



# Help WDMH Restore Essential Care— A Table Can Make All the Difference!

March 2025

Dear Friend

Have you ever considered the incredible power of a simple table? Not the one where you gather with loved ones to share a meal – **but the one that SAVES LIVES!**

I'm Cheryl Gibson, and I have been a Registered Nurse in the Perioperative Unit at the Winchester District Memorial Hospital (WDMH) for more than 30 years. Since joining the Operating Room (OR) team in 1994, I've developed a deep passion for the field; drawn to the teamwork, the technical specifications, and the advanced equipment that helps us provide top-quality patient care at WDMH. But I've also seen the challenges when essential tools – like our surgical operating table – are not available.

Imagine receiving a phone call before your scheduled surgery at WDMH. You've prepared mentally and physically and perhaps even taken time off. But instead of the reassuring call to confirm your surgery, you're told that due to a non-functional surgical operating table, your surgery must be delayed. The disappointment and anxiety are felt not only by you but also by your family and the dedicated medical team who were ready to care for you.

**At WDMH, the surgical operating table is the unsung hero behind every surgery. It supports patients, doctors, and medical teams through life-saving and routine surgeries.**

But right now, one of our surgical operating tables is at its end of life. And that could mean delayed surgeries, added stress for patients and families, and increased wait times.

**And that's where YOU come in – your gift can help us purchase a new surgical operating table for WDMH!**

Did you know that the provincial government does not provide funding to purchase medical equipment like operating tables?

This table plays a critical role in surgeries, from emergency c-sections and urology surgery to general surgeries and gynecological care. It supports patients through both life-saving and routine surgeries, **making it an essential part of surgical care at WDMH.**

*WDMH performs about 4,000 surgeries each year. That's a lot of patients on the operating table! But with three operating rooms and only two functioning operating tables, the ability to provide timely, efficient care is currently limited. A new surgical operating table will allow WDMH to perform critical surgeries without interruption.*

*This new table is also designed to adjust to various positions and heights based on the type of surgery, making it suitable for all surgical specialties. The cost of a new operating table is approximately \$59,000.*

**Would YOU consider making a donation today to help us reach our GOAL?**

I've seen firsthand how crucial our surgical operating tables are, and it's disheartening to see when an OR room isn't being used to its full potential due to equipment limitations, potentially causing fewer surgeries and longer wait times. Having that new table would mean more patients receiving the care they deserve – faster, safer, and with the latest technology - while maintaining a warm, family-like comforting atmosphere for our patients at WDMH.

*Your donation can help us prevent delays, provide timely care, and support our surgical team with the right tools. It means fewer worries for patients like you and your loved ones, knowing WDMH is fully equipped to provide the best care possible.*

**Can we count on YOUR generosity to make this HAPPEN?**

Whether you've had surgery yourself or supported a loved one, we all know the anxiety that comes with it. Your generosity will help us ensure that the tools we rely on to care for our patients are in place, so we can focus on what truly matters: providing the best possible care when it's needed most.

**Will you help us provide this critical piece of equipment and make a lasting impact in our community?**

On behalf of the entire team at WDMH, thank you for your consideration and support. Your generosity will help us continue to provide exceptional care to every patient who relies on our surgical team, and help each patient begin their path to recovery.

Sincerely,

*Cheryl Gibson RN*

Registered Nurse • Perioperative



**P.S. Your generous donation will help us:**

- Replace our current surgical operating table to ensure full operating capacity is maintained;
- Support emergency surgeries, including c-sections;
- Provide comfort and care to more patients in a fully equipped operating room;
- Ensure our surgical team has the tools they need; and
- Ensure every patient undergoing surgery receives the care they need, when they need it most!

**P.P.S. Every gift, no matter the size, directly impacts our ability to provide exceptional care to all surgical patients at WDMH. Thank you for your support!**



**From left to right:  
Perioperative nurses Lorraine Carey, Kelly McDonald, and Cheryl Gibson with one of our current surgical operating tables.**

A new surgical operating table will be a valuable addition to our Perioperative department. These modern beds accommodate larger patients and offer ergonomic features for safer positioning.

We encourage donors to consider how this could benefit them or their loved ones. Thank you for supporting this important fundraising effort.

Arlene Sommerville - Registered Nurse • Perioperative

A surgical operating table is essential for patient safety during operations. Currently, we have two OR rooms for surgeries and one scope room, which doesn't require an OR table since patients remain on stretchers.

Emergency cases, like c-sections, can be challenging if we are running longer procedures.

We are fortunate to have an amazing OR team providing excellent care to our community.

Tanya Geertsma - Registered Nurse • Perioperative

