



Bringing Hope to Life

A publication of
Health Sciences Centre Foundation

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Paul Albrechtsen Gives HSC the Edge

Foundation and hospital make headlines, change skyline

In 1954, Paul Albrechtsen was sleeping in a tool shed in Virden; working 100 hours a week driving oil trucks while building his own trucking enterprise on the side; and surviving on little sleep and a diet of Klik canned meat. He was a young immigrant from Denmark who crossed the ocean with only \$50 in his pocket and dreams of success.

Back then, he wondered how much his business could grow. Today, he only wonders what he can do next to make Manitoba an even better place to live.

On November 7, Albrechtsen was honoured as the Health Sciences Centre Foundation and HSC Winnipeg unveiled the Varian Edge, an advanced piece of equipment for treating certain cancers and benign tumours. The Edge was funded by Albrechtsen's \$5 million gift. At the event, it was announced that the hospital's heliport would now be named in Albrechtsen's honour.

"I have been fortunate in business and I am happy to give back," says Albrechtsen, owner of Paul's Hauling, the trucking business he started with a single run-down vehicle. **"I am interested in helping out in areas related to health and the Edge impressed me. It can kill cancer cells without harming the healthy cells around them."**

The Edge is indeed state-of-the-art. It is capable of delivering higher, more targeted doses of radiation therapy. For patients, it typically means fewer treatments, faster treatments, better results, and virtually no side effects because no healthy cells are damaged.

Since the machine was installed in late 2016, more than 80 patients have been treated. After it was announced a few weeks ago that Paul Albrechtsen funded the equipment, he has been inundated with calls from grateful patients eager to share their stories and express their gratitude.

"I have been moved by these calls," he says. "I'm so happy that the equipment is making a difference."



Unveiling the Edge: Paul Albrechtsen cuts the ceremonial ribbon. Left to right: Tina Jones (Chair of the Board, Health Sciences Centre Foundation); Dr. Perry Gray (Acting Chief Operating Officer, Vice-President and Chief Medical Officer, HSC Winnipeg); Karon Sackney (HSC patient); Hon. Kelvin Goertzen (Minister of Health, Seniors, and Active Living); Hon. Brian Pallister (Premier of Manitoba); Paul and Mary Lou Albrechtsen; Jonathon Lyon (President & CEO, HSC Foundation).

The Edge is operated by the Health Sciences Centre in partnership with CancerCare Manitoba. It is anticipated that once in peak usage, it will deliver 600 treatments a year. In addition, the hospital will be conducting research into the Calypso Tracking Unit, an add-on to the Edge that monitors tumour movement while a patient breathes in order to enhance the equipment's precision even further.

"I like that they are learning how to make the machine even more effective," says Albrechtsen. "It is truly remarkable technology and the success rate so far is outstanding."

With his funding of the Edge, Albrechtsen became the HSC Foundation's largest donor with **\$8.3 million in cumulative gifts since 1993**. Beyond the HSC Foundation, Albrechtsen has made his mark on many charities in the city and has a special interest in causes related to health care and health research. He has donated many millions of dollars to a myriad of charities.

One story he tells is about the time he had a cardiac incident while working out at the Reh-Fit Centre over 20 years ago. He was revived with defibrillators he himself had donated, operated by people whose training he had funded. Not long after that, he had heart surgery at HSC Winnipeg and his relationship with Manitoba's flagship hospital was born.

"What impresses us most about Mr. Albrechtsen as a donor is the fact that he doesn't just write a cheque. He asks questions and wants to know how things work," says Jonathon Lyon, President and CEO of the Health Sciences Centre Foundation. **"He's engaged, curious, and supportive. And he cares deeply about community well-being. He doesn't seek honours and tributes. His greatest honour is seeing the results of his good works."**

"I like doing good things for the community and I like to be a witness to the impact that donors can have," says Albrechtsen. "I always say that I'd rather give to the community with a warm hand than with a cold one."



Changing the skyline: HSC Winnipeg and the Health Sciences Centre Foundation have named the hospital's heliport in Paul Albrechtsen's honour.

