

GivingMatters

Fall 2018 Newsletter

How **YOU** help care for patients at Guelph General Hospital



The new and 100% donor-funded CT scanner has arrived at GGH

Continued on page 2

✿ Inside

- Lounges transformed for family members and visitors
- Newborns receive improved phototherapy
- Improved outcomes for infectious illnesses

THE FOUNDATION OF
GUELPH
GENERAL HOSPITAL

Saving lives and improving health together with our community

continued from cover...

Thanks to hundreds of caring donors, patients will receive better care

Donors provide our Hospital with nearly every piece of patient care equipment, and today, your impact on patient care is felt more than ever.

Dr. Samir Patel, Chief of Diagnostic Imaging, describes the CT scanner as “the work-horse of the Diagnostic Imaging department” at our Hospital.

That is because it is used so frequently to help diagnose and monitor so many types of illnesses. The CT scanner is used in the diagnosis of cancer and to help see if the cancer has spread to other parts of the body. It is also used to help diagnose stroke and inform physicians of the best treatment for the stroke. And because Guelph General Hospital is a regional Vascular Centre, our CT scanner is kept very busy diagnosing illness within the blood vessels.

The new scanner replaces a worn and outdated CT scanner that “has put in many, many hours since going live in June 2005,” explains Mike Lindsay, Director of Diagnostic Imaging. “Our best guess is that it has done over 300,000 scans since then.”

Last year, the Hospital placed a new CT scanner at the top of its priority list and many donors responded generously. It was an urgent priority because of how many patients the CT scanner serves and because the old CT scanner was no longer reliable.

“It broke down and needed repairs more frequently,” explained Dr. Patel. In fact, while the Foundation was fundraising for the new CT scanner, the old one broke down and was out of service for three days. Dr. Patel said “this had a massive impact on our Hospital’s ability to deliver the best possible care to its patients.”

Now because of our caring donors, Guelph General Hospital has a new and reliable scanner – and advanced too. Technology changes rapidly and in the 13 years since our last CT scanner was purchased, many advancements have been made that will help deliver even better patient care.

The new CT scanner gives sharper images to more accurately diagnose and monitor disease. It is also able to provide vivid images in areas of the body where metal objects such as hip or knee replacements are. In the past, the metal interfered with the image. It uses lower doses of radiation. As an example, when being used to take images of the heart, the scanner uses up to 82% less radiation. This is especially important for children and those who need multiple scans.

“
Our donors should feel incredibly proud because they paid for 100% of the new scanner”

Donna Bryson expressed her gratitude to everyone who donated to the new CT scanner. Donna lovingly refers to the Hospital as “The Guelph General Hotel” because of how much time she has spent at the Hospital with her husband John.

John has received care at Guelph General Hospital for stroke, kidney failure and cancer. Donna has kept extensive notes and reports that John has had at least six CT scans in relation to these illnesses. For Donna and John, a reliable CT scanner that uses lower doses of radiation means a lot.

The original budget for the CT scanner was more than \$1 million. Thanks to the impressive negotiating skills of our Materials Management team, we were able to purchase the machine for significantly less than we anticipated.

“Our donors should feel incredibly proud because they paid for 100% of the new scanner,” said Suzanne Bone, CEO of The Foundation of Guelph General Hospital. “There’s no question that lives are saved and health is improved every day at Guelph General Hospital because of our caring donors.”

Cover photo: Grateful patient John Bryson with his wife, Donna Bryson.



See the video at gghfoundation.ca

YOU *make patient care better at Guelph*



Donors give space to family members and visitors

Caring donors helped transform multiple family lounges for patients, family and visitors at Guelph General Hospital.

Having a loved one in the Hospital can be overwhelming and stressful, especially when life is at risk and the outcome is not clear. Family members often spend long hours at the bedside of their loved one. However, there are also moments, or even longer stretches of time, when some quiet solitude is needed, or when a safe and private space is needed for a family meeting.

It was a happy coincidence Karen Miller from Modelo Interiors was referred to lead the redesign. Her mother was an ICU nurse at Guelph General, but of greater

influence to her design was her own experience as a visiting family member.

Karen vividly recalls how she felt when her husband was admitted into the ICU following a cardiac arrest. "It was traumatic. I felt overwhelmed. I often needed to retreat to a quiet space to get a handle of my emotions."

Plenty of careful thought, research and planning went into the redesign, including interviews with family and visitors who were using the spaces. Karen also spoke with the Hospital's nursing staff and discovered the rooms were each used in slightly different ways in different units of the Hospital.

Included in the design of every waiting room are charge stations for phones and tablets, calming colours and artwork, and modern hospital-grade furniture that meets current infection control standards. But most importantly, the spaces are designed to meet the specific needs of the people who use them.

The ICU waiting room was the first of four to be completed. With thanks to the many donors who funded the transformation of these spaces, family and other visitors will also feel cared for when visiting our Hospital.



gghfoundation.ca

Visit our website to view our slideshow of before and after pictures of the family lounge renovations.



Runners fund life-saving trauma equipment for GGH

With thanks to all those in our community who contributed or participated in last year's Thanksgiving Day Races, Guelph General Hospital was able to purchase a new Rapid Infuser which arrived this past Spring.

"We are fortunate to have this piece of equipment that can make the difference between life and death in a trauma or illness due to blood loss. The donors made this happen for us," said Lisa Groulx, Emergency Department Clinical Educator at GGH.

The Rapid Infuser helps trauma patients by being able to quickly replace lost fluids and blood. The unit warms the fluids first to avoid cooling the patient too much which helps prevent a variety of further problems.

The infuser replaced an older one that was at the end of its life cycle. Technology plays a major role in the delivery of patient care in today's modern Hospital and the new infuser arrived with many patient care advances.

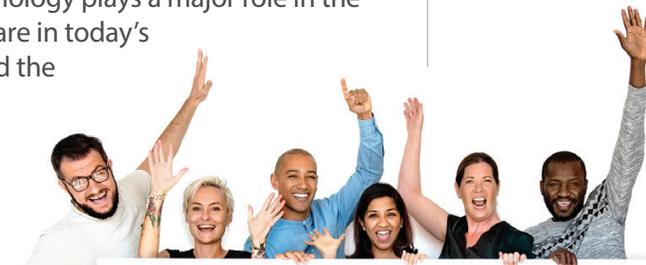
Newborns receive improved phototherapy

While not all newborns become jaundiced, it's reassuring to know if they do at Guelph General Hospital they'll be treated with the latest technology thanks to our donors.

Jaundice is the most common condition that requires medical attention and hospital readmission in newborns and the most common treatment is phototherapy.

The Hospital's new donor-funded Phototherapy Unit is a big improvement. It delivers a higher-quality light which results in the babies needing less time under it. "We don't want to intervene with newborns and their families as they recover post-birth," says Laurie Williamson, Director of Maternal Newborn Services and Paediatrics. "The quality of our care is improved when we can support the baby's recovery and get him or her back to their parents quickly."

The new unit was purchased with donations earmarked for the Family Birthing Unit. "Without these designated donations, we wouldn't have been able to improve our care and the experience for our families," says Laurie.



1 in every 2 dollars spent on hospital equipment at Guelph General Hospital comes from a caring donor – **like you**

YOU *save lives and improve health*



Donors improve clinical outcomes for patients with infectious illnesses

It was learning of MALDI-TOF that inspired George Oelkuch to start supporting The Foundation of Guelph General Hospital through its Circle of Life giving program. MALDI-TOF is a spectacular advancement that allows for rapid and precise identification of infection-causing micro-organisms and it has been at Guelph General for one year now.

"I would never want anyone else to experience what I had," said George of his own personal experience. George contracted Typhoid Fever while on vacation five years ago. A few days after returning home, he started to develop a fever and flu-like symptoms.

George was admitted to the Hospital with a fever of 106°F. "I felt like I was dying," he recalls. He was immediately placed in an isolation room and blood was drawn for testing. While waiting for the results, George was started on a broad-spectrum antibiotic.

It took about a day and a half for the preliminary results. In the meantime, George suffered with high fever, severe pain, and loss of control of his body.

George experienced neurological complications as a result of the infection and for two months could not walk on his own. **Had MALDI-TOF been available, test results would have been available within hours and he would have been given targeted treatment right away.**

In a presentation that George made to the Circle of Life members who funded MALDI-TOF, he predicted, "I think not only will it save people from suffering, I have no doubt it will save lives."



George Oelkuch and his wife Nicole Bodera.

"I'm blown away by this technology," says John TarBush, Microbiology Charge Technologist. "It's doing everything we were expecting it to do." Most importantly, it is improving clinical outcomes for patients. With rapid identification, patients receive targeted treatment within hours. This helps patients get better faster and often helps reduce secondary complications.

Dr. James Murdoch, Infectious Diseases Consultant, is confident MALDI-TOF may have saved the life of a patient who developed a life-threatening illness in hospital. Within hours, an uncommon and unexpected pathogen was correctly identified.

"The pathogen in this case was definitely unexpected. Without MALDI-TOF there would have been substantial delay initiating the correct treatment. As a result, we were also able to prevent possible permanent neurological damage."

And so it seems that George's prediction was right. This story also shows that we are right about something that we say often at the Foundation — our donors help save lives and improve health.



Connect with us!

Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter. Connect with us on LinkedIn. Email us at foundation@gghorg.ca. Call us at 519-837-6422. Or visit us at gghfoundation.ca to **read extended versions of these stories online. You can also subscribe to our eNewsletter for more frequent news updates.**

YOU are a part of our healthcare team



Thank you to Judy Steele, 2018 Volunteer of the year!

The Guelph General Hospital Volunteer Association goes back over 121 years and is constantly expanding. Currently, there are over 300 volunteers who provide support throughout the hospital. GGH volunteers contribute in excess of 15,500 hours of service each year and have given over \$1.5 million over many decades.

At its annual volunteer appreciation luncheon to mark National Volunteer Week, Guelph General Hospital named its Mary Hales "Volunteer of the Year." This year's winner was Judy Steele.

Judy has been a volunteer at GGH since 2002 and to date has over 3,600 recorded volunteer hours. Judy used to volunteer in the coffee shop. Currently, she volunteers in the Courtyard Boutique and provides behind-the-scenes support for The Foundation of Guelph General Hospital.

In addition to supporting programs, the Volunteer Association also raises money through the Courtyard Boutique, H.E.L.P.P Lottery, and the Vendor program with proceeds going back to the hospital to purchase patient equipment.

This year, The Volunteer Association donated close to \$40,000 to fund an upgrade to one of the Hospital's four newly designed family lounges (see story inside), refurbish our operating room's fracture table and purchase a capnography machine to provide care to patients recovering from surgery.



Community Events

Community members and businesses help make patient care better at Guelph General Hospital.

Peter Lago Memorial Golf Classic



Over \$20,000 was raised which will go towards the purchase of new vital signs monitors.

Tim Hortons Smile Cookie



Just over \$3,000 was raised by the two Tim Hortons at GGH and will go towards the Special Care Nursery.