

# Integrated Surgery Program Is Improving Care — Close to Home

The Mississippi River Health Alliance (MRHA) has brought together the general surgery programs in Almonte and Carleton Place to create an integrated program that supports timely, seamless and comprehensive coverage for patients requiring general surgery close to home.

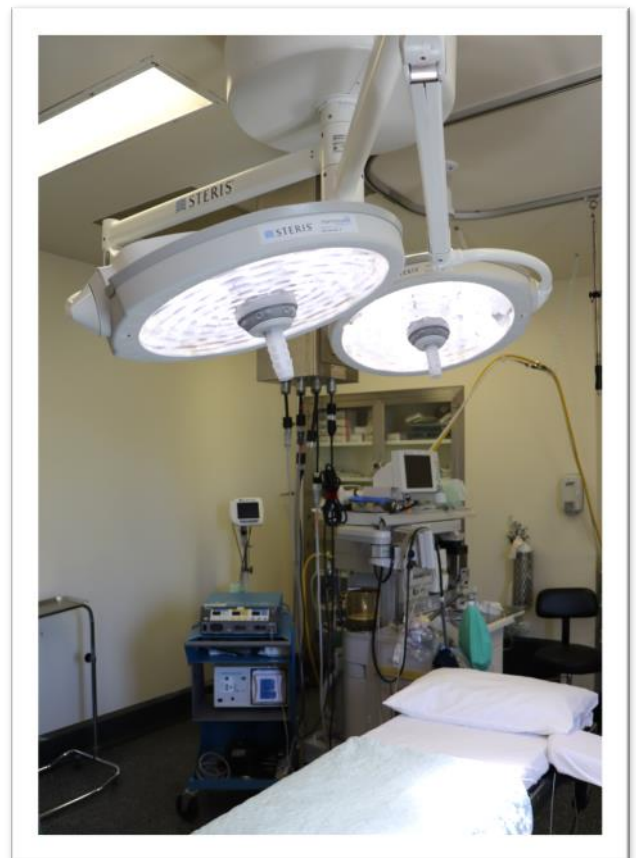
Patients coming to Almonte or Carleton Place for surgeries such as hernia repairs or gall bladders can now be seen by the next available surgeon for consultation. They then have their surgery at either hospital — wherever they can be booked soonest.

“The program is part of the MRHA Clinical Services Plan and supports our goal of working better together and ensuring the very best care in our local community,” explains President and CEO Mary Wilson Trider.

Five General Surgeons complete a rotation between our two hospital sites, with coverage initially four days per week. Each week, Surgeons provide outpatient clinics, operating room time and consultations. The new CT Scanner in Almonte will support the surgeons in their work at both hospitals.

“The Alliance is all about benefitting our patients and families,” adds Allied Boards Chair Lyman Gardiner. “This program is a great example of the benefits of collaboration.”

Thank you to all involved for making the vision a reality – in particular CPDMH Chief of Staff Dr. Allyson Champagne, General Surgeon Dr. Joel Weaver, Hannah Larkin, Integrated Manager of Perioperative Services and Heather Graham, Integrated Director of Health Records and Registration.

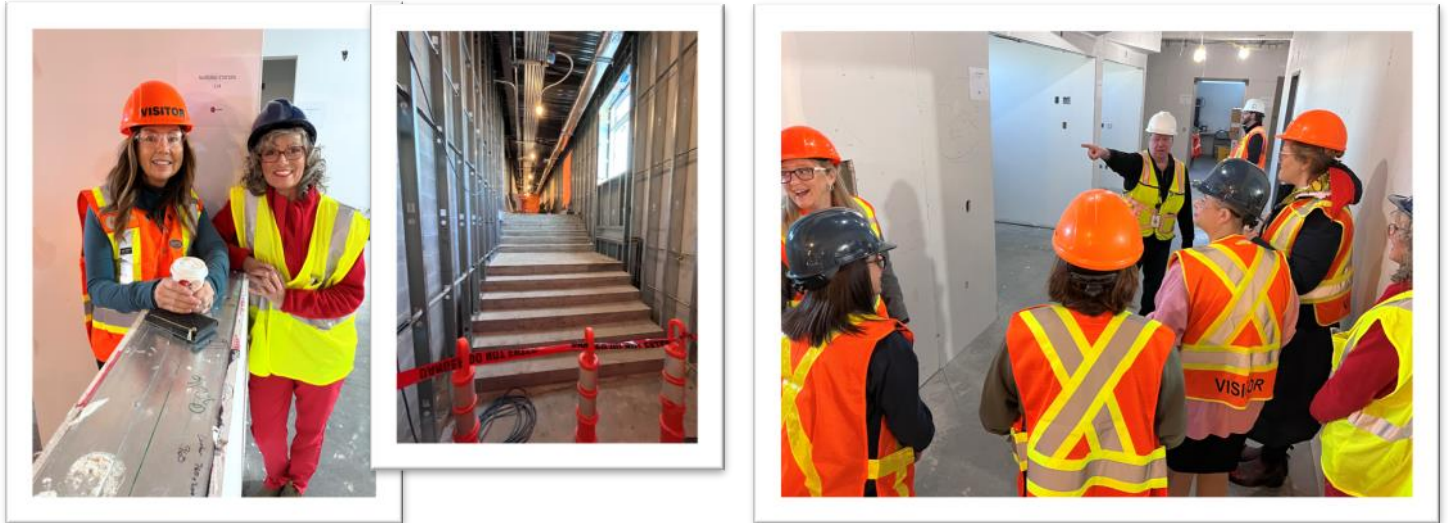


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# New Emergency Department — Sneak Peek!

