



Generous Donation moves Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Closer to new CT Scanner

December 20, 2006

Strathroy, ON — Middlesex Hospital Alliance moved one step closer to realizing its dream of a new CT Scanner with the presentation of a \$4,000 donation made by Wescast Industries Inc.

“We are extremely grateful to Wescast for this generous donation that will help further the Foundation’s vision of a new CT Scanner in support of patient care,” said Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation CEO, Sue McLean. “Wescast has supported Strathroy General Hospital over many years and have had a lasting impact on patient care, we are truly grateful for their support.”

Wescast Industries shares the vision and excitement of Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital with the approval to purchase a new CT Scanner and to have it operational by early Spring. The Middlesex Health Alliance launched a fundraising campaign in early December 2006 to raise the \$2.5 million required to purchase the equipment and needed renovations to house the CT.

“This type of financial support from private sector industries and businesses will go a long way in helping us to continue to improve our technology and provide state-of-the-art care for residents of Middlesex County,” said McLean.

Wescast is well known in Strathroy for their social and environmental responsibility, and for their philanthropic support for a number of local organizations. The company is committed to the local community while making a worldwide impact by offering exhaust solutions for an extensive range of engines in the global automotive market.

The new CT Scanner will deliver an estimated 4300 annual scans for 80,000 residents in Middlesex, Lambton, Elgin and Kent counties. Patients who currently require a CT scan in this region are often transferred, by ambulance, to other hospitals. The new equipment will have a positive impact on regional wait times for CT Scans while increasing the availability of ambulance service for emergency response within the region. CT scanning is a tremendously valuable asset in the diagnosis of serious illnesses and injuries including many types of cancer and injuries and diseases of the abdominal organs.

“A CT Scanner is an integral part of our plan to continually improve services for the patients served by the Middlesex Hospital Alliance,” said Yvonne Lambert, volunteer Board Chair, Middlesex Hospital Alliance. “It’s time our citizens had access to medical technology that is standard in other communities across Ontario.”

The addition of a CT Scanner is part of a long range strategic investment in Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital that has included a new emergency and ambulatory care centre and the renovation of 23000 square feet of existing patient care areas. The arrival of the CT scanner will provide much greater access to the most advanced care within the service area.

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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 Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital

Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital (SMGH) serves a population of over 35,000 residents in the northwestern region of Middlesex County, the eastern region of Lambton County and the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc. SMGH is a full service-family centered community hospital providing a comprehensive range of diagnostic and ambulatory services, as well as both primary and secondary care.

The Township of Strathroy-Caradoc has the second-fastest growing population in Ontario. SMGH is the area's fifth leading employer, operating on an annual budget of over \$31 million.

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.

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 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