

Support

Report

BRIGHTSHORES HEALTH SYSTEM OWEN SOUND FOUNDATION



Gary (left) presents a holiday card to some of the staff who cared for him.

Why I Give: Gary Byers

It was a special day. When he woke up that morning Gary Byers had plans to take his wife Wendy out for their twenty first wedding anniversary. Unfortunately his body had other ideas. Instead of a lovely meal out with his wife - Gary would end up in hospital for six days to manage a severe condition that caught him totally unprepared.

At the age of 64 Gary had never spent a night in the hospital before. But a bloody bowel movement caused great concern. He was never in pain and wasn't sure exactly what to do but decided to get checked out at Brightshores Warton Hospital. While waiting in the emergency room he passed out. He remembers waking up on the floor with his legs

"I tell everyone we have world class healthcare right here in our backyard."

being held in the air and a doctor rubbing his chest.

The entire time the team in Warton was consulting with colleagues at the Owen Sound Hospital. They opted to send Gary home that night but told him if it didn't get better he should head to the emergency department in Owen Sound. The situation didn't improve by morning so Gary headed to the Owen Sound Hospital.

He spent the next six days in hospital. He had six transfusions, a colonoscopy, an MRI, and several consultations. Everything was

explained to him every step of the way. Gary said, "Whenever someone walked through my door they were calm, professional, friendly and everything was

fantastic." Even when things were at their worst he never felt worried.

Things became a bit surreal during one moment when he crashed. One second he was talking with Wendy and his sister Donna then the next moment he was surrounded by people in a controlled kind of chaos. Suddenly, he was hooked up to all kinds of equipment that wasn't there before. Wendy told him "when I told them something was wrong people were there instantly. It must have been seconds and an entire team was there taking care of you."

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Tessa follows the green lights to the exact medication her patient needs.

500mg of Care

New ADUs add safety and increase efficiency because of you!

Every year nearly 1.5 million doses of medication are distributed from the central pharmacy at Brightshores Owen Sound Hospital. That much medication has to be distributed safely and efficiently. The best way to do that is with Automatic Dispensing Units (ADUs).

An ADU is a high tech storage cabinet that's essential to care. It's a futuristic vending machine that's hyper focused on patient safety. It's a detail oriented tracking system that will only release what you need.

Operating an ADU is very simple. Sign into the machine using your fingerprint, select a specific patient, and the ADU will use lights to guide you to the only drawer that's unlocked. That drawer contains the specific medication you need. Any high risk drug also has to be scanned with a barcode scanner – this is an extra layer of safety that will be more widely used with the new machines.

