

News Release

May 11, 2015

\$1,000,000 DeZwirek gift to Huntsville Hospital Emergency

supports healthcare for life here and now.



May 11, 2015, Huntsville Ontario: Jason and Audrey DeZwirek, long time Lake of Bays cottagers today announced a \$1,000,000 donation to the Emergency department they have used many times over for the past two generations. Jason 'grew up' here while spending summers at the family cottage, he met his wife of 25 years Audrey while at camp in the area, and he is currently a local small business owner with 30 employees right here in Huntsville.

“Over the next decade alone, people will visit the emergency department at the Huntsville site of Muskoka Algonquin well over 200,000 times,” says Jason DeZwirek. “This gift is for them, for the staff who will care for them and the community that means so much to us.”

The donation is earmarked for technology and other assets that will help the hospital continue to provide outstanding emergency care in the Huntsville region and Muskoka. The donation includes re-designating the Huntsville District Memorial Hospital Emergency as The DeZwirek Family Emergency Department.

“Education, healthcare and the environment are the three pillars of our family’s philanthropy and the three pillars of a healthy, sustainable community,” continued DeZwirek. “Most communities

have needs in all three areas but currently there are acute needs at the Huntsville Hospital and a funding gap that needs bridging to ensure sustainable healthcare here.”

While the DeZwireks and their two children reside full time in the GTA, their home away from home and business interests are now in Huntsville and the Lake of Bays area. Both Audrey and Jason believe the entire community, full time and seasonal, are all better for every decision to support local healthcare.

John Crockett, Chair of the Huntsville Hospital Foundation Board, says the immediate needs of Huntsville Hospital are the Foundation’s greatest challenge and thanks to Jason, his family and many others in the community, the Foundation can meet that challenge. “The entire Board is humbled by the DeZwirek family’s generosity, their leadership and their kindness toward this community,” he says.

The Huntsville site of Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare is a 37-bed hospital and District Stroke Centre that serves 60,000 full-time residents and seasonal property owners. Over 4,000 surgeries and 42,000 diagnostic imaging tests will be performed here over the coming year along with over 24,000 visits annually to the hospital emergency department. Huntsville Hospital Foundation is a fundraising organization dedicated to improving health care services for the residents of Muskoka and East Parry Sound. A registered charity since 1984, its mandate is to provide ongoing capital and education resources for Huntsville District Memorial Hospital to ensure health care for life, here.

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