

Foundation Monitor

MRI Wait times the fastest in the province

...Provincial strategy combines with Donor Generosity for an amazing result!

If you need an MRI and you're a resident of Stratford, Huron, Perth, parts of Oxford and beyond, then you couldn't be in a better place, at least compared to the rest of Ontario.

That's the assessment of the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, which lists Stratford General's MRI wait time of 12 days as the fastest in the province — more than seven times quicker than the provincial average and more than 15 days shorter than the second fastest facility in the province — Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital in Windsor. We're also well ahead of the provincial target wait time of 28 days and the current provincial wait time average of 87 days.

Wait times in nearby cities are significantly higher, with Kitchener's Grand River Hospital at 92 days, London Health Sciences at 103 days, and Owen Sound's Grey Bruce Health Services at 43 days. Currently the longest waits for MRI are in Ottawa, with waits of 295 days.

Stratford and area patients are clear beneficiaries of the MRI installed at SGH as part of a provincial effort to lower wait times for diagnostic procedures including MRI. An additional 1,000 hours of operating time has also recently been approved for the Stratford facility, roughly translating into an extra 1,000 patients each year. That means the Stratford MRI will now be scanning some 4,000 patients each year.

"We've now expanded our hours to accommodate these new patients and we're clearly seeing a local and region-wide impact in the Southwest LHIN, says Jeff Kerk, Program Director of Medical Imaging. "Our patients are seeing quicker, easier access closer to home, and we're seeing reduced costs associated with patient transport. Best of all, the images our MRI produces are amazing and help to ensure more accurate and timely diagnosis for our patients."

While the funding for the expanded hours and patients comes from the provincial government, the Foundation is still busily raising funds to cover the purchase of the MRI and construction. The fundraising effort has brought in some \$3.3 million of the \$3.8 million fundraising goal — thanks to the generosity of donors throughout the region. Just less than \$500,000 to go!

"We're truly grateful and hope that our donors — and new supporters — will help us close in on our goal with their Holiday Season support," says Andrea Page, Stratford General Hospital Foundation's Executive Director. "We're finalizing the design of our MRI Donor Wall, but there's still a window of opportunity for people to have their support recognized ...but that window is slowly closing."



Getting ready for the holidays – MRI Gingerbread and Jeff Kerk.

My MRI experience...



It was in the winter when the back pain I'd had for some time suddenly went worse, shooting down my leg, even causing numbness in my foot.

The only place I felt comfortable was lying in bed. But the pain combined with the various pain killers was really starting to depress me — and I'm naturally an upbeat person. It didn't help that my husband and I had to cancel our trip to Australia.

Neither the X-rays nor the CT Scan showed the cause. My doctor felt an MRI might be helpful. The wait for the MRI was short — only two weeks, and the staff were very competent. I really felt like I was in good hands. It was a little noisy inside, but I wore headphones...and the bigger bore design meant there was lots of room inside.

Even better, my MRI images were placed on a computer disk that I was able to take to Mississauga to show the orthopedic surgeon who agreed to operate on my spine. It all went very well. My surgery date was June 22nd, which gave me the summer to recuperate and start physiotherapy — which for me was mainly a walking program.

I still have some pain when I get up, but I can move, and the pain isn't constant any more. And I haven't had to take any pain medication since the end of July.

I hate to think how long I'd have waited for an MRI and an orthopedic surgeon in Kitchener. Wait times for an MRI alone in some places like Ottawa are often 6 to 8 weeks. Having this technology in Stratford can make a huge difference in your life.

Please support the MRI Campaign as generously as you can.

Mary McTavish, Stratford



My knee had been sore and swelling and my doctor thought I was probably due for a knee replacement. He recommended an MRI on the knee joint to get a base line reading for the arthritis.

Initially I'd planned to go to London, until my son-in-law, who is a doctor, said "Why don't you go to Stratford? You don't have the drive, you don't have the parking problems, and you'll have quicker results — much quicker."

He was right. The wait was short — much quicker than I'd expected. The facility was clean and modern, the staff were knowledgeable and the results went right to my own family doctor in St. Marys.

I think the MRI is filling a very important need in the area — especially with the aging population — and making an important service more accessible to more people in Stratford, St. Marys and throughout the County.

I'd highly recommend anybody to come here. It was wonderful... and if people have any disposable income and want to make a real contribution to healthcare in our area, I don't think they could spend their money in a better way.

