

Tavistock Community Health Centre News

May 2003

Introduction to TCHI

Special Interest Articles:

- Introduction to Tavistock Community Health Centre
- Dr. Dan Echmeier - Resident Profile
- First Annual General Meeting Held

Tavistock is nestled in the heart of southwestern Ontario.

- 17 km southeast of Stratford, home of the world-renowned Stratford Festival Theatre
- 35 km southwest of Kitchener-Waterloo, known for its Farmers Market and Oktoberfest
- 140 km southwest of Toronto where the Blue Jays and the Raptors and the Leafs vie for attention with a host of theatres, museums, galleries and cultural events

Why would a physician consider locating in Tavistock? It might be our established business model that frees him/her from administrative concerns. It might be our diverse patient profile that works to keep skills current. It might be that Tavistock Community Health is a teaching facility for both medical students and residents. It might be that Tavistock offers a lifestyle of personal safety, sound K-12 education, affordable housing costs and diverse recreational opportunities.

The Tavistock practice of family practitioners was originally established some time around 1930. It is believed that this makes the Tavistock clinic the oldest medical group practice in Ontario that is still practicing.

The current Tavistock Community Health Centre enjoys enormous community support. In 2002 the people of Tavistock and surrounding area donated two times the funds needed to purchase our medical centre. We are

extremely proud of our doctors and thankful for the high-quality health care they provide. At present Tavistock is designated as "under-serviced" by the Ministry of Health. We are committed to sustaining and enhancing high-quality health care services in our community. Five factors demonstrate the appeal of our innovative Business Model

- turnkey solution based upon an agreed split of OHIP billings between the physician and Tavistock Community Health Inc. (TCHI) Board of Directors
- physicians devote their time and talent to providing high-quality health care
- TCHI's Business Manager and Board manage all operational and administrative issues
- physicians and Board work collaboratively with respect to hiring new health care staff and ensuring that medical equipment on site is appropriate to physician/patient needs
- model offers new physicians the opportunity to begin to eliminate debt load immediately and generate income
- contributes to a relaxed, rewarding and enjoyable work environment
- a balanced mix of patients in the areas of adult medicine, geriatrics, well baby checks, and gynecology



Brief Profile of TCHI (Cont'd)

- with 7,900 patients on record and currently 50+ families on the waiting list, the high demand for health care services ensures no down time for new physicians
- patients cared for primarily at the Tavistock Community Health Centre
- three Tavistock long-term care facilities (223 long-term care beds plus 49 retirement beds) offer a variety of geriatric presentations
- hospitalized patients treated at the 230-bed Stratford General Hospital located 16 km from Tavistock Under-Serviced Area Designation From The Ministry of Health

Physicians who practice full-time in Tavistock, an eligible under-serviced

area, may be eligible to apply for an incentive grant of up to \$15,000 paid over four years

Free tuition program offers physician applicants up to \$40,000 (or \$10,000 per year) in exchange for a three or four year return-of-service commitment ... may include a location incentive component

Tavistock Community Health sponsors field placements/training for medical students and residents from University of Western Ontario and McMaster University

Five family physicians currently practicing at the Tavistock Community Health Centre provide exposure to a wide variety of practice styles.

Dr. Dan Eickmeier - Resident Profile (adapted from the Tavistock Gazette)



“In Tavistock, I’m in control of my own patients. You get to work one-on-one”

Resident Awareness Day was April 15 and Tavistock Community Health Inc. (TCHI) is pleased to have Dan Eickmeier serving the first half of his residency at the local medical clinic.

“It’s a nice practice to work in,” says Dr. Eickmeier, who is used to the small town atmosphere. He grew up in Mildmay and now lives just outside of Stratford with his wife, Laura Inglis-Eickmeier, who is an elementary school teacher in Milverton.

The Resident Awareness Day, a national campaign, is sponsored by the Professional Association of Interns and Residents of Ontario to increase awareness about who residents are and what they do. It has a four-pronged approach including appreciation, education, collaboration, and influence.

The former Tavistock Medical Group, TCHI has been training residents in rural medicine for many years through their close association with the University of Western Ontario. Two six-month terms are spent at the local clinic as part of nine rural and twenty urban placements in southwestern Ontario. Mt. Brydges hosts five residents while Strathroy takes two, and Tavistock and Goderich accept one each. Dr. Ken Hook is the teaching doctor for Tavistock.

Dr. Eickmeier is the son of a construction company contractor and elementary school teacher, and from an early age, felt that he might end up in the field of medicine. He became interested in health sciences and biology, and spent a 4-month co-op term at Walkerton Hospital during his Grade 12 high school year.



