

# WELL AWARE

PEOPLE CARING FOR PEOPLE

SPRING 2024



Your diagnosis

Your treatment

Your recovery

# It starts **here.**



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### DUBÉ'S INSPIRED GIFT

**Leslie and Irene Dubé  
donate \$1 million to  
City Hospital**

**5**



### IT STARTS HERE

**City Hospital is the  
first step for many  
patients**

**10**



### EVENTS SEE SUCCESS

**Your support has led  
to great success for  
Foundation events**

**12**

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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

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**IMAGINE CANADA**



## Steve Shannon

New beginnings happen every day in our lives.

A new job, a new life with a new partner, a clean slate, results from a troubling medical discovery, or even a new and different way of looking at something.

That new beginning experience is happening right now at the Foundation. One of its continuing goals is to present and define the hospital. This has been done several ways over the past 40 years, since the Foundation was established. I've been lucky to be closely involved with that effort for the last 14 years as CEO.

That effort always starts with answering questions such as, "what does City Hospital do?" or "what happens at the hospital?"

For anybody who comes to City Hospital as a patient, the answer to those questions will be different.

While the hospital sees 200,000 patient visits and procedures every year, each patient usually is only familiar with the procedure they're having in the department they're visiting. They might not be aware of other departments and what procedures happen in those.

As people who work here every day and get to see the hospital up close, Foundation employees



luckily experience the whole picture. What we've now defined is that the common denominator of every department at SCH is this: what happens with your visit is just a beginning for you.

You'll come for a biopsy, imaging, a medical test, MS clinical appointment, orthopedic surgery, or rehabilitation. Then you'll move on through the healthcare process.

In other words, it starts **here**. No matter what department or procedure, no matter what answers you're needing for your medical questions, it starts **here**.

What was that lump? Can we cure MS? Can I enjoy an active life again? Can I recover from my stroke?

Your journey  
It starts **here**.

Your diagnosis  
It starts **here**.

Your treatment  
It starts **here**.

Your recovery  
It starts **here**.

Your better health care  
It starts **here**. □

# SCHFgo.com

## Donors support rehab patients through ultrasound purchase

In an earlier issue of Well Aware magazine, it was reported how Bud and Eileen Bayda responded to winning the Hospital Home Lottery's 50/50 AddOn with a major gift to Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation.

The Baydas have furthered their support with another gift. It will provide a state-of-the-art, point-of-care ultrasound to benefit patients in the hospital's Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

"The department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation is a tertiary level rehabilitation hospital that services the majority of the northern half of the province. It provides specialized neurological and musculoskeletal rehabilitation to patients who have experienced spinal cord injuries, stroke, amputation, acquired brain injuries, ALS and nerve injuries, among others," says Dr. Gary Linassi, the SHA's provincial head, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

"We are also a primary training site for physical medicine and rehabilitation medical specialists (physiatrists), inter-professional practitioners and nursing students."

Dr. Linassi adds that, "our practice relies on ultrasound guided procedures to provide care for many of our patients. Examples of this include relieving musculoskeletal pain by providing joint and soft tissue injections. We can also treat and manage high



***In the hospital's rehab department, the application of ultrasound technology is useful for pinpointing areas where joint and soft tissue injections can reduce musculoskeletal pain or to manage high tone and spasticity caused by brain or spinal cord injury.***

tone and spasticity associated with injury to the brain and spinal cord through injection of botulinum toxin and phenol."

He says this care benefits both inpatient and ambulatory care patients of the hospital. "In the not so recent past, procedures were done without the use of ultrasound guidance. With the application of ultrasound technology, this area of care has become more precise and effective by increasing the accuracy of the injections."

This makes the gift timely according to Dr. Linassi. "Recently we were fortunate to recruit Dr. Brendan Kushneriuk to the hospital. He's a rehabilitation physician (physiatrist) who specializes in this area of care. The purchase of a state of art ultrasound machine means he can

use his advanced skills to provide accurate injection interventions.

"This will directly benefit people who are struggling with pain and whose function and mobility is restricted due to high tone and spasticity. It will also be used to guide injections to help manage secretions in people with ALS who can no longer swallow."

Finally, Dr. Linassi says, "with more ultrasound availability, this allows other physiatrists to learn these procedures. It will help with training resident physicians so that they can also incorporate ultrasound use in their practice.

"The Baydas' generous donation will directly benefit the lives of many people and contribute to their greater independence and quality of life. Thank you!" □

## Irene and Leslie Dubé present major gift to Foundation

Irene and Leslie Dubé have again shared their kindness with Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation.

Just before Christmas, Foundation CEO Steve Shannon was pleased to accept a \$1 million donation from the Dubés. It will refurbish one of Medical Imaging's two fluoroscopy suites.

Fluoroscopy involves passing a contrasting liquid such as dye through the body to capture real time images. Many know of the procedure through barium swallows, key for detecting gastrointestinal issues and even cancers. Fluoroscopy can also be applied to improve joint injections, study fertility, and determine uterine or endometrial problems.

One of the hospital's two fluoroscopy suites was upgraded in 2019, replacing 15-year old equipment and improving resolution capabilities.

