



St. Francis Memorial Hospital News Release

Quality care improvements, balanced budget mark successful 50th Anniversary year for St. Francis Memorial Hospital

A balanced budget, full hospital accreditation and a move toward integration of services are highlights of St. Francis Memorial Hospital's annual report for the 2010–2011 fiscal year.

"We had a very successful year," says SFMH Board Chair Jasna Boyd. "The hospital moved out of a deficit position, while overcoming several challenges and greatly improving the quality of health care in our community. We are very proud of how the SFMH team—which includes staff, professionals, volunteers, board members as well as members of the community—worked together to achieve so much during the past year."

The hospital was awarded a full three-year accreditation, with 98% of standards being met. "That demonstrates a very high level of compliance with Canadian accreditation standards," comments Chief Operating Officer Jeremy Stevenson. "At the same time we moved forward in four strategic directions: quality care, strength of people, system integration and financial performance."

The hospital focused on patient safety programs that dealt with medication reconciliation, least restraint, fall prevention and infection control. The 8 Steps to Patient Safety was developed to guide patients in how to become more involved in their own care.

The hospital received increased funding and services for its dialysis program, which allows more people to receive dialysis locally and cuts down on the stress and cost of long-distance travel for treatment.

SFMH also developed a model for sharing information technology (IT) staff with other community partners. The goal is to better address the need for IT services, as well as to standardize the services, and identify efficiencies while assisting in staff retention.

In support of the hospital's recruitment efforts, physicians and nursing staff hosted medical students throughout the year. By introducing medical students to the community, the hospital can increase the possibility of the students returning upon graduation, Stevenson notes.

SFMH also participated in the creation of the first full community integration working group in the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (CLHIN). The Madawaska Valley Communities Circle of Health Integration working group, is working to integrate services in order to provide the highest possible quality of care and most efficient services for our communities.

SFMH secured funding from the LHIN to renovate the ambulance building to help drive integration and further build the local health care hub. This initiative saw the immediate collocation with our community partner: Barry's Bay and Area Seniors Home Support (CSS), and the future opportunity to co-locate with Mental Health. Other members of the local health care hub, which are located in the St. Francis Health Centre include: the Community Care Access Centre, dialysis, physician offices, Addiction Treatment Services, the Public Health program, optometry, ophthalmology, audiology, orthotics, and Gamma Dynacare Labs.

SFMH is involved in the first full integration of a Community Health Center (CHC) with a hospital in the Province. This integration of the Rainbow Valley CHC is hoped to provide sustainability and improve care and services. With this initiative SFMH has also successfully recruited a physician and a nurse practitioner.

Other integration projects are at various stages, including:

- A pilot Community Care Access Centre Nursing Clinic has been extended to the fall of 2012;
- Address opportunities of collocation with other health partners: mental health services to be included in the future;
- A feasibility study is being carried out to address the potential rebuild and collocation of Valley Manor Long Term Care Home

As part of its efforts to reduce strain on the hospital's coffers, SFMH also introduced a two-year salary freeze for all management and non-union staff.

In order to maintain and improve SFMH's quality of patient care, a five-year plan was developed to address the need for updated equipment.

The importance of buying this equipment cannot be overstated. "The future of SFMH and health care in this region depends on the hospital's ability to keep pace with changing technology and to constantly improve its quality of care," Stevenson says. "The hospital must update its infrastructure and equipment to maintain its services, quality of care and safety for patients."

Raising funds to address the hospital's equipment needs will present a real challenge for the future! SFMH is looking for community support to ensure that we can continue to provide the highest quality of patient care and services!

If you can help, please forward your donation to SFMH Foundation, PO Box 129, 7 St. Francis Memorial Drive, Barry's Bay, ON K0J 1B0, or contact the Foundation office, 613-756-3045 ext. 217, to join the Monthly Giving Club.

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