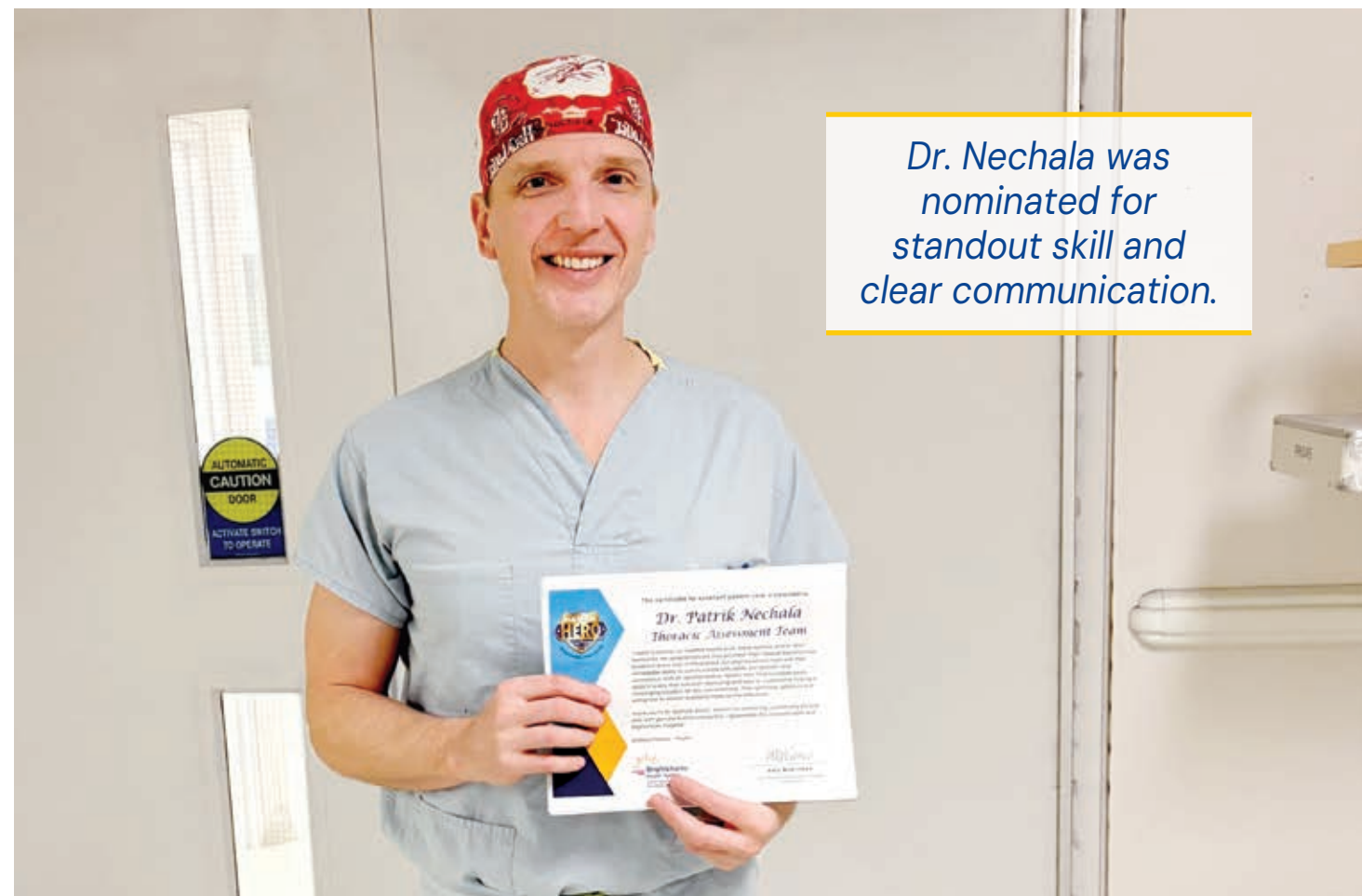
Each ADU is stocked by the amazing team at the central

pharmacy. Inventory and usage is tracked carefully to ensure that every unit has what they need when they need it. This is especially important in places like the emergency department or the ICU where you might need a medication very quickly.

ADUs ensure patients get medications safely and efficiently

Incredible people like you just helped Brightshores buy six new ADUs for the Owen Sound Hospital. They are located in the Crisis Support Program, Emergency Department, Inpatient Mental Health Unit, Inpatient Surgery, Medicine Floor and the Rehab Unit. This is part of a bigger project replacing the ADUs all across Brightshores Health System.

It doesn't look inside your body or monitor your vitals. It can't diagnose anything and you won't see it in an operating room. But an ADU is an essential part of care. As a donor you are helping ensure that every single patient gets the medications that they need safely and efficiently – and that is something to be celebrated!



Dr. Nechala receives his Healthcare Hero certificate!

Healthcare Hero: Dr. Patrick Nechala

Dr. Nechala is a general and thoracic surgeon at Brightshores. He was recently nominated as a Healthcare Hero not once, not twice, but three times! Here's what the nominators had to say:

"I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Dr Marc Newton and Dr Patrick Nechala for the exceptional care they provided. Their medical expertise was evident in every step of the process, but what stood out most was their remarkable ability to communicate with clarity, compassion and consistency. Both Dr Nechala and Dr Newton took time to explain every detail in a way that was both reassuring and easy to understand, making a challenging situation far less overwhelming. Their openness, patience and willingness to answer questions made all the difference. Thank you to Dr Nechala and Dr Newton for combining outstanding clinical skills with genuine human connection. Trudy Morrison is a remarkable organizer and a warm, reassuring guide through a stressful process. I appreciate this talented team and Brightshores Hospital."

