

SOUTH HURON HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
NEWSLETTER

THE PULSE

Winter 2023

A New Medical Centre for South Huron?

The future of primary care

Welcome Dr. Joseph

South Huron welcomes a new family physician

Gala Entertainment

A special announcement about
Gala 2024 inside!

Q&A with the CEO

Huron Health System
President & CEO, Jimmy Trieu



Rob Tait, Foundation Board Chair

Greetings Friends of the South Huron Hospital Foundation

I am Rob Tait and I'm the new Chair of your South Huron Hospital Foundation. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the Chair of the South Huron Hospital Foundation. As I take over from Pat O'Rourke, I would like to extend a special thanks to Pat (once again) for his many years of dedicated service and unwavering commitment to the Foundation and for leaving our Foundation Board as a strong and vibrant organization.

As we embark on this new chapter together, I would also like to thank our many donors for their continued support and commitment. Together, with our local hospital and healthcare professionals, we are truly able to improve the lives of the many diverse members of our community.

The South Huron Hospital Foundation is invested in the future of care in South Huron. We have a sincere desire to positively impact patient experience, and to help make South Huron an attractive place for Medical Professionals to work and reside. With the ongoing support of donors, we can continue to fulfill our Mission.

There are many challenges ahead for healthcare within our province and community. Local support for local healthcare is a critical cornerstone of a community. As such, our hospital stands as a symbol of our community's strength and resilience. It is vital we ensure its continued success.

I look forward to advancing the healthcare needs in South Huron through the efforts of the Foundation. And I am excited about the possibilities ahead. Together we can secure a thriving future for "The Little Hospital That Does."

Krista McCann, Foundation Executive Director



*Happy and
Healthy Holidays*

I would like to offer my most sincere thanks to you, our donors, for your ongoing and generous support. Your donations - no matter the size - enable the South Huron Hospital Foundation to invest in our mission of raising the funds needed to support access to exceptional care in South Huron. Our Foundation team is passionately committed to impacting healthcare in a meaningful and lasting way. Thank you for being the reason we are able to accomplish the important work we do!

Warmly wishing all members of our community a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2024!



Q&A with the CEO, Jimmy Trieu, Huron Health System President and CEO

1) The South Huron Hospital is now part of an alliance called the Huron Health System, which includes Alexandra Marine and General Hospital in Goderich. How has this new partnership strengthened South Huron Hospital? The partnership between

both hospitals has strengthened SHH by providing access to resources with specialized expertise, like surgery, ICU, dialysis, mental

health and obstetrics. The collaboration between both hospitals has provided economies of scale with an

integrated leadership team, enhanced access to referrals for CT scans and overall broader service offerings.

2) What are your top priorities for South Huron Hospital right now? The pandemic has produced many challenges for the hospital sector and there are three top priorities as I see it for SHH. First is workforce well-being. I want to ensure that staff and physicians are supported, both physically and mentally. This involves providing necessary resources, addressing burnout, and offering mental health support. If I focus on this, it will help with recruitment and retention of staff. Second is Patient Safety and Quality of Care. With a busy fall/winter season and a trifecta of viruses, the safety and well-being of patients is always paramount. This includes infection control, medication safety, and adherence to best clinical practices. Last is financial stability. Managing resources effectively and ensuring financial stability is crucial for the continued provision of high-quality care. I continue to work with Ontario Health to secure much needed funding that has allowed our doors to remain open so that we can provide care to the community.

3) We've seen lots of temporary ED closures over the past year. Is South Huron Hospital at risk of this? Should we be concerned about the viability of our Hospital and ED? The year 2023 brought with it a renewed sense of purpose and determination within the healthcare community. Our hospital became a beacon of resilience, with healthcare workers and physicians showing extraordinary courage and compassion in the face of a global health crisis. Their tireless efforts ensured that every patient received the care they deserved, regardless of the obstacles before them. Recruitment and retention of all staff is paramount as we face the challenges of health human resources and the dedication of all staff and physicians have been instrumental in keeping our hospital and ED open. We have demonstrated the importance of SHH and cemented our role in the health system and will be here as the provider of health care for the South Huron region.





FEATURED DONOR : Russ Okes & Joe Saddy

What inspired you to donate, Russ?

