

Media Release - October 11, 2011

For Immediate Release

**Alexandra Club Honours Former Pembroke Civic/Cottage Hospital
with \$100,000 Donation to New Algonquin College Campus**

One of the three nursing labs at the new Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley waterfront campus in Pembroke will be named after the Alexandra Club and its affiliation with the former Pembroke Cottage/Civic Hospital. This recognition follows a major donation of \$100,000 made to the College's capital campaign by the Alexandra Club, the fundraising arm of the former hospital. This is one of the largest donations received by the College to date for the new campus building fund.



At a media conference held today at the former Pembroke Civic Hospital, Alexandra Club President Sandra Sell said it is very important to the club membership that the history of the former hospital be preserved. "The former Cottage Hospital ran a nurse training program from 1902 to 1937 and from the mid-1970s until its closing in 1997, the Civic Hospital was closely linked to Algonquin College by providing clinical experiences for nursing students and employment for nursing graduates. This long-standing connection between the College and nursing education prompted our group to look favourably upon making the largest single donation we have ever made to a community fundraising project. Sponsoring a nursing lab will be a lasting legacy," adds Sell.

Through this generous donation, all three of the nursing labs at the new campus have now been named after organizations or individuals who have played a significant role in health care in our community. The Alexandra Nursing Lab will be a state-of-the-art facility that will feature the latest health care equipment used by nurses in hospitals and other health care settings. It will be located on the fourth floor of the new campus which is now under construction, and is scheduled for completion by September 2012.

Algonquin College Capital Campaign Chair, Mark Huckabone, thanked the Alexandra Club for its leadership gift by saying: "This substantial donation is not surprising. The Alexandra Club has deep roots in our community and continues to do great work supporting many community causes. We are very grateful for this leadership gift and are encouraged by and impressed with how the community has rallied to support our fundraising efforts," adds Huckabone.

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315 Pembroke St., East

Pembroke, Ontario

K8A 3K2

Community

and Student

Affairs

Department

Office: 613-735-4700

ext. 2756

Fax: 613-735-8805

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Karen Davies, Dean of Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley, is very appreciative of the Alexandra Club's donation. "We recognize that our existence in this community is only as strong as the partnerships that we build. We also understand the historical significance of post-secondary education in our community and appreciate that the seeds for our new campus were planted many years ago by forward-thinking health care institutions such as the Pembroke Cottage Hospital. We say thank you to the Alexandra Club for preserving an important part of local history through this extraordinary financial gift to our new campus building fund," adds Davies.

The Alexandra Club has been active in the Pembroke area since 1896 and over the past century, dozens of dedicated and hard-working women of the auxiliary took on many practical tasks that assisted the health care staff with the care of their patients at the former Pembroke Cottage/Civic Hospital. Primarily, the Club members planned, organized and implemented many activities that enabled the hospital to purchase much needed medical supplies and equipment. Since the Pembroke Civic Hospital closed in 1997, the Club shifted its mandate to support community-based health care by providing volunteers for palliative care, financial donations to worthy causes in the community, and educational scholarships and bursaries for students pursuing post-secondary education in a health care discipline.

Construction on the new Algonquin College campus began in the spring. It will be a four-storey building that will feature 16 classrooms and nine labs and will open to students in the fall of 2012. The project is valued at \$36-million and the College is currently engaged in a community capital campaign to raise \$2.5-million towards the overall cost of the project.

For more information, contact:

Jamie Bramburger
Manager of Community and Student Affairs
Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley
613-735-4700, ext. 2756

Sandra Sell, President
Alexandra Club of Pembroke
613-735-5593

315 Pembroke St., East
Pembroke, Ontario
K8A 3K2

Community
and Student
Affairs
Department

Office: 613-735-4700
ext. 2756
Fax: 613-735-8805