

THE BULLETIN

HGH FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2021



COVID-19 VACCINES ARRIVE AT HGH!

Your donations have enabled HGH to purchase the only ultra-low freezer in the region!

It is with much joy and gratitude that we would like to share the tremendous difference your donations have made for the residents of our region during this pandemic. The Hawkesbury and District General Hospital (HGH) is now the only facility in the five eastern counties with the necessary equipment to store Pfizer's vaccine for our entire region, and it is all thanks to you!

With the agreement of Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU), HGH acquired an ultra-low temperature freezer in mid-December. The freezer, valued at nearly \$20,000, was subsidized completely by your generous donations. For this, we thank you!

On January 5th, 2021, HGH was added as one of the province's sites able to receive COVID-19 vaccine shipments directly. The first shipment arrived on January 12th. The rollout of the regional immunization program is



under the direction of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit, and HGH is a partner in this effort.

The EOHU is allocating the distribution of vaccines with a priority on long-term care workers and residents, and healthcare workers. The shipments are being divided amongst all hospitals in the region and long-term care facilities. HGH's own onsite vaccination clinic for employees and physicians was launched on January 18th at HGH's main campus in Hawkesbury. After many grueling months in the fight against COVID-19, this is a remarkable moment!

We are grateful to each and every one of you who supported the HGH Foundation's COVID-19 Relief Fund. In addition to the purchase of this new freezer, your gifts are funding vital equipment and support services for HGH throughout the pandemic.

Thank you to the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) Foundation for their remarkable generosity in the form of a \$100,000 grant to the HGH Foundation.

This COVID-19 Community Hospital Fund grant will help support HGH during and after the pandemic. The funds will be used to purchase computer equipment for virtual appointments, specialized in-room monitoring cameras, equipment for HGH's skills training lab, and will also provide counselling and support services for employees during this difficult time.

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GIVING MONTHLY: A DONOR'S PERSPECTIVE

There are many reasons why you may want to consider becoming an HGH Foundation monthly donor. Marcel Laviolette explains why he is a passionate supporter of the HGH Foundation and why he became a monthly donor in 2017. It was his way of recognizing the excellent care he and his late wife, Odette, had received at HGH.

Marcel and Odette both grew up in the region and had been married for 56 years when she passed away suddenly at home after suffering a pulmonary embolism. “It was Dr. Laviolette in the emergency department at HGH who took the time to explain to me what had happened. He was so kind and patient. I will always be grateful for the way he treated me at such a difficult time.”

Marcel has himself received care at the hospital numerous times, even being admitted to the ICU department twice in the past five years. Fortunately, he is now healthy and only visits the hospital for regular follow-up appointments. “I am so lucky to be able to receive the care I need in Hawkesbury,” he says. “It is especially important now, as I am no longer able to drive due to problems with my vision; so, asking friends to take me to Ottawa or Montreal for appointments would be difficult for them and for me.”

He goes on to say that HGH is his hospital, “I have received extraordinary care each time I have visited HGH. The staff is welcoming, professional and so encouraging. I couldn’t ask for more and I felt that making a monthly donation in support of the hospital was the least I could do to thank them. It’s my way to give back to our regional hospital and its wonderful staff, as well as to all of the patients that will benefit from the additional services that are brought to HGH because of our contributions. Becoming a monthly donor is an easy way to maintain support in a continual way, and I feel good knowing that I am doing my part and contributing to making HGH the incredible hospital it is.”

The HGH Foundation is grateful for the amazing generosity of monthly donors like Mr. Laviolette. If you are interested in arranging a monthly automatic donation, please visit our website at www.hghfoundation.org or call our office at 613 632-1111, ext. 21101.



Help Support your Hospital by Organizing your own Fundraiser!

The HGH Foundation welcomes the wonderful contribution of individuals, businesses and organizations in the community who wish to organize their own fundraising events to help support HGH. This is even more important now, as the COVID-19 virus has made it impossible for the HGH Foundation to organize any in-person fundraising events. Although the Foundation has adapted as much as possible, the pandemic has had a significant impact on fundraising. Yet the need for funds to help the hospital has not diminished, it has actually increased.

If you have an idea that you think could raise funds to help your regional hospital, please contact us or fill out the online form on our website: <https://hgh.ca/foundation/events/third-party-events/>.

By organizing a fundraiser to help the HGH Foundation, you will contribute to improving the care and services offered to the community by HGH.

