

Large private donation gives Wald third heart monitor

By Michael Bennett

A large private donation by Richard and Gerard Cayer of Willow Bunch has made the purchase of a third heart monitor unit for Wald Ambulance a reality.

The Cayers donated \$9,755, the amount left to pay on the monitor. Donations were started at the South Country Rodeo by the Pool, Co-op, and Credit Union, who gave the proceeds from the pancake breakfast toward the third monitor.

At that time Richard Cayer became aware of the fund-raising event and subsequently told Steve Wald, owner of Wald Ambulance, that whatever had not been raised, he would make up. The cost of the state-of-the-art heart monitor unit is \$14,755. The monitor also includes a heart pacemaker.

"It's the single largest donation we've ever had," said Mr. Wald. "You fellows have been terrific," he told the two men last Tuesday. "It's nothing short of overwhelming."

The second largest donation made to Wald Ambulance was also made last year by the Cayers when they donated \$6,000 for two medication infusion pumps. Richard Cayer, coincidentally, was the second patient to use the first infusion pump last April, after he suffered a cardiac arrest.

"I don't think without the infusion pump I'd be alive today," Mr. Cayer said. In speaking about the donation on the infusion pumps and the heart monitor unit he stated, "A life is worth a lot more than money. There's not enough money to buy a life."

Other donors toward the heart monitor unit are: The Pool, Co-op, and Credit Union - \$950; the Royal Canadian Legion - \$1,000; the Southern Independent Riders - \$500; private donations from Roy and Vera Vrooman, Allan Valentine, R. Gregoire, and memorial donations in the names of Kathleen Nesbitt, George Calibaba, and William Sinclair also made purchase of the unit possible.

Each of the three ambulances now have heart monitor units, and the latest unit also has an external heart pacemaker. "The pacemaker stimulates the heart and holds the patient until they get to the hospital," said Mr. Wald.

Due to the generosity and concern of people in Assiniboia and District, those like the Cayers and the donors mentioned above, Wald Ambulance is the best equipped ambulance service in the entire province.



Donors Richard Cayer (left) and Gerard Cayer (right) present the heart monitor unit to Steve Wald and paramedic Donna Fiset last week.