



## HANDS FREE SURGERY

The \$5.5 million Da Vinci Xi Robotic Surgical System purchased by LGH Foundation is great news for patients. Here's 10 ways the new system is transforming surgical procedures at Lions Gate Hospital.

- 1 While the patient is positioned beneath the arms of the robot at the centre of the Operating Room (OR), surgeons take control from a console to one side of the OR.
- 2 The four robotic arms are more precise and less invasive than traditional surgical techniques which leads to faster healing and reduced recovery times.
- 3 Each robotic arm is fully rotational and tremor free. Every single movement of the robotic arms is controlled by a surgeon, or surgeons through extremely responsive hand and foot controls.
- 4 Surgeons can view live, high-definition video images as they work through a 3D viewer at the console.
- 5 Real-time images are also displayed on large screens so that the whole surgical team can see exactly what the surgeon sees.
- 6 With surgeons able to sit at the ergonomic and adjustable consoles, there is less stress on their bodies, which is particularly beneficial during long procedures.
- 7 With traditional surgical methods a typical patient undergoing a prostatectomy (prostate removal) would spend three days in hospital. With the new less invasive procedure, recovery times are quicker and hospital stays in the Paul Myers Tower have been reduced by a day.
- 8 The robotic arms can be fitted with different instruments, ensuring that the DaVinci can perform many different surgical procedures.
- 9 The DaVinci will be used for a wide range of life-saving procedures across general surgery, urology and gynecology including bowel, bladder and kidney cancers, hysterectomies and complex hernias.
- 10 This is one of only three surgical DaVinci robotic systems in active use in British Columbia.

Erin Bissell, RN, who has worked in the operating room with the urology team at LGH for 18 years says: "It's really exciting to see this new technology and to see how it can benefit our patients. It's been a big change for us and so far it's been wonderful."

Dr. Justin Lee  
Urologic Oncologist

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## THE BEST IS YET TO COME

The Lions Gate Hospital community has just celebrated the remarkable first year of the Paul Myers Tower, which opened on March 9, 2025.

In its first year, the Paul Myers Tower has transformed the experience of care for patients, families and staff. The spacious, well-equipped patient rooms provide surgical patients with greater peace, privacy, safety and comfort, while creating a more welcoming environment for families. As one staff member put it, “*Nobody really wants to leave.*”

Staff are equally appreciative of their new work environment. They have more space to perform their caring duties and access to the best support and monitoring equipment in every room. The Vocera hands-free communication system has also been a welcome addition which enables staff to stay in closer contact with their patients and each other – meaning less walking and more talking, collaboration and hands-on care.

The Paul Myers Tower is not only transforming patient care today but was built with the future in mind allowing the hospital to adopt new technologies as they emerge. With eight state-of-the-art operating rooms, we’ve quickly expanded our surgical robotics program.

The DaVinci Robotics Surgical System which was introduced in January is already leading to faster patient recoveries. (See cover story for details).

The opening of the Tower has also created opportunities elsewhere in the hospital. With several departments now relocated space has been created for expansion so we can accelerate important improvements in the South Tower.

Among the next critical developments are a new Oncology Clinic – which will double current capacity – and an advanced Rehabilitation Unit, which is now the Foundation’s primary fundraising priority. (See back page). I am very grateful to the many donors whose generosity made the Paul Myers Tower possible, and to those who are already helping bring these next projects to life.

Thank you for your trust in the Foundation and for your compassion and generosity which impacts countless lives at LGH every day.

Judy Savage  
President & CEO  
LGH Foundation

## COMMUNITY KUDOS



**Caroline Sutherland** celebrated her 82nd birthday in a truly memorable way. With a Neil Diamond impersonator and a room full of friends, she transformed her celebration into a fundraiser for LGH Foundation, raising \$1,500 for the Re-Imagine Rehab Campaign.



Thanks to a generous donation from **Nairn and Bonnie Grundy**, the Paul Myers Tower recently received a new rehab pulley. Used to restore strength, flexibility, coordination and range of motion, this physical therapy tool uses controlled resistance exercises to help patients with damaged and weak muscles recover after surgery or injury.

### Hands Free Surgery *Continued from Page 1*

Dr. Justin Lee, a Urologic Oncologist at LGH completed a robotic surgery fellowship at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in New York City before he arrived at LGH ten years ago.

In the first two months of use, Dr. Lee and his colleague Dr. Chris Hoag have performed 23 radical prostatectomies and other surgical procedures with the leading-edge technology.

**“When we can reduce recovery times, pain and discomfort, infections and complications that lead to re-admission, we improve the quality of life of our patients and increase their chances of recovery,” says Dr. Lee.**

He continues: “Robotics is where the field of surgery is moving. For us to remain current and ready for the future, we need to embrace robotic assisted surgery.”



Scan the code to see the DaVinci demo in one of our new operating rooms.

