

## Here We Go!

*The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Emergency Department at Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) took place on October 28th. More than 100 people were on hand to celebrate. And more good news—construction is already underway!*

“We have much to celebrate,” notes Carol Anne Esnard, Chair of the Mississippi River Health Alliance Boards. “Thank you to everyone who has been part of the vision for our new Emergency Department, including our neighbours, patients, physicians and staff. And thank you to the Ministry of Health for your support. Here we go!”



Following a rigorous tendering process, Chandos Construction has been awarded the contract to build the new Emergency Department. Chandos Construction has offices across Canada and significant experience in healthcare facilities. “Our Ottawa office is proud to be working together with the CPDMH team on this important healthcare project,” says Peter Weiss, Area Manager at Chandos. “This project will have a significant positive impact both to the community and to the local employment opportunities of over 200+ construction experts, trades and suppliers throughout the life cycle of construction.”

The new Emergency Department (ED) will be linked to the hospital and will address current space challenges and enhance infection control standards. It includes 11 treatment spaces, which is an increase of five (or 83%) over the current ED. The new ED is being designed to improve patient flow for both walk-in patients, as well as patients arriving by ambulance. It includes barrier-free entrances for patients and ambulances. There will be a private family room inside the ED and more washrooms. Additional parking will also be provided.

President and CEO Mary Wilson Trider sums up the significance of the new Emergency Department: “At CPDMH, we are committed to improving the health of our community. Thank you to our staff, physicians, and volunteers for your ongoing commitment to our patients.”

For more information about the Emergency Department, please visit [www.cpdmh.ca/redevelopment](http://www.cpdmh.ca/redevelopment).

For more information about the Healthy Future. *Together!* Campaign, please visit <https://www.cpdmh.ca/healthyfuturestogether>.

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# Get Your Shots!

The holiday season is here and it's so important that we take steps to stay healthy and keep our loved ones healthy too. As Chiefs of Staff at your local hospitals, we want to remind you of the importance of getting your flu shot and making sure your vaccines are up-to-date.



*Dr. Allyson Champagne  
CPDMH Chief of Staff*

Flu vaccines are safe (even for people with egg allergy) and effective. They prevent flu in about 60% of recipients and significantly decrease hospitalizations and deaths. Flu shots are available through your family doctor or at community pharmacies.

Everyone over 12 is eligible for a COVID-19 bivalent booster 3 to 6 months after their last COVID vaccine or a COVID infection. These are our best protection against new COVID virus variants. And getting your flu and COVID shots at the same time is safe and effective. COVID vaccines are available through public health clinics (visit [www.healthunit.org](http://www.healthunit.org) for details) or at community pharmacies.



*Dr. Graeme McKillop  
AGH Chief of Staff*

We like to think of protecting ourselves and others from infection with respiratory viruses in terms of layering. We layer up and down based on levels of risk. Layers include vaccination; self-monitoring for symptoms and staying away from others when symptomatic; wearing a mask; avoiding crowded indoor spaces; and maintaining physical distancing when you can. Every layer helps us and those around us to stay healthy.

This protection may also keep you out of our very busy Emergency Departments and hospitals.

We all need time to renew and reconnect with family and friends. We hope people choose to do it safely, considering the layers of protection they can use to help themselves and the vulnerable people around them celebrate safely.

Please stay healthy everyone!



The MRHA Allied Boards and Senior Leadership Team would like to thank our amazing team of staff and physicians who are working so hard every day to care for our local communities. These committed health care professionals continue to provide excellent care for patients and residents and one another - despite staffing shortages, illness and other challenges. They are truly living our values focusing on compassion, respect, accountability, and teamwork.

Please be a 'patient patient' and know that our team is working hard to care for you. A safe and respectful space allows our physicians and staff to focus on providing high quality care for you and your family.

## What's NEW?



### CT Scanner in Almonte Approved to Go to Tender

The Ministry of Health has confirmed its support to bring a new CT Scanner to Almonte General Hospital and has provided approval to tender the project. Bidders will propose a turnkey solution that will include internal renovations to create the necessary space as well as supplying the CT Scan equipment.

“We are excited to participate in this next phase of the project,” notes President and CEO Mary Wilson Trider. “Planning has been underway for some time, and we are ready to move forward. We are working toward awarding the contract in the spring of 2023.”

“The need for this type of specialized equipment is clear in providing enhanced diagnoses without the need to travel to Ottawa,” adds Carol Anne Esnard, Chair of the MRHA Allied Boards. “Patients in both Almonte and Carleton Place, as well as throughout our region, will benefit.”

