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SPRING 2020

MAKING THE O.R. A PRIORITY



Saskatoon City Hospital

FOUNDATION

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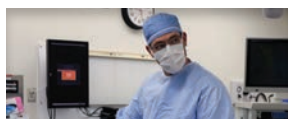
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ON THE COVER

The Foundation's Making the O.R. a PriQRity campaign is asking for your help to raise \$3.7 million to ensure that the hospital's Operating Room has the best, latest, newest and safest equipment. You can find out more in the pages following.



FUNDING THE O.R.

The Foundation launches a campaign to raise \$3.7 for the Operating Room.

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Irene and Leslie Dubé are donating \$1 million to Making the O.R. a PriQRity.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Steve Shannon

"My mom had her hip done at City Hospital."

"I'm feeling much better since I got my knee replaced at City."

"Our son broke his wrist but the surgeons fixed him up."

You may know of a similar story from your family or friends.

It wouldn't be a surprise. Every day at Saskatoon City Hospital, the wonderful surgeons and staff operate on several dozen people. That works out to 12,000 surgeries every year.

As Saskatchewan's population both grows and ages, those numbers definitely will increase. This will put a huge strain on the hospital's 12 operating rooms. As the equipment in those rooms is in constant use, it will wear down beyond the point of repair.

O.R. staff has a list of equipment that needs replacement. Soon. It will cost more than \$3.7 million and includes a video tower, a cystoscopy table, a surgical microscope for ophthalmology procedures, anesthetic tools, and the equipment that cleans surgical tools. There are numerous others items staff has told us is needed.

Those talented docs and their staff tell us they'll continue doing their best with what they have but there's a huge

fear. If – when – equipment ultimately breaks down, it means that surgeries must be postponed.

That means there'll be more people like Laura Dutka, whose story is featured in this issue. She put her life on hold when dealing with hip pain and waiting for replacement. It was an agonizing and frustrating wait of several months.

This is why we've decided it's time for Making the O.R. a PriQRity! We're asking you to help us provide the best and latest for the awesome people who work in the O.R. We need your help to ensure people like your grandma, your

uncle, your son, your neighbour – and maybe even you – have timely access to critical surgical procedures.

We're starting with a huge boost, thanks to the great friends of the hospital, Irene and Leslie Dubé. Irene and Leslie agree the O.R. is a priority. That's why they've lovingly given us \$1 million to get it all going!

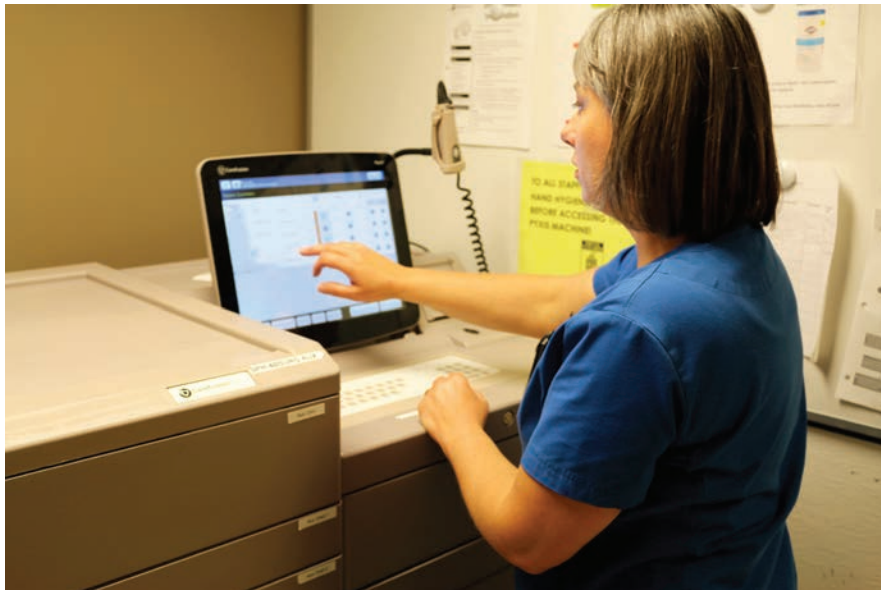
Will you join the Dubés and add to their generosity? It's easy. Just visit SCHFgo.com and click wherever you see "Donate." You can also donate in person at the Foundation office or by calling 306-655-8489 or toll free at 1-800-603-4464. Thank you! ☐



Donate at SCHFgo.com

HOW YOU HELPED!

Automated medication dispensing system, prone biopsy table purchased, thanks to donors



Over the course of the past year, you heard from the interim manager of Saskatoon City Hospital's **Pharmacy Department**, the manager of the Emergency department, and the provincial manager for Pharmacy Services. The Foundation also held two versions of its Doctor Series.

You even heard from a new little friend of the Foundation, Perry the Pill!

