

WWLHINformation

Waterloo Wellington LHIN



Waterloo Wellington LHIN eNewsletter - June 25th, 2012

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.

Addiction Supportive Housing Program Reducing ED Visits

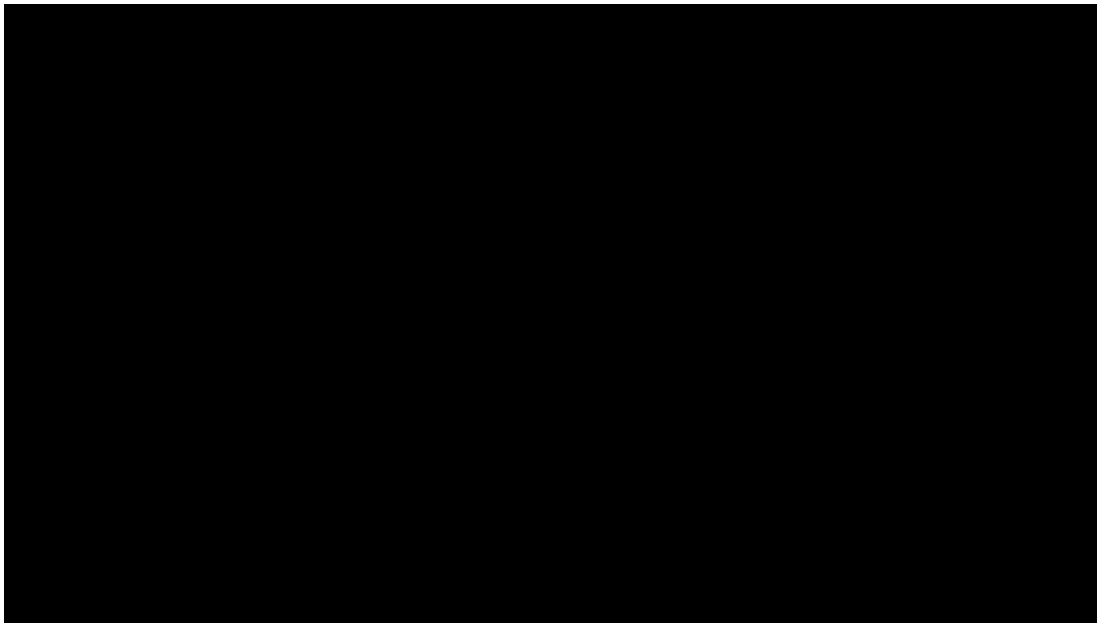
Residents across Waterloo Wellington struggling with an addiction are benefiting from specialized Addiction Supportive Housing units. The program, funded by the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network, is a partnership between the Canadian Mental Health Association Grand River Branch (CMHA GRB), House of Friendship – Addiction Services, Waterloo Regional Homes for Mental Health Inc., and Stonehenge Therapeutic Community.

In the first year of the program, emergency department (ED) visits for substance abuse dropped by more than 30 per cent. This year, the third-year of the program, will support more residents than ever before with the addition of 16 units. Twenty-nine units are currently open -- four in Cambridge, 12 in Guelph, 12 in Kitchener-Waterloo, and one in a rural community. An additional three units will open in rural Wellington County when matched with clients in need.

The residents receive housing, addiction counselling, and other support services tailored to their needs. This can include addiction counselling, [health education and lifestyle support, employment services, basic life skills, access to other health services, and more. Click here to read more.](#)

Community Support Connections Video

Watch this video created for Community Support Connections - Meals on Wheels and more by Conestoga College Students.



GRH and Osteoporosis Canada Work Together to Provide Fast, One-Stop Care for At-Risk Patients

Patients at risk of osteoporosis are receiving faster and better care, thanks to an innovative partnership between Grand River Hospital and Osteoporosis Canada that fills an important gap in early detection and management of the disease.

In July 2011, the two organizations established a fast-track screening clinic at GRH's KW Site to more quickly spot patients with low-trauma fractures... one of the first signs of low bone mass linked to osteoporosis. The clinic is the first of its kind in Ontario.

In less than a year of operation, the clinic has referred 60 patients through nearly immediate access to medical imaging and follow-up care. This accounts for about a third of the patients whose condition wouldn't have been detected until after a much more serious injury.

"Before this program, patients who would have presented in an emergency department with a low-trauma fracture wouldn't have been screened for osteoporosis," said Kate Harvey, the Waterloo/Wellington area manager for the Ontario Osteoporosis Strategy. "The screening process we've built with GRH offers tools so a patient's family physician can manage the condition."

