





















Our mission:

Atikokan General Hospital is dedicated to excellence in compassionate and supportive healthcare for those we are committed to serve.

Our vision:

Atikokan General Hospital will be a leading edge community health centre that promotes wellness and safety and provides comprehensive health services.

Our values:

Dignity, Compassion, Integrity, Creativity, Hospitality, Learning and Growth



SWIM MINNOW SWIM Mission Week, held each spring at AGH, is a hospital-wide team-building program that includes a variety of theme related activities, both professional and fun. This is an example of the latter - the annual minnow races. With entrants in this race are Michelle Morden, Lori Farmer, Cara Chambers and Tanis Hampshire.

Four births here in '08, just one in '09

AGH suspends routine labour and delivery services

Atikokan Progress January 18, 2010

The Atikokan General Hospital will suspend routine labour and delivery services as of February 1, 2010. The board made the decision earlier this month.

The hospital will continue to support expectant families by facilitating transfers by Emergency Medical Services when necessary and providing care during labour and delivery when unplanned or unexpected deliveries occur.

The decision to suspend routine labour and delivery services has been made in the interest of patient safety and quality of care. In making this decision the board of directors has given consideration to advice from the hospital senior management team and recommendations from the hospital Medical Advisory Committee.

This decision has been largely driven by the decreasing number of deliveries that have been performed within the hospital over recent years. There has been a significant decrease in the number of deliveries performed at the Atikokan General Hospital over the past ten years. In 2001, there were 18 deliveries in our hospital; there were only four births in 2008, and the last delivery performed at the AGH occurred in February of 2009.

These numbers are lower than any other hospital in the region that continues to offer routine labour and delivery care.

The steady decline in the number of births that take place in our hospital has created a situation in which hospital staff have increasing difficulty maintaining the level of skill and experience that an expectant family would expect from an obstetrical program.

The physicians and nursing staff of the Atikokan Family Health Team will continue to provide prenatal and care to newborns and mothers as they have in the past and will work cooperatively with the regional obstetricians to ensure all patients receive the highest quality and safest care possible.

Dr. Sara Van Der Loo on behalf of the AFHT medical staff, said the physicians and staff of the Atikokan Family Health Team wish to assure the community that "the physicians and hospital are prepared to deal with any unexpected deliveries that occur in our community and that patients need not fear that they will have to travel out of town for all appointments related to their pregnancy. While it is true that they will need to see an alternate health care provider for delivery, the physicians of the Family Health Team will continue to play a major role in the prenatal care of expectant mothers and the mother and babe following delivery, just as we do now."

This decision to suspend routine obstetrical services was difficult to make and was given careful and deliberate consideration, but it was clear, that at this time maintaining an obstetrical program is not viable given the level of patient activity the hospital is currently experiencing. The hospital and medical community will re-evaluate the viability of resuming a routine labour and delivery program should circumstances within the community change and the numbers of patients requiring this service increase.

AGH supports regional RN education effort

Atikokan Progress February 16, 2010

The Atikokan General Hospital has been advocating for the continuation of the regional-based Registered Nursing program, and now with a second program offering in the works, it hopes to see local students take part.

Although Atikokan is not one of the host communities, the AGH is hoping to see students from this community sign up for RN training at one of the Confederation College campuses in Fort Frances, Dryden, Kenora, or Sioux Lookout, said executive director of patient services Wayne Smith.

A videoconference information session will be held this Thursday at the Contact North office at the AHS 4-5 p.m.

"We're hoping there might be people here interested in the program, and able to take it in one of the communities closer to home for them," said Smith. AGH has been part of a committee advocating to see the program continue with a second intake of students. Program partners are hoping to do just that, contingent on a minimum enrolment of 32 students.

The collaborative program began in 2005 as a pilot project spearheaded by the Confederation College, Lakehead University, nursing leaders in the host communities, and the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care. "It was very well-received in the communities which were able to host it," said Smith. "They found when the

nurses graduated they were ready for practice in those small communities because they had the clinical exposure to that environment. And it is different in a rural hospital; it can be more challenging than working in a larger hospital because there is such a wide knowledge they have to have."

The pilot project was driven by both current and projected nursing shortages in northern Ontario.

Twenty students graduated from the first four-year BScN program last year. LU's president Fred Gilbert noted "The combined resources of both our educational institutions have proven to be a successful model in the delivery of quality post-secondary education within the vast region of Northwestern Ontario. While Lakehead has responsibility for program content and quality, as well as the awarding of degrees for this nursing program, the college ensures that the program is delivered in a

manner that fulfills quality assurance requirements."

If this second offering of the program does attract enough enrolment to go ahead, the AGH is willing to offer final consolidation placements here in the fourth year of the program, said Smith. (The hospital already offers placements for Confederation College's two-year registered practical nursing program and is currently hosting 11 students there in clinical placements.)

"We have done that in the past, and that is the connection back to the community."

Potential candidates who currently hold the necessary prerequisites or are in the process of qualifying, are encouraged to attend the information session.

