

For Immediate Release

June 22, 2009

Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital
Carleton Place, ON

Carleton Place Hospital Implementing Smoke Free Grounds

As of July 6, 2009, the Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) will join many other healthcare facilities across Ontario and become smoke free. The new policy ensures that there is no smoking on hospital property, including parking lots. The move is meant to promote the health and well-being of the community and to eliminate exposure to second-hand smoke on hospital property.

“We know smoking leads to premature deaths and is a major risk factor for chronic disease such as heart disease, stroke, cancer and emphysema”, stated Malcolm D. Robinson, CEO of CPDMH. “Our staff work hard to care for people who suffer from these conditions and it just makes sense that we do everything we can to prevent these illnesses from happening in the first place.”

“Going smoke-free sends a clear message to our community that disease prevention is as important as the treatment of illness, and that our Hospital is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for both our patients and staff,” said Toni Surko, AED of Patient Services. “We know that changing habits are never easy and as a result our Hospital has developed a comprehensive plan to support patients and staff that may be challenged by our smoke-free initiative.”

All hospital staff, volunteers and patients will have the opportunity to take part in smoking cessation treatment and counselling. Where necessary, physicians will prescribe nicotine replacement therapy products such as the nicotine patch or other medication appropriate. All patients who are smokers will also be asked if they wish to undertake a smoking cessation program and information regarding those programs and related initiatives will be made available through their primary nurse.

Tobacco use is the single most significant cause of cancer of death in Ontario, responsible for 13,000 deaths each year. Tobacco-related diseases cost the Ontario economy approximately \$1.6 billion in health care annually, \$4.4 billion in productivity losses and account for at least 500,000 hospital days each year.

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