Having two fully restored suites will help Medical Imaging deal with the increasing demand for the procedure.

Irene and Leslie's benevolence is well known and appreciated throughout the community. At Saskatoon City Hospital, their spirit of giving resulted in earlier and major gifts to Medical Imaging, the Operating Room, and the Breast Health Centre, aptly named the Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre of Care.

"We believe we've been well rewarded in our lives because of our faith," the couple has said in the past. "This is why we believe in supporting the community any way that we can. We believe we have a responsibility wherever we see a need to do something to help others."

To honour their ongoing devotion to the hospital, the Foundation was inspired to place a sign thanking Irene and Leslie for the passion and kindness they have shown over the years. You can see the sign on the first floor, adjacent to Medical Imaging.

Thank you for the wonderful gift, Les and Irene! □



**In recognition of Irene and Leslie Dubé's continuing support and devotion to Saskatoon City Hospital and to the whole community, this commemorative and inspirational sign has been placed just outside of Medical Imaging.**



## Departments have numerous requests for equipment

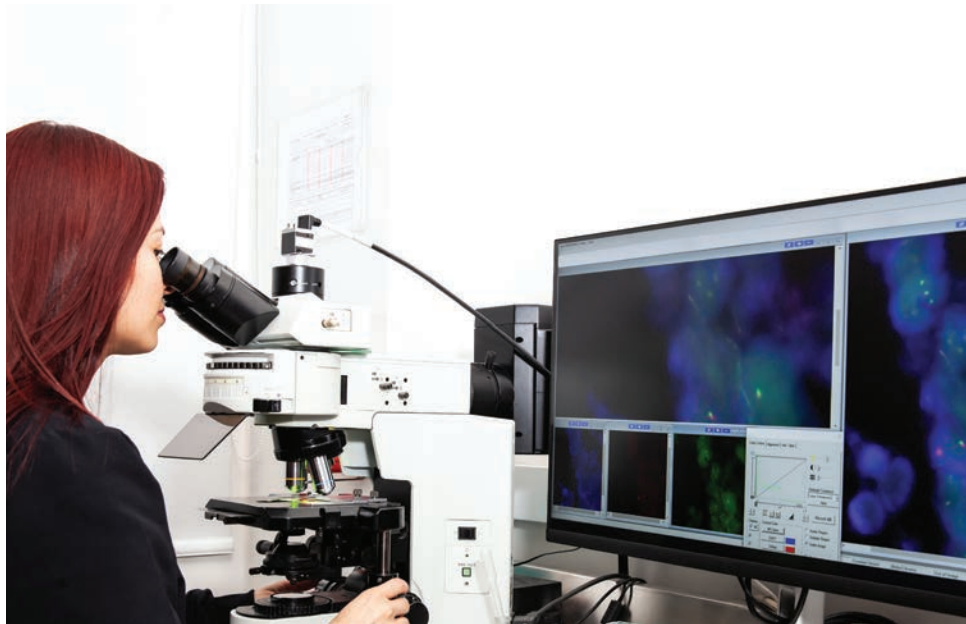
With the hospital seeing 200,000 patient visits and procedures every year, there's a constant strain on equipment. Your support ensures that it's replaced and upgraded when needed.

For instance, the hospital's **Ambulatory Care** department "desperately" requires a new **urodynamics machine**, says urologist Dr. Kunal Jana.

He adds that Saskatoon City Hospital hasn't had a working urodynamics machine for some time. "This means there are more than 250 patients awaiting testing. In these situations, urodynamic testing is required before they can proceed with the definitive treatment they need.

"Urodynamic equipment allows us to diagnose the bladder's functional health," Dr. Jana explains. "With that information treatments can then be offered but, without that information, patients continue to suffer debilitating voiding dysfunction, incontinence, or pelvic pain. In some cases this can lead to life-threatening renal failure."

Another priority piece required is a **C-Arm**, used by **Medical Imaging** staff in the hospital's Operating Room. "C-arms are used in the OR to provide real time imaging during surgery," explains Brenda Lock, the SHA's interim director of Medical Imaging. "Real time imaging enables surgeons to see the area in question better and ensures more accuracy with procedures.



**You can help cancer patients: a Fluorescent In Situ Hybridization (FISH) platform will be used in the Anatomic Pathology Lab for diagnosing patients with potential sarcomas, brain cancers, or lymphomas.**

"Medical Imaging at City Hospital currently has two C-arms that were new in 2004 and 2008," she adds. "Needless to say they are both at or near end-of-life. They're becoming harder to repair and when they break down, they increase wait time."

Your support will help purchase one new machine. At the same time, you'll help upgrade the C-arm's capability – replacing a 14- or 18-year-old device means a serious improvement in technology. "Digital radiographic equipment provides high image quality with less radiation dose to the patient and staff working in the area," Lock says. "A flat plate detector on the DR C-arm allows for a wider field of view for the surgeon and also uses less space than existing C-arm imaging intensifiers, which allows for more visibility around the patient."