Varian Edge Keeps Patient on Her Feet

Karon Sackney avoids paralysis thanks to new equipment

A decade ago, Karon Sackney's feet felt wet, even though they weren't. Not too long after that, she started to lose the feeling in her legs. It was the start of a medical journey that saw her become one of the first patients treated with the Varian Edge, funded by Paul Albrechtsen (see story above).

Sackney came to Emergency at Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg and was told that a tumour was pressing against her spinal column. Within days, she had surgery. Part of the tumour was left behind because it was too close to the spinal cord. Fortunately, it was benign.

"My life near Teulon returned to normal," says Sackney. "I tended to our horses, I rode my motorcycle, life was good."

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Varian Edge Keeps Patient on Her Feet

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But within two years, she was symptomatic again. The tumour had grown. She was treated with radiation and was fine again – for a few years.

“The tumour grew back yet again, but it had become more complicated,” says Sackney. “It had twisted around my spinal column like a corkscrew.”

Surgeons removed as much of the tumour as they could, and inserted a pocket for the tumour to grow into if it were to return. They also inserted eight rods to stabilize her spine.



On November 7, Karon Sackney and Paul Albrechtsen met for the first time. Sackney was one of the first patients treated with the Varian Edge, equipment funded by Albrechtsen.

“They told me that they would not be able to do more surgeries if the tumour grew again,” Sackney says. “I had to start living with the reality that I might one day be paralyzed from the waist down. This was three years ago.”

Not unexpected, the tumour started to grow again. With the Varian Edge on the way and the tumour’s growth slower than it had been before, Sackney was encouraged to wait before undergoing conventional radiation treatment.

“So, fast forward to November 2016. The Edge is installed, and I am one of the first patients. Five treatments in one week. No discomfort. No side effects,” she says. “And even though the tumour was in a delicate spot, the doctors are confident that it is under control.”

Karon Sackney feels strong, still tends to her horses, and walks three miles a day.

“I am one of the most grateful people you will ever meet,” says Sackney. “I am so thankful for my doctors, the hospital, the Foundation, and Mr. Albrechtsen who funded the equipment.”

A Legacy of Giving; A Commitment to the Community

White Cross Guild supports plastic surgery project

In 2005, after many years of volunteering at Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg, five women of the White Cross Guild – Carol Cribbs, Grace Nunn, Mabel Pratt, Bernice Lanouette, and Nancy Johnson – decided to try and raise extra money for the hospital. With HSC’s blessing, the Just Like New to You Thrift Shop was born.

The first donation was used to purchase an elbow and hand machine for the Physiotherapy Department. (Unfortunately, shop co-founder Carol Cribbs was its first patient!)

Today, with over 30 active volunteers, including a number of retired nurses, the Portage Ave. shop operates five days a week. In its 12 years of operation, the store has raised well over \$1 million and has donated this money back to the hospital in cash and in purchases of much needed equipment. The Guild, formerly known as the Ladies of the Province, has had an enormous impact throughout its 150-year history and even purchased the hospital’s first MRI machine.

“People wonder how these little older ladies can raise so much money with the nickel and dime purchases at the shop,” says Guild President, Elaine Latter. “We average about 50 customers a day and we are in a great location. Many of our customers are seniors, newcomers, and students who live in the area.”

Some of those nickels and dimes have turned into a new \$50,000 donation to a campaign to redevelop the hospital’s plastic surgery clinic. The project will help patients with traumatic injuries, burns, and cancers that require non-cosmetic reconstructive surgery. The Guild’s contribution is the lead gift to the campaign.

“This project was very exciting to us,” says Latter. “It will help people and free up the main operating rooms.”

Helping people is at the core of the White Cross Guild’s identity. The thrift shop walls are covered in photos of the equipment the Guild has funded, including 10 sleeper chairs, a stretcher chair, enhanced waiting rooms, and much more. The Guild has also contributed to research projects and made a significant contribution to the construction of the Kleysen Institute for Advanced Medicine.

“Working at the store is fun and gives us all something important to do,” says Cribbs. “It’s a lot of work but it feels good to make a difference.”