"I was so impressed with all the staff: from the cleaners who would exchange a smile, to the kitchen staff who were happy to accommodate. Also, the nurses that always took the time- even when they were run off their feet- to the doctors who listened to my concerns. The all made a bad situation the best it could possibly be, and we wanted to thank them for their efforts."

Pictured left: seated, Russ Okes; standing, Joe Saddy

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024

Gala
2024

COLIN MOCHRIE
&
DEB MCGRATH

Tickets
on sale
February
2024!

Thanks for Supporting!

SHHF Events of 2023

Oh My Gala!



The SHHF Gala was held June 2nd, 2023 at the South Huron Rec Centre. Event supporters enjoyed a fabulous evening of

entertainment, while raising over \$530,000 towards major equipment purchases for the South Huron Hospital! What a wonderful evening, with the absolute best supporters!

Golf, FORE the Hostpital!



The SHHF Golf Tournament was held Friday, September 8th, 2023 at the White Squirrel Golf Club in St.

Joseph's. Golfers enjoyed a fun-packed day of golf, followed by an incredible interactive Asian-inspired buffet meal. Golfers helped raise over \$50,000 for equipment purchases for the South Huron Hospital!

Turn up the RADIO-thon!



The 10th Annual SHHF Radiothon was held Friday, October 20th, 2023 at Hansen's Your Independent

Grocer. Broadcasted by 90.5 myFM, the event raised over \$45,000 for the South Huron Hospital Foundation! Pictured here is Denise Denomme of Huron Park, who gave a heartwarming donation in honour of the several weeks of care she received at SH Hospital this year.



IF YOU BUILD IT...

The South Huron Medical Centre houses a dedicated family practice led by esteemed physicians: Dr. Mario Bueno, Dr. Michaela Ondrejicka, Dr. Neeraj Patel, and Dr. Sean Ryan. Serving a substantial number of patients from South Huron and surrounding area, these physicians play a crucial role not only in providing primary care but also in supporting the South Huron Hospital's Emergency and Inpatient Departments. In the face of mounting challenges within our local healthcare system, our physicians have grappled with rising patient volumes, necessitating a reduction in local walk-in clinic hours- which ensures the physicians are available to serve the South Huron Hospital Emergency Department.



Amidst a healthcare landscape teetering on the edge, South Huron faces a growing crisis with over a thousand residents left without a primary care physician; and the numbers continue to climb. Anticipating a population surge of over 14% in South Huron over the next two years, the situation is poised to intensify. The South Huron Hospital, a beacon of resilience, stands at the forefront, bracing for a surge in Emergency Department (ED) and Inpatient visits. A 160-bed long-term care facility on the horizon only adds to the impending challenge. Against the backdrop of staffing shortages and the tumult of COVID-19, the hospital's untiring team has managed to keep the ED open 24/7, defying the odds. While neighboring EDs grapple with closures, the physicians and staff at South Huron Hospital heroically shoulder regular overtime shifts, ensuring our community's unimpeded access to crucial urgent care. The stakes are high, the challenges daunting, but South

Huron's healthcare providers remain unwavering in their commitment to our well-being.

Unfortunately, South Huron's healthcare system is at a tipping point, with an unsustainable model failing to keep pace with the escalating demand. Physician recruitment has become a paramount priority, not only to address the increased need, but also to plan for an impending wave of physician retirements. What isn't growing

**What isn't growing
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demand for healthcare is the
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in proportion to the demand for healthcare is the ability to serve the increased demand. Compounding the urgency, essential healthcare services

are dwindling, evidenced by reduced walk-in clinic hours, scaled-back lab and physio services, and other essential outpatient medical services. This crisis demands a dual-focused solution: urgently addressing staffing shortages in the hospital Emergency Department while concurrently bolstering family physician numbers and vital services in the medical centre. The recent reduction in walk-in clinic hours underscores the need for swift action to prevent the ED from becoming a makeshift substitute for primary care, safeguarding the community's health in the face of these mounting challenges.