You can help patients get the answers they need sooner – your gifts will support the purchase of a **Fluorescent In Situ Hybridization (FISH)** platform for the hospital's **Anatomic Pathology Lab**.

FISH essentially is a laboratory-based test that captures a close-up picture of cells and genes. The information captured is not only useful in diagnosing certain cancers, it can also lead to better treatment decisions.

"This special technology will be used for diagnosing patients with sarcomas, brain cancers, or lymphomas right here in Saskatchewan," explains Dr. Mary Kinloch, division head of pathology at Saskatoon. "This will be instead of having to send patient tissue out of province for diagnosis, which results in patient delays. SCH will be the reference

centre for this testing for all cancer patients in the province.”

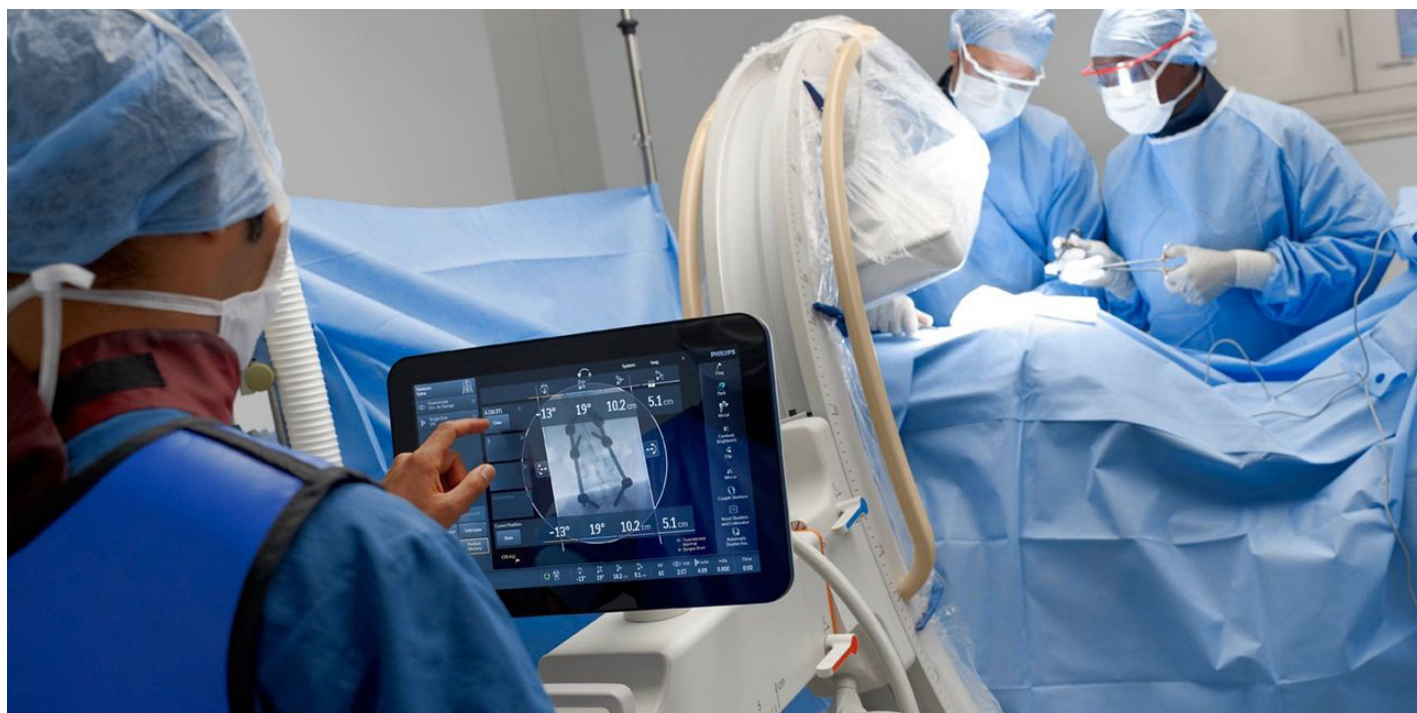
The **Women’s Health Centre** needs a new **colposcope** for gynecology examinations. A colposcope is a magnifier that’s used to view the cervix, or for

loop electrosurgical excision procedures (LEEP), and other gynecology exams.

A colposcopy would be needed if a Pap test returned abnormal results, or if other abnormalities were spotted during pelvic exams.

The piece requested includes a viewing component for teaching of students and patients.

To support these and other needs, donate online at [SCHFgo.com](https://SCHFgo.com). You can also call 306-655-8489 or stop by the Foundation office. □



**A C-Arm imaging device, similar to the equipment seen here, allows healthcare professionals to capture images of patients during surgical procedures, ensuring accuracy and possibly preventing further surgery.**

## Foundation welcomes new executive assistant

The Foundation is pleased to welcome our new executive assistant, Robin Scott.

Robin comes to the Foundation after a long career in the automotive industry. She’s a graduate of the Saskatoon Business College.

She joined the Foundation last September and was immediately thrust into a busy season that saw several internal Foundation events return after the pandemic.

