

# What's Happening at **GEORGETOWN HOSPITAL**

**Georgetown  
Hospital  
Foundation**  
Living. Giving. Caring.



## The Donor Difference

The pandemic's third wave brought significant pressures to hospitals across Ontario. ICUs filled up. Families could not visit loved ones. Volunteers were asked to stay home. Many surgeries were cancelled or postponed so that staff and resources could be redeployed to focus on the surge of COVID-19 patients.

The journey has been exceptionally grueling for our patients, their families and our entire healthcare team. "It's been a long haul," says Cindy McDonell, Senior Vice-President, Clinical Operations, who acknowledges just how hard staff have worked. "They are there every day doing their best to look after patients through this pandemic, and they've done a phenomenal job."

Today, as COVID numbers come down, the pressures are slowly easing. Georgetown Hospital is loosening visitor restrictions, enabling the face-to-face contact that is so important to patient care. We're also cautiously ramping up surgeries, starting with day procedures.

The pandemic isn't over yet, but we couldn't have gotten this far without the support of our community.

Your donations help us to fund the equipment we need to continue providing exemplary care, like our

new echocardiogram. This specialized ultrasound machine can diagnose a variety of heart conditions — including heart damage caused by COVID-19. This new equipment will also allow some cancer patients to get tests done locally.



Nurse at Georgetown Hospital.

Meanwhile, your personal support — from emails asking how the staff were doing, to signs around the hospital and the community, to handwritten cards — boosted our morale.

"It has really reinforced how much a part of our team our donors are," says Cindy. "We know they're there for us, and we're very grateful for it."

# Helping Families Weather the COVID-19 Storm

COVID-19 put tremendous strain on hospitals, long-term care facilities and families. For Stephen and Anne Cooke, it was a triple whammy.

Married for 55 years, the Georgetown couple have always been there for each other. So when Anne developed dementia, Stephen looked after her. In early 2020, it became clear she required more support, so she moved into a local assisted living facility.



Stephen and Anne Cooke.

Soon, they couldn't meet her growing needs either, and Anne was transferred to Georgetown Hospital not long before the third COVID-19 wave took off.

What should have been a short stay in the Complex Transitional Care department stretched on because of the pandemic. Long-term care facilities

across the province were under immense pressure, and suitable places were simply unavailable.

Dementia is particularly challenging because there are few options for treatment. And due to the pandemic, Stephen couldn't visit his wife for months on end. "You're powerless. That's basically the problem," he says, his voice catching as he talks about the helplessness he felt. "I still get emotional after all this time."

Stephen is very appreciative of the hospital's efforts during a difficult situation. "They did what they could, and they did it very well," he says. "I'm full of praise for everything they did."

Having a local hospital means a lot to him, especially when he ended up in the emergency department himself with a heart attack in December. "They looked after me very well," he says. "Within 10 minutes I was in a bed having blood taken and all the rest."

Today, he's fully recovered. Meanwhile, a spot for Anne finally opened up in long term care, where she has settled in nicely.

As the pandemic eases up, he's grateful for where they are now. And he believes in giving back to the hospital that helped him and his loved ones weather this storm — and get through other health challenges over the years. That's why he donated to the Georgetown Hospital Foundation.

"The hospital has been good to us as a family. And I've got a son and two grandchildren who live in Georgetown. They've been occasional visitors as well," he says. "The least we could do was show our appreciation for all the care and attention we had as a family."

## Georgetown Hospital by the Numbers



### DIAGNOSTICS

There were over 36,000 diagnostic images taken at Georgetown Hospital over the past year. Over 20,000 of these were X-rays.



### LABORATORY

Over 260,000 lab tests were performed.

# Get ready to walk or run for Georgetown Hospital

Lace up your shoes! The annual Walk or Run for Georgetown Hospital is set for Sunday, September 26th.

The fun atmosphere, free T-shirts and goodie bags stuffed with gifts from local businesses help make this our largest attended annual fundraiser.

Best of all, anybody can get involved — from serious runners to families looking for a leisurely stroll. “It warms your heart when you see everyone,” says Betty D’Oliveira, chair of the event committee.

Not even COVID-19 could put a damper on it. Last year proved to be the most successful Walk or Run yet, raising over \$70,000 for the most urgent equipment needs at the hospital, including new inpatient beds. This year, we’ll be using the same pandemic-friendly model, with a variety of routes for



Join the fun on September 26!

walkers, runners and folks in wheelchairs.

To avoid large groups, there will be several route options available to participants around the area. We will still have photo ops, fun activities and lots of volunteers to cheer you on. And you won’t want to miss our Finish Line Festival.

Sign up for this year’s event at [www.ghfwalkrun.ca](http://www.ghfwalkrun.ca).

## Big Thanks to Georgetown Toyota

Since opening Georgetown Toyota 25 years ago, Kevin Wood has only positive things to say about his hometown. “This community has been very, very good to our family,” he says.

So, he’s made a big point of returning the favour. Each year, his dealership raises hundreds of dollars for Georgetown Hospital through their winter tire sale campaign. They also celebrated their 10th anniversary in 2006 by raffling off a brand-new car to raise

funds for the hospital.

This year, to mark a quarter century, they did it again. “It’s going to a good cause,” says Kevin. “The hospital is an important foundation in our community.”

To help create buzz, the dealership wrapped two of their cars in promotional decals — turning heads at places like McDonald’s, Canadian Tire and the Gellert Community Centre.

Those efforts paid off. People snapped up the tickets, raising



over \$50,000 for the Georgetown Hospital Foundation, while the top winner, Claire, walked away with a brand-new car.

The Georgetown Hospital Foundation extends a heartfelt thanks to Kevin and the Georgetown Toyota team for their amazing generosity!



### EMERGENCY

Close to 30,000 patients visited our Emergency Department. Over 3,000 of those patients arrived by ambulance.



### OBSTETRICS

Georgetown Hospital welcomed 289 babies last year!



### SURGERIES

Close to 3,000 surgeries were performed.

# Generous Community Partners

While the past year has tested us in countless ways, our community partners have continued to stand by our side. Their generosity and support have made this an outstanding fundraising year for the Georgetown Hospital Foundation.

We are so grateful to all our community partners. Their support has raised much needed funds for medical equipment and technology and has allowed our healthcare teams to continue to provide skilled and compassionate care to our patients.



## < THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

The Royal Canadian Legion raised funds to purchase a new Vital Signs Monitor and Tonometer for the Georgetown Hospital.



## < MARGO'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

Margo Baird set up an online fundraising page for her 90th birthday and raised just over \$3700.



## < CANADIAN TIRE

Georgetown Canadian Tire employees donated over \$9,000 to the Georgetown Hospital Foundation. Their donation was part of a match program that in total raised \$18,340 for our local hospital.



## < THE BEER STORE

The Georgetown Beer Store's bottle drive raised over \$100,000 for the hospital and raised more money than any other single Beer Store location in Ontario.

## Reflection Turns to Action

When longing for certainty this past year, we reflected on our lives. For many, reflection turned into action and taking control of their future by ensuring their wills were updated. My heartfelt thanks to each of you who appreciate the vital role that the hospital plays with both your life and our community, and who so thoughtfully included the Georgetown Hospital Foundation in your will. Your gift will ensure that the hospital continues to provide exemplary patient experiences, always.

If you have kindly included the hospital in your will but haven't let us know, please consider doing so.

While it's fun to have secret admirers, if we don't know we can't thank you! I understand if you prefer not to receive public recognition. Just let me know and we can keep it between you and I.

If you're still thinking about including the hospital in your will, please reach out as I would be happy to have a chat and answer any questions you have.



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