



DEEP RIVER &  
DISTRICT HEALTH

# THE ZINGER

## NEWSLETTER

### + TOP NEWS INSIDE

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## OCTOBER 2025



### PINK DAY

Our team came together on October 28, 2025 to celebrate "Pink Day" in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month - raising awareness for early detection, screening, and women's health.

*See page 17 for more information.*



### 50TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORICAL DISPLAY

This October marked 50 years since we opened the doors to our current hospital building. To celebrate, we were proud to create "Care to Remember", a special historical display honouring the people, places, and moments that have shaped DRDH over the last five decades.

*See pages 3—7 for more information.*

# **+** CEO'S CORNER CONNECTING WITH OUR DRDH TEAM AND COMMUNITY



As October draws to a close, our health campus has been filled with energy, laughter, and community spirit - a fitting way to mark the heart of the fall season and Halloween festivities. Across the organization, it's been wonderful to see our team, patients, and residents come together to celebrate, share a laugh, and enjoy time as a team. These moments of connection and joy are not just fun, they're vital to who we are. They remind us that care is not only about treatment, but also about kindness, compassion, and the shared humanity that binds us together.

This month also marked another step forward in our journey, with the North Renfrew Family Health Team fully settling into our new Primary Care Building. Seeing the space come alive with activity is both inspiring and rewarding. The team also hosted our first unrostered cancer screening clinic, focused on women's health in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This initiative was a tremendous

success, expanding access to cancer screening for those who may not yet have a primary care provider. It represents an important step in making preventive care more accessible and equitable for our community.

A special thank you goes out this month to our Breast Screening Program team and primary care partners, whose collaborative efforts ensure that women in our region have access to life-saving early detection services.

October has also been a month of celebration and reflection as we mark 50 years of the Deep River and District Hospital. Our Public Affairs & Communications Coordinator, Amy McDiarmid, pulled together an incredible photo display that captures five decades of caring for our community. Walking through these images, seeing the faces, places, and moments that have defined DRDH, has been both moving and inspiring. It's a celebration of our history and a reminder of the privilege it is to be part of this ongoing story of care, compassion, and community.

What a month it has been for celebration! Our Foundation Gala earlier this month was a night to remember, recognizing the monumental achievement of reaching our \$2.5 million fundraising goal for the new Four Seasons Lodge. This success was made possible by the generosity and dedication of our community, volunteers, and donors. Thank you to everyone who contributed, celebrated, and helped make this extraordinary milestone possible.

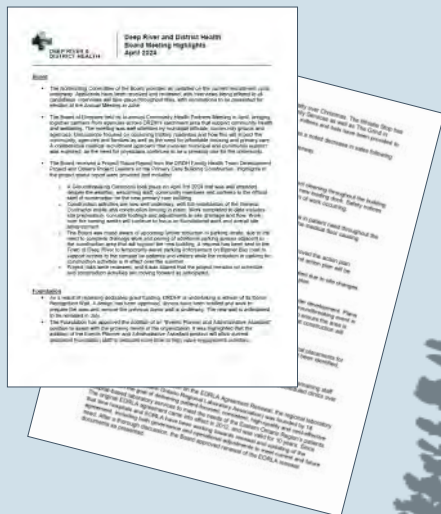
As we look ahead to the coming months, I'm filled with gratitude for the passion, creativity, and care that each of you brings to our organization every day. Together, we're writing the next chapter of DRDH's story, grounded in our values and inspired by the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Janna Hotson  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Deep River and District Health

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Click [here](#) to read the latest edition of our Board Meeting Highlights.



## 50th ANNIVERSARY HISTORICAL DISPLAY



Pictured here is David Skelly (left), son of Dr. William Skelly - Deep River's first medical doctor, and Janna Hotson (right), DRDH President and CEO.



This October marked 50 years since we opened the doors to our current hospital building. To celebrate, we were proud to create “*Care to Remember*”, a special historical display honouring the people, places, and moments that have shaped DRDH over the last five decades. The display featured a variety of photos, articles, and memories from the days of the “old” hospital to the incredible journey of care that continues on our growing campus today.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Opening Reception on October 8, 2025. During the event, DRDH Board Chair David Cox provided an enlightening and informative overview of the history of care in our community, spanning from the early medical services available to workers at the Atomic Energy Project’s “Plant Hospital” at the Chalk River site, to Deep River’s first modest clinic in a wartime-4 house, to the opening of the old “Village Hospital”, and finally the opening of our current hospital building in 1975.

At the reception, we were honoured to be joined by David Skelly, who made a special trip back home for the display. David is the son of Dr. William Skelly, who arrived in Deep River on October 15, 1945 as our town’s first medical doctor. Dr. Skelly provided care to our community until his retirement in December of 1979.

