

Lakeridge Health Brings Canada's Most Advanced Orthopedic Robotic Technology to Durham Region

AJAX, ON – July 30, 2026 – Durham Region is now home to Canada's most advanced orthopedic robotic technology. Today, Lakeridge Health launched its new Stryker 4.0 Orthopedic Robotics Platform at Ajax Pickering Hospital, where Orthopedic Surgeon, Dr. Kaj Ravichandiran, became the first surgeon in Canada to perform a joint replacement using the groundbreaking system, establishing a new national benchmark for orthopedic innovation.

The introduction of this next-generation technology has been made possible through the extraordinary generosity of the Jeremiah F. Coughlan Foundation, which donated \$2 million to the Ajax Pickering Hospital Foundation to support the purchase of Lakeridge Health's first orthopedic robot. Held just days before what would have been Jerry

Coughlan's 90th birthday, today's milestone honours one of Durham Region's most generous philanthropists.

"Jerry believed deeply in giving back to the community he loved and helped build, wanting future generations to be healthy and vibrant," said Lyn Dunlop-Coughlan, Jerry Coughlan's widow and one of the trustees of the Jeremiah F. Coughlan Foundation. "We often say we are the Uber drivers of Jerry's generosity because he spent his lifetime working hard to build a great business and was glad to share his success. We also hope his example inspires others to experience the joy of giving and the excitement of helping transform bold ideas into better health care for Durham Region and beyond."

Lakeridge Health's Surgical Robotics Program began in 2022 with the launch of the

da Vinci Surgical System at Oshawa Hospital, made possible through the generosity of donors to Lakeridge Health Foundation (supporting the Oshawa and Whitby Hospitals). Since its launch through to the end of June 2026, more than 1,055 robotic-assisted procedures have been completed across urology, thoracic surgery, gynecology, colorectal surgery and general surgery, demonstrating how advanced technology and clinical innovation are transforming surgical care across Durham Region.

The new 4.0 orthopedic robotics platform builds on that success by expanding robotic-assisted surgery to include both primary and complex revision joint replacement procedures. By introducing this technology, Lakeridge Health has become the first organization in Canada to offer this advanced platform, further



strengthening its leadership in surgical innovation.

"Robotic-assisted orthopedic surgery combines the expertise of our surgical teams with advanced technology to help us plan and perform joint replacement procedures with an even greater level of precision," said Dr. Ravichandiran. "For our patients, that means personalized care, greater surgical accuracy, and the potential for an improved recovery experience."

"The launch of our Orthopedic Robotics

Program is another important step in our commitment to Innovation and Technology for Better Care, one of the four strategic directions in our 2026–2031 Strategic Plan," noted Cynthia Davis, President and Chief Executive Officer, Lakeridge Health. "We are deeply grateful to the Jeremiah F. Coughlan Foundation, the Ajax Pickering Hospital Foundation, and everyone whose partnership has made this historic day possible."

"Jerry Coughlan believed everyone deserved access to exceptional health care close to home, and his generosity continues to make that vision a reality," said Steven Cook, Chief Executive Officer, Ajax Pickering Hospital Foundation. "This transformational gift will benefit patients for generations while helping ensure our community has access to the very best in surgical innovation."

\$3 Million to Support Cleaner and Healthier Communities

The Ontario government is investing nearly \$3 million in 26 community-led projects across Ontario to build cleaner, healthier communities and strong local economies. This marks the largest round of funding in the Ontario Community Environment Fund's history and delivers on the government's plan to protect Ontario by using penalties paid by polluters to fund projects that protect Ontario's land, air and water such as shoreline cleanups, habitat restoration and tree planting.

"Our government is proud to support community-led projects that deliver real environmental benefits where people live, work and raise their families," said Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "Companies that break Ontario's environmental rules are held accountable for it, and by putting that money back to work, we can empower our local partners with the resources they need to support their communities, protect our shared environment, and ensure Ontario's natural spaces can be cherished for generations to come."

