

Inspirations

GRATITUDE REPORT 2017



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RICHMOND HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION

列治文醫院基金會

Caring Together for Your Health



Left to right: Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Mayor, City of Richmond; Jennifer MacKenzie, Chief Operating Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health – Richmond; Kyle Shury, Board Chair, Richmond Hospital Foundation; Rick Ilich, President, Townline Group of Companies; Natalie D. Meixner, President & CEO, Richmond Hospital Foundation; Susan Yurkovich; Nancy Yurkovich; Dr. Tony Yurkovich; Wendy Yurkovich; David Yurkovich; Honourable Teresa Wat, Minister of International Trade, Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism and MLA for Richmond Centre; Mary Ackenhusen, President & CEO, Vancouver Coastal Health; Dr. Ken Poon, Head, Department of Surgery, Richmond Hospital.

Transforming Health Care:

WHEN SHE WAS FIVE YEARS OLD, Wendy Yurkovich remembers hearing her father’s car pull into the driveway just before sun-up. Her front upstairs bedroom meant she’d know when he’d arrived home from a late-night call to what was then the newly opened Richmond Hospital, usually to deliver a baby. Dr. Tony Yurkovich was ready to answer the question his eldest child would ask as she perched on the stairs in her pajamas: “What’s the baby’s name, daddy?”

As a family doctor in Richmond for more than 40 years, Dr. Tony Yurkovich is well known to countless patients and families who have required care over the years. Together, he and Nancy, his wife, a registered nurse, have long understood the importance of health and community and have been tireless champions for both.

“I LOVE THIS COMMUNITY. I FEEL GREAT JOY IN GIVING.”
— DR. TONY YURKOVICH

With the support of their three grown children, Wendy, Susan and David, and their seven grandchildren, Tony and Nancy feel great joy to be part of something bigger than themselves and decided to make a transformational lead gift—the single largest donation in the history of the Richmond Hospital Foundation—toward a new much-needed Acute Care Tower at Richmond Hospital, announced at an event to celebrate the Yurkovich family on February 3, 2017.

Having had the good foresight years ago to invest in some land in Richmond and having seen its value rise over the years, Tony and Nancy felt inspired to make an investment to help improve health care close to home. In keeping with their modest and humble characters, they have asked that the size of their gift not be disclosed.

Dr. Tony & Mrs. Nancy Yurkovich share passion for community, inspiring others

In honour of their generosity, the original hospital tower, whose official opening they attended in 1966, has been named the Yurkovich Family Pavilion. The Pavilion naming will then transfer to a new Acute Care Tower when built. “Back then, we wanted the very best health care for the people of Richmond,” says Nancy. “We still want the same thing today, and that’s what a new Acute Care Tower will mean for us.”

Looking back on the early years of a poor Richmond farm boy, it is no surprise the idea of community took root in young Tony. After his father died when Tony was just six years old, his Croatian-born, widowed mother applied a steely determination to ensure Tony and his brother Robert would want for nothing.

Tony remembers a pastoral childhood in Richmond, buoyed by the neighbourly ways of the strong and growing Croatian community. “None of us had much but we shared what we had.” Tony remembers.

Working in the shingle mills and canneries, Tony put himself through medical school at The University of British Columbia and chose to build a practice in Richmond.

Nancy, born in Toronto, became a registered nurse and moved to the West Coast, meeting Tony while working in the pediatric ward of the same hospital in 1960. They married in 1962, settled in Richmond and she ensured their home became a gathering place for family and friends.

An expression of gratitude to the people and place that helped them build rich lives for their family, their gift serves as an inspiration to others in our community to take action. Today they invite others to join them.

“I love this community”, says Tony. “I feel great joy in giving.”



When will Richmond get the new Acute Care facilities it really needs?

LAST YEAR MARKED THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY of Richmond Hospital. While it was a time to reflect on what an enormous, positive impact the hospital has made on the community, it also served as a reminder of how urgently the original, antiquated Acute Care Tower needs to be replaced.

