



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Country Classic Auction celebrates 20 years this Saturday
Annual Fundraising Event in Birr to raise funds for Women's Health Care at London Health Sciences Centre

London, Ont. – The Country Classic Auction is heading back to its Canadian roots this Saturday as it celebrates 20 years of raising funds for health care in our community.

Over the last 19 years the event has become a “must attend” on the calendars of many London Health Sciences Centre supporters, including the “who’s who” of London and region. However, instead of tie and tails, this first-class fundraiser is definitely more relaxed in “boots and jeans” attire. The \$185 per person event starts at 5pm at Birnleigh Farms, Birr -14450 Thirteen Mile Road (just north of London).

The atmosphere in the barn at Birnleigh Farms will definitely be lively throughout an evening filled with good food and entertainment. Attendees have an opportunity to bid on a number of items ranging from exclusive vacation packages, to fine dining experiences, to unique artwork, and much more during live and silent auctions.

There are still seats and tables available, but tickets are selling fast.

Ticket information and an on-line catalogue of auction items can be found at www.countryclassicauction.ca. Tickets can also be ordered by phone at: 519-685-8500, extension: 57445.

The Country Classic Auction began in 1988 as a fundraiser for the Development Fund at Victoria Hospital. From that first Auction, money was raised to purchase a new laser for an operating room at Victoria Hospital. In 2006 the 19th annual Auction, “*Sydney meets the Outback*,” raised more than \$295,000 net for the Orthopaedics Program at London Health Sciences Centre.

All proceeds from this year’s event, themed “*Oh Canada, Back to Our Roots*,” will help support the completion of the Grace Donnelly Women’s Health Pavilion at London Health Sciences Centre; which will provide women-focused care for women from across Southwestern Ontario with an estimated 78,000 inpatient visits each year and more than 370 visits to the facility’s clinics daily.

Co-located with Children’s Hospital in the north tower at Victoria Hospital, the unique facility will group physicians, nurses and other medical professionals specializing in women and children’s health under one roof; fostering collaboration and synergy, resulting in enhanced patient and family-centred care.

Envisioned as a building of the future, where the architecture and design itself are focused on patient care and a holistic, healing environment, features planned for the building include:

- A quiet, serene atmosphere, with the healing powers of trees, plants and water, and a feeling of warmth and home filling a modern, contemporary space.
- Patient rooms strategically located around the building's perimeter, allowing natural light - an important element of healing - to enter through large windows.
- An atrium, soaring five stories high, also providing a healing environment flooded with natural light from banks of windows on both the south and west sides of the building, and
- A healing garden; providing peace and solitude where patients, families and staff can rest and clear their minds.

It will be an inviting, non-threatening, safe, peaceful facility that will minimize any stresses that comes from going to the hospital and will positively affect the lives of women and their families across our region for years to come.

- 30 -

For More Information about this event and the London Health Sciences Foundation
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