"I want to recognize Dr. Nechala for what he has done for me and my family, for being direct, understanding, always

making sure I understand every single step of my lung surgery and being patient and always having a positive direction."

"Thank you Dr. Nechala for all that you do for your patients."

When this was posted online Dr. Nechala received 130 comments of support and gratitude. People noted his skill performing difficult surgeries and credited him with saving their lives. Others repeatedly commented on his bedside manner and ability to communicate. Another person shared that Dr. Nechala took time out of his Christmas holidays to check in on them!

You can nominate your own Healthcare Hero at www.brightshoresfoundation.ca/hero or by calling (519) 372-3925. All Healthcare Heroes receive a certificate and a pin – plus with support from Owen Sound Pizza Hut when a department gets their first three nominations they get a pizza party!



The holiday card unfolded to reveal the Byers' generosity.

Why I Give: Gary Byers

(continued from page 1)

If you ask, Gary will tell you that the whole thing was seamless and impressively integrated. He still marvels at the number of people and teams who cared for him.

Everything and everyone worked together. He expressed his gratitude for the emergency teams, the nurses, the doctors, the volunteers, the blood donors, the people who cleaned his room, the gentleman who took his food order, and the lab tech who took his blood every morning. He said, "You could have laughs with everyone and that's a big part of it I think."

If you know Gary you know he likes to joke around. It became a bit of a joke that whenever someone would leave his room they'd say "Gary, can I get you anything?" and he'd reply "you can get me out of here!" But in a serious moment he'll admit it was something special. The people were always putting their patients first.

His time in the hospital helped his gastrointestinal system heal. They scanned and scoped and checked everything they could check. Some small pockets of Diverticulosis in his colon may have contributed to the



bleeding. He's back to fishing and puffer league hockey. He spends as much time with his grandkids as he can.

He's extremely thankful for the care. "You take it for granted. That it will be here when you need it and for me it was here when I needed it." Over the holidays Gary made a donation to the hospital and Wendy put together a goodie tray to share their thanks with the team in the surgical unit. When asked why he did that he said, "I just wanted them to know I appreciate what they did for me. I wanted to thank them and recognize the incredible work they're doing."



The new Arthroscopy Towers are a powerful but minimally invasive option for joint problems.

Tower Power

You supported a trio of powerful new tools

If an orthopedic surgeon wants to get a closer look at your joint (hip, knee, shoulder, ankle, etc.) before recommending a major procedure they can do an Arthroscopy which involves feeding a tiny camera into the joint through a small incision. Once inside the joint they also have the opportunity to perform some small repairs.

The new Arthroscopy Towers pictured above contain three main parts: a 4k Ultra High Definition camera, a DualWave™ arthroscopy pump, and a resection shaver. Together they're a powerful but minimally invasive option for joint problems.

The new camera system will increase visualization inside the joint by producing higher quality images. More detail means a clearer idea of what's happening inside your body.

The DualWave™ pump pushes water into the joint creating space so that the surgeon can see what's going on and access injured areas. Traditional pumps operate with inflow only. That means the surgeon would have to closely monitor the pressure so as not to under or over extend the joint. The new DualWave™ pump has both inflow and

outflow. It will automatically adjust the pressure inside the joint by adding and removing water. This minimizes strain on the joint.

Once visualization inside the joint is established the surgeon may be able to correct the issue during that same procedure. A resection tool can be used to remove damaged cartilage, small fragments, or other issues. The new tower system comes with a wide array of specialty tools which increases precision and recovery.

Because donors like you helped to purchase more than one of these arthroscopy tower systems the surgical team here at Brightshores can perform multiple surgeries at once or more quickly move between back-to-back procedures.

As a donor you're a bit like a surgeon. You see a problem. You learn about it. And you help to fix it. Sometimes that problem might be an emergency and other times it's more routine in nature, but what really matters is that your help always improves care for our community.

Caring for Tomorrow: Larry Van Wormer

Larry made things better.

