

I'M STILL STANDING BY YOLANDA BROOKS

In the spring of 2025 Jim Hinton's life and body collapsed. Within the space of a few days, he went from being an active husband, father and outdoor enthusiast, to a critically-ill patient struck down by sepsis.

A North Vancouver resident for 35 years, Jim loved to travel, ski, and hike. In April 2025 just as he retired from his IT career, Jim started to suffer from back pain which got progressively worse.

With intense pain on the left side of his body, he was worried he was suffering from a heart complication so he went to the Lions Gate Hospital Emergency Department. His heart was fine but his symptoms continued to worsen over the next few days. He started to drop things and was showing signs of paralysis.

A critical care physician suspected sepsis and when he was sent for an MRI, the diagnosis was confirmed. They discovered an abscess which injured the spinal cord in Jim's neck which left him paralyzed.

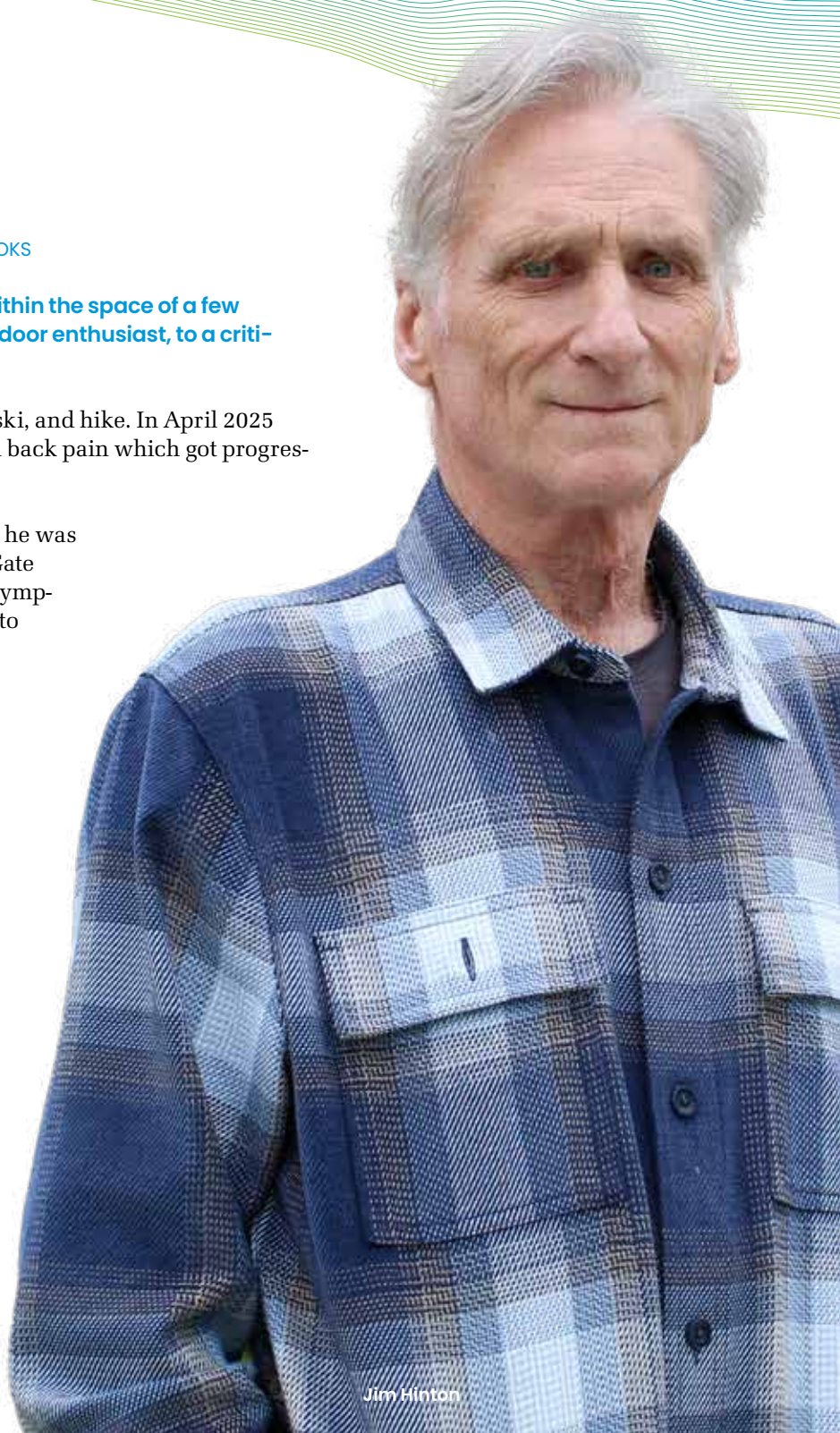
Jim was sent to Vancouver General Hospital for spinal decompression surgery and then onto G.F Strong Rehabilitation Centre in Vancouver.