We hope you enjoyed taking a trip down memory lane and reflecting on the legacy that has brought us to where we are now.

*Continued on next page...*

## 50th ANNIVERSARY HISTORICAL DISPLAY

For those who didn't get a chance to check out the display, below is a small sampling of the 163 photos included, as well as a brief overview of the history of healthcare in our community:

### THE ROOTS OF LOCAL HEALTHCARE

- Healthcare services have continually evolved to meet the changing needs of our region, shaped by shifts in population, demographics, and healthcare delivery models
- From early site hospitals to today's integrated health campus, the journey spans over eight decades
- Medical services first arrived with Defense Industries Limited's Atomic Energy Project
- The "Plant Hospital" at Chalk River opened to treat workers and manage radiation monitoring.
- The only other medical services available were in Pembroke



### THE FIRST DOCTOR'S OFFICE

- Dr. Wilford E. Park was tasked with establishing local medical care for workers and families
- First office located at #2 Glendale Avenue, in a Wartime-4 house
- Equipped with only basic supplies - even reused whisky bottles for dispensing medicine!
- One of only three telephones in town, and the first grass lawn



### THE FIRST HOSPITAL

Deep River "Village Hospital" Opens – May 16, 1946

- Located on Montcalm Street
- Contained: doctor's offices, operating and delivery rooms, lab, x-ray, and dental suite
- No kitchen: meals were prepared at the Staff Hotel and delivered to the hospital
- The hospital dispensary acted as the town's first pharmacy

# 50th ANNIVERSARY HISTORICAL DISPLAY

## MEETING GROWING NEEDS

The 1950s: Expansion and Innovation

- Growing population required expanded maternity and surgical space
- Approximate number of babies born each year:  
1948 = 97  
1949 = 134  
1950 = 180+
- 1951–52: North wing added with new nursery, laundry, and a modern kitchen
- Air conditioning added — a long-awaited improvement!
- Hospital achieved its first accreditation in 1955, becoming the first private hospital in Canada to do so



## STORIES FROM THE EARLY YEARS

Life at the Village Hospital

- Staff often drove patients to hospital due to lack of taxis and phones
- Laundry (except diapers) sent out until 1953 — baby diapers hand washed and line dried
- Nearly 1,800 babies born in the first 10 years
- Hospital overseen successively by:
  - Defense Research Industries Ltd.
  - National Research Council (1947–1952)
  - Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL)

## BECOMING A PUBLIC HOSPITAL

Transition to Public Governance (1973–1975)

- December 1973: Oversight transferred to the Ontario Ministry of Health
- Plans for a new modern hospital began
- Site preparation: August 1974
- Official groundbreaking: October 16, 1974
- Grand opening: October 25 and 26, 1975
- Nearly 2,000 members of the public attended on October 26 to tour the new space!



# 50th ANNIVERSARY HISTORICAL DISPLAY

## MILESTONES ALONG OUR JOURNEY

### Evolution of our Campus and Memorable Moments

- DRDH's programs and services have evolved with our changing community since we opened our doors in 1975:
- 2003: Four Seasons Lodge Long-Term Care Home opens - offering a true home for residents
- ~2013: North Renfrew Family Health Team is created and joins the campus - strengthening access to primary care
- Today: Our growing campus continues to adapt and expand — uniting hospital, long-term care, and primary care under one vision of excellent, compassionate, person-centered care.



## DECADES OF CARE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

### A Legacy of Care

- For the last 5 decades, DRDH has been more than a place of care – it's been a cornerstone of our community
- Many things have changed, but the heart of our care, compassion, and community connection has always remained!



# 50th ANNIVERSARY HISTORICAL DISPLAY

HONOURING OUR PAST, CELEBRATING OUR PRESENT, AND BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE!



## LONG-TERM CARE BUILDING PROGRESS



Work continues to move forward at the site of our new Four Seasons Lodge Long-Term Care Home, with the home becoming more enclosed each day!

The construction team is working diligently to close in the home before the arrival of winter weather, and is even installing some of the windows this month.

Stay tuned for more updates as construction progresses!

