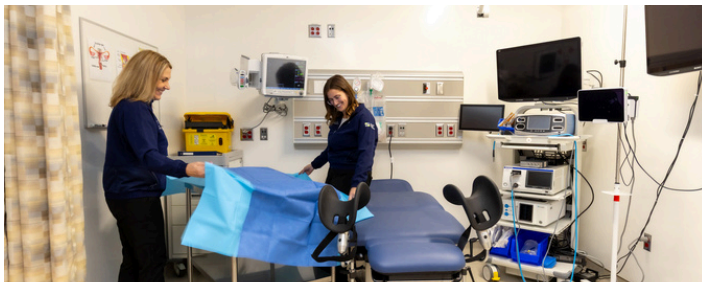


SPRING - SUMMER 2025

InTouch





Deanne Reeve Pelvic Health Suite

Geriatric Medicine Clinic Opens at 18 Acadia St.



Technology Innovation & Updates



Get Up There for Colorectal Cancer



40 Years of DGH Annual Lobster Dinner & Auction

Gasparetto Family Celebrates Legacy With \$1 Million Gift



INTOUCH CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS

DATE	June 13, 2025
EVENT	Lobster Luncheon By The Sea
• • •	
DATE	June 14, 2025
EVENT	40th Annual Lobster Dinner & Auction
• • •	
DATE	June 25, 2025
EVENT	DGH Foundation Annual General Meeting
• • •	
DATE	September 8, 2025
EVENT	DGH Foundation Golf Classic
• • •	
DATE	October 24, 2025
EVENT	DGH Foundation Radiothon
• • •	
DATE	December 1, 2025
EVENT	DGH Auxiliary Holly Tree Bazaar
• • •	
DATE	December 6, 2025
EVENT	Holiday Magic 2025 Live Show

INTOUCH IMPORTANT DATES



Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation
325 Pleasant Street
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4G8
Phone: 902-460-4149
Email: info.dghfoundation@dghfoundation.ca



@DGHFoundation



Charitable Donation Number: BN 12245-5611-RR0001

Message from DGH Foundation President

We're looking forward to another exciting and impactful year at Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation. On June 14th, we'll be celebrating the 40th anniversary of our Lobster Dinner & Auction – an incredible milestone! Over the past 40 years, your generous support of this event has helped raise more than \$3 million to fund essential equipment for our hospital and our community, including DGH's first-ever MRI and a state-of-the-art orthopedic robot. This year's event will help fund point-of-care ultrasounds for our Emergency Department to enable physicians and healthcare staff to diagnose patients right at the bedside, providing immediate care when and where it is needed the most.

We were honoured to, once again, partner with GUT in the fight against colorectal cancer in early March. In this issue of In Touch (page 12), Judith Kays bravely shares her journey through colorectal cancer that began with a positive Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT). It's an inspiring story that showcases the life-saving importance of early detection and treatment.

Together with almost 100 guests, we cut the ribbon and officially opened the Deanne Reeve Pelvic Health Suite in late February. The Suite is the first of its kind in Atlantic Canada and will add significant increased capacity for gynecological and urological procedures at Dartmouth General.

Almost 50 years of generous donor support has made DGH a centre of excellence with a reputation for punching above its weight in the healthcare sphere. The DGH Auxiliary have been loyal and passionate supporters of the hospital since before the doors even opened and have helped fund more than \$2 million worth of essential needs over the years. This year, the DGH Auxiliary supported new, upgraded telemetry monitoring equipment for the emergency department. You can read about it on page 17.

On page 20, you will read about a truly remarkable gift from the Gasparetto family – one that will have a deep and lasting impact on healthcare at DGH. Their outstanding support will help make it easier for members of our community to connect to world-class healthcare, right here, at home. We could not be more grateful.

Thank you for all you do and have done to make DGH the very best all year round. If you haven't seen the recent improvements at DGH, please reach out – it would be our great pleasure to host you for a tour of your hospital.



