

## Barbecue raises funds for health care



MPP Todd Smith flips sausages with auxiliary executive member Gabrielle Coe for hungry supporters in the No Frills parking lot last Thursday.

By Sarah Sobanski

The beat has returned and it is going strong.

The North Hastings District Hospital Auxiliary kicked off another year of fundraising with a charity barbecue last Thursday, June 25, at Pepin's No Frills. Their goal this year is to put \$40,000 towards a defibrillator, four patient lifts and wheelchairs for the North Hastings Hospital. That's half of the \$84,000 the hospital is hoping for.

The barbecue marks the 13th annual round-up fundraiser at Bancroft's local grocery store. Customers could buy burgers outside or round up their grocery bills and contribute the extra to the auxiliary's goal this year.

It was Prince Edward-Hastings MPP Todd Smith's fifth year returning to the barbecue to flip burgers. He noted community support keeps the hospital running.

‘It’s important that the community rallies around the hospital. The [Quinte Health Care North Hastings Fund Development Committee] has done a great job raising the money. The province pays for the brick and the mortar, the community continues the commitment,’ said Smith.

Chairwoman of the fund development committee Kim Bishop agreed.

‘We couldn’t raise the money without these hard working volunteers,’ said Bishop.

By the end of Thursday, the auxiliary had raised almost \$5,000. Executive member Gabrielle Coe noted donations that help exceed the goal will go towards the hospital as well.