

# Quarterly Report to the Community



Saint John Regional  
Hospital Foundation

**\$816,452.80  
RAISED**





# Message from the President and CEO and Chairman, Board of Directors

Our organization had a busy spring and summer. Plans for the new Community Health Centre are well underway, as renovations continue at St. Joseph's Hospital, and our first Nurse Practitioners join the collaborative practice model. Three Nurse Practitioners will be assigned to the Community Health Centre while one started work at the Fundy Health Centre in June.

Operational planning is in full swing. Programs and departments will be continuing the process throughout the summer, with an expected completion date of September 30. The Department of Organizational Learning has held a series of educational sessions to assist staff in planning and the approach has led to a wider understanding of the process among managers and front line staff.

Our Annual Teddy Bear Fair in early spring saw 5,000 children and parents visit the Saint John Regional Hospital where professional staff members treated favourite bears and other assorted 'animals' under the watchful eyes of their 'owners'.

In May we welcomed 101 new members who reached the 25 years of service milestone while all sites participated in employee recognition activities throughout the week and into the summer months. In May also, we were honoured to share an evening with our volunteers whose commitment to our organization is measured in their selfless dedication to our facilities and our patients.

Spring is also a busy time of year for our major fund-raising events. The Department of Orthopaedics

annual event, Hip Hip Hooray, was held in late May and well attended, despite torrential rains. Play Ball for St. Joseph's and the annual Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation's



*Dora Nicinski  
President and CEO*



*William H. Teed  
Chairman  
Board of Directors*

Rally of Hope were held on sunny Saturdays in June, and staff members also participated in the Canadian Cancer Society's second annual Relay for Life. Thanks to the continued support of staff, physicians, and volunteers, each event either met or exceeded its goals.

AHSC was pleased to welcome a number of new physicians, whose pictures and profiles appear in the following pages, while long-standing members of our medical staff -- Doctors Handa and Khanna -- received well-deserved awards of recognition. In addition, we celebrate the success of having recruited new nursing staff members to our Charlotte County Hospital facility.

The Saint John Regional Hospital hosted two symposiums in May -- the Trauma Surgery Symposium and Injury Prevention Symposium, opened by the Honourable Margaret Ann Blaney, Minister of Public Safety, where an important study was released demonstrating the high economic costs to Atlantic Canada of unintentional injuries.

The Integrated Services Initiative (ISI) is ramping up for a September launch of the new Patient Services Worker model. Educational sessions continued throughout the summer and we applaud the dedication of staff members who were willing to accept the challenge of a move to these exciting new roles on our patient care teams.

The Annual General Meeting of AHSC's Board of Directors was held on June 23 at the Delta Hotel where reports, including the organization's audited financial statements, were presented. Guest speaker on the occasion was Dr. John McLaughlin, President of the University of New Brunswick, whose comprehensive and ambitious vision of the future, with emphasis on research, stressed the importance of partnerships in harnessing the expertise, energy, and wisdom needed to achieve success.

We continue to be grateful for the commitment and dedication of our staff members, physicians, volunteers, foundations, auxiliaries and community partners who continuously strive to ensure that this organization remains at the forefront of education and research while providing exemplary care to our patients.

### *Featured on our cover . . .*

- *Rally of Hope . . .*  
*See story Page 12*

**Quarterly Report to the Community** is produced internally by Regional Health Authority 2 four times a year. It is intended to provide information on the organization's operations and activities to staff, physicians, communities and stake holders throughout Region 2 and the province.

**Editorial:**  
Marketing & Communications

**Design:**  
AHSC Multimedia Services

**Contact:**  
P. L. Crowdis,  
Director of Communications  
506-648-6116  
cropta@reg2.health.nb.ca

Jacque Trask  
Communications Officer  
506-648-6139  
traja@reg2.health.nb.ca

## The Board of Directors

Appointed April 1, 2002



William H. Teed  
*Q.C., Chairman*  
*Four years*



Glen Baxter  
*Two years*



Paschal Chisholm  
*Three years*



Walter Cosman  
*Four years*



Janet Dexter  
*Two years*



Carole Fournier  
*Four years*



Stephen Grant  
*Three years*



Sandra Irving  
*Three years*



Barbara Lee  
*Two years*



Erma Macaulay  
*Two years*



Jean Porter  
*Two years*



Douglas Shippee  
*Two years*



Todd Stephen  
*Two years*



Paul Stewart  
*Two years*



Wayne Wamboldt  
*Two years*

**Ex-officio**



Dora Nicinski  
*President  
 & CEO*



Dr. James O'Brien  
*Chief of Staff*



Nancy Savage  
*VP Patient  
 Programs*

## Board News

The Board of Directors held its Annual General Meeting on Monday, June 23 at the Delta Brunswick Hotel in Saint John.

Keynote speaker, Dr. John McLaughlin, President of the University of New Brunswick, emphasized his desire for a greater partnership and level of cooperation with management and the Board of our organization. The audience included members of the Board, AHSC staff, and the general public. "We must investigate near term, middle term and long term opportunities for us to work together toward the common goal

of promoting health research," he said. In thanking Dr. McLaughlin, Todd Stephen, Board secretary, complimented the tone of the remarks and added, "We have some good folks here in New Brunswick and developing this partnership can help us to convince them to stay in the area." Other highlights of the annual meeting included the year in review presented by William Teed, Board Chairman, Dora Nicinski, AHSC President and CEO, Dr. James O'Brien, Chair, Medical Advisory Committee, Nancy Savage, Chair of the Professional Advisory Committee, and Michael Chisholm,

AHSC Chief Financial Officer. The regular monthly meeting was held following the annual meeting.

President and CEO, Dora Nicinski, explained that the organization will focus on the NB Heart Centre over the next few months. "We will evaluate the cost of the program in order to determine the adequacy of its funding," she said. Ms. Nicinski also made Board members aware that the Department of Health and Wellness has approved the laboratory at the Saint John Regional Hospital as the only New Brunswick site for Pulsed Field Gel Electrophoresis testing. This test



is done to characterize bacteria such as e-coli. "We have been allocated \$60,000 to set up the test and will be receiving \$50,000 in annual funding," she said.

Barb McGill, Vice President of Community Programs and Chief Nursing Officer, reported that the Project Steering Committee of the St. Joseph's Hospital Community Health Centre met on June 23 and received reports from all working groups including Community Needs and Initiatives. Work continues on the development of a patient registration process and, in regard to design/renovation/construction, work will continue over the summer and tender documents for the pedway and waiting area will be ready by fall.

