

Board Chairman

Each year brings the Board new challenges, decisions and opportunities that recognize the successes of St. Joseph's Hospital in fulfilling our mission.

We are forever challenged to provide high quality of service to everyone presenting with a condition that requires medically necessary hospital services, to be a community safety net and yet adhere to a fixed budget.

Altering how we do things, to meet the changing needs of the population we serve and their conditions, the medical technology as well as resources and standards means that continuous evolution and innovation is required on our part. It is a necessary responsible role of governance to see that our administration and staff are continually doing this.

I am confident that in retrospect there will be, as with other initiatives taken by St. Joseph's, clarity on how the transition unit that we are planning will best serve the patients that we have currently and provide protection for acute care.

This year we have added many new medical staff and seen the retirement of some long standing ones. We are pleased to welcome additional medical staff in various specialties and, as a responsible governing body, needed to make decisions in respect of our regional role in order to serve communities other than the Comox Valley.

You will note in the reports that follow, the many improvements in our building structure, equipment, programs and services in which we have become not only greener but more efficient, safer, more accessible and increasingly served more individuals this past year.

We have maintained good relationships with the Vancouver Island Health Authority, all of our Accrediting bodies and our Community while providing significant opportunities for employment to greater than one thousand individuals.

You will note in our reports that the demographics of the people we are serving are changing and we must be mindful that all will receive appropriate and proper service.



Board Chairman

St. Joseph's General Hospital Foundation continues to generate outstanding financial contributions from the Comox Valley community which permits the Foundation to assist the hospital in the provision of many and varied items of equipment. In the past year \$396,000 was contributed by the Foundation.

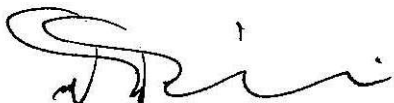
The members of our Hospital Auxiliary contribute countless hours in support of the many volunteer programs which are so invaluable to the welfare and support of our patients.

It has been my pleasure to work with my fellow Board members who provide sound, thoughtful input to the Board Committees and to our deliberations at Board meetings on the various issues, which we have to discuss and consider, regarding the day to day operation of St. Joseph's.

Mr. Michael Pontus, our President and Chief Executive Officer, his management team and support staffs continue their diligent work in consultation with the VIHA staff at all levels.

We appreciate as well, the continued support of the community comprising the Strathcona Regional Health Committee and their Board and our local M.L.A, Mr. Don McRae. I would also like to thank His Grace, Bishop Gangon, our owner, for his and the Diocese wise counsel and continued support of our Board and guidance in respect to our mission.

Respectfully submitted,



Ron M. Philip
Chair, Board of Directors