



West Elgin Council Supports Excellence in Health Care with \$125,000.00 Pledge to CT Scanner Campaign

West Elgin announces five year pledge in support of CT scanner campaign at MHA

Newbury, ON – On September 13th, 2007, during the West Elgin Council meeting, Graham Warwick announced that the Municipality of West Elgin will contribute \$125,000 over five years to the CT scanner campaign of the Middlesex Hospital Alliance.

This brings the campaign to a total of just over \$2 million of the \$2.5 million required to pay for the purchase and installation of a CT scanner now serving patients of both the Newbury and Strathroy hospital sites. The new scanner is part of a long range strategic investment in the Middlesex Hospital Alliance that has helped to expand and improve the technology and support services for patient care.

“The contribution of \$25,000 this year to the CT scanner campaign is just one step in the process as we will contribute a total of \$125,000 over the next five years. We continue to reinvest in the health of West Elgin residents to ensure that the health care services that are the most efficient and effective are here for us,” said Warwick.

CT scans, also commonly known as CAT scans produce precise, cross-sectional images of bones, organs, and soft tissues. The scans are a tremendously valuable diagnostic tool for physicians when diagnosing many serious illnesses and trauma including many types of cancer, stroke, and cardiovascular disease.

“I very much appreciate that West Elgin has made such a generous gift. It is great to live in a community which takes a leadership position when it comes to supporting local health care” said Dorothy Gillies, Coordinator, Four Counties Health Services Foundation.”

Since the CT scanner was installed in May, over 1000 patients have been scanned, some of which have included patients from the Four Counties regions, including the Municipality of West Elgin.

“The shorter distance to travel for scans and short scanning time provided by the new scanner is good for patients,” said Tony Wales, Senior CT Technologist at Strathroy Hospital.

He says patients who have been scanned before and had to travel to London or St. Thomas, are enthusiastic about the high speed of the new scanner and that it is located close to home for them.

The images are also all digital, enabling authorised doctors to view them on the PACS system which links hospitals regionally through the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), making the use of film and chemicals redundant.

“I am pleased that the Municipality of West Elgin is investing in the CT scanner, it has improved access to care and wait times for the over 5,300 residents and surrounding communities in their area who are serviced by the West Elgin Health Centre and Four Counties,” said Sue McLean, CEO, SMGH Foundation.

“Upgrading our health care programs and services is a high priority for our Municipality and I am pleased that the CAT scan is in use for our residents,” said Warwick.

The investment in the new CT scanner located at the Strathroy Hospital site of the Middlesex Hospital Alliance has helped surrounding municipalities protect the health of their residents through the addition of technology which physicians consider essential.

With an estimated annual rate of at least 4,300 scans in its first year, and demand increasing in subsequent years, the arrival of the CT scanner has provided much greater access to the most advanced care for life threatening illness and disease.

For More Information, Contact:

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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.