

CONNECTING THE DOHT

Official Newsletter of The Durham Ontario Health Team

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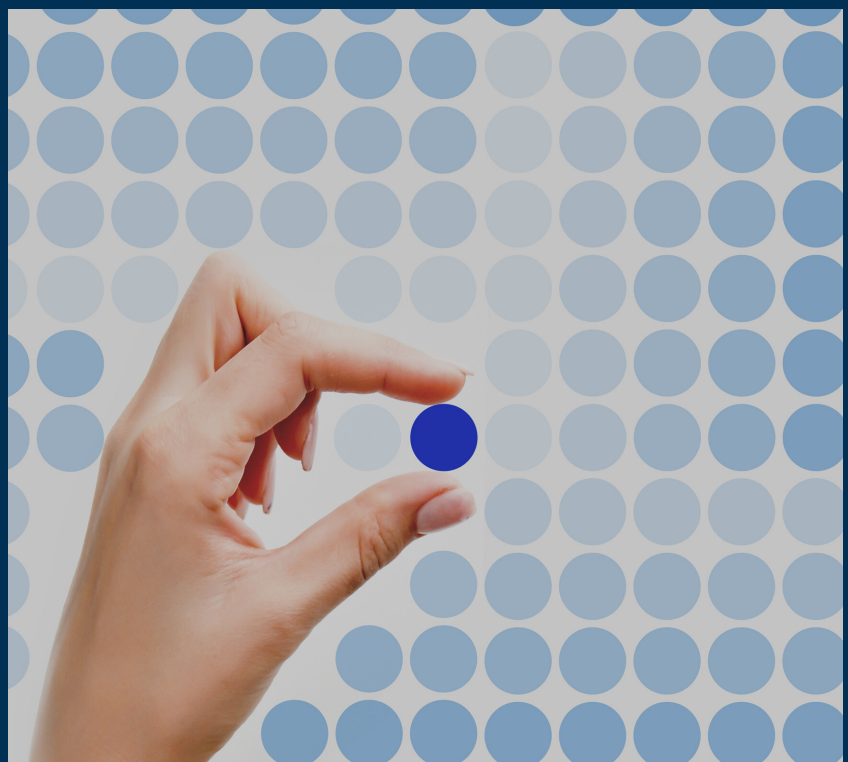
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Welcome to the quarterly Durham Ontario Health Team newsletter! I am so excited to be back and reconnecting with so many familiar faces as well as our new partners. I am very impressed with the advancements of the Durham OHT over the past 18 months, while navigating the response to the pandemic. Through continued collaboration, the Durham OHT partners have championed many exciting initiatives to drive our vision forward, demonstrating the true meaning of regional integration. On behalf of the Backbone team, we are thrilled to share with you the continued momentum and key highlights since our last newsletter.



Lisa Kitchen, Director, Durham OHT

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT ~ ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF DURHAM REGION (ASDR) ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH AND BEYOND

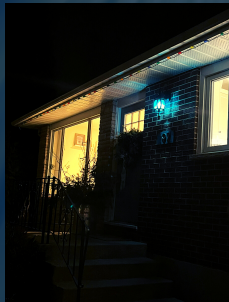
Written by Melanie Pledger, Student, Durham OHT

During the month of January, the Alzheimer Society of Durham Region (ASDR) encourages both organizations and individuals to learn about dementia and its impact, with the goal being a greater understanding of the experience felt both by people living with dementia and their care partners in order to foster support and reduce stigma.

ASDR held two campaigns to mark January as Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

1. The Blue Light campaign invited participants to display their provided blue lightbulbs outside their homes or businesses for the month of January to show their support of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias while also promoting Dementia Friendly Communities, an educational and training program of the Alzheimer Society. Lightbulbs were generously provided by the Canadian Tire Stores in Ajax, Uxbridge, and Bowmanville, with a \$20 donation going to support ASDR's Early Onset Dementia Adult Day Program.
2. Running parallel to Light It Up Blue was the Forget-Me-Not campaign. Local businesses invited customers to donate at the register, after which they could sign a forget-me-not cutout to be displayed in store.

There are a number of support groups, active living programs, and education workshops being offered by the ASDR. Whether you are a care partner, a person living with dementia, or a health care professional, there is a program to benefit you. More information and a complete list of programs can be found [here](#).



January 9, 2023, Flag Raising Ceremony at the region of Durham Headquarters in Whitby, ON. From left to right: Mayor of Whitby, Elizabeth Roy; Durham-OHT Partner-Gillian Barrie, CEO, ASDR; Durham Regional Chair and CEO, John Henry; and Maleeha Shahid, Whitby Regional Councilor and Deputy Mayor for 2023

DURHAM OHT ~ OUR IDENTITY

In the Fall of 2022, the Durham Ontario Health Team (OHT) Governance Committee reconvened to review and update the Collaboration Council Terms of Reference, and related Collaborative Decision-Making Agreement (CDMA) to reflect the growth and maturity of the Durham OHT.



