



Dr. Steve Slobodian, Anesthesiologist

COMMUNITY LIVES HERE.

**NHH FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2026**



**Northumberland Hills
Hospital Foundation**
Better Care for Our Community

PROUDLY
SUPPORTING



NHH
Northumberland
Hills Hospital

A LASTING LEGACY

Keith Burley

To Keith Burley, family, friends, and creating community were the most important things in life. His deep appreciation for community and for helping others was reflected in his decision to leave a gift in his Will to Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH), where he witnessed that same spirit through the care, compassion, and family-like support shown to his wife, Genevieve.

Keith, originally from Newtonville, and Genevieve, from Cobourg, married on April 4, 1953 and lived a long, happy, and adventurous life together.

Before meeting Genevieve, Keith had attended Port Hope High School, leaving in his second year to help his father at the family's Newtonville based garage. After taking a Tool and Die course, he began working for General Electric before enlisting with the Canadian Air Force. Keith trained as an aero engine mechanic and was posted in P.E.I., where he worked on and flew many different World War II trainer and combat aircraft. Following his discharge from the Air Force, Keith returned to Ontario and his family business, which by then consisted of garage work, snow ploughing, operations of one tow truck and two school buses, and a 200-acre farm.

Keith focused on the bus operations and in 1956, he became the sole owner of Burley Bus Lines, which he grew throughout his career to include school, charter, intercity, transit and suburban services. In the early years of their marriage, Keith and Genevieve resided in Cobourg, where Genevieve taught at local schools and Keith expanded Burley Bus Lines from having services in Port Hope, Cobourg, Bowmanville, and Peterborough, to opening a division in the Guelph/Kitchener area. In 1970, Keith sold the Northumberland area operations and



Keith Burley

the two moved with their five children to Waterloo to both focus on the Guelph/Kitchener operations and enjoy more time for their shared passion of sailing.

Together, Keith and Genevieve set off on adventures most will never experience – sailing from Hamilton, Ontario to Newfoundland, crossing the Atlantic Ocean in their 44-foot yacht, touring the Mediterranean and Caribbean by sea, and more.

In 2002, Keith and Genevieve returned home to Northumberland, moving just north of Port Hope to the village of Canton. As Genevieve experienced health issues in the later years of her life, they were grateful to have NHH close by as she spent time in hospital on and off as a patient from 2014 to when she passed in 2020. Throughout each visit, her care teams treated her like family, providing personal touches and helping to comfort both her and Keith.

Even throughout the height of the pandemic, when updates to family were provided mostly by phone, their efforts and compassion helped maintain the connection and comfort with those unable to visit Genevieve in hospital.

When Keith passed in May 2024, he left a gift in his Will to NHH Foundation in appreciation of the care and kindness provided to Genevieve. For someone who had an open-door policy, who treated strangers like family, and who would go out of his way to help others, the team's treatment of his wife – the love of his life – made a lasting impact and now, his gift will make a lasting impact on others in our community.

2025 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 2025.



Muriel Helen Maughan
Jan 4, 1920 - May 19, 2025



Marguerite Elsie Ruttan
Oct 20, 1928 - Mar 16, 2022



Phyllis Bowers
Feb 13, 1935 - Feb 10, 2025



John Darmanin
Jan 17, 1951 - Mar 22, 2023



Keith Burley
Sept 19, 1923 - May 12, 2024



Norah Cowan
Sept 8, 1938 - May 5, 2024



Catherine Edna Earl
Jan 22, 1958 - Sept 23, 2025



Peter Clifford Roe
Aug 30, 1933 - Apr 19, 2025

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 to 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.

A Legacy of Learning

Honouring Dorothy De Lisle

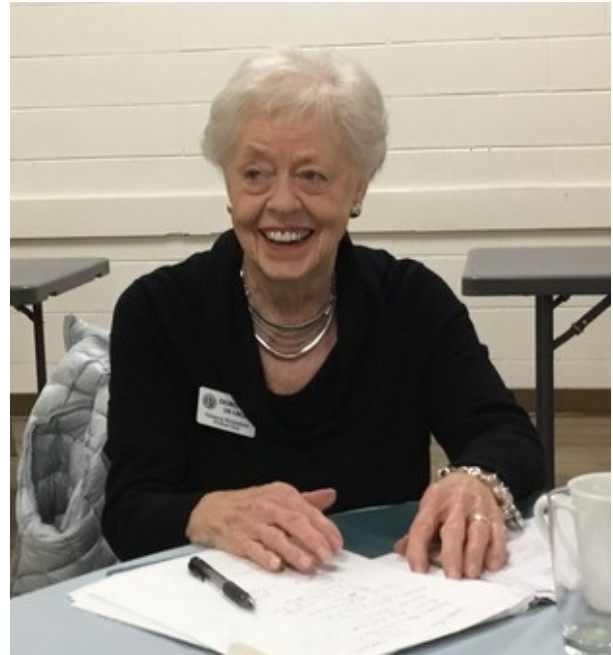
Education has always been at the heart of Dorothy De Lisle's life. After a distinguished career as a teacher, culminating in her role as Head of Special Education at Malvern Collegiate Institute in Toronto, Dorothy understood deeply how access to learning can transform lives, open doors, and strengthen communities. That lifelong belief now finds enduring expression through the establishment of the Dorothy De Lisle Endowment Fund, created to annually support educational opportunities for staff at Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH).

