



For Immediate Release
April 17, 2009

STEGH Celebrates Medical Laboratory Week and National Volunteer Week April 19-25

St. Thomas, ON - St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH) will be taking time to celebrate National Medical Laboratory Week and National Volunteer Week April 19- 25.

To recognize the Medical Laboratory week, a schedule of events including lunch and learns for Laboratory staff; and displays, a motivational speaker, quizzes, and draws for all staff, will culminate with an open house in the Laboratory on Friday April 24th. STEGH invites patients visiting the lab for tests, to get involved in the week by bringing in a canned good donation for the Caring Cupboard.

STEGH Laboratory service information facts:

- The laboratory service employs over 50 staff, including Medical Laboratory Technologists, Medical laboratory Assistants, Pathologists, Lab Aids and Support Staff
- Diagnostic Testing is performed in six different testing areas including Chemistry, Hematology, Microbiology, Pathology, Cytology, and the Blood Bank.
- Over 78,000 laboratory tests are performed each month
- 45,944 patients accessed out-patient laboratory services last year
- Approximately 1,980 units of blood are transfused annually
- 7,684 tissue slides are made from the Operating Room for the Pathologist to examine
- 5,288 urine samples were tested for bacterial infections last year.

In recognition of over 200 volunteers who generously donated more than 31,835 hours of work this past year, STEGH is holding a Recognition Banquet on April 22 for Volunteer Services and the Auxiliary with guest speaker STEGH CEO Paul Collins. Awards recognizing Years of Service, Volunteer of the Year, and the Auxiliary Special Recognition Award will be presented.

STEGH also participates in the Volunteer Elgin Community Recognition Event taking place May 1, 2009 at the North America Railway Hall of Fame.

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For more information contact:

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Photo Opportunities:

Wednesday April 22 – Volunteer Banquet, St Thomas Golf and Country Club
5:30-6:00pm (social) or 8:30pm (immediately following awards)

Friday April 25 – Laboratory Open House , First Floor Laboratory 1:00-4:00 p.m.