

# Volunteer Nanaimo



March 2021

3148 Barons Road, Nanaimo. BC V9T 4B5

## Dates to Remember

**Monday, May 24**

Closed for VICTORIA DAY

**Sunday, June 20**

FATHER'S DAY EVENT

**Saturday, July 10**

ANNUAL YARD SALE

FUNDRAISER

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THANKS to sponsors  
& donors

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Youth NetWork

## Contact Us

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**Email:** vn3148@gmail.com

**Facebook:** 'Volunteer Nanaimo'

**Website:**

<http://www.volunteernanaimo.ca>

**Hours of Business:** Mon. to Thurs.  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Monday to Thursday



## Member of the Month

Nanaimo Auxiliary to Nanaimo Regional  
General Hospital

The Nanaimo Auxiliary to Nanaimo Regional General Hospital is a dynamic group of nearly 250 volunteers who have raised over 3 million dollars for our hospital in the last ten years, providing over 40,000 hours of community service annually.

Our prime focus is to be a caring organization and provide service, financial help for patient care and comfort items for everyone who accesses Nanaimo Regional General Hospital, Dufferin Place and healthcare in the community.

The Auxiliary Gift Shop and Thrift Store were closed the second week of March, 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The Thrift Store reopened with COVID protocols in place, July 2, operating four days a week, later extending to five days, Tuesdays to Saturdays. The Gift Shop reopened the second week of September, Wednesday through Friday, 4 hours per day as COVID protocols were issued from Island Health, with Tuesdays added to the hours of operation in October.

The lack of volunteers willing to return limited hours at these sites. Thus, full days of operations were shortened. The Work Party, group that normally met Wednesdays for Quilting times, now work solo at home due to COVID. After community vaccinations, it still will take several months to find and recruit new volunteers.

In normal times, the Thrift Shop is buzzing concern all year long, well known and loved by Nanaimo.

**NOTE: The Thrift Store is currently closed again, until further notice.**



## Hospital Auxiliary cont.

The three areas for creating revenues are sales from the NRGH Gift Shop, the Thrift Store, and the Work Party group, which provides quilts, knitted and home-sewn crafts to sell.

The dedication and commitment that these volunteers display is evident everywhere.

An energized group makes such a difference in many areas of the hospital, aiding patients (before COVID) within wards on some floors, at Information booths, book/ magazine trolleys, and guiding patients to specialized areas.

But this does not include all who give hours of crafting time to knitting quilting and donating as gifts for patients in hospital, also filling the wonderful lobby gift shop with handcrafted gift items ready for sale. These ladies also volunteer shifts to man this treasure of a Gift Shop. In turn, the Gift shop generates revenues that go back to the Hospital for various needs.

This shop also has a dedicated crew of volunteers working regular shifts from the loading dock to the sorting rooms to the shop itself.

'All HATS off ' to the Auxiliary for all their hard work in organizing, recruiting and training volunteers, in order to contribute significant donations the Hospital. Annually.

**Our volunteers are hard working and organized. Many are retired professionals who bring an enormous range of skills to help out the NRGH Auxiliary.**

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE: Christine Craigie

Arguably there should be a capital V in Christine's name, synonymous with the contributions of this vivacious volunteer, who is filled with vim and vigor.

Christine was raised 70 years ago in the Swiss Alps. With her steely heritage she takes on a task and does it with flare.

Her crafting abilities led her to join the Scrub Caps Canada group this year as COVID hit our community, sending many volunteers home for the long haul. She and others have created and sewn the most fashionable of scrub-caps, available for sale in the hospital Gift Shop (Revenues add to hospital auxiliary funds).

Christine personally made 350 scrub caps and helped deliver them to the entire hospital staff, where requested.

A local Rotarian for years, amongst other worthy volunteer positions, five years ago Christine felt the pull to join the Hospital's volunteer complement of 350 people. And we're glad she did!

Here she has found great enjoyment volunteering, firstly at the Information Booth, and more recently on loan to the Gift Shop.