Stephen Harding
President & CEO



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Irving Oil



Carolyn Hortie
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President, DGH
Auxiliary



Tyler MacLeod
Director
Founder, Rhyme + Reason



Tara Wickwire
Director
Principal, The Message



Pictured: Members of the Orchid Gala join Lisa Murphy, Stephen Harding, Minister Tim Halman, Dr. Jon Duplisea, Maggie Archibald, Rachel Nalepa, Dr. Scott Mawdsley and Al MacPhee for the official ribbon-cutting

Opening of The Deanne Reeve Pelvic Health Suite at Dartmouth General Hospital

February 25, 2025, saw the opening of a new, first-of-its-kind in Atlantic Canada pelvic health suite at Dartmouth General Hospital; a venture that was spearheaded by Dr. Scott Mawdsley and a handful of very generous donors, whose mission was to improve pelvic healthcare for women and men across Nova Scotia.

With the support of the inaugural Orchid Gala, Steele Auto Group, J&W Murphy Foundation, Dorothy and Dan Gibson, the Brien Family Foundation (in honour of Beth Brien), CIBC, Mark & Teri Sherman, and the Bowser Family, this suite will offer much needed urological and gynecological care to patients in the Halifax Regional Municipal area, and set a standard of care for the rest of the Nova Scotia when it comes to pelvic health.

This state-of-the-art suite is the new home for gynecology and urology procedures at DGH. Previously at DGH, cystoscopy procedures were performed in the endoscopy unit and hysteroscopies were performed in one of the hospital eight operating rooms.

Moving these procedures out of operating rooms and endoscopy suites and into the new purpose-built Suite will help free up ORs and endoscopy suites for procedures that must happen in these two areas, including colonoscopies and surgeries – helping to reduce wait times for patients. It will free up 250 hours of OR time and will also add capacity at DGH for men's and women's health – more than quadrupling the amount of urology procedures that can be performed each year.

More than 100 guests attended the ribbon-cutting event hosted at DGH in the Neville J. Gilfoy Wing.

The Suite was named for Deanne Reeve, a Nova Scotia woman who lost her life to cervical cancer in 2020.

The inaugural Orchid Gala was created to honour Deanne's memory and to raise funds to help advance women's healthcare in Nova Scotia. Dartmouth General Hospital was chosen as the first recipient of the Gala's proceeds and as the hospital to honour and pay tribute to Deanne's memory and legacy. We are deeply humbled by this honour.



Pictured: The Brien Family; supporters & funders of the suite, outside of the room named for Beth Brien.

Described as caring and very generous by her friends, Deanne's spirit lives on in the Suite and in the impact it will have for women's and men's health in the province.

We were honoured to be joined by members of Deanne's family who travelled from Newfoundland to be on hand for the celebration. During a heartfelt speech, Deanne's sister, Susan, shared a story of how their father had always said the Reeve name would end with him, as they had a family of all girls. But now, with the naming of the suite, the Reeve family name, and Deanne's legacy, will live on forever.

Dartmouth General Hospital's Deanne Reeve Pelvic Health Suite will have significant benefits not just to the surrounding area, but to all of Nova Scotia, as it will set a standard of care that will hopefully see adoption by other healthcare centres in the region.

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this Suite possible, including our generous donors, Nova Scotia Health Innovation Hub, and the government of Nova Scotia. This is philanthropy in action and the power of partnership.



Pictured: Deanne Reeve Pelvic Health Suite healthcare staff with Liz Rigney and Sheri Morgan.

Celebrating Another Year of Impact for PLANS Students!



Pictured: PLANS students participating in a hands-on activity

2024 saw the ninth cohort of PLANS (Promoting Leadership in Health for African Nova Scotians) Co-op students complete this impactful program, designed to increase the representation of African Nova Scotian and Black students in health professions.

This year will be the fifth year that DGH will serve as the proud hospital site for the PLANS program, thanks to the generous support of RBC and Killam Properties REIT.