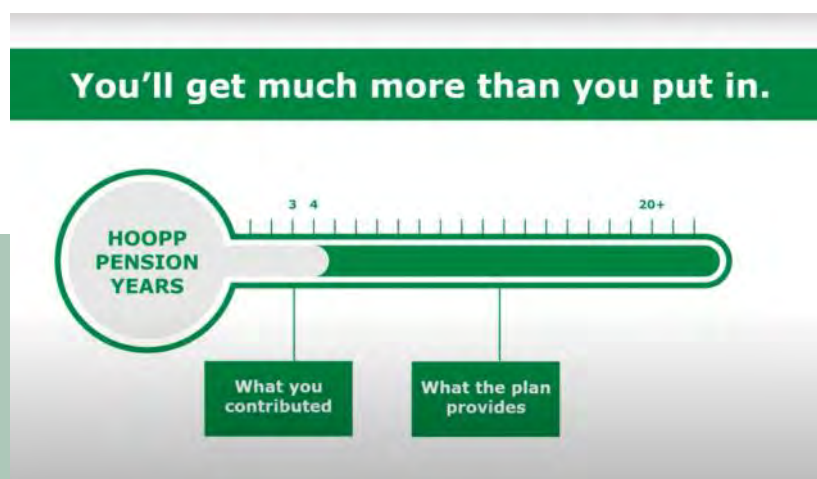


# MANDATORY EDUCATION

## NOVEMBER 2025

Please see the assigned education for the month of October on Surge Learning. This is due to be completed by **November 26, 2025**. Please contact Rebekah if you are having any issues accessing the education.

| Topic                                                   | Target Staff                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Quality, Risk & Safety Framework                        | All                                              |
| Code Brown                                              | All                                              |
| Code Silver                                             | All                                              |
| Code Purple                                             | All                                              |
| Code Green                                              | All                                              |
| Code White                                              | All                                              |
| HOOPP Video                                             | All                                              |
| Workplace Violence - Staff Resource-Flagging Policy     | All                                              |
| Vacation Policy                                         | All                                              |
| Business Continuity Policy Reviews                      | RN, AOC                                          |
| Fall Prevention and Management Policy                   | RNs, RPNs, DI, PSWs, PT, Lab, FHT, Diabetes, OTN |
| Safe and Correct use of equipment – Arjo 3 video series | RPN, PSW, Physio, Rec                            |
| Lab Procedure – EPIC Downtime                           | Lab                                              |



Please contact Rebekah ([rebekah.thompson@drdh.org](mailto:rebekah.thompson@drdh.org)) if you are having any issues accessing the education.



## STAFF HAPPENINGS

### NEW HIRES



Natasha



Nnamdi



Claire



Linda



Olga



Jena



Taylor



Genia

This month, we are pleased to welcome eight new members to our team! **Natasha** has joined us as Scheduling Supervisor, **Nnamdi** as Project Coordinator, **Claire** as Senior Financial Analyst, **Linda** is a Dietary Aide, **Olga**, **Jena**, and **Taylor** are Registered Nurses, and **Genia** is a Personal Support Worker. Please join us in extending a warm DRDH welcome to all the new members of our team.

## WELCOME MEDICAL RESIDENTS



Dr. Crawford



Dr. McDonald

We are also pleased to welcome two Resident Physicians for rotations at DRDH this month through the Pembroke Regional Hospital's Residency Program. Dr. McDonald will also be returning this coming spring for another rotation that will include primary care, hospitalist care, and emergency care.

If you see these two working and learning alongside physicians here at Deep River and District Health—be sure to give them a warm welcome!



## HAPPY SONOGRAPHY WEEK



October 6—10 was Sonography Week, and we're celebrating the skilled Diagnostic Medical Sonographers at DRDH!

These dedicated professionals, including Becky pictured here, use advanced ultrasound technology to create detailed images that help diagnose and guide treatment for our patients. Their precision, knowledge, and compassion play an essential role in providing high-quality, person-centered care every day.

Join us in recognizing our incredible sonography team for the expertise and care they bring to every patient interaction.

Happy Sonography Week—and thank you for all that you do!

## HAPPY HEALTHCARE FOOD SERVICE WORKERS' WEEK



October 5—11 was Healthcare Food Service Workers Week, and a chance to shine a light on our Dietary Team! From preparing nutritious meals that promote healing and wellness to offering comforting favorites that make people feel at home, our incredible Dietary Team nourishes us in so many ways.

Thank you to every member of our Dietary Team, including Ian, Jessica, Ann, Dave, Anne-Marie, and Josh pictured here, for your dedication, creativity, and commitment to those we care for - you truly make a difference every day!

## HAPPY RETIREMENT SUE!



On October 28, 2025, we gathered to celebrate Sue, an incredibly valued member of our Laboratory team, as she embarks on a well-earned retirement!

Sue has been part of DRDH and the Eastern Ontario Regional Laboratory Association (EORLA) for 22 years, following her career in the military. Throughout her time with us, she has been a core member of our lab team, known for her expertise, professionalism, and kindness. Sue's dedication to excellent care and her supportive spirit have made a lasting impact on both her colleagues and the patients we serve. While we'll miss her deeply, we're excited for Sue as she begins this next chapter - filled with family, relaxation, and adventures on the high seas!

## A GOURD-GEIOUS GIFT!



A huge thank you to Tracey Andrews and John Vandekemp of Tamworth, ON, for their incredibly generous donation of more than 30 home-grown pumpkins from their garden! These beautiful pumpkins were used for this year's Departmental Pumpkin Carving Contest and other Halloween festivities across DRDH.

