

# WELL AWARE

PEOPLE CARING FOR PEOPLE

SPRING 2022



## Providing the Best for Patients



Saskatoon City Hospital  
**FOUNDATION**

## 2021-2022

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Tracy Kendel
2. Dr. Kabir Virdi
3. Heather Ryan (Chair)
4. Kathryn Pally
5. Braden Turnquist
6. George Fofas
7. Jackie Lehmann
8. Greg Clark
9. Deven Stewart (Treasurer)
10. Depesh Parmar
11. Tracy Arno
12. Holly Ward (Vice Chair)



*The Foundation thanks Rosine Garabedian (not pictured) for her years of service as the Saskatchewan Health Authority representative to the board and as site leader of Saskatoon City Hospital.*

## CONTENTS

Equip for Excellence: How you helped	4
Donor Profile: Merlis Belsher	6
Donor Profile: Leggett	7
Equip for Excellence: How you can help	8
How you can help: Eye Care Centre	10
Kaye Family Learning Day	11
How you can help: Arthroscopy	12
Donor Profile: Ruth & Bernie Zuk	13
Donor Profile: Donna Steffen	16



### EQUIP FOR EXCELLENCE

**The Foundation needs  
your help to raise  
millions of dollars.**

**8**



### EVENTS

**Learn the latest  
news about the  
Foundation's events.**

**14**



### DONOR CORNER

**Donors come in all  
shapes and sizes.  
We're grateful to all.**

**18**

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Steve Shannon

### DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Tracy Boyle

### EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/STEWARDSHIP

Kendra Parfitt (on maternity leave)

### DATABASE MANAGER/ADMIN. ASSISTANT

Marlene Saretsky

### ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Marcy Atchison

### DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Judy Giles

### EVENTS & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Nicole Huste

### COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Tom Eremondi

### GIFT SHOPPE

Brenda Johnson (Manager)

Diane Slind



With this accreditation you can be assured that Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation has met the highest standards for charities as designated by Imagine Canada.

### PRIVACY POLICY

Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation is committed to maintaining the confidentiality of our donors. All personal data provided is secure information. We do not lend, exchange, rent or sell our donor lists to other organizations. We do like to publicly recognize our donors, but if you prefer to remain anonymous, please let us know.



### CONTACT US

306.655.8489 info@SCHFgo.com



## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Steve Shannon

Just before Christmas last year we received a donation and note. I can't remember how much the gift was but I certainly will remember the note for some time. It was a heartfelt note that's impossible to forget: "Thank you for two successful cornea transplants. You are the best!"

You are the best. The writer directed that to the Foundation but it's meant for donors like you. Your support of campaigns like Equip for Excellence is why someone can write a note like that. It's because of your generosity that dedicated healthcare professionals do their best work and why a grateful patient is given the gift of restored vision.

**Someone could see because of you.**

The Foundation may not hear about it but I'm sure, with thousands of procedures happening at Saskatoon City Hospital, there are many more people like the writer. People that you've helped.

It could be an active man wanting to hike without pain. It may be a grandmother recovering from a stroke. Or it may be a young mother worrying she may have breast cancer.

These are just a fraction of the people you help every day. And people you can help.

Because healthcare is ongoing. There's never a point where we can say, "Okay, that's the last hip we need to replace," or "whew, that's the last time we'll need to do an endoscopy."


The reality is that most people at some point will need medical care. That's why the Foundation works with staff at the hospital to ensure that the medical teams have what they need so that patient care is the best it can be.

It's why we created Equip for Excellence, a \$15 million campaign. Others may look at \$15 million and think it's just not possible. I know it is. It's because I've seen you do it before. The Breast Health

Centre. The Cameco MS Neuroscience Research Centre. The new hospital building. All of these began as daunting tasks. Yet all three of them now proudly exist, serving so many people in our city.

Because of you.

I know that, as you read through this issue and the details of equipment needs, you will be there to help us with another challenging task. You will be there to help those dedicated frontline workers do the jobs they love. And you will be there to make sure patients have the most successful care possible.

Because you are the best. 



## HOW YOU HELPED

### Staff at hospital thrilled with improvements

Your gifts do so much. They produce wonderful results for patients. But they also bring great joy to the people who care so much and work so hard for those patients.

One of those dedicated people is Sanja Jovic-Filipovic. As the O.R.'s equipment resource technician, she oversees equipment in all 12 theatres. Previously she worked as an O.R. nurse for 10 years and was stationed mainly in the **cystoscopy suite**. She was thrilled to learn it was being updated, thanks to support from kind donors like you.

"I don't think there's anybody happier in this hospital with the improvements than me," Jovic-Filipovic says, adding the entire staff welcomed pieces to the suite, including a new procedure bed and a fluoroscopy machine. "The old bed just wasn't ergonomic and our backs were always sore after a procedure – and the patients were uncomfortable, too. The old fluoroscopy unit was finicky and wouldn't always capture the images we needed. The whole room itself was cramped because the equipment was so large. It was like an obstacle course and everyone was bumping into things."