To confront these challenges, in collaboration with hospital leadership, the South Huron Medical Centre physicians rolled up their sleeves and began recruiting physicians who would join the family practice and work in the SHH Emergency Department. They successfully recruited Dr. Steven Joseph, formerly Director of Primary Care Sport and Exercise Medicine at



“Part of the challenge with respect to the recruitment of physicians is that our current medical centre is not equipped to accommodate

more physicians or patients. We don't have the space or proper resources. So whether we expand our existing space, or invest in a new space, supporting the future of primary care is going to be very important to the residents of South Huron.”

DR. SEAN RYAN, CHIEF OF STAFF, AND FAMILY PHYSICIAN
AT THE SOUTH HURON MEDICAL CENTRE

the Fowler Kennedy Sport Medicine Clinic. However, recruitment efforts revealed a crucial challenge at our clinic—limited space. The existing physicians are already required to operate on alternate days due to a shortage of exam rooms and office space in the clinic. Bringing on Dr. Joseph required a quick (and temporary) transformation of clinic space into exam rooms for the new physician to practice from. The community now faces pivotal decisions to secure not just immediate solutions but sustainable healthcare infrastructure that will serve the local healthcare system over the next 30+ years.

Looking at ways to “future-proof” the South Huron Medical Centre has brought to light the challenges of its distinctive operating model that sets it apart from other medical facilities in Ontario. Owned and operated by the South Huron Hospital, this unconventional arrangement, conceived decades ago to attract physicians, now faces a critical juncture. Originally intended as a temporary solution, the model has become a permanent fixture, with the hospital annually funding \$500,000 in operating costs. Hospital budgets are not intended to fund medical clinics and primary care, and with South Huron Hospital’s budget currently facing a deficit of over \$1 million, the need to

find another solution for the operation of the medical clinic is critical. This prompts a crucial question: Who bears responsibility for steering the clinic’s future? This quandary holds profound implications for the community’s access to vital healthcare services, underscoring the urgency of resolving the matter.

The hospital now funds around \$500,000 annually in operating costs..

In recent developments, South Huron Hospital (SHH) CEO Jimmy Trieu approached the South Huron Council, seeking assistance in forming a community committee to address the future of the family practice and medical centre. Backed by the South Huron Hospital Foundation and the physician team, this initiative aims to explore pragmatic solutions, with the ultimate goal of constructing a new clinic. The objective is to ensure sustained access to primary care and a range of primary healthcare services for South Huron residents, while also creating an environment that attracts and retains medical professionals who will also serve the hospital. As of this publication, South Huron Municipal Council has tasked municipal staff with preparing a report to guide

their decision-making. Additionally, Mayor George Finch and South Huron Municipality Chief Administrative Officer Rebekah Msuya-Collison have sought support from Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health, Dawn Gallagher Murphy, emphasizing the importance of the recent South Huron Medical Centre application for FHT funding. Their assistance is acknowledged as the community endeavors to secure its healthcare future.

The South Huron Hospital Foundation is enthusiastic about investing in initiatives that not only bolster the community’s health landscape but also ensure the sustained vitality of our hospital. Anticipating innovative solutions from ongoing pivotal discussions, the Foundation expresses optimism about the forthcoming outcomes. The pivotal conversations currently underway hold the key to shaping the future of care in South Huron, relying on a forward-thinking strategy designed to benefit every member of this community. Heartfelt gratitude is extended to our dedicated physicians and medical professionals, who stand steadfast as partners in progress. We are committed to providing them with the space and resources they need in order to provide the best care possible to their patients, and this community.



Introducing: Dr. Steven Joseph. Dr. Joseph is the former Director of Primary Care Sport and Exercise Medicine at the Fowler Kennedy Sport Medicine Clinic; an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at Western University; and provides care at Fowler Kennedy and the Roth McFarlane Hand and Upper Limb Centre. Dr. Joseph earned his MA at UBC, MD at University of Calgary, and completed residency training in Family Medicine at Western University. He previously served with the Canadian Forces as a Medical Officer and Flight Surgeon. He has special interests in ultrasound-guided procedures, sport/event planning, travel medicine and medical education while continuing to work part time as a rural emergency room physician. When not in clinic he enjoys his three kids, playing hockey, and cheering for his beloved Edmonton Oilers. Dr. Joseph serves as a team physician for Rowing Canada, the London Lightning, and Western Varsity Hockey. Welcome to South Huron Dr. Joseph!

