

# THE HALDIMAND PRESS



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## Ride for the registry: A journey with a cause

Shannon McPherson-Adams unable to receive transplant, but family continues campaign

By Mike Renzella  
The Haldimand Press

CANFIELD—Things seemed to be going well for Shannon McPherson-Adams as support for the Match4Shannon campaign led to about 1,000 new stem cell donor registrants, all hoping to find a compatible match in time to stop the rare form of cancer the registered nurse from Canfield is battling. Then, doctors gave her some difficult news.

"When we first found out that the transplant wasn't going to be an option for Shannon, I was pretty discouraged and frustrated because we'd spent so much energy on increasing the stem cell registry, and we had about 2,000 followers on our Facebook page," explained Shannon's husband, Brad Adams. "You could see the joy and the expression on everybody's face when they were doing these registrations. They sent hope for Shannon at that point."

In addition to processing the news himself, Brad realized he had to tell the 2,000 people who were eagerly supporting their family online that this wasn't happening: "How was I supposed to do that?"

Brad wrote an letter and sent it out to Shannon's followers, letting them know that the stem cell process would not be a possibility and thanking them for helping: "I could see the despair in all the remarks that people were sending back.... It was so sad, and then it was just quiet. I felt like I owed it to



CAYUGA—Sgt. Brad Adams and his daughters are flanked by Brad's colleagues from the Hamilton Police Services as they salute and continue their journey on May 7, 2021 in Cayuga.

—Photo courtesy of Melanie Steeves.

them, and to the drive that I had started, to make it something and to give some happiness back to these people that had tried so hard for us."

Brad began brainstorming ways that he could continue to promote the cause to honour the donors who had already signed up and to spread the impact of Shannon's story even further. Brad, Shannon, and their two daughters have a history of riding horses together, so riding across the county they live in and the county Shannon works in came

as a natural way to say thank you and pay the outpouring of support received forward.

"Haldimand Norfolk has been our stomping grounds all our lives.... That seemed to be where the majority of interest in the group was from," said Brad. "I looked at the calendar and the end of our drive was May 15 and I said, 'You know what? It's just time to cowboy up. Let's turn this lemon into lemonade.'"

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## Anticipated \$50K reward for info on death of Alex Dalton

By Mike Renzella  
The Haldimand Press

HAGERSVILLE—Local resident Steve Slack did not know Alex Dalton personally, but felt a strong desire to help his family after learning of Dalton's tragic death in a hit and run incident in Hagersville on April 23, 2021.

"I never met the boy, nor his family. I live up the street from them," explained Slack. "Years back, friends of mine ... Randy and Beth Harris lived in the same house that the Daltons live in right now."

He explained that the Harris' son, William Harris, along with Gwen Martin and Adam Banes, was involved in a similar hit and run about seven years ago.

"Will and Gwen were both killed, and Adam was quite seriously hurt. Now, we have another boy living in that same house who meets the same fate, ran over from behind on a motorcycle.... Will was on a dirt bike, and Gwen and Adam were on

a quad, stopped at a stop sign," explained Slack of the similarities, noting that Dalton had taken over the room that Harris called his own.

"It hit kind of close for me," said Slack. "I wanted to do something. Knowing that they hadn't caught anybody yet and knowing that Crime Stoppers will give you up to \$2,000, well big deal.... So, I saw a friend of his had started a GoFundMe to refurbish a pickup truck of Alex's. When I first saw it, it was at \$18,000. I thought, why not do the same and try and get a reward."

Slack's goal is to raise \$50,000 to entice anyone who may have witnessed the incident to come forward with information.

Dalton's mother, Andrea King, personally donated \$1,000 to the fundraiser, which had raised more than \$9,500 and had been shared over 1,300 times as of press time.

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## NURSING WEEK 2021 see pages 15-17

SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL NURSING



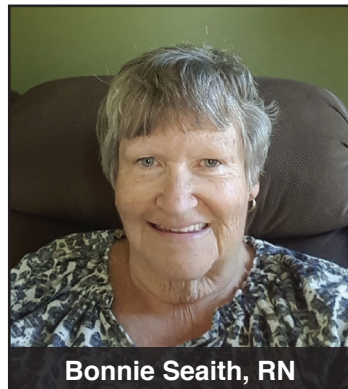
By Mike Renzella  
The Haldimand Press

DUNNVILLE—National Nursing Week, May 10 to 16 2021, is a time to show support to our nurses and to honour the enormous amount of work they, along with their teammates across the health care field, put in to our local community.

