



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WDMH FOUNDATION 2007 - 2008

On behalf of the Winchester District Memorial Hospital (WDMH) Foundation Board of Directors I am pleased to present the annual report for 2007/2008. It has been my pleasure to serve as Chairman of this Board during the past year and I first wish to acknowledge the excellent support that I have received from our Board and Committee members. They set a fine example of volunteers who care about their communities, and who are willing to give of their time for the betterment of those communities.

In looking back over the past year, I have mixed feelings of surprise and pride at what this Foundation has been able to accomplish, and trepidation at the goals that we have set for ourselves. However, after considering the energy, talent and enthusiasm of our Board members and the record of outstanding community support that we have received in past, I believe that these goals will be met and possibly surpassed.

First, let's look at some of the significant accomplishments over the past year. The essence of this Foundation is raising funds to be used for the improvement of WDMH. In that regard in 2007/2008 we raised almost one million dollars from our communities in addition to the four million dollars received from the SD&G tri-county government in fulfillment of their earlier pledge to our Vision campaign. We also realized more than a half-million dollars as return on our investment of the monies that we currently hold for funding the Hospital redevelopment project.

However fundraising is only the means to our end – the improvement of WDMH, and to that end this Foundation has contributed almost 7.5 million dollars over the past year. While the bulk of those monies went towards the redevelopment project, in addition we also funded new equipment including a bone densitometer as well as training and recruitment programs.

Ancillary to the main activity of fundraising we undertook various activities to help raise public awareness of the Hospital's needs and also of the Foundation's role. Together with members of the Hospital Board and staff we increased our public involvement through community leader breakfasts, donor forums and donor presentations. As in past years the Foundation hosted a successful golf tournament and most recently another well-attended gala. All told, we hosted more than a dozen events with total attendees exceeding eight hundred. In 2007/2008 we also strengthened ties with other Foundations, notably the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation and the Carleton Place Hospital Foundation. Through the initiative of our managing director we hosted a forum of healthcare foundation managers in the Champlain LHIN.

Internally, our Board has been developing a Strategic Plan to clarify our purpose and direction, and to ensure that our goals are aligned with those of WDMH. Furthering propositions that were tabled in sessions conducted in 2006/2007, we determined that we must focus our support on Hospital programs and equipment, especially technology. We also concluded that the Foundation must carve out an identity that is distinct from WDMH in order that the public can better understand our role. As part of the Strategic Planning process, the Foundation created their Mission, Vision and Values statement.

The Board of the Foundation has reviewed its current structure and determined that some changes to the organization would improve its effectiveness. Reporting to the Board, an Executive Committee and a Fund Development Committee were struck to reduce the level of operational activities required of the Board. There has also been a review of our bylaws and some recommendations for changes.

Next I wish to summarize some of the goals that our Foundation has set for itself. We are about to embark on the next major phase in the history of this Foundation. Answering a request from the Hospital CEO and the Hospital Board, we have set a target of raising new funds totaling five million dollars between now and March 31, 2010. The majority of these monies will go towards acquiring and maintaining electronic equipment for diagnostic imaging. While many of the campaign strategies have yet to be developed, one of the means that is currently being explored with the encouragement of the Board is a joint initiative with the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation targeting major donors in our catchment area.

We have also recognized and accepted that in order to assist WDMH with ongoing costs of new programs and new equipment we shall need to provide at least two million dollars annually beginning in fiscal year 2010. In order to provide significant levels of funding year after year our organization must adopt measures and strategies that will ensure its own long-term sustainability.

The Foundation must implement certain short-term strategies in the upcoming year that will help us to achieve our financial goals. The resource requirements for the next two years and beyond must be defined and provided, and this will allow us to complete the first iteration of the Strategic Plan. Undoubtedly we shall have to augment our office staff as we prepare for the next phase of fundraising. We also wish to increase the number of Board members in order to tap into new areas of expertise, and to spread out the increasing workload of the committees.

So in conclusion, as the term of this Board draws to a close, it's time to take a breath, spend a few minutes feeling good about what we have accomplished, and then prepare ourselves to move forward into the next chapter of our Foundation's story

At this time I wish to thank our staff: Carrie, for providing the day-to-day support that is essential for operating this organization, and Dawn for showing initiative in expanding our venues for fundraising and raising our profile in the community. I also must thank the board and management of the Hospital for providing suggestions and input as we define our increasing role vis-à-vis that institution, and also for their support of our various activities. I wish to especially thank my fellow board members who I feel during the past year have really "stepped up" to take on not only an increased responsibility for the Foundation's efforts, but also to provide suggestions and insight into where this organization must go in the future, and how to get there. Lastly, I want to thank our community for their unfailing support of our Foundation and our Hospital, because obviously without that continued support there would be no past accomplishments, and the future goals could never be realized.

Respectfully submitted,



Terry Triskle
Chair, WDMH Foundation

