



# FRASER VALLEY HEALTH CARE

NEWS • SPRING 2022

## FOUNDATION

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR HOSPITAL. YOUR FOUNDATION.

### CHILLIWACK GENERAL HOSPITAL (CGH)

## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Marcel and Stella Nadeau moved from Quebec to Chilliwack in 1998 to open a Canadian Tire store. The store opened in May of 1999 and the business has grown over the past 24 years to the extent that they are currently constructing a brand-new store in Chilliwack, scheduled to open in October 2022. The new store will be one of the largest in Canada.

Shortly after moving to Chilliwack Marcel and Stella were joined by Marcel's father, mother, sister and her husband. Says Marcel, "Chilliwack is home to us, we love it here, it is our community. Stella and I raised both of our kids here in Chilliwack and my son is currently the project manager overseeing the construction of our new store."

Marcel and Stella are long-time supporters of Fraser Valley Health Care Foundation and Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities. Says Marcel, "The Chilliwack and far eastern Fraser Valley community has been very good to us and our family. They have always been very supportive of our business and I feel it is very important that businesses give back what they can to the community that supports them."

Elaborating Marcel goes on to say, "I believe that Chilliwack General

Hospital is the foundation of the community. When my father was in our hospital, he received amazing care. Our personal friends include doctors and nurses from the hospital. A well-equipped hospital is the life force of any community and we want to help ensure that our medical professionals have the tools they need to provide the best care possible in our hospital so that we, our family and our friends have access to the best care when we need it."

#### THE MOST URGENT NEED AT CGH IS A \$395,000 MAMMOGRAPHY MACHINE.

Mammography machines are an essential diagnostic tool for detecting breast cancer which is the most common cancer among Canadian women. On average 76 women in Canada will be diagnosed with breast cancer every day and 15 women will die from breast cancer every day. Currently women in Chilliwack and area need to travel to Abbotsford or further west for a mammogram. Having a Mammogram Machine at CGH will reduce wait and travel times and earlier diagnosis will mean better outcomes for most patients.



### HEALTH CARE, FRASER VALLEY EAST

The Fraser Valley Health Care Foundation provides support for four hospitals, each serving individual communities, but each a part of the larger community of the Fraser Valley East.

#### If you live in:

... Mission or Hope, you need to travel to Chilliwack or Abbotsford to have a baby because there are no regular maternity services at Hope or Mission.

... Mission or Hope, where there is no CT scanner you will be sent to Abbotsford or Chilliwack if you have a stroke.

... Chilliwack, Mission or Hope, where there is no MRI you will be sent to Abbotsford if you have a tumor that requires an MRI scan.

... Mission, Abbotsford or Hope, and need cataract surgery you will be sent to Chilliwack where there is a regional eye care program.

**In our region, no matter which of the several smaller or larger communities we live in, we're all a part of one very large Fraser Valley East community when it comes to health care.**

## ABBOTSFORD REGIONAL HOSPITAL (ARH) BONNIE – A DEDICATED VOLUNTEER



When Bonnie and her husband retired, they moved from Salmon Arm to Abbotsford to be closer to their daughter and her family. Bonnie had three goals: stay busy, give back to the community and meet new people, so she joined the Auxiliary to ARH where says Bonnie, “I have met some really nice people and am able to give back to my local community.”

Bonnie is now in her 12th year volunteering for the Auxiliary. With her experience running her own 4000 sq. ft. gift shop in Salmon Arm she managed the ARH gift shop for several years.

Bonnie is a past Auxiliary president and since 2015 has been the Auxiliary’s representative on the Foundation Board of Directors. Bonnie is also one of the volunteers that assist in surgical daycare at ARH. To be ready for her 6 am shift Bonnie is up at 3:30 am.

At surgical day care Bonnie greets patients, takes them and the bag for their personal items to where they will change and explains how the hospital gowns are to be worn. Once gowned, the nursing staff does a pre surgery interview with them. When finished Bonnie takes the patients into the surgical waiting room where she settles them into large chairs much like lazy boy recliners. She makes them comfortable with a warm blanket, pillows and some chatting to calm their nerves while they await their surgery.

