

September 24, 2015

Barrie Welding team honoured with RVH's David Blenkarn Spirit Award

At a recent donor appreciation event at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) the RVH Foundation presented the David Blenkarn Spirit Award to long-time RVH supporters, Ross Higginson, Garry Greenside, Jim Sheardown and Brian Smith –owners of Barrie Welding and co-owners of Snow Valley Ski Resort and Western Mechanical.

Named after the charismatic chair of RVH's "I Believe" Capital Campaign, the award is given annually to those who, like Blenkarn, inspire and motivate others to take philanthropic action.

"This year we are thrilled to be honouring this group of remarkable men. Ross, Garry, Jim and Brian are true friends to RVH and pillars in our community," says Dave McCullough, chair of the RVH Foundation. "Without fanfare, they have quietly supported RVH for more than 30 years, but we think it is high time they get the praise they so greatly deserve. Not only have they built an amazing legacy over the last 41 years of business, they have also built a culture of philanthropy. They are a great example to other businesses and role models to their families."

During the last three decades this team of businessmen has given more than \$2 million dollars to support RVH and to help build the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre (SMRCC). For the past 27 years the team has partnered with RVH and together held M*A*S*H Bash at Snow Valley Ski Resort. The family-friendly event has raised more than \$450,000 for RVH and patient care. They have now stepped up to the plate to support RVH's \$25 million Hearts & Minds campaign in the areas of advanced cardiac care and child and youth mental health. Brian Smith, describes their long support as "doing our part to help our community. At some point everyone needs healthcare – supporting RVH has become part of our tradition."

"Ross Higginson, Garry Greenside, Jim Sheardown and Brian Smith are an inspiration to RVH and to our community. They are a perfect choice to receive this year's David Blenkarn Spirit Award," says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. "They are successful businessmen who are also committed to ensuring healthcare is there for the community, as well as future generations."

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Cutline/Photo attached: David Blenkarn (left), presented Ross Higginson, Garry Greenside, Brian Smith and Jim Sheardown with the *David Blenkarn Spirit Award*, named in his honour, at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre's (RVH) recent donor appreciation event. Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO, and David McCullough (far right), chair, RVH Foundation were on hand to congratulate the long-time RVH supporters.

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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, orthopedics, intensive care, mental health and interventional radiology. RVH is focused on delivering safe, high quality care that puts patients and their families first. For more information visit www.rvh.on.ca