The AGH-FVM Foundation’s ‘Put Yourself in the Picture’ campaign is raising funds to purchase the CT Scanner. For details, please visit [www.almontehospitalfoundation.com](http://www.almontehospitalfoundation.com)

### Kudos to Patti Morton

Congratulations to Patti Morton, Integrated Director of Allied Health, who has received the Huron Healthcare Hero Award. Patti is one of five health professionals across North America to be honoured this year. Her nominators noted: “Patti is a role model. She lives the values of our organization and contributes to a culture of positivity. We cannot think of a person more worthy of this recognition.”



### Make A Difference!

Patients and families are an essential part of the care team at Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital, Almonte General Hospital and Fairview Manor. Recently the Patient and Family Advisory Committees (PFACs) at each hospital joined together to create the Mississippi River Health Alliance PFAC. The new committee is seeking volunteers from all parts of our community to get involved.

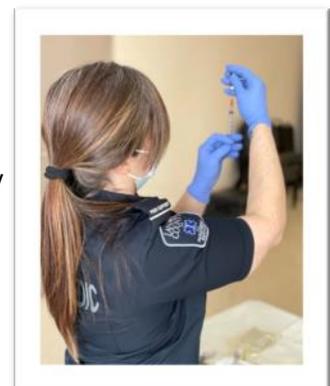


Advisors reflect on their own experiences, or those of their family members, to offer input on everything from hospital policies and processes to building-related topics such as signage. Committee members may also be asked to review patient brochures or to sit on hospital committees. Patients or family members with recent experience in the hospital (within the last two years) are invited to apply to join the JPFAC. To learn more, call 613-256-2514 ext. 2235 or visit [www.almontegeneral.com/PFAC](http://www.almontegeneral.com/PFAC).

### Paramedics Support Palliative Care

Lanark County Paramedics can now provide emergency symptom relief to patients with palliative care needs in the community. LCPS has partnered with The Ottawa Hospital Research Institute to implement this pilot program in Lanark County. If an individual with palliative care needs is in distress and unable to reach their primary care team, they can now call 911. If eligible, they will receive emergency symptom relief by paramedics and remain in their home if they wish.

“This new program supports compassionate, patient-centred care,” notes Deputy Chief Breanne Lapointe.





## A Team Effort!

In a recent Abacus Poll in Ontario, 73% of the population admitted they did not know how hospitals are funded - including the fact that the provincial government does not pay for the clinical equipment used by physicians and staff. As a result, Almonte General Hospital (AGH) and Fairview Manor (FVM) rely on community support to contribute the necessary funds. That's where the AGH FVM Foundation comes in. We are honoured to work with you!

Governed by a volunteer board of directors and staffed by Managing Director Al Roberts, CFRE, Donor & Board Coordinator Cheryl Moore and Development Coordinator Sophie Prescott - and supported by countless dedicated volunteers - the Foundation strives to raise as much money each year as possible to fund the clinical equipment identified and prioritized by senior staff at AGH and FVM. Some of this year's current priorities include replacing lights in the OR, purchasing lifts for FVM, and getting new Epidural pumps for the Birthing Centre. A campaign to bring a CT scanner to Almonte is also a major priority. For more information, visit [www.almontehospitalfoundation.com](http://www.almontehospitalfoundation.com).



## Team Vital!

It is truly a family affair! The total is in and 'Team Vital' has contributed close to \$150,000 to the Healthy Futures. *Together!* Campaign for the new Emergency Department in Carleton Place.

'Team Vital' includes staff, physicians, Hospital and Foundation Board members and volunteers at CPDMH. Together, they have led the way in supporting health care close to home.

But they aren't stopping there! Team Vital challenged the community to match the additional \$50,000 that was raised over the \$100,000 Team Vital goal and they have responded. Stay tuned. The CPDMH Foundation will announcing the grand total soon.

We are so grateful to every member of the CPDMH Family - and to our generous communities. For more information, visit [www.cpdmhfoundation.ca/healthyfuturestogether](http://www.cpdmhfoundation.ca/healthyfuturestogether).

# Thank you!



***The Mississippi River Health Alliance (MRHA) is building on a history of collaboration between Almonte General Hospital and Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital. The MRHA formalizes the commitment of the two hospitals to work together, providing the best care for our local communities.***

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

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If you wish to connect regarding a compliment or concern,

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