INVESTMENTS WE'RE MAKING IN 2023/2024



LAB CHEMISTRY ANALYZER | \$241,000

Used for analyzing lab draws and diagnosing the various conditions of patients being treated in the Emergency Department and Inpatient Units.

PATIENT ENTERTAINMENT | \$110,000

After years of having no televisions or communication devices in our patient wards, we are thrilled to be installing a state-of-the-art patient entertainment and communication system. The units will allow patients to watch tv, Netflix, browse the web, and even receive educational videos about their treatment plans. The units even allow for phone calls and video calls with family.



STAFF DURESS SYSTEM | \$10,500

A hospital-wide system which enables staff to sound an alert when they find themselves in an emergency situation. This ensures that staff who are alone can quickly get help. The system announces the location of the staff, and mobilizes all others to assist.

WOW CARTS | \$48,500

Workstations On Wheels provide medical staff with all the resources they need available at their fingertips while treating patients at the bedside. The carts are equipped with charting technology, and standard tools that are used regularly.

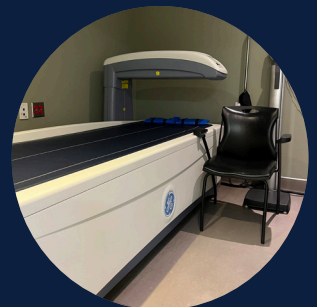


BARIATRIC PATIENT BED | \$49,200

A larger sized bed for improved comfort, better mobility, and better safety for both patient and staff.

BONE DENSITY SCANNER | \$89,100

A Bone Mineral Density Scanner is a machine used to diagnose bone loss and osteoporosis. A BMD scan can help to predict the likelihood of future bone fractures and other osteo conditions needing treatment.





LEAVING A LEGACY: The Bell Family

The South Huron Hospital Foundation was the grateful recipient of a very generous bequest from the Estate of Anne Bell. Anne's \$294,000 gift comes with wonderful meaning as Anne's parents, Elmer and Barbara Bell, were major supporters during the hospital's first years. In fact, when the hospital doors opened in 1953, Elmer Bell was the Chairman of the Hospital's board of directors. He was an integral part of the campaign to build a hospital in Exeter.

Anne was born in Toronto, and adopted by her parents Elmer and Barbara. She spent her childhood growing up in Exeter, attending Exeter Public School and South Huron High School. She then continued her education at Elma College, an all girls school. Once graduated, she became a law clerk at her fathers law office in Exeter. Anne enjoyed singing, and was known for her beautiful voice. She enjoyed riding horses, and spending time at the family cottage. Anne had a love for all animals and took care of her cats and dogs like they were her children. She eventually settled at the Exeter Villa, making many friends whom will fondly remember her.



The South Huron Hospital Foundation is forever grateful for Anne's generous and impactful gift, and wish to highlight the important legacy of the Bell family at the South Huron Hospital.



COMING SPRING 2024! *Patient Gardens*



We are thrilled to be working with Goodalt Landscaping to plan a patient garden space, where patients and their visitors can enjoy being outdoors in a safe and healing environment. Stay tuned as this project unfolds!



Making a gift of: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$125 ☐ or I'd prefer \$ _____

☐ Enclosed is a cheque payable to South Huron Hospital Foundation OR Please charge my ☐ ☐

Card No. CVC. Expiry /

Name on Card: _____ Signature _____

Phone: _____ Please Email my receipt to: _____

Charitable Number BN 119157808 RR0001

The Foundation has a policy of recognizing donations over \$500.00 ☐ No, I do not wish to have my name listed in any public recognition issued by the South Huron Hospital Foundation. For more information on recognition levels, contact the Foundation.

We welcome donations online at www.shhf.on.ca

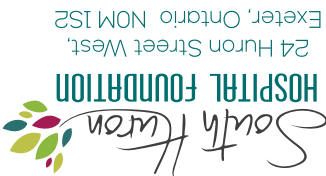


FEATURED DONOR : Russ Okes & Joe Saddy
Learn about what inspired their thoughtful gift
to the South Huron Hospital Foundation



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