Robin and her husband, Alex, have two children. □



## Leo Bourassa and Daphne Arnason donate \$100,000

With a deep respect for Saskatoon City Hospital, local couple Leo Bourassa and Daphne Arnason recently donated \$100,000 to the Foundation. The gift was directed for equipment in the Ambulatory Care department.

"Saskatoon City Hospital has held a special meaning for us," the couple says of the donation.

"In addition to raising our four children, we shared responsibilities for aging parents and other relatives. Access to quality healthcare services had a direct impact on the well-being at all stages of our family life.

"Our extended family has benefited directly from City Hospital on numerous occasions. This included geriatric care, the Eye Care Centre, and orthopedic surgery for both young and not so young family members.

"Each experience with City Hospital, whether it was for scheduled appointments, day surgery, or extended stay, deepened our personal gratitude. The warmth, attention to comfort, excellence and skill in patient care is exceptional."

Leo and Daphne add a responsibility to Saskatoon as motivation. "Giving back to our community is a priority, because we're being faced with the urgent needs of others on a daily basis. It's difficult to imagine our community without the special services that Saskatoon City Hospital provides daily.



***Citing a desire to support healthcare professionals and in tribute to care the family has received, Daphne Arnason and Leo Bourassa recently donated \$100,000 to Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation.***

"Two of our children chose healthcare professions so we know the ability of healthcare workers to perform is impacted by work environment. If our financial contribution can make a difference at City Hospital, we're happy to do our part."

The couple were both born and raised in rural Saskatchewan but have lived in Saskatoon for 50 years. They met while attending the College of Commerce at the University of Saskatchewan. Following graduation, Daphne and Leo chose to pursue careers as CPA's (formerly Chartered Accountants) with major accounting firms in Saskatoon.

"While many classmates moved to other provinces, we were happy to make Saskatoon our home. This led to other

professional and business pursuits, all in finance related roles," they say.

Their four adult sons were born, raised, and educated here. "They all have busy, growing families and careers of their own. We're fortunate to have them close by, and to be active in our retirement. Saskatoon was an easy choice for retirement. The city has grown considerably, but is still the same friendly, comfortable city, with easy access to most services and amenities. The added bonus is that two of our children and their families make their homes here, while the other two are a comfortable commute from Saskatoon!"

Thank you, Leo and Daphne, for supporting Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation! □



## Financial advisor's future strong, thanks to hospital

The Foundation often notes how your support helps people see better, walk better or live better.

Thanks to you, Daymond Volk is doing all three.

In May of 2023, the financial advisor who works with Sun Life in Saskatoon, was the fortunate recipient of a hip replacement. "That was with Dr. Lutz," Volk says, "and then in August, a few months later, I had eye surgery performed by Dr. Sharma."

Through both procedures, Daymond was amazed at, "how good the whole process was. I'd been on the list for the hip replacement for about 17 months so was already coming to City Hospital for cortisone shots. I kind of got to know my way around but, on the day of the surgery, I was even more amazed at how well-oiled it all was."

It started when he was first asked to put on a hospital smock and discovered it was heated. "That was the first mind-bender. But it was really the friendliness of everyone that was so incredible," he says, noting how comforting the anaesthetist was.

"I told him I was nervous about being awake during the operation. He said that he'd prefer to do a local but could put me under if needed.

"From that moment, it just continued," he adds. "I was wheeled into the operating room and the first thing they asked me



**Financial advisor Daymond Volk recently had a hip replaced at City Hospital; a few months later he was treated for the sudden discovery of a growth in his eye. He says the care he received was great.**

was what kind of music I liked. So, I got to listen to Johnny Cash. It was the day before the May long weekend and there was just such a great mood. I felt so good I could have walked home."

He stayed overnight, though, and continued to enjoy the great care. "It was really good and every staff member was top notch. It was just so pleasant."

Three months later, Daymond was back at City Hospital. This time he was treated for a pterygium, which is a wedge-shaped growth of the conjunctiva in the eye.

"I had no idea that I had it but my optometrist discovered it during my regular eye appointment. He

said it could invade into the retina and cornea so referred me to the Eye Care Centre at the hospital." As with the hip, the process and staff were excellent. "But I've had enough of City Hospital for a while," Volk jokes.

His experience with City Hospital really began much sooner than last year, he says. "I was born there [in the old building] and my mother always reminded me it was while the hospital was being renovated in 1960."

Daymond encounters people who believe that the hospital is more administrative. "I know from the great care I received that nothing could be further from the truth. It's a great hospital." □



# It starts **here.**

*Every year thousands of patients visit Saskatoon City Hospital. Of those, 95 per cent go home the same day. In between patients entering and leaving the hospital, there is a myriad of procedures, appointments, clinical visits, tests, and rehab treatments.*

*The connection between these medical events is that, for every patient, every visit was a first step, the beginning of a journey.*

*When it comes to recovery and return to good health, for those thousands of patients to City Hospital, it starts here...*

## **Your better vision It starts **here.****

Imagine your eyesight faltering in the midst of a public event. That's what happened to Keith Moen, the North Saskatoon Business Association's executive director.

