



# Exceptional CARING

## The RMHF Gratitude Report

### Our Mission:

"Inspire donor support for Ross Memorial Hospital and ensure gifts are used effectively and responsibly to improve local healthcare."

### Our Vision:

Exceptional support for exceptional care.

Spring  
2019

### What's Inside:

- The Auxiliary helps fund urgent needs
- A donor's gift impacts patient flow in the ED
- RMH welcomes two Hospitalists
- Medical Student Bursaries are announced
- Remembering Dr. Ali Al-Beer
- Students support local wellness

# Thanking you for ...

# 30 YEARS

*of exceptional support*

**It was the founding gift of James Ross that built the Ross Memorial Hospital in 1902.**

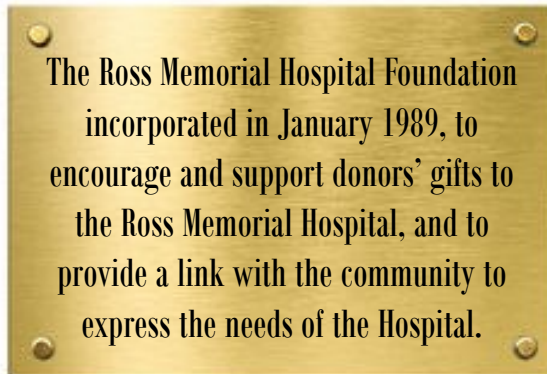
And in all the years since, it's been the generosity of donors that has ensured the RMH healthcare team has access to the best medical equipment and facilities.

Thirty years ago, the RMH Foundation was established to advance the Hospital's ability to fundraise to meet its ever-growing list of needs.

It is the Foundation's mission to inspire donor support for Ross Memorial Hospital and ensure gifts are used effectively and responsibly to improve local healthcare.

The Foundation's vision: ***exceptional support for exceptional care.***

Donors make the difference at the Ross Memorial Hospital. Your support funds costs associated with equipment, education and capital projects. Every year, the Hospital team identifies the most urgently needed equipment and high priority projects. The Foundation team helps donors match their gifts to the list of urgent needs. While the provincial government funds day-to-day operations and administrative costs of our Hospital, it does not provide funding for the purchase of all of the medical equipment.



**Your generosity keeps the best medical tools and technology at the patient's bedside.**

Thank you for your exceptional support for exceptional care.

~ Brian Kelsey,  
RMH Foundation Board Chair

## RMH Auxiliary gives generously to meet urgent equipment needs

With its commitment to service and fundraising top of mind, the RMH Auxiliary continues to seek out ways to enhance patients' experiences and support the Hospital to provide exceptional care together. The volunteers' fundraising efforts have been bridging the gap between funding and needs since the Auxiliary formed in 1904. Recognizing that the Hospital incurs unexpected costs, the Auxiliary has begun providing support for immediate needs, over and above the annual gift the members present at their annual general meeting in June.

The Auxiliary made a special donation to support needs including the purchase of hysteroscopes for the Perioperative Suite, a specialized echocardiography stretcher, computers and monitors, and kitchen wares for the Nutrition Services Department. Volunteers Evelyn Morrow, Rhona Bryant and Joyce MacCormack presented the cheque for \$55,000 to RMH Interim President and CEO Veronica Nelson and Foundation Executive Director Erin Coons.

"Our Auxiliary members are such valued partners here at the Ross," said Veronica Nelson. "Every coffee and get well card they sell, every donation they inspire with their service — every gift they make to the Foundation comes back to the Hospital in the form of better tools and better experiences for our patients. We're so grateful for their support."



Veronica Nelson, Evelyn Morrow, Rhona Bryant, Joyce MacCormack and Erin Coons celebrate the latest gift from the RMH Auxiliary.

## Volunteer Board Member brings IG Wealth Management support

Community involvement is a corporate priority at IG Wealth Management. As a caring community partner, the company's goals include providing financial support to communities where its people live and work, and encourage and support its people in giving back to those communities. Val Harris has been putting that commitment into action through the company's Volunteer Support Program for several years. Recently retired from IG Wealth Management, Val has also been a volunteer member of the Ross Memorial Hospital's Board of Governors since 2009. The Board of Governors is responsible for the overall governance of the Hospital, setting strategic priorities and ensuring they're met, assessing quality of care, and ensuring financial resources are managed appropriately.

