



For Immediate Release

**Huntsville Hospital Foundation Celebrates
Major Gift from Woollings Family**

\$250,000 Dedicated to New CT Scanner, Vital Equipment to District Stroke Centre

Huntsville, ON – July XX, 2013: The Huntsville Hospital Foundation with Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC) is thrilled to announce the generous gift from Doug and Laurice Woollings of Toronto. The Woollings family donated \$250,000, which is to be dedicated to a new CT Scanner.

Mr. Woollings, a seasonal resident on Peninsula Lake since 1962, said, “I’m very pleased to be supporting our local healthcare system. The use of the Huntsville Hospital has been important to our family and our girls’ families over the years -- from skiing mishaps to ear infections -- it has always been there for us. Local healthcare and our hospital are vital to this community. Our doctors and medical professionals will need the tools, like the new CT scanner, so they can continue to deliver top-notch, people-focused care.”

A CT scanner, which provides detailed 3-D images of the body, is a key piece of imaging equipment in healthcare today. It improves lung cancer diagnosis, stroke diagnosis, reduces the need for exploratory surgery, and is critical in treatment planning.

The Hospital’s District Stroke Centre relies heavily on the CT Scanner to guide immediate treatment for patients who have suffered an ischemic stroke caused by a blood clot. These types of strokes can be treated and damage reduced with the clot-busting drug, known as tPA, if administered within 4.5 hours after the stroke strikes.

The 6-slice unit in use now at the Hospital is at the end of its life. “Migrating to a 128-slice scanner brings to our community a much needed tool for improved diagnostics and patient outcomes. When minutes count, it’s important to have access to reliable equipment,” said Natalie Bubela, CEO of MAHC. “We could not be more pleased with the Woollings’ gift. Generosity like theirs is paramount to our ability to upgrade aging equipment so we can best serve our patients and improve outcomes.”

The new scanner will deliver more detailed images (68% improvement in resolution), faster and more accurately than the current system. Also doctors will be able to view the images remotely: simultaneously from the emergency room in Huntsville or Toronto if needed.

The Simcoe/Muskoka Acute Stroke Protocol also relies heavily on the CT service at Huntsville Hospital. Patients with stroke symptoms from Parry Sound, Gravenhurst, Bracebridge, Haliburton, Burk’s Falls and Sundridge are treated in Huntsville by the Hospital’s Acute Stroke Team.

Huntsville District Memorial Hospital will have the new CT Scanner in place sometime early in 2014. The Hospital Foundation has committed to raise \$2 million for the system: the \$250,000 from the Woollings will go towards that purchase.

The CT unit is part of the Foundation’s plan to raise funds for the technology and capital assets needed to sustain and build the area’s healthcare system. In the short term, it is fundraising for digital imaging equipment as well as the technology for patient management such as electronic health records and telemedicine expansion. In the long term, the goal is to help the hospital evolve into the next generation facility to serve both Huntsville and the wider region.

John Crockett, Chair of the Huntsville Hospital Foundation, said, “The Foundation is rolling out a program called, Healthcare for Life, which will help raise awareness of healthcare as a cause that residents, both year-round and seasonal, can support

locally, This major gift from Doug and Laurice and their family is a very exciting step to meeting our goals. We are thankful for their generosity.”

The Huntsville District Memorial Hospital is a 47-bed hospital that serves 40,000 full-time local residents, over 100,000 seasonal property owners and well over 500,000 area tourists. In 2012/13 the hospital helped 27,000+ patients, almost 29,000 emergency visitors and performed 3,908 surgical cases.

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Editor’s Note: A hi-res photo of Doug and Laurice Woollings is available upon request.

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