

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

NEWSLETTER



Nurse survives 173-day battle with Covid. With your help!

“Torry was on the brink of death, and we’re so grateful that through the healthcare system... he is able to be coming home today.”

Heidi Robertson calls her husband a “warrior.” And it’s no exaggeration.

Torry battled through forty-nine days in ICU. Thirty-eight days on a ventilator. And multiple organ failures.

But 173 days after he was rushed to hospital, Torry walked out the doors, homeward bound.

And it took some real healthcare heroes to help Torry pull through.

On March 25, 2020, Torry developed a fever. He went to Windsor Regional Hospital’s ER and was tested for Covid. But by Friday night, he started having severe aching and he lost his sense of taste and smell.

The next day his results came

back positive for Covid-19 – only the 15th person in the region to be diagnosed with the deadly disease.

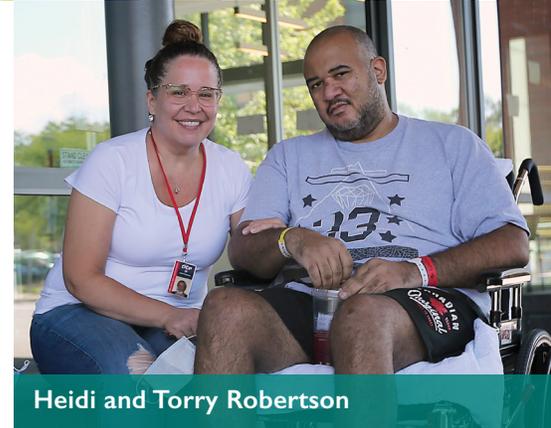
That night Torry started having difficulty breathing. And on Monday he was rushed by ambulance back to the hospital. Three days later he was alone in the ICU, hooked up to a ventilator – the thing he had dreaded the most being a nurse himself.

By the next day, his kidneys had failed. Two days later, with multiple organs failing, he began dialysis.

At home, Heidi was gently advised to prepare for the worst.

And it did get a lot worse before it began, slowly, to get better.

“There was not an organ system that did not suffer some damage. His heart, lungs, brain, kidneys, muscles, skin, veins – you name it,” reported Dr. Natalie Malus, medical director of the ICU and representative of critical care in



Heidi and Torry Robertson

PHOTO BY DAN JANISSE /Windsor Star

Ontario’s West Region pandemic command table.

Arriving at home, Torry was greeted by neighbours, friends and family members cheering for him and Heidi.

Torry still has a long road ahead of him in rehab. As one of the doctors told Heidi, “Imagine a big tidal wave and Torry’s in a boat. He’s made it over the tidal wave now. He’s still on this boat, but he has to patch up a little leak to make it to shore.”

Heidi says she’ll be forever grateful to the medical staff who cared for her husband while he was in the ICU – and those who have been caring for him in recovery. And our Windsor Regional Hospital teams are forever grateful to have the support of donors like you. You create these happy endings.

A calm space for mental health support

With nearly 10,000 visits per year, the need for mental health services at Windsor Regional Hospital is profound.

Thanks to donor support, we can now offer a quiet, calm space to sit with these patients while making a mental health assessment. Our patients and their families tell us it has made a world of difference.

“I can’t believe how much calmer I felt coming to this unit.”

The Emergency Room – by nature fast-paced and noisy – wasn’t a welcoming environment for our mental health patients. And it wasn’t a great place for psychiatric assessments.

So this March, we were delighted to open a new unit on the third floor, tailored specifically for this group of patients.

The new unit offers a calm, quiet, therapeutic space for individuals suffering from a possible



New waiting area for patients awaiting assessment

psychiatric episode. From the furnishings to the colour – everything has been thoughtfully arranged to provide the least distracting environment possible for our patients and our staff.

Although our mental health unit is always busy, numbers have jumped since the pandemic. Most visitors arrive in a state of trauma – and we want to make sure that their experience at the hospital is as reassuring as it possibly can be.

“I felt so ashamed of myself. If it wasn’t for coming to this unit, I would have never come back.”

Once again, Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation supporters have stepped forward with generosity and compassion. We are proud of the new space where we can serve patients. As Luke Di Paolo, Director of Mental Health Services, says, **“I hope other hospitals copy this concept.”**



A calm space for therapy

Thank you for helping to keep patients safe

Thank you for helping to purchase 30 Hi Lo Beds to care for high dependency patients who are at risk of falls.



