

Stevenson Memorial Hospital
Report of the Hospital Board Chair to the Annual General Meeting
June 16, 2015

This past fall Stevenson Memorial Hospital (SMH) and Southlake Regional Health Centre (SRHC) renewed their Management Service Agreement (MSA). This agreement has been a crucial part of SMH's recent success. It has been renewed for five (5) more years giving SMH access to resources we cannot otherwise afford and management support that serves us very well.

SMH is your hospital. The quality of service and care is improving constantly to provide the best healthcare to a growing community. SMH is the key community hospital serving Simcoe County. It provides exemplary service to our patients through inpatient service and outpatient clinics.

At our last accreditation evaluation, we were ranked as exemplary! The staff and management are diligently working toward the upcoming accreditation to maintain this with no loss in standing.

Still however, there are perceptions in the community that SMH has not improved in the last 10 years. There is doubt among areas of our catchment area that SMH is a first choice hospital. Let me say that our teams are as good as any in the province at what they do and many of them are among the best in the province measured by patient outcomes and by patient satisfaction!

I have had the opportunity to be a patient this winter for a serious condition and received prompt, professional and compassionate service. The surroundings may not compete with the Nottawasaga Inn, but the care was 5 star.

Our hospital will soon be losing our ophthalmology surgeries by decision of the Central Local Health Integration Network to combine all of these in two large centres. We are expanding into other clinics and services in orthopedics. It is our desire to provide as many specialist clinics as we can to reduce the travel and distance strains on the patients in our catchment area.

I am proud to report that we are again maintaining a balanced budget with a slight surplus. This is especially trying in days when the government constantly changes our funding formula and a great deal of credit goes to our staff and professionals for finding efficiencies to maintain or improve services while holding costs. SMH is a well-run organization under the supervision of our Management team led by our CEO Jody Levac.

While our staff is doing stellar work with provincial recognition for the Emergency Room, Obstetrics and other services and efficiencies, we are coming to limits as our infrastructure is old and out of date and our space is limited. It is common knowledge that the very Emergency Department that we use today was designed for 7,000 visits per year when the catchment population was about 3,500 people. It now has over 30,000 visits and serves a catchment area of over 55,000 people.

To relieve this, an application has been made to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) for permission to build an addition onto the existing facility. It was a difficult task capably handled by the Stevenson Redevelopment Committee. Last August, we received a letter from the MOHLTC giving us directions and questions to answer if we were to proceed.

The Board investigated and carefully considered the letter and questions before deciding that we must proceed. The Stage One submission, involving selection of one of three plan options, phasing and cost estimates has been submitted for approval by Cabinet.

This is a very exciting stage as we hope that by 2020 we will have a renewed facility. There will be a new addition and the existing structure will have been refreshed and brought up to current standards. The floor space will have doubled, the parking tripled and Simcoe County will have a state of the art community hospital.

The MOHLTC will fund 90% of the building costs while the community will be responsible not only for the 10% of the building costs but 100% of the fixtures (beds, chairs, tables, etc.) and equipment (operating room beds and equipment, diagnostic equipment, laboratory equipment, etc.).

Going forward, the Hospital Board supports the Foundation as it raises funds for both the regular annual operations of the SMH and the Redevelopment. The call is to the community to support this project bearing in mind that we need to support the existing building until the addition is complete.

It is common for the Board to have turnover each year. This year we will be replacing two members who have given stellar service.

David Purvis resigned from the Board in February. He served as Chair of the Redevelopment Committee and the Quality Committee in addition to serving on several other Board Committees.

John Swinden is leaving the Board as of the Annual General Meeting. John was the Chair of the Finance Committee when SMH came out of supervision in 2009 and led the charge to financial balance. He also served as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Board.

The Board sincerely thanks them and wishes both of these members well in their busy futures.

The coming year at SMH will be exciting and busy and you are invited to participate. We anticipate moving toward Stage Two of the redevelopment process with the project being shovel ready by late 2018 or early 2019. Stay tuned for more details.

Finally, I express my gratitude to the volunteers who mean so much to this hospital. To the Board of Directors, the Auxiliary members, the Hospital Foundation members and the Foundation Board members, I thank each of you. The skill and knowledge you bring to the service of Stevenson Memorial Hospital and the many hours that you spend cannot be paid satisfactorily but I say –“Thank You!”

Respectfully submitted,



Alan Dresser
Hospital Board Chair