

Stratford General Hospital

Foundation Monitor

Every Story Matters: John & Judy Boersen

Some stories are told through grand gestures. Others are shared through the quiet, thoughtful ways people care for those around them. John and Judy Boersen's story is very much the latter.

Married in 1959, John and Judy spent 57 years building a life rooted in hard work, family, and generosity. They met in Guelph, Judy's hometown, while John was doing construction work to earn enough to buy a farm. In 1964, they settled on a dairy farm in North Easthope, where they spent their working years before retiring to Stratford in 2000.

Life on the farm was full and busy. John cared for the cows, while Judy tended to the calves and always made room for barn cats, dogs (especially her beloved German Shepherds), pigs, chickens, and expansive gardens. Summers were often shared with nieces and nephews, who helped in the barn and learned firsthand what it meant to care for something beyond yourself.

John, the eldest son, understood responsibility from a young age. His parents immigrated to Canada in 1951 with twelve children. When his father passed away just three years later, John helped support the family and the home farm well into adulthood. That sense of duty and quiet perseverance stayed with him throughout his life.

While John was known for his gentle nature and playful sense of humour, always teasing and joking, Judy was remembered as opinionated, sharp-witted, and deeply creative. She "said it like it was," but always with heart.



Judy expressed her love through making things. She was an accomplished seamstress, knitter, crocheter, and oil painter. She created dolls for her nieces and nephews and jointed teddy bears for her sisters, each one named, documented, and lovingly dressed. She also painted Christmas cards with her unmistakable script. Her oil paintings, often florals or peaceful scenes from nature, could have filled a gallery, yet she chose to give them away instead.

Together, John and Judy balanced one another: steady and spirited, thoughtful and direct.

Family was central to everything John and Judy did. Between both sides of the family, they had more than 50 nieces and nephews, and they made a point of staying closely connected. Holidays were filled with conversation, laughter, and familiar faces. Judy was known for remembering the little things like sending Valentine's cards every year and making sure no one was forgotten.

Continued on page 5...

Committed to Care: Get to Know Our Board

Behind every successful Foundation is a team of dedicated community members who give their time, expertise, and heart. In this issue, we're pleased to highlight two Board members whose experiences and perspectives help support care close to home.

Paul Roulston

Following 16 years of service on the Stratford General Hospital Foundation Board of Directors, Paul Roulston retired from the Board at the Foundation's Annual General Meeting in June. A community pharmacist for 40 years, Paul brought deep healthcare knowledge, thoughtful leadership, and a strong commitment to ensuring high-quality care remains close to home.



During his time on the Board, Paul was proud to support major initiatives including the In Our Hands Capital Campaign and the opening of the new Cancer Care and Pharmacy department — a project he saw through from concept to completion. His advocacy and dedication have helped strengthen both the Foundation and the hospital's connection to the community.

Scan the QR code to the right, or visit our website, to read Paul's full story and learn more about his years of service and commitment.

Sarah Colman

Sarah Colman brings a strong background in law, governance, and community service to the Foundation Board. A retired lawyer who spent more than 20 years in senior legal roles, Sarah was motivated to get involved after learning how much hospitals rely on community support to fund essential equipment.



With deep roots in the region and now more time to be actively involved in Stratford, Sarah is passionate about ensuring access to timely, high-quality healthcare. Her personal experiences, including care received at the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) - Stratford General Hospital, and her appreciation for the impact of new technology continue to shape her perspective.

Scan the QR Code below or visit our website to read Sarah's full story and discover what inspires her to support local healthcare.



Paul's Story

Sarah's Story



In This Issue

- 1 Every Story Matters: John & Judy Boersen
- 2 Committed to Care: Get to Know Our Board
- 3 Donor Spotlight
- 6 2025-26 Disbursements

- 7 Equipment Spotlight
- 8 A Provincial Legacy Making a Local Difference
- 9 Third Party Events
- 10 In Honour & In Memory
- 12 Volunteers at the Heart of Care!

Donor Spotlight: Together, We Make a Difference!



Lange Bros Tree Service

Their annual summer BBQ raised \$5,710 over the past two years toward a vital signs monitor for the Medicine Unit. Led by third-generation owners Nick and Jessica Lange, the event continues a long-standing family tradition of generosity and community care.

Oct '25



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 8

Thanks to their continued generosity, a \$7,500 donation will support the purchase of a ceiling lift for our Emergency Department, ensuring comfort and safety for patients and healthcare providers.

Oct '25



Optimist Club of Stratford

Their generous \$10,000 donation will help fund a blanket warmer for the Pediatric Unit, helping keep young patients comfortable. Since 2018, the Club has contributed more than \$70,000 toward essential equipment for the Maternal Child Unit.

Oct '25



Brussels Lions Club

Each year, the Club raises funds through local initiatives and gives back to a variety of community projects. We are grateful for their ongoing support of local healthcare through their annual hospital donations.

Oct '25



Festival School of Hairstyling

Their 3rd Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser raised an incredible \$1,650 in support of the Cancer and Medical Care Clinic and Mammography Program.

Oct '25



Festival Hydro

Through their 2025 Go Paperless Campaign, 788 customers switched to paperless billing, generating an \$11,820 donation to the Greatest Needs Fund. This support helps provide flexible funding for priority equipment and patient care needs.

Dec '25



Donor Spotlight: Together, We Make a Difference!



PetSmart Stratford

Through the Chance and Friends program, PetSmart Stratford and their customers donated a generous collection of stuffed animals to support patients. These comforting companions help bring reassurance and joy to children, patients living with dementia, and others needing comfort during difficult moments.

Dec '25



With Love and Grace

A sincere thank you for a generous \$1,405.85 donation in support of the Special Care Nursery. Inspired by the care their twins received after arriving early, Kat and Matt continue to give back through their business, helping support families navigating unexpected beginnings.

Dec '25



Summit Gearworks Inc

Inspired by owner Phil's patient experience, a thoughtful \$5,000 donation supported the purchase of more comfortable waiting room chairs for the Emergency Department. In addition, teddy bears, toques, and shirts were donated to provide comfort to patients when it is needed most.

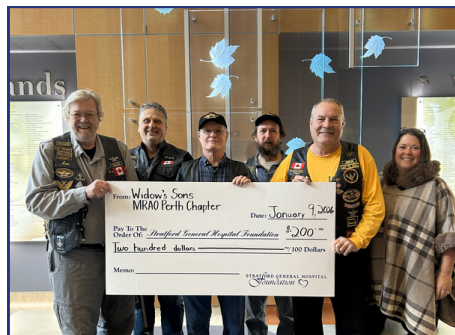
Dec '25



Hamlet North Junior Youth

Their "sweet" \$500 donation was made possible through a Bake Sale held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The Group, students from Hamlet Public School, was proud to turn their efforts into meaningful support for their community.

Dec '25



Widows Sons MRAO

We're grateful for their ongoing commitment through a \$200 donation, marking the third consecutive year of support. Through fellowship, community service, and fundraising, the group continues to make a meaningful impact both on and off the road.

Jan '26



CUPE 1385

A heartfelt thank you for a \$2,000 donation in support of the Special Care Nursery. The gift helps purchase essential equipment, while members also donated personal care kits, craft materials, and graduate gift bag items to support families.

Mar '26

Every Story Matters: John & Judy Boersen

*Continued from page 1...*When it came time to consider a legacy, John and Judy chose to support the HPHA – Stratford General Hospital, knowing it would be there for their extended family again and again. As their nieces and co-executors, Jane and Wanda, shared, “Eventually, in all of our lifetimes, we are going to need the services of a hospital. This gift was the best way to take care of their extended family.”

Their estate gift will contribute to several important areas of care, including:

- The future replacement of the MRI,
- Revitalization of the hospital courtyard,
- Art therapy for the Inpatient Mental Health Unit,
- Equipment and staff training for the Emergency Department — often the first point of care.

These areas reflect Judy’s love of beauty and creativity, John’s quiet kindness, and their shared belief in caring for others.

Through this thoughtful estate gift, John and Judy Boersen continue to give by supporting moments of care and comfort for countless individuals, now and in the years to come. Their story is a reminder that every act of generosity has the power to make a lasting difference.

Every story matters.

Every donation makes a difference.



Don't Miss a Beat!

Stay connected with the latest Foundation news, inspiring stories, upcoming events, and the impact of donor support through our monthly Vital Signs e-newsletter.

Sign up today by visiting our website at www.sghfoundation.org and navigating to Foundation News - Vital Signs Newsletter - Join Our Mailing List or by scanning the QR code!



