





Message from Chair of the Board & President and CEO

Our mantra at KDH is: 'Our product is health. Our strength is our people.' We prioritize a positive culture and recognition efforts because that's what matters to Team KDH; our people are the heart of this hospital, and we value their contributions.

At KDH, we strive for service excellence and innovation, which opens the door for creative solutions. Our staff, physicians and volunteers share the values and vision of KDH, which aims to be a leader and partner in meeting people's diverse health needs to build healthier communities.

The Ontario healthcare system is constantly evolving, which generates new opportunities, and KDH understands how important it is to build for the future.

With our CT Scanner now operating, we're already looking ahead at the next steps to delivering high quality and safe health care; how can we continue to innovate as an organization to better serve our patients, families and caregivers?

Our goal is to foster those vital partnerships that set KDH apart because we've worked hard to create a collaborative culture. Our strength lies in our people, and we leverage individual talent while encouraging cooperation to maximize results.

Patient-centered care is at the heart of everything we do. KDH will continue to focus on resilience, growth and sustainability because that is what matters to the people we serve.

We're excited for what 2026 has in store for KDH! Stay tuned.



Erin Bonokoski
KDH Board Chair

Frank J. Vassallo
President and CEO of
Kemptville District Hospital



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HEALTH MATTERS is a community magazine published annually by Kemptville District Hospital to inform readers about programs and services of the hospital, promote health and wellness, and recognize donors to our hospital.

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If you would like to make comments or suggestions about hospital services, please contact KDH Patient Relations by emailing patientrelations@kdh.on.ca or calling 613-258-6133 x223.



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Message from the Foundation Chair

The Kemptville District Hospital Foundation has enjoyed another remarkable and rewarding year. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our community, we exceeded our goal of \$2.2 million for the CT Scanner Campaign. Today, the scanner has been serving patients for several months, providing vital care to the people of North Grenville and surrounding areas.

This year also marked a time of transition. We bid a fond farewell to our Executive Director, Joanne Mavis, whose vision and dedication were instrumental in making the CT Scanner Campaign a success. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Joanne and wish her every happiness in the next chapter of her life.

At the end of April, we were delighted to welcome Cindy Smith as our new Executive Director. With decades of experience in the not-for-profit sector, Cindy brings not only expertise but also enthusiasm and warmth to her role. We are so fortunate to have her guiding our Foundation forward.

Our annual Foundation golf tournament in July was another resounding success, made possible through the generous contributions of sponsors, players, and volunteers. To all who took part—thank you so much.

On behalf of the Foundation Board and staff, I extend my deepest appreciation to our community. Your unwavering support ensures that our hospital remains ready and equipped to care for our families, friends, and neighbours when it matters most.

Margret Norenberg
KDH Foundation Chair

Auxiliary Message

The KDH Auxiliary is led by co-presidents Elizabeth MacPherson and Teresa Harrison, both of whom bring a wealth of experience and strong commitment to community service. They look forward to working together to support fundraising efforts and promote volunteer opportunities at KDH!

This co-leadership model comes at a pivotal time, as our region continues to grow and health care needs evolve. By sharing the presidency, Elizabeth and Teresa will be able to respond more dynamically to new opportunities, engage a broader network of volunteers, and ensure the Auxiliary remains a vital part of hospital life.

As Teresa and Elizabeth note, **“Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the Auxiliary is able to fund vital medical equipment, ensuring our hospital remains well-equipped to serve the community.”**

The KDH Auxiliary operates a Gift Shop and Coffee Bar, open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 4 pm. Visitors can browse new and gently used items, enjoy hot and cold drinks, and choose from fresh sandwiches, soup, and muffins. Used books are available for just \$1, making it a cozy spot to relax and support a great cause!

Our largest fundraiser, Hey Day, takes place every June and is one of the biggest indoor garage sales in Canada. Thousands of donated items fill the space, and the community turns out in full force to shop, volunteer, and celebrate. Over the past three years, Hey Day raised more than \$150,000!

