



MEDIA RELEASE

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS HIGHLIGHT THE BENEFITS OF CREATING A STRONGER VOICE FOR LOCAL HEALTH CARE

The Annual General Meetings at Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) and the Almonte General Hospital (AGH) Corporation provide an opportunity to reflect on the past year and look to the future. As part of each recent meeting, the work of the Mississippi River Health Alliance was highlighted and applauded.

At the CPDMH Annual General Meeting, Board Chair Terry Cairns noted: “One of a Board’s most important functions is to set the strategic direction. During the past year, we have worked with Almonte General Hospital to approve a joint strategic plan. It speaks to our collective aspirations to provide excellent care for patients, work with partners to support access to care, empower our care teams. We want to leverage the potential of our Mississippi River Health Alliance for the benefit of the communities we serve.”

AGH Board Chair Randy Larkin echoed these remarks at the AGH Annual General Meeting: “Our work with the Carleton Place and District Memorial Hospital under the Mississippi River Health Alliance banner has seen progress in a number of areas that are contributing to the improvement and access to health care in our communities. I would like to thank both boards for their collaboration and efforts to advance health services as separate entities with a common intent to build healthy and thriving communities.”

Some of these successes include:

- The consolidated strategic plan is a roadmap for growth and development – with both shared and individual objectives. The Mississippi River Health Alliance will lead the way.
- The hospitals have aligned their annual Quality Improvement Plans, taking best practices and ideas from both organizations for a more consistent experience for patients and residents.
- A new joint program is helping to support an exceptional working environment for staff, physicians and volunteers. This, in turn, will support improved quality and safety for patients and residents.
- The two hospitals now share a senior leadership team, providing greater synergy. Other new shared roles - in key areas such as Discharge Planning and Occupational Health & Safety - also support collaborative care and provide opportunities to learn from one another.
- Transition processes between the two hospitals have been improved, making it easier for patients and families. The hospitals also support one another during particularly busy periods.

- Procedures, processes and policies are being reviewed, improved and aligned.
- Both hospitals achieved Silver Status in the Healthy Foods in Champlain Hospitals program. The goal is to make the healthy choice the easy choice in the cafeterias, gift shops and vending machines.
- Perhaps most importantly, both organizations are seeing a change – moving from ‘we and they’ to ‘us’. The goal is to be better together.

A highlight of the CPDMH Annual General Meeting was a special presentation to Marcel Pinon upon completion of his nine-year term, including two years as Board Chair. Marcel was praised for his commitment to “always doing the right thing” for patients and CPDMH. “This is a community here,” noted Marcel. “It has been a great challenge and I’m leaving here with a huge smile knowing what we’ve accomplished together.”

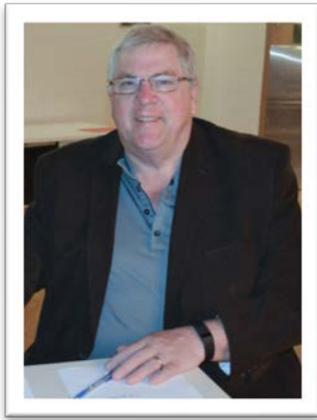
At the Almonte General Hospital Corporate Annual General Meeting, Paul Virgin was recognized for his 13 years of service on the Board. It was noted that his wisdom and guidance have benefited both the Board and leadership team. Although unable to attend, Paul sent a message noting: “I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the years that I was allowed to work with the Board and the great senior team that we are blessed with.”

At both meetings, President and CEO Mary Wilson Trider thanked the community volunteers who sit on both Boards. She also thanked the Patient and Family Advisory Committees, along with the Resident and Family Councils at Fairview Manor, for their valuable input. “Together with our committed staff, physicians and volunteers, we are helping to ensure the best and safest care for our local communities.”

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Cutline: At the CPDMH Annual General Meeting, Marcel Pinon was recognized for his long-term commitment to the Board. Shown (l-r) are: Terry Cairns (outgoing Board Chair), Mary Wilson Trider (President & CEO), Marcel Pinon and Rob Clayton (incoming Board Chair).



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