

For Immediate Release

January 29, 2007

Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital Foundation
Carleton Place, ON

Another Successful Tree Lighting Ceremony for the Carleton Place Hospital Foundation!



The staff of CPDMH's Radiology Department, (from left) Debbie Craig, Joanne Boissoneault, Christine Boast, Leigh Gardiner, Francine Germain and Angele Crites, with the cheque representing the funds raised from the 9th Annual Tree of Lights.

Once again the Tree Lighting Ceremony in support of the Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) Foundation was a tremendous success and the organization is thrilled to announce that \$25,249.36 was raised by the event.

“The Foundation has been overwhelmed by the response to this year’s Tree Lighting”, stated Ian Edwards, President of the CPDMH Foundation. “We understand the importance of the ceremony to the community because most of the donations given to the Tree Lighting are made in memory of a loved one. However we’re still amazed at the final total raised and would like to offer our sincere thanks to everyone for their generosity.”

The crowd attending the Tree Lighting ceremony on November 25 shared in the holiday spirit through the singing of Christmas carols which were led by members of the Mississippi Mudds and the Presbyterian Church Choir. Santa and Mrs. Claus also attended the ceremony and turned on the tree lights.

“It was wonderful that the Mississippi Mudds and the Presbyterian Choir were able to participate in the ceremony and we were very lucky that the Clauses were able to fit us into their busy schedule”, continued Mr. Edwards. “Hopefully we’ll see them all at the event again next year!”

The Tree Lighting Ceremony began in 1998 by inviting members of the community to make a donation to the Foundation in honour or in memory of a loved one. For every gift received, the Foundation lights a bulb on the tree in front of CPDMH. Since its beginning, the event has raised over \$95,000, including the approximately

\$25,000 raised this year, for new medical equipment and improvements to CPDMH. This year the Foundation is directing the funds from the ceremony towards the purchase of the Picture and Archiving Communication System (PACS) for the x-ray department.

PACS captures, transmits and stores diagnostic images in digital form, allowing physicians to remotely access these images via a secure web browser only moments after the exams are completed. This compares to conventional Diagnostic Imaging systems where films must be chemically processed and then transported to a physician for viewing. PACS is expected to cost approximately \$350,000 and will complement CPDMH's current x-ray machine, which was purchased by the *Help Improve Tomorrow Today!* campaign during the summer of 2004. To date, approximately \$106,000 has been raised by events throughout 2006 to help cover the cost of the new system.

“The implementation of the PACS will have a very positive impact on our hospital, especially the x-ray department and we have been doing a lot of preliminary work to prepare for the new system”, stated Christine Boast, Manager of Diagnostic Imaging at CPDMH. “The end result however will be an improvement in the care we offer our patients and I'm looking forward to getting the new system in place.”

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