Volunteering at the hospital is a meaningful way to give back. Opportunities include greeting visitors, guiding them to appointments, sharing information, and offering companionship to patients. To learn more or get involved, please email kdh_volunteer@kdh.on.ca

Elizabeth MacPherson and Teresa Harrison,
Co-presidents of KDH Auxiliary



ON OUR COVER

Members of Team KDH are the heart of our hospital, and KDH strongly believes in recognizing and showcasing our wonderful staff, physicians and volunteers! We chose this cover because our people – and the people we all serve – are at the centre of everything we do. Thank you Team KDH!



Kemptville District Hospital extends heartfelt thank you to community for supporting CT Scanner

Kemptville District Hospital (KDH) was built by the community, for the community, and that founding principle still holds true nearly seven decades later.

In 1958, the community banded together with an idea, and KDH opened its doors two years later. Our hospital still stands as a treasured testament that anything is possible when you work together.

In 2025, KDH celebrated the grand opening of the Tallman Family CT Scanner Suite. The event marked the culmination of extraordinary efforts by KDH, the KDH Foundation, and our incredibly supportive community - along with the hospital's municipal, county and provincial partners - to improve access to high quality and safe health care in North Grenville.

The CT Scanner - a GE Revolution Ascend - has been operating since April 14, 2025. It uses computed tomography to examine structures in 3 dimensions inside the body using the latest Artificial Intelligence (AI) computing power, enabling care teams to diagnose patients more quickly, thereby managing and treating their conditions faster. Having a CT Scanner at KDH helps reduce CT wait times regionally and enhance quality of care for patients. To date, thousands of CT scans have been performed at KDH.

The CT has transformed patient care locally, enhancing emergency and inpatient services, and significantly reducing the need for patient transfers, ensuring timely and efficient health care right here at KDH.

"The arrival of our new CT scanner marks a transformative milestone for both Kemptville District Hospital and the community we serve," said Dr. Colin Sentongo, KDH Chief of Staff. "For the first time, patients have access to advanced diagnostic imaging close to home, reducing delays, travel, and stress for countless families. This is more than just technology—it's about timely care, better outcomes, and peace of mind for our patients. We are deeply grateful to our community whose generosity and unwavering support made this possible. Together, we are building a stronger, healthier future for everyone in our region."

The funds for a CT Scanner were provided by the KDH Foundation (\$2.3 million raised through the Crossroads Campaign), the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (\$900,000) and Municipality of North Grenville (\$900,000). KDH is grateful to our Foundation, and our provincial, county and municipal partners for supporting our hospital.

The CT is housed in Ontario's first-ever Prefabricated Modular Cassette for CT; the 1,350-square-foot addition ties directly into KDH's existing Diagnostic Imaging (DI) Department, which also performs x-ray, ultrasound, bone density and cardiac examinations.

"Bringing CT imaging on-site has been a game-changer for KDH's operations," said Brittany Rivard, KDH CFO and VP of Operations. "With Ontario's first prefabricated modular CT suite, we moved from ground-breaking to first patient in under a year—compressing timelines, avoiding costly interim renovations, and integrating seamlessly with our Diagnostic Imaging department. The result is faster diagnoses for emergency and inpatients,

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Bringing CT imaging
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- Brittany Rivard,
KDH CFO and VP of Operations





The grand opening ceremony for the Tallman Family CT Scanner Suite was held on June 25, 2025.

fewer transfers out of region, better surgical planning, and more efficient patient flow hospital-wide. Most importantly, our community now gets the right test at the right time, close to home.”

KDH can’t thank the community enough for the decades of support it has shown the hospital. On behalf of everyone at KDH, we are so grateful for every single family, individual and business that has supported having a progressive and innovative hospital in our community!

“The introduction of the CT scanner at KDH has significantly enhanced our ability to provide continuous and accessible care to our patients,” said Katie Hogue, KDH VP of Nursing/Clinical Services & Chief Nursing Executive. “Previously, patients needed to be transferred to another site for CT imaging, which could result in delays in their treatment, especially if EMS transport was not readily available. Now, with the CT scanner on-site, we can provide immediate imaging services without the need for patient transfer, ensuring that care is not delayed.”

