

WWLHINformation

Waterloo Wellington LHIN



Waterloo Wellington LHIN eNewsletter - January 24th Edition

The WWLHINformation eNewsletter is a bi-weekly update to keep you informed of the latest news, events, and successes in health care across the WWLHIN as we continue working together to build an integrated and sustainable health system for residents in Waterloo Wellington.

As part of the eNewsletter, we are looking for your contributions. Are you looking for a new way to share information or invite the community to health care related events? Send your news and events with links to more information and we'll include it in an upcoming edition.

Please forward WWLHINformation to others who may be interested in local health care news and events. For new readers, please [click here](#) to subscribe. To unsubscribe please send an email to connie.coggan@lhins.on.ca.

Cancer Care Ontario Launches Third Ontario Cancer Plan



President and CEO of Cancer Care Ontario Terrence Sullivan visited the Grand River Regional Cancer Centre (GRRCC) in Kitchener to present the third edition of the Ontario Cancer Plan.

The Plan ensures our cancer system serves the changing and growing needs of Ontarians. The Cancer Plan outlines priorities for cancer services, sets a course to transform cancer services from the patient perspective, and is driven by a commitment to quality across the cancer journey – from prevention to survivorship or palliative care – as the most effective way to manage cancer.

The release of the original Ontario Cancer Plan in 2004, was the first multi-year cancer plan developed in Canada. Terrence Sullivan is pictured speaking at the GRRCC. For more information, [click here](#).

New MRI Will Reduce Wait Times for Cambridge-Area Residents

Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Deb Matthews visited Cambridge



January 13th to announce that Cambridge-area patients will soon have increased access to diagnostic scans and reduced wait times with a new MRI machine at Cambridge Memorial Hospital – a first for this hospital.

The new MRI machine is expected to provide patients with 3,120 scans every year and once up and running will operate for 40 hours a week. This MRI machine will make it easier for people who need an MRI scan to get tested and treated more quickly, closer to home.

Minister Matthews is pictured with Heather Denaeyer, a Medical Radiation Technology student at Fanshawe College, London. For more information, [click here](#).

Rural Residents Invited to Participate in Provincial Consultation

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is holding consultation meetings to gather input on the Ontario Rural and Northern Health Care Panel's Report and Recommendations. Local residents are being asked to provide their feedback on how to provide the best access to quality health care services in rural and northern areas of the province.

There are a number of ways that the public can make its views known – including online, by phone and in-person at roundtable discussions in rural communities across the province.

A consultation will be held in Drayton on February 1, 2011 at the PMD Arena, 68 Main St., from 1p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration is required. To view the Panel's Report, provide feedback online, or register for the consultation, please visit: www.ontario.ca/ruralnorthernhealth.

The Panel's report is well-aligned with the work done by the WWLHIN Rural Health Care Working Group and the recommendations endorsed by the WWLHIN Board of Directors. The WWLHIN is currently working together with rural health service providers to implement the report's recommendations. To view the WWLHIN's Rural Health Care Review Report, please [click here](#).

Waterloo Wellington Long-Term Care Homes Demonstrate Commitment to Enhancing Quality of Care for Residents



Over 110 leaders from area long-term care homes gathered at St. George's Hall in Waterloo on February 19th to kick-off participation in the provincial Resident's First quality enhancement program. One hundred per cent of long-term care homes in the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (WWLHIN) are participating in the voluntary initiative. There are 35 long-term care homes in the WWLHIN, with a total of 3,766 beds.

Residents First is one of the most comprehensive and innovative quality improvement initiatives in Canada. The provincial initiative supports long-term care homes in Ontario in providing an environment for their residents that enhances their quality of life.

"Having 100 per cent of our long-term care homes participate is a solid demonstration of their commitment to enhancing quality of care for residents. Resident's First will provide homes with the tools to evaluate their processes and make improvements, mirroring the process and success we've seen in our emergency departments (EDs) through the ED Process Improvement Program," said Bruce Lauckner, Interim CEO, WWLHIN.

