



## Donor support helping surgeons **see better to do better** in PRHC's operating rooms

With donor support, PRHC will introduce fluorescence-guided imaging technology to the hospital's general operating suites for the first time. This innovation is part of a replacement and upgrading of outdated surgical tools, allowing PRHC's general surgeons to perform minimally invasive procedures with GPS-like precision – with less risk of complications for patients.

With fluorescence-guided imaging, contrast dyes or agents are injected into the patient's bloodstream prior to surgery, making anatomical features, organs, nerves or even cancer cells, light up. That highlighting will help doctors use other new, advanced equipment, like ultra-high-definition scopes and monitors, enhanced cameras, and improved light sources, to locate,

**IMAGE:** A PRHC surgical team performs a minimally invasive procedure in one of the hospital's current operating rooms.

remove and reconnect tissues. PRHC general surgeon Dr. Joslin Cheverie explains why this is so important for patient care, using a common bowel surgery as an example.

"When a diseased or cancerous portion of colon is removed, the remaining

—Continued on page 4...



**IMAGE:** PRHC general surgeon Dr. Joslin Cheverie points out internal organs dyed green in video of a procedure she performed using fluorescence-guided imaging at a hospital where the technology is available.

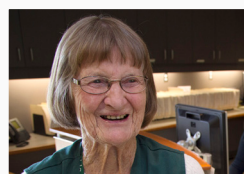
## What's inside...

2



PRHC receives Level III Trauma Centre designation!

3



How true love inspired one woman to give back

4



Celebrating donors with a Donor Wall update



**IMAGE:** PRHC Trauma Medical Director, Dr. Troy Tebbenham (left), and RN Nicole Glover, with the new fluids infuser and stretcher.

## PRHC receives Level III Trauma Centre designation!

Earlier this year, PRHC received official designation as a Level III Trauma Centre. As a result, the hospital now has a recognized trauma program that, for the first time, is part of the provincial network, with access to its resources. A PRHC trauma director and team have been appointed to further develop the hospital's system.

Meanwhile, donors continue to make vital investments in the Emergency Department, including a rapid fluids infuser and IV fluids warmers to help experts quickly treat patients at risk from blood and temperature loss when seconds count. Donors also funded equipment that will increase PRHC's capacity to treat trauma patients – an advanced surgical light for the creation of an additional trauma room and a specialized stretcher.

Thank you for your support! You're empowering standardized, streamlined trauma care – another important building block in the future of our region!

# Jennie **says thanks** for her care by helping ensure others can get the care they need

It was 5:30 p.m. by the time Jennie Ireland got the diagnosis she'd been dreading. Suddenly, she was a 42-year-old single mom with a seven-year-old son, aging parents, and she'd just been diagnosed with breast cancer.

"Looking back, it was an awful time," Jennie says. On sleepless nights, she worried about what her illness would mean for her son, Liam. Could she take him to hockey practice and help him with his schoolwork? Would she be there to watch him grow up? "But I refused to give up hope," she says. "And receiving care at PRHC was my lifeline."

Jennie explains that being able to get care in her community with donor-funded technology meant less worry. Without it, she would have had to travel to Toronto, Oshawa or even Kingston for months on end. "I believe it had a positive impact on my recovery," she says. "Because I was able to get care close to home, I could focus on what mattered most: Getting better and keeping life as normal as possible for my son."

Like many people, Jennie was surprised to find out that the government doesn't fund hospital equipment and that a population of more than 600,000 relies on PRHC for care. This includes people from the city and county of Peterborough, the City of Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland County, east Durham, and the Haliburton Highlands.



**IMAGE:** Jennie Ireland (right) with her son, Liam. Jennie wants to ensure patients can continue to get the care they need at PRHC.

Patients come to PRHC with a wide range of needs, from treatment for cancer, heart attacks and strokes, to surgery or mental health care. They may be seeking treatment in an emergency, or because of a chronic condition. Whatever the reason, Jennie wants to ensure that like her, others can get the care they need, close to home.

"I became a donor, volunteer fundraiser and a PRHC Foundation ambassador to help our hospital upgrade its technology so that more patients like me can get the care they need when they need it most," says Jennie. "But PRHC can only do it with our help. I'd like everyone who can to join me in donating so doctors, nurses and staff have the best equipment to provide the best care."

To donate, please call 705-876-5000 or visit [prhcfoundation.ca](http://prhcfoundation.ca).



# How true love inspired Audrey to give back

*In memory of Audrey Ashdown.*

Audrey Ashdown moved to Peterborough with her husband and high school sweetheart, Bill, in 1959. She felt both excited and frightened. "It was a challenging time... But I had my life's partner by my side," she said.

Before long, their new home was surrounded by neighbours. They were delighted to see their children grow up with so many nearby playmates. Peterborough seemed the ideal place to raise a family, but life changed abruptly in 1982, when Bill suffered his first heart attack at only 52 years old.

Bill was rushed to PRHC. Doctors and nurses were able to stabilize him and Audrey was flooded with relief. Twenty years later, she would feel the same relief when Bill suffered another heart attack and his life was saved again at PRHC.

