



## A Holiday Message From Our Senior Leadership Team

*On behalf of the Pembroke Regional Hospital's Senior Leadership Team, we would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and safe New Year.*

*We know that this past year has been challenging in many ways and while it seems like many of the issues we have faced will follow us into 2022, your efforts have enabled us as an organization to continue providing top-notch care for those in our region.*

*Without you, this couldn't have happened and for that, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and pride for our team.*

*On top of this, having just lost a valued member of our health care team, we know the days ahead will be difficult for many of you and be assured, that we will offer what support we can to those who require it at this difficult time.*

*We hope that you will each have an opportunity to take some time off over the holidays in order to recharge, celebrate the season and safely spend time with friends and loved ones.*

*We value each of you and look forward to our continued collaboration in 2022.*

***Pierre Noel, Sabine Mersmann, Beth Brownlee, Scott Coombes and Dr. Tom Hurley***



## Today's Take-Aways

### COVID-19

- There has been a tremendous influx of information, guidance and direction from Ontario Health with regards to COVID-19 and in particular, the impact of the Omicron variant over the weekend.

Many aspects of the COVID-19 response are once again being ramped up and reactivated including the provincial Incident Management Structure (IMS).

We are also receiving some positive news with regards to how the province is supporting hospitals with their staffing challenges however we don't expect resolution of this overnight.

## Today's Take-Aways Continued

- We are also in the process of reviewing some helpful information which was received yesterday with regards to how to safely return health care workers to work given the current isolation guidance. Occupational Health will be making use of a new Decision Guide to safely manage individual staff members. This could include increased use of rapid testing.

### COVID-19 Vaccination (3rd Dose)

- Recognizing that the best defence against the new Omicron variant is vaccination, our region continues to ramp up vaccination efforts and our hospital is once again assisting the Renfrew County and District Health Unit with this led by retirees John and Trudi Wren, Debbie Wegner and Holly Woermke. To facilitate this, the Pembroke clinic will be moved into the former call centre building in the city's west end. It is hoped that by the end of February, all those wishing to be vaccinated with a third dose will have had the opportunity to do so.

### Occupational Health and Safety / Infection Prevention and Control

- There are new directives coming into effect Dec. 22nd with regards to the use of N95 masks in high risk hospital settings which will impact everyone who has direct contact with patients who are suspected (based on specific criteria which will be communicated) or confirmed to have COVID-19. At PRH this will include those on the COVID Unit and in the ED/ICU as well as DI, Lab and Environmental Services staff who would have direct contact with those patients and/or their environment. A detailed memo on these changes will be issued Dec. 21st. Staff can anticipate a rollout of N95 Fit Testing in the coming days as well as education around the donning and doffing of N95 masks.

- In conjunction with the new guidance, staff will see new signage indicating areas where N95 masks are required.

- It should be noted that as the Omicron variant is now widespread there is no longer a focus on screening specifically for international travel.

### Departmental Updates:

#### Medical

- Please be aware that we have reinstated the Designated COVID Unit on Medical 2A South Wing. To minimize traffic through the Designated COVID Unit, we are asking all staff to refrain from using the link entrance onto the South wing and adjust their route using the Tower A elevator and stairwell.

## PRH Staff Mourn The Loss Of Brittany McCann (Fraser)



Pembroke Regional Hospital's flag has been lowered to half-mast to honour Brittany McCann (Fraser), RPN and health care team member who worked on the Rehabilitation Unit as well as in the Emergency Department and the ICU. Brittany passed away December 17th. Brittany was an organ donor and was able to donate five organs to recipients in need.

At this difficult time, our thoughts are with Brittany's co-workers, friends and family including her sister Alycia Fraser who works in Administration.

Brittany's family will receive relatives and friends at the Neville Funeral Home in Pembroke Wednesday, Dec. 22nd from 6-9 p.m. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Pembroke on Thursday, Dec. 23rd, at 11 a.m. Due to the current restrictions regarding COVID, face masks are required to attend the visitation and/or Mass. At

PRH, a memorial service for Brittany will be held in the new year. More details to come.

# Guardian Angels

Katie Fadock



Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation  Fondation de l'Hôpital Régional de Pembroke

## Congratulations



WEEK #21 WINNER  
**Stephanie McNeil**  
**\$3,132**

TICKET #U-4806776  
Card #17

Revealed: Jack of Spades

[www.prhcatchtheace.ca](http://www.prhcatchtheace.ca)

Next weeks ESTIMATED Jackpot,  
if the Ace is caught is over: **\$65,000!**

# PRH CATCH THE ACE ESTIMATED JACKPOT

# \$65,000

## Current Facts and Figures

- Renfrew County: 42 active case, 11 deaths
- Ottawa: 1,941 active cases, 620 deaths
- Ontario: 23,591 active cases, 10,113 deaths

## Foundation News

Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation



Fondation de l'Hôpital Régional de Pembroke

**AUTO LOTTO**  
FOR HEALTHCARE

*Congrats*

**Irene Coulombe**

Thank you for purchasing your Auto Lotto tickets. Proceeds from the Auto Lotto support the Pembroke Regional Hospital's Cancer Care Campaign.



Congrats to our *Auto Lotto* Grand Prize Winner, Irene Coulombe! Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for our 2021 *Auto Lotto*. All proceeds from the *Auto Lotto* support the *Cancer Care Campaign* and with your support we can help keep cancer care close to home!



