

MISSION MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (MMH) CT SCANNER INITIATIVE FUNDED



The community rallied behind our campaign to raise \$1.1 million to bring a CT Scanner to Mission Hospital, and boosted by a generous \$500,000 Canada Day gift from Mission philanthropist Mr. Sukhdev Gerwal, we're pleased to announce that together we reached our goal. The new CT Scanner, bringing improved health care close to home, and made possible by our generous supporters, will be operational early in 2024.

"The CT Scanner will elevate health care at MMH to a completely new level." Says Dr. Amarjit Bajwa, Department Head, Medical Imaging. "Thank you very much to everyone who contributed to bringing this life saving diagnostic tool to our hospital."

CHILLIWACK GENERAL HOSPITAL (CGH) TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED MAMMOGRAM INITIATIVE FUNDED

Thanks to the Chilliwack Dogwood Monarch Lions Club, Lions Clubs International Foundation, Lions Clubs in Chilliwack and Agassiz, and other community groups, we are pleased to announce that by working together, we are fully funded for the renovation and equipment of the breast health clinic at Chilliwack General Hospital.

Says Liz Harris, executive director of FVHCF, "Thank you so much to everyone in the community that pulled together and made this possible. It is only with the generosity of you, our loyal supporters, that we are able to upgrade our equipment to take advantage of latest technological advances."



MAKING AN IMPACT EVERY DONOR & EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS

1-Abbotsford: Gavin & Daiya donated their birthday money to the pediatrics department. **2-Chilliwack:** Kiwanis Club of Chilliwack donated hand out bags for the Baby Safe Start & New Parent Support programs. **3-Hope:** The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 228 Hope donated a new Crash Cart. **4-Mission:** The City of Mission donated a new ultrasound.



THANK YOU for your support

If you would like to support Fraser Valley Health Care Foundation
with an event please email us at info@fvhcf.ca

Fraser Valley Health Care Foundation

raises funds for vital equipment and programs funded or endorsed by Fraser Health. We serve the communities of Abbotsford, Mission, Chilliwack, Hope, Agassiz, and Harrison Hot Springs.

YOUR COMMUNITY ♥ YOUR HOSPITAL ♥ YOUR FOUNDATION

32900 Marshall Rd, Abbotsford, BC V2S 0C2
604.851.4890 | 1.877.661.0314 | info@fvhcf.ca | fvhcf.ca



YOUR COMMUNITY
YOUR HOSPITAL
YOUR FOUNDATION

ICU INITIATIVE

IMPROVING OUTCOMES &
EFFICIENCY IN OUR FRASER
VALLEY EAST COMMUNITIES



ABBOTSFORD REGIONAL HOSPITAL (ARH) A FIRST AND ONLY INNOVATION



Fiona Howarth, Clinical Nurse Educator in the ICU at Abbotsford Regional Hospital along with her team have developed a timely, first and only innovation, that helps reduce the time ICU patients spend ventilated, and the time it takes to wean them from the vent.

Patients on mechanical ventilators are sedated to provide comfort and physical stability. Inappropriately high or low levels of sedation has risks, and identifying events like seizures, can be challenging.

For just over two years Fiona and her ICU team have risen to meet the challenge by using neurological monitors to measure brain activity. The monitors let the care team know if the patients are experiencing nonconvulsive seizures or other neurological alterations, enabling the team to adjust the level of sedation, so each patient receives exactly the level of sedation they require.

Overly sedated patients take longer to be weaned from the ventilator and once off the vent they also experience more delirium, muscle weakness, PTSD and other mental health problems.

Fiona reports, "Since using the monitors our patients are doing so much better. We have seen a 35% reduction in the average number of days each patient spends ventilated, and a 65% reduction in post ventilation delirium. Patients averaged six days on the vent prior to the monitoring and that average has come down to four days."

ICU patients spending less time ventilated, and recovering more quickly, means more ICU beds are available. But, most importantly, the use of these non-invasive monitors has improved the quality of life for our patients and their families.

