

# Inspire

WINTER 2023

STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

## Grand Opening of New Regina Children's Cancer Clinic



*Left to Right: Corey Miller, VP Provincial Programs, SHA; Marilyn Charlton, SHA Board of Directors; Shannon Weatherall, HRF Board Member; Derek Miller, COO, SHA; Dr. Kunal Goyal, HRF Board Member; Paul Merriman, Saskatchewan Minister of Health; Leone Ottenbreit, Greg Ottenbreit, MLA for Yorkton; and Dino Sophocleous, President & CEO, Hospitals of Regina Foundation, celebrate the grand opening of the new Children's Cancer Clinic*

September 13th, 2022 was a truly special day. It marked a huge improvement in the care we are able to provide to children from southern Saskatchewan undergoing cancer treatment. Hospitals of Regina Foundation welcomed Saskatchewan's Minister of Health, Paul Merriman, Greg Ottenbreit, MLA for Yorkton, Saskatchewan Health Authority board members and senior leaders, and a number of major partners in this endeavor to formally unveil the new Children's Cancer Clinic at Regina General Hospital.

Our new Clinic has been created through an initial commitment of over \$1 million by the Foundation, thanks as always to our generous donors and community. This incredible new space will provide southern Saskatchewan children suffering with cancer, and their families, with a warm and welcoming environment to receive the care they need, while being able to remain as close to home as possible. Limiting travel time, and allowing children to receive their treatment closer to home and their families' support system, is an important

part of providing them with the best care possible.

Each year 15-20 children and teens from Regina and southern Saskatchewan are diagnosed with cancer, and approximately 100 children receive treatment, monitoring or follow up care. This brand new, dedicated and child friendly cancer treatment space at Regina General Hospital will provide our medical teams with the new technology and equipment they need to provide the best cancer care possible to sick kids from across southern Saskatchewan.

"We are pleased to fully fund this brand new Children's Cancer Care Clinic. This investment is part of our mission to invest in pediatrics and increase the capacity, as well as the overall level of care, for the children of southern Saskatchewan." said Dino Sophocleous, president and CEO, Hospitals of Regina Foundation. "This incredible project is only possible thanks to the generous support of our donors and our amazing community. Nothing we do happens without them and we are forever grateful."



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## Monthly Donors Supporting Local Health Care Now, and for the Future



*Hospitals of Regina Foundation monthly donors,  
Carl & Joan Gillis*

Carl Gillis has had a few careers in his 80 plus years, including flying fighter jets for the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Cuban missile crisis in the 1960s. He and his wife Joan were stationed in Germany at the height of that global crisis, in 1962. Since then, they've lived and worked in Montreal, farmed near Gray, Saskatchewan and are now enjoying their retirement years in their home overlooking the scenic golf course in Avonlea, about 80 km southwest of Regina.

**"Supporting the Foundation was an easy decision for us. We give what we can, because every little bit helps."**

Joan Gillis

As Carl recalls, their love story started when he drove Joan home from a party, one evening in 1957. From there, wedding bells weren't far off, and the rest is history. He and Joan will celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary in November, 2023.

In recent years, both Carl and Joan have encountered health issues, after a lifetime of nothing more than minor illnesses. These experiences have only served to reinforce their decision to invest in local health care by becoming monthly donors to Hospitals of Regina Foundation more than ten years ago.

"Supporting the Foundation was an easy decision for us," says Joan. "We support a number of causes, but in this case, we wanted to ensure the best possible health care is available for us and for future generations, including our children (two), grandchildren (two) and now great-grandkids (four). We give what we can, because every little bit helps."

"It comes from a very simple philosophy," Carl explains. "We were raised to be community-minded, and we've tried to instill that in our daughters and their families. Simply put, if you can help others, you just do it. And that's exactly what we're doing through our support of the Foundation. And with monthly donations, it's just so simple and affordable."

"We've both had our challenges as we've gotten older, including battling cancer in recent years," Joan continues. "But for the most part we've been lucky. Still, we're glad to support the Foundation so that they can make sure the best care is available for everyone, including our family and friends."

The Foundation is so grateful for the monthly support by Carl and Joan, and all of our regular donors. Thanks to their generosity, we can invest in leading-edge technology and equipment for Regina's hospitals, ensuring people in southern Saskatchewan have access to the best possible health care, whenever they need it, right here at home.