On June 2, 2016, Richmond Hospital received some encouraging news when the B.C. Government announced funding for a concept plan towards a new Acute Care Tower. This was a great first step, but actual approval for funding a new facility can't come soon enough.

The case for a new Acute Care Tower is strong.

The original six-storey tower was built in 1966 to serve a community of 50,000.

Richmond's population is now 218,000 and growing. It has the fastest-growing seniors' population in B.C., with an average life expectancy of 85, the highest in all of Canada. By 2030, the seniors' population alone is expected to increase by 121%. Richmond Hospital's number of acute care beds is stretched to the limit and the hospital is already unable to meet the demands of a rapidly growing and aging population.

Where would patients go in the event of a major earthquake? The original tower was constructed to withstand strong crosswinds and is not built to proper seismic standards. It is at risk of collapse, not only

if the Big One struck, but also if there was a moderate one. The operating rooms are located below the flood plain and the entire building would be at risk in the event of a flood or a tsunami.

Threat of disaster aside, the hospital faces enough challenges in normal circumstances. The original tower's cramped facilities cannot accommodate the latest developments in medical technology that Richmond's highly skilled medical teams need to continue providing the highest quality of care. The tower has been rated as 66% deficient with failing systems including the building envelope, plumbing and HVAC system. In October all elevators went down for an entire day and are in the process of being replaced. Recently, public space in the Atrium Lounge adjacent to Starbucks had to be used for IV Therapy as all beds in the Ambulatory Care needed to be used as additional hospital beds during a period of high occupancy in Richmond Hospital.

For years, the community has come together to fund improvements to Richmond Hospital. Now the community needs to be committed to a new Acute Care Tower. Thanks to the voices of community leaders and supporters, the B.C. government has begun to focus on plans for Richmond Hospital, and for that we are grateful.

But, until the new Acute Care Tower project funding is approved, the community needs to continue the push for a new tower. Hospitals take time to design and build. The longer the delay in starting the project, the greater the difficulty facing Richmond Hospital in meeting the great needs of this rapidly growing and aging community.

A new Acute Care Tower for Richmond Hospital must be a top priority. The time is NOW!

A Patient Perspective: Why a new Acute Care Tower is needed now

DEFICIENT. OBSOLETE. BEYOND CAPACITY. At just over 50 years old, Richmond Hospital's original tower is well past the end of its lifespan and no longer delivers what patients truly need in the 21st century. Kin Hun Leung, who is director, co-founder and owner of Kin's Farm Market, learned first-hand how important modern, efficient hospital facilities are to patients and families when his father was admitted to emergency and then required care in the original hospital tower.

"Richmond Hospital has top notch doctors and nurses, but the original patient tower does not match the high quality of care" says Leung.

"The doctors and nurses were great but we waited over 12 hours to get up to the room because of the lack of beds. My father stayed in the hospital for two weeks in a small, four-patient room. It was really crowded and the hallways were narrow. The space was very tight and everyone had a hard time moving medical equipment.

"The door was falling apart—it was really noisy. The window was broken and hard to close. It was March and cold air was coming in from the window. There was no heat in the room—the heater was broken...which made the patients and my father feel very uncomfortable."

Leung remembers once asking noted entrepreneur and philanthropist Jim Pattison why he donates so much money to hospitals. "He told me it doesn't matter if you are rich or you are poor, when you are sick, you still need a good hospital."