Everyone was asking for your help to purchase a new automated medication dispensing system for use in more than a dozen departments and wards

in the hospital. Automated dispensing is the standard in Canada, utilized elsewhere by 80 per cent of hospitals and almost 100 per cent of emergency departments. It's more efficient, gets medication to patients faster, and automation means it's much safer.

With the hospital's pharmacy processing over 175,000 orders and 1.8 million medication packages every year, safety is the number one priority.

The Foundation is pleased to report that, thanks to donors like you, this project has been funded! Your support

means the new system should arrive later this year. Thank you for ensuring that the right patient receives the right medication in the right dose at the right time.

Your gifts further helped the Pharmacy Department through the purchase of new refrigeration units to replace units that were well beyond their lifespan and repair.

Pharmacy fridges are essential to ensure that IV antibiotics and other fluids remain usable. The new equipment will improve storage and also has added features such as bacteria-resistant coating on exterior and interior surfaces. As with most new equipment, the fridges are energy efficient, which will result in cost savings.



Dr. Waill Khalil from **Physical Medicine and Rehab** will be able to treat more patients with chronic pain from pinched nerves, arthritis, osteoarthritis, joint, and spine issues, thanks to the purchase of new ultrasound technology.

Ultrasound allows physicians to accurately pinpoint where injections should be made in joints, making treatment more effective. It also means that Dr. Khalil can treat patients without the need of fluoroscopy or C-Arm x-ray procedures.

Thanks to donors like you, **Central Therapies'** patients with limited joint movement after surgery will benefit from new continuous passive motion (CPM) machines.

The CPMs work to increase joint movement by maintaining motion for 24 to 48 hours. Because they're in constant use, they wear out so replacement is necessary. Your gifts play a vital part in patient rehabilitation.




Whether you were a donor or one of the supporters that helped the 2019 **Swinging with the Stars** raise an amazing \$290,000, you've helped extend the capabilities of the **Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre of Care Breast Health Centre**.

The centre's new prone biopsy table, replacing a table installed when the centre opened in 2006, is more

flexible, allowing radiologists to better maneuver women of different sizes and shapes. This reduces discomfort that patients may face when already dealing with a stressful procedure and possible diagnosis.

The new table also allows physicians to more accurately insert needles, resulting in the collection of better tissue samples. This means patients

often can have mammography and biopsies taken at the same time and without the need for invasive surgical procedures.

Thank you! Your continued support gives staff the best tools and allows for optimal patient outcomes. To learn about future projects, read on in this issue. To donate, visit SCHFgo.com and click anywhere you see "Donate." 

Pat Vereschagin, Medical Radiation Technologist Supervisor with the Breast Health Centre, stands beside its new prone biopsy table.




MAKING THE O.R. A PRIORITY

A close-up, side-profile photograph of a surgeon in an operating room. The surgeon is wearing a blue surgical cap and a white face mask, looking through the eyepiece of a surgical microscope. The background is slightly blurred, showing various pieces of medical equipment and monitors.

Have you spent any time at Saskatoon City Hospital lately? If you have, you may have noticed the roundabout outside the hospital filled with vehicles, some double-parked while loading or unloading a patient.

Inside, you'd see lines of people waiting to register stretching back to the front door. Volunteers would be busily escorting people, while every one of the several dozen wheelchairs was in use.



Saskatoon City Hospital is a busy place. In 2018-19, there were nearly 200,000 patient visits including in-patient stays and out-patient procedures and surgeries.

One of the busiest departments is the hospital's operating room (O.R.). With 12 separate operating theatres, the O.R. at Saskatoon City Hospital performs dozens of surgeries every day, adding up to almost 12,000 procedures every year.

With procedures performed including gynecology, orthopedics, ophthalmology, cystoscopy, urology, and cancer related surgeries, it's very probable you know someone who's had an operation at Saskatoon City Hospital. It could be your parent having their vision corrected, an uncle or aunt getting a new hip, or a friend being treated for kidney stones.

As the population in Saskatchewan both grows and ages, the variety of and number of procedures performed in the O.R. increases every year. This takes a toll on the equipment used.

Terry Nixey, manager of the Operating Room at the hospital says there are two factors affecting equipment, the first being age. "Many of the pieces that we've identified have reached their end of life. They're at the point or almost to the point where they can't be repaired and aren't supported by manufacturers. Replacement is the only option, especially for pieces that are of critical need to the O.R."

Heavy usage is the other factor, Nixey adds. "Because they're frequently used, pieces may wear out or break down faster. It's important to replace and upgrade to ensure the flow of procedures is maintained."

"This is why we've decided it's time for Making the O.R. a PriORity," says Foundation CEO Steve Shannon. "We're asking you to help us provide the best and latest for the awesome people who work in the O.R."

"We need your help to ensure that patients – people like your grandma, your uncle, your son, your neighbour – and maybe even you – have timely access to critical procedures."

You can help the Foundation raise \$3.7 million to ensure this, Shannon says, adding some wonderful news. "We're starting with a huge boost, thanks to great friends of the hospital, Irene and Leslie Dubé. Irene and Leslie agree the O.R. is a priority. They've lovingly given us \$1 million to get it all going because they believe this is so important."

