



**DARTMOUTH GENERAL HOSPITAL**  
*Charitable Foundation*

Date

First Name Last Name  
Street Address  
Dartmouth, NS Postal Code

Dear Mr. \_\_\_\_\_:

You likely know someone living right here in Dartmouth who needs to have her or his heart checked. It could be someone you care about – a loved one, a relative, a friend or a neighbour.

That person could benefit from an echocardiogram test capable of delivering rapid, reliable and accurate results.

In order to respond to an advanced level of cardiology investigations at the Dartmouth General Hospital, a digital echocardiography lab is a necessity for our hospital. This will help in diagnosis and treatment of heart conditions.

*“As Site Chief of Cardiology, it is my responsibility to minimize risks for my patients. That means being able to offer enhanced care here at the DGH,” says Jason Yung, M.D, FRCPC.*

*“With your help, we can obtain the equipment necessary to establish a digital echocardiography lab for Dartmouth General. We’ll be able to see your loved one’s heart as if it’s beating in our hands. We’ll know much better how to treat that person. Many more people will be tested – and more medical conditions caught – for years to come.”*

The residents of Dartmouth and the surrounding communities have supported the needs of this hospital for 30 years. Your contributions have made a tremendous difference. Thanks to you, we have a state of the art emergency department and day surgery area. As well, our diagnostic imaging department has received new medical equipment, including a 64 Slice CT Scanner.

Our ongoing priority is to offer this community the very best healthcare possible. The enclosed insert summarizes what the digital echocardiogram machine means for the community. At a cost of \$250,000, it can make a tremendous difference in heart health.

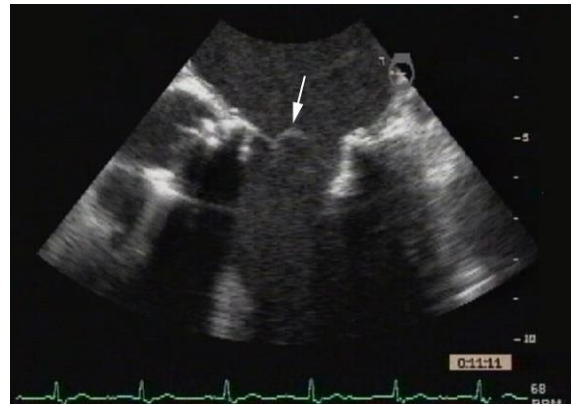
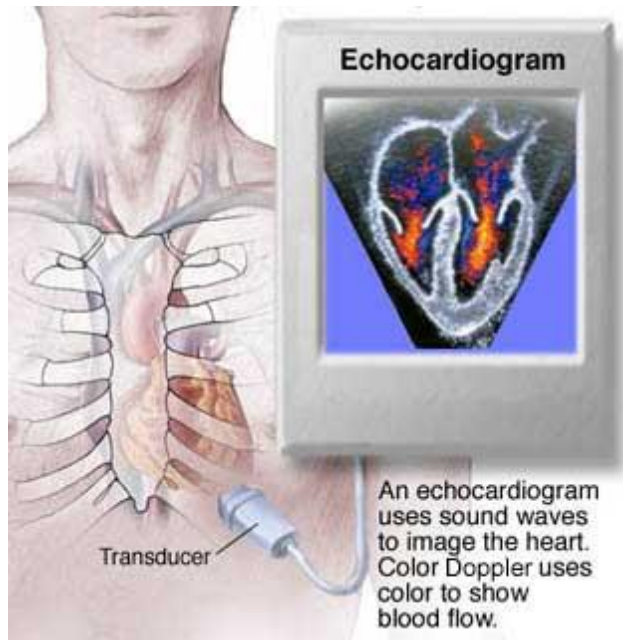
I respectfully ask for your consideration of support for this priority medical equipment.

Sincerely,

G. David Nantes  
Chair

P.S. Thank you...from the heart!

## A Digital Echocardiography Lab for the Dartmouth General Hospital means crystal clear images of your heart.



Meet Andrew Jones.\* \* (Name has been changed to respect privacy)

With two bioprosthetic valves, he just can't afford to take any risks. When his wife came home to find him incoherent, he was rushed to Emergency and found to have Streptococcus Group G (strep). Treatment was simple: antibiotics. But what if his heart was infected? A specialized echocardiogram showed bacteria growing on his bioprosthetic valves (see x-ray, above).

Thanks to modern technology and appropriate medical treatment, today he's full of energy, and can be found chopping 8 cords of wood. He's just one of many living in Dartmouth who benefited from having an echocardiogram.

With a digital echocardiogram, cardiologists will be able to:

- **See the most common causes of heart failure**, such as a weakened heart muscle, or an inability to fill up with blood properly (myocardial relaxation)
- **Identify certain types of inherited heart disease**, such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a cause of sudden cardiac death for all age groups
- **See leaky or diseased valves** which would require open-heart operations
- **Perform a specialized echocardiogram test** in which a probe can be sent down the throat to the stomach to allow for incredibly clear images of the heart structures. This means cardiologists can now look for:
  - infections in the heart
  - abnormal valves
  - abnormal connections – or “holes” – in the heart

For you, this means

- **Better image resolution** – for diagnosis and treatment
- **Consultation with other physicians** – digital images allows for viewing by other cardiologist
- **Fast test results**

Good healthcare doesn't just happen. Please consider your support.