Kemptville District Hospital (KDH) is incredibly grateful for our community’s continued support! Our new CT Scanner is a direct result of people coming together to improve access to high quality and safe health care in North Grenville.

From the bottom of my heart, I can’t thank the community enough for all you have done since the KDH Foundation launched its Crossroads Campaign.

We recently celebrated our 2000th CT scan since the Tallman Family CT Scanner Suite opened at KDH; patients are now able to access care closer to home, in a timely manner, enabling care teams to diagnose and treat conditions faster. And it’s all thanks to you – members of our community!

I’d also like to thank MPP Steve Clark - a long-time champion of KDH - who advocated for government approval for us to get a CT Scanner, and Mayor Nancy Peckford - another KDH champion - who advocated at both the municipal and county level for funding in support of our CT Scanner.

Finally, I’d like to thank Louise Tallman who led the Foundation’s Crossroads Campaign as Honorary Chair; her leadership was instrumental in helping the Foundation surpass its goal!

Thank You from KDH President and CEO Frank Vassallo



Donor matching dollars for new x-ray machine at Kemptville District Hospital

Gavin Murphy is challenging the community to match him dollar for dollar to purchase a new x-ray machine for Kemptville District Hospital (KDH).

The KDH Foundation is launching a matching fundraising campaign in partnership with Murphy, who has pledged \$230,000, or approximately half the cost of the new x-ray.

For every dollar that people donate to the campaign, Murphy will match it – up to \$230,000 – doubling every donation! This isn't the first time he's supported healthcare initiatives regionally; he also donated \$500,000 to The Ottawa Hospital Foundation.

"I strongly believe in a universal, publicly funded healthcare system," said Murphy. "Everyone should have access to healthcare services because it's equitable and just."

Murphy, an Ottawa lawyer, had hip surgery at KDH just before Christmas last year, and was impressed by the staff, physicians and volunteers, who he referred to as "wonderful people."

"I want to challenge the community to come on this journey with me and match my dollars to fund this critical diagnostic tool," said Murphy.

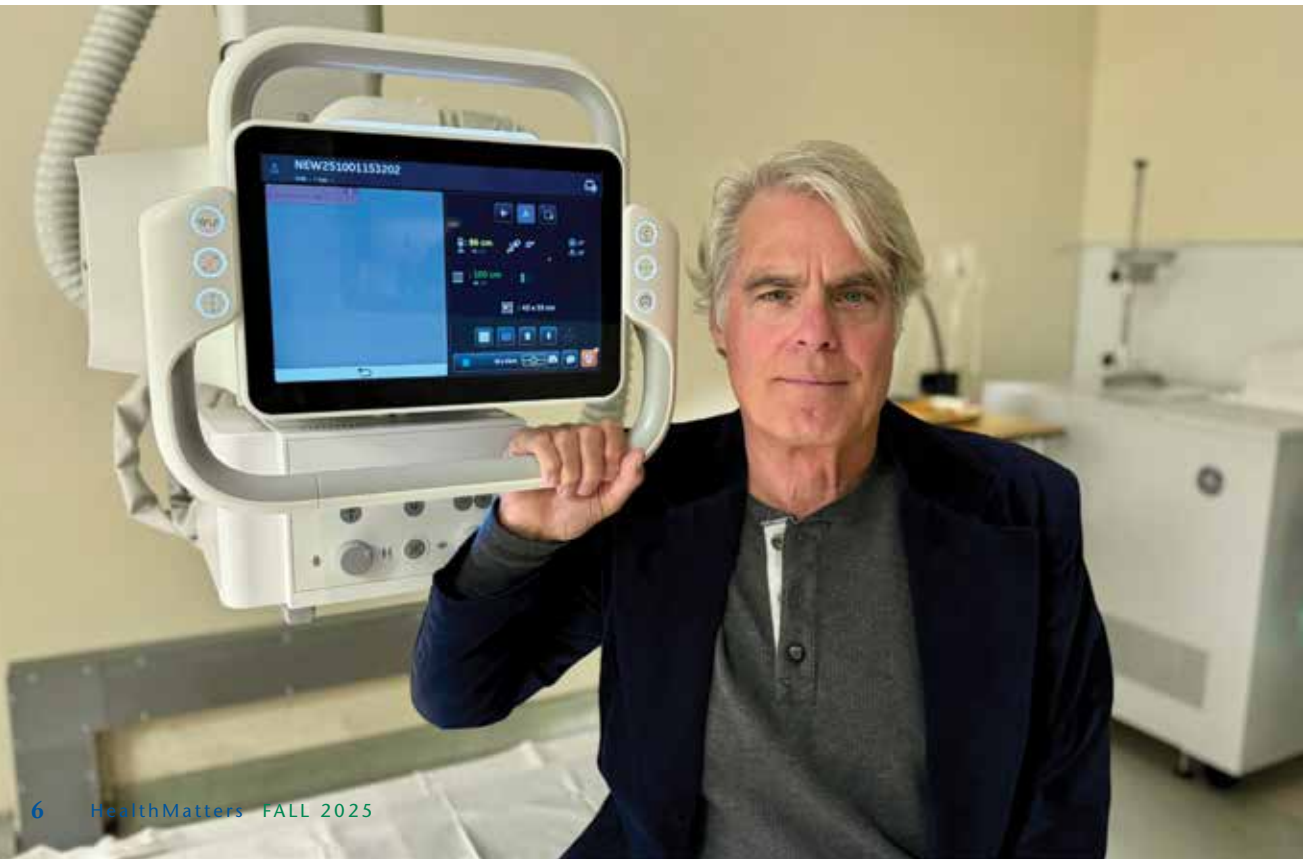
One of the x-ray machines that KDH relies on to deliver vital patient care is approaching 16 years in operation, which far exceeds the typical life cycle of 10 years. The x-ray machine has reached its end of life, and must be replaced.