“A few of the patients are very apprehensive and nervous prior to their

procedures so I try to calm them as much as I can,” says Bonnie. “My experience at the hospital is always 100% fulfilling. The nurses, doctors and other medical staff are all exceptional people and they really show their appreciation for all we do. I have never left a shift in surgical daycare without a warm thank you from everyone.”

**Thank you to Bonnie and to all the dedicated and caring members of the Auxiliary to ARH.**



### THE MOST URGENT NEED AT ARH IS \$400,000 FOR THE ED

The ARH Emergency Department (ED) sees over 44,000 patients annually and is need of support. The most urgent need is \$400,000 for a Vocera Communication Platform which is a clinical communication platform. Each staff member wears a Vocera communication device which offers hands free operation so staff can keep working while communicating. The microphone is designed to reduce background noise, the speaker provides clear audio, and each device integrates with phone, clinical and alarm systems to streamline communication.

**In emergency situations, every second counts and the Vocera communications system ensures that critical information reaches the right person at the right time, saving valuable time and precious lives.**



### A FAMILY TRADITION IS BORN

From the age of two, Mia Gill started donating the money she received for her birthday to the paediatric unit at Abbotsford hospital. She has now passed that family tradition on to her cousin Gavin Nahal. The pink piggy bank is the original one used to collect the money since Mia was little.

Below and below left: Vocera Smartbadge. Top: Mia Gill and Gavin Nahal.



### HONOURING FAMILY

David Lu and his parents Weng Chang Lu (Thomas) and Su Chu Lan (Julie) have lived in Abbotsford for over 20 years. David became a monthly donor in 2020 and through his company BCN Media is donating \$500 a month to the Fraser Valley Health Care Foundation.

David’s dad Thomas has many serious health issues and often needs his blood drawn 3 to 4 times per day.

Says David, “My dad’s veins are really tiny and that makes the blood draws difficult for the nurses and for dad. A couple of years ago a nurse told me that it is best if they use a paediatric cannula to do the blood draws for my dad, but they are often in short supply. I initially became a monthly donor so that the hospital

## MISSION MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (MMH) A GRATEFUL FAMILY PAYS TRIBUTE

To the Staff of Cherry Neighborhood,  
On the behalf of the family of Enid Fell,  
we would like to thank everyone who was  
part of her care.

Enid was a resident of Cherry Neighborhood  
for four years. We would also like to thank  
the support workers and those that took her on outings  
and involved her in activities and celebrations. It was hard  
for the family to place her in a facility regardless of mom's  
previous wishes. We appreciated how the staff made the  
transition easy not only for us, but for her. She came to enjoy  
all the social activities along with making friends.

We want to acknowledge Pinder Gill for making the call to us  
on the night mom passed. We were grateful for being able to be  
by her side for the last four hours of her life. Pinder knew mom  
so well and knew something wasn't right. If it wasn't for her  
call, mom would have passed alone without her family  
at her side.

We wish to donate \$1,000 in Enid's name to TRIM for all the  
exceptional care and love and attention that was given to her.  
On behalf of the family, we thank you very much for the care  
of Enid Fell.

Winnifred Raine and Linda Cole



## THE MOST URGENT NEED AT MMH IS A NEW CT SCANNER

MMH is the only hospital in Fraser Health west of Hope without an on-site CT scanner. CT scanners are an essential diagnostic medical tool. They are critical for emergency care, inpatient hospital care and outpatient diagnosis. At present the staff at MMH often spend hours trying to access a scan for patients and precious diagnostic time is lost which can be critical.

We have raised over \$400,000 towards the CT scanner to date and we urgently need to raise the other \$900,000 of the \$1.3 million required to finalize the purchase.



would have more money for specialized items like paediatric cannulas for kids and for people like dad." In the past year his dad Thomas been hospitalized twice. David's mom Julie recently had surgery at Abbotsford Hospital to remove bone splinters from her arm which was broken in a car accident.

to explain treatments and we are extremely satisfied with the care both my parents have received."

