Fall 2026

THE PULSE



CT SCANNER ARRIVES

Thanks to you, the new CT Scanner has arrived at LWDH.

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TREE OF LIFE APPEAL

Every Light Has a Story. And Every Story Deserves to Be Shared.

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STRENGTHENING SURGICAL CARE

Transformational $1M gift from the Dufresne family.

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GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

SHOW YOUR THANKS FOR OUTSTANDING CARE

The Gifts of Gratitude program gives patients and families a meaningful way to thank and honour the staff and volunteers who made a difference in their care. Each gift not only recognizes compassionate service but also helps enhance patient care in our community. Honoured physicians, nurses, health care staff, and volunteers receive a personalized message of thanks and an exclusive Compass lanyard pin as a lasting symbol of appreciation.



Conor, 3rd year Medical student, NOSM & **Dr. S. Giles**, Emergency Medicine Physician, are recognized for their knowledge and compassion.



Hailley, Tina, and Stephanie (not pictured), RNs, Chemotherapy Department are recognized for their kindness and exceptional care.



Dr. D. Kyle, Physician, is recognized for his expertise and genuine concern.



The Emergency Department, specifically **Dr. E. Drake** and **Angela,** RPN, were recognized for their genuine effort to comfort and uplift their patient, which made a meaningful and lasting impression.

SAY "THANK YOU" BY INVESTING IN PATIENT CARE

Patients and/or their families can make a donation to honour a physician, nurse, staff member or volunteer at LWDH who played a critical role in their healthcare journey.

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Celebrating the Arrival of the CT Scanner

Thanks to the incredible generosity of donors to the Beyond the Scan Campaign, Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) is celebrating the arrival of a new, state-of-the-art CT scanner! With demand for CT examinations growing by more than 20% in just two years, this investment couldn't come at a better time. Offering faster scans, enhanced patient comfort and advanced imaging technology, the new scanner will help our healthcare teams deliver exceptional diagnostic care, close to home, for years to come.

Compared to the previous CT scanner, the new Siemens SOMATOM X.ceed has:

- **Faster scanning**: Rotation times of 0.25 seconds compared with 0.35 seconds on the previous scanner help reduce motion effects, particularly for patients who struggle to remain still or hold their breath.
- **More space for patients**: The opening is 82 cm compared with 78 cm, providing more room for patient positioning and CT-guided procedures.
- **Additional radiation dose tools**: Tin Filter technology and flexible low-kV settings help tailor radiation exposure to the patient and examination. Dose savings will vary by protocol.



- **Improved workflow**: Guided scanning tools, automated positioning assistance and in-room controls help staff prepare patients and maintain consistency between examinations.
- **Full options package**: The scanner includes all available options, including the cardiac and biopsy platforms. The biopsy platform provides dedicated tools for planning and guiding CT-guided needle procedures.
- **Future cardiac opportunities**: The cardiac package gives us the technical capability to explore additional cardiac CT services in the future.

> ***"Donors to the Beyond the Scan Campaign have made a real difference for our patients by bringing advanced diagnostic testing closer to home."***
>
> *- Sean Hailstone, Director, Diagnostic Services, LWDH*

A Lasting Tribute to Extraordinary Generosity



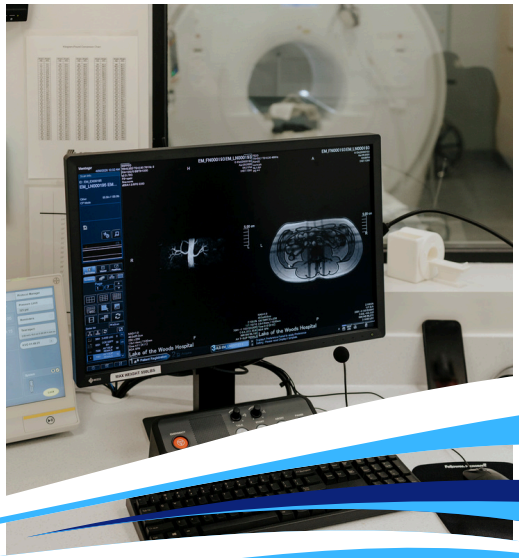
The Beyond the Scan Campaign was made possible by the extraordinary generosity of donors like you who believed in a future of exceptional diagnostic care, close to home.

Together, our community raised more than $9.5 million to help establish a Diagnostic Imaging Centre of Excellence at Lake of the Woods District Hospital, transforming the way patients access vital diagnostic services.

Our permanent donor wall in the Diagnostic Imaging Department at LWDH stands as a lasting tribute to you; the individuals, families, businesses and organizations who helped bring this vision to life.