For the first time ever, PLANS students had the opportunity to job-shadow at DGH last fall. Students shared the area of healthcare they were interested in, and were matched up for a half-day of job-shadowing with various departments in the hospital including diagnostic imaging, physiotherapy, and nursing.

DGH partners with Dalhousie University to deliver the PLANS Co-op Program. The program has grown over the years, and we are now seeing almost twice as many students as we did five years ago.

Our heartfelt thanks to longtime supporter, RBC, and our newest partner – Killam REIT, for supporting this important partnership!



Pictured: Stephen Harding, Colleen McCarville (Killam), Mairi McKinnon (Killam), Timi Idris, Dr. Barb Hamilton-Hinch, Trish Vardy (RBC), Nathan Tesfazion

Nova Scotia Health Opens New Geriatric Medicine Clinic on Dartmouth General Hospital Campus



Pictured: Stephen Harding, Deputy Premier Barbara Adams, Karen Spaulding, Al MacPhee, Heather White, Dr. Paige Moorhouse, and Lori Sanderson

Nova Scotia Health has expanded its Geriatric Medicine Clinic services to include a new location at 18 Acadia Street, part of the Dartmouth General Hospital campus. This addition aims to provide older adults in Dartmouth, as well as the Eastern Shore, with improved access to specialized care, addressing issues such as frailty, dementia, increased falls, and other age-related health concerns.

The clinic's design incorporates features such as calm, well-lit spaces, non-reflective flooring, and clear signage to create a comfortable environment for patients. A generous donation from the J&W Murphy Foundation, through the DGH Foundation, supported these enhancements to the space. "We love the culture at Dartmouth General Hospital that continues to encourage innovative approaches to patient care. We applaud the healthcare teams who have come together to bring this clinic to the Dartmouth community," said Lisa Murphy, spokesperson for the J&W Murphy Foundation.

"This project is a great example of government and donors working together to make the Geriatric Medicine Clinic a reality in Dartmouth - that's the magic of philanthropy in action," said Stephen Harding, President & CEO, DGH Foundation. "Thank you to the J&W Murphy Foundation for bringing this patient-centered investment in seniors' healthcare close to home."



Pictured: The indoor entrance to the new Geriatric Clinic.

With this new location, Nova Scotia Health now operates three Geriatric Medicine Clinics in the Central Zone, including sites at the Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Building in Halifax and the Cobequid Community Health Centre in Lower Sackville. This expansion is expected to increase the number of new patients seen by up to 40%, helping older adults remain at home longer and reducing emergency department visits.

Effective pain management plays a crucial role in healthcare. When pain is inadequately managed, it can lead to longer hospital stays, extended recovery periods, an increased risk of opioid misuse or addiction and poor surgical outcomes.

Dr. Emily Johnston, a Clinical Pharmacist in the department of Orthopedic Surgery in Nova Scotia Health, and Pharmacist, Innovation Champion at the Nova Scotia Health Innovation Hub is no stranger to pain management. Through her extensive experience on the trauma unit caring for orthopedic surgery patients, she has a deep commitment to empowering patients to take control of their pain, while ensuring effective communication between patients and healthcare providers.

Most recently, this passion has led to the creation of the Pain Coach App, which provides users with access to non-pharmaceutical resources for pain and anxiety management, such as guided imagery, breathing exercises, and instructional videos, while also supporting the use of medications.

The newly created app is in a trial phase and is supporting a select group of patients recovering from hip, knee or shoulder surgeries here at DGH. Running for one year, the study aims to evaluate the app's effectiveness in reducing pain and opioid use while maintaining positive pain management outcomes.

As a pharmacist with no technical experience, developing an app was a new challenge for Dr. Johnston. "I worked on the concepts for the app for over a year, with eight months of that spent in daily meetings with coders as we developed each individual feature." Says Johnston. "This was a steep learning curve for me, and I hope I can inspire others who may have innovative healthcare ideas but lack technical experience. Digital health solutions are really at the forefront of their adoption and I'm excited to be part of that."

