



**SOUTH BRUCE GREY
HEALTH CENTRE**

CHESLEY | DURHAM | KINCARDINE | WALKERTON



Presentation to Arran-Elderslie Municipal Council

October 10, 2023

Nancy Shaw, SBGHC President and CEO

TOGETHER, ENRICHING HEALTH CARE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Provincial Health Care Landscape

- There is a critical health human resources shortage in Ontario and across Canada.
- Rural hospitals across the country are struggling to keep their emergency departments open.



Staffing shortages at small-town Ontario hospitals still shutting some ERs

Small-town hospitals across small Ontario communities continue to close some emergency room departments and collapse available hours,...

Jul 19, 2023



Hundreds of emergency room closures reported in Canada

It was a nightmare scenario for those watching the growing number of emergency room closures across the country. Following a triple stabbing...

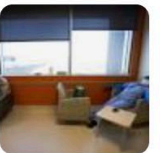
2 weeks ago



Nursing shortage in Ontario remains despite a push to hire

New report from College of Nurses of Ontario underscores the seriousness of Canada's health care worker shortage.

Jun 21, 2023



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Recruitment and Retention Efforts

- At SBGHC, we are doing everything we can to recruit and retain staff, including but not limited to:
 - Reviewing nursing models of care
 - Participating in provincial nursing strategies and initiatives
 - Bolstering our recruitment efforts

There are simply not enough nurses in the Ontario health care system.





**SBGHC
currently has
28.5 full time
nursing
vacancies
across our
sites.**

Impact On Our Emergency Departments

- An Emergency Department is the most challenging part of the hospital to staff.
- To safely operate an Emergency Department, we need specialized and experienced registered nurses and emergency medicine physicians.
- It is particularly difficult to recruit RNs to small rural Emergency Departments, due to low volumes and small team structures.
- As a result of ongoing staffing challenges and a lack of available specialized staff, we have had to reduce our emergency department services many times over the summer.



Current State at the Chesley Hospital

- The Chesley hospital has been particularly affected by these temporary service reductions.
- Despite efforts to recruit and retain more staff, staffing resources in Chesley remain strained and heavily reliant on agency nurses, which has resulted in numerous temporary closures.

**SOUTH BRUCE GREY HEALTH CENTRE - CHESLEY
TEMPORARY EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT CLOSURE**



Discussions with Ontario Health

- We need long-term solutions.
- We are focused on stabilizing all of our sites for the future and providing a high-quality and safe system of care our communities can have confidence in.
- As a result of the cycle of temporary service reductions, we continue to engage with Ontario Health on both shorter-term supports and longer-term options.
- In the last week, Ontario Health announced a funding stream to support the use of agency nurses to maintain Emergency Department (ED) services.
- This is not a long-term solution; however, it will minimize the number of ED closures in the short-term.



Our patients and our people are our top priority.

South Bruce Grey Health Centre is committed to providing safe and reliable health care in all four of the communities we serve, and will continue to work on solutions for today and in the future.



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Questions?



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