

# Georgian Centre for Health and Wellness commences with community celebration

**With the turn of many shovels, Georgian broke new ground in regional health sciences education and health care services.**

Hundreds of stakeholders gathered for the Centre for Health and Wellness ground-breaking ceremony on Friday, Oct. 23. Students, staff, donors and community leaders united at the College's Barrie Campus site to mark the occasion, and to pay tribute to those who have made phase one of the \$65-million Centre a reality. The event kicked-off the beginning of Georgian's largest expansion project in its 43-year history.

The 165,000-square-foot building will house a growing list of health science certificate, diploma and degree programs, as well as community-accessible health clinics where patients can access care, and students can engage in hands-on learning.

"When it comes to building strong and educated communities, it takes the efforts of many to achieve success. It takes partnerships at all levels of government, with industry as well as with individuals within our community. Even more so, it takes creative and innovative people with strong vision to make this dream come true," said Frank Berdan, emcee of the event, and Chair of the Health and Wellness campaign cabinet. "This project illustrates the amazing possibilities of what can be achieved when we all work together for the



An array of supporters kicks off construction of the Georgian Centre for Health and Wellness. Pictured (l to r): Aileen Carroll, MPP Barrie; Fred Brox, Lions Club of Barrie; Frank Berdan, Chair of the Centre for Health and Wellness campaign cabinet; Tom Ambeau, Chair of the Power of Education Campaign; Patrick Brown, MP Barrie; Brian Tamblyn, President and CEO of Georgian College; Tony Guergis, Warden, County of Simcoe; Jeff Lehman, City of Barrie Councillor, Ward 2; Bev Halliday, Paramedic student; and Dr. Cassandra Thompson, Dean, School of Health and Wellness and School of Child Studies.

*"When it comes to building strong and educated communities, it takes the efforts of many to achieve success."*

greater good."

The new facility will be operational by 2011. Georgian continues to work to raise the funds needed to make the Centre the best it can be for all stakeholders.

(continued on G4)

## Georgian opens Centre for Sustainable Technologies



The ribbon snaps, officially opening the Centre for Sustainable Technologies. (l to r): Brian Bentz, President and CEO of PowerStream; Bob Emptage, Dean of the School of Technology, Environment, and Apprenticeships, Georgian College; and Laura Formosa, President and CEO of Hydro One.

### Industry donors back project and support their future workforce

When the doors to Georgian's new Centre for Sustainable Technologies swung open for the first time this fall, the future workforce of Central Ontario's key growth industries walked in. Students filled every available seat in the new 18,000-square-foot addition which houses utilities-focused Electrical Engineering Technology/Technician programs, as well as new Civil Engineering Technology and Civil Engineering Technician – Construction programs.

"Students are pumped about what this new facility and the programs will mean in their lives. For me, it means I get to learn in a modern environment, be connected with the best employers for my co-op, and ultimately become a leader in my field," said Roy Marr, a first-year Civil Engineering Technology student.

Georgian President and CEO Brian Tamblyn said the building project began to take shape in 2008 when the Ontario government announced a \$4.65-million investment through the Strategic Skills Training Capital Investment Program.

"The funding announcement came at a critical time for Georgian," Tamblyn said. "The provincial investment allowed the College to address serious capacity issues at a time when our classrooms and labs were stretched to the limit. Also the Centre greatly strengthens our ability to provide

timely education and skills training urgently needed by our many industry partners."

He added that even with the generosity of the provincial government, this building could never have been completed as a premier facility without the additional support of Georgian's corporate partners and friends.

The utilities, construction and manufacturing industries stepped up to the plate with \$1.7 million in donations to benefit the programs, to aid in the recruitment of students, to provide leading-edge equipment, and to ensure the facility offered the best possible learning environment. Each industry is strategizing to deal with workforce shortages in coming years as a significant number of their employees move closer to retirement, and they look to Georgian to provide qualified graduates for their hiring pools.

### Fundraising efforts continue

Georgian continues to focus on fundraising for the Centre for Sustainable Technologies to ensure this facility is the best it can be for students. There is \$800,000 remaining to complete the \$2.5-million goal. Those who may be interested in supporting this important facility, in naming opportunities and having their organization highlighted on campus and in the community are asked to contact Rebecca Truax at [rtruax@georgianc.on.ca](mailto:rtruax@georgianc.on.ca) for more information.

