



Our Hospital. Our Health Care.

FOUNDATION

focus

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smhf.ca

Supporting a Community Hospital That Supports Us Investing Together Strengthens Care Close to Home

For Kathy Hamer Edwards, Sackville has been home since 1971. Over the years, she has contributed deeply to the community and to higher education, serving for many years as a professor and dean at Mount Allison University and later as Vice-President of UNB's Saint John campus. She retired in 2009.

At 82, Kathy has always known the importance of having quality health care close to home. Her connection to Sackville Memorial Hospital (SMH) became especially meaningful during a difficult year. In March 2025, Kathy's husband of 47 years passed away following an illness. That is when Kathy saw firsthand the compassion, efficiency, and professionalism of the SMH staff.

"The health care team was remarkable – compassionate and highly competent," Kathy recalls. "Having a hospital close by was very reassuring."

Until recently, however, Kathy herself had not needed to use the hospital very often. That changed dramatically one day this past July.

While visiting the local farmers' market, Kathy fell and fractured the top of her femur. She required a complete hip replacement at The Moncton Hospital. A week after surgery, she was transferred to SMH for post-surgical care and monitoring of her blood sodium levels.

Her experience at SMH left a lasting impression.

"It was amazing," she says. "I can't say enough good things about the staff. They were well organized, patient, and they always offered a smile."

For Kathy, the smaller hospital environment made an important difference. It was quieter and restful, allowing her to sleep well and focus on recovering.



Grateful patient Kathy Hamer Edwards shares why a strong local hospital is an important community asset.

"I never felt that I was losing any expertise in care," she says. "The team of nurses was excellent. Everybody put out extra effort, always willing and ready to help."

Kathy also appreciated the hospital's donor-funded outdoor garden space, which provided another welcome element during her recovery.

Her experience reinforced something she has long understood: a strong local hospital is an important community asset. "I'm mindful of how much SMH does for us," Kathy says. ➤ PAGE 7



We Made It – Thank You!

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have reached our 2026 Campaign goal, allowing us to invest **\$120,000** in modern tools for the SMH Emergency Department (ED).

As the ED continues to see a growing number of patients, having the right equipment available when it is needed most is essential. Because of you, our health care team will have access to important new tools that will help them provide safe, timely and compassionate care.

These tools are not luxuries — they are necessities. They help our health care team diagnose faster, treat more effectively, reduce physical strain on staff, and provide safer, more comfortable, and dignified care for patients.

Reaching this goal is something we can all celebrate. Every donation played a part in helping ensure our ED is ready to care for patients today and for the growing number of people who will depend on it in the years ahead.

To everyone who gave and helped us reach the finish line — we are grateful. You made this possible.

This too has been funded by you!



Celebrating reaching the Emergency Readiness, Compassionate Care Campaign goal
FROM LEFT TO RIGHT Ashlin Ellis, Nurse Manager, Emergency Department; Bill Carroll, Campaign Chair; Bill Evans, Foundation Chair; Dr. Bruno Chiasson, ER Physician.

Some of the important tools our donors have helped fund:

Portable Vascular Doppler

Helps to quickly assess blood flow and circulation.



ECG Machine

Essential for rapid heart monitoring and diagnosis.



Bladder Scanner

Reduces unnecessary catheterization and improves patient comfort.



Trauma Bariatric Stretcher

Ensures dignity, safety, and proper support for all patients.

Weight-compatible Stretchers

Designed to safely accommodate a broader range of patients.

x2

Glidescope Allows for faster and safer airway management in emergency situations.



x6

Transport Chairs Improves mobility, comfort, and efficiency throughout the department.

Mount Allison student's grant brings comfort and connection to patients at the Sackville Memorial Hospital

Last December, Mount Allison University student Nevaeh LeBlanc helped bring comfort and connection to patients at SMH living with dementia.

Nevaeh, who plans to pursue a career in medicine, received a \$2,000 grant through *Place aux compétences** and worked with the Foundation and Brunswick West team to identify ways to support patients.

The grant funded dementia-friendly items including puzzles, activity books, therapy dolls, tactile items, radios and an iPad — all designed to help patients stay engaged, reduce anxiety and feel more at ease.

One patient with a construction background particularly enjoyed an activity board with screws.

"He would literally sit for hours just playing with the screws," said Tahneen Luedee, who was Nurse Manager of Brunswick West at the time. "These items tap into skills or passions that remain, even when other abilities change."

