

**Report from Nadine Doucette
Chair, Board of Directors
March 2, 2016**



Board of Directors

healthy
together

980 Oliver Road
Thunder Bay, ON
P7B 6V4

Phone:
684-6007

Website:
www.tbrhsc.net

Last month marked the first anniversary of the arrival of the cyclotron at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC).

More importantly, the first F 18 isotope was delivered to the hospital to be used to calibrate the PET-CT scanner. When fully up and running a year from now, the F 18 isotopes will be used to treat our patients in identifying cancer.

The cyclotron will have many benefits to economic development and research in our community. But the production and use of this isotope at TBRHSC illustrates the benefit it will have on direct patient care.

We will soon have a secure and reliable supply of isotopes for use in cancer care. No longer will a patient arrive in Thunder Bay having travelled from a remote community in the region to learn that the plane carrying the isotopes didn't arrive and they should go home and re-schedule the appointment. They will be treated locally, with less expensively produced isotopes that will guarantee the care when and where they need it.

I would like to point out that critical funding for the cyclotron was provided through the Hospital Foundation's Exceptional Cancer Care campaign. I encourage you to visit the Foundation's YouTube channel to view a video celebrating the first anniversary and describing the benefits it is bringing here.

This reiterates the importance of support from our community for TBRHSC. Last month also saw the announcement of \$68,000 in Family CARE (Care Advancements Recommended by Employees) grants. These grants are a unique program that takes employees' suggestions for grants for new or improved equipment that will enhance the care they provide. The 39 grants –ranging in value from \$80 to \$6,222 – aren't the high profile items you build a campaign around. They are smaller things that enhance care and strengthen our delivery of Patient and Family Centred Care.

This year's grants included a new wagon and ride on car for the Paediatrics unit to make the ride for a fearful child a little more pleasant, maybe even fun, as they head to the OR. Or a buzzer security system to allow patients to enter through the Main Door at night after the doors are locked, rather than have to walk all the way around to the Emergency entrance. Or baby swings to provide comfort to newborns who require neonatal abstinence scoring for maternal drug use.

Our front line workers know what's needed and that's who comes up with the ideas for those grants. I'm also pleased that a significant number of our employees contribute to TBRHSC on a consistent basis through the employee giving program, an effort the Foundation celebrated last month with an appreciation event. One of the highlights was remarks by the latest employee to join the program, new President and CEO, Jean Bartkowiak.

Also on hand was Tbaytel's CEO; Mr. Dan Topatigh, one of our strong community partners, emphasized his company's strong commitment to our institution. Indeed Tbaytel leverages our employees contributions by making matching donations up to \$10,000.



It takes a village, the old saying goes. And it does. This hospital could not provide the level of excellent service it does – under challenging realities of an aging population, a sparsely populated vast geography, and ongoing fiscal pressures – without the support of our community and the work of our Foundation.

It is our community – ordinary citizens, employees of the hospital and business partners – that made all of the items I've touched on in this report possible.

I simply want to say thank you.

We Are Healthy Together.

Nadine Doucette, Chair
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