

Focus on Giving – Crick Merry, Foundation Volunteer

There are many ways to support the G&M Hospital, financially and by volunteering with time. I was raised in a spirit of volunteering. My father was very involved with St. John Ambulance, the Anglican Church and a number of other associations as was my mother. One volunteers in order to give back to the community, to make a contribution and hopefully, a positive difference. As the Chair of St. John Ambulance in Toronto I had a good insight into how important volunteering has become, especially in large cities.

While we have had a place in the Collingwood area since the early 60's, it was only when we moved here full time 11 years ago that I became involved as a volunteer with the G&M Foundation. This is a very strong, enthusiastic group of dedicated volunteers, from all walks of life. We have a common goal, to help the G&M raise funds on a continuing basis in order to provide state of the art diagnostic and surgical tools.

Our Community is very unique. It's small but has an enormous influx of visitors, tourists,



and seasonal residents who could at any time be faced with a medical emergency while in our area. It just takes one emergency to confirm this for any family. My wife had a near death experience very shortly after we moved permanently to Collingwood. I wasn't sure the ambulance would even be able to find our place in the country at 4am but they did. And the G&M was there when we needed it.

When you meet the doctors and staff who take care of patients in an emergency such as ours, you understand how vital it is to keep staff here and provide all the surgical and diagnostic tools possible for them to do their jobs properly.

The best way to attract medical practitioners to our community is to provide them with state of the art equipment. Knowing this provides a huge incentive for our volunteer community to raise the needed funds. In the last 5 years the G&M Hospital Foundation has funded \$6.6 million for new equipment, because neither the

Federal nor Provincial government provides funding for hospital equipment.

So, when you talk about supporting our G&M Hospital, in this instance, we are supporting the doctors and staff who have great skills, but who perform best only in an up to date environment.

People should never take our Hospital for granted. It needs to be supported regularly.



The Murray Clarkson Story – A Local Legacy

Local artist Murray Clarkson was an avid supporter of the local arts and cultural scene and was committed to sustaining its growth. He was also a great supporter of many diverse community groups such as the Collingwood G&M Hospital Foundation and ensured they were remembered in his estate.

To read the full story of Murray's most thoughtful endowment gift visit our website at www.cgmhf.com and view our Annual Report to the Community.

Please call the Foundation office at 705-444-8645 if you would like a copy sent to you.

Come on Out!

Participation at the G&M Hospital Foundation's popular events is a great way to connect with friends, family and community in addition to supporting a great cause.

Look what's happening!

- ▶ **The Georgian Bay Club Foundation 7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament**
– Friday August 13th.
Visit www.georgianbayclub.com/index.cfm?ID=261 to register.
- ▶ **Collingwood Progress Club Duckie Race**
– Monday, Sept. 6th
- ▶ **G&M Classic Golf Tournament**
– Mad River Golf Club
– Wednesday, September 8th
- ▶ **G&M Hospital Challenge Triathlon**
– Wasaga Beach Area 1
– Saturday, September 11th.
Visit www.cgmhf.com to find out more.
- ▶ **The Village at Blue Mountain Foundation Charity Golf Event**
– Friday, October 1st at Monterra Golf/Blue Mountain Resorts – call 445.0231 ext 7051 to register
- ▶ **Dinner at Brunello's**
– Oct. 3rd & 4th
- ▶ **Rock Dell Steak House Dinner**
– Monday, October 25th
- ▶ **The Peak FM ~ Hospital Christmas Draw**
– November 1st – December 24th

Invite a friend or better yet, get a group together to socialize, learn some new information and support our local Hospital. Our website lists all events www.cgmhf.com/events.asp plus details and you can register for most events online as well. You can also sign up to receive our Foundation newsletter, which promotes our community events by visiting www.cgmhf.com/current_issue.asp

Making Memorial Donations

When family and friends wish to honour a loved one, the G&M Hospital Foundation's memorial wall provides a place for a lasting tribute. The wall is a permanent recognition for loved ones and the gifts help ensure continuity of high quality health care in our community.

Plaques recognize cumulative gifts of \$5,000 or more with the name, birth date and date of death permanently engraved. The memorial wall is located on the first floor of the G&M Hospital.

"Families have the option of adding to their loved one's memorial contributions over time to reach the \$5,000 level," says Anna Benedict, Co-ordinator of Annual Giving. "Often families find permanent

recognition comforting in their time of grief."

"I make memorial donations because they don't die like flowers. It honours my friend and at the same time helps to maintain the technology that we need to continue serving our community of friends and family," says one memorial wall donor.

