

# WELL AWARE

PEOPLE CARING FOR PEOPLE

SPRING 2023

## ENHANCING DIAGNOSTICS

**You can get patients  
the answers they need**



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## CONTENTS

How you helped	4
Fellowship funds retain surgeon	5
Hospital helped man see better	6
Donors: Bill Dean and Debi-Dubé Dean	8
Helping Breast Health patients	12
You helped someone live better	13
Kaye Family Day	14
Will Power	15
Donor Corner	18



### EQUIP FOR EXCELLENCE

Your donations helped  
several departments in  
the hospital.

4



### ENHANCING DIAGNOSTICS

SCH wants to be the  
provincial flagship for  
digital pathology.

10



### EVENTS

Learn the latest news  
about the Foundation's  
events.

16

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



## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Steve Shannon

This year, 2023, marks two very important milestones: the 40th anniversary of City Hospital Foundation and 30 years since our beautiful hospital building opened in 1993!

The fact that the Foundation and hospital building as we currently know it mark these occasions together is so meaningful. The two entities have been entwined for four decades.

One of the very reasons the Foundation was created in 1983 was to begin fundraising for a new facility. The former hospital building, opened in 1958, was then 25 years old but had sections that were older. It was agreed, though, that all parts of the building were showing their age.

It's remarkable that our new building is now even older than the previous hospital was when plans were put in place to replace it. It's a real testament to the design and construction that so much of it still looks fresh.

If you've sat in the bright light of the atrium on a sunny day, walked in the park to see the building framed within, or viewed the river and bridge from an upper floor, I'm sure you'd agree!

While the hospital and Foundation make great partners, the real partnership that should be celebrated – and will be throughout this year – is between donors like you and the healthcare delivered at City Hospital.

This partnership has resulted in more than \$50 million being raised. You've done so much beyond raising the walls of this wonderful structure. You've created a unique MS research facility, added and expanded an exemplary Breast Health Centre, funded first class rehab treatment, upgraded numerous equipment items with the latest technology, and helped steer the hospital towards its formidable role as an ambulatory care facility, where the majority of services are performed on an outpatient basis.

Your continuing and wonderful support is why SCH is renowned for delivering and returning quality of life to thousands of people. These people

are your family, your friends, your neighbours and very likely you.

So, while you and others like you funded the building, you more importantly created and enhanced the very reason for the building. You've created the best healthcare possible!

You can see some of the results of that in the following pages – a man whose vision was restored, patients and family treated with tremendous compassion, and a cancer patient whose life was saved – all the results of your caring contributions!

Thank you for 40 great years and here's to 40 more! 



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## HOW YOU HELPED

Your gifts support many departments

The Foundation knows firsthand how grateful staff is when they receive funding for equipment or resources from people like you.

“On behalf of the **Saskatoon City Hospital Perioperative Surgical** team, I would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the support provided for the seven monitors we just had installed,” says the unit’s director, Lilah Weinberger.

“This will definitely help us continue to deliver safe patient care to patients we serve throughout the province,” she adds. “As City Hospital performs the highest volumes of surgeries, it’s definitely much needed equipment.”

This high volume of surgeries also affects departments such as the **Inpatient Surgical Unit**. The sheer volume means equipment wears out faster. Donors like you helped replace ceiling track lifts that allow nursing staff to safely lift and lower patients from or into hospital beds. The unit also received new HillRom air beds. These are designed for immobile patients and use air to prevent bedsores.

One of the hospital’s unsung departments is the **Medical Device Reprocessing Department**. The department rinses, washes, and sanitizes thousands of surgical instruments every day.

Ensuring that their process runs smoothly is crucial to maintaining the heavy flow and turn-around of procedures in the hospital, but especially in the operating room.

Because of that, any equipment in the department that’s malfunctioning or inoperational can cause delays or cancellations in the surgical schedule. Your support benefitted the purchase of a Reliance Vision Single-Chamber Washer/Disinfector.

The equipment is used in the cleaning and intermediate level disinfection of soiled tools; its timely replacement allows staff to keep up with the steady demand for reprocessing.

Because of the role it plays in maintaining vision, the **Eye Care Centre** is cherished by thousands. As with many medical procedures,

technology plays a huge role in both diagnosis and treatment.

An Ellex Integre ProScan System will improve the treatment in the macular and peripheral areas of vision. New tonometers can be used when patients are sitting or standing and help eye care professionals measure intraocular pressure, an important step in diagnosing glaucoma.

You also supported the purchase of 10 laptops for the hospital’s **Rehab Department**. Marla Fieber, manager, says the laptops help patients, many of whom have suffered a traumatic, life-changing event such as brain injury, stroke, or spinal cord injury.

“With so many 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 also provides instant access to online resources.”

Thank you! □



**Your support enabled the purchase of new equipment in the hospital's Medical Device Reprocessing Department. A new washer/disinfector will help the department keep up with the demands of a busy Operating Room.**

## HOW YOU HELPED

### Fellowship program serves to retain eye surgeon

The fellowship program funded by Foundation donors ensured that a well-trained ophthalmologist and eye surgeon is remaining at Saskatoon City Hospital and serving the province.

Dr. Moness Masri was raised in Toronto but came west for education as a young adult. He pursued his medical degree and did his surgical residency in ophthalmology all in Saskatoon.