For Nevaeh, the project was a way to give back. "This project gave me a way to contribute and support the community where I'm studying," she said.

Sometimes, it's the simplest things that can bring comfort, connection and a brighter moment to a patient's day.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT Nevaeh LeBlanc, Mount Allison University student; Tahneen Luedee, past Nurse Manager, Brunswick West; and Justine Graham, Clinical Resource Nurse, Brunswick West.

*Nevaeh's project was made possible through *Place aux compétences*, a New Brunswick not-for-profit organization that supports youth in developing skills and bringing community projects to life through hands-on experience and mentorship.

DONATION FORM

Yes, you can count on my support!

Enclosed is my gift of:

● \$35 ● \$50 ● \$100 ● \$250 ● Other \$ _____

Please make your cheque payable to:
Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation
8 Main Street, Sackville, NB E4L 4A3
Tel. 506-364-4106
E-mail: smhfoundation@horizonnb.ca



Donate online at smhf.ca. Our online donation feature offers an instant, secure, and easy way to give.

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Expiry Date: _____ CVC: _____

thank you!



THE ART OF HEALING

Pottery Brings Hand Therapy to Life

Sometimes, healing happens in unexpected ways — even at a pottery wheel.

At SMH, Occupational Therapist Paula Green recently found a creative way to bring together months of hand therapy for 15-year-old Logan Hoeg of Amherst who is living with the effects of acquired brain injury (ABI).

Paula, who is also a talented potter, had been working with this young patient for several months to help him regain important hand functions following his ABI. During their time together, he often admired Paula's pottery and expressed an interest in trying it himself.

So, to celebrate Logan's hard work and progress, Paula decided to make his final therapy session one to remember by bringing her pottery wheel to the hospital.

What started as a fun reward quickly became something much more.

"I knew it would be a great hand therapy activity, but it actually blew me away," Paula shared. "We've been working on sensation, stereognosis, proprioception, coordination, strength, balance, and bilateral hand tasks. This tied it all together perfectly!"

Working with clay challenged Logan to use many of the skills he had been developing in therapy — feeling and identifying what was beneath his hands, coordinating movements, maintaining balance, applying strength, and using both hands together. But instead of focusing on exercises or what was difficult, he was focused on creating.

And that made the moment particularly powerful.

"I might have cried. His mom might have as well," Paula said. "He did so well and was bursting with pride! Logan said he didn't think about his limitations once while he was on the wheel."

For Paula, it was a moving reminder that therapy can be about much more than regaining physical abilities. It can also help restore confidence,



Logan Hoeg uses a pottery wheel to practice skills developed in therapy for his hands.

independence, and the joy of discovering what is possible.

For one afternoon, the pottery wheel became more than a piece of art equipment. It became a therapeutic tool — bringing months of hard work together and giving one young patient the opportunity to see his progress in a completely new way.

At SMH, compassionate care, creativity and innovation can take many forms. Sometimes, it even begins with a lump of clay.

You're Invited. Save the date.

Donor Appreciation Celebration

 Thursday, October 22, 2026

 11 am – 12:30 pm

 The Sackville Memorial
Hospital Atrium

Please join us as we come together to show our appreciation for your generosity and the important role you play in supporting exceptional health care in our community. A light lunch will be served. We look forward to celebrating with you!

New Brunswick Medical Society Life Membership

Congratulations to **Dr. Beatrice Milne** and **Dr. Elizabeth Massarelli**, who have been awarded Life Memberships by the New Brunswick Medical Society in recognition of their long-standing service and dedication to their community.

We celebrate this well-deserved recognition and thank them for the lasting impact they have made through their commitment to patient care.



Growing Access to Care in Tantramar

Team-Based Care Making an Impact

The Tantramar Primary Health Care Centre (TPHCC), open since the Fall of 2023, continues to make important progress in strengthening access to care in the region.

Now serving 2,500 patients, the Centre continues to welcome new patients through the provincial registry. The team expects to complete the onboarding of remaining patients on the Sackville New Brunswick Health Link list by the end of the year.

Patients are also benefiting from a collaborative, team-based approach to care. With primary care providers and allied health professionals working together in one location, patients can often access the services they need the same day or within just a few days. This model also strengthens communication, coordinates appointments, and allows health professionals to consult with one another during a patient's visit.