Dr. James O'Brien, Chief of Staff, reported the Medical Advisory Committee had approved policies regarding Power of Attorney and

Informed Consent. Implementation and public education of these policies is expected to begin in the fall.

Carole Fournier, Chairperson of the Physician Resources Committee, tabled the final report of the Committee until July.

Wayne Wamboldt, Finance Committee Chairman, reported that details are being finalized for the expansion of parking areas at the Saint John Regional Hospital and that a request for information regarding a parking structure is being finalized. The next meeting of the Board of Directors was scheduled for July on Grand Manan.

# Strategic Planning

In line with the organization's operational planning, each department was asked to complete its planning process to include objectives, timelines, and performance indicators to be submitted to Senior Executive before September 30. The Department of Organizational Learning established a series of learning sessions to assist participants in planning. Topics included: Operational Planning; Common Ground - Living our Values; Using Information Management Reports in Decision-making; Making Sense of Indicators, CCHSA; and Microsoft Project Training.

## Visioning sessions

Janet Devlin of Organizational Learning and Andrea Cunningham of the Health Sciences Library facilitated a series of sessions on the topic "Living our Values". "It was evident that once we opened the subject up for discussion, we were not going to have to worry about a lack of stimulating conversation," noted Andrea. "Once people started to open up, discussions were lively and very thoughtful." "It's true", agreed Janet. "There was a widespread agreement among all participants as to what the values of the organization meant to the employees and how they could be practiced in our daily work lives. Feedback was remarkably positive and people seemed to really appreciate the opportunity to share their ideas and what values such as "caring", "respect", and "integrity" meant to them and to the organization. It was a very worthwhile exercise. Our hope is that those who participated will take the message back to their departments and co-workers to make them more aware of what 'values' can really mean as the heart of our organization," she said.

## Board Dates

September 29 – Saint John

October 27 – Sussex

### REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY 2, AHSC ALL SITES - January - March 2003

|       | % OCCUPANCY | PATIENT DAYS                  | % Change |
|-------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| SJRH  | 85.25%      | 39136 (Excludes RVW/DVA & NB) | 2.94%    |
| SJH   | 82.92       | 4730                          | -10.75   |
| CCH   | 69.77       | 3787                          | -2.22    |
| SHC   | 76.09       | 2520                          | 16.50    |
| GMH   | 57.20       | 421                           | 0.24     |
| TOTAL | 82.82       | 50594                         | 1.64     |

| QUARTER | INSTITUTION    | TOTAL SEPARATIONS | % Change | ALOS  | % Change | ADM THRU EMERG | % THRU EMERG | % Change |
|---------|----------------|-------------------|----------|-------|----------|----------------|--------------|----------|
| 4th     | ACUTE CARE     | 5354              | 0.96%    | 8.0   | -0.62%   | 2407           | 44.96%       | -1.47%   |
|         | DVA            | 7                 | -22.22   | 596.7 | -2.23%   | 2              | 28.57        | -50.00   |
|         | LONG TERM CARE | 124               | 12.73    | 55.4  | -36.74%  | 4              | 3.23         | 0.00     |
|         | REHAB          | 33                | 13.79    | 29.4  | -40.57%  | 0              | 0.00         | -100.00  |
| TOTAL   |                | 5518              | 1.23     | 9.9   | -8.43%   | 2413           | 43.73        | -1.59    |

| QUARTER | INSTITUTION | TOTAL | % Change |
|---------|-------------|-------|----------|
| 4th     | Daysurg     | 3716  | -0.32%   |

% Change is based on comparison with preceding quarter

Prepared by Health Records & Utilization Management

## Nurse Practitioner joins Fundy Health Centre

Jane Worth, Administrative Director, was pleased to announce the appointment of Kate Burkholder as Nurse Practitioner for the Fundy Health Centre effective June 2. Kate, who recently received her Masters in Nursing in the advanced Nurse Practitioner Stream from UNB, is leaving her position as Family Medicine Nurse Manager at Charlotte County Hospital to join the Fundy Team. Ms. Burkholder is well known for her strong clinical skills, having had a long association with Charlotte County Hospital practicing as a staff nurse in Medicine, Pediatrics, and Emergency, and as a supervisor, discharge planning coordinator, and nurse manager. Kate was also instrumental in establishing Palliative Care at Charlotte County Hospital. During her Nurse Practitioner practicum, Kate was very involved with Women's Health issues, practicing on Deer Island with Dr. Leslie Pinder. When Kate met last month with the Town Council of Blacks Harbour, the reaction to her appointment was one of excitement and appreciation.

## Trauma Surgery Symposium



Approximately 130 people from across Atlantic Canada, attended the second annual weekend-long Trauma Surgery Symposium held at the Saint John Regional Hospital from May 31 to June 1. Organizer, Heather Oakley, was enthusiastic about the quality of the program offered to health care professionals. "The whole weekend was terrific", she said. "We had more than 16 speakers from AHSC, Nova Scotia, McGill University, and the United States who covered all aspects of trauma care. It was a lot of work, but the feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive."

## M. O. Iype Lecture

The Annual M. O. Iype lecture, sponsored by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, was held on June 25 in the Amphitheater at the Saint John Regional Hospital. Dr. John Marshall, Professor of Surgery, University of Toronto, spoke on the topic "Why do the critically ill patients die?" – Evolving insights into the multiple organ dysfunction syndrome. Dr. Marshall, an attending critical care surgeon at the Toronto General Hospital, is the Director of Research for the Critical Care Medicine Program at the University of Toronto. A graduate of that University, he did his surgical training at Dalhousie University, including a rotation at the Saint John Regional Hospital, followed by a research fellowship in surgical immunobiology at McGill University. Dr. Marshall has published more than 120 peer reviewed papers and 55 book chapters and is the editor of two books. He is the former Editor-in-Chief of the Journal Sepsis and is on the Editorial Board of Critical Care, Shock, Advances in Sepsis, and Current Opinion in Critical Care.

## Hip Hip Hooray

The well known annual fund-raiser for Orthopaedic Surgery, Hip Hip Hooray, was held on Sunday, May 25 amid pouring rain, which did not stop the very dedicated orthopaedic patients from coming out and celebrating their mobility, with Dr. Acker in the role of Master of Ceremonies. More than \$26,000. was raised, with donations still being received from those who were unable to participate. The last fund raising event for the year for Hip Hip Hooray was held on June 18 at the Rockwood Park Golf Course where everyone was welcomed and participated in a chance to win prizes and share in the fun.



