Woodstock Hospital

NEWSLETTER

Winter
2026

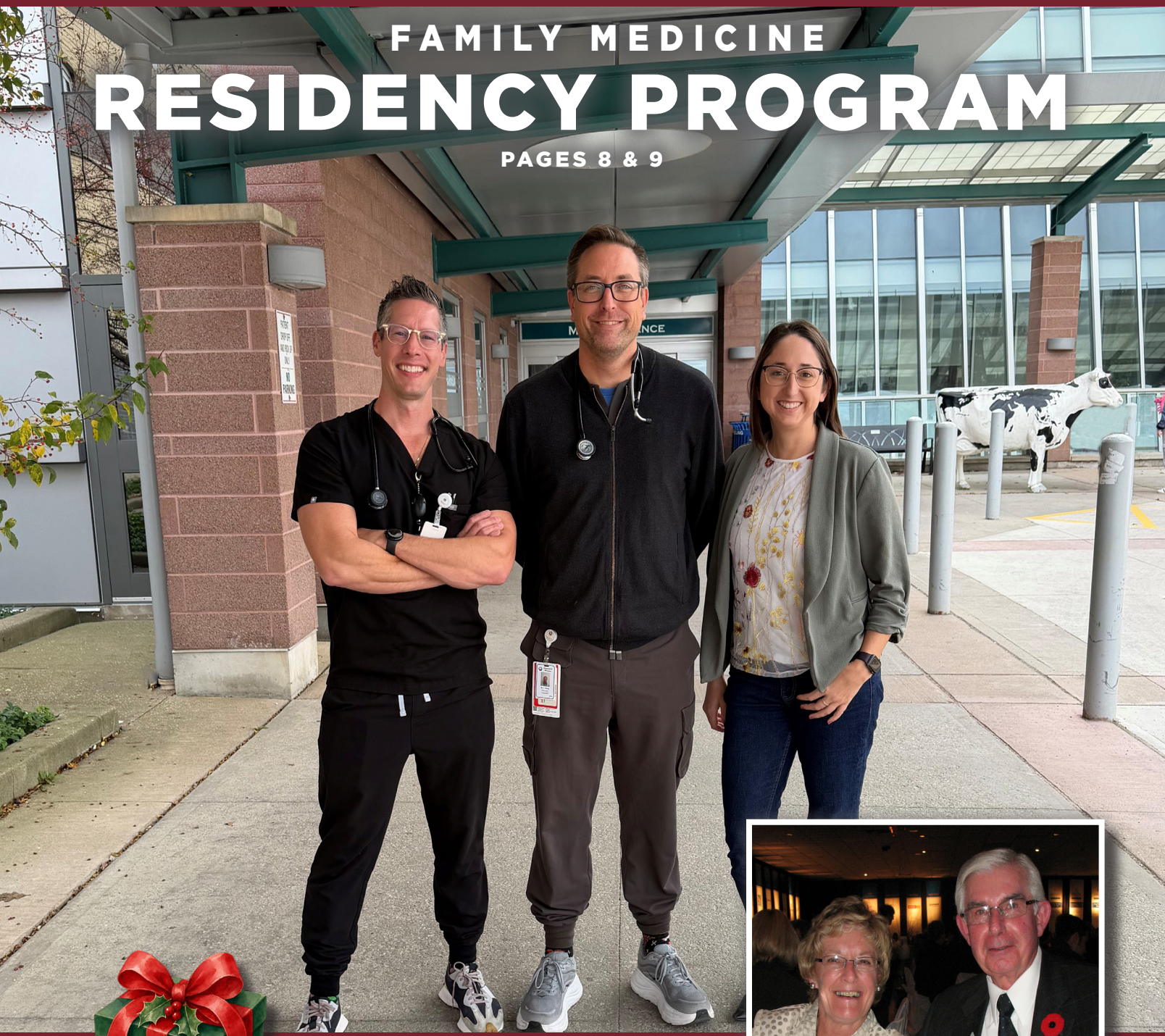
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MESSAGE from the President & CEO

Access to a primary care provider is an important part of a healthy and vibrant community. Having a family doctor or nurse practitioner means having someone who knows your health history, can help you manage ongoing health concerns, and connect you to the care you need.