**In 2022 we identified our new "community" – people who represent the varied make-up of our supporters, medical staff and patients. Over the next nine issues of INSPIRE, we will introduce them to you and explore their interesting stories. We begin today with Carl & Joan Gillis.**



*Doug Ross, Immediate Past District Governor, District 5SKS and Dipali Pandya, Lions Project Administrator present Lisa Green, Senior Vice President with a cheque for \$122,766 in support of our new Children's Cancer Clinic*

**"Their dedication and generous support will help ensure that children with cancer will receive the best care possible..."**

Lisa Green, senior vice president,  
Hospitals of Regina Foundation

dedicated, family friendly space. Each year, approximately 20 children from southern Saskatchewan are diagnosed with cancer, and about 100 actively receive treatment, follow-up care or monitoring. This brand new space will allow these children and their families to receive their treatment as close to home as possible.

"Without the support of partners like the Saskatchewan Lions Foundation and Lions Club International Foundation, this incredible project would not have been possible." said Lisa Green, senior vice president, Hospitals of Regina Foundation. "Their dedication and generous support will help ensure that children coping with cancer receive the best care possible, right here in southern Saskatchewan."

## Saskatchewan Lions Support Children's Cancer Care

With over 1.4 million members in more than 200 countries worldwide, Lions Club International has been serving communities for over 100 years. This incredible dedication to volunteerism can be found in Saskatchewan as well, within the Lions Clubs of Saskatchewan (Lions District 5-SKN and 5-SKS) and their amazing group of dedicated volunteers.

The Saskatchewan Lions Foundation, the giving arm of the Lions Clubs, was formed with a focus on supporting and improving healthcare initiatives in Saskatchewan and assisting with similar provincial needs. Their dedication to the healthcare of our community was abundantly evident in their recent donation of \$122,766 to support the creation of our new Children's Cancer

Clinic, which opened on September 13, 2022 at Regina's General Hospital.

"The Lions of Saskatchewan are proud to help with the purchase of equipment necessary for the Children's Cancer Clinic at the Regina General Hospital," said Doug Ross, Immediate Past District Governor, District 5SKS. "Childhood Cancer is one of Lions Clubs International's Service Initiatives and Saskatchewan Lions will continue to support this vital facility in future years."

This generous gift will help ensure that children from southern Saskatchewan undergoing cancer treatment have access to the advanced technology and equipment our medical teams need to provide the best cancer care possible in a



*One of the rooms in the Children's Cancer Clinic*

## *Pasqua Hospital's GI Unit* Helps Gravelbourg Man



*Ron Gall undergoing rehabilitation after his accident (left), and back to work at the job site (right)*

February 2022 is a month that 52-year old Gravelbourg resident, Ron Gall, won't soon forget. "It all started on a Sunday, when I woke up at 5 a.m. in pain," Ron explains. "I went to the local hospital, where they thought I was having a gall bladder attack. They sent me home, but I was back the next day when the pain returned."

Ron was taken, by ambulance, from Gravelbourg to the hospital in Moose Jaw but it was determined he ultimately needed to be seen by a gastrointestinal specialist. He was then transferred by ambulance to Regina's Pasqua Hospital in order to be seen in our Gastrointestinal (GI) unit.

Pasqua Hospital is home to the only dedicated GI fluoroscopy system in the province. It is a special type of imaging

system that uses X-ray technology to allow our specialists to view the patient's body in real time as it moves.

Thousands of people from across the province are referred here each year, and the GI Unit uses the fluoroscopy system to help an average of 5 patients every day. Our doctors used the fluoroscopy system to look inside Ron's gall bladder and, due to the number of gall stones and other blockages, the decision was made to remove it surgically.

"I'm definitely grateful that the team at the Pasqua Hospital had such advanced technology available to them," says Ron. "On top of that, the quality of care was incredible. I was treated professionally and with dignity throughout the experience, which I certainly appreciated."

Ron is well acquainted with the life-saving care at Regina's hospitals. In 2014, he spent 17 days in a coma at Regina General Hospital after an industrial accident. His recovery from that accident also included spending almost a year at the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre, relearning how to walk and talk.

"Obviously, a person never wants to experience serious medical emergencies," Ron observes. "But if you do have to, it's a comfort to know such world-class care is available right here in southern Saskatchewan."

Today, Ron is back at home in Gravelbourg and looking forward to resuming his duties as the town's maintenance person and rink attendant.

