



Left: The MRI scanner at LGH performs 8,000 scans a year. Right: Local couple, George & Annabelle Gaffney have donated a leadership gift of \$1.5M to get the MRI campaign underway. (Sadly George passed away a few months after the donation was made.)



Bringing Life-Saving Imaging Closer to Home

Lions Gate Hospital desperately needs a second MRI machine. The existing MRI unit operates 24/7 and performs more than 8,000 exams a year. But this is not enough.

Currently, up to 50% of patients who live on the North Shore and in the Sea to Sky corridor and need an MRI have to travel downtown for an appointment.

“Emergency patients can get their scans the same day and people with urgent needs can be seen within a week or two,” explains Dr. Andrew Thompson, Head of Medical Imaging at LGH. “But for patients with slightly less urgent needs – such as chronic pain, musculoskeletal injuries, back pain and sciatica – the wait can be up to six months.”

MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) is a high-tech diagnostic tool that

uses radio waves and a powerful magnetic field to generate detailed images of organs, tissue, bones, joints and physiological processes.

MRI is part of a suite of digital imaging technologies in use at LGH. It is particularly effective for diagnosing and monitoring:

- Brain and spinal injuries
- Stroke, dementia, epilepsy & multiple sclerosis
- Brain and spinal tumors
- Soft-tissue and bone tumors
- Cancer assessment (including breast and prostate)
- Joint abnormalities and musculoskeletal injuries

The hospital is planning to purchase a 3-Tesla MRI machine. This upgraded technology offers faster scanning and clearer images. *Continued next page*



Doina Sarbu, a booking clerk in the radiology department at LGH, was the winner of the biggest ever LGH 50/50 draw in May. After buying \$50 worth of tickets, she took home a cheque for \$28,610.

LGH 50/50

We've rebooted the LGH 50/50 draw and tickets are now available to purchase online. With the draw open to more people, we've had bigger jackpots and \$98,000 has been split between the winners and LGH in 2021.

The LGH 50/50 is open to any BC resident, 19 or older and the deadline for the next draw is September 28. The draw is the only 50/50 that supports LGH and half of the proceeds from the fall draw will directly fund patient care right here on the North Shore. **Go to lgh5050.com to purchase your tickets today.**

Exceptional Care Everywhere

Virtual Support for Patients

Every Thursday afternoon Barb Moore, a Community Respiratory Therapist, picks up a couple of cans of San Pellegrino clementina soda and sits in front of a screen at West Vancouver Community Centre and prepares to lead a pulmonary rehab clinic. Staring back at her are a group of eager attendees with their own home-made weights which range from cans of coconut milk to socks with rolls of coins.

It might all sound very low-tech but the session is one of the hundreds of successful virtual clinics that have been delivered via Zoom since the COVID-19 pandemic limited access to LGH.

After a crash course in virtual health technologies for both care teams and patients, remote services and support systems are now embedded in many areas of care. As well as the pulmonary clinic, patients across the North Shore and further afield now have access to a wide range of outpatient rehab and education services including, cardiac care, diabetes, arthritis, respiratory, wound care, pre-natal and post-partum sessions, and even chaplain support delivered via Zoom.

A tablet loaning scheme for the pulmonary rehab program ensures that people who need the support but don't have access to equipment don't miss out. Staff also partnered with TechServe, a volunteer organization to provide free tech training for seniors.

At the long term care facility Evergreen House, the donation of ten mobile screens enabled residents and staff to connect with The Hope Centre Choir for virtual music therapy and go on virtual journeys around the world.



Right: Physio Janet Lun; Below: Barb Moore

Other virtual technology upgrades include:

- Virtual check in and scheduling apps
- Secure messaging services for physicians and patients
- A virtual visit platform for psychiatric consults
- A wait time tracking app for patients in the Emergency Department.

The Vancouver Coastal Health Virtual Health team at Lions Gate Hospital has led the way in researching the technology, educating staff and making sure services are accessible and sustainable for patients.

"Because of COVID a lot of programs needed to transition to a virtual platform, so we saw massive, transformative change and an increased readiness to use some of these tools," says Arlene Singh, Clinical Planner with Virtual Health at Vancouver Coastal Health.

As pandemic restrictions ease, the Virtual Health team envision a hybrid delivery of in-person and remote services. "An area we would like to focus



on is remote health monitoring including the use of wireless devices that enable clinicians to supplement virtual visits with additional data," reveals Arlene Singh. "For patient populations that have frequent hospital visits, we'll be looking at how we can keep them healthier in their communities and increase their engagement with their care teams."

When the Paul Myers Tower (formerly known as the Medical & Surgical Centre) is completed it will have a dedicated Telehealth Centre and the work the virtual health team are doing today will pave the way for a new generation of services that will become an important part of the health care services provided to our community.

Much of the progress that has been made in virtual health at LGH has been accelerated by donor funding. Seaspan North Vancouver and the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation have donated \$1.15 million to support the expansion of virtual care services for the VCH Coastal Community of Care which stretches from Deep Cove to Bella Bella. LGH Foundation has also invested \$450,000 in the virtual health program with donations from its Patient Experience Fund which supports technology and innovation.



With a second MRI scanner in operation, patients with chronic and painful conditions can receive timely care. Patients with life-threatening illnesses such as cancer, stroke, brain disorders and major joint injuries will also benefit from a more reliable and expanded service.