Georgian celebrated with the current contributors at the grand opening of the facility in September. Thank you to:

- The Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
- PowerStream Inc.
- Hydro One Networks Inc.
- Napoleon Fireplaces and Grills
- Johnson Inc.
- Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association
- Students' Administrative Council - Barrie Campus
- Ontario Road Builders' Association
- Simcoe County Heavy Construction Association
- Jones Consulting Group Ltd.
- ETAP Canada
- Skelton, Brumwell & Associates Inc.
- Georgian College staff
- Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories Inc.

## PowerStream and Georgian's partnership works for students

PowerStream donated an impressive \$750,000 to support the new Centre for Sustainable Technologies, demonstrating the seriousness of its commitment to helping its future workforce get the education needed to succeed.

The contribution is one of many ways this world-class electric utility company is working with Georgian to accomplish mutual goals. It also hires Georgian graduates and is one of the College's most ardent co-op employers. Georgian alumni can be found in almost every aspect of PowerStream's operations.



Brian Bentz, PowerStream President and CEO and Ken Parkes, a Georgian College graduate and current PowerStream employee.

"The Georgian way is in our DNA," said Brian Bentz, PowerStream's President and CEO, during his speech at the grand opening of the facility. Bentz himself is proud of the fact he attended Georgian to take courses that would lead to his Certified Engineering Technologist designation. And many of his senior staff, including Mark Henderson, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, have long-term ties to the College and a history of supporting the Electrical Engineering Technology program.

"We are thrilled to make this donation to a post-secondary institution that for many years has been instrumental in educating and training the residents of Central Ontario," said Bentz. "Georgian has provided us with some tremendously

skilled co-op students and graduates who have come to work for us and proven to be valuable assets as employees. This new partnership will help to mitigate potential skilled-labour shortages in certain parts of our organization as we see approximately one-third of our employees over the next decade move closer to retiring."

Ken Parkes is a shining example of why industry and college partnerships work.

After being employed in a variety of jobs in his early 20s, the Barrie resident decided to return to school three years ago to lay the groundwork for a career. He chose Electrical Engineering Technology at Georgian and he did so for a very specific reason.

"I heard Georgian had a great co-op program, and that it had relationships with solid employers in the electrical utilities industry, so I knew the chances were good that I'd land a good work term with a reputable employer," he said. "I was determined to do well, and succeed at my goal to start my professional life on the right foot."

Parkes was thrilled when he landed a co-op job at PowerStream in its Conservation and Demand Management department. It was exactly the kind of opportunity he'd been hoping for, and he was excited about what it could mean.

"From day one, I loved it. I knew this is what I wanted to do, and I knew I wanted to do it at PowerStream. It's progressive, there's a lot of room for advancement, and with so many other Georgian graduates working there, it just felt right," he said.

The next time a co-op term came around, PowerStream snapped up the eager student. A year later, diploma in hand, Parkes was hired full-time by the company.

"I started my job the day after I finished my last exam. Together, Georgian and PowerStream made my career happen," he said.

Parkes is only one of many Georgian alumni who are enjoying rewarding careers at PowerStream today.

# Centre for Health

(Continued from G 1)

The provincial and federal governments have each contributed \$20 million to the project. Georgian is also fortunate to have had a number of community leaders make significant donations to the Power of Education fundraising campaign benefitting the project including:

- City of Barrie
- County of Simcoe
- Arch and Helen Brown
- The Sarjeant Company Ltd.
- Lions Club of Barrie
- TD Bank
- RBC Bank
- BMO Bank of Montreal
- Georgian College Alumni Association
- Georgian College employees, retirees, Board of Governors
- Georgian College Students' Administrative Council (Barrie Campus)
- Metroland/Barrie Advance

If you are interested in making a positive impact on post secondary education and local health care, Georgian College asks you to consider supporting the Power of Education Campaign. Fundraising efforts continue with many naming opportunities available in the new facility for contributors. For more information, contact John Lister, Campaign Manager at [jlister@georgianc.on.ca](mailto:jlister@georgianc.on.ca).