"Ron's story simply reminds us why it's so important to invest in the priority needs of our hospitals," said Dino Sophocleous, president and CEO Hospitals of Regina Foundation. "That's why the Foundation is investing \$1.7million in a new dedicated GI fluoroscopy system and other technology for the GI Unit at Pasqua Hospital. This investment will help our medical teams to continue providing outstanding health care to our southern Saskatchewan community, but also to people from across our province."

# 2022 Fall Home Lottery

## Meet The Winners



*O'Neil & Lenore Zuk – Grand Prize Showhome + \$100,000 CASH Winner*



*Terry & Arleen Sanson - \$700,000 Cottage + \$25,000 CASH Winner*



*David & Raymonde Zbeetnoff – 50/50 Winner*

Once again, the amazing southern Saskatchewan community came together in support of local health care through the Foundation's Fall Home Lottery. For the fourth time in the history of this program, the 2022 fall lottery 50/50 surpassed \$1 million! Thank you Saskatchewan for your amazing support. As we long suspected, this proves that the people of this province are the most generous in the country.

All of the funds raised by the lottery will stay in Saskatchewan to support the

areas of greatest need in Regina's three hospitals, which serve the entire southern half of our great province.

We are very pleased to announce the winners of our 2022 Fall Home Lottery. O'Neil Zuck of Regina, SK was the winner of the Ripplinger built \$1.3 Million Grand Prize Showhome + \$100,000 CASH! Also winning big were Terry & Arleen Sanson of McLean, SK winning the Ripplinger built \$700,000 Cottage + \$25,000 CASH. And speaking of CASH, David & Raymonde Zbeetnoff of Yorkton, SK took home a

whopping \$526,550 in yet another great 50/50 that surpassed \$1 Million.

Congratulations to all our winners, big and small. Your support continues to help us invest in the best health care possible in Regina and southern Saskatchewan and make lives better for us all.



## *A Lifetime of Giving Back Leads to a Legacy Gift for the Future*

*"We deeply appreciate Sybil's legacy gift, as well as her commitment to our work and her trust in our Foundation."*

Dino Sophocleous, president and CEO,  
Hospitals of Regina Foundation

Sybil McNichol will always be remembered as someone with a big heart. She is described as kind, selfless and always willing to lend a hand and give back wherever she could. She was also a true philanthropist who provided generous support for her family, church, community and multiple other charitable endeavors.

A teacher for 38 years, Sybil started her career at Haliburton School located just south of Jansen, SK, and finished it in Regina as a speech and reading specialist. A dedicated professional, guided by her vibrant Christian faith, Sybil always sought to do the right thing, and to make sure that she left the world in a better place than before.

Sybil's nephew, Lyle McNichol, tells us his Aunt Sybil was a really wonderful, gracious and humorous woman, who was always looking for ways to serve the community around her. Supporting her community and her church were very important to her values. No matter where her feet had set, she was always looking for ways to help.

Whether she was driving the Sunday School van in rural Saskatchewan and Manitoba or directing a group in a community activity, Sybil led by example. Actions such as these left a lasting impact on those who were fortunate to have crossed paths with her, including her nephews and nieces with whom she was very close. Supporting Hospitals of Regina Foundation since 1988, Sybil's inclusion of a Legacy Gift in her will is but another example of her selfless nature, and her desire to further support our community, even after her passing.

"As much as Aunt Sybil loved to help and give back, she took time to appreciate the small things in life as well. Family was very important to her, so she always made time for us." Lyle explains. "She was an avid gardener, photographer and traveler and she took much joy in the beautiful things in life that we sometimes take for granted. Seeing the way she carried herself has left a lasting impression on me, and always will."

"We deeply appreciate Sybil's legacy gift, as well as her commitment to our work and her trust in our Foundation" says Dino Sophocleous, president and CEO, Hospitals of Regina Foundation. "Her foresight and generosity will help us invest in the priority needs of our hospitals, ensuring the people of southern Saskatchewan have access to the best local health care possible, now and in the future."



*Sybil McNichol – Hospitals of Regina Foundation donor since 1988*

**For more information on Legacy Giving, please contact our Manager of Legacy Programs, Crystal Schmalte at (306) 781-7502 or [crystal.schmalte@hrf.sk.ca](mailto:crystal.schmalte@hrf.sk.ca)**

## *Regina Man Receives* Life-saving Care from Cardiac Care Unit

Saturday, May 7, 2022 was a routine day for Aaron Theaker. The 44-year-old Regina man was attending a race event at Kings Park Speedway, just north of the city, with his wife Tenille. However, the day's routine was shaken when Aaron suffered heart failure and required emergency medical care.