Val's service to the Hospital over the past year was recognized by IG Wealth Management with a grant for the RMH Foundation in the amount of \$1,750. This brings the cumulative total of the Volunteer Service Program grants based on Val's volunteer hours to \$6,450.



Erin Coons and Val Harris at RMH

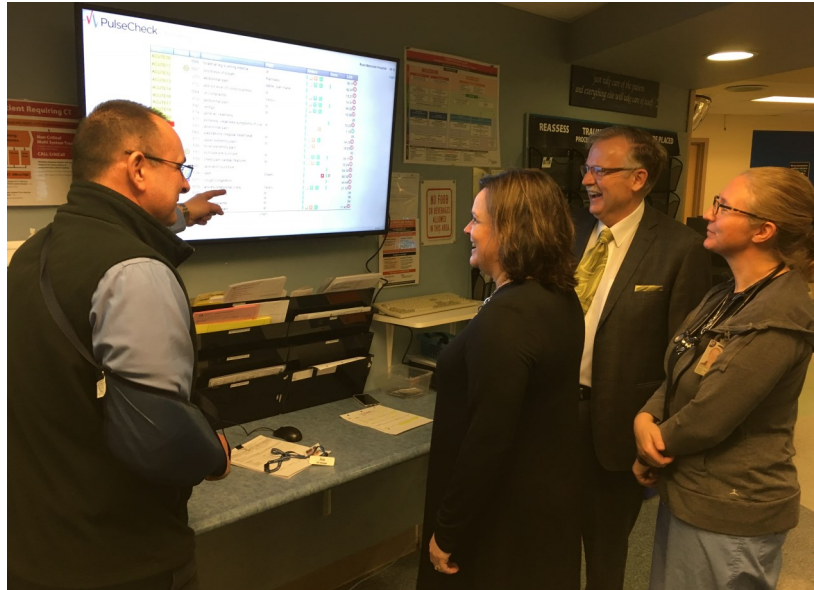
"We're so grateful to Val for her efforts on behalf of the Hospital, and for applying for this special grant from IG Wealth Management over the years," said Erin Coons, RMH Foundation Executive Director. "The Volunteer Support Program is truly a win-win initiative. It encourages meaningful community involvement by its team members, and further supports community organizations through donations. Philanthropic teams such as IG Wealth Management produce a happy ripple effect!"

## A generous gift enhances patient flow in the Emergency Department

Being compassionate and community focused are two key values at Canada Protection Plan Inc. These values were put into action at Ross Memorial Hospital with a gift that will impact every patient's visit by improving timely access to care.

Canada Protection Plan has funded the purchase and implementation of an electronic patient tracker system for the Ross Memorial's Emergency Department.

**On December 11, the ED team launched the ED PulseCheck electronic patient tracker.** This new tool helps the team to manage and monitor patients' care throughout their ED stay. The tracker board provides key patient information that helps the team to assess and prioritize its caseload quickly and efficiently.



PulseCheck expert Dmitar Sijan demonstrates the new tracking system to ED Manager Jen Burns-West, former CEO Bert Lauwers, and ED physician Dr. Kellie Hayman.

The tracking board shows real-time patient information including the time for next nursing reassessment, patient urgency, length of stay and the patient's destination (inpatient bed, transfer, discharge). It also links to the Laboratory and Diagnostic Imaging systems and alerts the team as soon as a patient's lab or imaging results are available.

"The new tracker represents a milestone for emergency department care at RMH," said Dr. Koushik Krishnan, RMH Chief of Emergency Medicine. "We hope it will reduce ED wait times, improve patient flow and ultimately lead to better patient care."

"The decision by CPP to give back to the Hospital is not only profoundly appreciated by the Hospital team, it's a communication tool that will impact the care received by every patient who visits the ED," said Erin Coons, RMH Foundation Executive Director. "It's an acquisition we couldn't have managed without donor support, and it highlights the vital role donors play in patient care."

"We're so pleased to be able to implement this new technology in the Emergency Department and continue our efforts to improve our patient wait times," said Dr. Bert Lauwers, former RMH President and CEO. "The tracker board will have a significant impact on our organization, from the ED to the inpatient units. The fact that it was 100% donor funded is a testament to this community's pride and support for its hospital. We couldn't be more thankful."