"The Residents First initiative improves quality and involves residents, family, and staff. This initiative has helped us to evaluate our improvement process as well as teach us new techniques to improve quality," said Debby Riepert, Vice President, Operations Lutheran Homes Kitchener-Waterloo.

For more information, [click here](#).

Helping Families Access Support Services up to One Year Earlier



Eric Kennedy was a 37-year veteran of Kitchener Hydro when his wife started noticing changes in his behaviour. He was having trouble remembering and understanding certain things. His family doctor was concerned and referred him to Geriatrics Associates at St. Mary's General Hospital, where elective patients are seen within two months and urgent patients are seen within two weeks.

Dr. Sarkaria, one of five geriatricians in the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), diagnosed him with Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD). FTD is a degenerative condition of the front (anterior) part of the brain. It is marked by dramatic changes in personality, behavior and some thought processes.

Dr. Sarkaria asked the couple if they would like a referral to the Alzheimer Society for information and support. They said yes. It was a difficult diagnosis to receive and they didn't know what to expect.

"I knew about the Alzheimer Society but I probably wouldn't have called them. Having them call me right away made it easier. They explained how they can help and what programs are available," said Gayle Salter-Kennedy. "Without the Alzheimer Society we would have been lost. Instead, I started attending a caregiver support group right away. The Alzheimer Society has been a key piece for us in learning to manage and proceed with the diagnosis in a positive way."

The immediate referral to the Society is part of a new initiative called First Link™, an information and referral program offered by the Alzheimer Society of Cambridge, Guelph-Wellington, and Kitchener-Waterloo. First Link™ is funded through the Waterloo Wellington LHIN's Aging at Home program and focuses on developing partnerships with the primary care sector and other community agencies to more effectively support individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

Eric Kennedy and Gayle Salter-Kennedy from Ayr are pictured above. For more information, [click here](#).

Health System Improvement Pre-Proposals (HSIPs)

Over the next few months, community health service providers (HSPs) will be preparing planning submissions for the 2011 - 2014 Multi-Sectoral Accountability Agreements (M-SAAs). Hospitals will develop similar budget and service delivery plans as their current Hospital-Service Accountability Agreements (H-SAAs) will be extended for another year (2011 - 2012).

In conjunction with these important planning processes, the WWLHIN will continue to accept Health System Improvement Pre-Proposals (HSIPs) for specific initiatives that address our system challenges. This is consistent with our current HSIP process.

The WWLHIN expects HSPs to recognize and address system challenges identified through our performance indicators. To that end, the WWLHIN will only be accepting HSIPs that clearly articulate, through evidence, initiatives that will have an

immediate and sustainable impact on reducing ED wait times and ALC days, and leverage, and improve upon, existing services and processes. These community-based initiatives must demonstrate impact on at least one of these two pressures as well as value for money. The HSIP process includes requests for one-time funding initiatives.

HSIP forms may be submitted to the WWLHIN at waterloowellington@lhins.on.ca by February 21, 2011. Questions about HSIPs can be directed to Toni Lemon, Acting Senior Director, Health System Transformation at toni.lemon@lhins.on.ca.

WWLHIN Hiring Emergency Department-Alternate Level of Care Lead

The WWLHIN is currently recruiting for a Emergency Department/Alternate Level of Care Lead. The Lead will be responsible for accelerating the achievement of Emergency Department (ED)/Alternate Level of Care (ALC) performance targets and objectives across the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (WWLHIN).

Working closely with leaders and front-line staff across Waterloo Wellington, the Performance Lead will act as a catalyst to the development of solutions that have a high-value, direct impact on these targets and objectives.

For more information, [click here](#). Job inquiries should be directed to Staci Bartlett, Business Support Manager at 519-650-4472 X222 or toll free at 1-866-306-5446 X222, or by email at staci.bartlett@lhins.on.ca

