New Technology Saves a Life

The Moncton Hospital is the Only Facility in Atlantic Canada to Offer this Life-Saving Procedure

Insurance broker Jean Claude Leger of Shediac has always counselled his clients to be cautious and prepared; an approach the 64 year old father of three has also applied to his own health.

For many years, he has been followed by Dr. Peter Lightfoot, Gastroenterologist, for a condition known as Barrett’s Esophagus. This condition developed as a consequence of years of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). In early 2012, Jean Claude received some troubling news. The biopsies from his endoscopy showed a change in the lining and cells of his esophagus. The result was high grade dysplasia, a cancerous condition in the esophageal lining commonly found in people with GERD.

Leger was aware of the surgical treatment options for treating Barrett’s Esophaguses (most frequently an esophagectomy which is the removal of all or parts of the esophagus) and was reluctant to proceed in this direction. “Because of my age, I didn’t want to go through with it,” he says. “The surgery is very invasive.”

Soon after, Leger met with Gastroenterologist Dr. Frank Schweiger at The Moncton Hospital who suggested using Radiofrequency Ablation Technology as a surgery alternative. The equipment required to perform this procedure was recently acquired with funds from the Friends, 2011 Annual Campaign. This cutting edge device is designed to prevent and cure cancer of the esophagus while allowing patients to avoid surgery and hospital admissions. The Moncton Hospital is the only facility in Atlantic Canada offering this technology.

Dr. Schweiger has been thrilled with the results of the new technology which has successfully eradicated cancer in 9 of 14 patients with only one unsuccessful result. Four patients are currently in the treatment process.

“The Radiofrequency Ablation Technology has made a big difference in the lives of people like Jean Claude”, says Dr. Schweiger. “There is significantly less risk with this procedure versus surgery and it has a success rate of over 95%.” The procedure is also significantly less expensive, costing approximately $4,500 per procedure compared with an approximate cost of $125,000 per esophagectomy.

While Leger was originally scheduled for three treatments, he required only one. “It was a very simple procedure, similar to a biopsy,” he says. “The procedure took about an hour and I was free to go home. I had some discomfort for the next four days, but I’ve been feeling very well ever since.”

Today, Leger is cancer-free and anxiously awaiting the birth of his fourth grandchild. “I was so fortunate to be able to benefit from this amazing technology.”
Donor Dollars Help Make New Oncology Clinic a Reality

Cancer patients can soon look forward to improved care in a new modern and spacious environment. This, all thanks to a partnership between the Province of NB and the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation who will provide $8.2 million and $1 million respectively to address the longstanding space issues in the hospital's current oncology department.

Friends Chair David Holt says that the staff of the current oncology clinic on 6400, are to be praised by patients and their families for the superb quality of care they provide. The reality is, they are working in an overcrowded environment where treatment chairs are so tightly placed and so frequently in use, patients are unable to have their families with them during their chemotherapy treatments. "The Moncton Hospital (TMH), one of the busiest cancer treatment centres in the province, has been a victim of its own success," says Holt.

Holt affirms that this announcement is welcome news for our donors who gave over $1 million in 2007 through the Foundation’s campaign. The plan, at the time, had been to renovate an existing part of the hospital but Holt said that didn't happen for a variety of reasons. "With the government’s announcement, these funds will finally be used to fulfill the vision for which they were donated by so many generous, caring people - to give people living with cancer the room they need to heal," says Holt.

The former laboratory and X-ray wings at TMH will soon be demolished to provide space for the new, bigger and better 16,000-square-foot oncology clinic. The project is scheduled for completion in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

A New Service for Extra-Mural Program (EMP) Made Possible by Hospital Foundations

68 year old Bert Jones of Moncton is one of the first to use the new telehomecare technology. Telehomecare is a remote monitoring system allowing patients to transmit personal health data to the Driscoll and Tantramar Extra-Mural Units via a monitoring unit in their homes. This data is reviewed each day and should a trend be noticed or data not fall within expected parameters, the nurse or respiratory therapist intervenes.

"It’s just like having a private nurse right here and it keeps me from running to a doctor all the time," says Jones, who suffers from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Candidates for this program are patients with a diagnosis of COPD and/or Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) as these two conditions have a significant incidence of hospitalization or re-admission upon discharge that may be prevented.

There have been different occasions where Jones’s vitals were not where they should have been. Jones was very pleased with the quick reaction on the part of the Extra-Mural staff which, he says "undoubtedly avoided a trip to the hospital.”

Jones receives an automated message from the telehomecare monitoring system each morning reminding him to weigh-in, check his blood pressure and oxygen levels and to answer questions on how he is feeling. The data is reviewed and, if results indicate anything out of the ordinary, he is contacted immediately by an RN or Respiratory Therapist from Extra-Mural to provide care.

"I consider those who work at the Extra-Mural Program my angels," quips Jones.

Terry Morrissey, Director of the Extra-Mural Program, Horizon Health Network, Moncton Area, says an integral part of this service is the education with the patient so they learn to recognize and self manage aspects of their condition.

“When patients and caregivers are aware of the signs and symptoms that trigger exacerbations of COPD and CHF, they can take steps to prevent complications. This results in better health management and may prevent the need for a visit to the hospital due to a sudden crisis,” says Morrissey.
“Penny Girl” raises over $10,000

8 year old Catherine Desjardins of Dieppe was born prematurely in May, 2004 and spent several months in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit before she was healthy and strong enough to go home with her family. Catherine wanted to do something so that they could save more little ones like her! She, with the help of her family and kindergarten teacher, helped gather pennies to reach her goal of $10,000. Today, Catherine is a healthy, active 8 year old and is one of the youngest fundraisers the Friends has ever had.

