



## News and Updates from The Mississippi River Health Alliance

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

# What A Team!



Carol Anne Esnard

The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a light on the power of collaboration - as well as the benefits of the Mississippi River Health Alliance (MRHA).

“Over the past several years, Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) and Almonte General Hospital (AGH) have been working closely together to align services and processes for better, more coordinated care,” explains CPDMH Board Chair Carol Anne Esnard. “The pandemic has helped us to take that collaboration to the next level. And now we want to do even more.”

The COVID-19 Assessment Centre in Almonte is an excellent example. Physicians and staff from both hospitals have come together to lead the Centre. The Lanark County Paramedic Service and the Health Unit have also provided support. It’s a wonderful example of the two hospitals working side-by-side as part of the Alliance.

“This is an exciting time for both organizations,” adds AGH Board Chair Dave Perley. “The two Boards are committed to the roadmap outlined in our joint Strategic Plan and joint Clinical Services Plan. Our communities tell us it’s the right thing to do and that we need to keep moving forward.”

Carol Anne Esnard and Dave Perley assumed the Chair roles in June and have been part of the MRHA Committee for the last three years. They are committed to continue on this journey of collaboration between the two hospitals in order to deliver the best possible care close to home.

The Mississippi River Health Alliance (MRHA) formalizes the commitment of the two hospitals to work together. The goal is to improve each patient and resident’s overall health care experience through a strong, coordinated system of care.



Dave Perley

## Get Your Flu Shot, Not the Flu

This year’s flu season will be like never before as it overlaps with an unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. This creates a greater challenge to distinguish symptoms and putting added pressures on the healthcare system. Please get your flu shot. For clinic locations, visit <https://bit.ly/3k0WkLt>



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# A Caring Snapshot 2019-2020



## Almonte General Hospital

Admissions	1,315
Births	347
Inpatient Days	15,659
Emergency Visits	15,498
Ambulatory Care Visits	2,923
Surgical Procedures	773
Diagnostic Imaging Exams	11,844
Physiotherapy	5,097

## Fairview Manor

Resident Days (including respite care)	40,275
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## Lanark County Paramedic Service

Calls Answered	24,799
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## Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital

Admissions	555
Inpatient Days	6,076
Emergency Visits	17,757
Ambulatory Care Visits	14,112
Surgical Procedures	1,369
Diagnostic Imaging Exams	16,050
Physiotherapy & Dietitian	4, 478

For full audited financial statements, please visit [www.almontegeneral.com](http://www.almontegeneral.com) and [www.cpdmh.ca](http://www.cpdmh.ca)

# We're Here for You



The **Emergency Departments** in Almonte and Carleton Place are open 24/7 and ready to care for patients with serious health concerns.

We appreciate that members of our communities are taking the recommendations to stay home seriously, but it should not come at the cost of your health or safety.

If you are in need of medical attention, please come to the EDs or call 911 right away. Our staff and medical staff are taking every necessary precaution to ensure everyone's safety. This includes screening each patient and ensuring everyone uses a mask and practices good handwashing.

If you think you may have COVID-19, please make an appointment at the Assessment Centre in Almonte by calling 613-325-1208. For more details, visit [www.almontegeneral.com/assessmentcentre](http://www.almontegeneral.com/assessmentcentre).

## Welcome Jason Hann

Welcome to **Jason Hann** who has joined our team as Integrated Vice President, Patient & Resident Services and Chief Nursing Executive. He brings strong clinical expertise, as well as regional and provincial experience, to AGH, Fairview Manor and CPDMH.



Jason Hann says the Mississippi River Health Alliance (MRHA) is what attracted him to his new job. He says the focus on patients, residents and local communities is exciting: "It's a smart idea and there has been some great work done already. Health care is changing, and we need to work together to support patients and residents."

Jason says his first few weeks have been great: "Everyone has been very welcoming. I see the pride in each organization and the collaboration that exists to support the very best care. I'm excited to be part of that."

## Moving On to Stage 3.2



As we wait for an official announcement regarding Ministry approval of our Stage 3.1 submission, we are not standing still. Planning continues as we prepare for Stage 3.2 of the five-stage process.

Stage 3.1 included the preliminary block designs with details on all major components, timelines, and costs. Stage 3.2 will focus on more detailed physical planning documents. The submission will include components such as floor plans, site plans, and further design development and refinement of the architectural, mechanical, electrical, and structural design briefs.