Jovic-Filipovic was thrilled to be in the new room for training in late September. She's also thankful to donors for other equipment that O.R. staff is now using. "With new technology



**The staff in the Pulmonary Function Lab are thankful for donors like you.**

and improvements, there's more fluidity in the whole process. Everything is so automatically optimized; you just press a button and it saves five minutes of preparations. The images are clearer, the tasks easier.

"Having well-functioning equipment just makes everyone feel better and work happier. That translates to patients, which is what it's all about. They're already stressed and anxious so anything we can do to make it better for them is great and that includes new equipment."

While the addition of a **Pulmonary Function Testing** station at the hospital was previously reported, it hadn't yet been installed. Once it was, the Foundation was thrilled to receive the picture included here along with these great comments we'd like to share with you:

*"Thank you to SCH Foundation for your support of our Sleep Disorder Centre patients."*

**Dr. Robert Skomro, MD FRCPC  
Professor Respiriology, Critical  
Care and Sleep Medicine**

*"On behalf of the Pulmonary Function Lab, I would like to send many thanks to the Foundation for the new Pulmonary Function Testing station. Work is underway with preparations and training to offer our services to Saskatoon City Hospital programs and departments in the new year. The Pulmonary Function Laboratory staff are thrilled to have this expansion to enhance our services and improve our patient focused care."*

**Dawn Demchenko, RN BSN CRE  
Manager – Diagnostic Respiratory**



Well Aware magazine frequently includes the story of donors. This issue also includes the story of a donation. On the following pages, you can read how Merlis Belsher's personal health experience led to funding the ultrasound in the hospital's **Breast Health Centre**.

Last fall Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation partnered with Royal University Hospital and Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundations to donate \$230,000 in support of Canada's Centre for Pandemic Research at the University of Saskatchewan's **Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)**.

"The donation is meant to honour the hard work of front-line doctors, nurses, medical, support staff and research initiatives across the hospitals and Saskatchewan," Foundation CEO Steve Shannon said of the collaboration. "Contributing to research in the search to save lives for future infectious diseases is one way to do this."



***The Operating Room's cystoscopy suite has been refurbished, thanks to you!***

Dr. Volker Gerdtz (DVM), VIDO's director and CEO, said he was extremely grateful for this generous support from the community. "This investment in Canada's Centre for Pandemic Research will help ensure we are prepared for the next emerging infectious disease, so our health-care system hopefully never has to face a pandemic of this magnitude again."

"We recognize that our efforts will help VIDO poise itself to lead Canada's response to future pandemic threats," Shannon adds of the collective donation.

"Anything that we can do to protect patients, staff, and the community as a whole is certainly worth doing." □



***Funding the development of vaccines to fight diseases will benefit the whole community.***

## MERLIS BELSHER DONATES \$140,000

Donation covers costs of new Breast Health Centre ultrasound

Well Aware magazine frequently tells the story of Foundation donors. This article is the story of a donation.

It was the Summer 2021 issue of Well Aware magazine where you may have read about the Breast Health Centre's urgent need for a new ultrasound.

Radiologist Dr. Carolyn Flegg reported how soon the centre's ultrasound had to be replaced. "It was purchased in 2005 and moved to the Breast Health Centre when it opened in 2006. It's on year 16 of its lifespan, when most like it last only seven to nine years. It's past its life expectancy and getting to the point of being unrepairable."

Used for about 1,500 procedures every year, she described it as the workhorse of the centre. "If we're going to do a needle biopsy of the breast under ultrasound, drain an abscess or cyst, or insert a wire localization for a mass on the day of surgery, this is the machine we use."

While the magazine was distributed to thousands of people, one person in particular took special notice of the article.

"I related to how the story was presented from the doctor's point of view," says Merlis Belsher. Merlis is no stranger to the hospital or the Breast Health Centre. He's been a regular donor since the mid-1980s and, in 2012, it was his \$500,000

gift that completed the multi-year campaign to expand the hospital's Breast Health Centre.

When gifting to organizations like hospital foundations, "I've always leaned towards technological equipment that can assist the doctor," Merlis says of his initial interest in the Breast Health Centre's request.

But there was another, more personal reason that drew him back to supporting the centre. "In 2019, I'd been diagnosed with a gum ulcer that was malignant. During treatment and observation for any recurrence several ultrasounds of the lymph node area were performed on me. I knew generally what the technology was used for, but to see it used in this different way and as part of my treatment was just simply eye-opening.

"With that experience, it became obvious to me that the preciseness of imaging is extremely important to make the right decisions. Doctors do their best but I feel it's our responsibility to provide them with the very best equipment."

Because of Merlis' generous gift, Dr. Flegg says the Breast Health Centre now has a much more powerful ultrasound.

"The transducer, or the wand that the sonographer holds, will see improved resolution. It means better quality images that let us see smaller abnormalities,



**Merlis Belsher at the opening of the Breast Health Centre expansion in 2012.**

**"It became obvious to me that the preciseness of imaging is extremely important."**

better images of dense breast tissue, and little calcifications in the breast that we couldn't see before. Anything that we can do to improve how and when we see these abnormalities is ideal for patients."

