



Exceptional CARING

The RMHF Gratitude Report

Our Mission:

"Partnering with our donors and the community to support exceptional care."

Our Vision:

Inspired donors advancing care close to home.

Summer 2022

What's Inside:

- * Support for the 50/50 helps the Auxiliary make an impactful gift
- * Service groups and businesses help fund the community's MRI
- * The annual report from the RMHF Board Chair and CEO
- * A look at our new Board of Directors and our thanks to outgoing members



The late Dr. Bhatia's husband Raj is flanked by their children Sonya and Sacha, with daughter-in-law Sabrina and grand-daughter Samara

Dr. Gargi Bhatia's caring legacy will live on at Ross Memorial

RMH Obstetrical Unit to be named for long-serving OB/GYN

There are people who are so passionate about what they do, their work is not a job, or even a career – **it is a calling**. Dr. Gargi Bhatia was such a person.

Dr. Bhatia's life mission – to provide exceptional care to women and children as a skilled Obstetrician/Gynecologist – has touched a generation of lives in our community, including local families, colleagues and friends, and her cherished family.

"Dr. Bhatia lived the hospital's vision of exceptional care with every interaction," said Dr. Bharat Chawla, Ross Memorial Hospital Chief of Staff. "Everyone at Ross Memorial is a better care provider for having had the opportunity to learn from Dr. Bhatia's expertise and professionalism, and we are better people because of the personal relationships we shared with her."

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Dr. Gargi Bhatia passed away on November 3, 2021. Her 40 year career as Obstetrician/Gynecologist at RMH and her 7-year involvement on the RMH Foundation Board as medical representative had a profound impact on the Ross Memorial team. As part of her RMH Celebration of Life, physicians and staff contributed to have a glider bench placed outside the staff entrance in Dr. Bhatia's memory.



Efforts to fund the community's new MRI continue

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) helps physicians confidently diagnose disease and injury in the brain, spine, joints, breasts and organs. It's a vital tool for detecting herniated or bulging disks, arthritic changes, and cancer. More than 500 patient exams are scanned at the Ross every month.

The community's MRI is now 11 years old and must be replaced; however, government funding doesn't cover the \$2.5 million cost. The RMH Foundation reached out to donors to ensure patients' access to the best imaging technology.



Every picture tells a story

We are grateful to Radiologist Dr. Mario Voros and patient Kate Winn for sharing their MRI experiences in the RMH Foundation's spring appeal letter, themed *Every Picture Tells A Story*.

Part of the Team: RMH Auxiliary gift supports new MRI



Ryan O'Neill, Nelia Steward, Karen Simser, Jan Morrison and Erin Coons

The Ross Memorial Hospital Auxiliary can celebrate a long legacy of hospital support — both through its onsite services that enhance patients' experiences and its fundraising support for vital hospital needs. On June 29, the Auxiliary helped meet the community's need for a new MRI with a donation of \$40,000— funds raised through the Ross Family & Friends 50/50 Raffle and sales in the Reflections Gift Shop and Café. 50/50 Committee members Karen Simser, Nelia Steward and Jan Morrison presented the gift to RMH Foundation Board Chair Ryan O'Neill and CEO Erin Coons.

"Every member of the Auxiliary has their own reason for giving back to the hospital. We're glad the Ross Family & Friends 50/50 reaches even more people who want to give back, including our cottage community,"

said Karen Simser, 50/50 Committee Chair. "We wouldn't be able to donate these funds for our new MRI if it weren't for the wonderful response we've had from everyone playing the 50/50 and those who visit the Hospital gift shop and café. Every purchase helps us support the Ross."

"This incredible donation from the volunteers is welcome support for the community's effort to bring the latest MRI technology to the Ross," said Ryan O'Neill. "We want our hospital to have the best medical equipment possible so patients continue to have access to the best care close to home. We're grateful to our partners in the Ross Memorial Hospital Auxiliary who volunteer their time and services to advance patient care. Their efforts impact everyone in the City of Kawartha Lakes."

Every Picture Tells A Story ... of a generous community



Kawartha Credit Union Branch Manager Michelle Finley with RMHF CEO Erin Coons

As Kawartha Credit Union commemorates their 70th anniversary this year, they also recognize a quarter century of their support for the RMH Foundation. Since 1997, Kawartha’s Community Involvement Program donations have helped RMH acquire equipment and technology including dialysis, echocardiogram, mammography, CT and Xray/Fluoroscopy. Their recent gift of \$4,500 will help fund the community’s new MRI, once again showing that Kawartha lives up to its purpose of supporting the well-being of the communities they serve.

“Kawartha Credit Union continues to be a strong community partner with its ongoing support for priority needs at RMH. The cost of the new MRI is not covered by government funding. Today we are one step closer to meeting this need.”