Research such as this can't happen without funding. The clinical trial itself was funded through the DGH John and Judy Bragg Innovation Fund via the DGH Foundation which Dr. Johnston co-applied for with Dr. Jennifer Leighton, principal investigator of the study.

Ultimately, Dr. Johnston envisions the Pain Coach app being adopted across Nova Scotia Health as a standard of care for all arthroplasty patients, helping them feel more supported in managing their pain after surgery, and offering a new resource for pain management. Research is care, and clinical studies help translate research into potentially life-changing therapies that can help you, your friends and your loved ones.



Pictured: Dr. Emily Johnston

African Nova Scotian Heart Health Research Program

On February 14th, more than 100 community members gathered at the Black Cultural Centre of Nova Scotia to hear findings and recommendations of a 5-year research project focused on the cardiovascular health of African Nova Scotians.

Funded by the TD Bank Group (TD) in 2020, the African Nova Scotian Heart Health Research Program engaged the Preston Township communities in heart healthy conversations, events, and research to address the disproportionately low number of African Nova Scotians seeking cardiovascular care at DGH.

Heart disease is a leading cause of death for adult Canadians and even higher for people of African descent.



Pictured: Community members at Report release

DGH cardiologists identified that they were not seeing patients from the Preston Township (North Preston, East Preston, Cherry Brook, and Lake Loon), the largest multi-generational African descent communities in Canada, until the later stages of heart disease.

To help address this challenge, TD funded a partnership between the DGH Foundation and the Health Association of African Canadians (HAAC) to establish a baseline understanding of cardiac health issues and support the implementation of new and innovative approaches toward delivering culturally competent care.

The program consisted of four pillars that were supported by working committees that brought specific perspectives, actions, and deliverables:

- Faith
- Community
- History
- Research and Policy Development

This historic collaboration provided landmark data to help advance the state of cardiovascular health in African Nova Scotian populations.

The report identified next steps that will include:

- A heart healthy event to be held every February 14th at the Black Cultural Centre
- An official working partnership between HAAC and DGH to deliver and develop scholarship opportunities supporting African Nova Scotians and African Descended Communities.
- A commitment to improve in-hospital services as well as continuing outreach toward culturally competent care

This work and commitment by so many is guiding the collective interest in building the infrastructure that supports and continues to drive health equity in Nova Scotia. This is the power of partnership. This is philanthropy in action.



Get Up There!

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How a Home Colon Cancer Screening Test Saved a Life: Judith's Story

As spring approached, Judith Kays was feeling great. In fact, if you asked her, she would say she was in the best health of her life. She was getting stronger, walking further and reaching healthy goals. Judith thrived on keeping busy but always made sure she had a good work-life balance and enjoyed her family time and socializing with friends. She was enjoying midlife and looking forward to her 56th birthday.

When her Fecal Immunochemical Test, more commonly referred to as the FIT, arrived in the mail shortly after her birthday in May, she completed the simple test, as she'd done in previous years, and mailed it back to the Colon Cancer Prevention Program. As part of her proactive healthcare routine, Judith was aware of the importance of regular mammograms, pap tests and the FIT.

FIT is a home-based screening kit that checks your stool for hidden blood and is exceptionally effective in detecting early potential signs of colorectal cancer. The kit is automatically mailed to Nova Scotians between the ages of 50 and 74 every two years as part of the Nova Scotian Colon Cancer Prevention Program.

Not giving it another thought, Judith continued on with work, family and friends, forgetting quickly that she'd even done the FIT. After all, she had no issues and was feeling happy and healthy.

While boating with her husband one afternoon, she got a call saying that she had an abnormal FIT result, followed by a recommendation to have a colonoscopy. No problem, Judith thought, it's common for people to have to have a few polyps removed.