Thank you, Merlis, for your continued support of the Breast Health Centre and Saskatoon City Hospital. □



## MALCOLM AND MARILYN LEGGETT DONATE \$250,000

Walk on the trail leads to fortunate encounter

Some things are meant to happen. Foundation CEO Steve Shannon knows this after receiving a \$250,000 donation.

"It was July, 2020," he reports. "I was with my spouse, Cindy, her sister, Deedee, and DeeDee's partner, Bob. We'd just attended a COVID-safe event on the Prairie Lily. It was such a nice night, we decided to walk the Meewasin Trail."

Along the way Steve spotted long-time Foundation donor Malcolm Leggett. "I saw Malcolm with his wife, Marilyn, and asked my group if it was okay for me to go over and say hi to them."

Known as a friendly sort, Malcolm asked Steve who he was with and insisted on meeting them. "His way, though, was to ask why they'd hang out with this character," Steve recalls with a chuckle while pointing to himself.

The group shared a friendly conversation and laughs courtesy of Malcolm. "He then said that he and Marilyn should be going but, as they were doing so, he turned back and said, 'it's always good to see you, by the way, what are you working on?'"

At the time, the Foundation was involved in its Making the O.R. a PriORity campaign. "I told Malcolm we were raising \$3.7 million and needed to raise funds because, once the pandemic was over, surgery lists would be long. He asked me to



**A chance meeting with Malcolm Leggett led to a \$250,000 gift.**

call him the next day, which I did. I told him in more detail what it was we were doing and related how the O.R. and hospital work hard to restore and improve quality of life for patients.

"Malcolm said he would discuss a donation with Marilyn and get back to me but I told him I was leaving the next day for holidays and would be gone for a few weeks. I asked if I could send him materials and, in Malcolm fashion, he said why waste the paper? Everything I'd talked to him about was what he needed to know about the campaign."

Steve thought that would be the end of it for awhile. "But, the next day, Malcolm called back and said that he and Marilyn wanted to be sure my holidays started right. 'We would like to help by giving Saskatoon City Hospital

Foundation \$250,000,' and I said 'are you serious?'

"He said yes, he was, and when I asked about recognition, again in his way he declined but said, if anything, 'you tell the story of how this donation happened. Make it your story. Thank the Foundation and the hospital for the great job they do.'"

Steve adds that, "We're absolutely grateful for the Leggetts' gift and especially how it was given. The underlying message to me is that the relationships we build in this job aren't just 9 to 5. They're friendships. You can run into anybody, anywhere and do something like this. Giving should be fun and Malcolm certainly makes it that way. Reflecting back, what a great walk that was." □

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Equip for Excellence will benefit numerous hospital departments

**Give us the best and we'll provide the rest.**

"That's what a hospital staff member once told me," reports Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation CEO, Steve Shannon. "With those words in mind we created Equip for Excellence. We've always used it when raising funds for equipment, resources and technology. This year it's what we're calling our official campaign to raise \$15 million."

The campaign recognizes how busy the hospital is, he adds. "Every year, Saskatoon City Hospital sees 200,000 procedures. Even through COVID that number dipped to just under 150,000. It means the hospital is a busy place and, because of that, equipment ages faster, wears out sooner. It simply needs to be replaced often."

Shannon says Equip for Excellence is very extensive. "Nearly every department in the hospital will benefit. This includes the O.R., the Breast Health Centre, Endoscopy, Surgery Services, Orthopedics, the Sleep Lab, the Eye Care Centre, Respiriology, Medical Imaging, Physical Rehab, and more. Your support will do so much."

That support will help both inpatient and outpatients in the hospital's **Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation** department, which needs items such as laptops for



**Portable technology provides instant access to online resources and can be used to demonstrate many things to rehab patients and families.**

virtual, bedside therapies and new bladder scanners. Bladder scanners are portable, hand-held devices that detect bladder volume without need for catheterization or cystoscopy. The tool is useful for preventing catheter-associated urinary tract infection in hospitalized patients. The scan is only minutes long and much more preferable than invasive procedures.

"The bladder scanner we use on the inpatient ward recently broke down," reports the ward's manager, Dean Nahachewsky. "It's repairable but being without it led to the realization that we could use a second one. This equipment would aid in not only more efficient services for our inpatients but would also be shared with the ever-growing needs of our outpatients."

Marla Fieber, manager of Rehab's outpatient services, says 10

laptops would be beneficial for patients. "At SCH Rehabilitation we treat patients primarily with neurological conditions, many of whom have suffered a traumatic, life-changing event such as a brain injury, stroke, or spinal cord injury. Because of this, the need for portable equipment such as laptops and tablets continues to increase all the time."

She adds that the laptops will help bring services up to speed. "With so many resources and applications now online, these devices are invaluable for treatment activities such as practicing typing, navigating the Internet, participation in cognitive and speech exercises, and others.

Portable technology provides instant access to online resources to demonstrate to patients and families things like equipment and adaptive aids,



home modification options, exercises, mental health resources, and teaching videos."

The recent pandemic also highlights the need, Fieber continues. "During the last year and a half, we greatly expanded virtual rehabilitation services, providing therapy to outpatients at home, as well as using technology to educate and train families and caregivers. Therapists would also gain significant efficiencies with access to laptops for indirect patient-related tasks such as electronic charting."

