

# JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER



## A message from our Manager of Engagement

What an exciting time to be a part of The Chalmers Foundation! Like so many other organizations, we've found a way to be innovative and adapt during COVID-19, and this includes how we present our annual Radiothon. In order to respect physical distancing requirements, the event will be broadcasted virtually.

On June 25, tune into Up! 93.1 and New Country 92.3 for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Chalmers Foundation Radiothon in partnership with Stingray. From 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., we'll be on the air with radio hosts showcasing many members of our community such as healthcare workers, business leaders and students. We'll be highlighting the people and the stories that are sure to warm your heart.

I want to give a huge shout-out to the team at Stingray for helping to bring this event together. Hosting a virtual event is different from the norm, and the innovation and commitment to getting the event on air has been amazing to be a part of.

If you want to know more about Radiothon and how you can make a donation, please reach out to me at: [denis.lagace@horizonnb.ca](mailto:denis.lagace@horizonnb.ca). All of your donations stay in your community to support local health care needs.





### **Funds from 2020 Radiothon will help to create mental health safe room at hospital**

Over the last six years, Frederictonians have made donations during Radiothon that have been invested in essential hospital equipment, programs and services. Your generous donations have had a positive impact on healthcare for years to come. We have raised funds for lab equipment and most significantly, the redevelopment of the pediatric unit. THANK YOU!

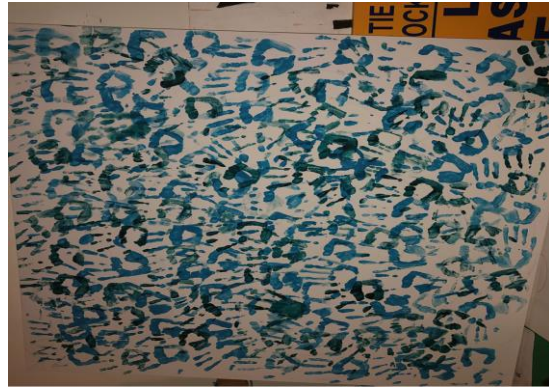
This year, funds from Radiothon are going towards the creation of a Mental Health Safe Room in the Emergency Department of Horizon's Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital in Fredericton (DECRH). In 2018, more than 2,800 people visited the DECRH emergency room with a mental health concern. This number is expected to escalate due to the ramifications of COVID-19.

Delivering psychiatric care in the Emergency Room (ER) is not easy. For patients who are experiencing suicidal thoughts, live with borderline disorder or schizophrenia, the ER space – loud, bright and with constant motion and stimulation – can exacerbate the mental health crisis that brought them there. Having a Mental Health Safe Room will ensure patients are offered a more therapeutic environment when in crisis.

An existing room in the ER will be retrofitted according to provincially defined standards for safety, hygiene, room size and placement, observation elements and privacy. All elements in the room and the attached washroom will be tamper resistant to ensure that nothing can be used as weapons or for self-harm.

The Chalmers Foundation is committed to raising funds to enhance health care in our communities. With your support, individuals experiencing a mental health challenge will have a safe and comfortable space in which to be treated.

To learn more about how you can make a difference, visit our website [www.chalmersfoundation.com](http://www.chalmersfoundation.com).



### **Fredericton high school students make a big impression with fundraising project**

When the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Chalmers Foundation Radiothon hits the airwaves on June 25, we'll be highlighting the amazing work of our community and this includes a great project coming from a Fredericton high school.

This year, students from École Sainte-Anne, a francophone high school with 725 students from Grade 6 to 12, raised funds towards The Chalmers Foundation mental health initiatives. Students, staff, parents and the general community had a chance to donate towards the project and every time a donation was made, a real impression was made – literally!

To mark the occasion of a donation, a student would dip their hand in paint and then press it upon a large canvass to represent that donation.

"We tip our hats to École Sainte-Anne for coming up with an amazing project and even better visual to represent those efforts," said Denis Lagacé, Manager of Engagement for The Chalmers Foundation. "This project by École Sainte-Anne is a perfect example of a community group coming together to support an important cause."

The artwork was scheduled to be auctioned off last March during the Antarctic Trek for Mental Wellness Celebration Event. This event was being organized to recognize and celebrate local resident Brian Jones who became the first New Brunswicker to reach both the North and South Poles. However, this event was postponed due to COVID-19.

Lagacé encourages everyone to tune into UP! 93.1 and New Country 92.3 on June 25 to hear more from those directly involved in the École Sainte-Anne fundraiser.

"Schools have played an important role in raising funds for us in the past, and this year is no different. We are thrilled to be able to share this awesome story with our listeners."

## Success of last year's Radiothon helps us reach campaign goal to raise \$610,000

During last year's Radiothon, we featured medical experts who provided us with a wealth of information on procedures from colonoscopies, to Gamma Detection Probes, to orthopedic assessments. Another year of Radiothon brings about the conclusion of last year's fundraising campaign – Bridging Excellence. Thanks to your generous donations throughout 2019, we were able to raise \$610,000 during this campaign for surgical and endoscopic equipment enhancements at Horizon's Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital (DECRH).

With this amazing community support, we will purchase seven new pieces of specialized equipment. This equipment will help a wide range of patients from those with kidney stones, breast cancer, sinus issues, swallowing difficulties, gastrointestinal problems, and those waiting for an MRI to be helped faster and more efficiently. These state-of-the-art medical tools will enable physicians and clinical staff to reduce wait times, increase levels of service and enhance your patient experience.

"The ERBE Electrosurgical Unit is part of seven new pieces of equipment that will be purchased as a result of this campaign," said Dr. Mark MacMillan, a gastroenterologist in Digestive Care and Endoscopy at the DECRH. "This piece of equipment will be used in day-to-day procedures to control bleeding, remove pre-cancerous polyps and remove obstructed gallstones."

Your donations from last year's Radiothon made a huge difference for this campaign. With that in mind, remember to tune into this year's Radiothon on June 25 and continue to help us deliver top-notch health care to central and western New Brunswick.



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