



## **A Message from the Senior Leadership Team**

*Thanks to all for your continued support, leadership and assistance as we navigate through the Omicron wave of the pandemic. We are hearing many good news pieces throughout our organization about staff who are stepping up to assist where needed, not only from those in our clinical areas, but also from non-clinical areas as well.*

*We recognize these are unprecedented circumstances but we are watching them unfold with pride and gratitude for all that you are doing.*

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

## **Today's Take-Aways**

### **COVID-19 – Regional Updates**

- While the overall situation isn't improving dramatically, it's not getting worse. The number of COVID-positive patients in hospital and in our own facility appear to be declining slightly.
- The regional COVID consultation line will now be operating 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. since uptake didn't warrant maintaining the service overnight. This phone line is used primarily for consultation on COVID-19 treatment options.
- A lot of collaborative work is being done to transfer staff and patients between facilities as required.
- There has been some additional flow into long-term care and retirement home settings which is creating additional bed capacity – some of this is the result of provincial orders. While we have not yet been ordered to take patients from other hospitals in crisis we are anticipating we could get the call given that we have the capacity to do so.
- All hospitals in the Champlain region including those in Renfrew County are experiencing staffing shortages. On average we are experiencing a shortage of 40-60 staff daily. Where possible, we are assisting other facilities such as Arnprior Regional Health where they are at risk of having to put their Emergency Department on bypass. .
- The regional IPAC team is developing a framework for cohorting COVID-positive patients based on capacity. We are anticipating receipt of this document within the next 24 hours.
- We are also anticipating receipt of new provincial testing guidelines for hospital staff who have previously tested positive for COVID.
- The Ottawa Hospital is developing a regional approach to the distribution of antivirals used to treat some patients with COVID-19. We are anticipating more news on this in the coming days.

### **Visitor Guidelines**

- A memo and press release were issued earlier today with regards to updated guidelines for COVID-positive or symptomatic visitors, essential caregivers / care partners and non-emergency patients.

## Today's Take-Aways Continued

### Long-Term Care and Retirement Home Redeployment

- Bonnechere Manor in Renfrew is currently in crisis with 25 staff testing positive for COVID. While we have not been asked to provide assistance for that facility we are providing some assistance to Marianhill and may be looking to redeploy there on a more permanent basis.

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

- A memo has gone out today with regards to a COVID-19 outbreak on our Surgical unit. As outlined in the memo, additional safety practices have been put in place and extensive testing and monitoring is being conducted.

- A new question has been added to our online screening tool with regards to uptake of the third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Please note that if you have already submitted your third dose receipt to Occ Health, you don't need to do so again in response to the prompt. Based on the responses today 60% of the 440 people who completed online screening indicated that they had received their third dose.

### Supplies

- There continues to be logistics and supply chain issues. Our Materials Management team is regularly monitoring the situation and is in communication with departments who are impacted by backorders etc. We are receiving regional support as needed and also extending our help to partners as required.

### Critical Care

- Occupancy rates in ICUs across the province have stabilized over the last couple of days and mortality rates remain low. However those in ICUs are experiencing a longer rate of stay.

### Departmental Updates:

#### Emergency Department

- The department was pleased to welcome a new internist who started in the ICU on January 25th.

#### Diagnostic Imaging

- The department is commencing the replacement process for its SPEC CT while also currently offering CT support to RVH and Montfort who are experiencing staffing shortages.

#### Food Services

- The team is happy to report that it has been a smooth transition back to tray service for all inpatients. Initial feedback from patients has been positive.

#### Pharmacy

- We are participating on a regional committee in order to determine the process for the referral and distribution of the new antiviral medication for COVID-19. Likely, patients in the Champlain health region will have access to this medication starting next week. Eligibility and distribution of this medication will be complex and limited and there will be a lot of potential for drug interactions.



## Mental Health Resources Are Available

We recognize that this situation and the increased community transmission of the Omicron variant may impact your mental health and we encourage everyone to seek appropriate support as required.

This includes accessing our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at 1-866-833-7690 or calling the Mental Health Crisis Line at 1-866-996-0991.



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**Be Kind**

## Vaccination Clinic Team Says Thank You!

A big THANK YOU to Starbucks Petawawa for providing a snack of snowman cookies to all those working at the COVID-19 vaccination clinic in Pembroke on January 22nd. They were delicious!



And a very special THANK YOU to Scott Rosien Black & Locke Chartered Accountants for providing lunch for the Pembroke COVID-19 vaccination clinic team on January 20th consisting of wraps and salad from Ullrichs.



**Catch the Ace**

**Congratulations**

WEEK #27 WINNER  
Sandra Laflamme

**\$5,862**

TICKET #AA-1369813  
Card #18  
Revealed: Jack of Clubs

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

Next weeks ESTIMATED Jackpot,  
if the Ace is caught is over: **\$107,000!**

**WE ARE**  
All in  
This  
**TOGETHER**



# PRH Staff Association Treat Day

Featuring A Package Of Three Cookies. One Of Each Flavour -  
Salted Caramel Butterscotch/Chocolate Chip/Oatmeal Raisin

## Distribution Details:

**Thursday, Feb. 10, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
**In The Lunch Box, Tower A, 2nd Floor**

### NEW PROCESS NOTIFICATION:

In order to ensure we order just the right amount of treats,  
**EVERYONE (groups and individuals) MUST now pre-order.**  
Our February pre-order deadline will be Friday, February 4th at 12 noon.  
Please email pre-orders to [carolyn.levesque@prh.email](mailto:carolyn.levesque@prh.email).

### PLEASE NOTE:

1. Pre-orders must be picked up between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. February 10th.
2. We are making Treat Day pre-orders mandatory so that we order just the right amount of treats and don't run out or over-order.
3. Groups are responsible for ensuring staff on their lists:
  - are active members of the Staff Association in their department
  - wish to receive this month's treat
  - receive their items after pickup



**As A Token Of Appreciation  
For All That You Do  
We're Expressing Our Thanks With A  
Valentine's Day Cupcake For You!**

**Monday, February 14th**

Individually packaged cupcakes -  
one for each staff member/physician working all shifts  
on February 14th will be packaged for pickup by  
department or position based on numbers from HR.



### **Treats Made By...**



Cupcake distribution will take place in  
The Lunch Box (2nd Floor, Tower A),  
between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Monday, February 14th.  
Please send a department representative to pick up for  
your group or if you aren't attached to a department you  
can pick up individually.  
Physician pickup will be in the Medical Affairs office.

# Guardian Angels

Kerri Timm

*"We wish to express our most sincere gratitude to Kerri who provided exceptional nursing care to our father in his final days. Nursing is, at its core, about care and compassion. The way you spoke so gently and held his hand, how you cried with us when you told us he was gone; that's nursing. In those moments you provided care and comfort to him, and to us as well. We will forever be thankful for your reassuring presence during those difficult days."*



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

## Current Facts and Figures

- **Renfrew County:** 273 active cases, 19 deaths
- **Ottawa:** 3,001 active cases, 681 deaths
- **Ontario:** 54,074 active cases, 11,230 deaths



## Foundation News

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



Catch the Ace tickets are on sale at the Mural Café on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:30am until 2pm. Thank you to our volunteers who make this possible. You can also visit [www.prhcatchtheace.ca](http://www.prhcatchtheace.ca) to purchase your tickets. Proceeds support our *Cancer Care Campaign*.

**BECOME A COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR** *Connect to Care*   
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MARCH 3RD**



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**We know you're busy, but we need your help!**

It's as simple as 1-2-3:

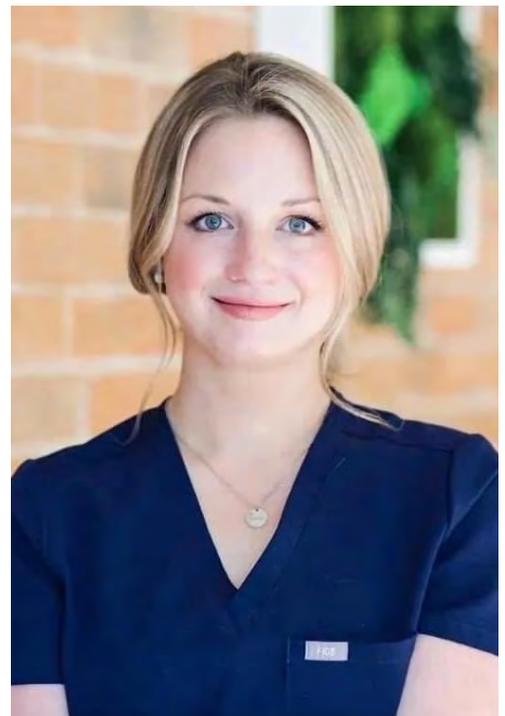
1. Make a list of those you think would like to support you.
2. Send the PRH QR Code in the photo to your list.
3. Accept our Thank You for helping out.