"If there are people from Atikokan thinking about taking the program and we can help make [the program] viable by getting some students [enrolled], that would be great," said Smith.



DOUBLE DUTY SERVICE TD-Canada Trust staffer Lorraine Zacharias's service to Atikokan General Hospital comes with an added bonus - a \$500 corporate contribution from her employer to the hospital's foundation. Under a TD program, employees who serve as volunteers for non-profit groups qualify that group for a corporate donation. This is the second time Zacharias, now in her third year on the AGH board, has earned this donation to the AGH. Hospital foundation board member Judi Simmons, left, accepts the donation.



Atikokan General Hospital Board of Directors 2009-2010

Front Row L to R: Wayne McAndrew; Robert Wilson, CEO; Vic Prokopchuk, Chair; Mike Lewis Back Row L to R: Marlene Davidson; Jolene Wood, Lorraine Zacharias, Marj Lambkin, Cheryl Fairbairn, Dr. Joanne Spencer; Susan Hanson Inset: Gord Waldie, Vice Chair

From the Chair of the Board and the Chief Executive Officer....

This Annual Report to our Community is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year. It is critically important to our staff, physicians and volunteers that we do mark our successes. They deserve this recognition.

2009/10 was a year of unprecedented changes and challenges given the tough economic climate of our province and country. Those challenges were turned into opportunities and AGH rose to the occasion. Fiscal restraint is the number one item on the Provincial Government's agenda and many steps and measures are being implemented to ensure financial stability for our health system today and into the future.

The reputation of AGH in being an employer of choice and a great place to work is very evident. We have been very successful in recruiting staff from various areas of the province. Our physician complement, while not at the approved level, is very effective and efficient. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated regular supply of locums.

The Ontario Laboratory Accreditation (OLA) Assessment was held in February 2010. Our laboratory has been accredited since 2005 and this assessment was to be more stringent, thorough and in-depth. Marie Cornell, Laboratory Supervisor and her staff came through with flying colors. The AGH laboratory achieved a 97% plus rating which was one of the highest rankings in Northwestern Ontario. A big Thank You and congratulations goes to Marie and her staff for this outstanding achievement.

Hospital redevelopment, while not moving along as quickly as we would like, is still progressing. At the time of this writing we are awaiting the Cost Consultant's report. This report, when received, will determine how quickly we can move forward with the project.

Retiring from the Board this year is Rev. Gord Waldie. Gord and his family are moving west to Alberta. His knowledge, dedication and contributions will be greatly missed (especially his bylaw expertise). We wish Gord and his family all the best in their new endeavors.

The best leaders are those who anticipate challenges before they arise. For Atikokan General Hospital, preparing for the future means looking outward and understanding how our hospital is part of a broader matrix of healthcare providers in Northwestern Ontario and beyond.

World-renowned management and organizational guru Peter Drucker once said, "hospitals are the most complex enterprises in the world of work, and we as leaders are expected to deal with the most fundamental matters of human well being - health care. It's a job that has enormous impact on other people's lives."

Thanks to the efforts of our Board, Staff, Physicians, Students, Volunteers, AGH Foundation and the support of our community and partners 2009/10 was a successful year. The future of AGH has never been brighter.

Vic Prokopchuk Board Chair Robert G. Wilson, CIM, CHE Chief Executive Officer



CLINICAL TEACHING CENTRE The Northern Ontario Medical School, and specifically Associate dean Dr. William McCready, saluted Atikokan General Hospital and its staff in October, for serving as a clinical teaching centre for the school. AGH and the medical staff here have been involved with the school since day one, hosting first year medical students for their hands on training. The medical staff here has an excellent long-term record as teachers, through their involvement in the Northern Ontario Family Medicine residence program, which pre-dates the med school. Accepting the appreciation plaque here are hospital CEO Bob Wilson, chief of staff Dr. Joanne Spencer, and board chair Vic Prokopchuk.

From the Chief of Staff....

Partnerships with community and regional organizations have helped Atikokan General Hospital with our health care for the community. We appreciate the continued support of local organizations and the ability to work with regional partners.

New equipment was purchased with donations again this year from Ontario Power Generation, the Catholic Women's League and the Legion. As part of work to make patient safety a focus, Ontario Power Generation donated a new intravenous pump, which is important for infusion of specific doses of medications to patients. The Catholic Women's League and the Legion donated a hearing system for extended care residents. This will improve the ability of residents to participate in recreational activities in their home at the Extended Care Wing.

Atikokan General Hospital continues to work with the Family Health Team to promote wellness. The Falls Prevention Program is available to assist community members to reduce their risk of falls. The Family Health Team is providing follow up after a patient's discharge from Atikokan General Hospital to inquire regarding the transition from hospital back to home. Another program provided in conjunction with the hospital and the Family Health Team is dietitian services as the dietitian works with both of these organizations.