This 100% nurse led initiative is attracting attention in the medical community and Fiona has presented the results at conferences. Says Fiona, "I am so proud of our ICU care team and I am very grateful to our donors, without whom, none of this would have been possible."



The ICU team.

FRASER VALLEY EAST (FVE) FORENSIC CARE FOR SURVIVORS

Forensic nurses treat and document the trauma experienced by victims of violence and abuse, including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, elder and child abuse or neglect and other forms of intentional injury.

Christina Simpson is the Coordinator of the Forensic Nursing Service at Abbotsford Regional Hospital. Working out of the Emergency Department, Christina and the other forensic nurses provide compassionate care, document and collect evidence and give expert witness testimony in court.

Fraser Valley Health Care Foundation, thanks to the support of their donors, recently provided the Forensic Nursing Service with a Cortexflo camera and lighting system. The Cortexflo makes forensic photography of physical and sexual assault injuries simple, accurate, fast and admissible in court.

Prior to receiving the Cortexflo the forensic nurses were using a DSLR camera, but it didn't provide the image quality, external lighting or secure encrypted data storage required for forensic photography.

The forensic nursing service at Abbotsford, created in 1999 to treat 15 patients a year in the Fraser Valley East and Fraser Canyon, now treats around 160 patients a year. Patients arriving at doctor's offices or other hospitals in the region, who report or show signs of violence or abuse, have their immediate medical needs cared for, before being transferred to Emergency at Abbotsford for treatment and assessment by a professional forensic nurse.

"We are seeing a lot of domestic violence cases that involve strangulation or other grievous trauma," says Christina.

Given the growth in the number of annual cases and the seriousness of many of them, Fraser Health is considering expanding the now on-call Forensic Nursing Service to include some regularized positions to better meet the needs of the community.

HOPE — FRASER CANYON HOSPITAL (FCH) THE LITTLE HOSPITAL THAT DOES

When it opened in January 1959, Fraser Canyon Hospital boasted an operating room, 26 beds, three doctors, and 10 regular nurses – one of whom was Director of Nursing Mary Lou Jacobs, who pretty much ran the hospital.

Born and raised in Ontario, Mary Lou had only been a nurse for a few years when she was hired to run the brand-new Fraser Canyon Hospital, that wasn't even finished yet. She left her home province and everything she knew behind, and made the journey west to Hope, BC to a new hospital and a new life.

"I did everything from ordering equipment to choosing the colours of the paint for the walls" says Mary Lou, "I also hired the staff and set up the hospital. I was thrilled. How often do you get to start your own hospital?"



Mary Lou at her home in Hope BC, March 2023, and when she graduated from nursing school.

In the 1960's it took a lot longer to drive from Hope to Chilliwack or Abbotsford than it does today, so the Fraser Canyon Hospital performed surgeries including tonsillectomies, c-sections and hysterectomies. A lot of babies were born at Fraser Canyon Hospital back in the 1960's too, but these days expectant mothers from the area are referred to Chilliwack for level one low risk births, or Abbotsford for level two higher risk births.

Now fitted with eight medical beds, two hospice beds, and an eight-bay emergency department staffed 24/7, the dedicated healthcare team provide emergency, acute and end of life care, close to home, for the 6,699 residents of Hope and the surrounding area. They also offer immediate emergency

care and triage for travelers involved in motor vehicle or other accidents — and they still deliver a few unexpected babies from time to time.

Located at the junction of three major highways an estimated 36,000 people travel through Hope every day in the summer months. In an area often subject to extreme weather conditions, Fraser Canyon Hospital's healthcare professionals provide the only care available when highways are closed due to flooding, landslides, or whiteout conditions and it's too windy for helicopters to fly.

Mary Lou, who still lives in Hope and donates regularly to the hospital, is both proud and pleased to see the hospital she was so instrumental in setting up is still a key feature in the community and the province.

2022-23 by the Numbers



\$3,554,674
Raised in Total



\$77,500 Raised by 3rd party Events
\$261,311 Raised by Foundation Events



796 Gifts to Abbotsford
643 Gifts to Chilliwack

182 Gifts to Mission
154 Gifts to Hope