Judith was booked for a colonoscopy at Dartmouth General Hospital and although she didn't know it at the time, she soon learned she was just one of the approximately 1,200 Nova Scotians who are called back annually in the province's Central Zone for additional testing because of abnormal results. Again, Judith left her colonoscopy being very optimistic and confident that she'd taken yet another proactive step in taking care of her health.



Pictured: Judith Kays & Katharine Berrington



Pictured: Judith Kays

Two weeks later, she underwent a procedure to further assess the findings revealed during her colonoscopy. Judith was completely unprepared for the diagnosis that one of her polyps tested positive for colorectal cancer. Blindsided, her world stopped. She could barely comprehend the words her surgeon was saying. She didn't feel sick. She had no symptoms. As she states simply, everything was working down there – there were no issues. Judith and her husband were in the midst of planning a travel journey in the fall, not a cancer journey.

Nova Scotia has the highest rates of colorectal cancer in the country. Each year, 800 Nova Scotians are diagnosed with the disease. When caught in its early stages, this cancer is 90% curable.

Judith is a very grateful part of that statistic. She gives full credit to the FIT program for saving her life. "I don't even like to think about what my future could have looked like had I ignored that test for another few years," she says. "The less than five minutes it took me to actually open my mail, do the test and send it back is so much shorter than the extensive health challenges that could result from not doing the test!" She is also extraordinarily grateful to Dr. Riley Stewart and the DGH endoscopy team for helping her navigate her cancer journey with confidence and optimism.

Through this experience, Judith has become an enthusiastic and proud advocate for early screening. The FIT results caught her cancer early and she believes that more should be done to both talk about the importance of completing the FIT to increase return rates and to lower the age at which people will start to receive the test as she's personally seen more and more younger people being diagnosed with colorectal cancer. She's not alone.

Mark Gascoigne, who lost his father to colorectal cancer, founded Get Up There (GUT), an event that raises funds and awareness to support colorectal cancer screening and prevention. His tireless lobbying, fundraising efforts and determination were instrumental in bringing the FIT program to Nova Scotia in 2009. The very same test that is credited with saving Judith's life.

The FIT is 100% painless, free to Nova Scotians, and is easily completed at home, yet there's an issue. Less than half of the 185,000 people who receive the test in the mail each year complete and return it. Both Judith and Mark understand that there needs to be better participation. "We need more people thinking about prevention, completing the FIT and supporting the call for additional research and funding."

This spring, Judith joined Mark, Dr. Stewart, and other volunteers and participants to hike Wentworth, the largest alpine ski facility in Nova Scotia, to raise the funds needed to ensure that more people "Get Up There" to do their FIT.

Lives are saved through early detection and treatment of colorectal cancers. Judith Kays was one of those lives.



40 Years of Lobster Dinner

Pictured: Kim Conrad and friends, enjoying some lobster prep!

For four decades, the DGHF Annual Lobster Dinner & Auction, presented by Conrad Brothers and Ocean Contractors Limited, has been a cornerstone event in our community, bringing together generous donors, dedicated sponsors, and enthusiastic attendees to support innovation and exceptional care at Dartmouth General Hospital. This year's event marks a milestone 40th anniversary, promising an evening filled with delicious food, exciting auctions, and the spirit of community that has defined this tradition.

The DGHF Lobster Dinner & Auction has grown significantly over the years, not only in attendance but also in its impact. Funds raised from this event help support vital equipment and technology at Dartmouth General Hospital, helping to bring best-in-class medical care right here to our community.



Pictured: Our lobster mascot, with RBC volunteers, Paul Malcolm and Sydney Hayford



Pictured: Lee-Anne, Dan, and Mike Chassie



Pictured: John Fitzpatrick, Dr. Carla Pittman, Paul O'Hearn



Pictured: Dr. Wylie Verge, Fraser Conrad and Bill Kelly.