The purchase of the Da Vinci Xi Robotic Surgical System was made possible through 17 donors who contributed \$5.5M.

# A LASTING LEGACY

Throughout the different seasons of her life, West Vancouver resident Marlene Walmsley was dedicated to caring for others.



After graduating as an RN in 1955, she spent the next 25 years working at St. Paul's Hospital.

When she retired from frontline nursing, she continued her calling by sharing her knowledge and experience with the next generation of nurses as the Chief Instructor of Nursing at BCIT.

Hundreds of students came under her wing. During her time at BCIT where she worked until 1999, she developed strong connections with Lions Gate Hospital accompanying students during their final weeks of training.

When Marlene passed away at North Shore Hospice two years ago, one of the palliative nurses who cared for her was a former student. In those final days, they shared many good memories and stories from their shared history.

Marlene's life of giving and caring is reflected in her final wishes. Honouring her intention to support LGH, her partner and longtime companion, Alan Giolma, established an endowment in her name to support North Shore nursing staff in continuing their education.

Her estate has also made a significant contribution to the Re-Imagine Rehab Campaign, with a portion designated to help purchase essential equipment.

Marlene's bequest is a natural extension of the life she lived. Even now, her care continues, supporting a community and a cause that meant so much to her.

Legacy gifts have a huge impact on our ability to support facility upgrades, the purchase of equipment and medical technology and staff education. If you are interested in leaving a legacy gift in your will to support the care of future patients on the North Shore, you can learn more about planned giving at: [lghfoundation.com/legacy/](http://lghfoundation.com/legacy/)

## THE FAB 400

A patient stands for the first time after surgery. Fingers slowly regain the strength to hold a cup. A parent walks down the hallway to hug their child.

At Lions Gate Hospital, recovery happens in small steps. These moments take patience, persistence, and the right support.

That same steady approach is how more than 400 people in our community choose to give. With monthly donations starting from \$10, their gifts add up to over \$39,000 each month, providing dependable support for patients and care teams.

Right now, this generosity is helping power Re-Imagine Rehab, our campaign to transform rehabilitation spaces and equipment at Lions Gate Hospital. Rehabilitation is where recovery truly begins. Here, patients rebuild strength, relearn everyday skills, and regain confidence after illness or injury. Through monthly donors, over \$450,000 has already been directed toward this important work.

What makes monthly giving so meaningful is its simplicity. Giving a little each month adds up over time and creates real impact. To everyone who gives monthly, thank you. Your steady generosity helps patients take those first steps toward recovery.

If you would like to join this group, it is easy to get started. Visit [lghfoundation.com/donate-monthly](http://lghfoundation.com/donate-monthly) or contact [Carolyn.Anderson@vch.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Anderson@vch.ca).

A monthly gift can help someone regain their strength, their independence, and their life.





## STUDENTS OF PHILANTHROPY

LGH Foundation's Youth Committee recently organized and delivered two outstanding community events – the 2026 North Shore Lunar New Year Celebration and the 8th Annual MedEd Conference. Both events exemplify the exceptional leadership and dedication of our Youth Committee members.

Our first North Shore Lunar New Year Celebration at Park Royal showcased an exciting lineup of performances, cultural activities and attracted hundreds of participants.

The 8th Annual MedEd Conference in March was another standout event. Close to 60 secondary students from across the North Shore attended the showcase for medical careers. The conference, hosted at the Paul Myers Tower, featured an inspiring morning of exploration, information, and firsthand insight into medical career pathways.



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of both events, including our sponsors, volunteers, performers, community partners, organizing committees, guest speakers, panelists and attendees.

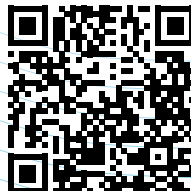
Thanks to your support, we raised \$26,768 (net) for Lions Gate Hospital, reflecting the passion and initiative of LGH Foundation's Youth Committee.



## PAUL MYERS TOWER: ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Paul Myers Tower (PMT) opened to great fanfare in March 2025. To date 10,000 patients have been treated at the medical centre and it has been a big hit with staff and patients alike.

The state-of-the-art centre may only be a year old but it is already evolving and changing. Since the Tower was officially opened, a new bigger waiting room for surgical services has been completed, a surgical robotics system has been installed (see cover story) and the pneumatic tube system, which delivers blood and samples for testing between the lab, the PMT and the Emergency Department, is now operational.



Check out this video to see staff reflect on the transformation that has taken place at Lions Gate Hospital.

# CARE & CONNECTION

The newly opened West Vancouver Adult Day Centre located in the Kiwanis Village in West Vancouver provides compassionate, specialized care and support for adults experiencing dementia and cognitive decline while also providing much-needed support for their caregivers.

Made possible through a \$3.65 million donation from LGH Foundation, the new purpose-built centre expands access to high-quality programs that provide care and social connection in a secure and safe environment.