Impact Report: 2025-26

Total Funds Raised

\$4,478,013.08



Donations

4,520



Donors

2,305



First Time Donors

450



Estate Gifts

15

Total Funds Disbursed

\$1,794,903.49



Monthly Donors

144

Visit our website www.sghfoundation.org
to view our complete financial statements.

Disbursements: Your Donor Dollars at Work!

The HPHA - Stratford General Hospital site is fortunate to receive strong operational support from the Province of Ontario. However, provincial funding does not cover the cost of new and replacement medical equipment, vital infrastructure upgrades or many of the innovations that enhance patient care. You can see below where your donor dollars went to work this past fiscal year!

Cancer and Medical Care Clinic and Co-located Pharmacy:	\$1,000,000.00
Telemetry Unit - Beds (12):	\$214,231.08
Mental Health Unit - Beds (15) First of two payments:	\$76,161.22
Critical Care Unit / Surgery Unit, Emergency Department, Maternal Child Unit & Surgical Services - Bed Pan Washers (4):	\$72,337.28
Surgical Services - Neoprobe Gamma Detection System:	\$56,447.18
Emergency Department - Stretchers (6):	\$48,724.07
Integrated Stroke & Telemetry Unit & Critical Care / Surgery Unit - Bladder Scanners (2):	\$36,714.97
Medical Devices Reprocessing Department - Drying Cabinet:	\$33,343.53
Volunteer Services - Display Fridges (2)	\$24,401.93
Imaging, Medicine Unit, Telemetry Unit - Stretchers (3):	\$22,653.81
Laboratory Services - Centrifuge:	\$16,206.32
Laboratory Services - Culture Incubator:	\$11,446.05
Biomedical Department - Fetal Monitor Simulator Kit:	\$11,034.69
Maternal Child Unit - Sleeper Chairs (2):	\$10,504.87
Volunteer Services - Freezer:	\$10,489.58
Integrated Stroke & Telemetry Unit, Surgical Services - Overbed Tables (13):	\$10,300.07
InterHospital Laboratory Partnership - Pathologist Microscope:	\$9,829.45
Medical Devices Reprocessing Department - Nova 8 Software Update for Carousel:	\$8,072.75
Volunteer Services - Cooler:	\$5,499.18
Mental Health Unit - Call Bell Upgrade for Beds (15) - First of two payments:	\$5,220.44
Other Funding	
Donated Expenses: Staff Education/Training, Equipment under \$5,000, Dementia Care Tools, Murals, etc.:	\$81,285.02
West Building Annex:	\$20,000.00
St. Marys Healthcare Foundation - Pledge Payment:	\$10,000.00

Impact Report: 2025-26



Equipment Spotlight: Supporting Safety Behind the Scenes in the Medical Devices Reprocessing Department

Every surgery, emergency procedure, and patient treatment depends on one critical factor: safe, sterile medical equipment.

Behind the scenes at the HPHA - Stratford General Hospital, the Medical Devices Reprocessing Department (MDRD) plays an essential role in patient care. This dedicated team is responsible for cleaning, disinfecting, sterilizing, and preparing thousands of medical instruments used throughout the hospital each year.

While patients may never see this department in action, their work impacts nearly every area of care, from the Operating Room and Emergency Department to diagnostic imaging and inpatient units.

Thanks to donor support through the Stratford General Hospital Foundation, two important investments were made in MDRD during the 2025–26 fiscal year:

- **Drying Cabinet — \$33,343.53**
- **NOVA 8 Software Upgrade for the Carousel Storage System — \$8,072.75**

The new drying cabinet supports the safe and efficient reprocessing of delicate medical devices that cannot withstand the high temperatures of traditional washer/disinfectors. Equipment such as cystoscopes, telescopes, HD camera heads, and laryngoscope blades are manually disinfected before being placed in the cabinet for drying.

Without this equipment, MDRD staff would need to manually dry each item, creating significant delays in preparing these critical instruments for patient care.

Donor support also funded a NOVA 8 software upgrade for the department's automated carousel storage system.

Functioning much like a vending machine for sterile supplies, the carousel stored instruments and equipment in enclosed trays that rotated vertically, maximizing storage space while helping protect items from contamination and damage.

The upgrade ensured the system could continue operating safely and efficiently while the department prepared for its transition to a new manual picking system. It also allowed the carousel to remain compatible with current hospital technology standards during this important period of change.

