### **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 October 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022.

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# 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.



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care/chemotherapy unit and essential medical equipment throughout our hospital that can help detect, diagnose and defeat cancer right here where we live. Don't delay, your generosity can help save a life today!









# **Our Doctors Have a Tremendous IMPACT**



# Dr. Harker

and Dr. Sparrow

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.

"In the old days before CT it was common to do an exploratory laparotomy to see what was wrong in a patient's abdomen...now it's very rare; now a surgeon knows what they're going in to do before they do it. Likewise, we can use imaging technology to see if a cancer patient's chemo is working...which can be very important for their treatment options," explains Dr. Harker.

"That's one of the nice things about being around medicine so long," agrees Dr. Sparrow. "There have been so many advances ...not only in the equipment but the diagnostics and treatments available."

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 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 a 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

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# Making A Real Impact . . . A Salute

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

### 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.

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."

Both Drs. Harker and Sparrow continue to find inspiration in their work. Having reached the age where he could retire, Dr. Sparrow enjoys the stimulating work environment but has the flexibility of not working too many hours. "I think it's the unexpected surprises I like most," he explains. "In radiology you never quite know what the next case and the next click of the mouse is going to bring. It might be something you've never seen before."

Dr. Harker explains that knowing she's making a difference in patients' lives is what motivates her. "I really enjoy doing breast care especially with ultrasound. I do a lot of interventional biopsy work so I see a lot of patients," she says. "Offering that level of care here in Stratford makes a big difference. I will come in on my weekends so patients don't have to travel to London."

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### 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 Rothernel, Dale Bast, Phil Rader, Doreen Zurbrigg, Linda Hunter, Ken Albert and Leroy Workman.



Members pictured: Cynthia Hastings, President; Tom Edge, Lauren Francis, Terry Marklevitz, David MacLennan, Ron Bailey, Gerald Cook, Ron Fischer, Ron Connolly, Linda Connolly.

On March 18th we welcomed (with thanks and gratitude!) the Kiwanis Club of Stratford to unveil their room naming plaque for the Orthopedic room (out-patient clinic) at SGH- this gift will support patient care in Orthopedics. We also celebrate their generous gift towards a hospital bed for the SGH Surgery Unit. *We can never say thank you enough!* 

# to Our Community's Generosity!

### nd businesses building a brighter future for healthcare throughout our region.



Wow! 1,000 donors gave during Christmas, raising \$460,000 towards Mammography and Fluoroscopy... THANKS TO THE INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS:

On February 22nd, 2022, we were pleased to hold "Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies" for the NEW Digital Fluoroscopy & Mammography Suites at SGH! Watch our video on Youtube



# Equipment overview:

#### Fluoroscopy Digital Room \$852,000

The unit is a C-arm configuration meaning that the X-ray tube and image receptor are connected by a large "C" that can be moved around the patient in any direction and angulation. The patient does not have to be turned into multiple positions but instead can lay comfortably on the table while the machine does all the work. This is a very nice feature during interventional procedures when a patient may be sedated and / or have needles and tubes being inserted. Connected to the Fluoro unit, there is a high res video and audio recording device, called a TIMS unit, that our Speech Pathologists are using to record studies on patients who are having problems swallowing. Swallowing studies are performed on stroke patients. The TIMS unit can be disconnected and taken to other areas of the hospital for consultation with other practitioners or for review with the patient. The recording device on our old fluoroscopy unit was not working reliably at the end of its 'life' so needless to say the Speech Pathologists are really excited to have the TIMS.

### Another Mammography Unit to Double Service at \$780,000

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Stratford General Hospital Foundation is able to fund this very important piece of Imaging equipment complete with many accessory and auxiliary components.

Our new suite has added technologies that will enable us to evaluate abnormalities seen on a standard mammogram. We will have the option of 3D Mammography called tomosynthesis which produces multiple images and reconstructs them into a 3D image. This reduces tissue overlap similar to a CT scan. Very soon we will be using intravenous contrast while performing mammograms, again, similar to a CT scan. Breast cancers typically have a larger blood supply than normal tissue and are better visualized with contrast enhancement.

Most abnormalities detected on standard mammograms are not cancer, but if they are, our aim is to detect them earlier. Smaller cancers are easier to treat and have better outcomes.

In the last year, there were over 7300 screening and diagnostic mammography examinations completed at Stratford General Hospital. Our Breast Assessment Center is now operating with 2 mammography units, increased Technological staff, all who have their certification in breast imaging, as well as 4 Breast Radiologists who are on-site for consultation, reporting and same-day assessment and biopsy when needed."

- Louanne Plain MRT ACR, Manager-Medical Imaging

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