



News Release

www.bluewaterhealth.ca

Local Innovation in Partnership Gets Provincial Interest

Speaking at Ontario healthcare leadership conference

SARNIA & PETROLIA – April 14, 2018 – Bluewater Health and the Town of Petrolia have been invited to present key leadership lessons to Ontario’s health system leaders at Health Shared Services Ontario’s annual conference: Achieving Excellence Together.

Achieving Excellence Together brings together well over 1,000 key decision-makers, high-ranking government officials, thought leaders, healthcare directors and executives, frontline care professionals, patients and caregivers to explore key issues and innovations in evidence-based care across the healthcare continuum.

The Town of Petrolia and Bluewater Health have developed a vision for their complementary future, and aligned town and hospital planning. They have released a Community Master Plan that envisions a Health Village and Health Hub incorporating the hospital, family health team office, accessible green space and a revitalized downtown. The committee has established community wellbeing indicators, which will be tracked to ensure the plan is reaching its goals. Planning Principals of the project include:

- supporting connections between health social and planning services;
- supporting Active Lifestyles by ensuring that citizens can reach many health services within walking distance;
- supporting independence; and
- fighting social isolation.

In a testament to the extensive community engagement, the architects, designers and urban planners working on the project, DIALOG have been encouraged by the community’s level of enthusiasm and interest in the project. According to Antonio Gómez-Palacio, Principal at DIALOG, “It’s encouraging to see a town and a hospital working hand in hand to improve the wellbeing of the entire community. Together they are accomplishing extraordinary things - a great example to inspire others.” Members of the DIALOG team will also be contributing their valued expertise at the conference by participating in the presentation.

Petrolia Mayor John McCharles is pleased with this opportunity to share the exciting details about the successful partnership, “The Town of Petrolia is honoured by the invitation to address this important conference. The invitation is a reflection of our innovative and community-centred goal to provide our residents with the finest healthcare possible. Our ongoing partnership with Bluewater Health is an outstanding example of the power of working together for the future of our community and those that surround us.”

Laurie Zimmer, Vice President of Operations at Bluewater Health agrees, “This partnership model between the town and the hospital is unique in the province and is proving to be an ideal approach to embedding sustainable healthcare and community services into the infrastructure of the town. Our colleagues in the healthcare system will find great value in the lessons we have learned in planning for the future from both a healthcare and municipal perspective.”

Bluewater Health, with locations in Sarnia and Petrolia, cares for the residents of Sarnia-Lambton. With close to 2,500 staff, Professional Staff and volunteers, Bluewater Health provides an array of specialized acute, complex continuing care, allied health and ambulatory care services. Bluewater Health’s Mission is: *We create exemplary healthcare*

experiences with patients and families every time. For more information about Bluewater Health, visit www.bluewaterhealth.ca or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

-30-

For more information contact:

Andria Allen-Appeldoorn Bluewater Health Communications Business Partner (519) 464-4443	Laurissa Ellsworth Town Of Petrolia Director of Marketing and Communications & Manager of VPP Front of House (519) 882-2350 Ext. 231
--	--

