



Honouring Almonte's Health Pioneers

Today's health care team at Almonte General Hospital (AGH) is honoured and proud to continue the legacy of past health care providers. Recently, two murals were installed on the exterior walls of the hospital, recognizing the work of Drs. J.F. Dunn, Dr. A.A. Metcalfe, Dr. J.K. Kelly, as well as the many nurses who have played such an important role in caring for the Almonte community.

For many years, the murals have hung on the walls of The Hub's Mill Street location. "These murals hold historical significance. We are more than happy to be the new caretakers and to keep these memories alive," notes Mary Wilson Trider, President & CEO.

Jeff Cray, AGH's Environmental Services Supervisor, says it has been fun learning more about the murals and the people profiled in them. "We know that these three doctors practiced medicine in Almonte for more than 50

years in the early 1900s. They are pictured on the steps of the Rosamond Memorial Hospital, the forerunner to our current hospital. The history of the nurse is still to be explored." A newspaper article from the mid-50s speaks to Dr. Metcalfe's impact. At 87, he was still practicing medicine and shared memories of kitchen table operations and deliveries of close to 3,000 babies.

Jean More knows even more. Dr. Metcalfe was her great uncle and she supplied the original photograph that artist Gordon J. Weber used to create the portrait. "My mother would be so pleased to see the mural there," she says. "Uncle Archie was an excellent doctor and he was very involved in the community. There are so many wonderful stories about the care he provided."

Now this health care history can live on through these portraits at Almonte General Hospital.

