



# COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

April 2024

## *Mission*

In response to community concerns about repeated closures and reduced service at the ER in Chesley District Memorial Hospital and the potential threat this poses for the future of the hospital itself, we work collaboratively with community members and other organizations throughout the area to provide opportunity for residents to communicate their concerns and to advocate for resumption of full time ER services at CDMH.

## *Guiding Principles*

**Collaboration:** We will work in collaboration with other community organizations active throughout the area of service for this hospital, consulting their feedback and opinion and providing opportunity for them to participate in our activities.

**Inclusive:** We will ensure that in our deliberations and activities we provide equal opportunity for participation by all members of our local community

**Integrity:** We apply the principles of integrity to all our actions and communications, committing ourselves to truth, honesty and sincerity and showing civility and respect for those with other points of view.

**Source Locally:** We commit to source materials, supplies and services from within the local business community wherever possible.

**Peaceful:** It is our intention that any activities we undertake will be conducted in a peaceful manner and that we will discourage disruptive or dangerous behaviours.

## *Action Plan*

To continue to demonstrate our community's support for our local hospital and our health care professionals, we are proposing to hold a **Hospital Appreciation Day** in Chesley on the afternoon on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Our plan would be to invite members of the Arran-Elderslie community, within the catchment area for this hospital, to join us for an event acknowledging the significant contribution this hospital has made, and continues to make, in this community.

We propose to begin with a parade starting in the downtown area at 2 pm and moving to the grounds adjacent to the Community Centre for an afternoon of food, fun, and activities. Our

proposed parade route would begin at the north side of the Oswald bridge, moving south along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South to the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South East where we would turn east and walk past the Medical Clinic to the parking lot at the hospital. We would like to present letters of appreciation to our local health care professionals and then move along 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South East past the Library to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street South East, turning east again and marching to the Community Centre grounds.

We would like to use the facilities at the Dave Spencer Memorial Pavilion in conjunction with other community groups and organisations to provide food and refreshments. In addition, we would propose to have on site music and family oriented activities. We would like to approach the school art department to encourage children to create posters about the hospital and staff. It would be our intention to display their artwork on site.

We would invite a few short speeches by the mayor and possibly one or two of our health care professionals. Otherwise, the day is intended to be a celebration of this very valuable facility. We hope to see a return to 24/7 services in this hospital and feel this could be an important way to show community support for that objective.

There are a couple of requests that we would like to make today. One concerns a permit for the parade route provided and the other concerns a reservation to use the Pavilion on the afternoon on May 18<sup>th</sup>. If any related costs could be forgiven that would be very helpful too: we are a grassroots organization dependent on donation and we do have a limited budget.

Thank you for considering this request.

Brenda Scott and Hazel Pratt

Co-Chairs: Chesley Hospital Community Action Committee