Dorothy's journey to Northumberland County began serendipitously. Upon her retirement in 1994, a glance at a map of Ontario revealed a name that captured her imagination: **Precious Corners**. That moment sparked a search that led Dorothy and her husband, Godfray, to the Cobourg area—a place that quickly felt like home. Familiar already with scenic Highway 2 from years of antiquing adventures through Eastern Ontario, the couple embraced the beauty and warmth of the region. In June, they moved into their dream home in Hamilton Township and began the next meaningful chapter of their lives.

Eager to put down roots, Dorothy and Godfray immersed themselves in the community. St. Peter's Anglican Church in Cobourg became their first connection, followed by involvement in a variety of local clubs and organizations. A real estate agent once remarked that moving to the area would add ten years to their lives—a sentiment Dorothy often recalled with a smile. "We never looked back," she said.

The Dorothy De Lisle Endowment Fund is a reflection of both gratitude and purpose. It is Dorothy's way of giving back to a community that welcomed her so warmly, and of honouring the loving friendships and generous support of family that have enriched her life. By investing in the ongoing education of NHH staff, the fund strengthens not only individual careers but also the quality of care provided across the hospital.

Through this endowment, Dorothy's legacy as an educator continues—rooted in the belief that learning is lifelong, and that when we support those who care for others, the entire community benefits.



Dorothy De Lisle

WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT?

Endowment funds provide financial strength and stability to allow NHH to offer the very best care to our patients now and in the future, while creating an enduring 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.

As of December 31, 2025, the Foundation's endowment is \$9,663,538

Endowment Fast Facts

- Named endowment funds are established at a minimum donation of \$100,000 (can be funded over a period of up to 5 years)
- 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.)

We proudly recognize and thank those who have established Named Endowments

Phillips Family
Dr. Robert & Ann Scott
Allan and Karen Birney
Leslie Denman Boyd
Lynn Hardy
Isobel Milne
A.K. and Bob Scuthorpe
Rosamond Comrie
Marjory Harris
Bob MacCoubrey

David C. & Bea Roffey
James & Heather Irvine
Reba & James Smith
Tom & Alice Behan
Carol Knapper
The Giles Family
David & Esther Patterson
Don Morrison Family
The Novinka Family
Denman Sinclair

Frederick J. & Isabella W. Troop
Ralph, Reginald and Eva Herne
Rolph Family
Ross and Susan Eddy
John and Jean Farrell
Stanley & Doris Gainer
Ed & Diane Lorenz
Dorothy De Lisle
Sharron Skidmore & Donald Cooper

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

Dale Hodge

When Dale Hodge moved to the Northumberland community in 2002, she brought with her a passion for supporting healthcare, and years of hands-on volunteer experience in a hospital setting.

With family ties in the area, Dale and her husband, Alan, chose to make Northumberland County their new home following Alan's retirement. Our hospital – and our community – has benefited ever since.

"You never see Dale without a huge smile on her face," shares Rhonda Cunningham, NHH Foundation CEO. "She is always looking for a way to say yes, to work together, and make the most of every opportunity to help our hospital. We gained far more than new neighbours when Dale and Alan made Northumberland their home."

For more than 20 years, Dale volunteered at SickKids Hospital, where she served in a variety of roles and leadership positions, including with the 555 Shop where she learned retail skills. She brought that experience with her when she joined the NHH Auxiliary in 2006. She has served as the Coordinator of The Little Treasure Shop – the hospital's much-loved gift shop – ever since. Over these nearly 20 years helping NHH and the shop thrive, Dale has also held leadership roles within the Auxiliary, including serving as President from 2008-2010.

