



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: May 23rd, 2023**

Correspondence Package No. I-23-MAY-10

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-23-MAY-10 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

- 1. Correspondence from the Emergency Management Ontario**
 - a) [Town of Arnprior – Compliance Results 2022](#)

- 2. Correspondence from the Province of Ontario**
 - a) [Ontario Investing in Infrastructure Improvement at Algonquin Park](#)
 - b) [Ontario Investing in Improving Soil Health](#)
 - c) [Ontario Helping Children and Youth Overcome Barriers](#)
 - d) [Ontario Investing in Life-Saving Training for Firefighters](#)
 - e) [Ontario Investing in More Accessible Communities](#)

- 3. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew**
 - a) [Chief's Commendations Presented to Individuals Involved in Creation of RC VTAC](#)

- 4. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario**
 - a) [Watch File – May 4th, 2023](#)
 - b) [Watch File – May 11th, 2023](#)

- 5. Correspondence from the Pembroke Regional Hospital**
 - a) [Spring 2023 Community Connection Newsletter](#)

Treasury Board Secretariat

Emergency Management Ontario
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Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor

de la gestion des situations d'urgence
Ontario
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May 04, 2023

Town of Arnprior

Dear Cory Nicholas - CEMC:

Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) is proud to support your efforts to deliver on our common mission to ensure Ontarians are safe, practiced and prepared before, during and after emergencies.

The Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) requires each municipality to develop and implement an Emergency Management (EM) program that includes:

- Municipal hazard and identification risk assessment;
- Municipal critical infrastructure list;
- Municipal emergency plan;
- Program By-law;
- Annual Review;
- Annual training;
- Annual exercise;
- Public education program;
- An Emergency Operations Center;
- A Community Emergency Management Coordinator;
- An Emergency Management Program Committee;
- A Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) and;
- An Emergency Information Officer.

Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) assists municipalities by making available our Field Officers and other resources to provide advice and guidance, deliver training, participate in exercises, and other advisory services including annually advising municipalities on achieving their EMCPA requirements.

Thank you for sharing your EM program related information and the effort undertaken to do so. Upon review of the documentation submitted, EMO is pleased to advise that our assessment indicates that your municipality has satisfied all thirteen (13) program elements required under the EMCPA 2023.

Congratulations on your municipality's efforts in meeting your EMCPA requirements in

2023.

You may also be interested in learning of the following information for further context:

- 398 of 444 municipalities sought EMO's advice on their progress to meet their EMCPA requirements in 2022, of which 393 were advised they appeared to satisfy their EMCPA requirements.
- Of the 5 municipalities who were advised they did not appear to meet all 13 program elements required under the EMCPA, the most prevalent reasons were:
 - Not conducting an annual exercise as prescribed;
 - CEMC did not complete training;
 - Not completing the annual MCEG training; and/or
 - Not completing an annual review of their EM program.

There is nothing more important than the safety and wellbeing of our families and loved ones, and the importance of ensuring that your municipality is as prepared as possible for any potential emergency cannot be understated.

Once again, EMO is here to assist municipalities in achieving their EMCPA requirements. For further information or if you have any questions or concerns about this letter, please contact our Field Officer assigned to your Sector; their contact information is below.

Name: Hayston Lam

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Phone: 437-231-5395

Sincerely,

Teepu Khawja
Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief, Emergency Management
Treasury Board Secretariat

cc: Mayor Lisa McGee

Ontario Investing in Infrastructure Improvements at Algonquin Provincial Park

New cabins and yurts will improve camper experience at Canada's oldest provincial park

May 05, 2023

[Environment, Conservation and Parks](#)

WHITNEY — The Ontario government is investing more than \$3.3 million to build, maintain and revitalize infrastructure at Algonquin Provincial Park, including more roofed accommodations and bridges. The funding will increase opportunities for overnight camping and improve the visitor experience on trails at Canada's oldest provincial park.

"In 2022, Ontario Parks recorded more than 12.1 million visits and overnight camping grew by nine per cent over 2021, which shows the increasing demand for our beautiful provincial parks," said David Piccini, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "Building more roofed accommodations and bridges are an important part of ensuring visitors can enjoy a memorable experience at Algonquin Provincial Park year-round."

This infrastructure investment at Algonquin Provincial Park will support the construction of eight new roofed accommodations – four yurts and four cabins – at Mew Lake Campground, as well as the replacement of two bridges at Rock Lake and Pog Lake campgrounds and roadway paving and improvements along Highway 60.

Ontario Parks is planning on updating three additional yurts at Mew Lake Campground this year to offer modern camping amenities. These investments directly respond to the feedback from parks visitors. In a 2021 survey, close to one-third of Ontario Parks visitors said they would be more likely to visit in the future if more roofed accommodations were available to rent.

"I can tell you firsthand from growing up hiking in Algonquin Provincial Park — it has so much to offer visitors, from hiking and biking trails to canoe routes and a Discovery program, and I am pleased we are bringing even more to the park by building more roofed accommodations for overnight stays," said John Yakabuski,

Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. “Reinvesting in Ontario Parks infrastructure at one of Ontario’s most beloved parks will ensure visitors can enjoy a quintessential Canadian camping experience.”

Ongoing investment in Ontario Parks infrastructure is another way the government is expanding recreational opportunities for Ontario families, boosting local tourism and strengthening the protection and health of local wildlife and the environment. This project is part of Ontario’s \$41.7 million investment over two years to upgrade and maintain Ontario Parks infrastructure to continue to ensure a modern and enjoyable parks experience.

Quick Facts

- Established in 1893, Algonquin Provincial Park is Ontario’s first provincial park and Canada’s oldest provincial park, offering four-season activities, including camping, fishing and skating, drawing about 1.1 million visits in 2022. The park protects more than 1.9 million acres of land — that’s bigger in size than the province of Prince Edward Island.
 - In 2022-23, Ontario Parks added 26 new roofed accommodations, bringing the total of roofed accommodations to 201 across 31 parks.
 - Our world-class system of provincial parks is one of the Ontario’s greatest strengths, providing health and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike for more than 125 years.
 - Every dollar spent at Ontario Parks, from annual passes to purchases from the [online store](#), is re-invested into Ontario Parks, helping to create a better park experience for visitors, improve services, programs and amenities and protect 340 provincial parks and 295 conservation reserves across the province.
-

Additional Resources

[Find a provincial park or conservation reserve near you](#)

Related Topics

Environment and Energy

Learn more about how Ontario protects and restores wildlife and the environment. Includes information on conservation and the electricity system. [Learn more](#)

Media Contacts

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Ontario Investing In Improved Soil Health

\$9.5 million investment supporting key elements of the Grow Ontario Strategy

May 10, 2023

[Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#)

[Finance](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$9.5 million over the next three years to equip farmers with the technology they need to maximize the health of their soil and increase their productivity and profitability.

This new funding in the [2023 Budget: Building a Strong Ontario](#) will help improve soil data mapping and soil evaluation and monitoring. Soil data and interpretive maps support on-farm decision-making, enabling farmers to innovate and use technology to improve their long-term viability so that they can remain competitive in the global market.

