

The Hospital Ship Fund

At the beginning of the war, August 1914, the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire national chapter decided to raise money for a hospital ship. This hospital ship was going to be presented to the British admiralty through the Canadian government and the IODE asked women across Canada to raise money for it.¹ Women from both cities gathered to pledge money, with both cities agreeing to raise \$1,000 for the cause. Campaigners were then sent out to collect money but they were only collecting from women and girls.² The campaign was successful, women in Port Arthur donated \$1,000.³ In Toronto, the women donated \$20,000 towards the ship fund.⁴

However, it was eventually decided that a hospital ship was not what was needed at the time. Instead, the money that the women across Canada had raised was placed in the hands of the HRH The Duchess of Connaught, who was the wife of the current Governor General and the money was then used for other war causes.⁵ This fundraising was all undertaken in only the first month of the war and it shows the commitment Canadians already had to the war. In the first month, they were already putting forth everything that they could, in the hopes of an early and decisive victory.

¹ "Women to Raise \$100,000," *Fort William Daily Times Journal*, August 7, 1914, page 2.

² "Women of Fort William and Port Arthur to Collect Money Towards Hospital Ship Fund," *Fort William Daily Times Journal*, August 11, 1914, page 1.

³ "Hospital Ship Fund," *Port Arthur Daily News Chronicle*, August 20, 1914, page 2.

⁴ *Fort William Daily Times Journal*, August 15, 1914, page 1.

⁵ Barbara Johnston, "Supporting Canada's Armed Forces – Our Contribution to Canada's War," *IODE*, published May 2010, accessed November 15, 2016, <http://www.iode.ca/supporting-canadas-armed-forces.html>.

WOMEN MAY USE MONEY FOR FAMILIES OF VOLUNTEERS INSTEAD OF HOSPITAL SHIP

OTTAWA, Aug. 11.—Although an offer made by the Daughters of the Empire from headquarters at Toronto in co-operation with other women's organizations in Canada for a hospital ship has been accepted by the imperial government, it is understood that in the opinion of experts the necessary funds might be devoted to more practical purposes at the present time. The hospital ship idea will, it is feared, be somewhat impracticable, in addition to being a more expensive way of looking after the sick and wounded than the regular army hospital. The authorities here would prefer to have funds raised by volunteer subscription at the present time devoted rather to looking after the families who may be left in need as a result of the men going to the front, and for similar purposes. At the time of the South African war a patriotic fund of nearly half a million dollars was raised for these objects.

It was not all needed at the time, and about \$150,000 remain to the credit of the trustees under the chairmanship of J. M. Courtenay, Ottawa. This balance will probably now be devoted to form a nucleus for a patriotic fund to meet the present situation. There is no doubt that every dollar that can be raised by voluntary subscription will be needed to relieve distress in Canada consequent upon the war.

TORONTO WOMEN LIBERAL

TORONTO, Aug. 14.—A large sum was contributed towards the proposed hospital ship today. It is expected that the women of Toronto have collected over \$20,000. The final report of the contribution will not be known until tomorrow. Scores of automobiles decorated with flags were stationed at almost every street corner and their occupants made a thorough canvass of the city. Few people were seen on the streets without a flag. On Sunday night the Royal Canadian dragoons, 100 strong, will entrain for Val Cartier.

Hospital Ship Fund

A largely attended meeting of the women of Port Arthur, in connection with the Hospital Ship Fund, was held yesterday afternoon in the Y.M.C.A., no presiding officer being Mrs. T. N. Andrew; the treasurer, Mrs. N. W. Bridgman, and the secretary, Mrs. W. W. Brown, which executive was appointed by the president on the West Algoma Local Council of Women. The fund has grown very rapidly since the volunteer collectors started out on the campaign, less than a week ago, and it is exceedingly gratifying to the Hospital ship executive to be able to announce that the fund has already reached the thousand dollar mark. The executive are also to be congratulated upon the excellent and efficient manner in which the campaign was conducted. At a recent meeting, a standing vote of thanks was extended to all contributors, as well as to the tireless collectors.

