

September 30, 2014

RVH Auxiliary honours its own

Every year, the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) Auxiliary honours select members at the annual Auxiliary Awards ceremony. At this year's event, Helen Thompson, an RVH volunteer for 25 years, was presented the Auxiliary's highest honour - the Award of Distinction.

"We talk a lot about patient-centred care at RVH and I can honestly say volunteers like Helen Thompson epitomize that philosophy," says Jean McGinley, chair, Auxiliary Awards Committee, RVH Auxiliary. "This is the highest award our Auxiliary has established to acknowledge and recognize the significant contributions of an Auxiliary member who is already a Life Member. It was no surprise the committee found Helen to be more than deserving of this award."

The Award of Distinction is such an honour that it is not presented every year, but only as the Awards Committee deems it appropriate.

At today's event, Years of Service plaques were also presented to Marlene Birnie for 40 years of service; Ella Brennan, Lois Nesbitt and Daphne Watton for 35 years; and Meril Cunningham, Marjorie McLeod, Pat McLeod, Mary Ruddick and Helen Thompson for 25 years.

In addition Jean Crump, Rosemary Hicks, Janice Jones, Diane McConnell, Lorraine Stapleton and Marian Stubbings were awarded Auxiliary Life Memberships.

"I can't stress enough the extraordinary difference the Auxiliary makes in our community, in our organization and, most especially, in the lives of our patients," says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. "We are so fortunate at RVH to have such heartfelt support from the Auxiliary members. I've said it many times and I'll say it again, we couldn't do what we do at RVH without our volunteers and Auxiliary members."

Volunteers at RVH provide an extra set of hands in 75 different areas of the health centre, and through the dedicated efforts of the Auxiliary, raise funds to support equipment purchases and patient care. In fact, earlier this month the Auxiliary pledged \$2 million to help bring advanced cardiac care and child and youth mental health services to RVH. This comes after already completing a \$5 million pledge for the health centre expansion and recently \$1.5 million for a new Cardiac Care Unit.

Cutline: Helen Thompson of the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) Auxiliary was presented with the Award of Distinction at the annual Auxiliary Awards. The honour, which recognizes significant contributions of a volunteer who is an Auxiliary Life Member, was given to Thompson by Janice Skot (far left), RVH president and CEO, Janice Williams, RVH Auxiliary president and Jean McGinley, chair of the RVH Auxiliary Awards Committee.

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