

CT Scanner, an Olympic legacy

With over 23,000 ski-related head injuries and 19,000 mountain biking related head injuries occurring every year in Whistler, the new 64-slide Computer Tomography (CT) scanner located in the Whistler Health Care Centre is literally a lifesaver.

Computed tomography (CT) is a medical imaging method capable of generating three-dimensional images, inside the body, non-invasively. CT scans are crucial in treating athletes with training and sports injuries.

For residents and athletes of the Sea to Sky Corridor, it means that diagnostic technology won't be a flight away.

The CT scanner puts Whistler light years ahead of other resort communities and it is an important legacy of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The scanner will be used to diagnose athletes during the Games and will be used by the region in perpetuity.

"The CT scanner will be a wonderful thing for the whole corridor - not just Whistler - and it is going to provide a much needed service," said Marnie Simon, chair of the Whistler Health Care Foundation.

International Olympic Sponsor, General Electric donated the \$1.4 million scanner. Officials with both GE and the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Organizing Committee (VANOC) said that while the donation is intended to ensure that athletes who compete here in 2010 have access to the world's most advanced diagnostic equipment, it's also intended as a Games legacy for corridor residents.

"We are delighted that Whistler, a world-class destination, now has this essential equipment for residents and visitors," said Peter Foss, President, Olympic Sponsorship, GE. "Residents will no longer have to travel long distances for CT scans. It's gratifying to know that one of GE's innovative healthcare products will deliver substantial benefits within the Sea to Sky region."

The Whistler Health Care Centre — part of Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) — will provide operating funding for the CT scanner. The Sea to Sky Regional Hospital District will also provide approximately \$1.21 million towards the \$2.3 million construction and installation project, while the remaining \$1.1 million has been raised by the Whistler Health Care Foundation, the Squamish Hospital Foundation and the Pemberton Health Care Foundation.

The generosity of GE is a prime example of how organizations can partner up to bridge needs, facilitate communities and harness new technologies. In this instance, the partnerships of GE,

Vancouver Coastal Health, the Sea to Sky Regional Hospital District, the Whistler Health Care Foundation, Squamish Hospital Foundation, and the Pemberton Health Care Foundation delivered improved health care.