

WGM & WGP Special Projects

This year we have two special projects. The Prince George Cancer Clinic Comfort Fund & Prostate Cancer Research Fund

The Prince George Cancer Clinic is one of 6 British Columbia Cancer Clinics. It was opened November 1 st 2012.

Located in northern British Columbia, this cancer clinic has the largest geographical area to draw patients from. Over 90 % of the patients to the clinic live outside of Prince George. Many of the patients travel up to 10 hours to get to the Clinic

We choose this as one of our special projects as Nechako Chapter was instrumental in the development of the Comfort Fund. We feel that due to the young age of the Prince George Cancer Clinic, comfort funds are needed here more than in an established cancer clinic.

The cost to stay in the Cancer Clinic is \$57.00 per person per day, which includes 3 meals a day. The length of the stay in the clinic depends on the number of radiation or chemotherapy sessions that the patient must endure. If you had to stay for 7 days a week for 7 weeks of treatment, you would have a bill of \$2793.00 per person.

Over and above this you have to consider the loss of wages, household expenses, childcare expenses etc.

It was indicated that before this clinic opened, some patients chose not to seek treatment due to the cost and thus did not have a good outcome.

The Comfort Fund helps to provide financial aid for accommodations (both in the clinic and in a designated hotel in Prince George when the clinic is full or when necessary), travel expenses and food expenses.

When this clinic was first opened and the Comfort Fund first established, the comfort fund provided between \$1,000 - \$2,000 per month. Now due to the increase in the number of patients being treated at the clinic, this cost has risen to \$5,000 - \$6,000. With your support, we can make a difference in the lives of those patients that have enough to worry about and if we can help in any way, we should.

Our other project is Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among Canadian men and the third most common cause of cancer death. While initial treatments for localized prostate cancer that has not spread are usually successful and five-year survival rates are relatively high,

more effective solutions are needed for those patients with advanced and metastatic prostate cancer.

There are many ways to treat prostate cancer, surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, hormone therapy and drugs to name a few. These can be done as a single source of treatment or a combination of the different treatments. All have side effects however these side effects usually disappear when the treatments have been completed.

Whatever money we can raise to help in the research for this cancer and its treatments will be a great benefit to assist with the ongoing studies and future treatments. Hopefully we can do our part to help men with this cancer so we can see the mortality rate drop and the successful cure rate increase.

To raise money for our special projects we have a raffle. The prizes are a special needlepoint picture done by Past Grand Matron Nelda Witt, a pair of stud earrings donated by Bastion Jewelers in Nanaimo, your choice of 2 Eastern Star rings, donated by WGM Sue Paugh and a set of designer plates donated by Grand Trustee Kathleen Widsten. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each.

We are also selling cupcake pins at \$10.00 each. Please see Sister Ruth Stephens and our Grand Lecturer Ann Lysholm at repast.

We still have some directories available at a cost of \$5.00 each.

All the profits from these will be going to our projects