

Baptiste Lake resident dedicates time, dollars to health care



Our Bancroft hospital is off to a great start in meeting our \$250,000 commitment to new equipment that includes a generous \$25,000 gift from a local resident. This year's drive is focused on obtaining the following: a portable X-ray machine, a portable ultrasound machine and a blood chemistry analyzer.

Our hospital must rely on donations and fundraising to replace and upgrade critical care equipment. All equipment needs have to be paid for by us. As more families and seniors live in or retire to the area, this is more important than ever. As Baptiste Lake resident Adrian Hill has shared: "When I retired from my law practice, I was attracted by the natural beauty of the region, but I could never have made the move without a local hospital here in our community. When I moved to the Bancroft area, our health-care services had two urgent needs: we needed to update critical care and diagnostic equipment at our hospital. And, we desperately needed more physicians. Now that I am 65, our local hospital is more important than ever to me and to my family. It is critically important to all of us to have access to emergency department care in the event of a sudden illness or accident."

Since 2003, Adrian has donated thousands of hours and many tens of thousands of dollars to health-care initiatives in Bancroft including the Bancroft Family Health Team, Hospice and Quinte Health Care North Hastings ? Bancroft Hospital.

The North Hastings Fund Development Committee reminds us all that our Bancroft hospital handles 14,000 emergency room visits per year. Our six hospital beds provide essential care in the event of sudden illness or accident.

Local businesses and residents have answered the call time and time again. They helped raise money for several projects, including \$2.2 million to build our hospital in 2000; over \$500,000 for our dialysis unit in 2005, and in 2011, \$700,000 to replace our antique X-ray equipment with digital imaging that can be sent to specialists in major medical centres. All proof that every tax deductible gift and donation is important and that together a small group of determined citizens can have a tremendous, long-lasting impact.

For more information on how to meet Adrian's challenge or donations in general please call the North Hastings Fund Development office at 613-332-2825 ext. 6220. Our website is www.bancrofthospitalfunddevelopment.ca. Submitted