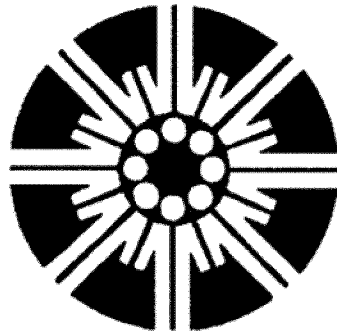


# GHC embarks on 45th anniversary year



**MaryLou Bernardo**  
GROUP HEALTH CENTRE



## GROUP HEALTH CENTRE

**T**his year marks Group Health Centre's (GHC) 45th anniversary year.

GHC's vision, "To provide leadership and achieve excellence in health care and wellness promotion in an atmosphere of caring and respect for the individual," was established well over four decades ago and warm, personal care remains the centre's timeless philosophy.

**2007 was a busy year — let's look at some of the headlines:**

- Following 17 years of service as the chair of the Algoma District Medical Group (ADMG) Board, Dr. Michael Hackett stepped down and Dr. Patricia Avery, was appointed as ADMG Board Chair and CEO.

- The massive and ongoing Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) re-enrolment project expected to continue in 2008 required 60,000 patients to sign new patient enrolment and consent forms.

- EMRxtra, a \$3.5 million initiative of the GHC, Canada Health Infoway and **Ontario** Pharmacists' Association was officially launched with over 20 local pharmacies and 50 pharmacists presently taking part. EMRxtra is expanding the continuum of care to the pharmacists, connected to their consented patient's charts. A patient

portal is also in the works.

- GHC's Algoma Diabetes Education and Care (ADEC) program worked as the local gatekeeper to the MOHLTC Insulin Pump and Supplies Program for children aged 18 and under, with type 1 diabetes.

- Over 20,000 flu shots were given at the 2006-07 GHC/Algoma Public Health's annual flu clinic and at APH district offices. The ongoing 2007-08 clinic based in the Cambrian Mall will remain open until January.

- A long-awaited Cardiac Rehab program was introduced for the local and district residents and allows patients to be educated and supported closer to home, following a cardiac incident, and assists in preventing any future cardiac complications.

- Qmonitor, the 2007 annual Ontario Health Quality Council

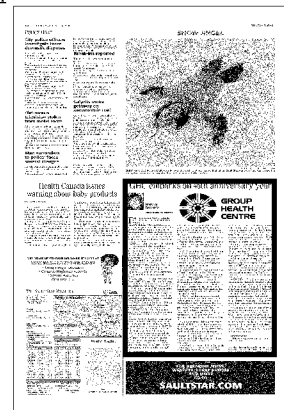
(**OHQC**) report highlighted GHC's congestive heart failure (CHF) program. OQHC members also toured GHC as part of their first-time visit to the Sault.

Chair **Ray Hession** said, "GHC was as good as, if not the best, example of managing chronic disease and pre-

vention as we've seen anywhere in **Ontario**, and Canada for that matter."

- GHC continued to work with the Algoma District Cancer Program and provided access to the landmark international ExCel Breast Cancer Research Study, examining the potential benefit of exemestane in post-menopausal women. [www.excelstudy.ca](http://www.excelstudy.ca)

- **Ontario's** former deputy minister of health and co-author Michael Decter of *Navigating Canada's Health: A User Guide To Getting the Care You Need* touted GHC as "setting the standard for patient care" and sin-



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gled out the centre for its established chronic disease management programs including the CHF and ADEC programs, as well as the electronic medical record.

- GHC continued involvement with the Northern **Ontario** ehealth Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Planning Project. ICT <http://one-health.ca/portal/> can affect the provision of health services, and linkages between the providers (i.e. public health, diagnostic sectors, etc.) of those services across Northern **Ontario** by aligning them.

- Consumer Health Information Kiosks (CHIKs) were introduced to advocate credible health information (via web sites, using interactive tool, and information handouts) - but not replace the expert advice of physicians and other health providers. CHIKs is offered as free, health promotion service for patients.

- ADMG announced that Dr. Louis Antoine, child psychiatrist established a practice in SSM and is contracted part-time with them.

- Accolades were in abundance and included: a Celebrating Innovations in Health Care Expo 2007

award, presented by Health Minister George Smitherman; an **Ontario** Hospital Association Best Practice award; two SSM Innovation Centre SSMART awards, a COACH Community-based Physician award and more.

- Thirty-seven employees were recognized for milestone employment anniversaries totalling an amazing 485 years of service, as part of GHC's 16th annual employee contribution/service recognition program.

- A book titled: *Emerging Approaches to Chronic Disease Management in Primary Health Care* was the result of HPI presentation at a chronic disease management conference in 2006 hosted by federal and provincial ministries by Dr. David Crookston, family practitioner with the ADMG.

- GHC Trust Fund received continued support through generous donations from businesses, organizations and individuals through fundraising events including: the Big Wish Lottery, Mother's Day Brunch and Auction and the Aaron Gavey and Friends soccer event that raised \$22,500. This continued generosity helped secure financial support to assist the Centre in the provision of health care services.

- Community-minded staff contin-

ued to give generously with over \$7,000 donated to the local United Way campaign; over \$2,600 raised for the Run for the Cure and breast cancer research as well as involvement in the Canadian Cancer Society In the Pink annual fundraiser; collecting Coats for Kids and donating Christmas gifts for local seniors in nursing homes.

**On the web:**

Visit: [www.ghc.on.ca](http://www.ghc.on.ca) for more information.

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