

WELL AWARE

PEOPLE CARING FOR PEOPLE

SUMMER 2020

**SCH AND
THE
COVID
CRISIS**

**MAKING
THE O.R. A
PRIORITY**



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Back row (l-r) Rosine Garabedian, Warren Postlewaite, Holly Ward, Braden Turnquist, Steve Shannon (CEO), Randy Singler (Chair), Dr. Kabir Virdi, Tracy Arno, Depesh Parmar. Front row (l-r): Terry Sirois, Deven Stewart, Tj Keller, Liam Mooney, Heather Ryan, Meghan Gervais.

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ON THE COVER

The recent pandemic crisis affected the number and types of procedures offered by the hospital's Operating Room. It also proves how vital it is and how much your support is needed to ensure the best possible patient outcomes.



SCH O.R. AND COVID-19

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Steve Shannon

This year I've been reminded twice of how great our health care system is.

The first was personal. On December 27, a Friday night, I was feeling so unwell that our son convinced me to go to emergency at RUH. Blood tests revealed enzymes were present, indicating a shocking cardiac event.

I'd had a heart attack. A few days later, an angiogram discovered one 90 percent and three 80 percent blockages in my arteries. Two weeks after that I had a quadruple bypass.

I was lucky. Well, luck had little to do with it. It was terrific health care, led by wonderful nurses and skilled doctors. Because of them, my recovery was as smooth and pleasant as possible.

I was expecting to return to work just before the Easter break.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic came and everything changed. The global health crisis put my own health challenges in perspective. I felt even more blessed when considering the hundreds of families in Saskatchewan and millions around the world affected and endangered by COVID-19.

I was reminded yet again how great our health care system is because of how great its frontline workers are. When the pandemic struck and the provincial emergency was called, most of us

heeded the call and stayed at home. Health care workers didn't. Everyone – doctors, nurses, cleaners, security, and administrative staff – rose up.

They went beyond, putting their own health at risk, to ensure that patients were looked after, facilities were cleaned frequently, visitors understood protocol, and that information was going out regularly.

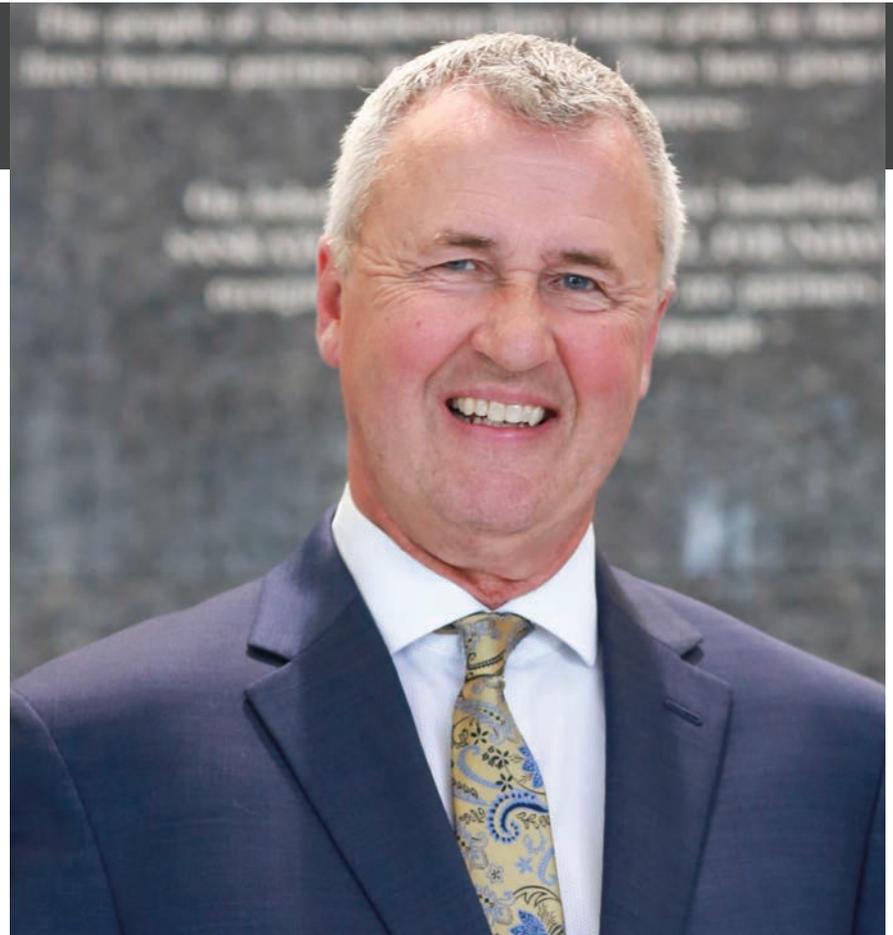
Their response, both to me personally and the province as a whole, makes me swell with pride.

