



RENFREW
VICTORIA
HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION

GRAND ROUNDS

Tractor enthusiasts turn philanthropist

Renfrew County boasts one of only a couple antique tractor square dancing groups in Ontario, and while members have come and gone, one thing has been constant and that's the generous nature of those involved.

The group, made up of eight 'dancers', a spare, and a 'caller', was formed in 1999. Members dedicated many hours to practise at the farm of Allan James near Foresters Falls, and many of the tractors used were from Mr. James collection.

Over the years, the group has given countless performances at local fairs and ploughing matches and occasionally further afield.

"If venues were close by members would drive their tractors there, and when they

were further away the tractors would be trailered," shared long-time member Peter Deruiter.

All of the events would pay the group for performing in addition to covering expenses including meals, trailering and motels, when needed.

"We were treated like kings," said Deruiter.

However, most of the funds received were never used.

Members didn't want to be paid for doing something they enjoyed, and we wanted to give back in a way that would have an impact on the most people. The executive decided on RVH because everybody is eventually going to need the hospital, explained Deruiter. "We all need the hospital sooner or later."



Peter Deruiter presents a cheque for \$2,887 on behalf of the Renfrew County Antique Tractor Square Dancers (inset photo) to Sarah Robinson, RVH Foundation Executive Director.



To make a donation to the RVH Foundation or to share your story, please call Sarah at 613-432-4851 x263