

**KDH
Foundation**
is fundraising for
**3D
Mammography
System!**





Message from KDH Board Chair & President and CEO

Kemptville District Hospital (KDH) recognizes our role as a regional hospital, and how important having the best technology is to providing high-quality, safe care. Through collaboration with our partners - including provincial, county, and municipal leaders - along with extraordinary support from our Foundation and community, we're making significant investments in our hospital now to prepare for tomorrow.

There is no doubt our community is growing. With the significant influx of new residents and new businesses opening in North Grenville, KDH remains committed to building capacity to meet the demand across all age groups.

Over the past two years, KDH celebrated the addition of a CT scanner and two new x-ray machines to enhance Diagnostic Imaging services for our patients. These advancements resulted in better care, delivered closer to home, with over 6,000 scans performed in the first year of CT operation!

After 15 years of providing life-saving breast screening mammograms, it's time to upgrade to a 3D Mammography system. This new technology is more accurate, will enhance the patient experience, and improve workflow for technologists.

KDH is constantly exploring innovative ways to make care more accessible and safe for people we serve and will continue to do so as our population grows and needs evolve.

Where we are today, and how far we go in the future, is thanks to our incredibly supportive community and KDH Foundation! Our hospital was built by the community, for the community, and that community spirit is what makes KDH so unique.

We'd also like to thank our forward-thinking partners for collaborating with us on transformative health system initiatives. KDH strongly believes that together, we can build healthier communities!

Erin Bonokoski
KDH Board Chair

Frank J. Vassallo
President and CEO of
Kemptville District Hospital



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HEALTH MATTERS is a community magazine published annually by Kemptville District Hospital to inform readers about programs and services of the hospital, promote health and wellness, and recognize donors to our hospital.

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If you would like to make comments or suggestions about hospital services, please contact KDH Patient Relations by emailing patientrelations@kdh.on.ca or calling 613-258-6133 x223.



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Joint Message from Foundation Board Chair & Executive Director

For nearly 50 years, the Kemptville District Hospital (KDH) Foundation has worked tirelessly to raise funds in support of our hospital!

This year is no different; the Foundation launched a fundraising campaign to purchase a new 3D Mammography System that will benefit patients for years to come. Health is at the heart of our Foundation, and our goal is to ensure that our hospital has the best equipment to provide high-quality, safe care.

Our community is incredibly generous and supportive of our hospital, and we are so grateful for every donation, whether it's \$5 or \$500 – every dollar makes a difference.

It never fails to amaze us how the community rallies around our fundraising campaigns, such as the \$2.3 million raised for our new CT scanner and over \$460,000 raised for a new x-ray machine! Thousands of people came together to make those campaigns a success, demonstrating a collective commitment to KDH and everything our hospital represents.

We understand the importance of care close to home, and how much it means to our community to have KDH nearby when it's needed. By fundraising for new equipment, we're supporting the hospital to expand critical services, so people don't need to travel for care.

Health matters to everyone, and as our community continues to grow and care needs evolve, our Foundation has a vital role to play in the years ahead.

We're excited for the challenge because we know our community is behind us!

Margret Norenberg, KDH Foundation Board Chair
Cindy Smith, KDH Foundation Executive Director

KDH Auxiliary Message

The KDH Auxiliary is led by co-presidents Teresa Harrison and Rosemary Bennett, and both bring extensive experience and strong dedication to community service. They look forward to working together to support fundraising efforts to help support patient care and fund a new mammogram machine to KDH!

This co-leadership model continues to serve us well as our region grows and health-care needs evolve. By sharing the presidency, Teresa and Rosemary can respond more flexibly to new opportunities, connect with a wider network of volunteers, and ensure the Auxiliary remains an active and valued part of hospital life.

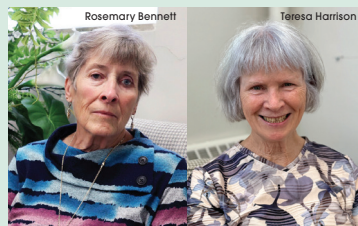
Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the Auxiliary is able to fund vital medical equipment that government budgets do not cover, ensuring our hospital remains well-equipped to serve the community.

