



## News Release

*For Immediate Release*

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### **Country Classic Auction spurs funds for hospital centre.**

***Night of giving raises funds for the Centre for Clinical Investigation and Therapeutics***

**London, Ont.** The Country Classic Auction presented by Wellington West Capital at the Western Fair Agriplex sold out two weeks before last Saturday's event. It was an indicator of the big things to come as the crowd of 1,000 snapped up silent and live auction items netting the London Health Sciences Foundation about \$325,000 for Medicine Services at London Health Sciences Centre.

Medicine Services chose to focus the proceeds towards equipping the Centre for Clinical Investigation and Therapeutics. The CCIT will provide a facility and resources for clinicians and researchers to develop and test new medicines.

"The CCIT will revolutionize medical care and will positively affect every program in the Hospital," says Neil Johnson, the Integrated Vice President, Medicine Services. "With its potential to help patients across the hospital and beyond, the CCIT was a logical choice."

In addition to the auction proceeds, it was announced that a one-million dollar donation gathered from the Department of Medicine physicians was designated towards the CCIT.

"On behalf of the physicians we are pleased to have made this commitment to support the Centre for Clinical Investigation and Therapeutics," says Chief of Medicine Dr. David Hollomby said. "It will be a city-wide resource, allowing healthcare specialists, physicians, and researchers to develop and revolutionize treatments through translational [lab to bedside] research. "

It was further announced that Lawson Health Research Institute is also designating \$765,000 towards the development of this state-of-the-art facility.

"The support of the CCIT is a perfect example of how donor funds are utilized," said LHSF President and CEO Dan Ross. "Donor funds are not used for the daily operations of the hospital, like salaries or supplies; donor funds provide specialized equipment, research, education and enhanced patient care that would not otherwise receive funding."

The CCIT will be located in the Lindros Legacy Research building at University Hospital. The fundraising for the construction and infill of the structure were completed when Eric Lindros announced a five-million dollar donation when he retired from the NHL.

The hockey superstar continues to support the hospital and donated a golf package, where he will act as host for eight golfers and 16 dinner guests. The package sold for \$13,000.

Other live auction items including unique trips, sports packages, home renos, guitars signed by the Tragically Hip, Blue Rodeo and Tom Cochrane and a street naming party all fetched their share of interest, with celebrity spotters like Police Chief Murray Faulkner and MP Ed Holder and MPP Deb Matthews pumping up the audience bids.

The silent auction was energized by a new electronic bidding process where people could check on their bids and raise them right from their tables on the Agriplex floor – without revisiting the display tables. A NASCAR simulator, a live game show, great food and dancing topped off the evening.

“We knew the decision to move the country into the heart of the city last year was well received but we couldn’t have anticipated the increased demand for tickets this year,” says Susan Carlyle, this year’s event chair. “With the popularity of new features and innovations introduced this year, people will need to get their tickets early next year to be guaranteed a seat.”

Notables in the crowd of hospital supporters included Doug Webber, Jerome Cohen and Edie Cohen from Wellington West Capital Inc, event honorary chair Jamie Caskey, event chair Susan Carlyle and the evening’s auctioneer Gordie MacKenzie, who is known for his role as auctioneer at charity events in the region. Joining Gordie on the auction stage was radio personality Chris Harding from country music station BX93.

Other notables in attendance to lend their support included: Mike and April Peerless, Ken and Barb McMaster, Tim and Rebecca Brown, Doug and Terry Zavitz, Perry Ferguson and Cindy-Lee Rogers, Chuck and Denise Hounsell, Tom and Dorothy Weller, as well as Jim and Ronnie Corkum.

“The support of Londoners for the Country Classic Auction and over 70 community fundraising events during the year is critical to sustaining the care, research and education provided at LHSC,” says LHSF Chair George Kerhoulas. “The foundation is very grateful for their support.”

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**London Health Sciences Foundation** is a Better Business Bureau accredited charity, linking our community and health care experts—including physicians, allied professionals, researchers, staff and educators—together in pursuit of medical excellence at London Health Sciences Centre. Established to strengthen London Health Sciences Centre's ability to provide the highest quality health care for patients in Southwestern Ontario and beyond, we offer opportunities to support discovery and innovation in research, education and patient care at our hospital. To see how donations create positive moments changing the lives of patients, their families and friends, and to see how you can support patient care and innovation at London Health Sciences Centre, visit [www.lhsf.ca](http://www.lhsf.ca).

**For more information about this event or  
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