



MEDIA RELEASE

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Making an Immediate Impact

Heel 'n Wheel for Local Cancer Care was only a month ago, but the impact is already being felt at Winchester District Memorial Hospital (WDMH). Thanks to the participants, donors and sponsors, more than \$86,000 has been raised for local cancer care at WDMH.

The majority of the donations have been used to purchase two new colonoscopes. Colonoscopes are used every day at WDMH and are a vital tool in the screening of colorectal cancer. WDMH performs more than 2100 procedures each year and each colonoscope costs about \$40,000.

"These new state of the art colonoscopes are the essential tools that allow our doctors to prevent colon cancer through early screening," notes Dr. Jim Blakslee. "This is something that can truly save lives."

The new colonoscopes offer the latest technology in the industry and are easier to clean and maintain. A small camera on a flexible tube provides a visual diagnosis and allows doctors to biopsy or remove suspected colorectal cancer lesions. Once polyps are removed, they can be studied under a microscope to determine if they are precancerous or not. The new equipment also takes digital images.

"Our community has always supported and provided for our equipment needs in the operating room," adds Karen Lydiatt, Peri-operative Team Leader. "These donations benefit our patients and provide peace of mind for us, knowing we have excellent tools to do our work. There are not enough ways to thank the community and our Foundation for providing for us once again."

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who was part of this year's Heel 'n Wheel.



Cutline:
Dr. Jim Blakslee demonstrates one of the new colonoscopes.

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