Your thoughtful gift brought plenty of smiles (and a few spooky faces!) to our team members and residents alike. You're the pick of the patch Tracy and John - thank you for helping make this Halloween such a memorable one!

## TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK DAY!

We're excited to announce this year's Take Our Kids to Work Day on Wednesday, November 5th, and we need your help to make it an inspiring experience for Grade 9 students!

This national event is an important opportunity for us to spark an interest in the healthcare careers of tomorrow, and is a fantastic opportunity for Grade 9 students to experience a day in the working world. By opening our doors and sharing what we do here at DRDH, we can offer students a firsthand look at the wide variety of roles that make our organization thrive. Who knows—these students could be our future colleagues if we're lucky!

### What's in store?

We've got a full day of fun and educational activities planned across multiple departments, giving students an exciting peek into healthcare careers. From building a standout resume to competing in a "glow bug" handwashing challenge to whipping up culinary creations with our Dietary team—there's something for everyone! Whether shadowing a parent or a volunteer host, students will discover firsthand how every role contributes to the success of our hospital, family health team, and long-term care home. It's the perfect opportunity to explore the diverse and dynamic world of healthcare, both in direct patient care and beyond!

### How to participate:

If you know a Grade 9 student who's eager to attend, please reach out to Human Resources.

By participating in this event, you could be creating the moment that sparks a lifelong passion for healthcare!

$1+3=4$       abc      math

# TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK DAY!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025

- OPEN TO ANY GRADE 9 STUDENTS
- STUDENTS CAN SHADOW PARENTS OR A VOLUNTEER HOST
- FULL DAY OF FUN ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS TO EXPLORE A VARIETY OF CAREERS
- SPARK A LIFELONG PASSION FOR HEALTHCARE!
- SIGN UP BY OCTOBER 31

 DEEP RIVER & DISTRICT HEALTH

$E=mc^2$

0 1 2 3 4

A photograph of three children (two girls and one boy) standing together. The boy is wearing a green plaid shirt, black pants, and an orange hard hat, holding a yellow power drill. The two girls are wearing yellow shirts and blue jeans, looking at a blue folder or book held by one of them.

## HAPPY IPAC WEEK

October 20—25 we celebrated Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Week at DRDH - and it was contagiously fun!

Our IPAC Nurse, Alana, led a week full of activities and reminders to keep our organization safe and healthy. From testing our knowledge with an IPAC quiz, “spotting the germs” game, flu shots, cheering on our IPAC MVPs, and enjoying a BBQ lunch where everyone was reminded to wash those wings (hands, that is!) — our team proved that prevention truly is the best medicine. Thank you to Alana for your leadership and enthusiasm in keeping infection prevention and control top of mind all year long!



## FAMILY MEDICINE CAREER FAIR



Dr. Ceponis and Amber had a fantastic time representing Deep River and District Health at the University of Ottawa Department of Family Medicine's 2025 Career Fair on October 24 alongside our partner hospitals from across the Ottawa Valley!

Together, we shared what makes practicing in our region so special, from a welcoming community, supportive teams, incredible lifestyle, and the opportunity to make a real difference every day.

For residents and future physicians still deciding where to build their future, we hope the Ottawa Valley is at the top of your list to call home!

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Leaders from across our organization gathered together at the Deep River Legion for the day on October 9, 2025 for a Leadership Development Institute. The theme of the session was *Living Our Standard, Strengthening Our Culture*. As DRDH continues to evolve, we know that our culture is what makes us strong. This session focused on refreshing our Standards of Behaviour, recognizing that each of our values—Caring, Excellence, Safety, Innovation, Partnering, and Integrity—are essential pieces in building a culture grounded in accountability, inclusivity, and respect.

The day also include interactive team-building activities, opportunities to reflect on our values in action, and working sessions to refresh and put into practice our shared Standards of Behaviour. Together, we explored how living our standards every day helps us to support one another, deliver compassionate care, and strengthen the DRDH culture that makes us unique.



CARING | EXCELLENCE  
SAFETY | INNOVATION  
PARTNERING | INTEGRITY



**OCTOBER IS  
BREAST  
CANCER  
AWARENESS  
MONTH**

Breast screening is an important part of maintaining your overall health and well-being, as regular mammograms help detect cancer early

Early detection of breast cancer provides the greatest possibility of successful treatment

**BOOK YOUR  
MAMMOGRAM TODAY**

The Deep River and District Hospital is a local site for the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP).

Why choose OBSP?