“This funding will allow farmers, researchers and others to access critical data to help understand, and adapt to meet the needs of soil management and health protocols provincewide,” said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. “This initiative builds on actions outlined in the Grow Ontario Strategy to support the resiliency and growth of the overall food supply sector, while providing beneficial information to understand the needs and potential of the agricultural and agri-food across the province, including Northern Ontario.”

Through this investment, OMAFRA will update the province’s soil maps and information as part of its Soil Resource Inventory (SRI) work.

It will also build the [Ontario Agricultural Soil Information System](#) (OASIS). This data and information system will house, manage, and analyze soil data critical to support farming operations. As planting season begins, we want farmers to know that this programming will enable them to make better informed business and land management decisions in tending their own soils for years to come.

“Our government is taking a responsible and targeted approach to support farmers, people and businesses today while laying a strong foundation for future generations,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “This investment is part

of our government's plan to strengthen our agri-food sector so that more local food can be grown here in Ontario."

The Ontario government's 2023 budget, Building a Strong Ontario, is helping to drive economic growth, attract jobs and investments, and build key infrastructure projects faster. The government's plan is also training skilled workers to fill in-demand jobs, keeping costs down for those who need it the most, and providing better services for the people of Ontario.

Quick Facts

- Grow Ontario is the provincial government's plan to strengthen the agri-food sector, fuel economic growth, ensure an efficient, reliable, and responsive food supply and address ongoing agri-food sector vulnerabilities through new innovations.
 - By 2032, Ontario's goal is to increase: the consumption of food grown and prepared in Ontario by 30 per cent, the production of food grown and prepared in Ontario by 30 per cent and Ontario's food and beverage manufacturing GDP by 10 per cent.
-

Additional Resources

[Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#)

[2023 Ontario Budget: Building a Strong Ontario](#)

[Grow Ontario Strategy](#)

Related Topics

Rural and North

Information about the province's Far North and rural communities. Get connected to business improvement organizations and learn more about funding and programs that support rural, northern and Indigenous communities. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Helping Children and Youth Overcome Barriers

Provincial funding for grassroots organizations helping connect more young people to supports in their community

May 12, 2023

Children, Community and Social Services

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing more than \$13.5 million through the Youth Opportunities Fund to support 38 youth-focused grassroots projects across the province that will help children, youth and families develop new skills, overcome social and economic barriers, and navigate services in their community. This includes investing more than \$7.7 million in 20 projects in the Greater Toronto Area.

"Local volunteers, community leaders, and grassroots organizations are the driving force behind strong and thriving communities," said Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services. "The Youth Opportunities Fund helps local community organizations break down social and economic barriers and create better outcomes for children, youth, and families. I'm excited to see the positive changes these recipients will bring to their local communities."

The Youth Opportunities Fund is a grant program administered by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This year's Youth Opportunities Fund grant recipients will operate programs that:

- support youth to stay engaged in school, advance their skills and transition to employment
- empower girls and young women to be leaders
- help children, youth and their families address racism
- provide mentorship and employment-related supports, such as job shadowing and employment mentorship opportunities
- help youth and families navigate and access programs and resources in their community that strengthen family well-being as well as community and cultural connections.

Some examples of the projects receiving funding this year include:

- **Christie Refugee Welcome Centre** and their partners will help unaccompanied or separated Black and racialized youth navigating the immigration system in the Essex, Kent, Lambton, Niagara, and Toronto regions to access the support they need along the way. Christie Refugee Welcome Centre received a grant of \$237,700 over two years.
- **Maternal Mind Matters** will help Muslim parents, guardians, and caregivers in Milton to access culturally appropriate mental wellbeing supports. Maternal Mind Matters received a grant of \$254,500 over three years.
- **Niizh Mandiook Hide Camp** will create a place where Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIAA+ youth in Essex, Kent, Lambton, Grand River, and York-Simcoe can strengthen their connections to Indigenous identity and culture through traditional skills and teachings. Niizh Mandiook Hide Camp received a grant of \$375,000 over three years.

“Ontario’s youth are the next generation of leaders and changemakers who will help shape the future of the province,” said Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. “Our government’s investment in the Youth Opportunities Fund will help youth from all walks of life overcome barriers, empower them to reach their full potential and help build strong, inclusive and thriving communities where everyone has opportunities to succeed.”

"This year, the Ontario Trillium Foundation is pleased to partner with the government of Ontario to invest \$13.5 million through the Youth Opportunities Fund to support 38 critical grassroots projects," said Katharine Bambrick, CEO of the Ontario Trillium Foundation. "This funding helps local projects led by youth and families who share the same lived experiences of those benefitting from the work to improve the social and economic wellbeing of our community members. Thank you to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services for the continued support as we build healthy and vibrant communities."

Quick Facts

- The 2023 Youth Opportunities Fund grants will provide a total of \$13,550,300 in funding to 38 community organizations across Ontario.
- Applications for the 2024 Youth Opportunities Fund grants will open in Spring 2023.
- The Youth Opportunities Fund provides funding through three streams:
 - The Youth Innovations Stream provides young people facing social and economic barriers with the resources they need to design and deliver solutions to issues that matter to them.

- The Family Innovations Stream invests in grassroots groups delivering culturally-anchored projects that empower and support parents, guardians, and caregivers.
- The System Innovations Stream supports organizations working to research how specific systems work and implement strategies that lead to system-wide changes.

Additional Resources

- [Learn more about the Youth Opportunities Fund](#)
- [See the full list of 2023 Youth Opportunities Fund grant recipients](#)

Related Topics

Home and Community

Information for families on major life events and care options, including marriage, births and child care. Also includes planning resources for municipalities. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Investing in Life-Saving Training for Firefighters

New projects will give firefighters the physical and mental health skills they need to stay safe and save lives

May 15, 2023

Office of the Premier

MISSISSAUGA — The Ontario government is investing \$700,000 to support four innovative and free training projects designed for 203 professional and volunteer firefighters around the province. Training will focus on fighting fires in hazardous (Mayday) situations for small and rural services to ensure they are equipped and prepared for ground rescue and wildfire scenarios. There will also be courses for automobile extraction, boating and water safety, and elevator rescue.

“Our firefighters are true heroes who face danger head-on and without hesitation to protect our communities and our people,” said Premier Doug Ford. “These new investments will help to ensure they have the training and resources they need to do their jobs safely and effectively.”

Firefighting is among the most stressful careers in Ontario. In recognition of the mental toll, this investment will also contribute to peer support training for suicide awareness and crisis intervention. Two projects will be led by the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association, while the City of Mississauga and the Town of Georgina are receiving funding as well.

“Firefighters work tirelessly to protect others and the physical and mental stresses they face takes a toll,” said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. “Our government is proud to invest in training programs that offer peer support and mental health services to ensure our firefighters have the training and experience they need to take care of their communities and themselves.”

