

HeartBeats

A Quarterly Newsletter from Haldimand War Memorial Hospital & Edgewater Gardens Winter 2020

Lorne Boyko is New Board Chair

The Board of Directors of HWMH and Edgewater Gardens has appointed former businessman Lorne Boyko as its new chair. Lorne has been a board member for the past three years and previously served as a community member on the board's Governance and Strategic Planning Committee. He is well known for his community involvement and leadership in the Dunnville area, including serving as a 30-year veteran of Haldimand County and Dunnville municipal councils.

Vice-chair Dr. Scott Reid replaced Perry Barnhart who had completed his two-year term as board chair. Scott resigned shortly afterward for personal reasons. Another board stalwart, Deanna Williams, has

recently stepped down from her role in the governance of the hospital and Edgewater.

Three new members of the community have come on as independent directors. They are Joanna Brzozowska, a financial advisor with CIBC in Dunnville, and Jo Geary, a retired administrative coordinator from St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, who now lives in Cayuga. They join Bernita Drenth, a policy consultant specializing in health care, who recently moved to the area and came onto the board in early 2019.

The board is still looking to fill four vacant positions in the new year (see page 4).

"I want to thank Perry, Scott and Deanna for their dedication and years of service,



Lorne Boyko

and also welcome Joanna, Bernita and Jo," says board chair Lorne Boyko. "The Board of Directors very much appreciates that they have joined us and accepted the challenge, striving to ensure we have the very best health care in our community, particularly during these uncertain times."

Message from the President

Happy New Year! By the time members of the community read this latest edition of HeartBeats, I will have retired from my position as president and CEO of Haldimand War Memorial Hospital and Edgewater Gardens, which became effective December 31, 2019. So this is my last message to the residents of the greater Dunnville community.

There are some exciting plans underway for HWMH and Edgewater, which will be led by my successors with updates provided in future editions of this newsletter.

At the end of 2019, we submitted an application to the Ministry of Long-Term Care – including architects' preliminary drawings – to double the size of Edgewater Gardens, in order to provide additional long-term care spaces for residents in the area who are waiting for them. The additional space at Edgewater would also reduce

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Edgewater Welcomes ABBY

Some new technology has been installed at Edgewater Gardens to help improve the quality of life for residents living with dementia.

This ambient activity technology is called ABBY. It provides easily accessible physical, cognitive and social stimulation to residents who interact with components on a board that offers games, photographs, videos and music. The content can be personalized to be meaningful to each particular resident – including such things as favourite TV shows, music, videos and photos.

Research has demonstrated that the stimulation provided by ABBY results in less agitation, verbal and physical aggression, anxiety and phobias,

while improving residents' quality of life.

Funding for the purchase of ABBY was donated anonymously by the family of an Edgewater resident.



Edgewater resident Bruce Smith is introduced to the ABBY device by Ray Fullerton, an employee from the machine's manufacturer, Ambient Activity Technologies.

Increasing Concern About the Use of E-Cigarettes

E-cigarettes were initially considered to be a reasonable substitute for cigarettes, since the exposure to harmful chemicals in the inhaled aerosol is significantly lower than in tobacco smoke. But health professionals are becoming more concerned about the harmful effects of vaping, since long-term consequences are unknown and teenagers are increasingly using e-cigarette products.

Data from a recent Health Canada survey indicated that 23 per cent of students in

grades 7 to 12 have tried an e-cigarette, even though vaping products are prohibited from being sold to people under the age of 19 in Ontario.

This past fall, Health Canada issued a special advisory about vaping risks and set up a web page to keep Canadians informed about cases of severe pulmonary illness related to vaping in this country. As of December 10, 2019, 14 cases of vaping-associated lung illness had been reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada, with three of them affecting teenagers between 15 and 19 years old. In the U.S., health officials have reported more than 1,600 cases of vaping-related illnesses, including 34 deaths.

Ontario is considering a ban on flavoured e-cigarette products, which appeal to young people. Furthermore, the province announced that effective January 1, 2020 it will be banning the promotion of vapour products in convenience stores and gas stations.

