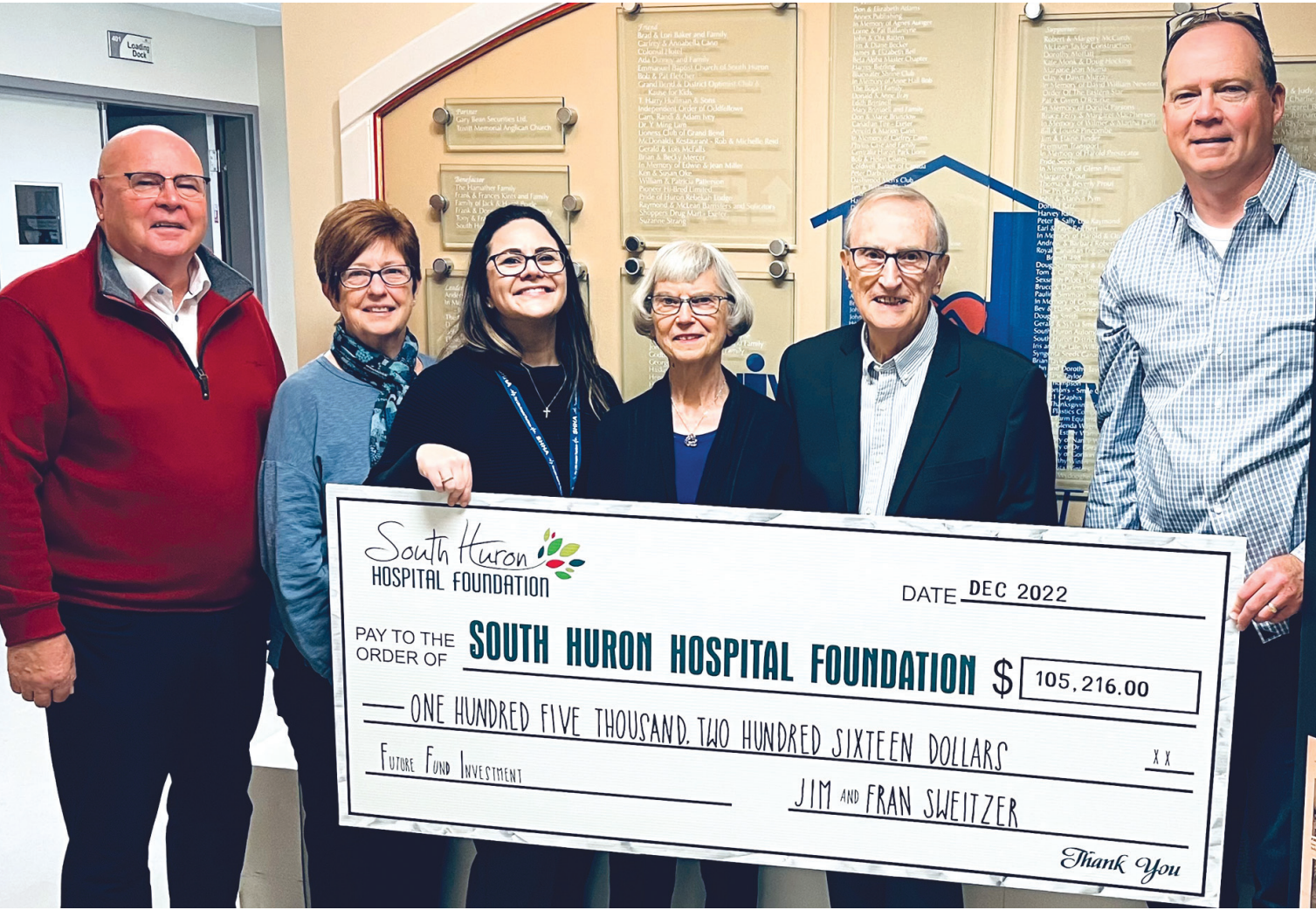


London couple with roots in South Huron help launch the SHHF Future Fund



At left receiving the cheque from Jim and Fran Sweitzer are: Board Chair, Pat O'Rourke Board Member, Linda Farquhar SHHF ED, Krista McCann Fran Sweitzer Jim Sweitzer and Board Vice Chair, Rob Tait

Jim and Fran Sweitzer of London are the inspiration and seed-donors behind a new, long-term investment benefiting the South Huron Hospital. The Future Fund - as it is named - will house funds for the purpose of major capital investment in the future of the South Huron Hospital.

Recently the Sweitzers made the very first contribution to the Future Fund, with an outstanding gift of \$105,216. They made this gift in loving memory of their parents A.J. (Jake) and Viola Sweitzer; and, Howard and Marion Johns.

Both the Sweitzer and Johns family histories date back to the 1800s in Stephen, Hay and Usborne townships. Jim and Fran's parents and grandparents were active members of the community, participating in local government, business, church and community and farm organizations. This is partly why Jim and Fran felt inspired to build a philanthropic relationship with the South Huron Hospital Foundation. But also, Jim's father, Jake Sweitzer, was president of the Exeter Lions Club in the 1950s - the organization that is credited for spearheading the initial campaign to build the South Huron Hospital. In fact, A.J. Sweitzer himself led a fundraising initiative which involved building and raffling off a cottage in Southcott Pines, Grand Bend. The raffle brought in an impressive \$10,000, which was one of the first major

contributions to the hospital. Jim and Fran are looking forward to continuing this legacy that was started by Jake Sweitzer more than 70 years ago.

Jim and Fran see the establishment of the Future Fund as an important part of the Foundation's long-term financial plan to support the ongoing and evolving needs of patient care at the South Huron Hospital. Foundation board chair Pat O'Rourke notes, "With Master Planning happening at the South Huron Hospital, discussions about the future of the facility and its services have been at the forefront for several months. The establishment of the Future Fund is therefore timely as the Foundation begins to prepare for what can only be described as significant future investment in the South Huron Hospital."

South Huron Hospital Foundation executive director Krista McCann says that the timing of the Swetzers' gift feels like a passing of the torch.

"In January we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the South Huron Hospital. Jake Sweitzer - Jim's father - played an integral role in bringing this hospital to life. Currently, we see ourselves intently focused on the future needs of this hospital. Therefore, the opening of this Future Fund truly feels like the continuation of a legacy that was started 70 years ago. This is a very special donation."

McCann and O'Rourke noted how hon-

oured the Foundation is to receive such an impactful and meaningful gift, also noting that the Sweitzers have been wonderful to work with. The Sweitzers intend to continue their commitment to the Foundation and the Future Fund.

The Future Fund is governed by the South Huron Hospital Foundation's Investment Policy, and is open to contributions from the

public. There is a minimum contribution limit of \$10,000 due to the nature of the fund's guidelines. Anyone interested in learning more about the Future Fund can contact Krista McCann at krista.mccann@shha.on.ca, or 519-235-2700, ext. 5133.

- Submitted by the South Huron Hospital Foundation



LIONS PRESENT \$10,000 — A. J. Sweitzer, president of the Exeter Lions, presents C. E. Shaw, acting treasurer of the association, with a \$10,000 cheque on behalf of Grand Bend and Exeter Lions. Money was raised in a cottage raffle. W. G. Cochrane, secretary of the association, is right; Ulric Snell, chairman of building committee, left. —Jack Doerr