Shannon adds that the alternative is unthinkable. "If equipment isn't maintained or replaced, it will break down. Surgeries will be cancelled. Patients will have to wait longer and often while dealing with pain or the stress of a poorer quality of life."

One of the largest components is an upgrade of the O.R.'s cystoscopy suite.

"We call the room a cystoscopy suite but it's really a full service operating theatre specifically used for urology operative procedures," reports Dr. Kunal Jana, urologist and surgeon.

"The current table in the room is 26 years old and has some limited functionality," Dr. Jana adds. "It's no longer supported and it breaks down monthly. We've been told it's close to the point where parts will soon no longer be available so there'll be a time soon when it breaks down and it's simply not repairable."

"We need your help to ensure that patients – people you know and maybe even you – have timely access to critical procedures."

Like all parts of the O.R., Dr. Jana says the cystoscopy suite is well used. "The room is used for at least three days a week and sometimes more with six to eight patients every day. That's at the minimum. So, if the equipment breaks down, that's two dozen or more patients every week who will have to



be placed for procedures elsewhere in the hospital system.”

Jana says procedures include urological stone treatments, greenlight laser prostate cancer surgery, bladder cancer surgery, and endoscopic urology but new equipment would expand its capabilities. “One of the exciting things the new table will allow physicians to do is videourodynamics. There are some urodynamics being done in the hospital’s Ambulatory Care department but it’s limited. The videourodynamics we’ll be able to do here is a first in Saskatchewan.”

Urodynamics is used to treat female incontinence or those with neurogenic bladders – people who’ve had spinal cord injuries and various neurological disorders that result in their bladders not working properly, Dr. Jana explains. “Videourodynamics uses x-ray fluoroscopy to see bladder function as it’s happening. This will help us learn more about patients with complex bladder disorders and develop better bladder management.

“The end result is that the new equipment in the cystoscopy suite will really improve lives.”

Another major piece of Making the O.R. a PriORity is an ophthalmologic microscope. “In ophthalmology, almost all surgeries require the use of a microscope,” says Dr. Ravi Nrusimhadevara, noting this includes cataract removal, retinal surgeries (vitrectomies), glaucoma procedures and others. “It’s universally used by all surgeons and we’re using it four days every week for 50 weeks of the year.”

The current microscope is 10 years old and showing its age – some pieces




are cracking and held in place with duct tape. But Dr. Ravi says the new microscope will have many technical advantages. “The current microscope is two generations behind. The new piece will be digital so it will provide much better resolution. For eye surgery, we’re often dealing with tissue that is only one micron thick, so the better resolution of the microscope means better outcomes for patients.”

An add-on to this is a 3D viewing system, Dr. Ravi says. “Currently only the surgeon can see what’s in the microscope. The 3D system allows other staff such as nurses to see what’s projected. It’s especially useful for training and it’s also better ergonomically. There can be a lot of neck stress on surgeons using the old microscope – the 3D viewers will help eliminate this.”

With thousands of surgical tools, pans, trays and other items used daily, it’s vital and necessary to have a sufficient process for sterilization. The hospital’s Medical Device Reprocessing

department works 16 hours a day to rinse, wash, inspect, sort, bundle, and then steam sterilize endless pieces of equipment. It’s currently hindered by an aging cart washer and two of its four steam sterilizers are permanently shut down. For more details, read the article on the following pages.

Myong Younghusband, director of Operative Care at the hospital says the O.R.’s own autoclave (steam sterilizer) also needs to be replaced. “It’s used for what we call emergent cases. If a tool or piece is dropped during surgery but still needed, having an autoclave right in the O.R. is crucial. It can be sterilized and used right away instead of having to be sent to our Medical Device Reprocessing department.”

You can do your part in Making the O.R. a PriORity and ensure that patients have timely access to crucial procedures. To make a donation, visit SCHFgo.com. You can also donate in person at the Foundation office or by calling 306-655-8489 or toll-free at 1-800-603-4464. 

BUSINESS OWNER BENEFITS FROM HIP SURGERIES

Laura Dutka's experience is why O.R. needs to be supported

Laura Dutka's life was on hold while she waited for necessary hip surgery.

In her early 60s, the longtime owner of Paramount Day Spa was enjoying an active life. She liked walking, working out regularly, travelling, and life on her property outside of Saskatoon.

"But I'd been struggling for about 10 years," Laura says. "I thought it was just sore muscles or aging so I tried various therapies. They'd help but the pain in my hip would never really go away. I finally got fed up and went to my doctor, who referred me to a surgeon, Dr. Ian Lutz.

"He said if you have pain, we should definitely replace the hip."

Because of the heavy demand and backlog for surgery in the city, Laura waited an uncomfortable nine months before having the first operation. Meanwhile the pain in her other hip increased to the point where she and Dr. Lutz decided to replace it, too.