The department is also asking for your help to purchase a Tran-Sit® Car Transfer Simulator. The equipment is designed to teach patients how to exit and enter vehicles safely and without the need for parking lot sessions, which can be dangerous. "Getting in and out of vehicles is generally something that we don't think about," Fieber explains.

"For Rehab ward patients, due to the changes in their physical mobility post stroke, brain injury or spinal cord injury, it can be very challenging. Often, new adaptive skills and equipment are needed. In order to practice this skill, therapists arrange for family members to bring vehicles to the front of the hospital. Saskatchewan winters and COVID restrictions make this coordination more difficult."

The Tran-Sit® Car Transfer Simulator is a safe and



**The Tran-Sit Car® Transfer Simulator is a safe alternative for rehab patients.**

convenient alternative that can be used right on the ward, she adds. "It's an attractive, functional addition to any rehab program and its life-like appearance adds to the realism of training."

Your gifts also will help **Medical Imaging** patients through the purchase of a new CT power injector for the department.

"The injector is a device that holds a large volume of contrast media, and has controls to select the desired volume, rate and time of the required injection and connection tubing to connect the injector to the patient's IV line," explains Brenda Lock, manager.

"It's used in many types of imaging, including intervention radiography, MRI and CT.

"This is an important diagnostic tool," she says. "The contrast media helps visualize various pathologies that may be present in the patient while subsequent

scans can be used for tracking of disease progression."

Endoscopy patients will also benefit from your support. "Endoscopy is a multidisciplinary facility involving surgeons and gastroenterologists dealing with gastrointestinal care," says gastroenterologist Dr. Samson Haimanot. "We use it to diagnose cancers, inflammatory bowel disease, or patients with disorders such as frequent diarrhea or swallowing issues.

"We do many specialized procedures that aren't done at other sites, including ERCP, going into the bile duct to remove stones, or putting stents in for cancer," he adds. "We also perform vital procedures such as biopsies for cancer of the pancreas, and draining different collections or infections in the body."

To donate, visit the website at [SCHFgo.com](http://SCHFgo.com) or call the Foundation office directly at 306-655-8489. □

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

"Because eyes are so important."

Through your support of Equip for Excellence and the Saskatoon City Hospital Eye Care Centre, you'll be giving many people the gift of restored vision.

The Eye Care Centre at City Hospital is a unique center, delivering ophthalmology care across a wide range of sub-specialties of ophthalmology. The centre offers services such as diagnostic emergency care, a glaucoma clinic, and pediatric eye care; patients range in age from infancy to geriatric.

"You can be any age, any demographic to have an eye problem and fortunately we're able to take care of pretty much any issue here in Saskatchewan because of the sub-specialists that we have in that department," says Dr. Gabriela Campos-Baniak, an ophthalmological surgeon and glaucoma specialist in the Eye Care Centre.

Three years ago, the support of donors like you allowed Dr. Campos-Baniak to take fellowship training in her specialty. She's returned to the hospital and the city to use that training for the betterment of patients' vision. You can help her by ensuring that she and her colleagues have the best tools to do their jobs.

"Ophthalmology equipment is critical, we cannot practice without it," she says. "That equipment changes very quickly; it needs to be updated and upkeep for us to do the best job



**Since being created, the Equip for Excellence campaign has raised more than \$30 million. The Eye Care Centre is one of many departments or wards to benefit from your gifts. You are helping people see better.**

that we can because eyes are so important."

Among the requests are:

- an integrated digital microscope with enhanced imaging for use in surgeries
- visual field machines and analyzers to monitor and diagnose the progression of diseases
- slit lamps, a tonometer and hand held autorefractor
- a vision screen system for pediatric patients and more.


She says it's important to support the unique nature of the Eye Care Centre and its place in the hospital. "Our operating room here is the only place where we're able to do many of our big ophthalmology surgeries. There are specific lasers that we use here so the procedure can't be done anywhere else. We don't operate at any of the other

hospitals and we're not able to move because of the specialty of our equipment."

But, more importantly, Dr. Campos-Baniak reminds you it's done to help people see better.

"Patients tell me that losing their vision is the worst thing that can happen to them. If you've ever known someone with an eye condition or you yourself have had an eye condition, then you know how important it can be.

"It can happen any time in your life. Eyes are so important; they help people function and keep their independence. This equipment is the only way we can do our jobs well."

To donate, visit [SCHFgo.com](https://SCHFgo.com) or call 306-655-8489. 



## EVENT HAS 20-YEAR HISTORY

### Kaye Lecture event becomes Kaye Family Learning Day

Nearly two-decades old, the Kaye Pediatric Lecture and events surrounding it have been renamed the Kaye Family Learning Day.

The annual event was born out of the Saskatchewan Orthoptic Provincial Seminar, which began in the mid-1990s. Its keynote speech became the Kaye Lecture, created by the Ludwig & Olga & Constance Kaye Pediatric Ophthalmology Endowment.