Regionally, the Local Health Integration Network has provided funding for video conferencing equipment. As a result, community counselling will have access to videoconferencing from their office, and the hospital will have a portable unit which will facilitate participation in education and patient care within the hospital building.

Within the Region of Northwestern Ontario, learning opportunities through the Northern Ontario School of Medicine are provided in conjunction with local hospitals and other health care organizations. Atikokan General Hospital participates regularly via videoconferencing in educational events, facilitated by NOSM, for health care professionals. We continue in our tradition of providing medical training for medical students and family medicine residents. This past year we had 270 days in which these learners were in our community, some of whom were from the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and others who travelled from McMaster University and the University of Western Ontario.

Health Force Ontario, along with our local Health Professional Recruitment Committee, have facilitated the travel and accommodation for locums who work in Atikokan. Again this year, thank you to the locums and these organizations for working with us to provide health care to our community.

These are some of the local and regional organizations that have helped Atikokan General Hospital to provide health care for Atikokan, and to promote wellness and safety.

Joanne Spencer, B. Eng. (Chemical), M.D. Chief of Staff



CELEBRATION OF FRIENDS The AGH Foundation hosted its annual Celebration of Friends on December 10, to salute its supporters and enjoy a little Christmas camaraderie. New this year was a silent auction of delightful creations, all hand-crafted by local artists; among them was a lovely Christmas wall-hanging created by Lorena Jaman (held by Tracy Danis, right). The auction was very well received.

Among those thanked for their support of AGH were the Royal Canadian Legion (silver sponsor, represented above by Sylvia Brandrick), Ontario Power Generation employees (gold sponsor; AGS manager Ed Enge), Joan McIntosh (silver), Robert (and Louise) Wilson (bronze), Judi Simmons (bronze), Wayne (and Lori) Smith (bronze), and Kim (and Lanny) Cross (bronze). Other silver sponsors were Walt and Millie Beyak and Dr. Walter and Betty Kristjanson; other bronze level sponsors were Howard and Rita Foshang, Alex MacIver, Dave Ogden, Ida Stewart, TD-Canada Trust, and Sharon Wright.



"Without you, our days would be longer and lonelier"

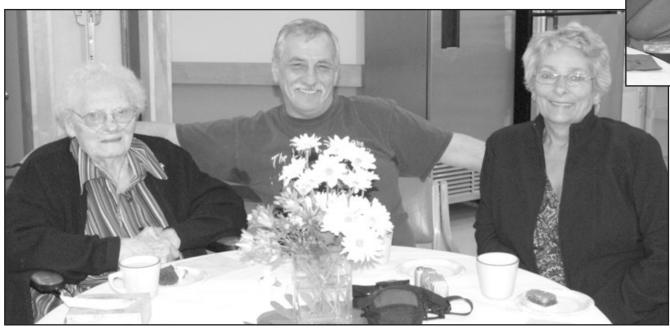
Extended care volunteer coordinator Tanis Hampshire, along with AGH CEO Bob Wilson, saluted the year-round services volunteers provide to extended care residents at a volunteer appreciation tea Friday. As part of national volunteer week, they thanked volunteers who enhance the quality of life of residents through their service on the hospital board, foundation, Community Counseling advisory committee, pastoral group, palliative care group and church groups (to name a few), and through individual volunteer efforts that help provide activities like weekly bingo, card games, reading aloud, baking mornings, suppers, choir sing-alongs, live music, birthday parties, book loans, and many more services.

"The volunteerism in Atikokan is amazing," said Wilson. "We couldn't do a lot of what we can do, without you."

Gil Glisinski and Margaret Parker visit mom, Mary Glisinski (below) and RN Jennifer Sommers, with Kay Gowriluk (right), spreads some goodies and cheer.

~ Atikokan Progress May 4, 2009







Atikokan General Hospital Foundation Board of Directors 2009-10 Back Row L to R: Robert Wilson, Jolene Wood, Linda Lindsay, Kim Cross; Front Row L to R: Louise Wilson, Joan McIntosh, Shirley Rasinaho; Inset: Judi Simmons, Chair

2009 Employee Service Awards

The following individuals were recognized with service awards in December 2009:

Five Years: Michelle Anderson, Lori Farmer, Sherri Manford, Paulette Stevenson, Robert Wilson

Ten Years: Val Johnson

Fifteen Years: Tanis Lavallee

Twenty Years: Jill Leduchowski, Kim Sportak

Twenty-five Years: Sandra Mosley, Cindy Poirier

Forty Years: Marlene Pastuck



GIVING LOCALLY The workers at the Atikokan Generating Station are consistent supporters of the Atikokan General Hospital Foundation through their payroll deduction giving plan. In December, OPG employee Megan Fairbairn (right) presented the proceeds for 2009 to Foundation board members Kim Cross (also AGH's assistant executive director for finance) and Foundation chair Judi Simmons.

From the Atikokan General Hospital Foundation...