In November of 2024, KDH replaced its other aging x-ray machine, which also reached its end of life. The new machine – a GE HealthCare 656 HD Gen 6 – produces high quality images owing to enhanced technologist features, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities.

"Investing in diagnostic equipment enables KDH to fulfill its promise of service excellence and innovation for our community," said the hospital's CEO, Frank Vassallo. "We're deeply grateful for donors like Gavin Murphy, who make a real difference when it comes to patient care."

KDH is hoping to purchase a second, similar x-ray machine, which is a state-of-the-art diagnostic tool that has improved patient outcomes and timely access to quality care. The new x-ray machine has also improved technologist workflow for Diagnostic Imaging (DI) by enhancing efficiency through its advanced features. It improves operator safety as well, due to being cord free with lighter image detectors to reduce risk of injury.

"KDH is able to serve more patients because features on the new machine speed up and enhance x-ray examinations," said Katie Hogue,



KDH VP of Nursing/Clinical Services & Chief Nursing Executive. "A second new x-ray machine would enable us to serve even more patients, which is essential as our community continues to grow."

X-rays are commonly used to diagnose broken bones (fractures) and damaged ligaments, and organ diseases such as pneumonia in the lung, or cancer. X-ray is the oldest and most frequently used form of diagnostic imaging. An x-ray machine generates images of internal structures in the body, which is vital for physicians.

"A new digital x-ray system will give our clinicians clearer images in seconds - often with lower radiation - so we can make decisions faster in the ER, fracture care, and on the inpatient unit," said Dr. Colin Sentongo, KDH Chief of Staff. "It replaces an older machine, improving reliability and reducing wait times, so people can get the care they need right here at home."

Please visit www.kdhfoundation.ca for more information about the campaign or to donate.



Why does KDH need two x-ray machines?

“ If one of our x-ray machines went down – a very real possibility considering its age - KDH would struggle to function as a hospital because we couldn’t service the ER and inpatients,” said Karen Finner, Diagnostic Imaging (DI) Team Lead. “Only having one x-ray machine would also mean not being able to keep up at high demand times between 7am and 3pm, which is when we service physician referrals.”

X-Ray Patient Stories:

I just wanted to thank the X-ray technologist who completed an X-ray on my 9-year-old grandson. He was a little nervous about the procedure, but she was patient and explained everything. It was a good hospital experience!