He was on a ventilator and couldn't talk, he could barely move and he couldn't even scratch his nose. Friends and family rallied around to support him but travelling across two bridges put additional strain on his wife of 40 years, Karen, and his son Johnathan, who were a constant presence at his side.

After three months of emergency care and high-intensity rehab, Jim miraculously walked out of G. F Strong. He elected to continue his outpatient rehab at Lions Gate Hospital so he could be closer to home.

"I spent a long time as an outpatient at Lions Gate Hospital and the staff were excellent" he recalls.

Continued on Page 2



Jim Hinton



ADVANCING CARE AT EVERY STEP

Every day at Lions Gate Hospital, patients experience the impact of the community's generosity in ways both visible and unseen.

Patients benefit from highly trained health-care teams whose ongoing professional education has been supported through donor-funded education.

They receive care using advanced technologies made possible through community support such as our new Interventional Radiology Suite and Transperineal Prostate Biopsy equipment.

Patients also gain access to innovative research that helps shape the future of health care.

And when illness or injury changes the course of their lives, patients rely on physical rehabilitation services that help restore independence and hope.

This edition of our newsletter showcases the many ways donor support is advancing care at every step of the patient journey — from education and innovation — to treatment and recovery. Together, these stories illustrate a simple but powerful truth: philanthropy strengthens every aspect of health care.

Whether through an online or monthly donation, or attendance at one of our events, including our recent Gala or our upcoming Step-Up walkathon on October 4, every contribution helps ensure that patients on the North Shore have access to exceptional care close to home.

As you read the stories in this issue, I hope you will see the collective impact of a community committed to better health care. Together, we are helping Lions Gate Hospital continue to evolve, innovate, and meet the growing needs of our community.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping advance care at every step.

Judy Savage
President & CEO
LGH Foundation

Cover photo: Yolanda Brooks

I'm Still Standing *Continued from Page 1*

"Many of the physicians and physiatrists who worked with me at LGH also work at GF Strong. A new Rehabilitation Unit at LGH will give them facilities and technology to match their experience and skills."



As well as outpatient support, Jim found a local clinic with a ski simulator intended for training aspiring high-performance skiers. After three months of working on the machine, he got in touch with Whistler Adaptive Skiing and went out for a test run last March.

Jim has made continuing rehab a full-time job to reduce any possible loss of function.

While Jim will not recover completely, his rehab contributed to his ability to hike around the North Shore with his dog Kali and hopefully return to the slopes.

From thinking he might die, to finding his way back to an active life, Jim Hinton has survived a tumultuous 18 months. "It's been quite a journey," he says. I'm still on it and I'm still improving."



LET'S RE-IMAGINE REHAB AT LGH

The new inpatient physical rehabilitation unit will be the first purpose-built high intensity rehab unit built in the Lower Mainland for decades. Not only will it put extraordinary care in reach of more North Shore Residents, the facility upgrade will also be one of the most well-equipped units in the Province.

DONATE TODAY

Please support our mission to fund this much-needed new unit. We are close to our fundraising goal and your generosity will ensure future patients like Jim make their best recovery from life-shattering injury and trauma.

You can help us ensure that more patients like Jim will be able to receive all of their rehab care closer to home.

lghfoundation.com/re-imagine-rehab-summer



THE DONORS' DOZEN

Three cheers for our monthly donors. Their generosity powers our mission every day of the year in support of seasonal fundraisers, major life-saving campaigns and everything in between. They invest every month to enhance the health care our whole community relies on.

Becoming a monthly donor really is the gift that keeps on giving. Regular donations to LGH Foundation are quick and easy to set up and each monthly donor receives a convenient annual consolidated receipt in time for the tax preparation season.

Like every sound investment, even small amounts add up over time to create a lasting impact on patient care, equipment and facilities.

If you would like to make monthly contributions, you will join a powerful group of donors whose steady giving helps us plan for the future and meet urgent healthcare needs.

ARE YOU READY TO MAKE AN IMPACT?

Visit lghfoundation.com/donate-monthly or contact Carolyn.anderson@vch.ca to learn more and sign up.



MOSQUITOES TRAPPED, TRACKED & TESTED

Climate change isn't just about drought, flood and the increased risk of wildfires. It directly impacts our health and some pathogens once restricted to warmer climates now present a greater danger closer to home.