2009/10 was another exciting and rewarding year for the Hospital Foundation. The year started with the third annual 'Today I'm working for my Hospital' campaign, which took place Friday, April 24 and raised about \$5,000 towards our Project Courtyard. Total funds designated to this project are currently \$54,358.

Our annual meeting was held in June where we received the audited financial statements and appointed the auditors for the following year.

At our September meeting we welcomed Jolene Wood as the Hospital Board representative. We also starting planning for our annual Celebration of Friends Christmas event.

In October we received a request from Wayne Smith, AED-Patient care services, for \$24,200 to fund a blanket warmer for the Acute Care Wing and new viewing monitors for the X-ray department. The request was approved and the much needed equipment was subsequently ordered and put into use.

The Celebration of Friends was held Thursday, December 10 and this year we had a silent auction of handmade items. Everyone enjoyed the event.

In January we received a letter from the Charities Directorate giving us permission to accumulate up to \$200,000 over a five year period for Project Courtyard. The donor board in the Hospital lobby was also updated to reflect donations made to December 31, 2009.

At our March meeting, we sadly accepted Judi Simmons' resignation as Board Chair, as she is leaving the community. Judi has been a board member since the formation of the Foundation on January 1, 2004. Joan McIntosh agreed to be the interim chair until the AGM in June. The Foundation is currently accepting applications for new board members.

The community has once again been very generous in their giving (over \$50,000 in donations in 2009/10) and this has allowed the Foundation to continue its mission "to support the Atikokan General Hospital in meeting the health care needs of the community by providing financial support for the purchase of hospital equipment or improvements to the facility".

A big thank you goes out to the following donors who supplied special funding for equipment purchases:

Atikokan Legion ~ funding for Extended Care sound system and memory boxes for each resident's room

Catholic Women's League ~ funding for ECW sound/hearing system

Ontario Power Generation ~ funding for an IV pump

The Foundation Board is proud to work for the betterment of the patients of AGH. We look forward to another successful year ahead.

Joan T. McIntosh Interim Board Chair Kim Cross, CGA Executive Director



ECW GIFT The Legion stepped up once again to help out Atikokan General Hospital and the residents of the extended care wing. Legion benevolent chair Sylvia Brandrick and Legion president Brian McCallum presented Tanis Hampshire, the ECW's recreation therapist, with \$2,500 in December. The money will fund a new sound system for the facility, as well as 22 memory boxes - very deep picture frames that will be located outside each resident's room. The resident will place significant memorabilia items in their memory box - not only will this help them locate their room more easily, it will also provide a real connection to their home. The displays will also give hospital staff a little more insight into the person they are caring for.

Atikokan General Hospital Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following donations received between April 2009 and March 2010

In Memory Of Adele Lusignan Ole Dyhm Annette Bryk Keith Lusignan Anna Talbot Krys Bednarski Pioneer Center

In Memory Of **Alice Hoard** Doug & Marlene Hoard

In Memory Of Angela Maki Cheryl James

In Memory Of **Anne Tattrie** Grace Graham Agnes Redekopp Krys Bednarski Hank & Carol Huber Monique Robinson

> In Memory Of **Barb Pelletier** Agnes Stevens Pioneer Center

In Memory Of Bertha Chomyshyn Margaret Beninger Rocky McMillan Ida Stewart Robert Moffatt

In Memory Of Birdena Bingham Ruth Pooley

In Memory Of **Brian Miller**

Doug & Marlene Hoard Walter Kristjanson Paul Hosick Hank & Carol Huber Monique Robinson

> In Memory Of Carol Ogden Leo Lamarche

Paul Money Derek & Janice McFee Glenn Rawlings

> In Memory Of Cecil & Blanche O'Flaherty

Linda & Verne Craven Monique Robinson

In Memory Of **Charles Viddal**

Barbara Elizabeth Ehelebe Wally Hannon Ida Stewart Leo Lamarche Paul Money Larry Gashinski Derek & Janice McFee Marlene & Bruce Davidson

Pioneer Center In Memory Of

Shirley Allan

Dan Hoard Doug & Marlene Hoard

In Memory Of

Doris Coulson L. Henry Mason Derek & Janice McFee Jack & June Winik Vic & Madge Prokopchuk Nancy & Darrell Campbell Sandra & Peter Halasz Hank & Carol Huber Chris & Richard Spilchuk Estate of Doris Coulson June Hurlen & John Galesloot

Marlene & Bruce Davidson **Emily Munro** Lorne & Dawn Hayes

Shirley Allan Brad Marusyk Monique Robinson

In Memory Of **Doug Sanders**

Marjorie Lambkin Bill & Gayle Dutka Judy Sander Theresa Shannon Wassy Trudeau Shirley Allan Brenda Herbert Brian McLeod Rick & Lori Cain

