

HeartBeats

A Quarterly Newsletter from Haldimand War Memorial Hospital & Edgewater Gardens Spring 2021

Edgewater Gardens to Double its Capacity

Edgewater Gardens has welcomed the recent news by Haldimand-Norfolk MPP Toby Barrett that the home is being allocated 64 new spaces from the Ontario government – bringing the total number of spaces to 128.

The news was part of a broader announcement which indicated the government is investing in 80 new long-term care projects across the province – including adding 7,510 new spaces and upgrading 4,197 existing ones.

“The number of people in Haldimand-Norfolk who will need long-term care is expected to rise over the next decade,” said Mr. Barrett, adding that the government announcement “will help ensure we have safe and modern spaces ready for them.”

“We’re thrilled to learn that we will be dramatically increasing spaces for people in our community waiting for placement in long-term care homes,” says Edgewater’s president and CEO Sharon Moore.

“We applied for the additional spaces back in December 2019 and we’re so pleased that Edgewater has been selected as one of the provincial homes to be either expanded or upgraded,” she says. “We’re grateful that the government has recognized the urgent need for enhanced long-term care services for seniors – including eliminating three and four-bed rooms as a way to improve infection control.”

All rooms at Edgewater are either private or semi-private. The home currently has 150 people on its waiting list. In addition, between 30 and 40 per cent of the 39 beds at Haldimand War Memorial Hospital are normally occupied by patients awaiting placement in long-term care.

A new wing for Edgewater will be constructed on Broad Street to the west of – and attached to – the existing building, on land owned by the home.

Further design and construction plans will need to be submitted

to – and approved by – the Ministry of Long-term Care before construction can begin. This process is expected to take one to two years.

The Ford government has committed to adding 30,000 new long-term care beds in Ontario over the next decade.



Residents and Employees Get Vaccines

Edgewater Gardens administrator Greg Allen gives a COVID-19 vaccine to dietary aide Lisa Hettenga. Vaccines have now been given to all Edgewater residents and the staff at both the home and HWMH who wished to receive it.

Sharon Moore Appointed New President and CEO

Sharon Moore, who has been interim president and CEO of the hospital and Edgewater Gardens since January 2020, has been appointed by the Board of Directors to permanently fill this role.

“Sharon’s leadership this past year as interim CEO has been exemplary during the COVID-19 pandemic,” says board

chair Lorne Boyko. “We are optimistic that Sharon and her proactive, dedicated team will bring us through the dark days ahead.”

In his announcement about the appointment, Mr. Boyko stated “The board is confident that Haldimand War Memorial Hospital and Edgewater Gardens will continue to shine as a beacon in the community, and

grow our reputation as one of the best small-town hospitals in the province.”

Sharon is formerly the vice-president and chief nursing officer at the hospital and has appointed Devon Inglis to this role, after she served in an interim capacity while Sharon was interim CEO.

Message from the President

It's been just over a year since COVID-19 was declared an international pandemic, and keeping the hospital and Edgewater operating while working to ensure the safety of patients, residents and staff has been our primary preoccupation.

At this point, I'm pleased to report that, thanks to the diligence of our dedicated team of employees, no residents of Edgewater Gardens have contracted the virus. And while the end of the pandemic is still a long way off, things are gradually returning to somewhat of a more normal state.

There's been widespread vaccination of residents, employees, medical staff and patients at both the hospital and home.

The capacity of our outpatient clinics, operating room and Emergency Department is approximately 85 per cent of what it was previously, and construction is continuing on a new outpatient clinic and lobby area.

Visiting is now permitted at Edgewater Gardens, albeit on a restricted basis. At this point, only two designated "caregiver" visitors per resident are permitted in the home, and must submit to rapid antigen testing for COVID upon arrival at least two to three times each week. Visiting will be expanded once Haldimand County moves from the "orange" into the "yellow" zone.

In the meantime, staff have been preparing for an accreditation visit at the end of March.

Some initiatives have been placed on hold for the time being, including the construction of a new Eye Clinic at the hospital.

We are hopeful that most members of our community – at least most adults – will have been vaccinated by the time the next edition of HeartBeats comes out in early July. We continue to collaborate with the local public health department to protect the residents of Haldimand County and work to get life somewhat back to normal.

Sharon Moore, President and CEO

DUNNVILLE HOSPITAL & HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION NEWS

A \$600,000 Gift from the Foundation

The Dunnville Hospital and Healthcare Foundation has recently donated \$600,000 to HWMH as part of its commitment to gift \$1.1 million to the hospital by the end of 2021. These funds are being directed to the areas of greatest need in the hospital, including the purchase of a new ultrasound machine.

Most recently, funds were raised from such events as last year's "Henriette McMichen Stride and Ride", the annual golf tournament and the "Trees of Hope" campaign, which in itself resulted in donations from the community of \$200,000.

"In addition to thanking the frontline workers and donors, we would like to thank our volunteers – who gave their time and talents every time we needed helping hands to make our events possible," says foundation executive director Penny Banks. "Our volunteers are always there to ensure we achieve our success."

Upcoming foundation events include the annual golf tournament at Freedom Oaks Golf Club on June 18, 2021, with more information available on the DHHF website. A "Hearts & Heroes" online gala was held just after press time of this spring edition of HeartBeats. Details will be provided in the summer edition of this newsletter, to be issued the first week in July.



Hospital outpatient Maverick Forster and his mom Allison participated in the celebration to thank donors who made possible a recent \$600,000 gift from the foundation to the hospital.

A Request for Community Members

The Board of Directors of the hospital and Edgewater Gardens is seeking community members to serve on its Finance and Audit Committee. Financial literacy would be an asset. Meetings are held quarterly, usually on Monday evenings. Interested candidates are asked to contact president and CEO Sharon Moore at smoore@hwmh.ca.

Welcome New Staff

HOSPITAL:

Paul Johnson – RN
Laura Dockrill – ED Clerk
Brittany Nelson – RPN
Lisa Reid – PSW
Rebecca MacFarlane – RN
Elizabeth Johnston – RPN
Mark White Finkle – RPN
Lisa Snyder – ED Clerk

Michelle Thomson – ED Clerk

Beth Harte – PSW
Loryssa Grandin – PSW
Keisha Bosman – RPN

EDGEWATER:

Lindsay Burke – Housekeeper
Alexis Haines – Housekeeper
Arianna Haines – Housekeeper
Lisa Griffin – Recreation Therapy Aide



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