Before starting a practice, Dr. Masri opted for one year of extra training. In the summer of 2020, he moved to Edmonton where he obtained his medical and surgical retina fellowship. “Many physicians opt for general ophthalmology but I became really interested in the retina,” he says of the decision to train more. “Ophthalmology in general is fine, detailed work but the retina is even more fine and detailed. I liked the challenge of that.”

He chose Edmonton because it had a reputation for high quality training and mentors. “One of the current Eye Care Centre’s specialists, Dr. Nigel Rawlings, did his retina fellowship in Edmonton at the same place, and that inspired me to go there. I was very happy I did.”

Dr. Murphy, head of the ophthalmology department at the hospital, encouraged Dr. Masri to pursue funding through the Saskatchewan Health Authority Saskatoon area Practitioner Staff Affairs fellowship program. Funded by donors through hospital foundations in Saskatoon, the program allows young physicians to travel for more intense training on the stipulation they return to the city for a period of time.



**Ophthalmologist Dr. Moness Masri's fellowship training as a retina specialist was funded by Foundation donors. He's grateful for your support.**

It's an effort that benefits doctors and the hospital but especially patients who receive superior care as a result. At Saskatoon City Hospital the program has funded physicians in pathology, multiple sclerosis treatment and research, geriatrics, and the Eye Care Centre just in the last five years.

“It was very nice to get Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation’s support for that extra year of training. It was so intensive. During my year I did about 800 vitrectomy surgeries including 300 retinal detachment repairs in the operating room, over 500 retinal injections and lasers and learned advanced techniques in complex

cataract surgery,” Dr. Masri reports, noting that a vitrectomy is a procedure that involves draining and replacing vitreous fluid from the eye. “There are seven very talented retinal surgeons in Edmonton and I was in the operating room every other week for 12 or more hours every day.”

He laughs off the workload. “I did this during COVID so there was nothing else to do anyways. It was busy but a really great year, I learned so much.”

After more than a dozen years of intense education, Dr. Masri took the

*(continued on page 7)*



## HOSPITAL HELPED MAN SEE BETTER

Business leader's vision saved by new eye surgeon at hospital

Imagine your eyesight faltering. Now imagine that happening in public while you're heading to an event you're essentially in charge of. That's what happened to Keith Moen, executive director of the North Saskatoon Business Association.

"It was late afternoon one day in November 2021. I was on the way to our Business Builders Awards," Keith says, noting the event honours growth and innovation. "About a half hour before the program started, I was carrying boxes and went from the bright sun outside into the darker hall space."

As his eyes adjusted, he noticed, "this floater in my eyes that I'd had for a while was moving a bit differently. My optometrist told me it was something I should watch for. It was kind of wispy or even looked like smoke."

Keith texted his optometrist and immediately got a call back. "He asked me to describe what was happening. I did and he told me I needed to go see him at his office right away."

Because of the event's importance, he hesitated, suggesting that he could go in the morning. "But my doctor told me, no, that I had to see him right away."

The optometrist ran tests and while he did, Keith noticed his vision getting worse. "I let him know and he told me to call my wife because I was going to need a driver. He was sending me to City Hospital to see a specialist at the Eye Care Centre. By the time I left his office, I was blind in my left eye."

This experience was counter to everything Keith had envisioned. "When I used to think of blindness,



**Keith Moen, executive director of the North Saskatoon Business Association, says his eyesight was saved at Saskatoon City Hospital.**

I thought of it as someone putting a black drape over your eyes. For me it was like I had a layer of Vaseline on my eye. I couldn't see anything at all except tones and colour."

By then it was after hours and Keith was surprised to see no staff at the Eye Care Centre. "Someone met us at the door and had us sit in the waiting area. We were only there for a few minutes and saw three people, two interns and the surgeon on call, Dr. Moness Masri."

"Keith's case was more of an age-related change," Dr. Masri says, adding

that most people experience this at some time in their lives. "The gel in the back of the eye shifts around and, in some cases, it becomes too sticky and tears a hole in the retina that requires monitoring or surgery."

He saw that Keith's eye was hemorrhaging, the retina had torn and immediate surgery was needed. This was again another strange experience for Keith. "It was a very unfamiliar feeling. You can see a bright light and feel like something is tapping

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the back of your eyeball. It wasn't painful but was uncomfortable. I thought, 'how is it even possible to have the technology to do this?'"

Fortunately, for Keith, it was possible and went better than expected. "When I came out of surgery, nothing had really changed. Dr. Masri said it would gradually get better in two to three months. This was a Thursday but even by the Monday, there was considerable improvement. I could see some things through that coat of Vaseline.

"I always think of myself as a glass half-empty person but my mindset through all this was, 'well, at least I can

still see out of my right eye.' I never really panicked because it happened so fast and I kept thinking of how some people were blind."

The professionals he dealt with were also calming. "Everyone was so reassuring starting from my optometrist, Dr. Lukenchuk, and continuing with Dr. Masri. They were just so good, I really appreciate them."

A follow up demonstrated how crucial advanced training such as fellowships is. A resident doctor could see where the previous laser surgeries had happened but didn't notice a new hole had formed in the retina that was now more visible as the hemorrhaging was clearing up. "It was just a little pinhole

but Dr. Masri could see it; he used that as a teaching opportunity."

