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OF THE SAANICH PENINSULA HOSPITAL & HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

WINTER 2026

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ENHANCING SURGICAL SERVICES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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A LEMONADE STAND WITH HEART

OUR MISSION

To provide up-to-date facilities, innovative programs, and proactive solutions, to support the health, wellness, and sustainability on the Saanich Peninsula.



SPHMF CEO, Heather Edward with 10-year-old Meredith and Christy, Meredith's mom. See full story on page 11.

Celebrating
40
YEARS!



Partners is produced by the Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation.

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A Message from our CEO

Heather Edward, CEO

As we mark the 40th anniversary of Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation, I reflect with deep gratitude on what our community has accomplished together. For four decades, community generosity has helped ensure care remains close to home.

Since our beginning, the Foundation has raised more than \$100 million to strengthen healthcare at the hospital and throughout the community. This support has advanced services, funded vital programs, and created more welcoming spaces for patients, families, and staff. Throughout this Winter edition, a timeline highlights key milestones from that journey and the collective impact made possible through community leadership and partnership.

That impact reaches far beyond bricks and mortar. Initiatives such as the Healthcare Assist Recruitment Program (HARP) are strengthening care in the

community by supporting physician recruitment for local clinics, improving access and reducing wait times before patients ever need the hospital.

As we celebrate the past 40 years, we also look ahead. With the launch of the Enhancing Surgical Services and Parking campaign, the Foundation remains focused on improving access, efficiency, and care for the future. While needs evolve, the heart of this work remains unchanged: a community coming together to support one another.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable journey. Together, we are building the next chapter of care.

With sincere appreciation,

Heather Edward
CEO, Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation ■

This timeline offers a high-level look at some of the Foundation's milestones over 40 years. It represents just a portion of the generosity and partnership that have strengthened healthcare in our community.

1985 Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation founded.





Enhancing Surgical Services for Our Community

A message from Dr. Patrick Yang,
Surgical Site Chief, Saanich Peninsula Hospital

Learn more about the *Enhancing Surgical Services & Parking* campaign
Visit sphf.ca to learn how community support is helping strengthen surgical care at Saanich Peninsula Hospital.

Saanich Peninsula Hospital plays a vital role in providing safe, timely surgical care for our community. As Surgical Site Chief, I see how essential well-supported surgical services are to patient outcomes, staff efficiency, and the overall experience of care. The *Enhancing Surgical Services & Parking* campaign represents an important step forward in strengthening these services.

Surgical care depends on more than clinical expertise alone. Modern equipment, efficient workflows, and functional spaces are all critical to supporting safe, effective care. As patient needs grow and standards evolve, it is essential that surgical environments keep pace.

The Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation’s *Enhancing Surgical Services* campaign focuses on targeted improvements within the operating room and surrounding spaces. These enhancements are

designed to improve efficiency, support patient safety, and create a more functional environment for clinical teams. When teams are supported with the right tools and spaces, they can focus on what matters most: patient care.

This work also addresses access and flow within the hospital, including parking. Reliable access to care begins before a patient enters the operating room. Improvements to parking help reduce stress for patients and families and support smoother hospital operations.

Community investment, supported through the Foundation, has long strengthened healthcare on the Saanich Peninsula. This campaign continues that tradition, helping ensure surgical services remain responsive, efficient, and patient centred. These improvements support coordination, reduce delays, and strengthen the sustainability of surgical care for the community today and into the future. ■



1989 Foundation receives biggest donation to date (\$100,000) from Joyce & Trevor Deeley to fund new equipment in ER.

1991 Foundation raises \$100,000 in Annual Campaign to purchase radiography/fluoroscopy unit.

1988 Foundation office opened. Mary Louise Wakefield was Director of Development/Communications for both the hospital and the Foundation.

1990 Foundation donors support purchase of new eye surgery equipment for cataracts.



A Night to Remember: Crimson Cabaret Spirit Gala

This year's Crimson Cabaret Spirit Gala brought together community, creativity, and celebration in support of the Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation's *Enhancing Surgical Services & Parking* campaign. Set against a vibrant cabaret-inspired backdrop, the evening reflected the spirit of connection that defines this community.

Guests were welcomed by live music from Edie Daponte, followed by music from The Haven to close the night. The program was guided by MC Paul Haysom of CHEK News, who generously donated his time and brought warmth and humour to the stage. CHEK News also helped share the story of the gala beyond the room, with Jessica McCool conducting on-site interviews with CEO Heather Edward and Dr. Patrick Yang, along with a live weather report.

Guests participated in silent and live auctions featuring generously donated items from local businesses, with auctioneer Brian Rimmer donating his time to keep the program flowing smoothly.