Dr. Dan Eickmeier (Cont'd)

He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Bio-Chemistry at McMaster University in Hamilton in 1998 and graduated from medical school at the University of Western Ontario in London in the spring of 2002.

"I always knew I was heading for this when I was growing up," Dr. Eickmeier said. "I'm not a big city person," he added, and that is why he chose to enter the rural stream in family medicine. He chose Tavistock because he was "sort of familiar with the area." His grandmother lives in one of the local nursing homes.

In Tavistock, "I'm in control of my own patients," he said. "You get to work one-on-one," as well as doing "follow-ups" he added. His day-call schedule also allows him to see patients outside the roster he is normally allowed to treat from Dr. Hook's list. His level of confidence as a family physician is strengthened by the

fact that he has had many other residency experiences over the past few years. He spent three months in London studying internal medicine at all four hospitals, and had one month each in paediatric emergency, obstetrics in Kitchener, and general surgery in Stratford. "I've seen people from the inside out," he says.

His next six months will involve adult intensive care and obstetrics as well as some sports medicine. He has worked at the Fowler-Kennedy Sports Medicine Centre in London and also the Waterloo Sports Medicine Centre. Dr. Eickmeier is also taking his turn working three or four nights a month in the emergency room at Stratford General Hospital.

With fourteen months remaining in his education journey, Dr. Eickmeier feels he will be able to decide on a permanent practice by this fall.

TCHI Holds First Annual Meeting

The first Annual Meeting of Tavistock Community Health Inc. was held on March 20, 2003 at the Tavistock Memorial Hall. An enthusiastic crowd of over 150 attended the event.

Board Chairperson, Shirley Hanlon, chaired the meeting. The chairs of Fundraising, Business, Equipment, Memorial Lights, Community Appreciation Day, Property and Recruitment presented committee reports.

The representative from Framme & Company, the TCHI's auditors, presented their report and reviewed financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2002. The

Treasurer, Clive Lawry, presented a go-forward budget for the current fiscal year. A slate of Directors was also approved for the 2003 fiscal year.

Chairperson Shirley Hanlon also presented her report on the past year. Her poignant remarks are reproduced below.

"Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen and a most sincere welcome to each and every one of you. Tonight your Board of Tavistock Community Health Inc. comes before you to present an overview of the work which we have embarked upon, accomplished and are in the progress of doing."



"In the past two years I have had the privilege to observe first-hand what can be accomplished when dedicated individuals join together to address a particular need"

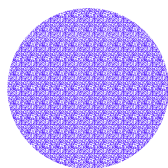
First Annual Meeting of TCHI (Cont'd)

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“The last time we had a meeting similar to this was on November 8, 2001 when you, the community, overwhelmingly supported the recommendation to move forward and purchase the Tavistock Medical Clinic from the existing Doctors and operate as a not for profit, charitable entity. Tremendous work has been done by numerous individuals over the course of this time.”

“It would be impossible to calculate the total number of hours that have been devoted to maintaining patient focused, quality health care while at the same time creating a new and attractive business arrangement through which to deliver health care to the patients of the Tavistock Medical Clinic.”

“Since the very first community meeting on April 19, 2001 the cooperation, dedication and hard work contributed by our own local physicians, your Board and committees, the press, area businesses, service clubs, and individuals like you and I who have just stepped forward and offered their help and opinions, has been nothing short of miraculous. You have put this community on the health care map as one which is open to change while committed to maintaining the quality of care patients of the Tavistock Medical

Clinic have received over the last 50 years.”

“Tonight, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank each and every donor to the Tavistock Community Care Campaign. You, by your expedience, generosity and commitment sent a loud and clear message. Accessible and quality primary health care is critical to the rural communities in Ontario. I am very proud to be a resident of this community. A community which extends beyond any physical boundaries. A community which stands up for what it believes in. A community which works together to support individuals of all ages and abilities. In the past two years I have had the privilege to observe first-hand what can be accomplished when dedicated individuals join together to address a particular need. As this community changes, grows and prospers, and change is an inevitable fact of life, I encourage all of you here tonight to consider where you might volunteer your talents and time. To quote from Margaret Mead ‘Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it’s the only thing that ever has’”.

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 practices.

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 accountable, accessible, 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 Ms. Sherrill Bryant, Volunteer Member of the TCHI Board and Chairperson of the Recruitment Committee at 519-123-1234.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.tavistock.on.ca