

## Farewell to a Special Community

It has been an honour and a pleasure to lead Almonte General Hospital, Fairview Manor and Lanark County Paramedic Service for nearly 14 years and Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital for almost 8 years, collectively partners in the Mississippi River Health Alliance (MRHA) since 2016.

During my time at the MRHA, I have had the privilege to work alongside exceptional staff, physicians and volunteers. Their commitment to excellent care for our patients and residents in a warm and friendly environment can be felt by people who walk into the buildings. Positive feedback from patients, residents and families covers the depth and breadth of our units and departments – from stretcher/bedside to administration and everything in between. These are the only hospitals I have ever worked in where patients write letters to tell me how good the food is!



Mary Wilson Trider

It has been a pleasure to work with staff, volunteers and volunteer Board members from our two Foundations. Their hard work, combined with the generosity of our incredibly supportive communities, has not only provided the patient and resident care equipment but was vital to bringing the new Emergency Department to Carleton Place and new CT Scanner to Almonte this summer.

Over the years, I have appreciated the support and guidance of the hospitals' Boards of Directors, who devote significant hours of volunteer time to provide leadership at the highest level. Their vision and foresight in creating the MRHA has brought benefits to both organizations such as the Integrated General Surgery Program and our coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic — and will continue to do so for years to come. Special thanks to the 2010/11 AGH Board of Directors who took a chance on bringing a rookie CEO to town.

The joy of working in small hospitals is seeing the impact of what we do in our communities every day. I have been grateful for the support of the residents of Almonte, Carleton Place and Beckwith and their municipal and county leaders. Even when you may have disagreed with a particular initiative or had concern about a specific situation, you have always been “there” for the people who work here. The COVID-19 pandemic brought many challenges, but one of the nicest ones we had was how to deal with the overwhelming generosity of people who made caps and masks, brought food for the staff, made signs of support and organized drive-bys.

Thank you all. I am stepping down as CEO but not leaving the community. I look forward to cheering the MRHA on from the sidelines.

## Welcome, Brad

Following a national search, Brad Harrington has been selected as the Alliance's new President and CEO. Brad will join the MRHA team on May 6<sup>th</sup>. He brings 25 years of healthcare experience including rural and urban hospital leadership, healthcare planning, information technology and hospital redevelopment. Brad became the Vice President, Finance and Operations at Oak Valley Health in 2021. He is the former Vice President & Chief Financial Officer at the Quinte Healthcare Corporation. *Watch for a full introduction in the next issue of Better Together.*



## New ED in Carleton Place



Work on the new Emergency Department in Carleton Place is progressing well. A number of trades, including mechanical, electrical, cabling and communications are on-site and the construction schedule is on track for the contractor to turnover the building to the hospital sometime in June.

A team of staff and physicians are busy working on the orientation and training plans that will take place before we welcome patients later this year.

Check out the CPDMH Foundation video with more views of the new ED: <https://bit.ly/3UgkNR7>

## New CT Scanner in Almonte

Construction is also underway in Almonte for the new CT Scanner. The project's detailed design is complete and the building permit has been issued. Renovations to the hospital should be completed early July. From there, the CT Scanner equipment will be installed and commissioning will be completed.

During construction, there are some temporary changes in Diagnostic Imaging. The X-ray room will remain operational and unchanged however, volumes may be higher than normal and thus may affect walk-in wait times. An ultrasound room will be set up temporarily just outside the main lobby. Patients needing X-ray and ultrasound services will still register via the Emergency entrance. Thank you for your patience.



## Parking Update in Almonte

To support the ongoing operating costs for the new CT Scanner, a new parking fee will be introduced this fall. "Many people are surprised to learn that the provincial government does not fund the ongoing operation of equipment," notes Mary Wilson Trider, Integrated President and CEO of the Mississippi River Health Alliance. "Proceeds from the new parking fees will directly support our new CT Scanner. We have brought a new service to our community that we didn't have before and these revenues will support its continued operation."

The parking fee will be \$4 per visit. Monthly passes will be available to support those who make frequent trips to AGH.



The MRHA team continues to review and monitor our masking policy. While masks are no longer required in some areas, patients and visitors are welcome to wear a mask if they wish. Outbreaks and respiratory illnesses are still occurring. Please remember to wash your hands and stay home if you do not feel well. Stay safe everyone!

# What's NEW?

## Mini Baby Boom!

Springtime is often busy in the AGH Birthing Unit, but this March, things were really hopping. There were 33 babies born, almost double the number born last March! "It's a baby boom for our unit! It is exciting for everyone in our community as so many little humans join us," says Dr. Melanie Fortune who is part of the Family Medicine Obstetrics team. "It is a pretty special time."

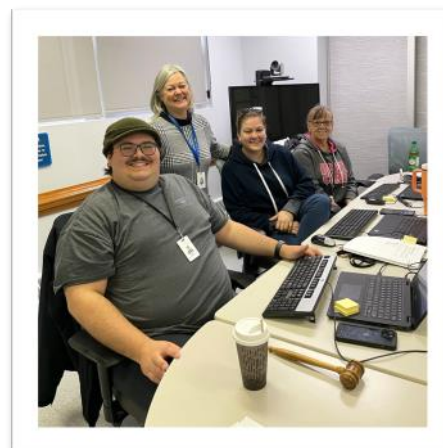


The Almonte program includes Obstetricians, Family Physicians with additional obstetrical and newborn care training, Midwives, specially trained Nurses and Anesthetists. "We all work as a team and everyone is prepared for this increase in births," adds Dr. Fortune.

Lindsay Timmins has delivered two of her three babies at Almonte General Hospital and says she wouldn't want to be anywhere else: "I was born and raised in Almonte and I feel comfortable at my local hospital close to home. I know some of the doctors and nurses and I trust them. It was a great experience for our family!"

## New Patient Record Set to Go Live

The new Electronic Medical Record (EMR) at CPDMH will go live this summer. In April, staff Superusers were trained on the new system and testing and integration is now underway. The new EMR ensures every patient's medical information is available in one secure place online. It provides a comprehensive digital health record for every patient, supporting information sharing and continuity of care. Simply put, the new system gives people better access to their own health information and more seamless care from their providers.



## Pediatric Surgery Addresses Waitlists

The official launch of CPDMH's pediatric surgical program collaboration with the Kids Come First health team took place on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Minister of Health joined the virtual celebration which included CHEO, Brockville General Hospital and CPDMH. This surgery program was launched to address the waitlist for surgeries for children and youth in Eastern Ontario and bring care closer to families across the region. Funding from the Ontario government was received last year.

CPDMH is proud to be part of this initiative. Delayed surgeries can harm the development of local children and youth. This collaboration gives them access to the day surgery they need without further delay and close to home. The goal is to complete 300 procedures by 2025 at the two hospitals and expand to more surgeries at more hospitals in eastern Ontario.





# New Nurse Practitioner

We are pleased to welcome Nurse Practitioner Ryan Chan to the Fairview Manor team. Ryan comes to Fairview Manor from The Ottawa Hospital and will be working with the physician and nursing staff to identify residents at risk for deterioration and/or transfer to hospital. The goal is to reduce avoidable visits to the Emergency Department.

Funding for this interim role has been received from the Regional Geriatrics Program of Eastern Ontario.



# A Deserving Award

In April, Lanark County Paramedic Services (LCPS) Chief Travis Mellema presented the Chief's Award to Mary Wilson Trider.



This award is given to an individual who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the profession of paramedicine with the Service and who has raised the public profile of the LCPS in a positive manner. Only four of these honours have ever been awarded in the LCPS's history.

Congratulations, Mary!

# Vroom! Vroom!

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