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## Premier gives green light for cardiac centre at RVH

Heart attack patients from throughout North Simcoe Muskoka will soon have access to immediate lifesaving advanced cardiac care closer to home.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne was at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) today to give the government's official green light to develop an advanced cardiac centre, scheduled to open in early 2017. The Advanced Cardiac program will be developed in partnership with Newmarket's Southlake Regional Health Centre (SRHC) and the Cardiac Care Network.

Currently, North Simcoe Muskoka is the only region in the province without an Advanced Cardiac Centre. That means every year more than 3,600 heart patients must travel to centres outside the region for lifesaving heart procedures. RVH's Advanced Cardiac program will provide diagnostics and interventions such as angiograms and angioplasty, giving patients access to faster treatment, a shorter hospital stay and less travel time.

"That will be a game changer for heart patients in our region. Simply put, it will save lives," says Janice Skot, president and CEO, RVH. "Thank you to the provincial government for ensuring North Simcoe Muskoka residents will have the same gold standard of heart care as those in the rest of the province -- treatment within 90 minutes of a heart attack. That's critically important because when it comes to the heart, time is muscle. Soon, all but the most complex heart patients will be able to receive care at RVH, closer to home."

RVH first identified the need for comprehensive cardiac services in 2007 and has since built the foundation to ensure it is well positioned to provide safe, quality heart care. RVH now boasts a team of seven cardiologists which provides 24/7 cardiology coverage to ensure patients from throughout the region have access to specialized care day or night. Meanwhile, a new regional Urgent Cardiology Clinic provides speedy assessment and testing for patients who come to RVH's Emergency department or surgical pre-admission clinic and are found to be at high risk for a heart attack. In 2012, RVH opened the region's only Cardiac Care Unit (CCU), along with a dedicated 32-bed Cardiac Renal Unit.

The Advanced Cardiac Centre will be built in existing space at the health centre, which was shelled-in as part of RVH's expansion project, which doubled the size of the facility.

"I'm very excited about this announcement and what was really evident today was how excited this community is and how much they are behind this collaboration. What that means is it will be a success. Establishing an Advanced Cardiac Centre at RVH will make a real difference to quality of life for the people of North Simcoe and Muskoka," says Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne. "Our government is pleased to support this program to give people access to the crucial health care services they need."

RVH is currently fundraising through the Hearts & Minds campaign to raise \$15 million to build and equip the Advanced Cardiac Centre. For more information about Hearts & Minds, please visit <http://foundation.rvh.on.ca>

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For more information:

**Suzanne Legue**  
Chief Communications Officer  
705-728-9090 ext. 41600

**Jane Cocking**  
Corporate Communications  
705-728-9090 ext. 41611

**Jennifer Moore**  
Corporate Communications  
705-728-9090 ext. 41618

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](http://www.rvh.on.ca)