



# Tavistock Community Health Centre News

August 2003

## First "Discovery Week" Held at the Clinic

### Special Interest Articles:

- **Discovery Week Held at Clinic**
- **Nurse Practitioner Position Approved**
- **Family Health Network Launched**

The first week of June was marked by a series of "firsts" ... TCHI's first participation in "Discovery Week" where first-year medical students learn first-hand what it's like to be a family doctor in a rural setting.

The program, now in its sixth year, is coordinated by the University of Western Ontario's Southwestern Ontario Rural Regional Medicine Unit (SWORRM). It's designed to give students a taste of practice in a smaller centre in first year, thereby influencing the directions they consider as they complete medical school and enter residency programs.

TCHI was pleased to host two students, Bryan Lee and Partha Paul. A group practice, such as Tavistock, allowed the students to observe a wide array of patient profiles and, importantly, different practice styles. "We learned a lot", said Bryan.

It wasn't all work. In their off-hours, Bryan and Partha were entertained by TCHI Board members, were first-time visitors at Stratford Festival Theatre and went hiking with their med school colleagues. All in all, a Discovery Week on many fronts.

## Funding Announced for Nurse Practitioner Position

A recent announcement by the Provincial Government contained positive and exciting news for Tavistock Community Health Inc. Our proposal and accompanying budget, to employ the skills of a Nurse Practitioner at the Clinic received approval.

The physicians at the Clinic have given their overwhelming support for embracing and moving forward with this level of medical health care. The Board

has appointed a RN(EC) - Registered Nurse, Extended Class Recruiting Committee which is moving forward on working with the doctors to develop a job description; disseminate advertising; and interview and hire a RN(EC) who will enhance the services provided by the Clinic.

The RN(EC) will be able to work to his/her 'full scope of practice' with the support of our physicians.



## Nurse Practitioner Position (Cont'd)

Qualifications expected of the Nurse Practitioner include the following:

- current registration as a RN (EC) and in good standing with the College of Nurses of Ontario
- demonstrated ability to work effectively in a multi-disciplinary team environment and with community partners
- sound knowledge of appropriate computer technology
- evidence of insurance for professional liability
- excellent communication skills and problem-solving expertise
- ability to work flexible hours will all be requirements of the position.

The role of a Nurse Practitioner has been strongly endorsed by patients and this community since the first Community Meeting was held in April of 2001. We are confident that, once in place, he/she will be a vital, respected individual, working to improve the health and wellness of those with whom he/she works.

The RN (EC) Committee is comprised of Dr. Bruce Halliday, Susan Garner, Sharon Walker (Secretary) and Shirley Hanlon (Chair). Applications for this new and exciting opportunity can be faxed to 519-271-8358 or e-mailed to [chhl@tchc.net](mailto:chhl@tchc.net). All resumes will be

## Family Health Network Launched



*"The future for family medicine looks very much brighter today"*

On June 27, 2003, a ceremony was held at the Tavistock Health Clinic to mark the launch of the Family Health Network at the clinic. The lead physician, Dr. Paul Bartlett, was one of the principal speakers. His remarks are reproduced below.

"Honoured guests, members of the Tavistock Community Health Board, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

Today we are witnesses to a 'momentous occasion' in regards to health care in Tavistock! But you know

the residents of Tavistock and the surrounding area are getting used to these 'momentous occasions'. It was just over a year ago that the Tavistock Community Health Inc. was formed to take over the ownership and day-to-day management of the medical centre here. A group of hardworking and dedicated volunteers sat down in front of the community and presented a request and started a campaign to raise three quarters of a million dollars...and within two months they had raised \$1.4 million!



## Family Health Network (Cont'd)

We were all stunned and overwhelmed by the care and concern of the community in regards to health care. Truly a momentous occasion! And we believe this step too is another momentous step in the right direction.

You know, back in the 1950's, Dr. Harold Taylor and Dr. Bruce Halliday joined together to form the Tavistock Medical Group. Over the years more and more physicians joined and, at one time, the Group has as many as six physicians sharing resources and facilities. We deeply believed that a group model was the way to practise medicine; that we could ensure 24 hour coverage for our patients; and be available after hours and on weekends. And in those days there were so many clinics there was even an association of medical clinics.

Being a member of a group was an enriching experience for us personally. It was satisfying. It was appreciated. But in a fee-for-service system it was doomed. You don't get paid for those long hours tied to the beeper being on call. You don't get paid for sitting down and talking to patients about life-style issues. You don't get paid for taking time out of your schedule to go to the hospital. It was not a lifestyle that is attractive to the young graduates of today.

We physicians in Tavistock were very concerned about the future of family medicine and the very real concern that there may not be continued health care in Tavistock. It was Dr. Bruce Halliday's suggestion that we meet with our local MPP and let him know our concerns and I remember very distinctly that day that we sat down with Ernie Hardeman and expressed our concerns about the

direction medical care was heading. And look what happened. Can one little discussion with your MPP change the entire course of medical care in the country? Well, hey, it's a democracy! We believe this model of health care delivery that has been developed in a cooperative effort between government and our profession goes a long way in answering the concerns we had. The future for family medicine looks very much brighter today.

There are some other individuals I must acknowledge and thank for helping make this day possible:

- The College of Family Physicians (our voice) and Dr. Ken Hook, Past President
- Wayne Parsons of the OMA who very eloquently and tirelessly has been promoting this
- The Tavistock Community Health Board for their support and encouragement in everything we do
- Our Business Manager, Dave Riel who spent many hours getting us to this point
- Our dedicated staff, including Colleen Card"

The Family Health Network offers benefits to patients. They will have access to a physician during the regularly weekday and for some extended hours in the evening and on weekends. After those hours, a Telephone Health Advisory Service staffed by qualified nurses will be available to provide advice or to refer the patient to emergency services. A doctor from the network will be on call to these nurses.



*"Being a member of a group was an enriching experience for us personally"*

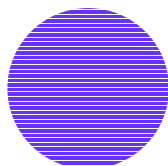
## Family Health Network (Cont'd)

Tavistock Community Health Inc.  
P.O. Box 775  
Tavistock, Ontario  
NOB 2R0

Phone:  
(519) 655-2322

Fax:  
(123) 123-4567

E-Mail:  
tchi@rogers.com



The Family Health Network will provide family physicians with new supportive services that will make it easier for physicians to look after patients in hospital; to provide palliative care; to practice preventative medicine; and to upgrade their education and skills.

The Family Health Network is also expected to make Tavistock an even more attractive place for new medical graduates.



Official Opening of the Tavistock Family Health Network; Present (alongside a photo of Dr. Samuel Taylor, cofounder of the Tavistock Medical Group are: Dr. Ken Hook, Ernie Hardemena MPP, Dr. Paul Bartlett, Dr. Bradley Card and Dr. Wayne Parsons from the OFHN.

### About Tavistock Community Health Inc....

*Tavistock Community Health Inc. is a community-owned and supported health care provider serving the greater Tavistock, Ontario area. TCHI owns and administers the clinic out of which a group of family physicians practises, as members of the Tavistock Family Health Network.*

*Tavistock Medical Centre News is a publication of the Tavistock Community Health Inc (TCHI). TCHI is a community owned and volunteer-*

*operated organization whose mission is one of sustaining and enhancing accessible, accountable, high-quality health care services in response to community needs.*

*For more information, contact Mr. Dave Riel, Business Manager, TCHI at 519-655-2322 or Mrs. Sherrill Bryant, Volunteer Member of the TCHI Board and Chairperson of the Physician Recruiting Committee at 519-655-3342.*

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.tavistock.on.ca](http://www.tavistock.on.ca)