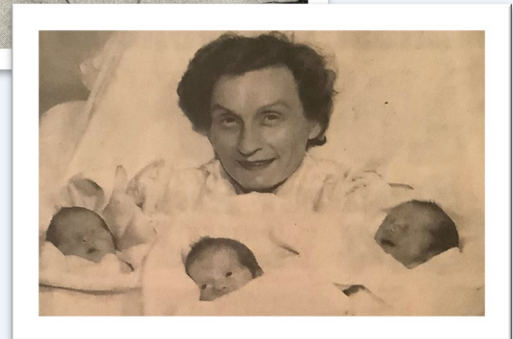


# Celebrating 75 Years of Caring

- Winchester District Memorial Hospital was officially opened on December 8, 1948. The Hon. George Challies, MPP for Grenville-Dundas and the Hon. Russell Kelly, Ontario Minister of Health presided. Over 3,000 people attended.
- Dr. J.J. McKendry is credited with starting the ball rolling when he sent a letter to the Winchester Press in 1944 stating the need for a hospital in Winchester.
- The first WDMH patient was 10-year old Glendon Loucks, who underwent minor surgery. On December 24th, the hospital registered its first birth, a little girl named Carol, born to Glendon and Doris Fetterly of Mountain. The first set of triplets didn't arrive until July 1956 - three girls for the Darling family.
- At the ceremony, a scroll bearing the names of boys in the district killed in WWII was erected.
- On August 3, 1948, a small group of women met in the Town Hall to discuss the impact the hospital was to have on the entire community and the need for an "auxiliary" force to assist. Their efforts were led by Mrs. Chester Robinson.
- In 1955, a new administration wing was added at a cost of \$36,000. A blood bank was established.
- In 1960, the first major expansion was completed, going from 35 to 89 beds at a cost of \$700,000. The new south wing included additional beds, more ORs, x-ray and lab facilities, a new delivery suite, and a pharmacy.



- In 1964, funds from the Harvey S. Dillabough estate were used to build a \$140,000 nurses' residence.
- In 1968, a \$1.6 million expansion included a 35-bed chronic care unit, relocation of the dietary unit, a boiler room and the addition of a 16-bed pediatric unit.
- In 1972, a new modern incinerator was built at a cost of \$100,000.
- In 1977, \$225,000 was spent to create a new x-ray room, family lounge, pharmacy, and nursing office. The bed count had increased to 120 beds.
- In 1980, the Intensive Care Unit expanded to our beds at a cost of \$105,000. Five years later, a \$600,000 project created a new state-of-the-art lab, a renovated x-ray department and emergency and out-patient departments.
- In 1992, the HELP campaign raised funds for infrastructure changes such as ventilation systems, code upgrades and plumbing.
- Generous community members, municipalities and businesses gave \$15.1 million for the project, through the Renewing the Vision campaign, launched in 2002.
- On March 27, 2009, the new WDMH was officially opened, resulting in the most technologically-advanced facility in rural Ontario.
- In 2015, the Patient & Family Engagement Committee was created. Advisors reflect on their own experiences to offer meaningful input on all aspects of care.
- In 2013, a Community Care Building was built on the WDMH campus, providing access to other key health and community services. In March 2016, the building doubled in size to welcome additional services on the same site.

