



A Credit to your Health

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Canada's First Cancer Survivors Park

Hundreds of local cancer survivors gathered with their friends and family at The Credit Valley Hospital on Saturday, June 17 for the dedication of Canada's first Cancer Survivors Park.

Made possible through a gift from the R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation in the United States, the 1.1 acre park is intended as a place of hope and inspiration for people throughout the region who have been affected by cancer.

Among those attending the event was Annette Bloch of the R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation. Cancer Survivors Parks are the brainchild of the renowned Richard Bloch, founder of H & R Block. A cancer survivor himself, Mr. Bloch devoted many years to the creation of a supportive environment for those who are affected by cancer. He and his wife Annette created a foundation to support their vision. To date their foundation has funded the construction of 21 parks throughout the United States. In 2004, they made a gift of \$1.1 million (CAN) to The Credit Valley Hospital Foundation to build their first Cancer Survivors Park in Canada.

"Credit Valley is proud to be the site of

Canada's first Cancer Survivors Park and is grateful to the R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation for their generous support and for sharing Mr. Bloch's vision of hope with Canadians," said Norma Bandler, president of The Credit Valley Hospital Foundation.

The park includes three key elements meant to inspire hope and provide comfort to cancer survivors and their families: a positive mental attitude walk; an art presentation of eight life size bronze figures passing through a maze representing the experience of fighting cancer; and a road to recovery walk. Unique to the Canadian park is a life size carer's marble sculpture entitled "Emergence", a sculpture donated by Oakville resident and internationally acclaimed artist, Edit Davidovici.

The inspiration for this project was brought to The Credit Valley Hospital Foundation by Hugh C. Stewart, a cancer survivor and Chair of the Mississauga Rotary Clubs Centennial Project as well as the eight presidents of Rotary Clubs of Mississauga who were seeking a landmark humanitarian project to mark the Rotary's centennial.



Credit Valley Hospital Foundation chairman Richard Jocsak (left) and Foundation president Norma Bandler (middle) accept a cheque for \$1.1 million from Annette Bloch of the R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation, accompanied by her daughter and son-in-law Stacy and Jim Jacob, at the opening of Canada's first Cancer Survivors Park.

Anesthesia Assistants In The Operating Room

Dr. Gerard Bruin was hired last year as Credit Valley's new chief of anesthesiology. His job is to ensure anaesthesia continues to meet the demands of our large and expanding community hospital. It's an ambitious goal since anesthesiologists, like many other physician specialists face declining numbers.

Dr. Bruin is creating a team of anesthesia assistants (AAs) from among Credit Valley's highly skilled respiratory therapists (RT). His plan, although not revolutionary in rural communities or even large academic centres, is proactive for a community hospital.

The traditional role of the operating room respiratory therapist has included providing technical support to the anesthesiologist for the proper use and maintenance of the anesthetic gas machine, in addition to providing assistance with airway management. As an AA, the RT's role will expand to include the provision of conscious sedation, administration of anesthetic gases and medications, insertion and management of arterial lines and assessment of the depth of anesthesia, under the guidance of the anesthesiologist.

The focus of our anesthesia team is safety and efficiency. Credit Valley is currently facing a shortage of surgical time. Located in the sixth largest city in the country, with an explosion in population growth over the last ten years, every minute in the surgical suite is precious.

The addition of anesthesia assistants to the operating room team means significant time can be saved. Decreasing wait times for orthopaedic

surgery is high on the provincial and federal government's health care agenda. The additional help provided by AAs will allow surgeons to safely increase the number of cases they can perform each day.

"It also gives the anesthesiologist more time to treat the patients," Dr. Bruin says. "For example, many procedures can be done with nerve blocks which means patients can avoid general anesthesia. But these nerve blocks take time to work. With the help of an AA, the blocks can be administered before the patients enter the O.R. without taking up valuable time once inside."

Even more important than the cost savings is patient safety. Dr. Bruin notes that "because the AA allows us to go and assess our patients earlier, we are less rushed. Not only are we more efficient, this makes us safer."

Judy Sutrin, Marilyn Medved and Michelle Wiley are the three RT AAs currently in training with Dr. Bruin and Credit Valley's anesthesiologist team.

The team overwhelmingly supports the initiative. Still in the early stages, the efficiencies will continue to grow once the team, the AAs and nurses become even more comfortable with the initiative. She says, "I'm getting a lot of support from the entire surgical team, and that means a great deal to me and the other RTs training as AAs."

Dr. Bruin says there's more to come. A future goal is to have on-call coverage supported by AAs. At community hospitals the on-call anesthesiologist must be available to cover

urgent or emergency situations in the OR, the obstetrical suite, emergency department and elsewhere in the hospital. The community hospital anesthesiologist doesn't have the support of medical residents. Support from another anesthesiologist is often 20 to 30 minutes away. At times, optimal care can't wait for the arrival of a second anesthesiologist from home. The AAs can help fill this gap, especially during the evening hours.

The Canadian Anesthesia Society recognizes the role and potential of AAs to improve safety and efficiency.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is also promoting the development of anesthesia care teams that include AAs. Dr. Bruin hopes that the model of our anesthesia care team will be one which will set a standard for other hospitals to follow.

It's the Credit Valley way.



Marilyn Medved is one of three AAs working with anesthesiologists like doctor Gerard Bruin in the O.R.

Accreditation Record In Tact

For the sixth consecutive time, The Credit Valley Hospital has been awarded full term accreditation by the Canadian College of Health Services Accreditation. This means Credit Valley has met, or exceeded, all national standards set for hospitals.

Hospital president and CEO, Wayne Fyffe credits the consistency of the award to "the high standards set by our Board of Directors and executed by our professional and support staff." The surveyors recognized Credit Valley for two leading practices defined as "notable for what they could contribute to the field". The Our People Care program helps staff, volunteers and physicians live our values in their day to day patient care activities. Our school-based asthma education program has been evaluated and published in a leading medical journal.

The three surveyors from CCHSA who spent three days in March reviewing standards and interviewing patients, volunteers, physicians, staff and hospital peers, praised Credit Valley for achieving a balanced budget despite the many pressures for tight resources. They acknowledged the completion of the first phase of the hospital's expansion which included the regional cancer centre and ambulatory care centre, on

time and almost \$10 million under budget. The hospital's commitment to monitoring patient outcomes within the multidisciplinary teams and reporting to the Board of Directors Performance Monitoring Committee was also considered noteworthy.

The surveyors recognized the hospital's commitment to employee and patient wellness through its "Gym Downunder" and lunch and learn programs, and patient education and information programming provided free of charge to all patients, visitors and staff through its internal television program, Credit Valley Current.

Outgoing hospital board chair, Norm Loberg called the recognition "an outstanding achievement for this hospital, our staff, volunteers and physicians. Achieving this award shows the level of competence, commitment and teamwork that makes Credit Valley a truly great hospital."

To officially mark the CCHSA award, Credit Valley unveiled a 10 x 3 foot banner at its annual general meeting, Thursday, June 8th. The banner will hang outside the hospital for the next three years in recognition of the hospital's standing. Less than half of the hospitals surveyed by CCHSA achieve full term accreditation.