Nancy Myers Brent Johnson In Memory Of

Ed Newman

Dorreen Vos Doug & Marlene Hoard

In Memory Of **Dr. William Grayson** Robert Olson Glenn Rawlings

In Memory Of **Edward Tokarz** Hank & Carol Huber

In Memory Of **Ernest Bain** Marie Warren **Betty Bisset**

Ed Newman Lois Petillion & Family Henry Wiersema Robert Moffatt

> In Memory Of Gale Donaldson Wassy Trudeau

In Memory Of **Ginnie Niro** Betty & Andy Leishman Monique Robinson

In Memory Of **Grace Anna Faykes** Theresa Olimb

Fergy Wilson

In Memory Of **Harvey Shannon** David Feldbruegge Ernest & Mary Ellen St Pierre Shirley Allan

Flo Fairbairn In Memory Of **Helen Kennedy** Joyce Foy

In Memory Of **Helen Wasney** Doug & Marlene Hoard

In Memory Of **Howard Eager** Colleen Eager

In Memory Of Iris Draper Shirley Allan

In Memory Of Isaac Samuel Maki Canadian Union of Postal

> In Memory Of **Jack Switzer** John McQuaker Fern Pratt Peggy Michels

Workers CUPW

In Memory Of **Jacques Perron** Olive Hache

Hank & Carol Huber Louis Bang Margaret Beninger Gertrude Habinski

Robert & Louise Wilson The French Club Agnes Campbell

Barbara Elizabeth Ehelebe Ronald Girouard Walter Kristjanson Randy Makarenko Vic & Madge Prokopchuk

Theresa Shannon John Wiens James Clark Ida Stewart

Wally Hannon Ernest & Mary Ellen St Pierre

Lorraine Gauthier Stromberg Donald & Paulina Bainbridge Shirley Allan Therese Perron

Pat & Sandra Armstrong John Duggan Carol McMillen Retired Teachers Organization

Theresa Bessette Dave Ogden Vic & Madge Prokopchuk

Dorothy Lacoste Pioneer Center Monique Robinson

In Memory Of **James Alexander Harvey** Alan & Betty Carscadden

> In Memory Of Jean Mallard

Lorne & Dawn Hayes Kevin Jackman Barbara Elizabeth Ehelebe John Homer Mary Homer Robert Homer Jim and Donna Mallard

Mary Hoard Viola Jackman Monique Robinson

Joe Zurek Joan Hainey Krys Bednarski Pioneer Center

In Memory Of

In Memory Of Judith Foshang Ida Stewart

In Memory Of Katherine Yeryk

Betty & Andy Leishman In Memory Of **Kathleen Haney**

Dora & Melvin Larson In Memory Of

Leon Perrier Doug & Marlene Hoard Hilda Perrier Debi & Paul Rasinaho

> In Memory Of <u>Lynn Enge</u> Glenn Rawlings

In Memory Of **Margaret Wade** Therese Perron

In Memory Of **Marilyn Wiens** Betty & Andy Leishman Therese Perron

> In Memory Of Mary E. Parkin Donald & Paulina Bainbridge

In Memory Of Mary Glisinski Kathleen Modeland Mike & Hilda Shmyr

Krys Bednarski Elsie Mask Vic & Madge Prokopchuk Pioneer Center Monique Robinson

In Memory Of

Meta McMillan Fergy Wilson In Memory Of Michal Eliuk **Eunice Hamilton**

In Memory Of Michelle LaQuerre Doug & Marlene Hoard

Paul Hosick

In Memory Of Mick O'Flaherty Linda & Verne Craven

In Memory Of **Mitch Wicheruk**

Hank & Carol Huber Ed Newman

In Memory Of Nan MacIver Betty & Andy Leishman Robert Moffatt

Tim Fairbairn Sandra & Peter Halasz Dave Ogden Walter Kristjanson

Paul Hosick Ross & Diane MacIver Monique Robinson

Ed & Barb Thurier In Memory Of **Nathaniel Scott** Donald & Paulina

Bainbridge

Vic & Madge Prokopchuk In Memory Of Olga Beyak **Betty Bisset** Ida Stewart Bohdan Danylchuk Sonia Hosfield Ralph Brown Kathleen Modeland Fay Jewell John Beyak

Ollie Milych Ed Newman Glenn Rawlings Ed and Barb Thurier Michael & Rochelle O'Flaherty Robert Moffatt Mary Dyck Hank & Carol Huber Monique Robinson

In Memory Of **Pauline Roy** Hank & Carol Huber

Barbara Elizabeth Ehelebe **Ida Stewart**

In Memory Of Rodney Docking Wayne & Ida Docking

In Memory Of **Rose Teeple** Monique Robinson

In Memory Of Samara Rayanne Hayes Hugh White

> In Memory Of **Thomas Pooley** Ruth Pooley

In Memory Of Tom Hainey Joan Hainey

In Memory Of Vera Riley Olga Birchard

In Memory Of **Violet Fraser** Helen Stevens Paul Money Daniel & Teresa MacLean

> In Memory Of **Warren Tuomi** A.D.A.D.S. Monique Robinson

In Memory Of **William Snow** Evelyn Ashford Mary Dyck Joyce Gouliquer Ev Human Lotte Piechota Beverly Veran

