By Mary Wilson Trider

This is National Nursing Week – an opportunity to reflect on the contribution that Nurses make to healthcare in Canada and in our local community.

The theme of Nursing Week 2016 is “Nurses: with you every step of the way” – and that is certainly true in this organization. Our front-line Nursing team care for patients in the Emergency Department, through the Operating and Recovery Rooms, on the inpatient Medical/Surgical and Rosamond Units and in Fairview Manor. In the first minutes of life, newborns experience the gentle touch of a Nurse and at the end of life our Nurses provide compassionate care to patients and their loved ones.

Every day, our Nurses exhibit professionalism and commitment to safe, high quality care for our patients and residents. I have been pleased and proud to receive very positive feedback from patients, residents and family members about their experiences with our Nursing staff.

I would be remiss if I did not also recognize the nurses who provide leadership and support to the front-line team and across the organization. Heather Garnett, Chief Nursing Executive, provides important nursing input as a member of the Board and Senior Management Team. Her patient/resident care management team – Fran Cameron, Mary-Ellen Harris, Maureen McLeod-Frazer and Pam Murphy – provide day to day oversight to our patient and resident care areas as well as leadership in quality improvement, local and regional collaboration and education activities.

Jane Younger, Director of Occupational Health & Safety and Infection Prevention & Control, and Dawn Shorten work closely with staff across all three operating divisions to ensure a safe, healthy environment for staff, patients and residents.

Team Leads and Charge Nurses across the organization also play an important role in care coordination and daily problem solving. I would like to acknowledge the leadership of Sue Breckenridge R.N., President of ONA, and Linda Melbrew, President of CUPE, who work constructively with the Management Team to resolve issues and make improvements on behalf of their member RNs and RPNs, always with patient and resident care as a top priority.

As we celebrate Nursing Week, my thanks to our colleague Nurses for their many contributions as members of the AGH team.

Celebrating Nursing Week

Mary Wilson Trider is President and CEO of Almonte General Hospital.