In March 2023, Ontario announced plans to expand cancer coverage for firefighters. These changes will make it faster and easier for these heroes and their families to access the compensation and supports they deserve for thyroid and pancreatic cancers from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

"We are thrilled with the announcement," said Greg Horton, President of the Ontario Professional Firefighters Association. "Professional development and capacity building are core value propositions the OPFFA offers its members. The Association plays a unique role in assessing the continuing education needs of its members and delivering programs to meet those needs. While there is ample training on how to put out a fire and save lives, there hasn't been adequate training on firefighter survival."

These projects are funded through the government's Skills Development Fund, a \$700 million initiative, which supports ground-breaking programs that connect jobseekers with the skills and training they need to find well-paying careers close to home.

Quick Facts

- There are about 30,000 firefighters in Ontario, including about 12,000 full-time firefighters, nearly 19,000 volunteer firefighters and more than 400 part-time firefighters.
- Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association is receiving \$367,105 for the Fire Ground Survival Program and \$65,995 for the Peer Support Program.
- The City of Mississauga is receiving \$101,099 for the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Fire Ground Survival program.
- The Town of Georgina is receiving \$176,000 for the Professional Development Georgina Fire & Rescue Services project.
- Through its first three funding rounds, the Skills Development Fund helped launch 595 projects to help nearly 522,000 people around the province take the next step in their careers.
- Ontario's Skills Development Fund is supported through labour market transfer agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

Quotes

"Our firefighting heroes require appropriate training and resources so they can save lives and make it home to their loved ones. This new training investment by our government is critical to tackling the operational and mental health challenges our professional and volunteer firefighters encounter daily."

- Michael Kerzner
Ontario's Solicitor General

"This investment is welcomed as it allows Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services to provide the critical professional development and access to specialized training that helps ensure our firefighters have the practical skills and knowledge necessary to protect themselves and the communities they serve. Training like The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Fire Ground Survival program is invaluable. This internationally recognized program teaches firefighters how to prevent mayday situations from occurring including how to perform potentially life-saving actions should they become lost, trapped or injured. The Fire Ground Survival program also provides crucial skills training in the areas of self-rescue, rapid intervention and firefighter survival techniques as well as hazard recognition, effective communication and situational awareness to improve survivability and decrease the potential of injury and death of firefighters. Training and skills development is the foundation for our team; helping strengthen capabilities while reducing injuries and potential risk. "

- Deryn Rizzi

Fire Chief of Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services

"The Fire Fighters Association of Ontario welcomes this important announcement. The fire service has been faced with unique financial challenges post-covid that a lot of municipalities across Ontario are struggling to overcome. These investments will help alleviate this financial burden and allow fire departments to not only provide a better service to their citizens but keep their members safe while doing so."

- Randy Narine

**Section 21 Committee Representative, The Fire Fighters Association of
Ontario**

"We are excited to see the Ministry's commitment to supporting our firefighters through the Skills Development Fund projects being announced today. These initiatives will help ensure our frontline heroes have the necessary skills and resources to protect our communities and keep Ontarians safe. We extend our thanks to Premier Doug Ford, the Hon. Monte McNaughton, and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development for their dedication to Ontario's firefighters."

- Rob Grimwood
President, Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs

"I'd like to thank Premier Ford and Minister McNaughton for supporting the Fire Ground Survival and Peer Support training programs from the International Association of Fire Fighters. These programs will help save the lives of firefighters by providing the skills needed to self-rescue should they become trapped at an emergency scene, as well better deal with the mental trauma often resulting from the job."

- Fred LeBlanc
13th District Vice President, International Association of Fire Fighters

"Thanks to the Province of Ontario's Skills Development Fund, Georgina Fire & Rescue Services will be able to continue to improve and maintain high level training for our firefighters so we can respond to specialized rescue situations. This funding will be utilized to support our annual training plan and associated programs, help to ensure the safety of our firefighters, and meet the growing needs of our community."

- Ron Jenkins
Fire Chief, Town of Georgina

Additional Resources

- [Skills Development Fund](#)
 - [Employment Ontario: Free Programs and Services for Job Seekers, Workers and Employers](#)
-

Related Topics

Education and Training

Learn about Ontario's early years, education and training systems. Includes information on child care, elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, skills training and financial aid. [Learn more](#)

Government

Learn about the government services available to you and how government works. [Learn more](#)

Law and Safety

Ontario's laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Investing in More Accessible Communities

Funding applications now open for the 2023-24 EnAbling Change Program

May 12, 2023

Seniors and Accessibility

TORONTO – The Ontario government is providing up to \$1.5 million this year to not-for-profits and organizations across the province so they can develop tools and educational resources to raise awareness about the value and benefits of accessibility and help make Ontario open to people of all abilities.

“We are moving forward on the journey to make Ontario more accessible and inclusive,” said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. “The projects our government supports through the EnAbling Change Program are one more way we are ensuring Ontario is accessible for everyone.”

“The EnAbling Change Program is the next step in our government’s efforts to build a more accessible Ontario,” said Graham McGregor, MPP for Brampton North. “The funding provided through this program will help not-for-profit organizations, including many right here in Brampton, to promote accessibility in the workplace and community and foster a more inclusive Ontario.”

Applications for the 2023-24 EnAbling Change Program funding are open now through to June 29 and will focus on projects that create equitable opportunities in the labour market, drive a culture of respect and dignity for people with disabilities, and support awareness and regulatory compliance of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*.

Examples of projects currently funded through the 2022-23 program include:

- **up to \$150,000 to the Ontario Tourism Education Corporation (OTEC)** to deliver an employer awareness campaign providing sector leaders with disability awareness training.
- **up to \$119,800 to Retail Council of Canada** helps retailers through its “EnAbling Change for Retailers – Creating an Inclusive Culture within the Retail Store” project.

- **up to \$119,125 to Breaking Down Barriers An Independent Living Centre Inc.** “Start the Conversation AODA 2025” includes guides and workshops that cover areas such as accessible customer service, digital accessibility and the design of public spaces.
- **up to \$150,000 to Peel Career Assessment Services Inc.** for its “Ability Works” project to help people with disabilities access equitable employment opportunities and employers support inclusive employment.
- **up to \$36,750 to the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board** is updating the board’s Special Education Plan, Individual Education Plan Guide and Alternative Report Card. People with disabilities will be included in planning stages and a summary report will be provided to stakeholders to drive a culture of respect and dignity.
- **up to \$116,438 to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)** “CNIB Kids – Inclusive and Accessible Education in Ontario” project. Fully accessible presentations will be made in schools across Ontario and will provide accessibility and sight loss education, and challenge stigmas.
- **up to \$16,450 to Carassauga Festival Inc.** to help event organizers plan, assess and deliver accessible events through its “Accessibility at the Festival – Celebrating Inclusion and Diversity” project.
- **up to \$104,516 to ParaGolf Ontario** “Driving Toward InclusiON – changing attitudes and increasing opportunities for everybody in the sport of golf” project. The program features new teaching guidelines, coach and ambassador training, and golf events for all abilities.

The Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility’s [Age-friendly and accessibility grants web page](#) has information on how to apply for the 2023-24 EnAbling Change Program.

