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## **- Ophthalmology Endowment Ensures Patients Receive Optimum Care Locally -**

**January 26, 2011** – Earlier today, in the offices of Peterborough eye specialists, the Greater Peterborough Health Services Foundation (GPHSF) hosted a demonstration of the exciting new Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) equipment purchased as part of their ophthalmology endowment. In the same way that ultrasound and CT scanning allows other branches of medicine to see detail inside internal organs, OCT imaging allows for minute assessment of detailed structures inside the eyeball. OCT technology is completely non-invasive, the patient sits comfortably while the machine maps the eye to provide essential data relevant to the delivery of patient care and allows local ophthalmologists to perform procedures in their offices that previously required patients to travel out of town or be conducted in a hospital setting.

“Through the support of the Greater Peterborough Health Services Foundation, we were able to purchase a corneal/anterior module, a corneal power upgrade and review software stations for our existing OCT machine,” said Dr. Kylene McReelis, ophthalmologist. “Patients with conditions that predispose them to certain forms of glaucoma can now be more accurately diagnosed and followed. Specifically the assessment of narrow angle glaucoma has been greatly advanced with OCT imaging and allows the doctor to have a visual image to show the patients in the office to guide treatment and therapy. We are very grateful to the Foundation for their support.”

In addition to its uses for glaucoma, having this type of imaging available allows ophthalmologists to make better diagnoses for degenerative conditions affecting the cornea such as keratoconus, a progressive thinning of the cornea often affecting younger people, that may be missed in its early stages. This new equipment will improve the results of cataract surgery for patients who have had previous laser surgery to correct vision; and decreases the need for some in-hospital and more invasive procedures for diabetes complications. This imagery allows patients to be better educated about their diagnosis and helps them to make more informed decisions about their own healthcare.

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“Funding for this equipment is part of our legacy as the former St. Joseph’s Hospital Foundation where donors established an ophthalmology endowment in the 1990s. We are very pleased that we are able to provide these advancements in technology locally for Peterborough area residents and to decrease travel outside of the area. This advanced OCT equipment is of tremendous benefit to the community,” said Hannah Routly, Executive Director, Greater Peterborough Health Services Foundation.

The Greater Peterborough Health Services Foundation (GPHSF) is a non-profit organization, dedicated to improving community-based health care services in the City and County of Peterborough by supporting our local medical community. Formerly, the St. Joseph’s Care Foundation, the Foundation funds essential equipment, education, and research, while fostering preventative action and promoting healthier living for all. You can visit the Foundation online at [www.gphsf.ca](http://www.gphsf.ca)

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**For images from OCT technology or for more information please contact:**

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