The following is a complete list of collectors, with the amount contributed:

Junior Daughters of Empire	\$100.00
Mrs. Van Arman	5.00
Mrs. Russell Jones	4.35
Mrs. Paterson, Mrs. Wolvin	14.25
Campers at Silver Islet	22.00
Loon Lake (Mrs. J. A. Little)	43.00
Mrs. M. W. Bridgman	50.00
Mrs. D. P. Burk	61.55
Mrs. Guy Clarkson	21.50
Miss Ross	2.80
Mrs. W. E. Brawley	15.45
Mrs. C. O. Smith	27.55
Mrs. A. E. Cole	57.75
Mrs. Rochkey	36.55
Mrs. W. Bennett	15.25
Mrs. Whalley, Mrs. Baxendale	46.05
Mrs. Edge	80.00
Mrs. C. N. Laurie	
Mrs. C. W. MacLean	19.35
Miss Blackmore	17.75
Mrs. Tourtelot	22.70
Mrs. Phil. Austin	37.75
Mrs. J. D. MacKenzie	45.75
Mrs. Montgomery	26.75
Mrs. J. Graham	25.25
Mrs. T. S. T. Smellie	27.05
Mrs. W. S. Beaver	15.00
Miss Edith Sellers	18.80
Miss Verle Maine, Mrs. Burr	10.90
Mrs. W. W. Brown	25.75
Mrs. Neil MacDougall	
Mrs. G. W. Brown	38.00
Miss Lowery	46.25
Mrs. B. Cooke, Current River	3.35
Mrs. C. S. McComb	21.25
Mrs. J. W. Crooks	24.75
Telephone department	13.75
Amethyst, Rebekah lodge	5.00
Mrs. McTeigue	6.65
Mrs. Alfred Bennett	17.50

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE HOSPITAL SHIP

Port Arthur women who wish to help the hospital ship fund may leave their contributions at the office of The Daily News. It is intended to raise \$1,000 in each city.

TWIN CITY WOMEN RAISING MONEY FOR HOSPITAL SHIP

The Princess Beatrice Chapter, Junior Daughters of the Empire, Port Arthur, have donated 100 to be given toward the equipment of a hospital ship by the women of Canada.

The women of the Twin Cities will raise \$2,000 more for the same purpose, \$1,000 in Port William and \$1,000 in Port Arthur.

Miss Grace Hawkins 10.00
This makes a grand total of \$1088.85. The executive intend forwarding the \$100.00 (the gift of the Daughters of the Empire) and \$900.00 from Port Arthur women to the Toronto executive. This will leave a balance of \$88.00 on hand, which will be used to form the nucleus of a reserve patriotic fund, to be used by the Women's Canadian club as they see fit. The convenor of the executive committee, Mrs. T. N. Andrew, deserve the highest commendation for the ably manner in which the work has been handled, assisted in no small way by her officers, Mrs. M. W. Bridgman and Mrs. W. W. Brown.

Hospital Ship Notes

Mrs. W. C. Brawley and Mrs. Alfred E. Cole are making good use of their gladstones this week in the rapid means of getting about as collectors for the hospital ship.

A meeting will be held Saturday at three o'clock in the Y. M. C. A., to gather the returns from the collectors and for other details of work in connection with the fund.

A "Call To Arms Ball" will be one of the means of making a goodly sum of money in a hurry, receiving at the same time pleasure in return. Captain H. B. Dawson has offered the Orpheum hall as his donation.

Mrs. George Clavet, Port Arthur, has placed her motor car at the disposal of the collectors during the week for work in the suburban parts of the city, which would otherwise mean much walking for the women.

Collectors have been sent to the local summer resorts, Silver Islet and Loon.

One of the clerks in Chapple's store collected eight dollars in a very few minutes Tuesday for the hospital ship fund, from other girls employed in the establishment.

With Mrs. A. I. Thompson presiding the Women's Christian Union held a short session Tuesday, adjourning later to the adjoining room in the Y. M. C. A., out of courtesy to the president of the local council and committee who held an emergency meeting in connection with the raising of funds for the hospital ship.