Quick Facts

- The EnAbling Change Program started in 1999 and has supported more than 100 projects across Ontario. It provides [funding to not-for-profit, industry and professional associations across a range of sectors](#).
-

Additional Resources

- [Learn about ways that inclusion improves business.](#)
 - [Find out how you can make your organization more accessible and inclusive.](#)
-

Related Topics

Home and Community

Information for families on major life events and care options, including marriage, births and child care. Also includes planning resources for municipalities. [Learn more](#)

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Chief's Commendations presented to individuals involved in creation of RC VTAC

Posted on Thursday, May 04, 2023



County of Renfrew Chief's Commendations were presented during the April 26 session of Renfrew County Council recognizing two individuals involved in the creation of the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre. Taking part in the presentation (from left) were County of Renfrew Paramedic Service Chief Michael Nolan; Councillor Michael Donohue, Health Committee Chair; award recipients Dr. Robert Cushman, former Acting Medical Officer of Health for the Renfrew County and District Health Unit and Leah Levesque, President and CEO of Arnprior Regional Health; Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon and Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk.

RELEASE DATE:

May 4, 2023

Two individuals who were instrumental in the creation and early success of the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC) by providing guidance in progressive health systems and health policy have been honoured with County of Renfrew Chief's Commendations.

County of Renfrew Paramedic Service Chief Michael Nolan presented the awards to Dr. Robert Cushman, former Acting Medical Officer of Health with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit, and Leah Levesque, President and CEO of Arnprior Regional Health, at the April 26, 2023 session of Renfrew County Council.

The Chief's Commendation is an award created more than 10 years ago to recognize exemplary service and those who have gone over and above in our community. It has been awarded to members of the public, paramedics, administrative staff, and individuals for their extraordinary efforts.

"We are presenting this award to Rob and Leah not only the work effort they put in, but truly their passion for our community and their commitment to partnership and collaboration across the health-care sector," Chief Nolan noted. "Both of these individuals made an incredible contribution to the County of Renfrew throughout the pandemic and in the creation of the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre program, and for that, we thank them."

Initially started in response to the pandemic as a virtual/mobile COVID testing and assessment centre, RC VTAC quickly evolved to serve not only people with COVID-related issues, but anyone with a healthcare need who did not have a family physician or access to their physician.

"RC VTAC is terrific; a real example of coming together and sharing the future," said Dr. Cushman after receiving the award. "To be really strong in the field of healthcare and health in general, everyone has to come together to break down the silos. Renfrew County has a bright future with things like RC VTAC and other organizations like Ontario Health Teams. Congratulations and keep working to improve the health and quality of life of those living in Renfrew County."

While COVID was an extremely challenging time for all involved in healthcare, one of the greatest rewards for Leah Levesque was partnering with Renfrew County for RC VTAC.

"The impact on the communities across Renfrew County are huge; lots of patients are not able to access primary care, but I think for the future this is the most positive thing I have seen in healthcare in a long time," she said. "Out of a crisis sometimes comes innovation."

Warden Peter Emon also expressed his gratitude to the two award recipients and commended them for the time and efforts put towards the creation of RC VTAC.

"This is quite groundbreaking and significant for rural Ontario, where organizations came together quickly to develop something innovative and brand new," the Warden said. "Your involvement was important in developing this model of treatment that is going to last for a long time and can be replicated in other communities across Ontario."

"RC VTAC was developed when traditional bricks and mortar health-care assistance was not available due to the pandemic, but it has evolved to become an excellent, modern and responsive service model which both complements the brick-and-mortar model and reduces a forced reliance on it," he added.

In March 2023, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski announced permanent Provincial government funding for RC VTAC, with an initial commitment of \$3.2 million in 2023-24.

Since March 2020, RC VTAC has provided 86,603 family physician virtual assessments, 70,500 paramedic on-site assessments, and 5,583 paramedic home visits. Each month, RC VTAC handles 5,000 calls, 3,000 assessments and helps divert 1,000 patients from hospital emergency departments.

RC VTAC is a collaboration between family doctors, the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service, primary care teams, Renfrew County Hospitals and the Renfrew County and District Health Unit. Funding and support for this vital service are provided by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health. Learn more at www.rcvtac.ca or call 1-844-727-6404, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

-30-

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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By [GHD Digital](http://www.esolutionsgroup.ca) (<http://www.esolutionsgroup.ca>).

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May 4, 2023

In This Issue

- AMO and Conservation Ontario's webinar materials and recording.
- AMO Regional Energy Planning webinar materials and recording.
- Submit your entry for the 2023 PJ Marshal Awards.
- Applications open for 2023 Ontario Community Environment Fund.
- NG9-1-1 Transfer Payment Program.
- Summer employment opportunities with Ontario Parks for students.
- New AMO post-secondary learning opportunity - Government Report Writing.
- Register for the AMO 2023 Annual General Meeting and Conference.
- AMO Conference 2023: Exhibitor and sponsorship information.
- Navigating Conflict for Elected Officials - June workshop.
- Human Rights and Equity - May workshop.
- AMO-OFIFC Indigenous Community Awareness workshop: New date.
- Land use planning - Fall workshops.
- Upcoming risk management webinars.
- Take advantage of energy analysis coaching through Save on Energy.
- Canoe vendor spotlight: Vohl Inc.
- Careers: County of Simcoe and Region of Peel.

AMO Matters

The AMO and Conservation Ontario webinar is now available to watch on [YouTube](#). The webinar covers the topic of what's next for municipalities and conservation authorities in the context of land use planning.

AMO's Regional Energy Planning webinar is available to watch on [YouTube](#). [Slides](#) from the presentations are also available. The webinar covers regional energy planning and the role of municipalities.

The [PJ Marshall Award](#) recognizes municipal governments demonstrating excellence in the use of innovative approaches in the areas of capital, service delivery showing examples where Ontario municipalities have implemented and can point to tangible outcomes from new, more cost-effective ways of providing public services and facilities. The deadline to submit is May 26.

Provincial Matters

Please review the Ontario Community Environment Fund program [application guide](#) for guidance on applying to the program. The deadline to submit through [Transfer Payment Ontario](#) is May 30 at 5pm. Contact OCEF@ontario.ca for more details.

Public Safety Answering Points will be notified on applications for NG-911 transition funding for 2022-2023. The funding program has been implemented to help support the transition CRTC deadline of March 4, 2025.

There are between 1500-2000 summer student positions at Ontario Parks across the province. Municipalities may share opportunities with students in their communities. Students can contact ontarioparksjobs@ontario.ca with any questions.

Eye on Events

AMO is embarking on new partnerships with Wilfrid Laurier University. Municipal councils rely on high quality reports to form the basis of sound decision making. This virtual (Zoom) training was purpose-built in consultation with an Ontario municipality to foster specific report writing skills that meet the needs of varying audiences such as councils, committees, boards, agencies, and the public. Register for the June 13 full-day program.

AMO is excited about this year's Conference hosted by the City of London at RBC Place London and DoubleTree by Hilton, August 20-23. Register now for this important event.

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AMO has designed its training to support members in your leadership roles. Our training offers skills to navigate the many relationships you encounter as an elected official. Navigating Conflict Relationships for Elected Officials is a top-rated course you shouldn't miss. Register for the June 27-28 training.

