



by Myno Van Dyke

NEWCASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bowmanville's Hospital - A Healthy History

Peter Coleman. John McLean, a hardware merchant and Member of the Legislative Assembly lived there from 1868 to 1878. In 1878, the property was put up for auction and sold to Hector Beith who sold it to Alexander around 1912.

Mr. Alexander said he would donate the large house and property with only one condition; that the community raise \$5000 to make the hospital operational. Soon, a group of ladies met in the Bowmanville Council Chambers and from that meeting the Ladies Auxiliary was born. The women immediately started a blitz to raise the funds needed for alterations to the building and new equipment. Church bells and factory whistles sounded every half hour to remind Bowmanville residents that the ladies were coming to their doors for contributions. They raised



J.W. Alexander who owned the Dominion Organ and Piano Company in Bowmanville, donated a large brick house and six acres of land on Liberty Street South. This became the first hospital in Clarington.

Bowmanville's hospital has a wonderful past. The determination of its early volunteers, mostly women, have had an incredible impact on its beginnings and growth for over 100 years. The first plan for a hospital in Bowmanville began in 1910. The Town Council, led by Mayor John J. Mason, opened a special account to begin setting aside money for a hospital. Not much happened until 1912, when J.W. Alexander who owned the Dominion Organ and Piano Company in Bowmanville, offered to give them a large brick house and six acres of land on Liberty Street South. He had just purchased the private residence and property from Hector Beith. This property was originally called "South Park" which was built in the mid 1850's by

\$5,200, an incredible sum in those days. Women from the Volunteer Auxiliary were involved in almost every aspect of getting the hospital running. They planted a vegetable garden and kept cows and chickens on the south part of the property.

The milk, eggs and vegetables fed the patients and staff. They bought fabric and made all the linens, patient's hospital gowns and doctor's scrubs. There was a flu epidemic (during the First World War) and the women came

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in and cleaned the hospital from top to bottom.

On March 26, 1913 the hospital, then called Alexander Hospital, was officially opened with Sir John Gibson, Lt. Governor and Lady Gibson there to officiate. The President of the Hospital Board, Mr. J.H. Jury spoke of recent medical advances such as the introduction of chloroform by Sir John Simpson and the introduction of "antiseptic surgery by Lord Listers.

Miss Mable Bruce, a trained nurse, was the first Superintendent. Miss Isabella Moore was the Head Nurse and Miss Olive Troxel was hired as the Night Supervisor. The new hospital had 17 beds and a maternity ward. The surgery room was in the basement and patients were carried on stretchers by attendants from the second floor bedrooms, down the main grand circular staircase and through the foyer to the operating room. Also, in the early years, the hospital utilized the exten-

sive grounds to grow their own food for the hospital staff and patients.

At that time, many hospitals in Canada had their own Nurse Training Schools and Miss Bruce soon established one in 1916 on the same property. Nurses in training first lived in private residences or in the old carriage house behind the hospital. Many of the graduates stayed on as staff. In 1926, Norman James, was President of the Hospital and instrumental in raising money for the new Nurses Residence which was built that year on the same property just north east of the hospital. In 1941, the Ontario Department of Health brought in new regulations pertaining to teaching hospitals. Bowmanville's hospital did not meet the new standards and the Nursing School was discontinued. Later, the Nurses' residence became the Regional Health Unit Office, then an After Hours Health Clinic. Currently it is home to the Bowmanville Hospital Foundation.



In 1951, another fund raising project began in Bowmanville to build a completely new one-storey modern hospital on the same property and it was later expanded into the current hospital building. This building officially opened on July 31, 1951 and was called Bowmanville Memorial Hospital honoring our soldiers who were lost. It had 50 beds and there were now Provincial and Federal grants provided as well as funds from the Town of

PROBATIONERS WANTED FOR BOWMANVILLE HOSPITAL

Capable young ladies to enter the Training School for Nurses. Apply to the Superintendent, Bowmanville Hospital. 36-1f

