

Stratford General Hospital

Foundation Monitor



Stand By Me



HPHA Healthcare Heroes



Community Report Winter 2020

SmallTALK Goes Virtual



COVID-19 has certainly brought many changes to smallTALK, Huron-Perth's Preschool Speech and Language Program. Our clinicians went from providing face-to-face service in our clinics and within the community at Early Childhood Learning Centres and homes to only being able to conduct phone consultations with families and service providers in the community.

As COVID-19 continued to impact our ability to work directly with our pediatric clients we knew that we had to start looking at new (for us!) ways of providing services to our young clients. Virtual telepractice allows us to provide direct assessment and



therapy to our clients through the use of video, which in turn helps us to plan current and relevant treatment for our clients.

The equipment needed to support virtual telepractice can be costly when you are starting out and without support, only the bare minimum could be provided. However, with the support of Andrea Page at the Stratford General Hospital Foundation, we were able to apply for a grant through the Emergency Community Support Fund to help offset the cost.

We are extremely grateful to the Stratford Perth Community Foundation for recognizing the importance of early therapy for speech and language development and supporting our grant proposal. Through their generosity we were able to not only purchase the bare necessities, but additional equipment and technology that will allow us to connect with many of our families across our two counties and continue to provide the exceptional support our families have come to expect...even if it is at a distance!

SmallTALK was honoured to be nominated for an Award of Excellence in the category of Innovation. The smallTALK program is being recognized for its embrace of technology to provide assessment and treatment to our pediatric clients through video teletherapy. The clinicians have eagerly learned various conference programs and new equipment, as well as using and developing online activities to engage our young clientele. They have also made use of technology to provide early language training to families from the comfort of their homes, which eases carryover of skills to their every day environment.

Julie D. Brown, MSc, SLP(C), Reg CASLPO
Manager
smallTALK: Huron Perth Preschool Speech
Language System





Pictured here: Dr. Bill Brintnell, Josh Lewis, and Terri Natwyary from the SGH COMBINED LAB. PRG.

Our Donors are Healthcare Heroes. The Stratford General Hospital Foundation has established the HPHA Healthcare Heroes Fund – a fund that puts donated dollars to work purchasing vital tools and resources.

At the top of our list is a piece of microbiology molecular testing equipment called a “BD Max” which can be used to detect and identify both the COVID-19 and influenza viruses – essential if the battle with Corona virus takes many more months or we see a resurgence in the colder months as some have predicted. This equipment will have ongoing impact over the next decade ensuring molecular testing with the increased capacity to produce results of up to 24 tests within three hours.

This decreased testing time during peak flu season will not only impact Stratford General, and the three other HPHA hospitals in St Mary’s, Seaforth and Clinton but all 12 hospitals as part of the InterHospital Lab Program in our region. Testing results will allow Clinicians more rapid information to determine isolation and bed allocation needs of hospital inpatients.



PAID IN FULL!

Thanks to donors like you.

Microbiology BD MAX Analyzer which uses molecular technology to quickly detect viruses is now “PAID IN FULL” through donor generosity.

And while all indications are that with Public Health measures we’re “controlling the curve” in Ontario, it’s entirely possible that we’ll still see a surge in cases and an ongoing struggle until an effective treatment or vaccine is produced. According to Paul Roulston, SGH Foundation Board Chair, we should hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

The HPHA Healthcare Heroes Fund, will be used for both short term essentials and longer-term strategic impact, in case the battle with COVID-19 lasts for months... even years.

HPHA Healthcare Heroes supports:

- purchase of technology & software to transition our hospital’s smallTALK program to a virtual practice
- purchase of the BD MAX and GenX for the lab
- pulse oximeters for HPHA
- thermometers for ICU, specialized resuscitation training for 60 ICU and ER nurses
- equipment aiding resuscitation
- a refresh of furniture in physician sleep rooms (a place to stay during COVID)
- staff morale supports
- a new HPHA peer support program piloting in our Mental Health Unit and SGH Emergency Department and then throughout HPHA
- An emergency fund for PPE purchase and support of safety initiatives
- Specialized game tables for the Mental Health Unit

Our Doctors Have a Tremendous **IMPACT**



Dr. Kevin Lefebvre

Dr. Kevin Lefebvre has a bad case of helium hand. But don't worry, it's not contagious, and it doesn't affect his abilities as a general surgeon – even though he's had it for many years and has sought no medical attention for it.

In fact he sees “helium hand” – the uncontrollable urge to raise one's hands to volunteer for various projects and positions – as an added way he can serve his patients and his profession by tapping into his leadership and organizational abilities.

“It's sort of in my blood,” says Dr. Lefebvre, site chief at Stratford General Hospital and chief of medical staff at the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) in addition to his ongoing workload as one of 6 physicians in Stratford Surgical Associates, which serves patients from Stratford and a huge swath of Huron, Perth and area.

