

FALL 2026

MIDDLESEX
HOSPITAL
ALLIANCE

MHA CEO COMMUNITY CONNECT

NEWSLETTER

FOUR COUNTIES HEALTH SERVICES & STRATHROY MIDDLESEX GENERAL HOSPITAL

Welcome to my first issue of the MHA CEO Community Connect Newsletter!

I'm excited to introduce this new quarterly online publication from the Middlesex Hospital Alliance—a way for us to connect more regularly with our patients, families, community partners and neighbours in Strathroy, Newbury and surrounding communities.

Through the CEO Community Connect, I will share news and updates from the MHA, highlight the people who make a difference every day, celebrate community partnerships and keep you informed about important projects and initiatives happening at our hospitals.

Ever wondered a little more about the person behind the CEO title? I'm sharing this recent University of New Brunswick feature that tells some of my personal story — from loss and resilience to my journey in healthcare and leadership. I hope you enjoy getting to know me a little better! Check it out [HERE](#).

Thank you for being part of the MHA community. We hope you'll follow along! Also don't forget to [follow us on social media](#) for all the current MHA news and updates.



Good news for the MHA and our communities

August brought some exciting news for the MHA, with the Ontario government announcing more than \$6.4 million in Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund (HIRF) funding for infrastructure improvements at Four Counties Health Services and Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital. The investment includes \$5.6 million for SMGH and \$821,789 for FCHS, supporting important upgrades and repairs that will help keep our hospitals safe, reliable and comfortable for patients, families and staff.

The MHA also welcomed more than \$3.3 million in additional operating funding to support the delivery of care at SMGH and FCHS. These investments represent an important commitment to local health care and will help the MHA continue providing high-quality care close to home.

We're grateful to our government and community partners for their continued support—and to the dedicated MHA teams who work every day to make these investments count for the communities we serve.

SMGH Patient Room Renewal Project

We're pleased to introduce the SMGH Patient Room Renewal Project, a significant infrastructure project that will help improve the safety, comfort and longevity of our aging inpatient areas at Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital. As part of this multi-phase project, patients from 1 South, 2 South and the ICU will temporarily relocate to a refreshed 4th floor while critical infrastructure improvements—including asbestos abatement and HVAC upgrades—are completed. The MHA is carefully reviewing construction and project timelines so we can confirm a move date with confidence. We will continue to share updates as key milestones are confirmed. More information for patients, families and the community will be shared on our website and on social media as we get closer to the move.



Q: Will this construction mean more beds for the hospital?

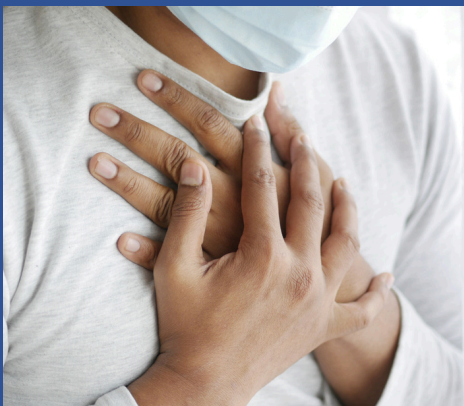
A = Currently, this construction does not bring more beds to the hospital.

Q = Will the 4th floor be open permanently?

A = Once the project is complete, the 4th will close, as it requires additional operating funding to remain open.

Q = Will the construction mean bigger patient rooms?

A = This construction will not increase the size of patient rooms/bathrooms.



Caring for Our Communities During Respiratory Season

As we head into respiratory season, we're reminding everyone that small actions can make a big difference in protecting our patients, families, staff and community.

Wash your hands often, stay home when you're unwell, and get your flu and COVID-19 vaccinations to help reduce the spread of respiratory illness.

And remember to take care of yourself, too. Getting enough rest, taking time to recharge and looking after your well-being are important all year long.

When You Need Care, Know Your Options

Our Emergency Departments are busy everyday—we encourage everyone to consider all of the care options available for non-emergent health concerns.

Your family doctor or primary care provider is always a great first option when you need medical advice or treatment. You can also call 811 (Health811) to connect with a registered nurse by phone or online chat. Ontario pharmacists can now assess and prescribe treatment for a number of common health conditions, offering another convenient option for many non-emergency concerns. The Shoppers Drug Mart locations in Strathroy and Komoka now also include a Pharmacy Care Clinic. [Learn more about the Pharmacy Care Clinics here.](#)

Looking for a Primary Care Provider?

The Southwest Middlesex Health Centre in Mount Brydges is accepting new patients!

If you're looking for a primary care provider, there are several ways to register:

- Call 811 to register through Health Care Connect. If you live outside the NOL postal code area (including Strathroy), request to be attached to Dr. Gabriella Schoettle's or Dr. Ryan Biehn's patient roster.
- Register online: ontario.ca/healthcareconnect
- Register in person: Visit the reception desk at 22262 Mill Rd., Mount Brydges, Monday to Friday, 9AM to 5PM

We're hoping to help connect more members of our community with primary care closer to home.

September – World Alzheimer's Month

September was World Alzheimer's Month—a time to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia and recognize the individuals, families and caregivers who are impacted.

At the MHA, we're proud of the compassionate care provided by our teams to patients living with Alzheimer's and dementia. We extend a special thank you to the Adult Day Program team at FCHS and to all of our staff and physicians who support patients and families with patience, dignity and kindness. Learn more about our Adult Day Program at FCHS [HERE](#).

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – September 30th

September 30 was the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day to honour Survivors, remember the children who never returned home, and reflect on our shared responsibility to advance reconciliation.

Throughout September, the MHA recognized the importance of reconciliation and encouraged our teams and community to wear orange in support of Indigenous communities all month long.

Reconciliation is not a one-day commitment. It is an ongoing journey that calls on all of us to learn, listen, reflect and take meaningful action.

Please take a moment to read my Statement for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation [HERE](#).

Supporting Local Health Care ❤️

Our FCHS Foundation and SMGH Foundation continue to play an important role in helping the MHA enhance care for patients across our communities.

From equipment and technology to important hospital initiatives, community donations make a meaningful difference in the care we're able to provide close to home.

We're grateful to the many donors, volunteers, Auxiliaries, businesses and community organizations who continue to support our hospitals.



Learn about the SMGH Foundation's work at:
<https://www.smghfoundation.com>



Learn about the FCHS Foundation's work at:
<https://fchsfoundation.ca>

Stay Connected



Thank you for joining us for the first issue of MHA CEO Community Connect. We look forward to using this space to share more of the stories, people, progress and partnerships that make the MHA—and our communities—so special.

Have a story or community update you'd like to see featured? We'd love to hear from you! Send a note to MHACommunications@mha.tvh.ca to share your thoughts.

And also, feel free to connect directly and confidentially with me, the MHA's President & CEO, Julie McBrien, at MHACEOConnect@mha.tvh.ca.

Follow MHA on social media and visit our website for the latest news and updates.