Two years ago, three children and one adult from the Whistler-Pemberton area were treated for encephalitis (brain swelling). Subsequent testing confirmed two invasive mosquito species in the area and the presence of mosquito-borne California Serogroup Viruses (CSGVs) – a group of viruses that can cause illnesses that range from mild flu-like symptoms to serious neurological conditions.

To better understand and assess the spread and frequency of the CSGVs and West Nile virus, LGH Foundation is jointly funding a North Shore mosquito surveillance project.



Stefan Iwasawa (left) and Bridget Mateyko setting traps for the North Shore mosquito surveillance project.

With its extensive forests, parks, creeks and lakes, North and West Vancouver provide perfect breeding habitat for numerous species of mosquitoes.

Over the past few weeks scientists from the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) have been setting traps located in numerous locations from Lighthouse Park to Deep Cove.

Collections will be made weekly and the species will be identified at the UBC Department of Zoology before being frozen.

At the end of the summer, testing will be carried out for CSGVs and West Nile virus at the BCCDC Public Health Laboratory

// With climate change, the lifecycle of the mosquito can happen faster because we're seeing warmer weather earlier in the spring and longer into the fall," explains Stefan Iwasawa, BCCDC vector specialist, who's leading field work for the project.

"We're going to see more mosquitoes, new, and potentially invasive mosquito species that weren't able to survive here previously. With more mosquitoes, that means more bites which leads to the potential for more pathogens of concern being in the general population."



Thanks to funding from LGH Foundation and the UBC Faculty of Medicine, this new local knowledge from the surveillance project will enable North Shore health care teams to be more vigilant and provide faster diagnosis and treatment when patients present with concerning symptoms at Lions Gate Hospital.



DO GOOD! FEEL GOOD!

Register for Step Up for LGH on Sunday, October 4 and become a part of something special.

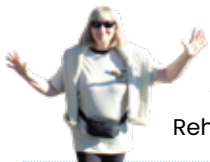
The scenic 5km walkathon along the Sewall in West Vancouver is the Foundation's biggest community-wide fundraiser with hundreds of people turning out every year with friends, family, colleagues and neighbours to show their love for LGH.

Tickets cost \$35 per person and entry includes a free T-shirt, live music, family-friendly activities, health information booths, refreshments and free treats.



Everyone is welcome to walk the shore with us and we look forward to seeing you there.

To learn more and sign up, go to: lghfoundation.com/step-up-for-lgh-2026/



You can sign up solo or as a group and simply walk, or create a fundraising page to collect donations for our Re-Imagine Rehab campaign (see page 2 for details).



Step Up For LGH 10am – 1pm | Sunday, October 4 | West Vancouver

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to the outstanding nurses recognized for their dedication, compassion and excellence at the North Shore Nursing Awards ceremony.

Thanks to the generous support of donors, LGH Foundation was proud to fund nine educational awards, recognizing 32 individual recipients across the North Shore. In total, more than \$75,000 in funding was awarded in support of staff education this year.



Each award reflects not only the commitment and talent of the recipients, but also their passion for continuous learning, leadership, and advancing patient care.

We are deeply grateful to our donors whose generosity makes continued learning and professional developments possible for North Shore Vancouver Coastal Health staff. Their advanced training and expertise directly benefits patients by enhancing the care they receive.

COMMUNITY KUDOS



A heartfelt thank you to the students at **Ridgeway Elementary** in North Vancouver, who raised \$1,684.45 in support of our Re-Imagine Rehab Campaign through the sale of their handmade arts and crafts.



Thanks to a generous donation from **The Auxiliary to Lions Gate Hospital**, LGH's Neurosurgery and Perioperative Services departments have received three new Mayfield headrests and a Glidescope for anesthesia. These additions enhance precision, improve patient safety, and support high-quality care in the operating room.



A big thank you to the 29 talented and generous students at **KL Piano Academy** who raised \$6,925 for our Re-Imagine Rehab campaign at their recent "Melodies of Love" charity piano recital. With participants ranging from grades one to eleven, this inspiring recital was made possible with the support and leadership of instructors Dr. Sun Sung and Ms. Cindy Liu, who have generously hosted this event in support of LGH Foundation for three consecutive years.



INNER BODY EXPERIENCE

Photos: Jeff Topham

Hundreds of patients a year will reap the benefits of the new updated Interventional Radiology suite at Lions Gate Hospital.

The state-of-the-art suite is the first of two funded by 1,700 donors who contributed a total of \$5.2 million dollars to our Interventional Radiology Campaign.

