

# Giving Matters

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

How **YOU** are transforming healthcare through giving

Thanks to you, Guelph General Hospital is expanding out into the community to serve you better.



THE FOUNDATION OF  
**GUDELPH**  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

Transforming healthcare  
through giving

**DONATE**



- Guelph General Hospital's **Speedvale campus** opens its doors
- **Small but mighty:** A new initiative to replace GGH's entire fleet of IV pumps
- Hospital volunteer **Ruth Thatcher** recognized for more than 50 years of volunteer service

# A New Era of Care Close to Home

## Guelph General Hospital's Speedvale Campus now open

Guelph General Hospital (GGH) has reached a milestone, made possible by donors like you. On March 2, 2026, the doors of the new Diagnostic Imaging Centre at the Speedvale Campus officially opened to patients, marking the first time in GGH's 150-year history that hospital-level care has been delivered outside its main campus.

Located at the Conestoga College's Guelph Campus at Unit 1, 460 Speedvale Avenue West, the Diagnostic Imaging Centre offers hospital-quality diagnostic imaging in a calming setting, fully operated and staffed by GGH medical professionals. The centre broadens access to key modalities, including mammography, ultrasound, x-ray and bone mineral density testing, as well as bringing a second MRI to the Guelph community.

For many in Guelph-Wellington, accessing these services has historically meant navigating the busy main hospital site and longer wait times. The Speedvale Campus changes that. Patients can now access the same high-quality care they trust from GGH in a setting that's accessible, convenient, and close to home.

"Out of constraint, we had a bold vision for a



Bright and welcoming, GGH's new Speedvale Campus is now open!

More than 1,600 donors contributed to raise over \$11 million for the project, anchored by a landmark \$5 million gift from The Angel Gabriel Foundation, alongside leading gifts from the Barzotti family, FDC Foundation, the Hunter family, and the Kohli and Hirani families. Every contribution helped turn this ambition into a space where patients will receive compassionate care each day.

"Phase One of the new Speedvale Campus is a testament to what can happen when a community comes together with a shared vision," said Julie Byczynski, CEO of The Foundation of Guelph General Hospital. "We are so grateful to every donor who made this possible, and we can't wait to show them what comes next."

### What's Next: Phase Two on the Horizon

Planning is already underway for Phase Two of the Speedvale Campus, which will double the facility's footprint and expand services to include endoscopy and an orthopedic fracture clinic. With construction beginning later this year, a targeted open date of spring 2027 has been set. Ongoing donor commitment will be critical to usher in this next chapter for healthcare in our community. **Stay up-to-date on the latest in this development project at [gghorg.ca](https://gghorg.ca)**



Scan the QR code to hear GGH President and CEO Mark Walton share his vision for the future of healthcare in our region

new campus. Our community's wait times were unacceptable, and our aging hospital offered no capacity for further expansion," said Mark Walton, President and CEO of Guelph General Hospital. "I hope the community can see that while we continue to advocate for a new hospital, we will not stand still, continuing to find innovative ways to meet their growing needs."

What makes this opening especially remarkable is how swiftly it came to life. Construction began in July 2025, and the centre welcomed its first patients just months later. This pace reflects both the urgency of community need and the dedication of the GGH team, Foundation staff, and donors alike who rallied behind this vision.

**Cover Photo: New X-ray suite now open at GGH Speedvale Campus**

# YOU

## help to transform healthcare at Guelph General Hospital

### The Giving Bridge: A Year of Impact

This past year, 986 Giving Bridge monthly donors made a meaningful difference in patient care. Their collective, consistent support gave the Foundation the stability to respond to equipment needs quickly and confidently throughout the year.

Among the highlights, Giving Bridge funding helped equip the Emergency Department with wall-mounted ophthalmoscopes and otoscopes, handheld tools clinicians use to examine patients' eyes and ears. Each year, more than 2,000 patients arrive at GGH with ear, eye, or head concerns, and having these tools ready at the bedside allows care teams to make fast, accurate assessments when every moment counts. A monthly gift of just \$71, over the course of a year, is enough to fund one ophthalmoscope wall transformer, a direct and tangible example of how consistent giving adds up.



Giving Bridge donors also contributed to equipment needs at GGH's new Speedvale Campus, adding another layer of impact to an already milestone year for our community's healthcare.

What makes monthly giving so powerful is its predictability. Knowing that a steady stream of support is coming allows the Foundation to plan, prioritize effectively, and say yes to the equipment requests that matter most to front-line care teams.

**To every Giving Bridge member, thank you. Your ongoing commitment is felt by patients and staff every single day.**

Wall-mounted ophthalmoscopes were funded, thanks to Giving Bridge monthly donors



### Schwartz Rounds

#### Caring for those who care for GGH

Behind every positive patient outcome is a care team that feels supported and seen. The Bill and Colleen Koornstra Mental Health & Wellness Fund makes that possible, bringing Schwartz Rounds® to Guelph General Hospital.

