Support Report

PROUD SUPPORTERS OF BRIGHTSHORES HEALTH SYSTEM

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Say Hello to TOM: CT Scanner Operational in Southampton

TOM is here! The Saugeen Memorial Hospital Foundation celebrated the arrival of the new CT scanner this past Fall. The community helped raise the $3 million needed to make the project a reality, through the Foundation's "Bring TOM to Town" campaign which saw a whirlwind of support. The goal was completed in less than 10 months!

"Our board and staff are so grateful for all the support the community has given to this important project. The generosity we witnessed throughout this campaign was tremendous and truly heartwarming," said Stacey Catalano, Past Chair of the Foundation.

On May 6th the Southampton site CT became fully operational and began offering clinical support for Emergency Department and In Patient imaging. Prior to that date, more than 700 scheduled scans had been performed on the machine.

Having two CT scanners within Brightshores Health System has allowed for additional capacity. The Owen Sound CT scanner can be used for more complex scans (guided biopsy procedure, stroke, cardiac, etc.) while redirecting routine imaging to Southampton. It's a great example of how investment in one Brightshores hospital improves care across the entire health system.

Patients who have come to the CT department since the addition are enjoying the increased efficiency and effectiveness of the new equipment and are thrilled to have access to this technology and service right in their own community.

Thank you to everyone who helped bring TOM to Town!

Message from the President & CEO, Ann Ford

Dear Community Members,

As we find ourselves embracing the start of summer, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for the journey ahead for Brightshores Health System. On behalf of our entire leadership team, I extend heartfelt thanks to each and every one of our generous donors for your ongoing support.

Your contributions play a vital role in the achievement of our vision to provide exceptional healthcare services to the residents and visitors of Grey and Bruce counties. My team and I are committed to advocating for improved healthcare access, ensuring sound financial management, and tackling the challenges of Health Human Resources head-on.

Over the past few months, we have been actively engaged in planning and setting our priorities to align with our commitment to excellence in healthcare delivery, innovation and health system leadership, and building partnerships to strengthen our regional system of care.

For the latest statistics on our programs and services, I encourage you to review our system stats below which highlight the impact of your generosity in building healthier communities one patient at a time.

A special note of gratitude is extended to the Hospital Foundations teams for their tireless efforts in raising funds to support new equipment, staff training, and facility improvements across all six of our hospitals. Their dedication to our cause is truly inspiring!

Our staff and physicians are optimistic about what lies ahead. With your continued support, I am confident that we will achieve great things for the health and well-being of our communities.

Thank you once again for your unwavering commitment to Brightshores Health System.

Warm regards,
Ann Ford
President & CEO

Brightshores By the Numbers

Corporate Statistics from April 2023-March 2024

Hospital Births
695
(Same as previous)

MRI Exams
11,645
(⬆Increased by 1,333)

Day Surgery Visits
13,376
(⬆Increased by 754)

CT Scans
16,421
(⬆Increased by 235)

Emergency Visits
97,088
(⬆Increased by 5,245)

Mammography Exams
8,843
(⬇Decreased by 113)

Hip Replacements
381
(⬆Increased by 31)

Lab Procedures
5,316,166
(⬆Increased by 56,018)

Knee Replacements
651
(⬆Increased by 55)

Dialysis Visits
4,630
(⬇Decreased by 524)

Cataract Day Surgeries
1,577
(⬇Decreased by 273)

Oncology/Chemotherapy Visits
23,071
(⬆Increased by 2,314)

More Scans Done Locally

Twenty years ago the first MRI was installed in the Owen Sound hospital. At the time it was a major accomplishment. Because of your support there are now two state of the art machines working side by side at Brightshores Owen Sound Hospital to ensure people are getting the scans they need quickly and locally.

Together the machines will perform around 14,000 scans a year – up from 10,000. It's a forty percent increase made possible by incredible donors. Having two identical machines working off one central control room means that components and software will be interchangeable between the two MRIs.

The two machines will allow hospital staff to accommodate emergency situations more easily and offer new types of scans that had previously been sent out of town. Some especially time consuming scans such as cardiac had been sent to London.

"With two scanners, we can be ready. No one's going to have to wait two days when they need that study that day," said Dr. Christian Baldauf, Brightshores' MRI director for 20 years.

Baldauf said there isn't another hospital in a community the size of Owen Sound in Canada with two MRIs. New software, which functions on both machines, will also increase the speed and variety of scans using artificial intelligence.

