

Hog Jog 2010 supports The Stratford General Hospital Foundation – Emergency Unit

June 6, 2010 (Stratford, Ontario) - The fifth annual OPIC Hog Jog Pork for a Cause 5km run/walk and 10km run will take place Tuesday evening, June 22, 2010 at the Stratford Rotary Complex. In each of the 4 previous years, the Hog Jog has raised over \$20,000 for different local causes. We hope to exceed that amount in 2010. All 2010 pledges for the Hog Jog will be going to The Stratford General Hospital Foundation to be used specifically for the purchase of life-saving cardiac equipment for the new emergency unit. Thanks to the contributions of our Sponsors and Friends, most of the registration fees will also go to the new emergency unit. The Stratford General Hospital benefits the entire region with 27,000 patients visiting its emergency department each year. 44% of these patients are from the surrounding rural areas.

This year's contribution to the Stratford General Hospital Foundation will be made in honour of **Dr. George Charbonneau** and his wife Ann Coyle. One of the objectives of the Hog Jog is to recognize the contributions of individuals to the pork industry. – George and Ann are most worthy recipients. George is a respected Stratford based swine veterinarian and founding director of OPIC. He utilized the emergency unit of the Stratford Hospital when he suffered a heart attack in 2007. Ann, who works in the veterinary practice and as an active member of the Hog Jog Planning Committee, is very grateful for the services of their local hospital. "The course of our lives could have changed dramatically", notes Ann, "had it not been for the services and quick response by the team working in the emergency department the night of George's heart attack".

George has participated in the Hog Jog for the past three years and clearly brings together the pork industry and puts a healthy face on this year's cause.

Following its inaugural success, the Weaner Run returns for it's second year. The Weaner Run is a 500-meter event for ages 6 and under. Registration for this free event will take place from 2:00 to 5:15 p.m. on race day at the Hog Jog registration table.

The Hog Jog is a unique event as one of the few charity runs to be held in the evening. The evening schedule allows us to celebrate our product with a post race pork meal for all participants and volunteers. Tickets for the meal may be purchased in advance or on run day while supplies last. Others may purchase tickets for the meal in advance or while supplies last

For further information on the Hog Jog, including registration, a course map, sponsorship opportunities or volunteering at Hog Jog, please go to www.hogjog.ca.