



Patrolling the Western Fair Agriplex - London Police Chief Murray Faulkner was one of the celebrity spotters encouraging bids during the evening's live auction.

Country Classic Auction spurs funds for hospital centre.

By LHSF Staff

8 November 2009

London, Ont. The Country Classic Auction presented by Wellington West Capital sold out two weeks early. It was an indication of big things to come. The crowd of 1,000 snapped up auction items at the Western Fair Agriplex last night, netting London Health Sciences Foundation \$325,000 for Medicine Services at London Health Sciences Centre.

Medicine Services will use the funds to help equip 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 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. Donor funds provide specialized equipment, research, education and enhanced patient care that would not otherwise receive funding.”

It was also announced that a \$1 million donation gathered from Department of Medicine physicians was designated towards the CCIT. Lawson Health Research Institute designated an additional \$765,000 towards the development of this state-of-the-art facility, which will be located in the Lindros Legacy Research building at University Hospital.

Chris Harding from country music station BX93 joined auctioneer Gordie MacKenzie on stage for the evening's live auction while celebrity spotters including Police Chief Murray Faulkner, MP Ed Holder and MPP Deb Matthews roamed the floor. They encouraged audience bids on items like a golf and dinner package hosted by hockey superstar Eric

Lindros, which fetched \$13,000. Other live auction items including unique trips, sports packages, home renos and guitars signed by the Tragically Hip, Blue Rodeo and Tom Cochrane all garnered a great deal of interest.



Enthusiastic support for healthcare – A London Health Sciences Foundation supporter stakes her claim during a lively round of bidding at this year’s Country Classic Auction.

“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,” says event chair Susan Carlyle.

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.

The crowd of foundation supporters included such notables as Doug Webber, Jerome Cohen and Edie Cohen from Wellington West Capital Inc, event honorary chair Jamie Caskey, 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, and Jim and Ronnie Corkum.

“The foundation is very grateful for the public’s generosity shown at events like the Country Classic Auction,” says LHSF Chair George Kerhoulas. “From events, to lotteries, to individual donations, their support is critical to helping sustain the care, research and education provided at LHSC.”