

WWLHINformation

Waterloo Wellington LHIN



Waterloo Wellington LHIN eNewsletter - September 19th 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, to subscribe or unsubscribe, please send an email to connie.macdonald@lhins.on.ca.

'Home First' Philosophy Helps Care Teams Prepare Families for Life at Home after Hospital



Suzie Lane's recovery is a miracle. On March 28th, she suffered a stroke in the night. The next morning her husband Bob found her unresponsive and called 911. She was taken to Grand River Hospital and given a grave assessment. "They told me she likely wouldn't make it," said Bob.

Suzie had signed a living will indicating she didn't want any above and beyond medical intervention. Her doctor told Bob it was unlikely she would get better and that she would probably get much worse. Bob made the heartbreaking decision to let her go.

"The next morning I noticed improved movement of her hands and feet and greater alertness," said Bob. "I called it to the attention of the nurses and later spoke with the doctor to let him know I believed our decision was premature. He had read the nurses' reports and agreed. Later that morning Suzie passed a swallowing test and was placed

on a pureed diet. Slowly but surely, Suzie began to recover."

Five months later, Suzie is at home with Bob, and grateful to be there. Local hospitals, in partnership with the Waterloo Wellington Community Care Access Centre (WWCCAC), have implemented the 'Home First' philosophy which makes going home from hospital, where most patients want to go, the first option, when medically possible. Once there they can make informed choices about their future living arrangements. This helps patients to receive quality care in the most appropriate

place, while reducing alternate level of care (ALC) days in hospitals.

[Click here](#) to read the full story.

Rehabilitation Services Review

As part of the provincial strategy to enhance quality of care and reduce alternate level of care (ALC) days in hospitals, a rehabilitation and complex continuing care expert panel was formed. The purpose of the panel was to fundamentally re-think the delivery of rehabilitation and complex care across the continuum. A number of recommendations were made to increase the quality of care that patients receive and to reduce ALC days.

Similarly, during consultations for the Waterloo Wellington Stroke Review, rehabilitation services were identified as a priority area for enhancements to increase access to care. As a result, a Rehabilitation Services Review will be conducted across the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network to identify key areas for improvement. The purpose of the review is to develop recommendations that will improve patient access and outcomes and better align services with local needs.

Rehabilitation services included in the review are inpatient, outpatient and community services.

The Review is being led by Dr. Ashok Sharma, Chief of Staff for St. Mary's General and Grand River Hospitals and Terrie Dean, Senior Director Clinical Programs, for St. Joseph's Health Centre, Guelph. The Review will be coordinated by Emmi Perkins, a Registered Physiotherapist. Emmi is on secondment to St. Joseph's Health Centre from Guelph General Hospital where she is a full-time Quality and Patient Safety Specialist.

Rural Health Care Providers Unite to Provide Optimal Health Services

Rural Wellington hospitals, Family Health Teams, the Waterloo Wellington Community Care Access Centre and Mental Health Services signed a collective agreement aimed at optimizing health and patient care in our rural communities.

The rural partners include: Groves Memorial Community Hospital, North Wellington Health Care, Minto-Mapleton, Mount Forest and Upper Grand Family Health Teams, Waterloo Wellington Community Care Access Centre and Trellis Mental Health and Developmental Services.

By entering into this agreement, each partner commits to improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness of health care services through collaboration, joint planning, and sharing. "We are stronger working together than we could be independently," stated Jerome Quenneville, President and CEO of the Wellington Health Care Alliance. "By working together we can potentially leverage sources of funding to improve patient services.

These organizations also work together to improve health care services in Waterloo Wellington through participation in the [WWLHIN's Rural Health Network](#).

[Click here](#) for more information.

VON Transportation Program

The Victorian Order of Nurses Transportation Program provides reliable and convenient transportation to seniors and adults with disabilities, who live in Fergus and Elora. Wheelchair accessible transportation is also available to this same area. Transportation is available for medical appointments, tasks of daily living: such as banking or grocery shopping and for social outings within the community.

For more information, or if you would like to volunteer, please call the VON Office at 1-888-506-6353 and press 1. Our staff will be happy to assist you. Please share [our poster](#) with those who may be interested.

C Difficile Outbreak Declared Over at Guelph General Hospital

On September 1st, in consultation with Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, Guelph General Hospital declared its C. difficile outbreak to be over.

Preventing and containing the spread of C. difficile within the Hospital is a very complex task requiring the attention and involvement of staff, patients, visitors and volunteers, said Eileen Bain, VP Patient Services and Chief Nursing Executive. "Once C. difficile establishes itself in the hospital it is very difficult to control. The Hospital relied on the expertise and teamwork of hundreds of staff to bring this outbreak to a close."

She also credits the Hospital's close working relationship with Public Health. "We have a strong relationship and I appreciate their efforts in supporting us in getting this outbreak under control."

Her sentiment is echoed by the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Nicola Mercer. "As with any infectious disease outbreak, we were actively involved with the hospital to support and ensure all prevention and control measures were in place to prevent further transmission. I commend the entire staff at Guelph General Hospital for their cooperation and vigilance in bringing the outbreak to an end."

For Eileen, all the hard work had one goal in mind. "As always, our efforts remain focused on providing a safe environment for our patients, staff and visitors."

Community Support Connections Collecting Nominations for Volunteerism in Senior Sector Award

Community Support Connections – Meals on Wheels and More is reaching into the past to revive an honoured tradition from one of CSC's originating agencies. The local charity is requesting nominations from the community to recognize an individual who has made a significant impact on the lives of seniors in our region.

The restored Sister Aloysia Award was originally created by members of the RAISE board and staff in 2003 in memory of Sister Mary Aloysia, who passed away a year earlier. Though well known in the community as an active volunteer and humanitarian, it was her founding of RAISE, one of the four organizations that merged to become Community Support Connections – Meals on Wheels and More, for which she is best known.

Sister Aloysia founded RAISE at the age of 67 after retiring from a long and prominent teaching career that had her acting as Supervising Principal of five schools in Southern Ontario. After a lifetime of wanting to be involved with social work, Sister Aloysia and a couple of her fellow Sisters founded RAISE, which at the time stood for Retirees Assisting in Serving Each Other. Her dream was to provide personal visits, telephone reassurance checks, transportation and shopping to seniors who were frail and housebound, and often overlooked by the system at the time.

[Click here](#) for more information.

WWLHIN Social Media: Feature Tweets and Posts

Follow [@WW_LHIN](#) on Twitter and become a fan on [Facebook](#). Many thanks to our fans and followers for their feedback. Use the #access2care hashtag to share your good news.

- **@SGAServices:** Mental Health Treatment Provider is out! <http://bit.ly/o03Y8B> Top stories today via [@chanvillelcs](#)

@wegotashot @dgstones @ww_lhin

- @**SASCWR**:@PreventingCrime @dothandmade @judahoudshoorn @WW_LHIN @ajustcommunity Thanks so much for the RTs!
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