

Giving Matters

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

How YOU are transforming healthcare through giving



THE FOUNDATION OF
GUELPH
GENERAL HOSPITAL
Transforming healthcare
through giving



- Celebrating the arrival of the new **donor-funded MRI scanner**, shown above
- **Special Care Nursery expansion** is nearly complete, funded by the *Together, We Care* campaign
- Pam Thomson **expresses gratitude** for compassionate care at Guelph General Hospital

You made it happen: the new MRI is now a reality

Did you know that you have a superpower? *Your generosity.* It brings positive change to our community's health.

We're celebrating the kindness of our community, enabling GGH to procure a powerful new MRI scanner.

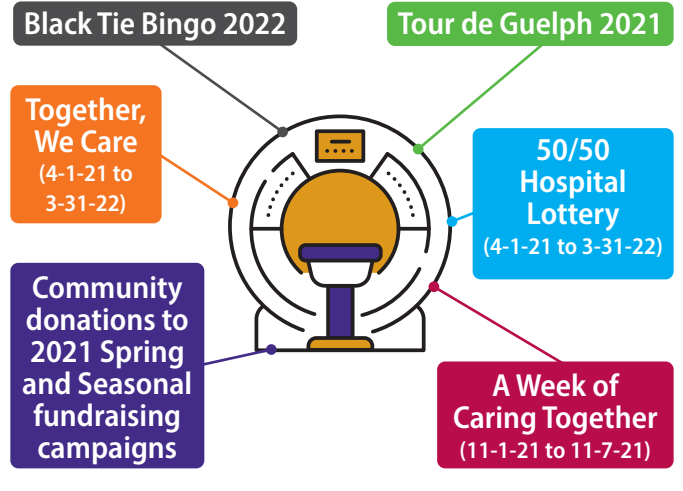
The new MRI scanner arrived on Monday, September 18! It was craned though a temporary opening in the back wall of the Hospital and inserted directly into the newly renovated MRI suite.

It replaces the Hospital's previous 16-year-old MRI scanner that was also funded by donors as part of the 2006–2007 *MRI & More* fundraising campaign.

As a direct result of your dollars, the new MRI will empower our hospital's team of radiologists and MRI technologists to:

- **Continue to test patients almost 24/7.** Our MRI department sees 30 to 45 patients every day, operating around the clock Monday to Friday, and 17 hours a day on weekends. The MRI team has helped patients from three to 101 years old.
- **Create a higher-quality image.** The new scanner captures greater detail and resolution. Doctors will be able to see smaller details with greater clarity and thus diagnose, monitor, and treat conditions earlier and more accurately.
- **Produce an image up to two times faster than before.** Scan times will be reduced so technologists will be able to complete more scans per hour and accommodate more patients during a year.
- **Provide a more comfortable patient experience.** The MRI scanner is more open and spacious. If small spaces make you nervous, this new design will lessen that feeling. So will the fact that the new technology is quieter!
- **Perform MRI-guided breast biopsies.** A procedure that the previous MRI was not capable of.
- **Reduce the risk of breakdown/repair.** This assures reliable patient treatment.

MRI Funding Sources



- **Maintain and enhance GGH's reputation for having one of Ontario's most efficiently run MRI scanners.**

The new MRI scanner will help people you will never likely meet. They are patients who need an answer to their spine or neck pain; patients who are suffering with torn muscles or ligaments; patients who are being treated and monitored in their battle against cancer;

and critically ill patients within the Hospital. More people will soon be on the road to wellness, quicker.

These are all tangible investment benefits — thanks to you and your funding superpower!

The MRI Investment Fund

In spring 2021, we started fundraising for this modern MRI equipment, and our generous community fulfilled the \$2.25 million funding requirement by end of March 2022. This effort was one of the three goals in our *Together, We Care* fundraising campaign — to invest in new patient care equipment and technology.

