

# Executive Report

July 25, 2007

## Report from the OHA

### e-Health Adoption Survey Officially Launched

On July 26, 2007, the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) launched its annual e-Health Adoption Survey with an e-mail invitation to designated survey coordinators at 152 hospital corporations across Ontario.

A key component of Ontario's e-Health vision is the establishment of shareable electronic data to improve the quality, access, accountability, and coordination of health services. The survey will gather information about the implementation of e-Health-related electronic data collection, use, and sharing in Ontario's hospitals.

Through this survey, hospitals will have the opportunity to benchmark their level of e-Health adoption in relation to previous years, as well as in relation to their peers; identify organizational strengths and vulnerabilities in particular foundational e-Health areas; and allow organizations to learn and leverage the successes of their peers.

To build on the success of the survey from the past two years and the increasingly prominent role of e-Health in Ontario, all hospitals are encouraged to participate. Last year's participation rate was over 95%. The deadline for the 2007 e-Health Adoption Survey is **Friday, August 3, 2007**.

If you have any questions about the survey, misplaced your email containing your individual link, or would like to enquire about your organization's survey coordinator, contact Martha Murray at [mmurray@oha.com](mailto:mmurray@oha.com) or 416-205-1312.

### OHA Undertakes Workspace Renewal

Over the next few months, Members who visit the OHA offices in Toronto will see a number of noticeable changes unfolding. On July 3, 2007, construction as part of the OHA's Workspace Renewal initiative began. This was a significant milestone in a project that began in December 2006 and will

span over a year to March 2008. The OHA is undertaking this initiative for a number of reasons, the most important of which is the desire to refresh and revitalize the office space to help achieve a more functional and welcoming environment for the thousands of Members, Board Members, and guests who pass through its doors each day.

The workspace changes will also allow the OHA to provide more and better space to accommodate meetings and educational courses, as well as the opportunity to take advantage of innovative products and techniques. New audio/visual equipment for meeting rooms will help the OHA stay better connected to Members, while methods of maximizing the natural light throughout the office will create brighter, more practical meeting and work spaces.

For further information, contact Warren DiClemente at [wadiclemente@oha.com](mailto:wadiclemente@oha.com) or 416-205-1366.

### Accessible Information and Communications Readiness Assessment

The Accessibility Directorate of Ontario (ADO) of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, has established a Standards Development Committee to develop a standard for making information and communications accessible to people with disabilities. The Standards Development Committee is made up of representatives from various sectors, including health care.

KPMG has been engaged by the Ministry to conduct a survey to gather information on how to provide information and communication to customers, clients and consumers, including those with disabilities. The objective of the web-based survey is to provide an assessment of current practices related to the provision of information and communication to the public and on any accessibility practices that are currently being used.

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# Report from the OHA (continued)



This will help establish the current level of readiness for improving accessibility in a considered manner. The survey can be completed in confidence at <http://ado.atrc.utoronto.ca/> until July 27, 2007.

For further information, contact Don Halpert, Chief Human Resources Officer, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre at 807-684-6220 or [Halpertd@tbh.net](mailto:Halpertd@tbh.net). Mr. Halpert is the OHA Representative on the Information and Communications Standards Development Committee.

## Technical Amendments to the Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA)

On June 4, 2007, the *Health System Improvements Act, 2007* (HSLA) received Royal Assent. Schedule "H" of the Act contains a number of amendments to PHIPA, which came into force on that date. The amendments to PHIPA were to effectively bring in provisions that were previously contained in Regulation 329/04 under PHIPA with the intention of making the legislation easier to understand.

Under subsection 74(6) of PHIPA, where the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care determines that a potential regulation under the Act is of a minor or technical nature, then the requirements for a formal, 60-day public consultation do not apply. The Minister is required to provide public notice of such a determination and did so in the July 21, 2007 edition of the *Ontario Gazette*.

The Minister determined that the provisions in Regulation 329/04, which were effectively brought into PHIPA, were redundant and as such needed to be repealed. The Minister exercised his right under section 74 to by-pass public consultation and Regulation 329/04 was amended on July 21, 2007 to reflect these changes. For a copy of the July 21, 2007 edition of the *Ontario Gazette*, which outlines the specific amendments, visit <http://www.gov.on.ca>.

For further information, contact Melissa Radolli at [mradolli@oha.com](mailto:mradolli@oha.com) or 416-205-1322.