## Centre for Health and Wellness quick facts

- The building will be 165,000 square feet when complete.
- Phase 1 construction is beginning now at a cost of \$50 million. The total cost of Phases 1 and 2 will be \$65 million.
- Funding for Phase 1 of this project is being provided by the Government of Canada's Knowledge Infrastructure Program (\$20 million) and through the Ontario Government's 2009 Budget (\$20 million). Another \$10 million will be raised through donations to Georgian's Power of Education Campaign.
- The Centre will include community-accessible teaching health care clinics where members of the public, including students, can access health care. At the same time, Health Sciences students will gain valuable practical experience in on-site clinics.
- Teaching and learning in the classrooms, labs and clinics will support inter-professional education methods allowing students from a variety of health programs to work together on patient care. This reflects the new wave of health care in Ontario.
- Completion of all phases of the Centre will bring the total capacity to 3,000 additional students.
- The Centre will provide 400 new full- and part-time jobs for staff and faculty.
- Economic impact of the construction alone is approximately \$98 million, equivalent to the effect of a mid-sized corporation moving to Barrie.

## Donors, alumni, community leaders, staff, students and health care employers gathered to break ground on



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## Centre for Health and Wellness Campaign Cabinet

A special thank you to the following individuals who are helping Georgian to meet its fundraising goal for the new facility. They include:

- Frank Berdan, Centre for Health and Wellness Campaign Cabinet Chair, Retired Vice President, BMO Bank of Montreal
- Tom Ambeau Sr., Chair, Power of Education Campaign
- Liz Anderson-Peacock, Owner, Anderson Chiropractic
- Steve Barendregt, Managing Director, Balfour Capital Inc.
- David Jarlette, President, Jarlette Health Services
- David Jones, Retired, Dentist
- Ali Khonsari, Vice-President, Image Dental Laboratory
- Dianne Martin, Georgian Alumna, Executive Director of the Registered Practical Nursing Association
- John McCullough, Past Chair, Georgian College Board of Governors
- Jane Rees, Retired Business Leader
- Scott Elliott, President, The Sarjeant Company Ltd.
- Tim Snelgrove, Entrepreneur
- Dr. Cassandra Thompson, Dean, School of Health and Wellness and School of Child Studies
- Cherylyn Cameron, Associate Vice President, University Partnership, Research and Scholarships



Artist rendering, Georgian Centre for Health and Wellness



Dr. Cassandra Thompson, Dean, School of Health and Wellness and School of Child Studies thanks donors for their support.



Georgian supporters unveil the image of the new facility.

the Centre for Health and Wellness. A donor celebration and student health fair were part of the festivities.



## The Sarjeant Co. Ltd. proud to build on local health care education

The Sarjeant Company Ltd. and its staff connected to the future of health care with a \$250,000 donation to the Georgian Centre for Health and Wellness.

“We are proud to make this donation as it supports health sciences education in the Central Ontario community, laying the groundwork to ensure there are qualified health care providers available to local residents when they need them,” said Patrick Robbenhaar, General Manager of The Sarjeant Company Ltd. “Sarjeant is committed to giving back to the communities that have made our operations successful over the last several decades, and by supporting Georgian students who are the future of our health care system, we know that our donation will ultimately benefit all local people.”

The gift was announced at the groundbreaking for the new facility held on Oct. 23.

“Georgian is thrilled and grateful that The Sarjeant Co. Ltd. has taken action to ensure our students have the best possible health and science education available, and that residents have greater access to health care services



Georgian staff and students recently visited the staff at The Sarjeant Company Ltd. in Barrie to thank them for the donation. From left to right are: Dr. Liz Erwin, Georgian’s Associate Dean of Health Sciences, Danya Lynn Gougeon, opticianry student; Patrick Robbenhaar, General Manager of The Sarjeant Company Ltd. and Heather Zintel, a Georgian nursing student, gathered for a picture to mark the occasion.

through our new clinics,” said Dr. Cassandra Thompson, Dean, School of Health and Wellness and School of Child Studies. “Sarjeant has a history of being a good corporate citizen in the Central Ontario community, and with this incredible gift to Georgian, they have proven once again that they are dedicated to making a positive impact locally.”

