

June 27, 2017

## RVH Auxiliary and supporters win John Graves Simcoe Medals of Excellence

The Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) Auxiliary was recently awarded a John Graves Simcoe Medal of Excellence by Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte MP Alex Nuttall. The John Graves Simcoe Medal of Excellence was created to commemorate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and recognize individuals and organizations who serve our community and our country.

"I can see how RVH's Auxiliary was a natural fit to receive this honour as its hard work and generosity have helped change healthcare in Simcoe and Muskoka for many years now," says Michael O'Keefe, chair, RVH Board of Directors. "Winning the John Graves Simcoe Medal of Excellence lets the community know what we've already known for a long time - RVH and healthcare in this region wouldn't be what it is today without the Auxiliary."

Through diligent fundraising efforts, the Auxiliary has helped RVH purchase leading-edge equipment, build a cancer centre and open a cardiac care unit. Now the volunteer group is working to bring care closer to home once again, with a \$2 million pledge toward an advanced cardiac program and child and youth mental health services.

Several individuals affiliated with RVH also received John Graves Simcoe Medals of Excellence, including David Blenkarn, former RVH Board of Directors chair and chair of the 'I Believe' campaign to help fund RVH's 2012 expansion.

Long-time RVH supporter Rayner McCullough – former chair of both the RVH and RVH Foundation boards and a force behind building the original hospital on Georgian Drive in the late 1990s – also received the honour. Recently, McCullough established a special trust for education of RVH staff, patients and family members who look after youth and adolescents with mental health and addictions issues.

Don Pratt, another former Board chair, and his family were also recognized as was Oro-Medonte Mayor Harry Hughes, a member of the RVH Board, Barrie Mayor Jeff Lehman, a member of the RVH Foundation Board and veteran RVH physician Dr. Rick Irvin.

RVH volunteers and Auxiliary members Beth Willoughby and Bob George also received individual awards for their contributions to the community. Bob for his efforts in fundraising for the creation and enhancement of the Peacekeepers Memorial Park and Beth for her volunteerism with many community organizations.

"We are so proud to call these individuals friends of RVH," says Janice Skot, president and CEO, RVH. "We congratulate them on this prestigious recognition and thank them for selflessly devoting their time and efforts to serving our community every day."

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### For more information:

**Jane Cocking**  
Manager  
Corporate Communications  
705-728-9090 ext. 41611

**Jennifer Moore**  
Corporate Communications  
705-728-9090 ext. 41618

### About RVH:

RVH is a regional health centre in Barrie, Ontario, located 80 kilometres north of Toronto. As the largest hospital in the region of Simcoe Muskoka, RVH's team of over 350 physicians, 2,500 employees and 850 volunteers provides exceptional care and specialty services to almost half a million residents, including cancer care, stroke services, orthopaedics, intensive care, mental health and interventional radiology. RVH is focused on delivering high-quality, safe care that puts patients and their families first. For more information visit [www.rvh.on.ca](http://www.rvh.on.ca)