

## **Hospital atrium named in honour of \$2 million legacy gift in support of cancer care innovation at Peterborough Regional Health Centre**

PETERBOROUGH, ON: Peterborough Regional Health Centre's (PRHC) atrium was unveiled as the Anne Keenleyside & Family Atrium today in honour of a \$2 million legacy gift to the Peterborough Regional Health Centre Foundation.

The transformational gift was made through the estate of Dr. Anne Keenleyside, a highly respected Trent University professor of bioarcheology who passed away in October of 2022 after succumbing to cancer. Lesley Heighway, PRHC Foundation President & CEO, says the bequest has been invested in equipment and technology that support cancer care innovation, in accordance with Keenleyside's request.

"Anne was clear she wanted her gift to connect her passion for scientific innovation with her desire to help the patients who would come after her," said Heighway. "Her generosity has allowed the PRHC Foundation to fund a second MRI for PRHC's Diagnostic Imaging Department, as well as fully upgrading a general operating suite with state-of-the-art minimally invasive surgical tools – one of four undertaken by the Foundation."

"By directing her bequest to the MRI and our minimally invasive surgical suites, her gift is already helping our hospital increase capacity and image quality for diagnostic scans and giving our general surgeons access to brand new, leading-edge tools to perform cancer surgeries," Heighway added.

Dr. Lynn Mikula, PRHC President & CEO, says the impact of Keenleyside's legacy gift is already being felt. "Thanks to Anne's investment we've been able to increase our capacity, performing an additional 6,000 scans since the new unit became operational. Not only is this helping us address diagnostic wait times, we're also able to produce much higher quality images in less time, while providing a significantly improved patient experience."

Mikula added that the investment in PRHC's general operating suites is empowering the introduction of fluorescence-guided imaging, a process that involves the injection of contrast dyes or agents into a patient's bloodstream prior to surgery, making their blood vessels, bile ducts and lymph nodes light up when combined with fluoroscopy.

"The impact of this new technology is significant," said Mikula. "It's already allowing our surgeons to operate with increased precision – an advancement that has tremendous implications for the treatment of bowel and other cancers."

Heighway says the decision to name the atrium in recognition of Keenleyside's generosity was made in consultation with the hospital and her family. It's a decision that her partner, Pat Butler, says her family and friends are very happy about.

"Anne's gift to the hospital reflects her generous and thoughtful nature," said Butler. "She was incredibly grateful for the expert and compassionate care she received at Peterborough Regional Health Centre and wanted to do something after she was gone to help make things better for others like her. This bequest is a gift to both her community and the healthcare professionals who cared for her after her diagnosis over 10 years ago."

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### **Our mission has never been more important...**

Hundreds of thousands of people from across our region rely on Peterborough Regional Health Centre for world-class care close to home. Because the government doesn't fund equipment, we count on your gifts to fund the tools needed to save lives. Donations to the PRHC Foundation fund state-of-the-art technology, fuel

innovation, bring lifesaving new services, and attract the best and brightest healthcare professionals. To learn more about our most urgent and up-to-date areas of investment, donate, or discuss an estate gift, contact us at 705-876-5000, [foundation@prhc.on.ca](mailto:foundation@prhc.on.ca) or visit [prhcfoundation.ca](http://prhcfoundation.ca).

**Photo cutline:**

Pictured from left to right in the Anne Keenleyside & Family Atrium in Peterborough Regional Health Centre are (front row) Anne's stepdaughter Cassandra Butler, Anne's partner Pat Butler and Anne's stepdaughter Melissa Butler, (back row) Anne's close friend Lynda Wood, PRHC President & CEO Dr. Lynn Mikula, PRHC Radiologist Dr. Peter Gianakopoulos, and PRHC Foundation President & CEO Lesley Heighway.

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