

# Hospital board's members are community volunteers

This is the first in a series of articles, provided by the hospital, on the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital aimed at developing public awareness of the range of health services available through the community hospital. This article will provide Halton Hills area residents with an overview of the role of the board of directors and its relationship to the community. Subsequent articles will highlight specific services provided by the hospital to the community.

The role of the board can be characterized as one of advocacy on behalf of the community. The board represents the interests of the community in the operation of the hospital. In a recent interview, board chairman Graeme Goebelle, explained that it exercises this responsibility through its planning function, the approval of policy and by monitoring activities, including quality assurance programs, the review and approval of budgets, and approval of appointments to the medical staff.

Asked how an individual becomes a board member, Mr. Goebelle explained that the board is elected by the hospital membership. Upon payment of the annual membership fee of \$5 within the required time frame, any Halton Hills resident becomes an annual member of the hospital's corporate body, and has the right to vote on business brought before the annual general meeting held usually in June. In addition, those who donate \$100 or more become life members of the hospital, and retain the right, for life, to vote at all annual general meetings. One important item on the agenda of every annual general meeting is the election of directors. Four of the board's 12 elected directors are elected for three-year terms at the annual meeting. In addition to the 12 elected directors, there are six ex-officio directors. The six ex-officio directors include the president of the hospital auxiliary, the chief of

staff, the president of the medical staff associations, two appointees from the Town of Halton Hills, and one appointee from the Region of Halton.

Mr. Goebelle stressed that board members are community volunteers who devote many hours of time to the hospital, and in addition to attending board meetings, directors sit on at least one committee of the board. Mr. Goebelle stated that the executive committee's primary role is "to act on behalf of the board when the board is unable to meet." He stated that the long range planning committee, chaired by Connell Smith, is charged with the responsibility of "dealing with all matters pertaining to future service delivery by the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital and Bennett Health Care Centre." The community relations committee, chaired by Maureen McCallum, is "to advise the board of directors on matters concerning communication with our various constituents." Rick Morrow chairs the quality assurance/patient care committee. Its role is "to monitor and review significant issues/trends and action plans as identified by the hospital quality assurance/patient care committee and medical care evaluation committee, and to recommend actions on these activities." The finance committee, chaired by Barry Kedwell, is "to study matters of a financial nature and make recommendations to the board as required."

The board is also responsible for the appointment of the executive director and the chief of staff. Mark Rochon, the hospital's executive director, is responsible for operating the facility under the policy direction established by the

board. The chief of staff, Dr. Craig Browning, is responsible to the board for the quality of medical care provided to all patients.

After more than two years of negotiations, Mr. Rochon announced the landmark decision on Sept. 8, 1989, in which the Bennett Health Care Centre became part of the hospital. The existing 47-bed nursing home was converted into a 36-bed long term care unit for chronic care patients on Dec. 15, 1989. A new 57-bed nursing home will be developed on site in partnership with the private sector.

Based on the current cost share formula, the Ministry of Health provided \$3.7 million to cover a major portion of the original cost of the Bennett Centre as a chronic hospital facility. About \$1.9 million will be raised locally. The Regional Municipality of Halton has contributed most of the local share.

In addition, the Ministry of Health has provided an operating budget increase of \$2.4 million to cover the operating cost associated with the long term care unit.

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"The community should be aware," noted the executive director, "that the restructuring of the hospital as a full-service health campus not only results in tremendous financial benefits, but the hospital's vision of offering a full range of health care services on one site will be achieved."

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# Three doctors honored for 28-year service

Three members of the medical staff of Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital were recently recognized for 28 years of service. Dr. Ashenhurst, 23 years; Dr. Bourns, 10 years; Dr. Brown-Drs. Alistair Macintosh, Paul Panabaker and Alan Thompson were recognized for the care they have provided since the hospital opened, and were presented with Long Service Awards at the annual hospital staff party, held in December. The party was hosted by the board of directors and medical staff.

Also honored for long service were: Dr. Furness, 18 years; Dr. Halparin, 11 years; Dr. Hoddinott, 20 years; Dr. Jordan, 11 years; Dr. Kennedy, 20 years; Dr. Kumar, 12 years; Dr. Ng, 21 years; Dr. Richards, 21 years; Dr. Trant, 12 years; Dr. Ying, 14 years; and Dr. Landry, 12 years.

The awards were presented by Hospital Board Chairman, Graeme Goebelle, and Past-president of the Medical Staff, Aiden Kennedy, along with Executive Director Mark Rochon.

Maisie Miller, dictary department; Jean Batt, R.N.A., surgical ward; and Michael Kostiuk, maintenance department were all honored with 10-year service awards, as well.

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