Dr. Lefebvre has participated in a head-spinning number of volunteer/leadership positions, starting with high school student council in his home city of Sudbury, and progressing as the years passed: president of the student society at medical school, vice-president of the Professional Association of Residents of Ontario (PARO), treasurer of the Ontario Association of General Surgeons, board member for the Canadian Association of General Surgeons, an endoscopy committee member on the minimally invasive surgery task force and... Well, you get the idea.

“I've always been a bit of a leader in most environments,” says Dr. Lefebvre. “I'm also a straight shooter. I don't pull punches or hold back and I'm honest about what I think can be improved.”

While forward focused and efficiency minded, Dr. Lefebvre is guided by a practical outlook on what can and can't be achieved and finds it frustrating when “process” becomes more important than “product”. “Perfect can be the enemy of good. And I think I bring a surgical mythos into my administrative role,” he explains.

Despite his growing administrative role, Dr. Lefebvre still derives real satisfaction from being a surgeon, an occupation that's an ideal mix of science and human interaction. It can be busy and stressful; however seeing the immediate impact of surgery on a patient's wellbeing is very rewarding.

He praises developments like endoscopy and laparoscopic or “keyhole” surgery as game changers in terms of efficiency, speed of patient recovery and reduced rates of infection and complications. “The fact that I can do so many procedures through tiny keyhole incisions...and patients are up and around the next day, able to eat and go home – it still makes me feel giddy sometimes that we're able to do that,” he says.

Of course, COVID-19 has been a major challenge for physicians and hospitals and the care we provide to patients. “It has been very difficult for many surgical specialists who have had to suspend most of their practice as a result of the pandemic,” he explains. “Despite government plans to address the issue, I suspect it will take a long time to clear the backlog of elective surgeries we now face.”

Dr. Lefebvre did his undergraduate degree at Sudbury's Laurentian University and went to Ottawa for medical school. He did his surgical training at Western University in London, which included a three month resident rotation at Stratford General Hospital in 1999.

“I absolutely loved it. After three months I knew I wanted to be a community surgeon, and ideally I wanted to do that in this community,” he says. That wish came true when he covered a maternity leave for Dr. Marcie McCune, which eventually morphed into a permanent position with the surgical team in Stratford in 2004.

As a member of Stratford Surgical Associates, Dr. Lefebvre stays busy with local patients and growing demand from rural areas beyond Stratford where access to a surgeon is more challenging. The group offers a wide variety of services including gastrointestinal endoscopy and surgery, hernia, gallbladder and breast surgery, and a wide variety of cancer surgeries. “That keeps us well fed and happy...but also allows a good workplace/family balance which can be hard to achieve,” he says.

He points to a supportive atmosphere amongst hospital and medical staff – especially his surgical partners and colleagues – as a factor which initially drew him to Stratford. “It was a very collegial group, it was a good fit...and there was a lot of support,” he recalls. “But what kept us here is that we fell in love with Stratford and all it has to offer.”

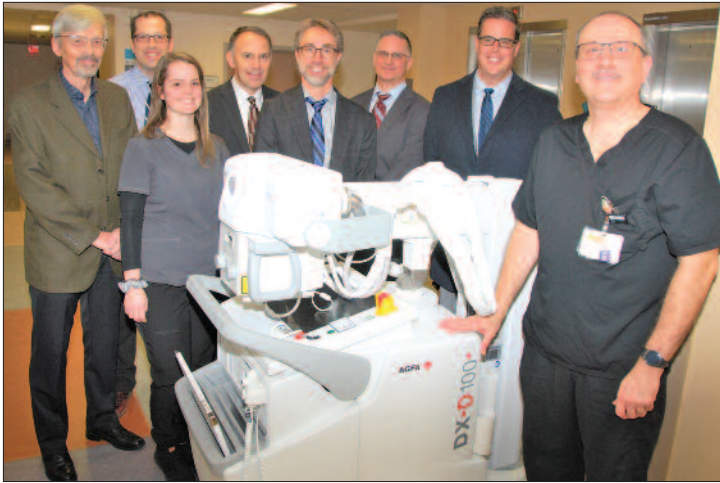
And that support extends well beyond Stratford General's walls with a community that has generously supported the Hospital's facility and equipment needs through the Foundation's fundraising efforts. He's seen the impact of that generosity in his own unit with significant upgrades to the tools and technology that keep Stratford's surgeons on the cutting edge.

Hoping to boost community support for the Foundation's efforts recently opened the door to a possible second career for Dr. Lefebvre as a movie star. He starred in SGH Foundation's award winning 52-second campaign video that focuses on just how important donors are in healthcare. The “Without You We Have Nothing” video won first prize at the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy International Social Media Video Contest in Washington, DC last year.

“In order to provide appropriate care for our patients, we need upgraded technology. We need the equipment in our hands that allows us to do our work,” explains Dr. Lefebvre. “Without it, I can't do my job at all. I can't meet the standards of the day, and I want to look after people the way they're supposed to be looked after. That equipment is paid for by donations. So the only way I can do my job is if people are kind enough and generous enough to donate.”

