

Winter 2026

Newsletter



FINALLY!



WE HAVE A BEAUTIFUL NEW STATE OF THE ART HOSPITAL



Today was a momentous day in the history of West Lincoln, we held the Official Opening Ceremony of the new West Lincoln Memorial Hospital. We know everyone could not be there but thanks to our amazing AV and communications team we were able to capture it on video.

Thank you for ensuring we have this memory saved forever; a truly historic day for our hospital and community. Huge thanks to our communications team David Silvestro and Leslie Lamont who co-ordinated and planned this great event.

Nov 14, 2025

Chairs Report - Spring 2026



Hi Everybody ...

Lets hope we've left the cold, snowy wet days of winter behind now that March is here.

The BIG news from my last newsletter report is ...

A New West Lincoln Memorial Hospital.

On Nov 23, 2025 the entire West Lincoln Memorial Hospital moved lock, stock and barrel to the New West Lincoln Memorial Hospital. We are now into month four and the place has settled down to a dull roar. The first few weeks were bedlam but our volunteers and Wayfinders did their jobs with grace and a big smile.

The new hospital has certainly attracted many new volunteers and Christine has a full complement of student volunteers who Wayfind and work the coffee shop (over 20).

In 2025 donations from community organizations, like Rankin Construction who sponsor the Rankin Run for Cancer in St. Catharines and the Rotary Club of Grimsby totalled \$81,600. Private, anonymous donations and memorials for 2025 totalled \$10,000 plus \$30,000 from our Daisy Cafe and \$30,000 from our Gift Shop.

One of our fundraising initiatives was suggested by a past President of the Auxiliary, Jill Howe and she came up with the idea of a "Donor Tree". She pursued this to its conclusion with the help of Cox Signs and today we have donations for leaves, rocks and birds totalling over \$68,000. It's a thing of beauty between the Cafe and the Gift Shop. We are financially sound.

We have a few fundraising events for 2026 in the final planning stages and I'll report on them at the AGM in April when they are firm.

Again, a huge thank you to Gail Bartlett who has continued her work with the Redevelopment Committee for the Auxiliary to ensure our best interests were looked after. We are now into the warranty stage for the new hospital and Gail will continue to look after claims for repairs and replacements for items in the Cafe/Gift Shop as well as office equipment etc.

Have a wonderful Spring and Summer. See you at the AGM in April.

Fred Lilley, Chair - West Lincoln Memorial Auxiliary



Volunteer Coordinator Report – January 2026

All the newsprint, TV and social media coverage generated by the grand opening of the new WLMH in November 2025 contributed to an influx of new volunteer applications in the past few months. We went live in early March 2025 with a web-based volunteer management software system, which includes an online application. Since launching the software 9 months ago, we have received 98 online applications from members of the community in the surrounding area of Grimsby, Lincoln, West Lincoln and Stoney Creek (70% were from adults and 30% from high school students). I'm still working through all the applications and will be in contact with everyone in due course.

Currently we have 148 active volunteers, an increase from 124 volunteers a year ago.

The ongoing parking shortage continues to limit our intake of new volunteers, probably until late 2026 once the legacy hospital is demolished and the new parking lot and landscaping are completed. That will allow us to expand volunteer placements in other areas of the hospital.

Volunteer hours for 2025 were just shy of 20,000, a jump of 4,000 hours over 2024 (27% increase), which can be attributed to the increase in volunteers, but especially due to the efforts of many of volunteers who were involved in the planning, preparation and execution of the move. Truly an amazing team effort, so thank you to each and every volunteer.

It sure feels good to have the move behind us. Two months in, we're adapting to the new facility and within the year, when the exterior grounds are completed and the Main Entrance has finally opened, we will have settled in.

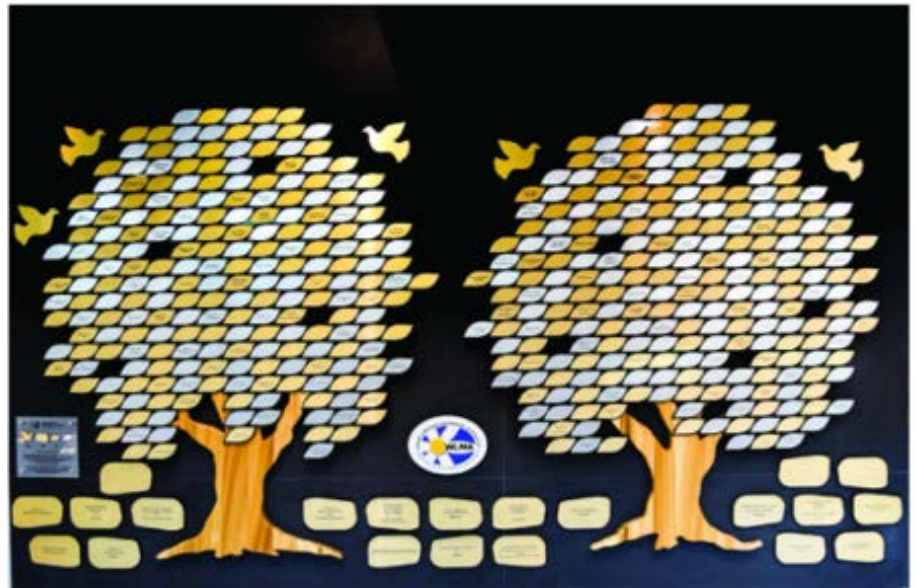
A good time to celebrate again.

