

## **Rallying for a good cause**

*Federal government employees volunteer throughout the year to support Charlottetown hospital*

*By Colleen Boicey*

**Sept. 7, 2006 – Charlottetown, PEI** – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada staff in Charlottetown have taken to heart one of their community’s most important institutions: the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The 80 employees of the Crops and Livestock Research Centre have raised more than \$25,000 over the past 15 years for the acute care facility. The St. Patrick’s Day “Service Auction” is the leading fundraiser, generating up to seven out of every 10 dollars collected for the hospital. Federal government employees volunteer services such as house sitting, car cleaning, or baking and catering services. Staff also bid on auction items, with proceeds going to the hospital.

“There are very few people at our workplace who have not been touched by the hospital,” said Gail Arsenault, a Crops and Livestock Research Centre employee. Ms. Arsenault has helped raise funds for the hospital since 1991.

“The staff has rallied around this cause. It doesn’t matter what we organize. We always have a wonderful group of volunteers to help out.”

The employees also raise money for the hospital through chili dinners, BBQs, 50/50 draws and other events throughout the year. The donations are given to the hospital during its annual equipment drive.

The employees at the Crops and Livestock Research Centre are just a few examples of Government of Canada employees making a difference in their communities. Along with their regular volunteering, thousands of public servants participate in the annual Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC), the largest workplace charitable project in Canada. In 2005, federal public servants contributed more than \$29.5 million to GCWCC in 113 communities nation-wide. GCWCC 2006 kicks off on September 7 and will run until November 22.

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