More than a recognition of generosity, it is a celebration of what we can accomplish together and a reminder that every gift has the power to make a difference for generations to come.



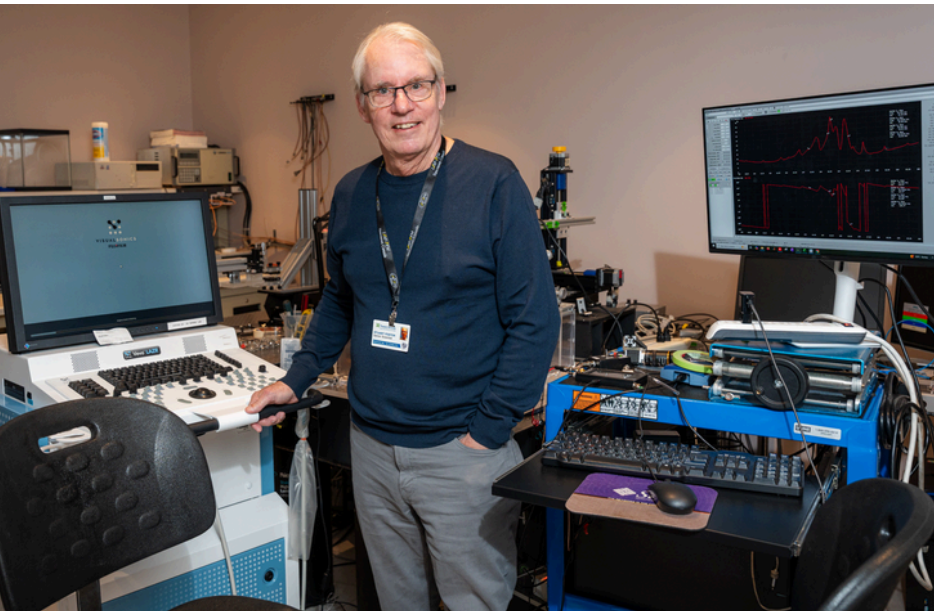


WHY WAIT TO SAY THANK YOU?

Honouring a remarkable career while making a difference close to home

Sometimes the most meaningful way to honour someone is simply to say thank you and to do something that carries that appreciation forward.

That's exactly what friends, Jeff and Laura had in mind when they made a special tribute gift in honour of their friend, Dr. Stuart Foster, celebrating both his remarkable career and his recent appointment as an Officer of the Order of Canada. Their generosity is helping bring a new Canon Aplio ultrasound machine to Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH), strengthening diagnostic care for patients across our region.



"It was certainly unexpected. I was surprised and pleased. But when I learned that the donation was going to a rural hospital, I was thrilled."

Dr. Stuart Foster

For Dr. Foster, the connection to ultrasound is particularly meaningful.

A senior scientist at Sunnybrook Research Institute and professor of Medical Biophysics at the University of Toronto, Dr. Foster has devoted much of his career to advancing medical ultrasound technology.

His fascination began in the late 1970s when he witnessed the unveiling of an early ultrasound machine. The possibility of using sound waves to see inside the human body sparked a lifelong pursuit of developing technologies that could reveal what was previously invisible.

Over the decades, Dr. Foster and his research team helped pioneer micro-ultrasound, enabling researchers to see incredibly small structures within living tissue and opening new possibilities for understanding disease and improving care.

In 2025, his contributions were recognized with his appointment as an Officer of the Order of Canada, one of the country's highest honours.

Now, through the generosity of two friends, a career dedicated to advancing ultrasound technology is being celebrated in a way that will directly benefit patients in Kenora and surrounding communities.

A Lasting Tribute, A Meaningful Impact

Jeff and Laura's tribute gift will help complete the funding for a new Canon Aplio ultrasound machine at LWDH.

The 2026 Par 3 Charity Challenge, driven by the Dingwall Group, funded the majority of the equipment costs, with additional generosity, including this special tribute gift, helping to fully fund the purchase.

For patients in our region, access to modern diagnostic technology means more opportunities to receive high-quality care close to home.

For Dr. Foster, knowing that a gift made in his honour will strengthen healthcare in a rural community makes the recognition especially meaningful.

The Gift of Saying Thank You

There is something special about saying thank you while someone is here to hear it.

To see their reaction. To share in their joy. And to know that the gesture will continue making a difference long after the moment has passed.

Jeff and Laura's generosity is a beautiful reminder that we don't have to wait to celebrate the people who inspire us.