Your efforts to stay in and away should not go unnoticed. As of this writing,

Saskatchewan residents are making great efforts to flatten the curve and it's showing in a big way. Together we're having a positive impact on reducing the spread of COVID-19. It may not feel like it, but you're saving lives.

My role with the Foundation, as a volunteer on the board and then as CEO, has always been so meaningful and rewarding. But my own experience in 2020 will make it even more so. Because I know for sure there is a team that has my back and a larger team that has everyone's backs.

Thank you for being you and for being people caring for people!



Donate at
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DONORS COME TOGETHER

Funding supports heart monitors, spirometer, third vein viewer

Thank you and by “you” the Foundation really means “all of you!”

That’s because the past few months have seen a collaborative effort by donors of all sorts. The result of your kindness has benefitted the hospital’s Emergency Department, patients with respiratory issues, and patients who experience difficulty with IV insertions.

Those patients are specifically ones visiting **Medical Imaging**, notably patients receiving fluoroscopy. Because it involves injecting a dye or liquid into patients, IVs are needed. As with patients everywhere, there are a significant number who experience difficulty having these started.

The hospital is already home to two vein viewers, one for general use throughout and another located in the Clinical Treatment Centre. Because Medical Imaging sees more than 50,000 patients annually and thousands of those are fluoroscopy or related patients, it was felt that the department needed its own vein viewer.

Vein viewers use ultraviolet light to map out veins in a patient’s arm, allowing nurses to more easily insert needles without serious discomfort and pain.

The hospital’s **Emergency Department** now has a new cardiac monitoring system, thanks to you. Nine new bedside monitors and two central monitoring stations were installed in the spring. They replace a system that was aging and prone to breakdown, especially on busy weekends.



The monitors were funded by a pledge from longtime friends of the hospital and community supporters, Irene and Leslie Dubé. Because it was a matching gift, the Foundation’s appeal to donors was a resounding success. Thank you to Irene and Les and to all donors who gave from the heart for the heart to support this.

If you bought and proudly wore a poppy last year, then you helped the hospital acquire an important piece for spirometry procedures. Spirometry is a common clinical test used to assess how well your lungs work by measuring how much air you inhale, how much you exhale and how quickly you exhale. It’s useful for diagnosing

asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and other conditions that affect breathing.

The **Spirolab Touch Spirometer** is ideal because several different departments such as Transitional Care, the Convalescent Unit, the Rehab inpatient ward, and the MS and ALS clinics all have patients that would benefit. Being a portable unit, respiratory technologists can visit patients at bedside or in clinic to conduct tests quickly and easily.

The equipment was paid for by the Saskatoon Poppy Fund. For more information, see the Donor Corner section of this issue. □

MAKING THE O.R. A PRIORITY

Operating Room at SCH remained vital during pandemic



During the pandemic crisis, the Operating Room at Saskatoon City Hospital remained open and vital, reports its manager, Terri Nixey.

“The department continued to function but only to serve urgent and emergent cases. The plan was for the ophthalmology operating theatre and ophthalmology procedures to be the last remaining service until it was necessary to move it to RUH. Everyone’s fingers were crossed that we wouldn’t reach that point.”

Nixey says that this was done because of the staff requirements. “The ophthalmology theatre has specific and specialized equipment that is required as well as a team of talented and specialized nurses who are familiar with assisting for these surgeries. It would be difficult to move everything and everyone or to try to do the same elsewhere in the system.”

With Saskatoon City Hospital as the site for the Eye Care Centre, it

“The team work and collaborative effort from all of the O.R. staff and their leadership is what got us through this.”

has a unique role in the spectrum of services offered in the city. “The Eye Care Centre is somewhat of our eye emergency department. Because it’s housed at SCH, it’s closely connected to the ophthalmology operating theatre. To lose that connection wouldn’t be in the best interest of patients.”

Nixey says the Operating Room took numerous extra precautions to ensure everyone’s safety during the crisis. “We placed lots of signage with hand hygiene reminders everywhere. The OR also had a set limit for patients and visitors. And we created an ante

room for the OR to create a negative pressure environment for presumed or positive cases of COVID-19.”

Nixey adds that staff diligently prepared for the worse. “We did many simulations and practiced donning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPE). This was especially important if we were to be part of any aerosol generating medical procedures such as intubation. Nursing staff participated in intubation teams with their anesthesia colleagues.”

She was amazed by how staff rose to the challenge. “The team work and collaborative effort from all O.R. staff and their leadership is what got us through this. I was humbled and proud of everyone’s efforts and willingness to help anyway they could.”

This was done even though it was so vastly different and wholly unique. “We’ve never seen anything like it so it was uncharted territory for all of us.”

Foundation CEO Steve Shannon says the pandemic proves why support for the O.R. is necessary. “Making the O.R. a PriORity was launched because of both how busy and how vital the Operating Room is.

“With a likely backlog of procedures due to the pandemic, the O.R. will be even busier. So, it’s even more important to ensure that the O.R. has the best, the latest and the safest equipment,” Shannon says.

For more information on the campaign, see the next two pages. □

MAKING THE O.R. A PRIORITY

\$3.7 million initiative will ensure O.R. has latest, best and safest equipment



One of the busiest departments at Saskatoon City Hospital is the operating room (O.R.). With 12 separate operating theatres, the O.R. 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.

Terri 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.

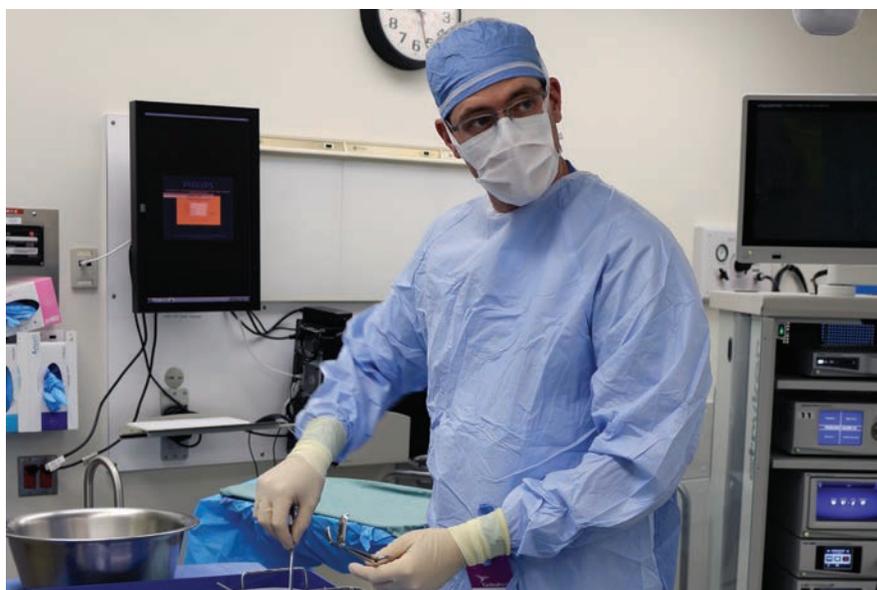
"We're asking you to help us provide the best and latest for the awesome people who work in the O.R."

"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 wonderful news. "We started 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."

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One of the largest components is an upgrade of the O.R.'s cystoscopy suite. "It's 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," he adds. "It's no longer supported and breaks down monthly. We've been told parts will soon no longer be available so there'll be a time when it's simply not repairable."

Like all parts of the O.R., Dr. Jana says the cystoscopy suite is well used. "The room is used at least three days a week and more with six to eight patients every day. That's the minimum.

"So, if the equipment breaks down, that's two dozen or more patients every week who'll have to be placed for procedures elsewhere in the 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, 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 its 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. 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 sees what's in the microscope. The 3D system allows other staff 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 viewer 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 that are now permanently shut down.

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. □



YOU CAN HELP PATIENTS

Pulmonary Function Lab, Centrella bed for Rehab needed

You can help patients at City Hospital through the addition of a Pulmonary Function testing lab in the hospital's **Central Therapies** department.

