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## Radio for Cardiology radiothon results in heartfelt donation

As Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre's (RVH) Simcoe Muskoka Regional Heart Program approaches its 500<sup>th</sup> angiogram procedure, Bell Media presented a \$54,087 donation for the cardiac centre which was the incredible result of its early summer Radio for Cardiology Radiothon.

"KICX 106 and 104.1 The Dock are absolutely thrilled with the results from our 2018 Radiothon. We would specifically like to thank our clients, loyal listeners and community partners who step up for the cause time and time again," says Mora Austin, general manager of Bell Media in Central Ontario. "To raise over \$54,000 for Radio for Cardiology is something we can all be proud of. The generosity of the residents of Simcoe County and Muskoka never ceases to amaze us."

Austin said they are also thankful to those who were kind enough to share their personal stories of both heartache and triumph during the Radiothon as they are the ones able to communicate the need better than anyone.

RVH opened the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Heart Program in January 2018 providing angiograms, a test to detect blockages in the heart arteries, to residents from across the region. Until now, North Simcoe Muskoka was the only region in the province without an advanced cardiac centre, meaning 3,600 heart patients travelled to centres outside the region for heart procedures every year.

"Next week, RVH will perform its 500<sup>th</sup> angiogram which means that 500 area residents have been able to get care closer to their homes," says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. "It has been through the support of the community and organizations like Bell Media through the Radio for Cardiology campaign that has helped us achieve this significant milestone and we look forward to a continued partnership and support as we introduce angioplasty procedures in the fall."

The program will give patients access to faster treatment, a shorter hospital stay and less travel time. Not all cardiac services will be available to all patients right away. RVH has always planned for a cautious, phased ramp-up of these complex cardiac services to ensure patients throughout the region receive safe, high quality care. Complex cases will continue to be referred to other cardiac centres and this fall RVH will expand its cardiac services to include angioplasty, a non-surgical procedure that uses a thin flexible tube with a tiny inflatable balloon to open up a clogged heart artery.

The Radio for Cardiology campaign has raised an incredible \$858,130 for the RVH Simcoe Muskoka Regional Heart program since it was launched, part of a million dollar pledge to help bring cardiac closer to home.

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### 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 430 physicians, 2,500 employees and 750 volunteers provides exceptional care and specialty services to almost half a million residents, including regional services such as: advanced cardiac, cancer, child & youth mental health, renal, stroke, orthopaedics, intensive care 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)