For many residents across Oxford County, finding that connection has been a challenge. There is work underway to improve access to primary care, and I'm pleased to share two initiatives in this edition of our newsletter.

In September, Western University's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry announced that Oxford County will become a new training site for its family medicine residency program. Beginning in 2027, two resident doctors will complete their full two-year training in Oxford County. We look forward to introducing them to our community and showing them what makes this a great place to live and work.

This edition also features Health Care Connect, a Ministry of Health program advanced locally through Oxford Ontario Health Team (OHT) providers. The program is working toward the goal of connecting every Ontario resident with primary care by 2029. I encourage you to turn to page 9 to learn more and register today.



Perry Lang, Woodstock Hospital President & CEO.

Beyond primary care, this edition also highlights a transformational gift in support of our Diagnostic Imaging Department. Through their generous $500,000 donation, Jim and Linda McNamara are helping ensure patients and families can access advanced imaging services close to home, when they need them most.

As we head into the holiday season, I also want to thank our staff, physicians, volunteers, and Patient and Family Advisors for all that you do. Your passion and commitment are the reason our hospital continues to receive such strong support from the community we serve.

Warm regards,

Perry

ON THE COVER

STRENGTHENING PRIMARY CARE

Local physicians helping bring the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry's expanded family medicine residency program to fruition in Oxford County.

(LtoR) Dr. Paul Howatt, WH Hospitalist and Site Director for the residency program; Dr. Ian Hons, WH Chief of Staff, Academic Regional Director for Oxford, and Preceptor; Dr. Sarah Davies, family physician and Preceptor.





IMPROVING
Transitions Together

As part of our journey toward the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO)'s Best Practice Spotlight Organization® (BPSO) designation, we are focusing on our first Best Practice Guideline (BPG): Improving Transitions Together.

In healthcare, transitions can be a vulnerable point in a patient's journey. During transitions, miscommunication between departments, providers, and patients can affect the continuity of care.

"Although there are many transitions throughout our organization, we are focusing on transitions from inpatient mental health to home or community, and internal transfers from our inpatient units to the Rehabilitation Unit on M300," said Jennifer Lynch, BPSO Lead and Director of Strategic Planning, Community Engagement, and Patient Experience. "We felt we could make the greatest impact in these two areas."

We have found patients and families need more information about the Rehabilitation Unit on M300, including rehabilitation expectations and activity requirements, prior to their transfer.

"The intensity of the patient's physical, occupational, and/or speech therapy increases when they move to our Rehabilitation Unit because staff are preparing the patient for their return home or to long-term care or retirement residences," explained Jennifer. "Our findings suggest we could do more to explain the differences between a patient's current unit and M300."

For the inpatient mental health program, we have identified care for individuals living with Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) as an important area for improvement. Woodstock Hospital Best Practice champions have connected with other mental health facilities to learn about their approach to supporting BPD patients.

"Our goal is to improve care coordination and ensure patients have the support they need when leaving the hospital," Jennifer added. "We will measure progress by tracking readmission rates for patients with BPD, as fewer returns to hospital indicates more effective care planning and support."

We invite you to join us on our BPSO designation journey by following updates and milestones shared on the hospital website. Click here to learn more.

Pictured: Best Practice Champion training for members of WH's Management team held on September 14, 2026. The training session was led by Andrea McPherson and Marita Vroom, Performance Improvement Specialists and BPSO Co-leads at WH. RNAO representatives also supported the training.

NATIONAL
Day for Truth & Reconciliation

On September 16 and 25, 2026, Woodstock Hospital staff and volunteers were invited to participate in traditional Indigenous smudging ceremonies led by Elder Eric G. Martin and Rebecca Neepin.

Organized by the hospital's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee, the ceremonies provided an opportunity for connection and reflection. Participants were encouraged to release negative energy, welcome healing, and give thanks for the four orders of creation.

The ceremonies led up to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2026, also known as Orange Shirt Day. Staff and volunteers wore orange to honour residential school survivors, remember the children who never returned home, and reflect on the lasting intergenerational impacts of the residential school system on Indigenous Peoples.