"It was in November 2021 on the way to our Business Builders Awards," Keith says. "A half hour before the program started, I went from bright sun outside into the darker hall. I noticed a floater in my eyes that I'd had for a while was moving differently. My optometrist told me it was something I should watch for."

Keith texted his optometrist and immediately got a call back. "I



described what was happening and he told me to stop what I was doing and see him right away."

The optometrist ran tests while Keith's vision worsened. "He sent 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."

"Keith's case was an age-related change," surgeon Dr. Masri says. "The gel in the back of the eye shifts around and, in some cases, becomes too sticky and tears a hole in the retina that requires monitoring or surgery."

Keith required the surgery and, months later, his vision was almost normal. "I'm thankful the equipment and expertise is here. I never had any doubt that I was in the right place with the right people at City Hospital."

"They saved my eyesight."

## Your journey It starts **here**.

Sometimes good comes out of bad. That's what retired Saskatoon police officer Aime Decae (pronounced amay decay) believes after recent experiences.

Aime had two knees replaced at Saskatoon City Hospital. The first was in 2007, the second in late 2021. Three months after the second knee replacement, Aime was doing physical therapy at home when he had a mishap. "I slipped and fell going up the stairs. It was the best thing that ever happened in my life!"

That's because later that same day he noticed blood in his urine.



"I didn't think too much of it. The next day, a Sunday, there was even more blood."

He went to his doctor, who "took all the samples, sent me for ultrasound, and then referred me to a urologist for cystoscopy. The scoping discovered cancer in my bladder. Thank God I fell because two days later there was no bleeding. I could have gone on without knowing I had cancer."

Aime underwent operations to remove the tumours, which were high-grade and invasive. He's since been coming to the hospital for injections to kill any cancer that remained after the tumours were removed. "I've found that, once you're in the system, the care is simply outstanding."

## Your recovery It starts **here**.

In a head-on car accident, Allyson Cross broke her right femur and sustained major ligament, artery, and nerve damage to her other leg. Her injuries required surgeries and stays in all three hospitals in Saskatoon, including three weeks at Saskatoon City Hospital's Rehab department.

Décor and enhancements, supported by donors, made the experience friendlier and assisted her recovery, Cross says. "It was better for communicating with other patients, which was great because they're the people who understand what you're going through. Seeing paintings done by patients was inspiring."

Imagine finding a lump in your breast. Laura Orenchuk did. On Mother's Day.

After seeing her family doctor, Laura was eventually referred to the Breast Health Centre at Saskatoon City Hospital. Opened in 2006 and expanded in 2012, the centre offers a multidisciplinary approach to treating breast health issues.

Laura and the team decided the best way to treat her cancer was a double mastectomy. There were challenges but two years later, Laura was fully recovered and an active mom and businessperson.

She also used her experience to help raise funds for a new automated breast ultrasound unit at the centre.

It starts **here**. 

## Great support leads to success for Foundation events

Snow, who needs it anyways? That's what organizers of the **BHP Enchanted Forest Light Tour** might have been thinking this year. Despite there not being a trace of the white stuff until the third last day of the 53-day event, a record number of more than 93,000 attended. This includes 18,000-plus people who took in the Saskatchewan Blue Cross Light Walks on Nov. 16 and 17.

It turns out there were other reasons that saw this phenomenal turnout. Many were excited to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Enchanted Forest. After a quarter of a century, the Light Tour is now a must-do tradition for Saskatoon families.

Also attracting cars and walkers were three brand new displays. These included a series of "Prairie Portraits" and a stunning new light tunnel. But the main piece, courtesy of BHP, was a giant globe celebrating Christmas around the world.

The new attractions added to the already amazing tour and made it even better, stretching it out to an astounding 2.5 kilometres. The Forest is both one of the longest-running and longest light tours in all of Canada!

Thank you to all sponsors, organizers, volunteers, and attendees. For information about the 26th year of the BHP Enchanted Forest Light Tour, visit [enchanted-forest.org](http://enchanted-forest.org) or follow on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



**Above: Christmas Around the Globe was a favourite of visitors to the BHP Enchanted Forest. Below: Crowds flocked to the nine-day Festival of Trees.**

The **Festival of Trees** was nine days of fun for the family. Running from Nov. 24 to Dec. 2, this year saw more than 90 displays of trees, wreaths, and gingerbread houses adorning the Western Development Museum. While attendance numbers weren't finalized at the time of this writing, the fact that more than 50,000 gingerbread cookies were sold says a lot about the crowds!

The Christmas favourite had tons to do for everyone, including face painting, photos with Santa, a fantasy castle, Frozen character visits, story times, and lots, lots more! Special events saw the much-loved Father/Daughter Gala sell out for both nights. Crowds also enjoyed events such as the Royal Brunch, the Christmas Carnival, and both a Brunch and Supper with Santa!



A 50-50 raffle raised more than \$12,000 with a lucky winner getting Christmas cash of \$6,155! Thank you to all sponsors, volunteers and attendees but a special thank you to all of the tree, wreath and gingerbread designers. Your hours of input and inspiration are so appreciated!

