



At its Annual General Meeting, the Georgetown Hospital Volunteer Association (GHVA)'s presented a cheque for \$50,000 to support the continued expansion of the hospital's Diagnostic Imaging and Emergency departments. This was the fourth of five annual instalments to reach their pledge of \$250,000. From left, Ken McDermot, Chair, Georgetown Hospital Foundation, K.C. Carruthers, Director of Development, Georgetown Hospital Foundation, Denise Hardenne, President and CEO, Halton Healthcare Services (second from right) and Cindy McDonnell, Chief Operating Officer of Georgetown Hospital (far right) are presented with the cheque from Carole Hunt, GHVA Treasurer, Marie Carney, GHVA President (centre). Submitted photo

# Hospital volunteers add another \$50K

At the Georgetown Hospital Volunteer Association (GHVA)'s Annual General Meeting, Marie Carney, President of the GHVA and Treasurer Carole Hunt, presented the Georgetown Hospital Foundation with a cheque of \$50,000. The funds raised will support the continued expansion of the hospital's Diagnostic Imaging and Emergency departments. This was the fourth of five annual instalments to reach their pledge of \$250,000. "The continued financial support of the Georgetown Hospital, coupled with the donation of time is what truly makes our volunteers so special," said Lorenzo Biondi, Vice-Chair, Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) Board of Directors. "We had an historical year filled with many monumental events that will have a lasting impact on our organization and the people we serve," said Denise Hardenne, President and CEO, HHS. "Our volunteers really do make a real difference in the lives of staff, patients and their families and we are

so grateful for their service." The new Diagnostic Imaging department will feature mineral densitometry and mammography imaging rooms along with other modalities to form a Women's Diagnostic Area which is being named in honour of the financial support of the volunteers. The Georgetown Hospital Volunteer Association's 185 members contributed 13,000 hours of service in many areas of the hospital during the past year. Whether it was in the Gift shop, in the new Emergency Department or at the information desk, they were always there for the staff and patients of Georgetown Hospital. "The volunteers at the hospital play a key role, not only in providing compassion and guidance to those in need, but also in fundraising to support the hospital expansion," said Hardenne. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Georgetown Hospital's Volunteer Services Dept., 905-873-0111, ext. 8153.

## HEARTWORM DISEASE

Heartworm disease is caused by a large worm which can live in your dog's heart and adjoining blood vessels. Heartworm is spread from dog to dog by the mosquito. When a mosquito bites an infected dog it ingests the heartworm in its larval form along with the blood. As the mosquito travels around biting other dogs it spreads the disease. The adult female worm can grow to 15 inches in length and live seven years. Once infected with heartworm your dog's heart is under attack. The symptoms can vary widely but generally include exercise intolerance, coughing, anorexia and difficulty breathing. Treatment is available but is often costly and difficult due to the side effects. You can expect a long recovery time and often your pet's health is irreparably damaged.

**The good news is prevention is so easy.** Once a simple blood test confirms that your dog is negative of heartworm, all you have to do is give your dog a pill or apply a topical medication once a month from June through November. There are various types of heartworm medication available; some will also include prevention for intestinal worms and/or fleas. Your veterinarian will be happy to help you choose the right prevention program for your dog.

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