



Between Friends

A NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE MONCTON HOSPITAL FOUNDATION INC.

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SPRING 2015

Geriatric Clinic Opens at The Moncton Hospital

At-risk seniors will now have better access to care following the opening of a new Geriatric Clinic at The Moncton Hospital, thanks to a \$250,000 contribution to the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation from several private donors. This funded the cost of renovations (and some equipment) to relocate and expand the Geriatric Clinic from its past location on the 5th floor, to a larger and more convenient space on the hospital's main floor.

The Geriatric Clinic is a patient-centred outpatient service where at-risk older adults are assessed and treated by many healthcare professionals in one location. The new space houses the **Geriatric Assessment Clinic (GAC), the Memory Clinic and Physiotherapy Services.** The goal is to help seniors achieve as high a level of independence and wellness as possible, enabling them to remain safe in their own homes for as long as they are able.

At-risk older adults are those experiencing complex, age related problems. These express themselves as physical and cognitive frailty leading to

memory impairments, mobility problems, falls, and other difficulties managing personal and household daily activities.

The Geriatric Assessment Clinic (GAC) is a referral service which offers geriatric assessments of senior patients who require a multidisciplinary approach to their problems. The clinic does cognitive assessments and evaluates decision making, particularly as it relates to independent living. The GAC also assesses driving skills, the ability to manage medication and finances, safety in the kitchen and bathroom as well as functional ability in other areas of independent living.

The Memory Clinic follows seniors who are diagnosed with dementia and require long term follow-up.

The Geriatric Clinic will allow for the expansion of our current Physiotherapy Services so that many seniors at risk of falling at home will have the opportunity to attend balance assessments and treatment classes to learn strategies to prevent falls. Seniors with a variety of medical conditions



Geriatric Specialist, Dr. Michelle Conrod and Manager of Physiotherapy Services at The Moncton Hospital, Tara Mann, are proud that the Geriatric Clinic will be able to provide therapeutic treatments in a fully equipped physiotherapy gym designed specifically for the geriatric population.

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Hospital Foundations Purchase Vital Link to Speed Stroke Care, Saving Lives

Leading edge stroke care, Telestroke, is now available at both The Moncton Hospital and the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre thanks to a \$50,000 investment from the CHU Dumont and Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundations.

When it comes to a stroke, time is of the essence. Quick access to a neurologist is key as some patients can be prescribed a clot-busting drug to reduce the dramatic effects of a stroke. To be effective, it must be administered within a four hour window after a stroke has occurred. However, until recently, access to a neurologist was limited.

Telestroke offers two-way audio visual capabilities that link Emergency Department physicians to a neurologist anytime of the day or night, to provide rapid assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients experiencing a stroke, giving them a better chance at survival.

Friends Chair, Paul Arsenault, says the Foundations are delighted to be playing a role in bringing the Telestroke program to Moncton. *"It will help ensure patients throughout New Brunswick have access to the best stroke care possible 24/7,"* says Arsenault.

Prior to the implementation of the program, if someone experienced a stroke in the province, they had a 3% chance of receiving life-changing medication which is the only treatment at present capable of reversing the effects of stroke and decreasing

When it comes to a stroke, time is of the essence.

its significant impact. The implementation of this provincial Telestroke system increases the chances of a patient receiving this life saving medication to over 30%.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in New Brunswick and the number one cause of admission to nursing homes. In New Brunswick, there are over 1,100 strokes each year.

The funds for the Telestroke initiative at both Moncton hospitals come from the proceeds of the Hand in Hand Dream Lottery, a joint partnership of the Friends of The Moncton Hospital and CHU Dumont Foundations.



Sylvie Legacy, RN, and Dr. Lyle Weston, Neurologist, look over new Telestroke equipment at The Moncton Hospital.

Geriatric Clinic Opens at The Moncton Hospital

(Continued from cover page)

such as stroke and fractures due to falls or osteoporosis, will be assessed for strength, functional ability and mobility aides (canes, rollators, etc). All of these assessments and therapeutic treatments will be provided in the state-of-the-art, fully equipped, specially designed physiotherapy gym. More space and equipment make it possible for mobility/balance classes to be done in groups rather than one-on-one, allowing more seniors to benefit.

Geriatric Specialist Dr. Michelle Conrod is confident that with additional space, staff will be able to see, assess and treat more seniors.

"We will now be able to offer more timely interdisciplinary assessments and decisions regarding care, thus preventing hospital admissions. It is anticipated that in the foreseeable future, the Clinic could easily double the number of patients seen, thus expediting the assessment process and improving patient outcomes." explains Conrod.

Friends Foundation Chair, Paul Arsenault, is pleased that the Foundation is supporting such a worthy project. *"Once again, donor dollars are being used to create enhanced care, this time for our senior population who are most deserving,"* says Arsenault.

The catchment area for this Clinic is primarily South-Eastern New Brunswick, but referrals are also received from North-East New Brunswick and Northern Nova Scotia. In the next 10 years, the trend in the population of greater Moncton will see the numbers of seniors swell. This clinic will be well positioned to deal with the increased healthcare needs of our aging population.

If you or your loved one feels that you would benefit from being assessed or treated at the Geriatric Clinic, please discuss a referral with your family doctor.