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

As you're reading this, the **Hospital Home Lottery** may be approaching a sell-out. This spring's lottery offers a gorgeous \$2-million grand prize home from Fraser Homes. With 4,100 square feet of space, the home features a double-sided fireplace, gourmet kitchen with two islands, five bedrooms, a home theatre and – shhhhhh! – a secret library.

The early bird prize is a stunning Maldives vacation and an all-electric Mercedes-Benz EQB 350



**This 4,100 square-foot home by Fraser Homes is the \$2 million grand prize in this spring's Hospital Home Lottery.**

or \$120,000 cash! The bonus prize is an 11-day yacht holiday or \$100,000 while the VIP is four nights stay in an Irish castle or \$30,000. Other offerings are Apple technology, Caribbean and European vacations as well as numerous electronic, leisure, and recreational prizes.

Don't forget the super add-ons, including another great 50/50. The past several 50/50 jackpots have all been more than a million

dollars! The cash calendar offers 100 days of winning with two chances to win \$25,000. Get your tickets online at [HospitalHomeLottery.org](http://HospitalHomeLottery.org).

January 27 saw yet another fantastic sold-out **Ens Swinging with the Stars**. Raising proceeds for the Eye Care Centre, two of the eight celebrity dancers included Dr. Campos-Baniak, an eye surgeon and glaucoma specialist, and Keith Moen, executive director of the North Saskatoon Business Association, whose vision was saved at Saskatoon City Hospital

Others were Joshua MacGowan from Supplement World; Karen Churchill, CEO of Ag West Bio; Lance Pollard, vice-principal, Saskatoon Public Schools; Aimee Schneider, owner, Unveiled & Dress Co.; co-owner of SikPiks Chris Sikorsky; and CTV Saskatoon's Alex Brown.

Organizers were thrilled to estimate that the event raised more than \$350,000! Thank you so much to every one involved. Official numbers and more event details will be published in the next issue of Well Aware. □



**Organizers estimate that the sold-out Ens Swinging with the Stars on January 27 raised more than \$350,000! Thank you!**

## Kaye Family Learning Day tributes late Mrs. Kaye

The 2023 Kaye Family Learning Day was a bittersweet event. It was the first one held after the passing of one of its founders, Mrs. Olga Kaye.

Olga passed away in late June last year. She and her late husband, Ludwig, created the Ludwig & Olga & Constance Kaye Pediatric Ophthalmology Endowment. It served to honour the care their daughter, Constance, received as a child from the Eye Care Centre at Saskatoon City Hospital. Constance, who died in 2011, was born with Rubella Syndrome. At just seven months old, she underwent cataract surgery and was a frequent patient at the Eye Care Centre throughout her life.

The goal of the endowment is to provide ongoing education opportunities for eye care professionals in Saskatoon. It chiefly funded what became known as the Kaye Lecture of the annual Saskatchewan Orthoptic Provincial Seminar. In 2022, the seminar was renamed the Kaye Family Learning Day in recognition of the Kaye's two decades of support.



**Above: The late Mrs. Olga Kaye. Below: A screen capture of one of the presentations made Dr. Aaron Miller at the Kaye Family Learning Day.**

Prior to the COVID pandemic, Olga maintained a key interest in the event and attended an annual dinner with attendees. Last fall the Foundation was pleased to posthumously tribute Mrs. Kaye with a National Philanthropy Day honoured-supporter award.

With almost 90 people signed in over the course of day, this year's Kaye Family Learning Day was held virtually on Sept. 15 with Dr. Aaron Miller as the guest

lecturer. A Texas-based pediatric ophthalmologist, Dr. Miller also specializes in Adult Strabismus. His keynote talk was titled, "Adult Strabismus: A Balance Between Motor and Sensory Status."

Dr. Miller presented other talks titled, "Extra-ocular Muscle Biopsy to Aid in Diagnosis and Strabismus Etiology;" "Strabismus Surgery: A Review of New Surgical Techniques;" and "Using an Orthoptist to Expand Access to Care."

He also answered question on cases that were presented by attendees. Each of Dr. Miller's talks and the case presentations are available to watch on the Foundation's YouTube channel.

The Foundation holds the Kaye family in high regard for their support that leads to this continuing opportunity for eye care professionals. □




### History of Adult Strabismus

- Johann Friedrich Dieffenbach and Florent Cunier
  - 1839
  - First publication of strabismus surgery
  - Myotomy to treat strabismus
  - Dieffenbach considered the father of strabismus surgery



**Aaron M Miller, MD,**  
Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult  
The Woodlands / Spring / Houston








## Hospital benefits from Kinsmen Telemiracle success

One of the province's most venerable organizations chose to help the Foundation *keep it flowing* last fall.

"After our record breaking \$8 million raised at Telemiracle 46 in 2022, the Kinsmen Foundation board decided to invest a million or more dollars to support medical accessibility and services throughout Saskatchewan," reports board chair Raelyn Nicholson of the donation.

"I'm a nurse," the Assiniboia resident adds, "so I know just how important it is to have updated, dependable equipment that works in our hospitals."

