



SOUTH EAST GREY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

Good Morning,

A number of years ago, we embarked upon a mission to develop a Community Hub that would include Health and Social Services. Working with our acute care partners, we envisioned a health and social services campus in Markdale that would service the residents of Grey County for decades to come. The commitment from the initial agencies, was to reduce barriers to care, provide the highest level of service possible and to operate in an environment of collaboration, understanding that the needs of the community and the clients that we serve are paramount to the needs of the individual agency.

I am pleased to say that the dream of five years ago is slowly becoming a reality. The South East Grey Community Health Centre and its partnering agencies, are on the precipice of establishing a community health and social service hub. The agencies include primary care, mental health and addictions, social services and home and community support agencies. The vision of having one-stop for residents to be able to access an array of health and social services is slowly becoming a reality.

That initial vision was based on the understanding that a new acute care institution would be built in Markdale and operated by Grey Bruce Health Services. The Hospital is progressing through the planning stages and we are confident that once built, they will become an integral element of the hub and the health campus.

Given the recent announcement by the Bluewater School Board to close Beavercrest School and given the public outcry against such a move, the SEGCHC, at the request of the Municipality of Grey Highlands moved to expand the 'Community Hub' to include education, child care and wellness. The expanded vision is to establish one community hub with two locations. One location will encompass primary care, mental health and addictions, social services, home and community support services, acute care and long term care - a health and social services campus! The other location will include a new school, child care facility and a wellness centre. ALL of the partnering agencies are committed to integrating their services to better meet the needs of the community.

As we crossed one hurdle with the announcement of the Beavercrest School closing, we encountered another one. The recent announcement of the closing of Grey Gables is not only a blow to the community, it is an integral element of the health and social services campus. We are committed to an integrated seniors strategy for Grey County and long term care is a key player.

I am asking that you consider your position on this important issue and that you support the vision of an integrated service offering for Grey County that includes Long Term Care and Grey Gables.

Regards,

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Everyone Matters