

# BOARD OF HEALTH *Quarterly Report*

ACTIVITIES OF THE LEEDS, GRENVILLE & LANARK DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

September - November 2005

## Medical Officer of Health leaving Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit

On August 24, the Chair of the Board of Health for the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit, Mr. Adrian Van Schie, announced the upcoming departure of Dr. Charles Gardner as the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer. Dr. Gardner has been with the Health Unit since 1998, and will be leaving his position as of October 28<sup>th</sup>. He will be starting as the Medical Officer of Health and Executive Officer of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Dr. Gardner said that it has been a privilege for him to serve the Board, and to work with the staff and partner agencies of the Health Unit since 1998:

*"I wish to take this occasion to commend the members of the Board and the staff for their dedication to the improvement of the health of the population that we serve. I would also like to commend the Board Chairs that I have worked with, Mr. Adrian Van Schie, and Mr. Bill Widenmaier for the leadership that they have shown over the years. We have had many successes in the fulfillment of our mandate, and I will reflect back on my time here with pride in the years to come."*

During Dr. Gardner's time the Health Unit provided leadership in response to a number of health issues: early child development; raccoon rabies; West Nile virus; safe drinking water; food safety; and tobacco bylaw development, injury prevention and safe communities; also healthy nutrition, physical activity, sexual health teaching and dental health in schools; pandemic influenza planning; SARS and infection control. The Health Unit also maintained its accreditation status, receiving another four-year award in 2002. In addition to supporting these initiatives, Dr. Gardner was active on provincial and federal fronts: the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health; the Surveillance Subcommittee - Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee; the Ontario Council for Community Health Accreditation; the Examination Board for the Specialty of Community Medicine with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

*"Dr. Gardner will be missed at the Health Unit for his dedication in providing leadership in the improvement of Health Protection & Promotion", said Van Schie. "Charles always accepted the challenges placed before him and generated a high level of energy around new and innovative thinking processes. He always had the ability to engage the staff by providing them the opportunity to develop the strategy as a team and then supporting the implementation of the process. His involvement on provincial committees has been an asset to the corporation because he was able to network with others and learn from their experiences. I would personally like to wish Charles and his family the best for the future and thank them for the time they spent in our community."*

The Health Unit will be actively pursuing a replacement for Dr. Gardner in the very near future.



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## TUBERCULOSIS - What In The World Is Going On?

*(A joint project of the Brockville General Hospital & The Leeds Grenville, and Lanark District Health Unit)*

*Submitted by Bonnie Erwin, R.N., B.Sc.N., PHN Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control and Outbreak Management*

### **PRESENTER – Dr. Wendy Wobeser, Infectious Disease Specialist, Queen’s University**

Over 40 people attended the noon hour lecture at the Brockville General Hospital on April 20, 2005, titled "TUBERCULOSIS – What In The World is Going On?" Three tri-county hospitals connected another 30 people to the lecture by an audio visual link called Care Connect. The audience was represented by physicians (family doctors, internists), other specialists, medical students, partners from Bug Busters, nurses, and nurse practitioners. The lecture addressed the history of tuberculosis, pres-

ent and future methods of diagnosing the disease, treatment of latent disease, the decision making process used in determining the advisability of prophylactic drugs, and the epidemiology of tuberculosis. A question and answer period followed the presentation.

One month before the lecture, an article discussing the issues of tuberculosis and an announcement of this lecture appeared in the Physicians' Newsletter produced by the Leeds Grenville, and Lanark District Health Unit. Two weeks before the lecture, invitations were placed in all family physician's hospital boxes. Invitations were also mailed to the community health centres and

emailed to all long-term care homes.

Health Unit staff set up displays at the Smiths Falls site of the Perth & Smiths Falls Hospital and at the Brockville General Hospital. The display consisted of posters, examples of resources and handouts. These resources had previously been sent to tri-county family physicians for STOP TB Day March 24, 2005.

For further information or questions please do not hesitate to contact Claire Farella or myself in the Brockville office.

## Summer Safety

*Submitted by Lois Dewey, B.Sc.N., R.N.,  
PHN Injury Prevention*

Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death among Ontario children under five years old, according to new data released July 20, 2005 by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). 'For every child that drowned in 2002-2003, there were 6 to 10 more who almost drowned and required hospitalization,' says Margaret Keresteci, Manager of Clinical Registries at CIHI. 'When you take into account that one in four children in Ontario who experience near-drowning sustain permanent brain damage, you start to get an idea of how vital it is to make water safety a priority.'

Pool safety has been a priority of our Health Unit for the past three years. This year our campaign focused on the message that 'Pools Need Fences – It's the Law'.

### **This campaign included:**

- A message on 'Pools Need Fences – It's the Law' was developed and printed by Zellers Canada in their flyer after consultation with our Health Unit
- The message was used in newspaper ads, articles and radio spots throughout the summer.
- 'Pools Need Fences – It's the Law' information was highlighted on our website
- Presentations were given to parenting groups
- Posters and summer safety information provided to Early Years Centres, recreation centres and day cares
- Posters and tear off sheets on pool and sun safety suitable for distribution to customers, were provided for retailers of pools and pool products
- Posters and tear off sheets on pool and sun safety were also distributed to the municipal offices for display and distribution

### **Points of Interest:**

- We were able to achieve national distribution of our safety message through partnership with Zellers Canada.
- Several municipalities have contacted us, including a municipality outside our area, requesting information on by-laws and copies of the posters.
- The posters were designed, developed and produced at the Health Unit.

# Licensed Daycare Infection Control Evening

Submitted by Martina Flanagan, R.N., B.Sc.N., PHN Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control and Outbreak Management

Education in infection control for daycare and nursery school facilities was identified as a need in the community. The last formal education given to this population was in September 2000. At that time, a manual entitled "Healthy You, Healthy Me" was provided to all licensed daycare providers. The contents of the manual provided information to assist in preventing illness and promoting the health of children and child care providers.

Members of the Infection Control Team, public health inspectors and public health nurses, surveyed licensed daycare facilities to determine the best time for an infection control update. The consensus was a two-hour evening during the week in the spring of 2005.

The 2005 update included the chain of infection, hand washing practices, spread of infection through toys, guidelines for exclusions when children have communicable disease, food safety and the new

publicly funded childhood vaccines. Other Health Unit departments set up display booths on the topics of children's nutrition, dental health, child safety, pool safety and head lice.

A power point presentation was created specifically for the day nursery population.

The licensed daycare facilities in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark were invited through a notice in the May edition of the Nursery Newsletter and an invitation sent by mail.

"Nasty Icky Bugs – Infection Control in the Daycare Setting" was held in

the Smiths Falls office on Tuesday, June 7, 2005 and in the Brockville office on Thursday, June 9, 2005. A total of 21 operators of licensed daycare facilities attended these two presentations.

A package was provided to each daycare facility. The package contained posters on hand washing, hand sanitizing, the food handler certification program, washing dishes properly, sources of contamination, food allergies, antibiotic use, managing human bites in daycare settings, common childhood communicable diseases, reportable diseases, exclusion recommendations and immunization.

Evaluations were very positive. The participants appreciated the infection control power point presentation designed specifically for their needs. One participant stated that if she were asked to evaluate the inservice on a scale of 1 to 10 she would give it a 15!

Following the presentations there have been two requests for this inservice, one for 2005 Child Care Conference and the second for home licensed child care providers through the Early Years Centre.

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## RACING AGAINST DRUGS 2005

*Submitted by Rebecca Kavanagh, RN, B.ScN.  
Smiths Falls FOCUS Project Coordinator*

### Community Coalition for Leeds, Grenville & Lanark Counties

RACING AGAINST DRUGS 2005, which ran from May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>, proved once again to be a success by its many organizing committee members, teachers, and participants. Despite the brief interruption due to the teachers' "work to rule" campaign, about 1200 grade five and six students visited the Brockville Memorial Centre over the three-day event.

Students were able to visit approximately 12 out of 30 pit stops that delivered interactive messages about the risks associated with drug and alcohol use.

RACING AGAINST DRUGS is a community-based program developed

in partnership with members from the London Detachment of the R.C.M.P., the Ford Motor Company of Canada and the former City of London Board of Education. This program uses the theme of sport car racing, which has no room for error and zero tolerance for drug and alcohol use.

This year's core committee consisted of representatives from the Brockville Police Service, the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit, Leeds and Grenville EMS, 3M Canada, Upper Canada District School Board, OPP, Brockville Ontario Speedway, and the Safe Community Coalition of Brockville and District. The event ran smoothly and students received

consistent messages throughout their two-hour session about substance abuse and injury prevention. All students received a RACING AGAINST DRUGS carabineer/keychain, which serves as a fun reminder of the event and the lessons learned.

Already, organizers are gearing up for next year's version of RACING AGAINST DRUGS. The forum will be held in Smiths Falls in June of 2006.

A huge "thank you" goes out to the many people that assisted and/or participated during the week to ensure that RACING AGAINST DRUGS 2005 was another high quality event!

## Launch of the Integrated Public Health Information System

*Submitted by Bonnie Erwin, R.N., B.Sc.N., PHN Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control and Outbreak Management*

The Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control and Outbreak Management Team is comprised of staff from the Health Protection Department and the Department of Clinical Services plus Dr. C. Gardner. We meet weekly for a brief review of outbreaks (respiratory and enteric) and to discuss outstanding issues or cases related to outbreaks.

Our BIG challenge for the next month will be learning to use the newly implemented provincial iPHIS system.

What is iPHIS? It is the Integrated Public Health Information System, a web-based client-centric case management information system that will significantly improve the accuracy, quality, coordination and delivery of outbreak, case and contact management. Supported by Health Canada, iPHIS has been selected as the Pan-Canadian software solution for Public Health communicable disease information management.

Several key advantages and improvements of this system over the old system (RDIS — Reportable Diseases Information System) is that it will provide a provincially integrated system of data collection. It also provides improved ability to handle cross-jurisdictional outbreaks and thus provides the potential to detect outbreaks at an earlier stage. This will improve our ability to detect, monitor and manage provincial outbreaks. This system will provide real time information to a centralized source at the MOHLTC from health units across Ontario.

Ongoing development of the iPHIS system will continue in collaboration with Health Canada in order to provide required functionality and enhancements.

If you have any further questions, please call one of the team.