# GRATITUDE

- The AMH team wanted to let **Materials Management** know how much they appreciate all of their staff and the extras they do for them. A special thanks to **Evan** for making special deliveries on a Friday afternoon and for his singing. It put a smile on our faces. Thank you from AMH!!!
- A HUGE shout out to **all of our screeners** for the work that they do and the challenges they face when managing all those wishing to come to PRH.
- A special thanks to **Julieta Klein and Ayla Dery from our ED** who volunteered to be redeployed to Arnprior Regional Health this weekend. *Kaley Lapierre*
- Celebrating **everyone involved in supporting the ICU with our new dedicated Intensivist Dr.Ahmed** who started this week. We have already received a compliment from a patient's family member who noticed the improvement in care. *Kaley Lapierre*
- The staff of 2nd Medical would like to celebrate **Jennifer Wong**. Jennifer's help to our unit was greatly appreciated by all team members.
- Thanks to **all departments who have stepped up to supply and support the Emergency Department** with extra staff.
- A special shout out to **IPAC team members Kirsten, Lori Ann and Karen** for their excellent leadership and management of the outbreak on the Surgical unit.
- Special thanks to **members of the Community Mental Health team who have stepped up and volunteered to redeploy to clinical areas in the hospital** on short notice.
- The Pharmacy would like to celebrate the **two OR nurses who are helping run the RSV clinics and Kirsten from IPAC** who recently provided support for two babies.
- Kudos to **all those in Food Services who have been working hard to produce new and exciting menu options** in the cafeteria. The variety and enticing food presentation are not going unnoticed.

THANK YOU!

 **WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 2nd is BRITTANEY FRASER-MCCANN day at Mary Browns in Petawawa + ALL Ottawa & Belleville locations, purchase a 2-peice meal and TWO DOLLARS from each meal goes to support Brittaney's husband and 4 boys during this difficult time**  
**Cash donations will also be accepted in store.**





## **PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL Christmas Season Summary 2021**

The Christmas season is always an exciting and busy time at PRH as we celebrate the holidays in various ways meaningful for both the patients and staff. However, given the status of the pandemic this year, things were quite different. With safety measures in place, we were able to adapt some activities so that they might continue. We also came up with some new and innovative ways to spread holiday cheer without spreading the virus.

Here is a summary of holiday events which took place during the 2021 festive season.

### **FOR PATIENTS**

- In early December, Christmas decorations went up, with each department responsible for its own decorating. Specific guidance was given regarding areas where décor had to be minimal due to COVID safety measures. In addition, the hospital once again hired local decorator Paula Troutman to create some natural festive holiday displays at all of our entrances.

### **Spiritual Care**

- Our Spiritual Care Coordinator decorated the chapel, facilitated some carol singing in the AMH spiritual group on Tuesday mornings and he also did some one-on-one carol singing with patients by request.

### **Maternal Child Care**

- Parents of newborns were offered new festive stockings to wrap newborns in for photo – a longstanding tradition in our Maternal Child Care program.
- As is tradition, we also celebrated the birth both Christmas and New Year's babies with media coverage for both.

### **Mental Health Services**

- The ROP (Recovery Outreach Program) and SHARE programs, along with many Community Mental Health staff were able to hand out and deliver approximately 190 \$5 Tim Horton Gift Cards along with homemade Christmas turkey meals to clients across Renfrew County.
- The ROP also organized a silent auction for clients with all items donated by CMH staff.
- Arnprior and Pembroke ROP (Recovery Outreach Program) sites were able to come together and enjoy some Christmas carolling with friends via Zoom. Clients joined in singing Christmas carols with the staff and one client played guitar. They also made Christmas ornaments that were also used as music shakers!

