

FOUNDATION Update

Volume 4, Issue 2

August 2008

Tamil Community walkathon steps up again

A warm community spirit matched the sunny weather on May 25, when over 300 registered walkers and their supporters took part in the second annual Baby Steps Walkathon in support of the Birthing and Newborn Centre at Rouge Valley Centenary, scheduled to open in October.

The Baby Steps Walkathon was again organized by the Canadian Tamil Community. The walk from the Malvern Town Centre to Rouge Valley Centenary led to a post-event ceremony with Sri Lankan music and dance.

In total, \$17,300 was raised. Many thanks to everyone who participated: walkers, volunteers, event Chair and Foundation Board member Kula Sellathurai, Labour of Love Campaign Chair and master of ceremonies Beverly Thomson, and special guests Scarborough-Rouge River MPP Bas Balkissoon, Toronto city Councilor Raymond Cho and Pon Balarajan from the Canadian Tamil Congress.



From left, lead sponsor TD Canada Trust's Sheppard & Aragon branch manager Chris Cheng; Foundation president Chad Hanna; event chair and Foundation board member Kula Sellathurai; Labour of Love Campaign chair and master of ceremonies Beverly Thomson with a cheque for \$17,300.

Local Couple Hosts 'Cocktails by the Pool' Fundraiser for Birthing and Newborn Centre

Janet Ecker, newly-appointed Chair of Rouge Valley Health System, was speaking with long-time friends Gord and Ann Moore when the topic of Centenary's soon-to-be-opened Birthing and Newborn Centre came up. It turned out that the couple had a strong personal interest in the new facility.

A few years ago, when Gord's son Jay and his wife Tanya were expecting, she experienced complications. Tanya was air lifted to Windsor, where she stayed for 10 days, then air

lifted back to Toronto, delivering her son at a local hospital. Three days later, baby Owen was transferred to Rouge Valley Centenary, where he stayed for three weeks in the current Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Gord and Ann learned that, when the Birthing and Newborn Centre opens this fall, the brand new Advanced Level II NICU will make Rouge Valley's level of care the best in the region. "Life would have been

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Community revels at charity ball

The second annual Lancaster Ball, held in the HMS AJAX Room at the Ajax Community Centre on May 31, was a huge success. Proceeds from the event will be directed to the redevelopment project at Rouge Valley Health System's Ajax and Pickering hospital campus.

The black tie affair included a wine lesson by executive chef Neal Nobel, who also created the superb five-course meal, a specialty martini bar and dancing until midnight. This year's host and Master of Ceremonies was Bill Carroll from CFRB. Enjoying the festivities were Ajax-Pickering MP Mark Holland; Hospital staff Margot Da Costa, Arden Eldridge and Linda Jusomme; Media from the News Advertiser and the Toronto Sun; and our RVHS Foundation staff Chad Hanna and Heather Montague. Special thanks to event sponsors OLG, Tribute Communities and Runnymede Developments.

Congratulations to event Chair Brian Johnson and the rest of his committee—Lindsay August, Pat Brooks, Shaun Collier, Anita Keogh, Crystal McBride and Tom Mantis—for creating a truly elegant and memorable evening. With fundraising events like this, the community is ensuring that Rouge Valley Health System can continue to bring the best healthcare to you, close to home.

Dedicated mom-and-daughter team raises dollars—and awareness—for issues facing teens

On a beautiful Saturday in May, Cindy Schroer's hard work paid off. Cindy rallied owners and staff from Baywood Centre businesses—as well as members of her family, including daughter Jamee—to give their time to a great cause. A volunteer for many causes, Cindy wanted to give back to her community by raising money for the Shoniker Clinic, Rouge Valley Health System's Child and Adolescent Mental Health unit located at our Centenary hospital campus.