Audrey was grateful to still have Bill by her side after multiple cardiac events. She began volunteering at the hospital – a commitment she continued into her late eighties.

Audrey lost the love of her life when Bill passed away in 2013, but she felt overwhelming gratitude for the



**IMAGE:** Gratitude for the lifesaving care her husband received at PRHC motivated Audrey Ashdown to volunteer at the hospital and leave a gift in her will to the PRHC Foundation.

three decades they'd shared after his first heart attack. She'd also seen advancements and expansions of hospital services during her time as a volunteer. She felt it was a fitting choice to leave a gift to PRHC Foundation in her will.

Though she made sure to provide for her children in her will, Audrey viewed her legacy gift as one that would ultimately give back to them, too. "I want to ensure that my children, grandchildren, neighbours and friends will receive the same

high calibre healthcare that I have benefited from," she explained.

Audrey's children are proud that their mother's generosity has continued to make an impact on the community since her passing in 2021. Her legacy gift has helped sustain services at PRHC, providing high-quality care for people from across the region. Through her bequest, Audrey's kindness lives on.

*For more information on legacy and planned giving, or to share your donor story, please call 705-876-5000.*



**IMAGE:** PRHC President & CEO, Dr. Lynn Mikula (left), speaks to host and PRHC Foundation President & CEO, Lesley Heighway, in episode 1.

 **Heart of Healthcare**  
Watch at [prhcfoundation.ca](https://prhcfoundation.ca)

*A new video series hosted by Lesley Heighway*

Don't miss Heart of Healthcare, featuring candid conversations with some of the incredible people helping to shape the future of patient care at PRHC. We'll meet these champions, hear their stories and celebrate the compassion, dedication, innovation and resilience that define care close to home.



**IMAGE:** PRHC Foundation team members Laura Gordenier (left) and Ashley Marcoux pass by the Celebration of Giving Donor Wall.

## Recognizing your generosity with a Celebration of Giving Donor Wall update

The PRHC Foundation's Celebration of Giving donor recognition display is just one of the ways we publicly acknowledge and thank our many donors for their continued support of patient care at PRHC.

This celebration of our community's generous philanthropic spirit is in the main lobby of the hospital and lists donors whose cumulative donations have reached \$5,000 or more.

By the end of this October, our annual update of the donor recognition display will be complete.

Thank you to all of our donors for your ongoing support! We're honoured to work with you to help shape the future of patient care at your regional hospital.

For more information about the Celebration of Giving Donor Wall, please call 705-876-5000.

"With your help, we'll be able to perform fluorescence-guided imaging in our general operating suites for the first time."

*Continued from page 1...*

healthy sections are joined back together. It's critical that the repaired section have healthy blood flow, or the patient is at greater risk of complications," she says. "With this technology, I'll be able to make better, more informed decisions during surgery."

Fluorescence-guided imaging and state-of-the-art surgical tools are an exciting element of a wider, \$13 million reinvestment in minimally invasive interventions, which also includes interventional radiology.

Replacing the hospital's surgical technology now will ensure PRHC's experts have better visuals to more accurately perform lifesaving and life-changing operations – like colorectal cancer surgery, emergency appendectomies, hernia repairs and gallbladder removals – right here, safely, quickly and with less wait time.

It's donors who will make this possible, funding advances in minimally invasive technology and techniques that empower



**IMAGE:** The government doesn't fund hospital equipment, so PRHC relies on community donations to fund the tools physicians like general surgeon Dr. Cheverie need to save lives.

physicians like Dr. Cheverie to treat more conditions, efficiently, without big cuts, using less anesthesia, and leaving behind nothing more than a tiny scar. For patients, that means less pain, reduced risk of infection, shorter hospital stays, and faster recovery. This is important for all patients, but especially those vulnerable to complications, including the more than 60,000 seniors in our region.

For more information on this investment or to make a donation, please call 705-876-5000 or visit [prhcfoundation.ca](http://prhcfoundation.ca).

**PRHC**  
**FOUNDATION**

One Hospital Drive  
Peterborough, ON K9J 7C6  
W: [prhcfoundation.ca](http://prhcfoundation.ca)  
T: 705-876-5000  
E: [foundation@prhc.on.ca](mailto:foundation@prhc.on.ca)

Lesley Heighway, President & CEO  
705-743-2121, ext. 3859 or [lheighwa@prhc.on.ca](mailto:lheighwa@prhc.on.ca)

Laurie La Plante, Manager, Major Gifts  
705-743-2121, ext. 3157 or [llaplante@prhc.on.ca](mailto:llaplante@prhc.on.ca)

Carol Lawless, Senior Charitable Giving Advisor, Major Gifts  
705-743-2121, ext. 4185 or [clawless@prhc.on.ca](mailto:clawless@prhc.on.ca)

Valerie Gagnon, Charitable Giving Advisor, Community Giving  
705-743-2121, ext. 4184 or [vgagnon@prhc.on.ca](mailto:vgagnon@prhc.on.ca)

