

Together We Brought Cancer Care Closer to Home!

May 30, 2007

(Oshawa, ON) "Building the R. S. McLaughlin Durham Regional Cancer Centre (MDRCC) has been a community effort," said Marion Saunders, Chair of the Lakeridge Health Board of Trustees. "After years of planning, dreaming, fundraising and building, the Cancer Centre is here and ready to serve the residents of Durham Region and surrounding communities."

"On Monday, June 4, the new Cancer Centre will be fully operational and for the first time, will treat chemotherapy patients in the new space," added Ms. Saunders at the grand opening celebration of the R. S. McLaughlin Durham Regional Cancer Centre on May 30. The Chair was accompanied by local dignitaries, community partners, members of the MDRCC team which included staff, physicians and volunteers, along with donors and members of The Oshawa Hospital Foundation, Bowmanville Memorial Hospital Foundation, Port Perry Hospital Foundation and Lakeridge Health Whitby Foundation.

The R. S. McLaughlin Durham Regional Cancer Centre houses a state-of-the-art Radiation Therapy program, including linear accelerators, CT simulator and High Dose Rate Brachytherapy suite, Systemic Therapy, Supportive Care, together with other cancer related services. In one year, the Cancer Centre will handle 26,000 Radiation Treatments, 30,000 Outpatient Assessments, 12,000 Chemotherapy Treatments and 20,000 Palliative and Supportive Care Visits.

The Cancer Centre is a Lakeridge Health program and Cancer Care Ontario partnership operating within a network of providers across the Central East through the Regional Cancer Program. "Through our relationship with Cancer Care Ontario, the R. S. McLaughlin Durham Regional Cancer Centre is responsible for regional implementation of a wide range of quality improvement initiatives," said Dr. Peter Dixon, Vice-President of Cancer Services at Lakeridge Health. "The Cancer Centre and its associated programmes exist to improve access and quality cancer care throughout the Central East Region, so we can deliver the right care, in the right place, at the right time, in the right way."

"The opening of the R. S. McLaughlin Durham Regional Cancer Centre brings cancer care closer to home for the patients in this region," says Dr. Terrance Sullivan, President and CEO, Cancer Care Ontario. "Working hand-in-hand with cancer partners across the region, this new Centre will have a significant impact on improving access, reducing wait times for cancer diagnosis and treatment, and preventing cancer from occurring in the first place."

Earlier this month, the Cancer Centre began offering patients radiation services. Cancer patients requiring radiation no longer have to travel to Toronto or Kingston for their care. Instead, patients from Durham Region and surrounding communities such as Peterborough, Cobourg, Lindsay and Haliburton will now travel to Oshawa for their treatments.

"I would like to express the Oshawa Hospital Foundation's deep admiration and heartfelt gratitude for a community filled with believers-people who believed not only that Durham could achieve the very best in cancer treatment and research but that we would accomplish that mammoth goal even when we were faced with many challenges," states the Foundation's Chairman Chuck Powers.

"The Heroes of Hope Campaign raised \$42.5 million for our new Cancer Centre," added Campaign Chair Don Blight. "This is an amazing accomplishment and one that our entire community and region can be proud of. Together, we Brought Cancer Care Closer to Home."

In thanking Oncology staff and physicians, Brian Lemon, CEO of Lakeridge Health remarked, "Over the past number of years, you have provided our patients and their families with outstanding care despite less than ideal conditions. With this new facility your ability to continue and increase care close to home is greatly enhanced."

The staff and physicians of Lakeridge Health's R. S. McLaughlin Durham Regional Cancer Centre invite members of the public to take a guided tour of the new facility during a Public Open House on Thursday, June 14 from 6 to 9 pm.

-30-

For media inquiries, please contact:

Leigh Winn-Kruck
Lakeridge Health – Communications
Tel: 905-576-8711 ext. 4317