

PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL
President and CEO Report – April/May 2025

Board Education Session

In lieu of an education session this month, the Board took some time at the end of the regular meeting to celebrate the following individuals:

- Daniel Burke who is leaving the Board after nine years as a Director
- Dr. Thomas Hurley who is leaving the Board after nine years as Chief of Staff
- Sheldon Reiche who is leaving his position as Community Representative on a Board Committee after serving four years as Community Rep for Resource and Audit.

Recognizing Our Physicians On National Doctors' Day

On May 1st we celebrated our physicians by providing them with some delicious local snacks and beverages including bubble tea, smoothies and some tasty grazing boxes.

As you all know, the last few years have been extremely stressful with every department being under pressure at some point or another. Bearing this mind, we truly appreciate how all physicians have stepped up for patients and families in our region, for our broader community and for our staff while also helping each other out.

Nursing Week Celebrations Provided Something For Everyone

On May 12th, Canada Health Day, we kicked off a week-long celebration as we recognized our incredible nursing team with a calendar full of activities for all.

As you will see from the calendar below, our planning team worked hard to ensure that there was enough variety so that everyone, not only our nurses, could find something to enjoy and partake in. This included a wide range of educational sessions, special treat deliveries and distribution, roaming pet therapy visits, wellness sessions, mobile Blessing of the Hands ceremonies, and nursing displays in our cafeteria.

 <h1>Nursing Week 2025</h1> 				
Monday, May 12	Tuesday, May 13	Wednesday, May 14	Thursday, May 15	Friday, May 16
8-11 a.m. Cafeteria Coffee Break - All Welcome Beverage And Yogurt Bar Evening/Nights: Muffin deliveries 12-1 p.m. A414 Webinar - The role of Nurses in Indigenous Health Care 2:30 p.m. Medical Unit Mobile Blessing of the Hands Facilitated by Garry Engler 6-7:30 p.m. Roaming Pet Therapy Kayla Chaput RPN and Bella	6 a.m. Cookie Rounds Beth Brownlee & Sabine Mersmann 11-11:30 a.m. Chapel Guided Meditation Emily Thaw, OT 12-1 p.m. A414 Webinar - Nurses to transform Our Health, Our Future and Our Planet 2:30 p.m. Surgical Mobile Blessing of the Hands Facilitated by Garry Engler 3:15-3:45 p.m. C142 Frontline Wellness Session Dialectical Behavioural Therapy / Somatic grounding Sydney Sheppard, MSW Psychotherapist	10-10:30 a.m. Cafeteria Lean Report Out 12-12:30 p.m. & 12:30-1 p.m. Lunch 'N Learn B443/Virtual Morbidity and Mortality Facilitated by Clin. Educators Caroline Froment/Erin Van Allen Snacks & Drinks Provided BYO Lunch 2 p.m. Cookie Rounds Beth Brownlee & Sabine Mersmann 2:45 p.m. AMH Mobile Blessing of the Hands Facilitated by Garry Engler 4:30 p.m. Cookie Rounds Beth Brownlee & Sabine Mersmann	12-1 p.m. A414 Webinar - The Power of Nurses to transform care with Artificial Intelligence 1-3:30 p.m. Roaming Pet Therapy Kayla Chaput RPN and Bella 1:30 p.m. ED/ICU Mobile Blessing of the Hands Facilitated by Garry Engler 2-2:30 p.m. A414/Virtual Frontline Wellness Session Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) Strategies and Resources Brittany Osler, OT 3:30 p.m. OR Mobile Blessing of the Hands Facilitated by Garry Engler 6:30 p.m. Cookie Rounds Beth Brownlee & Sabine Mersmann	10 a.m. Cookie Rounds Beth Brownlee & Sabine Mersmann 12-12:30 p.m. & 12:30-1 p.m. A414/Virtual Lunch 'N Learn: Legal Documentation Facilitated by Heather Leonard, RN/Manager Quinte Healthcare Snacks & Drinks Provided, BYO Lunch 2:30 p.m. Rehab/OB Mobile Blessing of the Hands Facilitated by Garry Engler
Taking Place All Week In The Cafeteria Nursing Grad Gallery, Celebration Showcase and Historical Nursing Display				Activities Hosted By ONA Monday, Wednesday and Friday 5-9 p.m. Inpatient Units: Roaming Treat Cart Tuesday and Thursday 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Clinics/Mental Health Services: Roaming Treat Cart Plus Live Daily Draws

Volunteers Celebrated At The Clarion

Pembroke's Clarion Hotel was abuzz with excitement May 13th as 100 volunteers, about half of our volunteer complement, attended an appreciation dinner, with many also recognized for achieving long service milestones in 2024.

It was a lovely time to connect with many familiar faces, including some of you, and so many former staff, all giving their time for our hospital and the many services they support.

We recognize that there are many worthy volunteer opportunities in our region and we are truly thankful that so many have committed some of their time, skills and commitment to PRH.