We spoke with two nurses, working on opposite spectrums of the current COVID pandemic, to find out what life is really like day to day on the frontlines at the Haldimand War Memorial Hospital (HWMH) and the vaccination clinic at the Cayuga Memorial Arena.

Bonnie Seaith, RN

"When I was 10, I fell and broke my arm and spent



Bonnie Seaith, RN

a week in hospital. A young nurse took me under her wing and let me hang out with her and help with the younger children. At that time, parents weren't allowed to stay, back in the 60s. I decided then and there I wanted to be a nurse," said Seaith, a long-time registered nurse at HWMH.

She described the traits needed to make it as a nurse:

"Compassion, good listening skills, humour, and just wanting to help people."

While Seaith worked in the emergency room for many years, she was off work last year as she recovered from an accident. Seaith is now part of the vaccine administration team in Cayuga and has found her time at the vaccination clinic to be surprisingly positive, despite the circumstances: "We've had so many compliments on how well it's running, so many 'thank you for doing what we're doing'. It's phenomenal. You go home feeling great, feeling positive about what you do. It's so nice to be able to make people happy in the situation that we're in."

Seaith is part of a team of six nurses and a doctor

responsible for completing roughly 600 vaccinations in an eight-hour shift. She believes we are not out of the woods yet, even with the large number of vaccines rolling out: "I don't know if we've gotten to the point where it's going to get better. We're in for the long haul. The more we vaccinate, the better we are. It's going to be a while, I feel."

She touched on how her colleagues are making it through this moment: "We're like family. When we have a tough day or patient that we're worried about or hasn't gone well, we always try to make time in that shift to get together and discuss how things went and give each other support."

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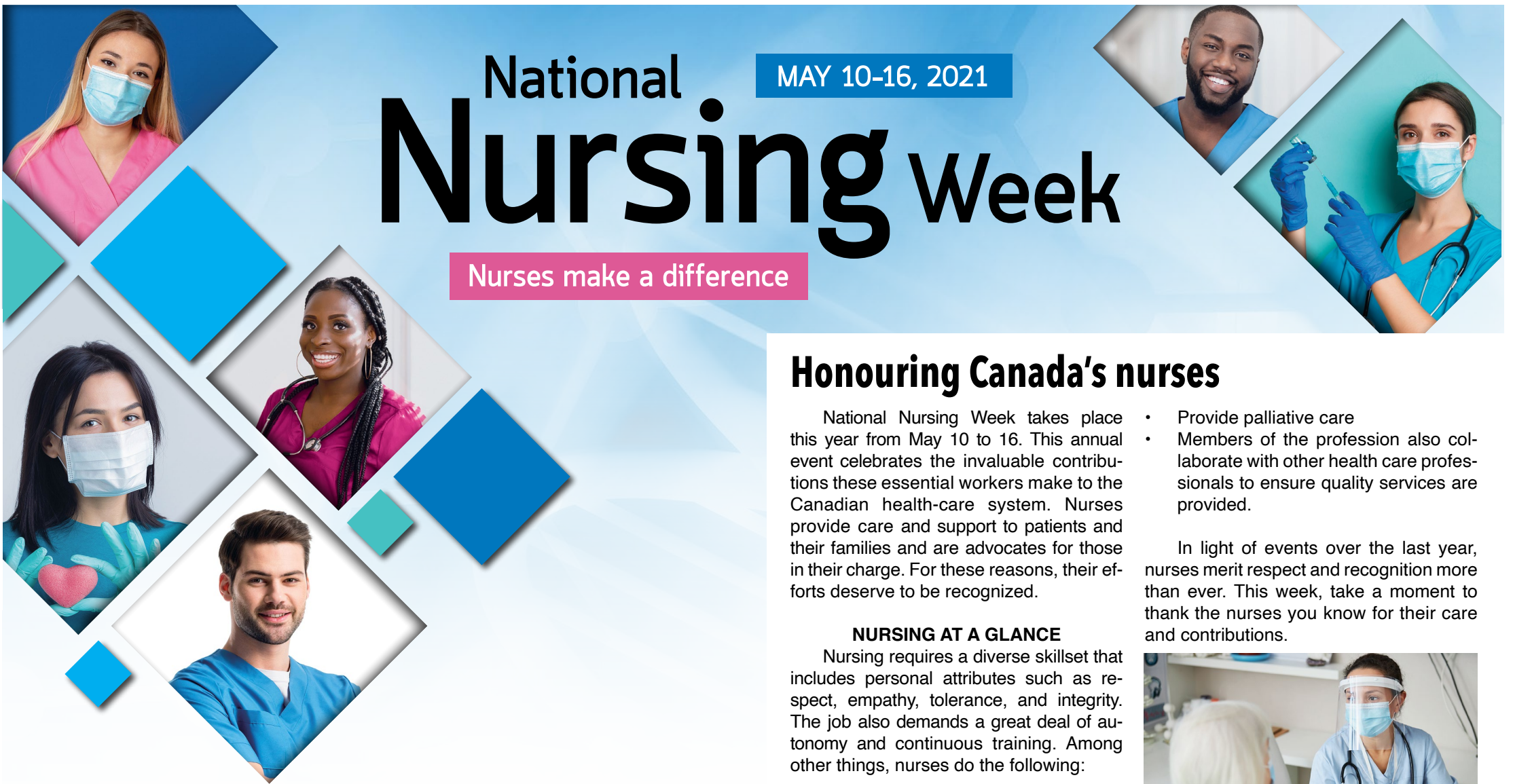
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# National Nursing Week