While waiting, she noticed her wellbeing gradually decreasing. "Sometimes you don't realize how many steps you take until it's painful. Very slowly over time, I stopped doing things I used to enjoy," Laura says, noting it included one of her favourite activities. "I couldn't go shopping anymore because I couldn't even walk a block. I'd be exhausted just from the pain in my hips."

Laura notes a sense of resignation to the pain and had considered going elsewhere for the surgery. "But I felt comfortable with Dr. Lutz and wanted to wait it out. I was glad to finally get the call for the first one."



Laura Dutka at her Saskatoon business, Paramount Day Spa.

Her right hip was done last spring followed by her left hip in September. "These were the first operations since I had my tonsils out when I was six years old. The second one went even better than the first. There was less pain and a much faster recovery."

She has some advice for others who may be facing similar pain. "Go to your doctor and get it done. It is so worth it. I didn't realize how much I'd stopped doing until after my recovery."

Waiting for vital surgical procedures isn't rare in the city and province. As the population ages and grows, demand for hospital services increase.

At Saskatoon City Hospital, there are 12,000 surgeries, many like Laura's, every year. You can help improve wait times by ensuring that operating rooms at Saskatoon City Hospital have the best and newest equipment. □

MEDICAL DEVICE REPROCESSING IMPORTANT PART OF O.R.

Hospital department washes thousands of tools every day



The staff in the hospital's Medical Device Reprocessing (MDR) department are some of the unsung heroes of the hospital.

Every day, dozens of MDR technicians work between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. to clean every piece of equipment used in the hospital's operating rooms (O.R.). They work tirelessly to thoroughly wash, sterilize and bundle thousands of surgical tools to be used again, sometimes within hours.

"Any surgical tool used in the O.R. is reprocessed or cleaned through MDR," reports Scott Zablocki, manager. "We also clean countless other pieces of equipment from the entire hospital. If you're in a unit or surgery and see something in blue wrap, we cleaned it."

The process is more detailed than the word 'clean' suggests, Zablocki says. It's composed of several stages where equipment is rinsed, washed, inspected, sorted, sterilized and stored.

He says tools, pans and trays, come straight from the O.R. to MDR's

facilities in the basement on a direct elevator. "Everything we receive is rinsed and washed by hand, before being loaded into automatic washers. These washers are essentially large, industrial dishwashers."

When the double clean is completed, every piece is inspected by hand to be sure it's free of 'organic' debris. If it's not, it goes back to the start.

"Then the technicians rebuild the kits," Zablocki continues, noting this too is a painstaking step in the process. "Every

procedure pan or set has its own 'recipe card' because every surgeon has their own preferences so the kits are all very different. The various combinations in these kits number in the thousands.

"Kits consist of everything from generic equipment to specific tools. They must be placed properly in pans and put together, then labelled with sterile indicators. Once a kit is completed, it's steam sterilized in the autoclave. We call this part 'cooking the goods' and it takes about 90 minutes."

After being sterilized, Zablocki says equipment is placed on shelves or carts for their next use. "Our turn-around time is anywhere between two to three hours, depending on the complexity of the kits. The O.R. drives this, so there are times when we need to do a 'quick turn' – when we know a pan or set of tools is needed again soon. Technicians will do their very best to get it through."

Extraordinarily, this process is hand-tracked. Technicians note by whom and when items were cleaned and



what kit they're in. It's necessary because if a piece does slip through that isn't sterile, staff follows the chain to determine if there's anything else in a kit that's affected.

It all happens every hour, 16 hours a day and sometimes longer when there's a heavy workload. Or when there's equipment malfunction. Like the O.R., the strain of constant use wears equipment down, Zablocki reports. "It's old equipment, too. Much of it was installed when the building opened in 1993. We continually have issues."

As part of Making O.R. a PriORity, Medical Device Reprocessing is asking for two new autoclaves and for its cart washer to be completely replaced. "We have four autoclaves but one is now permanently out of order, and another is failing regularly," Zablocki reports. "That leaves us with two working devices at most times and results in a backlog with just two units processing everything in the hospital."



Zablocki adds that the cart washer – used to clean and sterilize the racks where equipment is transported and stored – is simply aging beyond usefulness. "There's no back up. When it's gone, it means carts must be laboriously washed by hand."

Equipment failure of any degree in MDR has consequences. "If we're down, we cripple not just the O.R. but also every unit in the hospital. Surgeries will be cancelled. Patients,

many of whom travel from out of town, will have to go home and come back another day.

"Simply put, if we haven't been able to do our jobs, no one else can do theirs."

To donate to Making O.R. a PriORity and to ensure this vital work continues unhindered, visit SCHFgo.com. You can also donate by calling 306-655-8489 or toll free 1-800-603-4464 and in person at the Foundation office. □



IRENE AND LESLIE DUBÉ PLEDGE \$1 MILLION TO FOUNDATION

Matching gift for Making the O.R. a PriORity campaign

Before the Foundation's Making the O.R. a PriORity campaign was officially launched, it received a major donation.

