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Media Release: For immediate release

G&M Hospital Medical Laboratory Professionals Celebrate National Medical Laboratory Week— April 18 - 24

Collingwood, ON - *Medical Laboratory Professionals – The Diagnostic Engine of Canada's Health Care System*, is the theme for a national campaign being launched by the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) during National Medical Laboratory Week, April 18 to 24, 2010.

Canada's medical laboratory professionals—medical laboratory technologists, assistants and scientists— are on the frontlines of the health care system. Their skill, accuracy and dedication help to save countless lives each day. They protect our health in a wide variety of settings, from hospitals to community health clinics to public and research health laboratories.

“Medical laboratory professionals are Canada's third largest group of health care professionals and yet many people still don't know what we do,” says Paula Pattenden, Laboratory Charge Technologist at the Collingwood G&M Hospital. “Accurate medical testing performed by qualified medical laboratory professionals is critical to the health and well-being of the people of this community. In fact, up to 85 per cent of decisions about diagnosis and treatment are based on laboratory test results.”

The G&M's Lab and their professional team play an integral role in the health of the four municipalities and visitor population it serves. A total of 13 Technologists and 10 Assistants work in the G&M lab and diligently provide 24/7 coverage, behind the scenes to

support excellent patient care. These professionals make a significant contribution to healthcare by assisting in the screening, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease through laboratory tests and analyses. For example, if you have an infection, the lab determines the cause of the infection and the appropriate antibiotics for treatment. If a blood transfusion is required, the lab tests your blood and provides compatible blood. Both you and your doctor depend on the accuracy of lab results.

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PHOTO BELOW: (L-R) Carrie Joseph, Tracey Measures, Shelly Wedow, Bob Fitz-James, Tracy Atkinson - G&M Laboratory

If you have any questions about this release please contact Linda Davis, President and CEO, Collingwood General and Marine Hospital at 444.8601, ext. 8200.

Collingwood G&M Hospital (G&M) is a 72-bed hospital located in Collingwood, Ontario (approximately 90 minutes north of Toronto) that serves more than 60,000 permanent residents and 2.5 Million annual visitors to the communities of Wasaga Beach, Collingwood, Stayner, Creemore and the Blue Mountains. The G&M is an acute care hospital providing emergency care, diagnostic services including lab, imaging and cardio respiratory therapy, as well as two inpatient units (medicine and surgery). In addition, the G&M also provides care in speciality areas including obstetrics, orthopaedics, intensive care and surgery. The Hospital also provides out patient care including dialysis and a wide range of clinics including mental health and rehabilitation services. The G&M continues to provide care close to home for our community and plays a key role as an integrated orthopaedic centre for our region. For more information please visit our website at www.cgmh.on.ca and our Foundation website at www.cgmhf.com

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