Outside of work, Dr. Lefebvre cherishes time shared with his wife Nichole and three kids. He enjoys the occasional woodworking project, but it's been made clear by his family members that as a surgeon he'll never get a table saw – the risk is just too high. “And as far as a chain saw goes, that's completely out of the picture,” he laughs.

We Can Never Say Thank You Enough to Our Donors



2019/2020 EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

The Stratford General Hospital Foundation disbursed \$1,366,389.67 to the hospital. The items sponsored through our donors' generosity include:

- Monitor- Sport Vital Signs/ NIBP **Internal Medicine Unit \$2,320**
- Blood Culture Systems – Bactex FX-Top w/ Stand **Laboratory \$77,946**
- Analyzer – Bruker RUO Maldi Biotyper **Laboratory \$178,308**
- Structural Review for Maldi ToF **Laboratory \$2,838**
- Cabinets – Sterigard E3 4FT High Efficiency Bio **Laboratory \$28,284**
- Processors – Tissue (20% Payment) **Laboratory \$26,153**
- Monitors – Avalon FM50 Fetal Monitors **Maternal Child Unit \$127,136**
- Refrigerator/Freezer – Biomedical Upright **Maternal Child Unit \$4,827**
- Dopplers – Elite 300 w/ Rechargeable Battery **Maternal Child Unit \$5,675**
- Warmers – Giraffe Instant Warmers (Partial Payment) **Maternal Child Unit \$33,100**
- Warmers – Panda Infant Warmers (Partial Payment) **Maternal Child Unit \$102,56**
- Cot – Flexmort Cuddle Cot & Bassinet **Maternal Child Unit \$3,888**
- X-Ray Machines – Wireless Portable **Medical Imaging \$227,883**
- Imaging Suite (20% Second Payment) **Medical Imaging \$91,510**
- Scanner – Prime Plus Standard Bladder Scanner **Medicine Unit \$14,973**
- Scanner – Prime Plus Standard Bladder Scanner **Surgical Unit \$14,973**
- Dishwasher **Volunteers of SGH \$7,938**
- Sandwich/Salad Prep **Volunteers of SGH \$3,310**
- Toaster – Holman /Conveyor **Volunteers of SGH \$1,885**
- Lasers – Lumenis Ultrapulse Encore (Partially Funded) **Operating Room \$100,000**
- Ventilator (Partially Funded) **Critical Care Unit \$19,000**
- Nursing Recognition Awards for Exceptional Care **\$500**
- West Building Annex
- R. Thomas Orr & Family Medical Staff Resource Centre **\$145,957**
- Staff Education (Elsie) and **Hospital Wide \$88,565**

Purchase orders signed and on the way is another investment of **\$689,173** in equipment that has direct and immediate impact on patients

- Anesthesia Cart **Maternal Child Unit \$4,352**
- BD Max **Laboratory \$96,500**
- 32 Beds **Medicine Unit \$362,640**
- Biological Safety Cabinet **Laboratory \$20,237**
- Cuddle Cot **Emergency Department \$3,688**
- Digital Camera **Maternal Child Unit \$1,294**
- 2 Fetal Monitors **Maternal Child Unit \$49,910**
- Pheonix Benching **Laboratory \$2,751**
- Pheonix M50 & AP Processor **Laboratory \$75,000**
- 4 Platform Beds, Specialized Furniture **Inpatient Mental Health Unit \$26,939**
- Tissue Bath **Laboratory \$2,686**
- 20 Transport Wheelchairs **Hospital Wide \$13,976**
- Urinalysis Analyzer **Laboratory \$7,200**
- Staff Education (Elsie) **Hospital Wide \$22,000**

Making A Real Impact . . . A Salute

Each donation is precious, and every donor is priceless...individuals, groups,



Left to Right:

Robert Bryan Vice President, Branch Manager & Portfolio Manager, RBC Dominion Securities Inc.
Dan Woods Regional Vice President, Central Shores Market, RBC Royal Bank
Lincoln Simmons Vice President Commercial Financial Services, RBC Royal Bank
Laura Hilton Perth Community Manager, RBC Royal Bank



Foundation stands by HPHA HEALTHCARE HEROES with a generous gift of \$50,000 to fight COVID-19.



Thank you for being a friend.

The annual Teddy Bear & Friends Bottle and Can Drive for our NICU has raised a total of \$8,951.00 towards their goal of a Giraffe infant warmer. Thanks to RN, Loralee McNaughton and her team!



Special Occasion Giving.

Thank you to Sophie Bogdon, family and friends for your generosity towards Sophie's 18th Birthday fundraiser raising a total of \$500 for the Chemo unit at SGH.



Perfect Pizza.

Thank YOU Papa John's Pizza Stratford and everyone in the community who came out to support our Healthcare Heroes fund in this event. We can never thank you enough! A message from Ramneek Randhawa and Varun Mahajan (owner), Papa John's Stratford, "With your help, we were able to raise \$3269.95 from the pizza sales and donations. We would also like to thank all the frontline workers for their services. STAY SAFE".



Sweet Philanthropy.