LOCAL MOM SHARES HOW YOU HELPED PROVIDE THE BEST CARE FOR HER AND HER BABY



Véronique Pilon's pregnancy had been relatively uneventful until one day in early June 2020, when she began experiencing a sudden loss of vision, severe headache and nausea. "I was 7 months pregnant and suddenly being rushed to the hospital with symptoms unlike anything I had ever experienced. It was terrifying and I was so worried about the well-being of my baby."

Upon arrival at HGH, the attending physician at the emergency department was concerned Véronique's symptoms could be caused as a result of a blood clot in the brain; however, the radiation and contrast agent required for a CT scan were too risky for the fetus.

The doctor requested an immediate transfer to a tertiary hospital for an MRI, because although HGH's new MRI machine had been installed and tested, its official "go live" date and scheduled use on patients wasn't until the month following.

Unfortunately, the wait time for an MRI at the other hospital was too long and the doctor was advised to go ahead with the CT scan in Hawkesbury instead, given the urgent need for a diagnosis in order to keep mom and baby safe.

However, HGH's radiologist was too concerned about the impact of a CT scan on the fetus and made the decision to go ahead and use HGH's brand new MRI machine before its official opening. Véronique was the very first patient to receive an MRI at HGH, with the test performed that same evening. Fortunately, everyone was immediately reassured by the results, showing that the brain was normal, making this an unusual and complicated migraine.

Véronique was provided with immediate treatment and discharged, only to return to HGH two months later. Except this time, it was to the Family Birthing Centre, where she gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby girl named Lévannah.

Véronique is emotional as she thanks HGH's entire medical team in both the ER department and the Family Birthing Centre, for taking such good care of her and her baby. "I was panicked by the thought of having to be sent by ambulance to another hospital and being away from my other children unexpectedly overnight. I was so reassured to know I could be treated in Hawkesbury by such incredibly caring staff, who took extra steps to make sure my baby was safe."

Beyond that, Véronique recognizes what a difference your donations have made in making sure the MRI was available in Hawkesbury when she needed it. ***"I would like to say a huge thank you to each and every person who made a donation toward the MRI machine. It made all the difference for my daughter and I, and I can only imagine how many other patients at HGH will benefit from this machine for years to come."***



NEW 50/50 RAFFLE!

Buy your tickets today for the HGH Foundation's 3rd electronic 50/50 raffle. Support your regional hospital and get a chance to win the jackpot!

www.HGHF5050.ca

Tickets: 3 for \$5 - 20 for \$10 - 60 for \$20

Draw: March 26th at 10:00 a.m.

For more information:
<https://hgh.ca/foundation/events/50-50-draw/>

Please play responsibly. Ontario Problem Gaming Helpline:
1-866-531-2600 — www.ConnexOntario.ca

AGCO Lottery License #RAF1201487

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

If you have visited HGH recently, you were likely amazed by the hospital's complete transformation following the recent redevelopment and expansion project. The pandemic has changed things as well, and although COVID-19 has presented challenges for us all, it is important to look to the future so that we may continue to reap the benefits of HGH's expansion in order to provide more services for patients. Your support makes a significant difference in HGH's continuous efforts to improve access to healthcare services in our region.

By making a gift to the HGH Foundation's new campaign, "There's No Place Like Home," you will help bring more specialized services to HGH in the areas of orthopedic surgery, ophthalmology, urology, endoscopy and advanced mammography. These are the most pressing and increasing healthcare needs in our area.

It often surprises people to know that the government does not fund medical equipment, so it truly is with the help of our generous donors that HGH hopes to purchase the medical equipment needed to bring these important new services to Hawkesbury.

This campaign will help support new programs at HGH that could benefit you and your loved ones, and enable your family to receive more specialty care, closer to home.



Your donations will save so many patients the stress and hardship of having to travel elsewhere for specialist appointments, medical procedures and even surgeries like knee and hip replacements! This campaign embodies our common family and community values. Now more than ever, we must take care of one another.

For more information on our current fundraising priorities, please visit our website, www.hghfoundation.org, and follow us on social media for updated information and news.

Please support the HGH Foundation by returning this form with your tax deductible gift in the enclosed postage paid envelope. Thank you for your support!



YES! I want to help bring more specialized services to HGH!

Here is my gift of \$ _____

You will find enclosed my cheque payable to HGH Foundation. **OR** Please charge to my account: VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS
_____ Expiration date ____ / ____

Name of donor : _____

Address : _____

Phone : _____ Email : _____

Signature : _____

- Please send me information about leaving a gift in my Will
- Please contact me to arrange an automatic monthly gift
- I no longer wish to receive the HGH Foundation's newsletter

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