

August 10, 2015

A million reasons to say ‘Thank You’

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) recently received a generous donation of \$1 million from David and Mary Crook of Barrie for the Hearts & Minds campaign.

Hearts & Minds is an RVH initiative to raise \$25 million for five priority areas, one of which is advanced cardiac care, and as such the Crook family has dedicated their gift to support the future Advanced Cardiac Centre at RVH.

The Crook family has a long history of supporting RVH. Since 1985, they have contributed to both the Building on a Century and I Believe campaigns.

“Barrie is my hometown and my family has roots in this community dating back to the 1800s. So as long as RVH has been in existence, it has been our hospital,” says David Crook. “Helping to ensure the residents of this incredible community and region receive top quality heart care here at RVH is so important to Mary and I. It’s the least we can do.”

This generous donation comes on the heels of an exciting announcement recently made by Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne. The Premier visited RVH to personally announce the formal approval for an Advanced Cardiac Centre at RVH.

“RVH has been working for many years to develop an Advanced Cardiac Centre because we know there is an urgent need for heart care in our region. This amazing donation from the Crook family is great news as we are well-positioned to proceed with advanced cardiac care at RVH,” says Janice Skot, president and CEO, RVH. “We are exceedingly grateful for David and Mary Crook’s inspiring gift as it demonstrates their belief that RVH has the vision to bring this vitally needed care to our region.”

In preparation for advanced cardiac care RVH has expanded the cardiac team; opened an Urgent Cardiology Clinic; now provides 24/7 coverage for heart patients throughout the region; operates a specialized Cardiac Care Unit (CCU) as well as a 32-bed Cardiac Renal Unit.

The Crook family donation will specifically help equip a cardiac catheterization lab which is used in the diagnosis and treatment of heart problems. Having these labs will mean patients brought into RVH’s Emergency department suspected of having a heart attack can be rushed upstairs to a catheterization lab to determine their heart condition and in many cases, treat the problem without further travel.

“I have a personal connection to seeing this cardiac centre become a reality,” says David Crook. “Eight years ago, while travelling in the U.S., I experienced a heart attack and it all happened so quickly. It was terrifying to think what could have been my outcome if I hadn’t been able to receive care immediately. The longer a patient waits, the more damage to their heart so this cardiac centre is not a want - it is a need.”

Cutline: Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) recently received a generous donation of \$1 million from David and Mary Crook of Barrie. The gift will support the future Advanced Cardiac Centre at RVH. Celebrating this amazing donation along with Mary and David Crook (centre) are Dr. Jaskaran Kang; Dr. Behzad Etemadi; Dave McCullough, Chair, RVH Foundation Board; Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO; Dr. Rajeev Rao; Dr. Stephen Pizzale and Dr. Farrukh Hussain.

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