The Kinsmen and Kinette clubs, now more commonly known as Kin, are one of Canada's strongest surviving and thriving service groups, with more than 8,100 members and more than 600 clubs across the country. Kin Canadas celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2020.

"We tend to attract members when they're younger and then they get busy with families but come back to us when they're older," Nicholson says. "Kin's motto is 'Serving Our Community's Greatest Need.' I think the attraction is that the need is different for every community so members can work to improve where they live. They can tangibly see the results."

In her own home town, Nicholson says that means events that enhance the community and provide services such as breakfast with Santa, Easter egg hunts,



**Kinsmen Telemiracle supported City Hospital's OR with a donation of more than \$200,000. Pictured above are (left to right) Nicole Ladouceur, OR anaesthetist assistant; Nicole Semko, Foundation director of Development; Foundation CEO Steve Shannon; Raelyn Nicholson, chair of the Kinsmen Foundation Board; and Richard Kies, executive director of the Kinsmen Foundation.**

or book reading contests. "That differs in every community where there are Kin clubs."

In Saskatchewan, of course, Kin are known for the legendary TeleMiracle, an event that has been rooted in Saskatchewan for a generation. The 47th annual telethon was held in February 2023 and added to the dollars raised since 1977, now over \$159 million. "We're kind of the envy of other provinces because of the success we continue to have with TeleMiracle and how we raise so much money from such a small population."

One of the key attractions to being a Kin is to see the results of their work wherever they go but Nicholson says it's also seeing how and how many people TeleMiracle helps. "I think it's

because it's not just Betty that needs a walker, it's Betty who used to work at Sears and has eight grandkids. It's not just Mason who needs a handivan, it's Mason who was born on Christmas Day. It's not just James who needs a wheelchair, it's James who loves the Golden Girls and the cooking channel.

"As we work through their applications, we get to know them and it becomes so much more than about their needs or illness. It's about who they are. We cry so much when we make phone calls to tell people they've been approved for funding."

This Foundation thanks Telemiracle and the Kinsmen Foundation for supporting surgery at Saskatoon City Hospital and helping to keep it flowing! □




## COVID cancelled staff events back after 4 years

Last year proved to be the year of the comebacks. In spring, the Black Tie Bingo was presented live for the first time since 2019. The fall saw several events the Foundation holds internally in the hospital make exciting returns, all for the first time in four years.

These included:

- Feeding hundreds of SCH staff a tasty pancake breakfast on Oct. 5
- The Breast Health Centre Silent Auction raised \$3,000
- The Christmas Village lit up the Foundation office. From late November until Christmas, staff and visitors were invited to find the star and enter a draw for an Enchanted Forest car pass.
- The Foundation's Gingerbread House Contest, Dec. 11-15, saw more than a dozen entries vying for top honours and the chance to win \$5,000 for their department.

A tradition started in COVID has become a mainstay. On Dec. 1, Foundation staff greeted SCH employees as they were coming to work with a tasty, pre-wrapped gingerbread cookie.

If you'd like to see more photos follow the Foundation on its Facebook or Instagram pages. 



**Above: The Breast Health Centre Silent Auction raised \$3,000. Below: More than 500 staff members and volunteers showed up for the first SCHF pancake breakfast since 2019.**







**Top: Foundation staff greeted hospital staff with gingerbread cookies on Dec. 1. Middle: Some of the inventive designs in the Gingerbread House Contest. Bottom right: The Christmas Village and Find-a-Star Contest also returned for the first time since 2019.**



## Foundation commits to MS Chair for three more years

A new gift of \$750,000 from the Foundation will provide funding to the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine to support the Saskatchewan Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Clinical Research Chair for the next three years.

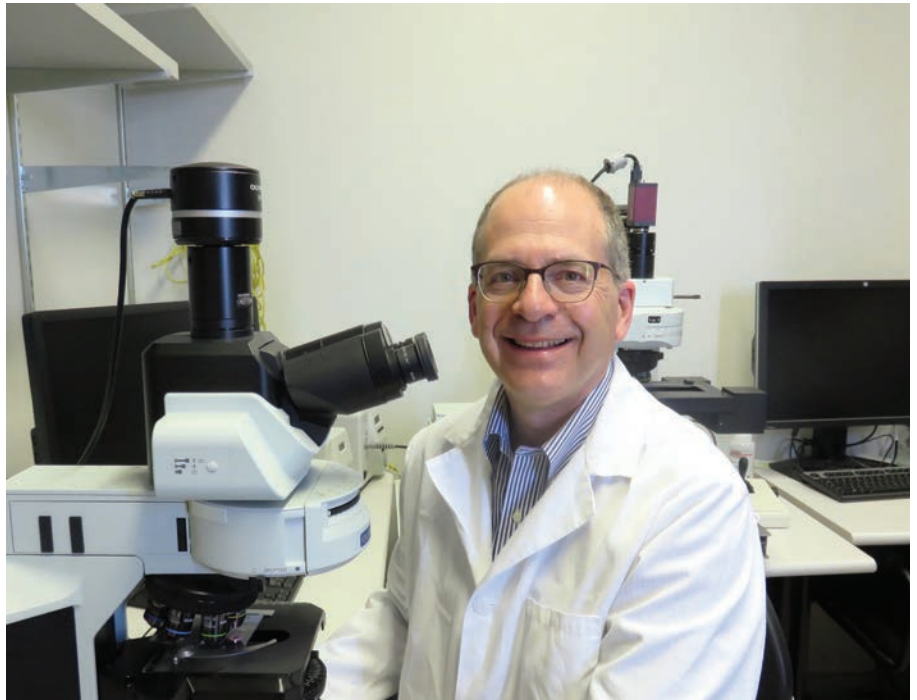
Dr. Michael Levin and his team of researchers have been working to develop medications that can inhibit nerve cell damage that occurs due to diseases such as multiple sclerosis.

