

# HEART BEATS

Winter 2022

## Message from the President

A year ago, as I was wishing our community a Happy New Year in this HeartBeats newsletter, I had expressed a hope that life would return to some sense of normalcy later in 2021, once a vaccine for COVID-19 became widely distributed.

While that has occurred to some extent, the pandemic continues to rage through our Haldimand community and around the world, particularly given the highly transmissible Delta – and now the Omicron – variants of the virus.

A COVID outbreak was declared at Haldimand War Memorial Hospital in early November, with nine patients and nine employees infected. Additional infection control measures were added and thankfully, the outbreak was declared over in early December.

This situation first resulted in another shutdown to visitors wishing to come to the hospital, and later restricted visiting to people with booked appointments. Also, all hospital employees must receive two doses of vaccine prior to January 31, 2022.

Thankfully, Edgewater Gardens (EG) has not been affected by this latest outbreak. In fact, we will soon be hiring a program manager to plan a 64-bed expansion and are working with the Ministry of Long-Term Care and the Dunnville Hospital and Healthcare Foundation to explore funding opportunities for this project.

Some more good news on the long-term care front is that the provincial government has committed to providing funding for four hours of care per resident in homes such as Edgewater. Residents at EG now receive between 2.75 and four hours of care per day.

The challenge will be finding the staff to provide this care, since hospitals and long-term care homes are short of staff in all departments.

There are always challenges in ensuring hospitals and long-term care homes continue to provide the best possible care to their communities, and these past two years have been more trying than most.

In light of this, I'm particularly grateful to the wonderful employees, physicians and volunteers of our hospital and home who have soldiered on during these difficult times. We are all part of a strong, proud and caring community.

I extend my best wishes to our employees, physicians and volunteers, and the entire Dunnville area community for a happy – and especially a healthy – New Year!

Sharon Moore, President and CEO



Pandemic response worker Laurie Huisman was recognized as one of HWMH and EG's "Healthcare Heroes."

## DHHF Reaches its Gift Goal

The Dunnville Hospital & Healthcare Foundation (DHHF) has reached its goal of giving \$1.1 million to the hospital and Edgewater Gardens (EG) through its most recent donation of \$271,000 in December.

Recent fund-raising efforts on behalf of the foundation

included the Tim Hortons "Smile Cookie" campaign in September, which raised \$47,000 and resulted in the Dunnville restaurant raising more funds than any other in Canada for the fourth year in a row. The "Henriette McMichen Memorial Stride & Ride" event, also in September, was another success, with kudos going to community member Vicki Leach, who individually raised more than \$4,600 – more than anyone else.

A third DHHF program in September was the launch of the "Healthcare Hero" campaign. Patients and their loved ones were given an opportunity to recognize a HWMH or EG employee who provided them with exceptional care. Twenty-seven employees were recognized and more than \$23,000 in donations have been received to date.

The annual "Trees of Hope" campaign launched on November 1, with an appeal for support from local residents Kim and Dawn Turnbull, whose lives were saved as a result of care they received at the hospital. Kim was seriously injured with a piece of machinery on his farm, while Dawn's breast cancer was successfully treated after being diagnosed through HWMH's mammography service.

"We had an incredible year at DHHF because our donors have confidence in the work we do as a foundation," says executive director Penny Banks. "We are thankful to our incredible community whose support continues to be unwavering."

"As we enter 2022, all of us at the foundation wish everyone in our community a happy and healthy New Year."



**EMPLOYEE & MEDICAL STAFF PROFILE**

Nicky Forsyth in the hospital's Diagnostic Imaging Department

## A Grandmother's Care at Home and at Work

After working as a medical radiation technologist at HWMH for 33 years, there is one patient experience Nicky Forsyth remembers more than any other. It was the time her grandson, then aged five or six, needed an x-ray on a suspected broken finger.

"He was so excited," she recalls of the little boy's experience in seeing the work his grandmother does.

Nicky has a grown son and daughter, along with five grandchildren, so family life is busy when she is not at the hospital. Her work has changed a lot since she completed her radiology training at the Toronto Institute of Medical Technology 40 years ago.

As part of her training, she first worked at the Toronto General Hospital, and then took a full-time position at a hospital in Fort McMurray. "I wanted something different," Nicky recalls.

After a few years in Alberta, where she married her husband, she took a job at HWMH, because of family living in the area. Back then, her daily routine involved performing x-rays, conducting ECG procedures and attaching Holter monitors. Now it includes CT scans. Another change since the early stages of her career is the digitalization of radiological exams, with results sent to radiologists via the internet, so they need not be present in the hospital to interpret the results.

Nicky enjoys her job in a small-town hospital. "There is certainly something to be said for working in a small community," she says. "The people are so friendly and kind."

A resident of Dunnville, her free time is spent gardening, reading and doing needlecraft – when not playing with her grandchildren, babysitting or driving them around.

"I have a good job and wonderful family, so life is good," she says.

## Welcome New Staff

**HOSPITAL:**

Julie Welch – Pandemic Response Worker

Mike Holowaty – Maintenance Mechanic

Jacqueline McDougall – RN

Jane Lee – X-Ray Technologist

Andrea Grabham – X-Ray Clerk

Joy Misztal – RN

Kellyann Gabriel – RPN

Rebecca Neudorf – RN

Jessica Dekker – X-Ray Technologist

Jolene Linde – RN

Fiona Robinson – RN

Lauren McQuillen – PSW

Erica Winkworth – RN

Tina Dayboll – Housekeeper

**EDGEWATER:**

Tori Richardson – PSW

Crystal Skotniski – Housekeeper

Mallory Hiltz – PSW Student

Ian Cowley – PSW Student

Margaret Joyce – PSW

Lauren McQuillen – PSW

Beth Harte – PSW

Madison Little – Recreation

Therapy Aide (Temp.)



**EDGEWATER GARDENS NEWS**

## Edgewater Residents Paint Their Paddles

Residents at Edgewater Gardens have joined the local "Paddles of the Grand" group. Pine paddles are made by Dunnville Secondary School students and other local wood workers, which then travel to Edgewater Gardens to be sanded and prepped for painting. The paddles are decorated with designs and scenes by local artists. Pictured above are residents Danielle Barrette (left) and Audrey Twining (right) receiving some guidance in painting their paddles from EG volunteer and local artist John Bittman.



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