

DONOR IMPACT NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025 Edition



JOHN'S STORY

For John, a cancer patient at Lakeridge Health, the arrival of Durham Region's first PET-CT scanner could not have come at a better time.

"Dr. Schattner and I knew PET-CT was coming," John said. "We were waiting for this."

Like many patients in our community, John's entire cancer treatment has taken place at Lakeridge Health Oshawa, but he has travelled out-of-town for two PET-CT scans. Until now, the closest two scanners were in Toronto and Ottawa.

"We're a one-car family, so it takes a lot of planning," he explained. "Typically my wife drops me off at work and heads to Port Perry. When I go to Toronto for scans, she takes the day off to take me there. We have to figure out childcare too. It's a whole day thing."

During a recent test, John's Oncologist, Dr. Aariah Schattner, noticed some inflammation. Investigating it would require another PET-CT scan. Thanks to the recent outpouring of donor support, commuting for care would no longer be a problem.

"I live five minutes from the Oshawa hospital," John said. "The idea that I could come here and get this scan was amazing."

Thanks to *Our Cancer Campaign*, Lakeridge Health officially unveiled the scanner at the beginning of November 2024. John's scan was booked for December.

He was able to see his results on Christmas Eve and learned that the swelling had gone down.

"It's a lot easier to wake up in the morning knowing you don't have to sit in traffic," John laughed. "I was back home having a coffee before noon."

"My care was great before. Now that I can get scans here it's even better. It's everything in one space; I don't have to go anywhere else."

Read more about Durham Region's first PET-CT scanner on page 3, or at www.LHFoundation.ca!

The Future of Health Care in Whitby

Last August, the Provincial Government announced a transformative investment towards expanding health care services in Durham Region, including a new hospital in Whitby.

As we stand on the brink of a new era in health care in this community and beyond, we know our donors have many questions about what's to come.

With planning for the new Whitby hospital in the very early stages, we ask our donors to please stay tuned for more information as it becomes available. We're working closely with our colleagues at Lakeridge Health to understand all aspects of what's involved with this new facility such as potential new services and the prospective timeline.

For updates and to learn more please visit our website at www.LHFoundation.ca.

LIFE-SAVING DEVICES ARE IN OUR HANDS!

This holiday season, we learned that even a postal strike couldn't stop our donor community from making sure life-saving equipment was in the hands of our expert staff!

With the support and encouragement of Dr. Puneet Singh and Dr. Shannon Trainor, and all those who gave to our holiday appeal, **all 58 urgently needed Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) have been funded for our Oshawa Hospital!**



Your enthusiasm was a sight to see! Thanks to your support we exceeded our goal and can now direct any additional funds raised toward a number of other critically important items on our Whitby and Oshawa Hospital wish lists.

Without you, these essential devices simply could not have been purchased. Thank you for being so generous and continually helping ensure the best health care is available, close to home!

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Notepads for Life

Stephanie, Marja and Elke donated \$5,000 toward cancer care raised through their initiative Notepads for Life, in honour of their father and husband. Over the past five years, Notepads for Life has raised an incredible \$20,000 to support the R.S. McLaughlin Durham Regional Cancer Centre!



Winterfest

Owasco Volkswagen raised \$880 through their community event Winterfest, which was then generously topped up to \$3,200 by owner Bob Verwey to purchase an AED unit for Lakeridge Health Oshawa!

SPOTLIGHT: PET-CT



Excitement at the PET-CT ribbon cutting ceremony.

Ground-Breaking Technology Arrives in Oshawa

Durham Region's first-ever PET-CT scanner has arrived at Lakeridge Health Oshawa, bringing essential diagnostic imaging options closer to home than ever before.

PET-CT, or Positron Emission Tomography (PET) with Computerized Tomography (CT), allows for detailed, three-dimensional scans that can easily detect unusual or abnormal activity happening at the cellular level.

These scans are a vital tool in diagnosing cancer and may also be used to evaluate the function of organs, such as the brain or heart, and other tissues for the presence of disease or other conditions. For many

patients, a PET-CT scan is an essential part of a cancer treatment plan.

Thanks to our donors, \$2.17 million was raised through *Our Cancer Campaign* and granted to Lakeridge Health for the project. These funds, along with \$2.74 million from the Government of Ontario, Ontario Health, and Cancer Care Ontario allowed for the purchase of PET-CT equipment and renovations to outfit its new home in the Nuclear Medicine department.

The arrival of PET-CT technology in Durham Region makes an incredible impact on the well-being of patients and families, some who will no longer have to commute as far as Toronto or Ottawa for access to lifesaving diagnostic imaging services.

Currently, there are only 16 PET-CT machines across Ontario, and many expert staff at Lakeridge Health have been advocating to bring this

technology to the Region for years. The purchase of this equipment has been a special milestone for Lakeridge Health staff and patients alike.

It is anticipated that the scanner will support 1,000 patients in its first year, with volumes of scans increasing gradually thereafter.

The arrival of PET-CT at our Oshawa Hospital is a true testament to the generosity of our donor community.

"We extend our deepest appreciation to all who contributed to this vital project," says Yves Gadler, CEO, Lakeridge Health Foundation. "Bringing PET-CT to Lakeridge Health was one of the major innovations made possible by generous donors to *Our Cancer Campaign* and represents our community's dedication to advancing cancer services and ensuring exceptional health care is available close to home."



BRACE FOR IMPACT PODCAST

Let's brace for impact... as we share powerful health care stories, made possible by you! We are thrilled to announce the launch of the *Brace for Impact* Podcast, a collaborative project with Lakeridge Health Foundation and cancer survivor Kolter Bouchard.

A unique and exciting venture for our Foundation, *Brace for Impact* directly highlights the importance

and impact of support from donors for our patients. Offering video and audio options, the series features interviews with inspiring patients, medical experts and donors while providing a crash course in how fundraising changes lives.

Learn more, tune in and see upcoming episodes at www.BraceForImpactPod.ca!

Thank you for your support – Connect with us!

Have a story to share?

We'd love to hear it. Contact Adrienne at aburns@lh.ca or **905-576-8711 ext 32784**



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A Message of Thanks!

The Lakeridge Health Whitby 4th floor team sent a big thank you for the generous purchase of a new bladder scanner on their unit.

This bladder scanner was funded by proceeds raised from the Bike for Health event, which took place in June 2024.

Additionally, funds from this event have purchased two bladder scanners for our Oshawa Hospital.

On behalf of our staff, and the patients who will undoubtedly benefit from this new equipment, thank you for your dedicated support!



Circle of Gratitude

Team members from our Oshawa Surgical program helped us congratulate surgeon Dr. Andrew Yuen, whose grateful patient made a gift in his honour and shared they "felt comfortable, confident and trusted all his decisions on my care."

To learn more about honouring a staff member or volunteer through the Circle of Gratitude program, visit www.CircleofGratitude.ca!