At Woodstock Hospital, we recognize that reconciliation is an ongoing journey. We also understand that the legacy of the residential school system can contribute to barriers and hesitation when it comes to seeking care at hospitals. We remain committed to fostering an environment where everyone feels respected, safe, and welcomed.



(LtoR) Kathy Lavelle, Chief Financial Officer; Jennifer Lynch, Director of Strategic Planning, Community Engagement, and Patient Experience Lead; Irene Okoronkwo, Manager Corporate Projects; Emma Tarrataca, Librarian and Co-Chair of the EDIB Committee, Cindy Smart, VP of Patient Care & CNO; Perry Lang, President & CEO.

Learn more about our hospital's commitment to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging by clicking here.

PROTECTING
Newborns from RSV

The respiratory season has arrived and with it comes concerns about respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). RSV is a common virus that affects the nose, throat, and lungs. While many babies experience mild symptoms, RSV can sometimes cause serious breathing problems, leading to hospital stays.

To help protect infants from severe RSV illness, Ontario's publicly funded RSV prevention program includes Beyfortus (nirsevimab). Unlike a traditional vaccine, Beyfortus provides ready-made antibodies that offer immediate protection. Given as a single injection, it helps protect eligible babies and high-risk children for the RSV season.

At Woodstock Hospital, our Maternal Child Women's Health team will speak with families about RSV prevention and their options. Families who choose not to receive Beyfortus in hospital can still access it later through their midwife, primary care provider, or local public health unit.

Learn more about RSV prevention in Ontario by clicking here.

STRATEGIC
Plan Update

In May 2025, WH launched its three-year Strategic Plan, outlining our priorities for improving care and supporting the health of the community we serve. Now in the second year of the plan, we're sharing an update on some of the initiatives underway across our four strategic pillars: **Caring, Empowering, Evolving, and Collaborating**.

Caring: Implement Enhanced Delirium Education

In collaboration with WH's Senior Friendly Committee, Inpatient and Emergency Department staff received education about hypoactive and hyperactive delirium to improve early identification, patient safety, and clinical outcomes. Delirium is a serious, sudden change in mental function that causes confusion, trouble focusing, disorientation, and shifts in awareness or behaviour. It can be triggered by an infection, medication side effect, or physical stress placed on the brain.

Empowering: Building Local Family Medicine Training Opportunities

Starting in 2027, Western University's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Woodstock Hospital, Rural Roads Health Services (Alexandra Hospital in Ingersoll, Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital), and the Oxford Ontario Health Team will welcome two resident doctors to complete their two-year family medicine residency training in Oxford. This initiative will expand local medical training opportunities and help support the future of primary care in our community. Learn more on page 8.

Evolving: Improving Parking Access for Patients and Visitors

We have been closely monitoring parking capacity and listening to feedback from patients, visitors, and staff. To help improve access, we have explored options to expand parking and are pleased to be adding 100 new staff parking spaces at the Athlone Medical Professional Building. This will help ease pressure on the main parking lot, particularly during busy weekday clinic hours.

Collaborating: Expanding Addiction Recovery Services in Oxford County

The Oxford Wellness Centre is a key component of the Oxford County HART Hub. Services include Withdrawal Management, Bedded Supportive Treatment, Supportive Recovery Programming, and aftercare programs, including group therapy. Construction is underway at the permanent Graham Street location, with completion anticipated in the winter of 2027. Learn more on pages 6 & 7.

"Our management team reviews the tactical plan quarterly and we share what initiatives are on track, where we may have deviated from our original plans, and why," explains Jennifer Lynch, Director of Strategic Planning, Community Engagement, and Patient Experience Lead. "We invite you to read our tactical plan on our website, and follow our progress as we implement initiatives to enhance care for our community."

Click here to read the plan online today!

Centered on you

Our Strategic Plan is "Centered on You," because everything we do is for you, with you, and shaped by your voice, whether you are a patient or family member, part of the hospital team, a community member, or a valued partner. Our strategic plan is our commitment to the community we serve.

