

Dear Editor:

First phase of H1N1 Immunization Program was truly a “Community Wide Effort”

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit would like to thank all the people and agencies that supported us during our efforts to vaccinate over 10,000 people in 9 different communities over 10 days.

Organizing and securing the clinic locations was a key factor. We are grateful to the Upper Canada District School Board for letting us use the Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute site for two days. As well our thanks go to the municipalities, arenas, church halls and service clubs who provided space large enough for us to run our clinics. The City of Brockville and Brockville Memorial Centre staff are to be commended as well for helping us manage such large crowds and giving their space to us at no cost.

We thank the Community Emergency Response Volunteers (CERV), Canadian Blood Service volunteers and other volunteers for all they did to make our clinics successful. Our commissionaires are to be applauded for being efficient and professional in moving the crowds through the line ups. We also had two of our own board of health members assisting with this important task and that was a great help. We would also like to thank the local police who were ready and willing to aid when needed.

We certainly appreciate the support of the primary health care providers and hospitals for immunizing thousands of their patients and staff.

Our local media were very supportive in getting information to the public. Those who put up flyers in their communities and spread the word about our clinics whenever possible were an essential component of our efforts. Bell Canada assisted us quickly in setting up extra phone lines for staff to take hundreds of calls that have been coming in each day.

We would like to thank all the people who came out and patiently stood in long lines waiting to be vaccinated, especially those with young children and those with medical conditions, . We hope you all stay healthy throughout the flu season. Thanks also to those who are now waiting patiently for the next round of vaccinations to start.

And, of course, we could not have done this without our dedicated staff who worked tirelessly to plan, organize, promote, support and then deliver fourteen clinics.

It is inspiring to see community partners band together to help protect our residents during this very different influenza season.

Dr. Anne O. Carter, Medical Officer of Health
THE LEEDS, GRENVILLE AND LANARK DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT