



News Release

Middlesex Hospital Alliance Opens New CT Scanner

STRATHROY, ON, June 15, 2007 – The Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) is improving residents’ access to diagnostic imaging services, using a new 64-slice CT (computerized tomography) scanner. The official opening of the CT scanner suite took place on the morning of Friday June 15th at Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital. The event was video-teleconferenced to visitors at the Newbury Hospital site so that residents from the Four Counties area could also watch the event unfold.

“My congratulations to the community and the Middlesex Hospital Alliance for strengthening and delivering healthcare closer to home,” said Maria Van Bommel, M.P.P. for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex during her remarks to the crowd of over 90 guests.

The highlight of the event was a demonstration by Dr. Justin Amann, SMGH Partner, London X-Ray Associates, of how CT images are used to diagnose life-threatening injury and illness.

“The Middlesex Hospital Alliance plays an important role in providing CT scans for rural residents of south-western Ontario, and ensuring they have timely access to this service,” said Mike Mazza, CEO of Middlesex Hospital Alliance. “As demand for CT scans continues to rise, we are pleased to provide the resources that enable the region to expand service even further. The new equipment is not just for the people of our region, but will help many residents of southern Ontario who seek services here. “

“Although we’ve received \$1.5 million in donations for the CT scanner campaign, we still need \$1 million in order to reach our fundraising goal. We truly appreciate the generosity of many local residents, businesses and organizations who have supported the campaign so far,” says Sue McLean, CEO, Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation.

It is estimated that approximately 4,300 scans will be done annually with demand increasing in subsequent years. The CT scanner serves over 80,000 residents in

Middlesex, Lambton, Elgin, and Kent counties. The total cost of the scanner and renovations is \$2.5 million.

CT scans enable physicians to take cross-sectional bone, muscle and organ images that are more accurate and far superior than a general X-ray. Patients stand to benefit more than ever from strengthened diagnostic imaging services at the Middlesex hospital Alliance. Physicians are able to provide more informed treatment decisions for patients, right in their own community.

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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.

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 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.

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