Pictured: Clifford Moir and Gwen Haliburton



Pictured: The late Tom Forrestall

Over the past 39 years, proceeds from the event have helped fund many “firsts” at Dartmouth General, including:

- our first CT scanner
- and our second CT scanner!
- our first MRI
- our first Orthopedic Robot
- our first Endoscopic Ultrasound

Thanks to the unwavering support of our incredible sponsors and donors, the event has raised almost \$4 million over the past 39 years.

That's almost \$4 million invested in state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment and other medical technologies that directly benefit patients in our community.

As we approach this milestone event, we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has been part of this journey—past sponsors, dedicated volunteers, and the many guests who have made each year special. Here's to celebrating 40 incredible years of the Lobster Dinner & Auction and to many more to come!



Buy your tickets for the 40th Anniversary today!

<https://www.showpass.com/dgh-foundation-lobster-dinner-auction/>

HOLIDAY MAGIC

A DRAGON'S OATH

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In December of 2024; proceeds raised supported Kidney Health
Innovation at Dartmouth General Hospital

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Gloria McCluskey Quilt Raffle

The DGH Auxiliary are always looking for creative ways to support our hospital. In addition to operating the gift shop located in the hospital's lobby, the Auxiliary hosts bake sales that always sell-out, and work with other volunteers in the community to find ways to support innovation and patient care

Most recently, they partnered with Lake City Quilters, to display and raffle off a gorgeous hand-made quilt, with proceeds going to support Dartmouth General.

With more than 250 tickets sold, Debbie Brooks was the lucky winner of the beautiful blue & white king-sized log cabin patterned quilt after buying a book of tickets when she stopped into the gift shop to browse after some testing.



Pictured: Stephen Harding, Gloria McCluskey, and the DGH Auxiliary, posing with the quilt up for raffle.

Next up is a beautiful quilted creation handmade by Dartmouth's very own, Gloria McCluskey. It's a spectacular queen-sized quilt of black, white and red stitched and autographed by McCluskey herself.

Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5 and available in the DGH Auxiliary Gift Shop in the lobby of the hospital until June 16th. Like McCluskey, there is Dartmouth pride in every stitch!

DGH Auxiliary Donates \$62,000 To DGH Emergency Department

For more than 50 years the DGH Auxiliary has been supporting the needs of DGH patients and in that time, they have raised more than \$2 million to support innovation and exceptional care here at the hospital.

Recently, they stepped forward in their signature pink jackets with with a gift of \$62,000 to support new, upgraded telemetry monitoring equipment for DGH patients in the Emergency Department.

This technology will allow our medical team to identify and act quickly on potential abnormal cardiac rhythms that may place patients at risk.

Their help and support are invaluable, and we are so very grateful for every DGH Auxiliary member's contribution of time, talent, and treasure.



Pictured: DGH Auxiliary members (in pink).
DGH Foundation team members: Lisa Cottleau, Carolyn Marshall, Stephen Harding and Jenna Joyce. DGH Board member, Ann Janega. DGH Site Lead, Rachel Nalepa.

DGH Delivers Innovative, World-Class Training

DGH is often referred to as a "living lab" for Nova Scotia Health. We are home to many dedicated professionals eager to test new ideas. Our surgeons and frontline healthcare workers are continuously looking for innovative ways to improve effectiveness, efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance patient outcomes. Their passion for improvement leads to advancements that benefit patients in HRM and beyond.

One recent example is when DGH hosted Canada's top ear, nose, and throat surgeons for a two-day live surgical workshop—the first of its kind in North America. The workshop introduced and provided practical training to participants from across Canada to continuous intraoperative neural monitoring (CIONM). This innovative technique continuously checks the nerve's function throughout thyroid surgery, significantly reducing the risk of nerve injuries such as permanent voice problems, difficulty swallowing, and reduced ability to exercise. Unlike older methods, which only checked nerve function intermittently, potentially missing damage until after it occurred, continuous monitoring allows surgeons to immediately identify and prevent possible nerve injury.