You will have contributed to the MRI fund through these types of activities during the final year of the *Together, We Care* fundraising campaign: playing the 50/50 Hospital Lottery, participating in Tour de Guelph, attending Black Tie Bingo, shopping at a participating local business during *A Week of Caring Together*, mailing a donation or donating online in response to our Spring and/or Seasonal fundraising campaigns, or making a general donation to the *Together, We Care* campaign.

It's no exaggeration to say that every single contribution you made — big or small — had an impact.

Cover Photo: New MRI scanner magnet lifted by heavy crane and placed through opening in back of wall at GGH on September 18, 2023.

YOU

help transform healthcare through giving

Transforming the Special Care Nursery

The Special Care Nursery (SCN) at Guelph General is nearing completion of its remarkable makeover, all thanks to the generosity of our *Together, We Care* campaign donors who contributed the \$6 million needed for this redevelopment.

This essential section of the birthing unit now shines brightly on the 6th Floor, boasting a modern and spacious clinical area dedicated to the tiniest patients and their families.

The renovated SCN offers new technologically advanced equipment to enhance the assessment and monitoring of newborns, ensuring a safer recovery process for both mother and baby. Parents can now rest beside their infants in bright private rooms, promoting better infection control and fostering bonding moments.

The upgrades extend to the Family Birthing Unit Operating Room and the newborn resuscitation space, modernized for improved efficiency. There's a larger private room for twins, plus two more rooms that can accommodate additional equipment for twins.

There's also an area just outside the SCN unit with a kitchenette area with seating and a separate parent nap room and full bathroom with shower, providing more comfort and convenience to families.

The new Pollard Family Special Care Nursery embodies Guelph General's commitment to integrated, family-centred care, thanks to donors like you.

The GGH team is excited to start caring for patients in this new space in the coming weeks once all the final touches are in place.



One of 10 private infant and family patient rooms in the new Special Care Nursery.



Newly installed ceiling mounted patient lift in the updated MRI suite.

Your support funds MRI ceiling lift!

Thanks to 50/50 Hospital Lottery ticket purchasers in the 2023 Summer Solstice draw, Guelph General now has a ceiling-mounted patient lift in the MRI suite. The addition of a patient lift is one of the many changes to the MRI suite that will improve patient experience and safety. For patients with limited to no mobility, the lift will safely position them for entry into the MRI room. It will also reduce the risk of strain and injury to the healthcare team.



Community-Led Fundraisers

We're thankful

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



PHOTO: GUELPH TODAY.COM

Guelph Firefighters Benevolent Foundation partnered with Great White North Wrestling to organize the "INFERNO" wrestling show this past April, with event proceeds supporting local hospitals.



PHOTO: TRINA KOSTER PHOTOGRAPHY

The third and final Moments in Medicine dinner and theatre fundraising event, hosted by Linamar in support of Guelph General Hospital, raised \$114,000! This year's theme was Victorian Steampunk and celebrated medical achievements within the Victorian period.

Donors make enhancements to surgery procedures possible

Come October, the generous donations from Black Tie Bingo 2023 will be transformed into first-rate equipment in the Endoscopy Unit at Guelph General.

Thanks to the fundraising event and its donors, we were able to purchase a new Endoscopy Processor Workstation. The unit, costing \$160,000, provides the light source, video feed, and tools that our



Dr. Hewak: "Our entire team is grateful to all of the donors who provide us with these tools."

surgeons employ to perform endoscopic procedures. The workstation will be paired with a new donor-funded \$36,000 Beamer Electro-surgical Cautery Unit, used in numerous procedures, especially colonoscopies, to remove large polyps and abnormal tissues.

Gastroenterologist Dr. Hewak is enthusiastic. "Adding the Processor and

Beamer will increase the amount of detail we can see. Think of the difference between your old TV and your new HDTV. They will help us perform more potentially lifesaving procedures, more efficiently and safely. Our entire team is grateful to all of the donors who provide us with these tools."

