



## News and Updates from The Mississippi River Health Alliance

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

# One Year Later

It’s hard to believe that more than a year has passed since the COVID-19 pandemic began. What isn’t hard to believe is the generous outpouring of support from our local communities.

From donations of PPE to words of encouragement and thanks, our communities have been there. More recently, our neighbours in Almonte have experienced traffic-related disruption thanks to a busy on-site Testing and Vaccination Clinic.

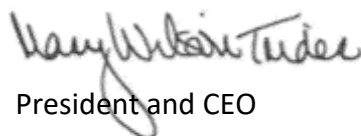
We are excited to share that all staff and physicians have now had the opportunity to receive their first dose of the vaccine. The distribution of vaccine to members of the community is ramping up as well. Please roll up your sleeve when it is your turn.

Everyone thought we were seeing the light at the end of the tunnel but now we are in the Third Wave and it is striking more people, often at a younger age. It is vital that everyone continues to follow the Government’s and the Health Unit’s guidelines to keep the transmission rate in our community as low as possible. Wear a mask, social distance, wash your hands, stay at home. This also helps your local hospitals continue to be here when you need us. If a family member is required to isolate due to possible

exposure, everyone in that household must also isolate. That can include hospital staff, which in turn, can lead to staff shortages.

We’re all in this together.

Thank you again for your support!

  
President and CEO



*Staff member Linda Coady was one of the first team members to receive her COVID-19 vaccination from Chief of Staff Dr. Graeme McKillop. Linda has been a housekeeper at Almonte General Hospital and Fairview Manor for over 45 years.*



### SPRING 2021 Inside this issue

Physician Collaboration - 2

ED Update - 3

Lanark County Thank You - 3

Announcing WIN2021 - 4



# Building Each Other Up

Physicians at Almonte General Hospital (AGH) and Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) are coming together to care for local communities like never before. And the benefits are clear.

“I’m pretty enthusiastic,” says Dr. Graeme McKillop, AGH/FVM Chief of Staff. “For me personally, COVID-19 was the turning point that brought us together out of necessity. We are only 10 kilometres apart, but we didn’t know each other that well. Now we do.”

CPDMH Chief of Staff Dr. Jamie Fullerton agrees. “Working together to prepare for and implement strategies to fight COVID-19 has been so rewarding. We’ve worked side-by-side.”

The two Chiefs of Staff applaud the leadership of Dr. Karen Turcotte (from Almonte) and Dr. Steve Walker (from Carleton Place) and the collaboration between the two hospitals and their medical staffs in establishing the COVID-19 Assessment Centre in Almonte. Since March, the two hospitals have been partnering with Leeds Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit, the Lanark County Paramedic Service and the Ottawa Valley Family Health Team to operate the Public Health Unit’s COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic in Almonte.

Now, physicians say they want to take that collaboration even further. Some physicians are now cross-credentialed at both hospitals. Recently, a common set of parameters for caring for patients in palliative care was developed and other procedures are being harmonized. And a new shared corporate goal speaks to the importance of increasing patient referrals between the two hospitals.

“We want to build each other up,” sums up Dr. McKillop. “In doing so, we can help reduce duplication, learn from each other’s differences, and seek those services at our sister hospital. There is a lot of potential and it may even attract new physicians to our region.”

Dr. Fullerton says it’s about providing the best care for each patient. “We want to look at services and see who is using what services and why - or why not. From there, we can create a robust list of services for our local communities. It’s a great opportunity.”



*CPDMH Chief of Staff  
Dr. Jamie Fullerton (above)  
& AGH/FVM Chief of Staff  
Dr. Graeme McKillop (below)*



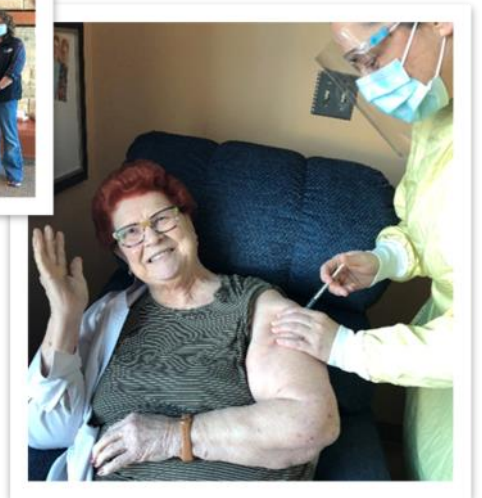
## A Special Day

January 28<sup>th</sup> was a happy day at Fairview Manor as residents received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The Public Health team was assisted by staff from the Lanark County Paramedic Service, Fairview Manor, and Almonte General Hospital.

