

President & Chief Executive Officer's Report

2007/08 was an exciting year for St. Joseph's General Hospital.

Several initiatives were undertaken to improve patient care, operational efficiencies, linkage to the Vancouver Island Health Authority and public accountability through Accreditation.

We have been most fortunate to maintain full staffing on both the employee and medical staff front, and to replace those who are retiring with extremely competent, vital, generous and committed people. We all know the Comox Valley is an attractive place, and St. Joseph's is a great place to work.

Preparatory work has begun on communication initiatives, staff engagement surveys, ambulatory care solutions, functional relocations, palliative care planning, as well as preparation for computerization in an integrated fashion with the Vancouver Island Health Authority's suite of software "Cerner".

Challenges in space, operating room time, parking, sick time, injury rates were reviewed vigorously with, in some cases, only moderate successes, but will be pursued again in 2008/09.

I am confident that St. Joseph's is continually improving both the quality and quantity of care it provides to the residents of the Comox Valley and the North/Central Island and Powell River.

Within the statistical section of this Annual Report, you will find interesting information on where our patients come from, our cost per weighted case and our overall activity levels. From that, you will recognize that St. Joseph's represents better than others, excellent value for the services provided.

Our objective this next year is to precisely document with the Vancouver Island Health Authority, St. Joseph's services and the levels at which they are provided, as well as the cost associated with those services. This will be an addendum to our Affiliation Agreement with the Vancouver Island Health Authority and the foundation of a service based funding model.

St. Joseph's has benefited from the hard work of all of our staff, department heads, medical staff, volunteers, auxiliaries and the Foundation. I echo the report of the Chairman, Mr. Ron Philip, in thanking them. Without the precise attention to detail by each individual the health care services as a system does not work.

I wish to thank Bishop Gagnon for the continued support of the Diocese of Victoria, his wise counsel and his continued availability.

I would like to extend my appreciation for the direction and support provided by the Board of Directors and its Committees, led by Mr. Ron Philip and our Administrative Executive Staff of Mr. Eric Macdonald, Mrs. Barbara Kinnon, Ms. Sandy Woiden, Dr. Don Fockler, Mr. Don Tait, Ms. Jessica Landory, Mrs. Lisa Murphy and Rev. Gordon Carter. We are blessed with a strong contingent of department heads, who have engaged a very committed staff. Over the past year I have appreciated the services directly of Mrs. Kaylene Simmons and other members of her staff that support the Administrative Executive Team and Department Heads.

I extend my appreciation to the Executive and Senior Members of the Vancouver Island Health Authority and their Board of Directors for their continued support of the level of services that St. Joseph's provides both for our community and the region.

I continue to see it as a privilege to be your President & Chief Executive Officer. I thank you for that opportunity, and look forward to your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Pontus
President & Chief Executive Officer