WELLNESS
Centre: Kerri's Story

When Kerri arrived at the Wellness Centre in January 2026, she was scared. “I was petrified when I came in here,” she recalled. “I was shaking.”

Kerri shared how addiction had affected every part of her life. Her husband had left, she had lost family support and her job, and she was experiencing homelessness.

A family member told her about the Wellness Centre at 369 Huron Street in Woodstock. In January 2026, she entered medically supervised withdrawal management. “I was afraid to quit drinking because withdrawing can be fatal,” she shared. “But ultimately, if I kept drinking, I could also die.”

Kerri says she immediately felt cared for by the staff.

“The staff was so kind to me when I got here,” she said. “I wasn’t treated like a derelict, the way society sometimes stigmatizes people with substance abuse problems. I felt like I was in the right place.”

The Wellness Centre is one component of the Oxford County Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub. It is a voluntary residential addiction treatment and recovery facility. It has four beds for withdrawal management and six bedded supportive treatment (BST) beds, where clients participate in a 90-day program.

Through daily core and elective programming, peer support, and group activities, Kerri said she began learning how to navigate life in recovery.

“It’s nice that we have structured programming, but we also have free time to do things like play cards. We learn how to socialize without substances, and that’s a big deal,” she said. “I wondered who I was going to be without alcohol. Would I still be that fun person?”



Kerri Arena was one of the first clients to receive care at the temporary Wellness Centre at 369 Huron Street in Woodstock.

She credited the Wellness Centre staff with helping her rediscover confidence and hope.

“The staff treats us like equals,” she said. “From the nurses to the social workers and peer support workers, they all go above and beyond to make you feel like you’re not just another client.”

A peer support worker from CMHA Thames Valley - Addiction and Mental Health Services made a lasting impact.

“Robyn changed the way I think about life,” Kerri shared. “She told me I was worth it and helped me get out of my own way, so to speak. I now feel like I have all these tools in my toolbox thanks to her.”

Kerri was also one of the first clients to move into an independent living unit through the Supportive Recovery Program.

The program helps individuals who have completed the Wellness Centre's 90-day BST program and are continuing their recovery journey. It provides safe, stable housing and personalized support for up to 12 months.

Continue Reading

For Kerri, it was difficult transitioning from the tight-knit group she had met at the Wellness Centre to independent living.

"I struggled with loneliness and isolation when I first got here, which eventually led to relapse," Kerri shared. "But through this program, I've learned to instead call this a recurrence, which is common when dealing with a chronic and complex medical condition."

Kerri said she was worried about telling the HART Hub team about what happened.

"I thought I was a failure, but the HART Hub team didn't look down on me, judge me, or ask me to leave the program," said Kerri. "Instead, they applauded my bravery and supported me. I was provided with extra counselling, kindness, and I was eventually able to forgive myself."

We thank Kerri for sharing her story to help raise awareness for the Wellness Centre and the support it offers to people in our community. We wish her all the best in her recovery journey. To hear Kerri speak about her experience after completing the 90-day BST program, click here.

If you are an adult 18+ struggling with mental health, addictions, or homelessness, help is available in Oxford County.

Call 519-537-2382 any time to learn about programs and services offered through the HART Hub and to self-refer.

16 GRAHAM
Construction Update

The Wellness Centre at 369 Huron Street is a temporary location. A permanent Wellness Centre is currently under construction at 16 Graham Street.

The new Wellness Centre will allow us to care for more clients close to home, increasing capacity to 50 beds: 10 Withdrawal Management beds and 40 Bedded Supportive Treatment (BST) beds. The expanded space is being purposefully designed to create a healing environment for clients. Since the BST program involves a 90-day stay, having access to different programs and services throughout treatment is an important part of the experience.

The 16 Graham Street location will include counselling and therapy rooms, outpatient and aftercare spaces for group programs, fitness and wellness areas, creative arts rooms, a dining room and teaching kitchen, along with a multi-faith room and Indigenous healing space.



This is the view of the garage behind the Wellness Centre at 16 Graham Street.

Nith Valley Construction is serving as Construction Manager. Work is currently focused on removing the existing garage floor and roof to prepare for the upgraded two-storey structure that will house the BST rooms (see photo above).

