



London Health
Sciences Foundation

1996

2006



THE MOMENT THAT DEMANDED **MORE**

In the mid-1990s, London's health-care landscape was in flux. The 1995 merger of University and Victoria hospitals created the newly branded London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC), advancing a bold vision for a leading academic health sciences centre even as services were consolidated and acute care shifted from older sites. Across Ontario, sweeping restructuring brought hospital closures, bed reductions and staff layoffs, placing added strain on local care. Yet, amid the uncertainty, London's hospitals were gaining recognition for specialized care, research innovation and a growing focus on outpatient treatment. It was in this moment of challenge and possibility that London Health Sciences Foundation (LHSF) took root.

Founded in 1996 through the amalgamation of the University and Victoria hospital foundations, LHSF set out with a clear purpose: to channel community generosity in support of patients, programs and facilities at LHSC. Early campaigns—most notably the ambitious B-Tower capital drive—rallied volunteers, donors and staff around a shared vision and established the Foundation as a trusted, professional fundraising organization.

DR. BILL WALL

Dr. Bill Wall has dedicated his life to advancing organ transplantation and donation awareness. In 1977, he established Canada's first liver transplant program at LHSC, where he later became the director of the Multi-Organ Transplant Program. Over his career, he and his team performed nearly 2,000 liver transplants, with many early recipients among the longest surviving in the world. Dr. Wall has received numerous awards and accolades for his work, including the Canadian Society of Transplantation's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Order of Canada. Motivated by seeing firsthand how philanthropy strengthens hospital services and patient care, he served on LHSF's Board of Directors for more than a decade.



Surgeon Emeritus, Former Director,
Multi-Organ Transplant Program, LHSC;
Member of the Order of Canada

FOUNDATIONS | A glimpse at a few milestones that helped shape where we are today.

1 A MILLION DOLLAR FIRST



One of the first \$1 million-plus gifts in LHSF's history came from the LHSC Auxiliary in 1999. Their incredible \$5 million pledge strengthened women's health and, in part, supported the build of the Grace Donnelly Women's Health Pavilion (featured on the cover), a dedicated space that provides outstanding, family-centred care for women and children in the community.

The Auxiliary's investment laid the groundwork for the long-term master plan of Victoria Hospital. By helping establish the Pavilion, their contribution played an important role in the development of the North Tower, which officially opened in 2011. In total, they have contributed over \$10 million to projects across LHSC over the past 30 years.

2 CSTAR



In 1999, LHSC surgeons performed the world's first closed-chest, robotic-assisted beating heart coronary artery bypass graft (CABG), a groundbreaking procedure that signalled a new era in cardiac care. The patient returned home in just four days; with traditional surgery, recovery would have taken weeks. The promise of surgical robotics was unmistakable: less trauma, smaller incisions and faster healing.

To build on this momentum, LHSC's funding partners and donors invested over \$18 million in Canadian Surgical Technologies & Advanced Robotics (CSTAR), which officially opened at LHSC in 2003 as Canada's national centre for developing and testing minimally invasive and robotic surgeries. One which continues to redefine what surgery looks like for patients across the country.

3 MATTHEW MAILING CENTRE



Although the Matthew Mailing Centre for Translational Transplant Studies did not officially open until 2011, its foundation was laid years earlier through philanthropic leadership. In 2005, a \$500,000 gift in honour of the late Matthew Mailing established a new centre for translational transplant research.

Located beside the Multi-Organ Transplant Unit, the Mailing Centre strengthens collaboration between scientists and clinicians working to solve complex challenges in organ transplantation. It builds on LHSC's longstanding leadership in the field, where thousands of life-saving transplants have been performed and innovations in technique and research have shaped practice across Canada.

4 THE IVEY HEART CENTRE



In 2005, LHSC opened The Ivey Heart Centre at its University Hospital, one of Canada's largest cardiac care facilities at the time. Made possible through significant philanthropic support, the \$31 million Centre consolidated advanced cardiac services that had previously been delivered across multiple hospital sites into one integrated facility.

With specialized units for coronary care, arrhythmia monitoring and advanced procedures, it expanded capacity while positioning LHSC as a national leader in minimally invasive cardiac surgery and advanced imaging.

Past. Present. Purpose.

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Thirty years of impact is built not in giant leaps, but in thousands of small, generous steps. Because of our community—our donors, volunteers, board members and staff—patients have access to innovation, expertise and hope when they need it most. This milestone belongs to you, and to the healthier future we continue to build together.

John H. MacFarlane
President & CEO, LHSF

PROOF OF PROGRESS

Five-year survival for all cancers combined
Canadian Cancer Society

Five-year breast cancer survival rate
Ontario Cancer Registry

Five-year lung cancer survival rate
Statistics Canada

30-day in-hospital mortality post heart attack
Canadian Medical Association Journal

Heart failure incidence in Ontario
Canadian Medical Association Journal

THEN 1996 vs. **NOW** 2025

55%

64%

83%

90%

13%

27%

15%

6%

1 IN 220

1 IN 325

**Statistics are Ontario-wide approximations.*



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