As the Centre continues to grow, donor support is helping equip the team to provide this care. Melanie MacDonald, the Centre's Nurse Lead RNCB/Site Coordinator says thanks to generous donors to the Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation, the Centre received new equipment, including digital neonatal scale, ear diagnostic tool, wide reclining wheelchair, oversized wheelchair ramp scale, dermatoscope (handheld medical device used to examine the skin in much greater detail), doppler fetal monitor (detect and listen to a baby's fetal heart rate during pregnancy), sound-masking/noise-canceling machine used to reduce speech

“It has been incredible to see the difference the TPHCC is making in the lives of people in our community. Hearing the relief and gratitude from patients – some who have waited years for a family provider – is incredibly rewarding. By connecting people with primary care and allied health services close to home, we're making care more accessible, timely and easier for patients and their families. We're proud of the impact we're already having and excited to continue strengthening health care in our community.”

Melanie MacDonald, Nurse Lead RNCB/Site Coordinator
Tantramar Primary Health Care Centre



Melanie MacDonald (right) chats with Ida Wells prior to her appointment with the Centre's nursing team.

intelligibility and background noise, helping keep confidential conversations private, remote display digital weight scale, 5 vital signs monitors and stands with Wi-Fi which allows readings to be transmitted electronically to a clinical system, wide bariatric high back armchairs, 4 wall-mounted patient examination/vital signs systems, a Bladder Scanner and 5 electric exam tables.

“We are so grateful for the equipment provided by the Foundation. We would not have been able to secure this high-quality equipment without the generosity of donors. Thank you for investing in our patients and our community.”



Larger space for future growth coming soon.

Renovations are currently underway on a roughly 10,000-square-foot space on the ground floor of The York Building at 24 York St. The new Centre is expected to be ready in 2027, with the current location continuing operations throughout the transition.



Staff Education: A Foundation Priority

Investing in education helps Horizon Health Network staff build their skills and bring new knowledge back to the patients and families they serve. Since January, close to **\$4,000** has been invested in staff education opportunities through a partnership between the Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation (SMHF) and the SMH Auxiliary. Below are staff members who received educational funding since April.

Staff person	Department	Participated in
Dawn C. Roussel Registered Nurse	Brunswick West	Palliative Care Conference (online)
Tessa McCarron Registered Nurse	Brunswick West	Palliative Care Conference (online)
Sandy Stewart Registered Nurse	Brunswick West	Palliative Care Conference (online)
Glaiza Rivas Registered Nurse	Brunswick West	Palliative Care Conference (online)
Justine Graham Clinical Resource Nurse	Brunswick West	Wound Care (online)
Kaitlyn St. Germain Registered Nurse	Diabetic Clinic TPHCC*	Certified Bariatric Educator Exam
Christina Allen Respiratory Therapist	TPHCC*	RESPTREC Spirometry Training (online)
Lenora Tower Patient Navigator	TPHCC*	Communication and Motivational Interviewing (online)

*Tantramar Primary Health Care Centre

The Impact of Investing in Our Staff

Sometimes the best way to understand the impact of staff education funding is to hear from those who have experienced it firsthand. Thank you, ladies, for sharing what these opportunities mean to you and your patients.

I am grateful for the opportunity to attend the National Emergency Nurses Association (NENA) Conference and learn alongside emergency nursing colleagues from across Canada. The conference provided valuable networking opportunities and highlighted the importance of nursing empowerment, evidence-informed practice, and excellence in emergency care. Key learning points included the early identification and timely referral of potential organ and tissue donors to reduce missed donation opportunities, current approaches to pediatric

traumatic brain injury management, the critical role of preventing hypothermia in pediatric trauma patients, and best practices for medication selection in trauma care. As a rural ED nurse, these insights reinforced practical strategies that can help improve patient outcomes and strengthen the care we provide within our community. Thank you to the Education Committee for their generous support and funding, which made this valuable learning opportunity possible.

Shannon Collette, RN
SMH Emergency Department



LEFT TO RIGHT RNs Mary McLean and Shannon Collette

I would like to sincerely thank you for providing funding to support my attendance at the NENA Conference this year. I greatly appreciated the opportunity to participate in this valuable educational and networking experience.