The next phase will focus on the building's exterior and insulation, along with site servicing upgrades. We anticipate construction will be complete in winter 2027.

For the latest updates, click here to visit our website and subscribe to WH newsletters.

WELCOMING
Resident Doctors to Oxford

In 2027, Oxford County will welcome two resident doctors as part of Western University's expanded family medicine residency program. For the first time, residents will be able to complete their entire two-year training program in our community.

The program brings together Western University's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Woodstock Hospital, Rural Roads Health Services (Alexandra Hospital in Ingersoll and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital), the Oxford Ontario Health Team (OHT), and the Oxford Primary Care Network.

Three local physicians, Dr. Ian Hons, Dr. Paul Howatt, and Dr. Sarah Davies, are helping bring the program to life.

As Regional Academic Director for Oxford and Chief of Staff at Woodstock Hospital, Dr. Hons has been championing the development of a local residency program for some time. Following extensive planning and discussions among partners, Schulich announced two new training sites on September 22, 2026: Oxford County and Sarnia-Lambton.

“This is a significant milestone for Oxford County,” said Dr. Hons. “Evidence consistently shows that many physicians choose to practise in the communities where they complete their training. By creating a high-quality training environment, we are investing in the long-term sustainability of primary care and improving access to healthcare for residents across the region.”

Dr. Howatt will serve as Site Director, overseeing the day-to-day operations and development of the local training program, including rotations and educational opportunities. In the first year, one resident will work with Dr. Hons as their preceptor, while the other will work with Dr. Davies.



(LtoR) Dr. Paul Howatt, Dr. Ian Hons, and Dr. Sarah Davies.

“Patients will immediately benefit by having highly capable, eager training physicians right on the ground in our clinics and hospitals—learning, collaborating, and actively treating patients, side-by-side with our experienced physicians,” said Dr. Howatt.

Two residents will enter the program each year. That means in 2028, there will be four residents training in Oxford, with two first-year and two second-year residents.

Dr. Davies added that first-year residents will spend a lot of time working alongside her, seeing patients in her practice.

"These long stretches in the same "home-base" clinic allow the learner to see the same patients back over time, follow-up on testing they have ordered and really get to know a group of patients - which is a skill set so unique and important for family physicians," explained Dr. Davies. "I will oversee their patient interactions, review their plans and prescriptions, and offer guidance and direction as their responsibility grows over the course of their training."

Residents will also complete rotations in other specialties, including general surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, internal medicine, and pediatrics.

Dr. Davies' own experience is a great example of how opportunities to learn in a community can lead physicians to put down roots here. As a first-year medical student, she visited Woodstock Hospital for Discovery Week and eventually chose to open her practice in Woodstock.

“The community, the hospital, the specialists, and the family doctors I met went out of their way to mentor me," she added. "They were friendly, encouraging, and happy to help me learn and grow as a physician, which led me to opening my practice here.”

We look forward to welcoming the first resident doctors in 2027. By expanding medical education opportunities in Oxford County, we are helping build a stronger foundation for primary care.

We invite you to Click here to read Schulich's media release regarding the expanded residency program.

No Doctor or Nurse Pactitioner?

Register for Health Care Connect Today!

In January 2025, the Ministry of Health announced a goal to connect every Ontario resident with a family doctor or primary care team by 2029. To achieve this goal, the province launched a call for Proposals for Integrated Primary Care Teams (IPCT). Oxford Ontario Health Team providers were approved for funding as part of IPCT round two in April 2026.

“The funding is a key part of Oxford OHT's strategy to connect 12,000 residents to primary care by the end of 2027,” shared Teresa Martins, Executive Director of the Oxford OHT. “About 3,000 residents have been connected so far, and we want to continue building awareness so more people know the program is available to them.”

Several providers in Ingersoll, Norwich, Thamesford, Tillsonburg, and Woodstock are accepting new patients. To get connected, residents are encouraged to register through Health Care Connect.

Health Care Connect is a provincial program that helps Ontario residents with a valid Health Card find a primary care provider accepting new patients. Click here to register now. After you register, you will receive an email confirming your registration. Your information will be reviewed, and you may be contacted to confirm details and discuss your preferences.

