

## **Haliburton Highlands Health Services Expanding Services – We Need Your Support**

Whether we're at the lake on a full-time or part-time basis, access to quality health care services is crucial for all of us.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) is expanding diagnostic imaging technology and services in the County to include: a CT scanner, digital mammography, updated ultrasound equipment and a picture archiving communication system that allows rapid sharing of images with specialists in larger centres in Ontario. Bone density testing will also be available adjacent to the mammography equipment.

The good news is that construction is underway, and the equipment should be operational by the Fall. However, while the province provides health care operating funds such as staffing and maintenance, it puts the onus on the community to raise the capital funds for new and replacement equipment. That is why we need everyone's help to raise \$4.3 million to bring this technology to the County.

Haliburton is now the only county in Southern Ontario without a CT scanner. As a critical diagnostic tool for both emergencies and for regular diagnoses, County patients are currently transported to Peterborough, Lindsay or Bracebridge, meaning a delay of three to five hours. This is critical time lost in determining the location of a blood clot in a stroke; a brain bleed in a concussion; an appendix that is about to rupture; or the extent of damage in a bad bone break. The list of life changing risks goes on.

Not having a CT scanner in the County costs all of us. In 2021 there were 357 ambulance trips for CT scans outside the County. This means that while the ambulance and at least two EMS professionals are taking patients to/from CT scans, they are not available to serve others in Haliburton. This results in considerable costs, wear and tear on ambulances, greenhouse gas emissions, risk to patients and to residents who may not have access to EMS in their time of need.

Cancer Care Ontario supported the HHHS application to install mammography equipment due to concerns about over 6000 underserved women in the County. One in 38 women in Canada will die from breast cancer and one in ten breast cancer patients is male. Early detection offers the greatest chance of survival, yet many County residents are unable to make the five-hour round trip to Lindsay or Peterborough for a 15-minute check. Bringing Diagnostic Imaging close to home means that everyone will have access to life-saving imaging on a timely basis.

The new HHHS President & CEO, Veronica Nelson, is working hard to improve operations, (including supporting the addition of the urgent care facility now operating in Minden). In consultation with community partners, she is embarking on a long-term planning process to determine capacity to meet the County's needs for health care programs and services in the next twenty-five years. This Diagnostic Imaging Campaign is an important step forward to having more and better critical health care services available locally, which will help build healthier, more prosperous communities throughout the Highlands.

For so many of us, our hearts are in the Highlands. Please consider donating to help raise the necessary money. Please go to [hhhs.ca/foundation/give](https://www.hhhs.ca/foundation/give) to make a gift today. We thank you for your support!