We can never thank you enough, Sophie Anderson and Ayva Culligan for raising a total of \$131 in their bake sale supporting the Volunteers of Stratford General!

to Our Community's Generosity!

and businesses building a brighter future for healthcare throughout our region.



Lions Stand By Healthcare Heroes!

Thank you to The Stratford and Area Lions Club for their generous donation of PPE for our #HealthcareHeroes!
 L-R: Andrea Page, ED SGH Foundation with Amy Roth, member of The Stratford Lions Club.



Donations Have Impact.

New parallel bars were installed in the physiotherapy gym at Stratford General Hospital thanks to the generosity of donors. The new bars will have the capacity to serve a more diverse population of patients and provide safer care.



We Can Never Say Thank You Enough.

A salute to Brittany's Bath Bombs And More for supporting our tiniest patients! A total of \$2503.00 has been donated to our Special Care Nursery- Teddy Bear and Friends Fundraiser.
 L-R: Brittany Henry, Lorelee McNaughton - RN Maternal Child Unit, and Kerri Hannon- Manager of Maternal Child Unit.



Young Philanthropists Rock!

We can't thank the Rossi and Longston families enough!
 Pictured here:
 The children of the Rossi and Longston families with the lovely Painted Rocks they made as a fundraiser for the HPHA Healthcare Heroes fund.



There's never been a more important time for us to rise up and stand shoulder to shoulder with our healthcare heroes.
 Now more than ever, it's in our hands.

STRATFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL
 Foundation

sgh.foundation@hpha.ca
 519-272-8210 ext. 2626

Your donation makes a great impact.



Lasting Tribute and Impact

Robert “Bob” Flemington Gulliford



Robert “Bob” Flemington Gulliford passed away on June 27, 2020 in his 89th year. Even at 89 Bob felt a strong duty to give back to his community and make a difference serving on the Stratford General Hospital Foundation Board as an active member until his death. He brought compassion, humour, financial expertise and

strategic thinking to the board table. He enthusiastically took on the role as Financial Division Chair for the Heart & Soul campaign for the North Wing ensuring that all Banks and financial institutions gave generously and that his beloved Royal Bank of Canada was front and center with the pacesetting gift of \$225,000 towards the Maternal Child Unit. Bob, had already put up his hand to be part of the Financial Division for the upcoming In Our Hands campaign. It will be challenging to fill his shoes.

He served on the SGHF Board from 2004-2020. Bob, always ensured that everyone felt part of the team. His kind and gentle guidance hid a true competitive spirit – so we were always on the winning team!

Bob’s life long career with the Royal Bank of Canada began in Newfoundland in 1949 with varied appointments including Manager, Assistant Manager and Vice-President both domestically and internationally resulting in numerous relocations including Ottawa, Montreal, Vancouver, London England, Toronto and then to Stratford for retirement.

Jim McMillan



Jim McMillan, 90, of Mitchell passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 25, 2020.

Jim was a Chartered Life Underwriter with Mutual Life Insurance for many years. He was active in his community having served on the Board

of Directors of Stratford General Hospital and was Chair of the Stratford General Hospital Foundation serving from 1998-2010. He was a Charter Member of the Mitchell Golf and Country Club and member of the Mitchell Lions Club.

While Jim’s last year on the Board was in 2010, he always attended yearly Foundation events and the Annual General Meeting. As a board member, he never allowed us to be complacent ensuring that we always considered every angle of a problem by taking on the role of “devil’s advocate”. His gruff exterior hid a heart of gold...which you would see once you knew him. Many a time, he would call to chat or to share some ideas. He was an integral component of the Heart & Soul campaign cabinet and never stopped advocating for the hospital and its needs convincing many friends and colleagues alike that Stratford General Hospital Foundation should be their charity of choice.

Lasting Legacy
the Promise
of Tomorrow
Ordinary people show extraordinary generosity by leaving legacy gifts to our hospital in their wills

 STRATFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL
Foundation
"People Caring for People"

SGHFOUNDATION.ORG
519.272.8210 ext. 2626

VISION FOR CANCER CARE

This is the fourth in a series of testimonials in which chemo patients, their families and the staff and doctors who care for them share stories of their journey to fight and win the battle against cancer. A new and expanded chemo space including the installation of new technology is one of the critical components of the SGH Foundation's capital campaign.



Dr. Janis MacNaughton

Few people won't be touched by cancer at some point in their lives. And whether it affects us directly or touches those we know and love, there's no illusion about its seriousness. For many, it's the fight of their lives.

"Cancer can affect anyone. It doesn't care who you are or what you think; whether you're rich or poor, male or female, whether you take care of yourself or not," says Dr. Janis MacNaughton, an internal medicine specialist at HPHA's Stratford General Hospital.

Fortunately, for some 1,400 patients in Stratford and area who need chemotherapy as part of their cancer treatment, Stratford's Chemo Unit has the quality, compassionate care close to home that can help tip the balance towards life.