Friends of the hospital and well-known community philanthropists Irene and Leslie Dubé are providing a matching gift of \$1 million. The gift supports Making the O.R. a PriORity and the recent purchase of nine bedside cardiac monitors and two central monitors for the Emergency Department.

The gift also is one of many the couple has made to Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation, including a donation that led to the creation of the hospital's Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre of Care, the Breast Health Centre in 2006.

The Dubés later made major gifts to expand the centre and, more recently, a matching gift to fund an upgrade of the hospital's digital radiography suite.

Les Dubé says there was one aspect of the \$3.7 million Making the O.R. a PriORity campaign they were especially pleased to support. The project will see a major upgrade to the hospital's cystoscopy suite. The suite is used for treating urological issues such as extreme kidney stones as well as bladder and prostate cancers.

"We wanted to support that part because it matches with support that we've given to urology medicine in other hospitals," Les says. In 2017, St. Paul's Hospital opened a new centre of excellence, thanks to the Dubés support. St. Paul's named it the Leslie and Irene Dubé Urology Centre of Health.



Irene and Leslie Dubé believe in supporting the community.

With a strong belief in philanthropy and the community, the Dubé name is prevalent in Saskatoon. A short drive down College Drive will take you past the Dubé Centre for Mental Health, the Leslie and Irene Dubé Health Sciences Library, and St. Thomas More College, home to the Les and Irene Dubé Community Service-Learning Program.

These are just a few of the similarly named facilities in the city.

Les says their reason for giving is faith-based. "We believe we've been well rewarded in our lives and it's because of our faith. This is why we believe in supporting the community any way that we can. We believe we have a responsibility wherever we see a need to do something to help others."

For their kind, enduring and unfaltering support of the community and the

"We believe we've been well rewarded in our lives and it's because of our faith. We believe we have a responsibility wherever we see a need to do something to help others."

hospital, the Foundation sincerely thanks Irene and Les Dubé.

The \$1 million Dubé gift to Making the O.R. a PriORity is matching, meaning any donation you make now will be immediately doubled. To donate, visit SCHFgo.com and click donate, call 306-655-8489 (1-800-603-4464 toll free) or visit the Foundation office. □



KAYE PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY ENDOWMENT PRESENT 17TH LECTURE

Neuro-ophthalmologist from Toronto SickKids was guest lecturer

The Kaye Pediatric Ophthalmology Endowment is soon entering its third decade. The endowment was created in 1998 by Olga and Ludwig Kaye in tribute to their late daughter, Constance, and in appreciation for the care provided to her at the Eye Care Centre in Saskatoon City Hospital.

Sadly, Ludwig also passed away before the fund presented the first Kaye Pediatric Ophthalmology Lecture in 2002. Olga Kaye has remained active in the lecture attending an annual dinner for Eye Care Centre staff and visiting dignitaries, as part of the event.

The goal of the endowment and the lecture is to connect ophthalmologists, orthoptists and other eye health professionals working in the Eye Care Centre with highly regarded consultants and specialists from around the world.

This year's Kaye Pediatric Ophthalmology Lecture was pleased to present Dr. Arun Reginald, a pediatric neuro-ophthalmologist with SickKids

hospital in Toronto, Ontario.

Dr. Reginald obtained science and medical degrees in London, England and postgraduate degrees in Glasgow, Scotland and Birmingham, England. He completed further training and fellowships in London, England, Toronto, and Oxford, England.

He's served as assistant professor; adjunct, Queens University, Kingston, Ontario from 2012 to present. Dr. Reginald is currently awaiting review in application for position of assistant professor at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Reginald is the staff pediatric neuro-ophthalmologist at the Hospital for Sick Children (Sick Kids) in Toronto. His training includes pediatric ophthalmology, strabismus surgery, neuro-ophthalmology and oculoplastic surgery and training in neuro-radiology, neuro-oncology and ocular pathology.

His keynote address was entitled "Optical Coherence Tomography in

Pediatric Neuro Ophthalmology: Is it just Astronomy, Astrology or something more useful?" In smaller sessions, Dr. Reginald discussed topics such as functional vision loss in children; approaches to the suspicious disc in children; and techniques for the neuro-ophthalmic examination in children.

Dr. Reginald also focused on specific neuro-ophthalmology and strabismus cases, and discussed other cases presented by staff orthoptists and other lecture series attendees.

The 18th Kaye Pediatric Ophthalmology lecture will be held in September 2020.

Pictured above - back row (left-right): Kate Pendleton (orthoptist), Joel Hyndman (orthoptist), Steve Shannon, SCHF CEO, Dr. Arun Reginald (ophthalmologist), Dr. Paul Murphy (ophthalmologist), Tracy Boyle, SCHF. Front row (left-right): Dr. Frozan Qasemi (ophthalmologist), Marlene Conrad, Mrs. Olga Kaye, Dr. Vasudha Erraguntla (ophthalmologist). □

LOTTERIES, GOLFUN, OUZOPALOOZA HIGHLIGHT SPRING EVENTS

Putting the fun in fundraising



If you're in luck, there may be tickets left for the spring's **Hospital Home Lottery**. You can get yours at the Foundation office, the showhome, hospitalhomelottery.org, or by calling 1-866-957-0777.

