

For Immediate Release
March 7, 2005

Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital Foundation
Carleton Place, ON

Beckwith commits to hospital campaign; only \$32,000 now needed to reach goal



The *Help Improve Tomorrow Today!* campaign is thrilled to announce that Beckwith Township has joined others in raising \$1.5 million for the Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) and has made a commitment of \$100,000. With the gift from Beckwith, the campaign has raised \$1,468,213.10 in cash and pledges and now only needs to raise \$32,000 to reach the \$1.5 million goal.

"Beckwith's commitment is very good news for the campaign and does so much to bring us closer to finishing this fundraising drive," stated Rene Jones, Chairman of the *Help Improve Tomorrow Today!* campaign. "We have been actively soliciting the community for help since January 2004 and to know that we are just \$32,000 away from reaching our goal is fantastic."

"While we know healthcare is a provincial responsibility, the Township also acknowledges that CPDMH is part of the reason why new residents come to our community and is a direct contributor to the quality of life we offer our citizens," stated Reeve Richard Kidd. "As a municipality our biggest concern is the well being of our residents and we know that giving to this campaign will benefit everyone in our township and the surrounding communities - I believe that's a good thing."

In recent years inefficient funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-term Care and a growing community has resulted in CPDMH being unable to keep up with the increasing demands placed on the facility. The hospital realized that it needed to ask the community for financial help in order to have progressive, up to date equipment that is able complement the programs and services offered by the hospital and address the healthcare requirements of the area.

"When I first came to Carleton Place, equipment was constantly breaking down and needed to be replaced. We are now in a little better shape but with the high cost of new equipment, an increase in the services we have offered the community and lack of funding from the Ministry we have had to ask the for help from the community so that we can continue to offer quality healthcare," stated Mike Gagne, CPDMH CEO. "We have been very fortunate that the community has come forward in a big way and I really hope we can count on them to bring this campaign to a close."

"It would be really wonderful to reach our goal in the next while so I would really like to encourage anyone who hasn't donated to the campaign to seriously think about giving in the near future," stated Dereck Hicks, President of the CPDMH Foundation. "It has been a lot of work getting to this point and it would be such a disappointment to fall short of our target by \$32,000."

Anyone requiring more information about the hospital, its needs, the campaign or anyone wanting to donate is asked to contact the campaign office at (613) 257-2200 x 856, e-mail ctroy@carletonplacehosp.com or to visit the hospital's website at www.carletonplacehospital.ca. With a goal to improve healthcare for the residents of Carleton Place and the surrounding communities, any and all help is appreciated.

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Contact: Chantelle Troy, Campaign Coordinator
613-257-2200 ext 856
e-mail: ctroy@carletonplacehosp.com