### **Rehabilitation**

- Our recreation therapist coordinated In-room Christmas crafts for patients on the Rehabilitation unit.

- On Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, our recreation therapist organized a Christmas sing-along for patients on the Rehabilitation unit with social distancing and all precautions in place. Pastor Lorne played the guitar.

### **Acute Mental Health**

- Patients assisted in decorating the unit for Christmas with COVID safety precautions in place.
- Several small group Christmas craft sessions were held.
- On Dec. 21<sup>s</sup>, a Christmas sing-along with Pastor Lorne was held with all precautions in place.
- On Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Christmas Bingo was played.
- On Christmas Day, staff handed out small wrapped gifts to all patients on the unit.

### **FOR STAFF**

- In lieu of our Staff Association's annual Children's Christmas Party, we hosted a free Family Skating Event on December 18<sup>th</sup> at the Pembroke Memorial Centre. Staff Association members were provided with Tim Horton gift cards to purchase a snack at their convenience.
- Instead of hosting the annual Christmas Dinner and Dance at Germania Hall, the Staff Association purchased 4oz locally made Christmas candles in three holiday scents for each of its members – approximately 520 candles were distributed by department to all Staff Association members.
- All staff working all shifts on Christmas Day and New Year's Day received a \$5 PRH gift card to be used in the cafeteria, the Mural Café or the Sunshine Gift Shop.
- On Dec. 8th our Food Services team prepared and served approximately 600 holiday turkey meals with all the trimmings for our health care team. This free meal was in appreciation for all the work that everyone has done. To ensure adherence to COVID safety measures, all meals were served in take-out containers and departments were encouraged to pre-order and pick up for their group to avoid long lineups and gathering in the cafeteria.
- During the week of Dec. 13-17 we hosted a Christmas Spirit Week featuring: Red & Green Day, Holiday Sweater Day, Door Decorating, Christmas Accessory Day and Christmas Hat Day.

### **FOR OUR DONORS**

- The PRH Foundation ran two newspaper ads thanking the community for its support in 2021 through donations, volunteering and online events.
- The PRH Foundation Board members were each given a list of donors from 2021 to call and personally thank for their gifts in the month of December.

- The Foundation finalized its 2nd annual Auto Lotto in December selling a total of \$123,000 worth of tickets.
- A special Christmas message ran on myFM Pembroke wishing the community a Merry Christmas and thanking donors for their support in 2021.
- The Foundation sent a *Cancer Care Campaign* update package to over 350 past campaign donors.
- The Foundation sent a *Cancer Care Campaign* update email to over 9,000 contacts.
- The Foundation held a year-end calling campaign in conjunction with “Giving Tuesday” where over 350 calls were made and over \$14,000 was raised!
- The Foundation sent out approximately 150 Christmas cards to sponsors, Board members and volunteers.

### GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

- Once again staff and physicians teamed up with the Bernadette McCann House and Family and Children’s Services to support 42 children from the area through the organizations' Angel Tree gift program. Everyone enjoyed being able to help fulfill the children's wish lists while giving back to the community!
- The Recovery Outreach Knitting Group made approximately 20 blankets which were then donated to the First Step Options Mom and Baby program.

### COMMUNITY GIVING

- Pembroke resident Carole Mask presented a selection of hand crocheted baby blankets to staff in the Pembroke Regional Hospital’s Maternal Child Care program to distribute to those having babies on Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. Mrs. Mask embarked on her “Project Little Heart” on December 25, 2000 and has returned each year.
- The members of the Our Lady of Sorrows CWL who presented 22 newborn baby layettes filled to our Maternal Child Care program. These were provided through the kindness and generosity of so many parishioners and friends of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Petawawa.
- The Civitan Club generously donated 10 cases of Christmas cakes (light and dark) to the Sunshine Gift Shop to assist in their fundraising efforts.
- On Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, the City of Pembroke ensured that Santa didn’t miss the hospital during his drive-by tour of the city. We also shared this on our social media sites.
- The Centre Culturel francophone de Pembroke donated a selection of knitted hats for newborns and adults receiving cancer care, part of their Wool Arts Project. 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.