## Community Health Centre

Plans for the St. Joseph's Community Health Centre (SJCHC) are moving forward. Barb McGill, VP Community Programs and Chief Nursing Officer said, "The SJCHC will continue to concentrate on community development of healthy lifestyles and well being. The new model provides access to primary health care in a collaborative practice setting. Patient care will be managed by the collaborative team, which includes health care providers such as physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, social workers, dietitians, occupational therapists, and pharmacists to help make sure patient needs are met by the right care provider."

Analysis of the Community Needs Assessment has highlighted health determinants that assist in development of SJCHC programming. "We have carefully examined our community and will target personal health practices such as obesity, the low rate of physical activity and socio-economic status as we develop SJCHC programs," McGill explained during a meeting of the AHSC Board of Directors. The SJCHC Steering Committee is also interested in reaching out to health sector colleagues and community partners. "The SJCHC Community Needs and Initiatives Work Group planned to share a public education presentation with these groups in a facilitated session designed to investigate opportunities to partner with resources existing in our community as we develop programming for the SJCHC," McGill said.

Some renovations will be needed to develop the enhanced SJCHC. Nancy Savage, VP Patient Programs, told Board members that the Pharmacy at St. Joseph's will be relocated from the 4th floor to the 2nd floor. "We will relocate clinics from the 3rd floor so that we can redesign patient waiting areas and create wheelchair accessible bathrooms.

We will change the lobby and the front entrance. We will also be making changes on the 9th floor and moving some of those services to 4th floor," she said. Savage planned to continue the town hall style meetings with staff. "These meetings are a great opportunity for folks to ask questions about what's happening to their work area. Staff are genuinely concerned about how these renovations might impact their patients and we're pleased to discuss their concerns and answer questions as they come up," said Savage.

Savage also spoke of plans for the future. "As we move along our Phase I project timeline, we'll also be looking to provide a link to the Lourdes building using roof access and we'll be renovating the existing Emergency Department and the link corridor between that department and the existing SJCHC in the former nurses' residence," she explained.

As at May 21, Castle Rock Construction had been on site at St. Joseph's for the demolition of floors 7, 8 and 9, with foreman, Stephen Kelly, supervising activities. It was noted that, during the period of demolition, infection control measures require that the old elevators next to the main lobby be locked off from levels 6 to 9.

Although signs were up and the SJCHC was ready for business on July 2, the public would not notice a big difference in the way they access health services, according to Barb McGill. "This is a transitional process. The structural changes associated with the SJCHC are part of a much larger refurbishment project for St. Joseph's Hospital and we don't expect to have all the changes completed before next spring," she said. "We await the arrival of some of the physicians and staff in the centre," she continued, adding that

two additional family physicians will arrive in late summer, along with nurse practitioners, social workers, dietitians, a pharmacist, and an occupational therapist. McGill said the health centre has begun booking appointments with one nurse practitioner already. "We had hundreds of patients referred to the family medicine follow-up clinic over the winter and spring. These patients have an ongoing need for follow-up care and will be able to access the nurse practitioner," she explained. "Then, as we begin scheduling appointments with physicians and other health professionals, we'll take names from those residents who have called or sent in forms to have their names added to the patient registry. We have more than 6,800 names on that list now," she said.

McGill also explained that in the transition period, walk-in service will continue at St. Joseph's Hospital from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. "If you have a scheduled appointment, you will come to the health centre. But, if you do not have an appointment, you can still be seen by the walk-in service of the health centre," she said. While there, patients without access to a family physician will be asked to fill out an information form to be included in the patient registry, or they will be asked to call the patient registry telephone number 648-6232. "I am pleased that we have begun the transition to this new model of patient care. We still have more work to do, but we are making real progress in providing better access to health care services," McGill said.

### **Nurse Practitioners Join the Healthcare Team**

Barbara McGill, was pleased to announce the appointment of three full-time nurse practitioners to the collaborative healthcare team.



## Ladybug arrives in Saint John

Suzanne Cole has 20 years of experience at Atlantic Health Sciences Corporation in the role(s) of clinical nurse, healthcare educator, unit manager, and former Facility Manager of St. Joseph's Hospital. Suzanne remains a leading force in evidence-based practice and interdisciplinary-team development. Her Nurse Practitioner Certificate was awarded in January 2003, and she graduated with a Master of Nursing from the University of New Brunswick in May 2003.

Anne Marie Creamer graduated from Emory University (1999) in Atlanta, Georgia as Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist. She has participated in delivery of care services in diverse settings, including traditional roles in general medical-surgical practice, coronary care, and ICU-Burn unit, as well as non-traditional roles in a homeless shelter in Jamaica, geriatric psychiatry, development of child eating disorder programs, and a mobile health clinic for vulnerable populations.

Kelly Dunfield graduated from UNB in May with a Masters degree in Nursing with a specialization as a nurse practitioner. She had been working on the designation for more than four years -- before the Province officially sanctioned the position in the healthcare field. Kelly has been a nurse for 14 years and will be leaving her position as Nurse Manager of the Emergency Department at Sussex Health Centre, to take up the position.

"All members of the team are delighted with the high calibre of the candidates and looking forward to working with this group of talented, competent professionals to introduce new services at the St. Joseph's Community Health Centre," McGill said.



*Kelly Dunfield, Kate Burkholder,  
Barb McGill and Suzanne Cole*

A 2003 Volkswagen convertible beetle, detailed to look like a ladybug, arrived in Saint John on June 17. The drivers, Jan Batiuk -- double corneal recipient -- and her daughter Lauren, are also donor family members. Participating in the first event in which all Eye Banks have united, this nation-wide initiative was launched due to the growing need for eye tissue donation. While in Saint John, the car visited one middle school and two elementary schools where a puppet play was presented to promote eye safety. The CNIB typed the children's names on a Braille nametag and the children were given the opportunity to see the Ladybug and talk to Jan and Lauren Batiuk. Employees from AHSC and around the province participated in a cruise on the Voyageur, which departed from the Saint

John Marina on June 17. Since 1994 the NB Eye Bank has performed more than 800 transplants. Waiting lists are continuing to increase, as the number of donations is not keeping pace with the need. The campaign began in Calgary, Alberta on May 27, with stops along the way from Vancouver to Corner Brook, Newfoundland. In 2002, the NB Eye Bank provided 62 corneas for transplantation. There are currently more than 200 people in Atlantic Canada waiting for corneal transplants, with the average wait being 18-24 months. Organ and tissue donation helps donor families cope with their loss and gives recipients a new lease on life. Anyone wishing more information on the subject of organ and tissue donation, is encouraged to contact Mary Gatien, Director, NB Eye Bank at 632-5541.