Your Donations to Provide Advanced Medical Care at The Moncton Hospital

The annual campaign goal is to raise $825,000. In order to keep pace with the newest technology and to provide the best care possible at TMH, the Friends is seeking community support to help purchase necessary high-tech equipment for the Surgery Program, Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU), the Neurosurgery Program and Respiratory Services, which includes the intensive care units.

TMH aims to enhance its role as a leader in cancer care in New Brunswick by providing liver resection surgery which is usually done to remove various types of cancerous tumours from the liver. Before now, the majority of New Brunswick patients that required this surgery were referred to centres outside of the province.

Also on the list is a neuro microscope at a cost of $360,000. The majority of neurosurgical procedures use a neuro microscope and TMH requires a new upgraded system to bring current equipment to modern standards and allow for the program to run two fully operational operating rooms (OR) for neurosurgery.

New monitors will be acquired for the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) where the current equipment is quickly becoming obsolete. When a patient’s surgical procedure is complete, it is important for them to continue to receive the same careful and specialized care during recovery.

The Foundation also aims at purchasing lifesaving ventilator equipment which breathes for the patient, for use in the Medical Surgical Intensive Care (MSICU), Neurosurgical Intensive Care (NICU), Coronary Care (CCU) and Neonatal Intensive Care (NNICU) Units. New ventilators will replace old technology that will soon surpass its expected life span. Please Give Today.

I owe my life to this man!

Cardiologist Dr. Ron Bourgeois was recently honoured (for the third time we might add) as a Health Care Hero! Grateful patient “Jumping” Jack Proud (right) credits Cardiologist Dr. Ron Bourgeois (left) for giving him a new start on life. “Dr. Bourgeois gave me a new pacemaker which has changed my life for the positive…for that I am forever grateful,” says Proud.

Proud made a $1,000 donation to the Cardiac Unit in honor of his Hospital Hero. You too can make a donation in honour of a doctor, nurse or other staff member who make a difference in your care or that of a loved one. This person will be personally notified that a donation has been made in their honour and will be presented a unique pin recognizing their exceptional level of patient care.

We would love to hear your comments and suggestions. Call or write Julie Thébeau at 870.2699 or Julie.Thebeau@HorizonNB.ca
New Intensive Care Unit Opens at The Moncton Hospital

Sharon E. Harrison ICU to provide substantial benefits, supporting better care for patients.

The Moncton Hospital (TMH) is now providing high-quality critical care in a vastly-improved environment thanks to a $3 million dollar contribution from the Friends. The Medical Surgical Intensive Care Unit (MSICU) has officially opened on the main floor of the hospital in an area formerly occupied by the Emergency Department.

Nancy Parker, the Executive Director at TMH, says the ICU will provide our critical care team with a state-of-the-art facility to treat our most ill patients. “All the staff and physicians who’ve worked in the current, crowded and dated MSICU are very excited to have this new, spacious and bright unit now available to them. With private rooms for all of our patients, this updated work space will facilitate improved patient care and infection control practices. We know our MSICU staff do an excellent job; this modern unit will allow them to go that extra mile for our patients in a wonderful new environment,” says Parker.

In addition to its close proximity to the new Emergency/Trauma Centre, this modern ICU is located adjacent to the Operating Rooms and a very short distance from the Medical Imaging Department and various clinics. This will alleviate the transport of critically ill patients when they require emergency surgery or special tests. (The old MSICU was located on the 5th floor of the hospital.) The new unit features ten glass-fronted patient rooms with a centralized desk that allows for staff to attend to emergencies immediately. Equipment will be stored just steps away from the patients and worried family members will have more space to sit by their loved ones. As well, a comfortable family room will allow relatives and friends to be close to their critically ill family member at all times.

In 2005, the Friends, the Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation and the Bennett and Albert County Health Care Foundation, together launched the Healthy Returns – La santé notre richesse capital fundraising campaign. While the goal included projects for the two rural facilities, over $7 million of the total $7.5 million raised was earmarked to purchase much needed equipment for the new Emergency/Trauma Centre, clinics in the Irving Ambulatory Care Centre and new laboratory, and for the relocation and redevelopment of the MSICU.

The Healthy Returns – La santé notre richesse campaign was chaired by Robert Irving. During the campaign, the Friends received two $1 million gifts, the first from the Irving Group and the second from Jon and Leslie Manship. The Ambulatory Care Centre was named to honour the Irving contribution during the official opening in 2010 and on August 16, 2012, the ICU was dedicated in honour of Leslie Manship’s mother, Sharon E. Harrison, a former nurse at The Moncton Hospital, now retired.

Planning on Organizing a Special Event for the Friends?

We are pleased to have on staff, Geoff Hendry, our new Community Fundraising Coordinator. Geoff looks forward to your calls and emails so he can guide and support you or your group in organizing a fundraiser for the Friends.

Geoff.Hendry@HorizonNB.ca or call him 870-2447.

Mark These Dates in Your Calendar!

Swing Into Spring Gala – April 27th - Contact Marianne.Mepham-Newton@HorizonNB.ca
Hit It Fore Health Golf Tournament – September 11th - Contact Julie.Thebeau@HorizonNB.ca