

We appreciate this opportunity to introduce ourselves but more importantly, we are grateful to share with you how one of our community members and her family were profoundly impacted by our local healthcare system. An impact so significant, that her spouse joined our volunteer board of directors as a way to give back and to show gratitude for the people, tools, and facilities that helped save his spouse's life. We are very moved by the story of Mindy and Brian, and are thankful we have permission to share it with you today. We hope you will take a moment to read it.



At the end of the summer, we were named Co-Executive Directors of the Comox Valley Healthcare Foundation. We both feel very honoured to work in this role and are excited about leading collaboratively. We look forward to continuing to work with our generous community to enhance local healthcare and welcome your input as we carry on the great work of the people who came before us.

You may recall that a few months back, our hospital's Medical Imaging Lead, Juvena Burns, wrote to you explaining what equipment was needed to enhance cancer detection, and to expand on the great care patients with cancer receive here in the Comox Valley. It was inspiring to see our community's response!

"Thank you for your generous support. Your donations will be used to directly improve our ability to provide all patients in the North Island with high quality care, particularly with respect to the diagnosis and management of breast cancer." Dr. Andrew Low, Island Health Medical Imaging, Radiologist

As we continue to work with Juvena and her team to learn more about the importance of medical imaging equipment for the hospital, it is clear that...

A PICTURE IS, indeed, WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS.

Our hospital serves a population of 75,000 people living in and around the Comox Valley. Some departments in the hospital, Medical Imaging included, provide care for people from Qualicum Beach to the south and Port Hardy to the north, including Denman and Hornby Islands, as well as residents of Qathet Regional District (formerly the Powell River Regional District).

In the last few years, our region has seen significant population growth as more people move here in appreciation of our natural environment and lifestyle. In addition to population growth, our local population is aging: the proportion of seniors in the Comox Valley is higher than the provincial, or even the Island, average.

Through the lens of medical imaging, this increase in the number of residents combined with complex care cases results in an increased need for medical imaging.

There is still much we can do to ensure the best imaging tools are in place now and in the future.

With more than half of all healthcare encounters at the Comox Valley Hospital requiring medical imaging and the vital role these scans play in informing our medical care, the Foundation is continuing to raise funds for medical imaging equipment, such as a technegas generator, breast MRI, and a breast imaging biopsy unit, so that our local professionals can make informed decisions about our health faster and with a clear view of the whole picture. **Our health and the health of our loved ones deserve that focus.**

Together as a community, we are getting closer to the finish line of raising \$500,000 for enhanced medical imaging technology.

We will close by offering one last reflection:

SEEING really IS BELIEVING.

Certainty about our health comes from being able to see the big picture and all of its parts. We believe in our healthcare team's ability to deliver the best possible care. We believe they need the best possible equipment to do their jobs well. We believe in our resilience and courage to face illness and injury knowing we are in the good hands of our healthcare professionals. And finally, we believe in our community's incredible generosity to help when it is needed. **We see it time and time again.**

Thank you for considering this request and for all past contributions in support of great care, close to home.

Gratefully,

Rhonda & Avry

Co-Executive Directors

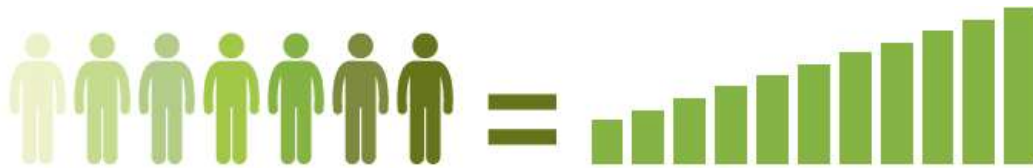
P.S. You can choose to designate your gift to medical imaging, an area close to your heart, or choose to give to the area of greatest need. Every gift, large or small, will be used with the greatest of care.

