

POST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT  
2023-2024

The St. Lawrence District Medical Centre held its Annual General Meeting on May 6, 2024 in the waiting room at the Centre. The meeting was attended by five of the seven board members, one of the physicians and five members at large. Thank you to those who could attend.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:32 and the group progressed efficiently through the business of the day.

Treasurer, Mary Ann Roberts shared with the group the recent yearend financial documents as compiled by the Accountants and highlighted some of the financial activity and status. Our finances are healthy and we have reduced our loan with the Township to \$207K from the \$300K, borrowed at the time of the expansion. On the advice of our insurance broker, we have increased the insured value on the property to \$1.7 million.

The only ongoing fundraising project is our Wilton Cheese order at Christmas, coordinated with the assistance of Kathy Graham. The efforts to remind folks that the Centre is a local charity with ongoing needs for financial support have seen a positive response in memorial bequests, estate bequests, community group and individual, financial support. For this we are very grateful.

Mary Ann went on to emphasize that maintenance and improvements for a commercial structure all carry hefty price tags and are ongoing as we strive to maintain a well-equipped and efficiently functioning, modern healthcare facility. She gave a verbal snapshot of our investment in the infrastructure since the AGM in February 2023. Speaking in round numbers... LED lighting throughout the south wing and Pharmacy \$25K; replacement of the south wing furnace \$6K; five new window roller shades \$2K; refurbishing of our I.T. infrastructure \$7K, with an additional \$10K currently committed for replacement hardware plus a shared maintenance contract with the physicians of \$9K annually to monitor and maintain the overall I.T. system with software upgrades and heightened security. Our next identified priority is assessment and any needed repair of the main entrance landing.

The Chair, Heather Cross, gave a summary of the other activities for the past year, with updates on staffing and physician recruitment activity. Heather clarified that while Dr. Erb is looking ahead to his retirement and redefining his role here at the clinic, we are very grateful for his continued commitment to patient care, his personal efforts to recruit a suitable physician to take over his practice, and his continued willingness to guide and mentor the Board as the Clinical Director.

Heather made reference to the physician recruitment efforts initiated by the Township and explained that with the Township offering recruitment incentives, the Board has engaged the services of a professional recruiter who will take our search international. That would mean recruiting not only in Canada but from any of the countries who have recognized equivalency in medical training. That includes the US, UK, Australia and Ireland. The base cost for a successful placement by the recruiter is \$22K, but with the shortage of physicians across the country, we are fortunate to be in a position to pursue this option.

The Chair noted also that Dr. Karoon Samikian, who arrived at the outset of Covid, has quietly established herself in the community as a physician with a solid reputation for quality care and we are hopeful that she will be with us for an extended period of time.

The Board of Directors was at this time declared retired and the Nominating Committee put forward the same seven names for election to the Board for 2024-2025. The seven candidates, Lynda Beckstead, Heather Cross, McKenna Modler, Michael Paquette, Mary Ann Roberts, Leslie Truesdell and Conrad Walpot were acclaimed as the incoming Board. The Board later met and agreed that they would carry on with the same portfolios as during the previous term.

Prepared by  
Heather Cross  
Chair