

Giving Matters

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

How **YOU** are transforming healthcare through giving

Thanks to you, a healthier future is taking shape. Your support is bringing expanded access to care closer to home with the new community-based medical centre.



THE FOUNDATION OF
GUELPH
GENERAL HOSPITAL

Transforming healthcare
through giving

DONATE



- Updates on the new **community-based medical centre**, opening early 2026
- Destiny shares her **experience and gratitude** with GGH and donors
- Details on **BIG changes** to the Guelph General laboratory



Building a Healthier Future

Construction underway for the new medical centre

Construction is well underway on the new community-based medical centre, located at the Guelph campus of Conestoga College.

Phase one of the medical centre's construction and equipment has been generously funded by donors. So, we're excited to give you a progress update in anticipation of opening the doors in a few months' time.

Guelph-Wellington county's growth has outpaced provincial averages and, with it, demand on Guelph General Hospital has reached new highs. If you've visited the hospital recently, you've likely seen it firsthand. The new centre will help relieve pressures, stemming from our rapidly growing community, by shifting several outpatient services and freeing up space at GGH to manage increased acute inpatient and emergency care needs. In turn, this new dedicated space offers expanded access, efficiency and patient comfort.



Representatives from the Hospital, the Foundation, City of Guelph, Conestoga College, and Western Medical Canada Inc. at the ground-breaking ceremony

Spanning over 10,000 square feet, the new community-based medical centre has been thoughtfully designed to put patient experience at the centre — even before they get through the door. Conveniently located on Conestoga College's Guelph campus, the facility will be easily accessible by public transit or car, with ample parking available. Inside, you'll find modern, welcoming spaces created to reduce stress and promote comfort.

One of the most exciting aspects is the centre's strong focus on

women's health. Demand for mammography procedures is substantially higher than other imaging modalities. Mammography average growth is 10% per year at Guelph General compared to the standard growth rate of 2% annually. With the recent change in Ontario guidelines making breast cancer screening available to women beginning at age 40, demand increased by a further 18% since October last year. To meet the need, the medical centre will include a designated Breast Assessment Clinic, housing one additional mammography and two ultrasound machines ensuring women have timely access to life-saving early detection.

Alongside mammography, the centre will be home to Guelph's second MRI machine — significantly increasing capacity — and provide x-ray, ultrasound, and bone mineral density testing. In years to come, the centre will expand to include ambulatory care services, such as minor surgical procedures and an orthopaedic clinic.

Projects of this scale are only possible because of the incredible support of community donors.

As construction continues, we are filled with gratitude and excitement. Every gift brings us closer to ensuring the centre is equipped with the best technology available, and in just a few short months you may be able to experience it firsthand. **Together, we are building more than a new facility; we are building a healthier future.**

DID YOU KNOW?

Breast cancer screening is now available to women beginning at age 40.



"The new medical centre marks a major advancement in diagnostic imaging services for Guelph," said Dr. Remon Elyas, Chief of Diagnostic Imaging at GGH. "Patients and their families can expect faster access to care, with the convenience of receiving high-quality imaging close to home — without the need to travel outside our community. This represents a pivotal step forward, strengthening healthcare access and shaping a brighter future for Guelph."

Doors to the community-based medical centre will open early 2026. In fact, if you have an upcoming diagnostic imaging appointment booked for the new year, you may already see the 460 Speedvale Ave. West location as your destination. If that's the case, here's what you can expect.

Cover Photo: Medical centre waiting area rendering

YOU

make patient care better at Guelph General Hospital

Destiny Hoang: Seeing Community Generosity Firsthand

December is a busy month for Destiny Hoang, a donor relations officer at The Foundation of Guelph General Hospital. During this prime giving season, cheques and online donations come in from all over the community.

Staff like Destiny are happy to come in to process gifts in a timely way.

Because for Destiny, this isn't just a job. It's also personal.

A few years ago, during her first year at university, Destiny started seeing double. It took a lot of tests to figure out what was wrong. Eventually, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS): an incurable autoimmune disease that affects one in 400 Canadians.

Destiny considers herself one of the lucky ones. She takes medication that manages her symptoms, and the disease doesn't affect her day-to-day life. But she does need regular MRIs to monitor her condition.

Thanks to donors, she can get those scans in Guelph.

Nearly two decades ago, the community came together to fund the hospital's first MRI machine. When that equipment started to show its age, donors



Destiny Hoang outside Guelph General

stepped up again, allowing Guelph General Hospital to buy a new, more powerful machine in 2023.

As a result, Destiny says her scans take half the time they used to — something she certainly appreciates when she's coming in for a midnight appointment. That speed also means the Hospital can perform more than a thousand additional MRIs each year, so patients get the imaging they need sooner.