*(Foundation donors supported Dr. Masri's fellowship training. To read more, see the article on page 5.)*

For Keith, it was the right combination of having the best equipment and skill. "I'm so thankful that the equipment and expertise is there and that this could happen right in my hometown. I never had any doubt that I was in the right place with the right people.

"They saved my eyesight. Going from being blind in one eye to having my vision back was an amazing experience." □



*(continued from page 5)*

summer of 2021 off, then returned to Saskatoon. During his fellowship training he was contacted by Dr. Ravi, a retinal specialist in Saskatoon to take on a locum position. Dr. Masri states that, "it was a great opportunity to get started in Saskatoon, and work with one of my former mentors. He was very supportive and welcoming."

Dr. Masri is currently practicing at the Conlon Eye Institute. He sees patients there and spends some of his time in

the operating room at City Hospital and the Eye Care Center for coverage of the ophthalmology on call services.

He's adamant that he's here for good. "When I finished my training, there was an opportunity for me to move back east, but I decided to stay here. Saskatoon is a really great city and I've developed many good connections. I moved here when I was 18 so basically have spent all my adult life here."

His presence is benefitting even more than the city; he and Dr. Conlon travel to

Swift Current several times each month to fill in a gap for an ophthalmologist who retired there.

Dr. Masri says the nature of Saskatchewan citizens makes it rewarding. "The people are just so nice and that especially includes the patients. They're just so thankful. It's so different and I really like it here.

"I'm very appreciative of the donors and their kindness to support learners. I might not have been able to do that without them, so I'm thankful." □

## BILL DEAN AND DEBI DUBÉ-DEAN

Living a life surrounded by philanthropy

Bill Dean and Debi Dubé-Dean share a commitment to healthcare in the city. The couple recently pledged \$25,000 to the Foundation; making their lifetime contributions more than \$50,000.

“For me,” says Debi, “the biggest motivation is that, all through my life, my parents demonstrated philanthropy whenever able through kindness, financial aid and helping people out. When you give like that, you see how it enhances a person, how it makes their life better and how grateful they are. They feel so good about it, it becomes a pay-it-forward thing.”

The couple have been patients at City Hospital, she adds. “When I come into City, I just feel I’m going to be taken care of. Even though I’m one of thousands, everyone there makes me feel like I’m their only priority.”

Bill is also grateful for care his father received. “He was a patient in Transitional Care a few years ago. He’d had surgeries and was there while they determined what long-term care he’d need. The staff was great, even though the system was really full at the time.”

Bill and Debi, who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary later this year, have three adult children and 10 grandchildren whom they adore. The couple were high school sweethearts who married shortly after graduating.

After university Debi resumed working for her parents’ companies. “I worked briefly in each of the 32 companies before introducing the Pizza Hut franchise to Saskatchewan. I took early retirement to have more time for our children and charitable causes.”



**Bill Dean and Debi Dubé-Dean have been motivated by the philanthropy that has surrounded them all of their lives.**

Bill is a mechanical engineer and spent 15 years as a consulting engineer before joining the National Research Council for almost 28 years. Though retired, he’s still involved. “It’s technically volunteer work with the Engineering Society but I’ve had the opportunity to travel to places like Greece and Alaska as a Distinguished Lecturer, so it’s quite rewarding.”

The couple also travel together and enjoy trips to locales like Debi’s ‘happy place,’ Hawaii. In the city, Bill golfs and plays senior hockey, while they’re both busy with their 10 grandchildren.

Bill and Debi note their pledge is a legacy. “We know we’re not going

to live another 60 years,” Debi says, adding that they also support local causes such as the Heart & Stroke Foundation, Stars, and Diabetes Canada. The latter is dear to them because their son was diagnosed with diabetes when he was two years old.

“We give because, after we’re gone, we want people to continue getting the best care by equipping the medical system with the latest, best, hi-tech equipment. Saskatoon City Hospital has talented and skilled staff, let’s make sure they have the tools to treat you to a successful outcome.”

The Foundation thanks Bill and Debi for their continuing and heartfelt support. □



## HOW YOU HELPED; HOW YOU CAN HELP

### Endoscopy staff grateful for donors

It was an exciting day in the hospital's Endoscopy department last fall. Several staff including physicians, a sales rep from medical company Erbe, and a cauterization specialist from Toronto, were present to witness the hospital's first use of the new cautery unit.

Paid for by donors like you, the unit, also known as electrosurgery, allows gastroenterologists to remove potential cancerous polyps by cauterizing the polyps at the base while coagulating potential blood vessels at the same time. This often replaces the need for more invasive surgery. "The physicians were quite excited to be using the new equipment," reports Richard Le Tang, Endoscopy's clinical coordinator.

In the past few years, Foundation donors have purchased several pieces to enhance endoscopy at Saskatoon City Hospital. This is crucial because of the vast array of procedures the department conducts, starting with general gastroscopies – to look at the esophagus, stomach and first portion of

the small intestine – and colonoscopies, which are scopes through the rectum to look at large intestine and lower portion of small intestine (ileum).

"Those are what's considered general endoscopy procedures," Le Tang says. "We also do advanced procedures such as Radio Frequency Ablation (RFA). These are normally used for patients who've had gastric reflux and developed what's known as Barrett's esophagus, which can turn into cancer. Through RFA we go in with cautery pads and burn the abnormal tissue so that new, healthy tissue grows."