DGH surgeons Dr. Robin LeBlanc, Dr. Richard Balys, and Dr. Martin Corsten have been using this groundbreaking technique for over a year and were eager to provide a workshop to educate others on the technology. Working closely with inomed Canada, a global leader in CIONM technology, they organized the event, arranged operating room facilities, and secured Professor Neil Tolley from London, England, as the expert trainer. By the end of the session, Canada had several new surgeons that were well-trained in the new technology and completely understood its importance in improving patient outcomes.

CIONM contributes to patients spending less time under anesthesia and on the operating table and has elevated the quality of patient care and improved surgical outcomes. Best practices and the sharing of expertise continues, with DGH being recognized as a leader in promoting advanced training for surgeons nationwide. Dr. Balys believes that DGH provides unparalleled support and resources that empower us to bring innovative, world-class care directly to our patients.



Pictured: Left to right: Dr. Robin LeBlanc stands next to the equipment that makes CIONM possible, together with Michael Singer, Director of Sales, inomed Canada, and Dr. Richard Balys.

Donors Bring Barrett's Esophagus Treatment to DGH

For many people living with Barrett's Esophagus, traveling out of province for treatment was just another hurdle in an already stressful journey. But thanks to the power of philanthropy, that's now a thing of the past.

Barrett's Esophagus is a pre-cancerous condition that can develop in people with chronic acid reflux. But the good news is that a highly effective treatment called radiofrequency ablation (RFA) is now available right here at Dartmouth General Hospital, making care more accessible than ever before.

Until recently, patients had to travel several times a year to Moncton, New Brunswick—the only place in Atlantic Canada that offered this procedure. But thanks to the generous support of Dan, Lee-Anne, Danielle, and Mike Chassie, the J&W Murphy Foundation, and more than 600 community champions who supported the 2024 DGHF Annual Lobster Dinner & Auction, the hospital was able to purchase the necessary equipment to bring RFA treatment to Nova Scotia. This means less travel, lower costs, and a smoother recovery for patients and their families.

Darren Steele, one of the first patients to receive RFA at DGH, knows firsthand how life-changing this is. Over the past five years, he and his family made 13 trips to Moncton for treatment. Now, with the procedure available locally, he can focus more on his health and less on the hassle of travel.

Dr. Robert Berger, a gastroenterologist at DGH, is thrilled to offer this gold-standard treatment close to home. "For patients at higher risk of esophageal cancer, RFA can make a significant difference," he explains. "Now, we can provide that care right here in Dartmouth."

This achievement is a testament to what is possible when donors come together to bring the very best healthcare treatments right here - to our community.



Pictured: Jenna Joyce, VP DGH Foundation, Cynthia Stockman, Director Ambulatory Care, Becky Croft, Manager Outpatients, Dr. Natalie Cheng, DGH Site Lead and Dr. Robert Berger, Gastroenterologist with the Radiofrequency Ablation Laser.



Pictured: Al MacPhee, Basim Sobeih, The Gasparetto Family: Daniele, Marc, Renato, Pamela, Danilo, Mara, Michael; and Stephen Harding

Gasparetto Family Donates \$1 Million to Dartmouth General Hospital

We were honoured and humbled to host members of the Gasparetto family for an incredible announcement in late December. Family and friends gathered in the Atrium of the Neville J. Gilfoy Wing to announce an outstanding and inspirational \$1 million gift to the Foundation. This monumental donation will provide critical funding for the acquisition of leading-edge equipment and technology supporting innovation and exceptional care at DGH.

Renato and Danilo Gasparetto arrived in Nova Scotia from Italy in the late 1960's, and they worked together to grow Cherubini Metal Works into the largest steel fabrication company in Atlantic Canada. Throughout the company's history they are responsible for having built more than 150 bridges across the globe.



Pictured: Crane owned by Cherubini Group, lowering DGH's new MRI into the hospital through the roof on Dec. 22, 2023

Michael Gasparetto says, “My family and I are proud to connect communities with not only the bridges and structures we build, but also with a donation that we know will positively impact and support the work being done at DGH and the people that live here in Dartmouth and beyond.”

