

**November 20, 2012**

## **THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME**

*For John & Suzie, deciding where to have cancer surgery was the easy part.*

London, ON – John Wensley was diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer at the age of 54. “Everything happened really quickly after that,” recalls John. Because he and his wife Suzie live in Clarksburg, Ontario, John was referred to a cancer surgeon located nearby in Owen Sound. “We are very fortunate that our local hospital was able to look after John’s needs before, during and after his surgery,” says Suzie. “The ability to have cancer surgery close to home was important for us.”

**To improve the patient experience, the South West Regional Cancer Program has launched a campaign to promote cancer care close to home.**

Care close to home offers many advantages for patients, including having family and friends close by for support. For patients like John, it means carrying on with life in the best way possible. “My wife and I run our own business, which carries on whether you are sick or not,” says John. “Having my cancer surgery close to home in Owen Sound meant that my wife could take care of the business in the morning and then spend the afternoon with me at the hospital.”

“I encourage patients to ask their doctor about cancer surgery options close to home,” says Dr. Stephen Pautler, Regional Surgical Oncology Lead for the South West region. “The benefit of having skilled surgeons throughout the region brings expert care into smaller communities.”

**Meet John and Suzie, and other cancer survivors from across our region and learn why they chose to have cancer surgery close to home: [www.southwestcancer.ca](http://www.southwestcancer.ca).**

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**South West Regional Cancer Program** oversees the delivery and quality of cancer services for the counties of Grey, Bruce, Huron, Perth, Middlesex, Oxford, Elgin, and part of Norfolk. It is one of 13 Regional Cancer Programs created by Cancer Care Ontario in 2005 to ensure cancer care is delivered according to province-wide quality standards.

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