**May 15, 2017**

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

***Breast Assessment Program Renovations at SMGH***

Strathroy, ON - MHA is excited to announce that the Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital (SMGH) Breast Assessment program (BAP) space will be undergoing a major facelift starting May 15, as a result of a generous, directed donation.

The renovation project involves the redesign of the patient waiting area to create a more comfortable environment and improved space for patients and the Breast Health Navigator. Once completed, the renovated area will provide a private area for patients and families to receive support and information related to their breast health. The space will be designed to improve patient flow making the comfort of our patients a top priority. During the renovation period, the reception area will be relocated to a temporary location.

MHA President & CEO Todd Stepanuik applauded the ongoing efforts of the Foundation for its fundraising efforts to support the SMGH site. “The ongoing and unstinting support of our donors is humbling”.

“We’re very excited about the renovation as it will provide a calming, welcoming environment for our patients and a private area for patients and family to meet with members of the Breast Assessment team,” said Diane Smith, Director of Diagnostic Imaging, MHA.

We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate everyone’s patience as we work to improve this important area of the hospital.

*Backgound:*

*The BAP was launched at SMGH IN 2006 and has been a tremendous success.*

*A Breast Assessment Program (BAP) is an accredited program through Cancer Care Ontario where women can access holistic breast health imaging and diagnosis. Patients are referred to the BAP by their family physician and can expect to receive timely care from diagnosis up to and including surgery.*

*Introducing a Breast Assessment Program in Strathroy has brought advantages and services to patients that were not previously available at the Hospital. The program focuses on detecting and preventing breast cancer from progressing in patients, while increasing access to cancer care locally. This will reduce the growing wait time for care within all areas of South-Western Ontario. A process that once took as much as 3 months has been reduced to 3 weeks.*

About MHA:

The Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) is comprised of two fully-accredited partner sites: Four Counties Health Services and Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital.

A progressive, team-oriented and technologically adept organization of excellence, the MHA is creating a more integrated and seamless approach to treatment by embracing and seeking out partnerships, through collaboration and investing in people. This coordinated approach helps to ensure that a high level of service is provided while reducing costs and continually enhancing quality.

- 30 -