Recognizing the importance of timely access to the best diagnostic imaging in the diagnosis and treatment of injury and disease, the Sunderland Lions Club generously chose to help fund the community’s MRI. Sunderland Lions President Tony Laundrie and Club members Bryon Jewell and Bill Clayton visited the Ross on July 11 to present the Club’s gift of \$2,000.

“We’re so grateful to the Sunderland Lions Club for extending their support beyond Sunderland and Brock Township, and recognizing that the Ross is their hospital, too,” said Erin Coons. “We all want the best care close to home. With their generous donation, we are one step closer to bringing world class imaging to the Ross Memorial.”



We serve: Erin Coons celebrates with Sunderland Lions Bryon Jewell, Tony Laundrie and Bill Clayton



Framing philanthropy: the Kinette Club of Bobcaygeon

The ripple effect of the generosity of the Kinette Club of Bobcaygeon spreads throughout the City of Kawartha Lakes. On June 21, the Kinette Club donated a total of \$11,500 to 17 not-for-profit organizations that support Bobcaygeon and the entire municipality. Erin Coons was honoured to be among the recipients and thanked the Kinettes for their \$1,000 contribution to fund the new MRI.

“Every picture tells a story, and the Kinettes’ story gives me goosebumps,” said Erin Coons. “Despite the pandemic, they continue to provide financial assistance to groups that support families, seniors, children, culture and sporting groups, and of course the hospital that we all rely on. It’s hard to imagine anyone in the City of Kawartha Lakes who isn’t impacted by the Bobcaygeon Kinettes.”

2021/22 Annual Report of the RMH Foundation Board Chair & CEO

Following a challenging second year of pandemic precautions, we are overjoyed to report on the uplifting impact our community of donors continue to have on the Ross Memorial. There is much to celebrate, including the delivery of our community's new CT scanner in June 2021! Donors proved they are **Partners in Precision Care**, contributing \$197,343.60 to this need and breaking our fundraising record for spring appeals! Thank you!

Government funding doesn't cover the cost of acquisitions such as CT Scanners – or MRIs. The Ross Memorial must next replace the community's 11-year-old MRI and plans are underway to purchase a new, more powerful MRI that will provide even greater detail in less time.

When asked to **Make This Moment Matter** with support for MRI through the 2021 holiday appeal, donors proved that they make the difference at RMH. Contributions reached \$231,862.42, exceeding our fundraising goal by \$56,862.42!

The cost of these life-saving diagnostic imaging machines – totaling more than \$4 million – is part of a digital transformation at the Ross... one that is bringing the best in modern medicine to local patient care.

The Ross has begun to put in place the building blocks of a new system that incorporates patients' health information records and digitally connects them to medical technology and tools, so that every test and treatment is immediately available to patients and their healthcare team. This incredible opportunity will require the largest capital campaign in our Hospital's history, an effort being led by Tim Shauf, CEO of The Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group.

It's a patient care priority strengthened by the City of Kawartha Lakes Council's unanimous support and leadership gift of \$1 million!

This year we celebrated milestone gifts with longtime friends including the Dragon Flies, the Kinsmen Club of Lindsay and Therese Scheer and Friends, and we welcomed new donors to the RMH family, such as Flato Developments.

Sadly, we also lost a dear friend when Dr. Gargi Bhatia passed away in November. As a 40-year Obstetrician/ Gynecologist at RMH and the medical representative on the Foundation Board of Directors for seven years, she leaves an exceptional legacy of caring.

In 2021/22, your generous donations addressed **\$3,579,466** in Hospital needs from priority projects including CT and MRI to essential equipment such as an ICU ventilator and updated ECG software in the Lab. With your help, we are advancing care and growing services close to home.

Together, We Are The Ross.

Ryan O'Neill
RMH Foundation Board Chair

Erin Coons
RMH Foundation CEO



Ryan O'Neill, Tim Shauf and Erin Coons

Introducing the RMH Foundation's 2022/23 Board of Directors

Ryan O'Neill	Chair	Dr. Alex Istchenko	
Mona Malcolm-Sharman	Vice Chair	Dr. David Kazhila	Medical Representative
Sara Beukeboom	Treasurer	Mario Mazziotti	
Erin Coons	Secretary	Tim Shauf	Campaign Chair
Bill Charlton		Len Thornbury	
Erik Ellis		Jeff Todd	
Heather Harrison			

The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall governance of the Foundation and is comprised of volunteers from the community. Its members set the Foundation's strategic priorities and ensure they're met; they monitor the success of fundraising and stewardship efforts, and ensure financial resources are managed appropriately. In addition to monthly board meetings, members serve on various committees of the Board. They are valued members of the RMH Foundation family.

Our thanks to outgoing Board members:



We are grateful for the time and talent of Heather Richardson, who was a member of the Board of Directors from 2010 to 2022 and was Board Chair from 2019 to 2021. Heather agreed to an extended term during the pandemic.