Pulmonary function tests (PFTs) are noninvasive procedures that measure several aspects of the respiratory system to determine how well lungs are working. Tests measure volume, capacity, rates of flow, and gas exchange. They help professionals diagnose and treat lung disorders.

“Currently patients can only go to Royal University Hospital for PFTs,” says Heather Miazga, director, Critical Care/Respiratory/Organ Donation in Saskatoon. “By adding PF testing capabilities at St. Paul’s and Saskatoon City Hospital, it would result in not having to transfer patients.”

This would benefit City Hospital patients, for whom transferring would be detrimental, in Rehab, Transitional Care, Convalescent Care and other long-term inpatient units. Outpatients, especially those with MS or ALS, would also benefit from having PFTs at the same time as other appointments scheduled at the hospital.

“Patients with any kind of respiratory condition, such as asthma, need PF tests,” adds Holly Scott, manager of the Sleep Disorder Centre, whose respiratory technologists would conduct



the tests. “Usually it’s once a year but in some cases it’s more and may be up to four times a year.”

While the wait time for such tests isn’t long – about a week to two weeks currently – it can take two weeks or longer for physicians to read tests, meaning patients may wait more than a month for results.

Part of adding the ability to perform PFTs at Saskatoon City Hospital would be adding technology allowing

physicians to remotely read the results of those tests. “The results are currently paper-based and the process of getting them to physicians to read can be tedious,” Miazga explains. “Adding an interface to the testing will get the results quicker into the hands of those people who need it.”

They say that the interface allows for sooner diagnosis and treatment decisions, a plus for patients.

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Donate at SCHFgo.com

ANNE SEED BEQUESTS \$64,000 TO FOUNDATION

Longtime employee of federal government

Even though he was 15 years younger than his sister, Anne Seed, Ken Chomin has fond memories of her.

“She loved to play Hawaiian guitar. She even tried to teach me how to play but that was a lost cause,” Ken recalls with a chuckle.

Growing up in Moose Jaw in the 1930s, he remembered their mom needing to work. “So Anne, who was the oldest, was the one who looked after myself, my brother and my two sisters.”

Anne Seed was 95 years old when she passed away in 2016. Through her will, Anne left a gift for the Foundation of more than \$64,000.

Ken says Anne worked all her life and was working for a TV station in Moose Jaw when she met and married Pat Seed. The couple moved to Saskatoon, where Anne enjoyed a long career as a

secretary for the federal government.

Ken, who moved to Alberta, recalled driving from Medicine Hat to Saskatoon to visit Anne frequently.

In later years, Anne continued to enjoy playing the Hawaiian guitar. She also liked gardening, travelling, and oil painting. “Her house was filled with her paintings and she’d also give them away to her family and friends.”

The donation to the Foundation came likely because Anne’s husband, Pat, spent a long time in City Hospital before he passed in 2000. “I think she’d spent time there herself,” Ken adds.

He says his sister lived independently in her own home for many years, hiring people to keep her house and yard.

Anne was briefly a resident of the Warman Mennonite Special Care



Home at the time of her passing. She was lovingly remembered by her brother Ken, her son, Dennis, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

The Foundation is grateful that Anne chose to remember and honour Saskatoon City Hospital in her will.

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You also can help bariatric patients in the hospital’s in-patient **Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation unit**.

The unit has 33 beds for people recovering from conditions such as stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury and other neurological disorders, amputations, or multiple traumas.

The unit has asked for support in purchasing a bed designed with bariatric patients in mind. Manufactured by Hill-Rom, the Centrella bed is four inches wider and can be extended up to seven-feet long for taller patients.



It’s also motorized, making it easier and safer for both staff and patients when transferring or moving.

With a high-end mattress that prevents pressure wounds, the Centrella bed is a technological marvel. It has a gentle voice alarm and flashing icons that warns staff of safety issues. The verbal alarm also is effective in preventing patients from getting out of bed.

“We’re currently renting a bed like it for \$110 a day. Buying a bed will result in significant savings over the five to seven years of its life,” says Dean Nahachewsky, manager of the Rehab ward. “We’ve a clear demand in the ward for this type of bed. It will be used almost all of the time.”

To support visit SCHFgo.com and click donate. You also can donate by phone at 306-655-8489 or toll-free 1-800-603-4464.