After bringing the machine online late last year, staff were able to move people up the waitlist and see them sooner then originally expected.

We want to thank all the donors who, for the past 20+ years, have believed in the capabilities of healthcare in our community. First by bringing an MRI to our area and now by supporting Brightshores expanding capacity. Together we can build healthier communities, one patient at a time.

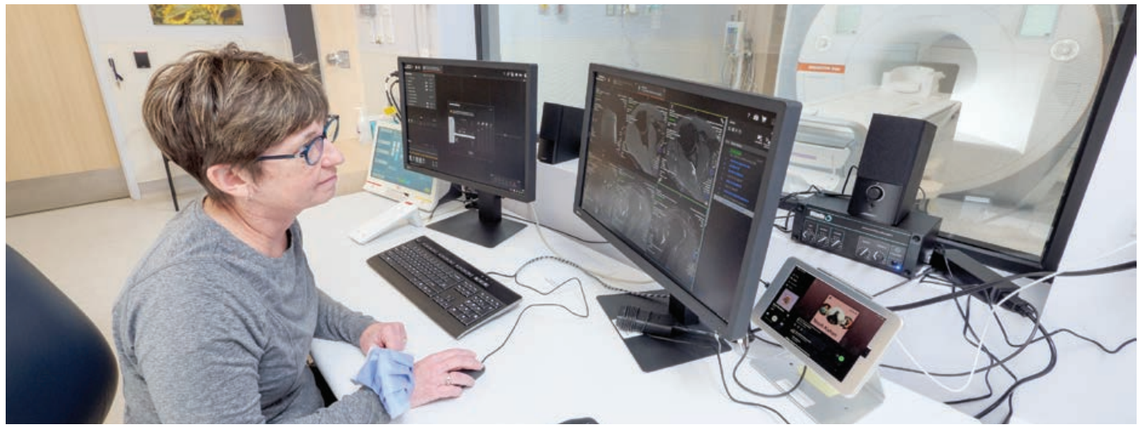


Photo Courtesy of the Saugeen Times

"Our Local Hospital in Saugeen Shores Saved my life"

If you've been down to the flagpole in Southampton on a Thursday night in the summer then you've likely seen local resident and long-time healthcare supporter Gary Brown there at his annual Cruiser's Cruise Nites. Cruise Nites have been a tradition for the past 29 summers in the beautiful lakeside community of Southampton.

"Thirty years ago I started Cruiser's Cruise Nite out of my love of classic cars and not having a show anywhere in our area for car guys to gather and put their vehicles on display. Thinking back to that first season I remember how exciting it was to have 7 cars take part in the Thursday night event throughout the summer. Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined that this event would have grown to the much anticipated summer tradition it has become for our community. Now we get about 100 cars participating, not to mention that some travel from Windsor, Ottawa, North Bay and all across the Province."

Over the last thirty years Cruiser's Cruise Nite has raised nearly $300,000.

Cruise Nite has become a real "community" event, from the many local volunteers who help ensure the tradition continues, to the economic impact for local businesses but most importantly each week the funds raised from the event have always gone to the Saugeen Memorial Hospital Foundation to help support healthcare in our region from; residents, summer cottagers and those just passing through our beautiful town.

> *"This summer I realized just how important supporting our Hospital Foundation is. In June the doctors and nurses in the ER saved my life when I arrived at the hospital in the middle of the night having a heart attack. I will always be grateful for the fantastic care I received in the ER that night"*

Be sure to come down to the flagpole in Southampton this summer and say hi. I'll see you there as we celebrate our 30th summer having fun in the sun and supporting the Hospital Foundation.

Mr. Cruiser

Gary 'Mr. Cruiser' Brown

Kindness Cures All Wounds

Thanks to the kindness of people like you, Brightshores Wiarton has recently been equipped with a new Cautery Machine. It will assist doctors to perform procedures safely and effectively.

A Cautery Machine is often used in surgery to remove unwanted and harmful tissues. It can also be used to burn and seal blood vessels. This helps to reduce or stop bleeding during surgery or after an injury. More than 700 day surgeries were performed at the Wiarton hospital last year which means the machine will see lots of use. Your generosity helps heal our community.

Patients Move into New Wellness and Recovery Centre

Brightshores Health System is excited to have opened the new Wellness and Recovery Centre for Mental Health and Addictions. The facility which utilizes the former Bayview School will be home to sixty-five staff, forty-five beds and various mental health programs.