Together, these investments help the MDRD team continue their vital behind-the-scenes work — supporting patient safety, preventing infection, and helping care teams access the equipment they need, when they need it most.



Ally, MDRD Technician with the Drying Cabinet!



Brad, MDRD Technician picking items for cystoscopy procedures!



Impact Report: 2025-26



A Provincial Legacy Making a Local Difference

For decades, The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Provincial Command Branches and Ladies' Auxiliary Charitable Foundation has been quietly strengthening communities across the province and their impact continues to be felt right here at home.

We are deeply grateful to have received a \$7,000 grant from the Foundation in support of the purchase of a bed for the Cancer & Medical Care Clinic at the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance - Stratford General Hospital. This generous funding helps ensure patients receiving care have access to safe, comfortable, and dignified treatment spaces during what can be a very vulnerable time.

Founded in 1979 in Sudbury, Ontario, the Foundation was established to support hospitals, health clinics, veterans, seniors, and community-based care initiatives. Over more than 30 years, it has approved more than 2,000 grants, contributing over \$15 million toward vital healthcare equipment and programs including hospital beds, MRI and CT scanners, and therapy supports for veterans.

We were pleased to accept this grant at Branch 8, whose members represented the Charitable Foundation during a cheque presentation in February. Their ongoing advocacy and support help bring provincial-level generosity directly into local communities.

Support like this ensures our hospital can continue to provide compassionate, high-quality care close to home. We are sincerely thankful to The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Provincial Command Branches and Ladies' Auxiliary Charitable Foundation — and to our local Legion members — for their continued commitment to care, service, and community.



50/50 Fundraiser: Wilhelm Wins Big And Gives Back!

Since re-launching in September 2024, our 50/50 Fundraiser has made a significant impact, awarding over \$123,000 in prizes in the 2024-25 and 2025-26 fiscal years and helping fund essential medical equipment.

Wilhelm G, our October 2025 Grand Prize Winner, made his win even more meaningful by donating his prize back to support our Greatest Needs Fund.

When asked about his connection to the hospital, Wilhelm shared that he had a hip replacement and received outstanding care. Playing the 50/50 is his way to give back and he's turning his lucky win into lasting impact for our patients.



Impact Report: 2025-26



Community Spirit in Action - Third Party Events

Each year, we are humbled by the creativity, dedication, and generosity of individuals, businesses, and community groups who host events in support of the Foundation. From street parties to golf tournaments to planter sales and BBQs, these third-party initiatives not only raise essential funds, they also inspire others to give back. We are proud to highlight the incredible efforts of our community members whose passion makes a lasting difference in local healthcare.



Supporting the Cancer and Medical Care Clinic

Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Week	\$49,774.93
RE/MAX a-b Realty Ltd. Golf Tournament	\$34,717.00
Blowes Dr. Fest	\$510.00
Festival School of Hairstyling Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser	\$1,650.00

Supporting the Special Care Nursery

Stratford Makers Market Easter Market	\$5,190.90
Teddy Bear & Friends Plant Sale	\$851.16
Rotary Club of Festival City Stratford - Wine Survivor	\$10,835.00
Teddy Bear & Friends Bottle Drive	\$132.60
With Love and Grace - Scrunchie Sale & Percent of Sales	\$1,405.85



Supporting the Greatest Needs Fund

Perth County Flying Club Fly-in, Drive-in Breakfast	\$7,700.00
Festival Hydro Go Paperless Campaign	\$11,280.00
Hamlet North Junior Youth Bake Sale	\$500.00



Supporting the Medicine Unit

Lange Bros. Tree Service Summer BBQ	\$3,345.00
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Scan the QR Code, or [check out our website](#), for a list of **Upcoming Events!**



In Honour and In Memory

The Stratford General Hospital Foundation is grateful to the family members and friends who have made In Honour and In Memory donations from October 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

In Honour of

Reta Byvelds & her therapy dogs
Care Teams:
Cancer & Medical Care
Critical Care
Emergency Department
Maternal Child
Medicine
Avira Chahal
Barb Classen
Pat Eidt
Rebecca Gonser
Doreen Grasby
Wesley Hall
Dr. Idris
Myrtle Judge
Jeff & Keltie Keller
Vivian Macdonald
Walter & Marian
MacDougald
Adam & Nicole Maruscak
Alexa McDonnell
Deb & Terry McGovern
Mary Merkel
Patricia Million
David Mohr
The Myers Family
Esther Priestly
Candace Riehl
Krista Rose
SGH Staff
Dr. Vannitamby
Don Wagler
Isaac Watt & Becca Wilkie
Jean Weir
Phyllis Wilhelm
Dr. Jacqueline Wood
Richard Woodhouse