“A Health Care Connector will work to match you with an available family doctor, nurse practitioner, or primary care team,” explained Martins. “Once a match is confirmed, you will receive a referral letter or email with information about your new provider and next steps.”

The Oxford OHT has also shared that a local nurse, Nurse Dani, is helping connect residents with primary care. Whether you need help understanding available pathways, registering with Health Care Connect, or learning about providers currently accepting patients, Nurse Dani offers personalized support and guidance.

Call 226-228-6388 to speak with Nurse Dani today!

THANK YOU

Road Supervisors Association

We are grateful to the Oxford County Road Supervisors Association for their generous $22,847 donation.

The funds were raised through supplier booth fees at the 2025 Municipal Trade Show, held in Woodstock. The event brought together professionals from the municipal roads sector from across Ontario. After event expenses were covered, the Association chose to give back to the communities that make these events possible.

Oxford County last hosted the trade show in 1994, making the return of this event to Woodstock in 2025 a special occasion.

Community support makes a meaningful difference, and we are so thankful to the Oxford County Road Supervisors Association, participating suppliers, and everyone who helped make this donation possible.



Members of the Oxford County Road Supervisors Association present a cheque to Perry Lang, President & CEO of Woodstock Hospital.

Thank you for investing in the health and well-being of our community!

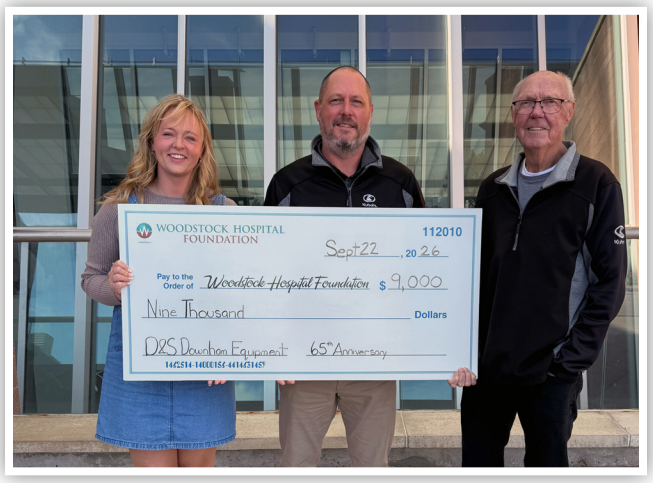
THANK YOU

D&S Downham Equipment

Thank you D&S Downham Equipment and Karcher Professional Wash Systems for giving back to the hospitals that serve our communities.

As part of their 65th anniversary celebration, they hosted a dinner and auction on August 27, 2026, with customers, staff, suppliers, and local dignitaries. Together, they raised an incredible $18,000 in support of local healthcare! The funds are being split evenly between Woodstock Hospital and Stratford General Hospital, to support the hospital's greatest needs.

A huge thank you to the entire D&S Downham Equipment and Karcher Professional Wash Systems team for choosing to celebrate this milestone by investing in healthcare close to home.



Mark and Bob Downham present a $9,000 cheque to Emily van Straten, Community Development Assistant with the Woodstock Hospital Foundation.

Congratulations on 65 years and thank you for making your milestone celebration one that gives back!

MESSAGE from the Woodstock Hospital Foundation



Jocelyn Jenner

Senior Development Officer, WH Foundation

For the Woodstock Hospital Foundation, the holiday season is one of the busiest and most meaningful times of the year.

The community spirit comes alive, and we hear from patients and families who want to share their experiences, as well as donors who are looking for ways to support our hospital.

I'd like to share one recent example with you.

In October, Jim and Linda McNamara reached out to learn more about supporting the hospital's current projects and capital equipment needs. During their visit, they toured our Diagnostic Imaging Department and saw firsthand how ongoing renovations and equipment upgrades are strengthening the technology available to our care teams.

Imaging provides doctors with a non-invasive look inside the patient's body to find, treat, and track health conditions. Tools like CT, MRI, and fluoroscopy, provide the missing piece of the puzzle doctors need to determine why a patient is unwell. Imaging also helps track and monitor how a patient is responding to treatment. It is essential to supporting almost every step of a patient's medical journey.