New Oncology Clinic Transforming Cancer Care Your Donor Dollars Making an Impact

Well known Oncologist/Hematologist Dr. Sheldon Rubin is thrilled that the \$9.5 million Oncology Clinic at The Moncton Hospital has become a reality.

Rubin, who spoke at the official opening in November, says this new space will better meet the needs of cancer patients and their families.



Dr. Sheldon Rubin

"It's been a long time coming," says Dr. Rubin. "The clinic is designed to make people and their families as comfortable as possible under difficult circumstances," he said. "It's most important they have caring and compassionate staff."

Physician and staff are very excited to have a more spacious, accessible and pleasing environment for their patients' cancer care journeys. The Moncton Hospital provides one of the most active medical oncology services in New Brunswick. Last year, the clinic received 12,700 patient visits. Because of increasing demand, the previous treatment area located on the sixth floor of the hospital had become so constricted that family members were unable to visit with patients during their treatment. The new 17,000 foot facility offers 28 treatment

stations (up from 18) in a large open space, allowing patients to have someone stay with them during their treatments. Among other improvements, the clinic has increased its exam rooms from seven to 12 and added research space and oncology-pharmacy services. The Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation contributed

\$6 million to the project and \$3.5 million was provided by the provincial government.



Cancer patient, Barbara Fitzpatrick from Murray Corner, talks with Chief of Oncology, Dr. Nizar Abdel Samad, in the new Oncology Clinic.

Friends Annual Campaign 2014-2015

The Moncton Hospital is committed to providing patients with optimal care and the very best treatment. To do that, it is vitally important to keep current with new technology, updated equipment and renovated spaces. The Friends Foundation has set an ambitious financial goal of \$875,000 for the 2014-2015 Annual Campaign. **This investment will allow for:**

- clinic renovations to enrich the care for the hospital's youngest patients,
- enable the purchase of critical equipment to provide for accurate diagnoses for sick and fragile babies,
- transform how specimens are processed leading to rapid diagnosis and treatment of infections,
- revolutionize pulmonary care in the ICU,
- support those recovering from orthopedic and soft tissue injuries and;
- provide a tool to help patients recover from traumatic injuries.

For detailed campaign information or to donate visit friendsfoundation.ca today!



Eli Billard and his big sister Allie. Eli's healthcare journey was featured in the Friends Annual Campaign.

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Come in 135 MacBeath Ave., Moncton, NB E1C 6Z8
Call 506.857.5488
Click friendsfoundation.ca
Email Friends@HorizonNB.ca

We would love to hear your comments and suggestions. Call or write **Julie Thébeau** at 870.2699 or Julie.Thebeau@HorizonNB.ca

Grateful Patient Pays It Forward

Robert Gould from Allison, NB, donated \$10,000 in honour of Dr. Shannon Wiebe

Robert's Story

Fifteen months ago I was diagnosed with having a cancerous tumor while at the Emergency Department of The Moncton Hospital. Since that time I've been in and out of the hospital and doctors' offices on a great many occasions. I have a lot to be thankful for. If I had to single out just one individual who has helped me most getting through these past several months it would be Dr. Shannon Wiebe. No question. Over that time she has performed three surgeries and two procedures. I feel qualified to say that she is an outstanding surgeon. Dr. Wiebe is also an exceptional doctor. It usually falls to her to deliver the roller coaster of good and bad news arising from treatments, biopsies, and tests related to my type of cancer. She has a unique ability to do this in a kind, compassionate, and informative way which



Dr. Shannon Wiebe

has helped me carry the weight of what is, at times, very disheartening news. I spent 27 days at the hospital recovering from surgeries. During that time, Dr. Wiebe never missed a single day checking in on me and to consult with the nurses with respect to my recovery. On the rare occasion that she wasn't able to, she arranged for a colleague to check in on me. Any doctor who consistently delivers that level of profes-

sional care is outstanding. I cannot thank Dr. Wiebe (and her very helpful staff) enough. The Grateful Patient Program provided me with a venue to say thank you in a meaningful way. - Robert Gould

Thank you Robert for your generous gift and for sharing your healthcare journey. This marks Dr. Wiebe's 5th nomination as a healthcare hero.

If you would like to honour a healthcare hero at The Moncton Hospital, please visit friendsfoundation.ca/healthcarehero or call Marianne at 860-2374 for more info.

If you are already supporting the Friends as a financial donor...

THANK YOU

Your gift will impact patient care.

Yes, I want to support the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation.

Name _____

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I am enclosing a cheque in the amount of

\$30 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1000

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Yes, please send me more information on making a bequest to the Friends.

Interested in monthly giving?

Call 857-5488 or visit us online at

friendsfoundation.ca/donate

Friends Celebrate 50 Years of Enhancing Patient Care



2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation. **Thank you** to all of our donors over the past five decades who have helped us raise millions of dollars to purchase sophisticated technology and renovate spaces allowing our medical professionals to provide excellence in patient centred care. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter – Friends of TMH for weekly archived photo feature and monthly anniversary trivia question!



DID YOU KNOW?

The Friends raised close to \$4 million the last fiscal year to enhance healthcare at The Moncton Hospital.