MAY 10-16, 2021

Nurses make a difference

## SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL NURSING

Continued from Page 1

### Andrea Richardson, Nurse Practitioner

"I've been nursing for over 13 years now. I started in Toronto at Mount Sinai Hospital in the emergency department," said Richardson, who later went back to school and earned a Master's degree to become a Nurse Practitioner (NP).

She initially worked at a family clinic in Grimsby as an NP before coming to HWMH last July: "I also did some humanitarian work in Papua New Guinea and I worked with the health care provider there and realized there is such a need for health care, not just locally but internationally as well."

Richardson's mom was a nurse, and as a child Andrea was always interested in what she did: "I guess I followed suit, you could say."

As an NP, Richardson's responsibilities include assessing patients, ordering specialized tests, performing ultrasounds and x-rays, and diagnosing illnesses.

"When people ask what an NP is, in a nutshell we can do pretty much the same things as a doctor, with the exception of not doing surgery or more specialized work," said Richardson.

She explained the difference between an NP and an RN: "Nursing has a more limited scope of practice. They're working off the orders that we, as NPs or doctors, give."

On the effects of the pandemic, Richardson said, "There's a heightened level of anxiety when we see these COVID patients coming in, and we get worried as staff.... Things that are mandated by the government, such as critical care triage, really scare us because sometimes it feels like we're withholding care to patients and I think that's going to cause anxiety as well."



Andrea Richardson, Nurse Practitioner

"We have an amazing leadership team at the hospital, wanting to hear our concerns and escalating our concerns," she continued. "I've never worked in an environment where we're so supportive of each other; we text each other after our workdays saying, 'thanks for a good shift' or 'you're a great team member'. That's so helpful in our camaraderie and keeping spirits up even though days can be stressful and busy."

She concluded, "I'm hopeful that things will turn around, we've been hit hard in the third wave. We're seeing more of the variants and sicker patients for sure.... In the summer months people won't be as willing to stay at home and not gather with family, and I can see it lingering longer unless we do our job and stay at home and stay away from people."

## WHGH recognizes incredible team of nurses as they celebrate Nursing Week

To The Haldimand Press

HAGERSVILLE—West Haldimand General Hospital (WHGH) is sending its sincere thanks and appreciation to our nurses during National Nursing Week (May 10 to 16). At WHGH, we are proud to recognize our dedicated team of nurses and those practising in the community who provide patients and families with extraordinary care every day, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19.

"The strength and perseverance of our nurses in helping to keep our community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic is inspiring," said President & CEO Lucy Bonanno. "We are incredibly grateful to our nurses for the impact they have at West Haldimand General Hospital and to the entire Haldimand Norfolk community. I would like to thank every nurse for their unwavering service and care they provide to our patients every day."

National Nursing Week is celebrated every May to coincide with the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. This year's theme is: "We Answer the Call," which highlights the integral role nurses play in the lives of patients.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the important, courageous, and critical work be-

ing done by nurses has been brought to the forefront.

"This year, more than ever, we celebrate the contributions of all nurses worldwide," said Kim Mullins, Vice-President of Patient Care. "This past year has been tough, to say the least, and we are not through the woods yet. The individual stories of compassion, excellence, and collaboration seen at our hospital are inspiring. Your collective reliance to support each other and care for the patients of our community is humbling. All year long, but especially this week, I celebrate you! Admire you and appreciate you."

At WHGH, we are thankful for our nurses' commitment to providing the highest standards of care and for working tirelessly to keep our community safe during the extreme pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic for a second straight year.

We would also like to extend our thanks to nurses who have retired in the past year and express our gratitude to nurses who helped mentor the next generation.