“It was an amazing day, and we are so happy to help keep our residents safe,” noted Karen Bunes, Director of Resident Care. The residents have now received their second dose of the vaccine. And rapid testing is in place for ongoing safety.



*Resident Drenda Smith  
(above) receives her  
vaccine. Thank you  
to the amazing  
vaccination team!*



# Planning Through A Pandemic



CPDMH has received approval of the Stage 3.1 submission to the Ministry of Health for the new Emergency Department (ED). And more good news - Stage 3.2 is also complete.

“This is wonderful news for our community as we continue this detailed planning for the new Emergency Department,” notes Board Chair Carol Anne Esnard. “Thank you to the Capital Projects Committee, as well as everyone working on this project, for their leadership and commitment – especially during the pandemic.”

Focus groups with staff and physicians have been held to further discuss experiences over the past year. Chief of Emergency Dr. Marcia Spooner says these lessons will help to refine the overall plan: “We are excited to keep moving forward and to incorporate some of the learnings from the pandemic into the design. We know what is needed to ensure we are prepared for these types of situations in the future.”

The Ministry has a five-stage planning process. Once Stage 3.2 is approved, the planning team will move on to Stage 4. This is the pre-construction phase where details drawings and contract documents for tender are drafted and approved.

## In the Community

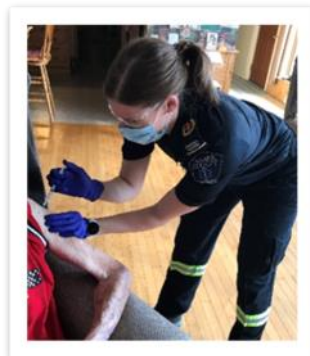
The Lanark County Paramedic Services (LCPS) rolled out its mobile in-home vaccination program on March 18<sup>th</sup>.



Residents of Lanark County who meet the eligibility criteria can be referred to the program by their health care provider.

“This is a life-changing event for these residents. Some of them have not stepped out of their houses in over a year,” says Janice Steele, Acting Commander for the Program.

The team also plays an integral role in COVID-19 testing, recently surpassing 32,000 swabs.



*Erica Ray (above) is one of the Community Paramedics offering in-home COVID-19 vaccines to vulnerable residents of Lanark County.*

## Thank You!

Thank you to Lanark County for a third annual gift of \$100,000 to each hospital. We are grateful to County Council for their recognition of the role communities play in ensuring that their local hospitals have the best equipment and facilities.

At Almonte General Hospital the money will be used to replace or purchase new medical equipment.

The Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital gift will be allocated to the CPDMH Foundation’s \$3 Million Comprehensive Capital Campaign in support of vital medical equipment purchases and the new Emergency Department.



# Be A Donor

April is BeADonor Month and our hospitals are proud to be part for the Trillium Gift of Life Network. In the past year, two eye donors have given the gift of sight to someone else.

Today, almost 1,600 Ontarians are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. Registering your consent to donate can help. In Carleton Place, 45% of the community has signed a donor card. In Almonte, that number is 52%. As local communities, we want to do ever better for each other.

Register today at [www.beadonor.ca](http://www.beadonor.ca).



# Retail Therapy

Good news! The Volunteer Services Gift Shop at Almonte General Hospital is now online.

New items are being added daily. Check out all the great items at:



[www.almontehospitalfoundation.com/shop](http://www.almontehospitalfoundation.com/shop)

Thanks for your support!

## April 29, 2021 Win 2021 Car Lottery for Health Care



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

[info@agh-fvm.com](mailto:info@agh-fvm.com)

613.256.2514 ext. 2220

[info@carletonplacehosp.com](mailto:info@carletonplacehosp.com)

613.257.2200 ext. 824

If you wish to connect regarding a compliment or concern,

[www.agh-fvm.com/complimentsandconcerns](http://www.agh-fvm.com/complimentsandconcerns) • [www.cpdmh.ca/complimentsandconcerns](http://www.cpdmh.ca/complimentsandconcerns)