The endowment was inspired by the Kayes in response to the care given by hospital staff to Constance, or Connie as she was known to family and friends. Born at Saskatoon City Hospital in 1951, she was diagnosed with Rubella Syndrome and experienced lifelong deficits. At just seven months old, Connie had cataract surgery and throughout her life was a frequent patient in the Eye Care Centre.

Connie also recognized the significance of the endowment and, on her passing at age 60 in 2011, designated funds from her trust, leaving a gift in her will to the endowment.

As the surviving member of the three, Olga has maintained a sharp interest in the event and, prior to the pandemic, attended an annual supper held in her honour. Renaming the seminar as the Kaye Family Learning Day was done as a tribute to the family legacy that will provide lasting and unique learning



**Above: Dr. Stacy Pineles. Below: Mrs Olga Kaye.**

opportunities for eye care professionals for many years.

The annual Learning Day, offered virtually for the past two years, gives attendees the opportunity to learn from a distinguished colleague, who delivers the Kaye Lecture and presents cases for discussion throughout the day. Because of the Kaye Family support, local eye care health professionals get the opportunity to learn from someone who's excelled in the field.

This year's honoured guest was Dr. Stacy Pineles, associate professor of Ophthalmology and residency program director at the Stein Eye Institute, David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). While 96 people registered for the event, more than 127 logged into the event through Zoom.

Dr. Pineles' Kaye Lecture topic was "The Functional Burden of Strabismus: binocular summation and inhibition." Strabismus is a condition where the eyes do not align while focusing on an object. It affects children but can be seen in all ages.

The guest ophthalmologist also delivered presentations titled "Nystagmus" and "Optic Atrophy in Children" prior to presenting casework for review.

The Foundation and Eye Care Centre express their gratitude for this important ongoing educational event, thanks to Ludwig, Olga and Connie Kaye! □



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### Orthopedic surgeon brings practice to Saskatoon

After several years of training and practice, orthopedic surgeon Dr. Matthew Mastel has decided to return to Saskatoon. But he needs your help to bring a unique procedure to patients at Saskatoon City Hospital.

Originally from Alberta, Dr. Mastel was already familiar with Saskatoon because it was here that he completed his undergraduate studies, medical school training, and orthopedic surgery residency. "My wife and I have always liked Saskatoon, having spent so much time here for education, about 12 or so years. We really grew to love the city. The hospital environment is fantastic; everyone is so friendly and collegial. It was just a perfect fit for us."

He most recently completed fellowship training in Calgary. "My fellowship was in hip and knee reconstruction with a large focus on complex primary total joint replacement and revision joint replacement. But I also did a special focus on hip arthroscopy for a full year."

Arthroscopy is a procedure that uses a microscopic camera and tools to correct impingements in the hip, he adds. "It's used for preservation type procedures to delay the need for a total joint replacement. It's one of the fastest growing areas of orthopedics in North America."

"There's an increasing recognition of the clinical problem of hip impingement and

its impact on patients. Treating symptomatic impingement can significantly improve a patient's quality of life, along with potentially decreasing or eliminating the need for a future total hip replacement."

Dr. Mastel notes that the typical hip arthroscopy patient is younger than the arthroplasty population, ranging from early teens into mid-50s. "They're people who don't have arthritis in their hips yet but they do have certain anatomic changes that result in pain. We try to reshape their hips in a way that the improved mechanics of the hip will prevent further degeneration and reduce their pain. We're really helping to improve their quality of life."

The procedure is new to Saskatoon hospitals. "There's no one else doing it in Saskatoon and only one surgeon doing it in Regina. So, anybody who needs this procedure would have to travel out of town for it. It's a fairly technically challenging procedure that takes time and learning to master. It's also challenging to bring something new to a centre where you need to set up an entire system of equipment and retrain staff on how it works, so it takes a lot of coordination on multiple levels.



**Dr. Matthew Mastel wants to offer a unique orthopedic procedure to Saskatoon: hip arthroscopy.**

"We're essentially starting from the ground up and getting every thing we need," Dr. Mastel says. "It requires a unique set of equipment because I perform the procedure with the patient in a lateral position, so a special positioner is required. That holds the patient laying on their side; a traction post supports the leg in a position that allows the hip to be distracted and lets us insert the camera."

He says the camera itself is specialized, requiring a 70-degree scope. This makes it

*(continued on bottom of next page)*



## RUTH AND BERNIE ZUK MAKE GENEROUS GIFT

### Couple donates shares to Foundation

While it's no surprise that Ruth and Bernie Zuk decided to donate to Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation, the timing of the gift certainly is.

"We'd planned on a making a gift in our will," Ruth says, "but, last spring we took one of the estate planning seminars that the Foundation was hosting. So, we started talking about it and knew we had the shares. We decided that someone should benefit."

"We'd both been there a few times," Bernie says. "We felt we were returning something."

"We always felt we received very good care," Ruth adds.

It was soon after the Zuks' gift came that they found themselves needing that care again. Bernie broke his hip suddenly in the summer and needed surgery at RUH but moved to Saskatoon City Hospital for rehab.

"The service was really good but, you know, it's a hospital," he

says, with a laugh, adding, "No one really wants to be there."