If the lottery is sold out, it'd be no surprise. The grand prize was a stunning \$1.8 million home in Greenbryre built by Rocy Homes and decorated by Atmosphere Interior Design. It featured a massive 4,400 square feet, five bedrooms, three bathrooms, two powder rooms, a master suite, home gym, craft room, and a three-car garage.

The earlybird prize was a Land Rover and an 11-day trip to Rome or \$100,000 cash. Other vehicles were a Porsche Macan, a Jaguar XE, and an Audi A3. Vacation destinations included Hawaii, Sicily, California, and New York. The bonus prize was a seven-day European river cruise and there were three VIP prize trips to San Francisco.

There were hundreds of other prizes as well as the popular cash calendar and

the 50-50 AddOn. If the lottery is sold out, prizes will be drawn for the first week of April. For more information, visit hospitalhomelottery.org.



Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, do you wonder when **Golfun** is?

Wonder no more. Golfun takes place Thursday, May 21 at Greenbryre Golf and Country Club. It begins at noon with a barbecue and tee-off following. Golfers can enjoy 12 holes of golf, a scrumptious dinner and the chance to bid on fabulous auction prizes.

Entry fees include golf, power cart, lunch, dinner, and other incentives.

It's fun and for a great cause. Since 2003, Golfun has raised more

than \$400,000 for the Cameco MS Neuroscience Research Centre. You can follow at facebook.com/GolfunSCHF. For information on sponsorships and registration, email hvassos@sasktel.net.



Hosted by the Greek Community of Saskatoon, **Ouzopalooza** takes place at the Sheraton Cavalier on Friday, June 5. Attendees can enjoy authentic Greek food and fine wine. One lucky person wins a trip for two to Greece!

The event, now in its 11th year, has raised more than \$240,000 and helped purchase retinal and Fundus cameras and pediatric diagnostic equipment for the Eye Care Centre. These tools provide eye care professionals with more accurate imaging that allows for better diagnoses and treatments.

For more information, search for Ouzopalooza on Facebook.

Next issue: Watch for highlights and proceeds results from Swinging with the Stars and Black Tie Bingo in our Summer 2020 issue of Well Aware. □

The **Festival of Trees** is a large part of Saskatoon's busy Christmas scene. The 2019 event saw more than 20,000 people attend during the nine-day festival. People enjoyed the dazzling trees, wreaths and gingerbread houses set amongst the Western Development Museum displays.

Attendees also enjoyed special events like Brunch with Santa, the Perfectly Princess Tea Party, and the Father-Daughter Gala. There were also daily happenings, including story time presented by the Saskatoon Public Library, photos with Santa, face painting, and special character appearances courtesy of The Enchanted Garden Character Co.

Thanks to all sponsors, designers, volunteers and attendees! The 2019 Festival of Trees raised an amazing \$100,000. Proceeds were directed to the purchase of an automated medication dispensing system for the hospital. Your support ensures that the right patient receives the right medication at the right time!

For more information, visit festival-of-trees.com or follow the event on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.




The 2019-20 **BHP Enchanted Forest** opened its season with a massively popular Saskatchewan Blue Cross Light Walk. More than 9,000 people enjoyed the lights on foot, the highest number since the event was created.

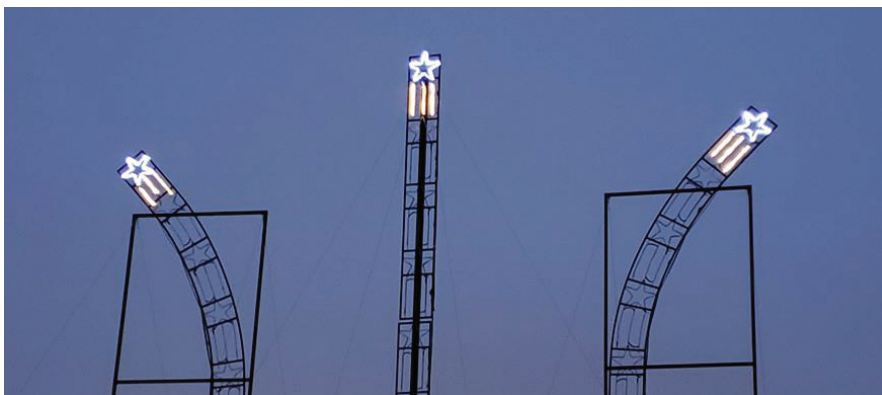
Drive-in traffic was strong with the Enchanted Forest covering two Christmases – this year's event was extended until Ukrainian Christmas Eve. Another 4,000 people took in the second night Saskatchewan Blue Cross Light Walk, bringing

total attendance for the 2019-2020 Enchanted Forest to almost 77,000.

