

# Our Doctors Have A Tremendous Impact

This dynamic duo of Medical Imaging wage an ongoing battle to protect human life and diagnose a wide array of maladies, utilizing their special powers to see deep within the human body with super X-ray vision that would put superman to shame.

Okay, maybe a little over the top...but radiologists Drs. Lynda Harker and Keith Sparrow truly are healthcare superheroes and they do wage an ongoing battle to preserve life and detect disease—even though they must rely on technology like the MRI, CT Scanner, Mammography, X-ray and ultrasound equipment to see inside patients.

But what may be even more impressive is their abilities to interpret what those images are showing—deducing whether a headache is just a headache, or whether a mammography scan needs further attention. These skills are superhuman, and were developed over a lifetime of education, dedication and work experience.

Dr. Sparrow went to university in New Brunswick, then medical school at Memorial University in Newfoundland. He went to London's University of Western Ontario (UWO) for his residency in radiology and went to work at Victoria Hospital doing general radiology until 2010. Dr. Harker, chief of Medical Imaging at HPHA, did her undergraduate work at McMaster then went to UWO for medical school and radiology residency. She then worked on staff at McMaster and Victoria Hospital.

"Lynda and I met there. We had similar affiliations with Victoria Hospital and we worked as partners for a while," recalls Dr. Sparrow.

Dr. Harker eventually relocated to HPHA, assuming responsibility for the Medical Imaging Department.

Stratford was quite short on manpower at the time," recalls Dr. Sparrow. "She invited me up to share the workload...I'd come up on weekends and we'd go out to dinner afterwards. We were seeing so much of each other we thought we might as well formalize it."

It paved the way for both a personal and professional relationship which has stood the test of time and benefited many.

Besides reviewing patient scans from various sources and technologies, Dr. Harker has a special affiliation with breast health. Since arriving in Stratford she's always promoted the importance of expanding the program and championed any technology needed to carry out that mission—from new X-ray machines to MRI, from a new CT Scanner to the latest 3D mammography machine which doubles the capacity for patients.

"Lynda really helped establish the whole Medical Imaging department but her baby has always been the breast program. She's been extremely involved with it and developed a program with a level of expertise you don't generally find in this size of community hospital," explains Dr. Sparrow.

Initially attracted to Stratford General by the mammography unit and a chance to broaden his palate of expertise—and by Lynda of course—Dr. Sparrow has nothing but praise for his colleagues and staff in Medical Imaging and throughout the organization.

Both stress that it's a team effort. Because of their individual areas of interest and expertise, Dr. Sparrow tends to work more with internists (doctors of internal medicine), while Dr. Harker works more closely with the surgeons. Both also appreciate the considerable expertise and dedication of fellow radiologists—and the technicians who are responsible for getting the best and clearest images possible. Together they make an unbeatable team.

One of the keys to attracting and retaining Medical Imaging staff in a competitive environment is having the latest and best technology available. Like other medical professionals and technicians, younger graduates are trained on the latest equipment and need access to it in order to develop their own skills and give their patients and referring physicians the most accurate, timely images possible.

"People want to have good medical care close to home and most of us are going to use it at some point. It's the donors that make it all possible by providing the equipment and the space we need. In turn that attracts the doctors, nurses and



**Dr. Harker and Dr. Sparrow**

techs which then benefits the whole community," explains Dr. Harker. "Even when businesses are considering locating here, they want to know that the health care they'll receive is high quality...it's a big factor."

"The Foundation and their donors have been like fairy godmother in that respect, supplying us with the best tools and technology that can attract people with the expertise we need," echoes Dr. Sparrow. "If we didn't have those things here, people would be continually going to London or Toronto and waiting much longer for access. For most people, that's pretty unpalatable."

*... Read more in our upcoming 2022 Spring Monitor Newsletter*

## Generous Donors Invest In Mammography Care



It was wonderful to have Phil and Eleanor Anwender on-site to celebrate their extremely generous gift of **\$130,000** towards Mammography- Contrast and Tomosynthesis options. Medical Imaging staff taught us more about the Mammography equipment features, and the impacts in patient care thanks to this exciting new technology.

*Medical Imaging Staff, Group Photo, L-R: Tania Gingerich, Irene Simons, Eleanor and Phil Anwender, Dana Robertson, Tiffany Cook, and Dr. Hoshang Zakaria*

## Upcoming Events - "In Our Hands" Campaign Launch



**Wednesday,  
June 8th 2022 at  
SGH Site**  
  
**Featuring Guest  
Speaker: Dr. Roberta  
Bondar, Astronaut and  
Neurologist**



Stay tuned... For updates, please visit: [www.sghfoundation.org](http://www.sghfoundation.org) / [www.inourhands.ca](http://www.inourhands.ca)

## Continued Support From RCL Branch #8- Poppy Fund



Stratford's Royal Canadian Legion Branch #8 have donated \$8000 from their Poppy Fund towards: (3) Portable Vital Signs Monitors- to be used in our Stroke Unit and (2) Tympanic Thermometers. This gift will have an impact on our vulnerable older patients- many of them veterans and members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 8. We can never say thank you enough for your ongoing support!

*Pictured L-R: Cliff Morgan, Steve Zurbrigg, Anne Boyd, Deanna Wright : Manager- SGH Intensive Care Unit, ISU/ Telemetry Cardiorespiratory, Bill Rothermel, Dale Bast, Phil Rader, Doreen Zurbrigg, Linda Hunter, Ken Albert and Leroy Workman.*

## A Thoughtful Gift To Aid in Patient Rehabilitation

A big thank you to Steve and Terry Walkom - of Walkom's ValuMart, Mitchell for generously donating a shopping cart to our Occupational Therapies unit! Your gift has real impact. Also, thank you to Tammy McLean from the therapy department – HPHA for helping coordinate this gift.



*Pictured: Steve and Terry Walkom*

## Upcoming Events - RE/MAX a/b Realty Ltd Golf Tournament

*Back after a long hiatus!*  
**The RE/MAX a/b Realty Ltd Golf Tournament is  
Wednesday, June 15th at the Stratford Country Club.  
Register NOW: <https://bit.ly/2022StratGOLF>**



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