

# South Muskoka Hospital Foundation

## New laser equipment expands services in Muskoka

Dr. Rhee is delighted that he can now perform kidney stone surgeries right here in Muskoka. With support from the community, the foundation was able to contribute \$185,000 and purchase a holmium laser and associated equipment for laser lithotripsy, a specialized treatment for kidney stones. This laser has the ability to break up kidney stones in order to reduce their size and allow them to pass naturally out of the patient's body.

A recent recruit to Muskoka, Dr. Rhee, a urologist, moved to Bracebridge in August 2016, following a residency at Queen's University in Kingston. Originally from Richmond Hill, he went to medical school in London, Ontario. Dr. Rhee is the second urologist at the hospital, joining Dr. Drohomyrecky.

"We had to refer patients to other centres," says Rhee, "meaning a lot of travel for them and multiple appointments while we served as the middleman."

"With this technology, we access through natural entry points, such as the urethra, rather than by incision," explains Dr. Rhee. "The non-invasive nature of this procedure means most patients can go home the same day." One risk is that the presence of kidney stones can arise as an emergency, with a sudden attack. The pain from a blockage by a stone in the kidney or ureter can be quite intense. Should this occur nowadays,

with the purchase of the new holmium laser, the patient can now receive this urgent care in Bracebridge.

With a nearby office location, Rhee sees patients at either the hospital or at his office at 9 Ann Street. He currently sees patients from Parry Sound to Haliburton and anticipates the growth of his practice since he can now offer this treatment.

In addition to adding this new service to Muskoka, Rhee finds comfort in helping the hospital expand their offerings. "The hospital has been very supportive in my brief time here." He credits up-to-date equipment as a critical tool to help bring other young doctors to the area.

Dr. Rhee lives in Bracebridge with his wife and two-year-old daughter and they have, "loved getting to know the other families in the area."



*Dr. Jonathan Rhee with the new holmium laser.*

## Tenth anniversary of radiothon sets all-time high



*Ryder and Raelyn Veitch give the Moose FM mascot their donation.*

The Moose FM Radiothon reached an all-time high this Thanksgiving. In total, \$56,476 was raised over a 12-hour period live at the Moose FM studios in Bracebridge. The

results were more than double the \$22,016 raised in 2016.

This year was the 10th anniversary of the radiothon. One of the highlights was a visit from Julia Tilson and her mother, Johanna Tilson. They retold the story that has become legendary at the hospital - about how, 11 years ago, Julia's life was saved when the newly-purchased CT scanner speedily diagnosed a brain bleed.

Tom Young co-hosted the radiothon for part of the day and told the story of his experience at the hospital while battling cancer. A number of former patients came forward to tell of the excellent care they received during various health crises in their lives. A few of the larger gifts of \$5,000 or more came from Paul & Shirley Hammond, Richard & Marilyn Coles, Scotiabank, Muskoka Brewery, and the Bracebridge Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign.

"The results exceeded our expectations," said Colin Miller, the foundation's executive director. "It's obvious that people feel passionate about their hospital. This result demonstrates that they are eager to support the needs today."

*"It's obvious that people feel passionate about their hospital..."*

## Gidley succeeds Hammond as foundation chair

Ask anyone on the South Muskoka Hospital Foundation board and they'll tell you that you can't replace Paul Hammond - but you can build on what he has accomplished. At least that's what the incoming chair Mark Gidley says about his outgoing chair.

"I've learned a lot from Paul's contributions," says Gidley, "and I appreciate what he's done all these years. In fact, I'm not letting him leave - he'll stay on as an honorary director."

Hammond has served formally on the foundation board for the past nine years, the last three as foundation chair. Previous to that, he served as campaign chair.

"I've trained Mark well," Hammond jokes. "The foundation is in good hands. I feel good about what the board has accomplished over the years. We've had a couple of very good campaigns. But we have to keep going, we can't let up. Mark will forge on ahead and ensure the hospital continues to serve our

community with excellence."

The foundation's executive director Colin Miller expresses a profound gratitude for Paul's contributions. "His deep roots in the community and his dedication have produced a significant benefit to the hospital. No one can ever doubt Paul's commitment."

Part of that commitment included a \$5,000 donation at the recent Moose FM Radiothon from Paul and Shirley Hammond. "Paul is putting his money where his mouth is," says Miller. "He's always been that way, setting the example, inspiring and leading others."

Although Hammond and Gidley will each do things according to their own style, they have similar feelings about the hospital. "There's a lot of changes across the province in terms of funding and everyone is trying to look down the road and strategize for the future," says Gidley. "That's all well and good but the bottom line is if you

want to have the resources in your local hospital, you have to be willing to support it today. It's all about community."

Gidley and his wife Patricia live in Bala, the town founded by his great-grandfather. He keeps busy between family, including grandchildren, boating on Lake Muskoka, and his work as a real estate broker.



Mark Gidley (left) succeeds Paul Hammond as foundation chair.



## The hospital was there for me when things didn't go well



John Rosbak, Torrance

Last June I became alarmed when I started to experience severe abdominal

pains. I went to the South Muskoka emergency room, where the medical personnel saw me in a timely manner. They eased my pain and recommended that I should see my family doctor as soon as possible. I promptly took their advice and my doctor referred me to a surgeon who immediately booked me for surgery. When I arrived at the hospital at 7 am on August 30, they were very thorough in preparing me both physically and mentally for the operation. I was a little nervous, but throughout the preparation I was made

to feel at ease by the staff. I woke up over three hours later to find out that, because of complications, I had to have a major operation instead of the original plan involving laparoscopic surgery. Over the next two days recovering at the hospital, the staff did an excellent job taking care of my needs regarding pain and comfort. I returned home feeling satisfied that I won that one because of my supportive team at the hospital who took such good care of me.

John Rosbak

# Today is the focus

Colin Miller, Executive Director, South Muskoka Hospital Foundation

Donors sometimes come into the office to express their concern about the long-term planning for the hospital. It's prudent to have long-term plans and the province wisely requires us to do so, in order to make the appropriate decisions at the appropriate times. It only makes sense.

Granted, the changes under discussion are big ones that may affect the location of the hospital. People are concerned and rightly so. However, we cannot let 20 years into the future affect important actions that need to be taken today. As I look at the lengthy list of equipment needs for the hospital, I'm impressed by how many we've been able to cross off that list, thanks to the generosity of our donors. Our community clearly demonstrates, over and over again, how important it is to



have quality health care.

One recent example of this is the Moose FM Radiothon held this past Thanksgiving. Donors more than doubled their support from the ***“Today is the focus by which we can build our tomorrow.”***

previous year. Another landmark that occurred this

past summer was exceeding the \$1 million mark in proceeds from the various charity golf tournaments over the years. We are grateful that so many in Muskoka support the hospital in one way or another; service clubs, businesses and individuals donate generously or hold an event that inspires others to donate.

Despite all these successes, some hesitate because of their concern for long-term plans. I encourage those people to look at today and the near future - as that's where our focus has to be. We need to keep our hospital strong and in order to do that, we need to keep in mind the list of \$3 million of significant needs that we strive to provide each and every year.

Today is the focus by which we can build our tomorrow.



## SOUTH MUSKOKA HOSPITAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017/2018

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# South Muskoka Hospital Foundation

*South Muskoka Hospital Foundation is grateful for every donation it receives.*

**South Muskoka Hospital Foundation is grateful for every donation it receives. The following individuals, businesses, and organizations made gifts of \$500 or more between July 1, 2016 and October 15, 2017.**

Sandy Adamson	Don & Helen Coates	Mark & Patricia Gidley
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**We make every attempt to ensure the accuracy of this list. If we have accidentally omitted or misspelled your name, please contact us at the Foundation office.**

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Lake of Bays Association	Muskoka Originals Hockey Team	Shine Media Inc.
Donald G. Lang	Muskoka Transport Spare Tires	Shoppers Drug Mart LIFE Foundation
James Larock	Muskoka Window & Door Centre	Barbara Simpson
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Shamrock Lodge	James Onions	Stephen's Butcher Shop
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Clyde & Janet MacDuff	Martin O'Shaughnessy	Michael & Ann Stoten
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Neil Murphy	Sandy Lane Resorts	Windermere Golf & Country Club
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Muskoka Bay Golf Corporation	Linda Schell	Burton G. Wray
Muskoka Brewery	Rolf & Rosemarie Schoene	Robert & Joan Wright
Muskoka Chrysler Sales	Marianne Schuehle	You-Go Rentals & Sales
Muskoka Custom Cleaning	Bruce Schulz	Gordon & Michele Young
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Muskoka KIA	Florence June Sealy	
Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club	Mary Sharp	
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*South Muskoka Hospital Foundation thanks you.*

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# Special Fundraising Events



**Youth clean up for the cause** - The youth at the *Beumaris Yacht and Country Club* raised \$615 for the hospital through a golf cart wash. Beumaris resident Teddy Littler presents a cheque to Foundation representative Joanna Gallant. The donation will be used to purchase an infant heartbeat monitor.



**Smiling for the hospital** - For a week in September, both *Tim Hortons* locations in Bracebridge donated \$1 for each cookie sold, totalling \$5008. Here, Jaxon & Rowan Gallant purchase their cookies from Kathrina.



**Spare Tires show heart** - Members of the *Muskoka Transport Spare Tires* present Colin Miller of the Foundation with a cheque for \$6,000. The proceeds were raised at the Bruce Robinson Memorial Golf Tournament. These funds will be used to assist with the purchase of a new stress testing machine in the cardio respiratory department at the SMMH Site.

**Golf tournaments exceed \$1 million mark in fundraising** - During the summer months, golf tournaments give a big boost to the South Muskoka Hospital Foundation's coffers. Notably this year, the foundation exceeded the \$1 million mark in cumulative funds received from three of its largest golf tournaments over the years. These three include the *Dave Ellis Pro-Am Golf Tournament*, the *Peter Freed Charity Tournament*, and the *South Muskoka Golf Classic*. From left, Lori Reynolds (Freed Charity Golf Classic), Dave Bacon (Dave Ellis Pro-Am Golf Tournament), and Jodie Evans (South Muskoka Golf Classic).



## Ensuring our community's health care future



75 Ann Street, Bracebridge ON P1L 2E4

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 Please send me information on making a gift in my will  
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# A Message from Natalie Bubela

Chief Executive Officer

Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare



Autumn is here and we recently celebrated Thanksgiving, a reminder of all that we have to be thankful for. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare is so fortunate to have great staff and physicians and dedicated volunteers who contribute each and every day to high-quality, safe patient care at our two sites.

At the same time, we are challenged year after year to operate within the provincial funding formula for hospitals. We are not alone in this struggle. Underfunding is a challenge facing numerous medium-sized hospitals across Ontario. I am grate-

ful for the support of the MAHC Board of Directors, our health care professionals and municipal leaders for their continued and relentless advocacy for more operating dollars for our Muskoka hospitals.

It's important to remember this provincial funding is for hospital operations only, and communities like ours here in South Muskoka are expected to pay for capital needs like equipment, technology and building infrastructure.

To continue to provide the best patient care today and in the future, we rely on state-of-the-art

equipment, sophisticated information technology, and safe and high-functioning buildings. We require millions of dollars every year to replace old equipment, to keep pace with technology and to ensure that our patients get the very best safe care.

Whether it's an outdoor adventure gone wrong, a stroke or heart attack or a life-saving surgical procedure, we are here for you when you need us most. Please continue to be here for us. We are always in need of your support.



## Good for Business Program

Support from local business has been a cornerstone of our hospital since 1929, the year after we opened. Our current corporate partners say they are proud to be part of South Muskoka Memorial Hospital. They know their support is making a huge impact on patient lives. Without the generosity and support of our corporate partners, much of what we have accomplished would not have been possible.

While every gift is important, we would like to acknowledge the following corporations and businesses that have an existing pledge commitment of \$25,000 or greater:

- Canadian Tire Bracebridge
- Canadian Tire Gravenhurst
- Cavalcade Ford Lincoln Sales Ltd.
- CIBC
- Greavette Chevrolet Buick Cadillac GMC Ltd.
- JSW Manufacturing
- Kawartha Credit Union
- Muskoka Brewery
- Muskoka Chrysler Sales
- Muskoka Kia
- Muskoka Window and Door Centre
- RBC
- Scotiabank
- Titanium Transportation Group
- Town of Bracebridge
- Town of Gravenhurst

*"We are here for you when you need us most."*



## South Muskoka Hospital Foundation Mission Statement

To provide charitable financial support to South Muskoka Memorial Hospital Site for capital projects, equipment and new technology as well as staff education to enhance patient care.

To support the improvement of health care in South Muskoka for permanent and seasonal residents.

Check out our website at  
[www.healthmuskoka.ca](http://www.healthmuskoka.ca)

## Our Privacy Statement

South Muskoka Hospital Foundation appreciates your generous financial support. We recognize your right to privacy and we pledge to protect it. The information you have provided to us will be used to process your donation(s) and to provide you with acknowledgement and an appropriate receipt.

From time to time, we may use your contact information to keep you informed of other activities, events and/or fundraising opportunities in support of the Foundation.

We are also pleased to send you our biannual newsletter.

The South Muskoka Hospital Foundation does not trade or sell donor lists. If at anytime you do not wish to be listed in our recognition programs or to receive our newsletter, please contact us at (705) 645-4404 ext 3193 or [smh.foundation@mahc.ca](mailto:smh.foundation@mahc.ca).

For more information about your privacy, please visit our website at [www.healthmuskoka.ca](http://www.healthmuskoka.ca) and click on 'About Us' then 'Accountable To You.'