The KDH Auxiliary operates a Gift Shop & Coffee Bar, open Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm. Visitors can browse new and gently used items, enjoy hot and cold drinks, and choose from fresh sandwiches, soup, and muffins. Used books are available for just \$1-\$2, making it a cozy spot to relax and support a great cause! We're hoping to be able to offer weekend hours in the near future.

Our major annual fundraiser, Hey Day, returns each June as one of Ontario's largest indoor garage sales. Thousands of donated items fill the space, and the community shows up in full force to shop, volunteer, and celebrate. Over the past three years, Hey Day has raised more than \$150,000.

A successful membership drive at Hey Day 2026 resulted in 20 new members. Auxiliary members can be seen helping in our Gift Shop & Coffee Bar, and raising funds through different events throughout the year. To learn more or get involved, please email kdh_volunteer@kdh.on.ca

Rosemary Bennett and Teresa Harrison,
Co-presidents of KDH Auxiliary



ON OUR COVER

KDH's mammography machine has reached its end-of-life after 15 years in operation, with over 21,700 breast screening mammograms completed since the service was launched in 2011.



Celebrating 15 years of mammography services at Kemptville District Hospital



In 2010, the Kemptville District Hospital (KDH) Foundation was busy fundraising to purchase the hospital’s first mammography machine.

The community was growing, and KDH recognized the need to offer screening mammograms closer to home.

Just as it’s done throughout KDH’s history, the community rallied around the hospital and in 2011, the new digital mammography unit opened.

At the time, it was the “best mammography technology currently available,” according to an article published in The Kemptville Advance (November 10, 2011). “A digital unit was selected, as digital mammography images have better contrast than film-screen images and the technology images dense breast tissue, usually found in premenopausal women, much more clearly. These digital images are done at a lower radiation dose as well, compared to film-screen.”

While state-of-the-art in 2011, technology has evolved significantly over the past 15 years. As of 2026, KDH’s mammography machine has reached its end-of-life, and what a life it’s been!

Since the mammography unit opened, over 21,700 screening mammograms have been performed at KDH, resulting in early detection of breast cancer for countless people.

Aside from providing life-saving care to thousands, fundraising for the mammography unit also brought people together!



The inaugural ‘Kemptville Walks for Mammography’ event took place in October of 2012, to cover the outstanding balance of \$275,000 for the mammography machine, which cost a total of \$750,000.

Then in December of 2012, Kemptville Meadows – a subdivision built by LA Group - committed to raising \$24,000 for mammography services by donating \$500 from each sale of the remaining 48 homes in the development.



This photo was taken in 2013. Pictured are Rosalind Kinnear (far right), shaking hands with Catherine Van Vliet (second from right), the hospital's then Director of Patient Services & Integration, after presenting a cheque for \$500 to purchase spa robes for patients to wear when they had a mammogram at KDH. Also pictured are Karen Finner (far left), Medical Radiation Technologist at KDH, and Cathy Watson (second from left), the hospital's then Manager of Clinical Programs.

Every contribution made a difference! From local residents who teamed up to raise funds by hosting a garage sale, to proceeds from the Shoppers Drug Mart Tree of Life campaign, each dollar brought the KDH Foundation closer to its goal!



A \$50,000 donation from Great-West Life and London Life was presented during the 2011 KDH Foundation Golf Tournament.

That same year, the inaugural Carol Durie Memorial Golf Tournament raised over \$64,000 for the KDH Foundation!

The following year, in 2012, a total of \$73,500 was raised in memory of Carol Durie for the mammography unit.

The KDH Auxiliary was a major supporter of the mammography campaign, and contributed \$100,000!



Lillian Leonard, a member of the KDH Auxiliary at the time, called it a "pretty exciting time" for the hospital, with Auxiliary members – including herself – participating in the 'Kemptville Walks' events.

"It was inspirational," she said. "We had great conversations, all of us women walking together for a good cause."

There are countless others to be thanked for bringing mammography services to KDH! Your efforts had a tremendous impact on the health of our community for the past 15 years, and KDH is so grateful to our incredibly generous community.



With files from The Kemptville Advance, articles published between 2011 - 2014

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The KDH Auxiliary was a major supporter of the mammography campaign, and contributed \$100,000!
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Breast cancer survivor highlights importance of 3D mammograms for early detection

Caroline Rutter, Vice Chair of the KDH Foundation Board, knew something wasn't right when she began experiencing pain in her ribs during the fall of 2019.