- KDH x-ray patient caregiver

My doctor requested that I have a chest x-ray. It was about 6:30pm and all the Dyna Care places were closed. This was the Easter weekend. I tried to get an appointment on Good Friday and the Saturday. Nothing was open. A friend suggested I go to the Kemptville hospital. I went to the hospital on Easter morning and the receptionist informed I needed an appointment. When I told her the trouble I was having she said she would check with the x-ray department to see if they could fit me in. She came back to me and said the x-ray people would see me right away. I am so very thankful for her help and want to let you know this.

- KDH x-ray patient



KDH seeks community support for new mammography machine

Kemptville District Hospital (KDH) understands the importance of early detection. Screening mammograms can provide early diagnosis for breast cancers and increase a person’s chance for survival.

A screening mammography can help find small lumps or abnormal areas of breast tissue before they can be felt or seen; regular screening mammograms are important because they can monitor changes to the breast over time and find breast cancer at an early stage. Early-stage breast cancers that are small and haven't spread to other areas often have a better prognosis in comparison to advanced breast cancers.

A mammography machine is an integral part of providing high quality and safe health care. For over 15 years, KDH has offered screening mammograms, and hopes to continue this vital service.

KDH’s mammography machine has reached its end of life and must be replaced. Due to the age of the equipment and related technical issues, it stopped operating in the summer of 2025 for multiple weeks, which impacted patient care.



“We’ve conducted thousands of screening mammograms at KDH and we recognize how important this service is to our community,” said Katie Hogue, KDH VP of Nursing/Clinical Services & Chief Nursing Executive. “At KDH, we’re constantly looking to the future for ways to improve the patient experience, and that includes updating equipment. A new mammography machine would ensure that our patients receive high quality and safe care for years to come, and solidifies our commitment to improving and enhancing health services here at KDH.”

Sourcing parts and software to keep the mammography machine operating has become extremely difficult, and soon it will be impossible.

“Think of the cellphone you have today; now picture the one you had 15 years ago,” said Karen Finner, Diagnostic Imaging (DI) Team Lead. “Technology advances so much every year that old equipment doesn’t even compare to what’s available now. Not only is our mammography machine hanging on by a thread, but new mammography machines are better diagnostic tools.”

KDH is exploring 3D Tomosynthesis mammogram options, which could offer:

- Earlier detection of small breast cancers that may be hidden during 2D mammography
- Greater accuracy in pinpointing size, shape and location of abnormalities
- Fewer unnecessary biopsies or additional tests
- Greater likelihood of detecting multiple breast tumors, which occur in 15% of breast cancer patients

“

We’ve conducted thousands of screening mammograms at KDH and recognize how important this service is to our community.

- Katie Hogue,
KDH VP of Nursing/
Clinical Services &
Chief Nursing Executive

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A 3D machine will also give KDH’s mammogram program the flexibility to expand in the future. It’s so much more than a piece of equipment for KDH – it’s an opportunity to improve care for our patients, families and caregivers.

“Investing in a new mammography unit will bring sharper, faster 3D imaging to our community and help us detect cancers earlier,” said Dr. Colin Sentongo, KDH Chief of Staff. “This is a direct replacement for our aging machine, ensuring more reliable service and less downtime. Most importantly, it lets people receive high-quality screening close to home - without long drives or long waits.”



MAMMO PATIENT STORY:

I just wanted to take a moment to recognize medical radiation technologist who did my mammogram. It was my first mammogram and this staff member took great care to put me at ease and talk me through everything that was going to happen and everything I could expect to see, do and feel.

She explained the process, end-to-end, including what to expect in terms of timelines and next steps around results and even next visit. She really demonstrated that she understands what it is like to be a patient, even while doing her very technical job. That’s exactly what every patient wants!

Can’t thank her enough for her thoughtful approach.

I also want to note that making an appointment was quick and easy and I appreciate the team actually answering the booking line.

Thanks for everything!
- KDH Mammogram Patient





By the Numbers...

Number of **x-rays** performed at KDH in 2024-25: **16,338**

Number of **mammograms** performed at KDH in 2024-25: **2,299**

Did You Know?

