



# GRAND ROUNDS

RVH's oncology unit will soon see new equipment arriving as a direct result of the overwhelming support generated thus far in the 2010 edition of the Tree of Lights campaign.

This is wonderful news for Renfrew County's sole provider of chemotherapy services at present.

"The foundation prides itself on ensuring donors know that the gifts make a difference and patients will see benefits," comments Foundation Director, Barb Desilets.

Christene Ferguson, the hospital's Vice-President of Patient Care Services, says the main item—a sterile hood venting unit to aid in the preparation of chemotherapy medications—will provide a better work environment for the pharmacy staff when preparing the treatments. The equipment and renovation of existing space to provide a sterile environment will cost more than \$100,000.

Anna Campbell, RVH Director of Pharmacy, explains that this sterile preparation area helps to decrease the likelihood of contaminations in the air getting into the medications.

"It's going to be a big bonus for everybody," she adds.

Our hospital is very committed to providing top-quality care to cancer patients in our community, says Ferguson, and has an advantage of being linked with the Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre to ensure best practice implementation for care. Dr. Langlois and Dr. Matosh provide excellent care to our cancer patients at RVH.

Other items being purchased with funds from the campaign, like new blood pressure cuff equipment, will "increase patient comfort during their visit with us."

"We have an extremely high patient satisfaction rate and are certainly known for our personal touch that this small unit provides," Ferguson says.

Renfrew resident Mac McCallum couldn't agree more. He's going through his last week of chemo treatments in the unit and says his experience has been made easier thanks to the comfort provided by the oncology team.

"It's been perfect, there's an excellent level of care here." McCallum was initially told he

may not be able to be treated at RVH and was very relieved to hear he could stay in Renfrew and be treated so close to home.

RN Erin Prentice is looking forward to the addition of the new items, which she knows will help the unit to work more efficiently.

"We'll be able to monitor patients' vital signs with the most up-to-date equipment," she says, knowing that will improve confidence and ensure that treatments run smoothly.

On behalf of the hospital and its patients, RVH President and CEO Randy Penney expresses his gratitude to the community for its ongoing support in this annual campaign.

"The oncology unit improvements will certainly allow our oncology team to care for the patients in a more proficient manner. A heartfelt thank you goes to each and every donor."

The Tree of Lights event in Low Square that marked the beginning of the campaign is an extension of the care and commitment to the cause. So many people need to be thanked, says Desilets. First of all, the Renfrew Business Improvement Area members who continue to partner with us and host the event; and much appreciation goes to Don Carty, owner of the Tim Hortons franchise, for supplying hot chocolate for the attendees. "And a big thank you for the support from RVH staff who did everything from stringing all of the lights on the tree to serving treats that night."

We are all greatly appreciative to the talented card artist, Richard Gill, for his work that appeared on the front of this year's Christmas card.

Desilets adds that it's never too late to make a contribution to this worthy project. "Gifts for the 2010 season continue throughout the year."



**RN Erin Prentice with oncology patient Mac McCallum.**