



Kelli Giroux, RN

# BETTER CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

NHH FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025



**NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS  
HOSPITAL FOUNDATION**  
Better Care for Our Community

PROUDLY  
SUPPORTING



**NHH**  
Northumberland  
Hills Hospital

## ENDOWMENT GIVING

### Remembering Diane Lorenz

The Hospital family was deeply saddened on the news long-time Hospital champion, Diane Lorenz, passed away in June.

Diane served as the Chair of the Hospital Board (then known as the Cobourg District General Hospital) at the time this foundation was founded in 1993. She along with her late husband Ed, went on to become one of the NHH Foundation's fiercest supporters.

"She always had the greatest trust and faith in everything we set out to accomplish," shares Rhonda Cunningham, NHH Foundation CEO. "When we first launched the annual gala in 2000, Diane and Ed were in the room. Diane told me she felt her gala days were long behind her, but she came out and supported anyway to ensure this new initiative got off to a strong start. She was a believer."

In honour of the significant bequest left to the Hospital in her Will, the Foundation Board has approved the creation of the Ed & Diane Lorenz Endowment Fund to ensure the hospital - a cause they believed so deeply in - would annually receive financial support in the Lorenz name in perpetuity.

Diane's close friend, Laura McCracken Ebbrell shared that "Diane was a woman ahead of her time. Hers was a life well lived."

Thank you, Diane, for all you have done and will continue to do through your legacy gift, to support health care services in Northumberland.



**Diane and Ed Lorenz**

## WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT?

Endowment funds provide financial strength and stability to allow NHH to offer the very best care to our patients in the future, while creating a permanent legacy in support of the hospital. Funds given to the endowment program are permanently invested and only a portion of the income is expended annually. In recent years, the annual distribution to the hospital has been invested in ongoing educational opportunities for NHH staff.

As of December 31, 2024, the Foundation's endowment is \$8,957,029.

### Endowment Fast Facts

- Named endowment funds established at minimum donation of \$100,000 (can be funded over up to 5-year period)
- Endowments are held in perpetuity; only a portion of the investment income earned on the principal is spent
- Endowment funds can be established and named in honour or in memory of a family member or loved one
- You can direct your gift to a special area of interest (e.g. diagnostic, emergency care, etc.)

## 2024 LEGACY LEADERS

We are pleased to recognize and celebrate those who remembered the Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation in their Will, with a gift received during 2024.



**Francis Beverly Rollings**  
February 13, 1930 - December 17, 2021



**John Darmanin**  
January 17, 1951 - March 22, 2023



**Marie Chisholm**  
September 18, 1934 - April 14, 2023



**Katalin Futo**  
February 11, 1952 - September 26, 2023



**Diane Lorenz**  
May 2, 1934 - June 7, 2024



**Richard Moore**  
November 23, 1945 - January 18, 2024



**Paul Lionel Pearse**  
February 27, 1936 - March 29, 2024



**Doreen Jenkin**  
December 29, 1931 - December 21, 2023

## OUR PROMISE TO YOU AS A LEGACY DONOR

- We will always respect your privacy.
- We won't put you under pressure - it's a big decision so please decide in your own time.
- Your family comes first. We know it, we respect it and we won't try and change it.
- We'll use your special gift wisely and effectively.
- You don't have to tell us how much you are leaving to us - we respect your right to privacy.
- We'll answer any questions you have honestly and quickly.
- If you want your gift to be spent in an area that's special to you, we'll do our best to arrange it.

(Source: adapted and used with permission from OXFAM)

For more information on how you can provide for a gift to NHH Foundation in your Will, or to obtain sample wording, please contact Rhonda Cunningham, CEO of NHH Foundation, at 905-377-7767 or [rcunningham@nhh.ca](mailto:rcunningham@nhh.ca).

## A LASTING LEGACY

### Judith Hickey MRI Lounge Soon to be Unveiled

The NHH Foundation is celebrating an extraordinary donation. In a heartfelt gesture of love and remembrance, the Hickey Family Foundation has made a significant donation to NHH in memory of Judith Hickey. This generous gift will not only honour the memory of Judith but also support the important work of NHH - a cause close to the family.

Prior to moving to the area in 2008, Judith and her husband, David, had moved to a farm in Millbrook. "The farm was getting to be a lot of work and Judy and I realized the time had come to sell. We were drawn to the Port Hope and Cobourg communities where we liked to frequent various restaurants and shops," shares David. "When we found a home we fell in love with, the deal was done and we made the move to Cobourg."

Through their Hickey Family Foundation, they began making annual gifts in support of NHH, hoping, like most, they would never need the Hospital's services. This turned out not to be the case and, in fact, it was a visit to NHH's Emergency Department that led to Judith's diagnosis of Pancreatic cancer.

