



## Ontario Health Team Update

A submission to form the Kawartha Lakes Ontario Health Team (OHT) to better coordinate care and services in the City of Kawartha Lakes has progressed to the status of 'In Development' as announced by the Ministry of Health on July 18th.

Ontario Health Teams are groups of providers and organizations that are clinically and fiscally accountable for delivering a full and coordinated continuum of care to a defined geographic population.

The designation of 'In Development' means that the Ministry is providing additional resources as the partners further develop their submission.

The collaborating partners for the Kawartha Lakes OHT include:

- Client/Indigenous Representatives
- Community Care Health and Care Network
- Ross Memorial Hospital
- Kawartha North Family Health Team
- Extencicare Kawartha Lakes and Lakeland Village
- Brock Community Health Centre
- Canadian Mental Health Association Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge
- CarePartners

The initial focus of the OHT is enhancement of coordinated care and services to frail seniors over 65 years who live alone or have a poor support network, and who have been hospitalized within the last year. As the work of the OHT evolves, the scope of care and services as well as the patient/client/resident focus will expand. Anyone interested in learning more about the OHT process may visit <http://health.gov.on.ca>

## Partnership improves Transitional Care for ALC Patients

**Since January, the Ross Memorial Hospital has been one of several hospitals in the region accessing beds in community retirement homes to provide a more suitable environment for hospital patients awaiting long term care.**

At Ross Memorial, well over one-third of acute care beds are occupied by alternate level of care (ALC) patients who no longer require acute care service, and who are waiting for a bed to come available elsewhere.

Last winter, RMH partnered with Extencicare Kawartha Lakes and Lakeland Village to transfer up to eight appropriate ALC patients to the retirement home. This temporary partnership, called a Short Stay Transitional Care Model, received special funding from the Central East LHIN between January and March.

As the Ross Memorial's ALC challenges persist, the partnership remains in place and the Hospital has applied for an extension on the project funding as well as funding an extension of the model.

The Hospital continues to seek innovative ways to balance patient care needs with limited system capacity. RMH asks that patients and families remember that their transition preparations are vitally important to the healthy transition of patients back to the community.

*"Any preparations patients and families can make in patients' homes to help with their transition after discharge is important," says Anne Overhoff, RMH Chief Nursing Executive. "They need to think about going home – wherever home may be – as soon as they are hospitalized."*

## RMH welcomes new physicians



### Dr. Catherine Conlin – Orthopaedic Surgeon

Dr. Conlin specializes in foot and ankle surgery and is completing a Fellowship in Arthroplasty & Trauma Orthopaedic Surgery. She will join the RMH staff full time in January 2020.

"I'm excited to be starting at Ross Memorial. One of the things that excites me most is the community of Lindsay and the Kawartha Lakes itself. I grew up on a farm and had always hoped to return to a similar rural area. I have family ties to the City of Kawartha Lakes, and can't wait to join them in this vibrant community. I look forward to serving the community through foot and ankle care, hip and knee replacements, and orthopaedic trauma care."



### Dr. Carl Seaton – Hospitalist

Dr. Seaton comes to RMH from Smiths Falls, Ontario where he worked as a Hospitalist for the past few years. Dr. Seaton joined the Hospitalist team full time in August.

"I have always preferred practising medicine as well as living in a small town, and the beauty of the Kawartha Lakes area was a perfect fit for my family. I chose Ross Memorial Hospital because a colleague of mine who worked at Ross in the recent past suggested that I explore this hospital as an option because of the exceptional collegiality of the medical community and the very supportive work environment. After touring the hospital and the community and also doing a locum I was satisfied that both the community and the hospital would be a perfect fit."



### Dr. Mostafa El-Beheiry – General Surgeon

Dr. El-Beheiry is completing a Fellowship in Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery. He is taking referrals for common General Surgery problems with a special focus on foregut complaints and minimally invasive approaches.

"It was a mentor who recommended this community to me, and when I met the General Surgery team, they sold the community well as a great place to start a community practice. The Hospital team is very kind and welcoming. I grew up in Mississauga and the Kawartha Lakes are close to my family and friends. This is an excellent job for me."



### Dr. Katie Krause – Geriatrician

Dr. Krause will provide specialized geriatric consultation for RMH inpatients beginning in October.

"I chose Ross Memorial Hospital and the City of Kawartha Lakes for many reasons. The community and location are lovely and both remind me of Northern Ontario, where I grew up. The leadership at the hospital expressed a keen interest in making Ross a senior friendly environment. Their commitment to help me build upon their current senior services and to develop a division of geriatrics was a big draw. Finally, my interactions with patients and family members while visiting Ross were really positive and displayed the community's genuine appreciation for its healthcare providers."