Another noteworthy procedure is endoscopic ultrasound (EUS), he adds. "This procedure uses a flexible scope like a gastroscope. It can target tumours, lesions or masses – things that can be cancerous – and take tissue samples to be sent for analysis. It's essentially diagnostic testing without major surgery or exposure to radiation through MRI or x-ray. It's also beneficial because we get results quicker."

With 5,000 scoping procedures annually, Le Tang notes that it's important to replace or upgrade endoscopy scopes frequently. "The ones we're using now are quite dated; seven years or older where average scope life is five to seven years. So, these are at or beyond end of life."

Le Tang says new scopes use advanced technology such as artificial intelligence that automatically recognizes abnormalities and places warnings on screen for physicians. "It catches things that might be missed so physicians can take a second look.

"As well, resolution and imaging is better. For example, traditionally a white light is used. This is like looking with a flashlight. New scopes use four- or five-light systems that let doctors see things better, such as blood vessels."

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



**With 5,000 scoping procedures done in the hospital's Endoscopy department every year, it's important that scopes are replaced frequently and technology kept up to date.**

# You can give patients the answers they need

*Behind every procedure and every specimen slide are a patient and their loved ones waiting for a diagnosis and treatment plan. You can help them get the answers they need.*

As a quality of life facility, Saskatoon City Hospital is renowned for the treatment and recovery services provided to patients. But the key first step, the step that must be taken before patients begin their journey back to wellness, is diagnosis.

Over the past few months, the Foundation has endeavoured to raise funds for two hospital departments that play a major role in diagnosis – Medical

Imaging and the Anatomic Pathology Lab. In this issue that's expanding to include a major purchase for the Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre of Care, the Breast Health Centre.

#### **Brevera Imaging System: Improving Comfort**

Sometimes the diagnostic process can be uncomfortable and even painful. That's why radiologists and staff at the

**Breast Health Centre** are asking for your help to purchase a new imaging-biopsy system.

Cancer can manifest as calcium and that can't be felt with a physical exam and usually doesn't show on an ultrasound, explains Dr. Carolyn Flegg, radiologist with the Breast Health Centre. The only way to see it is with a mammogram; when calcium is detected, it needs to be biopsied.



"A mammogram requires compression of the breast, which patients will tell you is uncomfortable even though the compression lasts less than 15 seconds per image," Dr. Flegg explains. "When doing a mammogram-guided biopsy, the breast is compressed for the entire duration of the biopsy, which takes several minutes, so we want to expedite the procedure as quickly as possible."

The biopsy procedure is also prolonged as physicians have to remove the biopsy needle, place the tissue samples in a Petri dish and x-ray these samples. All the while, the patient remains compressed on the mammography table.

Last fall, physicians at the Centre conducted a trial with the Brevera Imaging System. Its key component allowed them to x-ray the samples as soon as they were removed. Dr. Flegg estimates the new device reduces the number of samples by 50 per cent and that women may spend 20 per cent less time in compression.

In other words, it improves the diagnostic stage, making the experience much more comfortable for patients. To learn more about the Brevera Imaging System, read the article on the following page.

### Medical Imaging: A Better Look

Brenda Lock, manager of **Diagnostic Imaging** at the hospital says having the best and latest equipment is crucial. "As with all our imaging equipment, we require good high quality detail for all images produced. Not only is it important to allow for accurate interpretation, but we need to compare reproducible, quality imaging to evaluate any differences and subtle changes when comparing past images.

"Imaging devices deteriorate over time while new imaging equipment has evolved and demonstrates more finite details and higher resolution. Comparing images acquired on an older system to images from a new system is challenging and could result in inaccurate or missed diagnoses."

Of priority is replacing one of the department's C-Arms, which are 14- and 18-years old and aging. "C-arms are used in the Operating Room to provide real time imaging during surgery," Lock explains. Real time imaging enables surgeons to see the area in question better and ensures more surgical accuracy.

Similarly, the department needs to replace its portable radiography unit. Used at bedside for patients who are immobile, new units emit less radiation and produce images that can be reviewed at bedside.

"Imaging technology has made major advancements in the past fifteen years," Lock says. "Our patients greatly benefit from having state-of-the-art imaging equipment for their care."

### Anatomic Pathology: Going Digital

City Hospital's **Anatomic Pathology Lab** wants to be the flagship of digital pathology in the province.

"Our vision is twofold," says Dr. Mary Kinloch, division head of pathology. "The first will see digital pathology images going from outside centres to City Hospital for consultation; the second will see the hospital provide proficiency testing back to outside centres; providing support and stability for the rest of the province."

Dr. Kinloch says implementing the vision will improve patient access to


care. The first aspect would replace the need for shipping pathology slides with scanning and uploading images to share instantly. Digital pathology would decrease the time patients access care by at least a week.

The most crucial part of the proposal are imagers that take slides with tissue or samples and scan them into the system at 400 times magnification. These images are loaded into servers that allow pathologists online access.

The vision's second part relates to the hospital's role as a provincial cancer diagnostic reference center. Dr. Kinloch says that, "90 percent of patients diagnosed with cancer require laboratory diagnostic tests to decide what oncology drugs will work. Currently SCH is the province's reference center for those companion diagnostics for lung, gastric, uterine, and head and neck cancers."

A network of pathologists read these companion diagnostics but there's never more than two for each cancer site and most sites only have one. "It requires training that's not readily available and it's almost not offered anywhere. Digital pathology would help by creating a teaching platform that would see pathologists with expertise train pathologists across the province."