Their gift honours a remarkable individual, celebrates a lifetime of contributions to medical science, and creates a lasting impact for patients who will benefit from enhanced diagnostic care at LWDH.

For more information about Tribute Giving, contact Shauna Aubin at:
saubin@lwdh.on.ca | 807-468-9861 ext 2468



39th ANNUAL TREE OF LIFE APPEAL

Every Light has a Story.
Every Story Deserves to be Shared.

Each December, our Tree of Life shines brightly as a symbol of love, remembrance, gratitude, and hope. Every light represents someone special: a parent, grandparent, spouse, child, sibling, friend, or neighbour whose life has touched your own. And together, those lights remind us of the extraordinary community we are fortunate to call home.

For a donation of $10 per bulb, you can honour someone you love, remember someone you miss, or celebrate someone whose light continues to inspire you.

LIGHT A BULB. CELEBRATE A LIFE.
SUPPORT LOCAL HEALTHCARE.

bitly

Scan to make your gift online

ILLUMINATE HOPE ON GIVING TUESDAY

DECEMBER 1, 2026

On this global day of giving, shine a light of hope by purchasing a Tree of Life bulb. Each light celebrates your loved ones and strengthens local healthcare. Keep their stories shining bright.

Giving Tuesday Match Challenges

On December 1, 2026, participation-based Match Challenges will light the way! Each time a milestone is reached, a local partner will match donations, **doubling the impact of every gift to support the purchase of crash carts for our Hospital.**

Thank you to our Match Challenge Partners

- Lake Country FInancial: $1,000
- RBC: $1,500
- Kenora Optometry: $3,000
- Northern Hearing: $5,000
- Kennedy & Hamilton Families: $10,000

Join us to help reach each goal, double your impact, and brighten our community with hope and care close to home. Stay tuned for more details on how your donation can be matched.

Please note, bulbs can be purchased anytime between November 17- December 31, 2026. Thank you to everyone who continues to support enhanced patient care close to home!

YOU'RE INVITED!

Illuminate the Tree of Life ~ Nov 24 @ 7:30 p.m.

We invite you and your family to join us near Husky the Muskie at the Kenora harbourfront for hot chocolate and the official illumination of this year's Tree of Life at 8 p.m.

We hope you'll make this special evening part of your holiday traditions as we come together to celebrate the people who mean so much to us.



The Dufresne Family

TRANSFORMATIONAL $1 MILLION GIFT FROM THE DUFRESNE FAMILY WILL ADVANCE SURGICAL CARE

Gift made in memory of Douglas and Michael Dufresne launches initiative to strengthen surgical innovation, education and future care capacity

The Lake of the Woods District Hospital Foundation (LWDHF) is honoured to announce a transformational $1 million gift from The Dufresne Family, in memory of Douglas and Michael Dufresne, to strengthen surgical care at Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH).

The landmark donation launches The Strengthening Surgical Care Close To Home Initiative, an investment that will help ensure patients across Northwestern Ontario continue to receive exceptional surgical care closer to home.

The announcement comes during a milestone year for the Dufresne family as they celebrate 40 years since opening the first Dufresne Furniture & Appliances store in Kenora in 1986. What began as a single local store has grown into one of Canada's best-known furniture and appliance retailers.

Yet despite that growth, the family's connection to Kenora has remained at the heart of its story.

For the Dufresne family, this gift is both a celebration of the community that helped shape their success and a deeply personal tribute to two family members whose legacies continue to inspire future generations.

> *The story of our family and the community of Kenora have always been intertwined. Every milestone we've reached over the past 40 years has been made possible by the support of this community, creating a deep sense of gratitude and responsibility. In memory of Douglas and Michael Dufresne, we are honoured to help strengthen healthcare close to home and ensure families across the region have access to exceptional care for generations to come.*

Mark Dufresne, CEO, The Dufresne Group

The initiative will support strategic investments that strengthen the future of surgical care at LWDH, including advanced technologies, specialized equipment, education and training, and innovations that expand the procedures available locally. "Exceptional healthcare should never depend on your postal code," said Cheryl O'Flaherty President & CEO of Lake of the Woods District Hospital. "This investment strengthens our ability to continue delivering innovative surgical care in a rural setting while helping us attract, retain and support outstanding healthcare professionals. It is an investment in the future of healthcare throughout Northwestern Ontario."

Among the initiative's priorities are investments in technologies such as an advanced spinal navigation system and C-Arm imaging that allow surgeons to perform increasingly complex procedures close to home. LWDH is currently the only non-tertiary hospital in Canada performing minimally invasive spinal fusion surgery, demonstrating that innovative rural healthcare can rival larger urban centres.

