



PRINCE EDWARD
FAMILY HEALTH TEAM
A team approach to your good health

Prince Edward Family Health Team to Open Clinic in Rossmore September 2009

The Prince Edward Family Health Team (PEFHT) has announced that their 23rd family physician and fourth nurse practitioner will be joining the team in September and will be providing primary health care services from a new north county clinic.

PEFHT Board vice president Dr. Cliff Rice is excited about the arrival of the two new health professionals. "Dr. Michael Gibson and Nurse Practitioner De-Ann Sheppard are both experienced and skilled practitioners. They are very nice people with a strong sense of community and dedication to patients. They decided very quickly that our Team delivers services in a way they very much want to be a part of."

Board President Dr. Greg Higgins adds that, "They will begin their relationship in the PEFHT by enrolling the more than 150 County residents on our waiting list. Once we have managed our waiting list, Dr. Gibson and Ms. Sheppard will turn their attention to strengthening our commitment to the families of military personnel stationed with CFB Trenton." The PEFHT currently provides services to more than 20,000 people of whom 530 are family of military personnel at the Base.

PEFHT Executive Director Duff Sprague says that a location in Rossmore has been selected and anticipates the PEFHT will sign a five year lease on the space within the next week or two. Sprague notes that the PEFHT will begin enrolling patients to Dr. Gibson in August and throughout the fall. He notes that "Dr. Gibson has agreed to take on at least 1100 new patients as well as work regular rotations in the emergency department of Prince Edward Memorial Hospital."

Ms. Sheppard will work closely with Dr. Gibson as well as provide services from Picton. Discussions are underway regarding the possibility that Ms. Sheppard can occasionally run a clinic on the CFB Trenton Base.

Dr. Gibson, a London Ontario native, graduated from Queen's Medicine in 1990. He did a two year residency in Family Medicine in Newfoundland and has 16 years experience in family practice and emergency medicine having worked in Kirkland Lake for four years and most recently 12 years in Pembroke. Dr. Gibson says "I am looking forward to joining a well organized team in a beautiful part of Ontario and this will bring me closer to family in the area."

Ms. Sheppard graduated from nursing in 1987 in Newfoundland and spent much of the 1990s working in emergency, cardiac recovery and intensive with the Ottawa Hospital. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Ottawa in 1999 as a Nurse Practitioner. She has practiced as a nurse practitioner in the communities of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, Cobden, Ontario and extensive experience with the military community. She has held positions both caring for military members and subsequently for their families. She understands the challenges facing our military families. For the past two years De-Ann has worked at the

Pembroke Regional Hospital, in the emergency department as well as a private counseling practice. Ms. Sheppard is really impressed at how supportive the physician group is of the nurse practitioners and in utilizing the nursing expertise to the full scope of their practice. "I have worked in a variety of settings as a nurse practitioner and this is the most progressive group I have seen. This team will be the model that other primary care teams will be looking at as a centre of excellence."

In addition to Dr. Gibson and Ms. Sheppard the new north county clinic will also grow to offer some specialist clinics and programs and will have videoconferencing capacity. This technology will provide access to specialists across the province for patients receiving services in Rossmore. Dr. Higgins says, "We will have live communications capacity at Rossmore and Wellington just like we have in two sites in Picton. Our commitment to an integrated healthcare delivery system goes well beyond our dream of a new health campus in Picton. We are early adopters of the technology that will ensure our health professionals are connected across our service area."

The PEFHT is seeking a second family physician for the new location. Dr. Rice notes, "We have had expressions of interest from two family physicians who are considering joining us in October 2009 and a firm commitment from an Alberta based physician who will join our PEFHT in July 2010. A wonderful added bonus to our recruitment success is that the Alberta based physician will be joined by his partner. She is a pediatrician specializing in autism, ADHD and speech and language."

More information on enrolment to the PEFHT can be found at www.pefht.com .