In Ontario in 2004, 12% of youth aged 15-19 sought mental health services. Money donated to the Shoniker Clinic helps in many ways—anything from the purchase of board games and snacks for group therapy to aiding our Early Intervention In Psychosis Program. The health professionals in this new program provide appropriate and timely treatment and support to youth and their families who experience psychosis. The hope this program brings is



From left, Carole Chabot, RVHS Foundation; Flo Skinner, Manager, Child and Adolescent Mental Health; Lydia Huber, Clinical Resource, Child and Adolescent Mental Health; and, Jamee and her mother Cindy Schroer.

to reduce the stigma of mental illness and help young people get back on track with their social, educational and work goals.

For information on how to mobilize your community into action, please contact Rouge Valley Health System Foundation.

Bike-a-thon's wild ride

We would like to sincerely thank Crescent Oral Surgery for their support in holding their annual fundraiser, which this year raised \$9,495 for Rouge Valley Centenary hospital campus! Dr. Reinish, Dr. Caminiti and staff organized a day at the Toronto Zoo on June 7, with a Bike-a-thon and BBQ for everyone who makes up the Crescent Oral Surgery community: doctors, dentists, nurses, anesthetists and allied staff.

Thank you again for all of your efforts in supporting Rouge Valley Health System!



New Foundation board of directors for 2008-09

RVHS Foundation chair John Wiersma recently welcomed new board members Judith Barker and Bharat Hansraj, who bring with them years of business and community-service experience. Also joining the board as an ex-officio member is Janet Ecker, the new chair of Rouge Valley Health System's board of directors. Special thanks were given to retiring members Bill Collier, Thomas Copeland, Elizabeth Ryan, Nancy Griffin and Tom Atkins for their invaluable contributions to the Foundation's fundraising programs that provide opportunities for donors to touch the lives of thousands. Reappointed are Hans Bathija, Jim Boyko, Michael Claener, Fred Clifford, Brent Duguid, Roy Hogg, Mark Jackson, Sohail Khan, Hany Michael, Kerry Munro, Paul Nowosad, Kula Sellathurai, Darren Smith and Jim Ward.

Toddler celebrates birthday with the gift of giving

No child likes being in the hospital, but some of our smallest patients' stays are made a bit brighter when donors provide toys, games and books for the children on the paediatrics floor.

The Rouge Valley Health System's Ajax and Pickering paediatrics unit benefited from some local charity when the Jamal family donated toys from their son Kiyam's second birthday party earlier this month. Each year, Farzana and Rizwan Jamal donate each of their son's birthday presents. The couple ask party guests to bring an extra toy or a financial contribution to donate to the hospital.

Farzana, Kiyam and big brother Khalil arrived at the hospital loaded down with numerous bags of brand new toys, in addition to cheques totaling over \$300. "I hope the children enjoy the toys and books!" says proud mom Farzana.



Two year-old Kiyam Jamal proudly shows off the new toys and books he received for his birthday, which his family later donated to the paediatric unit at RVAP.

'Cocktails by the Pool' Friendraiser for Birthing and Newborn Centre

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Friendraiser hosts Gord and Ann Moore, standing, pictured at the party with daughter-in-law Tanya, son Jay, and grandsons Owen and Nicholas. (Photo by William Meijer)

simpler if the new Centre had already been opened," says Gord.

They also learned that there was still capital to be raised for it through the Labour of Love Campaign. The couple, philanthropists for many good causes, volunteered to help by hosting a friendraising garden party for their friends and neighbours to meet with hospital leadership. Friendraising is about people—communication, connection and community.

Adept at hosting parties, Gord and Ann decided on late June—early enough that people weren't away on holidays, but well enough into summer to allow the party to be held outdoors. The venue was their beautiful Scarborough home, with Ann single-handedly preparing and serving all of the wonderful cocktails and hors d'oeuvres!