Following their visit, Jim and Linda made an extraordinary $500,000 gift in support of diagnostic imaging. On behalf of the WH Foundation, I extend my deepest gratitude to the McNamaras for their investment in local healthcare. I invite you to turn to page 12 to learn more about what inspired this transformational gift to our hospital,

Jocelyn

ONE YEAR
in the Newly Redesigned Clinic

September 8, 2026, marked one year since we welcomed patients back to our newly renovated and expanded Chemotherapy/ IV Infusion Clinic. In the first year following the expansion, the clinic saw 3,362 oncology-related visits, a 23% increase over the previous year. That means our dedicated and compassionate care team are able to treat approximately three additional patients per day in the new space. Thank you again, to all of the heartfelt donors who made this expansion possible!



Picture of Chemotherapy/IV Infusion Clinic staff in the new treatement space.

JIM & LINDA MCNAMARA:

A Gift to our Community

For Jim and Linda McNamara, Oxford County is more than a place to live. It's home to five generations of family history, a lifetime of hard work, and countless memories shared with their children and grandchildren.

Jim was raised on a dairy farm near Otterville before moving to Sweaburg and working in Woodstock. For decades, Jim owned Jamieson-Hilts Insurance Brokers, a trusted local business. If you ask Jim about his success, he will quickly credit his hardworking staff and the loyal community that supported him throughout his career.

Linda grew up on a tobacco and asparagus farm in Norfolk County. Early on, she learned the meaning of perseverance, sacrifice, and dedication from her parents, who immigrated to Canada. She worked in the regional dairy industry before joining Jim at Jamieson-Hilts Insurance Brokers.

In recent years, both Jim and Linda have received care at Woodstock Hospital. Jim is living with a terminal lung disease caused by rheumatoid arthritis and recently had a heart attack, which led to several stays at the hospital. Linda also received care before major back surgery. Through it all, they were struck by the extraordinary compassion and professionalism of hospital staff.

“During each hospital stay, the care I received from every staff member was simply fabulous,” Jim reflected.

The care they experienced reinforced something Jim and Linda have always believed: when you can help, you do. That is why the McNamaras have chosen to make a transformative gift to Woodstock Hospital that will benefit patients in our community for generations to come.

Jim and Linda’s generous $500,000 gift will directly support Woodstock Hospital’s Diagnostic Imaging Department through renovations and the purchase of new equipment.



Woodstock Hospital Foundation donors and community champions Linda and Jim McNamara. Submitted photo.

Diagnostic imaging plays an essential role in patient care, giving healthcare teams the information they need to diagnose illnesses, make treatment decisions and monitor patients’ progress. The upgrades will help WH's care teams identify medical concerns sooner, allowing patients to receive the right treatment faster and close to home.

“At some point, nearly every family in Oxford County will rely on diagnostic imaging,” said Jim. “This gift is our way of saying thank you to our neighbours, friends, and the community that has given our family so much over the years.”

The Woodstock Hospital Foundation extends our deepest gratitude to Jim and Linda McNamara for their remarkable generosity and commitment to local healthcare.

We invite you to learn more about the Diagnostic Imaging upgrades their gift will support on page 13.



CAPTURING
With Confidence

Fluoroscopy isn't always the most well-known piece of imaging equipment, but it plays an important role in patient care.

It's similar to an X-ray, but with one key difference. Rather than capturing a single image, fluoroscopy allows doctors to see what's happening inside the body in real-time.

The machine uses a continuous, low-dose X-ray beam to project a live image onto a monitor. Think of it as an internal webcam.

Surgeons use mobile fluoroscopy machines, called C-arms, during many types of surgery. In orthopedic surgery, for example, they help surgeons line up broken bones and make sure screws and plates are placed in the right position. Fluoroscopy is also used to guide specialized joint injections. For someone with severe arthritis in their hip or shoulder, it helps the doctor guide the needle to the right spot with precision.

These are just a few examples of how fluoroscopy is used at Woodstock Hospital.

