

GRAND ROUNDS

21st Annual Bluegrass Festival to help grow RVH gardens

“A little bit of bluegrass is a powerful thing.”

In Renfrew and surrounding area, bluegrass music is a very powerful force that has been making a real difference throughout our community.

A portion of the proceeds from the annual Valley Bluegrass Festival held at Bob Johnston’s farm in Horton Township are once again being directed to our local hospital.

“We continue to be extremely grateful to our friends on the Bluegrass committee,” comments Barb Desilets, RVH Foundation Director. “Over the last three years, funds have been directed to our beautiful outdoor Healing Garden at the front of the hospital. Since opening in May 2015, the comfort it provides to patients and families is immeasurable. We see individuals using the

area and now the new oncology looks onto the garden for patients receiving treatments.”

This year, proceeds will go towards the second phase of the project—a beautiful indoor garden space on our second floor.

The event started in 1995 and once the festival began to produce a profit in 1997, the organizers (a volunteer committee) made a decision to support local organizations—starting with RVH.

Two decades later, the bluegrass festival has a large North American-wide following and a massive impact on the community. Talented musical acts lift spirits while incidentally improving local health care services—to the tune of more than of \$90,000 for RVH. Donations in previous years have supported our dialysis department and capital equipment needs.

“The festival itself is all about the love of bluegrass music,” shares Darrell Mooney, one of the committee members who has been with the festival since it began.

He reiterates that it’s not meant to be a fundraising activity, but the overwhelming success has provided them with an opportunity to bring two Healing Gardens to life at RVH. With most of the organizers born and raised in Renfrew, he says they are proud to continue their support. “It’s quite unique—we are the only hospital in Canada that we know of that has two gardens.”

Likewise, the atmosphere they have created at the festival is unique and Mooney says it’s all because of the people involved. He thanks all of the hard-working folks who help behind the scenes: “We couldn’t do any of it without our volunteers! They are simply the best in the world.”

Be sure to take in the banjos, guitars and fiddles at this family-oriented festival. It runs July 7–10 at 408 Castleford Road, Renfrew. Passes can be purchased at the gates or for more details, visit valleybluegrass.ca.



Barb Desilets, RVH Foundation Executive Director, Julia Boudreau, RVH VP of Corporate Services and Bluegrass committee members, Darrell Mooney, Carole Mooney, Bob Johnston, Julie Johnston, Arnold Dickson, Barb Dickson, Randy Penney, RVH CEO and President, Shelley White, and Kevin White.