## Ongoing programs

### Tax Return Service

*for qualified clients*

Continues, **one Friday a month, May to November.**

Please call 250-758-7121 for an appointment.

### WATCHDOG

### Computer Services

Providing technical support for non-profit agencies and individuals within our community.

Offered by donation - plus cost if parts are purchased.

We welcome donations of used computers - especially laptops - which are refurbished and redistributed to members of the community.

**More information: 250-758-7121.**

by donation



## FATHER'S DAY event

Don't miss this COVID-friendly family event. **Sunday, June 20.**

*Plus*

## FATHER'S DAY raffle

**Supporting our YouthNetwork**

*Great prizes!*

*Tickets: \$2.00 for one | \$5.00 for three*

*Check our website after May 20*

*for details. [www.volunteernanaimo.ca](http://www.volunteernanaimo.ca)*





**SPONSORS**

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**PRIZE DONORS**

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- BC Royal Museum
- Beadle Carpentry
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- Country Grocer, Dufferin Crescent
- Flowers & Baskets by Lori
- Huntingdon Manor Hotel, Victoria
- Lantzville Pub, Lantzville
- Longwood Brewery
- Lowe's
- Nanaimo Golf & Country Club
- PartyLite with Maureen Lowden
- Port Theatre
- Quality Foods, Harewood
- Roberts Place, Gabriola Island
- Save On Foods, Country Club Mall
- Spencer Designs Jewellery
- Women of the Moose

**SWAG DONORS**

- B C Critical Response Network  
- Jane Osbourne
- Brechin Lanes
- Coastal Capital Savings
- Community Policing
- Gulf Islands Coffee Roasting
- KJ Controls
- MNP
- Nanaimo Corrections Centre
- Panago
- Paul Manly, MP
- Vancouver Island Symphony

*Please support our generous sponsors & donors!*



Mark your calendars!  
**Saturday, July 10**  
 9am to 1 pm.  
*We welcome your gently-used donations.*

**Our Angel Network Crafters**  
 welcome donations of washable yarn  
 to knit into squares  
 that are pieced together into blankets  
 for babies, seniors, anyone moving  
 into a new home...  
**Call us at 250-758-7121**  
**or drop them off.**

*Donations welcome at 3148 Barons Road, 9am to 3pm, Monday to Thursday.*

## Volunteer Nanaimo Youth Making a Difference!



### It's BC Youth Week, May 1-7th!

This month we plan to adopt a park for the whole year! Presently we are running a poll with our members to select which park to adopt. Be sure to check out the newsletter next month to find out the winner.

Our youth are passionate about protecting the environment and excited to be stewards of a green space. We have done several beach & park clean up work parties, our most recent was on Earth Day at Bowen Park.

Every month we have a variety of projects for youth to be involved with. In May we will be painting rocks for the *Volunteer Nanaimo Touch a Truck scavenger hunt*, participating in a Youth Week event, hosting a Jeopardy night, and joining Young Professionals of Nanaimo for an invasive plant removal work party.

We also meet via Zoom on Tuesday nights to watch Ted Talks, videos and have discussions.

At Volunteer Nanaimo we celebrate our youth and everything they do to make a difference in our community. If you are between 11-29 years old and want to be involved, get connected and help shape the community we want to hear from you!

We host brainstorming and planning meetings every Thursday night for our new projects and youth members.

Our volunteer programs allow youth to follow their passions, explore their interests, have fun, all while helping them build their self confidence, personal skills and resumes for the future.

For more information email:

[youth2020cannanaimo@gmail.com](mailto:youth2020cannanaimo@gmail.com)

[volunteernanaimo.youthnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:volunteernanaimo.youthnetwork@gmail.com)



This newsletter is published monthly by Volunteer Nanaimo, which is solely responsible for its content.

[www.volunteernanaimo.com](http://www.volunteernanaimo.com)

Editor Lois Peterson.

If you'd like to know more about anything you read here, or would like to contribute material, please email us at [vn3148@volunteernanaimo.ca](mailto:vn3148@volunteernanaimo.ca) with 'Newsletter' in the subject line.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Province of British Columbia – Gaming Commission

