

A&W Georgetown's Ashley Monckton presents nearly \$3,000 to Rob Hamilton (left) and Al Lawr to help fund their visit to an Indian hospital for a unique MS procedure.



Photo by Ted Brown

MS patients report liberation treatment in India was helpful

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

Al Lawr and Rob Hamilton don't believe the experimental liberation treatment for MS they recently had is a cure, but say it did help them both.

The two Georgetown men, both 52, returned from Delhi, India where they underwent the procedure that opens up veins carrying blood from the brain to the heart. The treatment is being hailed by some as a medical breakthrough for MS sufferers, and is not available in Canada.

"My mind is a lot more alert," after the procedure, said Lawr.

Lawr, who was diagnosed with MS six years ago, also said his fatigue has also greatly lessened.

"I just feel so good," said Lawr, who had one stent placed in his vein.

"I am more alert and have more stamina in my walking," said Hamilton, who initially received two stents. "My gait has come together."

He said he is much less fatigued than he was.

"Now I'm up trying to get stuff done around the house," said Hamilton.

He is hoping to get back to work soon.

"This isn't a cure. I think it is a tool in the fight against MS," said Hamilton, who was diagnosed with MS when he was 29.

"It's a start," said Hamilton, who stayed about a week longer in India than Lawr because on the follow-up exam after the initial procedure doctors determined he required a third stent.

The procedure cost \$15,000. Lawr said he's thankful to "all my friends (who) have been incredible and covered all the costs."

Both men are very appreciative of A&W in Georgetown which raised \$2,968 for their treatments during the A&W Cruisin' for a Cause Day last month. The owners of the restaurant—Bob, Penny and Ashley Monckton—decided to donate all of the proceeds from every Teen Burger sold in their restaurant that day to the two men.

"What they've done here is much appreciated," said Hamilton.

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