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For immediate release

### **Auxiliary to OTMH Pledges \$3 million to the New Oakville Hospital**

OAKVILLE - The Auxiliary to the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH) recently announced their commitment of \$3 million to the New Oakville Hospital Capital Campaign.

"This is the largest single pledge in the Auxiliary's 60 year history," said John Oliver, President and CEO, Halton Healthcare Services (HHS). "Not only do they donate the gift of time, every year they donate funds toward the purchase of essential hospital equipment. This early gift sets the stage for future fundraising efforts for the New Oakville Hospital."

The Auxiliary to OTMH has a long history of financial donations to the hospital. In 1955 the Auxiliary made their first substantial pledge to OTMH with a \$20,000 donation toward the expansion of the hospital and in 1985 they made a five year pledge of \$1 million dollars to support the expansion of the Intensive Care Unit. Most recently, the Auxiliary pledged \$1.25 million for OTMH's Critical Support Campaign which raised funds for the purchase of diagnostic imaging equipment. Over the past 60 years, the Auxiliary has donated more than \$6 million to purchase critical equipment for OTMH.

"The volunteers at OTMH are an integral part of our healthcare team. The marvellous roles they play in both direct and indirect patient care make a real difference in the lives of our patients," said Mags Shorey, Chair, Halton Healthcare Services Board of Directors. "Compassion, caring, looking out and providing for each other – these are the values our volunteers model each and every day at OTMH. On behalf of everyone at HHS I would like to take a moment to thank you for your commitment to our hospital."

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**Auxiliary Pledge**

"It's great to see such early support from our hospital community," stated Frank Lochan, Chair, Oakville Hospital Foundation Board of Directors. "Contributions from our closest supporters will play a key role as we embark on our \$60 million Capital Campaign to support the New Oakville Hospital."

The Auxiliary will work to fulfil their pledge in a number of ways. Some of their regular fundraising efforts include the Treasure Cove Gift Shop in the OTMH main lobby, the HELPP Lotto and community BINGO. In addition, the volunteers hold many fundraising events throughout the year including the always popular quilt and patio furniture raffles and poinsettia sales.

The Auxillary to OTMH was founded in November 1949 when Lady Baillie held a meeting at her home and invited the women of Oakville to join. With an initial 113 volunteers, the Auxiliary offered a variety of services at the hospital including sewing and mending, maintaining the library, a tuck wagon and operation of the central supply room. The membership has since grown to 531 adult and 143 youth volunteers working in 70 different areas throughout the hospital. Collectively they contributed almost 82,000 hours last year.

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