

Aug 8 ,2014

Heart healthy artist donates work to RVH

Marie Wiersma, 85, a painter from the Northern Ontario community of Britt, was so pleased with her recent treatment at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) she donated a piece of her work to the facility and offered to exhibit many of her other paintings.

A Passion for Life, is a special exhibit organized by ART@RVH in collaboration with the RVH Foundation and is on display in the health centre's Corridor Gallery until Saturday, October 4th.

Marie Wiersma had been experiencing chest pain and yet the root cause of her discomfort had yet to be diagnosed. It was during a visit to Barrie to see her son Jonathan and his family that she experienced yet another onset of chest pressure and pain. She was taken to RVH, and through the expertise of the cardiac program, a blockage in a secondary cardiac artery was discovered and stented in collaboration with Southlake Regional Health Centre (SRHC).

Wiersma says it was, 'the persistence of the RVH cardiac team that got to the root cause of her symptoms.'

"Marie's story brings attention to the growing need for Advanced Cardiac Care in Simcoe Muskoka and the dedication of the cardiac staff who care for our patients." says Rebbeca Truax, Director of Philanthropy, RVH Foundation.

Following her treatment and care at RVH Wiersma says she now has new energy from increased flow to the heart, renewed vigour to actively engage in all the things she loves including time with her grandchildren, pastoral duties and of course painting. She was so grateful for the care she received she donated her painting 'Flower Pot Island' to RVH.

"We are really pleased to have this beautiful selection of work on loan from the private collection of Marie Wiersma," says Frances Thomas, part-time coordinator and curator of the Art@RVH program. "The focus of 'Art@RVH' is to create an enhanced environment for the patients, staff and public through the careful selection and placement of art. And truly that has been the case as patients and visitors alike have paused in the gallery to admire Wiersma's work."

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