

Media Release  
**For Immediate Release**

## **KIDNEY CARE CLOSER TO HOME**

(Monday, April 18, 2016) – Area kidney care patients can now access care closer to home thanks to the recent opening of an in-hospital dialysis clinic at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) as part of an expansion of the Regional Kidney Care Program - Simcoe Muskoka, led by Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital (OSMH).

"Patients have been receiving high quality dialysis in their Barrie and Alliston outpatient clinics – and at the regional centre at OSMH when required -- for many years. And that won't change," says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. "But now, if a kidney care patient has to be admitted to hospital – either at RVH or Alliston's Stevenson Memorial Hospital – or if their condition becomes more complex, they can receive their dialysis at RVH in this new clinic, eliminating the need to travel to Orillia for care."

The clinic is a result of many months of planning and collaboration by the Regional Kidney Care Program, RVH, OSMH, Stevenson Memorial and the Ontario Renal Network. The six-chair clinic, located on the lower level of the health centre, is a welcome addition for area patients like Peter Tretter who spoke of the positive impact this clinic will have on patients before joining in the official ribbon cutting.

The Regional Kidney Care Program – Simcoe Muskoka began in 1993 with a territory that extends north of Huntsville, south of Alliston, west of Collingwood and east toward Peterborough. The program has five satellite dialysis centres in Collingwood, Alliston, Huntsville, Penetanguishene and Barrie. The opening of the in-hospital dialysis clinic follows RVH being designated as a secondary hub of the regional program.

"Today's announcement marks another important step in the ongoing development of the Regional Kidney Care Program and we look forward to continuing that work in line with the Ontario Renal Network's Strategic Plan, and with the priorities of the new Patient Advisory Committee," says Pat Campbell, OSMH President and CEO.

*CUTLINE: Representatives from OSMH, RVH, Stevenson Memorial Hospital, and the Ontario Renal Network gathered today to officially open the in-hospital dialysis clinic at RVH. Pictured (from left) Dr. Derek Benjamin, RVH nephrologist, Dr. Peter Blake, Provincial Medical Director, Ontario Renal Network, Rob Hall, Vice-Chair, RVH Board of Directors, Janice Skot, RVH President & CEO, Peter Tretter, dialysis patient, Rebecca Harvey, Vice-President, Ontario Renal Network, Pat Campbell, OSMH President and CEO, Dr. Leo Lam, medical director, Regional Kidney Care Program, Jody Levac, SMH President and CEO.*

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