Wendy Hollinshead
Volunteer Coordinator

We are thrilled to share some fantastic news regarding our Donor Trees!

Due to their immense popularity, we have made some exciting additions. We've added 5 beautiful BIRDS and 4 more ROCKS to celebrate our generous donors even further.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm.



Silver Leaf: \$250

Gold Leaf: \$500

Rock: \$2,500 (only 3 are left)

Birds: \$5,000 (only 4 remain left)



Fundraising

2025

2024

St. Paddy's Day Dinner		\$ 704.10
Strawberry Tea & Fashion Show	\$4620.10	\$3136.23
Afternoon Tea & Shoppin Spree	\$ 955.85	\$2081.65
Poinsettia Sale	\$1299.42	\$1077.30
Bake Sales (2)	\$1575.00	\$ 970.00
Holiday Spirits Raffle	\$2400.00	\$2500.00
Mother's Day Raffle	\$2400.00	
Total	\$13250.37	\$10469.28



Auxiliary Events 2026

Easter Bake Sale	WLMH Lobby	Thursday April 2nd
Annual General Meeting	MCRC	Thursday April 23rd
Mother's Day Raffle	WLMH Lobby	Thursday May 7th
Strawberry Tea	MCRC	Thursday June 18th
Afternoon Tea & Craft Sale	MCRC	Thursday October 22nd
Poinsettia Sale	WLMH Lobby	Wed/Thurs Nov 25/26th
Spirit Basket Raffle	WLMH Lobby	Thursday December 10th
Breakfast With Santa	TBD	Saturday December 12th
Christmas Bake Sale	WLMH Lobby	Monday December 21st

MCRC - Mountainview Christian Reformed Church



The return of our past fundraiser!

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Halted due to Covid and by popular demand, we have finally brought back the Nevada Break-Open Tickets

Volunteer Marlene Gilmour is all ready to sell you a winning ticket.





We are sharing an inspiring story about our youngest donor. Meet Louise, the granddaughter of our dedicated long-time Auxiliary volunteer, Kathy Smart. At just 8 years old, Louise has shown remarkable generosity and has made a significant impact on our community.

For her recent birthday, she chose to request money instead of gifts, with the intention of donating half of the total amount received. Louise chose the West Lincoln Memorial Auxiliary. She used half of her birthday gifts along with some of her own savings and donated \$200 to our Auxiliary! This isn't her first contribution, as we recall her kind gesture last year when she donated \$150.

It's inspiring to see such a young person take the initiative to support others, and it serves as a reminder that no one is ever too young to make a difference in their community.

Her selflessness and dedication to helping others at such a young age are truly commendable. Louise serves as a wonderful reminder that..... **Kindness Knows No Age.**

Last Baby born at the Legacy Hospital November 23rd 2025



Baby Robbie Beaudette was the last baby born at the old West Lincoln Memorial Hospital. Robbie, with parents Lydia and Shawn, was part of the patient transfers on Sunday to the new facility. Shawn says, "Having the opportunity to walk down the halls of the old West Lincoln obstetrical unit was really nice for us, before bringing Robbie into the world. We got a chance to read all the notes from the community and the nurses on the ward. It was good to acknowledge that legacy."



1st Baby born at the New Hospital November 24th 2025

And now for a teeny-tiny-huge milestone: Baby Kaur was the first baby born at our new West Lincoln Memorial Hospital, arriving Monday morning. Baby's father Jaswinder says, "My experience as a father at West Lincoln Hospital was exciting and thrilling. The whole staff was so welcoming and nice, they took care of every small need we asked them. I would say it was a five star experience and I feel lucky to have had our child born at this place. It feels like heaven for us."



2026 New Year's Day Baby



Baby Brooks Heckman was born at West Lincoln Memorial Hospital at 5:45pm on January 1, 2026. He weighed in at 7 lbs 12 1/2 ozs or 3,530 Grams. This is Jordan and Kristen Heckman's first baby and the family resides in Jordan.