"I know we are very lucky in Canada to have our healthcare system," says David. "The treatments my parents have received would have cost a lot in a country where healthcare is

and to help ensure that equipment and technology needs will be met going forward."

David's Mom, Julie recently donated \$5,000 to the foundation to show her appreciation of the health care her family have received over the years. They live in Abbotsford and have received all treatments at ARH but Julie allocated part of her donation to the new CT scanner at Mission Hospital. She feels there is a real need and that having another CT scanner in the Fraser Valley East will benefit the entire region. Says David, "I think it is great that the foundation allows us to allocate our donations to specific facilities and campaigns. I encourage everyone to give whatever they can. We learned from the disaster in November that in the Fraser Valley East we're one big community and our doctors, nurses and other healthcare pros need our support to keep doing the great work they do."

## “ We learned from the disaster in November that in the Fraser Valley East we're one big community

"The doctors at Abbotsford Hospital have been giving my dad excellent treatment for over 20 years," says David, "they have saved his life at least 10 times so to me, they are top in their fields. The treatment that my mom received was also fantastic. The nurses are very caring, the doctors take the time

paid out of pocket. However, I know government funding can't cover all of the latest technology and equipment that is required for our dedicated doctors and nurses to provide the very best care. I continue to give \$500 a month to show my appreciation for the exceptional care my family has received over the past 20 years

## HOPE — FRASER CANYON HOSPITAL (FCH)

# THE CHALLENGES OF RURAL MEDICINE



Abbotsford born and raised; Dr. Aseem Grover loves his job as Medical Director at FCH. Says Dr. Grover, “When I did my residency at St. Paul’s I

spent five months working in Rural Medicine and I decided that this is how I want to practice medicine, rather than working with my dad and brother who are family practitioners in Abbotsford. Rural medicine offers me challenges, excitement, and opportunities to practice a variety of medical procedures that I wouldn’t experience in family practice.”

Fraser Canyon Hospital serves the community of Hope, more than 20 small indigenous communities and other small communities and residences along the Coquahala and Trans-Canada highways. Dr. Grover says that the aim of his team is to provide quality rural care close to home – or away from home for those travelling through the area. Says Dr. Grover, “We’re a small hospital but we’re a mighty team.” A statement that was proven last November when disaster struck.

At the height the disaster, caused by extreme flooding and landslides, Dr. Grover and his team were cut off from the rest of the province. The

small ten bed hospital operated under code orange status (indicative of disaster) from November 14th to December 5th. During this time the team had to treat their regular patients and about 1,100 travelers stranded in Hope – some of them critically injured.

Due to high winds the team experienced numerous challenges arranging the transfer by helicopter, of patients they had stabilized, to medical facilities where they could receive appropriate further care.

Says Dr. Grover, “The hospital has seen a significant increase in patient volumes over the last few years and upgraded and new equipment is critical to providing safe patient care in our emergency department and acute inpatient unit.”

Hope’s FCH is the medical facility of choice for many indigenous people because it is close, and they trust the medical team to implement culturally safe practices. Additionally, many people arrive at FCH in serious or critical condition, and it is up to the team at Hope to get them stabilized so they can either send them by ambulance or helicopter to a larger hospital or trauma centre or treat them in their acute inpatient unit.

Says Dr. Grover, “Fraser Canyon Hospital is unique, we are the only acute medical care center responsible for several communities in an extremely

large and mountainous area. The next closest ER is in Chilliwack, over 50 km away. If you need medical care in our area, FCH is where you’ll be treated first.”

### THE MOST URGENT NEEDS AT FCH ARE:



#### \$17,695 FOR A NEW BLADDER SCANNER

Bladder scanners are a very central care tool used to assess fluid levels in patients who are unable to urinate due

to a blockage, injury or other medical condition causing patients to retain fluids. The current bladder scanner is old and inaccurate and needs to be replaced.

#### \$6,118 FOR TWO NEW CRASH CARTS

Crash carts are essential when cardiac resuscitation is required and are especially essential in times of accident and disaster. The current crash cart is old, outdated and needs to be replaced. With increased patient volumes and in support of disaster preparedness a second new crash cart is also vital.



## 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](mailto:info@fvhcf.ca)