Join us May 16 for our Human Rights & Equity training offering insights, understanding and skills to support your role as an employer in these complex areas.

Building on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) shared by AMO and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC), we are offering training to help build indigenous cultural competency in municipal government. Register for the November 27 training.

AMO's Foundations in Planning and Deeper Dive training prepares elected officials in understanding planning concepts and requirements as well making strategic decisions on the complex issues you will face over the coming term.

LAS

Learn about the new municipal cyber security program CIMOM on May 17 and hold June 8 and November 15 for our general risk webinars.

Save on Energy is offering three online workshops in May and June to help municipal facility and energy staff save energy in their buildings. Learn how to benchmark and analyze your energy use. Space is limited. Email trainingandsupport@ieso.ca for more info or to participate.

If your snow and ice handling equipment took a beating over the winter, the Canoe Procurement Group has you covered! We're pleased to welcome Vohl Inc. as an approved vendor. They have a wide variety of snowblowers and other snow/ice removal equipment to help keep your community safe in the winter. Contact Sarah to learn more.

Careers

Manager, Early Learning & Childcare Services - County of Simcoe. Responsible for

the co-ordination of services related to the planning, development, management, integration, and capacity building of the Licensed Child Care and Early Years System. [Apply online](#) by May 12.

[Planner Opportunities - Region of Peel](#). (5 planning positions) Overall, they must review, comment and coordinate consolidated Regional comments and recommendations on various development applications. [Apply online](#) by May 15.

About AMO

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario's and Canada's political system. Follow [@AMOPolicy](#) on Twitter!

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May 11, 2023

In This Issue

- AMO and Conservation Ontario's webinar materials and recording.
- AMO Regional Energy Planning webinar materials and recording.
- Submit your entry for the 2023 PJ Marshal Awards.
- OSUM is pleased to announce its 2023 - 2026 Executive Committee.
- Applications open for 2023 Ontario Community Environment Fund.
- Summer employment opportunities with Ontario Parks for students.
- Federal Housing Advocate Review on Homeless Encampments.
- Support for Municipal Disability Management Programs.
- New AMO post-secondary learning opportunity - Government Report Writing.
- Register for the AMO 2023 Annual General Meeting and Conference.
- AMO Conference 2023: Exhibitor and sponsorship information.
- Request your delegation meetings at AMO 2023.
- Navigating Conflict for Elected Officials - June workshop.
- Human Rights and Equity - May workshop.
- AMO-OFIFC Indigenous Community Awareness: November workshop
- Navigating the Road to Resilience Risk Management symposium: Oct 4-5.
- eScribe webinar: Member spotlight on the Township of Scugog.
- Blog: A Game Changer That Upgrades Municipal Services Delivery.
- Canoe vendor spotlight: Safeware.
- Summer Road & Sidewalk Assessments.
- Commissioner Kosseim's keynote address to AMCTO members on April 27.
- May 14 is Child and Youth Care Day.
- Careers: Niagara Region, Halton Region, and Durham Region.

AMO Matters

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OSUM Chair Hilda MacDonald is looking forward to working with the new Executive. "We are pleased and excited by the interest in the [Executive Committee](#) positions and welcome our new members. The Executive is looking forward to addressing the critical

issues facing our small urban communities and working with you and AMO on strengthening Ontario's municipalities."

Provincial Matters

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Federal Matters

The Federal Housing Advocate has launched a [review of homeless encampments](#). Municipalities, service providers, and people experiencing homelessness are encouraged to submit experiences and ideas for solutions by May 26.

A free assessment of disability management programs is available until June 2024. The assessment involves an interview and produces a report. For details, visit the National Institute of Disability Management and Research [website](#).

Eye on Events

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Don't miss out on the opportunity to exhibit or sponsor at the 2023 AMO Conference - the largest municipal conference in Ontario. Full details on how your organization can participate is located here [here](#).

Delegation meetings are a unique opportunity to meet with provincial ministers and staff on matters of local interest. The request for delegations through MMAH is opened until June 9, 2023. To request a delegation meeting, click [here](#).

AMO has designed its training to support members in your leadership roles. Our training offers skills to navigate the many relationships you encounter as an elected official. [Navigating Conflict Relationships for Elected Officials](#) is a top-rated course you shouldn't miss. Register for the June 27-28 training.

Understanding your role and responsibilities as an elected official when it comes to [Human Rights & Equity](#) is critical. This training examines your legislative responsibilities and understanding what equity means and how it can be implemented. [Register](#) today to build your knowledge in these complex areas.

Building on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) shared by AMO and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC), we are offering training to help build indigenous cultural competency in municipal government. [Register](#) for the

November 27 training.

The LAS IPE Risk Management Symposium will discuss critical municipal risk issues such as climate resiliency and the Natural Assets Initiative, cyber security, risk data management and more. [Registration](#) is now open.

AMO and eScribe are pleased to be joined by Becky Jamieson, Director of Corporate Services and Municipal Clerk for the Township of Scugog, to explore the benefits of meeting management platforms. [See first-hand how eScribe helps](#) governments leverage technology to make their public meetings easier and engage with their constituents better.

LAS

Migrating online services while the population demands a simple digital experience is no easy task. Our [latest blog](#) outlines how municipalities can deliver online services efficiently.

Did you know your Emergency Services can buy Safeware products through the [Canoe Procurement Group](#)? Safeware offers a wide range of solutions including fire & rescue equipment, law enforcement gear, educational supplies, and training. [Contact Sarah](#) to learn more.

The [LAS Road & Sidewalk Assessment Service](#) is getting ready for a busy summer! We'll be visiting all parts of Ontario, sign up now along with your neighbours to reduce costs. [Contact Tanner](#) for a no-obligation quote.

Municipal Wire*

Maintaining citizens' trust in a complex digital world was presented to the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario by Information and Privacy Commissioner Patricia Kosseim, April 27. The [presentation provided the latest updates \(FR\)](#) at the IPC as well as issues such as transparency and cybersecurity.

The Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies is continuing the #ForgetMeNot campaign to remind community, government, and service providers that kids in care need critical supports. [Click here](#) for resources to participate.

Careers

[Commissioner of Public Works – Niagara Region](#). Core responsibilities of the role will be to provide strategic, innovative, and operational leadership for the Public Works department. Apply to arthur@wmc.on.ca by June 9.

[Senior Research Advisor - Halton Region](#). Responsible research, policy, and analytical activities to support the development, implementation and management of policies, programs and projects for the Children's Services Division. [Apply online](#) by May 26.

[Project Engineer, Rapid Transit - Regional Municipality of Durham](#). Support the coordination and delivery of Regional road and/or rapid transit projects. [Apply online](#) by June 9.

[Manager, Health Analytics and Research - Regional Municipality of Durham](#). This position leads and directs a specialized team of 8 epidemiologists and a program assistant. [Apply online](#) by May 31.

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April 28, 2023

Hello. I am pleased to share with you the spring edition of our Community Connection public newsletter.