Jean Hutton, St. Marys



I've been coping with knee and hip problems for some time. Often I wake up 6 or 7 times a night from the pain. I knew it was time to see Dr. Pototschnik at Stratford General again, who had treated me for a knee injury years ago.

When Dr. Pototschnik looked at my knee he could tell there was something wrong, but the X-rays didn't show what was happening in enough detail. Next he ordered an MRI, which happened very

fast...I only had to wait a few days.

I was very nervous about having an MRI. I'm claustrophobic and the thought of being in the small space was worrying. But the MRI had more room than I'd expected, and the staff were excellent. They kept talking to me throughout the procedure, telling me they could see and hear me and that they were watching me closely. They were terrific, they really were and the MRI was a piece of cake — it was so easy.

Now I'm waiting for knee replacement surgery with hip surgery to follow. I feel very lucky to have a surgeon like Dr. Pototschnik and technology like the MRI. Without the MRI I'd still be sitting and waiting — and I'd be in pain. I'm very thankful.

Marjorie Claus, Goderich



We are so fortunate to have a state-of-the-art MRI machine here in Stratford! Let me tell you why!

In the summer I was experiencing tingling feelings in my hands, feet and legs. As relative newcomers to Stratford, some of our healthcare is still in Kitchener, including our family physician. She ordered a nerve conduction test and the neurologist said I needed an MRI.

I asked to have my MRI done here at Stratford General Hospital. I was very pleased to be called in less than a week for an appointment the following Tuesday at 3 p.m.

During the procedure I was really impressed with the staff and how they kept checking on me, as I am claustrophobic. And the additional room inside the MRI made things much easier to cope with.

My doctor received the results two days later which showed a bulging disc in my neck. I'm now going for physiotherapy.

Later, I received notice of an appointment set up at Grand River Hospital (by mistake?) with a date of Tuesday, Oct. 2 at 3 a.m. — more than a month after my MRI had been completed in Stratford. I gladly cancelled this appointment.

We're so thankful to have an MRI right here in Stratford!

Erie Howlett, Stratford



Making A Real Impact . . . A Salute

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



Photo Credit: SMAP Perth

Celebrating 60th Anniversary with Gift to the MRI

Hundreds of friends, clients and colleagues were on hand for the 60th Anniversary and Open House at Belliveau Construction. To celebrate three generations to take the helm of Belliveau Construction since its inception in 1952 and to honor the memory of his grandfather, Todd Hartung presented a \$10,000 cheque to MRI to benefit the community. Established by Ed Belliveau, Mr. Hartung's grandfather, the family-owned and run business has been a landmark in the community for over half a century. In 2002, Mr. Hartung purchased the business from his uncle, Ron Belliveau, who had officially carried the business forward from his father in 1978. Over time, Belliveau Construction has changed and grown from a one-man business operating out of the family home into an established office and shop, a fleet of trucks, and an employee base exceeding fifteen.

Back L-R: Brad Horan, Craig McAlister, Jeff Liedtke, Justin Gaunt, George Wilson, Paul Milton, Tim Flood, Steve Fleming, Jim Manktelow and Ron Belliveau. Front L-R: Andrew Williams - Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance CEO, Andrea Page - Stratford General Hospital Foundation ED, Todd Hartung - Owner, Belliveau Construction, Valerie Nedecki, John Belliveau and Jason Beaulne.



A salute to the **Emmanuel Ladies Fellowship United Church** for making local health care a priority. Their gift of \$1,000 to the MRI is greatly appreciated.
L to R: Janice Thomson - Co-Chair, Kathryn Nagle - Treasurer, Andrea Page - Stratford General Hospital Foundation ED. Absent: Diane Jackson - Co-Chair.



Mitchell Optimist Club Makes an Impact!

As a result of a very successful 3rd Annual Chick 'n' Rib 'n' Fun Night, the Optimist Club of Mitchell is proud to make this donation of \$2,522.25 to the SGH Foundation MRI Campaign.
L to R: Andrea Page - ED SGH Foundation, Cheryl Davidson, Wayne Krug, Dianne Josling, Leanne Davidson - Club President.

A Special Thanks to W. Charlot Farms

A unique horse breeding program fundraiser raises the bar with a total of \$5,750 towards the MRI campaign. Those at W. Charlot Farms combined fundraising with their goal of always breeding an attractive looking, athletic horse with good gaits, lots of scope, a great technique over jumps and a wonderful working attitude that allows the rider to develop the horse in more than one discipline.

