

CANCER CARE

“

I made a choice early on in my cancer journey to enjoy every day. Each day is a gift and I get to choose what I do with each one. I have never felt like a victim of this disease. I am a person living with and not dying of cancer.”

Lois Yanuzzi

Lois, a three-time breast cancer survivor, receives her treatment close to home at RVH and is a golfer, swimmer and hiker, living her wild life in Tiny township.



CANCER CARE AT RVH

The Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre (SMRCC) at RVH cares for our neighbours, loved ones and friends living with cancer in Simcoe Muskoka. Last year, more than 14,000 patients accessed cancer care close to home at RVH.

The people we care for come from across the region to receive treatment at RVH, totaling almost 120,000 visits to the centre each year. More than 74% of our patients live outside of Barrie and are able to receive this world-class, specialized care without having to travel to the GTA.

We currently have 34 chemotherapy treatment spaces, complete with a satellite pharmacy and a state-of-the-art RIVA chemotherapy preparation robot, three radiation machines, one CT simulator suite to plan treatments and two large outpatient clinics.

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The expansion of our regional cancer program will significantly contribute to helping achieve our goal of providing every level of cancer treatment. Whether it's developing complex malignant hematology and stem cell transplant care, participating in cutting-edge clinical trials, or bringing state-of-the-art stereotactic radiotherapy and radiosurgery to RVH, we strive to bring leading-edge care closer to home for our patients and to keep our region at its healthiest.”

Dr. Matthew Follwell

Chief of Oncology, Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre



THE CASE FOR EXPANSION

Since opening in 2012, the number of patients relying on the SMRCC has increased two-fold. While we have achieved many milestones in the last decade, a number of the major equipment pieces used every day for patient care are now ten years old. Most of these pieces only have a few years of life left.

In the next 20 years, the population of Simcoe Muskoka is expected to double. By the time that happens, one in three of us will be a senior. According to the Canadian Cancer Registry, getting older is the most important risk factor for most cancers. In 2018, fewer than 2% of all cancers were diagnosed among people under age 30, whereas over 70% were diagnosed among those aged 60 and older. We can reasonably expect that without an expansion, our regional cancer centre will not be equipped to handle this significant increase in demand.



Current north site after planned expansion.

Courtesy of Diamond Schmitt

OUR VISION FOR YOUR CARE

Our vision for the future is to provide personalized, minimally invasive treatments, in state of the art-spaces, for cancers that we can detect before they threaten a life so that our patients can get back to living a healthy life as soon as possible.

Our priority initiatives for the expansion of our cancer care include:

- + More advanced imaging for more precise and faster diagnosis and treatment
 - A PET-CT scanner to stage certain cancers
 - An additional MRI for detailed imaging

- An MRI simulator for advanced external beam radiation and brachytherapy planning

+ New minimally invasive treatments

- High dose brachytherapy, which places radiation directly into or next to a tumour, to treat gynecological and prostate cancers

+ Treatments and personalized care for more types of cancer

- Precision ablative radiation to treat many kinds of cancers, including liver and spinal cancers
- Full scope of care for patients with leukemia and related blood cancers

+ Expanded chemotherapy and radiation suites for all the types cancer we treat

- More beds and care spaces, including exam rooms, consultation rooms and recovery bays

+ New Innisfil Cancer Clinic

- Systemic and supportive cancer treatment
- Outpatient clinics
- Psychosocial support for patients



THE PLAN TO KEEP LIFE WILD

Every year we're treating more people living with cancer. Treatments are advancing, technology is progressing and we need to grow to ensure we keep pace. Our vision is to provide personalized, leading-edge treatment for as many types of cancer as possible for everyone who counts on us.

The Keep Life Wild campaign is a rallying cry for our community to come together to protect our health so we can all continue to enjoy the unique way of life we have here in Simcoe Muskoka.

But we can't do it without you. Public support for the campaign and donations from the community are so important. You play a critical role in making our vision of the future of healthcare a reality.

We can't live a good life, the wild life, unless we have our health. So, will you join us in the fight to Keep Life Wild?



KEEPLIFEWILD.CA

201 Georgian Drive, Barrie, Ontario L4M 6M2
Charitable Registration Number: 125249185 RR0001