



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: June 30, 2017

Generations of Care Celebrated at Annual General Meeting

At the Annual General Meeting on June 26th, Foundation Board Chair Tom Dawson began his remarks with a clear message: "Some people think that the WDMH Foundation is just about fundraising. Well, that isn't the case. Our real job is to work with our donors, volunteers, communities and WDMH staff to help ensure compassionate, excellent health care, close to home. And we love doing that."

Dawson set the tone for the rest of the evening – one of celebration and a look to the future. In the end, a motion was passed to recognize the Board and staff for the work they have done over the past year, including successful financial results.

In the past year, 3,317 individual gifts have been given to the Foundation. As a result, 10 new pieces of equipment have been purchased, totaling \$80,267.49.

"But we're not stopping there," added Dawson. "The WDMH Foundation has earmarked another \$500,000 for the purchase of the Automated Dispensing Cabinets for medication." The ADCs – coming soon to WDMH – ensure that the right drugs are dispensed to the right patient at the right time. They simplify the process and increase patient safety.

Another highlight of the evening was an announcement regarding an expanded role for the Foundation. "Through an inclusive case study involving several stakeholder interviews from both organizations, it was determined that the WDMH Foundation is the best organization to become the fundraising foundation for the Dundas Manor. The Boards of Dundas Manor and the WDMH Foundation have voted in favour of moving forward in this direction," explained Dawson. He also noted that there are still many details to be worked out and that a special membership meeting would be called to seek formal approval.

Response to the news was positive. "Health care goes from cradle to grave," noted Bill Smirle, Dundas Manor Chair. "I'm excited by this direction."

"The spirit of friendship, collaboration and community has been incredible," added Marieke vanNoppen, WDMH Board Chair. "It promises to be a bright future for our community."

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Cutline: The 2017-2018 WDMH Foundation Board (l-r): Gilles Roy, Peter Sorby, Cindy Peters, David Rijstenbil, Tom Dawson, Cholly Boland, Joe Brennan, Marieke vanNoppen and Peter Krajcovic.