Patients are the most important aspect of both phases, Dr. Kinloch confirms. "This vision will create equity in the province. Everybody, regardless of their geography, will have access to high quality cancer diagnostics and specialist opinions. There will no longer be delays in your diagnosis just because your tissue needs to travel."

To enhance diagnostic imaging and get patients the answers they need, donate at [SCHFgo.com](http://SCHFgo.com) or call 306-655-8489. 

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can increase patient comfort in the Breast Health Centre

Dealing with breast health concerns and the discomfort of examinations is very stressful for patients of the Breast Health Centre. Physicians need your help to purchase new equipment that will partially alleviate that.

Radiologist Dr. Carolyn Flegg details what patients at the centre experience. “The purpose of mammography is to detect cancer. One way cancer manifests on mammograms is by forming little bits of calcium in the breast. Calcium can’t be felt in a physical exam; it’s also one of the things that doesn’t show up on an ultrasound.”

The only way to see it is with a mammogram, she adds. “When we biopsy calcium, of which 10 to 20 per cent is usually cancer, we need the mammogram equipment to get the biopsy needle in the right place. The mammogram requires compressing the breast, which patients say is not comfortable. This is the same when doing mammogram-guided biopsy. Because compression lasts for several minutes, we want to expedite procedures as quickly as possible.”

Another part of the procedure prolongs this, Dr. Flegg continues. “When we biopsy calcium, we take an x-ray of the tissue sample to make sure the calcium is in the tissue. If we have calcium, we know we have whatever is going on in the tissue to make the calcium and pathologists can tell us what that is.

“To do this, I disassemble the back part of the biopsy needle, leaving the needle in, and then retrieve the samples, place them in a Petri dish and x-ray them. This entire time, the woman is still in compression and still has a biopsy needle in her breast.”



***The Brevera Imaging System will help reduce discomfort for breast health patients having mammogram biopsies.***

That’s why late last year, Dr. Flegg and fellow radiologists tested a new piece of equipment that helps alleviate that discomfort. It’s the Brevera Imaging System and it has many advantages.

“With the Brevera, we take x-rays as we’re taking a sample. It takes eight seconds and is processed while I’m taking the next sample. My pictures are one sample behind but still coming quicker than the current method. I see right away whether I have calcium. If I do, I know which area to target for additional samples. If I have enough calcium, I can stop.”

This reduces the number of samples taken by about 50 per cent. “It also takes less time because I don’t have to disassemble the biopsy needle. I also can determine sooner that I have the samples I need and let the woman out of the compression device.”

Dr. Flegg estimates patients were spending up to 20 per cent less time on the biopsy table being compressed.

“As well, the fewer samples we take, the less bleeding the patient will have. This is important because we see many patients who may be on blood thinners. Taking samples the current way can result in bruising, so anything we do to reduce trauma to tissue is good.”

There’s also an advantage for the pathology lab, she adds. “They’re being given half as much tissue, so it speeds up the time it takes them to look through samples, and naturally means they can make important diagnoses faster.”

Because of the eight-week trial, period Dr. Flegg says they know the new system is totally compatible. “We had feedback from all radiologists, technologists and pathologists everyone is convinced this will be a great benefit to patients. It was a sad day when we had to give it back to the company.”

To bring the Brevera Imaging System back to the Breast Health Centre permanently, donate at [SCHFGO.com](http://SCHFGO.com) or call the Foundation at 306-655-8489. □



## YOU HELPED SOMEONE LIVE BETTER

Retired police officer gives top marks to City Hospital Care

Sometimes good comes out of bad. That's what retired Saskatoon police officer Aime Decae (pronounced amay decay) believes after his health care experiences of the past few years.

Aime had a knee replaced at Saskatoon City Hospital in 2007. The other was replaced just before Christmas in 2021, also at Saskatoon City Hospital.

Three months after the second knee replacement, Aime reports that he was doing physical therapy at home when he had a mishap. "I slipped and fell going up the stairs."

But he adds that, "It was the best thing that ever happened in my life!"

That's because, while Aime had bruised his knee in the fall, later that same day he also noticed blood in his urine. "At first, I didn't think too much of it. The next day, a Sunday, I noticed there was even more blood."

He thought he'd pulled a groin muscle during his fall, so he went to see his doctor. "He took all the samples, sent me for an ultrasound, and then referred me to a urologist for cystoscopy. The scoping discovered that there was cancer in my bladder."

Aime says this is why his misfortune wasn't so unfortunate. "Thank God I fell because two days later there was no bleeding. I could have gone on without even knowing that I had cancer."

Aime underwent two operations to remove the tumours, which were



**Aime Decae at one of his many visits to the Clinical Treatment Centre.**

**"Everyone from every nurse and every doctor has made me laugh so hard. They made it so enjoyable."**

determined to be high-grade and invasive. He's since been coming to Saskatoon City Hospital for Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) treatments. BCG is a tuberculosis vaccine that's injected into the bladder to kill any cancer that might remain after tumours are surgically removed.

With the knee operation happening in December, the cystoscopies in spring, and six weeks of BCG injections in the Clinical Treatment Centre throughout the fall, Aime has spent a lot of time at City Hospital in the past 16 months.

"Between all that, I can't speak well enough about the health care system," he says, knowing there are strains. "But it's not doctors, nurses or the hospital.