L-R: Debbie Ysselstein, Christine Eppinger Walch, Audrey Morissette with Luna (dog), Andrea Page - SGH Foundation, Inge Walch Allard with Cabardino (1999 Holstein Premium Stallion), Augustin Walch, Shaun Booth, Taylor Morris and Ron Yoder.



to Our Community's Generosity!

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



RE/MAX Agents True Leaders in Generosity!

RE/MAX a-b Realty's \$100,000 Pacesetter Pledge in 2008 to name the **New Medical Imaging Dept's CT Scanner Report Station Room** was one of the key catalysts to Ministry approval of the project and towards the success of the campaign. Nearing the completion of their pledge... agents were invited in to tour the Hospital and to see the room they sponsored in action. They were also given a short presentation in the MRI suite so they could share the good news about access to this technology with people moving into the area.

SMILE Cookies Take a Bite Out of MRI Goal.

A special thank you to all 4 Stratford Tim Hortons stores for their donation of 100% of Smile cookie proceeds to the MRI. **Some \$14,400 was raised!** The Tim Hortons Team take a moment to "SMILE" during a tour of the MRI Suite.



STRATFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL
Foundation 
"People Caring for People"



Main Lobby Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Officially Opens New Gift & Coffee Shops

Hospital staff and volunteers were on hand at a ribbon cutting officially opening the new Main Lobby, and celebrating the Volunteers of Stratford General. As the gateway in to our hospital, the new lobby forms the first impression many people have of our facility. It's bright, roomy, and welcoming — the very feeling we want to convey to our patients, visitors and staff. While front and centre in our new lobby...volunteers impact care in many ways, from raising funds through shop revenue and special events to purchase medical equipment to essential support on inpatient units and clinical programs. To be a part of this vibrant group, call Cheryl Hunt, Volunteer Coordinator at 519-272-8210 ext.2551.



Donations in Memory and Honor of ...

The Stratford General Hospital Foundation is grateful to the family members and friends who have made donations from April 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012.

Ram Adlakha
 Jim Aikens
 Margaret Allen
 Rosemarie Anthony
 Douglas N. Atchison
 Carl Bach
 Donna Baier
 Wayne Bay
 William Berg
 John Blum
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 Marie Regan
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 Keith Schell
 Agnes Schram

Joyce M. Scott
 Adelheid Serf
 Elva Shantz
 Charles Robert Shaw
 Jake Sheepers
 Violet Siegner
 Peter Simpson
 Elizabeth Sinko
 Wilbur R. Smalley
 Bruce Smith
 Dorothy Smith
 Alberdina Smits
 Elizabeth Smits
 James Stock
 Rheta Stratton
 Robert "Bob" Teams
 Paul Thompson
 Mildred Thomson
 Muriel Toner
 Gladys Tout
 Ken Van Allan
 Catharina Vanden Hoven
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 Richard Wells
 Arthur Whittaker
 Laurie Whittemore
 Ralph Wietersen
 Theo Wilhelm
 Irene Wilker
 John Wilker
 Ann Wishart
 Marian Wreford
 Grace Young

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!



STRATFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL

Foundation 

"People Caring for People"

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.

Thank you for caring!



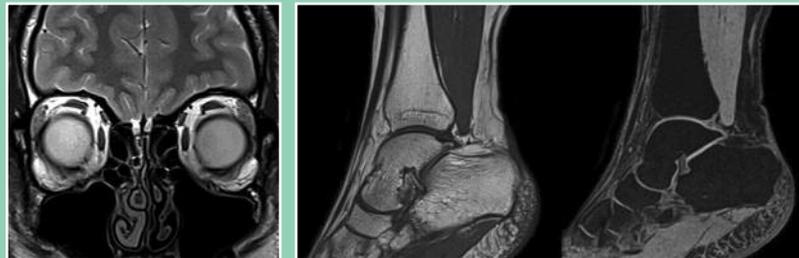


Just picture how an MRI could Make a Real Impact on your life...

- 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.



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. Contains recycled fibre and is recyclable.

Charitable Reg. BN 11920 0004 RR0001



Stratford General Hospital Foundation is listed as a Code Builder...one of the first 100 charities nationally to comply with Imagine Canada's Ethical Fundraising and Accountability Code earning the right to proudly display the Ethical Code trustmark on all our fundraising materials

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



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