

## **The 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation's *Black and White Gala* Raises Record Amount of \$320,000!**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 30, 2024**

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, the Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation hosted its 19<sup>th</sup> *Black and White Gala* which raised a record amount of \$320,299 in support of the highest priority equipment needs at the Pembroke Regional Hospital.

As part of this year's event, sponsors, attendees, volunteers and many others raised \$15,000 on the spot towards the purchase of a newborn resuscitator which was highlighted as a piece of equipment that was used to save one of the hospital's youngest patients, baby Brin. The funds raised were then matched by the *Jason Blaine Celebrity Charity Golf Classic* fundraiser in order to achieve the \$30,000 needed to purchase this equipment for the hospital's Obstetrics unit.

*Black and White Gala 2024* Event Chair, Dr. Christy Natsis said it was an honour to work with this year's *Gala* committee. "This team of dedicated individuals worked so hard to raise funds and get sponsors and auction items. Their attention to detail helped to make our *Gala* a special evening for our guests. We are so humbled by the generosity of our community contributing to this event through sponsorship, donations and volunteerism, thank you!"

"Our sincerest thank you to: Lisa Edmonds, Donna Saal, Jacky Bell, Patti Bromley, Josie Clouthier-Bennett, Emma Cloutier, Briana Donnelly, Kim Drake, Marianne Minns, May Seto, Victoria Sweet, Jodie Sylvestre, Claire Ullrich, Marion Ullrich, Mark Williamson, Adrienne Turcotte and Tricia Duggan. We would also like to thank our sponsor for the Normandy Officers' Mess, Captain Brian Plinke," she added.

PRH President and CEO Sabine Mersmann expressed her gratitude to those who are giving back to the community by their support of local health care and are helping our hospital deliver the best, highest quality care possible.

She shared with those in attendance, details of the progress that has been made at PRH thanks, in part, to the generosity of local donors including the \$20.65 million transformative Surgical Renovation Project which is nearing completion, the \$3.6 million Cancer Care Project that will enhance and increase the space for patients undergoing chemotherapy and the upcoming \$17 million investment in *Epic*, the hospital's new clinical information system that features the *MyChart* patient portal and represents the most utilized hospital information system in Canada.

"The incredible changes taking place at our hospital which will improve the patient experience cannot be done without you, and you should be extremely proud of what we have been able to accomplish together," Mrs. Mersmann said.

The *Black and White Gala* kicked off with a cocktail hour featuring the music of the Soulstice5+ band and hors d'oeuvres from Ullrich's. Dr. Stephan Grasmuck then led attendees into the dining room while playing the trumpet.

There, Master of Ceremonies Conor Kyte welcomed the 240 guests to the Normandy Officers' Mess at Garrison Petawawa where they enjoyed a four-course meal prepared by Ullrich's and dessert by 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven Sweets. Surrounded by beautiful décor courtesy of Parvati & Athena Events and florals by Astrid's Floral Boutique, Auctioneer Molly McGuire took bids during dinner for some incredible donated items including a pearl necklace from Star-Set Jewellers, travel package from Brian Kendrick of Travel Only, Date Night on Elgin Street Package sponsored by Sasha Randolph (BMO) and the Ultimate Grilling Package from LaHay HVAC, BBQ, Patio & Fireplace Centre and Bromley Acres Wagyu Farm.

Following dinner, attendees enjoyed music and dancing with local band Rainwater Whiskey while John Butler Photography was on hand to take professional photos throughout the evening.

Executive Director Roger Martin expressed his excitement for the event. "It is always a pleasure to see so many people gathering in support of local health care. Many of the people involved in Gala earmark their donations for this very special evening. We are so lucky to be surrounded by so many generous people. Thank you all, so much!"

During the formal part of the evening, Mr. Martin highlighted the event's \$10,000 *Gift of Humanity* sponsors and presented them each with a commemorative award. Receiving these were Parvati & Athena Events, Frank Carroll Financial, Barb and Ray Pilon of Canadian Tire Pembroke, The Murphy Family, Dr. Christy Natsis and Dr. Bruce Harle, Bergeron Clifford LLP and The Pembroke Radiologist Group. A special award of recognition was also presented to Scotiabank for their decades of sponsorship, volunteerism and support of the *Black and White Gala* and the PRH Foundation as a whole. This award was accepted by Scotiabank Pembroke, Bank Manager, Stacey Kelly.

PRH Foundation Board Chair Lisa Edmonds said that she is in awe of the community and how residents continue to find a way to give back to local health care. "My sincerest thank you to everyone for their support. We are looking forward to seeing you all in 2025 for our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration!"

Donations to the PRH Foundation are welcome at any time by calling (613) 732-2811, extension 7408 or visiting the PRHF website at [www.prhfoundation.com](http://www.prhfoundation.com).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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