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women in Canada. Breast cancer starts in the breast tissue; it occurs when abnormal cells in the breast tissue multiply and form a tumour that may spread. Most cases are found in people age 50 and over.

It is recommended that women aged 50 to 74 years get a routine mammogram every two years. In Ontario, breast cancer has one of the highest survival rates of all cancer types.

A mammogram is an X-ray picture of the breast that can find small lumps or changes in your breast and can find cancers, even when they are too small for you or your doctor to feel or see.

Regular mammograms - and proper follow-up testing for abnormal results - are important because they can:

- find cancer early when it may be smaller and easier to treat
- lower the risk of dying from breast cancer

Kemptville District Hospital (KDH) is committed to spreading the word about the importance of early detection. KDH is an Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) site, that provides screening mammograms.

Ontario expanded eligibility for the OBSP to include people ages 40 to 49, which means that patients without a family doctor can self-refer for a mammogram between the ages of 40 and 74.

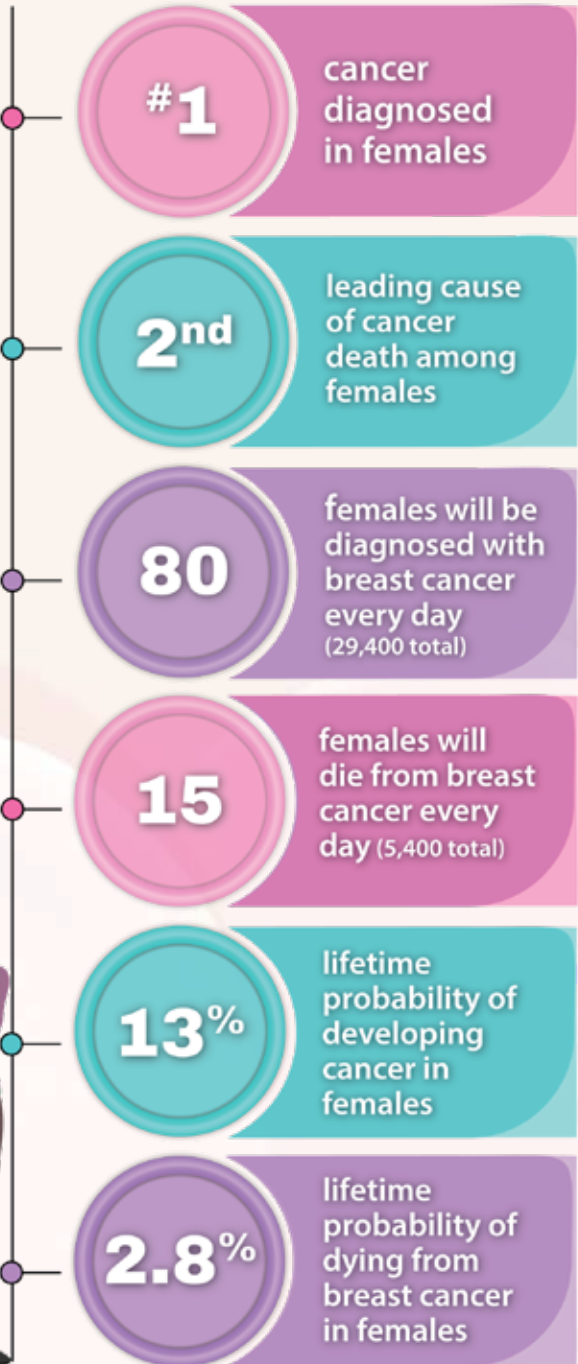
KDH partners with Winchester District Memorial Hospital, which offers a full Breast Care Program (screening, diagnosis and treatment) all in one location with rapid access to care.

OHIP pays for breast cancer screening at publicly funded Ontario hospitals and clinics.

Mammograms save lives!



The burden of Breast Cancer for Females in Canada (2023)





Kemptville District Hospital recently achieved an important milestone when its dedicated Diagnostic Imaging team completed the 2,000th patient scan on the new CT scanner. This is a significant achievement, coming just six months after the scanner was installed.