On the evening of June 24, over 75 people congregated to mix and mingle and chat, with the opportunity to learn more about Rouge Valley Health System and specifically Centenary's new "baby." Presentations on the building and state-of-the-art equipment were

made by RVHS Board Chair Janet Ecker, RVHS President & CEO Rik Ganderton, Foundation President & CEO Chad Hanna, Chief of Obstetrics Dr. Terry Logaridis and Chief of Paediatrics Dr. Karen Chang.

Friends and neighbours were able to meet them afterwards, as well as Rouge Valley Health System Chief of Staff Dr. Naresh Mohan, Foundation Board members and staff, and volunteers. The guest of honour, chaperoned by parents and brother Nicholas, was Gord and Ann's grandson Owen.

The event was a great success, and a very effective way of spreading news of the Foundation's work beyond our own circle of friends. "It was a wonderful community gathering. People were engaged, chatting in groups. We were really pleased to see people having a grand time!" agreed Gord and Ann.

Everyone at Rouge Valley Health System Foundation is so grateful for Gord and Ann's wonderful hospitality and for the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people. They are making a difference in the lives of mothers, babies and their families.

Rouge River Valley Gala



There were horses, a stage coach, Western music, a trick roper and even a player piano. There were pretty ladies all decked out in their finest and the cowboys were on their best behavior the entire night.

Thanks to the efforts of a great group of volunteers, Board members, staff and Foundation folks, the event on March 28 raised in excess of \$150,000 towards the new Birthing and Newborn Centre at Rouge Valley Centenary. (Photo by William Meijer)



We look forward to hearing your stories and feedback. If you would like subscribe to our *Weekly News Update* eNewsletter, please write to us at foundation@rougevalley.ca (include "Subscribe Weekly News" in the subject line of your email).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Tree of Life

Shoppers Drug Mart Locations in East Scarborough and West Durham will be helping to support their local hospital campuses. Stay tuned!

Date: September 13–October 10

Pickering Professional Firefighters Association Boot Drive

Once again, the Pickering Professional Firefighters Association has selected Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering to receive the proceeds from their annual boot drive. Volunteers welcome! Please call (905) 683-2320 ext. 1501.

Date: October 4

Location: Various places around Pickering

City of Pickering Mayor's Gala

This year's Diamonds & Dreams Mayor's Gala will open the door to a world of fantasy, connecting guests to the ethereal for an evening of elegance with fine dining, entertainment and dancing. The 2008 Gala is proud to sponsor the Ontario Special Olympics, held this spring in Durham Region, which gives Ontario's athletes with intellectual disabilities the chance to achieve their dreams. The Gala will also continue to contribute to the Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering hospital campus. For tickets, please call (905) 683-2320 ext. 1501.

Date: November 15

Location: Pickering Recreation Complex

Century 21 Leading Edge leading the way

A generous pledge of \$250,000 by Century 21 Leading Edge and its agents is helping to equip the Birthing and Newborn Centre, now under construction at Rouge Valley Centenary, with four Care-By-Parent Suites.

"Our continued commitment to the Birthing and Newborn Centre is our dedication to helping our community," says Paul Baron, owner. "Contributions from agents, staff, and friends ensure that our community will continually be enriched."

The Care-By-Parent Suites, which will be named for Century 21 Leading Edge, are

designed to give parents a private place to care for newborns who may be admitted for prolonged periods of time. Located close to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), these rooms offer an opportunity for parents to learn how to care for infants who may be premature or suffer from any number of conditions that require specialized attention.

Continued support from charitable community donors like Century 21 Leading Edge will make a real difference in the lives of thousands of children and their families.



Long-time donor wins award

Congratulations to June Castanha, owner of Zahras School of Bellydance and long-time Foundation supporter, for winning the Town of Ajax Ward 3 Good Neighbour Award!

The Town of Ajax recognized and honoured the achievements and contributions of community volunteers at its annual Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony on May 1. These awards express the Town's appreciation of the many individuals, groups and businesses who are helping to create a community where people feel a sense of belonging and responsibility to each other, and are active participants in its development.