A few key takeaways from the conference included:

- Early identification of possible organ and tissue donation can minimize risk of missed donor opportunities.
- Interventions that we can do in our rural ED for our trauma patients, can minimize risk for secondary injuries down the line.
- New Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) guidelines top priority to stop any external bleeding, therefore preventing possible death.
- When receiving Emergency Medical Services (EMS) report for pediatric patient, ask for weight or pediatric emergency tape colour, in order to prep any possible medications upon arrival.
- Remember to monitor trauma patient's temperature frequently and start the warming process quickly to minimize complications of hypothermia later on.

The conference provided valuable opportunities to learn about current trends, best practices, and innovations in emergency communications, and I look forward to applying this knowledge in my work. Thank you again for your investment in my professional development and for making this opportunity possible.

Mary MacLean, RN
SMH Emergency Department

SMH Foundation Awards Bursaries 2026

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

On behalf of Tessa McCarron, Glaiza Rivas, Sandy Stewart, and myself, I would like to sincerely thank the Staff Education Committee for providing funding that allowed us to attend the Palliative Care Conference virtually.

The conference provided valuable learning in several important areas of palliative care, including living meaningfully with cancer, palliative care for people with chronic kidney disease and Parkinson's disease, and culturally safe approaches to care within Indigenous populations.

Key takeaways included the importance of listening to and understanding each patient's experience, supporting meaningful conversations with patients and families, recognizing and managing symptoms earlier, and ensuring care reflects what matters most to each individual. We also gained valuable insight into integrating Indigenous and Western approaches to care and creating more holistic, culturally safe care plans.

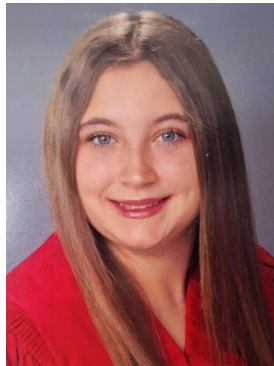
The knowledge gained will help us provide compassionate, patient-centred care, support informed decision-making, and share current best practices with our colleagues.

Thank you again for investing in continuing education. This opportunity provided valuable learning that will directly benefit our patients, families, and health care team.

Dawn Chamberlain-Roussel, BN, RN
Staff Educator – Brunswick West Unit

The SMHF awarded three \$1,750 bursaries to Tantramar Regional High School students who are studying in the health care field.

One of the bursaries was established in honour of Foundation board members who have passed away.



Phaedra Black

Attending St. Francis
Xavier University

Bachelor of Science
with Chemistry Major



Isabella DesRoche

Attending St. Francis
Xavier University

Bachelor of Science
in Nutrition and
Human Kinetics



Elora Wheaton

Attending University
of British Columbia

Interest in Psychology

KATHY HAMER EDWARDS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As a result, Kathy has made a personal commitment to donate to the Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation through regular donations.

"I'm happy to do my part by donating toward the equipment and resources our staff need, helping to ensure that our hospital can continue providing excellent, accessible health care close to home while attracting physicians and other health care professionals to our community," she says.

"The more we can fund, the better our hospital is," she says. "We should all make a concerted effort to give."

Kathy's story is a powerful reminder that a hospital is more than a building. It is a source of reassurance in difficult moments, a place where dedicated people care for our friends, neighbours and loved ones—and a community asset worth protecting for generations to come.

Thank you to Kathy, and to all of our donors, for helping make exceptional care close to home possible.



Lead donation to Emergency Readiness, Compassionate Care Campaign

Rose's Independent Grocer Raises Funds for the SMH Foundation and Auxiliary – Thank you!

Rose's Independent Grocer presented \$2,599.05 in support of the SMH Foundation.

Pictured above from left to right are Camille Dyson (Front-End Supervisor), Cindy Ward (Front-End Manager), Matt Rose (Owner) and Sheila Parker (Volunteer for SMHF).

Rose's Independent Grocer presented \$5,641.39 in support of the SMH Auxiliary.

Pictured below from left to right are Cindy Ward (Front-End Manager), Kathy Andrews (Auxiliary), Matt Rose (Owner), Camille Dyson (Front-End Supervisor).



Mike Wilson, CEO of AIL Group of Companies, helps kick-start the 2026 campaign with a generous \$20,000 donation, alongside Foundation volunteer Pat Estabrooks.



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Questions or comments
Contact our newsletter editor,
Julie Thebeau.
Julie.Thebeau@HorizonNB.ca



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation is to raise funds and administer its resources to preserve, maintain and enhance the quality of health care in the Tantramar region.