"As a physician, I find it very fulfilling and very humbling. It's a real privilege to interact with people when they're in a crisis with health issues. They're at their most vulnerable and they're putting their faith in you that you can help them," explains Dr. MacNaughton.

Most patients quickly come to appreciate the Chemo Unit for its positives: a warm, caring environment; quality care that's equivalent to larger centres; and a team of highly trained and motivated nurses, physicians and volunteers dedicated to going above and beyond in helping each patient and family member deal with cancer.

And patients can rest assured they're getting the best of care. The Stratford Chemo Unit's activities, policies and procedures all meet London's high standards and each patient's care plan and progress is monitored by one of London's oncologists.

"People know they can get the same quality care plus the convenience of not having to travel to London for treatment through all kinds of weather. That's huge," adds Dr. MacNaughton.

But that doesn't mean there's no room for improvement. In fact, having "no room" is perhaps the biggest challenge facing the unit and the main reason behind plans to relocate both the Chemo Unit and Pharmacy in new space as part of Stratford General Hospital Foundation's "In Our Hands" Campaign.

"We're very crowded. We don't have adequate rooms to discuss things where others can't overhear it. There's no privacy or confidentiality," notes Dr. MacNaughton. "And the confined space is a very difficult environment in which to work. Typically our chairs are filled with reclining patients...and there are pumps, IVs and monitors to constantly work around."

At times, it's so crowded that staff are forced to ask patient support persons to temporarily leave – a decision that's made reluctantly but out of necessity. Not only are numbers of patients steadily growing, but so is the complexity of treatment regimens.

"It's mindboggling how much things have changed over time. We have new technology, new medications and new understanding of disease processes that impact how we treat cancer with chemotherapy," says Dr. MacNaughton. "In addition, there are new immunotherapies that can help extend the lives of some patients while providing them with a good quality of life."

The new, larger, \$5 million unit to be constructed on the Hospital's 4th floor will provide the much needed space for optimum treatment, privacy and physical distancing – a feature that would be welcome during the COVID-19 pandemic as clinic staff scramble to protect clients whose immune systems are already compromised by cancer.

It will also help alleviate current safety concerns when chemotherapy drugs are transported from the existing Pharmacy. Co-locating Chemotherapy and Pharmacy with a window between will allow these potent drugs to be easily passed to waiting chemo staff, enhancing efficiency and safety.

"A new unit can really improve the situation for our patients and staff alike. Community support is a key to making that happen and so important for people fighting cancer," says Dr. MacNaughton. "That support can directly impact your family, friends and neighbours."

Dr. MacNaughton arrived in Stratford in 1985 along with her husband Dr. Dave Parratt, also a physician. Before that Dr. MacNaughton grew up in Guelph, got her medical degree at Queen's University in Kingston and then did her residency in Internal Medicine in London.

Her husband was doing Family Practice locums in Stratford when an opportunity to take over a full time family practice presented itself. At the same time Stratford General was looking for an internist. The rest is history.

Their early years in Stratford were hectic. Both Dr. MacNaughton and her husband "took call", which meant frequent late night visits to the emergency department or hospital, while also raising two daughters.

After many enjoyable years of full time practice, Dr. MacNaughton and her husband are now semi-retired. Her husband assists in the operating room with orthopaedic procedures. And Dr. MacNaughton is no longer on the "call" roster, which leaves more time to concentrate on her two special areas of interest in medicine – cancer treatment and care of patients with type 1 diabetes.

It's also allowed time to enjoy activities outside of medicine such as hiking, kayaking and travel, although the latter has been on hold with COVID-19.

"Right now I've got a very good balance. My job is very stimulating and I hope I'm making a difference in people's lives," she says. "And now we also have time to pursue our other interests."

V O L U N T E E R S



We truly miss the Volunteers of Stratford General Hospital. During COVID-19 volunteer services throughout hospitals in Ontario have been put on hold to protect and keep volunteers safe. They are an integral part of our hospital with a passion for improving our patients' experience and raising essential funds towards their pacesetting \$1 million pledge. Part of that pledge paid for half of the Malditof, a piece of lab equipment crucial in identifying sepsis as part of a matching gift campaign. Their most recent matching gift challenge pledged \$150,000 which will pay for 15 new beds. We look forward to welcoming them back in the future!

BEDS, BEDS and MORE BEDS – *All Through Donor Generosity!*



October 7th and 14th were days to be thankful for as 32 new beds were delivered to our hospital – all through donor generosity. The beds replace all of the old beds in the Medicine Unit of Stratford General Hospital.

It's the first step in replacing all 121 standard and 12 specialized beds throughout the hospital and a way to improve the comfort and quality of care for every one of the 7,600-plus patients admitted to Stratford General each year.

At 15 even 20 years old, Stratford's existing beds are in constant use and rapidly deteriorating. Historically, the hospital bed left much to be desired. But they've improved in recent years. Just like changes that cars have undergone, today's beds are more comfortable and pack more technology "under the hood" than ever before.

