

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grand Opening of Java Hut Coffee Kiosk at Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital July 30

STRATHROY, ON – Visitors to Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital (SMGH) can now enjoy a fresh coffee, with the official opening of the SMGH Auxiliary's Java Hut on Thursday July 30th at 9:30am.

The new coffee kiosk features regular and decaf fair trade organic coffee, a rotation of specialty coffee flavors, cappuccinos, hot chocolate, a variety of teas, assortment of cold drinks, bottled water, and various snacks. Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. Monday to Friday and 1:00 p.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The Java Hut was built thanks to a generous donation from the Powells, a well-known local family with strong community ties.

The Hospital recognized the kiosk as a great way for the Auxiliary to increase their fundraising to help fulfill their promise to raise \$1Million – their single largest pledge of support. Records dating back to 1959 indicate that the Auxiliary has previously raised over \$1.14 Million for the hospital. However, their rich history dates even further back to 1914 when members collected donations of food and medical supplies, providing vital day-to-day support during the Hospital's first fledgling years.

It is impossible to put a financial value on the benefits that come from the link that the Auxiliary provides between the Hospital and the community it serves. Quite literally, without the Auxiliary, Strathroy Hospital would not exist as it does today. These dedicated volunteers raise funds in order to ensure the community continues to have access to excellent health care.

Carol Howarth, Auxiliary President says; "We are delighted to successfully open the new kiosk and we're very pleased that the Hospital will benefit from it. Everyone has been very supportive in working with us to open the kiosk, and many volunteers are giving their time to serve coffee to Hospital visitors and staff."

"We are grateful to the Auxiliary for their ongoing efforts to raise funds for the Hospital, and the Java Hut is a welcome enhancement that I am sure will be well used by customers," says Ralph Coe, Middlesex Hospital Alliance Board Chair.

The Java Hut is expected to raise between \$20,000 – 30,000 per year for the Hospital. During 2009, the Auxiliary is raising funds to purchase a new blood analyzer unit for the Lab that will cost \$70,000. Auxiliary members currently operate the Hospital Gift Shop, run an annual Tag Day in May, hold bake sales, sell HELPP tickets, along with many other fundraising activities.

The Java Hut grand opening will include a ribbon cutting ceremony with free samples of coffee.

Date: Thursday July 30, 2009

Time: 9:30 – 10:00 am

Location: Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Main Lobby - 395 Carrie Street

Parking is free during the grand opening ceremony. Guests can enter SMGH through the front entrance to the lobby where the Java Hut Coffee Kiosk is located.

For media inquiries, please contact:

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