Bernie retired from engineering 15 years ago. "I originally worked with the Saskatchewan Research Council on the Industrial Research Assistance Program, dealing with small start-up companies. That later moved to the National Research Council under the federal government."

"I'm a retired teacher and taught mostly in Saskatoon at the elementary level," Ruth reports. She also retired 15 years ago. "I retired first and Bernie followed six months later. I was a Core French teacher and taught at most schools in the system; the last was John G. Egnatoff."

In the time since then Bernie enjoyed gardening and woodworking while they were in their own home. The couple recently moved to an apartment. "We also traveled a lot when you could do so easily," Bernie says.

Ruth notes that, "I like foreign languages, of course, so

Provence, France and Italy were favourites. We enjoyed a river cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam and visited a lot of countries that way."

She's also in a choir and took up the challenge of rehearsing virtually during COVID.

"Other than that, we're just retired," Bernie quips. The couple has one son and one grandson in Saskatoon.

The Zuks have also donated to the Saskatoon Community Clinic, a refugee organization called NEST, and others in the community, Ruth says. "No matter what, I think if you can afford to give, you should just do it. Each small amount adds up."

"There are always needs," Bernie adds, referring to the hospital. "Equipment wears out so anything you can do to help makes it better."

The Foundation thanks Ruth and Bernie for their very kind gift. □

### Orthopedic surgeon brings practice to Saskatoon

*(continued from previous page)*

different than most joint procedures that only need a 30-degree scope. The portals, suture passers, and anchors used during the procedure are also specialized because the hip is a deeper joint.

"Once we're completely set up, we'll have the resources to cover all of the hip arthroscopies at Saskatoon City Hospital for quite some time."

To help patients walk better and regain their quality of life, donate to Equip for Excellence campaign at SCHFgo.com. You can also donate by phone at 306-655-8489. □

## FOUNDATION EVENTS ADAPT TO PANDEMIC

Festival of Trees, Enchanted Forest enjoy success

### FESTIVAL RETURNS

Tucked in between the fourth and fifth COVID waves in our province and strictly adhering to safety protocols, the 2021 **Festival of Trees** returned to its former live format.

Organizers say that attendance exceeded expectations, with just more than 17,000 people taking in the Festival during its nine-day run from Nov. 19-27. There were 68 individual displays of trees, wreaths and gingerbread houses greeting the crowds who were anxious to mark the start of the 2021 festive season.

In addition, all special events were essentially sold out. This included the return of favourite events such as the Father/Daughter Gala and Brunch with Santa. New events, including the Make and Take Class, the Royal Brunch, and Video Calls with Santa, also proved to be popular. An online 50-50 draw was successful, too, raising more than \$15,000, half of which went to a lucky winner.

Festival organizers also honoured Rick Steffen, who retired after volunteering for nearly 30 years, and 27 as the event's chair. Thank you, Rick!

For more information, visit [festival-of-trees.com](http://festival-of-trees.com) or follow on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.



**The Festival of Trees drew more than 17,000 people to the week-long event. At the BHP Enchanted Forest, visitors marveled to see some really cool new displays.**

### ENCHANTED FOREST ENHANCED

Already an enchanting event, the magic was enhanced for the 2021-22 version of the **BHP Enchanted Forest**. Visitors young and old, but especially young, were thrilled to see some very cool and familiar new characters as part of the newest displays for this year.

The cold didn't bother anyone, as the BHP Enchanted Forest, which ran Nov. 17 to Jan. 9, was once again well attended. Proceeds support Saskatoon City Hospital and the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation; final results will be available soon. You can learn more at [enchanted-forest.org](http://enchanted-forest.org) or follow the event on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



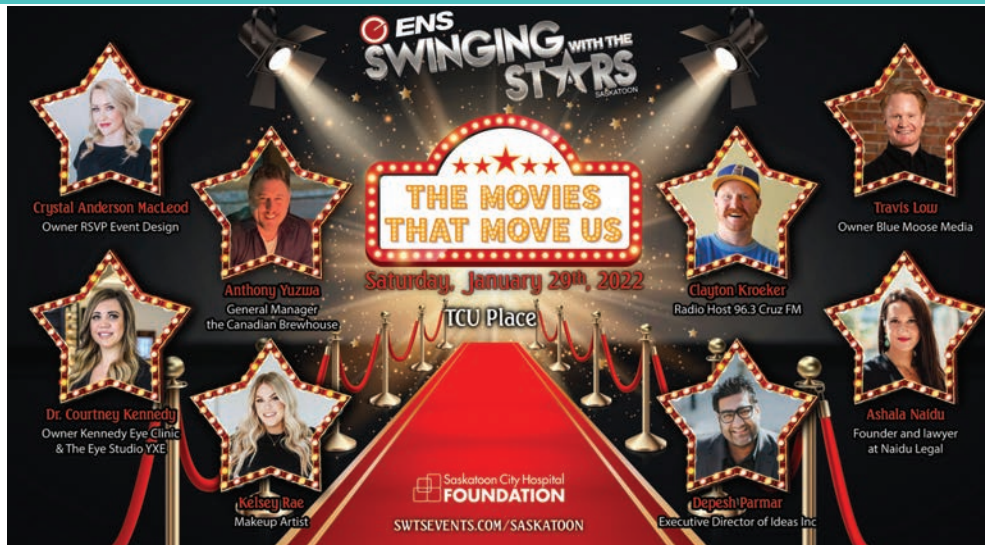
## YOUR OWN PARADISE

If it's like last year, the **Hospital Home Lottery** may already be sold out. If not, visit [HospitalHomeLottery.org](http://HospitalHomeLottery.org) and buy your tickets to win a 3,800 square foot home worth over \$2 million in Edgemont Estates. Designed to be lived in and enjoyed, this beautiful Decora Homes house offers a harmonious balance of urban style and peaceful comfort.