### More about wait times in the Emergency Department

In the Emergency Department, the sickest patients are seen first, regardless of who arrived first. How long you wait depends on how sick you are and how many other people are being treated at the time of your visit.



## HealthForceOntario helps RMH recruit two new Hospitalists

Ross Memorial Hospital is pleased to welcome two new physicians to our team of Hospitalists. A Hospitalist is a doctor who looks after hospitalized inpatients who don't have a family physician or whose physicians don't have privileges in this Hospital.

Dr. Sadia Munawar and Dr. Nathan Shepard began working at RMH last fall. Before moving to Lindsay, Dr. Munawar was practising in Maine and Dr. Shepard was practising in Alabama. The physicians' have family connections in Ontario, which prompted their interest in relocating from the United States.

This is welcome news at the Ross Memorial where a shortage of Hospitalists has been a challenge for the past few years.

The recruitment of both physicians was the result of a collaborative effort by the Ross Memorial Hospital and HealthForceOntario, a government agency that supports physician recruitment and retention. Recruitment efforts included arranging tours of the Hospital and community, completing a Labour Market Impact Assessment application (which demonstrates need for foreign workers), and assisting with work permit applications.

"Without HealthForce Ontario, I would never have found the open position at Ross Memorial Hospital," said Dr. Shepard. "I was planning a move to Ontario, but was completely unfamiliar with the area. HealthForceOntario's website made it very easy to search the type of job I was interested in, as well as which openings provided the supervision required as a physician trained outside of Canada. The administration at Ross Memorial then went above and beyond in assisting me with the necessary documentation and assessments to obtain my work permit and licensure. I have been truly impressed with the teamwork involved in ensuring access to high quality medical care for the people of Ontario."

Dr. Munawar is also excited to be part of the Ross Team. "The Labour Market Impact Assessment application was completed by the Chief of Staff's office in consultation with HealthForceOntario. The process is very arduous. I'm grateful for the partnership between RMH and HFO to make the transition from the U.S. to Canada as smooth as possible."

"The Hospitalist Program is the backbone of our Hospital," said Dr. Bharat Chawla, Medical Chief of Staff at RMH. "It's with great pleasure that I welcome Dr. Sadia Munawar and Dr. Nathan Shepard as new additions to our highly competent, dedicated and hardworking Hospitalist team, to ensure provision of ongoing high quality services to our patients. I would also like to thank HealthForceOntario for collaborating with Ross Memorial Hospital to fill this much needed gap."

"HealthForceOntario was pleased to work in partnership with Ross Memorial Hospital to recruit two new Hospitalists," said Roz Smith, Executive Director of HealthForceOntario. "Significant work goes into the physician recruitment process and it's very rewarding to see the results of patients having improved access to care."



Hospitalists Dr. Munawar and Dr. Shepard with RMH Chief of Staff, Dr. Chawla

## Congratulations to recipients of the Medical Student Bursary

The Ross Memorial Hospital Foundation is pleased to support the education of ten local medical students through the RMH Medical Student Bursary.

“It’s exciting to see such a large group of talented young people pursuing careers in medicine,” said Dr. Bharat Chawla, RMH Medical Chief of Staff. “By extending this support for their education, we hope to encourage their efforts, and to further strengthen their ties with this community.”

Recipients of the bursary in 2018/19 include:

**Samantha Perry** – Saint James School of Medicine, St. Vincent  
**Justine Fletcher** – University of Western Ontario  
**Austin Little** – University of Saskatchewan  
**Erich Nelson** – University of Western Ontario  
**Jacqueline van Warmerdam** – University of Toronto  
**Celeste Hutton** – National University of Ireland  
**Rohin Krishnan** – University of Hawaii  
**Alex Moloney** – University of Toronto  
**Brian Lukaszewicz** – Queen’s University  
**Rebecca MacFarlane** – American University of the Caribbean, St. Marten

The RMH Medical Student Bursary is provided to qualifying candidates with the hope that the candidate will choose to practice medicine in the City of Kawartha Lakes and apply for active privileges at Ross Memorial.