- ***NEW* Partnership Innovation & Strategic Forum**
- **Executive Leadership Team (ELT)**
- **Durham OHT Working and Advisory Groups**
- **Sector Table Networks**

Accelerating Ontario Health Team (OHT) Impact: Next Steps for OHTs

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with Ontario Health, invited OHTs from across the province to join a webinar on November 30, hosted by the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, who provided an overview of the path forward and next steps that the Ministry and Ontario Health will take to accelerate the OHT impact.

The Ministry informed OHTs that support will be provided to assist the design and implementation of a common structure to achieve the full implementation of OHTs through the establishment of a new not-for-profit corporation. The Ministry has committed to providing further guidance and direction in the months ahead.

Capstone Project: Branding and Visual Identity for the Durham OHT

Durham OHT, Promoting Learning for our Future Talent



The Durham OHT is proud to have been approved for a second Capstone project with Ontario Tech University. The Marketing e-Commerce students will focus on the development of our own Brand and Visual identity. The Durham OHT is unique and needs to have it's own identity to refelct the needs of our local community. Stay tuned for oppourtunities to have your voice heard and contribute to our Branding process!

DURHAM OHT LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Over the past several months, the Durham OHT has seen leadership changes within our partnerships. We wish the leaders noted below all the best as they move on to their next chapter and welcome our new leaders joining the Durham OHT team.



Thank You for Your Contribution!

The Durham OHT expresses their sincere thanks and appreciation for the contributions provided by:

- John Riches, Region of Durham
- Lorraine Sunstrum-Mann, Grandview Children's Centre
- Colleen Worsley, Community Advantage Rehab

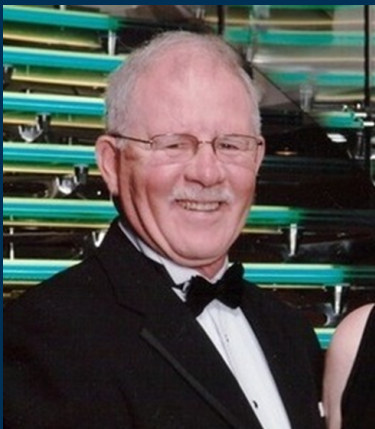
Welcome to the Team!

We are excited to announce the following partners who have joined us:

- Dr. Pepi McTavish, Durham Region Health Department
- Keith White, Oshawa Clinic Group
- Tom McHugh, Grandview Children's Treatment Centre
- Mike Affleck, Highmark Tech



Not to be Forgotten



Brian Harris

Patient Family and Care Partner Advisory Council, Co-Chair

Brian joined the Durham OHT in March 2022, and was quick to demonstrate his passion and dedication to the Patient, Family and Care Partner Advisory Council (PFCPAC). Brian worked closely with several members of the Durham OHT to ensure that engagement, partnering and co-design with patients, families and care partners is embedded in all activities in order to improve the system of health and social care and support for Durham Region residents.

Brian Harris

October 14, 1949 - January 10, 2023

Brian's roots in Durham Region were very strong, and he served as an educator and Principal for over 35 years. Brian was a long standing volunteer at the Alzheimer Society Durham Region and a member of their Board.

PRIMARY CARE - STRATEGIC PLAN 2023

Highway to Health ~ Road to Recovery

In 2022, the Durham OHT implemented the Primary Care Working Group (Community of Practice) and the Primary Care Advisory Council (PCAC). Both committee structures meet monthly and have the opportunity to provide feedback on priorities and initiatives that help shape and inform the delivery of Primary Care in Durham Region.

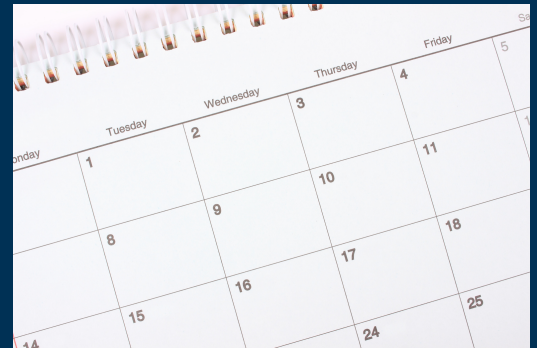
In January 2023, under the leadership of our two Primary Care Co-leads (Dr. Tirmizi and Dr. Wray), the Working Group and PCAC collectively developed the 2023 Primary Care Strategic Plan focused on the following key priorities:

1. Access to Care
2. Recruitment and Retention
3. Resources and Education

Durham OHT ~ Communications

Community Calendar ~ Stay Connected!

The Durham OHT Communications Working Group continues to work on the development of the Durham OHT Website, Community Calendar and overall outreach and building awareness for our Partners, Primary Care and residents of Durham Region.



Get Involved ~ Visit Us!

The Durham OHT has been invited to host a booth at the Black Health Symposium on February 25 from 11:00am - 4:00pm at the Ajax Convention Centre, presented by Carea Community Health Centre. Registration is required.