Dale's involvement goes beyond volunteering her time. She's a familiar face and trusted presence, sharing her wisdom and experience with staff and volunteers. She and Alan have made supporting the Foundation a priority since moving to the community. Often giving their support quietly, they show up time and time again to help our hospital in many ways.

When asked what makes the hospital special,



Dale Hodge

Dale shares she likes the friendly feel amongst the team and the relationships that have developed between the hospital staff and volunteers. She is also quick to give credit to the team of volunteers she works with in The Little Treasure Shop, sharing how important they have been both in contributing to the success of 'The Shop' and in making it a joy to be involved with – in her words, she has, "a wonderful team."

Outside the hospital, Dale and Alan have been happily married for 58 years. Together, they raised three sons and now have the pleasure of being grandparents to six grandchildren.

For Dale, her years of volunteering have helped shape who she is today – her varied experience has fostered confidence and personal growth and given her an opportunity to work alongside many different people. 'The Shop' has become almost a home away from home and she hopes her contributions, in big and small ways, help ensure our hospital can continue to plan for the future and care for our community for generations to come.

Remembering Police Chief, Eugene Butler

Honouring a Legacy of Service: A Daughter's Annual Tribute

Each year on her father's birthday, Lynn Barlow marks the day with a gesture as steady and heartfelt as the man she remembers. She makes a donation to the Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation—a tribute to her dad, former Cobourg Police Chief Eugene Butler's legacy, and to the hospital he held in such high regard.

Born and raised in Cobourg, Chief Butler spent his entire life in the community he loved. He left only once—when duty called him overseas during the War—before returning home to begin a remarkable 36-year career with the Cobourg Police Service. From 1946 until his retirement in 1982, he served with unwavering dedication, including twelve years as Chief of Police. His leadership, integrity, and deep commitment to public service left an enduring mark on the town.

For Lynn, the decision to honour her father through an annual birthday donation came naturally. "I make this gift each year to remember him," she shares, "and to support the important work that happens at the hospital—an institution my dad valued."

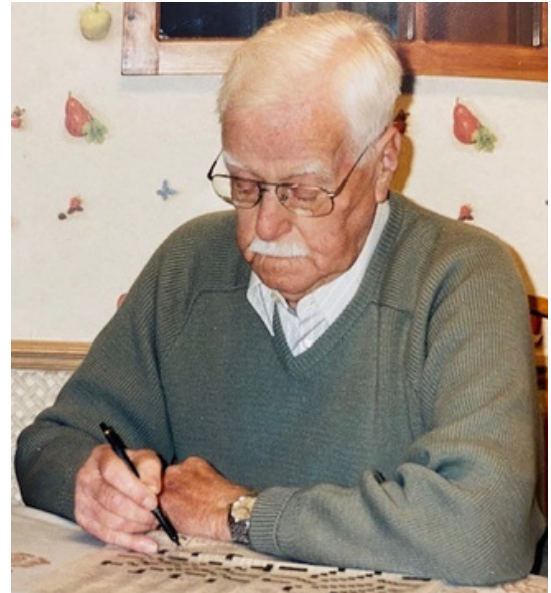
The connection runs deep: the Butler family home sits across from the former hospital site, a place woven into their daily lives for decades.

That home is still filled with history and heart. Lynn's mother, now 103 years old and a long-time member of the Hospital Auxiliary, continues to live there—another thread in a family story defined by service and community.

NHH Foundation CEO Rhonda Cunningham expressed her gratitude for the annual tribute.

"We are honoured to be included in this remembrance of a gentleman who served this community with such dedication," she shared. "My husband has also resided in Cobourg his entire life, and through him, I've heard many stories over the years about Chief Butler."

Through Lynn's yearly act of giving, Chief Butler's legacy continues to support the community he protected for so many years. It is a reminder that service takes many forms—and that some legacies continue to grow long after a life of duty is complete.



**Eugene Butler, former
Cobourg Police Chief**

Commemorative Giving

Commemorative giving offers a meaningful way to honour someone special while making a positive impact on the care our community receives. Whether you're remembering a loved one, celebrating a milestone, or expressing gratitude, your gift creates a legacy that keeps care close to home – for your family, your neighbours, your future.

For more information on commemorative giving, please visit [NHHFoundation.ca](https://www.nhhfoundation.ca)

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

Planned Giving Committee



Planned Giving Chair
John Racine
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Past Board Chair



Ziyad Sidawi
Part-Time CFO Services



Kerry Lynch
Lynch Rutherford Tozer
Chartered Professional
Accountants



Alison Lester
Lester and Associates



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
- OR contact jgilmer@nhh.ca or (905) 372-6811 ext. 3075

Privacy Policy

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