“The Medical Student Bursary was originally created through donations received in honour of Dr. Bob Watson’s contribution to the Ross Memorial Hospital upon his retirement,” said Erin Coons, RMH Foundation Executive Director. “The bursary continues to support qualifying medical students through the support of the Konyer/Curtin Medical Student Bursary Endowment and the Ross Memorial Hospital Foundation. We’re so pleased to see these funds supporting the future of patient care in the City of Kawartha Lakes.”

For more information about the RMH Medical Student Bursary, visit: [www.rmh.org/careers-and-education](http://www.rmh.org/careers-and-education).

## RMH Foundation welcomes Interim President & CEO

The RMH Foundation’s Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Veronica Nelson, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of the Ross Memorial. Veronica was most recently Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. She began her career at RMH as a Medical Radiation Technologist in 1999 and has held roles including Project Manager, Director of Diagnostic Imaging, and Vice President Diagnostics, Procurement and Special Projects.

“Veronica is a dedicated and capable leader with experience throughout the organization,” said Val Harris, RMH Board Chair. “We are confident that she will steer the organization successfully through the next several months as we begin to recruit for a permanent President and CEO.”

The RMH Board will use a consultant service to assist with the recruitment of a permanent President and CEO. Dr. Bert Lauwers announced in December that he would be stepping down as President and CEO to take on a new post.



## Remembering Dr. Ali Al-Beer

The Ross Memorial Family continues to mourn the loss of Dr. Ali Al-Beer. Dr. Al-Beer died of his injuries sustained in a two-vehicle crash on Regional Road 20 in Clarington on January 23. He was driving home from work when the accident happened during bad weather. Dr. Al-Beer was 49 years old.

“Dr. Al-Beer was an exceptional orthopedic surgeon – but more than that, he was a good, kind person and a friend to so many here at the Ross,” said Dr. Bharat Chawla, Medical Chief of Staff at RMH. “Our thoughts are with Dr. Al-Beer’s family at this difficult time.”

Dr. Al-Beer joined the Ross team of orthopedic surgeons in August, 2011. He was exceptionally talented and was well respected by his patients and his colleagues.

The Hospital team was grateful for the dedication of Ross Memorial’s team of physicians and staff who were quick to respond to ensure Dr. Al-Beer’s patients continued to receive the best care, and to the Ross Memorial’s regional partners who reached out to offer assistance.



On February 28, a Celebration of Life was held at the Hospital to help the Ross Family say goodbye. The stories that were shared spoke of Dr. Al-Beer’s loving focus on his family, especially his two young daughters. His colleagues in the OR spoke in awe of his work ethic, and how difficult it was to keep up with the pace Dr. Al-Beer set. And they spoke of his commitment to his patients and his determination to provide the absolute best care every time.

The impact of Dr. Al-Beer’s skill and his kindness on his patients was the common thread in the messages of condolence the Hospital received in the days following his death. Those heart-felt messages have been shared with Dr. Al-Beer’s family.

Donations made in Dr. Al-Beer’s name are being directed toward needs in the RMH Orthopedic Department.

## Hockey team builds philanthropy skills supporting palliative care

The members of the Lindsay Muskies Atom AE hockey team are always looking to enhance their skills. And they know that coming together as a team includes honing their talents as good citizens. Having learned of a teammate’s grandfather’s time in the RMH Palliative Care Unit, the Muskies were inspired to hear how the Ross became their friend’s second home until his grandfather’s passing.

“We would sometimes visit twice a day,” said Cheryl Baxter, team mom. “The floor and the staff became a part of our family and the care my dad received was beyond anything our family had ever thought of.”

As a team, the Muskies adopted the Palliative Care Unit as their cause to support. Their efforts during the month of January raised \$1,355. The Muskies gathered at the Ross Memorial to present their donation to the RMH Foundation on February 14. “How appropriate that the Muskies are here with their hard-earned gift to the Palliative Care Unit on Valentine’s Day,” said Erin Coons. “They’ve shown real heart.”



## The RMH Foundation is grateful for the generous donations made in memory of donors' loved ones.



When we lose someone dear to us, it can be comforting to share stories of happy times, and to remember the things that made our loved ones so special. Often we want to do something special in their memory. With the kind cooperation of local funeral homes, the RMH Foundation's memorial giving program allows family and friends to commemorate the lives that have touched them. The Foundation hopes that this program assists families, knowing that their kindness will help RMH continue to respond to local health care needs.

