



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Reaching out to Veterans**

New fundraiser announced to support the building of the Jim Shields Memorial Garden at the Veterans Pavilion.

St. John's, NL – Canada has a rich military history that extends over many generations. Each and every Canadian has a relative who helped protect our country. “Newfoundland and Labrador shares this rich military history and we are proud of the sacrifices our troops have made in past conflicts and are grateful to those who continue to serve to protect our freedom,” said Peter Winsor, President of the Canadian Army Veterans Motorcycle Unit, Beaumont Hamel.

“We are pleased to partner with the Canadian Veterans Motorcycle Unit, Beaumont Hamel and the Harley Owners Group of Newfoundland to hold this motorcycle ride to raise money that will help build the Jim Shields Memorial Garden at the Veterans Pavilion”, said Mr. Paul Snow, President and CEO, Health Care Foundation.

Named in memory of Mr. Jim Shields who was a Navy Veteran from WWII, a founding member of Branch 56 of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Royal Naval Association, the garden will be specially designed for those veterans with disabilities and those who are suffering from dementia. The wandering garden will create a safe and tranquil environment for veterans to enjoy the outdoors. The meditative garden will offer safe walking space for Veterans, including those using wheelchairs or walkers. There will be a central court for socialization that will have seating, birdbaths and feeders. There will also be an enabling horticulture Therapy Garden, with fully accessible planters and gardens for all the Veterans to enjoy. The Jim Shields Memorial Garden will provide contentment and joy for our veterans for years to come.

“As motorcycle enthusiasts we take great pride in the open air and the sense of freedom we get from riding our bikes”, said Roger Butt, Director of the Harley Owners Group of Newfoundland. “We are deeply indebted to the men and women who protect our freedom and by supporting this cause we can give back to the veterans in their aging years, it is a great honor for members of our group to be a part of this event,” he said.

The Support the Troops Ride will be held September 17th, 2011. Registration will be at 9 a.m. and the opening ceremony will commence at 10:00 a.m. at the Canadian Forces Station, Drill Hall. Riders will leave the Canadian Forces Station in Pleasantville, travel to Holyrood, through CBS and end their ride at the Dr. L.A Miller Centre Veterans Pavilion. The highlight of the event will be the Closing Ceremony at 2 p.m., at which time Veterans will have an opportunity to meet and thank the sponsors and the riders for their generous donation and support.

The Health Care Foundation is a registered charitable organization, established to support the adult hospitals of St. John's. All fundraising goes towards the purchase of vital medical equipment and technology, to enhance patient care and comfort, and to fund health research and education. Your support benefits the patients of St. Clare's Mercy Hospital, General Hospital, Dr. Leonard A. Miller Centre, Waterford Hospital and the Dr. Walter Templeman Health Centre (Bell Island). These hospitals provide crucial health care services for people all across Newfoundland and Labrador.

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### **Media Contact**

Sonya Smith  
Manager Annual & Planned Giving  
Health Care Foundation  
Tel: (709) 777-5901  
Cell: (709) 697-1469  
[Sonya.smith@healthcarefoundation.ca](mailto:Sonya.smith@healthcarefoundation.ca)  
[www.healthcarefoundation.ca](http://www.healthcarefoundation.ca)