

November 10, 2015

FROM THE GROUND UP: INNISDALE STUDENTS PARTNER WITH ART@RVH

The walls of Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) are a little brighter these days thanks to an incredible art exhibit by the students of Innisdale Secondary School's Integrated Art Class. The exhibit, entitled "From the Ground Up", features art, sculpture, music and dance and is an acknowledgement of the patient journey from diagnosis through healing.

"Through our Art@RVH program, our goal is to create an enhanced environment for the patients, staff and public through the careful selection and placement of contemporary art throughout the spaces and grounds of this health centre," says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. "We were excited at the opportunity to partner and showcase the art of these talented students in our Corridor Gallery and in the courtyard garden."

According to Jennica Hwang, Integrated Arts teacher at Innisdale, the idea for the exhibit was inspired by four people. "A student in our class lost her Mom to cancer about six months ago; one of our school administrators is a breast cancer survivor; Integrated Arts teacher Chris Taylor lost his father to cancer and a former student is currently undergoing treatment for breast cancer," says Hwang. "The project was about art that reflected natural beauty, transformation and hope. Our students certainly portrayed that message with this interdisciplinary installation piece. We are extremely proud of them and the end result."

Studies show art can improve a patient's perception of care, reduce anxiety and increase patient and caregiver satisfaction and that a pleasing aesthetic environment can elevate the experience of coming to a health centre. The art and sculpture of the Innisdale's Integrated Arts Class of 2015 will remain on display through December in the health centre's Corridor Gallery.

"The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is so proud of the art program at Innisdale," notes Kathi Wallace, SCDSB Director of Education. "This partnership with RVH is an excellent opportunity to showcase our students' creativity and contribute to the local health care community."

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Photos:

1. Dancers from Innisdale's Integrated Arts Class just after their moving performance. Clockwise from left Paul Moen, Averie Severs, Joanna Dunlop, chair Art@RVH, Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO, Frances Thomas, curator, Art@RVH, Julia Ruscio, Hayley Hamlin
2. A metal dandelion sculpture is part of the art exhibit, shown shedding its pods. The piece was created by, from left, Gus Sabourin, Jacob Johnson, Olivia Fetterly, Brooklyn Donnelly and supported by teacher Neal Mount.
3. The art lining the walls of RVH's Corridor Gallery

For more Information:

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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