No doubt several men will smile up their sleeve this week when they read that "no man will be asked to contribute towards the hospital ship." In order to avoid being asked they must at least see that she has at least twenty-five cents, seventy-five cents or a dollar in her pocket book when the collector calls. While it is chiefly a woman's affair the men, no doubt, will suffer the strain a little, much as at Christmas time when the wife asks the husband for money in order to buy his present.

The women of Port Arthur who have during the past few days subscribed to the Hospital Ship fund, will be interested to learn that the executive are today forwarding one thousand dollars to Toronto headquarters. Port Arthur women are sending nine hundred dollars and the Princess Beatrice Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire one hundred dollars. Nearly

every woman in Port Arthur can today feel that she has individually performed her duty by subscribing to this fund. The Hospital Ship will be the gift of the Women of Canada to the British Admiralty.

Women's Plans for Hospital Ship

A special meeting of the West Algoma Local Council of Women was held yesterday afternoon in the public library of Port William, at the call of the president, Mrs. W. A. Dowler. A large number attended and interested themselves intensely in the scheme to raise a contribution of a thousand dollars or more to be sent as their portion as a gift from the women of Canada to the British admiralty. It is the privilege of every woman and girl in the two cities to assist financially in this worthy object. A meeting is being held this afternoon to plan as to the best and quickest way to raise funds, which will in all probability be a house to house canvass. All will be privileged to give a dollar more or less. It takes but a small amount to even buy cotton for bandages. Meetings will be called to wind cotton for bandaging purposes and the hospital winder be made use of in all likelihood. The women of Canada have pledged themselves to equip a hospital ship to be transferred to Great Britain. Letters were read by the president, Mrs. Dowler, from Mrs. A. E. Gooderham concerning particulars, plans, etc. In places where there are no branches of societies, mayors and Reeves will be asked to convene the meeting. The organizations such as the Women's National Council, Women's Institutes, Women's Christian Union and other societies of power are interesting themselves keenly and quickly in the matter. A telegram of sympathy was read from Mrs. S. C. Young telling of her intention of a donation. In the absence of Mrs. Birdsall, Mrs. C. W. Jarvis was appointed secretary pro tem. A letter was read from Lady Gibson, Toronto. All having old linen to give away were asked to send to Mrs. John King, Port William. This will be made into shoes for use. The bandages necessary may be two and three quarters of an inch wide and from five to ten yards long. Among those present were Mrs. John King, Mrs. Gorman, Miss Von Biele. All three are sisters and Belgian nurses wearing the alliance badge of colors of red, white, blue, yellow and black. Mrs. Gorman informed The News representative that everyone in Belgium wears this in the time of war, men, women and children. Others present were Mrs. Coslett, Mrs. George Graham, Mrs. Joseph Graham, Miss Edith Sellers and Mrs. W. W. Brown (agent and president of Junior Daughters of the Empire), Miss Agnes Sprinkle, worker in the W. C. T. U., Mrs. Harrie, president of the W. C. T. U., Mrs. T. N. Andrew, Mrs. Slipper, Mrs. Matheson, Mrs. McParlane, Mrs. H. C. Morgan, Mrs. W. J. Ross, Port William; Mrs. Cummings of the relief society, Port Arthur; Mrs. Campbell, president of the Women's Canadian club; Dr. Clara Todson, president of the local Woman's Equal Suffrage association; Mrs. Cook, representing the Graduate Nurses' association, present representatives of all the daily papers of the two cities and many others. In fact the hall was filled with women anxious to give immediate assistance. It was asked that no man would be asked to contribute.

The hospital ship collectors have been meeting with great success and it is expected that good returns will be made at tomorrow's meeting at 3 o'clock in the Y.M.C.A., Port Arthur. More collectors are needed. Anyone desirous of undertaking the work will please communicate with Mrs. T. N. Andrew, north 562, Mrs. Bridgman, north 980, or Mrs. W. W. Brown, north 1428. A good attendance is requested at tomorrow's meeting Saturday.