The last several months have been a flurry of activity at our hospital as we were preparing for a five-day on-site Accreditation survey by a team from Accreditation Canada. As I write this letter to you, we are just days away from receiving our final report and decision and we are excited to be able to communicate the results to the community once they have been received and reviewed.

We also wanted to share with the community the great work that has been going on behind the scenes in preparation for widespread digital transformation at PRH and the steps that have taken place in order to enable us to make a significant financial investment in a new electronic medical record system.

And our Surgical team is also excited about their launch of day surgery knee and hip replacements for those patients who meet the eligibility criteria.

I hope you will find these and other news tidbits information and interesting!

Should you wish to access the French translation of our newsletter, this will be available on our website soon. (www.pembrokeregionalhospital.ca).

Sincerely,



***Sabine Mersmann, President and CEO
Pembroke Regional Hospital***

Community Connection



Pembroke Regional Hospital Spring 2023 Edition



Phone (613) 732-2811 Email/Version Françaises Disponibles au pr@prh.email

Website pembrokeregionalhospital.ca - Facebook/Instagram pembrokeregionalhospital - Twitter @PRHhospital

Pembroke Regional Hospital Values Partnerships And Improvement Opportunities



Sabine Mersmann

It's been said that where there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved. This could be said for any circumstance, but particularly in health care today we have seen great things achieved through work with our health care partners and I believe there is great value in not only maintaining the partnerships that we have, but also in forging new ones wherever possible.

Since my appointment to President and CEO of the Pembroke Regional Hospital in early November, part of the work I have been doing is re-connecting with some of our community partners in my new capacity and meeting with various community leaders to talk about health care. The focus of those conversations has been ways in which our hospital can serve our community better and how we might be able to



work with others to improve health care delivery while ensuring we are able to offer the services and programs that those in our region need most.

These conversations will form an important foundation for discussions this fall when we invite regional stakeholders to the table as part of the hospital's strategic plan renewal session.

And our stakeholders and community partners will also have an important role to play when our hospital is visited by a four-member survey team from Accreditation Canada the first week of April.

Accreditation Canada is an independent,

not-for-profit organization that sets standards for quality and safety in healthcare and accredits health organizations in Canada and around the world. Our last Accreditation survey took place in 2018.

Once again we welcome this rigorous evaluation process which will assess close to 2,000 standards and Required Organizational Practices, while validating that our policies and processes conform with best practice standards and that we are consistently following standard work processes. The survey will also provide us with an opportunity to learn from industry experts as part of our ongoing continuous improvement strategies.

During their time at PRH from April 3rd to 6th, the Accreditation Canada surveyors will visit all areas of our hospital while observing committee meetings, conducting interviews, leading focus groups and following both clinical and administrative processes through the hospital from beginning to end as part of "tracer" exercises. **Continued on Page 2**

PRH Recognized For Outstanding Support Of Organ And Tissue Donation In Ontario

In recognition of our team's work to champion organ and tissue donation, Ontario Health (Trillium Gift of Life Network) has awarded PRH the *Provincial Routine Notification Rate Award* for a 100 per cent rate throughout 2021-2022. This means that, as part of a standard process that occurs following the death of a patient, staff have consistently notified the TGLN team so that they can determine if there is potential for organ and/or tissue donation and approach families to get consent.

This is the fourth time our hospital has received this award, and we

were the only hospital in Ontario to receive it for 2021-2022.

"This past year alone, as part of our commitment to organ and tissue donation, PRH helped ensure that three patients were able to give the gift of tissue donation, enhancing the lives of many," said PRH President and CEO Sabine Mersmann.

Since joining TGLN a decade ago, our hospital has supported organ and tissue donation while providing optimal end-of-life care for all patients and their families.

To become a donor and register your consent, visit BeADonor.ca.



Pictured here with the TGLN award are some of our team members who support the organ and tissue donation process at PRH including, from left, Chief of Staff Dr. Tom Hurley, Clinical Educator Erin Van Allen, PRH President and CEO Sabine Mersmann, Infection Control Clinical Manager Kirsten Johnson, Vice-President Clinical and Support Services Beth Brownlee, Emergency Department Charge Nurse Jeris Johnston, Patient Information Manager Kim Haley, and Patient Flow Clinical Manager Annette Davidson.

PFAC Members Help Identify Ways To Improve Accessibility At PRH

Recently, three members of our Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) participated in an accessibility walk-through of Towers C and D. The goal was to identify possible areas for improvement in our buildings, as seen through the perspective of people with disabilities. The identified improvements areas will help guide the Accessibility Planning Committee in their work for this year.

Some of the suggested improvements included:

- The need for more visible signage indicating the location of accessible parking spots for Tower D;
- Reducing the amount of signage at the Tower C entrance;
- Signage to indicate the location of Tower C's fully accessible washroom;
- Changing door handles to levers.

Additional walk-throughs of other areas are scheduled to take place in the coming months.

The role of The Patient and Family Advisory Council is to help ensure that patient and family voices are integrated in the planning, delivery and evaluation of services offered at PRH. To learn more about this group and how you can get involved, please call (613) 732-3675, extension 6161.

Pictured at right are: Tracy Gagne (PFAC), Marion Logan (PFAC), Plant Services Director Mike Godbout, Quality and Risk Management Manager Andrew Keck, Anna Walsh (PFAC), and Occupational Health and Safety Manager Sheldon Higginson.



CEO's First Update...Continued From Front

Preparation for Accreditation has been extensive, involving the work and participation of all members of our organization, from our Board of Directors to frontline staff, as well as community partners, patients and families.

We are proud of the work we do at PRH and look forward to being able to share all of that with the team during their visit.

So as you can see, there's a lot on the go and there are many more things we are excited to share with our community in 2023, some of which are included in this edition of our public newsletter while other news and updates regarding our construction projects, new professional staff and quality improvements in programs, service delivery and the patient experience are still to come.

I would like to thank our health care team and the community at large for welcoming me into my new position. Pembroke Regional Hospital belongs to all of us, and my team and I are committed to doing what it takes to ensure it meets everyone's health care needs and expectations.

Mental Health Services Clients Benefit From Time Spent In Equine Therapy



Alex Glofcheski (on horse)

It's not every day that someone walks away from their psychiatrist's office with a prescription for Equine Assisted Learning, but for eight clients of the Pembroke Regional Hospital's Assertive Community Treatment Team (ACTT), it's just what the doctor ordered!

For a total of 14 weeks in 2022, as part of a special pilot program, these individuals came together from all corners of Renfrew County to receive hands-on experiential learning through horse/human interaction and non-verbal communication.

"The goals were simple," explained Kristy Melcher, Concurrent Disorders Specialist with the ACT Team and lead for the pilot project. "We wanted to build a program that would address issues around isolation not only brought on by the recent challenges of the pandemic, but also common among those who experience severe and persistent mental illness."

She added that, by facing new challenges and building new skills through Dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT), it was hoped that participants would build friendships and strengthen their self esteem. To accomplish this, the ACT Team partnered with Greener Pastures Equine Programs which is hosted at Forbes Stables on B-Line Road in Pembroke and worked with Sydney Sheppard, PRH's own DBT Therapist, to tailor the program specifically to the unique needs of the ACT Team clients."