The initiative will also support future investments that strengthen orthopedic services, expand surgical capacity, enhance laboratory equipment supporting surgical patients, and provide ongoing education and professional development for physicians, nurses and healthcare professionals.

"Over the last decade LWDH has redefined itself as a Hospital committed to advancing surgical care for the region and beyond," said Dr. David Puskas, Chief of Orthopedic Surgery, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Center and Medical Director North Western Ontario Regional Surgery Program. "It's one of the first Hospitals in Ontario whose total hip and knee replacement services are almost exclusively out patient."

"Additionally," said Dr. Puskas, "it has developed the first instrumented spinal surgery program outside of a tertiary care Hospital in the entire country. This took vision and commitment to excellence and became possible because of the confidence built up as a result of the success of the Hospital's other ventures in musculoskeletal surgery. I extend my heartfelt personal and professional thanks to the Dufresne family for their trust and generosity."

The Dufresne family hopes their transformational gift will inspire others to invest in the future of surgical care close to home.

STRENGTHENING SURGICAL CARE

Following the Dufresne's transformational gift of $1M, our community of donors has generously joined together to strengthen local surgical capacity by investing in state-of-the-art technology, innovative equipment, education, recruitment and ongoing professional development.



Mike and Mona Linton

The Lintons' $125,000 gift reflects their shared belief that exceptional healthcare depends not only on modern equipment, but also on investing in the people who provide care. Their generosity will help create opportunities for specialized education and hands-on training, ensuring local surgical teams continue to build their expertise while providing exceptional care in Northwestern Ontario.

> *"Doug Dufresne always inspired people to be constantly learning. We are pleased to honour his memory with a contribution to the Lake of the Woods District Hospital Foundation to support developing surgical capabilities in Kenora. Doug and his family were committed to this community."*
>
> *Mike Linton*



The Nickle Family and A&W Kenora
$25,000



Annual Ladies Open in Memory of Anchilla (Chilla) McDonald
$31,247.35

We are delighted to recognize the following major gifts made to the Strengthening Surgical Care Initiative:

- **2026 Vault on the Water: $7,000**
- **Sukhman's No Frills Kenora: $1,265**
- **6th LOTW Friends and Family Scramble: $7,360.18**

SIGNATURE EVENTS



LWDHF PAR 3 CHARITY CHALLENGE

DRIVEN BY THE Dingwall GROUP

Par 3 Charity Challenge driven by The Dingwall Group

Date: July 9, 2026 | **Total Raised (2026):** $203,822
Overall Total Raised: $1,056,000
Proceeds to: Ultrasound Machine, Diagnostic Imaging

"When we launched this tournament six years ago, we knew it had the potential to make a difference, but surpassing one million dollars raised is beyond what we could have imagined," said Laci Dingwall, Foundation Board Member, tournament organizer and Title Sponsor through The Dingwall Group. "This milestone belongs to our entire community. Year after year, our sponsors, golfers, volunteers, and partners continue to show up with incredible generosity, and together we're helping ensure our hospital has the equipment needed to provide exceptional care close to home."



Women's Health and Wellness Retreat

Date: July 12, 2026
Proceeds to: OB/GYN Stretcher in the ED

The event offered a morning dedicated to self-care, meaningful connection, and empowering conversations about women's health. Hosted in partnership with ZZYC and made possible through the generous support of the Reid Family, the retreat combined expert-led education, restorative movement, and nourishing local cuisine, while fostering a shared commitment to wellness among both year-round and seasonal residents. "When women come together to learn, lead, and share their stories, communities grow stronger," said Kathleen Reid, member of the Women's Health & Wellness Retreat Committee.



20th Anniversary Lifesavers Dinner & Auction

Date: Aug 8, 2026 | **Total Raised (2026):** $502,482
Overall Total Raised: $5M+
Proceeds to: Infant Abduction & Patient Wandering System and Strengthening Surgical Care Initiative

Held at the Royal Lake of the Woods Yacht Club, this milestone evening brought together community members, donors, physicians, and healthcare professionals to celebrate the impact of two decades of Lifesavers. At the heart of this year's success were the 40 Lighthouse Families, each of whom made a $10,000 contribution to the event. Their collective generosity represents $400,000 in support and continues a tradition that has become one of the defining features of the Lifesavers Dinner & Auction.