I've found that, once you're in the system, the care is simply outstanding."

Aime points to one touching and memorable incident. "There was one night following my last knee surgery that I was having really bad pain at about 2:30 in the morning. The nurse sat with me for three hours. I asked if she was busy with other patients and she told me, 'you're my charge now.' She'd go and do other things but would always come back to me."

He also thanks staff for the humour that was part of his healing.

"Everyone from every nurse and every doctor has made me laugh so hard. They made it so enjoyable." □

## KAYE FAMILY LEARNING DAY 2022

Donor inspired education day now in its third decade

First presented in 2002, the Kaye Family Learning Day celebrated 20 years of delivering continuing education opportunities last September, and now moves into its third decade!

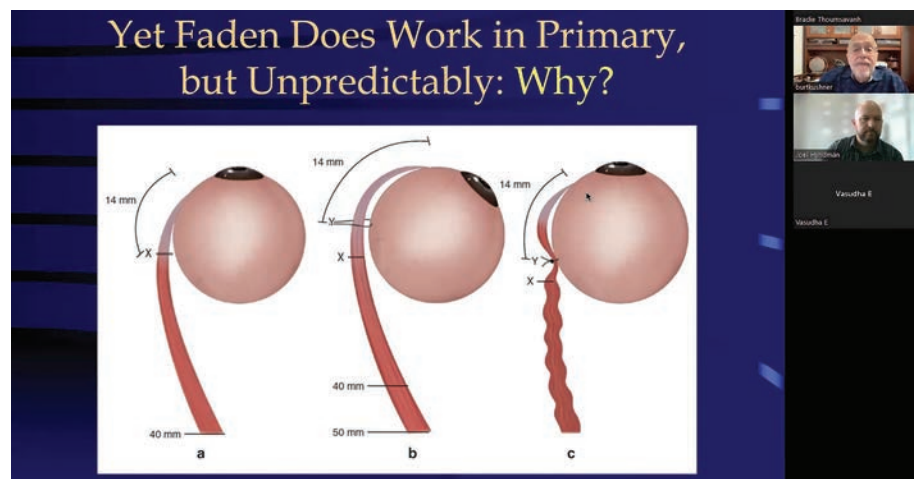
The annual event was born out of the Saskatchewan Orthoptic Provincial Seminar, which began in the mid-1990s. Its keynote speech later became known as the Kaye Lecture, created by the Ludwig & Olga & Constance Kaye Pediatric Ophthalmology Endowment, whose purpose is to create ongoing educational opportunities for eye health professionals in the community.

The Kayes were inspired to create the endowment 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, Olga and Ludwig's daughter 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 endowment's significance and, on her passing at age 60 in 2011, designated funds from her trust, leaving a gift in her will to the endowment. In tribute to the Kayes and inspired by Olga's continuing strong interest, the event was renamed the Kaye Family Learning Day in 2021.

The 2022 Kaye Family Learning Day was again presented virtually. Nearly five dozen people registered for the day, held on September 16.

**"The Kayes were inspired to create the endowment in response to the care given by hospital staff to their daughter, Constance."**



**Above: Dr. Burton Kushner was guest lecturer at the 2022 Kaye Family Learning Day. Below: The sessions were presented virtually.**

The guest lecturer was Dr. Burton Kushner, a Wisconsin-based pediatric ophthalmologist with a special interest in eye muscle disorders, including the syndrome known as "lazy eye."

Dr. Kushner's lecture topic was "A Comprehensive Approach to Vertical Strabismus." He also presented talks on intermittent exotropia, and performing surgery on the inferior and superior obliques. The ophthalmologist also led case study discussions.

The Foundation thanks the Kaye family for establishing this lasting legacy that enables these learning opportunities. For the first time, sessions are available to watch on the Foundation's YouTube channel at [youtube.com/user/StoonCityHospFound](https://youtube.com/user/StoonCityHospFound).

The 2023 Kaye Family Learning Day takes place on Friday, Sept. 15. The guest lecturer, joining virtually from Houston, Texas, is pediatric ophthalmologist Dr. Aaron Miller. □



## YOUR WILL IS POWERFUL

More Canadians are leaving a gift to charity in their Wills

The Foundation is lucky. Supporters like you are thoughtful individuals who share a concern for healthcare and are committed to building a better future for the hospital.

Often people think about contributing to the causes they care about with monthly donations or volunteering time, but there is a growing number of people who are going one step further to leave a gift to charity in their Wills. These are ordinary Canadians who've realized they can make a powerful contribution that will last for generations to come, without taking away from the resources they or their families need.

This new mindset among Canadians of all ages has been triggered, to some extent, by the intensity of recent global events and the realization that it's possible to do more just by giving in a different way.

In fact, if more Canadians left even a minuscule percentage of their estate to charity, the sum of all their efforts could represent as much as \$40 billion to advance causes that they care about so passionately.

When you look into it, you may be surprised to learn that a donation of as little as one per cent of your estate can result in a bigger contribution than you ever thought possible. You are still leaving 99 per cent of your estate to support your loved ones, and you're not using any of the money you need now.

The best part is that leaving a gift in your Will can be a very simple process. Here are a few suggestions that can help you take the next steps:



***A little kindness can change everything: Leaving a gift in your Will today will have a powerful impact tomorrow. Willpower.ca can help you.***

**Calculate your donation:** You can determine how much you want to leave to charity, and how much you want your loved ones to receive, with a simple calculation. You can make that calculation using the Legacy Calculator found at WillPower.ca, a national public education campaign that's designed to inspire Canadians.