But as the city keeps growing, so does the demand. That's where Guelph General's new community-based medical

centre will be a game changer.

The centre — currently under construction on Conestoga College's Speedvale Avenue campus — is slated to open its doors in early 2026. It will offer a suite of non-urgent diagnostic imaging, including MRI scans, all fully managed and operated by Guelph General.

That extra capacity will mean fewer late-night appointments for Destiny and other patients. It will ensure more people can get breast imaging, ultrasounds, X-rays and other scans done close to home.

And it will also free up existing diagnostic equipment at the main hospital for urgent cases.

"I'm pretty excited," says Destiny. "And not just for myself but for everyone who will get to rely on these new services."

This year, she can't wait for December — because every donation brings us one step closer to equipping the new centre. **"We want to make this happen for our community," says Destiny. "And we want to make it happen as quickly as possible."**

YOU

help to transform healthcare at Guelph General Hospital

A Giant Leap Forward in the Lab

Big changes are underway in the lab at Guelph General Hospital (GGH), designed with both patients and staff in mind. As part of a carefully planned modernization project, the hospital is upgrading aging equipment and introducing innovative technology to the lab that will help deliver faster, more accurate results. These improvements are all about creating a lab environment that's efficient, sustainable, and easy to work in, so the healthcare team can focus on what matters most: providing exceptional care.



Lab Charge Technologist using new equipment

"This is a giant leap into the future for GGH," says Robert Clayborne, Director of Laboratory Medicine. "Having donors in the community, who give so generously, makes you feel great."

One of the standout upgrades is a new automated hematology system. "The machine can sort through blood samples and flag the ones that need a closer look," explains Tammy, Lab Charge Technologist. "It

helps us get more done in less time, with fewer steps."

Project Manager Tiffany adds, "We're not just focused on having the best technology, we're making sure it's sustainable, easy to use, and ergonomic for our staff." Renovations have been carefully planned and carried out in stages to keep everything running smoothly in hopes of

achieving full core lab automation by Spring 2026.

The goal is simple: more efficiency, quicker diagnoses, and better care for more people. And it's happening because of you.

Your generosity is helping build a modern, responsive lab that is ready to meet the needs of our growing community. Thank you for being part of this exciting transformation.

Modernizing Care through Digital Pathology

GGH is embracing a bold vision for growth, and digital pathology is a key part of that transformation. "This modernization brings us into a new technological era, enhancing accuracy, precision, and collaboration," says Dr. Chris Ma, Chief of Laboratory Medicine. "It positions GGH to accommodate future growth while maintaining a high level of patient care."

For patients, this means faster and more accurate diagnoses — often within hours instead of days. With



Dr. Chris Ma using microscope

quicker turnaround times, care teams can make timely decisions, which can be critical for treatment

and recovery. This technology improves turnaround time and efficiency, allowing staff to do more with the same resources. Hiral, Lab Charge Technologist, adds, "It gives accurate diagnoses in very little time, enhancing patient care."

Thank you to *Circle of Life Inner Circle* donors for helping make this possible. Dr. Chris Ma shares, "We couldn't do this without our donors. **Your support is helping us shape the future of healthcare in our community."**



Donor Spotlight & Planned Giving



Ruth Thatcher in the Boutique at GGH

Ruth was just 16 when she began volunteering at Guelph General Hospital, starting with meal tray deliveries. Over the decades, she's staffed the library cart, delivered flowers, worked in the boutique and led the candy strippers. The hospital has been part of her life's most memorable moments from her children's birth to her husband's final days. From volunteering on the wards to serving on the Foundation's board, Ruth has seen many changes, but the team's dedication to exceptional care remains constant.

"It was a natural decision for me to leave a gift in my will to The Foundation of Guelph General Hospital," says Ruth. "Including the hospital in my will gives me tremendous peace, knowing that in some small way, I'll continue to be part of this community's story."



**Your support is
transforming
healthcare.**

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General Hospital in your will.



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Donor funded defibrillator in Emergency Department

Emergency Department Update

Construction is underway on Guelph General Hospital's Emergency Department expansion and the relocation of Emergency Mental Health and Addictions Services. This \$23.4 million redevelopment is supported by the Ontario government and generous donors through the *Together, We Care* campaign. It will create a dedicated space for patients in crisis, including The Angel Gabriel Foundation Centre for Mental Health and Addictions. With emergency visits now exceeding 60,000 annually, this project is an important step toward better care and planning for the future. For the latest construction updates visit gghorg.ca. Thank you for helping make this transformation possible. Your support is improving lives across Guelph-Wellington County.



Local healthcare thrives when the community comes together. Whether you're a business owner or a caring neighbour, your support helps ensure patients receive the best possible care, close to home. Learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting gghfoundation.ca.

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