In Memory Of **Zofia Fiedler** Beverly Veran Center for Cancer and **Blood Disorders** Betty & Andy Leishman Aniela Libera

Wanda Zygmunt **General Donations**

Owen Boland Stu Boland Bert Booth Les Cain Louise Clement Kim & Lanny Cross

Marlene & Bruce Davidson Leo Goranson Florence Hamel Hank & Carol Huber Herbert & Vi Humphreys June Hurlen & John

Galesloot Allan & Mary Kerr Angela Kooper Margaret MacKay Janice Matichuk Frank McNally Linda Morelli Dave Ogden Vanessa Smith Ida Stewart Deloris Veran Evelyn Veran

Bernice Wensley Wanda Zygmunt Canadian Union of Postal Workers CUPW Catholic Women's League-St. Patrick Parish Down Wash Holdings Ltd. Ontario Power Generation -Employees & Pensioners Ontario Power Generation-Capital Projects

RBC Royal Bank Toronto Dominion Bank Welcome Wagon LTD

Today I'm Working for My Hospital Donations Michelle Anderson

Krystal Bain

Krys Bednarski Val Bolen Patti Botham Debbie & Allan Bruyere Lorraine Calder Roberto Campanaro Cara Chambers Maria Cornell Kim & Lanny Cross Tracy Danis **Bridget Davidson** John Fotheringham Susan Girard Christine Grant

Tanis Hampshire

Alaina Herbert

Robert Herrmann

Yvonne Hutton

Roberta Kehl Wendy Kempf Joan McIntosh Carla Milo Linda Morelli Catherine Reilly Liz Shine **Judith Simmons** Wayne Smith Joanne Spencer Ann Stevens Sara Van Der Loo

Valerie Johnson

Robert & Louise Wilson Atikokan Family Health Team Atikokan Fix It Club Atikokan Foodland **AGH Employees** Atikokan Home Hardware C.I.B.C. staff Family & Children's Services

Gillon's Insurance Brokers M & C Motors Moffatt Supply Pioneer Center Quetico North **RBC** Employees Robin's Donuts Toronto Dominion Bank

Celebration of Friends

Voyageur Bait & Tackle

Donations Don Alexander **Ivy Angus** Evelyn Ashford Ray Bernatchez Gino Bertoldo Walter Beyak Owen Boland Ralph Brown Rick & Lori Cain Clifford Cunningham Henry Cunningham Russ Desserre

Ray & Ruth Dayman Maria Donohue Bill Dunnet Ole Dyhm Ruby Ellek Howard Foshang

Bill Fotheringham Edmund Fredrickson Darryl Gannon Charles Girard Kay Gowerluk Olive Hache Erich Henze Mary Hoard

Werner Kaus Allan & Mary Kerr Angela Kooper Elsa Kosola Walter Kristjanson

Mark Labossiere Marjorie Lambkin Elsa Latell Antonio Marinaro

Michael McKinnon Pekka Natti Myrtle Parkinson Therese Perron Frank Quinn & Elaine

Theresa Shannon Mike & Hilda Shmyr **Judith Simmons** Anne Spilchuk Sheron Suutari

Margaret Thurier Jim Wasylenki Bernice Wensley

Robert & Louise Wilson Lou Ann Manns Anglican Church Women Nite Club Restaurant

OPSEU Local 725 Ontario Power Generation employees of AGS

A note about donations

All money received from donations is used to purchase vital medical equipment. All donations are tax deductible.

Charitable registration #85495 5705 RR 0001.

The Atikokan General Hospital Foundation periodically publishes names in the newspaper. We will respect your wishes if you do not want to have your name publicized. Please contact us at (807)597-4215 ext.350 or via email at

foundation@aghospital.on.ca, and we will respond to your request.

NOTE: On-line donations can now be accepted at www.aghospital.on.ca/foundation



From page 8

understand other people. Conditions such as MS or Parkinson's disease can change how clearly a person is able to speak and how well they are able to chew and swallow their food.

As humans, we need communication skills to meet our social needs. When communication is challenging, people of all ages feel frustrated. Children may have behavior problems; adults and seniors may feel isolated. Professional help for communication problems is available from a registered Speech-Language Pathologist. If you are concerned about your child's or your own communication, speak to your doctor.

Amanda Rietschlin is a registered speech-language pathologist, working with Atikokan General Hospital.



AGH pitches in for Atikokanites in need: Board and staff joined forces this year to help the ANFC food bank; the board by donating \$1,000 to the food bank and the staff through an in-house drive for non-perishable food items. We caught: CEO Bob Wilson and staffers Kira Schan, Donna Mallard, Sherri Bailey, Paulette Stevenson, Val Bolen, Lorraine Calder, Sandy Cenerini, Tracy Danis, Sherry Manford, and Krys Bednarski. On behalf of the AGH board, Wilson also presented a \$1,000 cheque to the Christmas Cheer fund (below), accepted here by the committee's Alex Broski. The money comes from the board's Christmas fund, usually used for staff Christmas gifts; the board and staff opted out of them this year, in recognition of the economic hardships currently felt by many Atikokanites.

