

March 6, 2014

Barrie Welding builds on history of giving to RVH

Building on its long history of supporting Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH), Barrie Welding has made a remarkable \$500,000 contribution to the health centre. This is one of many significant donations by Barrie Welding, which has also contributed to RVH through its associated businesses – Western Mechanical and Snow Valley Ski Resort.

“Owning a business is about more than operations and profits – it is about how we share our success with the community,” says Brian Smith, co-owner, Barrie Welding. “This community has loyally supported our work for years and it is our responsibility to do what we can to give back. Our commitment to RVH has stood the test of time and although there may be changes to our businesses over time, we want to continue, and want our successors to continue, building on the long-standing relationship we have with RVH. Western Mechanical has also chosen to continue to support RVH with its recent \$125,000 gift.”

Since 1987, Barrie Welding has donated more than \$1 million to RVH, Western Mechanical nearly \$450,000 and Snow Valley more than \$450,000 through annual M*A*S*H Bash ski events. Overall, since 1987, the three businesses have contributed more than \$2 million to RVH. This latest donation for \$500,000 from Barrie Welding, will be allocated to a future Advanced Cardiac Care program at RVH.

North Simcoe Muskoka is the only region in the province without advanced cardiac services. As a result, every year more than 3,500 heart patients must travel to centres outside the region for lifesaving cardiac care. The development of an Advanced Cardiac Care program, in partnership with Southlake Regional Health Centre, will have a significant impact on bringing cardiac care close to home for residents. The services RVH will provide through the program include cardiac diagnostics and interventions such as coronary angiogram and angioplasty, giving patients access to faster treatment, a shorter hospital stay and less travel time.

“The tradition of generosity at Barrie Welding is truly remarkable,” says Janice Skot, president and CEO, RVH. “These leaders in local philanthropy clearly understand the need for an Advanced Cardiac Care program in North Simcoe Muskoka. Developing this program at RVH, through the support of donors like Barrie Welding, will ensure the majority of the region’s residents will have access to treatment within 90 minutes of a heart attack. In cardiac events like this, time is critical to the outcome – the longer a person waits to obtain medical care, the more damage to the heart.”

With RVH’s \$450 million expansion complete, the health centre is focused on continuing to bring specialized programs closer to home, including advanced heart care, child mental health and women’s cancer services, while expanding clinical research. RVH relies 100 per cent on the generosity of donors to fund new equipment that ensures safe, high quality care.

About Barrie Welding

Formed in 1945, Barrie Welding & Machine began as a three-man shop run out of a barn. The company experienced steady growth and by 1955 had relocated to Anne Street in Barrie where it continues to operate today. In 1974, the company was purchased by four employees and it became Barrie Welding & Machine (1974) Ltd. Since this time, the company formed several completely new divisions including a large press repair facility, a CNC machine shop, an automation house, a coil handling technology department, and a design department. From its humble beginnings, the company has grown to over 200,000 square feet and currently employs more than 200 skilled people.

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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