To celebrate National Nursing Week, we will be sharing and highlighting our nurses on our social media as a way to thank them for the countless contributions they have made at WHGH and to our community this past year.

## Honouring Canada's nurses

National Nursing Week takes place this year from May 10 to 16. This annual event celebrates the invaluable contributions these essential workers make to the Canadian health-care system. Nurses provide care and support to patients and their families and are advocates for those in their charge. For these reasons, their efforts deserve to be recognized.

### NURSING AT A GLANCE

Nursing requires a diverse skillset that includes personal attributes such as respect, empathy, tolerance, and integrity. The job also demands a great deal of autonomy and continuous training. Among other things, nurses do the following:

- Evaluate the physical and mental condition of their patients
- Develop a nursing treatment plan and ensure it's carried out
- Follow-up with patients who have complex health problems
- Administer and adjust prescription medications

- Provide palliative care
- Members of the profession also collaborate with other health care professionals to ensure quality services are provided.

In light of events over the last year, nurses merit respect and recognition more than ever. This week, take a moment to thank the nurses you know for their care and contributions.



National Nursing Week is always held during the second week of May in honour of Florence Nightingale, whose birthday was May 12.

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National Nursing Week  
MAY 10-16, 2021

Nurses make a difference

## Nurses play a critical role in the emergency rooms and ICUs of Haldimand and Norfolk counties

By Mike Renzella  
The Haldimand Press

HALDIMAND/NORFOLK—Nurses have always played a critical role in the health of a community, and their services have never been more needed than right now as local hospitals continue to feel the impact of the third wave of COVID-19.

To celebrate National Nursing Week this year, we wanted to shine a light on exactly what the nurses and health care teams of Haldimand and Norfolk are doing in our local hospitals, working together as a team, and a family, to fight COVID-19.

Kim Mullins, Vice President of Patient Care and Chief Nursing Officer at Norfolk General Hospital (NGH) and West Haldimand General Hospital (WHGH) spoke about some of the challenges facing her nursing staff at both locations.

"Our staff are tired, along with everyone in the community. I think in particular clinical staff are feeling really tired and concerned, especially in this last third wave," she said. "It's been a long haul with constant changes and this particular wave is a lot more concerning and the pressures have gotten a lot closer to our community hospitals than they ever did in wave one and wave two."

Haldimand itself has no ICU beds. Norfolk General is traditionally labelled a level two ICU, with six beds available, but have expanded to eight beds at the Province's direction. In terms of patients on ventilators, staff at NGH typically prepare for up to two patients at a time, but are currently trained to handle six, with planning in place to up the amount of ICU beds to 11 if needed.

Handling that extra demand requires additional staff, ample practice revolving around surge plans, planning ways staff can quickly ramp up operations as needed, and ensuring that emergency and ICU areas have adequate equipment and supplies.

"We've done some drills where we practise team-based modelling in the ICU and that's gone really well. It's stressful for the teams, but it's helped them to understand that if things were to rapidly progress, what would that change look like in the ICU," explained Mullins.

Some examples of progress that have come out of team collaboration exercises include the implementation of crisis documentation, a process for inputting medical data that bypasses many of the redundancies involved in the normal data input process, as well as bringing nurses down from other departments

to orientate them to the ICU in the event that they are called to work there.

"We're seeing that collaboration between nursing departments and they were really proud to show off their skills as critical care nurses," said Mullins on the camaraderie she is witnessing in her departments.

The ICU at NGH is currently sitting at around 80% capacity and has generally hovered around 80 to 90% as of late. While this might sound high, Mullins said, "We've been really fortunate."

Ensuring extra capacity requirements are met in the ICU and emergency departments at NGH and WHGH is not the only role nursing staff plays. They also act as important liaisons with the public, interacting with family members of sick patients and helping them to understand the care their loved ones are receiving.

"That emotional aspect, when families are not there with their loved ones, there's a heightened level of anxiety. They've had to work extra hard to let people know that we're taking care of their loved one, they're in good hands," explained Mullins. "Telling them that their loved ones are comfortable and resting is more important than telling them what their vital signs are."

WHGH and NGH work with a shared leadership team. Mullins and her peers lead both teams.

They've worked hard to ensure patients at WHGH have access to the ICU at NGH: "If they have a patient in their emergency department there, it's just a quick call over to Norfolk. We've really built that collaboration to take those patients."

She continued, "West Haldimand has done a phenomenal job. They saw the first impact of COVID-19 while they were supporting Anson Place. They had to rapidly adjust."

