The Countdown Has Begun…

It’s a very big present, and its timing couldn’t be better. The MRI is set to arrive on December 6th – just in time for Christmas.

And Stratford’s MRI will be patient-ready by early January, giving patients from Stratford, Huron/Perth and beyond quicker, easier access, to this tremendous life changing/life saving technology, if and when they need it.

Construction of the MRI suite is progressing rapidly – two weeks ahead of schedule in fact (see accompanying photos). Various rooms of the MRI suite have recently been wired and are undergoing inspection, and dry walling has commenced in the suite’s Control Room, Patient Interview room and Patient Prep room.

But perhaps the most noticeable construction feature at present is the gleaming copper sheathing that covers the walls, ceiling and floor of the “Magnet or Exam Room” where the MRI will reside.

“It’s a very large magnet – much stronger than those magnets that pick up cars in the junk yard, explains Jeff Kerk, program director, Medical Imaging. “Copper acts as a filter, ensuring the MRI’s magnetic field or radio frequency stays inside the Magnet Room and doesn’t affect anyone in the surrounding area.”

All wiring for the MRI – which must itself be insulated against the effects of the magnet – passes through a small hole that’s specially constructed in the copper shielding. Another interesting feature is the external wall that will actually be knocked out to allow the 7 ton MRI to be hoisted into its resting place.

While it will be weeks before patients see the inside of the MRI, staff – including two new full time x-ray technicians and two new full time radiologists – will be busy testing the magnet, getting new protocols in place, poring over manuals and familiarizing themselves with the complex, new technology.

“We’ve already gone to some of the ‘gold standard’ MRI sites in Ontario and we’ll implement a number of their best qualities into our service,” explains Jeff. “We’re tremendously excited, and we’re going to have a very solid MRI program.”
Jeff Kerk, program director, Medical Imaging, examines blueprints in the patient interview room. This is where patients are interviewed, ensuring they’ve filled out a safety questionnaire to make certain there’s no unexpected metal in the patient’s body. Any last minute questions and concerns from patients can also be addressed.

Framing the window in the Magnet or Exam Room. This window allows technicians and Radiologists to visually monitor patients as they undergo a scan—typically 30 minutes for a regular procedure and 45 minutes for a procedure that uses an injected contrast. Similar to the contrast used for CT procedures, this process helps produce clearer images for certain MRI scans. Note the copper strip around the window, used to help contain the magnetic field within the Exam or Magnet Room.

Jeff Kerk, program director, Medical Imaging, gets a close look at the copper flooring of the Magnet or Exam Room. Similar copper sheathing will cover the walls and ceiling also, containing the magnetic field within. Due to the strong magnetic field, patients are screened to ensure they have no metal in their bodies that isn’t supposed to be there, ensuring items like pacemakers and joint replacements will pose no threat to patients or the MRI itself.

Tyler Stephenson from ETS Lindgren, grinds the copper coated door that leads to the MRI Magnet or Exam Room. A proper fit is essential.

Wiring the switches and lighting for the Control Room. The Control Room is where MRI technicians and Radiologists can monitor patients and control the MRI’s functions. Special software called a Leonardo system, will allow one set of images from a patient to be manipulated and reconstructed to create numerous different images.
It was contagious… the rockin’ pneumonia and the boogie woogie flu!

Drs. Diotallevi and Bartlett had the cure. Some 450 people attended this sold out, groovy event that raised $16,000 towards the MRI. Highlights included Karaoke by Dr. Gillett, Dr. Brooks and others, cool costumes, Jazz by Dr. Hussey, and fantastic 60’s music by Crackerjack Palace. A special thank you to the Arden Park Hotel for their sponsorship of the venue, Home Health for their sponsorship of the light lunch and Horizon ProResp for the main door prize. MC’s Eddie Matthews from CJCS and Dr. Stacey Snider kept everyone hopping. A salute to organizers Dr. Diotallevi and Dr. Heisz; also to Dr. Parsons for organizing and sharing his wonderful memorabilia.
November is a time to remember our veterans and what is important to our communities. Poppy Chair and 1st VP, Ken Albert (left) and President Jim Millar of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #8 were on hand to present a cheque for $5,000 from the Poppy Fund to Jeff Kerk, Program Director of Medical Imaging/MRI Project Lead. The funds will make a real impact on access to an MRI for veterans and the community at large.

**Hitmen a great hit for MRI**

The Stratford Hitmen hit a home run with an amazing gift of $10,000 towards the new MRI. We can never say thank you enough for their tremendous support!

Back row l-r; Terry Klumper, Corey Bridges, Dallas Pearson, Jeff Van Nynattan, Mark Downham, Mike Krug, Jamie Antonio, Bill Bradley, Mike Mc Mullan.