With low hemoglobin and worsening pain, she started seeing a hematologist and undergoing blood transfusions. But everything came to a head in March of 2020 – the same month she turned 50 and the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the world.

"I came to the KDH Emergency Department because the pain was unbearable," said Rutter. "Dr. (Johnny) Brisebois did more digging and when he looked at my bloodwork, he said the results could be an indicator of cancer."

She was sent for a CT scan, which showed moth-eaten like holes in her bones, and then underwent a bone marrow biopsy.

"That's when it was diagnosed as metastatic breast cancer," said Rutter. Despite having a screening mammogram because she noticed changes in her right breast, the small lump didn't show up.

"That's why the 3D mammography technology is so important," she said. "I honestly feel that if we had had a 3D system, it would've been caught earlier and halted the progression of the metastasis earlier."

After six months of chemotherapy, and what she referred to as "amazing care" provided in Kemptville, Winchester, and Ottawa, Rutter was in remission.

"I had such an incredible care team, and it made a world of difference," she added. "Along with support from my friends and family."

Rutter will be on medication for the rest of her life, needs a CT scan every six months – a service she can now access in Kemptville – and wants to share her story to highlight the importance of early detection for breast cancers.

"The 3D mammography system can save lives," she said. "The mammography machine at KDH is on its last legs, and the new technology is more accurate and can detect breast cancers sooner for patients."

Rutter added that the new 3D mammography system will help protect our community, and encourages people to donate to the KDH Foundation's fundraising campaign.

"This is very important for our community because the sooner we can diagnose, the faster we can treat people," she said.



Compassion in Every Mammogram

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That's why the 3D mammography technology is so important. I honestly feel that if we had had a 3D system, it would've been caught earlier and halted the progression of the metastasis earlier.

- Caroline Rutter

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Rutter explained that her breast cancer journey changed her perspective: “It made me realize how precious life is, and how everything can change in a moment.”

She also realized that a lot of healing comes from listening to your body, and recognizing when something feels different.

“I've learned to practise gratitude every day for what we have, including our great community and wonderful hospital.”

For more information about the KDH Foundation's 3D Mammography campaign, or to donate, visit <https://www.kdhfoundation.ca>

“Experience Left Such a Positive Impression”

A patient recently shared how much they appreciated the care received during a routine mammogram at KDH. The technologist's warm, welcoming approach helped them feel comfortable from the start.

The patient especially appreciated the care taken to position them comfortably and the technologist's immediate response when they experienced discomfort. They described the technologist as kind, gentle and personable, which helped make an experience that can sometimes feel stressful more relaxed and reassuring.

The experience left such a positive impression that the patient took the time to acknowledge the team's care and compassion.

This highlights how kindness, clear communication, and attention to comfort can make a meaningful difference in mammography.

“They Took the Time to Put Me at Ease”

For another patient, the first mammogram came with uncertainty about what to expect.

The technologist explained each step of the procedure, including what the patient might see, feel and experience during the exam, and what to expect afterward. This clear, thoughtful communication helped transform an unfamiliar experience into one in which the patient felt informed, comfortable, and supported.

What stood out most was the technologist's ability to combine technical expertise with a genuine understanding of the patient's perspective. The patient also appreciated how quick and easy it was to book the appointment and connect with the booking team.

Stories like these highlight the difference compassionate, patient-centred mammography care can make—helping patients in our community feel comfortable, reassured, and supported throughout their experience.



Why Kemptville District Hospital needs a 3D Mammography System, and how it will improve outcomes for patients

Since Kemptville District Hospital (KDH) launched mammography services in 2011, technology has evolved significantly. The new 3D Mammography System – with both 3D and 2D capabilities – is the best diagnostic tool available for screening mammograms.

After 15 years in operation, the hospital’s mammography machine has reached its end-of-life. Due to its age and recurring technical issues, the machine was out of service for several weeks in the summer of 2025, directly impacting patient care. Finding compatible parts and software has become increasingly difficult and will soon be impossible.

The new 3D Mammography System offers the gold standard of care, and can perform both 3D and 2D breast screening mammograms, the latter of which can be utilized for routine, low-risk patients in accordance with the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) guidelines.