The new site is a significant expansion of regional health care services. About half of the staff are filling new positions and were attracted to work in the first of its kind facility. Things like the supportive studios which are for longer term stays (pictured above) were not previously available in our area.

The overall program aims to address all stages of change. Staff will help clients through withdrawal, early recovery and rebuilding their lives in a holistic manner, all in the same building. The philosophy behind the new centre prioritizes increased quality of life outcomes such as housing, employment, education, healthcare and meaningful social connection. There are plans to add a training kitchen on top of the workshop, training room and gym which are already functional.

The center will include withdrawal management, relapse prevention, long- term supportive stabilization treatment, counselling, peer based programs, recreational programming, daily living and job skill programming, rapid access addiction medicine clinic, and more.

Construction first began in 2022 and was on budget but took longer than expected due to delays in critical components like the air handling unit.

Naomi Vodden, Brightshores Director of Mental Health and Additions, expects the new facility will be full within two months. Priority will be given to local individuals in need of care. The unique facility will house both inpatient and out-patient programs allowing staff to work with and remain connected to people while they wait for beds to become available.

It is expected that the new facility will take pressure off hospitals in the region with patients redirected from the emergency department, medicine units and mental health floor.

We want to thank all of the wonderful donors who have helped open the doors to this incredible new facility.

Community Opens Markdale Hospital

It was a long and winding road, but on September 24, 2023 the new Brightshores Markdale Hospital went from rendering, to reality as it provided care to its first patient and it has been in full operation since!

All of the staff are now working out of the new 78,000 square foot facility located at 220 Toronto St. South, Markdale.

This technologically advanced hospital houses a 24/7 Emergency Department, In-Patient Care, Physiotherapy, Diagnostic Imaging, Ambulatory Care, Laboratory, Business Offices, Foundation Offices, Central Registration, an Atrium and Café.

Since its opening in September, the hospital boasts the addition of Outpatient Endoscopy Services and enhanced Ambulatory Care Clinics, like the new Skin Cancer Care Clinic.

"Centre Grey Health Services Foundation would like to thank our incredible communities for raising 10% of the cost of the bricks and mortar and 100% of the cost of furniture, fixtures and equipment for this amazing new facility. Your generous donations will have a positive impact on health care for generations to come" stated Harvey Fraser, Vice Chair of the Centre Grey Health Services Brightshores Foundation.

As we look ahead to the continued growth of Brightshores Health System Markdale, there is shared excitement at how this new hospital will continue to evolve and provide exceptional patient care to our communities.

A Legacy to Honour Kind, Compassionate Care

Betty Saunders celebrates her 82nd birthday in the Oncology Department at the Owen Sound Regional Hospital in 2014.

"Whenever we share the story of mom's last six weeks of life, it's with great emotion because of the care she received through the incredible staff at Southampton Hospital. Words can't express our thanks for their kindness, compassion, patience and care given to all of us during her passing," says Kelli Saunders.

Betty and Bob Saunders owned a travel agency in Toronto and later opened an agency in Port Elgin. They found themselves spending summers in Saugeen Shores in the mid 70's and retired to the area in 1996. They quickly became entrenched in the community – Bob was involved with the Propeller Club and enjoyed lessons at the Southampton Art School. Betty taught yoga and was involved with church spaghetti suppers. Betty and Bob both received care at Brightshores Hospitals.

Bob Saunders' health declined over the years due to diabetes and other ailments. He died in April, 2001 while in the care of the Palliative Team at the Owen Sound hospital.

In 2014, Betty Saunders was diagnosed with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and then Parkinson's. "Being from Toronto, we thought it best for her to seek medical care in the city," says Kelli. "How could a small hospital in Owen Sound provide the care our mom needed? Well, we were wrong! Oncologist, Dr. Indermohan Sandhu and Neurologist, Dr. Bryan Young and their teams provided exceptional care."

Betty's cancer went into remission and her Parkinson's symptoms improved significantly, enabling her to get back to doing needlepoint, handwriting and living independently.

"As a family, we believe in teamwork – surrounding each other in times of need. During mom's care, our team included the fantastic doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, cleaning staff, administrators and volunteers at the hospital," said Kelli.

Soon after their mother died in 2021, Kelli and siblings Rob and Connie decided to make donations in her memory, supporting both the Oncology Department in Owen Sound and the Southampton Hospital. Between her children, friends and neighbours, donations given in Betty's memory totaled more than $27,000!