- 👩‍👩‍👧‍👧 Reminder letter sent from OBSP for future appointments
- 👩‍👩‍👧‍👧 Report mailed directly to you and your family physician
- 👩‍👩‍👧‍👧 Best practice for breast screening
- 👩‍👩‍👧‍👧 OBSP provides large database for breast care research
- 👩‍👩‍👧‍👧 No physician referral required for those aged 40-75



**DEEP RIVER &  
DISTRICT HEALTH**

**People aged 40-75:**

**Call 613-732-1463 and request your appointment locally in Deep River.**

*Physician referral only required for those 75+*

## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH—PINK DAY!



Our team came together on October 28, 2025 to celebrate "Pink Day" in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month - raising awareness for early detection, screening, and women's health.

We were also celebrating the North Renfrew Family Health Team's Well Women's Cancer Screening Day which took place on the same day. This special event offered mammograms and Pap tests for those without a family doctor or nurse practitioner, providing an opportunity to help remove barriers to screening and promote women's health in our community.

## FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING



In recognition of Fire Prevention Week, we partnered with the Town of Deep River Fire Department to offer an additional hands-on fire extinguisher training session on October 10, 2025. Both team and community members had the chance to learn and practice how to safely respond in the event of a fire! Pictured above putting out the blaze are team members Melissa G and Nnamdi.

## NEW CADD PUMPS SUPPORT SAFE, PERSON-CENTERED CARE

Deep River and District Health has recently introduced new Computerized Ambulatory Delivery Devices (CADD) infusion pumps across our hospital's Medical Inpatient Unit and the Four Seasons Lodge Long-Term Care Home. These devices play an important role in supporting safe and reliable medication delivery for our patients and residents.



The new CADD pumps replace our previous models, which had reached end of life and could no longer be repaired or upgraded.

In collaboration with the Pembroke Regional Hospital (PRH) pharmacy team, a new drug library was developed to enable their use - ensuring medications are delivered accurately and safely.

CADD infusion pumps allow for Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA), where patients and residents can actively participate in managing their symptoms. This technology supports individualized care by allowing patients and residents to initiate controlled doses of medication for pain or symptom relief, with doses carefully monitored and recorded by the pump.

The new pumps enhance both safety and comfort. They allow patients and residents to have a greater role in managing their care, while providing our care team with reliable tools and clear data to monitor treatment.

By embracing updated technology and ongoing education for our team, DRDH continues to prioritize quality, safety, and patient involvement in care.

## LAUNCHING OUR NEW ELECTRONIC SCHEDULING SYSTEM

We are excited to announce that a new scheduling system will officially go live in February 2026 – marking an important step forward in how scheduling is managed across Deep River and District Health.

This new fully electronic platform sets the standard for how scheduling will be managed going forward. It will make scheduling more accurate, efficient, and accessible for all employees, unionized and non-union alike. With improved tools for our team, streamlined shift tracking, and a mobile app that puts schedules at your fingertips, this transition will bring positive change to how we plan and manage our workdays.

We are excited about this important new system and the benefits it will bring to our team and the organization as a whole. Thank you for your continued engagement as we move toward go live and build a more connected and efficient scheduling experience for everyone at DRDH!

*Stay tuned for more information and drop-in sessions in January for additional training, questions, and support.*



## REGIONAL PARTNER NEWS

*See the exciting news below from our Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team:*

### Exciting News for Primary Care in the Ottawa Valley!

We are pleased to share that the Ontario Government is investing \$3.29 million to help connect up to 9,575 more people in the Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke region to a family doctor or primary care team.

This funding is part of Ontario's Primary Care Action Plan, a province-wide initiative that aims to connect every Ontarian to primary care by 2029. Here in the Ottawa Valley, this investment will support the expansion of primary care services across our seven partner organizations, improving access to family doctors, nurse practitioners, and other health professionals.

When people have consistent access to primary care, health outcomes improve and pressure on emergency departments decreases. This investment will help ensure more residents receive the care they need, close to home, from providers who know them and their health history.

On behalf of the Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team, we'd like to thank the Ontario Government and MPP Billy Denault for making this local investment.

The impact here in our community will be felt by patients, families, and our health service providers. This is a significant step towards our collective vision that every person in our region is connected to high-quality, team-based primary care.

If you or someone you know does not currently have a family doctor or nurse practitioner, we encourage you to register with Health Care Connect so you can be matched with a provider.





Leadership involves more than setting direction or meeting performance targets. It also means showing up as a human being, especially when your team needs connection, clarity, or support. In today's workplaces, where expectations are high and challenges are complex, leaders who lead with empathy and openness are often the ones who earn lasting trust. This article explores the value of empathetic leadership, the strength found in vulnerability, and practical strategies to foster a workplace where people feel seen, supported, and motivated to bring their best.



