staff, Dr. Jill Toews, and to our Medical Director, Dr. Don Fockler.

The vast number of hours contributed by the members of our Hospital Auxiliary and our various volunteer programs to St. Josephs' each year does so much to sustain the Mission, Vision and Values of the hospital.

St. Joseph's General Hospital Foundation continues to impress with its funding expertise, e.g. the Palliative Care Project. The Comox Valley is so fortunate to have their support as an integral part in the provision of health services to our thriving community.

Finally, the support of the Diocese and His Grace, Bishop Gagnon, is truly appreciated. We hope that we have continued as you would expect us to adhere to our corporate Mission, Vision and Values as we serve our community.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron M. Philip', written in a cursive style.

Ron M. Philip  
Chair, Board of Directors