Schwartz Rounds® are an evidence-based program that creates a safe, supportive space for staff to reflect on the human side of their work. Each session brings together a panel of GGH colleagues who share personal reflections from

their own experience, followed by an open discussion.

After a full year of programming at GGH, the impact has been real. Topics have ranged from "Compassion in Action" to "Finding Meaning in the Hard Moments." Participants have reported feeling more supported, less stressed, and more deeply connected to their colleagues and their purpose.

In a profession that asks so much of its people, that connection matters. Because of the Bill and



**GGH staff connect through Schwartz Rounds®**

Colleen Koornstra Mental Health & Wellness Fund, compassion remains at the heart of every interaction, every shift, and every life touched within these walls.



The GGH Speedvale Campus brings a second MRI machine to the Guelph-Wellington region

PHOTO: MOSSSUND

## Community Rallies to Meet \$500,000 Challenge

When FDC Foundation issued a dollar-for-dollar matching challenge in support of the new GGH Speedvale Campus, our community answered the call.

Thanks to the generosity of donors across Guelph-Wellington, the full \$500,000 match was met, doubling the impact of gifts made during the campaign. Combined with FDC Foundation's transformative \$1 million gift toward the development and equipment of the new campus, their total contribution reaches \$1.5 million, a remarkable vote of confidence in this project and our community.

The opening of the Speedvale Campus in early 2026 marks a historic milestone, making Guelph General a two-campus hospital for the first time in its history.

**Thank you to every donor who made this moment possible.**



Ruth receiving IPA award at Black Tie Bingo with Rob Neufeld (Meridian), Mark Walton, Julie Byczynski, and Jessica Fisher (Co-operators)

## 2026 Inspirational Philanthropist Award

### Ruth Thatcher

Ruth Thatcher's connection to Guelph General Hospital spans more than seven decades. She first walked through our doors as a volunteer in 1948, helping in the kitchen, and never really left. From 1995 to 2002, Ruth served on the Foundation's board of directors, helping launch the very first Black Tie Bingo and numerous other fundraisers. A loyal donor, longtime member of Rotary Club of Guelph, and active parishioner at St. George's Anglican Church, Ruth's generosity extends well beyond our walls. This year, the Foundation was proud to honour her with the Inspirational Philanthropist Award, a recognition of in recognition of over 50 years of volunteerism.

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Janet Trowbridge

From a decades-long nursing career at GGH to her volunteer work with the Foundation, Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis, and the Children's



Foundation, Janet brings compassion and care to everything she does. Since joining the Foundation's volunteer team in 2019, she has become a weekly presence, connecting with donors, supporting events, and helping strengthen our

community's access to exceptional care. This year, Janet was honoured with the 2025 Mayor's Award, a recognition she has more than earned.

Congratulations, Janet. We are lucky to have you.

# YOU

## make patient care better at Guelph General Hospital

### A Decade Ago, Donors Like You Made a Difference. The Next Chapter is Just Around the Corner.

Every day at Guelph General Hospital, a quiet but essential piece of technology works around the clock to keep patients safe. Large Volume IV Pumps — the device that deliver fluids, medications, and blood products directly into a patient’s bloodstream — are among the most relied-upon tools in the hospital. Nearly every inpatient, and many outpatients, depend on them at some point during their care.

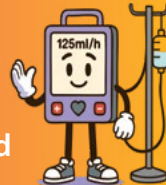
Whether someone is recovering from surgery, managing a chronic condition, fighting an infection, or receiving cancer treatment, an IV pump is almost always part of their journey. These devices ensure that every drop of medication or fluid is delivered with pinpoint accuracy, protecting patients when they are at their most vulnerable.

A decade ago, donors like you made that possible. The current fleet of IV pumps was generously



#### DID YOU KNOW?

For some patients, an IV pump runs continuously for days or even weeks at a time, quietly and reliably working in the background while they focus on getting better.



funded by donors like you back in 2015, and after 10 years of dedicated service, those pumps have now reached the end of their expected service life.

The Foundation of Guelph

General Hospital is proud to announce a new initiative to fully replace GGH’s entire fleet of Large Volume IV Pumps, ensuring care teams have the modern, reliable technology they need for years to come. GGH is currently evaluating providers to identify the best options for patients and clinical teams. With individual pumps priced at approximately \$2,500, this is a significant investment, and one that will touch the lives of thousands of patients each year.

Donor support has always been at the heart of keeping Guelph General Hospital equipped with the tools its patients and care teams need. This initiative is the next chapter in a story our community helps

write everyday. We’ll be sharing more details about how you can be part of it soon — and in the meantime, if you’d like to learn more or express your interest in supporting, please reach out to us.



Celebrating 30 years, the annual Black Tie Bingo fundraising gala returned to the University of Guelph Centre this March. Together, gala guests, donors and sponsors raised \$464,000 to support the Phase Two expansion of the Speedvale Campus, including funding the first fracture exam room. Read the full story by scanning the QR code or visiting [gghfoundation.ca](http://gghfoundation.ca).

# Transforming healthcare through giving



Connect with us!

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