Fortunately, a pair of off-duty nurses leapt into action, administering CPR while waiting for the ambulance crew to arrive on the scene. Once they arrived, the EMTs quickly hooked Aaron up to the portable LUCAS chest compression system in the ambulance, which provides mechanical chest compressions to patients in cardiac arrest.

Aaron was rushed to Regina's General Hospital and the exceptional Cardiac Care

Unit at the Mosaic Heart Centre. Although the cardiac team was unable to determine the exact cause of his heart failure, our electrophysiologist, Dr. Omar Sultan, a cardiologist who specializes in the heart's electrical system, inserted a pacemaker to control Aaron's heartbeat. He spent a week in the hospital and is back to normal, working and enjoying his life.

"It's amazing how everything seemed to fall into place," Aaron said. "If those nurses weren't at the track that day. If the EMTs didn't have the LUCAS machine. If we didn't have the amazing team at the Mosaic Heart Centre and the cutting-edge technology they use, I simply wouldn't be here today."

"Aaron's story is living proof of the importance of supporting world-class



*Aaron Theaker and his wife Tenille enjoying an evening out*

cardiac care for the people of southern Saskatchewan," says Lisa Green, senior vice-president, Hospitals of Regina Foundation. "Thanks to the generous support of our donors and partners like Mosaic, we're ensuring that the best level of care is available right here at home, when people need it most."

## *CP Rail Supports* Local Cardiac Care

Heart disease is the second leading cause of death after cancer in Canada, and is one of the leading causes of hospitalization with an estimated 35,000 cardiac arrests occurring in Canada each year. Many patients unfortunately do not survive a heart attack, but studies have shown that survival rates double if CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and defibrillation occur during the initial crucial moments of the emergency.

Last year, EMS teams in southern Saskatchewan traveled over 780,000 km, bringing more than 10,000 patients to Regina General Hospital, many in need of cardiac care. High quality CPR provided by EMS teams, with minimal

interruptions and early defibrillation, are critical to good cardiac resuscitation outcomes. However, CPR is a physically demanding activity and paramedics must exchange positions every two minutes to ensure consistent chest compressions and to reduce potential injuries to themselves.

Last year, Hospitals of Regina Foundation invested \$85,000, including a generous \$25,000 from CP Rail, in five LUCAS chest compression systems for our EMS teams. This technology allows our paramedics to provide consistent high quality CPR and gives them the ability to defibrillate a patient while the device is providing the chest compressions. This helps reduce the interruptions to CPR

and ensures the patient receives the cardiac care they need to survive the journey to our hospital.

"The Foundation is grateful for Canadian Pacific's generous gift of \$25,000, and all cardiac donations from our donors in support of this life saving technology," says Dino Sophocleous, president and CEO, Hospitals of Regina Foundation. "Partners like CP help the Foundation invest in the technology our EMS teams need to provide the best care possible for our southern Saskatchewan community."



## Celebrating *Our Community's Giving Spirit*



The giving spirit of the individuals, organizations and businesses that support Hospitals of Regina Foundation is outstanding. Time and time again these caring and generous people gather together to raise funds for Regina's hospitals in new and exciting ways! Whether a highway cruise day, Donation at the Till programs, galas or a marathon, people step up and support health care for those who need it most. The Foundation is so grateful for our community's support because nothing we do happens without you.

Here are some of the community fundraising activities that took place between September and December 2022 in support of Hospitals of Regina Foundation:

- On the Road Drive and Fundraiser - \$4,000
- GMS Queen City Marathon – \$1,602
- Power Masquerade Ball silent auction - \$2,000
- FreshCo Albert Street Donation at the Till program - \$500
- FreshCo Sherwood & Queen Donation at the Till program - \$500
- McDonald's Donation at the Till program – \$30,000
- Long & McQuade Donation at the Till program – \$1,225



2023 is shaping up to be a busy year. Please join us in some upcoming events! Follow our social media pages to keep up to date on how to get involved.

- An Evening in Greece Gala – March 4, 2023
- Big Dog 92.7 Snow Pitch tournament – March 11 & 12, 2023
- Z99 Radiothon – March 23, 2023
- Chinese New Year Celebrations – April 15, 2023



To learn how you can host your own fundraiser contact **Brianne Moore, Development Officer** at [Brianne.Moore@hrf.sk.ca](mailto:Brianne.Moore@hrf.sk.ca) or call (306) 781-7509.