Bowmanville and local fund raising. The cost of the hospital was \$400,000. Over 2000 people attended the opening ceremonies with the Hon. Mackinnon Phillips, the Ontario Minister of Health speaking there. Superintendent Gertrude Dewell, wearing her nurse's uniform, cut the ribbon. Branch 178 of the Bowmanville Legion had a special service to honour those who died in WW2. Four veterans participated in the ceremony; Tom Cowan, representing the Navy, Howard Brooking, (Army), Jack Gibbs (Air Force) and

Mrs. George Manion (Women's Division). The staff and nurses all wore red roses that were donated by Dr. Keith Slemmon and Dr. Howard Rundle. On January 26, 1962, the new Memorial Hospital Addition was officially added now giving them 129 beds. In 1976, a separate corporation, The Memorial Hospital Foundation-Bowmanville was founded to ensure that contemporary facilities and equipment could be provided on a continuing basis for the hospital. In 1980, there was a significant fire at the hospital, which re-

sulted in building a new east wing. Over the years, more renovations and additions were needed to house the extensive programs and services offered. Each time relying on the volunteers and generosity of the community. In 1998 the hospital, was placed under the administration of the Lakeridge Health Corporation. Memorial Hospital was subsequently renamed Lakeridge Health Bowmanville. Today, Lakeridge Health Bowmanville is a fully accredited hospital servicing the municipality of Clarington.



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Presently, Lakeridge Health plans to expand the hospital again with a new ER and new state-of-the-art operating rooms in Bowmanville. This community will be working hard again to ensure that we contin-

ue J.W. Alexander's vision.

Darlene Bastianelli, CEO of the Bowmanville Foundation said; "we are incredibly grateful to our community of donors who continue to demonstrate the same com-

mitment to a healthy community that built our Hospital over 100 years ago. Your generosity makes a difference in the lives of everyone who passes through our doors. The Bowmanville Foundation looks

forward to working alongside you to keep our Hospital; our community healthy. So from our family to yours THANK YOU!"

References

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Bowmanville Memorial Hospital Foundation



by **Jim Abernethy**, Publisher
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During my term as Mayor of Clarington, I was a Member of the Veridian Corporation Board of Directors for which I received a very generous income. In my opinion, being a Board Member was just part of the Mayor's job.

So, I decided to donate my Veridian income to the Bowmanville Hospital Foundation, which is one of three Foundations supporting the Lakeridge Health Organization. The other Foundations are: Lakeridge Health Oshawa & Whitby and Lakeridge Health Port Perry.

My decision was easy because when you make a gift or donation to the Bowmanville Hospital Foundation your donation stays right here in our community, not necessarily so with the other two Foundations.

Early in my mandate as Mayor, the Bowmanville Hospital Foundation lobbied me and Members of Council to have Clarington make a multi-million dollar donation to their Foundation to help fund plans to upgrade the Bowmanville Hospital. This required adding a special levy/charge to every municipal property tax bill. Council voted to reject the request.

I know the Foundation was disappointed to learn I could not support their request for these reasons:

1. Our 2007 Municipal Budget was facing a more than 7 % increase in the property taxes, the result of deferred spending and commitments made by the previous Council.
2. Health Care Services is not a municipal mandate, it is a Provincial responsibility.

Adding the cost of Health Care Services onto the municipal tax bill was not in the cards, notwithstanding it would have been money well spent, if we had it to spend.

At that time, there were no funds in the Provincial budget and our Bowmanville Hospital was in desperate need of upgrades. In fact, you may recall that there was a looming threat by the Province to reduce services offered by the Bowmanville Hospital resulting in a possible closure.

To combat this threat we formed a strong community lobby group, held a public rally and were successful in pressuring both the Lakeridge Health Organization and the Province to back off.

Today, there is no threat of our Bowmanville Hospital closing. Last month, Eric Hoskin, Minister of Health and Long-term Care stated in the Ontario Legislative Assembly " Let me be clear. The Bowmanville Hospital is not closing and they will not experience any reduction in services, or cuts. There are no plans whatsoever to change the programs or the services and certainly not to close that Hospital. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I have received a new proposal for an Emergency Department at the Bowmanville Hospital..."

However some of those upgrades continue to be outstanding, and there still remains the question... how will the Province pay for it?

The Provincial funding formula favours community financial participation in hospital expansions and new builds.