DR. HUNG-FOOK AND THERESA MA CREATE ENDOWMENT

Saskatoon couple had long careers in health care

After decades of working and thriving in health care, long-time Saskatoon residents Dr. Hung-Fook and Theresa Ma decided it was time to give back.

The couple chose to create a \$100,000 endowment with the intent that funds from its interest could support areas of highest and greatest need at the time they're being withdrawn.

"We earned our living from the medical field so we decided we wanted it to go back there," Dr. Ma says of the donation, noting the couple also donated to St. Paul's and Royal University Hospital Foundations.

"We wanted the money to stretch out so it could be used for more than just one thing," Theresa adds of why they created an endowment. "Our children are doing well and don't really need our wealth, which is another reason we decided to donate. This way all the people in the community benefit."

The two also donated because of connections to hospitals. Their two children were born at City and St. Paul's, Theresa did training or worked at all three, while Dr. Ma had visiting privileges to all three hospitals as well.

"There's so much benefit we got from the hospitals," Theresa says. "We decided that now is the time for us to return it along with our gratitude."

Originally from Hong Kong, the Mas spent time in England, Halifax and then Kingston before settling in Saskatoon. "I came to work for the Saskatoon



Dr. Hung-Fook and Theresa Ma decided it was time to give back.

Community Clinic in 1964 just shortly after the medical crisis and doctor's strike," Dr. Ma says.

He adds that they decided to remain in Saskatoon because it was a more affordable place to live. "We also thought that it was a better environment to raise our children."

"We earned our living from the medical field so we decided we wanted our donation to go back there. This way all of the people in the community will benefit from it."

In 1971, he went into private practice, retiring in 2007. But Dr. Ma continued to work part-time at a minor emergency clinic. Just last year he received a certificate for working 55 years as a physician in the city.

After the Mas children were born, Theresa decided to return to university and graduated as a registered nurse. Her nursing career saw her employed at St. Paul's Hospital, the Saskatoon Sanatorium, the Victorian Order of Nurses and then with Saskatoon Home Care until she retired in 2006. "Now we like to travel whenever we can," Theresa says. The couple's two children are grown and living in California and New York, along with two grandchildren.

Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation thanks Theresa and Dr. Hung-Fook Ma for their caring and lasting gift. □

SWINGING WITH THE STARS RAISES \$170,000

Proceeds support Making the O.R. a PriORity



ENS Auto Swinging with the Stars happily welcomed dance fans to the roaring 2020s with a memorable night that was the cat's meow!

Even as the doors opened on February 1, one could tell that the sold-out event was off to a great start. The 750 attendees were into the spirit of the theme – gals were adorned with frills, chokers, pearls and fascinators. Men were decked out in bow ties, suspenders and newsboy caps.

After a plated meal served by the TCU Place staff, the enthusiastic crowd welcomed the ENS Auto Swinging with the Stars emcees, Stacy and Clayton from CRUZ96.3. The radio celebs then introduced the guest judges, Mike Couros, Jill Novakoski of Dance Street, and CTV Saskatoon's Jeff Rogstad.

Then it was show time! Eight local celebrities and their professional dance partners amazed and wowed the crowd with hip hop, jazz, Latin, contemporary, Broadway, Ukrainian, and even ballet routines.

This year's dancers were the bee's knees. They included former pro hockey player Dave Chartier and Halie Chartier; Tourism Saskatoon VP Stephanie Clovechok and Ryan Sheppard; chiropractor Andy Pawlowich and Kendal Geier; teacher and owner of Smoke's Poutinerie Darryl Finch with Katie Bergen; Two Fifty Two Boutique owner MacKenzie Firby and Cole Chorney; CTV Morning Live's Mike Ciona and Adam Breckner; Cameco's Jonathan Huntington and Bailey Gitzel; and O'Shea's Jay Beavis with Andrea Fontaine.

The dancers sashayed and shimmied to the delight of the crowd. In the end, Darryl Finch and Katie Bergen captured the Judges Choice award, while Jonathan and Bailey emerged as the Crowd Favourite and 2020 Champions after bringing in the most votes online and at the event.

The other big winner of the night was Saskatoon City Hospital. The 8th annual ENS Auto Swinging with the Stars raised an awesome \$170,000! Proceeds support the Foundation's Making the O.R. a PriORity campaign.

Thanks to all who sponsored, attended and voted. For more information, visit the website at SWTSevents.com. You can also follow on Facebook: facebook.com/SwtsSaskatoon and on Instagram at [@swtsyxex](https://www.instagram.com/swtsyxex).



SAVE THESE NEW DATES

COVID-19 pandemic affects Foundation events

Because of the public policy regarding mass gatherings, all of Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation's spring events were cancelled or postponed.

This began with the **EY Black Tie Bingo** that was to take place on March 21. Due to the size of the sold-out event, the decision has been made to cancel for 2020 and to instead hold the 25th Black Tie Bingo in March of 2021.

An official date will be released in the fall. In the meantime, you can stay in touch at facebook.com/BlackTieBingoSCHF.

Golfun now takes place on **Thursday, September 17** 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. 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** is now at the Sheraton Cavalier on **Friday, October 16**. Attendees can enjoy authentic Greek food and fine wine. One lucky person wins a trip for two to Greece!

The event, in its 11th year, has raised more than \$240,000 to 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.

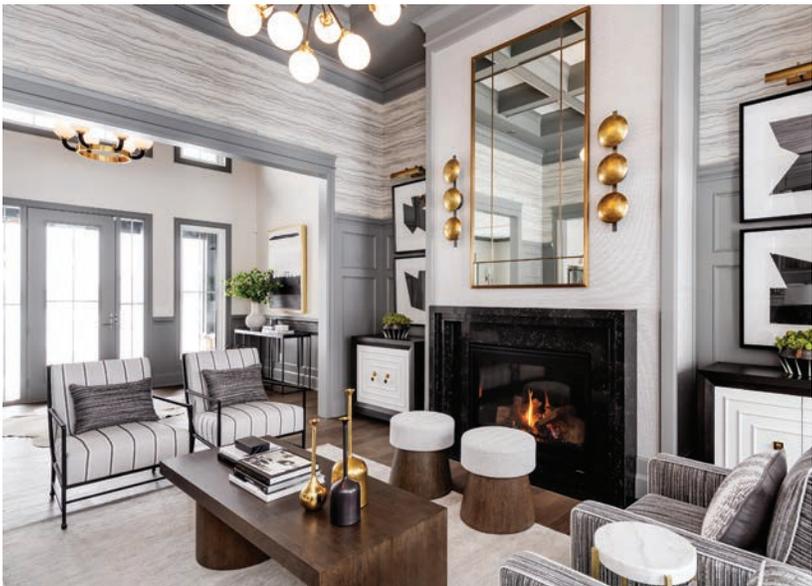
And a huge thanks to all who bought tickets for the **Hospital Home Lottery**

this spring. Your support saw it sell out at the height of the pandemic! It also led to a record-smashing 50-50 – \$1,012,750! All winners were drawn by Easter week and were contacted by either phone or letter soon after.

In case you missed it, don't worry. The fall lottery starts sales in early July. It features another grand prize home in Greenbryre and an awesome cottage at Elk Ridge. For more information, visit HospitalHomeLottery.org.



Above: Golfun will take place Sept. 17. Top right: Ouzopalooza happens on Oct. 16. Right: Tickets for the fall Hospital Home Lottery go on sale in July.



MERVIN SCHNEIDER PLANS TO LEAVE \$100,000 TO FOUNDATION

Saskatoon man had variety of careers

Mervin Schneider is one of those people who just never seems to stop. In the past 20 years, that's been to the benefit of numerous organizations.

Born in 1942, Mervin was one of 10 children whose parents farmed near Revenue. After completing his Grade 12 and serving as valedictorian, he enrolled in Saskatoon Business College.

He was articling as a chartered accountant when he decided, "after so many years of school, I didn't want to look at books anymore." Mervin turned his attention to mining, working in the Northwest Territories and at Cory and Cominco potash mines.

In 1975, he bought his own Radio Cab, driving it and employing others to drive until he sold the cab and retired in 2001.

But he was still active, he says. "That was when I got addicted to volunteering. I still am. I also discovered I really like door-to-door canvassing."

"I'd sooner give my money to charity. I've always thought that hospitals do very important work."

For the next 10 years, Mervin would hit the streets almost every month of the year, ringing doorbells for a variety of charitable organizations. In 2005, he also began delivering Meals on Wheels and did that almost every day of the week until just a few years ago.



Mervin Schneider is an ardent donor and volunteer.