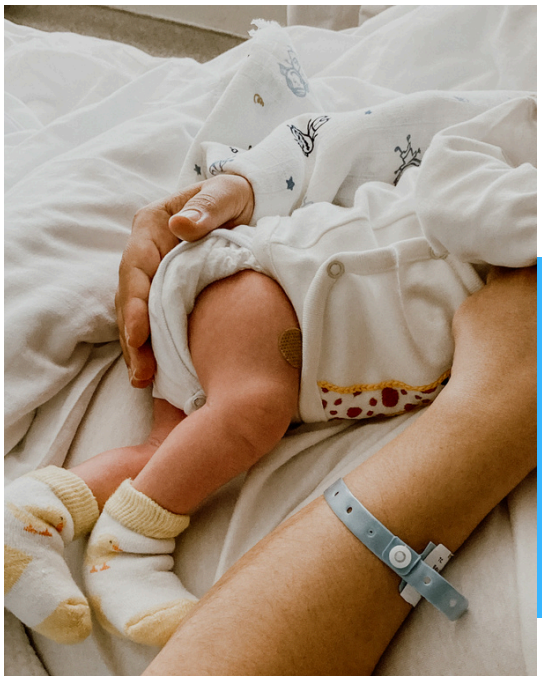
> *"It's an enormous privilege to carry forward a vision that began twenty years ago and has grown into an extraordinary philanthropic tradition. Lifesavers brings together generations of people who share a deep commitment to exceptional healthcare in our community."*

Lisa Paterson and Aynsley Cockshott, Co-Chairs of the 2026 Lifesavers Dinner & Auction

PROTECTING

OUR MOST VULNERABLE PATIENTS

At this year's 20th Anniversary Lifesavers Dinner and Auction, a portion of the funds raised supported the purchase of a new Infant Abduction and Patient Wandering System; a safety system that protects newborns and vulnerable patients every day on the second and third floors at LWDH.



The current system is over 25 years old and has reached the end of its life.

The new Civica RTLS system offers the same core infant protection capabilities staff rely on today, while introducing additional functionality that can be expanded over time to support wandering patient protection, adult patient monitoring, and even asset and equipment tracking.

The RTLS In Motion system helps create a safer care environment by providing immediate notifications when a protected patient or infant approaches an exit, stairwell, elevator, or other restricted area. Staff receive alerts in real time, allowing them to intervene quickly and prevent potential safety incidents.

KEY BENEFITS

- Early notification of patient wandering risks.
- Enhanced infant protection through real-time monitoring and alerts.
- Faster staff response to potential safety concerns.
- Reduced reliance on manual monitoring.
- Greater peace of mind for patients, families, and caregivers.
- A scalable platform that can support future patient and asset tracking initiatives.

Rather than simply replacing our current system, Civica expands the hospital's ability to protect patients while giving caregivers better tools to respond quickly and confidently when assistance is needed.

"Patient safety begins at birth. An Infant Abduction System strengthens security, supports staff, and reinforces trust between hospitals and the families they serve."

— Corinne Coffey, Manager of Ambulatory Programs and Obstetrics



GIVING TUESDAY

December 1, 2026

Shine a light on a loved one & double your impact on local healthcare.

Tree of Life

SHARE YOUR STORY

Every light has a story. And every story deserves to be shared.

This holiday season, the Tree of Life beside the Lake of the Woods District Hospital will shine once again.

But this year, the lights mean something even more.They represent the people we carry with us; our parents, grandparents, spouses, children, siblings, friends, and loved ones whose lives are part of our own.

Their light. Their love. Their legacy.

We invite you to keep those stories alive.

Share the story of someone you love, someone you miss, or someone whose life continues to inspire your family. Because when we remember, their light never truly goes out.

To share your loved ones story, please contact:
Shauna Aubin
saubin@lwdh.on.ca
807-468-9861 ext 2468

50/50 LOTTERY

“A loyal purchaser, Mark bought his original tickets as soon as they went on sale for the Holiday draw, but it was after receiving care at Lake of the Woods District Hospital in mid-December last year, that he bought additional tickets as a way to show his gratitude for the care he experienced.

"The Hospital was great and helped me significantly," he said. Those extra tickets ultimately led him to his huge win.

You could be our next winner...

lwdhf5050.ca



2025 Holiday 50/50 Winner of $51,880
Mark Parker from Kenora, ON



Jolene from Whitedog, ON
Sept 2026 Grand Prize Winner



Sherry-Lee from Ignace, ON
Aug 2026 Grand Prize Winner

Stay tuned for **SPECIAL HOLIDAY** ticket packages and prizes!



Marilyn from Kenora, ON
July 2026 Grand Prize Winner



Charlotte from Kenora, ON
June 2026 Grand Prize Winner



Arthur from Grassy Narrows, ON
May 2026 Grand Prize Winner

Lake of the Woods District Hospital Foundation
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