### Redefining Leadership Through Empathy

Empathetic leadership begins with a simple yet powerful premise: **understanding and relating to the emotional experiences of others**. It's about recognizing that employees are people first—individuals who bring with them their hopes, concerns, stressors, and identities to work each day. This approach invites leaders to slow down, listen deeply, and respond with compassion. It asks them to see beyond tasks and deliverables, and instead focus on people's well-being, resilience, and potential. To be a good leader, you don't need to have all the answers, you need to be present. Leaders who choose to understand rather than assume, and who ask rather than instruct, set the tone for a workplace culture built on respect and mutual care.

### The Strength of Vulnerability

For many, vulnerability still may feel like a risk. There's a lingering fear that showing uncertainty or acknowledging struggle might be perceived as weakness. However, when leaders are open about challenges or limitations, it often creates space for trust, connection, and collaboration. Leaders who admit when they've made a mistake, ask for feedback, or openly share that they don't have all the answers are sending a powerful message: **"I trust you enough to be real with you."** This act of openness helps humanize leadership and invites trust in return. Take, for example, a department head who shares how a difficult year impacted their focus, but also what they learned through it. Or a manager who acknowledges their limitations around a DEI topic and invites their team to learn alongside them. These moments may feel small, but they often create a ripple effect, increasing a sense of safety, morale, and loyalty within the team.

### Open Communication Builds Lasting Trust

Empathy and vulnerability find their greatest impact when paired with open communication. When employees feel heard and understood, engagement and trust tend to follow. That means creating space for dialogue, not just monologue. Some ways to support open communication include:

- Holding regular feedback sessions that are two-way
- Inviting input on key decisions or processes
- Following up on concerns that have been raised
- Clarifying that no topic is too small when it comes to employee well-being
- Promoting a Supportive and Compassionate Workplace

A team will only be as open as they feel safe to be. That's why encouraging a culture of support is central to empathetic leadership. Leaders play an essential role in creating the conditions that allow others to show up authentically and take healthy risks.

Click [here to read the full article](#) by Homewood Health.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS



Our team had a fantastic time at the recent Ceramics Paint Night on October 12, 2025, thoughtfully organized by the DRDH Social Committee!

Colleagues from across the organization along with friends and family came together to unwind, get creative, and enjoy an evening of fun and conversation. From colorful patterns to imaginative designs, everyone's unique creations made the night truly special.

A big thank-you to the Social Committee for planning such a memorable event and bringing our team together in a creative way!



## + FOUR SEASONS LODGE NEWS

### Cubs Visit for Fall Crafting Fun



At the end of September, residents at the Lodge welcomed a visit from the local Cubs for an evening of fall crafting and snacks.

Together, they created cheerful pumpkin decorations, shared stories, and enjoyed plenty of laughter along the way.

Thank you to the Cubs for bringing your creativity and energy - our residents always look forward to your visits!



## + FOOD AND RECREATION COMMITTEE



Ann shared highlights from the upcoming seasonal menu, and residents were delighted to hear about some of the new dishes that will soon be served. From salmon on a croissant to chicken bruschetta, ribette with potato croquettes, sage-crusted pork chops, and honey garlic chicken - there's plenty to look forward to on the dining side this season.

The Committee is buzzing with ideas for upcoming activities! Residents are already getting to work on pieces for a November Art Auction, with Robin leading creative sessions to craft painted birdhouses, wooden signs, and handmade cards. There's also talk of a Holiday Market in the near future, along with several special events planned for November, including the annual Candlelight Memorial Ceremony, a cozy Wine Tasting and Charcuterie Evening, Cake Day, and Apple Cider Day.

To mark Remembrance Day, the Committee has planned a comforting and traditional meal featuring Boston baked beans with homemade buns, finished with a warm serving of bread pudding for dessert.

Looking ahead, the Committee is getting a head start on holiday baking! Plans are underway for the Taste of Home program to prepare and freeze some seasonal favourites such as ginger snaps, sugar cookies, and squares.

As always, the team thanks residents for their wonderful ideas and ongoing enthusiasm that make the Home's dining and recreation programs so meaningful.





## FOUR SEASONS LODGE NEWS

### Concerts in Care



Residents at the Lodge were treated to a delightful afternoon of music on October 17, 2025, thanks to Gertrude and Garry from Concerts in Care Ontario. Their performance featured a beautiful mix of vocals, winds, piano, and guitar.

A big thank you to Gertrude and Garry for sharing their talent and brightening the day for our residents!



## RESIDENTS' COUNCIL CORNER



The Residents' Council met this month to review several important documents, including the Home's Visitors Policy, Accommodation Agreement, and the information package provided to new residents and their families upon move-in. Council members shared helpful feedback and suggestions to ensure the information remains clear, welcoming, and supportive for those joining our community.

Residents also discussed updates on the progress of the new Home and were pleased to hear that a focus group will soon meet to help develop the Home's philosophy of care. Many residents expressed interest in taking part in this discussion, eager to share their perspectives and experiences to help shape the future of care at the Four Seasons Lodge.