The White Cross Guild accepts donations of gently used clothing and household goods. Donations can be dropped off at 635 Portage Avenue between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Tuesday to Friday. To discuss pick-up options, call (204) 786-1653. Items that the Guild is unable to sell are donated to various charities throughout the city.



The White Cross Guild has donated \$50,000 to the campaign to redevelop the hospital’s plastic surgery clinic.

Ruth Bonneville/Winnipeg Free Press

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Did someone at Health Sciences Centre provide you or a loved one with outstanding care?



There’s a special way to thank them.

Contact us to find out how.

Champions of Care

[www.hscfoundation.mb.ca/
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204.515.5612
info@hscfoundation.mb.ca

Supporting Research

More than \$347,000 granted in 2017

Thanks to our generous donors, researchers at Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg can advance medical practice in Manitoba and beyond. In 2017, the Health Sciences Centre Foundation supported 10 important research projects at HSC Winnipeg.

2017 General Operating Grants

- **\$70,000 to Dr. Marcus Ng** to examine whether rapid eye movement (dream) sleep can help identify tissue in the brain causing seizures in epilepsy patients.



Dr. Marcus Ng was awarded \$70,000 in support of brain research.

- **\$70,000 to Dr. Renée El-Gabalawy and Dr. Brigitte Sabourin** to develop an online program for chronic pain management.
- **\$70,000 to Dr. Suresh Mishra** to identify the mechanisms involved in the role of a specific protein (prohibitin) in the development of obesity-linked diabetes.
- **\$53,600 to Dr. Natalie Mota** to examine the rate of suicide deaths among patients who presented to an emergency department in Winnipeg with a mental health complaint and were then admitted to a psychiatric hospital, compared to those who were discharged.

2017 Allied Health Grants

- **\$19,350.40 to Ms. Melissa Colbeck** to translate self-management principles into short videos using visual storytelling to engage people living with multiple sclerosis.
- **\$3,214 to Mr. Patrick Gross** to determine which factors are predictive of prolonged hospitalization after major lower limb amputation, and to review the statistical effectiveness of the current interventions.

2017 Dolly & Michael Gembey Nursing Grants

- **\$26,044.84 to Ms. Christine Johnson** to implement an intervention to improve patient mobility in hospital to minimize falls, pressure injuries, and length of time spent in hospital.
- **\$25,534.88 to Dr. Diana McMillan** to test whether integrated bedside terminals are better for educating patients with heart failure or who are at risk of getting a pressure injury.

2017 Mindel & Tom Olenick Research Award in Immunology

- **\$5,000 to Mr. Nour Eissa** to study whether an amino-acid protein known as chromogranin-A plays a role in intestinal inflammation, and whether targeting this protein could provide new therapies for inflammatory bowel disease and colitis.
- **\$5,000 to Dr. Edgard Mejia** to study the growth and survival mechanisms of immune cells in disease states.

Foundation Chair Recognized for Volunteer Excellence

Tina Jones accepts prestigious award on National Philanthropy Day

“As a Health Sciences Centre Foundation volunteer, I can draw straight lines from a donation given to a life saved,” Tina Jones told an appreciative audience at the Manitoba Philanthropy Awards on November 15. “I volunteer as a fundraiser because there are few sights as heartening as a donor’s eyes lighting up when he or she learns of the very real, very tangible, and very immediate impact they can have.”

Jones, Chair of the HSC Foundation Board of Directors, shared these words in accepting the award as Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser for 2017 from the Manitoba Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

The annual luncheon, held in conjunction with National Philanthropy Day, celebrates the achievements and passions of donors, volunteers, and professional fundraisers. About 400 people attended the event, which was held at RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg.

“We nominated Tina for this award because she is a transformational leader,” says Jonathon Lyon, President & CEO of the HSC Foundation. **“She inspires her fellow Board members as well as staff and truly appreciates the role of philanthropy in the health care system.”**

The Foundation’s nomination of Tina Jones was bolstered by letters of support from the founder of the Keeping Abreast Fund, Habitat for Humanity, Fort Whyte Alive, and CancerCare Manitoba Foundation.



