

MRHA



Mississippi River Health Alliance

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

2022 Report to the Community

www.almontegeneral.com · www.cpdmh.ca

The Power of Collaboration

In Lanark County, the Mississippi River runs through the region, connecting Carleton Place and Almonte, as well as surrounding communities. It is a dynamic and powerful force. In April 2016, Carleton Place District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) and Almonte General Hospital (AGH) began a journey to explore ways to work better together. The two Boards of Directors named this new collaboration the Mississippi River Health Alliance (MRHA) – formalizing their commitment to work together to improve each patient and resident's overall health care experience. Rivers connect people and places and the MRHA is connecting our local health organizations to create a stronger, more coordinated system of care.

Today, the MRHA is a driving force for health care services in our region. Over the past six years, the two organizations - which include both hospitals, Fairview Manor and Lanark County Paramedic Service (LCPS) - have identified ways to improve the services offered close to home for the communities we serve and to strengthen the partnership. We have learned from one another, sharing knowledge and best practices. Integrated roles, including the senior leadership

team, support this collaborative work. A joint Quality Improvement Plan supports safe and effective care. And a new Integrated Clinical Services Plan looks at how best to take advantage of the unique services offered at each site, while maintaining core services in both Carleton Place and Almonte.

Now, the two Boards are coming together to govern and oversee the two hospitals as a coordinated system of health services. Simply put, the Allied Boards are two Boards with identical membership that only ever meet together. These community volunteers act in the best interests of both AGH and CPDMH, with integrated decision-making, authority and common by-laws. The focus is on patient and resident-centred care and improved access to care for our local communities.

The two hospitals remain as separate legal entities with separate budgets. Each hospital has its own Foundation and Volunteers. Funds raised in each community stay within each community.

Together, we are creating a stronger voice for local health care – close to home.



“Like the mighty Mississippi River, we want to harness the power of collaboration. In many ways, the pandemic has served as a catalyst to foster stronger ties through the Alliance. We will build upon the gains and innovations we have achieved and keep moving forward together.”

- Carol Anne Esnard, Inaugural Chair, MRHA Allied Boards



Two Hospitals.
The very best care close to home.

Caring for Our Communities

Despite the pandemic, our health care teams have continued to expand the services provided to patients and residents every day. Here are just a few examples of the many accomplishments over the past year.

- **The new CPDMH Emergency Department** is moving to the final step of the Ministry's five-stage planning process. A Request for Proposals will be issued to pre-qualified General Contractors this summer. We continue to work closely with the Ministry's Capital Branch to fulfill planning requirements for a **new CT Scanner** in Almonte. Design and equipment plans are being reviewed.
- **Clinical services** have been enhanced by the arrival of several **new physicians**, including Obstetrician/Gynecologist Dr. Anca Matei and Family Physicians Dr. Melanie Fortune, Dr. Nino Lobo and Dr. Emilie Meyers. Our thanks to Dr. Jamie Fullerton who has completed his term as CPDMH Chief of Staff, and we welcome Dr. Allyson Champagne to the role.
- We are proud to share that **Fairview Manor** recently received a Gold Reader's Choice Award, organized by a local newspaper. To support ongoing research, Fairview Manor is one of 72 long-term care homes involved in a new Wellness Hub. It provides support and resources during the pandemic and will lead to a better understanding and prevention of the spread of COVID-19 and other possible infectious diseases.
- Local residents have greater support for staying at home and reducing trips to the Emergency Department thanks to **LCPS's Community Paramedicine Program** which received additional funding this year. Patients can also be remotely monitored to identify any concerns that could develop into a crisis. In the last year, more than 160 patients have been enrolled and nearly 1,450 home visits have taken place. Clients of Home Hospice North Lanark are also able to access this program. As well, 19 of our Paramedics were honoured with 'Save Pins', awarded to those who responded to a cardiac arrest resuscitation where the patient was able to leave the hospital alive. Some medics received more than one!
- **Supporting our health care teams** has been a priority as well. LCPS has a **peer support program** designed to assist team members when dealing with difficult things they experience at work. The program is now being implemented at both hospitals. We are also working together to augment our teams, with **new Facebook pages** to promote opportunities and introduce the organizations to potential employees.
- Collaboration continues with our partners across the Champlain region. The **AGH and CPDMH Surgical Teams** have contributed to reducing COVID-related surgical backlogs by sharing operating room capacity with regional partners. And closer to home, the **Lanark Leeds and Grenville Ontario Health Team** is creating greater synergies in our local region.
- Our **volunteers** continue to be missed but we are slowly welcoming them back in areas that it is safe to do so. In the meantime, the AGH Gift Shop, staffed by Volunteers, is open 11 am to 3pm Monday to Friday and is definitely worth checking out.