Once a year, the Foundation holds a special non-denominational Memorial Service where friends and family are invited to recognize their loved ones. Families of those who have been memorialized through donations are invited to come. Bonnie Klinck, Volunteer at the G&M Hospitals adds, "I don't think about it. I make memorial donations because I know it benefits the Hospital and helps buy necessary equipment."



This donation is just a small gesture of thanks for a huge heartfelt thank you.

Words cannot adequately express how we appreciated all the wonderful people who so ably looked after my husband when he was brought into emergency at G&M on New Year's Day.

We are so fortunate to have such positive, caring and knowledgeable people so close at hand.

Having suffered a heart attack in the bush of the Pretty River Valley, he also suffered hypothermia. All of these concerns were attended to with positive efficiency.

There were people waiting in the waiting room who could not know the drama going on so close by. To them, I would say – thank you for your patience.

C.C.

Helping to Put the Clues Together



Emergency room doctors are a lot like detectives. In order to identify the medical “culprit” affecting a patient’s body, the doctor has to look for clues. These clues can be found in the “testimony” of the patient or family member, from physical examination or from diagnostics like ECGs, CT scans and blood tests. For patients with complicated medical histories, many of the clues are contained in the patient’s medical history.

Compiling the clues to determine the source of the problem is time consuming. In a life threatening emergency or a complicated medical

situation, time is of the essence and accurate information is essential. That’s why Emergency physicians at the Collingwood G&M Hospital are so happy to have implemented an electronic connection to the medical records of patients who are members of the Georgian Bay Family Health Team (GBFHT). Thanks to the work of Dr. James Lane (GBFHT IT Lead Physician), this secure link allows the Emergency Room physician to see the detailed medical history of local patients including specialist consultations, tests completed outside of the G&M Hospital and family physicians’ notes.

“This information is invaluable to patient diagnosis and treatment,” says Dr. David Ohrling, Chief of Emergency at the G&M. “We can see a complete medication history for the patient. We know if the patient has recently seen a specialist for the problems they are experiencing and the outcome of any testing previously completed – instantly, all in one place. This helps to provide a clearer picture for diagnostic purposes. It also helps avoid duplicate testing which is best for the patient and the healthcare system.”

This is one small step toward the G&M’s goal of providing electronic access to patient information for all healthcare providers within the Hospital. “Healthcare providers need secure, instant access to information where medical decisions are being made,” continues Dr. Ohrling. “A fully electronic patient record will enhance patient safety and improve our decision making processes. The Emergency/ GBFHT link is already demonstrating the difference this information can make in patient outcomes.”

Reducing the time physicians must spend looking for medical “clues” and improving the accuracy of the information available will result in enhanced patient safety and the highest quality of care.

Momentum Builds for Sept. 11th G&M Hospital Challenge Triathlon

On September 11th, they’ll be running, swimming and biking to provide the best medical care. Physicians, staff, volunteers and community members are coming together to fundraise, support and compete in the G&M Hospital Challenge Triathlon at Wasaga Beach Area 1 on Saturday, September 11th.

“I am participating in the Triathlon because I believe in good health and exercise. By participating in the Triathlon and asking for community support, I will be able to have the equipment I need to take care of my patients,” says Dr. Michael Lisi, General Surgeon at the Collingwood G&M Hospital.

“We are participating in the Triathlon because we think it’s important to get involved in our Hospital as well as our

community, to get fit for our own personal health and as well, what better thing could you do with your friends, community and family?” says Jennifer Meesters, Registered Nurse at the Collingwood G&M Hospital.

“As health care providers in this community, we should be role models for health in our community. It is important to support the Collingwood G&M Hospital because as goes the Hospital so goes the health of our community,” adds Dr. Gillian Yeates, Obstetrician/Gynaecologist at the Collingwood G&M Hospital.

“The money raised will equip our new endoscopy suite. We all know people that are going to use this and I think this was the extra spur on for me to get involved this

year,” says Nancy Keith, Health Records Department, Collingwood G&M Hospital.

“I think it’s important to support the G&M Hospital because our staff here are our greatest assets. They endeavor to deliver care that is safe and effective every day and the equipment they use needs to be that same standard,” says Heather McLeod-Soward, Registered Nurse at the Collingwood G&M Hospital.

Make YOUR pledge today. Support the efforts of your favourite doctor, healthcare provider, friend or family member by visiting www.cgmhf.com. Click on the Triathlon button to make a donation toward endoscopic equipment or call 705.444.8645 for more information.



Collingwood General & Marine Hospital Foundation