**Discover the tax benefits:** Did you know the Canadian government has created some of the best tax incentives in the world to encourage more giving to charity, especially from your estate? Just to cite an example, one article at WillPower.ca illustrates how a couple's financial advisor helped them give big to charity and take advantage of the tax benefits, all while leaving a sizable inheritance for their daughters.

**Ask a financial advisor:** Consulting a financial expert can help you maximize

your donation and ensure it works in your favour. You can use Will Power's Financial Advisor Finder to match with an expert in your region. There is also a handy guide available to start the conversation with your advisor.

**Find out how to keep the love going:** You also can learn how a gift in your Will to the Foundation would be used to benefit the hospital and its patients for years to come. Call the Foundation at 306-655-8489 or email [info@schfgo.com](mailto:info@schfgo.com) to find out more.

Who would have thought of a Will as a powerful tool to make change in the world? But more and more Canadians are harnessing the power of their Wills to become larger-than-life philanthropists who continue to inspire others and make an impact on the future. Join the movement and keep the love going for what matters to you! □

## FOUNDATION EVENTS LIGHT UP HOLIDAY SEASON

### Festival of Trees, Enchanted Forest Have Successful Years

Two popular events once again proved to be a large part of people's holiday plans last Christmas.

It all started on Nov. 18 when the **BHP Enchanted Forest** returned for a dazzling 24th season. The opening night saw the return of the **Saskatchewan Blue Cross Light Walk**. Thousands of people took in the event held for the first time since 2019.

Drive-throughs began on Nov. 19 and continued every day until closing night on Jan. 8. In spite of bitterly cold December temperatures and heavy snowfalls, 76,000 people took in the beautiful lights. This year's newest display was "I'll Be Home for Christmas." The depiction of a rustic scene left many with nostalgic longings.

One of winter's top tourism attractions in Saskatchewan, proceeds benefit both Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation and the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation. Follow the BHP Enchanted Forest at [enchanted-forest.org](http://enchanted-forest.org) or on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for final results. Also stay tuned for details about next season, the 25th Anniversary of the Enchanted Forest.

The 37th year of the **Festival of Trees** celebrated a return to pre-pandemic crowds and enthusiasm. More than 90 displays of trees, wreaths, and gingerbread houses greeted crowds of more than 20,000 – an increase to the 17,000 who attended in 2021.

The Festival also brought joy with its interactive offerings such as photos with Santa, Enchanted story time, free face painting, and character meet and greets at the Fantasy Castle. There



**76,000 people visited the 2022 BHP Enchanted Forest Light Tour.**



**This gingerbread house display at the Festival of Trees was created by the hospital's Sleep Disorders Centre and won the SCH People's Choice award.**

was something for everyone to enjoy, including ticketed special events like Brunch with Santa, Supper with Santa, the Father/Daughter Gala, and the Royal Brunch. Another returning feature was the online 50-50 raffle: more than 10,000 tickets were sold and one lucky person took home \$3,660 of Christmas cash!

For details on proceeds, visit [festival-of-trees.com](http://festival-of-trees.com) or its Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

As this issue was going to press tickets were still being sold for the 2023 **Ens Auto Swinging with the Stars** but a sell-out was imminent. Eight local celebrities and their dance partners took to the stage in a grand night of

fun and fundraising at TCU Place on January 28. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the event and seventh since the Foundation became the official recipient of the event.

Since then, more than a million dollars has been raised for equipment at Saskatoon City Hospital. This year, your efforts helped purchase a new C-Arm x-ray unit to be used in the hospital's Operating Room. The C-Arm provides real time imaging during surgeries, ensuring more accuracy. You're providing the very best for patients at the most crucial time.

For more details and photos, watch for the Summer issue of this publication in late May. You can also follow the



Ens Auto Swinging with the Stars on Facebook and Instagram.

If you're reading this in early March, plans are well underway for the 2023 **Nutrien Black Tie Bingo**. It marks the first live presentation of this event since 2019. Ticket sales in January proved how bingo fans were excited for its return – more than 80% were sold and it also was expected to sell out.

While more details and photos will also be published in the next edition of Well Aware, the Foundation and organizers say a special thanks to our new title sponsor, Nutrien. Nutrien has a tremendous history and presence as a sponsor for meaningful impact in our community. The Foundation is excited with this new partnership.

Also ongoing is the **Hospital Home Lottery**. As you're reading this, it's likely sold or close to sold out. One reason for this was the stunning grand prize showhome built by Fraser Homes. The classic farmhouse with modern sophistication featured five bedrooms, 5,000 square feet, three full and two half bathrooms, a grand fireplace and covered deck!



**The 10th annual Ens Auto Swinging with the Stars took place Jan. 28.**

Other prizes included a tour of four national parks, a luxury island escape, and the early bird prize of a gorgeous Volvo XC90 Recharge R-Design or \$120,000 cash. There were also numerous other vehicles, vacations, and leisure or recreation items. And don't forget the 50/50 Add-On – last year's total was \$1.36 million with the winner pocketing \$680,000!

For ticket availability call 1-866-957-0777 or visit [hospitalhomelottery.org](http://hospitalhomelottery.org). Do you want to ensure that you never miss buying again? Then become a member by signing up on the website.

