

Councilor Harold Steves

My name is Harold Steves and I'm writing today to tell you a little about my experiences at Richmond Hospital, and why you should give to support Richmond Hospital Foundation. My family has lived on our farm in Steveston for over one hundred years and has been involved in giving back to the community for just as long. I remember when my parents and their friends were all campaigning to build a small, community hospital—what's now Richmond Hospital. In fact, I was on the hospital board for eight years, and was chairing the health committee when I got elected to Richmond City Council.



Harold Steves and his family. Harold is thankful for the compassionate and expert care he received at Richmond Hospital.

So when I fell ill 25 years ago, Richmond Hospital was my first choice. They told me I'd developed a very serious, aggressive form of prostate cancer. I was very anxious about the emergency operation that Dr.

William Taylor wanted to try to remove the cancerous tumour. When I woke up, I was afraid that he hadn't been able to remove all of the cancer. It was a huge relief when he assured me he had. I was cancer-free! If it weren't for the thorough

and expert care of Dr. Taylor and his team, I wouldn't be here today. I think it's so important to build up the community around us. Would you please join me in giving today, to provide Richmond's community with the same, high quality of local care that I received?

Thank you for your recent gift! Your kind-hearted support is the reason that Richmond Hospital can continue to provide expert care to patients like myself. Would you please continue to give generously, and bring increased health to our community?

After my lifesaving surgery, I was told I should be healthy for another five years but now—25 years later—I feel like I've been given far more time than I could have imagined! So I want to do everything I can to make the most of it, and give back wherever I can. And I hope you'll join me in giving, too.

At Richmond Hospital, you can be sure of receiving the highest quality of local care possible, while surrounded by caring and compassionate staff. I know this with absolute certainty because of my own experience in the Emergency Department at the hospital.

You never know when you'll need emergency care! Just last November, I returned to Richmond Hospital for a very different type of emergency.

We raise purebred Belted Galloway cattle, a relatively beautiful and rare breed in North America, to sell to other farmers. I had been brushing one of our purebred Belted Galloways to sell, when the cow next to her was startled and kicked me in the leg! After the initial shock and pain, I thought perhaps it wasn't so bad. But the next day, the combination of bruising,

pain and incredible swelling forced me to visit my doctor, who sent me to the Emergency Department at Richmond Hospital.

There, they immediately put me on intravenous antibiotics. And the next day, the doctor who came in lanced the wound and diagnosed a very serious staph infection—which could have led to the loss of a limb, if left unchecked!

He referred me to Dr. Jerry Vortel—an infectious disease specialist—who put me on daily intravenous antibiotics. After three weeks, the infection cleared up and I was—thankfully—able to walk again.

You might think that sitting in a hospital every day to get my intravenous drip would be tedious. But it was actually an incredible experience, because I was able to see all sorts of people come into the hospital and receive treatment that was nothing short of amazing. The attention and the compassionate care that the patients were given, even under pressure was phenomenal. And I was immensely impressed with Dr. Vortel and his whole healthcare team. There's nothing like being there and actually seeing it happen.

Meanwhile, my leg would swell up with five pounds of extra fluid each day. As I struggled on crutches, my wife, Kathy, would drive me to and from the hospital and tend to the cows each day, by herself. So I was very thankful when Dr. Vortel told me—after three weeks—that the infection was gone and life could get back to normal.

Today, I'm in good health and back to my regular duties of daily chores around the farm and public service for our city. I feel more grateful than ever for my health—and for Richmond Hospital's wonderful nurses and doctors.

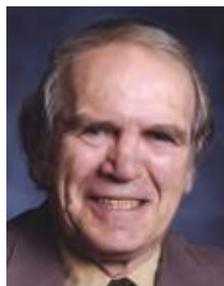
Would you please give back today and help bring the highest quality of care to other people in our community?

It's often only when we experience our own health emergencies that we realize how difficult it can be—and so it's wonderful to know that we have the compassionate team at Richmond Hospital ready to help, looking out for us with such expert care.

Richmond Hospital has always been a community hospital and I think it's really important that we get behind it, and carry on the tradition of so many families in Richmond building it up over decades. I hope that my personal story of Richmond Hospital's high quality of care will inspire you to give today!

Sincerely,
Harold Steves

Supporter of Richmond Hospital Foundation



P.S. Please give generously today so that more people in our community can continue to receive the same high quality of care that I received at Richmond Hospital.