

The Janet & Jamie Caskey Community Health Hub

The Dorset Hub is part of the Muskoka Community Health Initiative, proudly supporting community & home care in Muskoka & Haliburton.

1096 Main Street – Dorset, Ontario – 705-766-0866

Annual Newsletter

November 2016

Happy Anniversary to Us!

The Dorset Community Health Hub has been operating for one year! It's hard to believe five years ago this was just one man's vision. Our leader, the late Herb Hickling, began his journey of research & study with the goal of bringing accessible primary & preventative health care closer to home.

Many options were explored & countless hours spent exploring & investigating different models of health care to fit our community. Given the development of a similar

From Bricks & Mortar to Value & Benefits

From the outside, one's first thought of our building may not be "health office". Our intent was to build a "cottage" or "non-institutional" style structure to reflect our beautiful surroundings & establish a more approachable health care system – where walking in to our waiting room vs. your living room go hand in hand.

Our initial design for the Health Hub was actually a Nurse Station, however as our knowledge expanded, we focused

The Dorset Health Hub is now fully accessible (with lift/elevator), we have communication & technology upgrades for interactive teaching in our seminar room, we are developing our infection control entrance & our revamped lab room.

We are currently working with the District of Muskoka, the Government of Ontario & our partners regarding our future operating budget – post August 2018. **To help us help you, please let your local Ontario MPP know how much you appreciate the Health Hub in your community.**

DID YOU KNOW?

We estimate that business contributions for construction exceed \$120,000!

initiative across Muskoka, the Dorset community joined hands with the District of Muskoka to begin discussions with the Province of Ontario seeking support. To demonstrate the commitment & offer a compelling argument, Herb sponsored countless community engagement sessions in local groups, churches, cottage associations & the general public. Working closely with Muskoka based Nurse Practitioner Donna Kearny, the Health Hub Concept was born. With the tremendous amount of community support, donations, volunteers & federal government assistance – Herb's dream became reality.

DID YOU KNOW?

42% of donations were local dollars!

on a building that was both clinical & practical with both health & wellness initiatives.

We completed a number of outreach information sessions in order to gain a better understanding of our community & its needs. As a result of these interactive sessions & the increased understanding of the specific needs of our patients, we have developed the following programs:

mental health therapy | diabetes days | crisis food bag program | healthy living initiatives



We are on social media – Find us on Facebook – ‘Muskoka Community Health Hub – Dorset Site’

The “Innovative” Health Hub

- Digital Technology patients can now register electronically using an iPad & Ocean Program
- Weekly lab pickup
- Offer emergency medications & support
- Shoppers Drug Mart does weekly medication delivery
- Nutritional & food support for patients in need
- Offer discreet mental health services, as needed
- Resources ‘lending’ library & reference material

Volunteers & Donors

The most humble “thank you” is not nearly enough to truly show how appreciative & indebted we are to our countless volunteers & individuals who have fundraised, built & improved our community facility.

Here are some of the great volunteer efforts to note:

Front Gardens | Quilt Raffles | Lake Dinners | Polar Plunge | Hike for the Hub | Hang Your Blue Campaign | 1000 Canoes Event | Contributions from the Bigwin Gala | Deep Freeze Sleep | Kawafers – Melissa’s Fall Dip

STAY TUNED FOR OUR 2017 FUNDRAISER: THINK EASTER BUNNY!!

We want to thank our major donors for supporting our dreams & ambitions. When you are in the Hub next, remember to take a look at our Donor Honour Board. We wish to recognize the “originals” that believed in our project & invested in making our dream a reality.

We do not want to forget to recognize the local businesses who contributed material & their labor in the construction of the community facility.

Partnerships & Inclusiveness

The Dorset Health Hub is indeed a partnership of many who continue to contribute to our “evolving journey” in establishing a Community Hub for preventative & primary care.

The Core Partnership includes:

Dorset Community Partnership Fund -> Registered Charity – Fundraising
Township of Lake of Bays -> Facility Maintenance & Operations
Algonquin Family Health Team -> Manages clinical & health programming

DID YOU KNOW?

46% of our donations com from Haliburton
& 49% come from Muskoka

Patients & Needs

We have over 1,600 patients who seek healthcare assistance from the Hub. Our appointments in our first operational summer peaked at around an average of 10 - 12 patients per day. We are currently tracking our patient’s needs by collecting data that will guide any future decisions regarding services & programs at the Dorset Health Hub.

Longer term Dorset Health Hub general goals:

1. Increase Access to Social Services (beginning this winter)
2. Improve Social Determinates related to poverty
3. Transportation
4. Seniors & Lack of Mobility

Our patient load is heavily weighted to those who require complex care – managing more than one health issue. In addition, we recognize the need to support the partners who are primary care givers to these complex patients. We want to strive to be “pathway finders” helping patients access support & take responsibility for their own wellbeing.

THE NEXT STEPS: Watch for our new video focused on the patient. We plan to continue to build partnerships & other preventative & primary services as we continuously learn more about community & patient needs & increasing access for those in need. Look forward to Flu Shot Clinics, Diabetes Prevention Classes, Access to Social Services & more.

For more details, please go to the Dorset Canada website or pick up our Anniversary Report at the Hub or at key businesses in Dorset.