

# St. Francis Memorial Hospital

## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **SFMH wins award for excellence in health care partnerships**

St. Francis Memorial Hospital (SFMH) has received an award of excellence from the Ontario Hospital Association, recognizing its innovative leadership in establishing partnerships to expand and improve health services in the Madawaska Valley.

Randy Penney, SFMH's CEO, and Chief Operating Officer Jeremy Stevenson accepted the 2012 Small, Rural and Northern Award of Excellence at an awards ceremony in Toronto on Tuesday, November 6. The award recognizes excellence and innovation in providing patient care in small rural hospitals, specifically SFMH's success in integrating services with other health partners in the community, including the Renfrew Victoria Hospital.

"I'd like to congratulate St. Francis Memorial Hospital on its outstanding achievement," said Pat Campbell, OHA President and CEO. "By working with system partners, the hospital has demonstrated great leadership—putting patient needs first and creating better linkages across organizations."

"Better system integration means improved access to timely, well-coordinated health services, a top priority for people living in small, rural or northern communities because they face many significant challenges," Campbell explained.

"It's humbling to receive this honour," said Penney, who is also president and CEO of the Renfrew Victoria Hospital (RVH). "But, it tells us that we are on the right track. Ultimately our focus remains on what is best for our patients. I would like to thank our Board, our staff, volunteers and physicians for their on going support. As I indicated at the presentation, I accept this award on their behalf and behalf of our community partners."

SFMH's partnership initiatives stretch back to 1999, when it began sharing resources with RVH, including administration, information technology specialists, radiologists and medical imagery services. Over the years, SFMH has continued to integrate systems and expand partnerships that not only increase health services for patients, but also provide cost and resource efficiencies.

"It is a great honour to receive this prestigious award," Stevenson said. "It recognizes all the work, vision, success and support of many individuals and organizations to capitalize on existing partnerships, create more coordinated care and improve access for patients through the entire continuum of care."

"None of this would have been possible without all the efforts and support from our local health partners, who meet together regularly to collaborate every month, and the Champlain LHIN," Stevenson added. SFMH was also instrumental in partnering with local health providers to create the Madawaska Communities Circle of Health in 2010, the first full community integration

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working group in the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), which includes 14 member organizations.

Over the years, SFMH has been involved in many partnership projects, including construction of the St. Francis Health Centre nearby with a tunnel to link the two facilities. The health centre houses five physicians, laboratory services, dialysis, ophthalmology, public health, orthopedics, geriatric mental health, a community care access centre, internal medicine, audiology and an addiction treatment centre.

In 2011, SFMH undertook another integration project with the renovation of its ambulance services building to house the Barry's Bay and Area Senior Citizen's Home Support Services.

SFMH also partnered with the Rainbow Valley Community Health Centre to expand services to the Killaloe area, marking the first partnership of its kind in the province.

Other integration initiatives in the works include a feasibility study to locate the Valley Manor long-term care home closer to the hospital. SFMH is also working with the Madawaska Valley Hospice Palliative Care group looking at creating a two-bed hospice in the facility.