



South Okanagan
Similkameen
Medical Foundation

January 29, 2020

Tower donation a gift from the heart

Kevin Huey's emotions can easily bubble to the surface when discussing the deaths of two very close friends.

Ted Papenfus, who had a history of heart trouble, died suddenly in November 2015 at age 67 while he and Bob Tait were vacationing in Palm Springs. The couple had been partners for 43 years and Ted's death was especially hard on Bob who passed away in May 2018, essentially of a broken heart. He could not see life without Ted.

Now Kevin has made a \$65,000 donation to the South Okanagan Similkameen (SOS) Medical Foundation in their memory. His recent gift marked the successful completion of the Medical Foundation's \$20-million campaign to provide medical equipment for the Penticton Regional Hospital expansion. His donation to PRH is meant to honour Ted and Bob, who due to Ted's heart problems had made a number of visits to the Emergency Department over the years.

"They always talked about how wonderful their experience at the hospital was," Kevin recalled. "It just struck me it would be very fitting to give this money to the hospital in their memory. They were such wonderful people."

Kevin was born in Princeton but moved to the Penticton area in 1990 to run the Kaleden Irrigation District and later to take over managing the Keremeos Irrigation District as well.

Kevin and his partner Donald Schmidt retired at the end of 2018 and have done a fair bit of travel, which Ted and Bob always loved to do.

"I'd like to thank the SOS Medical Foundation and all the staff at PRH for continually working to make this hospital a wonderful caring place," Kevin said.

The new PRH patient care tower opened in April 2019. Construction is now underway on Phase 2, including a major upgrade to the Emergency Department, scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2021.

Photo cutline information:

Kevin Huey (at left with partner Donald Schmidt) has made a \$65,000 donation to Penticton Regional Hospital in memory of two close friends who recently passed away. His gift marks the successful completion of the SOS Medical Foundation's \$20-million campaign to provide medical equipment for the PRH expansion.