An Amazing Turnout At Second Annual CEO Breakfast

The Foundation's second annual CEO Breakfast held May 15th was a tremendous success as I was joined by 100 enthusiastic community leaders, business owners and local donors for an overview of the exciting developments taking place at our hospital and our plans for the future of local health care.

We received great feedback from all in attendance, all very supportive of the work being done by our health care team and the care we are providing to our community. I was joined by Dr. Pawel Stefanski, our Chief of Diagnostic Imaging who had a great presentation on the services we provide in DI. Dr. Chris de Jesus, Dr. Richard Johnson, Dr. Fred Matzinger and Dr. Bryce Lowry also attended this great event along with some of you.

Project SEARCH

I am also thrilled to share some exciting news about an innovative initiative that our hospital is embarking on in collaboration with the Renfrew County District School Board (RCDSB) and Algonquin College. This program, known as Project SEARCH, aims to create on-the-job internships for students with developmental or intellectual delays.

Project SEARCH combines on-the-job training with classroom instruction, equipping students with the skills they need for successful employment. We are proud to announce that this year marks PRH's first participation in the program, with an anticipated start date of September 2025. This initiative will highlight our commitment to addressing unmet needs in our community, particularly by supporting a group that, despite their many talents and capabilities, often faces underemployment.

Province Announces New Funding To Support Those Who Are Experiencing Gender-Based and Intimate Partner Violence

We are very excited to share that our Mental Health Services Team will be launching a new program to support women, youth and LGBTQIA2S+ individuals living in the Renfrew County who have experienced Gender-Based and Intimate Partner Violence with a focus on employment and financial empowerment.

This initiative will be delivered in partnership with the Phoenix Centre, Bernadette McCann House, the Youth Wellness Hub of Renfrew County, and the Robbie Dean Centre and is made possible through special funding from the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, demonstrating a strong provincial commitment to addressing and mitigating the impacts of violence in our community.

Kudos to our Mental Health Team for having the vision and foresight to apply for this funding which will bring great benefit to some of our community's more vulnerable residents. We look forward to sharing more details about this program as further aspects are finalized.

Mulvihill Drug Mart's New Location Opening The Week Of June 9th

Thanks to a great deal of progress that has been made as part of the Tower C Main Entrance project, Mulvihill Drug Mart is slated to open in their new space the week of June 9th. For those of you who haven't been over that way recently, I recommend taking a walk. You can look into their new space and see how modern, accessible, fresh and bright it is – a great addition to what will soon be our new main entrance.

We now anticipate the start of Phase 2 of this project which will involve renovations to the former Mulvihill space to accommodate our Auxiliary's Gift Shop.

PRH Welcomes First-Year Medical Students As Part Of Community Week Experience

During the weeks of May 26th and June 2nd, our hospital played host to 26 first-year Medical Students from Queen's University and the University of Ottawa as part of the Eastern Regional Medical Education Program's "Community Week" initiative.

This program offers first-year Medical Students the opportunity to experience a glimpse of rural medical practices early in their education. This is both a unique opportunity for the students and a great opportunity for our community to promote rural practices, benefits and showcase the area for future recruitment efforts at PRH.

With near identical itineraries both weeks, the students were paired with physicians from a wide variety of specialties including General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics, Radiology, Anesthesia, Family Medicine, the Emergency Department, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics and Geriatrics.

In addition to their clinical experiences, the students also had an opportunity to experience some of the Ottawa Valley lifestyle in their off hours through a trivia night at the Whitewater Brewery in Cobden, dinner with local municipal leaders and myself at Anthony's Italian Grill in Pembroke and white water rafting and dinner at Wilderness Tours.

I want to thank everyone who had a hand in making Community Week the success that it was for these Medical Students. I recognize that it's a lot of work but clearly, as a recruitment tool for our region, it stands to have great impact!

In particular, I would like to recognize the work of Katie Hollahan and Terra Bouliane from Medical Affairs who have both done an incredible amount of work to put this initiative together.

Actions Taken by the Board at its June 11, 2025 Board Meeting

Approved the following appointments/reappointments:

- Two new physicians for Courtesy privileges
- Chief of Anesthesia – Dr. A. Stewart
- Chief of Emergency Department – Dr. C. Roy
- Chief of Internal Medicine – Dr. C. Offiah
- Chief of Critical Care – Dr. K. Pulchan

Approved the Form of Resolution for the Directors for the transition to ONCA

Approved the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025 and recommended that the Audited Financial Statements be received by the Board of Catholic Health Sponsors of Ontario (CHSO) as the Members

Approved that KPMG be appointed as the auditor for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2026 subject to approval by the Members of the Corporation (CHSO)

Approved the Supplementary Statement of Operations for the Year Ended March 31, 2025

Approved the Resolution of the Board of Directors for the Ontario Financing Authority (OFA) Loan