Late in my mandate as Mayor, I proposed to Clarington Council that we dedicate a portion, or all of the \$10 Million that Clarington received from the Federal Government for the Port Granby Host Community Agreement. www.phai.ca My position at that time was that these Federal funds should be spent in such a way as to benefit everyone living within

our community, not just a select few.

Everyone benefits from having a modern hospital within our community, and the donation of those Host Community Agreement funds would avoid adding the donation to the property tax bill of every property owner in Clarington.

Unfortunately, Council did not agree.

Making a substantial donation of those Federal Government funds to the Bowmanville Hospital Foundation made perfect sense then. It makes even more sense now because it appears that the Provincial funding formula for hospitals requires community financial participation.

Since that time, Clarington Council received another \$10 Million for a second Host Community Agreement with Ontario Power Generation (OPG).

To the best of my knowledge the majority of these \$20 Million have not been dedicated to any specific project(s) and those funds remain in term deposit accounts generating income to off-set annual budget spending increases.

Perhaps it is time Clarington Council use these funds to generate a better rate of return than bank deposit interest. For me, funding our community hospital thru the Bowmanville Hospital Foundation continues to be our best option.

Visit: www.bowhf.com





by Peter Hobb

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create a legacy for the future, belief in the cause, loyalty to a charity in which you have been very involved, and showing your appreciation for what the charity has done for you personally or a member of your family. Most charities have programs designed to meet the objectives you want to achieve including offering the appropriate level of recognition you are seeking for your gift.

Another reason for giving is the income tax savings that a charitable gift can generate. Although this is not normally the main reason for giving it is an important consideration. There may be certain strategies that are more effective than others in achieving the desired tax benefit. When making a charitable gift, it is important to get the proper advice to ensure that you will maximize the tax benefit of your gift.

Our income tax system of-

fers very generous incentives to encourage people to donate to registered charities. One such incentive is to eliminate the taxable capital gain on qualifying securities if the securities are donated directly to a registered charity. You not only eliminate the tax on the capital gain, you could also realize an additional income tax saving equal to approximately 50% of the current market value of the shares being donated if the donor is in the top tax bracket (taxable income over \$220,000). If the donor is in a lower tax bracket the saving would approximate 46%. This strategy would be a far better option than using cash on hand to make a donation and then selling some of your investments at a different point in time realizing a capital gain that would be subject to tax. It should be noted to be eligible for these incentives the securities have to be

donated in kind. If you sell the investments and donate cash, you will still have to pay tax on the capital gain. You will receive the tax saving based on the amount of cash donated. Examples of qualifying securities include shares listed on a designated stock exchange, an interest in a segregated (insurance) fund trust and shares of the capital stock of a Canadian public mutual fund corporation. Similar rules also apply to the donation of ecologically sensitive land and cultural property. The income tax benefit of this strategy may be even greater if the securities are donated by a corporation.

If you are looking at selling investments to raise cash, you could donate in kind a portion of the shares to a charity to eliminate the tax you would otherwise have to pay on the portion of the shares used to raise the cash. The amount to donate will

depend on the size of the overall gain on the securities you are selling.

Another effective way to fund a donation is with life insurance. For example, a life insurance policy could be purchased where the face amount is equal to the amount the donor wishes to donate through his or her will. On death, the insurance benefit would be paid to the estate to fund the donation. In this situation, you may wish to name the charity as the beneficiary. If the estate is the beneficiary of the policy, the proceeds from the insurance company will be subject to the claims of creditors of the insured. The donation, which equals the insurance benefit, can be claimed by the estate for tax purposes or by the individual in the year of death or the preceding year. You may also consider, if you are planning to cancel an insurance policy, transferring

ownership of the policy to a charity. The charity would become the beneficiary of the policy. It is likely the charity would look to the donor to continue paying the premiums by donating an equivalent amount to the charity to cover the annual premium. The donor would receive a tax receipt for the donations made. This is an effective strategy for someone wanting to make a significant contribution to a charity.

This article only touches on some of the strategies for making a significant donation. The information contained in this article is of a general nature and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular individual or entity. No one should act upon such information without appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation.