



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Bossons Guardian Pharmacy presents Rexall Foundation donation of \$3000 to CT scanner Campaign**

#### **Independent pharmacist pools resources to give back to local community**

July 16, 2008

**Strathroy, ON**– On Wednesday, July 16, Paul Bossons, pharmacist and owner of Bossons Guardian Pharmacy in Strathroy, presented a cheque for \$3,000 to the Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation (SMGH). The donation was presented to the Foundation in support of the CT scanner campaign.

“As independent pharmacists, it’s important to give back to the communities in which we work and live,” said Paul Bossons of Bossons Guardian Pharmacy. “Through our association with the Rexall family of pharmacies and our commitment to the Rexall Foundation, we are able to pool our resources together and truly make a difference in the communities we serve. We are very proud to support the Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation and help the organization raise funds for this great program.”

Growing patient demands for pharmacist advice and consultation is part of the reason Paul Bossons is eager to support new products and services that benefit hospital patients and customers. Supporting the CT scanner campaign is one way for Bossons Guardian Pharmacy in Strathroy to give back to the community.

“We really appreciate Bossons Pharmacy and the Rexall Foundation’s support for such an important health service,” said Lorna Campbell, SMGH Foundation Board Chair. “The CT scanner has had an incredible impact on patient’s lives since it was installed over a year ago, and will continue to be an important service to the health and vitality of residents.”

As part of the Rexall family of pharmacies' commitment to the health of communities across Canada, the Rexall Foundation was created in 2003 as a charitable organization dedicated to partnering with its customers, suppliers, member stores and staff to raise funds for community-based health charities.

Rexall Foundation's Board of Directors ensures that reputable community and health-based charitable organizations and causes are supported across the country, particularly in the areas of health research, health promotion and disease prevention, and hospital and local health care needs. Funds are raised through Rexall Foundation store coin boxes and fundraising events such as the company's annual Rexall Foundation Golf Classic.

Patient focused care is of primary importance to Bossons Guardian Pharmacy. Pharmacists undergo extensive training and are provided with continual industry updates and education so that patients and customers receive the most up-to-date treatments and care.

The CT scanner has proven invaluable to assisting SMGH Physicians in pinpointing illness and injury and indicating the best treatment for patients. This advanced diagnostic imaging technology can be used to look at any organ or part of the body to check for disease or abnormalities and has drastically reduced regional wait times for diagnostic imaging CT services.

According to provincial February-April 08 Wait Time Strategy data, SMGH's wait time for a CT scan is 12 days – well under the provincial target of 28 days. Since the CT scanner was installed in May 2007, over 5100 patients have received scans.

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**Photo caption:** Pictured (left-right) Lorna Campbell, SMGH Foundation Board Chair with Paul Bossons of Bossons Guardian Pharmacy who presented a cheque for \$3,000 to support the CT Scanner Campaign of the Middlesex Hospital Alliance.

**For further information:**

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**About Four Counties Health Services Foundation:**

The Four Counties Health Services Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization working to strengthen Four Counties Health Services' ability to provide the highest quality of care to patients in the Four Counties area. Since its creation in 1987, the Foundation has raised close to \$4 million for equipment and facilities at Four Counties Health Services.

**About Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation**

Through community philanthropy, Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation supports patient care as a charitable organization dedicated to raising funds for the delivery of quality health care to the people of Strathroy and surrounding communities. The SMGH Foundation was incorporated as a registered charity in 1989 with the objective to encourage, manage and receive donations that support the needs of the hospital. The Foundation conducts a full complement of philanthropic programs, including an annual campaign, memorial gifts, special events, capital campaigns and planned giving.

**About the Middlesex Health Alliance**

The Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) is an alliance between Four Counties Health Services (FCHS) in Newbury, Ontario and Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital (SMGH) in Strathroy, Ontario . Since 1999, the MHA allows both hospitals the opportunity to build on shared resources and expertise in order to provide the highest level of services possible to the surrounding communities. As an alliance, FCHS and SMGH work together to recruit, train, invest, and retain health care human resources, maximize new technologies and information systems, and to coordinate quality health service delivery through primary and secondary care and joint access to tertiary care.

**About Rexall Foundation**

Since its inception in 2003, Rexall Foundation has donated funds to more than 100 health-related charities across Canada. As part of the Rexall family of pharmacies' commitment to the health of our communities and to complement our corporate and store giving efforts, Rexall Foundation was created as a charity organization dedicated to partnering with our customers, suppliers, member stores and staff to raise funds for community-based health charities.

**About Guardian and Drug Trading Company Limited**

Guardian pharmacies are proudly independently owned and operated and members of Drug Trading Company Limited, Canada's largest independent pharmacy program and services provider. Drug Trading develops innovative programs and services for independent members in all areas of the retail pharmacy business with special emphasis on pharmacy services, marketing, home health care and technology. For more information, visit [www.rexall.ca](http://www.rexall.ca).

## **About CT Scans**

CT scans enable physicians to take cross-sectional images, muscles, and organs to diagnose disease and life-threatening injury. The 64-slice CT scans are much more accurate than a general X-ray. Prior to the scanner being installed last spring, patients had to wait between 8-20 weeks to receive a scan and also had to travel, sometimes by ambulance, to other health centres. Now scans are performed conveniently in Strathroy, providing a much quicker diagnosis and treatment for patients.

### **Facts About Computed Tomography (CT) Scanning**

- Computed Tomography (CT) is an essential tool for diagnosis treatment and follow up of illness.

It is gradually replacing other imaging procedures.

- As of April 2005, Ontario had 100 CT scanners in hospitals and four CT scanners in independent health facilities.
- On November 17 2004, The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced its strategy that is focused on reducing wait times in five areas by improving access to health care facilities. These include:

1. MRI/CT scans and procedures
2. Hip and knee total joint replacement
3. Selected cancer surgery
4. Selected cardiac services and procedures
5. Cataract surgery

### **How the CT Scanner Works**

- CT scanners use radiation to create images of the body
- CT scan images are generated by a computer that analyses information from a series of detectors and a radiation source that rotate around a patient at high speed.
- The images generated are in the form of cross sections or “slices”. These cross sections of the body yield incredible details of anatomy

- CT images obtained at SMGH are interpreted by 13 trained radiologists both on-site and in London at St. Joseph's Health Centre.

### **CT Scans Save lives**

CT scans are a tremendous asset in the diagnosis of serious illnesses and injuries including:

- Many types of cancer, including cancers of the lungs, pancreas, liver, kidneys and brain
- Injuries and diseases of the abdominal organs
- Internal bleeding, brain damage and skull fractures in patients with head injuries
- Blood clots or bleeding within the brain shortly after a patient exhibits symptoms of stroke