

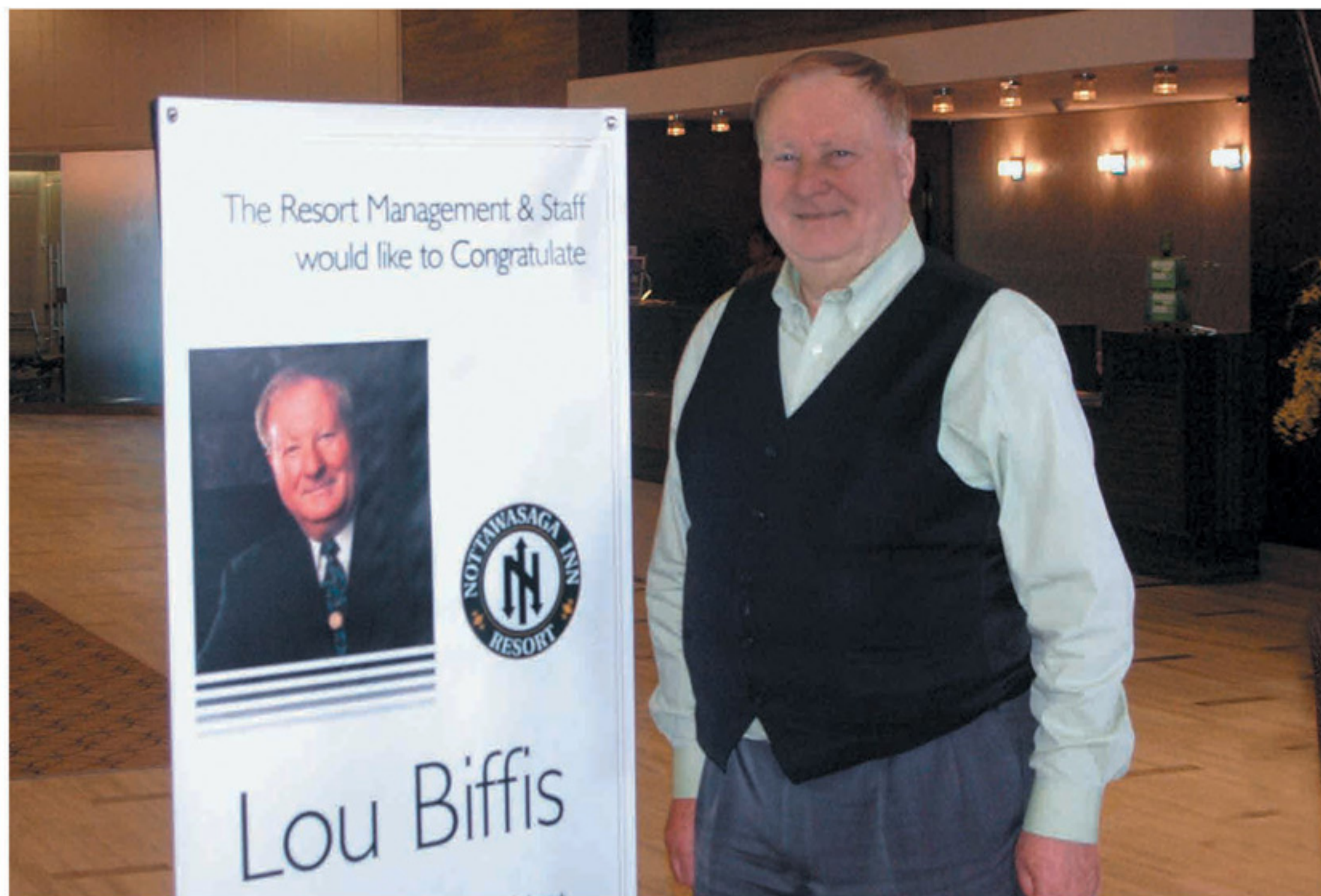
Summer 2014

## Nottawasaga Foundation - an important partner with Stevenson

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*Mr. Lou Biffis, President of the Nottawasaga Foundation. With Mr. Biffis at the helm of the fundraising organization, the Foundation has been a major supporter of the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation, many other local charities and worthy causes.*



**W**hen it comes to supporting the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation, one local organization is well known for its continued philanthropy toward our local Hospital and healthcare facilities.

The Nottawasaga Foundation was founded 21 years ago as another branch of the Nottawasaga Inn Resort in Alliston and has been a major supporter over the past two decades.

"We wanted to give back to the community. We wanted to raise money for charities and the hospital," explained Lou Biffis, President of the Nottawasaga Foundation. "It was always family involved in the beginning. Now we have eight or nine people involved on the Board. At first we didn't have a goal - we tried to raise as much as we could. Now we do have a goal and we have tried to stick with it as much as we can for the past number of years. Three years ago we raised \$441,000, last year it was \$341,000."

Over the years, the Nottawasaga Foundation has played a major role in expanding Hospital services. Most notably a donation to bring dialysis services to Stevenson resulted in the purchase of dialysis machines as well as an important contribution to the initiative to bring digital mammography to the Hospital. More recently, the Nottawasaga Foundation has been the lead supporter towards bringing expanded Urology services to Stevenson.

Fundraising can be a full time job. The Foundation's premier event - the now legendary Annual Charity Golf Tournament - is a highly publicized event that draws a full card of players and business sponsorships every year. All of the Nottawasaga's business partners help to support the efforts of the Foundation. At the completion of the 2013 tournament, the total raised over the history of the event was more than \$4.2 million.

While the Hospital is the main recipient of the Foundation's efforts, the Foundation and the Biffis family also contribute to many other charitable causes, many of which go unseen by the public. Mr. Biffis admits to a special fondness for helping out children with special needs. "Helping kids is fantastic. Whenever you help these young kids, you can really feel it," he said of recent donations to assist local children.

The Foundation also made key contributions to the Banting Homestead, Matthews House Hospice, as well as other local charities. Looking to the future, Mr. Biffis is supportive of expanding the Hospital. Citing an increase in the local population, he said, "The Hospital is a key factor to the dynamic growth of the community."