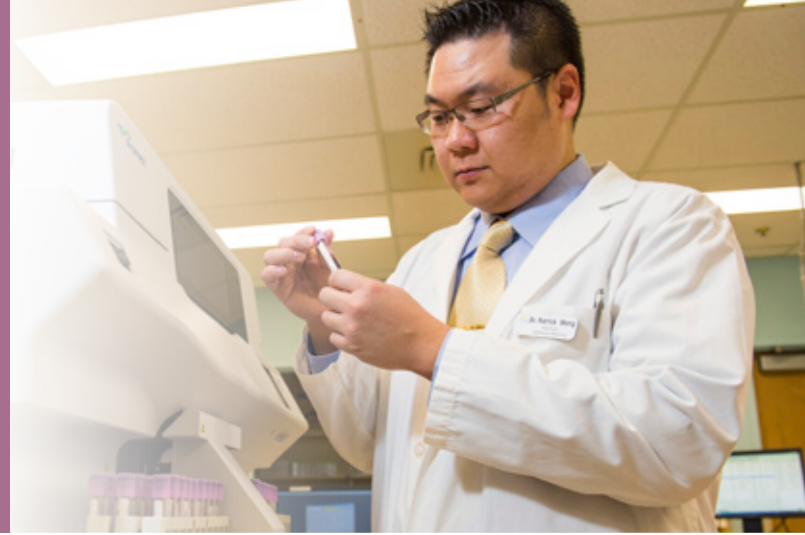
The Kin family supports the plan for a new Acute Care Tower at Richmond Hospital.

"We will donate to the tower and will continue to in the future," says Leung, who hopes the community will rally around the push for a new Acute Care Tower now.



“HAVING AN EXTRA SPECIMEN EXAMINATION GROSSING TABLE IS LIKE OPENING ANOTHER LANE ON A BUSY STREET WITH ONLY SINGLE LANE TRAFFIC.”

— DR. PATRICK WONG



New donor-funded equipment is making a big difference at Richmond Hospital

THANKS TO DONOR SUPPORT, Richmond Hospital Foundation was recently able to purchase a new tissue specimen examination table and a slide stainer, equipment which can be used in determining whether a patient has cancer.

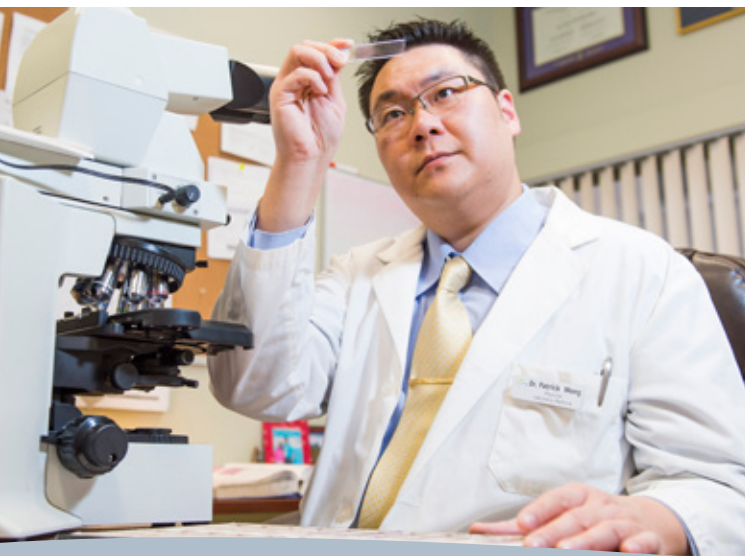
Dr. Patrick Wong (pictured below) is a General Pathologist at Richmond Hospital whose life-saving work includes examining tissue and body fluids for cancerous cells. He says the new equipment has resulted in significant efficiencies.

Before any tissue specimen is evaluated under the microscope, it needs to be examined on the specimen examination table first. A 60% increase in tissue specimens over the last five years at Richmond Hospital has put pressure on getting timely results.

“Having an extra grossing table is like opening another lane on a busy street with only single lane traffic,” says Dr. Wong. “It definitely improves efficiency and flexibility to our lab, and in turn, assures quality turn-around-times for our patient reports. If there is bad news, then the patient needs to know as soon as possible. If there is good news, then the patient should not need to wait an unnecessary extra day to relieve their anxiety.”

The slide stainer allows blood samples to be examined by lab professionals. The new unit is a huge step forward over the outdated manual stainer that was previously used.

“The new stainer is automated and has excellent stain quality where subtle detailed findings needed to make critical diagnoses are much more easily identified. It is like watching television on an 4K-UHD TV versus an old black and white tube TV,” says Dr. Wong.