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**Early detection
is critical for
our patients;
it leads to better
outcomes and
higher survival
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- Katie Hogue,
KDH VP of Nursing/
Clinical Services &
Chief Nursing
Executive

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3D mammograms provide a more detailed picture with many images taken from different angles to create thin, layer-by-layer ‘slices’ of the breast, making it easier for physicians to see through overlapping tissue. The new technology is more accurate, and can detect more invasive breast cancers by making it easier to spot small or hidden breast cancers.

The KDH Foundation is raising funds to purchase a 3D Mammography System, at an estimated cost of \$595,000. The new technology offers the following advantages:

- Earlier detection of small breast cancers
- Greater accuracy in identifying the size, shape, and location of abnormalities, even with dense breast tissue
- Fewer unnecessary biopsies and follow-up tests

Patients coming for their first screening mammogram will get a 3D mammogram, and then depending on breast tissue density, will receive subsequent 3D or 2D mammograms.

“Early detection is critical for our patients; it leads to better outcomes and higher survival rates,” said Katie Hogue, KDH VP of Nursing/Clinical Services & Chief Nursing Executive. “The new technology will enhance the care we provide and mammography services we can offer at KDH. We want our patients to have the best care possible, and the 3D Mammography System will enable us to do that.”

The new technology is designed to provide higher quality images for radiologists, a more comfortable mammography experience for patients and enhanced workflow for technologists.

“The new technology is a big step forward in terms of the quality and accuracy of screening mammograms at KDH,” said Lindsay O’Keefe, Manager of Corporate Quality and Diagnostic Imaging. “It offers sharper images and smarter technologies to make it easier to find invasive cancers, regardless of age or breast density.”

KDH is an OBSP site, which means that patients without a family physician can self-refer for a mammogram. The OBSP offers breast screening to eligible people ages 40 to 74, and most people who are eligible for the program can get screened with mammography every two years.

To book a mammogram at KDH, call 613-258-6133 ext. 103.

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- Lindsay O'Keefe, Manager of Corporate
Quality and Diagnostic Imaging

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A Legacy of Philanthropy: Remembering Gavin Murphy

Gavin Murphy recognized the value of universal health care, and how important it was for people to have access to the latest diagnostic imaging technology.

The late Ottawa lawyer and philanthropist, who passed away suddenly earlier this year, leaves behind a legacy at Kemptville District Hospital. Generations of people will benefit from his generosity; Gavin was the catalyst for the x-ray matching fundraising campaign in 2025, which surpassed its goal of \$460,000 thanks to his pledge to match every donation up to \$230,000.

The new x-ray machine is a state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging tool that improves patient outcomes, timely access to quality care, technologist workflow, and operator safety.

Gavin is remembered every time someone goes into the x-ray room that bears his name, and by all members of Team KDH who met him.

“ It was a privilege getting to know Gavin; from the moment we first met at the KDH Foundation, to the phone calls we shared over the following weeks and months, I really enjoyed our conversations. He was such a spirited, active, and interesting person, who could talk about anything from politics to tennis, history to biking, travelling and everything in between. We had a lot in common, including our passion for health care. He was a terrific person and is deeply missed by KDH – his support of our hospital will never be forgotten.” ~ Frank Vassallo, KDH President and CEO.

“ Gavin had this incredible energy and enthusiasm, and as we toured the hospital discussing urgent equipment needs, it was obvious how much he cared. He was such a genuine person, who was deeply devoted to supporting health care initiatives. Our Foundation really enjoyed working with Gavin; his personable nature and willingness to help promote the campaign contributed to its success. Our Foundation appreciates everything Gavin did for our hospital.” ~ Cindy Smith, KDH Foundation Executive Director.

“ I met hundreds of people during my tenure as a journalist, and the most striking thing about Gavin was that he didn't remind me of anyone; he was such a unique individual, quick-witted with a great sense of humour. Gavin was also a writer and published author, who occasionally asked me to edit his articles. He was a talented writer, and even though I knew nothing about the law, the way he wrote about it captured your attention. Gavin left an impression, and I'll always value getting to know him.” ~ Jenn Westendorp, KDH Communications Officer.

KDH extends our heartfelt condolences to Gavin's family, friends, community, and loved ones.



As MPP for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, I'm pleased to have this opportunity to recognize the incredible work of everyone at Kemptville District Hospital to strengthen healthcare in our community.