## Leading Practices Display Submissions - Thank you!

The OHA's Educational Services would like to thank the individuals who submitted an application and abstract for the OHA/*Healthcare Quarterly* Leading Practices Display at HealthAchieve2007. The OHA appreciates the overwhelming response to the Call for Submissions. Submissions featuring a diverse range of topics were received from health care institutions across the country, as well as the United States. The committee will be reviewing the submissions over the coming weeks and will be notifying all applicants whether their submission has been accepted for display in September.

If you have not received a letter by the middle of September, contact Lina Pallotta at [lpallotta@oha.com](mailto:lpallotta@oha.com) or 416-205-1306.

## OHA HealthAchieve2007 Poster - Inspiring Ideas and Innovation

The OHA HealthAchieve2007 Poster, which details this year's roster of engaging keynote sessions and speakers, is now available. For additional copies, call 416-205-1361 or 416-205-1362.

HealthAchieve brings together more than 8,300 health care professionals from Ontario, Canada, and the world, features over 60 educational sessions and 350 speakers, and is your opportunity to learn about leadership in an environment of change. Over 300 exhibitors will feature on our exhibit floor, the latest innovations in technology and new products, with other highlights including the Leading Practices electronic display and special exhibit areas, such as Silicon Alley, Green Lane, Isabella's Café, the Personal Care Health Centre and the Wellness Studio.

The OHA HealthAchieve Program Highlights, which includes OHA HealthAchieve registration information and complete details on sessions, speakers and exhibitors, will be available in August. For further information regarding OHA HealthAchieve, visit the website at [www.ohahealthachieve.com](http://www.ohahealthachieve.com) or contact Susan Jacobs, 416-205-1364 or [sjacobs@oha.com](mailto:sjacobs@oha.com).

# Report on Health Care

## SEHC Launches Groundbreaking Grants Program

Saint Elizabeth Health Care (SEHC) is investing \$1.5 million to establish a knowledge institute and grants program to enable and seed fund knowledge generation and evidence-informed decision-making within the sector.

Housed within SEHC's School of Thought in Markham, the Care to Know Centre will promote effective linkage and exchange between research, policy and management stakeholders to challenge current thinking and best practices; identify gaps within existing knowledge; evolve new models for home care research; and suggest means for incorporating evidence into management and clinical decision-making.

## Canadian Nurse Graduates From Wharton Fellows Program

SCO Health Service chief nursing officer **Chantale LeClerc** recently graduated from the Johnson & Johnson - Wharton Fellows Program in Management for Nurse Executives, an intensive three-week management education program held at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Ms. LeClerc was one of 39 senior nurse executives selected to participate in the program, which provides participants with critical business and management skills that enables them to be effective leaders in the ever-changing health care industry. This year's participants were from the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan and Brazil.

## SJCG Opens Multiple Sclerosis Clinic

The official opening of the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Clinic at St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) in Thunder Bay took place on May 24, 2007. The prevalence of MS in Northwestern Ontario is one of the highest in the world. In view of this, and considering the costs and other challenges for clients in the region to receive care in MS Clinics in Southern Ontario, the need for a full service MS Clinic was imperative. This clinic,

sanctioned by the MS Society, and working in partnership with other MS Clinics, will allow clients to participate in clinical trials and have access to the newest treatments available.

## TC LHIN Unveils Hip and Knee Replacement Program

Toronto Central (TC) LHIN recently launched a Hip and Knee Replacement Program, based on a comprehensive model of arthritis care, which is designed to reduce wait time for patients needing treatment and to ensure that all patients receive the same high level of quality care through better coordination and delivery of services. The Hip and Knee Replacement Program will benefit patients, physicians and health care organizations by standardizing the entire process of joint care. In so doing, it creates a more efficient, cost-effective and quality care system. Efficiency will occur through a Central Intake Process and an Assessment Centre Process. The Central Intake Process will be the main point for receiving and processing referrals, tracking referrals and creating a paper triage, while the Assessment Centre Process will coordinate referred patients for functional and physical screening by a non-surgical, multi-disciplinary team. For further information about the program, contact **Rhona McGlasson**, Senior Integration Consultant at 416-969-3282.



# Executive Announcements

The Chatham-Kent Health Alliance has welcomed paediatrician, **Dr. Julie Clowater** to its community.