Thank you for your ongoing and continued support of these fantastic FUNdraisers. Your ongoing sponsorship, participation and attendance ensures that Foundation events are both fun and successful.

*The goal of SCH Foundation and its partner organizations is to provide quality fundraising events. To stay in touch, be sure to subscribe to Foundation Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter pages or check the Events section at [SCHFgo.com](http://SCHFgo.com). You can also follow events on their own various social media pages. □*



**This Fraser Homes beauty in Edgemont Estates is valued at more than \$2.1 million and is the grand prize in this spring's Hospital Home Lottery. Buy your tickets at [HospitalHomeLottery.org](http://HospitalHomeLottery.org) or by calling 1-866-957-0777.**



Thank you to the Sobeys stores in Preston Crossing, Stonebridge, and College Park, and the Lawson Heights Safeway for once again facilitating the Pink Ribbon Campaign. During the month of October, the four stores sold ribbons to shoppers with proceeds benefiting the Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre of Care, Breast Health Centre.

The four locations raised more than \$23,000 this year. Since this campaign was created by Sobeys, donations to the hospital's Breast Health Centre have raised almost \$600,000.

Proceeds will be directed to the purchase of a Brevera Imaging system. For further details, see the story on page 12 of this issue.

Thank you also to all who bought a ribbon, and thank you to the staff and managers of the Sobeys and Safeway stores for your continuing dedication to the Breast Health Centre!

\*\*\*\*\*

We're grateful for residents of Preston Park II who hosted a 'happy hour' last summer. Their efforts saw them pour a cocktail worth \$203, directed to MS research in the hospital. Cheers!

\*\*\*\*\*

MS research was also supported by Mark and Erin Van Haastert and their parents, Kees and Cory Van Haastert. Mark and Erin raised \$2,000 by again selling a calf; Kees and Cory doubled the donation with a personal gift. Thank you for your continuing support.

\*\*\*\*\*



**The Sobeys Pink Ribbon campaign took place at four stores in October and raised \$23,000 for the Breast Health Centre at Saskatoon City Hospital.**

We love your notes and while they're emailed to the Foundation, so often they're meant to thank staff and the great job they do. Sharing is our way of also saying thanks:

"Received two cornea transplants in 2021. Thanks, I can see again! Good job to City and all the staff."

\*\*\*\*\*

"My husband has been the recipient of numerous diagnostic procedures at SCH. I would like to help keep up the good work that is being done."

\*\*\*\*\*

The Foundation also thanks the many donors who redirected their recently received government benefits to Saskatoon City Hospital.

\*\*\*\*\*

"I had prostate cancer surgery done at City Hospital and was treated great. So far all is well. I also take my brother and mom in for injections at the Eye Care Centre. We are very grateful for everything the hospital's done."

\*\*\*\*\*

Finally, a bittersweet and beautiful note accompanied by a recent donation:

"My sad news is that my husband died last November in St. Paul's. He was 91 and, before he passed, City Hospital Foundation sent a card for his birthday. He said, 'how did they know it was my birthday?'"

I think he was pleased because his mind was good to the end. We were married 62 years and enjoyed a good life on our farm and raising three sons."

\*\*\*\*\*

Recreation therapist Katie Umpherville sends this note of appreciation:

"I would love to give my sincerest 'Thank You!' for giving me the opportunity to apply for Professional Development Funds and thank you for approving my application. The fund benefits my knowledge, skills, and abilities in supporting the clients and patients I work with daily.

Thanks again!

\*\*\*\*\*

Social worker Karen Mantyka, thanked the Foundation for funding that allowed her to attend two important conferences – the Wicahitowin Indigenous Engagement Conference and the Innovative Approaches to Housing and Homelessness conference.

"At each of these events, not only was I able to learn from other organizations and from people with lived experience, but I was also able to make important community connections that have been

lacking in the last two years due to most events being virtual.

"I brought back this knowledge to my team and presented a brief summary at a staff meeting afterwards, so that everyone could benefit from the information received.

"I appreciate the support I receive as a social worker: each one of these opportunities gives me more confidence in my knowledge and skills." □



## IN MEMORIAM

Donations were made from Aug. 1, 2022 to Nov. 30, 2022 in memory of the following people:

Karl Bayer  
Connie Bews  
Vera Chyzowski  
Clara E. Davis  
Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada  
Marikay Falby  
Jeannine Hamoline

Gerry Irvine  
Rick Jamison  
Robert L. Learmonth  
Ken Logan  
Eva MacKenzie  
Dr. John A. Mann  
Peter Nemanishen  
Irvin A. Pfeifer

Dorothy Podolski  
Helen Savostianik  
Gail Scobie  
Irene Temple  
Charles Theilman  
Marjorie Thompson  
Patricia Thomson  
Marion Wilson

## IN HONOUR

Donations were made from Aug. 1, 2022 to Nov. 30, 2022 in honour of the following people:

City Hospital ER for excellent care  
Tanis Kershaw  
Penny Koehn  
Irene Lacy  
Heidi Thoms  
Dr. Nigel Rawlings, Sandy & Staff at the SCH Eye Clinic  
Urology and Day Surgery and the nurses working 18 hour shifts



*Celebrating 30 Years!*

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
DONATE AT  
SCHFgo.COM**

## **IT'S EASY TO DONATE**

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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 anytime by contacting the Foundation.

