

And today's CT Scanners are faster, more accurate and safer than scanners from just 10 years ago, with 40-70% less radiation – an important feature for patients who require multiple CT Scans.

Each year our hospital performs some 11,700 CT Scans. If you've ever had a CT yourself or had a family member or friend who has needed one, then you already know how indispensable this technology can be.

But a CT Scanner isn't the only piece of Medical Imaging equipment we need. Also on the top of our priority medical list – the list of equipment that neither our hospital nor our patients can afford to be without – is an X-ray machine.

"For real?" I hear you ask. Yes, for real. You see X-rays are a little like the reliable family car of Medical Imaging while MRI and CT Scanners are the head-turning, high performance sports cars. When it comes to family trips and vacations, it's often the family sedan that's a better choice.

Who hasn't experienced a trip to the Emergency Department with a child or grandchild following an accident or sports injury...or an elderly parent or spouse who slipped on the ice? Who hasn't felt the sense of relief when the words "no bones broken" were heard?

Each year, more than 30,000 X-rays are performed at our hospital, and for diagnosing fractures, dislocations, certain infections and even some tumors, X-ray is often our first choice and a tried and true method that's been perfected over time.

And because of technology investments over the last decade, images taken by CT Scanner, X-ray, as well as ultrasound and MRI can be combined and shared using the PACS (Picture Archive Communication System), allowing our own radiologists and physicians to consult with experts in London and other hospitals when special expertise or a "second opinion" is needed.

One place where no "second opinion" is needed is on the value of a new CT Scanner and X-ray machines to radiologists, physicians and the care we provide to you and your family.

At \$1.3 million for a new CT Scanner and some \$450,000 each for new X-ray machines, the cost is significant. But so are the benefits – rapid and detailed images that can help detect, diagnose, and rule out a whole host of diseases and conditions; reduction in the need for exploratory surgery, and often a shortened time-frame until treatment.

You may not know this, but when it comes to purchasing equipment like a CT Scanner or X-ray machine, we depend solely on the generosity of people like you to help make it happen. With no direct government funding for new and replacement equipment, we have little other choice. Will you help?

If you've already responded to our earlier mailing this Holiday Season, you have my deepest thanks. If not, please consider a gift of health to your community, and help ensure the only surprises you and your family receive this year are the kind that come wrapped in ribbons, bows and love.

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy Holiday Season.



Dr. Laurel Moore
Chief of Medical Staff

P.S. – Your support this Holiday Season will help us purchase critical Medical Imaging equipment that gives us the tools we need to visualize and diagnose what's happening inside our patients. Please return your gift along with your best wishes on the enclosed ornament. It will bring warmth and joy to our patients and staff alike.

Yes, I want to join your Monthly Giving Programme!

Yes, I authorize *Stratford General Hospital Foundation* to withdraw the following amount from my bank account monthly. I may change the amount or cancel my monthly contribution at any time by notifying *Stratford General Hospital Foundation*.

Once a month I will give: \$10 \$15 \$20 Other \$ _____

I authorize the *Stratford General Hospital Foundation* to draw on my bank account through my financial institution on the **first of each month** beginning _____ Date

Signature

Date

I have enclosed a cheque with VOID written across it for *Stratford General Hospital Foundation* to arrange the monthly withdrawal from my bank account.

At the end of the year, we will issue you an official receipt for the total amount of your donations.