



Kathy's Corner

By Kathy Peters
GHHN Executive Director

Meaningful impact begins with collaboration—and this summer reinforced the need for even stronger coordination. As health, housing and social care partners, we are taking practical steps to align services, address the social determinants of health and build a healthier community for all.

Housing is healthcare. In September, Health & Housing leaders launched a focused effort to reduce fragmentation across sectors and drive action at the intersection of health, housing and community safety in Hamilton's downtown core. Together, we are coordinating outreach services, developing integrated pathways and measuring progress so people experience more connected, effective support.

IN THIS ISSUE

**Primary Care
Upskilling Programs
for Registered Nurses**

**GHHN Women's
Health Days**

**Integrated Care
Action Summit**

**GHHN Engagement
Corner**

**Welcome New GHHN
Board Members**



Partnership Meeting

Our next Partner Meeting will be taking place January 26, 2026 from 12pm - 1pm via Teams.



Need help navigating your care journey?

Check out the new GHHN [Caring for Me: Patient Handbook](#) for all your navigation needs!

Kathy's Corner

...continued

Our summer collaboration with the Primary Care Network also advanced work on comprehensive primary care models, including Health Homes. We engaged community partners to understand the needs of providers unaffiliated with team-based care and used the GHHN Primary Care Data Atlas to identify neighbourhood priorities. This work informed a collaborative proposal to improve attachment and access to team-based care for GHHN communities with the greatest needs.

Thoughtful measurement remains essential to success. Our new GHHN Measurement & Evaluation Plan will help us track outcomes, learn from implementation and focus on what makes the greatest difference. This shared work reflects our commitment to practical solutions shaped by local needs and strengthened through partnership. We look forward to sharing the plan—and more updates on this work—in the coming months.

Primary Care Upskilling Programs for Registered Nurses

Four post-secondary institutions are offering opportunities for registered nurses (RN) to strengthen primary care competencies, work to full scope of practice, and enhance access to team-based care across Ontario.

The Ministry of Health is investing up to \$4.53 million in the Primary Care Upskilling Program over three years. It's part of Ontario's Primary Care Action Plan that aims to connect every person in Ontario to primary care by 2029.

Student tuition is funded by the Ministry of Health, meaning there is no cost to eligible learners. Conditions apply.

Available Opportunities - Total seats available over three years, starting March 2026 program

- 1,400+ Primary care upskilling seats
- 1,000+ RN prescribing seats

Program Components

- 10-12 week post - graduate
- Flexible online and hybrid learning
- For RNs working in or looking to enter primary care
- Curriculum bases on National Competencies
- Pathway to RN Prescribing Program

Collaborating Institutions

- [Conestoga](#)
- [Lakehead](#)
- [Trent](#)
- [Western](#)





ConnectMyHealth: Ask, Learn, Connect

Curious about how to gain access to your health records from hospitals in southwest Ontario? Join a live online drop-in session to learn how ConnectMyHealth works, what information is available, and how to register.

Third Tuesday of each month | 11:00-11:30 a.m.
Oct. 20 • Nov. 17 • Dec. 15

[Learn more and join a session.](#)

Older Adults and Caregiver Drop-in Health Fair

A **FREE event** to link older adults and caregivers in Haldimand to local health care and social services. Engage with 20+ health and social service providers in Haldimand and learn about a variety of health related topics.

Receive healthcare services like:

- blood pressure checks
- cancer screening
- flu shots and vaccinations
- strength and balance checks

Where: Hagersville Active Living Centre
11 Athens St, Hagersville

When: Monday November 2nd 2026
from 10:00am - 2:00pm

With a panel discussion on the theme Aging in Place: Growing Older at Home at 12:00pm.

Do you need a family doctor? We can connect you!

Free refreshments provided.



Ethics Corner

Carlee Seiler, HHS Ethics Fellow

National Health Ethics Week (NHEW) is November 1-7, 2026. NHEW provides an opportunity for healthcare organizations, workers, and the public to raise awareness and discuss ethical issues in healthcare and in our communities. This year's theme is "The Strengths of Our Regions!"