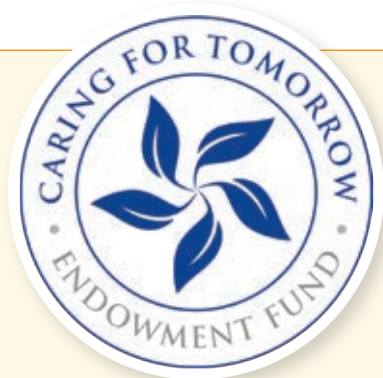
Larry Van Wormer was born in Chilliwack, BC in 1947. After graduating from UBC in Mechanical Engineering, he moved to Port Elgin in 1971. Larry was an engineer who worked at the Bruce Heavy Water Plant for 33 years before retiring in 2004.

Larry enjoyed hiking, especially exploring MacGregor Point Provincial Park. He had a passion for cars and motorcycles. Larry loved music and was so passionate about achieving the best sound possible that he made his own speakers. He was a tinkerer, designer and builder - curious about anything he could take apart to understand how it worked and then make it better.

Larry helped purchase medical equipment, improved facilities and assisted clinical staff.

Larry volunteered with the Horticultural Society, the Saugeen Rail Trail, Bruce Power Pensioners Association and more.

He was an inpatient several times at both Brightshores



Do you want to make a legacy of quality healthcare part of your life story? Visit www.brightshoresfoundation.ca/legacy or contact our Charitable Giving Advisor, Willard VanderPloeg at (519) 372-3925 to learn more.



Larry's legacy lives on. Through his gift he continues to lend a hand to all of us in Grey and Bruce.

Southampton and Owen Sound Hospitals over the years. He was impressed with the care he received and wanted to give back so he took the simple step of including the foundations in his Will.

"He was family to Marilyn and me, our children and grandchildren," says Vic Day who acted as co-Trustee on his friend's Estate. "Larry was a good friend, always willing to lend a hand where he saw a need, and his legacy for our hospitals speaks to who he was perfectly."

On December 19, 2024 Larry died at the age of 77. He had battled Parkinson's and heart disease for several years.

His legacy lives on – in part through his \$20,000 donation (\$10,000 each) to Brightshores Southampton and Owen Sound hospitals. Larry helped purchase medical equipment, improved facilities and assisted clinical staff with education and training. Literally thousands of his friends and neighbours from Saugeen Shores will benefit.

Through these gifts, Larry continues to lend a hand and make things better for all of us in Grey and Bruce.

A Sample of Your Support

You helped staff save time and reduce errors.

Brightshores is required to keep all adult pathology samples for twenty years and fifty years for any sample from a child. As you can imagine there's a huge number of samples in storage and that number is only growing as more tests are performed. It's why the team in the lab at the Owen Sound Hospital is so thrilled with the new Pathology Tracking System that was supported by caring people like you.

Tissue samples are viewed on small glass slides. You've likely seen someone put one under a microscope before. Under the old system staff would meticulously handwrite information on each sample. Now that each station is equipped with a monitor, printer and scanner they can easily attach a barcode instead. This is the type of quiet but meaningful impact you are making on care in our community.



Mitch shows off 59 samples. Each one with its own easy to read barcode identifier label.



Crystal puts a box of samples into storage. They'll be easily identifiable because of you!



Beds support patients in the same way you support patient care!

BEDer Care

Hospital beds are an important part of care that is supported by you!

A hospital bed isn't a piece of furniture - it's an essential tool for your care and recovery. They offer a range of ergonomic positions so you can rest comfortably. They're designed so that you can safely get in and out of bed without falling. They're set up so that staff can get to you during routine or emergency medical care.

If you read our cover story you'll already know that Gary spent six days in hospital. During much of that time he was in a hospital bed. It doesn't feature

prominently in the story because it was doing exactly what it was supposed to do. Expertly assist in his care and recovery.

Critically, when Gary crashed he was already where he needed to be – in a bed – which made it easier for the team to assess and address the situation.

This spring we'll be sending out a letter explaining the hospital's need for nine new beds. We hope you'll open it and consider making a donation.

How to contact us



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 Email us at: office@brightshoresfoundation.ca
 Visit us at: brightshoresfoundation.ca



Support Report is a newsletter of the Brightshores Health System Owen Sound Foundation. The foundation raises funds to improve healthcare in our community by supporting new equipment, staff training and facility improvements at Brightshores.