In Memory of

Keith Aitcheson
Shirley Aitcheson
Marlyn Allin
Wilbert "Glen" Allin
David Arms
Sandra Arms
Joyce Atchison
Neal Atchison
Shirley Attridge
Karen Bain
Grace Barons
Dale Bast
Bert & Imelda Bedford
Audrey Beuermann
Gerald Beuermann
Robert Bitzer
Richard Blackburn
Albert Boersen
Shawn Bohnert
Paul Boudreau
Betty Boyce
Larry Boyd
William "Bill" Bruce
Virginia Bunting
Robert "Bob" Burtenshaw
Aidan James Butler
Grant Andrew Buxton
Lynn Buxton
Jarrod Campbell
Alan Carr
William "Bear" Chambers
Carol Champion
Glen Childerley
Wilfred Clemmer
Robin Coleman
Barry Colman
James W. Coneybeare
Ken Connolly
Sandra Connolly
Frank Cossey

Ken Cosstick
Diana & Bradley
Crawford
Ken Cressman
Andrew Crowley
Anthony W. Culliton
Joyce Dalgleish
Ruth Davidson
Oliva Del Chiaro
Anne Deleplanque
Ed Dill
David Doede
Mauricio Perez
Dominguez
Marilyn Doyle
Bonnie Drew
Carlton Ehgoetz
Cade Eickmeyer
Donna Eisler
Elizabeth "Betty" Enns
Ricky Erb
Joyce & David Evans
Lynda Fair
Andrew Fedko
Stephen Finkbeiner
Anne Finnc
Dr. Brydone Fleming
Margaret Fleming
Judy Frank
Harold & Margaret Fuhr
Joan Funnell
Dave Gaffney
Gracie Mae Glaab
Gerry Godin
Shirley Gottschalk
Alan Gray
John & Eva May Gray
John Douglas Gray
Catherine Green
Barbara Greisbach
Arnold Groenestege

Gerardina (Diny)
Groenestege
John Groenestege
Nicholas Groenestege
Jeanette Haase
Paul William Haase
Sophie Hamza
Rose & Pete Harloff
Suzanne Marie Hartleib
Helen Henry
Bruce Hertel
Ron Higgins
Bill Hildenbrand
Patricia Hislop
James "Jim" Horne
Dan Horst
Allan Howells
Margaret Howlett
Sue Hughes
Steve Hunt
Jack & Irene Hutchison
John Hutchison
Shirley Hutchison
Terry Jackson
Barbara Johnson
Dr. Arthur R Jones
Betty Jordan
Bob Judge
Laurie Kelford
Deborah Carol Kidd
Lois Kipfer
Frank & Marguerite
Kirnbauer
Bert Kolkman
Robert Kollman
Irene Krantz
Larry Krantz
Theodore Josiah Laing
Cindy Larivee
Linda Lightfoot
Randy Lotz

