

# *President of the Medical Staff's Report*

## ST. JOSEPH'S GENERAL HOSPITAL

As I expected, this was a very busy year for me in my role as your President of Medical Staff. My twin goals for the year were to keep up with all the duties, meetings and correspondence of the job and to finalize the Bylaws and Rules of the Medical Staff. I accomplished the second and, as far as I know, took a good run at the first. I know I survived and lived to tell the tale. I even almost had fun!

For those of you who have not been on the Medical Executive, it feels much of the time that it is a thankless role. However, for the most part I enjoyed my interactions with everyone from the members of Medical Staff up to the members of the Board. I felt we usually made progress on the issues that arose. As a voting member of the Board, I attended the Board AGM and the annual Board Retreat in July, and attended the monthly Board meetings. This was always interesting and usually much briefer than my MAC meetings!

As President, I was invited to several opening events, both in the Community and in the hospital. I attended the Opening dinner and tour of the Berwick facility in September and was impressed with the concept of “gilded” assisted living. I also attended the openings of the Nuclear Medicine Unit in the fall and the Oncology Unit just this month. There seemed to be at least one issue or event concerning every medical department this past year. There were issues with each of the Departments of Medicine, ICU, Surgery, Radiology, Family Practice, Obstetrics and Psychiatry. The only department that kept its head down was Paeds! Congratulations!

I have also attended the bimonthly Health Authority MAC meeting for the last two years. I found this interesting and, most of the time, informative. It particularly showed me how Victoria-centric VIHA can be and that we in the North Island have to constantly keep our voices in the conversation. It is easy to be ignored, especially as St. Joe's isn't a VIHA-owned hospital. Our medical Administration does an excellent job of keeping channels open to VIHA and the Medical Staff needs to do the same. One point of access is HAMAC but the role of Site Chiefs in this regard is also very important.

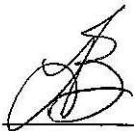
There was a lot of turbulence surrounding the proposed Regional Hospital. This involved a lot of meetings (and angst) through the year and, I expect this issue will continue to do so until the facility is finally built. I would like to remind the Medical Staff as a whole that it took Abbotsford 18 years to get from an initial idea to an open and functioning hospital – it may take the North Island just as long and we need to maintain our current level of function until then.

We also need to maintain our collegiality with the MD's in Campbell River – they have fewer medical advantages than we do and, one day, we will all be working beside them.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the MAC for their patience with the Bylaws and Rules process this year. I would also like to commend each of the Department Heads for their input at MAC this year. We will never solve all the problems but you all were excellent at airing any difficulties and contributing to their resolution. I would also like to thank Don Fockler, Medical Director, and Tami Dow, Admin Assistant for all their help this year. I couldn't have managed without you two! Michael Pontus and the Board were also welcoming and always approachable which I very much appreciated.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



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