As MPP for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, I want to extend my congratulations to all the hard-working staff at the hospital involved. You've worked hard with a steep learning curve on a new piece of equipment to get the service up and running quickly, ensuring patients have access to this life-saving healthcare service.

Our government is committed to providing patients with access to imaging services close to home. Kemptville District Hospital's new CT scanner is reducing wait times for those living in North Grenville and communities beyond without the need for them to travel to Brockville or Ottawa.

For the hospital's physicians and staff, this modern equipment is essential in helping them continue to provide world-class healthcare.

It's also important to recognize that this milestone was made possible through the remarkable effort of the community. The widespread public support, advocacy from North Grenville council, along with the Kemptville District Hospital Foundation's fundraising commitment, helped me make a strong case to the Ministry of Health that the community was ready for a CT scanner.

Special thanks to the Foundation, which worked tirelessly to raise \$2.3 million for the project, including financial support from the Municipality of North Grenville and United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.

Again, my sincere congratulations and thanks to all involved in making the CT scan service a reality for Kemptville District Hospital. I look forward to continuing to work with the hospital to advocate for additional services and equipment that will improve the patient experience and support the dedicated professionals who care for our community.

MPP Steve Clark

Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes



As Mayor of North Grenville, I am proud to recognize the vital role Kemptville District Hospital plays in the health and well-being of our community.

For decades, KDH has been more than just a place of care - it has been a place of comfort, compassion, and connection for residents in every stage of life. The Municipality of North Grenville is proud to support KDH.

Our municipality is growing rapidly, with new families, seniors, and businesses choosing to make North Grenville home. This growth brings both exciting opportunities and pressing challenges, particularly in health care. As our population changes and our needs become more complex, KDH must continue to adapt - expanding services, upgrading equipment, and continuing to invest in the skilled professionals who make exceptional care possible.

The work of the KDH Foundation is essential to this mission. Their fundraising efforts directly enhance patient care, from modernizing facilities to acquiring life-saving technology. Every contribution - large or small - makes a tangible difference for patients and their families, ensuring our hospital remains ready to meet the demands of today while preparing for the needs of tomorrow.

On behalf of Council, I extend my deepest thanks to the dedicated staff, physicians, volunteers, and donors whose commitment keeps our community strong and healthy.

Together, we can ensure KDH continues to grow alongside North Grenville, safeguarding the quality of life we cherish.

Mayor Nancy Peckford

North Grenville





Your Support. Your Hospital. Your Community.



Help us to Replace Life-Saving Diagnostic Imaging Equipment

Countless patients depend on the X-ray and Mammography machines at the Kemptville District Hospital for fast, accurate, and often life-saving diagnoses. But both machines are outdated and nearing the end of their usable life, putting timely care for our community at serious risk.

Without a new digital X-ray machine and an upgraded mammography unit, early detection of fractures, illnesses, and breast cancer becomes much harder. Lives are literally on the line.

We Need Your Help—Now

The Kemptville District Hospital Foundation is urgently raising funds to replace this critical equipment. Your gift today will directly support these purchases and ensure that our hospital can continue delivering the high-quality care our families deserve.

How to Donate

Secure Online Donation: www.kdhfoundation.ca

By Phone: (613) 258-6133 x185

By Cheque (payable to the Kemptville District Hospital Foundation):
2676 Concession Road, Box 2007
Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0

Together, we can replace critical imaging equipment—and protect the health of our community. Please give generously today.



The Kemptville District Hospital Foundation is excited to welcome **Cindy Smith as the new Executive Director**. Cindy brings over 26 years of experience in the charitable sector, including 13 years serving as an Executive Director. Her leadership is driven by a deep commitment to community and a passion for making a meaningful impact.

For Cindy, this role is more than just a professional milestone; it's a heartfelt opportunity to give back to the incredible community she calls home.

Since joining the KDH Foundation, she's had the pleasure of connecting with many passionate donors, community members, volunteers, and healthcare professionals. Their unwavering commitment to local healthcare continues to inspire her every day.

Cindy is eager to build on the Foundation's momentum. She firmly believes that together, we have the power to create a lasting impact on healthcare in Kemptville and the broader community. She looks forward to what can be achieved in partnership with this dedicated community!

