



embracing HEALTH

The newsletter of Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation



Tony Wales, Lead CT Technologist, positions a patient for a CT scan.

(Right) Becki Vanderwal, Picture Archival Communication and Radiology Information System Specialist (PACS-RIS), poses in front of CT scans.



Take Some Worry out of the Wait with Timely Diagnosis

Community members, organizations and businesses have made a significant investment to improve medical care close to home with the official opening of the 64-slice CT scanner at Strathroy Hospital in May of 2007.

George Sinker, Past Chair of SMGH Foundation Board, spoke in support of this important health care technology at the opening of the suite.

"I am very proud of what we have accomplished as a community to help our Hospital be the centre of care for Strathroy and surrounding areas."

CT scans are a non-invasive way to obtain images to diagnose a wide range of illness or injury in a very short period of time, and with great patient comfort.

"Demand for access to the CT scanner continues to be strong as we have already received many referrals from physicians for scans of their patients," says Jim Herbert, Manager of Diagnostic Imaging.

Strathroy Hospital technologists have received special training and are fully certified to perform CT scans. After a scan has been done, a radiologist will read the scan and consult with the physician

who ordered the scan.

During off hours and in periods of high demand, radiologists at other hospital centres assist by reading scans completed in Strathroy. This is made possible through the enhanced computer network installed over the past few years, linking Strathroy and St. Joseph's Hospital in London.

The high speed data linkage between the sites allows the Picture Archival and Communication System (PACS), to capture and transmit scans. This helps physicians to provide a quicker diagnosis and treatment for patients.

CYCLING BACK: ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

When John Pus fell from his bike, he blacked out, and doesn't recall exactly what happened next. He shortly became conscious of a great pain in his body as he lay on the side of the road with his cycling friends gathered around him, waiting for an ambulance.

"We were cycling a 60-70 km training route when a dog ran out toward the road, distracted our group and unfortunately caused my accident," said John, laying in a recovery room at Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital.

The ambulance immediately transported John to the emergency department and the doctor requested a CT scan to confirm the extent of his injuries.

"The CT scan was a very quick process, it took only a few minutes and then the scans were sent to London to be reviewed," said John.

The scan was sent digitally through the Picture Archival and Communication System (PACS) for a radiologist to examine at a hospital in London. The radiologist and physician confirmed his pelvis was cracked and broken in 3 different places.

Recovery Process

A broken pelvis is painful, often swollen and bruised. In order to recover, John must keep his hip and knee bent in a specific position to avoid aggravating pain while he heals. He also sustained scrapes and bruises to his head, arms and legs which have now begun to heal. After spending 2 full weeks in the hospital on strict bed-rest, he will rest at home over the next 8-10 weeks.

"With my recovery, it will be a little while until I can train with my cycling group again, but I'm ready to get back out on the road," said John.

GREAT TAX BENEFITS FROM GIFTS OF SECURITIES

Under new taxation rules announced by the Federal Government in May 2006, when publicly traded securities (stock, bonds or mutual funds), are donated to SMGH Foundation, none of the capital gains tax is owed that you would be required to pay if you sold them.

The new rules allow you to:

- receive a charitable receipt for the market value of the securities gifted
- realize significant profits from appreciated securities you wish to donate
- pay no income tax on the gains realized
- make a generous gift in support of health care

If you would like more information, please call Susan McLean at 519-245-5632.



(Left) Pat Maxwell, Clinical Leader and Patricia Griffiths with her newborn baby named Katharine Anne pose for a photo at Strathroy Hospital.
(Above) Patricia and newborn baby Katharine Anne

Wireless Fetal Monitoring: A Digital Heartbeat

When you're pregnant, and especially when you go into labour, there is nothing you want more than to know what's going on with the little person growing inside of you.

Most of the time, child birth is a natural and uncomplicated process, progressing smoothly with constant bedside support from a labour nurse.

The nurse monitors the wellbeing of the unborn baby throughout labour. But sometimes the nurse may hear a subtle abnormality in the baby's heart rate, and more intensive monitoring is necessary.

The national body that develops guidelines for care in obstetrics,

Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC), recommends that electronic monitoring be used whenever medication is needed to induce or augment labour. This includes at least 40% of women who go into labour at Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital.

"We know from studies that women are more comfortable and more relaxed in labour if they can move around freely in the labour room.

And labour usually progresses more quickly, with fewer complications if the woman is mobile," says Dr. Marr, Head of Obstetrics Nursery Services at Strathroy Hospital.

When needed, continuous fetal

monitoring is the standard way to monitor labouring women and fetuses. The wireless system allows women to move freely and more comfortably, all while monitoring the baby on its way.

Last year, Strathroy Hospital Foundation purchased a wireless Philips fetal monitoring system through generous donations made from the estate of the late Dr. Bill Butler. This is a very fitting memorial to Dr. Butler's lifelong commitment to maternity care at the Middlesex Hospital Alliance.

"We have the latest technology for women in labour. When needed, the cordless monitoring system is very comfortable for the mother. Advanced wireless fetal monitors ensure our nurses and physicians have real-time knowledge of the baby's health," said Mary Robertson, Director of Patient Care at Strathroy Hospital.

"Advanced wireless fetal monitors ensure our nurses have real-time knowledge of the baby's health "

SECOND GALA FUNDRAISER FOR STRATHROY HOSPITAL A SUCCESS!

The 2007 "Images of Excellence" Gala Dinner and Silent Auction was a tremendous success. The October 13th event saw guests dancing the night away to the tunes of the Mister E Band. The gala raised \$100,000.00 for the CT scanner campaign of the Middlesex Hospital Alliance.



(Above) Andrew Thorogood, Middlesex Hospital Alliance Board Member places his bid on a few of the many silent auction items.



London X-Ray Associates at the Gala:

(Left) Averil Eakins, Bill & Rosemary Redhead, Kim & Dennis Burt, Lesley & Mark Haskell, Dr. Steve Eakins.

(Below) Dr. Justin Amann, Nora Kozak & Dr. Roman Kozak, Dr. Donald Taves, Dr. Walt Romano, Mandy & Mike Mazza, Dr. Bill Dawson & Dr. Anne Souter, Jane Amann.



PRIVACY POLICY

At Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation, we appreciate your support and are dedicated to treating your personal information with respect. We do not rent, sell, or trade any personal information. The information you provide will be used to keep you informed of events and fundraising opportunities in support of the Middlesex Hospital Alliance. Please contact us for more information or to be removed from the mailing list by phoning 519-245-5295 x. 5044.

EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION - Save A Stamp!

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please contact us by phone or email. Call 519-245-5295 x. 5044, or email dbruce@smghfoundation.on.ca.

EMBRACING HEALTH IS PUBLISHED BY :



Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation
395 Carrie Street
Strathroy, ON N7G 3J4
(519) 245-5295 x. 5020