

## ***LONG-TERM CARE PROGRESS***

Christmas came early for the residents of the interim long term care unit when they moved into their new rooms in mid-December. By all accounts, the residents are enjoying their new surroundings. The construction project, arranged to ensure a smooth transition and reduce the disruption of daily activities for residents, is nearing completion. The new accommodation area featuring ten rooms was built first and exudes a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Residents, their families and staff selected the final design details and everyone has been pleased with the final outcome. Renovations to the dining room, activity room and chapel are ongoing.

It is expected that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will conduct the final occupancy inspection in mid-March so that the interim unit can become a permanent facility. A grand opening will be planned after that. Please watch for details later this year.

The Hospital also invited residents, staff and family members to suggest a name for the unit. Over a dozen submissions were received and the Board of Governors deliberated over each entry before selecting *The Four Seasons Lodge*.

## ***EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT CONTINUES***

Community and corporate support for the Hospital continues to be phenomenal. Over the past year many dedicated people have pitched in to help raise over \$100,000 for *The Four Seasons Lodge*. Notable contributors included:

- the Hospital Auxiliary which donated \$67,000 towards the cost of furnishings,
- the Emmylou Harris and Friends Concert (Malcolm Burn, Luthea Salóm & Saulis Fidleris) which raised over \$14,000,
- the Walk for the Wing Walk-A-Thon co-sponsored by Snider's PharmaSave and Shemron Suites Hotel which raised over \$12,000, and
- Scott Murphy and Vic Thompson for their "Have your picture taken with a Star Wars character" fundraiser at Summerfest.

We also must thank Bill Patterson and fellow Northern Credit Union delegates for awarding \$7,500 from their 2nd Annual Golf Tournament to the Hospital. In only their second year, the tournament, held at the Deep River Golf Club, has become a "must attend" golfing fundraiser in Renfrew County.

## ***TELEHEALTH OPERATIONAL***

The Eastern Ontario Telehealth Network (EOTN) went on-line in Deep River in September 2002, improving access to healthcare services and education in rural communities. Bringing 18 hospitals together in our region through a private and secure, high-speed network, healthcare professionals and their clients are able to access clinical consultations, 24-hour emergency consultation and continuing health education and research opportunities through videoconferencing equipment.

The clinics have allowed easier access to specialists in Ottawa without the travel time and expense. There will be additional opportunities for other clinics in the future. To date, residents of Deep River have logged over 11 hours of consultations with specialists at the Ottawa Heart Institute, the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa.

More information about the Eastern Ontario Telehealth Network can be found at [www.eotn.ca](http://www.eotn.ca).

## ***TRUSTEE RECEIVES 25-YEAR SERVICE AWARD***

Ellen Sills, Past Board Chair and Trustee recently retired from the Board of Governors leaving a legacy of excellence in governance that has been recognized throughout the province. In tribute to Ellen and fellow past Board Chairs, portraits will be displayed in the Hospital Classroom. This complements the 25-year Hospital Staff photo gallery established last summer. "There is a rich history of volunteer and employee commitment to this Hospital. We should be taking every opportunity to celebrate these important contributions," said Hospital chief executive officer Allan Katz.



# VIEWPOINT

WINTER 2003

## **PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT EFFORTS**

A multi-partner effort has been established to improve the community's efforts to recruit physicians. The Hospital, the Town of Deep River, the Town of Laurentian Hills, the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria, the Deep River and Area Chamber of Commerce and Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., are meeting to actively promote the area as an ideal location for family doctors to establish a practice.

Within the past six months, the committee has applied and received approval from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for underserved area program designation. In addition, last Fall a team representing the area participated at all five sites of the 2002 Professional Association of Internes and Residents of Ontario (PAIRO) tour (e.g., Ottawa, Kingston, London, Toronto and Hamilton). Finally, local physicians have expressed an interest in becoming involved as preceptors with the Eastern Region Medical Education Program. This has the potential to expose fourth year medical students to the North Renfrew area and the benefits of a rural style of practice.

## **COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

The Deep River and District Hospital (DRDH) conducted a community survey in March 2002 based on a previous survey instrument applied by the Hospital in the summer of 1999. Specifically, the survey clearly identified the following main themes:

- The need to recruit and retain clinical human resource professionals (particularly physicians) is a top-of-mind issue to the community,
- The continued support for the diagnostic services (i.e., laboratory and imaging) offered by the Hospital,
- The continued support for a 24-hour physician-staffed emergency department remains high (although it often acts as a lightning rod for client complaints),
- The continued support of acute-care bed related services, and
- The need to focus on cardiovascular and cancer care services and programs.

While the survey respondents reflected a fair representation of the DRDH's geographic catchment area, the same could not be said for its socio-demographic profile. This could have influenced some of the priority ranking of services and programs (i.e., those addressing the needs of younger families). Future surveys will address this imbalance in its distribution strategy. The complete report can be found on-line at [www.drdh.org](http://www.drdh.org).



The Deep River and District Hospital needs your help to maintain its state-of-the-art diagnostic and therapeutic equipment. As an example, in the coming months, we wish to upgrade our existing film-based x-ray equipment to contemporary digital imaging equipment.

If you wish to make a donation to the Deep River and District Hospital, please mark the appropriate amount.

- \$25.00                       \$50.00                       \$100.00                       Other amount \_\_\_\_\_

All gifts in excess of \$10.00 will receive receipts for income tax purposes. Please send receipt to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address (P.O. Box, Street Address, Town, Province, Postal Code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

**Thank you for your generosity.**

We would like to hear from you!

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