Other prizes include a private jet trip, a 2022 Mustang Mach-E, a Jeep Wagoneer, and many other vacation, leisure, and recreation prizes. And don't forget the 50/50 Add-On. The jackpot last fall soared to \$1.3 million with the winner taking home more than \$650,000! Will this 50/50 go even higher?

## SWINGING BACK ON STAGE

As this issue went to press, the **9th Annual Ens Swinging with the Stars** was scheduled for March and was more than 75%



**Swinging with the Stars returns to TCU Place in March.**

sold. It returns to TCU Place after last year's absence with seven new celebrity dancers and their professional partners. The Movies That Move Us is the theme; we're sure the night will be one to remember!

Tickets are on sale now and voting is also open. To purchase tickets or cast your votes, visit [SWTSevents.com](http://SWTSevents.com) or follow Swinging with the Stars Saskatoon on Facebook. More details will be available in the Summer issue of Well Aware.

As of mid-January, the status of the Greek community's **Ouzopalooza** dinner, the **EY Black Tie Bingo**, and **Golfun** were all still undecided.

While the pandemic continues, the Foundation and its partner organizations will continue to provide quality entertainment with safety as a tantamount consideration. To stay in touch, be sure to subscribe to our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages or check the Events section at [SCHFgo.com](http://SCHFgo.com). □



**This beautiful Edgemont Estates home by Decora is the grand prize in this spring's Hospital Home Lottery.**

## DONNA STEFFEN, DONOR AND VOLUNTEER

Saskatchewan woman was donor, volunteer and employee with hospital

Following a history of support and service that stretches back over 40 years, Donna Steffen's name was added to the Foundation's donor wall in the \$10,000+ category.

Describing herself as a science and math person, her connection to Saskatoon City Hospital began in the 1970s. "I first came to City as a laboratory technologist. I was thinking about what it was that led to my strong connection with not just the hospital but the city as a whole. And the best answer I can give is that I always felt I was at home when I came to City Hospital. It made me feel like I really belonged."

Her career saw the hospital evolve from being an individual entity, then part of Saskatoon District Health, and finally within the Saskatoon Health Region. She left her health career before the Saskatchewan Health Authority was created.

"During the 80s, I went back to university and got my Commerce degree then continued with City Hospital in human resources. That's where I was working when the new hospital opened in 1993. I left at the end of 2000 to work in Lanigan with the Living Sky Health District. Shortly after Living Sky became part of the Saskatoon Health Region, I moved to other career opportunities."



**Donna Steffen's connection with Saskatoon City Hospital began in the 1970s.**

All through this, Donna had a long career as a volunteer, namely with the Festival of Trees. "For the first four years it was operated by the Progress Club. Then [former Foundation CEO] Randy Kershaw brought it to Saskatoon City Hospital. I joined one of the committees and it didn't take long to get my husband Rick involved. As the saying goes, the rest is history."

Donna's last year with the Festival was 2013 but the Steffen name was attached to the Festival of Trees for almost three decades. In this time, \$2 million was raised for the Foundation and the Festival became a staple of the holiday season.

**"City Hospital is always in my mind. I'll be remembering it in many ways."**

Donna left the Festival and Saskatoon to relocate to Indian Head, where she could be closer to her mother, who lives in Regina. She currently works in the Commercial Markets division of Wyth Financial, the recently rebranded Concentra.

A long-time monthly donor to the Foundation, Donna says she occasionally gives on top of that and plans to leave a bequest. "City Hospital is always in my mind and I'll definitely be remembering it in many ways."

For a long history of service and support, the Foundation thanks Donna Steffen. □



## EDWARD URBANOWSKI DONATES \$200,000

Gift made in tribute to parents

Edward Urbanowski's gift of \$200,000 to the Foundation shortly before Christmas was definitely a surprise. But it was also a gift rooted in decades of family history.

Edward, 94, made this donation in memory of his parents, Anton and Victoria Urbanowski, and in gratitude for the efforts of the Foundation in bettering the health care of the citizens of Saskatchewan.

Born in Michalowka, Poland in 1891, Anton Urbanowski joined thousands of other European citizens seeking out a better life in North America. His journey originally landed him in Minnesota, where he met Victoria Sobariski (born 1903).

The couple were married in 1920 and moved to North Dakota, where they had a family of four. Joe was born in 1921, Bill in 1922, the only girl, Frances, in 1925, and Ed in 1927.

