



embracing HEALTH

The newsletter of Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation

CT Scanner Technology is Life-Saving

Last summer, Lee Emmons took a hard fall down the stairs in his home.

His wife, Marilyn, heard him fall, and found him lying at the base of the stairs, momentarily knocked out.

When he woke up, she quickly helped him to the sofa where he said he hurt his shoulder. Although he was in some pain, he didn't feel a visit to the hospital was necessary.

Two months later, Marilyn received a phone call from Lee's co-workers. Lee wasn't acting quite "normal" at work, and they asked her to pick him up.

When she got there, Lee wasn't understanding speech and his motor skills were suddenly very limited, he was having trouble walking.

Concerned, Marilyn immediately drove him to the emergency department at Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital.

The attending physician, Dr. Wolder, saw him right

away. After examining him, he immediately ordered the Diagnostic Imaging Department to run a CT scan of his head.

By 4pm that same day, it was clear what was causing Lee's deteriorating condition.

The CT scan images showed a large mass pressing against his brain. Lee was experiencing bleeding in his head.

By this time, his condition was worsening. He was increasingly confused and could not remember what year it was.

He was immediately transferred to the trauma unit in London for surgery where his CT scan images were waiting for him (sent digitally from SMGH). By 10pm that night, he was awake in recovery.

5 months later, Lee has now recovered and is ready to go back to work. With the bleeding stopped and the pain gone, his memory has returned.

The cause of the bleeding has been attributed to the

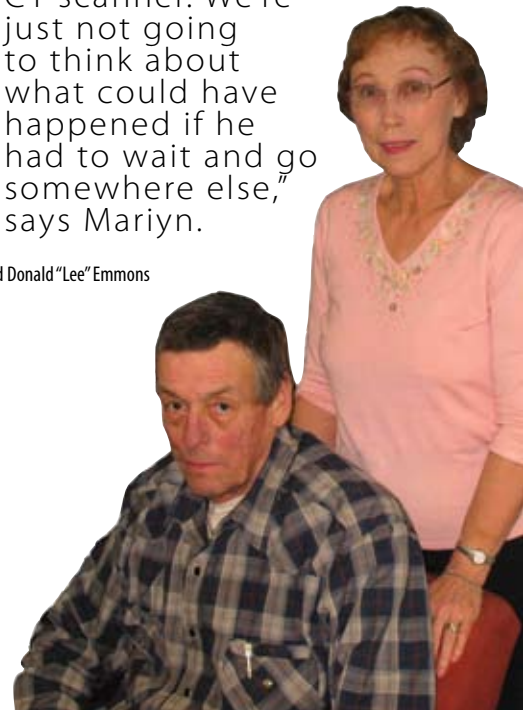


fall he took down the stairs during the summer.

The CT scanner at the Middlesex Hospital Alliance was installed in May 2007. Lee is one of over 3000 people who have needed a scan. In Lee's case, the scanner quickly offered the diagnosis he needed, just in time.

"We are thankful for the new CT scanner. We're just not going to think about what could have happened if he had to wait and go somewhere else," says Mariyn.

Marilyn and Donald "Lee" Emmons



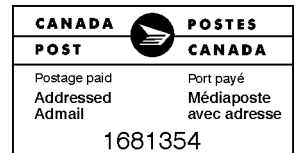
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(Left) Dr. Ganesh Ram, Emergency Room Physician in the Emergency Department at Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital site of the Middlesex Hospital Alliance.

(Right) The new Sonosite M-Turbo, portable ultrasound machine in the Emergency Department at Strathroy Hospital.

The ultrasound unit is used by emergency room physicians examining patients who undergo F.A.S.T. scans (Focused Abdominal Sonography for Trauma), a limited but rapid version of ultrasound that can help diagnose abdominal injury.

F.A.S.T. is noninvasive and accurate, and it provides some important advantages in a life-and-death trauma situation. The exam is quicker to perform (it can be accomplished in as little as three minutes) and easier to interpret, and the equipment is portable.



New Portable Ultrasound in SMGH E.R.

Donations to SMGH Foundation have helped to purchase the latest technology for patients who must make an unexpected urgent visit to Strathroy Hospital's Emergency Room for medical care.

Successful fundraising efforts have resulted in the purchase of a new portable ultrasound machine that helps emergency physicians to perform exams with speed and accuracy.

An emergency physician can now view images of a beating heart, developing fetus, or suspected internal bleeding in a trauma situation. The ultrasound machine provides abdominal to vascular images, and can be of great help during cardiac exams.

As ultrasound machines have become more compact and their image quality more precise, the use

of portable ultrasound machines in hospital emergency rooms has become a great asset to doctors.

The new ultrasound can be rolled right up to a patient's bed in an emergency room and produces real-time images of internal organs and abdominal tissue by interpreting sound waves bounced off solid internal objects. These images often provide information that's valuable in diagnosing and treating a variety of diseases and conditions.

"Having the new portable ultrasound system has made a really big difference," said Dr. Ganesh Ram, Emergency Room Physician at SMGH.

"Having the new portable ultrasound system has made a really big difference."

"In the emergency department it all comes down to how fast you can diagnose and begin treatment, we can now quickly use an ultrasound to determine medical care needed."

The new emergency room ultrasound machine does not replace the existing stationary ultrasound unit currently used in Diagnostic Imaging (D.I.) at SMGH. The unit in D.I. is still needed for non-emergency ultrasound images.

The new portable machine is dedicated specifically for the emergency department, ready for physicians to help diagnose the best treatment and care for patients in urgent situations.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE

At the heart of planned giving is people. 'Ordinary' people, who may not have vast access to riches beyond belief as some well-known philanthropists like Bill and Melinda Gates, Warren Buffet, Seymour Schulich, the Ivey Family, or Jim Balsillie - to name a few.

You don't need to be a wealthy philanthropist in order to be able to make a major investment in health care that will help thousands of patients in the future.

Traditionally, many donors believe that the only possible gift to the Hospital is a gift of cash during their lifetime. But there are many other options.

A planned gift is one that is promised today but realized at some time in the future. You can create a lasting legacy and make a difference in someone's life by making a planned gift that will help patients at Strathroy Hospital for years to come.

These gifts include:

- Donations made through wills and bequests
- Donated life insurance policies
- Gifts of security - *this type of gift offers a great tax savings!*
- Tangible personal property (ex. Cars, artwork, furniture, jewelry)
- Gifts of real estate
- Endowed funds

Each one of these gifts allows donors to realize their philanthropic objectives while maximizing tax and other financial benefits. For more information on planned giving, please contact Susan McLean at: 519-245-5632.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 7, 2008

Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament
Caradoc Sands Golf Club, Strathroy, Ontario
Call (519) 246-1017 to register.

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Paul Patterson Memorial Golf Tournament
Bear Creek Golf Club, Strathroy, Ontario
Call (519) 521-3468 to register.

Saturday, June 28, 2008

Bryan & Mike Memorial Golf Tournament
Sandhills Golf Resort, Port Franks, Ontario
Call (519) 858-0036 to register.

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.