



Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report

Board Meeting April 19, 2018

Organization Update

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has notified the Health Unit that we will receive a 2% increase in our base funding grant for 2018. We will shortly be notified of the approval of any of our additional base or one time funding requests.

Two meetings are being planned during the latter part of May 2018, one in Smiths Falls for the Lanark MPP candidates and one in Brockville for the Leeds-Grenville MPP candidates, to provide an opportunity for our health partners to speak to the MPP candidates about important health issues in our community, including the priority areas identified by the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa).

Following a three year journey, the Health Unit has been awarded the Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO) designation by the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. We will be one of 14 organizations that will be designated this year as part of the 5th cohort. Designation as an RNAO BPSO validates the excellent work that all the staff at the Health Unit performs for our community. We are the beneficiaries of the increased knowledge and skills staff has gained with Program Planning, Evaluation, Evidence-Informed Decision-Making, Research, Knowledge Exchange, and Communication. By continuing this work post-designation through purposeful dissemination activities, the Health Unit is also building a foundation for integrating the client voice into program and service planning.

Program Update

The Municipal Durg Strategies Committee of Leeds and Thousand Islands, Gananoque and Rideau Lakes held a very successful community meeting on what the community can do to respond to the challenges posed by the upcoming legalization of cannabis with a focus on youth on April 5, 2018 at Gananoque Intermediate Secondary School. The Health Unit presentation outlined how common cannabis use has a serious impact on the developing brain, and guidelines for community actions. Michael DeVillaer, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, presented a thorough policy analysis of the complexities surrounding cannabis legalization in Canada. Heather D'Alessio, Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy, provided the youth perspective on cannabis use, prevention and harm reduction.

The United Way of Leeds and Grenville has awarded a grant to the Health Unit of \$15,000, and Lanark United Way a grant of \$10,000, to support adults for emergency dental care.

A detailed report on reported Lyme Disease in our region prepared by our epidemiologist John Cunningham suggests that the four fold increase in reported cases from 2016 to 2017 is due to an expansion of the geographic range of ticks to most of our region, and the increased survival of the ticks in the nymph form in the summer of 2017 due to the heavy precipitation. The nymph is very tiny and is easily missed thus increasing the risk of infection if the tick carries the bacteria causing Lyme Disease and passes it to the individual who is bitten.

The 2018 spring Rural Recreation Association Summit was held at the Perth Algonquin campus and focused on social enterprise as a way of supporting young people and those with disabilities to contribute to community life leading to a greater sense of self-esteem, mental health, and resilience .

LHIN Sub-Regions Update

The SELHIN Sub-Region Integration Table for Lanark, Leeds and Grenville is exploring working on the prevention and management of COPD as its focus for collaborative work in 2018 . The Health Unit will provide a profile of individuals with COPD in our community using Statistics Canada Community Health Survey data, and will be part of the discussion about supporting healthy behaviours like smoking cessation, physical activity and healthy eating and the role of social determinants like housing and income in both prevention and management of COPD.