Your donations will help to purchase the latest 3-T MRI machine, renovate the Digital Imaging Department

to accommodate a new MRI unit and contribute towards upgrading mechanical, electrical and structural systems. Vancouver Coastal Health will fund all ongoing operational costs of running the expanded unit.

"Installing a second MRI scanner would make a big difference to patient care. Knowing that we are able to provide more timely care and reduce the suffering of patients is important to everyone here," says Dr. Thompson. **Learn more and donate at: lghfoundation.com/MRI2**

EMERGENCY MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN

We did it. Thanks to your kindness we've successfully raised the funds we need to bring a new Mental Health Emergency Assessment Unit and improved triage care to LGH.

A total of \$5.26 million has been raised to create a safe and secure unit for up to eight patients.

The triage zone will also be reconfigured, to improve services for all patients who need emergency care.

Staff are working on the final design plans and the new Emergency Department will be ready in November 2022.

Thank you so much for your support. Through your generosity, our whole community will benefit from safer and more efficient emergency care.



Food for Thanks

The second and third waves of the COVID-19 pandemic was tough on staff and physicians who treated more than 220 COVID-positive patients during the second and third waves of the pandemic.

Community support played a vital role during this time and appreciation came in many forms from thank you cards and outdoor art to gratitude books and lunches.

We would particularly like to thank volunteer and corporate partner Ryan Beedie and the Gooding Family Foundation who partnered with local restaurants and cafes and together covered the cost of 4,800 meals over the course of two months.

The deliveries were truly appreciated by our hard-working frontline workers and support staff at the hospital and health care facilities across the North Shore.

Golden Legacy

The late, great Olympic rower Kathleen Heddle, who died earlier this year honoured staff and patients at LGH with a touching gold medal tribute.

During her six-year battle with cancer, Kathleen spent many hours at LGH and before she died, she expressed her wish to publicly acknowledge the boundless care and consideration she and her family received from her care team at the oncology clinic.

Just ahead of the Tokyo Games, Kathleen's family visited LGH to pay tribute to the staff as well as the patients receiving treatment.

Staff and physicians from the Oncology Unit were in attendance as the family presented the gold medal that she won at the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta. The family also generously loaned a watercolour of Kathleen in action with her rowing partner Marnie McBean.

The medal remained on display in the clinic during the games throughout the summer.



Inside LGH

Everyone's invited to LGH Open Day, a free virtual event that kicks off LGH Week which runs from October 2 to 16.

LGH Open Day, which streams from 11am to 4pm on October 2 offers a rare opportunity for our supporters to go behind the scenes at Lions Gate Hospital.

We have a great line-up of medical experts who will be available to answer your questions on important health topics affecting our community.

LGH Open Day includes video presentations on topics including Youth Disordered Eating, Cancer Care and Neurosurgery. We also have exclusive video tours from around LGH.

As well as the open day, we'll be hosting awareness and fundraising events across the community with our community sponsors including Craftsman Collision, Save-on-Foods and McDonalds.

Register for free at:
[LGHOpenDay.vfairs.com](https://www.lghopenday.vfairs.com)



Kudos to Our Community!

Lions Gate Hospital Foundation is pleased to acknowledge the generosity of the following thoughtful supporters.

- 1 Members of **Hollyburn Masonic Lodge** donated a \$600 gift to support resident care at Evergreen House.
- 2 **Sentinel Secondary Students** raised \$420 from the Sugar Rush Sentinel fundraiser which redirected unsold local baked goods to students who purchased them for after-school snacks.
- 3 Thank you to **Paul Martin** and **Heather Baker**, who donated 30 gift cards from **Cantina Norte** to front-line staff working in the COVID Unit at LGH.
- 4 Thank you to members of the **Lynn Valley Buy Nothing Group** who donated an epic assortment of snack baskets for staff at LGH.
- 5 A community art sale hosted by the **Sunzen Art Gallery** raised \$1,400.
- 6 The **Park & Tilford** branch of **Cobs Bread** raised \$1,917 through their Doughnation Day event.
- 7 The big, beautiful **Big Bloomin Baskets Mother's Day** fundraiser run by **Pam Vidalin** collected \$550 to support patient care in our community.



It's easier than ever to collect donations for your LGH fundraising events.

GoFundUs

Now that there are more opportunities to host community fundraisers, we've upgraded our virtual fundraising tools to make it easy for party planners, event organizers and community leaders to streamline their fundraising and collect donations for LGH Foundation.

However you decide to raise money, you can now host your fundraiser directly with us via our website.

Instead of signing up for a third-party fundraiser such as GoFundMe, you can now use our online tools to create a personalized fundraiser that makes it easy for participants to sign up and donate directly to LGH Foundation.

One of the first events to benefit from the new online tools was the Always There for You singing competition which raised \$3,975 from 41 donors. Event organizer Angela Fan said: "It was very easy to set up, I didn't get any questions or problems from registrations and it works very well."

Learn more about hosting a fundraiser for LGH at lghfoundation.com/createevent

Thank you

for your support

Did you know that **100%** of your donation will help support patient care at LGH?

If you would like to support LGH Foundation through your event, please email us at info@lghfoundation.com



Visit us at lghfoundation.com



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