



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kenora's hospital offers the most advanced mammography technology on the market

Kenora, ON, December 10, 2024 – Lake of the Woods District Hospital's (LWDH) new state-of-the-art mammography unit - the Siemens Mammography B brilliant (the most advanced mammography technology on the market!) is now fully operational, with the first patient receiving imaging on Friday, November 22nd. LWDH now becomes one of only two sites in North America with this system, which comes at an important time as the Ontario Breast Screening Program just recently lowered the age for breast cancer screening to 40. Eligible people in Ontario ages 40-74 can now self-refer to this program.

Sean Hailstone, Manager of the Diagnostic Imaging Department explains "The B brilliant unit means LWDH can now provide new services such as Tomosynthesis, Contrast Enhanced Mammography, Stereotactic Biopsy and has AI software."

- During **Tomosynthesis**, the machine takes multiple images of the breast, which are sent to a computer which uses an algorithm to combine them into a 3D image of the entire breast. This advanced form of breast cancer screening can help detect early signs of breast cancer in people with no symptoms.
- **Contrast Enhanced Mammography (CEM)** is an advanced form of breast imaging that can help verify cancer when injected dye highlights abnormal tissues which could signal developing cancers.
- **Stereotactic Biopsy** allows for 3D scanning to find and insert a biopsy needle precisely into the tumour.
- **Transpara** is a clinically proven AI solution trained on over 1 million mammograms to assist radiologists in detecting abnormalities earlier and more accurately. Currently used in over 30 countries, it continues to improve annually, serving as an additional layer of expert review for mammograms.

Dr. Catherine Murray, LWDH Chief Radiologist elaborates "Not only will this new unit offer overall enhanced breast screening, but it means patients who would have previously needed to travel for this service are now able to access it at home or much closer to home for those in surrounding communities. It can mean quicker results and quicker diagnoses."

The project to upgrade mammography was roughly a year in the making. But

remarkably, the Diagnostic Imaging Department saw only a two-week mammography service downtime to allow for room renovations and equipment installation.

This incredible achievement was made possible thanks to the unwavering generosity of our community through the Lake of the Woods District Hospital Foundation. Through initiatives like the 2024 Par 3 Charity Challenge driven by the Dingwall Group, the Annual Ladies Open, countless contributions from individual donors, and a grant from the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre Foundation, our community has united to bring this transformative equipment to life. Mira Trebilcock, Executive Director of the LWDH Foundation, emphasizes, “Every gift—big or small—has played a crucial role in realizing this project, showcasing the profound dedication of our community to local healthcare.”

With just \$50,000 remaining to complete the funding for this unit, the Foundation is hopeful that the 37th Annual Tree of Life Campaign will help raise the final amount. In the coming months, the Hospital and Foundation look forward to celebrating the grand opening of the Mammography Suite in the spring alongside the donors and community members who helped this vision become a reality.

TREE OF LIFE: Support the 37th Annual Tree of Life Appeal and help raise the final \$50,000 for the new Mammography Unit at LWDH. Dedicate a bulb on the Tree of Life to honor a loved one. Donate today at [Tree of Life](#) and shine a light on someone special while advancing local healthcare!

BOOKING A BREAST CANCER SCREENING APPOINTMENT: To find contact information, accessibility information, mammogram wait times and hours of operation for the nearest location visit www.ontariohealth.ca/breastscreeninglocations, or call 1-800-668-9304 to be connected to your local OBSP screening site.

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