*L-R: Ann Marie Terris (donors wife); Laureen Batiuk; Jan Batiuk (double corneal recipient and donor family member); Bruce Horsman (corneal recipient); Dr. Christopher D. Seamone (Medical Director, NB Eye Bank); and Mary Gatien (front), (Director, NB Eye Bank).*



## Hospital Day at Charlotte County

Grade Two students at Vincent Massey Elementary School in St. Andrews enjoy Hospital Day at Charlotte County Hospital. Grade two teacher Nancy Rayner, in writing to thank the staff, said: "I realize in these days of cutbacks and over worked staff that it must be very difficult to keep the school program going and I want you to know that the students and the staff at our school are very, very appreciative. We hope the program will continue for years to come, as it is certainly one of the most popular and worthwhile events we have each year."



## SJRH Auxiliary Awards

In May the Saint John Regional Hospital Auxiliary distributed Awards totalling \$10,000 to AHSC employees and volunteers.



*Back Row L-R: Recipients Lynn Childs, Ruth Kennedy, Denise Green, Nadia Hamdan, and Gillian Maxwell. Front L-R: Recipient Cleo Cyr, Joan O'Connor-George (Auxiliary Chair of the Awards Committee), Heather Royal (Auxiliary President), and recipient Teri Emrich.*

## UNBSJ graduates new nurses

Approximately 350 graduates, family, and friends attended the 15th annual Nursing Pin Dinner held at the Trade and Convention Centre on Thursday, May 29. Forty-one of the 43 graduates for 2003 graduated on May 30, while two will graduate in the Fall. Two RNs who graduated at the end of May were both members of AHSC Nursing Staff – Margaret James of Burns and Plastics and Lori Caines, Nurse Associate for Cardiac Surgery with the NB Heart Centre. Lori was the recipient of the MindCare NB prize for the highest Grade Point Average (GPA) in the BN/RN program and also won the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal in Nursing for the overall highest GPA in Nursing. The AHSC Proficiency Award was presented to Jennifer Clarkson by AHSC Vice President of Community Programs and Chief Nursing Officer, Barb McGill while the winner of the prestigious Robert M. Pendrigh Award from the AHSC Board of Directors was presented by Roberta Clark to Jo-Anne Myshrall for the highest GPA in the BN group.

Congratulations were also extended to Kelly Dunfield (Sussex Health Centre), Kate Burkholder (Charlotte County Hospital and Fundy Health Centre), and Sue Cole (St. Joseph's Hospital) who achieved their Master of Nursing in UNB's May convocation.



## NB Hospice Palliative Care Association

More than 60 hospice palliative care professionals from around the province attended the Annual Meeting of the New Brunswick Hospice Palliative Care Association (NBHPCA) in Fredericton. At a luncheon in conjunction with the meeting, the first NBHPCA Awards were given. Dr. Chris O'Brien, family physician and hospice palliative care specialist, received the top honour of Person of the Year for his dedication and leadership in the field of hospice palliative care. Dr. O'Brien's dedication and leadership had resulted in the establishment of New Brunswick's first Hospice Palliative Care Centre, set to open later this year. The Educational Achievement Award for excellence in educational efforts went to Sue Ness, Administrative Director of the Extra-Mural Program. The Innovation Award to recognize outstanding achievements through innovative programming, teamwork, and partnerships, was given to the Therapeutic Humour Care Clown Program of Hospice Saint John and Sussex. Care Clown Captains, Elizabeth Cormier and Kim Linton accepted the award on behalf of the program. Janice Till, Palliative Care Nurse at the Saint John Regional Hospital, received an Excellence in Care Award in the category of Medical/Clinical Services for exceptional work with patients and families, while Paula Foley, social worker and professional musician, received the Excellence in Care Award in the category of Psychosocial/Spiritual Care. Sussex family physician Dr. David Henderson, was elected President of the NBHPCA and Sandy Johnson of Hospice Saint John and Sussex was elected Secretary, each for a two year term.

## Donation to IWK

Dr. Gerald Sparkes of the Greater Saint John Community Foundation Board of Directors, recently celebrated a \$5,000 donation that the foundation made to the IWK Children's Heart Centre with a family and physician who will be affected positively. "Many children and families from the greater Saint John area access the wonderful care which that Centre provides and the Foundation felt it was important to support these families. Dr. Sparkes presented the gift to Dr. John Finley, Head of the IWK Children's Heart Centre. "The donation will go towards the purchase of a new angio cardiac catheterization lab at the IWK Children's Heart Centre",

noted Dr. John Finley, Head of the IWK Children's Heart Centre, who was making one of his regular consultation calls to see patients at the Saint John Regional Hospital. One such patient was seven year old Laura Ritcey whose mother explained that Laura had had open heart surgery at the age of 22 months which was followed some years later by cardiac catheterization. As a result, Laura presents as a healthy and active seven-year-old. "Things are going well," said her Mom "and we are very grateful for the ongoing care Laura received from Dr. Finley and the team at the IWK Children's Heart Centre.



*Caption: Dr. Gerry Sparkes, Philip, Laura and Laurie Ritcey, and Dr. John Finley.*

## Hospice Seeks Volunteers

Hospice Saint John and Sussex held a training program in Sussex to familiarize recruits about the role of hospice palliative care volunteers. The training program took place over two consecutive Saturdays, April 26 and May 3, at the Sussex Health Centre. Among the topics covered in the two-day workshop were effective communication with dying people and their families, grief and bereavement, spirituality and caring for the caregiver. Dr. David Henderson, a family physician and palliative care specialist from Sussex, participated among others. Two volunteers, Walter and Jeanette Cosman (Walter is a member of AHSC's Board of Directors) took the course in Saint John last fall. "The course has practical applications for everyone," said Walter. "It's good for you and your own family. If people just try the course, I'm sure they'll be convinced to continue." Jeanette added, "A compassionate nature is essential, as is being a good listener."



## Prenatal Anniversary

May, 2003 marked the eight year anniversary of Prenatal Classes in Region 2. Eleanor Getson, Prenatal Instructor who initiated the program, recalled: "I was asked to develop a six week course and taught the first class of 13 clients from May 2 to June 16, 1995. Eight years later, I was teaching 20 per class, three nights a week adding one night when necessary. Factoring in the coach or support person, the actual number per class may have been as many as 46. In the past eight years, I've seen more than 3,633 clients or 7,266 people, including coaches, 95% of whom have been "Dads" representing more than 17,000 total visits by the clients to the hospital, in addition to in-house teaching. It makes for a busy job, but a uniquely rewarding one."

Eight six-week courses are held annually over a 48 week period. At least half of all clients complete the course and appreciate the built-in flexibility that allows them to change to another night, if necessary. 95% of clients attend with the coach and staff members have noticed the positive difference these people make by taking a more active role. Eleanor noted, "I take great pride in the fact that I've never lost a coach, meaning that all graduates were 'standing' at birth."

## Volunteer Recognition Week

One of AHSC's most enjoyable spring activities is the opportunity to applaud the many citizens in our own and neighbouring communities during Volunteer Recognition Week.

Dora Nicinski, President and CEO of AHSC, illustrated the importance of these individuals. "We are mindful that this is a selfless service they are providing to us and to their communities on a daily basis throughout the year", she emphasized.

The Saint John Regional Hospital Auxiliary hosted the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Hospital Auxiliaries at the end of May. The meeting provided Saint Johners an additional opportunity to show these special people our gratitude and to make them feel welcome. Judy MacLeod, Past President of the Saint John Regional Hospital Auxiliary and first Vice President of the New Brunswick Association of Hospital Auxiliaries, emphasized the importance of these volunteers to sustainable health care in this country. "In one year Auxiliaries in Canada raised 59 million dollars and recorded 7.9

million volunteer hours," she said with pride.

Elizabeth Cormier, Director of Volunteers for the Saint John Regional Hospital and Ridgewood Veterans Wing couldn't agree more. "Our own celebration took place on April 30 when we joined with our volunteers to recognize and applaud their efforts. You know the expression ... 'Neither rain nor snow nor sleet...' well that could as easily be said about our volunteers. They come in to do their assigned time no matter what the weather or road conditions. They know that we depend on them to be here and they couldn't stand the thought of letting us down. I think the next time we invest in new smocks for these folks, we should dress them in 'gold' because that is what they are made of ... every one of them!, she said with a twinkle. "Whether they are delivering the morning newspaper to offices so that staff don't have to take time from their desks to go get it, or taking flowers to brighten the lives of our patients, each nugget of their time is a precious thing indeed...and we thank them," she declared passionately.

## 12th Annual Teddy Bear Fair

The 12th annual Teddy Bear Fair attracted more than 5,000 children and parents to the Saint John Regional Hospital on Saturday March 21. Tim Cameron, Executive Director of the Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation, was gratified with the attendance and especially grateful for the efforts of staff members, without whom the Fair could not take place. "I'd like to thank everyone who helped make the Fair another wonderful success. We heard nothing but praise from those who attended," he said.



# Relay for Life

## Fund-raiser for Canadian Cancer Society

Dr. E. Kumar, Clinical Department Head of AHSC's Oncology Program, acted as Honorary Chair again this year for the annual relay -- Canadian Cancer Society Fund-raiser. The 12-hour event commenced with a lap performed by cancer survivors and included a moving luminary ceremony in which candles were lit in honour of those who have been affected by the illness. Although the event is relatively new to New Brunswick -- this year marks the second annual relay -- Dr. Kumar noted that "This is the biggest fund-raiser for Cancer in the United States." A total of 11 cities in the province of New Brunswick

participated in the event this year. Although many Canadian communities, including Sussex and St. Stephen, held the relay on the evening of June 7, Saint John's Relay kicked off on the evening of June 13. Dr. Kumar was proud to report on the success of last year's event. "The Canadian Cancer Society in New Brunswick raised over \$500,000. last year with \$125,000 of that being raised by the Saint John event," he recalled. "This year's event was initiated with the East Indian Dinner and Auction, which my wife and I hosted, that raised \$15,000. We were grateful for the support from both volunteers and staff of the Canadian Cancer Society.

The theme of the Relay itself is that of hope and celebration. It honours the lives of individuals who did not survive their struggle with the disease and celebrates the lives of those who have survived while, at the same time, providing hope and support for those who are currently fighting the battle. The goal for New Brunswick this year is \$880,000. I'm confident that the community will continue to support our efforts in regard to raising funds for the important work of the Canadian Cancer Society including research, patient services, education, and advocacy for healthy public policies."

## Ceremonial tree planting

On May 15, family, co-workers, and friends of the late Juanita McAuliffe gathered outside the main entrance of the Saint John Regional Hospital to participate in a tree-planting ceremony to honour the memory



L-R: Father Jim McQuade, Pat David, Barb Thibault and Stephen McAuliff

of Juanita, Nursing Supervisor at the Saint John Regional Hospital, who had passed away during the year. "It is fitting that we hold this ceremony today," noted Krisan Palmer, Coordinator of Telehealth who, together with Lianne Critch, was the inspiration for the initiative. "This is National Nursing Week and the theme this year --Nursing at

the heart of health care' absolutely personifies Juanita. Many here at the Regional felt that she was the 'heart' of this hospital and she is sorely missed." Joining in the ceremony was Juanita's son, Stephen

McAuliffe, her sisters Barb Thibault RN, and Pat David, her brother Father Jim McQuade, brothers-in-law Louis David and Mark McAuliffe, sister-in-law Carol Shaw, and classmates and friends, Sister Rhoma Gulliver and Susan Robertson. A stone commemorating the occasion will be laid at a later date.

## The "Talk With Me" Program

Speech Language Pathology has initiated a new and innovative program for preschoolers (age zero to five years) and their families/caregivers. A community-based service, the program targets prevention of communication delays and focuses on the promotion of healthy communication skills. Services include a wide variety of caregiver/child educational opportunities.



## Injury Prevention Symposium

Honourable Margaret Ann Blaney, Minister of Public Safety, opened the Injury Prevention Symposium held at the Saint John Regional Hospital on Friday, May 30 while President and CEO, Dora Nicinski, welcomed the more than 100 registrants from across Atlantic Canada. At the Conference, planned by the executive group from four different provinces, a new study was released that demonstrated that unintentional injury was costing the economy of Atlantic Canada \$1.2 billion annually. "This is a wake-up call, especially when you consider that most injuries are preventable," said Sally Lockhart, secretariat for the Atlantic Network for Injury Prevention. "Injury is a silent epidemic that is costing our health care systems and the larger economy of Atlantic Canada more than one billion dollars each year." A leadership group made up of 12 representatives from across Atlantic Canada prepared the report for the Atlantic Network for Injury Prevention. Trauma Coordinator, Heather Oakley, a member of the Executive Committee noted, "The report will provide the foundation for further work in injury surveillance and prevention".

Others who participated in providing information to the executive group included Ann Hogan. The report was released by Dr. Robert Conn, President and CEO of SMARTRISK, a national non-profit organization dedicated to preventing injuries and saving lives. The report indicated that preventable injuries cost the people of New Brunswick \$502 M annually with falls accounting for \$172 M or 34% of the total amount. Motor vehicle crashes cost \$91. M or approximately 18%. New Brunswick had the unenviable position of placing first among the Atlantic Provinces, with Newfoundland's annual preventable injuries costs totalling \$213 M, Nova Scotia's at \$372 M, and Prince Edward Island's standing at \$74 M. Dr. Robert Conn, continued, "The costs associated with preventable injury are staggering and the issue deserves the attention of government, lawmakers, and average citizens alike." The report was funded with support from Royal and SunAlliance, and Health Canada. The executive summary and complete report is available online at [www.anip.ca](http://www.anip.ca).

## Rally of Hope

A record number 76 teams comprising more than 2,000 volunteers, greeted each other enthusiastically in front of the grand stand at the Canada Games Stadium to officially open the annual Rally of Hope for the Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation. The colourful parade of participants, some accompanied by musical instruments of varying shapes and sizes, raised the noise level to deafening proportions. "We look forward to this event every year," smiled Tim Cameron, Executive Director of the Foundation. "Despite the fact that events like this have waned somewhat in other cities, the Rally just gets bigger and better and we are so grateful for the participation of our corporations, our community, our volunteers, and their families. This has truly become a 'family affair', which our sponsors and all our participants seem to appreciate."

The \$816,452.80 raised exceeded the goal of \$500,000, making this year's event the second highest total in Rally's history. The funds will be used to acquire specialized equipment for Paediatric Surgery, Paediatric Rehabilitation and Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care.

## Celebrating Mental Health Week



In recognition of Mental Health Week, Shop 211 held an open house for AHSC Staff.

L-R: Rick Hatt, Patricia Irving, and Mary McLellan displayed some items available at Shop 211.



## Play Ball for St. Joseph's

Fueled by the ambitious goal of raising \$175,000 for the benefit of St. Joseph's Hospital and its programs, ball players met at the Forest Hills Ball Fields on Saturday June 7 for one of the most anticipated fund-raising events in Saint John – Play Ball for St. Joseph's. This year, the weather cooperated by providing sun-filled skies and temperatures well within the comfort range of aspiring ball players of all ages. Festivities kicked off with a "much-more-than-a-pancake" breakfast, heralding the start of the all day slo-pitch games while live music was provided by the Mike Boyer Band, Gene O'Connor and the Dave Wood Trio. A first-ever Wellness

Festival was added to the line-up, including nine booths featuring topics from breast health to sports for kids. Children's activities, always popular with the younger members of our volunteer teams, included T-Ball, pony and wagon rides, and a children's village. The chicken barbecue ensured that everyone was well fed, while many enjoyed a high-action Bingo game. The official opening was marked by a noon ceremony, while the "games" continued into the evening with a pool tournament and auction.

As if all of this activity weren't sufficient, four teams entered the first-ever Play Ball for St. Joseph's Soccer Invitational. Sanctioned

by Soccer New Brunswick, the Saint John Moosehead Masters hosted the Fredericton Heebies Patriots, Moncton, and the Kingston Peninsula teams. The championship match, held at the Canada Games Stadium on Sunday afternoon, was a popular drawing card for participants who relished an opportunity to be entertained while resting tired muscles. Thanks to the efforts of countless volunteers and the citizens of the greater Saint John community, with donations still being received by the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation, it appears that the goal will be attained.

## Vascular ultrasound ribbon-cutting

Staff members, physicians, and volunteers from the greater Saint John community joined together in the Light Court at the Saint John Regional Hospital to officially welcome the Vascular Ultrasound unit. The Rally of Hope project for 2002 – Legs for Life – had been an overwhelming success. As the Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation geared up for the Rally of Hope 2003, it was fitting to recognize the efforts of the hundreds of community groups, agencies, and individuals who made the dream of the 2002 Rally a reality. Dr. Andrew Sherwood, Vascular Surgeon, thanked the many volunteers who had worked to bring this equipment to the Regional while Dora Nicinski, President and CEO of AHSC was pleased to share the appreciation of management. Martin Chiasson, 2002 Rally of Hope Chair and Martha Zed, Chair of the Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation, joined Tim Cameron, Foundation Executive Director, on the podium, subsequent tour, and ribbon-cutting ceremony,



L-R: Dr. Andrew Sherwood, Martin Chiasson and Martha Zed



# Charlotte County Hospital successful in recruiting nursing staff

Charlotte County Hospital (CCH) was pleased to announce that new nurses have now joined the staff. There are nine new graduate nurses: Alicia Voutt, Sarah Bires, Tiffany Lambert, Sharon McGlinchey, Connie Bishop, Sarah Ward, Giselle Frigault, Gordon Stevenson, and Jennifer Greenier. One RN who worked in the United States, Toni Fawkes, and one RN from Halifax, Michelle McEvoy. One nurse Wilma Coates returned to casual work after taking a Nursing refresher course, and one nurse, Jamie McIntyre who worked at that site in the past, returned to join the CCH team. Yvonne Bartlett, Facility Administrator, noted: "We have absolutely no reservations about the kind of leaders these nurses will be. We are thrilled to have them here. Some of the new graduate nurses worked at CCH during their preceptorship experience and some were part of the SEED program for summer employment. So these new graduate nurses are not strangers to CCH but have already had the opportunity to work within the facility and get to know the staff and residents of Charlotte County." The new graduate nurses were presented with a Catherine Karnes Munn resin replica of the Charlotte County Hospital so that they could remember the first hospital in which they worked.

# Telephone technology for the deaf

Saint John Regional Hospital Audiologist Jeanne Finn-Allen and Joe Johnston, Manager of Telecommunications for Region 2 demonstrate AHSC's first 'motorized' TTY machine to assist the deaf and hard of hearing. "I didn't plan it this way," noted Johnston "but it just happened that the equipment was installed right in the middle of Speech and Hearing Awareness Month! So we were pleased to be able to celebrate by highlighting this new equipment to AHSC. I hope that eventually we will be able to purchase more of these machines for other sites across the Region," Johnston said.



# Nursing Week in Sussex

Nurses at the Sussex Health Centre (SHC) and Extra-Mural Program (EMP) enjoyed a variety of activities during the celebration of National Nursing Week. To start the week, a flag raising ceremony was held in front of the SHC. Coffee breaks were provided and nurses were asked to bring in non-perishable food items, which were donated to the local food bank. The nurses provided coffee break on May 14 to all employees and gave outdoor prizes. On May 15 a Nursing Dinner was held with wonderful attendance from all nursing disciplines. A "Bring and Buy" Auction raised monies for a nursing scholarship awarded every year to a student entering into the nursing profession. At the dinner, two members of the Sussex Nursing Chapter were recognized for their contribution to nursing: Pat Etheridge, Manager of the Sussex Unit of EMP, and Donna Hall, ER Nurse.



L-R: Barb Hicks, Kelly Dunfield, Holly Northrup, Sylvia DeMerchant, Donna Hall, Sandy Stanley, Debbie Marks, and their helper, Carl Thibodeau.

## Physicians recognized



In recognition of his significant contributions to the work of the Canadian Cancer Society, **Dr. Eshwar Kumar**, Clinical Department Head of Oncology, has been awarded the Citation of Merit. In making the award, Carol Hiscock, President of the Canadian Cancer Society, noted, "Dr. Kumar, a key volunteer for seven years, has demonstrated exceptional leadership in numerous roles at diverse levels of the organization. Renowned for his compassion and dedication to quality cancer control, Dr. Kumar is respected in New Brunswick and across the country. By offering his valuable time, skills and leadership, Dr. Kumar has assisted the Canadian Cancer Society greatly in carrying out its mission to eradicate cancer and enhance the quality of life of people living with cancer. Dr. Kumar's efforts and generosity of spirit are deeply appreciated by the volunteers and staff of the Canadian Cancer Society." AHSC congratulates Dr. Kumar on this well-earned recognition.



**Dr. S. Paul Handa** delivered the convocation address at the spring convocation of the University of New Brunswick in Saint John on May 30 at which time he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree. A graduate of Punjab University in India, Dr. Handa has practised medicine in Saint John for 33 years and is widely recognized as an outstanding teacher and clinician as well as for his leading role in the area of Nephrology. Patients with kidney failure have had their quality of life enhanced as a result of the dialysis program spear-headed by Dr. Handa in this Region. In addition, he established the New Brunswick Branch of the Kidney Foundation of Canada, organized the End Stage Renal Disease Program in New Brunswick, and initiated an organ donor program in this province. Dr. Handa developed a history of the Department of Medicine, which was published last year. He has participated in many clinical trials and research projects. In so doing, he has promoted medical research and has published several papers.

## Postgraduate Medical Education

Two years ago, after decades of teaching Family Medicine for Dalhousie University, our program was reorganized to make the Saint John Family Medicine Teaching Unit (FMTU) a "stand alone" site. Recent innovations in the FMTU at our site include a Family Medicine Obstetrics Clinic, a shared Mental Health project, the establishment of a homeless clinic, and a community project requirement for the residents. This year we are graduating our first three residents, Dr Colin Ucar, Dr Corey Burton and Dr Sonia Mosaad, at the end of June.



**Dr. Colin Ucar** is from London, Ontario and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Western Ontario. He will be continuing his medical education in the CCFP Emergency Program at Dalhousie University in July.



**Dr. Corey Burton** came to us from Newfoundland. He received his medical degree from Memorial University. He opened a family community practice in St. George, New Brunswick in August and is living in Blacks Harbour with his wife Jannatta and the newest addition to the Burton clan who arrived in March, Coady.



**Dr. Sonia Mosaad** hails from Peterborough and completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Cairo, Egypt. Dr Mosaad will be entering a fellowship program in inpatient care at Toronto Western Hospital.

With our first "graduates" also came the establishment of two teaching awards. The residents selected two "teachers of the year". Dr. Rob Tingley, Paediatric Infectious Disease Specialist received the "Teacher of the Year 2003" specialist award, while the award for Family Medicine "Teacher of the Year" went to Dr. Bob Fisher.



## ISI Update



Integrated Services Initiative  
L'initiative des services intégrés

With the secondment of Arlene Haddon to the ARAMARK Team, the ISI Office moved to 3C Centre at the Saint John Regional Hospital. In order to assist with communications, ISI bulletin boards have been installed in four locations at the Saint John Regional Hospital, at St Joseph's Hospital, Charlotte County Hospital, and Sussex Health Centre. In an effort to keep employees involved and informed about the ISI Initiative, focus groups were held in each facility to solicit feedback on the communications and to plan more effective communications. Some suggestions included:

- Information boards located in each facility
- Post cards printed and placed at each ISI information board so that employees can offer feedback and ask any questions or voice any concerns. Employees are asked to fill out their post card and drop it in any internal mailbox. Cards will be forwarded to the ISI office and responses will be posted on the ISI Information Boards.
- Monthly update meetings have been scheduled at each facility

Employees were also encouraged to visit the ISI Office or call Arlene Haddon, Brad Culver or Lester Wood. EVS Supervisors at Charlotte County Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital, the Saint John Regional Hospital and Sussex Health Centre were trained on the use of new microfibre technology and the associated chemical cleaning systems. New carts, cleaning technology and chemicals have been ordered for the four sites.

## Charlotte County Hospital welcomes practical nursing students

For the first time, the New Brunswick Community College's practical nurse program includes a surgical rotation at Charlotte County Hospital. Nine local students from St. Stephen, Rolling Dam, Grand Manan and Campobello, who are enrolled in the practical nurse program, were pleased to be able to train at the Charlotte County Hospital – thus avoiding the considerable travel difficulties that the weather this winter could have posed. For the Charlotte County Hospital, which has been faced with nursing shortages over the past number of years, this was a 'win-win' situation. Yvonne Bartlett, Facility Administrator, was pleased to support the program. "It couldn't have come at a better time for us," said Bartlett. "We hope that their experience here will have been a positive one and that they will be encouraged to return to Charlotte County Hospital after graduation. Over the long-term, we would certainly be interested in continuing our partnership with this program, which can only serve to enhance the recruitment efforts at this site," she said.

## New Cleaning Technology Introduced



L-R: Irene Dowling (CCH), Ron Pletcher (ARAMARK), Linda Voutt (CCH), and Joyce Fairweather (CCH).

