

Victoria Hospitals Foundation launches Fall Campaign for Cardiac Care

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For Immediate Release

Victoria — Raising funds for three sophisticated cardiac ultrasounds that provide 3D high-definition, full-colour images of the heart will be the focus of the Victoria Hospitals Foundation's Fall Campaign, Board Secretary John Madden announced today. The equipment, called Transesophageal Echocardiogram Machines, is used to diagnose heart disease and defects and guide crucial repairs during surgery.

"Every fall we ask the community to support healthcare in Victoria by contributing to the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment for different departments in our hospitals. The equipment you can help fund today is dramatically improved technology that will allow our surgical teams to continue to deliver the world-class patient care Royal Jubilee is known for," said Madden. "With an aging population and the number of people with cardiovascular disease climbing, this equipment will help thousands of patients."

Madden was joined by Dr. Brent Caton, Cardiac Anesthesiologist at Royal Jubilee Hospital. Caton emphasized the importance of Royal Jubilee's cardiac department and the significance of the equipment to patients.

"Every single one of our cardiac surgery patients — three to five of our community members every day — benefits from this specialized ultrasound," said Dr. Caton. "With it I can see their heart and major blood vessels during surgery. I can see things in the heart I would not be able to otherwise: a narrowing valve or a tiny hole. I can see the heart muscle, valves and major blood vessels in extraordinary detail, allowing our cardiac team to precisely guide the surgery."

A former patient of Dr. Caton's, Brent Kaufmann, shared how the equipment was used during his recent open-heart surgery. "I was leading an active, healthy life when a routine test showed that I needed open heart surgery to repair a problem with my aortic valve. While the surgeons were operating, they used the ultrasound and found an additional problem which they were able to fix right away while I was still on the operating table. This avoided a second complicated surgery and probably helped to save my life. I'm so glad this equipment was available for Dr. Caton to use."

The campaign for the cardiac equipment launches this week throughout Victoria. Donations can be made by returning the direct mail letter that residents will receive at home, by contacting the Victoria Hospitals Foundation at 250-519-1750 or online at www.victoriahf.ca.

How You Can Help

You can contribute to equipment for cardiac care at Royal Jubilee Hospital by calling 250-519-1750, mailing to Wilson Block, 1952 Bay Street, Victoria BC V8R 1J8, or donating online at www.victoriahf.ca.

Media Contact

Susan Gee, Director of Development
Victoria Hospitals Foundation
250-519-1750 (office)
250-893-1823 (cell)
susan.gee@viha.ca

About the Victoria Hospitals Foundation

The Victoria Hospitals Foundation works in partnership with the Vancouver Island Health Authority to enable donations to Vancouver Island's two largest and most comprehensive hospitals: the Royal Jubilee and the Victoria General. Last year we raised more than \$10 million for urgently needed medical equipment and special projects that help these two hospitals provide care to all 765,000 residents of Vancouver Island. Since 1989, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation has raised \$107 million to benefit our hospitals. For more information, call the Foundation at 250-519-1750 or visit www.victoriahf.ca.