Saskatchewan has one of the highest rates of MS in the world. An estimated 3,700 people in the province live with the disease for which there is no known cure.

"Funding is a crucial part of continued research and discovery for MS research and the commitment from our partners at Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation will help us get closer to positive outcomes for MS patients everywhere," said past dean of the College of Medicine, Dr. Preston Smith. "Because of their generosity, Dr. Levin and his team can continue their groundbreaking work to find treatments for this devastating disease."

MS is a disorder of the central nervous system affecting the ability of the brain and spinal cord to communicate. This results in muscle weakness, a lack of muscle control, problems with vision and other neurological symptoms.

Since the chair was first established in 2017, Dr. Levin and his team have made incredible progress and discovered that a



**As the Saskatchewan MS Clinical Research Chair since 2017, Dr. Michael Levin has made a significant contribution to MS research. Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation decided to support Dr. Levin, whose lab and office are in the hospital, with funding of \$750,000 for the next three years.**

protein in nerve cells, named A1, is abnormal in the brains of MS patients. Specifically, that A1 gets stuck in the wrong part of nerve cells and triggers their death.

Using state-of-the-art drug design, Dr. Levin's team has studied drug therapies and discovered a drug treatment that return A1 to its normal location, not only preventing nerve cell death, but promoting nerve cell regeneration. By blocking nerve cell death, these innovative drugs can prevent a lifetime of disability with multiple sclerosis.

The Foundation's commitment will support the chair's greatest needs, including infrastructure, research support and the purchase of necessary equipment.

"We have one of the best, most celebrated MS researchers on

the planet here in Saskatoon, with an amazing team that's working to find a cure to benefit people of Saskatchewan and people of the world," says Steve Shannon, CEO. "I've had many opportunities to hear Dr. Levin speak, and I can say that he makes his work as easy to understand as possible.

"We decided that our foundation would step up with a \$250,000 gift for the next three years to keep the team in place and keep the research going."

The Foundation has a decades-long history of supporting MS research in Saskatchewan. In 2010, it joined the USask College of Medicine and the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation to raise \$5 million for the creation of the chair position. □



## Donors appreciate hospital care and staff

Here are some of the things donors have told us lately:

"I appreciate the opportunity to support MS research that is identifying treatment options and is intent on solving the puzzle. One of my dear cousins lost her battle with MS."

"Thank you for your excellent and hard work to keep people healthy."

"My wife had hip surgery this year and was treated very well. We both have had procedures done at this hospital."

"I had surgery in 2022 and really appreciated the OR staff's expertise. Thanks!"

"Thank you to all that work so hard at the Saskatoon City Hospital."

"Thank you for the excellent care I received!"

"We offer this donation with grateful hearts for the exceptional care received from Dr. Van Merwe, the team of nurses, occupational therapists, and physiotherapist Juliana Yuzdepski. High praise to one and all! Life is good again! 'As you are a blessing for so many; so may you be blessed.'"

"I had a total right hip replacement at City Hospital in mid-August this year, and, while only a one-day stay. I must say that I was very pleased with all of the people involved in my care. I am also pleased with the outcome in my case; the hip works great!"

"Thank you for the care my father received while in hospital this fall." □



## IN MEMORIAM

Donations were made from July 1 to Nov. 30, 2023 in memory of the following people:

Ellen Achtemichuk  
Helen Achtemichuk  
Connie Bews  
Marlene Brand  
Leonard Bzdel  
Murray Carnegie  
Grant C. Davis  
Janet Duguid  
Miles T. Hazen  
Frances Hnatiuk

Dr. Lowell Loewen  
Mr. To Luc  
Anne Lukan  
Phyllis MacWhirter  
Susan Mandiuk  
Helen Norman  
Robert Ogilvie  
Sharon Paterson  
Margaret E. Peters  
Dorothy Podolski

Marianne Prosofsky  
Tyler Saretsky  
Alfred E. Slinkard  
Jean E. Tiffin  
Charles Theilman  
Gordon Whittingstall  
Marion Wilson  
Walter M. Winmill  
Maureen Zoerb

## IN HONOUR

Donations were made from July 1 to Nov. 30, 2023 in honour of the following people:

Krista Baerg

Emergency Department at SCH

For the anniversary of Patrick and Anne Wallace



# It starts **here.**

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 also can 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).

