

Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, June 30, 2005

SMGH Foundation ends year on positive note

New board members join team!

Strathroy, ON – Donors who have given generously to all four of the foundations' fundraising revenue streams; annual appeals, the capital campaign, bequests and events, will have a positive and lasting effect on the foundation's ability to fund the needs of Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital. In total during the past fiscal year, the foundation secured pledge, stock, gift in kind, bequests and cash donations totaling \$3,242,583.33 from a wide cross section of donors.

Some of these pledges are in support of the hospital's building project and will be realized over the next 5-7 years. Perhaps most notable is the combined pledge contribution made by four of our surrounding municipalities, Adelaide-Metcalf, North Middlesex, Southwest Middlesex and Strathroy-Caradoc.

SMGH Foundation was able to transfer \$500,000 to the hospital this past year for equipment and an additional \$30,000 for continuing education. Education funding assists the hospital to keep staff current on new techniques and practices and provides staff with the opportunity to further upgrade their knowledge within their field.

Over and above the transfer of funds for annual funding requirements, the Foundation has contributed over \$5 million toward the new building project. The addition to the hospital is coming along well and it is expected that the new Emergency and the Ambulatory Care unit will be finished in September. Another 22,000 square feet of renovation to the existing hospital will take place over the coming year.

Accountability to the community continues to be an important function of the board, as evidenced by attention to the costs of fundraising, the transfer of funds to the hospital for vital patient care equipment.

The Board of Directors of the Foundation is composed of community volunteers, and chaired for the next year by Mrs. Yvonne Lambert of Strathroy. Other foundation board members presently include Lorna Campbell, Doug Hodgins, Larry MacDonald, Mike Mazza, Ken Peters, George Sinker, Edward Stevens, Ed Veeke and Cheryl Waters.

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About Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital

Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital (SMGH) serves a population of over 32,000 residents in the northwestern region of Middlesex County, the eastern region of Lambton County and the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc. SMGH earned a five-star rating for patient satisfaction in the recently released Acute Care Hospital Report.

SMGH is a full service family-centred community hospital providing a comprehensive range of diagnostic and ambulatory services, as well as both primary and secondary care. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has recently approved the expansion of the hospital, including a new emergency and ambulatory care centre.

The Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc has the second-fastest growing population in Ontario, and is a bedroom community for many residents who work in London and Sarnia. SMGH is the area's fifth leading employer, operating on an annual budget of over \$19 million.