As AHSC moved closer to adding Patient Service Workers (PSWs) to the patient care team, some significant milestones were identified.

End of May 2003:  
PSW selection process completed

June 2003 – Sept 2003:  
PSW training

Sept 2003 – March 2004:  
PSW implementation

These positions will be another part of the patient care team, helping

to provide timely and personal attention to patients. The PSW will provide multiple services, aimed at enhancing patient service. These employees will perform delegated caregiving and service duties, including: serving patient meals, assisting with menu selection, providing patient comfort items, such as drinking water, bedmaking and keeping the patient room clean, safe, and comfortable and will function as part of a collaborative patient care team.

# NEW PHYSICIANS AT AHSC

## New Physicians at AHSC



**Dr. Patricia Forgeron**, Department of Medicine in the Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Dr. Forgeron received her medical degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland in 1997 and completed post-graduate training in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Ottawa in 2002.



**Dr. Jameel Khatri**, Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Khatri received his medical degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1989 and completed post-graduate training in Psychiatry at the University of California Los Angeles.

He completed a Fellowship in Consultation Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts in 2000. Prior to his appointment with AHSC, Dr. Khatri worked as a Psychiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital and as a Clinical Instructor, Harvard Medical School.



**Dr. Sunita MacMullin**, Department of Emergency Medicine. Dr. MacMullin received her medical degree from the University of Alberta in 1995 and completed post-graduate training in Family Medicine at Dalhousie University,

NS. Prior to her appointment with AHSC, Dr. MacMullin worked as a Family Physician in Woodstock, NB.



**Dr. Donna MacNeil**, Department of Geriatric Medicine. Dr. MacNeil received her medical degree from the University of Alberta in 1997. She completed post-graduate training in Internal Medicine at Dalhousie University, NS and completed

a Fellowship in Geriatric Medicine at Dalhousie University in 2002.



**Dr. Dev Maragh**, Department of Family Medicine. Dr. Maragh received his medical degree from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica in 1985 and completed post-graduate training in Jamaica and at the University of

Saskatchewan. Dr. Maragh had a previous appointment with AHSC in the Department of Family Medicine in 2000-2001 and since then has worked as a Family Physician in Jamaica.



**Dr. Farooq Masud**, Department of Family Medicine, with a cross appointment to the Department of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Masud received his medical degree from Rawalpindi Medical College, Pakistan in 1987 and completed post-graduate

training at the Holy Family Hospital, Pakistan. Prior to his appointment with AHSC, Dr. Masud worked as a Family Physician in Pakistan and as a Clinical Associate, Cardiology in Halifax, NS.



**Dr. Farah Naz**, Department of Oncology. Dr. Naz received her medical degree from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1993 and completed post-graduate training in Radiation Medicine at Westchester Medical Center, New York in 2002.



**Dr. Glen Richardson**, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Richardson received his medical degree from Dalhousie University, NS in 1996. He completed post-graduate training in Orthopaedic Surgery at Dalhousie

University and completed Fellowships in Hip and Knee Replacement at Duke University, North Carolina in 2002 and in Sports Medicine at the University of Ottawa in 2003.



**Dr. David Simms**, Department of Diagnostic Imaging. Dr. Simms received his medical degree from Dalhousie University, NS in 1979 and completed post-graduate training at Dalhousie University in Diagnostic Imaging. Prior

to his appointment with AHSC, Dr. Simms worked as a Radiologist in Kentville, NS.



**Dr. Andrew Trenholm**, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Trenholm received his medical degree from Dalhousie University, NS in 1996. He completed post-graduate training in Orthopaedic Surgery at Dalhousie

University and completed Fellowships in Orthopaedic Traumatology at Carolinas Medical Center, North Carolina in 2002 and in Upper Limb Surgery at the New Royal Infirmary, Scotland in 2003.



## Mother's Day Baby

To celebrate May as Speech and Hearing Month, the Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists of Regional Health Authority 2 presented a basket of toys and books to the first baby born on Mother's Day. Shown making the presentation is Sandy Surette, Speech-Language Pathologist to Ashley Darrah, mother of baby boy Carter William John. Carter was born at 8:59 am on May 11, 2003 weighing 7 lbs 8 oz.



## News from School of Radiological Technology

Congratulations were extended to **Elaine Dever** and **Joshua Blair**, who graduated with Bachelor of Health Science Degrees at the spring convocation of UNBSJ. Josh, a 2001 graduate of the Saint John School of Radiological Technology, is employed in Diagnostic Imaging at the Saint John Regional Hospital, while Elaine is Program Director at the Saint John School of Radiological Technology. As well, Linda Vair, Clinical Instructor at the School of Radiological Technology, received her certificate in Adult Education from St. Francis Xavier University.



## Employee recognition activities

Staff members, accompanied by co-workers, friends and family, attended the annual Employee Recognition dinner held at the Coastal Inn in Saint John in recognition of the 101 new inductees to AHSC's prestigious Quarter Century Club. Managers were on hand to extend personal congratulations to their staff members, who had achieved the 25-year milestone. As Emcee, Dora Nicinski, President and CEO, highlighted the impressive professional and extra-curricular achievements as honorees came forward. Despite the unseasonably chilly May evening, the event coordinated by Mary Arseneau of Human Resources, lived up to its traditional reputation as one of the year's most popular occasions.



In thanking AHSC for the week's activities and the dinner in their honour, Lynn Childs was pleased to express appreciation to AHSC on behalf of those in attendance. "For the past 25 years we have provided care to the seniors of our community, their children, and now their children's children," she said. "Every employee in this room contributes to the well-being of our community. During the past 25 years, we have also

formed our own community — a community that has witnessed the formation of valued friendships, shared sorrows and disappointments, and shared joys — our marriages, the birth of our children, and then the marriages of those children. Some of us have even become grandparents during our tenure at AHSC. We are like that famous bunny! We have been upsized, down-sized, and right-sized, and we keep going, and going, and going! We represent the history of our organization. It is said that "you cannot move into the future without honouring the past for, if you do, the future will be without meaning. We thank you for honouring our past this evening."

Mary Arseneau, Human Resources Officer noted, "We welcomed 87 new members in 2001 and 93 employees last year. This year we hit a new high when we topped the one hundred mark. Such numbers speak well to our ability to retain our most important resource," she said. In addition to the annual dinner, numerous employee events continued across the Region as employees were recognized for various service milestones.