



A brief history of the Groves Hospital Volunteer Association

April 1933	A call goes out to anyone in the community interested in forming a 'Hospital Aid'.
May 1933	First meeting of the Hospital Aid. First activity: assisting at the May '33 Nurses Graduation. First donations: wringer washer and two tubs: \$8.00. Decision to be affiliated with the Ontario Hospital Association. Sewing committee: 25 bedspreads, 30 towels, and two baby blankets. Social/Fundraising committee: afternoon & evening bridge and tea @ \$0.35 per person. A collection plate to provide flowers and 'dainties' for the patients. Volunteers offer to start a Library.
1934	Donations: obstetrical table, instruments and stool for the delivery room. Local hockey team provides game proceeds to the hospital. Organ recital proceeds buy a sterilizer. Balance at the first Annual Meeting: \$716.57. Value of linens and articles made for the hospital: \$1,477.33.
1935	First quilt sale: proceeds used to buy a refrigerator.
1937	Sale of needlepoint stool made and donated by Mrs. Groves: proceeds used to purchase 40 card tables. Sewing machine purchased; bell system installed. Donations: light for operating room, four cribs and mattresses for nursery, chairs for sewing room.
To 1945	Value of cash and articles donated: \$6,977.25.
1949	Hospital Aid changes its name to Hospital Auxiliary.
1953	Fergus Opportunity Shop (the 'Op Shop') opens its doors.
1955	Donation: \$2,800 from Fergus Op Shop for: electrocardiograph and mobile x-ray machine.
1956	New volunteer programs: feeding patients; cart including gum, candy, cigarettes, notepaper, etc.
1958	In total 2,360 pieces of hospital linen were mended and 1,481 new pieces made. Clerical program area: visitor's information formed to regulate the number of visitors per patient.
1963	First bursary for a nursing student is offered; Memorial Fund is established.

	Donation: pledge of \$10,000 over three years toward new hospital wing.
1964	Tuck Shop (Gift Shop) opens.
1965	First bursary recipient graduates. Fergus Op Shop moves to St. David Street.
1967	Blood donor clinic acquires 489 blood donations. Donation: \$4,000 for cardiac monitor and defibrillator.
1970	60 Candy Strippers (junior volunteers) with 12 on the waiting list.
1973	Fire destroys the Fergus Op Shop.
1979	Arthur Opportunity Shop opens. Donation: \$20,000.
1981	Donation: \$25,000 to support new structure to house xray, emergency, and admitting.
1983	Groves Hospital Auxiliary celebrates its 50 th anniversary.
1984	Donation: \$56,000 for a bathing system and apnea monitor.
1985	Arthur Op Shop moves to Driscoll Building.
1988	Donation: \$100,000 toward mammography machine.
1991-95	Donation: \$500,000 toward equipment requirements. Fergus Op Shop moves to I.O.O.F. Hall on St. Andrew St.
1997	New Patient Education and Nutrition Program areas open.
1998	65 th anniversary of the Hospital Auxiliary. Incorporation under the new name Groves Hospital Volunteer Association.
1999	Donation: \$215,000 toward room upgrades, colour ultrasound and xray equipment.
2000	GHVA purchases 695 St. David Street building to house Fergus Op Shop. Donation: \$185,000 for mammography xray machine.
2002	Member Connie Lovell recognized for 50 years of service. Donation: \$1 million pledge to Groves Hospital over 7 years for digital imaging equipment for the hospital's redevelopment project. Installments were made from 2004-2010 to meet this commitment. 100 th anniversary of Groves Hospital. First part time manager of the Fergus Op Shop appointed.
2003	GHVA celebrates its 70 th anniversary and receives the Centre Wellington Community Social Responsibility Award from the Centre Wellington Chamber of Commerce. 50 th anniversary of the Fergus Op Shop. New volunteer program areas introduced: breast feeding, ER, physiotherapy, speech language pathology, photo ID. First full time manager of the Fergus Op Shop appointed.
2004	Introduction of jade vests for volunteers, replacing pink vests for women and blue for men.
2006-7	Fergus Op Shop is renovated in store front and sorting areas.
2008	Donation: \$10,000 for neo-natal crash cart and other items. Donation: pledge of \$500,000 toward CT Scan Plus. Donations were made between 2008 and 2012 to meet this commitment.

	75 th anniversary celebration for GHVA held at Sportsplex.
2009	Arthur Op Shop renovates its store front and sorting area. Groves Hospital Volunteer Association CT Scan Suite opens.
2010	Gift Shop downsized to allow for construction of new GHVA Office. GHVA hosts HAAO (Hospital Auxiliaries Association of Ontario) conference at the Fergus Sportsplex.
2010-11	Thrift shops are re-branded 'New to You' with focus on Groves Hospital; new signs installed.
2012	GHVA's TV rental program closes after 37 years, to be replaced by a 24/7 automated service. Donation: \$102,600 at the GHVA AGM toward equipment. Arthur's New to You shop moves to 207 George Street. HELP (Hospital Elder Life Program) begins.
2013	Donations: \$80,000 in celebration of GHVA's 80 th anniversary. Arthur's New to You store closes.
2014	50 th anniversary of the Groves Hospital Gift Shop. New to You property at 695 David Street is sold; a property at 950 St. David Street N is purchased; volunteers, community businesses and contractors provide time and materials to save on renovation costs. The new New to You store opened on October 1. Donation: \$15,000 at GHVA AGM.
2015	Ann Ironside, Carol Kirby, Juri Niit, Carmine Paterson join formal planning initiatives for the new Groves Hospital. First Farmers' Market is held on the New to You property. Donation: \$10,000 at GHVA AGM.
2016	Donations: \$70,500 presented at the annual Appreciation Tea hosted by the hospital for volunteers. Pledge of \$1 million over a 10-year period for the new Groves Hospital, the second largest donation to the new hospital campaign. Donations are ongoing to meet this pledge. New to You store introduces the 'Chip Truck' for the months May to October; space rental provides revenue. Garlic is planted beside the New to You store to be packaged and sold at the store and the Gift Shop.
2017	Fergus New to You store holds its first annual fashion show. Gift Shop adopts point of sale/inventory control technology. 'Name the Road' contest is held among GHVA volunteers. 'Volunteer Way', the chosen name, is recommended to the Hospital Board by GHVA for the roundabout that will connect the new hospital to the Beatty Line.
2018	New to You shop adopts point of sale/inventory control technology. GHVA is given the 2018 Community Social Responsibility Award, presented by the Centre Wellington Chamber of Commerce to an individual, group, organization or business that has displayed hard work and dedication to bettering our community. It is the second time GHVA has won the award (2003, 2018).