With greater capacity, access to advanced technology, and fewer treatment disruptions, it's a great investment that supports both patients and staff.

The suite officially opened in April following a major two-year renovation project which included the purchase of an advanced image-guided therapy system which cost \$1.8 million.

Interventional radiology uses real-time moving X-ray images for a wide range of minimally invasive procedures.

Using needles or catheters guided through blood vessels and organs, interventional radiologists can reach every area of the body through very small incisions.

Patients who need biopsies, angioplasty, pain relief injections and the insertion of stents, ports, feeding tubes and dialysis catheters will benefit from the arrival of this state-of-the-art equipment funded by our generous donors.

More than 1,000 patients a year will be treated in the new unit. To ensure that the hospital can support the growing number of patients needing this specialist care, a second donor-funded suite is currently under construction and is due for completion at the end of this year.

With two suites in operation and more dedicated staff hours, LGH will be able to increase capacity, reduce downtimes, and treat emergency patients and plan regular maintenance with fewer disruptions to scheduled appointments.

"I'd like to thank the Foundation's donors for providing this for us," says Dr. Madden. "It's a shining example of what our donors do for the hospital every day."

Dr. Mark Madden, LGH Medical Imaging Radiologist Lead, is grateful for the community support that will ensure improved care for more patients. He says: "It is a fantastic piece of kit we have here to utilize and we really do appreciate it. There is so much need to have two suites to handle the capacity at LGH."

◀ Dr. Mark Madden and Sherry Barbosa, Patient Care Coordinator for Medical Imaging, celebrate the arrival of the latest life-saving tech at LGH.

You can watch the LGH radiography team in action in the new suite here.



A WIN FOR MEN'S HEALTH

Prostate cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer in men and every year more than 570 men attend Lions Gate Hospital for prostate biopsy.

The procedure is an uncomfortable one but thanks to the collaboration of LGH Surgical Services and the Medical Imaging departments and donor funding, the hospital now has technology that will improve the experience for patients and streamline the screening process.

Without going into the gory details of traditional versus newer techniques for prostate biopsy, you can trust the words of Dr. Simon Bicknell who has been a Diagnostic and Interventional Radiologist at LGH for 24 years.

“This is a massive jump in how we look at and diagnose and eventually treat men with prostate cancer,” he says.

The traditional biopsy method carried a risk of infection which requires a course of antibiotics and in severe cases could lead to a stay in the Intensive Care or High Acuity units. Diagnosis was also challenging and repeat biopsies were common.



Dr. Justin Lee and Dr. Simon Bicknell unveil advanced prostate biopsy technology.

The new technique known as Transperineal Prostate (TPP) biopsy performed with the aid of a top-of-the-range micro-ultrasound unit, helps our urology and imaging teams overcome these obstacles explains Dr. Bicknell.

“With this technology that risk of infection and bleeding is essentially gone. The position is a little different but most studies have shown that patients prefer this biopsy.”

Another benefit of the new equipment is the clarity of images which enables radiologists to view all areas of the prostate in finer detail.

“Before this, the best tool for looking for prostate cancer was MRi and there’s been good studies that show that this machine is just as effective as MRi,” says Dr. Bicknell. With fewer men needing an MRi for prostate diagnosis, capacity will increase for other patients.

Dr. Justin Lee, the Urologic Oncologist who was the first physician to perform robotic prostate removal procedures at LGH, says this latest technology consolidates recent donor-funded advances in clinical care. “We are just very excited about how this fits into the overall picture of how we take care of men and men’s health. With the DaVinci robot and this latest acquisition, we continue to elevate LGH as a centre of excellence for cancer care.”

AN ENCHANTED EVENING

Wearing elegant masks and dazzling outfits, guests at the Enchanted Forest Masquerade Gala for LGH came together for a successful night of fundraising.

The event hosted at the Capilano Golf & Country Club on Friday, May 8, raised a remarkable **\$1,007,846 (net)** in support of our Re-Imagine Rehab Campaign.

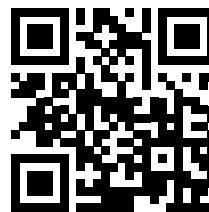


Presented by Craftsman Collision for the fourth consecutive year and hosted by broadcasters Fiona Forbes and CFOX’s Karen Kuhnkuhn, the evening was filled with joy, celebration and unforgettable moments.

The Foundation would like to thank the generous sponsors, guests, organizing committee, supporters, volunteers, performers and emcees for helping make the evening a tremendous success. Your support will help to transform patient care and rehabilitation services for our community.



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