Beds are now designed to distribute a patient's weight more evenly. They're also made of specially constructed surface materials that are easy to keep clean, designed to regulate a patient's temperature and "wick away" moisture. This lessens the chance of painful bed sores. "Touch screen" technology can move patients into various positions. This improves comfort and assists patients when getting out of bed. It's also a plus for caregivers, reducing the incidence of back injuries and helping during the examination and treatment of patients.

Every piece of equipment is at our hospital because someone cares. The government pays for the day-to-day operating of the hospital, but medical equipment is paid for by donors. The 30 beds cost just over \$10,000 each and another 2 more specialized beds were \$16,000 each totaling \$362,640!! We can never say thank you enough to the Volunteers of SGH for the first 15 beds and the community for the other 15 and 2 specialized beds! Donors who sponsored a bed are being recognized with a plaque at the foot of the bed.

The old beds are being kept for now in storage as an emergency back-up for more capacity during a possible COVID outbreak.

The patients and staff of the Medicine/CCC unit are thrilled with the recent delivery of 32 new beds. The updated equipment offers patients easy access to controls and a built in nurse call system. Patients have also commented on the low bed feature offering improved accessibility. Staff have the opportunity to select the mattress surface best for each patient, the beds are quiet during operation and have under lighting supporting a safer environment at night.

I would like to pass on a heartfelt Thank You to the HPHA Stratford General Hospital Foundation and the generous donors that have made this possible.

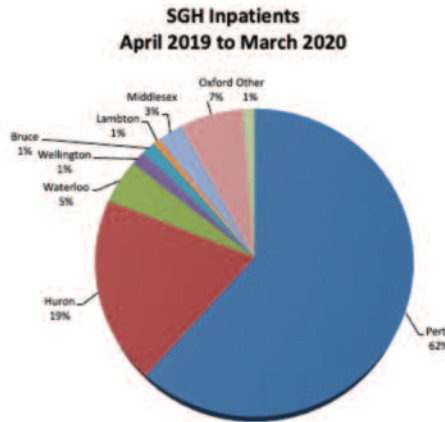
Regards,

Laurie Schalk
Manager Medicine and Surgery Units, HPHA

Did YOU Know?

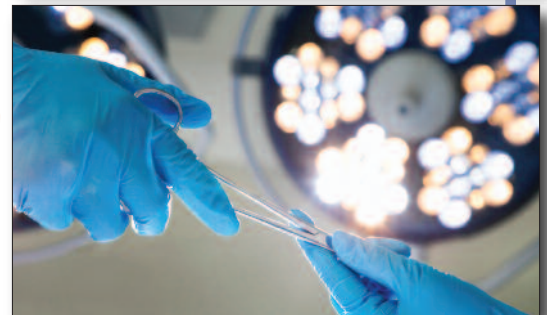
2019/20 at Stratford General

- 1,176 babies were delivered
- 191 babies were treated in the Special Care Nursery
- 289,215 patients were seen in the Emergency Department
- 2,295 inpatient surgeries and 9,019 day surgeries were performed
- 457 children were treated on the Pediatric Floor
- 513 Mental Health inpatients were cared for
- 1,417 Patients were treated in ICU & Telemetry Unit
- 28,286 X-Rays were taken and 14,078 CT Scans were performed
- 18,865 Ultrasound Exams, 2,782 Nuclear Medicine Exams and 1,649 Echo Cardio Exams were performed
- 7,134 Mammography Exams and 3,486 Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) exams were performed
- 4,999 MRI scans were performed
- 3,477 Dialysis Visits
- 1,785 Oncology Visits (Chemo Only)



2019/20 Throughout HPHA's 4 sites (Stratford, St. Marys, Seaforth, Clinton)

- Babies Delivered 1,178
- Complex Continuing Care Patient Days 10,743
- Rehab Patient Days 5,702
- Inpatient Surgeries Performed 2,297
- Day Surgeries Performed 10,594



Hemoglobin

HPHA labs analyze 13,000 glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1C) specimens to diagnose and monitor diabetes and examine 5,300 throat cultures for Strep A, the pathogen that causes strep throat on an annual basis



Lab Cancer

Our lab views 32,000 tissue specimens for cancer on an annual basis

Stratford General:

- Secondary Care Centre
- Schedule 1 Mental Health Facility
- Regional Stroke Centre
- Major training site for Schulich/Western
- Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Urology, Orthopedics, Psychiatry, Otolaryngology, Obstetrics Gynecology, Paediatrics, Pathology, Anesthesia, Emergency, Family Medicine, Ophthalmology and Radiology
- ✓ Top Performer in the Province MRI Access
- ✓ Top 5 Performer in the Province CT Access
- ✓ Emergency Wait Times Exceed Provincial Targets
- ✓ Significant Improvements in Access to Hip and Knee Replacements
- ✓ National Leader in Patient and Caregiver Engagement

Our Doctors Have a Tremendous **IMPACT**



Dr. Alistair Smith

While anesthetists generally have a gift for putting people to sleep, meeting Dr. Alistair Smith is an eye-opening experience.