Renovations are currently underway in our Diagnostic Imaging (DI) Department to upgrade two fluoroscopy rooms and replace the existing cameras with new equipment.

"The new fluoroscopy equipment will provide enhanced image quality for our patients," explained Jenn De Iuliis, Director of Diagnostic Imaging. "The new fluoroscopy units can also be used for some regular X-ray exams. This will help alleviate pressure on our general X-ray rooms when we are operating at peak volumes."

Renovations to fluoroscopy are part of a series of improvements happening in DI. In recent years, we've updated our general X-ray rooms and ultrasound equipment, introduced contrast-enhanced mammography and purchased a new CT scanner.

Imaging technology plays an important role in helping healthcare teams diagnose conditions and make decisions about patient care. But, like the phone in your pocket, this equipment has a certain lifespan and then it needs to be replaced.

Renovations and replacing equipment come with significant costs. Large diagnostic imaging systems, including fluoroscopy, CT and MRI, represent major capital expenses for hospitals, and we rely on the generosity of our community to help make these improvements possible.

On behalf of everyone at Woodstock Hospital, thank you to our donors for continuing to invest in diagnostic imaging. From generous gifts like the McNamaras' donation to purchasing 50/50 tickets and taking part in the Foundation's annual events, every contribution makes a difference. Your support helps ensure our highly skilled teams have the technology they need to provide care to our community.

We'd also like to recognize our staff, whose dedication and compassion make a lasting impression on patients and families. It's often the care they provide that inspires donations to our hospital. If you'd like to learn more about WH Foundation's current funding priorities, click here.

TO YOU
this Holiday Season

Imagine walking along a beach with a metal detector. As you sweep it across the sand, a signal helps you zero in on something important.

At Woodstock Hospital, surgeons use a similar technology to help guide breast or melanoma cancer surgery — and it can make a meaningful difference in a patient's care.

It's called the **Neoprobe Gamma Detection System**, and it helps surgeons locate and remove specific lymph nodes known as sentinel lymph nodes that need to be examined for signs that cancer has spread. Using signals from a special radioactive tracer injected into the patient, the device guides surgeons to the right location with greater precision. If the sentinel lymph node is free of cancer, it is unlikely that the cancer has spread to other nearby lymph nodes. If cancer is found in the sentinel lymph node, further treatment or additional lymph node assessment may be needed.

My name is Dr. Maritza Swart, and I've been a General Surgeon at Woodstock Hospital for more than 14 years. Throughout my career, I've found great fulfillment in solving problems, taking on challenges, and helping people through some of life's most difficult moments.

But no matter how complex a surgery may be, I always remind myself that I'm caring for a person — not just treating a disease. I want every patient to receive the same thoughtful, compassionate care I would want for myself and my loved ones.

The right equipment helps us provide that care.

Our Nuclear Medicine and Operating Room teams rely on the Neoprobe several times each week. But our current system has



(LtoR) Lauren Molinaro, Perioperative Clinical Educator and Dr. Maritza Swart, General Surgeon pictured with a neoprobe.

reached the end of its lifespan and needs to be replaced. Without a new system, maintaining access to this important technology becomes a challenge.

Today, I'm asking for your help.

Replacing this essential equipment will cost $150,000, and we need your support to make it possible.

While provincial funding covers many day-to-day hospital expenses, community donations fund essential equipment that keeps healthcare advancing.

Please make a gift today to help bring a new Neoprobe Gamma Detection System to Woodstock Hospital. You can click here to make a secure, online donation now.

Your support will help equip our teams with the tools they need to provide exceptional, compassionate care close to home

Thank you for your generosity and for helping care for our community.

With sincere appreciation,

Maritza

Woodstock Hospital FOUNDATION

Click here to buy your tickets today!

DECEMBER DRAW DATES

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
		1	2	3 $500 Cash sponsored by Nesbitt Coulter	4 $2,000 Cash	5
6	7	8	9	10 $2,000 Cash	11 $2,000 Cash $500 Cash sponsored by MW&CO	12
13	14	15	16	17 $2,000 Cash	18 $2,000 Cash $1,000 Cash sponsored by Leon's Woodstock	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 GRAND PRIZE DRAW AT 10AM		3

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