Last September, Kelli shared that she has also included gifts for the Owen Sound and Southampton Hospitals in her Will. "It was an easy decision," said Kelli. "One that stems from my deep admiration for the work, compassion and tireless efforts of Brightshores staff as they cared for mom and dad."

"Join me!" she says. "Together we can give back and make a difference.

Every dollar helps!"

Donor Impacts are Easy to See

The Meaford Hospital is getting a new Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) machine. The new OCT means that local Ophthalmologists have everything they need in Meaford. From early diagnosis all the way through surgical options with the facilities state-of-the art cataract suite.

The OCT is a noninvasive imaging technology used to obtain high resolution cross-sectional images of the retina to aid in the early detection and diagnosis of retinal diseases and conditions.

This was made possible through the generosity of an anoymous donor and everyone who who contributed to the Meaford Harbour 5K Run Walk: the committee members, volunteers, participants, sponsors and donors! Thank you for supporting local hospital care. Your impact on our community is clear.

Outpatient Endoscopy Returns to Markdale

In January Outpatient Endoscopy Services returned to Markdale! The new hospital features a dedicated procedure room equipped with the latest technology to ensure the highest standard of care.

Endoscopy is a procedure that uses an endoscope to look inside the body and are inserted directly into the organ (i.e. your stomach). This can be done to help diagnosis or treat a huge number of issues. Having this available in Markdale means people can access care closer to home and time will be freed up in the Owen Sound operating room for other more complex procedures.

"A sincere thank you to our community who paid for every piece of equipment needed to perform this procedure in Markdale" stated Melinda Croft, Chair of Centre Grey Health Services Foundation. "The introduction of this dedicated procedure room is a testament to the collaborative efforts of Brightshores staff, physicians and our community. Together, we are enchancing healthcare in our region."

The Best He's Ever Used

Brightshores Lion's Head Emergency Department has recently been outfitted with a new Slit Lamp and Table. This equipment allows staff to look at the different parts of your eye. Dr. Matheson (pictured) shared that this new system is the best he's ever used during recent assessments of various eye conditions. The previous Slit Lamp was old and beyond repair. New equipment is made possible exclusively through the generosity of donors like you!

Supporting Education Saves Lives

In late January, seven Registered Nurses (RN) from the Owen Sound Emergency Department completed a two day course from the Emergency Nurses Association.

The Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC) needs to be renewed every four years. It uses evidence based content developed by trauma nursing specialists to help increase staff's confidence in trauma care. The course reinforces the latest recommendations in systematic assessment and rapid identification of life threatening injuries.

Using teaching scenarios, online modules, instructor led discussions and skill stations, this course is designed to make a huge difference on patient outcomes.

Emergency Department Nursing Coordinator, Shelly Hodge, is one of the staff who took the program. She emphasized that "the course is essential for emergency nurses in order to provide the knowledge and skills needed to care for persons experiencing trauma." With more than 31,000 visits to the emergency department last year, staff encounter any situation you could imagine. Hodge noted that our area offers exceptional outdoor activities "but with these come risk for injury."

The TNCC is extremely valuable but is not covered through routine staff training. Each participant in the course would normally be required to pay $640 out of pocket for this valuable education. However, thanks to incredible donors each of the staff members was able to apply for tuition reimbursement.

The tuition reimbursement program helps support the incredible staff at Brightshores. It allows staff to grow, gain new skills, and provide even better care for our community. We are so thankful for all the donors who help local staff succeed and all the staff who strive to learn even more ways to care for the people of Grey and Bruce.

A Warm Reception

Emergencies happen every day. We appreciate the support from compassionate people like you who allow staff to prepare for any situation. With a new infant warmer staff at the Southampton Emergency Room are able to provide excellent care to infants and newborns.

While most births will take place in Owen Sound it's important to be prepared for all patients and possibilities. The warmer is like a tiny hospital bed with a built in heater designed to offer staff access and provide the best environment for those in our care.

The new infant warmer will be a crucial piece of equipment for newborn care made possible by our generous community.

Why I Give: "These Hospital's Saved My life"

"All I want is for people to stop drinking and driving."
Jennifer Ramsay, Warrior

On May 5th, 2023 Jennifer Ramsay's world shattered. It was a Friday. She was leaving her job at Community Living and heading to her trailer in Sauble Beach along a road she must have travelled thousands of times. As she took the bend north of Springmount, a drunk driver crashed into her car.