The goals of NHEW include:

- Engaging in ongoing learning and discussion pertinent to clinical and research ethics issues in our communities;
- Network with likeminded peers interested in bioethical issues
- Increase the visibility of services, resources, and supports available to address clinical and research ethics issues
- Offer an opportunity to participate in discussions that shape policy development in clinical, organizational, community, and research settings

Hamilton Health Sciences is organizing an exciting week of presentations addressing clinical ethics issues pertinent to acute and post-acute care, community organizations, and those with a general interest in bioethics. Most presentations are 30 minutes long running from 12:00-12:30 with the exception of Wednesday's Grand Rounds presentation running from 12:00-1:00. Presentation topics include:

- Monday November 2: An Introduction to Clinical Ethics and Using an Ethics Framework (Jayna Amadasun, Clinical and Organizational Ethics Fellow, HHS)
- Tuesday November 3: Dignity Close to Home vs Safety Down the Highway: Navigating Rural Transfer Ethics & Resource Scarcity (Jenn Edwards, Director of Quality, Clinical Practice and Risk, Norfolk General Hospital)



- Wednesday November 4 (Grand Rounds): What to Do When it Feels Like There is Nothing You Can Do: How to Address Your Moral Distress (Catherine Gee, Clinical and Organizational Ethicist, HHS; Sophie Kim, Clinical and Organizational Ethics Intern, HHS)
- Thursday November 5: End of Life Decision-Making, Code Status, and CPSO Guidance (Dr. Henry Ajzenberg, Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, and Trauma physician, HHS)
- Friday November 6: Pediatric Bioethics (Details to come)

To register and attend one or more of these presentations, please email pantitis@HHSC.ca indicating which presentation(s) you would like to attend.



GHHN Annual Business Plan 2026/27

The Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN) is pleased to share its 2026/27 Annual Business Plan, outlining our priorities, areas of focus, and key initiatives for the year ahead.

The plan reflects our continued commitment to strengthening integrated care, supporting our partners and communities, and advancing better health outcomes across the Greater Hamilton area. Read it [here](#).

Integrated Care Action Summit

November 25 - 26, 2026

This Summit brings together all 58 Ontario Health Teams, Primary Care Networks, Patient, Family, and Caregiver Advisors, and health and social partners across the continuum of care to learn, collaborate, and drive real change in integrated healthcare.

Building on the momentum of the [inaugural ICAS 2025](#), this year's theme, [Building a System of Care](#), highlights that transformation is bigger than any single organization. Better health outcomes require moving beyond organizational boundaries – where health and social organizations work collectively, share responsibility for outcomes, and align their efforts to create a more connected, coordinated, and community-driven system of care.

ICAS 2026 will take place at the Hilton Toronto/Markham Suites Conference Centre & Spa on November 25 - 26, 2026.

We are also excited to celebrate GHHN Communications and Engagement Coordinator Anna Burns and GHHN Patient Advisor Ruth Morris, whose proposal featuring the [Caring for Me Patient Handbook](#) has been accepted as a Lightning Talk at ICAS. This is a great opportunity to share work shaped by patient and caregiver perspectives with a broader provincial audience and highlight the value of lived experience in improving care.



Indigenous Histories and Futures in Healthcare

September 11, 2026



The GHHN has been working to build good relations with the Indigenous Well Being Advisory Circle in the Hamilton region, and - acting on the guidance of that Circle - hosted an event earlier this month at the Woodland Cultural Centre: 'Indigenous Histories and Futures in Healthcare.'

Staff and patient advisors from four Ontario Health Teams along the Grand River, as well as representatives from nearby First Nations, health leaders from organizations serving urban Indigenous communities across the region, and others shared food while learning about both the impact of previous Canadian government policies in healthcare and the work of advancing Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands (on Indigenous Terms).

Miigwech to the speakers, the Woodland Cultural Centre, Clint Atkins catering, and all the attendees!

Read the event report [here](#).

GHHN Women's Health Days

The GHHN hosted its 18th Women's Health Days at Willow's Place on September 16 and 17. With beautiful September weather, approximately 60 participants connected with more than 20 health and community service providers in a welcoming, low-barrier setting.

Participants had opportunities to chat one-on-one with doctors, nurses, a pharmacist, social workers, and providers specializing in mental health, harm reduction and other health and social supports. The event also welcomed the HNHB Regional Cancer Program, adding cancer screening services to the wide range of supports available.

Women's Health Days bring health care directly to women, trans and gender-diverse people who may experience barriers accessing traditional models of care. Since the initiative began in 2021, the GHHN and its partners have continued to create opportunities for proactive and preventative care while building meaningful connections with people experiencing homelessness or precarious housing.