Hi Lo Bed

Remembering Father Larry



Father Lawrence Mousseau

Father Lawrence Mousseau has proven that loving our neighbours never ends.

Father Larry, as he was known, devoted his life to serving others. And now, through bequests he made in his Will, he is continuing on with that lifetime of compassion.

During his life, Father Larry was a parish priest in London, Windsor, and Maidstone. He also served as the chaplain for the Windsor Police Service and the Windsor Police Association for over 20 years.

Even after he'd retired, Father Larry continued to visit the sick and assist at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Woodslee.

In his Will, Father Larry arranged for gifts to a number of local charities, non-profits, and hospitals. And so, his bequest to Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation will support Cardiac Care and the purchase of medical equipment in our region.

Father Larry was a man who devoted his life to caring for others. It is a wonderful tribute to him that he can continue to do so for years to come.

Leaving a bequest in your Will is a great way to support an organization you care about, and to ensure that their work lasts long into the future. If you would like to find out more about leaving a gift in your own Will to the Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation, please contact Gisele Seguin at Gisele.Seguin@wrh.on.ca or 519-987-3160.

Our heartfelt thanks to Father Larry for all he has done – and will continue to do – for our families, friends, and neighbours when they need us most.

If you would like to find out more about **leaving a gift in your own Will** to the Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation, please contact **Gisele Seguin** at Gisele.Seguin@wrh.on.ca or **519-987-3160**.

Your Gifts Support Essential Equipment

Your gift to the Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation helps your hospital to provide the best possible care for our patients.

Freezer

Used in pharmacy for COVID-19 vaccine storage.

\$7,000 each
(3 needed)

\$21,000 each
(7 needed)



Aloe Sleeper Chairs

These chairs convert into a bed allowing parents in the Paediatric Department and Family Birthing Centre to stay with their child when they are in hospital.

Cost: \$2,326.52



The ARIETTA S70 Ultrasound Machine

This high-quality ultrasound machine captures the

subtletest of changes to help with a rapid and definitive diagnosis for prostate and kidney issues.

Cost: \$100,000



Our new hospital is one step closer – thank you!

The long-awaited state-of-the-art acute care hospital is one step closer to becoming a reality – thanks to you!

In March, the government of Ontario announced their commitment to \$9.8 million in funding for stage 2 planning for the new hospital.

This followed years of advocacy from the local community and local political leaders. In fact, during his tour of Windsor-Essex, the Premier noted that he had consistently heard from community leaders about just how important the project is.

“This was a team effort, and our entire community should be proud.”

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted how vital the new hospital is to families in our region. A lack of private rooms to prevent infection spread, poor ventilation that risks transmission, and the inability to properly segregate areas of the facility were all challenges faced by Windsor Regional Hospital since the pandemic began.

The new Windsor-Essex hospital system is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform hospital services in Windsor-Essex.

The new, state-of-the-art acute care hospital will be designed with



larger rooms offering more privacy for patients, along with better accommodations for families. At least 80% of the rooms in the new hospital will be private – preventing the spread of infection.

As well, the improved facilities will help us recruit and retain top healthcare professionals, giving our employees the space and tools they need to enhance patient care at every level – including education and research.

We know that there is a great deal of hard work ahead of us. But we also know that our community is mighty in both its generosity and its dedication to getting this hospital built – and those doors open.

Thank you! And stay tuned for progress reports on the next stage of development.

Upcoming events



Bridge 2 Bridge
May 1 - Aug. 31, 2021

Supporting Mental Health Services in Windsor-Essex

**Location: Belle River Bridge
2 Ambassador Bridge**

The Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare, and the Canadian Mental Health Association will each receive 1/3 of the proceeds from this event. Funds will go toward programs and services provided by each organization that aid in mental health therapy/recovery.

Register online at:
<https://p2p.onecause.com/bridge2bridge>



Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation Charity Golf Tournament 2021

Supporting Men's Health Services

Join us **Wednesday, September 15, 2021** at the **Essex Golf and Country Club**

For more info, visit:
www.wrhone.ca/golf



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