The evening was made possible through the support of sponsors, partners, and contributors, with special thanks to Peninsula Co-op, the event's presenting sponsor.

By the end of the night, \$548,879 had been raised. The impact grew even further when, the following day, Trudy Busch, a very generous donor, matched that amount, bringing the total raised to an extraordinary \$1,097,758.

Plans are underway for the 2026 Spirit Gala on November 14, 2026, with tickets available in June 2026. ■



1992 A new x-ray machine replaced a 23-year-old unit, supported by \$100,000 raised by the Foundation.

1996 George Mure Wood Graham estate donates \$150,000 plus 15 (12.5 arable) acres of land adjacent to the hospital to the Foundation.

1993 Foundation Annual Campaign is for orthopedic equipment, \$200,000 raised.

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2000 Karen Morgan is welcomed as new Executive Director.

1997 Foundation provided \$447,465 to the hospital to purchase defibrillator. Since 1989 the Foundation contributed \$1.75 million to the hospital.

2002 The Auxiliary and Foundation partnered to convert the maternity unit at SPH into a Palliative Care Unit. The Auxiliary contributed \$35,000 for electric beds and reclining chairs in honour of Rose Ruse, the Auxiliary's first President.

Generosity at the Heart of Our Community

Generosity has long been at the heart of the Saanich Peninsula community. Each year, the Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation sees this generosity reflected through the support of local residents and businesses who believe deeply in caring for one another and strengthening health care close to home.

In 2025, that generosity was on full display at the Foundation's Annual Spirit Gala held at the Mary Winspear Centre. Community members came together to support local health care, contributing generously throughout the evening. What was not known at the time was the impact the Gala would continue to have in the days that followed.

The day after the event, community supporter Trudy Busch made the decision to match the funds raised at the Spirit Gala with a gift of \$548,879.00, given in honour of her late husband, Konrad.

Trudy recalls the moment clearly. "We were in the car, and it came to me. I said, I think I'm going to match this."

Her decision was rooted in gratitude for the care she and Konrad experienced through Saanich Peninsula Hospital, and in a belief that giving is most meaningful when it can be put to work right away. "If you can help, you do it," she says. "It is common sense."

Konrad was a man shaped by resilience, optimism, and hard work. Growing up in Europe during the war, he experienced loss and upheaval at a young age. As a teenager, he fled with his family, carrying his younger siblings to safety, before eventually building a new life in Germany. Years later, Konrad immigrated to Canada with Trudy, arriving with little more than determination, a belief in opportunity, \$100, and a \$10 reimbursement from the airline after one of their suitcases arrived damaged.

Together, Trudy and Konrad built successful aviation businesses, working side by side and treating employees like extended family. Trudy speaks with pride about Konrad's integrity, generosity, and quiet leadership. He was someone who helped others without hesitation

When asked what she would say to someone considering a gift in gratitude or in memory of someone they love, Trudy's answer was straightforward. "Do it," she said.

2005 \$1.1 million raised for a new CT scanner, supported by a \$100,000 anonymous matching pledge.

 Saanich Peninsula Hospital
FOUNDATION
your community, your health



2010 Sew and Sews create Ted Harrison quilt to raffle for the Foundation raising \$15,000.

2008 \$2.3 million raised in first stage of fundraising for new operating rooms.



Trudy and Konrad Busch

and who always found the positive in even the most difficult situations.

“He always had a smile,” she says. “Even when things were hard, he focused on the good.”

Giving back to their community was always part of the shared life of Trudy and Konrad. Supporting the Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation became a natural extension of their values, particularly as the hospital played a role toward the end of Konrad’s life, when he spent his final days there.

Trudy speaks simply about that time, expressing appreciation for the care provided and for the importance of having a hospital close to home. “Everybody needs a hospital someday,” she said.

Her matching gift has already had a meaningful ripple effect. Following her donation, the Foundation saw increased momentum, with other donors sharing that the match inspired them to give more. Trudy’s generosity became a catalyst, reinforcing what is possible when community members lead by example.

When asked what she would say to someone considering a gift in gratitude or in memory of someone they love, Trudy’s answer was straightforward. “Do it,” she said.

The Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation is deeply grateful for Trudy’s past, present, and future generosity. Her story is one of many that reflect the care, commitment, and sense of responsibility shared by this community.

Together, funds raised through the Spirit Gala and Trudy Busch’s matching gift are supporting the Foundation’s *Enhancing Surgical Services and Parking*

campaign. The campaign is focused on strengthening access to surgical care and addressing critical parking challenges, helping ensure patients, families, and care teams can access the hospital when they need it most. ■

Trudy and Konrad Busch’s matching gift, along with funds raised through the Spirit Gala, is supporting the Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation’s *Enhancing Surgical Services and Parking* campaign.