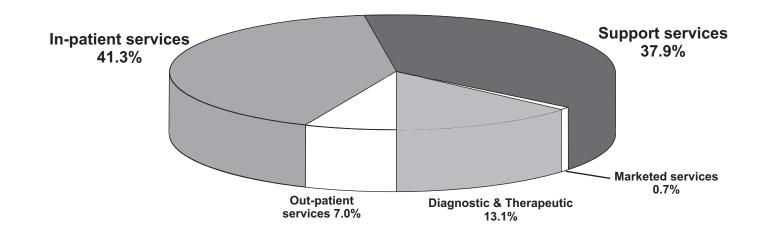


2009-10 Financial Statement

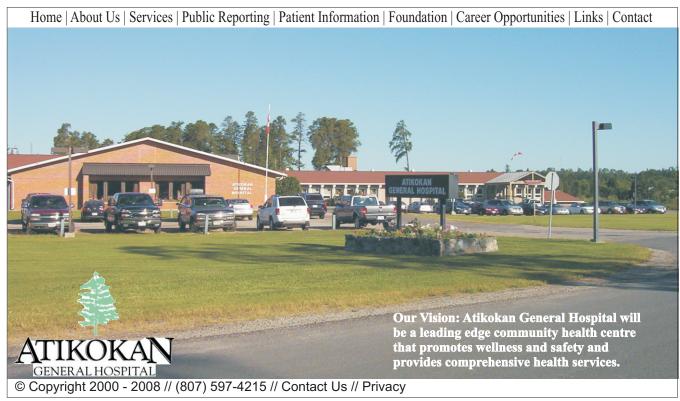
Revenue by Source	2008/09			2009/10		
Ministry of Health/LHIN Funding Allocation	\$	6,455,697	74.05%	\$	6,642,181	77.23%
Other Programs	\$	828,299	9.50%	\$	831,096	9.66%
Other Non-Ministry Revenue from Patient Services	\$	474,532	5.44%	\$	419,390	4.88%
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	\$	694,888	7.97%	\$	507,636	5.90%
Deferred Capital Contributions	\$	264,675	3.04%	\$	199,742	2.32%
Total Revenues	\$	8,718,091	100.00%	\$	8,600,045	100.00%
Expenses by Type of Expenditure						
Salaries & Wages	\$	4,462,667	51.19%	\$	4,686,378	54.49%
Employee Benefits	\$	1,008,252	11.57%	\$	1,080,641	12.57%
Medical Staff Fees	\$	102,092	1.17%	\$	100,604	1.17%
Medical and Surgical Supplies	\$	105,395	1.21%	\$	109,756	1.28%
Drugs	\$	160,830	1.84%	\$	145,414	1.69%
Supplies & Other Expenses	\$	1,345,123	15.43%	\$	1,225,184	14.25%
Bad Debts	\$	770	0.01%	\$	1,515	0.02%
Depreciation	\$	456,463	5.24%	\$	425,828	4.95%
Other Programs	\$	830,584	9.53%	\$	831,096	9.66%
Total Expenses	\$	8,472,176	97.18%	\$	8,606,416	100.07%
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$	245,915	2.82%	\$	(6,371)	-0.07%
TOTAL	\$	8,718,091	100.00%	\$	8,600,045	100.00%

**This financial information is based on the twelve month period April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010.

Operating expense by type of service



N A N C E S



Our website: www.aghospital.on.ca

Want the latest on Atikokan General Hospital? Visit our website, the portal to your community hospital. The website contains current information on all aspects of AGH:

Governance: Board info (members, meetings, committees, etc.), strategic plans, annual reports, accreditation reports, staff survey info

Services: Patient services, physician services, learning opportunities, community health services, Community Counselling

Public Reporting: The Ministry of Health now asks hospitals to report an increasing number of patient safety indicators, including the incidence of hospital-based infections, hand hygiene compliance, and more.

Patient Information: This section provides information on how you can be involved in your health care, and how you can get the best treatment we can offer.

AGH Foundation: What it is and how it works are explained. The Foundation also offers information here on leaving a legacy, planned giving and estate planning to maximize the benefits of charitable donations.

Career opportunities: The latest on positions available at the hospital, including details on the community of Atikokan and even employment application forms.

Links and Hospital contacts.

When it comes to communication problems, 'wait and see' is not the way to go

One is the Loneliest Number

Amanda Rietschlin

Communication is a basic human social need. Humans need to feel a sense of belonging and acceptance, whether it comes from participating in large social groups, such as clubs, religious groups or office culture, or through small social connections, such as with family members, friends or close colleagues. To develop and maintain these connections, we rely on communication skills: our ability to share our needs, thoughts and ideas with others while listening and understanding them in return. Without decent communication skills, people may be left feeling isolated, frustrated and depressed.