Tina Jones celebrates her award with presenter, Lt. Gov. Janice Filmon.

“Our donors understand that they save lives,” Jones added in her acceptance speech. “They cry with me when they learn of the needs. They smile with me when they hear the success stories. In Manitoba, our donors give from the heart and they know how to step up.”

Celebrity Human Race Raises More Than \$850,000



Final installment of popular event shines brightly



Celebrity Human Race chairs celebrate five years of success: L to R: Josh Chisick (2013–2015), Ryan Downey (2017), Dan Chisick (2013–2017), and Jim Morden (2016).

On September 22 and 23, the community rallied behind the Celebrity Human Race presented by Canad Inns for its fifth and final year. The dynamic event raised over \$850,000 in 2017 and nearly \$4 million since its inception.

The event kicked off Friday night with the draft party at The Metropolitan Entertainment Centre by Canad Inns, where each team selected its own celebrity teammate for the race.

On Saturday, participants enjoyed brunch at JOEY Polo Park, before setting out on the race to solve clues and navigate to “pit stops” throughout Winnipeg where they completed exciting challenges – ranging from operating a forklift at FXR’s warehouse, singing carpool karaoke at Mercedes-Benz with Juno winner and Grammy-nominated artist Trevor Guthrie, opening a champagne bottle with a sabre at Banville & Jones Wine Co., attempting skill shots with former Winnipeg Jet Dean Kennedy at Bell MTS Place, and practising life-saving skills at Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg.



And they’re off! Celebrity Human Race participants burst out of the gate with victory in mind.

It all culminated in an awards ceremony at Canad Inns Destination Centre Polo Park that featured a live auction fundraiser and a special performance by Trevor Guthrie.

The Celebrity Human Race was co-chaired by Dan Chisick and Ryan Downey.

Thank you to our donors, sponsors, teams, and celebrities!

Our major sponsors:

Presenting sponsor: Canad Inns
Entertainment sponsor: Parrish & Heimbecker
Brunch sponsor: JOEY Polo Park
Pit Stop sponsors: Crosier Kilgour & Partners Ltd., Pitblado Law, Challoner Family, FXR, Mercedes-Benz, Banville & Jones, True North Sports & Entertainment

Race winner:

Cell Mechanics (with celebrity teammate, Jully Black)

Top team fundraisers:

TEAM ADESA...BID HIGH (\$101,310)
 Vinistas (\$94,996)
 Industrial Metals (\$37,689)

Top individual fundraisers:

Gregg Maidment (\$74,285)
 Tina Jones (\$55,000)
 Jordan Hochman (\$26,300)
 Dan Chisick (\$25,060)
 Mabel Garcea (\$12,500)



TEAM ADESA...BID HIGH raised over \$101,000!

Our celebrities:

AnnaLynne McCord – Actress, 90210, Nip/Tuck; **Billy Baldwin** – Actor, Backdraft, Squid and the Whale, Gossip Girl; **Brad May** – NHL Alumnus and Stanley Cup Champion; **Brad Smith** – Former Bachelor Canada, Chopped Canada Host; **Claude Lemieux** – NHL Alumnus and Stanley Cup Champion; **Dash Mihok** – Actor, Ray Donovan; **Donovan Carter** – Actor, Ballers; **Eddie McClintock** – Actor, Warehouse 13, Shooter; **Jes Macallan** – Actress, Mistresses, Legends of Tomorrow; **John O’Hurley** – Actor, Seinfeld, Family Feud; **Johnny Colatruglio** – Reality TV Personality, Big Brother Canada 3; **Jully Black** – Canada’s Queen of R&B Soul; **Kevin Martin** – Olympic and World Curling Champion; **Leo Stakos** – Host FISH TV; **Nic Bishop** – Actor, Snowfall, Covert Affairs, Body of Proof; **Omar Benson Miller** – Actor, Ballers, 8 Mile; **Pooch Hall** – Actor, Ray Donovan.



Leslie Sarchuk (back row, seventh from the left) poses with our celebrities after sharing a powerful story about her husband, a former doctor at HSC who, after a tragic accident, received care in the unit in which he used to practise.

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