

Giving Matters

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

How you help care for patients at Guelph General Hospital

Read about how donors are transforming healthcare through giving.



THE FOUNDATION OF
GUELPH
GENERAL HOSPITAL
Transforming healthcare
through giving



- You funded **new equipment** that is advancing patient care, and GGH caregivers are grateful
- Judy Paterson shares her **inspirational story**, three years after terminal cancer diagnosis
- Community members and local businesses **fundraise for GGH**

Advanced care for patients with breast cancer

As patient care technology advances, improvements in care are made possible. As a donor to The Foundation of Guelph General Hospital, you make it possible for our Hospital to continuously invest in new equipment, and for caregivers to provide even better care.

Thanks to donor support, patients receiving breast cancer care at Guelph General Hospital are benefiting from new equipment in the operating room.

It's an intraoperative specimen mammography machine and it's enabling physicians to improve the accuracy of diagnosis and selection of treatment plans.

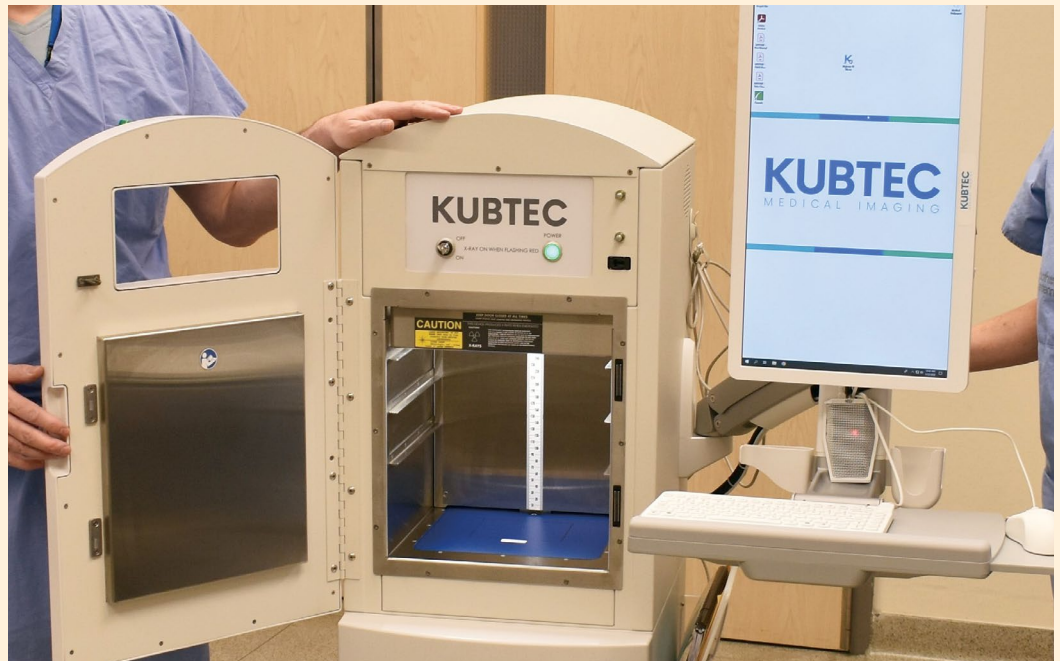
When breast cancer tissue is removed in surgery, whether during a biopsy to diagnose, or during surgical treatment to remove cancerous tissue, a two-step analysis of the tissue is essential to inform further medical decisions and actions.

The first step is for the tissue to be imaged and the second step is laboratory analysis. For the most accurate information, it is critical to minimize the time between tissue removal and lab analysis.

The new machine allows surgeons to instantly x-ray the breast tissue within the operating room. From the operating room, the tissue sample is taken directly to the laboratory for immediate analysis.

Prior to the advent of this new equipment, a porter would run the breast tissue first to the Hospital's diagnostic imaging department, wait for the imaging to be completed, and then run the tissue sample to the laboratory.

"This piece of equipment is so valuable for surgeons and patients alike. It allows us to provide state-of-the-art treatment for patients who could be you, your friend, or a family member. We're so grateful," remarked Dr. Leigh Bishop, General Surgeon and Chief of Surgery at Guelph General Hospital.



**"This piece of equipment ... allows us to provide state-of-the-art treatment for patients who could be you, your friend, or a family member. Thank you for your generosity!"
— Dr. Leigh Bishop, General Surgeon and Chief of Surgery at Guelph General Hospital.**

Ensuring that patients with breast cancer receive the most accurate diagnosis and treatment possible is by far the most significant benefit. However, there are secondary benefits that can also make a big difference. Often the breast surgery cannot be completed until the x-ray results from diagnostic imaging are returned to the operating room. Reducing time in surgery and under anesthesia is better for patient safety and recovery.

There are also efficiencies that may impact other patients at the Hospital. For example, a porter is essential in maintaining patient flow by running numerous and varied errands to support physicians and nurses.

And imaging breast tissue samples within the operating room instead of in the diagnostic imaging department means that another patient's appointment in diagnostic imaging will not be interrupted.

We are so grateful for the donors who helped bring this essential patient care technology to our Hospital.

Cover Photo: General Surgeon and Chief of Surgery at GGH, Dr. Leigh Bishop and General Surgery Team Lead, Charlene O'Connell.

YOU

help transform healthcare through giving

Donor support allows significant strides in technology to support women's health



OR teams excitedly awaited the arrival of this new system.

Thanks to donors, Guelph General Hospital was able to purchase an Aquilex fluid management system and several new hysteroscopes—specialized equipment that allows gynecologists to find and remove problems like fibroids, polyps, or abnormal tissue from inside the uterus without major surgery. This equipment helps improve access to care for

the women in our community and has allowed the gynecologists at GGH to start using the MyoSure® tissue removal system—another new and major advancement in gynecological technology for our Hospital.

MyoSure® allows the removal of polyps, large fibroids and retained tissue after pregnancy loss in a way that is faster, safer and less painful for the patient. Even more exciting, acquiring this new technology is a significant step towards the Obstetrics and Gynecology's department long-term goal of opening an outpatient procedure clinic where women would have timely access to these procedures.

Dr. Meredith Giffin, OB-GYN at GGH, states, "We deeply appreciate your support. This new system gives the women in our community access to cutting-edge technology and improved care. Thank you."

Life-saving tools funded by donors

Doppler ultrasound probes are simple, but very valuable hand-held tools that allow GGH staff to measure patient blood flow in real-time. Using the Doppler effect, the non-invasive probes help diagnose and monitor conditions such as heart valve problems, blood clots and fetal heart rates. Last year, two new probes were

provided to the Intensive Care Unit thanks to donors.

Kristen Webb, Clinical Educator, states, "These probes are standard in nursing care. Although they are small pieces of equipment—they are essential in providing safe patient care in a timely manner. Thank you for helping us to save lives."



A Doppler ultrasound probe in action.



Community-Led Fundraisers

We're thankful

for the leadership of individuals and community groups who organize fundraising initiatives in support of our Hospital.



A state-of-the-art embedding machine arrives at GGH lab.

Pathologists at GGH thank you!

No, it's not a photocopier! It's the new HistoStar™ embedding machine recently acquired by the Hospital, and it is a critically important piece of equipment for our Laboratory Services department.

HistoStar™ is cutting-edge digital technology that has revolutionized the field of pathology. In simple terms, it works by embedding tissue samples in paraffin, making them more stable for slicing into wafer-thin sections that can be viewed under the microscope and shared on computer screens.

With HistoStar™, our pathologists are able to precisely examine more samples than ever before. The system captures high-resolution images and provides concentrated lighting that allows staff to zoom in and scan even the smallest details. This makes it easier to identify abnormalities and diagnose diseases accurately. Any tissue removed in surgery at GGH (aside from varicose veins) is prepared through this equipment, from gastrointestinal biopsies to gall bladder and breast tissue — between 200 and 300 samples daily.

Karen Scales, Charge Technologist (Anatomical Pathology / Cytology / Morgue) says, "HistoStar™ is a really valuable tool for understanding what is happening inside the human body. It helps our doctors make accurate diagnoses and choose the best treatments for our patients. The price tag on the HistoStar™ is about \$20,000 and thanks to our generous community, we have access to this wonderful technology."



The Guelph Thanksgiving Day Races is one of the oldest races in the world dating back to 1894! Our thanks go to John Marsden for organizing once again and for choosing our Hospital as a beneficiary. Around 200 racers participated and fundraised \$1,578!



The VBA Theatre Group continued their annual holiday tradition of producing a live Cabaret. Part of their tradition includes donating a portion of sales to FGGH. Last year, they donated \$1,000 for the Hospital. Since 2010, they have contributed a total of \$12,900!

From lemonade stands to fundraising galas — your dollars add up to make a big difference!



Learn how to organize your own community led fundraiser by visiting gghfoundation.ca/community-events

YOU

make patient care better at Guelph General Hospital

“You are my sunshine, my constant sunshine”

When Judy Paterson was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2020, she was told she might only have a couple of months left to live. Nearly three years later, the 82-year-old retired teacher is still going strong.

She points to four pillars in her life that keep her motivated. “I’ve got my family. I have my very special friends. I have my health providers. And I have my music,” she says.

Before Christmas, Judy shared her love for music by bringing her ukulele into the chemotherapy clinic, where she receives treatment every two weeks. She serenaded the staff with special lyrics she wrote to tunes like “Yellow Bird” and “Hallelujah” about going through cancer and how much she appreciates everything Guelph General does for her. At the time, she said, “I’m just very, very happy with this Hospital. People here work their buns off.”

A couple months later, she gave an encore performance for Valentine’s Day. Both times, she finished the concerts with a special rendition of “You Are My Sunshine.” Her personalized chorus left many nurses in tears:



Judy Paterson brought in her ukulele to the chemo clinic around Christmas and Valentine’s Day to serenade the caregivers in thanks for her great care.

*You are my sunshine,
my constant sunshine,
You make me happy
when skies are grey,
You are supportive
and always caring,
Always there, for us,
in every way.*

For Judy, it was a way to thank the people who care for her — from the surgical professionals and the nurses in the chemotherapy clinic to the pharmacists and the folks who do her bloodwork. “I cannot say enough about the caregivers here,” she says. “They really make you feel special.”

But playing her ukulele is just one way Judy shows her support. Many of the Christmas presents she buys comes from the Guelph

General gift shop. She regularly plays the Hospital’s 50/50 Lottery. And she gives tribute gifts in honour of special people she’s met at the Hospital who have passed away.

Judy believes that when you wake up in the morning you have two choices: it can be a good day, or it can be a bad day. She chooses to make each day as good as possible — whether that’s by visiting with

her grandchildren, walking down to the stream behind her house or pulling out her ukulele to strum a little ditty.

“My motivation is enjoying my family to the best that I can and just taking each day and making the very best of it,” she says.





Local Businesses Care for Guelph General Hospital

We're thankful

to local businesses who support Guelph General Hospital by leading a fundraising promotion.

These businesses participated in our **Local Businesses Care for Guelph General Hospital** program from April 2022 to March 2023. Together, they raised \$70,087.25!

The Beer Store	In July, donated \$2306.65 from funds raised from empty container returns.	Harvey's Guelph	Raised \$1,900 on June 9th by hosting a BBQ fundraiser at GGH for staff and public.
Buon Gusto Restaurant & Findlay Mortgage Team	In celebrating their 10 year anniversary, proceeds from the sales of their two best selling menu items were donated in the amount of \$6,368. This donation was then matched by patron, Scott Findlay from Findlay Mortgage to raise a total of \$12,736.	M.B Beauty Laser Clinic & Spa	From December 10th to December 17th, donated \$5 from every service sold.
DENSO Manufacturing Canada Inc.	Hosted their own 50/50 lottery fundraiser and raised \$2,805.	McDonald's Restaurants of Guelph	Donations were collected at the till from December 5th to 22nd. On December 22nd, \$1 from every Big Mac, Happy Meal or McCafe beverage was donated. Raising a total of \$21,733.
Farm Boy Guelph	Sold a limited edition coupon book for \$10 and donated proceeds to Guelph General and St. Joseph's Health Centre with \$1,555 each.	PosterWindows	Donated \$500 from a portion of sales of local nature photography art.
freshii 84 Clair Rd E.	\$1 from every sale was donated between December 25th to January 1st, which added up to a total of \$351.	Robinson Buick GMC	Donated \$25 per vehicle sold in the months of February, April, June, August, October and December to raise a total of \$10,600.
Funding Innovation	Raised \$6,859.91 from proceeds through art auctions as part of The Art Easel Program.	Tim Hortons Marek Hospitality Inc.	Proceeds from all Smile Cookies sold at GGH location from Sept. 19th to 25th raised \$1,373.
GuelphToday.com	Teddy bears were generously sponsored by organizations and individuals during the holiday season through GuelphToday.com's Teddy Bear Caper program. It raised \$10,000 and gifted 100 bears to patients.	Wings Up!	From January 16th to 21st donated \$1 from every wings or bites large meals and packs and raised \$1,080.

Thank you to all local businesses who care for GGH!
Interested in the program? Contact us at foundation@gghorg.ca to discuss.



Please consider supporting the local businesses who support our Hospital. You can visit gghfoundation.ca/local-businesses to see a full listing of current fundraising promotions.

Transforming healthcare through giving

THE FOUNDATION OF
GUELPH
GENERAL HOSPITAL

115 Delhi St
Guelph ON
N1E 4J4

Connect with us!

foundation@gghorg.ca

519-837-6422

FdnofGGH

gghfoundation.ca
Read extended versions
of these stories online