Keegan Luckhardt	Arella Murray	Mary Lynne Robins	William Sylvester
Robert Luckhardt	Kenneth Nahrang	Margaret Ross	Margaret Thwaites
John Macaulay	Bruce Natwyary	Lyle "Mickey" Roth	Claire Trachsel
Dr. A. J. Macdonald	Beverley Neidig	Cheryl Ruby	Jeff Turner
Joan MacDonald	Earl Nickolas	Mildred Rupert	Peter Turner
Matthew "Matt" Mackey	Christine Nobles-Smith	Donald Sangster	Ron Turner
Alastair MacLeod	George O'Hara	Barb Savile	Adrian Van Nynatten
Rachel "Nancy" MacLeod	Mark Ortelli	Brian Schade	Arnold Vanden
Albert Maschke	Judy Parker	Flora Schaubert	Boomen
George Masur	John Parkinson	Murray Schaubert	Harry Visser
Bev Matheson	Lloyd Pethick	Roy Schaubert	Brian Vollett
Thomas "Tom" Mathieson	Bette Petrie	Verla Schmidt	Kelly Walker
Peter McColl	Mark Gordon "Philly"	Reta Schumm	Duncan Walkom
Donald McDonald	Phillips	Freda	Huaxin Wang
William McKay	Patricia Pilon	Schwartzentruber	Cleatus Watters
Joyce McLeod	Valentina Polsoni	Harold	Irene Weames
Dan Meidinger	Brenda Preston	Schwartzentruber	Sally White
Edward & Sarah	Melbourne Walter	Bette & Art Shaw	Elaine Wicke
Messerschmidt	Priestap	Gordon Sherwin	Paul Wingfelder
Lenore Meyers	Ruth & Walter Priestap	Fred & Kay Small	Dorothy Wisternoff
Keith Miller	Curtis Lorne Prince	Alex Smith	David Wood
Gerald Million	Yvonne Pushelberg	Eileen Smith	Ruth Ann Woods
Patricia Million	Betty & Jim Ranney	Ronald Gordon Smith	Baby Jaxx Wreford
Jim Mitchell	James Ranney	Paul Staight	Paul Henry Yantzi
Ethel Mohr	James Thomas "Jim"	Doris Steckly	Shirley Ziegler
Kenneth Mohr	Revell	Hans & Maria	Bruce Calvin Zinn
Marjorie Mohr	Ann Reynolds	Steigmeier	
Gordon Moore	Thurman Reynolds	Joan M. Stinson	
Todd Mulligan	Florence Riehl	Stan Stolz	

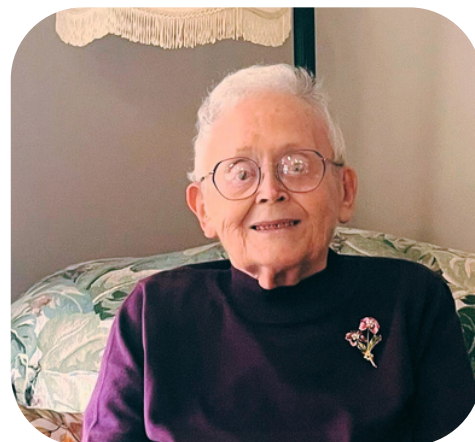
In Memory of Patricia Million

This past holiday season, Patricia Million generously shared her story of gratitude for the compassionate care she received close to home and the many ways she chose to give back in return.

Patricia was a dedicated monthly donor, former volunteer, and former trustee to both the hospital and Foundation. Her commitment to local healthcare reflected a deep belief that exceptional care should always be available within our community.

We were deeply saddened by Patricia's passing on December 30, 2025. We are incredibly grateful she chose to share her story with us, and with our community, one final time.

Her kindness and generosity will continue to leave a lasting impact for years to come.



Board of Directors 2025-26

Josef Frank, *Board Chair*
Fritz Steigmeier, *Vice Chair*
Alyson Conrad, *Treasurer*
Barb Hiller Thibeault, *Past Chair*
Paul Roulston, *In Our Hands Capital Campaign Co-Chair*
Wendy Anderson
Sarah Colman
Jane Feltz
Robert Gould
Fred Lehmann
Mayor Martin Ritsma
Jean Smelski
Dr. Alistair Smith, *HPHA Physician*
Andrew Williams, *HPHA President & CEO*
Colleen Misener, *Honourary Trustee*

Supported by:
Cheryl Hunt, Executive Director

Mission

We are committed to giving to life and to a lifetime of giving.

Values

Integrity
Accountability
Leadership
Partnership
Innovation

Charitable Number: 11920 0004 RR0001



**Cash in your hands.
Medical equipment in our hands.
It's a win-win!**



**Scan the code to
buy tickets or
visit
www.sgh5050.ca**



*Proceeds support the purchase of medical equipment.
License No: RAF1500907*

Volunteers at the Heart of Care!

Doug and Nadine, Co-Chairs of the Volunteers of Stratford General Hospital (VSGH), are helping lead a remarkable group of dedicated volunteers who support patients, families, staff, and visitors every day.

From fundraising initiatives to lending a helping hand throughout the hospital, their commitment reflects the power of community involvement in local healthcare.

Read more about Doug and Nadine's volunteer journey and the impact of the VSGH by visiting www.hpha.ca or scanning the QR code!



**Scan to read the
full story!**



"People Caring for People"



sghfoundation.org | 519-272-8210 ext. 2626