Young, energetic and socially aware, Dr. Smith's dedication to his vocation, patients and family are cornerstones of his character. But that doesn't mean you can't have a little fun on the side, says this avid sports fan, fisherman, guitar player and aspiring sommelier – a trained and knowledgeable wine professional.

Born and educated in Saskatchewan, Dr. Smith moved to Ottawa where he met his wife Mady and completed the five additional years of medical training needed to specialize as an anesthetist. In 2017 he relocated to Stratford to join the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA).

"Stratford struck us as the perfect mix. It kept us in Ontario, where Mady's (his wife) family is from, and also possessed the charm of a rural setting with all the amenities of bigger cities – arts, music and culture," says Dr. Smith.

Finding a hospital dedicated to continual improvement was also an important factor in choosing Stratford – whether it's a commitment to enhancing performance, developing the skills of its people, or efforts to stay at the forefront of equipment and technology. "I wanted a place that could offer all three," he explains.

Equipment like the anesthetic machines, purchased three years ago through community support of the Stratford General Hospital Foundation, are an essential part of the 2,300 inpatient surgeries and 9,300 day surgery procedures carried out at SGH each year.

For operations that require a deep anesthetic, the machines are indispensable, closely monitoring blood pressure, respiratory rate, heart rate and blood oxygen levels in real time; and using gases that have significantly less environmental impact than older machines. But they're also used to monitor patients'

vital signs during simpler procedures where spinal or nerve blocking anesthesia is used and the patient remains conscious.

"As physicians, it's always our goal to provide the best and safest care for our patients," explains Dr. Smith. "Money from donors helps us purchase the most cutting edge equipment and allows us to give our patients the best and most up-to-date care possible – and that's important to us."

Dr. Smith credits improved anesthetic technology, along with the high level of training and qualifications required of anesthetists, as key factors in making anesthetics safer than ever. "I now tell patients that it's significantly more dangerous to get in your car and drive to the hospital than it is to have the anesthetic for your surgery," he says.

Dr. Smith truly enjoys both the "thinking and doing" aspects of anesthesia. It combines his love of the science of medicine with softer skills – his ability to build patient trust, and help keep everyone's emotions in check in what can sometimes be a stressful situation.

One incident that drew him to anesthesia was the first time he saw a C-section. "I thought it was amazing that we could provide such care and safety to the mom and give her the experience of still being awake to hold her baby and be with her husband at that special time," he recalls.

ELIMINATE YOUR CAPITAL GAINS TAX

*Consider a gift of listed securities to the
Stratford General Hospital Foundation*

The Federal Government has eliminated capital gains tax on appreciated listed securities when they are donated to charity. This results in a double tax benefit for donors.

By transferring the security directly to the Foundation, donors can eliminate all capital gains tax on their gift. Furthermore, the Foundation can provide a charitable receipt for the full 100% of the fair market value.

Please contact us for more information

519-272-8210 ext. 2627

andrea.page@hpha.ca



STRATFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL
Foundation ♥

"People Caring for People"

Reasons to Get the Flu Shot (Especially This Year)

- It will help avoid overwhelming our health care system. As we know, the flu can take an enormous toll on our health care system, overwhelming hospital capacity. COVID-19 and the flu compete for the same hospital resources such as ICU beds, ventilators and PPE.
- You will help protect other people. Flu is contagious in the 48 hours before people who are infected begin to have symptoms, so you can spread it to others before you know you have it.
- Getting the flu shot may help cut down on symptom confusion. As mentioned, flu and COVID-19 share many symptoms, such as cough and fever, but it could be easier to figure out what it means if you've had your flu shot.
- You may have more protection from worst-case scenarios. We don't know whether people will become co-infected with the flu and COVID-19 at the same time and/or what the consequences of that could be. Coming down with both viruses at once could be disastrous.
- A bad flu can be life-threatening. The flu can affect everyone, including those who are healthy, but people at higher risk of serious complications are: young children, adults aged 65 and over, pregnant women and those living with a chronic health condition.
- The vaccine can help even if it's not 100% effective. If you turn out to be one of the people who gets sick even though you got your flu shot, chances are you will have a milder flu with lower chances of complications.

A Message from . . . HPHA President & CEO



As the weather gets even colder and we face an increase in COVID-19 cases across the country, we are also entering the time of the year where we bring significant attention to the importance of getting the flu shot. In fact, one can argue that there has never been a more important year for the flu shot than 2020.

With COVID-19 consuming our attention, both organizationally and across society, one of the main topics discussed is where we are with a vaccination. Many point to an effective vaccine as one of the key advances necessary to bringing some level of normalcy back to our lives. Whether this happens in the short or long-term remains to be seen however, it will never replace the importance for us, as individuals doing what is right. We must continue staying home if unwell, maintaining physical distancing, wearing a mask when physical distancing is not possible and/or when directed and following all public health advice on reducing the spread and prevalence of COVID-19.