Dr. Natalie Cheng, Medical Site Lead, DGH shared, “A gift of this size is extraordinary and the fact that it comes from a local family who has worked hard in Dartmouth for almost sixty years makes it that much more special to us. Maintaining leading edge health related equipment and technology takes a significant investment and this gift will allow us to continue to be a facility that delivers state of the art care.”

Stephen Harding, President and CEO, DGH Foundation noted that we are truly honoured that the Gasparetto family has chosen to support DGH. Our hallways are filled with stories of connecting people with world class health care and this gift from the Gasparetto family will ensure we “bridge” the financial gap that we sometimes face as a health care provider.

It was a Cherubini owned crane that lowered the 25,000 lb. MRI into its new home at DGH in December 2023.

In recognition of this outstanding act of philanthropy, the MRI Suite will showcase the Gasparetto’s family history and immigration story from Europe to Canada.



Pictured: The Gasparetto Family: Marc, Michael, Renato, Pamela, Danilo, Mara, and Daniele

The DGH Foundation would like to express our sincere condolences to Renato Gasparetto and his family on the passing of his wife, Pamela on April 3rd, 2025. We were honoured that Pamela could join us for the unveiling of the Gasparetto Family MRI Suite to celebrate her family’s legacy.



Nova Scotia Healthcare Foundations 50/50 News

The ticket to a perfect collaboration could be yours! The Nova Scotia Healthcare Foundations 50/50 is creating some impressive jackpots in Nova Scotia. Lucky winners are counting their treasure and more importantly the very same amount is being donated back to participating Nova Scotia healthcare foundations to help purchase essential equipment and support community-focused programs in every participating hospital or organization.

Something new for the Healthcare Foundations 50/50 is a monthly Early Bird Bonus Draw of \$1,000 cash for ticket purchasers who purchase their tickets before the Early Bird deadline and a bonus \$1,000 cash to the participating Healthcare Foundation selected as the “Inspired By” foundation by the jackpot winner!

Be an early bird and get your tickets or learn more here:

www.healthcare5050.ca

Legacy Giving: Creating a Lasting Impact

“If you’re going to live, leave behind a legacy. Make an impact on the world that can never be erased.” ~ Maya Angelou

You have more power to make a difference than you realize. By giving even just a small portion of your estate to Dartmouth General Hospital, you can make a significant impact on the causes you care about and still support those you love. Legacy gifts to Dartmouth General ensure that our healthcare teams can continue to deliver exceptional care, and that our culture of innovation grows for generations.

There are so many ways to give and we can work together to maximize your impact for years to come.

- A Gift in Your Will
- Giving through Life Insurance
- Gifts of Securities
- RRSPs and RRIFs
- Real Estate Property
- Charitable Remainder Trusts

If you are looking for guidance, please contact:



Pictured: Gwen & Robert Haliburton, DGH Legacy Donors during a tour of the MRI construction site, in May 2024

Katharine Berrington
Email: katharine.berrington@dghfoundation.ca
Phone: 902-225-2262.

Together we can help to navigate the way to making legacy plans.

☐ Yes, I'm happy to help DGH Foundation with a *monthly* donation of:

Monthly giving is easy and efficient for you, and for us! Our fundraising costs are reduced, so more of your donation goes to the needs of your hospital.

☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$ _____
☐ 1st of the month ☐ 15th of the month

Your \$15 helps 7 patients, \$25 helps 12 patients, \$50 helps 24 patients

☐ Please use the enclosed void cheque to debit my bank account monthly

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Card Number:

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☐ Donate securely online at www.dghfoundation.ca

Please Use my donation for:

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☐ Wherever the need is greatest
☐ Please send my tax receipt via email.

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☐ Y ☐ N

Thank you very much for your generous support!

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Pictured: Paul and Carol Farquharson, Monthly Donors



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