A Fond Farewell

Our thanks to Dr. Paula Stewart who is retiring as the region's Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Stewart has provided exemplary leadership during her tenure, particularly during the pandemic.



Charting a New Course

The MRHA formalizes the commitment of the two hospitals to work together. Leading the way will be the new Allied Boards. Integrated committees will support their work. All the current AGH and CPDMH Board members will continue to serve in the coming year, with the exception of Richard Chmiel and Susan Muston who have completed their terms. Thank you to these community volunteers for their commitment to excellent health care close to home.

Allied Boards

Elected Members

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Carol Anne Esnard, Chair | Dawn Oosterhoff |
| Faith Bird, Vice Chair | Dave Perley |
| Lyman Gardiner, Treasurer | Rob Probert |
| Bonnie Lowry Bagshaw | Greg Smith |
| Atul Bhatt | Chelsea Snyder |
| John Fournier | Peter Staniforth |
| Louise Heslop | Michel Vermette |
| Randy Larkin | Bruce Young |
| Toni Moffa | |

Ex-Officio Directors (non-voting) AGH and CPDMH

- Mary Wilson Trider, *President and CEO/Board Secretary*
- Loralie Hachey, *Acting Integrated Vice President, Patient/Resident Care and Chief Nursing Executive*
- Dr. Allyson Champagne, *Chief of Staff, CPDMH*
- Dr. Graeme McKillop, *Chief of Staff, AGH*
- Dr. Gillian Buckley, *President, Medical Staff, CPDMH*
- Dr. Jordan Milko, *President, Medical Staff, AGH*

Better together

For more than two years, COVID-19 has been front and centre in all our lives. Our dedicated physicians and staff have shown extraordinary commitment by working tirelessly - often in difficult circumstances - to support and care for our local communities. Their dedication to ensuring that AGH, CPDMH, Fairview Manor and Lanark County Paramedic Service are here for the patients, residents and families who need our care is to be applauded by the entire community. Thank you to each and every member of our MRHA team.

The global pandemic continues to impact every aspect of health care. At the same time, it is teaching us valuable lessons. The Mississippi River Health Alliance has supported a spirit of collaboration and innovation. From our Testing and Vaccination Centres to the mobile units led by Lanark County Paramedics to Fairview Manor's compassionate care for vulnerable residents, it has been a team effort. We have also worked closely with our community and health partners to help keep everyone safe and respond to our community's needs.

We are grateful to those communities for your support. You have rallied around our team and provided ongoing encouragement. Thank you and please stay healthy.



Caring Snapshots 2021-2022

ALMONTE GENERAL HOSPITAL

Admissions	1,378
Births	387
Inpatient Days	21,747
Emergency Visits	14,278
Ambulatory Care Visits	24,603*
Surgical Procedures	1,013
Diagnostic Imaging Exams (inpatient & outpatient)	12,565
Physiotherapy Visits	3,142

*60% of total are COVID-19 Clinic Visits

FAIRVIEW MANOR

Resident Days (including respite care)	38,588
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LANARK COUNTY PARAMEDIC SERVICE

Calls Answered	27,314
Community Paramedicine	2,090
Program Client Interactions	

CARLETON PLACE & DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Admissions	486
Inpatient Days	6,280
Emergency Visits	15,487
Ambulatory Care Visits	19,423
Surgical Procedures	1,044
Diagnostic Imaging Exams	14,227
Physiotherapy & Dietitian Visits	3,555



Incredible support

Over the past year, local communities have supported health care close to home in many ways – including gifts to the Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital Foundation and the Almonte General Hospital/Fairview Manor Foundation. Because of your generosity, our healthcare teams have the tools they need to provide the very best care. Thank you! Each hospital has its own Foundation and funds raised in each community stay within each community. The two Foundations also collaborate on shared fundraising initiatives.

Last August, the CPDMH Foundation launched the public phase of the Healthy Futures. *Together!* Campaign to raise funds for the new Emergency Department and much needed patient care equipment. We have received overwhelming response from community leaders and are now working with donors throughout the region to help reach our final goal. For details, visit www.cpdmhfoundation.ca.

The AGH-FVM Foundation has been raising funds to ensure the best diagnostic tools are available close to home. The Put Yourself in the Picture Campaign aims to raise an additional \$2.2 million to purchase a CT scanner for Almonte General Hospital. Thank you to everyone who is helping to develop our picture of health. For details, visit www.almontehospitalfoundation.com.

Donors play such an important role in local health care and truly change lives every day. We are so grateful for your support of our two Foundations!

To learn more visit www.cpdmhfoundation.ca and www.almontehospitalfoundation.com.