Under the new rules, vaping ads will only be allowed in specialty vape and cannabis retail stores where customers must be at least 19 years old to enter.

“Restricting the promotion of vapour products in retail stores will help prevent youth from being exposed and influenced by promotion in retail settings,” said Ontario health minister Christine Elliott.

While Health Canada notes there is some evidence to indicate that using e-cigarettes is linked to improved rates of success in quitting smoking, the agency also suggests that people who wish to quit smoking consider approved nicotine replacement therapies such as gums, patches or lozenges.

Meanwhile, young people are increasingly becoming addicted to nicotine – and suffering lung damage – by taking up the use of e-cigarettes.



Vaping is on the rise among teenagers

Message from the President – cont. from Pg.1

the pressures on the hospital, which has a number of patients who are also waiting for a place in a long-term care home.

The hospital and Edgewater are continuing to work with our community health care partners in our efforts to create a dedicated Ontario Health Team for Haldimand County.

As I retire from my duties as president and CEO of Haldimand War Memorial Hospital and Edgewater Gardens after more than a decade, I want to thank members of the community for your support to me and to everyone at the hospital and Edgewater. I'm proud of the health care our dedicated team continues to provide to our local residents, pleased with the improvements we've implemented at the hospital and long-term care home and gratified to have overseen the construction of a new Emergency Department for our community.

The coming years will present ongoing challenges in the delivery of health care, and I'm confident that the Board of Directors and management team will successfully meet and overcome them. I wish them – and everyone in the Haldimand community – the very best in the years to come.

David Montgomery, President and CEO

Volunteers Donate Funds for Patient Comfort

The hospital's Volunteer Association has donated just over \$18,000 to purchase much-needed equipment to provide comfort to patients in hospital.

Slightly more than \$7,700 from the sale of about two years' worth of HELLP break-

open lottery tickets is being used to purchase two pressure mattresses.

Just over \$10,000 from other fundraising initiatives is being directed to purchase a hydraulic shower chair. The chair will allow patients to be easily lifted from their beds and moved into the shower. The ergonomic chair can be lifted and tilted, and makes hygiene routines safer, more comfortable and dignified for the most vulnerable patients.

In addition to providing many thousands of service hours throughout the hospital and Edgewater Gardens each year, the Volunteer Association raises funds through sales in the Hidden Gem Gift Shop, raffles, bake sales, penny sales and other activities.



Volunteer Association president Carol Gaudin with the hydraulic shower chair at Edgewater Gardens, similar to the one being ordered for use in the hospital.

Sharon Moore is Interim President and CEO

With the retirement of David Montgomery as president and CEO of Haldimand War Memorial Hospital and Edgewater Gardens, effective December 31, 2019, the Board of Directors has appointed vice-president and chief nursing officer Sharon Moore as interim president and CEO, effective January 1, 2020.

The board decided to delay recruitment for the president and CEO position, given the uncertainties the hospital is facing on two major fronts. One of these relates to the outcome of an application for a new Ontario Health Team specifically for Haldimand County, which proposes that HWMH and Edgewater become major partners in this team.

The other uncertainty involves how the hospital will move towards the implementation of an electronic health record – on its own, or with one or more

major partners – and how any e-health platform may or may not complement the systems of other partners in the Ontario Health Team that HWMH will help to form.

Depending on the specific outcomes of the initiatives mentioned above, the board will carefully consider all factors – in consultation with employees, medical staff and the community at large – before making a decision about how best to proceed with appointing a new president and CEO.

It's expected that it will take up to a year before the outstanding uncertainties have been resolved and the board is able to carefully assess the various options for filling this position.

"We will keep our community engaged as the president recruitment process moves along," say board chair Lorne Boyko.



"We thank Sharon for taking on this important role on an interim basis, and hope the community will support her in directing the administration of the hospital and Edgewater Gardens."