Jordan King

DBT therapy is a type of talk therapy (psychotherapy) that is specially adapted for people who experience emotions very intensely. Its aim is to introduce effective and practical skills which people can use when they are distressed. These skills are meant to replace other unhealthy and negative behaviours.

Those in the program participated in weekly 90 minutes sessions which began with a "check-in" process where staff and clients gathered around a fire pit to connect in a non-clinical setting. This often led to camaraderie, peer support interaction, and the best medicine of all – laughter, after which Ms. Sheppard shared the DBT skill of the day.

Participants were then partnered with one of the carefully selected horses and were invited to groom them in an effort to build a calm connection with the animal.

Each weekly session introduced a new and unique experience at the stable and including obstacle courses for the horses, therapeutic painting to illustrate a personal story using the horse as a canvas, the introduction of personal music anthems to ride to, and visits with the herd in their natural surroundings out in the pasture.



Donald Dombroskie

Participant feedback was positive with Jordan King thanking Greener Pastures for the experience and looking forward to having the opportunity to do it again, while Frank Lowerison said he enjoyed the trust he was able to build with his horses Keshee and Rocky!

Mental Health Services Director Mireille Delorme said that given the positive outcome of the pilot project, it is hoped that the project will receive funding to continue and expand.

"It would be a great thing if we can offer opportunities for the group to reconnect on a regular basis and explore other ways in which to incorporate this type of therapy into our clients' recovery journeys," Ms. Delorme said.



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ontario.ca/healthcareconnect



Making Strides In Plan To Go Paperless

Over the next few years, the Pembroke Regional Hospital will be making strides in its plan to go "paperless" with implementation of a new electronic medical record system.

"PRH has identified Digital Transformation as a key strategic initiative which will include this next major step," said PRH President and CEO Sabine Mersmann. "While there is still a lot of advance planning work to be done including costing and identifying the source of funds for such a large investment, we are excited about the many benefits that this will bring for our patients and health care providers."

In recent years, the digitization of health care has resulted in numerous tools and resources that improve healthcare services, including software that makes health information more accessible to patients, and keeps patient data secure in one place.

At PRH, some of the work done to date includes transition from paper-based to digital physician reports which can be electronically transferred in a timely manner to family doctors. This enables a faster review of the results and any necessary follow up.

Pembroke Regional Hospital also submits inpatient reports, surgical reports, diagnostic imaging and emergency department patient documentation to a provincial electronic medical record called *Connecting Ontario* and *Ontario MD*.

The *Connecting Ontario Clinical Viewer* is a secure, web-based portal that provides care providers all over Ontario, with real-time 24/7 access to digital health records including; dispensed medications, laboratory results, hospital visits, Home and Community Care Services, mental health care information, diagnostic imaging reports and images.

This provides a comprehensive view of a patient's health journey regardless of where in the province the information was obtained and enables health care providers to make faster, more informed care decisions.

Our hospital has also been exploring other opportunities to ensure that patients can have access to their digital results in a timely manner. In the coming months, this will include the adoption of the *PocketHealth* platform.

PocketHealth is a secure, online

storage hub for medical imaging records such as Ultrasounds, X-Rays, CT scans and MRIs which, for a small fee, can be easily accessed from any personal device.

Once an individual signs up for *PocketHealth*, their images and reports appear in their account the moment they are ready. This enables patients to be better informed about their diagnosis and health status so that they are better prepared for conversations with their health care team. More details on the adoption of this platform will be shared later this spring.

Many patients have asked us about the availability of *MyChart*, particularly those who have had the opportunity to use this service at other hospitals. *MyChart* is another personalized, secure online tool that allows you to view your health information.

Although PRH does not currently have the ability to provide a service like *MyChart*, the work we are doing in lead up to implementation of a new electronic medical record system will help lay the groundwork for offering a service of this type in the future.



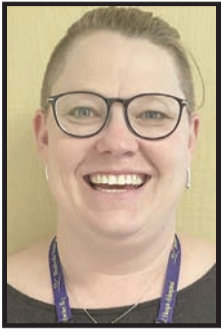
In the meantime, patients who would like a copy of their medical information can easily request this through our Release of Information Office. Most requests are filled free of charge and are ready for pickup in five business days or less (inpatients receive their requested information before they go home). Personal health information cannot be emailed as the system is not encrypted.

Most recently, as part of our organization-wide strategy to digitize processes, the Pembroke Regional Hospital has introduced a new electronic Lab order entry and information system which, together, have eliminated the use of paper for lab orders and results.

"As a hospital, we recognize the benefits of digital evolution and we are committed to the work it's going to take to move us forward. In the end, every investment we make will result in more timely access and better care for those in our region," Mrs. Mersmann said.

PRH Introduces Joint Replacement Day Surgery For Eligible Elective Patients

As part of an exciting advancement in the recovery of elective knee surgery patients at the Pembroke Regional Hospital, those meeting specific criteria are now able to recover at home rather than have a one to two-day hospital admission.

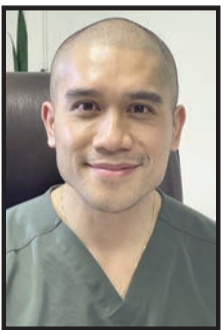


Heather MacMillan

Heather MacMillan, Clinical Manager of the hospital's Surgical Program said same-day surgery and discharge for this type of elective joint procedure is not only best practice and of great benefit to the patient, but can also help improve overall access to surgery.

Launched last August as part of a phased-in implementation, over 25 patients requiring partial and total knee replacements have had a successful outcome after being discharged to home the same day as their surgery.

In order to facilitate this at PRH, a working group was established that was comprised of team members from nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and anaesthesia. Dr. Chris de Jesus was the lead orthopaedic surgeon for this initiative. PRH also worked closely with the Surgical team from Queensway-Carleton Hospital (QCH) in order to better understand the process and how their surgeons determine eligibility as they were already offering this service.



Dr. Chris de Jesus

"I was fortunate to have completed my fellowship at The Ottawa Hospital with Dr. Geoff Dervin who has been a pioneer in developing the Day Surgery program. With the aid of QCH, we have been able to adopt protocols and guidelines to ensure a smooth transition and successful implementation of our program," said Dr. de Jesus. As a result, he noted that "The Day Surgery Joint Replacement program has gone very well thanks to a collaborative effort from the nursing staff, physiotherapy and administration."

Literature has shown that this is a safe and effective method of recovery after joint replacement surgery. Dr. de Jesus added that, "New surgical techniques and multimodal

anaesthetic approaches have helped to address pain, minimize blood loss and improve mobility soon after surgery has been completed. Physiotherapy assesses patients hours after surgery to ensure they are physically ready for discharge and they are discharged home with the same pain medications they would receive during hospital admission."

As a result, patients are able to recover in their own environment, sleep in their own bed, rest in their own surroundings and choose their own food without the disturbances and disruptions which come with a hospital admission and can make it difficult to achieve good rest.