The next event will be November 25-26 hosted at Good Shepherd Women's Services location. For more information, or to donate contact megan.lynch@ghhn.ca.





Welcome New GHHN Board Members

The GHHN would like to welcome, Dr. Kati Ivanyi, new GHHN Board Member serving as a Primary Care Physician representative, and Todd Stepanuik, President and Chief Executive Officer West Haldimand General Hospital, to the GHHN Board of Directors. We look forward to the perspectives, experience and leadership they will bring to the Board as we continue advancing our shared work to strengthen health and well-being across our region.

Looking for a Family Doctor in Hamilton, Haldimand, or Niagara Northwest?

The Hamilton Family Health Team and the Haldimand Family Health Team in partnership with the Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN) and the GHHN Primary Care Network, is connecting residents of the Greater Hamilton Area to family doctors accepting new patients.

This service is part of the Ontario government's vision of attaching every person in the province to primary care by 2029. It is only available for individuals and families who do not currently have a family doctor in their area.

Find a new family physician in your area:

- If you live in Hamilton or Niagara North West, sign up through our local GHHN Primary Care Attachment Program. Our local attachment team, housed at the Hamilton Family Health Team, can support you in finding a local family physician close to home. Please call 365-317-8117 or email them at attach@hamiltonfht.ca.
- If you live in Haldimand, please contact the Haldimand Family Health Team at: 905-768-9599 or email: attach@haldimandfht.ca.
- Sign up through Health Care Connect. This is the provincial program to support all Ontarians in finding a primary care provider. You can learn more about HCC here: ontario.ca





GHHN Engagement Corner



Janice Duda-Kosar
Patient Family CarePartner
Leadership Council Co-Chair



Bernice King,
Patient Family CarePartner
Leadership Council Co-Chair

It has been a busy few months for engagement across the GHHN, with opportunities to learn, connect, and strengthen the voice of patients, caregivers, and communities across our health system.

In September, we hosted Indigenous Histories and Futures in Healthcare, bringing together partners from across the region for a day of learning, relationship-building, and reflection. The event created space to explore Indigenous histories and experiences within healthcare, learn from Indigenous voices and perspectives, and consider how we can continue building stronger relationships and advancing culturally safe care. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the day a meaningful opportunity for connection and learning.

We are also excited to celebrate Anna Burns and Ruth Morris, whose proposal featuring the Caring for Me Patient Handbook has been accepted as a Lightning Talk at the Integrated Care Action Summit (ICAS) in November. This is a great opportunity to share work shaped by patient and caregiver perspectives with a broader provincial audience and highlight the value of lived experience in improving care.

Finally, on September 24, Hamilton Family Health Team and GHHN Patient Advisors came together to connect and discuss shared priorities, including access to primary care, patient attachment, and the experiences of patients and caregivers. The conversation highlighted the importance of bringing advisor groups together to learn from one another and identify opportunities for continued collaboration.

Across these activities, one message continues to stand out: engagement is strongest when we create opportunities to listen, learn, and work together. We look forward to building on these connections and continuing to bring patient, caregiver, community, and partner voices into the work of the GHHN.



Haldimand Corner

Barbara Klassen, Co-Chair

The Haldimand Health Council welcomed Pam Maddalena from Thrive Group as the co-chair, replacing Sharon Moore who left her role as CEO of Haldimand War Memorial Hospital (HWMH) for a well-deserved retirement. Pam has vast experience in both Haldimand and across the region. Pam was involved with Haldimand Health Council as an in development OHT prior to amalgamating with the GHHN, giving her a broad understanding of history and purpose. With the retirement of Sharon, we welcome Rosemary Frketich, as new CEO of HWMH. We look forward to having Rosemary's experience and fresh perspective in discussions.

Older Adult and Caregiver Day return for its 4th year, November 2nd at the Hagersville Library and Active Living Centre. This is an event that has rotated locations across the County, having previously been in Caledonia, Cayuga, and Dunnville. Haldimand residents, specifically older adults and their caregivers, have the opportunity to meet social service and health providers from across the County in order to ask questions, receive information and system navigation, and take part of services provided on site, such as immunization and health checks. We look forward to a great turnout!

Stay Connected!

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