As part of the monthly review of the Residents' Bill of Rights, the Council focused on Rights #16: **"Every resident has the right to proper accommodation, nutrition, care and services consistent with their**

**needs"** and Right # 17 **"Every resident has the right to be told who is responsible for and who is providing the residents direct care."** In alignment with this discussion, the Home is planning to trial new staff name badges with larger, easy-to-read print based on resident feedback.

To better accommodate everyone's schedules, the Council has also agreed to adjust the timing of future meetings to 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m., allowing for greater participation and engagement from residents.





# FOUR SEASONS LODGE NEWS

## Halloween Fun

Halloween fun was in full swing at the Lodge on October 25! Our residents were all smiles as team members and families stopped by for some spooktacular early trick-or-treating and Halloween fun.

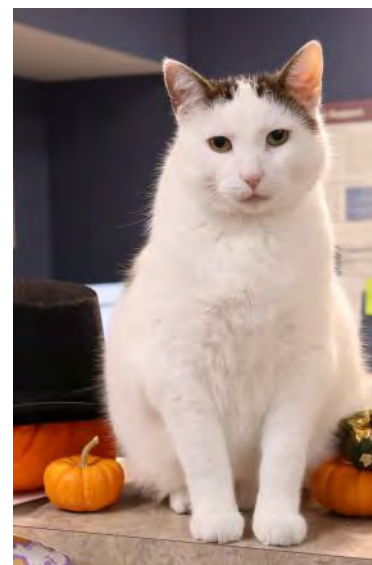
From costumes to candy and plenty of laughter, it was a wonderful way to bring generations together and celebrate spooky season. Thank you to everyone who joined in and helped make this frightfully festive day so special, and to our Social Committee for organizing!





# FOUR SEASONS LODGE NEWS

## Halloween Fun



# + FOUR SEASONS LODGE NEWS

## Halloween Fun



The Halloween fun continued at the Lodge with a special visit on October 29, 2025 from the Cubs!

Our residents had a blast welcoming these little ghouls and goblins for trick-or-treating, festive games, and some spooky cookie decorating.





# FOUR SEASONS LODGE NEWS

## Halloween Fun



Our team members went all out for this year's costume and pumpkin contest organized by the Social Committee - and who better to choose the winners than our resident judges at the Lodge? From spooky to silly (and everything in between!), the creativity on display was spooktacular!

*Photos continued on next page...*

# + FOUR SEASONS LODGE NEWS

## Halloween Fun



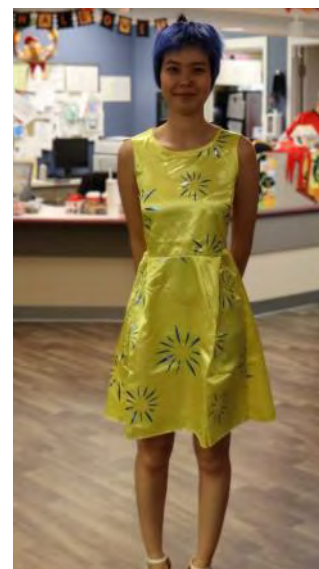
Spookiest Costume



Best Group Costume



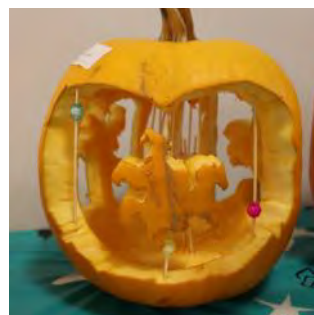
Best Individual Costume





# FOUR SEASONS LODGE NEWS

## Halloween Fun



Huge shout-out to friend of the Lodge, Jackie, for donating treats for our residents and team members again this year!

# THANK YOU



## GALA CELEBRATION FOR CLOSER TO HOME CAMPAIGN

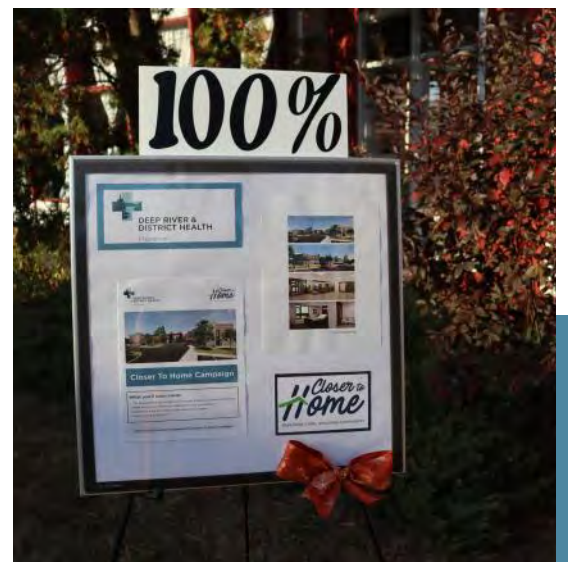


*In case you don't recognize us dressed up, pictured here from left to right at the Closer to Home Celebration Gala are DRDH team members Amy, Michaela, Dr. McVey, Megan, Janna, Darren, Sandi, Brynda, and Mike!*

What a night we had! On Saturday, October 4, 2025 we gathered to celebrate a truly remarkable milestone in our community! Raising **\$2.5 M** is no small feat, and worthy of an amazing celebration. This evening would not have been possible without everyone in attendance.

