

December 22, 2009

Media Release: For immediate release

Vandals Chop Down New Hospital Tree

Collingwood, ON

Vandals have chopped down a large, newly planted mature tree on the G&M Hospital grounds.

A mature white pine with about an 8" trunk was hacked down very soon after it was planted as part of the Hospital's required site plan landscaping. Town officials require site landscaping as part of any development plans. With the Hospital bringing a modular structure on site in the New Year to make room for more patient care areas, contractors have been hard at work building berms, a storm water drainage pond and adding trees and shrubs to the back property in accordance with Town by-laws. Pride has quickly turned to dismay and shock when staff noticed the missing 8 foot pine late last week.

Al Boswell, Manager of Environmental Services at the G&M said, "It's very disturbing to see our almost completed landscaping damaged in this way. The tree itself was worth over \$400. We have been in contact with local police authorities and we remain hopeful that the vandals will be caught and prosecuted. "

President and CEO Linda Davis added, "This is vandalism which is not only a property crime but also an act against our community. We have been delighted to see our landscaping finally take shape and this has just spoiled our sense of pride at having created a lovely green space for everyone to enjoy."

If anyone knows anything about this act of vandalism, they are asked to contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Attached Photo: Missing white pine at the G&M Hospital recently chopped down by vandals.

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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

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.

