



News and Updates from The Mississippi River Health Alliance

Almonte General Hospital • Fairview Manor
Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital
Lanark County Paramedic Service

A Message from the Board Chairs - Discovering Synergies

This Mississippi River Health Alliance (MRHA) is building on a history of collaboration between Almonte General Hospital (AGH) and Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH). The MRHA formalizes the commitment of the two hospitals to work together, providing the best care for our local communities.

As Chairs, we've been leading the efforts of our two Boards to work more closely together at the governance level. We want to help the Alliance achieve its full potential for the benefit of our patients and residents. Over the past five years, thoughtful and purposeful steps have been taken to deepen our collaboration, building on the respect that the Directors on each Board already had for their counterparts 'just down the road'.

Successes include:

- ✓ Integrated roles and committees to share knowledge and best practices
- ✓ Common policies and procedures
- ✓ Integrated Strategic Plan
- ✓ Integrated Clinical Services Plan and Quality Care Plan
- ✓ Strengthened collaboration to support our local communities during the pandemic

The two Boards have also held joint retreats and planning sessions throughout the process. As volunteers who live in the communities served by AGH and CPDMH, we are committed to continuing the journey of collaboration. Discussions are underway to create even more synergy at the governance level, while ensuring that both organizations remain independent corporations.

This is an exciting time for our local hospitals and we want to thank everyone who has made a commitment to support local health care close to home.

- Carol Anne Esnard and Dave Perley



*Carol Anne Esnard
Board Chair, CPDMH*



*Dave Perley
Board Chair, AGH/FVM*

Two Years Later ...

Just over two years ago, the COVID-19 pandemic was declared and our teams got to work. They quickly adapted, with expertise and innovation. We are so grateful for everyone's commitment to keeping our local communities and one another safe.



Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health has announced the easing of pandemic restrictions. As high risk organizations, we will continue with COVID-19 measures including active screening, masks, and proof of vaccination for visitors. We are collaborating with our regional partners to plan for future changes.



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Thank You to Lanark County Council

Lanark County Council has provided \$100,000 to Almonte General Hospital and \$100,000 to Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital.

The funds will be used to support the new Emergency Department Comprehensive Capital Campaign in Carleton Place and the CT Scanner Campaign in Almonte.

Thank you to Lanark County Council for investing in excellent care for the residents of Lanark County. Along with our generous donors, the contributions from County Council help to ensure that modern, up-to-date equipment and facilities are available close to home.



What's New



Stage 4.1 Submitted

Planning during a pandemic isn't easy, but the CPDMH team is committed to building a new state-of-the-art Emergency Department to care for our local communities. The next set of planning documents has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval.

"We are in stage four of a five-stage project. Stage 4 is the pre-construction phase which includes working drawings and contract documents to go to tender," explains Randy Shaw, Integrated Vice President of Corporate Support Services and Capital Projects. "Both internal and community stakeholders have been consulted and we are grateful for their excellent advice and insights."

Welcome Dr. Meyers

Welcome to family physician Dr. Émilie Meyers who has taken over Dr. Caragianis's family medicine practice. She says she is excited to join the CPDMH team. "I came here so work would be closer for my husband and me. This will make it easier to raise our family. I plan to be here for the long term."



Dr. Meyers grew up in Mississauga and Montreal and completed her medical training in Ottawa. During her studies, she spent some time in Carleton Place working with Dr. Potvin. She also has an interest in hospital medicine and will be looking after her patients who need to be admitted to the hospital. Dr. Meyers is not accepting new patients at this time so that she can be available for her current ones.

Introducing a Better Booking System

The Mississippi River Health Alliance's Integrated Clinical Services Plan identified that a shared Operating Room, Ambulatory Clinic, and Diagnostic Imaging booking system at AGH and CPDMH would improve efficiency, utilization, and patient access. It is highly secure, creates collaborative communication, and helps build common processes that will enable integration across sites and ensure consistency in booking appointments. This centralized booking solution will support both growing communities for better patient care closer to home.