Front row l-r; Terry Adair, Paul Podsadecki, Rudy Taylor, Mark Mohr (Laying down), Doug Blaine, Scott Walsh, Mike Leith, Rod Adair, Kyle Casey, Ian Schenck, Dan Adair, Tyler Huston, Jason Thibeault, Chris Kunder; absent Rob Mogk.

**Farmers Make a Real Impact**

There are over 2800 farms in our local catchment area. Also, 90% of the land in Perth County is classified as prime agricultural land. Farm life can have its many dangers and potential injuries.

John and Nellie Van den Hoven wanted to send a message that they know how important an MRI is to the rural communities and that they hope their gift will encourage other farmers to support this life saving technology too. Their tremendous donation of $50,000 will name the MRI Patient Preparation Room. The patient prep room will contain a stretcher and IV for patients. About 30 percent of patients will require a special injected contrast medium which gives clearer images of certain parts of the body, helping radiologists interpret the scan more accurately.

We can never say thank you enough to John and Nellie Van den Hoven for their generous commitment to healthcare!
I YES, I care! I wish to support our Hospital.

Name: ______________________________________________  Address: _______________________________________________
City: ________________________________  Postal Code: ____________________  Telephone: ____________________________

Enclosed is my cheque to Stratford General Hospital Foundation.

☐ $1,000  ☐ $500  ☐ $250  ☐ $100  ☐ $50  ☐ $25        I prefer to give $ ______________________

☐ Visa    ☐ MasterCard      Card # ______________________________  Expiry Date __________________________

☐ I’d like to pledge my support of $ _____________________ each year over the next ____________ years.

Signature _____________________________________________________  Date _________________________________________

A receipt will be issued for tax purposes.  Charitable Registration # BN 11920 0004 RR0001
Our donor records are confidential. We do not share our lists.

YOUR DONATION COUNTS!
Please take a moment and reflect on what our community would be like without our hospital. Our health care team has one main focus - YOU - the patient. In the last year the health care team has touched the lives of countless people and their families with their compassion, skill and expertise. Every gift you give impacts the care we are able to provide. Your support purchases essential medical equipment - equipment we can’t afford to be without. We count on you to help us provide quality and patient-focused care. Thank you!

In Memory of:
Charles Baker     Reta Hinz
Debbie Bender    Muriel Hoggarth
William Bezzo     John Hollis
Bessie E. Blair  Reta Huether
Martina Boersen  Molly Hyde
Arthur Brooks     Clara “Arlene” Innes
Genevieve Brown  I. Jean Isbister
Mildred Burlingham  Edmond Jodoin
Dennis A. Campbell  Mervil Johnson
William Collier  Marjorie Kalbfleisch
Edna C. Dahms     Garry Klumper
Elisabeth Dingman  Gloria Kresstet
William Duncan  Claude Langis
Roy Durst         Shirley Leslie
Gail Ellison-Fowler  Sally Lynch
Lina Fassbind    James B. Machan
Gordon Feltz     Charlotte MacLeod
Dave Foster      Alan McBeath
Murray Austin Gowan  W. Glenn McClure
Gerald Groothuis  John A. McKay
Chris Hart      Hazel Metzger
Robert Hastings  Daniel J. Miller
William Haynes  Hilbert Mohr
Erma Heinbuch    Orpha Mohrmann
Willard E. Henderson  Lilian Myers

In Honor of:
Reta Hinz     Muriel Hoggarth
John Hollis    Reta Huether
Molly Hyde     Clara “Arlene” Innes
I. Jean Isbister  Edmond Jodoin
Mervil Johnson  Marjorie Kalbfleisch
Garry Klumper  Gloria Kresstet
Claude Langis  Shirley Leslie
Sally Lynch     James B. Machan
Charlotte MacLeod  Alan McBeath
W. Glenn McClure  John A. McKay
Hazel Metzger  Daniel J. Miller
Hilbert Mohr    Orpha Mohrmann
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Bill van der Holst
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Dorothy Weber
Margaret Wells
John W. West
Walter Wilhelm
Richard Woodhouse
Harry Yungblut
Walter Yungblut

In Honor of:
Harvey Ahrens

MRI Parade
Mark your calendars!
December 6th the MRI arrives on a flatbed truck.
Help us parade it in to SGH.
Watch local news for details.

Thank you for caring!
Just picture how an MRI could Make a Real Impact on your life...

- Quicker, easier access to life-saving technology
- It’s the most effective tool we have to help diagnose a multitude of diseases and conditions
- Reduced waiting times for scans, with no need to travel to London, Owen Sound or other locations
- Ability to scan pediatric patients
- “Large Bore” design provides extra space to accommodate larger patients, those with physical challenges or claustrophobia
- Ability to attract new physicians, technicians and other healthcare professionals to our region.