The 26 projects receiving funding this year from the Ontario Community Environment Fund include: Invasive Species Centre – Hillman Marsh Invasive Species Response: Nearly \$286,000 to eradicate invasive hydrilla in the Hillman Marsh in Leamington through treatment, monitoring and outreach. Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association – Mindemoya River Restoration: \$120,000 to restore riverbanks and improve fish habitat along the Mindemoya River. Goderich to Guelph (G2G) Rail Trail – Invasive Species Removal and Native Planting: \$25,000 to revital-

ize degraded trail sections of the G2G Rail Trail by removing invasive species and planting native vegetation. Freshwater Conservation Canada – Brook Trout Forever: Over \$86,000 to restore habitat for native brook trout populations on Mono Centre Creek. Since 2010, the Ontario Community Environment Fund has invested over \$6.74 million from environmental penalties into 134 projects across the province. As part of its plan to protect Ontario, the province will continue to hold polluters accountable while supporting cleaner, healthier and more resilient communities across the province.

Since 2010, the Ontario Community Environment Fund has invested more than \$6.74 million from environmental penalties into 134 projects, engaging volunteers in over 29,000 hours of activities such as planting over 829,000 trees, shrubs and plants, restoring over 55 km of shoreline and 1,597 acres of land (646 hectares), and collecting over 2,000 bags of litter. For this funding round, over \$1,602,000 was available in Southwestern Ontario, over \$721,000 in West Central Ontario, and over \$585,000 in Northern Ontario. The Ontario Community Environment Fund uses funds collected through environmental penalties issued to facilities in nine industrial sectors and specific landfilling sites when certain violations occur.

"Protecting Ontario's natural environment is a priority for our government. This investment will support the rapid response to the first detection of hydrilla in Canada, helping protect Hillman Marsh, the Great Lakes, and the ecosystems that are so important to our communities. Our govern-

ment supports initiatives that preserve our natural environment for future generations."

- Trevor Jones MPP, Chatham-Kent—Leamington

"Investing in the rehabilitation of the Mindemoya River is an investment in the long-term health of Manitoulin Island's waterways, communities, and local economy. Clean, healthy water systems are the foundation of resilient ecosystems, sustainable tourism, and vibrant local industries. By supporting stewardship actions and restoration of the riverbank, we are creating opportunities that benefit both people and nature. I commend the action of local partners and community members whose leadership and dedication are helping to protect the Mindemoya River and ensure a sustainable future for all of Manitoulin Island."

- Bill Rosenberg MPP, Algoma—Manitoulin

"By directing polluter penalties back into impacted communities, our government is taking action to build stronger, local environmental resilience. This investment to restore in-stream and riparian habitat on Mono Centre Creek will ensure our community can support local wildlife and its ecosystem by creating a healthier, cleaner environment for years to come."

- Sylvia Jones MPP, Dufferin—Caledon

"This provincial funding supports the volunteers who maintain the Goderich to Guelph Rail Trail. Locally, this means a safer, better-maintained trail for residents who use it for walking, cycling, and staying active. Our government will continue to support on-the-ground volunteers who are helping protect our environment and outdoor places."

- Matthew Rae MPP, Perth—Wellington

"Forests Canada is proud to advance forest restoration with the Ontario Community Environment Fund through our national Tree Planting Program. We approach our forest restoration work in a systematic way – considering every stage from seed collection and seedling production to planting and long-term survival, and we are honoured to put our knowledge, experience, and network of partners to work benefiting Southwestern Ontario."

- Jess Kaknevicus

CEO, Forests Canada

"Freshwater Conservation Canada, along with our partners, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and the Bruce Trail Conservancy, is working to restore coldwater fish habitat in Mono Centre Creek, a tributary of the Nottawasaga River, along the Bruce Trail. Thanks to funding from the Ontario Community Environment Fund, we will enhance valuable Brook Trout habitat by creating a bypass channel around a pond that is currently too

warm, along with shoreline improvements, invasive species management, and tree planting. This project will help build resilience against climate change and support native biodiversity, while engaging community members and Bruce Trail users in on-the-ground restoration activities."

- Michael McKenzie Restoration Biologist, Freshwater Conservation Canada

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