### Thank you to:

- Our amazing team members at Deep River and District Health who came dressed to the nines!
- The Whistle Stop Auxiliary volunteers who showed up in their Whistle Stop finds, including a fabulous teapot purse!
- The Absolute Zeroes Band for providing that special touch that only comes from live music.
- The residents of the Four Seasons Lodge who inspire us every day.
- Fleurish for donating two gorgeous, fresh floral centerpieces.
- The Boards of Directors for both DRDH and the Foundation.
- Carolyn and her team at Maven Catering and The Hexagon for an incredible meal.
- Sweetened by Shelly for the thank you cookies.



And of course to you, our donors and supporters. Without you, none of this would have been possible!

## GALA CELEBRATION FOR CLOSER TO HOME CAMPAIGN



## FARMER'S MARKET SUPPORT

Special thank you to the Deep River Farmers' Market for choosing to support the Deep River & District Health Foundation with a donation!

We are so grateful to all the community groups who support healthcare in our area!



## BTS: CAPTURING LIST AT DRDH—ON AND OFF THE CLOCK!



A few members of our team had the chance to hit the water recently for a boat trip and hike up Oiseau Rock, capturing some breathtaking fall scenery (and a few sweaty smiles!) along the way. This footage will be part of our ongoing video project that celebrates the incredible people, culture, and community behind Deep River and District Health.

The project aims to highlight what makes working, and living, here so special, from the meaningful work happening across our health campus to the beautiful moments our team enjoys in their down-time.

A huge thank you to William, Darren, Melissa G, and Melissa L who joined the hike with very little idea of what they were getting into - you embraced the adventure with such great spirits! And a special shoutout to volunteer Dave, who kindly drove us across the river and joined us for the journey. We couldn't have done it without you!

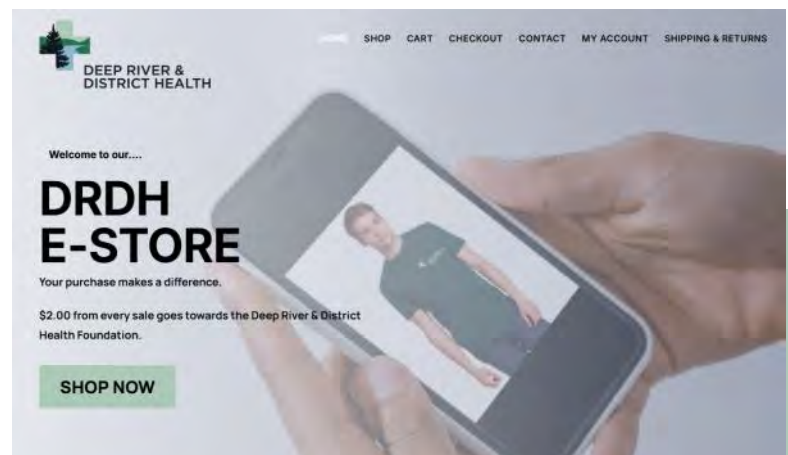
A big thank you to everyone who's joined in with the video project so far and helped bring the DRDH story to life on camera!

## ESTORE

Check out our selection of DRDH t-shirts, toques, sweaters, drinkware, jackets and scrub tops in the EStore. Whether you're looking for something to wear here at work or out and about, we've got something for everyone. Purchases through our DRDH EStore not only promote our team spirit, but also make a difference! For every purchase made, \$2 will be donated to support the fundraising efforts of the DRDH Foundation.

<https://drdhstore.org/>

*As a reminder – samples of each item are available to check out in the staff lounge. You can make your purchases directly through the EStore online, or through payroll deduction with the form available on PolicyMedical. Shipping is free for orders over \$65 placed directly through the EStore online, as well as for orders made through payroll deduction.*



## CALL FOR CONTENT

Is there something you would like to see appear in the next issue of The Zinger newsletter? Please submit your photos and information to Amy at [amcdiarmid@drdh.org](mailto:amcdiarmid@drdh.org).

*Deep River and District Health receives funding from Ontario Health.  
The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of Ontario Health.*