Northumberland Hills Hospital welcomed **Pamela Knott** as its new MRI Charge Technologist on June 25, 2007 and is also pleased to announce that

**Dr. Julian C. Chen** has accepted a position as Radiologist with a start date to be determined.

Humber River Regional Hospital is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Jack Barkin** as Chief of Staff, effective May 1, 2007.

**Allan Kean** has been elected as Chair of the Timmins and District Hospital Board of Directors.

Bluewater Health in Sarnia welcomed **Dr. Saad Elkelani**, Obstetrician/Gynaecologist on July 14, 2007.

## Report from Queen's Park

### MOHLTC Invests in Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has approved the expansion and renovation of the Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital, which will increase access to health care services for residents in the area.

The project will involve redeveloping the patient care, environmental and support service areas of the Smiths Falls site of the Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital. It will also include the demolition of the east wing and construction of a new wing to improve health care services.

The Smiths Falls redevelopment project is one of several hospital projects approved under the ReNew Ontario infrastructure investment plan.

### Minister Announces Funding for Grand River Hospital

Last week, the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care **George Smitherman** announced the government's approval to implement the final stage of redevelopment at Grand River Hospital's Kitchener-Waterloo and Freeport sites. The government is providing an additional \$36 million for the redevelopment of the Kitchener-Waterloo (K-W) Health Centre which will help expand adult, adolescent and children's inpatient mental health services, redevelop the Intensive Care Unit and upgrade ambulatory care, medical imaging and operating room services. The announcement also included an additional \$6 million for the Longer-Term Mental Health project at the Freeport Health

Centre. The funding will support the addition of 50 Longer-Term Mental Health beds to serve the needs of Waterloo Region. Projects at both sites are scheduled to begin in the fall, following the close of tenders and awarding of the construction contract to the successful bidder for each site.

### Ontarians to Benefit from Increased Dialysis Services

The Ontario government made two announcements last week featuring improved access to dialysis services for people with chronic kidney disease. The first announcement came in the form of increased funding and approval to award the construction contract for North Wellington Health Care's renovation of a six-station hemodialysis unit at Palmerston and District Hospital. The new six-station dialysis unit will be a satellite of Grand River Hospital and is part of a comprehensive and integrated chronic kidney disease regional program administered by the hospital. Once completed in spring 2008, the dialysis satellite will provide 5,616 treatments and will serve up to 36 end stage renal disease patients. The second announcement was an investment of \$1.6 million for renovations to support a 12-station dialysis unit at the Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care. Renovations to the ground floor of the Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care will be undertaken to accommodate the 12-station dialysis unit, which will be a satellite of The Scarborough Hospital Regional Centre for Chronic Kidney Disease. Once completed, the dialysis satellite will provide 11,232 dialysis treatments per year for 72 patients with end stage renal disease.



# OHA Conferences

**Institute for Health Care Financial Managers**  
September 10 & 11, 2007  
Renaissance Toronto Hotel Airport  
801 Dixon Rd., Toronto

Together, the OHA and the Health Care Financial Managers Association have designed a conference to address health care issues, improve business performance and review finance issues in the transformation of the health care system. Featured speakers **Evan Solomon** and **Leonard Brody** will provide creative approaches to managing the complex challenges of 21st century business leadership, innovation and competitiveness. The agenda will cover a variety of topics, including an environmental scan of Ontario's health care sector, an update from Ontario's Auditor General, a forecast of economic trends, an industry perspective on career planning, and what's ahead for Ontario Buys. For further information, contact **Shannon Byck Munday** at [sbyckmunday@oha.com](mailto:sbyckmunday@oha.com) or 416-205-1357.

**Essentials Certificate in Health Care Governance**  
September 14, 2007  
Delta London Armouries Hotel  
325 Dundas St., London

How Ontario's hospitals are governed is an increasingly important issue for the general public, the media and, of course, patients. As part of its commitment to leading excellence in governance throughout the health care sector, the OHA is offering this one-day certificate program for new and prospective trustees. This program is designed to help delegates strengthen their leadership skills, as well as orient them to the important role of trustee for a hospital or health care organization. Topics covered throughout the day will focus on increasing delegates' understanding of health care governance and the challenges and opportunities presented by the complexities of hospital operations. The program will also help delegates identify the questions they need to ask in their organizations to ensure they have the information they need to perform their role effectively.

For further information, contact **Josie Mazzola** at [jmazzola@oha.com](mailto:jmazzola@oha.com) or 416-205-1356.