Approaching 80, he's slowed down due to health problems. That's if by slowing down you mean still delivering Meals on Wheels many days a week and volunteering for four organizations, mainly as an area captain for door-to-door campaigns.

A donor to many causes since the late 1970s, he says, "I'd sooner give the money to charity than the government. I'd rather make charitable donations and then save on income tax."

Mervin's also decided to leave money for several organizations in his will.

This includes a \$100,000 bequest to Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation and major gifts to both Royal University and St. Paul's Hospital Foundations. "I've also taken 20 smaller charities and they have an amount to share."

He says his reason for donating to hospitals is "pretty hard to answer because I've never spent a lot of time in hospitals. I guess I've always thought that they do very important work."

Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation thanks Mervin Schneider for his kind and very thoughtful plans. □

Therapy animals, especially dogs, have become a regular sight at hospitals. The science proves these four-legged volunteers are beneficial to people in times of stress.

Now, thanks to the **Rosella & Dolor Grisé Patient Care Endowment**, you'll see more furry visitors at Saskatoon City Hospital. The endowment has agreed to fund SJA Therapy Dog handlers to certify in Building an Awareness of Cultural Humility as part of the Saskatchewan Health Authority's reconciliation efforts.

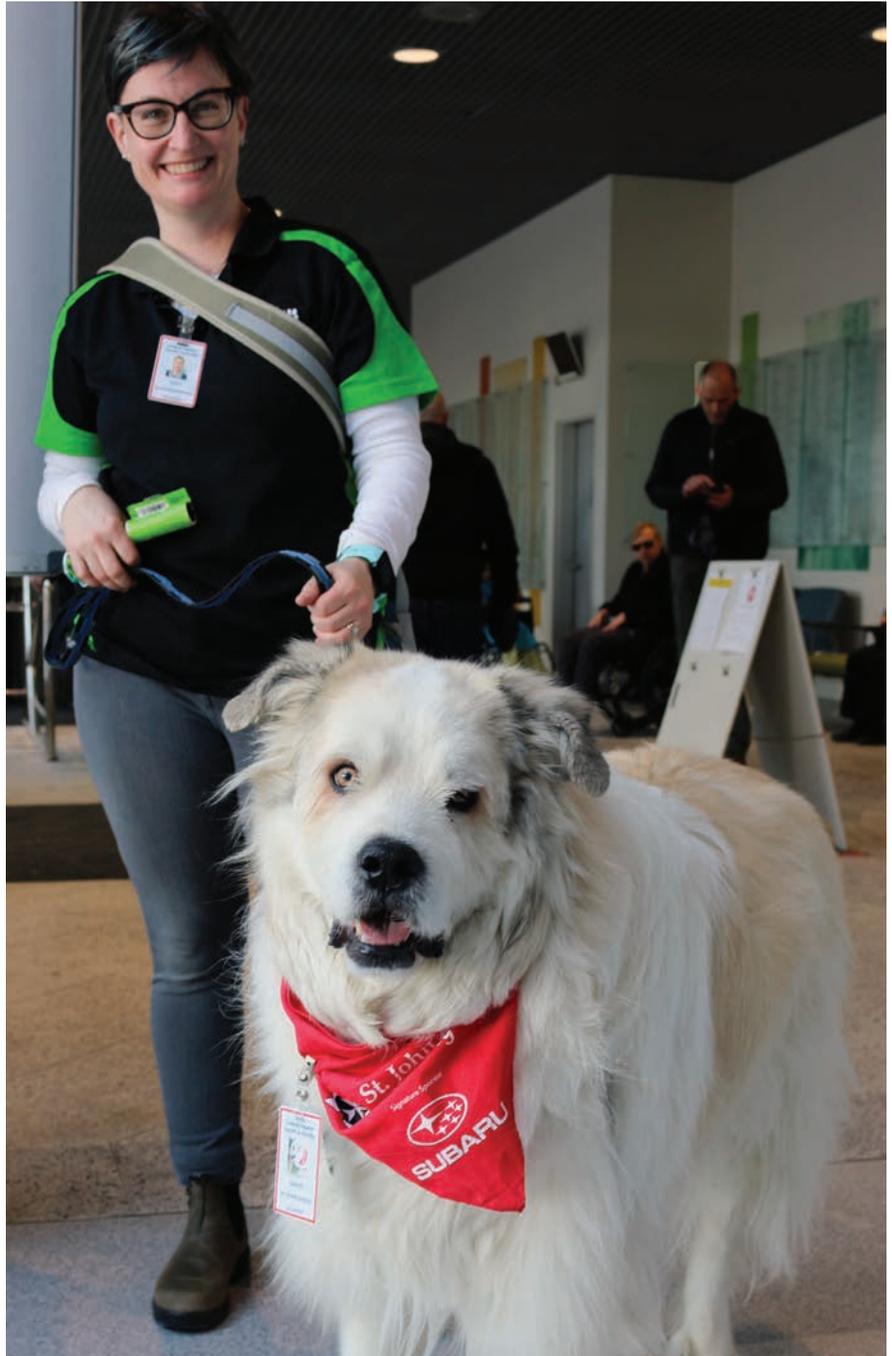
This allows the program to expand from its current visits in the Transitional Care and Surgical Services units to the Emergency Department. The goal of the program is eventually to have up to five handler teams in the hospital.