Donate to Medical Imaging

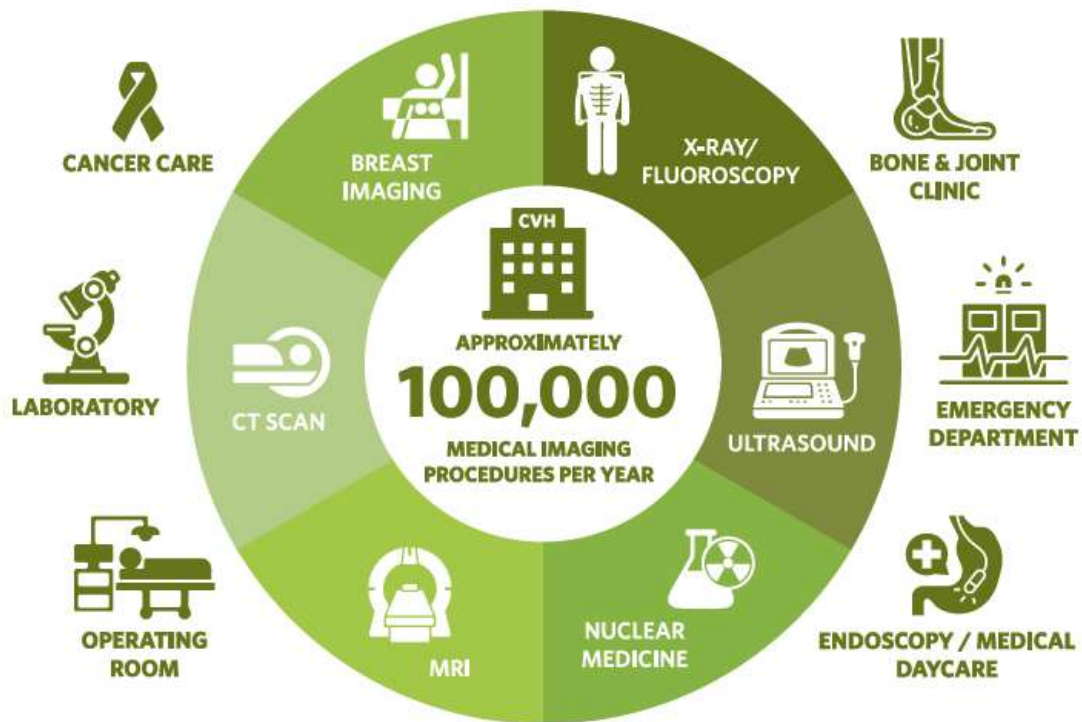
TOGETHER, let's look how an image can CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

A picture is worth a thousand words is a familiar saying that means complex and sometimes multiple ideas can be conveyed by a still image. In the case of Medical Imaging at the Comox Valley Hospital (CVH), this picture can be life changing.

Relied on by all hospital departments, medical imaging enables healthcare professionals to see and understand what is taking place within our bodies to ensure quick, accurate diagnoses.



INCREASING & AGING POPULATION = INCREASED NEED FOR MEDICAL IMAGING PROCEDURES



**ENHANCEMENTS IN
MEDICAL IMAGING
WILL HELP TO:**

**GIVE MORE
DIAGNOSES, QUICKER**

**PROVIDE BETTER
TREATMENT PLANS**

**IMPROVE ACCESS
AND OVERALL CARE**



In March 2020, I found out I had a brain tumour.

My symptoms had been quite subtle, but I knew my brain was not functioning in the way it normally did and I persisted in seeking an answer.

I had my first MRI at the Comox Valley Hospital (CVH) at the end of February. The next month, amidst the COVID-19 global shutdown, I was told I had a low-grade glioma brain tumour. I was completely shocked – a tumour had not even crossed my mind as to what could be going on with my brain.

As my husband Brian and I processed my diagnosis, our family joined the rest of the world in the pandemic lockdown. We found joy in the fact that we had our family together at that uncertain time, and as we waited to find out the next steps for treatment and what our future would look like.

I underwent numerous tests and scans locally before Brian and I traveled to Victoria in November 2020 for my brain surgery. With COVID protocols in place, Brian had to drop me off in the hospital parking lot and wait for the call for when my surgery was complete. It was undeniably a scary time for both of us. Thankfully, the surgery was successful and just two days later, I was able to walk out of the hospital!

When the pathology results came back, it was revealed that the cancerous tumour was in fact a more aggressive Grade 3 tumour. I then underwent radiation and chemotherapy for six weeks in Victoria.

Since then, I have been able to do all other cancer treatments locally, from chemotherapy once a month at the CVH Wellness Centre, obtaining my medication from the CVH Pharmacy, and blood work at the CVH Lab. I continue to have routine scans and will do so for the rest of my life. Because of the medical imaging equipment available locally, our family does not need to make the choice to separate or move and we are deeply grateful for that.

Without that initial MRI, we wouldn't be where we are today. Having access to these services close by is truly life-changing. I often wonder if changes I experience in my brain may mean that the cancer has returned, but knowing that regular check-ups can be done, close to home, brings me peace of mind.

Thank you for reading our story and learning more about how the local Medical Imaging Department and the various interconnected departments allow my family to enjoy our quality of life, locally.

-Mindy

“It is important to me that Mindy does not have any extra worries related to her healthcare. Knowing her medical needs are looked after locally eases our stress considerably. The likelihood that cancer will take her life one day is high, but we know that we can live a life together without constantly wondering if it is back given the regular, careful monitoring she receives at the hospital.”

- Brian

Make a donation today

Great Care. Close to Home.

250-331-5957



[Unsubscribe](#)

Comox Valley Healthcare Foundation

info@cvhealthcarefoundation.com