

Donation nets OTMH more ‘life-saving instruments’

By David Lea
OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

They deliver a shock that can bring people back from the brink of death and now Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH) will have more of them — thanks to a \$100,000 donation from the Rotary Club of Oakville.

Club President Wayne Snyder announced, Friday, the Rotary Club of Oakville will donate \$100,000 over five years to fund the purchase of five life-saving defibrillators.

The donation will see the defibrillators added to the existing OTMH equipment, which will eventually be moved to the new Oakville hospital at Third Line and Dundas Street. It is to be completed in 2015.

“The Rotary Club of Oakville has a long history of supporting the Oakville hospital starting back in the 1950s when the first hospital was built. As part of our commitment to the community, being part of the new hospital and contributing capital equipment was something our club wanted to do,” said Snyder.

“Life-saving equipment certainly fits with

what we’re all about in terms of trying to make a difference in people’s lives. The hospital team identified defibrillators as a key piece of equipment, this fits with our budget and what we could afford to commit over five years... We are happy to do this and look forward to continuing to support the new hospital.”

Halton Healthcare Services Chief of Staff Dr. Lorne Martin talked about the importance of the defibrillators and why having more of them is essential.

“... We need more (defibrillators) because we have to get them to the patient within 60 seconds no matter where they are in the building.”

*Dr. Lorne Martin,
Chief of Staff
Halton Healthcare Services*

“These are life-saving instruments. We use these to shock the heart when a person has a cardiac arrest and can actually return a person to life. We also use them all the time to solve problems with a patient’s cardiac rhythm. When patients come in with their heart beating too fast, which can be quite danger-

ous, we use the defibrillator at a lower level to change the heart’s rhythm back to normal. We use these almost every day,” said Martin.

“We are moving to a new hospital, which is 1.5 million square feet, more than three times the size of this building. When a person has a cardiac arrest, the thing that will create the greatest chance of saving that person’s life is getting the defibrillator to them sooner.



MICHAEL IVANIN / OAKVILLE BEAVER

SAVING LIVES: Dr. Lorne Martin, Halton Healthcare Services Chief of Staff, left, receives a defibrillator from Wayne Snyder, president of the Rotary Club of Oakville, and Ralf Soeder, incoming Rotary president. The Rotary Club of Oakville recently announced a major gift pledge of \$100,000 towards the new Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital redevelopment campaign that will fund five more defibrillators.

So, as we move into that bigger building we need more of these because we have to get them to the patient within 60 seconds no matter where they are in the building.”

Martin pointed out the provincial government does not fund hospital equipment, making the Rotary Club of Oakville’s donation all the more important.

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