I'm proud to be a strong advocate for continued investment by our government in the people and services at KDH. I also want to commend hospital staff for their leadership in working with me and other partners over the past year to dramatically improve access to team-based primary care for residents of North Grenville and beyond.

The hospital continues to innovate. KDH demonstrates that smaller hospitals can find new ways to expand services and bring them closer to patients by leveraging partnerships and making the best use of existing facilities and the professionals who deliver world-class care.

KDH is also modernizing to ensure its frontline staff have the modern equipment they need to meet the increasing demands of our growing community. After its CT scanner went into service last year, the Kemptville District Hospital Foundation has launched a campaign to purchase a new 3D mammography system.

This latest addition to KDH's diagnostic imaging department is vital to ensure people have access to the latest breast screening technology.

Our community has consistently demonstrated how much it values KDH through its incredible generosity, and I'm confident the Foundation's latest campaign will be a success.

My sincere appreciation to Foundation members for their hard work and commitment to this latest campaign – and for the millions of dollars raised over the years.

Thank you to KDH's physicians, nurses, staff, leadership, volunteers, as well as members of the Board of Directors and Foundation for all you do every day to show that a small hospital can make a big difference.

Steve Clark, MPP

Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes

As Mayor of North Grenville, it is a pleasure to once again welcome readers to *Health Matters* and to celebrate the important role Kemptville District Hospital plays in our community.



KDH is so much more than a hospital. It is an important part of what makes North Grenville such a caring and connected community – a place where residents and families can access high-quality care close to home, supported by dedicated physicians, staff and volunteers.

As our community continues to grow, so too does the importance of ensuring our local hospital has the equipment, resources and support it needs to serve residents today and into the future.

This year, the KDH Foundation is turning its attention to a crucial new 3D mammography system – an important investment in modern diagnostic imaging and patient care. The new technology offers significant improvements and will help ensure this vital health service continues to be available locally.

Once again, our community has an opportunity to be a crucial part of KDH's continued success. The generosity of residents, businesses, organizations and donors has made an extraordinary difference at our hospital over the years, and that spirit of community support is something we can all be proud of.

On behalf of Council and the Municipality of North Grenville, thank you to everyone who contributes to KDH – whether as a patient, caregiver, healthcare professional, volunteer, donor or community partner.

And thank you for being part of a community that continues to care for one another.

Mayor Nancy Peckford

North Grenville



Help us Replace Life-Saving Equipment

The KDH Foundation is committed to supporting our hospital's equipment needs to ensure patients have access to safe, high-quality care! We're fundraising to purchase a new 3D Mammography System, at a cost of \$595,000, which offers both 3D and 2D capabilities.

This new technology will enhance mammography services at our hospital, and benefit patients for years to come!

Without a new upgraded mammography system, early detection of breast cancer becomes much harder. Lives are literally on the line.

We Need Your Help —

The Kemptville District Hospital Foundation is urgently raising funds to replace this critical equipment. Your gift today will directly support these purchases and ensure that our hospital can continue delivering the high-quality care our patients and families deserve.

How to Donate

Secure Online Donation: www.kdhfoundation.ca
By Phone: (613) 258-6133 x185
By Cheque (payable to the Kemptville District Hospital Foundation):
2675 Concession Road, Box 2007
Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0

Together, we can replace critical equipment and protect the health of our community. Please give generously today.



The Foundation presented a \$262,508 cheque to KDH on July 28, 2026, during its annual Golf Tournament.

These funds will go towards supporting a variety of equipment needs, such as:

- ED – CBC Analyzer for Lab, Bladder Scanner, Philips ECG Machines/Carts
- Surgical Care Unit – Endoscope, Anesthesia Drug Carts, Video Camera Heads used for arthroscopy procedures
- Ambulatory Care Clinics – Philips ECG
- OR – Rehab parallel bars

In 2025/26, the Foundation funded many important initiatives, including:

- The new X-Ray Machine
- The ED Safe Room
- Respirator with Bi-PAP capability
- Surgical Post

The KDH Foundation is currently raising funds to purchase a 3D Mammography System. For more information about the Foundation, or to donate, visit <https://www.kdhfoundation.ca>



Your Support. Your Hospital. Your Community.