

This is our cancer.

This is our cause.

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We're grateful to you

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Incredible advancements you've made possible

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Success in numbers



Lakeridge
Health
Foundation

Spring 2024



You've done something remarkable for cancer care!

Message from the Campaign Co-Chairs

This isn't the end. It's just the beginning of our commitment to transform cancer care.

In 2007, the Durham Region community rallied together to build what has become one of Ontario's top-rated Cancer Centres. Fast forward 14 years, amid a global pandemic, we launched *Our Cancer Campaign* to bring our hospital system, the R.S. McLaughlin Durham Regional Cancer Centre, and its supporting departments to the next echelon of cancer care with an ambitious \$20 million goal. What's happened since has been an undeniable force of generosity.

Countless stories of compassionate care, recovery and even loss have inspired thousands of donations and investments in cancer care at Lakeridge Health with significant impact at our Oshawa Hospital, the Jerry Coughlan Health & Wellness Centre in Pickering, and beyond.

Community support has made the dreams of our experts a reality. In three short years, cutting-edge technology has been announced and funded in record time. Surpassing our goal, over \$21 million has been raised to fund advancements in diagnostics, laboratory and pathology, surgery, treatment, and education, putting Durham Region on the map as a forward-thinking leader in cancer care.

The culmination of *Our Cancer Campaign* doesn't mark the end of our journey. Instead, it's the beginning of something truly remarkable. Exceptional cancer care is what our community has come to know and expect. Through your generous donations, and the establishment of endowment funds, we will continue to support cancer care in perpetuity.

We are humbled and grateful for your unwavering response to support our experts and the inspiring families they care for every day. Thank you for changing lives today, tomorrow and for generations to come.



Beth Kelly



Paul Mackie Sr.



Dr. Soania Mathur



Keith White



Lucy Franke with surgical robot 'Optimus'.

Establishing the Centre of Excellence in Robotic Surgery

Robotic surgery is a game-changer for patient care. In 2023, thanks to an overwhelming response from our donor community, Lakeridge Health welcomed a da Vinci Surgical Robot to transform cancer surgery for urology, gynecology, thoracic and colorectal patients.

Robotic surgery drastically improves patient experience, decreases readmission rates, increases cost savings for our health care

system and has already attracted four new talented robotic surgeons to our Hospital.

This is a thrilling step forward for Lakeridge Health's surgery team and is the single most important surgical innovation to our Hospital in the last decade. The robotic system offers surgeons unparalleled control just an arm's length away from patients. Real-time high-definition 3D imaging and four arms with 360 degree ranges of motion move in ways the

human body simply cannot. Patients benefit from less blood loss, safer surgeries, faster recovery and shorter stays in hospital.

Prior to last year, robotic surgery was not available between Kingston and Toronto. In its first year of operation, the surgical team has completed over 300 robotic surgeries, surpassing their original goal. Thank you to our Campaign donors for bringing the future of surgical care to our community.



Ron Burke, Cindy Davis, Dr. Geoff Donsky, Wilson Yiu, Lisa Cochrane, Yves Gadler, Dr. Michael Kwan (front)

Bringing PET-CT Technology East of Toronto

The introduction of a PET-CT scanner at Lakeridge Health in 2024 will take cancer care east of Toronto to a whole new level.

A fusion of positron emission tomography (PET) and computed tomography (CT), this technology will provide highly sensitive, detailed, three-dimensional scans that determine important information about a patient's cancer.

Approximately 30 patients a week are being

sent outside our community to receive specialized PET-CT scans as part of their cancer diagnosis and treatment. These patients must navigate unfamiliar hospitals, battle traffic and rely on family and friends to drive during already stressful and difficult times in their journey with cancer – but only for a few more months.

The arrival of the PET-CT scanner in Oshawa will revolutionize our ability to detect and

monitor cancer, determine the size, location and stage of a patient's cancer and the exact area to biopsy. It will also provide our medical professionals with better insights into treatment response and help gauge the likelihood of cancer returning.

We extend our deepest appreciation to all who contributed to this vital cause and share in the excitement of our staff and patient families for this new addition to our Hospital.

Decreasing Wait Times for Cancer Diagnosis with Digital Pathology

Our world-class laboratory and pathology department will once again be at the forefront of cancer diagnosis and personalized medicine. Already one of the first hospitals in Canada to have a certified biobank and the first in our country to introduce a fully-integrated digital pathology system, Lakeridge Health has a track record of excellence.

Surpassing the Campaign goal is allowing our Foundation to take on yet another innovative priority – the amplification of digital pathology that will drastically decrease wait times.

Cancer diagnosis will soon be one click away. With digital pathology, pathologists can review cancer cells rapidly and from anywhere. Images from multiple lab

sites can be uploaded, assessed and shared with partners faster than ever before, eliminating the need for physical transportation and ensuring the right experts weigh in for every patient.

The need for pathology is higher than ever and complex cancer cases are on the rise. Artificial intelligence technology will also be introduced to support pathologists in reviewing tissue samples, improving workflow and speeding up reporting time.

This is just one example of how donor support is helping advance cancer care in all aspects of the patient journey and how exceptional cancer care can and should be available close to home.

And so much more...

This is only a snapshot of the incredible impact you're having through *Our Cancer Campaign*. Since its launch in 2021, your donations have helped us invest in every facet of cancer care from the laboratory and imaging suites to operating rooms, treatment areas, research and education.

Investments in this Campaign have led to new stainers in the laboratory that help diagnose and stage cancer, hydrogel spacers in the Brachytherapy Suite that significantly limit the side effects of some radiation therapies, critical upgrades to our surgical suites to allow for more minimally-invasive operations, gynecological lasers and scopes to support women's health, and a new Linear Accelerator to provide radiation therapy to patients with various forms of cancer. These are just a few examples of the immense impact *Our Cancer Campaign* is having on our patients, their families, our health care providers, scientists and community.



Cancer affects everyone. And that's certainly had an effect on us all.

On behalf of the thousands of cancer patients and their families who rely on our hospital system, and the expert teams who care for them, thank you! You were inspired by their stories, impressed by their expertise and moved to make an investment in Lakeridge Health's vision. By pooling our philanthropy and injecting it into our leading cancer programs and experts, we are changing the course of this disease.

This is Our Cancer. Our Success. Our Future.

Campaign Stats

Wow! We did it—and more!

\$20¹ MILLION
Raised *Thank you!*

24,362
Gifts

12,029
Donors

138
Events

Cancer Impact

211,964
Cancer Centre
visits annually

7,000
New cancer
patients
each year

21,270
Cancer related
imaging procedures
annually

21,767
Mammograms
annually

7,800
Radiation treatments
provided by the new
linear accelerator
in its first year

300+
Robotic surgeries
in the first year

38,000
Tissue samples
diagnosed
each year

Donations to *Our Cancer Campaign* can still be made to further enhance the life-changing work at Lakeridge Health. Please visit www.OurCancer.ca to continue making a difference.



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