In addition to having the option to send patients to Norfolk, WHGH also has a working collaboration with Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington and can rapidly arrange for patients to be transferred there for additional help when required, as was the case for 45-year-old chicken farmer Mike VanNetten of Simcoe, as reported last week.

"We're also supporting our First Nations communities as well," said Mullins. "I know the nurses are asking every day for the numbers on Six Nations and the Mississaugas of the Credit because we're so close and they know they want to be there to support them any way they can."

Over at Haldimand War Memorial Hospital (HWMH) in Dunnville, there are currently no



NORFOLK—Sadie Boyd (right), one of the registered nurses working on the team in the ICU at Norfolk General Hospital. Pictured with Boyd is Dr. Nancy Gabel, Anesthesiologist.

—Photo courtesy of Aaron Gautreau, Director of Communications & Public Relations, NGH & WHGH.

COVID positive patients enrolled: "We have arrangements with Niagara Health and other local hospitals to assist us with our COVID positive admitted patients as needed," said Sharon Moore, President and CEO of HWMH and Edgewater Gardens.

Moore touched on how HWMH determines their ability to take in patients from other hot spot areas in the province, should the need arise: "HWMH is part of a regional bed capacity planning group and we monitor our bed capacity several times throughout the day.... HWMH, like all Ontario hospitals, is a provincial resource and we will support patients as needed."

Although there may be no COVID patients currently admitted in the hospital, the regimen

of following COVID guidelines and restrictions has taken a toll: "Health care workers are under a lot of stress. We continue to support one another as best we can. Hearing positive comments from our community helps a great deal," said Moore.

The reasons why National Nursing Week is more important than ever this year are obvious: these people who have worked tirelessly to help those worst afflicted by this pandemic deserve all the praise we can heap on them and more.

Mullins summed up the current moment our health care professionals are caught in: "Our staff are extremely dedicated and provide exceptional care. They just keep digging deep. But we're starting to see the pressures of that."

## Grandview Lodge administrator on Nursing Week, and her hope for a return to normalcy

By Mike Renzella  
The Haldimand Press

DUNNVILLE—Jennifer Jacob, administrator of Grandview Lodge, believes that all 160 employees, not just the nursing department that makes up 80% of the staff at the facility, deserve to be celebrated for their hard work and determination over the last year.

Grandview will celebrate Nursing Week with games, refreshments, and prizes for staff donated by local businesses. Jacob marked the occasion by providing us with an update on how life inside the facility has been lately.

"We've been fortunate that we've not been significantly impacted by the third wave. We did have an outbreak, but there was no transmission within the home and that speaks to the knowledge and skill of the frontline staff in infection prevention and control practices and their ability to implement them properly to keep the staff, themselves, and the residents safe," said Jacob.

She described how acutely aware her staff is of what is happening in the community around them, and how they have stepped up their vigilance in their personal lives, which has allowed Grandview to sidestep the more catastrophic results seen in other long-term care (LTC) homes around the province over the last year.

"I think the staff have been very aware of the impact some of the restrictions throughout the pandemic have had on the residents," said Jacob. "They also recognize that residents need a little more social time with them. They're willing to talk with them about fears, about missing their family.... It's part of the nursing care model of a resident-centred care approach. We look at the

residents holistically, so that the nursing department isn't just responsible for physical or medical care.... That is the philosophy of care at Grandview Lodge."

Retired nurse Suzanne Wilkins is an essential caregiver for her friend Brenda, an Alzheimer's patient living at Grandview. She spoke about the effort displayed by Grandview staff to help her in the early days of the pandemic: "I knew my ability to communicate with her via the phone and even window visits would be challenging. However, the recreational therapist, Gail, and other staff made every effort to do video calls with me when Brenda was having a good day and was more attentive. One evening as a staff member was getting Brenda ready for bed, I received an unexpected but much welcomed video call. Brenda was able to see me, and she recognized me. That was a good day."

Dealing with the effects of Alzheimer's disease is hard on a good day, and Wilkins initially worried her friend would quickly degrade in isolation, but through the dedicated help of the team at Grandview this has not happened.

Wilkins explained, "I have always been impressed by and grateful for the compassionate care that Brenda has received since moving to Grandview Lodge. She does not remember names, however, she has always called the people she feels most comfortable with 'Mama'. She still does. This person could be a PSW, someone who serves her a meal or does her laundry, or a member of the cleaning and maintenance staff."

She continued, "During this pandemic, when there have been and continue to be so many restrictions, staff have put on several special events. Last summer it was a cart made up to look like an ice cream truck that visited every resident and at Christmas the garden was lit up like a holiday theme park.

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