Remembering this time, David shares, "It was right after Christmas and Judy had not been feeling well. When she complained of pain, I knew we needed to get to the bottom of her health decline."

They arrived at NHH Emergency on New Year's Day. Bloodwork led to a CT scan, followed a few days later by an MRI and an appointment with an oncologist to confirm the diagnosis. Judith had a mass on the tail of her pancreas. It was inoperable.

She passed away on January 16, 2023.

"The Doctor working in the Emergency Department that day was very busy, yet he had a suspicion, and he was committed to taking the time to get the answers we needed," shares David. "There was no good news to be shared that day, but this Doctor's compassion and dedication to caring for my wife really struck a chord with me," he continued. The doctor was Dr. Steve Slobodian, an anesthetist and Emergency Department physician. "I liked what he was about. He said he would connect us to an oncologist, and he delivered on that promise."

It was out of a sense of gratitude David began to consider how he would express his thanks to the health care team at NHH, and more importantly, honour his wife - his life partner of 59 years and the mother to their two children, Susanne and Stephen. "Judy was a multi-faceted woman with superb culinary skills and a flair for entertaining, understated elegance, and most of all her thoughtful and kind nature. She was a cornerstone of our family, always putting the needs of others before her own. Known for her warmth, compassion, and selflessness, Judy touched the lives of all who knew her; whether an active member of the Inner Wheel in Cobourg or volunteering for various community organizations like the Millbrook Historical Society where she was instrumental in securing not-for-profit status for that Society, or simply being there for friends and family, her spirit of generosity knew no bounds. Judy was an extraordinary woman who dedicated her life to helping others," said David.

He reached out to the Foundation office and through a series of discussions the naming of the MRI waiting area was confirmed. Plans are underway to unveil The Judith Hickey MRI Lounge in 2025.

Through this enduring recognition, the Hickey family has found a way to honour the incredible wife and mother Judith was, knowing that her spirit will live through this contribution; while also thanking the team of professionals who took such care with her. People like Dr. Slobodian, Dr. Koneru, Dr. Mulé, and all the technologists who participated in her journey as a patient.

“The donation made in memory of Judith is a reflection of the love and strength she shared with her family and the community,” said Rhonda Cunningham, Chief Executive Officer of NHH Foundation. “We are deeply honoured to receive this donation in her memory, and we are committed to using it in the best way possible. Her legacy will continue to inspire and make a difference for years to come.”



*David Hickey, Dr. Slobodian, Susanne Hickey*

## **We proudly recognize and thank those who have established Named Endowments**

Ross and Susan Eddy  
Allan & Karen Birney  
Lynn Hardy  
A.K. & Bob Sculthorpe  
Marjory Harris  
David C. & Bea Roffey  
Denman Sinclair  
Carol Knapper  
Don Morrison Family

Dr. Robert & Ann Scott  
Leslie Denman Boyd  
Isobel Milne  
Rosamond Comrie  
Bob MacCoubrey  
James & Heather Irvine  
Rolph Family  
David & Esther Patterson  
Stanley & Doris Gainer

Frederick J. & Isabella W. Troop  
Reba & James Smith  
Tom & Alice Behan  
The Giles Family  
The Novinka Family  
Ralph, Reginald & Eva Herne  
Phillips Family  
John & Jean Farrell  
Ed & Diane Lorenz

For more information on the Endowment program, please contact (905) 377-7767 or [rcunningham@nhh.ca](mailto:rcunningham@nhh.ca)

## Donor Spotlight - Dr. Bill and Anne Cross

### In the words of Rhonda Cunningham, NHH Foundation CEO

If you were to look up the definition of “trusted advisor; loyal; desire to help, or generous” you might find the names Dr. Bill and Anne Cross.

During my career with the Foundation, I have sought out their opinion on key business matters and have witnessed their unwavering support - both in terms of volunteer time and financial resources. They lead with their hearts and always give sound advice, and I appreciate both.

“It was during the capital campaign to build the Northumberland Hills Hospital I was first introduced to Anne. She agreed to be part of the fundraising team that invited financial support from the community. When this campaign successfully concluded, we convinced her to serve as the first-ever Chair to the Caring for Generations Society - a new initiative to encourage annual giving. She also served on the Foundation’s Board of Directors.

When I asked her why she did it? Why she dedicated so much time and heart to the Hospital, she shared “it fed my soul to be surrounded by these people who were so giving to their community, and so energetic, and I think that’s what kept me going for as long as I did.”