The Foundation approached the Grisé's daughter, Marilyn Gerwing, to see if her parents' endowment would fund this program. "It was timely because I'd just been to St. John's Ambulance as a volunteer one of the nights they were doing the exams for the therapy dogs," Marilyn says. "I could see the value of having them in the hospital."

She says her parents would have been thrilled. "When they were alive, our dogs were like grandchildren to them and they were usually pet owners. This is totally in line with what they would have wanted.

"Both my parents worked for City Hospital," Marilyn adds.

Her mom, Rosella, worked in administration while Dolor, her dad, was in maintenance. "It was near and dear to them. They felt the hospital was an important part of their employment and thought the endowment was an important thing to do."



More therapy dogs like this will be seen at Saskatoon City Hospital, thanks to the Rosella & Dolor Grisé Patient Care Endowment.

Our thanks to Marilyn for this kindness in memory of her parents. Watch for a full article on therapy dogs in a future edition of Well Aware.

A cheque pulled into the Foundation station and it was worthy of blowing the whistle. The **Wheatland Express Excursion Train** decided to hitch their train to the Foundation cause with a gift of just under \$350.

The tourist train, branching out of Wheatland Rail, is northern Saskatchewan's only such specialty service, operating on a line between Wakaw and Cudworth.

It was launched in 2018 with eight planned trips that grew to 25 due to demand. A stunning ride through the prairies, the train offers food, beverages and several themed tours. *(continued on next page)*

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One of these is the Train Heist Excursion. Passengers enjoy the thrill of a live action train robbery and are encouraged to hand it over. Funds raised are then shared with causes of Wheatland's choosing.

Thank you – the Foundation is glad to be in cahoots with the Wheatland Train! For more information, visit wheatlandexpresstrain.ca.

This fall, when you buy your poppy and proudly pin it on, do so knowing it helps more than just veterans and veteran-related programs. Funds unused by the **Saskatoon Poppy Fund** are distributed to the community.

In 2014, the fund purchased a new bladder scanner for the Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) Unit and five crash carts for use throughout the hospital.



The Wheatland Express Excursion Train stopping in Cudworth.

This past winter, representatives from the **Saskatoon Poppy Fund** reached out to Foundation CEO Steve Shannon. Shannon is well known to veteran groups, having emceed the annual Remembrance Day celebration at SaskTel Centre for decades.

After meeting with representatives of the fund, Shannon was thrilled to

report that the Poppy Fund was purchasing outright a spirometer for pulmonary function tests, and a third vein viewer for the hospital, while partially funding a new C-Arm for the hospital's Operating Room.

Thank you, Poppy Fund! For more details on the equipment purchased, view the article earlier in the magazine. [□](#)

IN MEMORIAM

Donations were made from Jan. 1 to March 31, 2020 in memory of the following people:

Leo Baribeau
Merv Bodner
Tom Bodner
Percy Douglas
Janet Florizone

Roberta Hodge
Zenon G. Kotelko & George T. Jarman
Jean M. Pekush
Cathy Reschney
Evan Sorestad

Wayne Stahl
Charles H. Theilman
James Ward
Martin & Elaine West
Nona Zameruk

IN HONOUR

Donations were recently made in honour of the following people:

All frontline workers. We are so grateful to all the medical staff who put their lives in danger during this COVID-19 crisis. Thank you!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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.