IV Smart Pumps Support Safer Care

Thanks to generous AGH-FVM Foundation and CPDMH Foundation donors, both hospitals are now using IV (intra-venous) Smart Pumps to improve patient safety. “The smart pumps support our clinical staff by providing valuable information at their fingertips,” notes Jason Hann, Integrated Vice President, Patient & Resident Services and Chief Nursing Executive. “The equipment helps to eliminate the chance of errors in the quantity, duration, and rate of administration - supporting safer care for our patients.” Smart pumps are used to administer medications to patients in a safe and standardized way. Software in each pump has embedded safety limits to reduce drug dosing errors. Built-in alerts detect abnormalities such as air in the IV line. And a standardized hospital drug library includes medications administered at AGH and CPDMH.



Caring for One Another

In addition to for our community, it is important to care for one another as well. Paramedics with the Lanark County Paramedic Service (LCPS) have benefited from a peer support program. The program offers training in psychological first aid and resiliency for colleagues who are dealing with difficult things they experience at work. And now staff at the two hospitals will benefit as well. Over the next year, the goal is to have three staff members at each hospital complete the program.



Long-Term Care Research

Fairview Manor is pleased to be part of a new Wellness Hub, an initiative led by St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto. The Wellness Hub provides support and resources for congregate living settings such as long-term care homes during COVID-19 and beyond. Fairview Manor will also be one of 72 homes involved in a COVID-19 research study focusing on immunology. The aim is to identify and learn about factors associated with COVID-19 immunity. This will lead to better understanding and prevention of spread of COVID-19, and potentially other infectious diseases, in long-term care and retirement homes.



Celebrating Our Team

Close to 100 staff and physicians were recently honoured at our four organizations, representing 1,220 years of service combined! The annual Long Service Award events over the past two years have been interrupted by COVID-19, but it’s important to celebrate the committed physicians and staff who exemplify our commitment to excellent care.

“We are grateful for the dedicated service these individuals provide to our patients and residents,” notes President and CEO Mary Wilson Trider. “We look forward to being able to once again gather in person to honour future recipients.”



Put Yourself in the Picture!

It often surprises people to know that Almonte General Hospital and Fairview Manor rely 100% on community funds and donations to purchase replacement or new equipment.

Effective, safe and high-quality imaging is important for much of the decision-making and can reduce unnecessary procedures and wait times. The AGH-FVM Foundation is raising funds to ensure the best diagnostic tools are available close to home.

To learn more, visit www.almontehospitalfoundation.com or call 613-256-2500 ext. 2610.

Thanks for your support!

Do You Know who would benefit from a CT-scan in Almonte?

Put Yourself in the Picture

A campaign to ensure patients at Almonte General Hospital have access to the best diagnostic tools close to home.

Looking Good!

The **Healthy Futures. Together!** Campaign is raising funds for the community's share of the new Emergency Department AND 100% of the cost of all needed patient care equipment at Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital.

The campaign is now in its public phase after receiving overwhelming support from leaders across the community and surrounding areas.

Your support is paramount in helping to shape the future of your hospital and truly make a difference.

To learn more, visit www.cpdmhfoundation.ca.

Thanks for your support!

Order your t-shirt today from the Carleton Place & District Chamber of Commerce:

613-257-1976

Proceeds from t-shirt sales will go to the Healthy Futures. Together! Capital Campaign



Comprehensive Capital Campaign
Supporting the New Emergency Department
and Vital Patient Care Equipment
throughout the Hospital

Soon the community will see shovels in the ground for the New Emergency Department building and your support is needed to shape the future of your hospital.

Building Healthy Futures, Together!

www.cpdmhfoundation.ca

613-257-GIVE (4483)

foundation@carletonplacehosp.com

If you have questions about the **Mississippi River Health Alliance**, please contact Mary Wilson Trider, President & CEO

info@agh-fvm.com

613.256.2514 ext. 2220

info@carletonplacehosp.com

613.257.2200 ext. 824

If you wish to connect regarding a compliment or concern,

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