[Click here](#) for more information.

Video Celebrates 40 years of Home and Community Care

As 2012 marks the 40th anniversary of publically funded home and community care, the Waterloo Wellington Community Care Access Centre produced a video to promote the value of home and community care in our health care system. The video was launched at their Annual General Meeting.

[Click here](#) to view the video.

GRH's District Stroke Staff and Survivors Offer Stroke Education and Prevention Tips

Grand River Hospital's District Stroke Centre marked stroke month by helping community members understand the importance of recognizing the symptoms and calling 911.

GRH held an information day on Thursday, June 14th at Fairview Park Mall in Kitchener. Registered nurses with the hospital's secondary stroke prevention clinic provided information about stroke risks and how to manage them. Survivors were also available to speak about community resources to help people who have had a stroke.

Joining the participants was Cayley Rodd, a 32 year old lawyer from Cambridge. Last November, Cayley experienced a stroke several days after climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Her only symptom was a tingling in her left arm and initial loss of speech, followed by continued difficulty speaking.

Cayley's stroke was confirmed 48 hours later in a hospital in Amsterdam during a layover on her return trip to Canada. Her symptoms progressed to include loss of control of the muscles in her right arm and leg. She spent two weeks in hospital before being permitted to return home. Cayley is recovering well and will be involved in facilitating Living with Stroke programs in the area.

"I am certainly more aware that a stroke can happen to anyone, no matter their age, their general health or fitness level," Cayley explains. "I am back to work full-time, but suffer lingering effects from the stroke. I definitely have a better understanding of people with brain-related injuries and the lifelong changes that can result."

"It's encouraging to see people living well and recovering after a stroke and the great work being achieved through programs run by GRH's district stroke centre as well as stroke survivor groups."

[Click here](#) for more information.

We're All in This Together Resonates at Guelph General Hospital

Guelph General Hospital was recently featured in the Access to Care - Surgical Efficiency Targets Quarterly Newsletter.

Read the article [here](#).

Integration Success Story: Community Support Connections

Three years after integrating four community support agencies into one, Community Support Connections, Meals on Wheels and More is offering more services, to more seniors with the same dollars provided by the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network. Through this collaborative work, the organization has improved access to care for clients and are supporting better health and better futures for Waterloo Wellington residents.

Learn more about this success [here](#).

Opiate Advice

In early March, Minister Matthews convened an Expert Working Group on Narcotic Addiction to provide advice in response to the removal of OxyContin from the Canadian market. The Expert Working Group has been meeting weekly to monitor the

situation and to provide short, medium and long-term advice to the minister to strengthen the existing addiction treatment system in Ontario. A final report containing the Expert Working Group's advice is expected in May.

One of the immediate initiatives recommended by the Expert Working Group was the development and dissemination of opioid advice to health care providers as well as for families, consumers and pregnant women. With assistance from the Centre of Addiction and Mental Health, and guidance from the Expert Working Group on Narcotic Addiction, the following resources were created: Opioid Withdrawal, Opioid Intoxication, Opioid Conversion, and Opioid Dependence in Pregnant Women.

This Opioid Advice series and other resources are also available on the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health website: https://knowledgex.camh.net/opioid_alert. A separate series of Opioid Advice intended for consumers, family members and pregnant women is also being developed.

Links to Health Newsletters

A collection of links to the latest newsletters from health service providers, health care associations, and other health related organizations. If you would like your organization's newsletter to appear in this section of the WWLHIN's eNewsletter, please forward your newsletter to connie.macdonald@lhins.on.ca.

- [Guelph Independent Living June Newsletter](#)
- [Ontario Hospital Association eNews](#)
- [Waterloo Wellington Diabetes Regional Coordination Centre June News](#)

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.

- @ccarmichael: @WW_LHIN thanks for the tour and chat today... Hopefully we'll have WWCCAC joining you on the Twitterz soon!
- @HIMSSOntario: #himssont @ClinicalConnect provides comprehensive access to longitudinal health record from 28 hospitals @WW_LHIN @hnhb_Lhingage #healthIT
- @healthcouncilca: @pauline_tam @BridgesCHC @CHA_ACS @PhysioCan @WW_LHIN @AMSPhoenix @ubcparmacy @ImpactBC @Sinuwave @InspireNetBC Thanks for the tweets/RTs!
- @GaltCntryClub: But it's a great day for golf! "@WW_LHIN: Keep cool & stay inside if you can! Smog advisory for Waterloo Wellington... <http://www.therecord.com/news/local/article/741105--waterloo-wellington-smog-advisory-continues>"
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