Our Guelph-Wellington community is one of Ontario's fastest growing areas, with an increasing demand for surgical services. Donations, like those made at Black Tie Bingo, help ensure that GGH is able to keep its commitment in providing the highest quality patient care possible.

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

Our community cared for John Thomson “We couldn’t have asked for better care.”

On a Saturday night back in April, Pam and John Thomson were getting ready to go to bed. Pam was turning down the covers while John opened the back door to call in Finnegan, their rescue dog. Then Pam heard a dull thud. When she rushed into the kitchen, she saw her 82-year-old husband lying unresponsive on the floor.

Pam grabbed the phone and called 911. Before she knew it, the volunteer fire department and two OPP officers had arrived, and an ambulance was on the way. As paramedics took John to Guelph General, Pam and her oldest son, Mark, raced to meet him there.

The Emergency Department team was waiting for them. While John underwent tests, the triage nurse took Pam and Mark into a quiet room to wait. Although the situation was serious, they were confident that John was in good hands. “We knew everything possible was being done,” she says.

And thanks to generous community support, the Emergency team had the tools they needed to diagnose John quickly.

A CT scan revealed that he had suffered a ruptured aortic



John and Pam Thomson in Hawaii, John’s favourite place.

aneurysm — a tear in the main blood vessel that moves blood from the heart to the rest of the body. The Emergency Department doctor didn’t sugarcoat the situation, and Pam appreciated his candour.

Without surgery, John would die. A cardiac specialist at St. Mary’s General Hospital was willing to operate, but it was a complex, high-risk procedure.

Pam and Mark decided it was worth a shot. Pam’s younger son, Scott, agreed when he joined them at St. Mary’s. “We’d never have forgiven ourselves if we hadn’t said ‘go ahead and try,’” she explains.

Sadly, after 10 hours on the operating table, John passed away. But Pam has nothing but praise for the team at Guelph

General and the cardiac surgeon. “Everyone was so compassionate,” she says. “We couldn’t have asked for better care for him.”

She wants the entire Emergency Department team to know just how much her family appreciates all they did for John, and for the care they showed her and Mark as well.

That’s why the family requested memorial

donations to The Foundation of Guelph General and to St. Mary’s in lieu of flowers. And it’s why Pam wrote a special thank you note expressing their gratitude — something she says healthcare workers deserve to hear more often. “I can’t say enough about Guelph General,” she says.



John Thomson, 1941–2023

YOU

can include Guelph General Hospital in your estate

Keeping the love going

The Foundation of Guelph General Hospital has teamed up with Will Power, a national movement dedicated to educating Canadians on the power they have to make a difference through their wills. We are lucky to have many of these visionary donors helping transform healthcare in our community through their giving.

Diane Harvey is one such generous supporter. A community member who truly loves Guelph, Diane has always found ways to give back. Her life's journey, beginning on Division Street, included schooling, a successful career, and raising a daughter all right here in Guelph. Diane's commitment to making Guelph a better place is evident through her volunteer work with several local charities, and her 30-plus years of supporting the Foundation.

Throughout her lifetime, Diane has developed a deep connection with Guelph General Hospital, experiencing care as an inpatient and accompanying family members during their treatment. When it was

time to update her will, Diane decided to keep the love going. She remembered her family, her church, and her hospital. "Leaving a gift to the hospital foundation in my will was a way for me to continue to make a big difference after I'm gone," said Diane. "I am able to help out my five great grandchildren and still support the General."

You can help ensure a healthier community for everyone. Even a small percentage of your estate can leave a lasting mark on future generations, all while still leaving the majority for your loved ones. Also, an estate gift can reduce, or in some cases, eliminate the taxes to be paid. If you are interested in learning more, scan the QR code at right code to contact Matt Peltomaki.



Diane Harvey is committed to making Guelph a better place.



Scan this QR to find out how you can leave a lasting legacy.


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