

Put Yourself in the Picture

*Join our campaign to
ensure that patients at the
Almonte General Hospital
have access to the best
diagnostic tools
close to home.*



Almonte resident Eric Pottle had a serious fall in his backyard on August 27, 2016. He landed on his back, which already bore damage from a chronic spinal condition. Family and friends rushed Eric to the AGH's Emergency Department. The doctor on duty immediately contacted the X-ray Department, which provides 24-hour service for emergency cases. A medical radiation technologist arrived in the ER within moments with their new portable, digital X-ray machine and took an X-ray on the spot. The doctor then rapidly diagnosed a broken neck. Eric was stabilized and immediately transported to Ottawa for emergency surgery.

"The speed and accuracy of diagnostic testing can literally mean the difference between life and death."

Dr. Karen Turcotte
Chief, Emergency Department



Almonte General Hospital is a 52-bed acute/complex care hospital serving the Ottawa Valley, Mississippi Mills, Arnprior, Carleton Place, West Carleton, and west-end communities of Ottawa. The hospital provides emergency and acute care, as well as regional obstetrical services, complex continuing care, physiotherapy and day-hospital programs.

A 2015 provincial survey ranked AGH as a top-performing community hospital in Ontario. AGH has also ranked twice as the top performer in Ontario in maternity care and has placed in the top 10 percent for its Emergency Department and Acute Care In-Patient units.

Diagnostic Imaging (DI) equipment is used in almost every aspect of health care today. From tracking a fetal heartbeat by ultrasound to X-raying an accident victim's chest for internal injuries, or performing an exploratory CT scan for cardiovascular disease, medical staff depend on diagnostic tests to determine the treatment for their patients.

AGH is committed to maintaining its DI equipment at optimal levels while keeping pace with the latest in technological breakthroughs. This commitment put new DI equipment at the top of AGH's purchasing priority list for 2016.

AGH works with the community through the Almonte General Hospital-Fairview Manor Foundation to maintain and enhance its equipment and update technology to meet the changing needs of the patients we serve. Although the provincial Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care provides funds to operate facilities, it does not provide funding to replace or purchase new equipment.

"AGH counts 100 percent on funding from the Foundation to ensure our staff has reliable, up-to-date equipment with which to treat our patients."

Mary Wilson Trider
President & CEO



THE PICTURE IN FOCUS

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is a campaign to raise \$4 million to ensure that patients have access to the best diagnostic tools available. To date, AGH has purchased:

- two new digital X-ray machines, one stationary and one portable
- two new ultrasound machines

Total cost of this equipment is \$1.8 million. The AGH-FVM Foundation now needs to pay off loans for this equipment as quickly as possible to minimize borrowing costs.

AGH also intends to purchase a CT scanner, subject to the approval of the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (CLIHN) and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Part of the approval process depends on confirming a funding source. The Foundation has committed to raising \$2.2 million to pay for this new and urgently needed diagnostic tool.



IMPROVING THE PICTURE

X-Ray Machines

THE CHALLENGE:

AGH had two X-ray machines (one portable for use in other parts of the hospital, including the Emergency Department) and one X-ray suite. Both X-ray machines were more than 12 years old and had been categorized as “end of life.” Finding replacement parts for these machines, which used computed technology, was increasingly difficult as they had been overtaken by new machines using digital technology.

THE SOLUTION:

Two new digital X-ray machines were purchased. One is portable to provide services in the Emergency Department or in other parts of the hospital for patients with mobility problems.

The other is a complete new digital suite which was installed in the spring of 2017 replacing the old X-ray equipment.

The new machine can be lowered to provide easier access for patients with mobility problems, and exposes patients to less radiation. The machine’s ergonomic design also reduces repetitive strain injuries for technologists.

“The image quality in digital machines provides better diagnostic accuracy, and the new machines have much lower radiation.”

Dr. Chris Deschenes
Chief of Staff

Ultrasound Machines

THE CHALLENGE:

AGH’s DI Department had only one ultrasound machine. That machine was more than 10 years old and had been categorized as “end of life,” which meant that it often needed repairs, and replacement parts were increasingly difficult to find.

Rising demand for obstetrical ultrasounds, as a result of AGH’s expanded obstetrical services, had increased patient wait times to an average of eight weeks. This meant that patients either had to wait or be sent for ultrasounds at facilities outside their communities.

THE SOLUTION:

To meet the growing demand for ultrasounds and to replace aging equipment, AGH bought two new ultrasound machines. These machines are helping to cut wait times, and patients are benefiting from the latest technological advances in ultrasound testing.



PROJECTING THE PICTURE INTO THE FUTURE

CT Scanner

THE CHALLENGE:

AGH currently does not have CT scanning capability. CT scan is used to diagnose a variety of problems from cancer and cardiovascular disease to infectious disease, appendicitis, trauma and musculoskeletal disorders. CT scanning provides images of internal organs, bones, soft tissue and blood vessels.

Currently, all patients requiring a CT scan are sent to another hospital. The result for the patient is not only inconvenience and the expense of travel, but also stress related to delayed time for a diagnosis. Another aspect of this problem is AGH's goal of attracting the best possible physicians to provide care close to home in our Emergency Department, Inpatient Units and Operating Room. Up-to-date, state-of-the-art equipment is one of the key elements physicians look for when choosing a place to practice.

THE SOLUTION:

The purchase of a CT scanner will help to provide faster and more accurate diagnosis of a wide range of diseases and conditions that cannot be detected by ultrasound or X-rays. The CT scanner also will allow AGH medical specialists to provide diagnoses more quickly and reduce the need for patients to leave the facility and their community for health care.



"New physicians recruited to AGH consider CT scan the standard of care, especially in certain emergency cases."

Dr. Chris Deschenes
Chief of Staff

THE PICTURE IS BEGINNING TO DEVELOP



*Front Row: Grayson, Paul, Jack, Rhonda & Sophia Virgin.
Back Row: Kristina Myers, Kyle Virgin, Becky & Dustin Littau, Leslie & Blake Virgin.
Supporting AGH but not in this picture: Florence Virgin, Sean Virgin and Laurie Dalton.*

“Quality health care is part of what makes a community a place to put down roots and raise a family. We can never take our quality of life for granted and must continuously work together to maintain and enhance it. We are asking individuals, businesses, groups, schools and community organizations to join us and to ‘put themselves in the picture.’”

Campaign Chairs Rhonda and Paul Virgin

To ***Put Yourself in the Picture*** and support our diagnostic imaging campaign, donors can make a one-time gift or pledge their support through monthly donations, or make a multi-year pledge towards a specific amount. All donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.

Donors of \$5,000 or more to the campaign will be recognized on a special ***Put Yourself in the Picture*** campaign donor wall.

For more information on how to ***Put Yourself In the Picture***, please contact the AGH-FVM Foundation at 613-256-2500, ext. 2297 or email aroberts@agh-fvm.com.



YOUR **HEALTH CARE**... CLOSE TO **HOME**.

www.almontehospitalfoundation.com