The theme this year was *Starry Starry Nights*. With the Grinch, Noah's Ark, and 12 Days of Christmas included in returning displays, this year's newest display was Shooting Stars – three magical stars that shot high above the Forestry Farm sky.

Proceeds will be announced soon. The BHP Enchanted Forest supports both the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation and Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation. Your attendance helped purchase an automated medication dispensing system for the hospital.

For more information, visit enchanted-forest.org or follow on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. 



LEFT: Rick Steffen presents a cheque to Kendra Parfitt, the Foundation's executive assistant. The Foundation offers heartfelt thanks to Rick for his long-time commitment to the Festival of Trees. Rick first became involved with the Festival in 1991 and became its CEO in 1993. He held that position for 27 years, helping the Festival raise more than \$2 million for the Foundation and hospital.

Rick isn't done with making Christmas, though. He'll continue his role with the BHP Enchanted Forest, where he supervises creation, set up and maintenance of those wonderful displays. Thank you, Rick, for lighting up our lives for so many years!



FOUNDATION OFFERS WORTHWHILE PLANNING SEMINAR

Estate planning seminar takes place Wednesday, May 6

Do you worry about outliving your retirement income or how to leave more for your family? If you said yes, then you're no different from millions of other people in Canada.

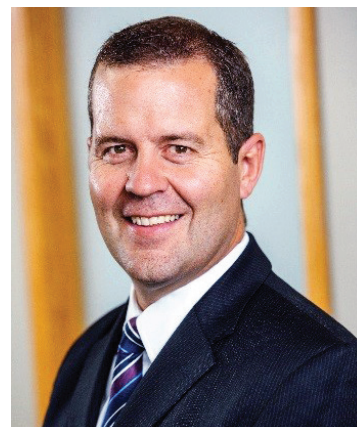
Some people decide they don't want to follow the path of typical Canadians. Instead, they choose to live the retirement that they always dreamed of; the retirement that they planned for! If you would ask them about their secret, they would tell you, "It's simple. Take control now!"

Here's your chance to do just that. All it takes is 90 minutes for you to learn how to reduce the impact the Canada Revenue Agency has on your family's net worth. You can do this by attending a special seminar presented by Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation. It takes place in the Twilight Room at the Willows Golf and Country Club on Wednesday, May 6. Registration is at 2:30; the session begins at 3:00. Refreshments will be served.

"The seminar will teach people how to minimize or even eliminate taxes on their estates," says Tracy Boyle, the Foundation's director of Major and Planned Gifts. "Topics presented will include how to avoid double taxation on your 'Red' retirement accounts, how to bypass paying upfront capital gains taxes when selling your investments, how to convert assets into an income you can't outlive, and how to leave a lasting legacy."

The session is led by certified financial planner Jay Stark, a Saskatoon-based wealth advisor, philanthropic consultant and financial educator.

"Jay is one of the city's most knowledgeable, entertaining and engaging speakers on the topic of how you can save income and minimize estate taxes," Boyle says. "He's been successfully advising individuals, families and business owners on how to significantly reduce their income and estate taxes for more than 18 years."



Jay Stark, wealth advisor.

"His presentations further expand on these key strategies and take full advantage of the tax incentives the government has created to encourage charitable giving. His counsel and expertise have helped hundreds of families realize their goals of giving back and creating a lasting legacy."

She adds that the seminar is updated to include new 2020 Estate Tax Laws.

Seating is complimentary but limited. Email Tracy.Boyle@schfgo.com to register or call 306-655-8538. □

ANNUAL STAFF PANCAKE BREAKFAST

More than 500 employees and volunteers turn out for early morning event

Every year, usually the first Thursday of October, the Foundation thanks staff and volunteers with a free pancake breakfast. This year saw more than 500 employees and volunteers attend.

They were treated to free coffee and juice, pancakes and sausages, prepared by the great staff from the hospital's Food & Nutrition Services.

Attendees could also enter their names for a draw that saw dozens of prizes. Congrats to all the lucky winners and thanks for all you do!

Special thanks goes to Foundation board members who volunteered to serve at the breakfast.



JIM AND LISA YUEL PLEDGE \$250,000 TO FOUNDATION

Retired couple enjoying active lifestyle

Jim and Lisa Yuel have pledged \$250,000 to Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation.

The donation was inspired after the couple encountered Foundation CEO Steve Shannon at a recent event. “We’ve supported many charities and other hospitals, so we realized it was time that we gave to Saskatoon City Hospital,” Jim says.

“Lisa is the primary driver in directing our donations but I’m happy to share with different charities,” he adds, noting they’re happy to be giving to Saskatoon City Hospital. “We felt this was an opportunity to give where it’s most needed rather than a specific campaign or piece of equipment.”

The couple are leading a less hectic but active lifestyle. Jim remained with the family company, PIC Investment Group, as his son, Greg, took over in the late 2000’s. He officially retired from all but one board in 2016.