She remembers nothing of the next 18 days, but has since learned that she'd broken every limb in her body. Miraculously local emergency services were already nearby on other calls. They extracted her from the vehicle using the Jaws of Life. Staff at Brightshores Owen Sound Hospital stabilized Jennifer before putting her on an Ornge helicopter to London where she underwent 6.5 hours of surgery.

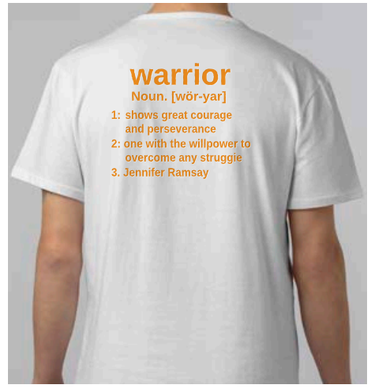
She was eventually moved back to Owen Sound where she had her first memory. Jennifer relates "that the first week realizing what I'd been through was very difficult."

She spent a month at Brightshores Owen Sound recovering before moving to the Brightshores Wiarton Complex Continuing Care (CCC) unit for specialized rehab. After a month in Wiarton she was able to bear weight on her left leg and headed back to Owen Sound for another two weeks of care.

After three and a half months she was able to go home on August 11th. Happy to be with family but apprehensive about leaving such a caring environment.

"Physio is my job now," says Ramsay. She continues weekly appointments at the Owen Sound Hospital and goes to a private clinic twice a week. Before the crash Jennifer loved to walk, camp, and go to local events. She acknowledges that "the hospitals saved my life and put me on the road to recovery. They helped me get as back to normal as I am."

Amidst all of this trauma and disruption, Jennifer and her family found a way to give back. They sold t-shirts. They sold more t-shirts. After three orders of shirts they were able to donate $1,000 to each of the hospitals that provided care after the crash (Victoria Hospital in London, Brightshores Owen Sound Hospital, and Brightshores Wiarton Hospital).



Jennifer wants to acknowledge and thank first responders from police, fire, EMS and ORNGE. The team at Victoria Hospital in London. Brightshores staff at the Owen Sound Hospital working in the ER, Medicine (6-1), Rehab, and at the Wiarton Hospital Complex Continuing Care unit. Special thank you as well to Jill in OT and Proactive Physio Plus. Finally, she is so appreciative of her friends and family who supported her during this journey.

Jennifer embodies courage, perseverance, and willpower. She's optimistic and positive in the face of continued recovery. She's inspiring and motivating. She's a warrior. We're so grateful that the Ramsay family selected two Brightshores Health System hospitals to receive a portion of their donation.

Please, don't drink and drive.

You Wowed Local Nurses

On Monday April 15th, new Workstations on Wheels (WoWs) rolled out to staff at Brightshores Owen Sound Hospital. These mobile workstations are like a desk and tool belt fused into one essential piece of equipment.

The new WoWs have more work surface, longer battery life, are easier to maneuver, and a work light. As Brightshores moves towards more electronic patient records, the new workstations will be able to accommodate future changes in workflow and technology.

Thank you for wowing nurses with these new mobile workstations and helping them to do their jobs more efficiently so that they can spend more time with patients and their families.

Proudly Supporting Brightshores Health System

Brightshores Health System has seven sites supported by five foundations. The sites include six hospitals (located in Lion's Head, Markdale, Meaford, Owen Sound, Southampton, and Wiarton) plus the new Wellness and Recovery Centre.

Each foundation listed below raises funds for their local hospitals and for regional services. Improvements at one location help enhance the entire system.

Government funding only provides for ongoing hospital operations (wages are paid through government funding). Donors help the hospital to purchase new equipment, renovate and upgrade facilities, and provide opportunities for staff to further their education and training.

We want to thank everyone in Bruce and Grey who supports Brightshores Health System and helps improve care for our community.

Brightshores Health System

www.brightshores.ca

Brightshores Health System Owen Sound Foundation — www.brightshoresfoundation.ca

Lion's Head Wiarton Foundation Bruce Peninsula Hospitals — www.bphfoundation.com

Centre Grey Health Services Foundation Markdale — www.cghsfoundation.com

Meaford Hospital Foundation — www.mhfoundation.ca

Saugeen Memorial hospital foundation — www.smhfoundation.ca