After Ed was born, the family moved north to Canada, following the incentive of great land and having their belongings shipped for free. Traveling in a newly purchased Model A, they crossed over the Saskatchewan border in 1928. Historical records note that joining them by train were five horses, one cow, one box of chickens and geese, one Fordson tractor, six sets of harnesses, 16 boxes of household goods, and 10 pieces of farm machinery.



**Top photo: Edward Urbanowski (inset), and his parents, Anton and Victoria. Bottom photos: Edward (right and then left) with his parents in younger days. Edward recently gifted the Foundation \$200,000 in their memory.**

Anton and Victoria bought land in the Parkdale/Fairholme district from the CPR for five dollars an acre. A log house with tar paper roof already on site became their home while water was hauled from nearby Stony Lake. In the 1940s, a new family home was built and the days of leaky tarpaper and plastering mud were over for the Urbanowskis.

The older kids originally walked a fair distance to school in Jackpine until the Clarkville School opened. All four children attended the latter school. Most business was conducted and church was attended in the nearby town of Fairholme.

Of the four children, only Ed remained in the area, eventually taking over the farm and building a new house in the 1990s. Brothers Joe and Bill relocated to Bonnyville, Alberta and owned a garage. They both passed in the 1970s. Frances returned to the United States and died in Minneapolis, MN in 2013.

Ed lived on the farm for almost all of his life and eventually rented it out. He sold the land to his renters in 2021.

The Foundation is grateful to Edward for this most thoughtful gift in memory of his parents, Anton and Victoria Urbanowski. □

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS ENDEAVOR

Excursion train, grocery stores work to raise funds

### THANKS FOR SHOPPING BY!

Thanks to the Sobeys stores in Stonebridge and at Preston Crossing and also to the Safeway in Lawson Heights Mall. Those three graciously decided to bring back the Pink Ribbon Campaign in support of The Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre of Care Breast Health Centre.

But thanks also extend to all shoppers who eagerly donated to the campaign during the month of October. As a result, \$23,293 was raised between the three Saskatoon stores.

The Foundation is also pleased to note this is a return of a campaign created in 2004 to support the original Breast Health Centre. It continued until 2015 and supported the centre's expansion in 2012. Altogether, the Pink Ribbon campaign has raised \$486,000.

So, to all involved, we say thanks a half million!



**The Sobeys stores in Stonebridge and Preston Crossing and the Lawson Heights Safeway raised more than \$23,000 through the Pink Ribbon campaign.**

### ON THE RIGHT TRACK

The Foundation is certainly glad that Wheatland Express Excursion Train is on board. In 2020, the start-up tourism railroad dropped off a cheque for around \$300. On the return trip earlier this fall, organizers upped that amount to a generous and amazing \$5,000!

With services between Cudworth and Wakaw (or Wakaw and Cudworth), the Wheatland Express is central Saskatchewan's premier excursion train. Patrons can choose from a selection of signature tour experiences that showcase the region's rich arts, culture and heritage including train heists, musical tributes and seasonal tours or create custom experiences between May and December each year.

Thanks to all involved and also a big welcome back to Wheatland Excursion Express Train founders Annette and Perry Pellerin. The Saskatchewan couple had previously supported City Hospital Foundation and the hospital's Breast Health Centre through its Pink Cloud thoroughbred racing venture.



**The Wheatland Express Excursion Train is on board with the Foundation; a successful summer of operations led to a \$5,000 donation.**



## From the mailbag

Okay, it's not a real mailbag but, just the same, the Foundation sure loves getting your cards and letters.

We're also sure to pass on your thoughts to the great hospital staff. Here's a few of the recent notes we've received:

*"Thank you to everyone at SCH. Stay safe!"*

*"Thank you for the great care I received while in your hospital."*

*"1958 [nursing] grad – wonderful memories – wonderful!"*

*"Please keep up the good important work!"*

*"Thank you to the ortho department for my excellent care while I was in hospital!"*

*"Dr Trent Thiessen replaced my ankle. It was tremendous surgery and care."*

*"Thank you for two successful cornea transplants. You are the best!"*



## IN MEMORIAM

Donations were made from Aug. 1, 2021 to Nov. 30, 2021 in memory of the following people:

Jean Ahenakew  
Edward Berenik  
Connie Bews  
Daniel Byblow  
Wenda Coley  
Don Erlandson  
Norman Gardner  
Wanda Graham  
George Hetterly  
Peter Krawchuk

Ron Leschyshyn  
Katarina Lysyshyn  
Reilly Marchand  
Catherine Marr  
Jack Murphy  
Shirley M. Newby  
Eunice Patterson  
Lorraine Pocha  
M. Shirley Pridmore

Molly Schultz  
Rhonda Taylor  
Irene & Rick Temple  
Charles Theilman  
Anton & Victoria Urbanowski  
Tim Wagner  
James Ward  
Beatrice M. Wilson  
Shirley R. Wilson

## IN HONOUR

Donations were made from Aug. 1, 2021 to Nov. 30, 2021 in honour of the following people:

Dr. Gabriela Campos-Baniak  
Dr. Tracy Guselle  
Sisters Irene Lacy, Penny Koehn & niece Heidi Thoms

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE DONATE AT 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](http://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 anytime by contacting the Foundation.