



**Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Foundation**

980 Oliver Road  
Thunder Bay ON  
P7B 6V4 Canada

TEL: 807 345 4673  
FAX: 807 684 5802  
TOLL FREE: 1 877 696 7223



**Northern  
Cancer Fund**



**Northern  
Cardiac Fund**



**Health Sciences  
Discovery Fund**

Media release

For immediate release: February 2, 2009

### **Recent successes celebrated at launch of Cardiac Awareness Month**

The Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation celebrated the launch of Cardiac Awareness Month (February) with a report on recent angioplasty activity. Thanks to the support of donations from the community and a dedicated team of healthcare professionals, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is making great strides in the fight against cardiac disease in Northwestern Ontario.

Remarkable achievements have been made in the past few months, according to Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre's VP, Medicine, Cardiology, Mental Health and Maternal Child Lori Marshall. "Since September 2008, 200 patients have received angioplasty service here at our Health Sciences Centre. Considering the number of patients served this time last year, that is a significant accomplishment," she says.

Last February, 90% of patients in need of angioplasty had to travel to other centres to receive the procedure. The Health Sciences Centre was limited in its capacity to provide the service here due to a reliance on visiting specialists. **Today, 99% of Northwestern Ontario patients in need of angioplasty receive the life-saving service here.**

The extraordinary difference is due to the arrival of Interventional Cardiologist Mark Henderson, who joined the Health Sciences Centre's cardiac team in September 2008. Dr. Henderson's decision to relocate from Vancouver was driven by the Health Sciences Centre's dedication to expanding the cardiac program, as well as the state-of-the-art cardiac catheterization lab. Equipment in the lab was purchased with \$1.6 million in funding from the Northern Cardiac fund of the Health Sciences Foundation.

"We have only just begun," says Henderson. "With continued support from the community, cardiac care in Northwestern Ontario will continue to expand." Henderson's vision includes the recruitment of a second Interventional Cardiologist and the availability of 24/7 emergency angioplasty service.

Glenn Craig, President & CEO of the Health Sciences Foundation, says the Northern Cardiac Fund was created to facilitate that dream. "The Northern Cardiac Fund is dedicated to advancing cardiac care for the people of Northwestern Ontario, with 100% of donations staying here, where they are needed most," he explains.

The Wood family is particularly grateful for Dr. Henderson's dedication and the donors who helped provide the cardiac catheterization lab that attracted him to our Health Sciences Centre. Commie Eugene (Gene) Wood believes his life was saved by Dr. Henderson, who was able to provide angioplasty within hours of a heart attack and again 48 hours later when a clot formed in one of his arteries.

"If Dr. Henderson hadn't been here, my dad wouldn't be here today," says Terry Wood, Gene's son. "I'm sure he wouldn't have survived a trip to another centre. Words cannot express our appreciation." Gene Wood and his wife Mavis have demonstrated their gratitude with a gift to the Northern Cardiac Fund so that more families can access the same close-to-home care they were fortunate to receive.

-30-

For further information, please contact:  
Tracie Smith, Communications Officer  
Tel: 807 684 7111 Cel: 807 621 9438