



# Vital Signs

DONATIONS IN ACTION

*Special Edition*

## Believing is Seeing

*a Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia eye care campaign for the QEII HSC*



While Vic Lewis was undergoing treatment at the QEII Eye Care Centre for his eye condition, wet macular degeneration, he learned that the centre was in need of a new piece of advanced equipment that would revolutionize retinal diagnosis with its high quality images.

Vic decided to do whatever he could to acquire this vital piece of equipment, called a Spectralis OCT. As a member of the Freemasons of Nova Scotia, he approached his fellow brothers about this important cause and together they agreed to launch a campaign to fundraise for this equipment.

The campaign, Believing is Seeing, officially launches in September, but donations are already coming in, with over \$50,00 of the needed \$250,000 raised. To learn more about the campaign or to make a donation, visit [www.believingisseeing.ca](http://www.believingisseeing.ca).

## Spectralis OCT



*Dr. Alan Cruess, District Department Chief of Ophthalmology, demonstrates some of the advanced technology at the QEII Eye Care Centre.*

The Spectralis OCT will provide doctors at the QEII with the tools needed to radically enhance the diagnosis of retinal diseases, such as macular degeneration and glaucoma. Advanced features of this state-of-the-art equipment include, high quality images, added precision, and improved detail for

diagnostic assessments. The Spectralis OCT will also be used to continually monitor treatment. This equipment will greatly improve the care many patients receive at the Eye Care Centre.

## The Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia

The Masonic Foundation was created to continue the activities of the Masonic fraternity in Nova Scotia. The mission of the foundation is to create a positive image of the fraternity within the community, but also to engage in welfare and charitable work. The Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia aims to provide care or assistance for people in need, with a particular focus on the aged and sick.

## Providing Early Diagnosis



*Stacey and her son Zachary with their dog Scarlet.*

What was supposed to be a regular work day for young mom Stacey Johnson of Truro, N.S. turned into one of the scariest days of her life.

Shortly after arriving at work in January 2008, Stacey began having difficulty focusing her eyes. The problem continued and within a couple of days she had lost all vision in her right eye. Stacey went to the emergency room at her local hospital where she was referred to Dr. Anne Hoskin-Mott

at the Eye Care Centre in Halifax.

After a series of tests, it was determined that Stacey's condition was hereditary, but manageable. Two years later, Stacey visits the Eye Care Centre monthly for treatment, and has regained some of her vision.

The high quality images provided by Spectralis OCT would help monitor Stacey's condition and would assist with early diagnosis of family members, like her three-year-old son, who may also develop this condition.

## Did You Know...

The Spectralis OCT is a leading edge tool in the diagnosis of eye disease like glaucoma. Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness. Anyone can develop glaucoma, with most people not knowing they have it. You are at greater risk when:

- A family member has glaucoma;
- You are 50 years of age or older;
- You are of Afro-Canadian heritage.