Mum, Dad and Baby Brooks are doing fine!

Interesting story; the couple had come to the ONS (Obstetrics and New Born Services) on December 31 and were told to come back on NY's day. Volunteer Barbara Walker was working Dec 31 and saw them leave and they commented to Barbara that they were coming back tomorrow (Jan 1) and Barbara replied, "you might have the New Year's baby".



Kay Woodward and Mary O'Brien swap from the old Information desk to the much nicer new one.



From the **Old** to the **New**



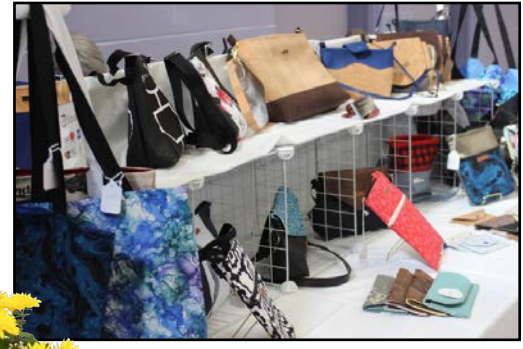
From This.....

To This!!





“Afternoon Tea & Shopping Spree” held at Mountainview Christian Reformed Church on Thursday October 16th 2025



A selection of photos of our
Vendors, Penny Sale and
Guests enjoying some treats
from
“Tays Treats”



Chrysanthemums
donated by
Trillium Hill Greenhouses



Photographer
Craig Major



Volunteers at "Work"



Margaret Priest and AnneMarie Heywood organizing the new "Gift Shop"



Marlene Morais and Kathy Smart getting "The Daisy Cafe" ready.



Patricia Toth and Diane Park tempting the staff with the Care Cart.



Carla Reid and Marie McNiven decorating our "Celebrate" tree for the Rotary Club's "Fantasy of Trees"

2026 Volunteer Week
April 19 - 25th
Theme - "Ignite Volunteerism"



Volunteer Canada



Marlene Gilmour ready to sell the Nevada Tickets.



Wendy Hollinshead and Ruthann Joosse selling Poinsettias.



Fred Lilley, Roz Lilley, Wendy Hollinshead, Gail Bartlett, Helen Schinbein, Olia Holynsky taken in front of our "Donor Tree"



Kay Woodward and Mary O'Brien ready to assist visitors and patients.



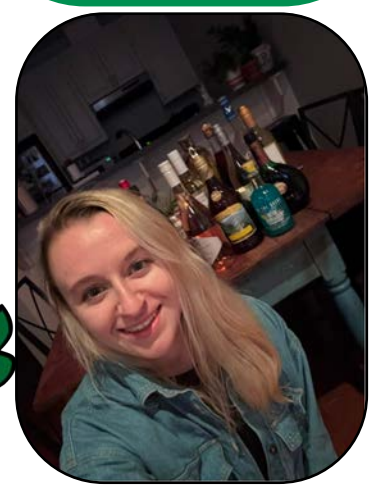
Wendy Hollinshead and Ruthann Joosse working at the Annual Poinsettia Sale held on November 26th & 27th in the New Hospital Lobby



Fred Lilley drawing the winning tickets on December 11th for the "Holiday Spirits Raffle" assisted by Jim Gilmour and Judy Jordan.

Winners were:
1st prize - Jordan Black
2nd prize - Terri Makin

Marie McNiven and Marlene Morais working at our Christmas Bake Sale held in the New Hospital Lobby on December 17th



Jordan Black
1st Prize Winner





Welcome



to our new volunteers

Susan Balonjan

Tina Barnabi

Debra Caldwell

Patricia Cino

Sue Ferster-Brown

Nola Gautreau

Mollie Holloway

Vidhya Ilangovane

Howie McRae

Mark Picone

Donna Kirchknopf

Heather Smith

Juliana Tendeiro

Janice Rasmussen

Linda Tremblay

Darlene McFadden Hart

Baljinder Mandahar



Condolences



Go out to:

Lois Hanson on the death of her husband (July 2025)

Shirley Hughes on the death of her husband (Nov 2025)

Harvey Boudreau on the death of his wife (Dec 2025)

Jill Howe on the death of her brother (Dec 2025)

Gillian Leon on the death of her husband (January 2026)

**WLM Auxiliary Office:
169 Main Street E.,
Grimsby ON L3M 1P3**

**Website - wlmauxiliary.ca
905-945-2253
Ext 11391
Office Hours:
M-F 9am - Noon**



**Designer/Editor
Roz Lilley
Winter 2026**