

Family Health Teams announced for Goderich and Seaforth

To meet the needs of rural Ontario a new approach to primary health care has been introduced. Goderich and Seaforth's proposals were among the first accepted by the Minister of Health & Long Term Care. The Goderich proposal suggested a team of up to 12 physicians, six nurse practitioners, a dietician, lab technician, diabetic nurse, social worker and Community Care Access worker who would work under one roof. Under the Goderich proposal nurse practitioners and other medical support staff will play a much larger role in providing health care. Seaforth's proposal plans to deal with orphan patients throughout Huron County.

Family Health Teams serve as a focus for chronic disease management and community-based health promotion and disease prevention activities in conjunction with local public health units and other community-based health care organizations. Family Health Teams may include, as appropriate, mental health workers, physician specialists, diagnostic services, linkages to home care services, and some outpatient surgery services.

All Ontarians deserve the very best health care.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is committed to working with our province's dedicated health care professionals to make a system that is more patient-centred and more responsive to local needs.

Primary Health Care is the "navigator" of the health care system, providing clinical services as close to home as possible, system access, and continuity of care.



Honourable George Smitherman tours the Alexandra Marine & General Hospital

Government Continues To Reduce Health Care Wait Times

The government is funding more than 42,000 additional medical procedures so that thousands more Ontarians have better access to cataract surgeries, hip and knee replacements and MRI exams.

The government wants to make sure Ontarians get the health care they need sooner. This initiative will dramatically increase the capacity of the health care system so that more patients are treated and people wait less time for health care services.

The announcement is supported by a \$39 million investment and is part of this year's wait time funding commitment of \$154 million. This year's commitment will increase the number of medical procedures in areas associated with a high degree of disease and disability. It is part of the largest increase in cataract surgeries, hip and knee replacements, and MRI exams in more than a decade.

The \$39 million announcement will result in 42,761 more procedures:

- ◆ 3,387 more hip and knee joint replacements
- ◆ 8,096 more cataract surgeries
- ◆ 31,278 more MRI exams.

This funding will make sure people receive better access to life-changing medical procedures. As well, it means thousands more Ontarians will regain their mobility and independence, others will get their eyesight restored while still more will receive timely MRI exams so their doctors can decide what's the best treatment for them.



The provincial government is putting more money into the hospitals in Huron-Bruce. This is the Kincardine Hospital and Medical Centre.

South West Local Health Integration Network

The Network has been established this year to change the delivery of health care services in Ontario. It is a community-based organization that will plan, coordinate and fund health care services at the local level. There will be 14 LHINS in Ontario. The website www.lhins.on.ca has been set up to keep you informed on the developments as additional board members are recruited and consultation is carried on in the community.

For information **1-866-294-5446**.



Norman Pickell, Chair of the Board of the Alexandra Marine & General Hospital, Carol, Honourable George Smitherman and hospital CEO Bill Thibert



X-Ray technologist Caroline Koricina, South Huron Hospital CEO Deb Hunt, Board member John Hanson, X-Ray technologist Yvonne Neeb and Carol at the X-ray unit at the South Huron Hospital.

Seniors & Healthcare

ACTION Line is a province-wide toll free information and complaint line for Long-Term Care Home residents and their families (1-866-434-0144).

The website (www.health.gov.on.ca) provides information to seniors and their families about individual Long-Term Care Homes and their records of care.

Health Cards

To register or to replace your health card for:

- ◆ new residents to Ontario
- ◆ lost, damaged or stolen health cards
- ◆ marriage or surname change
- ◆ renewals notice
- ◆ change of address

Three original documents are required:

- ◆ Canadian citizenship or immigration documents
- ◆ current document with your name and address
- ◆ document with your name & signature
- ◆ plus original marriage certificate for name change

Call **1-888-376-5197** for an appointment.



Martin Bokhout, MD discusses the situation at the Clinton Public Hospital with Carol.

