

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 4, 2009



THE
RICHMOND HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION

Lisa Westermark
Chief Executive Officer
604-244-5205 / lisa.westermark@vch.ca

**A \$250,000 matching gift from Milan and Maureen Ilich Foundation
COMPLETES the CT Scanner Campaign!**

Richmond, BC – Richmond Hospital will soon be home to a new state-of-the-art 128-Slice Adaptive CT Scanner. Thanks to a generous \$250,000 matching gift from the Milan and Maureen Ilich Foundation, the campaign is now completed. Our new CT Scanner will be up and running starting January 2010.

What's a CT Scan? CT Scans are similar to x-rays, but CT makes cross-sectional images, or slices of your body to show even the smallest details of your arteries, bones, organs and tissues from all angles. Radiologists (medical doctors who have a specialty in radiology) use it daily to evaluate patients and to perform biopsies. With our new machine, these images will be 3-dimensional providing surgeons with a precise pre-operative view.

How many people served per year? Last year in the Richmond Hospital's *Milan and Maureen Ilich Medical Imaging Centre*, 84,618 exams were conducted, of which 12,696 were CT exams.

What's new or innovative about this machine? This new 128-Slice Adaptive CT Scanner is the first of its kind in BC and will be unique in the industry. Not only it will adapt to any patient size, it is incredibly fast and able to perform a scan in an amazing 12 seconds. It will be lifesaving in the event of an emergency. In the older units patients would have to hold their breath for five or more seconds in order to produce a sharp image. With the new unit, patients only have to hold their breath for two seconds. It doesn't sound like much, but some patients simply can't hold their breath that long.

Can you offer new services? Yes, our new CT has twice the imaging power: doctors will get clear, crisp pictures with much better detail, making diagnoses easier and more accurate. It allows us to offer new services including cardiac imaging and CT colonography. And it will do all of this with less than half the radiation of other CT scanners.

Milan & Maureen Ilich Medical Imaging Centre "We are thrilled and amazed by the generosity of Milan and Maureen Ilich," says Lisa Westermark, CEO, Richmond Hospital Foundation. "As a Richmond resident, I am overwhelmed by the incredible contribution they have made to improving the health of our community. Not for themselves, but for all of us. Thanks to Milan & Maureen our hospital will soon have medical imaging equipment equal to the best hospitals in the world."

"This new CT scanner and our new new 'open' MRI will make a tremendous difference to care and service at Richmond Hospital's *Milan and Maureen Ilich Medical Imaging Centre*. This CT will allow us to make diagnosis we couldn't make before – we can diagnosis more patients and

more problems, better and faster,” says Dr. Ian Dunn, Medical Director, Medical Imaging at Richmond Hospital. “Quicker is safer – especially in emergencies or with ICU patients. This machine is very fast and we are very excited. I would personally like to extend my thanks and gratitude to Milan and Maureen Ilich. Without your help and support we would not be in a position to provide this excellent service to this hospital and community.”

Richmond Hospital Foundation is a registered charity committed to raising money to fill the gap between government funding and the greater needs of our hospital. Last year, donations from our community funded 85% of medical equipment purchased for Richmond Hospital.

- 30 -



(Left to right: Lisa Westermarck, CEO of Richmond Hospital Foundation, and Mr. Milan Ilich)