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Around Town: Giving Back to The Ottawa Hospital



CAROLINE PHILLIPS [More from Caroline Phillips \(HTTP://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM/AUTHOR/CAROLINPHILLIPS\)](http://ottawacitizen.com/author/carolinphillips)

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From left, Graham Bird welcomes guest Greg Kane in from the pouring rain at a reception Bird hosted on Thursday, August 21, 2014, as co-chair of The Ottawa Hospital Foundation's upcoming fundraising breakfast. (Caroline Phillips / Ottawa Citizen)

SECTIONS

Prominent project manager Graham Bird belongs to a long line of family members who came into this world at The Ottawa Hospital.

His connection doesn't end there — the hospital is also where many of his loved ones turned for medical help when battling cancer, ALS and heart problems.

Now, for his third year in a row, Bird is undertaking a leadership role with Mary Jane Manley at the hospital foundation's 13th annual President's Breakfast, slated for September 16 at the Ottawa Convention Centre.

The pair is back to co-chair the fundraiser, which brought in nearly \$400,000 last year. Manley is a sales representative with Royal LePage Performance Realty but previously worked for about 15 years as a nurse.





Host Graham Bird welcomes guests to a reception he hosted with his wife, Cynthia, on Thursday, August 21, 2014, for volunteer table captains of The Ottawa Hospital Foundation's upcoming charity breakfast.

Caroline Phillips / Ottawa Citizen



Mary Jane Manley with Dr. Duncan Stewart and Graham Bird on Thursday, August 21, 2014, at reception held at Bird's home for supporters of The Ottawa Hospital Foundation's upcoming annual President's Breakfast.

Caroline Phillips / Ottawa Citizen

"I think the hospital is really important," Bird told Around Town at a reception he hosted Aug. 21 with his wife, Cynthia, as a lead-up to the breakfast. The party was held at their home, just blocks away from the Civic campus.

What's also important, he later told the room, "is that we get off our duffs and help them [the hospital and its team] out, and that we say 'Thanks' in person and a little bit with our wallets."

Said Manley: "By supporting the hospital it's really helping all of us. We're all going to use it at some point in

our lives.”



From left, Andrea Timlin from The Ottawa Hospital Foundation, Dr. Duncan Stewart, event co-chairs Mary Jane Manley and Graham Bird all spoke at a reception hosted by Bird on Thursday, August 21, 2014, for volunteers table captains at the hospital's upcoming charity breakfast.

Caroline Phillips / Ottawa Citizen

Dozens of guests listened to Dr. Duncan Stewart talk about the exciting medical research that's currently taking place in Ottawa. Stewart is the CEO and scientific director of The Ottawa Hospital Research Institute and V-P of research at The Ottawa Hospital.

Invited to the reception were the volunteer table captains whose role it is to bring friends and associates to the breakfast. The turnout is expected to be around 500 and the aim is to enlighten and engage the crowd.





Greg Kane, past chair of The Ottawa Hospital Foundation, chats with fellow lawyer Margaret Ross during a private reception held Thursday, August 21, 2014, to thank volunteer table captains for the hospital's upcoming fundraising breakfast.

Caroline Phillips / Ottawa Citizen





Tim Kluge, president and CEO of The Ottawa Hospital Foundation, with supporter Joanne Snell at a private reception hosted Thursday, August 21, 2014, for table captains helping with the hospital's upcoming charity breakfast.

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From left, Marion Balla and Marg Campbell were among the guests of a reception hosted Thursday, August 21, 2014, for table captain volunteers with The Ottawa Hospital Foundation's upcoming charity breakfast.

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Nancy Oakes and Kent Kirkpatrick at a reception hosted Thursday, August 21, 2014, for volunteer table captains with the The Ottawa Hospital Foundation's upcoming President's Breakfast.

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Dr. Duncan Stewart, CEO and scientific director of The Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, talks about the medical progress being made in Ottawa during a private reception held Thursday, August 21, 2014, in advance of the hospital's fundraising breakfast.

Caroline Phillips / Ottawa Citizen

Among the volunteers there were Ottawa City Manager Kent Kirkpatrick, siblings Dan and Nancy Oakes, Gowlings partner Margaret Ross and therapist Marion Balla. The hospital foundation's president and CEO, Tim Kluge, and its past board chair, Dentons lawyer Greg Kane, also attended.

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