Bill, having moved to the community in 1996, joined a practice at the Cobourg Medical Centre. He also found the time to work in the Hospital’s Emergency Department, Operating Rooms, Intensive Care Unit, and served on several committees. Beyond the walls of the Hospital, he made house calls and visits to Golden Plough Lodge and hosted a number of family practice students prior to his retirement in 2014.



**Anne and Dr. Bill Cross**

He told me he made certain the students were aware of the significance of community fundraising in connection to healthcare and that he was inspired by the community’s response to the hospital’s needs over the years.

Their investment of time and resources has personally impacted the level of care our community receives, and as luck would have it, has also benefitted their family.

Many of their grandchildren took their first breaths at NHH and were often welcomed into the world in a birthing suite dedicated to the memory of Anne’s first husband, Dr. David Flindall.

They also credit NHH with saving their son-in law’s life after he experienced a cardiac arrest while out for a walk. And most recently Anne’s sister spent time in the ICU.

Looking back on these personal experiences, they are reminded of the benefit of having care close to home. “I think the Hospital is the most important institution in the community for healthcare, and that’s why we like to support,” they shared with me.

Anne and Bill... you play an important role in this Hospital’s story, and we are grateful for everything you do. Thank you!

## Thank you, Sunrise Rotary

Grief is a difficult journey David Houston knows all too well. David, the eldest of three sons to David and Jenny Houston, is the lone surviving member of his immediate family.

His father and brother, Teddy, both passed away in 2018 and more recently, he lost his mom in October 2023, and his brother John, just three weeks later. Prior to these recent losses, David spent a lot of time at Northumberland Hills Hospital visiting Jenny and John, who were battling leukemia and pancreatic cancer, respectively.

As a frequent visitor during their admissions, he saw the difference having a well-equipped local hospital makes for our community and resolved to later do something to support the hospital, something special. He did not know what that special act would be until this past April when Dr. Andrew Stratford and fellow Rotarian, Hank Vandermeer, made a presentation to the Rotary Club of Northumberland Sunrise.

David, a Charter member of this Rotary Club since 2000, even serving as the Club's President in 2004, listened intently as Dr. Stratford and Hank asked for the Club's financial support to purchase Operating Room stretchers - outlining the important role these stretchers play in supporting the safe transfer of surgical patients

during their care. The NHH Foundation was hoping to purchase five (5) stretchers at a price of almost \$9,000 each.

Impressed with the presentation, David knew this was the idea he was looking for to honour his mother and brother's memory.

"After how wonderfully the staff looked after my mom and brother, I wanted to do something in their memory," said Houston

He committed to donating the first \$5,000 and challenged his fellow Club members to also donate.

"Sunrise Rotarians have a history of rising to the occasion when asked and this time was no exception. Within only a matter of months, over \$48,000 was raised - meaning all five of the OR stretchers were 100% funded by the Club," President, Denise O'Brien proudly shares. "David's generosity inspired our Club to follow his lead and do our part to help purchase much needed Operating Room Stretchers. Without hesitation, the Club rose to the challenge."

The entire hospital family is grateful to David and all Sunrise Rotarians for answering the call when asked. It's an honour to be included in your generosity.



**Dr. Andrew Stratford,  
Sunrise Rotary President  
Denise O'Brien, Rotarian  
David Houston, and  
Rotarian and Campaign  
Chair Hank Vandermeer**

## NHH FOUNDATION PLANNED GIVING COMMITTEE

The Planned Giving Committee is an advisory working committee, providing guidance and support for Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation's gift planning endeavours and acting as advocates for the program. Volunteer committee members are appointed based on their Estate, trust, tax, insurance and financial planning expertise. Members generously share their time to help NHH Foundation staff and potential donors receive helpful information.

To learn more about our giving programs, visit [NHHFoundation.ca](http://NHHFoundation.ca)

### Planned Giving Committee



**Planned Giving Chair**  
John Racine  
*Racine Financial*



Gavin Ivory  
NHH Foundation  
Board Chair



Andrew Russell  
*Neil Burgess & Associates*



Kerry Lynch  
*Lynch Rutherford Tozer*  
Chartered Professional Accountants



Alison Lester  
*Lester and Associates*



Ziyad Sidawi  
*Part-Time CFO Services*



Rhonda Cunningham  
NHH Foundation  
Chief Executive Officer

### WANT TO HEAR MORE? Foundation News & Events



In addition to our bi-annual print newsletters, NHH Foundation shares news and information such as donor profiles, grateful patient stories, staff features, and upcoming events digitally throughout the year. If you'd like to sign up to receive this in your email inbox:

- Subscribe at [NHHFoundation.ca](http://NHHFoundation.ca)
- OR contact [jgilmer@nhh.ca](mailto:jgilmer@nhh.ca) or (905) 372-6811 ext. 3075.

### Privacy Policy

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