

## **MHA CT Scanner Campaign Closer to Goal with Donation from West Elgin Mutual Insurance Company**

April 28, 2008

West Elgin Mutual Insurance Company has donated \$10,000 to Four Counties Health Services Foundation (FCHS) to support the CT scanner campaign of the Middlesex Hospital Alliance. This money will help to bring the campaign closer to the goal of raising \$2.5 million, with just under \$400,000 needed to complete the campaign.

Mac Ford, President of West Elgin Mutual Insurance Company along with GM Brian Downie presented the \$10,000 gift to the Foundation (pictured).

“When we think about our customers who have insured their homes, farms or businesses against loss or harm with us, what better opportunity to give back to them by donating to help fund technology that will have such a longstanding impact on the lives of people in our community,” said Brian Downie, General Manager, West Elgin Mutual Insurance Company.

Now the standard of care in hospitals, CT scans help physicians to rapidly diagnose complex injuries and illness. With a 64-slice CT scanner installed at Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital site of the Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA), patients in the region now have quick access to the very latest in diagnostic imaging.

The addition of a new CT scanner has reduced patient wait times, while also diminishing ambulance and related hospital costs in the region. Prior to the scanner being installed in 2007, patients had to wait between 8-20 weeks to receive a scan and travel further to other health centres, sometimes by ambulance. Now scans are performed conveniently in Strathroy, helping to provide a much quicker diagnosis and treatment for patients.

“West Elgin Mutual’s financial commitment of \$10,000 for the CT scanner is fantastic news,” said Marigay Wilkins, Chair of the Four Counties Health Services Foundation Board. “We are incredibly appreciative for their long-standing support of Four Counties Health Services, and their commitment to support the new CT scanner service for local residents.”

“This donation really helps to bring us closer to realizing our goal to fund the scanner and completing the campaign,” added Judy McIntyre, Past Chair, FCHS Foundation Board and current member of the CT Scanner Campaign Cabinet.

West Elgin Mutual Insurance Company has been a long standing community supporter in Elgin County, where its head office is located. From humble beginnings when the need arose for farmers to look after each other, the company has progressed over the last century to provide insurance coverage for home, farm, commercial & automobile with offices in Rodney, Shedden, and Aylmer. The company regularly supports projects that

will have a lasting impact for residents like senior's housing, a new community splash pad for children, among many other initiatives.

They are also a regular sponsor of the Four Counties Health Services Foundation Golf Tournament, to be held in 2008 on Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup>, at Wardsville Golf & Country Club. For more information about the tournament, contact Dorothy at 519-693-7111 x. 2438.

- 30 -

**For more information, contact:**

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**Attached photo (left-right):** Marigay Wilkins, Chair, FCHS Foundation; Brian Downie, GM West Elgin Mutual Insurance Company; Dorothy Gillies, Coordinator FCHS Foundation; Judy McIntyre, Past Chair FCHS Foundation; and Mac Ford, President West Elgin Mutual Insurance Company.

**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

### **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.

### **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 Hospital 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.