Michelle Godsell

"The new norm for hospital care is that we are always planning for discharge from the time of admission and making sure that patients go home safely with all the tools and resources they require," said Michelle Godsell, the Surgical program's Clinical Director, adding that recovering at home reduces the chance of acquiring a hospital-based infection.

She said that one of the keys to the program's success and keeping patients safe is education. "From a patient perspective, there is no surprise what the planned path is, and education continues after surgery with discussions and plans around pain management and post-surgical care."

Patients are discharged with all of the information they require including who to contact with questions and concerns. Staff then follow up with patients by phone and the patients also have regular follow up appointments with their surgeon.

Dr. de Jesus echoed those comments. "Communication has been a key element. When patients visit the Joint Assessment Clinic, they may be identified as a potential Day Surgery candidate. This message is continued and verified by the acting surgeon (Dr. de Jesus, Dr. Malcolm Chang or Dr. George Mathew) who chooses candidates according to established criteria."

That criteria includes the availability of home supports, an assessment of underlying health conditions, the ability to meet Surgical Day Care requirements for discharge and successful completion of a physiotherapy assessment.

Pembroke resident Keith Selle was one of the patients who met those criteria. On December 12th, 2022, he received a partial knee replacement as a patient of Dr. de Jesus and went home the same day. He had the unique experience of being able to compare recovery at home to recovery in hospital as he had previously had his right knee replaced at PRH.



Keith Selle

"Although I was well cared for in hospital, it is not the same as being released to your home," Mr. Selle said, noting that being in familiar surroundings lends credence to the old saying "there's no place like home", while promoting self-reliance and resolve to achieve a faster recovery.

He shared that he felt well-informed by the surgeon and the Surgical team throughout the entire process and felt that the quick release to home was beneficial in his recovery.

"We are so fortunate to have surgeons, operating room staff and physiotherapists who demonstrate the highest quality of professionalism in their fields. To them I say 'Thank you'," Mr. Selle said.



Sabine Mersmann

PRH President and CEO Sabine Mersmann said the Surgical team is now in the early phase of trialling Day Surgery for hip replacements, a procedure that typically requires a one to three-day admission. Discharge criteria will be similar with the addition of an occupational therapy assessment.

"With an increasing demand for hip and knee replacements, transitioning to Day Surgery for eligible candidates will help ensure that patients receive the operations they need in a timely and safe manner, while also freeing up beds for those who require a hospital stay," Mrs. Mersmann said.

"We are very pleased with the outcome of the trials to date and look forward to expanding the program."

A Spotlight On...The Geriatric Day Hospital

Did you know that, as more of our community's seniors are remaining at home throughout their later years, their family physicians are able to refer those with more complex health conditions to our regional Geriatric Day Hospital for specialized assessment and treatment.

Our experienced team works with patients and their families to help provide aspects of care such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work, nursing, and geriatric medicine which is provided by a Care of the Elderly physician in Pembroke and a Geriatrician in Renfrew. All of these aspects of care may be needed to address common geriatric issues which require a broader scope of expertise than a family practice setting can usually provide.

Starting difficult conversations about future planning is another common reason for referral.

While maximizing each senior's safety and functional independence in their own home is the team's ultimate goal, sometimes recommendations are provided for alternative, more supportive living settings, especially when the current support is limited and the level of risk is assessed to be too high.

The Geriatric Day Hospital team also ensures that the relationship between patients and their family physicians are maintained, especially when



Team members from left to right, Occupational Therapist Angela Stiller, Physiotherapist Sarah Biggs, Registered Nurse Christine Rossi and Dr. Linde Corrigan.

Missing from photo: Social Worker AnnaMarie Ashick and Connie Young, Clerk.

referral requests involve formal cognitive assessments, diagnosis of cognitive disorders, and/or decision-making around cognitive fitness to drive.

Some of the other reasons patients are referred to the Geriatric Day Hospital include:

- Multi-complexity (multiple chronic conditions, advanced illness, complicated psychosocial needs)
- Mind (cognition, mood)
- Mobility (balance, strength, function, fall prevention)
- Medications (polypharmacy, de-prescribing, adverse medication effects)
- What Matters Most (patient's own meaningful goals and preferences)

Throughout their admission, patients and their families have the opportunity to develop positive and trusting relationships with the team.

At the time of his discharge from the Geriatric Day Hospital in 2021, one patient shared, "Until I came here, I didn't care whether I lived or died. I thought no one cared. But you guys did. And now I do care."

For more information about our Geriatric Day Hospital or if you are a family physician looking to obtain a referral form, please call the Renfrew County Geriatric Day Hospital at:

(613) 732-2811 Extension 7110.



www.PRHFoundation.com (613) 732-2811 extension 7408

Giving GARDEN



Pricing: **\$100 / 1 year** or **\$200 / 3 year**

*Have a photo taken with your plaque at the Giving Garden and posted on our social media. (optional)

*Businesses will be listed with logo on our "Giving Garden" web page.

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OR call the Foundation Office at

(613) 732-2811 extension 7408

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FOR HEALTHCARE



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Returning April 13th, 2023



HELP KEEP CANCER CARE CLOSE TO HOME

The \$3.5 Million Cancer Care Campaign is now 85% complete thanks to the generous donations from our community! Help us to close out this essential campaign in 2023!

Our cancer treatment areas require updates and overall improvements including the space in our Pharmacy where much-needed medications are prepared, the Chemo treatment areas, and our waiting rooms.

These spaces are vital in the treatment and care of each and every cancer patient, and through this campaign, our goal is to ensure they are comfortable, easily accessible and state-of-the-art.

We need your help so that every single cancer patient has the most up-to-date equipment available to them at the Pembroke Regional Hospital, meaning one less worry for cancer patients and their families.



- **Help support local cancer patients.**
- **Help to expand the Chemotherapy treatment areas to care for even more local cancer patients.**
- **Help make a difference with a one time donation or every month by joining our monthly giving club.**

"In 2011, as Chair of the Pembroke Regional Hospital Board of Directors, I had the privilege of cutting the ribbon for our new satellite chemotherapy unit. Little did I know that six years later, I would be accessing this service for myself.

In February 2017, I was diagnosed with bilateral breast cancer. My treatment plan included three surgeries, 18 chemotherapy treatments and 25 radiation treatments. Thanks to the wonderful relationship between our medical staff and the staff of The Ottawa Hospital Cancer Team, I was able to have my surgeries and my chemotherapy all in Pembroke. It was wonderful being able to have my treatments right at home in familiar surroundings - provided by friends and familiar faces." *Barb Schoof*

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE *Cancer Care Campaign*



Please complete this donation form and return it with an enclosed payment, if applicable, to **Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation at 705 Mackay St, Pembroke, ON, K8A 1G8**
A tax receipt will be issued for gifts of \$10 or more. Charitable Registration No. 870047610RR0001

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*Providing your email helps us to keep costs low with electronic receipting

By selecting "Recurring Monthly Donation," you can make a gift that keeps on giving and help us purchase our highest priority needs, as we need them! For additional information please call 613-732-2811 ext. 7408 or email: foundation@prh.email. To make an online donation visit www.PRHFoundation.com.