Jim and Lisa make the most of life both in and out of Saskatchewan. “We have land north of Prince Albert and west of Saskatoon so I like to go and put up trail cameras,” Jim reports of his hobbies. “We also both golf a couple of times every week in the summer.”

“Most of what I do are active things,” Lisa adds. “Jim tends to like outdoor things; I like indoor things that can also be done outside.”



Jim and Lisa Yuel wanted to give back by donating to Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation

The couple also enjoys their winters in warmer climes south of the border, she adds. “We’ve travelled and seen beautiful areas of the world but when I come home and see our city, I’m always proud to be here.”

Their active lifestyle is why the Yuels directed part of their gift to support therapies at the hospital. Proceeds also supported new climate controlled inventory fridges for the hospital’s Pharmacy department.

They also agreed to fund a drive to enroll employees in payroll deductions for SCH Foundation – all newly enrolled or increased payroll donations given in 2020 will be matched up to \$25,000.

“We think this is a great city to live and work in. I’m a really firm believer in giving back to our community any way you can.”

“We think this is a great city to live and work in. I’m a really firm believer in giving back to our community any way you can,” Lisa says. “You give back the way you can. If you’re helping your neighbour and they’re helping their neighbour, then we’re all helping each other.”

Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation thanks Jim and Lisa Yuel for their thoughtful gift. □



Gayleen Mann from the Wilkie St. James C.W.L. presents a cheque to the Foundation's Judy Giles. The group has raised more than \$30,000 for the Breast Health Centre since 2005.

A Key Donation

"Can the hospital use a baby grand piano?" That was the question that Saskatoon company **Loraas** asked of Foundation CEO Steve Shannon late last fall.

Shannon suspected it might. Saskatoon City Hospital's Volunteer Services department organizes Music in the Wings, a program that sees volunteers offer their musical talents for the enjoyment of patients and families. The program is supported by the Foundation's Ray & Debbie Penner

Music Therapy Endowment, created to provide music as a source of healing, comfort and inspiration.

The unique architecture of the hospital and its atrium are ideal. Music played on the first floor wafts through the air and can be heard throughout eight floors. The acoustics of a baby grand are enhanced in this atmosphere.

The Loraas donation was also timely. The piano was relocated to Saskatoon City Hospital just in time for the holiday season. Thank you Loraas for making spirits bright!

A Tradition Continues

The **Pink Night** fundraiser in Wilkie started back in 2005, when the Foundation was first raising funds to open the Breast Health Centre. The event, organized by **Wilkie St. James Catholic Women's League**, was one of many around the province that led to the creation of the Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre of Care, the Breast Health Centre.

Since then, Pink Night has raised more than \$30,000 for SCHF, supporting such projects as the centre's expansion in 2012, purchase of an automated breast ultrasound and replacement of the prone biopsy table.

Gayleen Mann of the Wilkie St. James C.W.L. dropped in before Christmas to present the cheque in person. It was fitting that the Foundation's accounting administrator, Judy Giles received the cheque. Giles is a breast cancer survivor who also raised funds for the creation of the centre.

Thank you to the Wilkie St. James C.W.L. for a great tradition and for many years of support. □

IN MEMORIAM/ IN HONOUR

Donations were made from August 1 to December 31, 2019 in memory of the following people:

Terry Adair
Connie Bews
Olga Bokshowan
Albert Broudy
Beverley Caldwell
Jean Cole
Tom & Joyce Cutler
Peter Danchak
Ed Diener
Bill Fleming

Alice M. Guttormson
Ella Hoffer
Gay Hunt
Bill Insull
Anne E. Junk
Dana Kaczmar
Robert J. Klassen
R. M. Kononoff
Peter Krawchuk
Bettie MacDonald

Susan Mandziuk
Robert McCloy
Lyle McPherson
Erdman Neudorf
Elmer Schwartz
Dale Soroski
Robert A. Steane
Jean & Goff Strachan
Donald Uhran
Caroline R. Welbourne
Marion Wilson

Donations were made from August 1 to December 31, 2019 in honour of the following people:

Joan Baker
Dr. Kevin Colleaux

Cathy MacFarlane
Jackie Seipp

Natalie Soulodre



DONATE

SCHFgo.com

IT'S EASY TO DONATE

It feels good to give. And it's easy, too, if you're wanting to give to Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation.

You can give in person at the Foundation office, next to the front entrance of Saskatoon City Hospital. You can also call 306-655-8489 or toll-free at 1-800-603-4464.

If you prefer online, you can give conveniently by visiting SCHFgo.com. You can see our latest equipment needs, check out donor stories, discover upcoming events, and view your options for legacy giving.

Finally, a great way to give is monthly giving. It saves you the trouble of writing and mailing cheques. Each month, a set amount is automatically deducted from your bank account or credit card and you receive one handy receipt at year-end. You can increase your donation or stop it anytime by contacting the Foundation.