## Donor Spotlight

**Barbara Weider**

**Legacy donor, past Board of Governors’ member  
Power of Education Campaign cabinet member**



Barbara Weider says volunteering her time, and donating funds to help support Georgian College is a family tradition she’s proud to uphold. A photo she keeps on her dresser reminds her regularly of her family’s history of commitment to Georgian. Weider is the daughter-in-law of the founder of Blue Mountain Resort, Jozo Weider.

“I have a picture of Jozo dressed in a graduation gown at a Georgian College convocation. He was asked to give the keynote speech at Georgian more than once and he was always very pleased to do it,” she said. “He knew the importance of post-secondary education to our communities, and the role it played in the human resources needed for business to thrive. He was always proud to help the College succeed.”

Weider, a member of Georgian’s Power of Education campaign cabinet, recently established a legacy gift for Georgian. It’s a natural step, she says, given her family’s prior relationship with the College and her volunteer efforts as a fundraising ambassador.

“Supporting the College makes sense, and by giving a legacy gift, I know it will benefit future generations of students. And they in turn will become employed in the community, or start their own businesses, benefitting the local economy,” she said. “I see giving back to Georgian as a good investment for everyone.”

Weider said the other benefit of legacy giving is the fact that it doesn’t impact an individual’s current finances.

“It’s a very simple and effective way to support worthy causes,” she said.

For more information on legacy giving, please contact Rebecca Truax at [rtruax@georgianc.on.ca](mailto:rtruax@georgianc.on.ca) or visit [www.georgianc.on.ca/giving](http://www.georgianc.on.ca/giving) under the tab “legacy gift” and find out how you can help future generations of students.

## Nine-year-old selects Georgian as charity of choice



Nine-year-old Glen Allen pictured above is glad his birthday money will be used to help people. He attended the Centre for Health and Wellness groundbreaking and met Georgian College Health Sciences students who thanked him for his gift.

### At nine years of age, Glen Allen is already a philanthropist.

The son of Georgian College nursing instructor Deb Witmer, he fundraises each year by asking his friends to bring \$10 to his birthday party rather than a gift. He uses half to buy himself something special, and the other half he donates to a charity of his choice. His mother matches the amount raised.

When it comes to charitable causes, he's been around the block, giving to such causes as a museum, runs for cancer and walks for health care research. This year he chose to donate his money, \$80, to Georgian's future Centre for Health and Wellness.

"Choosing Georgian was completely his idea. I had been talking at home about the project and its importance a lot over the last year. And he's been to the Campus to see our simulation labs. But I was so surprised when he told me he

planned to donate to the campaign for the building," she said. "It makes me incredibly proud."

Allen said he likes the thought that his money will be used for something important.

"I chose Georgian because my mom works there and I know it will be used to help build something that's like a hospital and helps people," he said. "It makes me feel kind of good to give them the money. They can use it however they want."

But the youth says what he's done is nothing special.

"Everyone in my school does it now, nobody brings gifts any more to parties. After all, you can get toys you really don't want, or be able to pick something you really like and give to a charity. It's way better."

## Office of Development & Alumni Relations is at your service!



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Connecting donor generosity with student need is the main priority in Georgian's Office of Development & Alumni Relations. If you're interested in making a donation to help Georgian be the best it can be for students, contact one of us today. To help you decide the best way to designate your contribution, our team is at your service and we welcome any questions you have about giving to Georgian. We can help you with such tasks as:

- Deciding where to designate your gift to the Power of Education Campaign (Centre for Sustainable Technologies, the future Centre for Health and Wellness or the Owen Sound Great Lakes International Marine Training Centre)
- establishing an award or scholarship for students
- giving a gift-in-kind
- setting up a legacy gift
- determining the tax benefits of your gift
- setting up a custom payment plan for a donation
- determining how you can be recognized at Georgian and in the community for your gift

## Power of Education Campaign generously supported

Campaign goal and progress



Thanks to so many Georgian supporters, \$20 million has been raised towards the \$25 million Power of Education Campaign goal.

The campaign is the largest in Georgian's history, and will help build key projects that will have a positive impact on local health care services, regional employment and the economy.

Find out more about how dollars raised will benefit the entire region at [www.georgianc.on.ca/giving](http://www.georgianc.on.ca/giving).