

A new era in the delivery of breast cancer diagnosis begins in Elgin County as the fully Digital Mammography Unit arrives at the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH) on Monday, June 30, 2008.

Following two weeks for installation, calibration and training it is anticipated that the new Unit will become fully operational by Tuesday, July 15.

“The new Digital Mammography Unit is highly anticipated due to faster image acquisition resulting in shorter examination time for the patient. The digital format will also allow for image manipulation during interpretation by the radiologist to ensure that the maximum amount of information is available for diagnosis,” states Dr. Kevin Harding, Director of Diagnostic Imaging at STEGH. “This new equipment will serve the community well for years to come,” he added.

“By going from the old breast screening technology using standard film x-rays to being fully digital is somewhat comparable from going from an old rotary dial black telephone to a new Blackberry” states Paul Collins, President and CEO of the Hospital. “We truly respect and recognize the many individuals who helped raise the hundreds of thousands of dollars necessary to purchase it. Thank you to everyone who contributed,” he added.

The STEGH Foundation’s Board of Directors recognized the immediacy of having this life-saving tool here right away. It was deemed to be too vital not to have in place quickly. Therefore, it was determined to accept the challenge of continuing to raise funds to fully pay for the Unit but have it in place right away to save lives. Consequently, fundraising initiatives will continue while patients receive access to the best possible equipment to assist in breast cancer treatment.

The Digital Mammography Unit along with several other pieces of vital equipment were part of the ‘Tools for Treatments’ fundraising initiative.

Established in 1985, the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization with a mandate to seek donated funds for equipment, building improvements, and education needs. The Foundation is incorporated separately from the Hospital and has a purpose is to encourage, receive and administer funds generously donated.