The campaign focuses on improving access to surgical care and addressing critical parking challenges, helping ensure patients, families, and care teams can access the hospital when they need it most.

**SCAN TO LEARN MORE
OR VISIT SPHF.CA**



○ **2012** “Tea with the Queen” at Brentwood Bay Resort raises \$10,000 for the Foundation

○ **2011** Construction begins on new operating rooms and a major power upgrade. The Foundation raised \$5.2 million over three years toward the \$9.9 million project, supported by more than 3,000 donors.



○ **2013** Annual campaign launched to raise \$3 million for a new CT scanner.

Building Access to Care Through Community Support

Waiting for a family doctor? The Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation is working to help change that. If you have recently found a family physician, the new Healthcare Assist Recruitment Program, supported through community donations, may be one of the reasons.

Across the Saanich Peninsula, access to a family physician remains one of the most pressing healthcare concerns for residents. Thousands of people are still waiting on the Health Connect Registry, and without consistent primary care, many turn to emergency departments for needs that could be addressed earlier and closer to home. Recognizing this growing challenge, the Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation has taken an innovative, proactive, and community-driven approach to strengthening healthcare access.

In 2025, the Foundation launched the Healthcare Assist Recruitment Program, known as HARP. This evolving initiative was created to

support local family practice clinics in recruiting new physicians to the Saanich Peninsula. Rather than building something new from scratch, HARP focuses on helping existing clinics grow, ensuring physicians can integrate quickly and begin caring for patients sooner.

At the heart of HARP is donor generosity. Through community philanthropy, the Foundation funds a dedicated local recruiter who works directly with clinics to attract physicians to the region. This hands-on, targeted approach is already making a measurable difference.

As of today, three physicians supported through HARP are already practicing in the community. Two more are expected to arrive by March 2026, with a total of thirteen physicians anticipated once recruitment is complete. Each new physician represents renewed access to care for individuals and families who have been waiting far too long.

Together, these physicians are expected to remove approximately

14,000 patients from the Health Connect Registry. That access helps relieve pressure on Saanich Peninsula Hospital by reducing avoidable emergency department visits and supporting earlier intervention.

HARP reflects the Foundation's broader commitment to healthcare beyond hospital walls. When "Healthcare" was added to the Foundation's name in 2018, it signaled an expanded vision shaped by the voices of donors and the community. Today, that vision continues to grow through innovative programs that support patients earlier and strengthen primary care across the region.

The impact of HARP reflects the Foundation's commitment to listening and acting on community healthcare priorities. Through donor generosity, SPHMF has been able to turn vision into action, funding physician recruitment that is already strengthening primary care access and easing pressure on hospital and emergency services. ■

To register for the Health Connect Registry and find a family doctor or nurse practitioner in BC, visit healthlinkbc.ca.



2015 The Foundation marked 30 years with a new logo and \$2 million raised for a Day Surgery space serving over 2,280 patients annually.

2014 Long-time donor Enid Blakeney left a \$500,000 bequest and an estate gift of over \$2.4 million to support Long-term Care, gardens, and staff education.

2016 Four welcoming totem poles raised at the hospital, followed by a First Nations blessing ceremony.



Meet Judy Batty

Manager of Donor Relations



Why are personal connections so important?

Many donors give because of a personal experience or a desire to give back. Taking time to truly connect helps honour those stories and ensures donors feel seen, heard, and valued. Trust grows from those relationships.

What would you say to someone reaching out for the first time?

Please don't hesitate. There's no pressure, just an open conversation. Every connection matters, and every level of involvement helps strengthen healthcare close to home. ■

What can people expect when they connect with the Foundation?

A warm welcome and genuine appreciation. Whether through a visit, a call, or an event, we want people to feel comfortable, informed, and connected to the hospital and the community it serves.

What does donor engagement mean to you?

It's about building meaningful, personal relationships. Donor engagement means listening, understanding what motivates someone to give, and helping donors see how their generosity strengthens patient care and health services in our community.

Connecting Through Gratitude and Care

At the Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation, relationships are at the heart of everything we do. Community members, donors, and supporters are partners in strengthening care across the Saanich Peninsula, and staying connected in meaningful ways is a priority.

Donor engagement is rooted in listening, gratitude, and genuine connection. Through stories shared in PARTNERS, personal thank-you notes from CEO Heather Edward,

and phone calls from members of the Board of Directors, the Foundation expresses appreciation in thoughtful and personal ways.

Connection also happens face to face. Initiatives such as the Four Seasons Café create welcoming spaces for conversation, while donor tours offer insight into how care is delivered and how community support makes a difference. The Donor Wall at Saanich Peninsula Hospital stands as a lasting recognition of generosity.

Beyond formal events, the Foundation values everyday moments of connection. Community members are always welcome to stop by the Sidney or Hospital office to ask questions, share ideas, or simply connect with the team.

Looking to connect or share ideas? We're always happy to listen. Contact info@sphf.ca or stop by one of our office locations to say hello. ■

2017 Foundation and Auxiliary replaced the Long-term Care bus, expanding access to community programs.



2019 Campaign raised \$2 million for Long-term Care upgrades, therapy tools, and interactive equipment including the Tovertafel. Torque Masters generously restored a 1947 Chrysler for the SPH Memory Garden.

2018 The Foundation changed its name to the Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation, reflecting a renewed mandate to support healthcare both in and beyond the hospital.



Community Fundraising Initiatives:

Community in Action

It has been a busy few months for Community Fundraising Initiatives (CFIs) at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation. Across the Saanich Peninsula, individuals, businesses, and organizations found creative ways to support local healthcare through community-led events and activities.

CFIs are fundraisers organized by community members who choose how and where their efforts make an impact. From festive celebrations and raffles to tournaments, barbecues, and small grassroots ideas, each initiative reflects the passion and generosity of the people behind it.

Highlights from the past year include the Saanichton Village Association's 21st Annual Community Christmas and Hospital Fundraiser (total raised \$16,815.71), a \$5,000 fundraising draw hosted by Muffet & Louisa,

and \$16,350 raised through Firm Management Corporation's Charity Golf Tournament. Additional initiatives included calendar sales by the Torque Masters Car Club, a community barbecue hosted by Pemberton Holmes Sidney that raised \$2,300 for the Acute Care Unit, a Canada Day celebration hosted by Dan-D Pak, and the Toast to the Coast event at Kildara Farms.

Community fundraising takes many forms, including a lemonade stand hosted by 10-year-old Meredith, proving that every idea, big or small, can make a difference. Her story is shared on the next page.

The Foundation is deeply grateful to everyone who took the initiative to give back and help strengthen healthcare on the Saanich Peninsula. Learn more about starting a community fundraiser at sphf.ca. ■



2020 COVID Emergency Response Fund raised over \$282,000 in four months.



2022 All 147 Long-term Care beds were replaced, improving comfort and safety for residents and staff, along with new over-bed and bedside tables.

2021 Karen Morgan retired as CEO after 21 years, having helped raise over \$66 million.



A Lemonade Stand With Heart

Community generosity comes in many forms, and sometimes it starts with a simple idea and a big heart.

Last summer, 10-year-old Meredith organized a lemonade stand in her neighbourhood to raise funds for the Saanich Peninsula Hospital and Healthcare Foundation. With homemade lemonade and cookies, Meredith raised \$60 in a single day, all in support of local patient care. Inspired by her connection to the hospital through her family, Meredith's effort is a reminder that giving back does not require a grand gesture, just kindness, creativity, and a desire to help others. *In her own words, Meredith shares what inspired her fundraiser, what she learned along the way, and why kindness matters.*



10-year-old Meredith

What made you decide to start a lemonade stand fundraiser?

My mom works at the hospital, so I thought it would be fun to help, too.

What was your favourite part about running the lemonade stand?

Selling lemonade and raising lots of money.

What kind of lemonade did you make?

Just classic lemonade. We squeezed real lemons, added ice, and made it ourselves.

Did you sell anything else?

Yes, we also sold cookies.

Was there a moment that really stood out to you that day?

A biker drove by and looked really hot and tired, so we gave him a free lemonade. He went home, came back later, and gave us extra money for being nice.

What would you tell other kids who want to help make a difference?

Find something you love and sell it. You can sell toys, make slime, or do whatever you like.

Do you think you'll do another fundraiser in the future?

Yes, but I'm thinking of trying something different next time. ■

2024 Heather Edward hired as CEO; Hospital and Auxiliary mark 50 years.



2023 Largest-ever Foundation campaign launched to raise \$15 million for the Acute Care Unit renovation.



2025 Foundation marked 40 years and achieved the \$15 million fundraising goal for the Acute Care Unit.

2026 Looking ahead, the Foundation celebrates 40 years of impact while continuing to strengthen healthcare at the hospital and across the community.

Your support matters more than ever.

Name:

Address:

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Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of:

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50

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Cheque enclosed Visa Mastercard

Card No.:

Expiry Date:

Signature:

I would like to make a monthly donation of
\$

by: Credit card Void cheque enclosed

I would like to receive occasional email updates and information from the Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation.

PLEASE DIRECT MY GIFT TO:

Current campaign Enhancing Surgical Services

Wherever the need is the greatest

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All donations of \$20 or greater will receive a SPHFF charitable receipt.
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Sidney Office:

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