**Region 4 Annual Meeting and Educational Conference**  
September 20 & 21, 2007  
Niagara Falls

New and exciting changes have been made to the format of the OHA's annual Region 4 Educational Conference. With even more time dedicated to discussion and networking throughout the sessions, delegates will have an unprecedented opportunity to work with their colleagues to identify the challenges facing their hospitals and discuss how these challenges can be met. Session topics have been tailored to focus on the timely issues of governance and community engagement, LHINs, alternate-level-of-care (ALC) challenges, and e-Health strategies. Short keynote presentations from industry experts about these issues will be followed by round table discussions.

This two-day conference promises to be interactive and dynamic, offering delegates a unique educational experience that blends learning with information-sharing.

For further information, contact **Joanne Grzywna** [jgrzywna@oha.com](mailto:jgrzywna@oha.com) or 416-205-1341.

**OHA Annual Nutrition and Food Services Conference: New Standards, New Strategy**  
October 1, 2007  
Radisson Admiral Hotel  
249 Queens Quay W., Toronto

Join us at this annual conference as fellow food and nutrition leaders from across the province explore the latest developments, cutting-edge trends and critical issues facing the health care nutrition and food services industry. Chaired by **Cathy Paroschy Harris**, Director, Nutrition and Food Services, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, this year's conference will highlight current issues, including Lean Six Sigma, new standards in accreditation, the "Total Green" Kitchen, by William Inman of Inman Foodservice Group, risk management, and service excellence: where we are now and what is ahead?

This conference attracts the active participation of our industry service providers and is a great opportunity to network and brainstorm with leaders in the health care food service industry while also learning more about the latest in products or service developments. For further information, contact **Sara Simone** at [ssimone@oha.com](mailto:ssimone@oha.com) or 416-205-1314.

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# OHA Conferences (continued)

## Environmental Services Level I and Level II Correspondence Course October 1, 2007 to March 2008

This program has been developed by the OHA in cooperation with the Ontario Healthcare Housekeepers' Association Inc. (OHHA). The primary goal of this certificate program is to consolidate and extend the management skills and technical knowledge required by those persons charged with the responsibility of administering all aspects of environmental services within the health care facility. The program commences with a home study component consisting of nine correspondence units relating to the technical aspects of environmental services. The program concludes with a three day interactive management training program (intramural) in Toronto. For further information, contact Marisa Bavaro at [mbavaro@oha.com](mailto:mbavaro@oha.com) or 416-205-1309.

## Emergency Preparedness: Responding to CBRN Incidents NEW DATES - October 10 & 11, 2007 Metro Toronto Convention Centre (North Building) 255 Front St., W., Toronto

The OHA presents this pre-conference workshop and conference as part of the Emergency Preparedness series. The sessions will provide attendees with a forum to learn about leading practices in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) planning and response from local and international leaders.

### Pre-Conference Workshop, October 10, 2007

Attendees have the opportunity to attend a half-day pre-conference workshop to participate in an Emergency Operations Centre table-top exercise and a CBRN Decontamination Simulation.

Attendance for this pre-conference workshop is limited and early registration is recommended.

### Conference, October 11, 2007

Ontario hospitals play a role in responding to the health impacts of CBRN incidents, whether they are natural or deliberate in nature. As part of the MOHLTC's Emergency Preparedness agenda, all Ontario hospitals that provide emergency/urgent care have received CBRN supplies and equipment, and should be in the process of completing their operational level training. The principles of the program include ensuring provincial standardization, inter/intra-operability, and consistent training across facilities. For further information, contact Shannon Byck Munday at [sbyckmunday@oha.com](mailto:sbyckmunday@oha.com) or 416-205-1357.

## Patient Safety Course October 18 & October 19, 2007 Ontario Hospital Association 200 Front St. W, Suite 2800, Toronto

The patient safety movement was significantly spurred by the Institute of Medicine's report, *To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System 1999*, the creation of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute in 2003, the *Canadian Adverse Events Study* (The Baker Norton report) and the development of the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA's) Patient Safety goals in 2005. The goal of this course is to build on this momentum by providing theoretical knowledge, as well as tools, case studies and examples of applications designed to improve patient safety in a variety of settings. Patient safety principles and evidence-based patient safety practices are presented to assist health care providers and organizations in developing their own effective patient safety programs. For further information, contact Marisa Bavaro at [mbavaro@oha.com](mailto:mbavaro@oha.com) or 416-205-1309.



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