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Supporting the Executive Team

It's unlikely that anyone has a better knowledge of the history of HWMH over the past three decades than Jennifer Miller. She's been the executive assistant to the president and CEO for 27 years – first working for Paul Mailloux, then John Clarke, and most recently, David Montgomery.

In January 2020, she will report to interim CEO Sharon Moore and then whoever becomes the permanent president and CEO of the hospital and Edgewater Gardens.

"I've enjoyed working with them all," Jennifer says. Her job also entails providing support to other members of the executive team, to the Board of Directors and the chief of staff. In addition to routine administrative support, she sets up meetings, troubleshoots issues, prepares board and committee packages and takes minutes. She also organizes the annual Awards Dinner and assists in the planning of other hospital events.

"I've already purchased the centrepiece arrangements for next year's Awards Dinner, Jennifer says. "My work is never boring and I love the people I work with."



As for her role in supporting the hospital's most recent president, David Montgomery, she says "We hit it off right away and learned to read each other's minds." For his part, David is effusive when talking about Jennifer. "It's always 'duty first.' I think she would do anything for us, and I never need to wonder if Jenn has our backs because she does."

Jennifer lives in Port Dover with her fiancée Steve, a plant manager of a packaging manufacturing company in Tillsonburg. In her spare time, she and Steve enjoy entertaining, attending rock concerts and taking summer vacations in Muskoka. She also spends a lot of time with her niece Sarah, who lives nearby and who she helped raise since birth. "Unfortunately both of her parents have passed away, so I'm like a second mother to her," Jennifer says. "She is a very important part of my life." Jenn also has two stepchildren and is "Glamma" to eight-year-old Dustin, five-year-old Maisie and four-month-old Adley.

A Spectacular Holiday Celebration



It was the largest turnout ever for the lighting of the Tree of Hope in support of the Dunnville Hospital and Healthcare Foundation. Several hundred people were in attendance at the Farmers' Market for the tree lighting, which was preceded by the Dunnville Santa Claus Parade on the evening of Saturday, December 7, 2019.

Students from Mapleview, Thompson Creek and Dunnville Christian schools gathered on stage to sing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," with the evening topped off with a fireworks display.

Foundation organizers were hopeful that the Tree of Hope initiative would exceed the \$120,000 raised during last year's campaign. Proceeds are being directed to the foundation's contribution toward the construction of the hospital's new Emergency Department.



Welcome New Staff

HOSPITAL:

Jenna Smith – RPN
Angie Usher – RPN
Alannah House – PSW
Kimberly Vansoelen – RPN
Meghan Vanderbeek – Laboratory
Patient Technician
Brittany Pyle – PSW
Claire Walker – PSW
Lisa Krick – RN
Brittany Wydysz – Ward/ER Clerk

Melissa Dickie – X-Ray Clerk
Stacey Di Pietro – Medical Radiological
Technologist
Heidi Young – RN
Haley Minor – RPN
EDGEWATER:
Debbie Schmidt – RN
Sanda Gunby – RN
Tim Stone – RN
Dakota Stowe – PSW
Katherine Hayes – PSW

The Board of Directors of Haldimand War Memorial Hospital and Edgewater Gardens is seeking candidates to fill four vacant board positions. Specifically, the board is looking for people with expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Health Policy
- Information Technology
- The Law
- Not-for-profit Governance

Past experience as a board director and/or in an executive role reporting to a board is highly desirable. While it would be an asset for candidates to live and/or work in Haldimand County, this is not a requirement.

The HWMH and Edgewater board is also seeking candidates from the community to serve on four of its committees:

- Governance & Strategic Planning – governance experience required
- Finance & Audit – an accounting designation required
- Quality & Risk Management – health care experience required
- Ethics – a community religious leader

Interested candidates are asked to submit application letters and resumes indicating the position for which they wish to apply by January 31, 2020 to:

Chair of the Governance Committee of the Board of Directors

Haldimand War Memorial Hospital and Edgewater Gardens

c/o Jennifer Miller, Executive Assistant

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