A diagnosis of cancer is tough enough. Learning that she had to leave her community for medical care became the proverbial straw that broke the camel’s back. And so, Denise Dufault insisted on cancer surgery at Fairview Hospital – even though the procedure had never been done there before. “I was not going anywhere else but Fairview,” she said.

Her experience began five years ago, when she was diagnosed with cancer and told she would be referred to a larger hospital. “I refused for good reasons,” she said. “Dr. Veinoglou was my surgeon and I didn’t want anyone else. I had confidence in him and Fairview. And I needed to have the support of my family, friends and my community. I was only going to get that right here at Fairview.”

According to Denise, George Veinoglou, MD, advocated on her behalf to hospital administration, which approved the surgery. She also convinced a plastic surgeon to attend the procedure, so that he could begin the reconstruction process. During that same year, Denise learned she next required a hysterectomy. “Again, I said I would only do it at Fairview,” she said.

“All I can say is, I was treated like a queen for both hospital stays,” Denise continued. “This is my community and they knew me. I received excellent, personalized care.”

To this day, Denise wears a necklace she received as a gift during her first surgery. The words “Fairview Hospital” are inscribed on one side. “The little hospital that could,” is inscribed on the other side. “It reminds me every day of the wonderful care I received there,” she said.

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