Donation to fund ventilator inspired by ICU team

RICHMOND HOSPITAL'S ICU is home to two brand new ventilators thanks to the generosity of donors at Richmond Hospital Foundation's 18th Starlight Gala. For one donor, the extraordinary care his grandmother received in the ICU served as inspiration to provide full funding for one of the units himself.

Six ventilators in the Richmond Hospital's ICU were at the end of their lifespan but two new replacement ventilators were generously funded by donors attending the Starlight Gala. That evening, upon hearing the ventilators were needed, Amit Sandhu spontaneously stood up and approached the stage to tell the audience he would personally fully fund one of the units himself thanks to the great care of the ICU team.

“I'M SO GRATEFUL TO THE ENTIRE ICU TEAM FOR THEIR COMPASSIONATE CARE.”

— AMIT SANDHU

Amit Sandhu (pictured on the right with wife Dr. Reena Sandhu), CEO of Ampri Group, and his family have been longtime supporters of Richmond Hospital. In 2014 Sandhu's grandmother had been taken to ICU in critical condition and was placed on a ventilator, a critical piece of life-sustaining equipment that helps move air in and out of patients' lungs when they are unable to breathe on their own. The ventilator helped sustain her life so she was able to say goodbye to many of her relatives, some of whom travelled from out of town to see her in the hospital. Although sadly she passed away, the family was grateful they had precious extra time that included a celebration of her 80th birthday.

“I sat at the bedside of my grandmother while a 30-year-old ventilator helped her breathe. I'll never forget those extra moments we were able to have together,” Sandhu said. “I'm so grateful to the entire ICU team for their compassionate care.”



Donors to the rescue for surgeon and her patients



“HIP HIP HOORAY” to donors who are helping hip patients walk again by providing the right tools for one of our highly specialized orthopedic surgeons. Dr. Fay Leung (pictured on the left) is one of only four physicians in British Columbia who perform hip arthroscopy surgeries, using minimally invasive techniques which allow her to treat pre-arthritic hip conditions including ball and socket mismatches.

Richmond Hospital has been home base for Dr. Leung since 2010, but prior to 2015, she performed these hip arthroscopy surgeries at UBC Hospital. Administrative changes at UBC hospital in late 2015 meant loss of access to the operating theatres for both Dr. Leung and her patients. But thanks to the generosity of donors who rallied to help purchase new hip arthroscopy surgical equipment, today Dr. Leung is able to perform these procedures at her home hospital.

"WHEN I SEE PEOPLE ABLE TO GET BACK TO LIFE AND CARRY ON, IT'S VERY GRATIFYING."

— DR. FAY LEUNG

The first hip arthroscopy surgery, a 15-year old female patient was a huge success. “The surgery I perform is very technically challenging and demanding,” says Dr. Leung. “It requires lots of skill and the right surgical equipment. But when I see people able to get back to life and carry on, it’s very gratifying.

“Not only am I able to continue to provide this care for patients who need it, but now I’m able to offer it in the operating rooms of Richmond Hospital. Donors helped make that happen.”

Message from Board Chair & President

FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS Richmond Hospital has been the hub and heart of this community, a community which has valued and stood behind its local health care even before Richmond had a hospital.

Today, Richmond Hospital is known as an exemplary community hospital whose talented medical and surgical teams provide compassionate care. We regularly hear from our health care teams how your donations for equipment and facilities are essential to help improve the compassionate care they deliver here at home.

Thank you for your loyal support and commitment. Your continued help ensures we have the best care possible for you, your family, your friends and colleagues.

Your donations are making a huge impact to transform health care and help save lives.

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Natalie

Natalie D. Meixner
President & CEO
Richmond Hospital Foundation



Kyle

Kyle Shury
Chair, Board of Directors
Richmond Hospital Foundation



**RICHMOND HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION**

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Caring Together for Your Health

7000 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC V6X 1A2
604.244.5252 | info@richmondhospitalfoundation.com

richmondhospitalfoundation.com

RichmondHospitalFoundation
 RichmondHspFdn