Cari Tracey



Brian Kelsey



Jane Angelo



Rob Jardine

Celebrating Dr. Bhatia’s caring legacy – continued from page 1

Dr. Bhatia’s family shares her commitment to the highest quality of care for women and children, as well as her philanthropic spirit. To ensure her legacy continues, they are making a generous gift to the RMH Foundation. The Bhatia’s donation will help meet upcoming needs at the Ross and ensure patients have access to the most advanced medical technology and receive the best care close to home.

“For over 40 years, our mom has been dedicated to providing high quality women’s health for the City of Kawartha Lakes,” said Dr. Sacha Bhatia. “It was her wish that her life’s work continue to support the families in the community we call home.”

In recognition of the Bhatia family’s exceptional generosity, the Ross Memorial Hospital and Foundation are honoured to announce the RMH Obstetrical Unit will be named the **Dr. Gargi Bhatia Family Birthing Centre**.

Ryan O’Neill, RMH Foundation Chair, expressed gratitude to the Bhatia family. “During a difficult time, together you have focused your energy on Gargi’s passion – ensuring women have access to the best care possible – and you’re giving our community a gift that will touch countless lives, just as she did.”

The Bhatia family was pleased to make their special announcement at a Celebration of Life hosted by the Hospital for Dr. Bhatia’s Ross Memorial family at the Lindsay Golf & Country Club on June 23.



Members of the Ross Memorial family met with the late Gargi Bhatia’s family to share stories of her 40 years at the Ross, and to celebrate the naming of the RMH Obstetrical Unit in her honour. The Dr. Gargi Bhatia Family Birthing Centre will ensure her caring legacy continues for generations to come.



Given with compassion. Accepted with thanks. Used with care.

When we lose someone dear to us, it can be comforting to share stories of happy times, and to remember the things that made them so special. Often we want to do something special in their memory.



These gifts were made between February and May 2022

The RMH Foundation is grateful for the generous donations made in memory of these special people:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Alfred Balcombe | Hugh Graham | Frederick Martell | Walter Rinzema |
| Glen Ball | Donald Haines | Teresa Mathews | John Rothwell |
| Allan Brear | David Hamilton | Pauline Maywood | Debb Ryan |
| Sonja Brien | Margaret Holden | Doreen McArthur | Paul Semkiw |
| Mabel Bruce | Edward Houle | William McCarty | Gordon Smeltzer |
| Daniel Burns | Robert Hughes | Ronald McCausland | Thomas Southern |
| Barbara Jean Burton | June Jackett | Keith McCrea | Jeanne Stout |
| Charles Butterworth | Eva Johnston | Bill McCutcheon | Nancy Suddaby |
| Karen Carr | Margaret Kearns | Rose McDonald | Glowena Suggitt |
| Helen Craig | Roberta Kelly | Charles Mitchell | Doreen Taylor |
| Marilyn Debois | Diane Kernohan | Larry Moynes | Anthony Vanderkoff |
| Clayton Ellis | James King | Jean O'Neill | William Vanderyagt |
| Thelma Endicott | Allan Knox | Robert Phillips | Bryan Vernon |
| Clinton Endicott | Harvey Langdon | Betty Pickering | Glen Williams |
| Fiore Fattore | Paul Lees | Marilyn Pilkey | Mildred Williams |
| Roxy Ferguson | Audrey MacDonald | Al Power | |
| Darwin Germyn | Evelyn Mahon | Michael Rainbird | |

Donations made in honour of someone special or in celebration of a milestone event have a ripple effect

A celebration gift to the RMH Foundation expresses to others how much you care. With a celebration gift, you can recognize a loved one's special day or big event, or show gratitude to someone who provided you with exceptional care at RMH. You can mark the occasion and benefit the community through enhanced care at the Ross!



The Foundation appreciates the donations made in honour of

Dr. Peter Anderson Dr. Robert Drury

For more information on Memorial or Celebration Giving, please call the Foundation at 705-328-6146 or email foundation@rmh.org.

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:

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Charitable Registration
Number

11912 4121 RR0001

RMH celebrates the Faces of Philanthropy

Generosity abounds in our community. At right, golf fundraiser Therese Scheer is joined by volunteers Evelyn Morrow, Lori Griffin and RMH staffer Jenn Fanning. Below left, ER nurses show knitted dolls donated by crafters at Rivermill Village for pediatric patients. Below right, Willie Hammond gives handcrafted blankets for newborns in the Dr. Gargi Bhatia Family Birthing Centre at Ross Memorial Hospital.



**ROSS MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL**
Foundation

"Yes, I want to support exceptional patient care with a donation to RMH."

Here is my donation of \$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____ Jul22

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 _____

Email Address _____

I would like to direct my gift to: Highest Priority Needs (Current Appeal)

Patient Care Equipment Other (specific department) _____

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

I'd like to make monthly gifts. Please have the Foundation contact me.

Prefer to give online? Please visit www.rmh.org/foundation.

Thank you!