## Celebrating Dr. Deschenes



COVID-19 has delayed an official party, but we didn't want to miss the opportunity to celebrate **Dr. Christiane Deschenes**. She officially retired in the spring, after 40 years of caring. She also completed her third term as Chief of Staff at Almonte General Hospital (AGH) and Fairview Manor (FVM)

"I'm happy to say that Chris is still with us at AGH assisting in the Operating Room," notes Mary Wilson Trider, President and CEO. "It's hard to imagine AGH and FVM without her. Chris brings wisdom, common sense, and a sense of humour to everything she does, and we will miss her contributions. We will miss her fun spirit as well."

Best wishes Dr. Deschenes!

## Keeping Everyone Safe

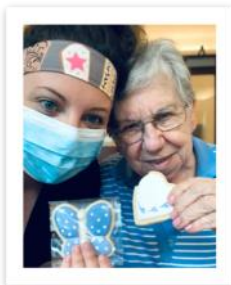


In October, we celebrated **Patient Safety Week**, highlighting the importance of continually improving patient and resident care and safety. The week focused on virtual care and new ways that we are connecting with our patients.

At the two hospitals, virtual appointments by telephone are being used during COVID-19, whenever possible.

In fact, about two-thirds of appointments with specialists are now being done virtually. This allows clinicians to provide the same services they did before COVID-19, while keeping everyone safe. In addition, telemedicine services are being provided in Carleton Place. This program connects patients with a specialist by video, reducing the need and stress associated with travel. In-person appointments can still be arranged when necessary.

## Keeping Connected



Connections are key at **Fairview Manor** and the team has gone above and beyond during COVID-19. In the first four months of the pandemic, they organized 849 family connections - from window visits to Zoom calls. The result: 16,980 minutes of together time!

# What's New

## New Deputy Chief

**Breanne Lapointe** has been named the new Deputy Chief of the Lanark County Paramedic Service (LCPS). Breanne has more than 14 years of experience as a Paramedic and joined LCPS in 2006.



## Welcome!

Pediatrician **Dr. Cara Walker** has joined our team, providing specialized services to families in our region. Dr. Walker will work with family physicians to provide extra support and input related to such challenges as behavioural concerns, learning disabilities, or medical issues where a second opinion may be helpful. Families must have a referral from their family physician.



AGH is pleased to welcome **Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth** to the hospital campus on Spring Street. A Registered Psychotherapist is on-site one day a week, offering counselling and crisis support for children and youth up to the age of 18, and their families.



In addition to pre-booked appointments, the Registered Psychotherapist provides Emergency Department (ED) consultations for children and youth. She assesses risk and develops safety plans in consultation with the ED team.

For more information, call 613-257-8260, email [admin@opendoors.on.ca](mailto:admin@opendoors.on.ca), or visit [www.opendoors.on.ca](http://www.opendoors.on.ca).

# News from Our Foundations



Eight-year old Layla Hasan donating funds raised through making masks. From left: Al Roberts, Managing Director, AGH FVM Foundation; Debie Hason with daughter Layla Hasan; and Dr. Julie Stewardson MD

**\$103,767.00**  
raised for our local hospitals!  
Thank you for your support!

In support of our local hospitals

**Cheers rang out at four local hospitals and at Lake 88.1 on October 15th**



CPDMH showing listeners their support and appreciation. From left: Dr. Maria Bastin-Miller; Dr. Jamie Fullerton, Chief of Staff; Theresa Stevens, Ward Clerk; and Judi Agnew, Pharmacist

The second Lake 88.1 Radiothon went off the air with more than \$98,000 raised for local hospitals in communities throughout the radio station's coverage area. That total rose to \$103,767 as more donations came in from local businesses and residents following the Radiothon. On behalf of AGH FVM Foundation, CPDMH Foundation, as well as, the Great War Memorial Hospital Foundation in Perth and the Smiths Falls and District Hospital Foundation, thank you to the Lake 88.1 team and all of the participants, donors, sponsors and volunteers for supporting quality health care close to home.

Brian Perkin, who owns Lake 88.1 with his wife Jennifer, added, "It's humbling and also encouraging to see our local communities provide such generous support. It's a tremendous investment in our local hospitals - one that benefits us all."



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, please visit our websites at: [www.agh-fvm.com](http://www.agh-fvm.com) • [www.cpdmh.ca](http://www.cpdmh.ca)