Statistics indicate that 1 in 10 Canadians have a speech, language or hearing impairment. According to the latest estimates, this means that more than one million Ontarians require the services of an audiologist or speech-language pathologist. Speech and language disorders can affect people of all ages, from the youngest baby to the oldest senior. Since communication is such a basic need, hearing and speech problems cannot be ignored.

Speech and language develop from birth. Children should respond to their name by the age of 9 months, and be able to say 3 to 5 words by their first birthday. By the time of their second birthday, toddlers should be able to put 2 to 4 words together in a short phrase (e.g. "daddy hat", "truck go down") and follow two-step directions (e.g. "Go find your teddy bear and show it to Grandma"). Around the age of 3, children should be able to understand who, what, where and why questions and speak clearly enough that most people outside the family can understand them most of the time. Five-year-olds should be able to describe past, present and future events in detail. Speech and language development milestones for babies and preschoolers can be found on the Internet. The milestones listed above were taken from the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services Preschool Speech and Language brochures.

If you think that your child is having problems developing language, it's important to get help right away. It's seldom in the child's best interest to adopt a 'wait and see' approach. Early therapy can improve your child's readiness for school, improve your child's self-esteem and confidence, prevent problems from getting worse, help your child get along with others, decrease frustration and reduce

behaviour problems. School-age and beyond

Language development continues through the school-age years. Warning signs for problems in speech and language development can include: speaking in incomplete sentences; seems unable to follow oral directions; has difficulty playing or communicating with friends; or struggles with reading and writing despite good oral language skills. Children who are unable to express themselves well may have behaviour difficulties such as aggressive behaviour or temper tantrums. Again, it is important to get help for children when a problem is recognized, rather than adopting a 'wait and see' approach.

Aging can be accompanied by health changes that bring about changes in speech, language or swallowing abilities. For example, aphasia after a stroke may cause a person to experience difficulty expressing themselves in speaking, difficulty understanding others, and difficulty reading and writing. Sadly, aphasia can mask a person's intelligence and ability to communicate feelings, thoughts and emotions. Alzheimer's and other dementias can affect a person's ability to speak and use words and

See 'Speech-language', page 7

Aggressive effort to prevent falls among the elderly launched

Atikokan Progress October 5, 2009

For older adults, falling can mean injury, the end of independence, reduced activity, social isolation, and even death. Ironically the fear of falling - whether in the home or on the street - can actually increase that risk.

A partnership of Atikokan healthcare agencies has now launched a mobile 'fall prevention' program for seniors here, the first of its kind in the district.

The project will provide in-home assessments to seniors who may be at risk for falls, and is part of a regional falls prevention coalition funded through the Northwest Local Health Integration Network.

The idea to take the project out to the community - and into the homes of seniors - was the result of a brainstorming session amongst members of Atikokan's partner agencies at last fall's district program training in Thunder Bay.

Representatives from Atikokan General Hospital, Atikokan Family Health Team, ComCare, and the District Mental Health Services for Older Adults Program devised the mobile model, which differs from most, which are based in extended care facilities.

"Most falls happen in the home, and we want to prevent falls but also hospital admissions [and] emergency room visits, with any of those potentially leading to [eventually requiring] long-term care," said AGH occupational therapist Amanda Dickson.

In Ontario, falls accounted for 59% of ER visits, with many leading to long-term disability. The North has the highest fall injury rates in the province.

According to the *Report on Seniors Falls in Canada*, a 20% reduction in falls would result in a national savings of \$138 million annually (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2005).

The mobile project here will initially see clients through physician referrals, and from there FHT nurse Keira Lacosse will assess clients' risk factors, including medical and medication history (multiple medications and potential interactions can cause dizziness, leading to a fall), environmental obstacles (risks within the home), and nutritional and fitness needs (if poor nutrition or physical fitness could contribute to a fall). The nurse will also explore an ironic and prevalent risk for many older adults - the fear of falling.

That fear means "people tend to become less mobile, stay in their home more, which leads to strength loss, and poor balance, which leads to a greater risk of falling," said Dickson.

Lacosse will consult with the pharmacist if medication is a causative factor, as well as assess any possible need for vision and hearing checks, dietitian assessment (who can provide tips such as taking calcium supplements to support bone health and avoiding dehydration), or mental health counselor assistance. Patients may also be screened for possible Parkinson's Disease symptoms, said Lacosse.

Dickson will provide physical and home assessments and make recommendations to reduce the risk of falling in the home. Those recommendations can include improved lighting, using double-sided tape on rugs, grab bars, and assistive devices the patient may require.

After assessments are completed, Bob Botham of the Family Health team will conduct a follow-up visit to ensure patients are receiving and implementing these preventative measures and devices. If not, he will try to assess the reason, and address those obstacles. For example, he said if the client feels they cannot afford assistive devices, he will tell them about available funding assistance.

Over the next few months, the program will begin accepting self referrals.