**CONTACT
INFO**

Constituency Offices:

49 Albert Street
Clinton, ON N0M 1L0

Tel: **519-482-5630** Fax: **519-482-3149**
Toll Free (within riding): **1-800-668-9320**

Email: cmitchell.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

322 Lambton Street
Kincardine, ON N2Z 1Y9

Tel: **519-396-3007** Fax: **519-396-3011**
Toll Free (within riding): **1-866-396-3007**

Website: www.carolmitchell.ca



Let Me Know About Your Experiences with
Ontario's Health Care System

You do not need to identify yourself. Add you comments at the bottom.

1. Have you a family physician? Yes No
2. When did you last see a physician? Six Months One Year Two Years Longer
3. When was the last time you used your community hospital? Six Months One Year Two Years Longer
4. Did you use the Emergency Room? Yes No
5. Have you used a hospital outside your community? Yes No
If "Yes"... London Stratford Owen Sound Other
4. Wait Times: Are you waiting for... a) MRI Yes No
b) Hip/knee replacement Yes No
c) Cataract surgery Yes No
d) Other (please specify) _____
5. If you are on a waiting list how long it has been since your physician referred you? _____
6. Have you used the Trillium Drug Plan? Yes No
7. If you are a senior have you used the Senior's Drug Benefit Plan? Yes No
8. Do you know what services the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) provide? Yes No
9. Have you used services from the CCAC? Yes No
10. Have you used the Telehealth (1-866-797-0000) phone service? Yes No
11. Please check age bracket... under 20 20-35 36-55 56-66 67+
12. Other comments: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Return to: Carol Mitchell, MPP Huron-Bruce
Box 1794, Clinton, Ontario N0M 1L0



Carol Mitchell, MPP
Huron-Bruce



Winter Report 2006

Dear Friends:

This newsletter will deal with the important issue of health care. Health care is the government's top priority. We are attempting to create a health care system which will allow you to have access to the best possible care possible closest to home. This year there was more than \$14,000,000 in additional funding for Huron-Bruce. This money went to local hospitals, long-term facilities, CCAC's and other health providers; but more than money is needed. We are making the delivery of our programs more efficient and we must work on the prevention of health problems.

Goderich and Seaforth were designated for Family Health Teams. They were among the first 55 named in April. There will be 150 Family Health Teams by 2007. We are continuing to reduce wait times, and improve access to quality health care. Wait times will be made available to the public on the Health & Long term Care website.

The Minister of Health & Long-Term Care was in Goderich to tour the new clinic and speak to the staff of the Alexandra Marine & General Hospital staff. He spoke at the Ontario Small Urban Municipalities conference.

To increase the number of physicians in Ontario we are increasing medical school enrollment by 15% over four years, beginning in 2005. This translates into 104 new spaces. We have increased the number of residency positions for international medical graduates from 90 to more than 200. To improve access to family physicians we are expanding the number of family residency positions by 70%. This means 337 more family physicians who can practice in Ontario by 2008.

These achievements, along with the continuing improvements to environmental safeguards, agriculture and community safety and security, mean real results in achieving a quality of life that is second to none.



Larry McCabe, Town of Goderich Clerk shows the Honourable George Smitherman and Carol the new Maitland Recreation Centre.

In order to make more improvements to our healthcare systems I wish to learn from your experiences. Enclosed is a questionnaire on health care. Please fill it in, add your comments and return it to me. I will be holding several public forums on health care to discuss the results. Dates and times will be posted on my website www.carolmitchell.ca and ads will be placed in local newspapers. Let us all work to-gather to make our publicly funded health care system meet our community's needs

Sincerely,

Carol Mitchell, MPP
Huron-Bruce

**Health Care
Phone
Numbers**

Ministry of Health & Long Term Care, London	1-800-664-8988
OHIP Health Cards	1-888-376-5197
Grey-Bruce Health Unit Owen Sound	376-9420 1-800-263-3456
Huron County Health Unit, Clinton	482-3416
Community Care Access Centre Grey-Bruce	1-888-371-2112
Community Care Access Centre Huron, Seaforth	527-0000 1-800-267-0535
Telehealth	1-866-797-0000