

Community Newsletter

SPRING 2012



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Commitment to a Strong Alliance

The Listowel Wingham Hospitals Alliance was formed on July 1, 2003 as a partnership between Listowel Memorial Hospital and Wingham and District Hospital. As an Alliance, we share a single management team and one Mission, Vision & Values. Our mission is to strive for the best possible care for the people we serve and ensure that present and future generations have a wide range of safe, high quality, hospital-based services available to them as close to home as possible.

The Boards of the two hospitals recently renewed their commitment to the Alliance structure. In order to take advantage of the existing Alliance, a Clinical Services Plan will be prepared. The Plan will determine the health service needs of the population and consider the most appropriate size and location for these health care services. This is important work in ensuring that accessible, timely health care services continue to be available to our community.



The Hospitals have also recognized that attracting and retaining physicians, nurses and other health care professionals will be a key element of our long term success. A Human Resources Plan will be prepared that identifies personnel requirements and suggests methods of recruitment.



OUR VALUES:

- Honesty and openness in all we do
- Compassion
- Courage
- Teamwork
- Leadership & Innovation

Improving the Patient Experience

Five local organizations are working closely together to improve the patient experience with our health care services. Supported by a grant from the South West Local Health Integration Network, staff at the Listowel Memorial Hospital, North Perth Family Health Team, South West Community Care Access Centre, Wingham and District Hospital and North Huron Family Health Team mapped the patient journey through local health care system.

As a result of this work, efforts are currently underway to make improvements to information sharing and patient handoffs between providers with a goal of improving the overall patient experience with local health care services. This foundational work will result in numerous future changes that are expected to improve the patient experience with our health care system.



Brittany Heffer shows off the newest mammography unit at Listowel Memorial Hospital.



Barb Currie volunteering at the LMH Auxiliary Gift Shop.



Sandra Morrison working with the automated medication dispensing system at WDH. Pharmacy services are shared across the Alliance.

Shared Programs, Shared Care

The Listowel Wingham Hospitals Alliance is particularly proud of two clinical programs. This pride is based on the fact that these programs have been established at one site with services and care being available to patients across a broad geographic area.

The Wingham and District Hospital Oncology Clinic is supported by the South West Regional Cancer Program and offers a wide range of chemotherapy treatments five days per week. The ability to obtain these treatments close to home is highly valued by patients and their caregivers.

The Listowel Memorial Hospital Breast Health Centre provides a number of services with a goal of early breast cancer detection. Funded through the Ontario Breast Screening Program, the service is available to women between the ages of 50 and 74.

By working together and combining volumes from more than one community and Hospital site, we are able to offer services closer to home that might not otherwise have been available locally.

Listowel Memorial Hospital Auxiliary

The Listowel Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, formerly known as The Cradle Club, is a small but energetic group of volunteers who meet on the first Wednesday of every month from September to June.

Through Gift Shop sales and fund raisers like bake sales, raffles, hanging basket sales and the Christmas bazaar, the Auxiliary provides the Listowel Memorial Hospital with funds to purchase equipment and supplies. In 2011 the Auxiliary contributed over \$11,000 toward items which will assist with patient care and comfort. The most recent initiative has been to improve snacks and drinks available in the emergency waiting area. Volunteer opportunities are available for staffing the gift shop or assisting with the Auxiliary fundraisers throughout the year.

Wingham Hospital Redevelopment

The recent announcement by the Province of Ontario cancelling the approved redevelopment project at the Wingham & District Hospital is unfair to Hospital staff, physicians and a community that has waited far too long to see improvements to this facility.

We will not let this disappointment stop us from moving forward with some necessary renovations to our Hospital. Planning is already underway to undertake several, smaller renovations that will improve those areas of the facility that have the most urgent needs. The sterilization facilities, operating rooms and nursing station all require modernization. Disappointment can be a very powerful tool. We will be working harder than ever to ensure that modern Hospital facilities are available in Wingham.

Wingham & District Hospital Auxiliary

The Wingham and District Hospital Auxiliary has 50 enthusiastic members who devote their time to numerous activities in benefit of the Wingham and **District Hospital**. **Beyond staffing a gift shop adjacent to the visitors' entrance** of the Hospital, the Auxiliary also sells books and magazines to patients and provides assistance in the Oncology Clinic at the Hospital. The money raised has been used recently to purchase pressure relief mattresses and vital signs monitors. The Auxiliary was very pleased to provide a bursary to Kendra Campbell of F.E. Madill Secondary School to assist her with her studies in biomedical sciences at Brock University. Supporting the next generation of health care practitioners is something the Auxiliary is particularly proud of.

If you have an interest in learning more about the Auxiliary, you could attend one of the monthly bridge or weekly euchre games that the Auxiliary sponsors. Annual events include a poinsettia tea, quilt raffle and May Tag days.



Betty Foxton volunteering at the WDH Auxiliary Gift Shop.

Fisher Family Primary Care Centre

Health care in North Perth just keeps getting better. The Fisher Family Primary Care Centre opened for business in late February. This new health centre brings together primary care services under one roof. The centre has been in planning and development for a number of years.

Primary care is your first point of contact with our medical system. This could be an appointment with your family physician or any member of the Family Health Team. Family Health Teams support family physicians in providing primary care services including care for patients with chronic illness (e.g. diabetes and high blood pressure) and supporting healthier lifestyles through prevention and wellness programs. The North Perth Family Health Team and family physicians provide a full range of health care services. Together, we deliver high quality health services based on the needs of our patients and our community. To learn more, please consult the website at www.npfht.ca.



Fisher Family Primary Care Centre Lobby

North Huron Family Health Team

The North Huron Family Health Team has re-designed its website www.nhfht.ca. New sections include News and Events and Health Resources. **Community members can watch for updates on our exciting "Take Action for a Healthy North Huron Project" being completed in partnership with the Huron County Health Unit and the North Huron Recreation Department.**

There is now a "one-stop shop" for patients searching for reliable information on such topics as Diabetes, Cancer or Nutrition. The final addition is a community calendar for North Huron Family Health Team events and activities.



North Huron Family Health Team Nurse Practitioners, Alison Clark and Robyn Hewson



Together. Leading Care. Better health.

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N4W 2P5
Tel: 519-291-3120

Visit the Foundation at:
www.lmhfoundation.ca

Wingham and District Hospital
270 Carling Terrace
Wingham, Ontario
N0G 2W0
Tel: 519-357-3210

Visit the Foundation at:
www.wdhfoundation.ca

Board meetings of the Listowel Wingham Hospitals Alliance alternate between Listowel and Wingham.



Please contact either Hospital at extension 5295 if you wish to attend.

The Annual Meetings for the Listowel Memorial Hospital and the Wingham and District Hospital will take place June 7, 2012 in Wingham at the Royal Canadian Legion at 7 p.m.

Your Opportunity to Contribute

There are many opportunities to contribute to ensuring that our communities have access to vital, local health care. Each hospital has numerous volunteer positions and the Hospitals are very grateful for the efforts of volunteers. Active Auxiliaries that raise funds throughout the year at community events and in-Hospital gift shops are always willing to welcome new members. Financial contributions are welcomed by the Listowel Memorial Hospital Foundation and the Wingham and District Hospital Foundation.



There are also opportunities to contribute to the governance of local health care. Board positions are regularly available in Listowel and Wingham on the Hospital Corporations, Foundations, Auxiliaries and Family Health Teams.

Periodically, there is a need to obtain local input on the current effectiveness and future vision for health care services. Community feedback is necessary to ensure the needs of the community are being met.

If you have an interest in becoming involved with your local health care system, please contact either Hospital.

Interested in more details? Visit us at www.lwaha.ca