Doreen Acton  
Dr. Ali Al-Beer  
Clifford Anderson  
George Andrew  
Joyce Andrew  
Mel Beatty  
Nancy Bell  
Barbara M. Boyd  
Dave Brasier  
Connor Brown  
Colleen Cameron  
Jim Cruickshank  
Werner Dachs  
William Dicks  
Arthur Elsdon  
Marguerite Fowler  
Jacqueline Francis  
Warren Glass  
Lynda Godwin  
Anne M. Goodhand  
Margaret Goodhand  
Jim Goudie  
Ena K. Hall

Beverley Hogan  
Linda M. Irvine  
Howard Jackman  
Herb Jennings  
Merl J. Jewell  
Jack C. Jewell  
Martin Johnson  
Allan King  
Ruby MacBain  
James Martin  
Barbara McEachern  
Larry Mennell  
Sandra Meraska  
Alan Middleton  
Robert Miles  
Amy Moir  
Bill Montgomery  
Rick More  
Joanne Morgan  
Bonnie Mulock  
Paul Murtha  
Lena Murtha  
Zdenek Nepovim

Jim Nicol  
Kenneth O'Neill  
Donald Park  
Donald W. Perrin  
Sabine Petri  
Arnold Rea  
Anita Schnupf  
Myrl Smith  
Wayne Smith  
Jack Smith  
John A. Smith  
Rick Snell  
Margaret Tamlin  
Myrtle Thurston  
Lynn Tkachyk  
Anthony Vanderkolff  
Joyce Wallace  
Jean Wallace  
Dr. Robert Watson  
David Watson  
Mildred White  
Keith Witherspoon

\* These gifts were  
donated between  
November 2018  
and February  
2019 .



**In honour of ...**

Win M. Field

Dr. Albert Lauwers

Taminee Smith

Dr. Sarel Vorster



We respect your privacy

At the RMH Foundation, we are committed to protecting the privacy of our donors.

We value our donors' trust and recognize that maintaining this trust requires that we be open and accountable in our treatment of the information that you choose to share with us.

We protect your personal information and adhere to all legislative requirements with respect to protecting privacy.

The information you provide will be used to deliver services and to keep you informed and up to date on the activities of RMHF, through periodic contacts.

**How to contact us:**

**RMH Foundation**  
10 Angeline St. N.  
Lindsay, ON  
K9V 4M8

T (705) 328-6146  
F (705) 328-6147  
foundation@rmh.org

www.rmh.org/  
foundation

Charitable Registration  
Number

11912 4121 RR0001

**The Ross Family Album**

**Commonwell sends Christmas care packages for patients**

The Ross team was honoured to be the focus of the Commonwell Employees' Christmas Giving Campaign in 2018.

On December 19, Lisa McGill, Terri Richard and Bob Nielson brought care packages to be gifted to patients and brighten the spirits of those who are missing home over the holidays.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness!



**St. Thomas Aquinas Week of Wellness impacts patients**

Students at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School in Lindsay value wellness, within their family of students and teachers, and in their community. Their annual Week of Wellness activities in the fall included sessions with therapy dogs, meditation, dancing, drumming and art. They even incorporated a 5km run/walk to emphasize the benefits of exercise on our mental health and to fundraise \$1,980.60 for the RMH Foundation.



"The students at St. Thomas Aquinas really bring the school's mission, 'Learning, Leadership and Service,' to life," said Erin Coons. "Their commitment to wellness, at school, at home, and in the community, touches countless people in need. We're so grateful to have their support."



**ROSS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**  
Foundation

*"Yes, I would like to help RMH keep the best tools in the best hands."*

Here is my donation of  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \_\_\_\_\_ Mar19

I have enclosed my cheque (payable to RMH Foundation)

I prefer to use my credit card. Please use my  VISA  Mastercard

Cardholder's name \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to direct my gift to:  Where it's most needed  Current Appeal

Equipment/Technology  Education Fund  Specific Program \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like information about how to include RMH Foundation in my Will.

*\* Making a monthly gift can make it convenient and easy for you to lend your support.*

*Your monthly gift supports work done throughout the year and helps us meet a wide variety of patient needs. Contact the Foundation office at 705-328-6146 to find out how.*