These same personal actions have a positive impact on containing the spread of flu. Unlike COVID-19, we do have a vaccine for the flu but last year in Canada only 42% of the population chose to be vaccinated. At the same time, across the country we had 55,300 lab confirmed cases, approximately 12,200 hospitalizations and approximately 3,500 deaths. While vaccination is a personal choice, science shows us that the higher the immunization rate, the lower the incidence of flu and therefore the lower the hospitalization rate and, more importantly, the fewer number of people who will die.

Last year, in Ontario the median rate for influenza vaccination across healthcare workers was 54%. At the same time, across the HPHA 87% of our team chose to be immunized (CPH: 80%, SMMH: 78%, SCH: 90% and SGH: 85%). By being leaders, we made a conscious decision to contribute to a safer environment for ourselves, our families, for those we work with, those we care for and for all those with whom we interact.

Let's redouble our efforts this year to continue to be a leader, to continue to say to our communities that we care and to remind everyone that the small actions of the many, whether dealing with the flu or COVID-19 can have a remarkably positive impact on everyone.

- Andrew Williams, President & CEO



Strickland's is crushing COVID with events supporting Stratford General Hospital Foundation including \$100 for every trade in October, a BBQ and Zombieland Drive-thru.



Page's Page

I want to take a few moments to convey a heartfelt message of gratitude and encouraging words to our hospital family and the community.

First to our hospital family – staff, doctors and volunteers – you have been phenomenal throughout this whole pandemic. Every one of you has impact and every one of you has made a difference. You have worked through stressful situations with grace and compassion. You have problem solved and not only made do in this strange new environment ... you have overcome hurdles and made it work. Whether you're on the frontline or supporting the frontline...every single one of you is part of our COVID response, and our healthcare team. Thank you.

Our hospital family has been able to stay strong, with the support of our community. From lawn signs to painted stones, from donated PPE to donations to the *HPHA Healthcare Heroes Fund*, all this support has strengthened us. And your donations to the *HPHA Healthcare Heroes Fund* have made our healthcare system stronger now and into the future. Initiatives supported by your generosity like the purchase of the *BD MAX* and *GeneX* will have lasting impact.

As more donations are received we are able to invest in the equipment and resources that impact staff, patients and our community. *Thank you.*

I'm always in awe of the generosity of people in our community. Thank you for being resilient, caring and "you". Even during such challenging times, when your lives are changing and you are full of anxiety for the future – you have still focused on what is most important ... family, friends and all those you care about. I have never been more proud of the people in the communities in Huron and Perth. I feel humbled and privileged to work and live amongst all of you.

Now is a time to stay strong and not let our guard down. A time to wear a mask, physical distance, wash hands, and remain kind and caring. It is also a time for gratitude, to be thankful for all we have.

*When I count our blessings,
I count our donors twice!*



Donations in Honour of and in Memory of ...

The Stratford General Hospital Foundation is grateful to the family members and friends who have made Honour and Memorial donations from May 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020.

In Honour of

Sophie Bogdon
Kathy Currie
Essential Frontline Workers
Courtney Feeney
Karen Gale
Healthcare Workers
Dr. Graham Heaton
Mary McAndrew
Romeo Public School Staff
SGH Staff
SGH Stroke Unit Staff
Elizabeth Smith

Sandra Borneman
Gerald Brintnell
Nell Brown
Robert "Bob" Burtenshaw
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Isabel Scott
Robert Seaboyer
Beryl Semple
Nancy Sneddon
Carl Strasser
Steven Straus
William "Bill" Tideswell

In Memory of

Helen Anderson
Dan Anderson
Reta Armstrong
Donna Attridge
Alf Baker
Marjorie Ballantyne
Dennis Bean
Marie Bean
Carl Becker
Lillian Beer
Margaret Billow
Ken Bingham

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Harold Wettlaufer
G. Ronald "Ron" Williams
Hazel Wivell
Kevin Wraith
Baby Jaxx Wreford
William Yeates

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!



YES, I care!
I wish to support our Hospital.



Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Enclosed is my cheque to Stratford General Hospital Foundation. Email: _____

\$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 I prefer to give \$ _____

 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.

Thank you for caring!



**Thank you to our donors
for helping us
keep our promise!**

- the promise every staff member makes to do their best in performing their role in patient-centred care
- the promise of every team member to ensure exceptional care
- the promise of our community and donors in making an impact and being engaged as an integral part of the healthcare team
- the promise of the Foundation to be committed to the highest standards of philanthropy, accountability and donor relations.

**We're there for you 24/7
Now we need you!**

Please give generously
from the heart for
state-of-the-art
technology.

Promises made; promises kept

SGH FOUNDATION MONITOR...

is published for the information of our donors, supporters and friends of the SGH Foundation.

STRATFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

46 General Hospital Drive, Stratford, ON N5A 2Y6

The SGH Foundation works with the community to help raise funds for equipment, upgrading of facilities and special projects of the Stratford General Hospital.



Readers will note a change to coated paper,
which is the same cost and allows clearer pictures.
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Charitable Reg. BN 11920 0004 RR0001



Stratford General Hospital Foundation
46 General Hospital Drive
Stratford, Ontario N5A 2Y6

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