

March 14, 2017

RVH VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED

Long-time volunteers from Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) – Rosemary Dunsmore and Robert (Bob) George – have been recognized with two prestigious awards.

Dunsmore, who has spent much of her life empowering people to reach their full potential, was honoured for her passion for people with a Leading Women Building Communities Recognition Award. The honour, from the Ontario Ministry of Women's Issues, was officially presented to Dunsmore on Saturday, March 11 by MPP Ann Hoggarth during a ceremony held at Liberty North in Barrie.

This prestigious award acknowledges and celebrates women and girls who demonstrate exceptional leadership in working to improve the lives of others in their communities. Dunsmore, a member of RVH's 'Blue Brigade' for 22 years, was honoured for the selfless way she inspires and trains fellow volunteers at the health centre, as well as her commitment to the Emergency department at RVH where she has more than 3,500 volunteer hours on record. Before volunteering at RVH, she spent 18 years volunteering with the Girl Guides of Canada.

"It's an honour to be recognized with this award for my volunteer work at RVH," says Dunsmore. "Volunteering allows me to share my talents, assist in the Emergency department and influence the youth of today. They are our hope for the future. Receiving this honour made me think of all the women who had influenced my life and to be thankful."

This is not Dunsmore's first award for her dedication to volunteerism. She has been recognized by the RVH Auxiliary with a Life Membership, an Award of Merit and an Outstanding Service Award.

Robert (Bob) George was recognized with the Governor General's Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers (formerly the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award). The award is given to Canadian citizens who have made significant, sustained and unpaid contributions to their community. George was awarded the medal for his committed efforts in fundraising for the creation and enhancement of the Peacekeepers Memorial Park. The award was presented to him recently by Barrie Mayor Jeff Lehman.

As an RVH volunteer since 2001, George has volunteered in many departments across the health centre including Imaging Services, Cancer and Palliative Care Inpatient unit, the Emergency department, and currently, as a dispatcher at the Information Desk. George is also known to go above and beyond his regular volunteer duties to assist the RVH Auxiliary's Tag Days and annual Bazaar.

"We were thrilled to hear this great news and so proud of what Rosemary and Bob have achieved through their work as much-valued members of TEAM RVH," says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. "To receive such high honours are true testaments to their exceptional leadership and contributions to not only the health centre, but our community as a whole."

As the 'Blue Brigade', RVH volunteers are the frontline ambassadors for the health centre. Their acts of compassion and kindness touch patients and families so deeply and contribute to a positive patient experience every day. They're at RVH seven days a week to provide a second set of hands - doing clerical work, providing directions, serving coffee or delivering a sandwich to a patient's family member – in more than 75 areas. In addition to helping out with patient care, volunteers work in the RVH Auxiliary's two businesses - Café Royale and Victoria's Gift Shop.

To learn more about volunteering at RVH, please contact Volunteer Resources at 705-739-5650.

Photo 1: Rosemary Dunsmore

Photo 2: Robert George

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