People experiencing dementia and cognitive decline often lack opportunities to socialize and engage with their peers. The Adult Day Program provides meaningful care and connection through a diverse range of group activities tailored to the needs of participants, including arts and crafts, music, games, baking and more.

These activities are designed to foster genuine connections and help clients rediscover a sense of belonging within a community of peers.

Building a sense of community has been shown to improve both mental and physical health and help prevent or delay cognitive decline. This in turn can enable participants to continue living in their own homes and maintain their independence without sacrificing their safety.

The Adult Day Program also provides vital respite for caregivers who are often at risk of isolation and burn-out. Along with giving them some personal time, the centre offers convenient in-house services such as hairdressing and foot care to clients so that care providers have some time to take care of their own well-being.

The Day Centre is located at Kiwanis Village West, the new affordable housing facility on 22nd Street and Gordon Avenue in West Vancouver. For program and activity details, please call 604.922.2022.



Shawna Hilley, Activity Coordinator, WVADP; Judy Savage, President & CEO, LGH Foundation; Rick Harry, Squamish Nation.

Judy Savage, President & CEO, LGH Foundation says:

**// We're thrilled that the Foundation is able to support some of the most vulnerable people in our community. With a more space, and more staff, more local residents will be able to access these vital services that really improve quality of life."**

The new centre was made possible with the support of donations from the Paul Myers Family Foundation, George and Annabelle Gaffney, Anne Carlile and other donors.

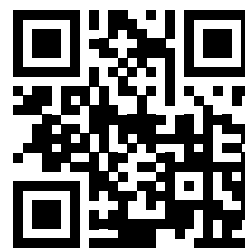
"I would like to thank our thoughtful and generous donors for their contributions. The centre will benefit countless local families for many years to come," says Judy Savage.



Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Foundation is able to fund essential equipment for LGH such as Electric Stretchers for the Emergency and Surgical Departments.



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Our Re-Imagine Rehab Campaign will not only transform high intensity rehabilitation at LGH, it will also create a facility that sets the bar for rehab care in British Columbia.

The new unit will be the first purpose-built rehab facility developed in the Lower Mainland for 50 years and the funds we raise from the campaign will ensure that more local patients recovering from a major medical trauma will be able to start their recovery closer to home.

Dr. Nicola Hahn, Medical and Rehabilitation physician and Campaign champion believes that recent upgrades at LGH are inspiring greater ambition for future projects.

**// With the Paul Myers Tower and other developments at LGH there's a lot of longstanding generosity and young energy that's allowing us to make quick changes to improve the quality of care here."**



**Dr. Nicola Hahn**  
Physiatrist

The unit will be designed to meet the best practices for rehab care with purpose-built patient rooms for rehab activities to start right at the bedside. State-of-the-art gyms will feature AI and virtual reality powered rehab equipment that provide patients with personalized data-driven progress plans.

Building a sense of community will also be an important part of the re-development. Having all patient rooms in one rehab hub along with shared gyms and communal spaces builds the emotional well-being of patients.

# RE-IMAGINE REHAB



**Lubna Allana**  
Physiotherapist

Intensive rehabilitation is currently spread across two locations with few opportunities for patients to socialize and build their social and cognitive skills.

Lubna Allana who has been a physiotherapist at LGH for 11 years remembers the days when patients had access to a lounge. She says:

**// The social impact was huge. It wasn't just one patient and their family that used to come, it was other patients and their families. It used to be a big social environment and the patients used to be so uplifted when they could hear the stories of the other people who were doing so well."**

At the moment some North Shore patients have to go to Vancouver to receive the intensive rehab care they need because we cannot accommodate everyone who needs support.

"With the anticipated increase in the number of people surviving a stroke and a second wave of post-pandemic health care needs all colliding at the same time - it couldn't be a better time to re-think how we deliver high-intensity rehab on the North Shore," says Dr. Hahn.



**Keep reading below to find out how you can double the impact of your donation.**

## YOUR DONATION DOUBLED!

**Now is the moment to make a donation to our Re-Imagine Rehab Campaign.**

When you make a donation to our campaign it will be doubled thanks to a generous \$100,000 pledge made by the **Mahdi Foundation** (an Iranian cultural society).

The cultural organization based in North Vancouver will double every contribution made to our campaign this spring. Donate \$50 and your donation will be worth \$100. Contribute \$200 and we'll see a \$400 boost to the campaign. \$500 from you will mean \$1,000 for the Foundation.

Every dollar you donate will bring us a step closer to our goal of building a state-of-the-art, high-intensity rehabilitation unit. This new purpose-built unit will transform the care of patients rebuilding their lives after surviving major medical trauma.

**We are deeply grateful to members of the Mahdi Foundation for their enthusiastic support of the Re-Imagine Rehab Campaign.**



**All you have to do to help us maximize the match is scan the QR code, go online, or fill in a payment form.**



[lghfoundation.com/  
re-imagine-rehab-spring](http://lghfoundation.com/re-imagine-rehab-spring)