**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW**  
**WWW.PRHCATCHTHEACE.CA**

The estimated jackpot for PRH *Catch the Ace* is \$65,000!! Get your tickets at the Mural Café on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:30am-2:00pm or online anytime at [www.prhcatchtheace.ca](http://www.prhcatchtheace.ca). Draw closes at midnight on Tuesdays.

# GRATITUDE

• We would like to celebrate **Caroline Froment and Home and Community Care** for helping us to assist one of our Medical patients to obtain the specialized equipment that was needed from ACCESS Healthcare to support a safe discharge home. They went above and beyond and we appreciate their compassionate care for this patient. *Rachel, Lisa and the Medical team*

• "I had the opportunity to witness the working definition of compassion. It is compassion that guides our practice here at the Pembroke Regional Hospital. I am grateful to work with **Dr. Davies, Hospitalist; Kelly Malley, RN; Rachel England, Manager; Matthieu, Paramedic; and the entire Paramedic team.** These individuals (team) organized an ambulance transfer from community to hospital. This allowed a spouse with a disability to visit her husband who is palliative and receiving end-of-life care. Well done team!" *Michael Peters*

## Environmental Services

• I wanted to send out a big thank you to many of you who have been going the extra mile (many, many miles) while we have been short staffed. It is noticed and appreciated. We have some new folks joining the team Sarah, Amy, Justin, Jesse and Magda. Please welcome them to our team and help them learn along the way. *Cheryl Summers*

• A big shout out to the **team working December 15th** for their leadership and teamwork to cover the priority items on routines/shifts that couldn't be filled (I apologize if I missed anyone's name):

**Danelle, Bryan, Brianna, Katherine Hawthorne, Shawn, and Colleen Van Wert**

• Another big thank you to **Bryan** for returning a ring that was left behind by a patient. The wedding ring was returned to the proud owner who was very grateful and left a note thanking our honest and hardworking members of the housekeeping team. Some treats will be purchased for the team in thanks!



**THANK YOU  
FOR KEEPING  
ME SAFE AT  
WORK**

**WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER**

Creating a positive workplace culture allows us to feel safe.  
Let's work together to ensure we practice COVID-19 precautions at all times

If I have left my goggles on top of my head, please give me a gentle reminder.



## Staff Prepare Festive Meals For 80 CMH Clients

A special shout out to Mental Health Services staff from our Renfrew office who recently worked hard preparing 80 festive meals which were delivered to clients living in Renfrew and Arnprior.

# Celebrating the Work of the Joint Health and Safety Committee

Members of the 2021 Joint Health and Safety Committee recently celebrated another successful year of work! Members got in the Christmas spirit as part of their December meeting which was co-chaired by the Chief Elf and Santa!

**Back row**, from left, Scott Coombes, Martin Burger, Krystal Thompson, Dean Quade, Wanda Edmonds, Kim Haley, Cheryl Summers and Darlene Keuhl

**Middle row**, from left, Rita Amodeo, Deva Hatchou and Nicole Lalonde

**Front**, from left, co-chairs Elizabeth Rosamund and Jennifer Kennedy

**Missing from the photo:** Michelle Godsell, Dianne O'Connor, Sheldon Higginson, Tyson Purcell, Colleen Morris, Amber Boire, Michelle Giles, Frederique Desbiens, Kirsten Johnson and Mike Godbout



## CONTEST – Wrap recipes

*Winning announcement*

**Congratulations Tonya Chandler from the OR!**



**Chick Chick Boom Wrap**



*We thank everyone who participated in this contest and greatly appreciated your submissions!*



## PRH Receives Knitted Hats For Newborns and Systemic Therapy Patients

A huge thanks to the Centre Culturel francophone de Pembroke for organizing the Wool Arts Project in March 2021. The project was carried out with the support of the Pembroke area community. Participants knitted from home due to COVID-19 restrictions with wool provided by the centre in activity kits. Thanks to the group Les Abeilles, which have been meeting at the cultural centre on Wednesday mornings since September to make hats and small knee blankets, the group has donated to several organizations this month.

Thank you to all who participated; the women of the Bridge group and the Charitas Sisters. As well as Michèle Plath, Chantale Samms and Pierrette Philion. Their partnership with Teresa McDonald of South Algonquin Knits & Notions allowed them to acquire wool specifically for this community project. Sister Mary and Sister Marjorie made over 200 hats and ten blankets. They also purchased 76 winter hats which were handed over to the French elementary schools in Pembroke. The 400 hats that were made vary in size from premature baby to adult and have been distributed to hospitals in Renfrew County. The 90 blankets were distributed at long-term care homes in Pembroke; 40 to Marianhill, 38 for Miramichi Lodge and 12 for Shalom.

Representatives Sonya Loubier, left and Claudette Thanasse delivered a large selection of hats to PRH this morning.

## Special Thanks To Local Groups For Their Holiday Donations



Our gratitude is extended once again to Carole Mask who has been donating hand-knitted afghans to our Maternal Child Care floor as a Christmas tradition for nearly two decades.

Her "Project Little Heart" initiative brings smiles to many new moms as they are gifted for some of our newborns.

A very special Thank You to the members of Our Lady of Sorrows CWL who presented 22 newborn baby layettes to our Maternal Child Care program today.

These were provided through the kindness and generosity of so many parishioners and friends of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Petawawa.

This annual tradition has been graciously welcomed and appreciated over the years by the staff and the new moms who receive them.



# Christmas Spirit Week At Pembroke Regional Hospital