Construction of the new Emergency Department in Carleton Place is on track for the official opening later this year. In December, staff, physicians and Board directors had the opportunity to check out the new space.



Check out the CPDMH Foundation video with more views of the new ED:  
<https://www.facebook.com/CPDMHFoundation/videos/1817512892033887>

## CT Scanner Milestone

Following a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process, GE HealthCare Canada has been chosen to provide the new CT Scanner at Almonte General Hospital. It is expected the first patients will be welcomed this summer.



The preliminary schematic design drawings for the installation of the new CT scanner have been prepared and detailed design drawings are now in the works. Once complete, these plans will be submitted to both the Ministry of Health and the Town Planning Department for review. “A great deal of consultation goes into preparing these drawings,” explains Vice President Randy Shaw. “We have to get things like patient flow down right in order to maximize the use of this important new diagnostic technology.”

The Almonte General Hospital Fairview Manor Foundation is fully funding the project with its commitment of \$3.2 million. Payments have started to flow with the Foundation having provided the initial \$300,000 late last year. The Foundation has approximately \$2 million to transfer to the hospital in 2024 as various construction and installation milestones are met. Generous donors have committed an additional \$500,000 in pledges to be paid out in the next few years so the campaign is in its final phase to identify and raise the remaining \$400,000.

Once operational, the CT Scanner will be an important diagnostic tool close to home and will support reduced wait times across the region.

# What's NEW?

## Electronic Medical Record in Carleton Place

This spring, CPDMH is introducing a new Electronic Medical Record to support patients on their care journey. It will improve coordination of care among health providers in Almonte and Carleton Place — and across the region. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as our staff learn this new system.

## Welcome Dr. Suttie

Dr. Rob Suttie has worked in both large and small hospitals and says CPDMH is the right fit for him. As Chief of Emergency, he says it's all about the team. Dr. Suttie took the helm in July.



## CPDMH Volunteers

Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital is looking forward to welcoming volunteers once again. To start, we are looking for volunteers to staff the information desk at the front entrance. For more details or to apply to be a CPDMH volunteer, please email [hospitalvolunteer@cpdmh.ca](mailto:hospitalvolunteer@cpdmh.ca).

## A Year in Review

We're here for you. That's the theme of the MRHA's 2023 Report to the Community. We introduce you to some of the people who care for our communities every day.



## President & CEO Announces Plan to Step Down

Mary Wilson Trider, MRHA President and Chief Executive Officer has shared with the Allied Boards of Directors her intention to step down in the Spring of 2024. The recruitment process for a new President and CEO is underway using the services of Waterhouse Executive Search.

"First and foremost, thank you to Mary for her stellar leadership over 13 years with the Almonte General Hospital, Fairview Manor and Lanark County Paramedic Service, and more than 7 years with the Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital," notes Allied Boards Chair Lyman Gardiner. "Mary's accomplishments over the years are numerous. Her leadership has supported and guided the creation and development of the MRHA, which provides patients, residents, and families with the very best health care close to home. We are grateful for her dedication to the organizations, and to those we serve."

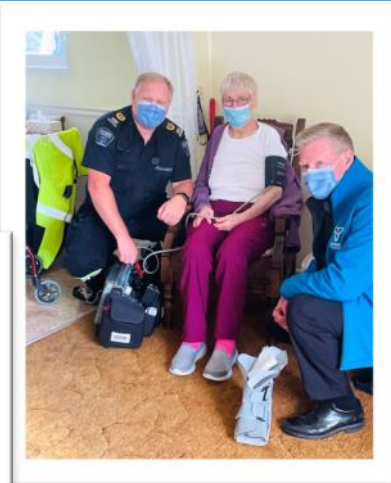
"Over the next several months, Mary will continue to lead the organizations and support key initiatives underway such as the new CT Scanner in Almonte and the redevelopment of the Emergency Department in Carleton Place," adds Mr. Gardiner.



## Paramedic Updates

Thank you to MPP John Jordan who joined Lanark County Paramedics for a ride-along in the fall. It was a great opportunity to showcase the treatment, assessment and diagnostic skills of our Community Paramedics and discuss how the program is positively impacting residents of Lanark County.

Lanark County Paramedics took part in the Lanark County Female First Responders Camp this fall. The goal was to provide a glimpse into firefighting, paramedics and law enforcement and encourage young women to see these as viable career opportunities.



## Bingo!

Thank you to Ottawa Senators Alumni Chris Neil who stopped by Fairview Manor to play bingo with the residents. Our first-ever Celebrity Bingo!

Chris happily met with residents, staff and volunteers taking time to sign autographs and take pictures with an enthusiast group of Sens fans.



## Giving Back

During the festive season, the MRHA team took time to give back to our local communities. Here are two examples!

The Lanark County Paramedics held their annual 'Fill an Ambulance' Food Drive along with two local hockey teams. Across three communities, 79 boxes of food and nearly \$5,000 was collected for local food banks. In Carleton Place, hospital staff donated 1,000 pounds of food to Lanark County Hunger Stop.



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

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