

## National Nursing Week

## Award-winning nurses in the spotlight

*Nurses are often the unsung heroes of health care. Their contributions may sometimes go unnoticed, but below are several examples of the superior service and dedication that can be found in locally in the nursing profession.*

#### Leamington District Memorial Hospital (LDMH)

This year, the Leamington District Memorial Hospital Teamwork Award was given to **Charlene Allin, Patti Drummond, Marg Pare, Cheryl Deter, Janice Dawson, Linda Verhoeven and Lucy Coppola**. This quality improvement team developed a Transfer Checklist to be used when a patient is admitted from ER or transferred from one unit to another. The tool is designed to improve communication at the hand-off point between nurses so that all important and relevant information about a patient is passed on to the receiving nurse or unit. The nurses on the team represent each of the nursing departments at LDMH.

#### Hotel Dieu-Grace Hospital (HDGH)

Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital launched the Jeanne Mance Nursing Excellence Award program in 2004. Candidates who exemplify nursing excellence and contribute to enhancing the image of nursing through teamwork, compassion, stewardship and respect are considered for this award.

The hospital issues a call for nominations in March and welcomes nominations from staff, including medical staff, visitors and patients. Seven finalists are selected for recognition from all of the nominations received and one of those seven finalists is selected to receive the award and the \$1,000 honorarium that goes with it at a special ceremony held at HDGH Tuesday, May 9.

This year's seven finalists being recognized for nursing excellence are:

**Constance Sinasac**, Emergency Room

No matter what the day brings, Connie can be counted on to meet all of the challenges that come her way head on and with a great attitude. Her pleasant demeanor never falters no matter how busy and stressed things get in the ER. She does her very best to ensure that every patient receives exemplary care. Connie is an outstanding nurse, an excellent role model and dedicated professional.

**Patricia Busteded**, Operating Room

Pat is a remarkable nurse and a very caring, compassionate person. She is known to put the wellbeing of others ahead of her own. She is pleasant, a good teacher and a great role model for nurses everywhere.

Pat is instrumental in helping others to project a positive attitude and by example demonstrates that everyone can make the workplace a great place.

**Sue Gaunt**, Cardiac Care Unit

Sue has been an outstanding and valued member of the HDGH cardiac care team for approximately 25 years. She has demonstrated excellence in teamwork by promoting collaborative practice, mentoring, precepting and by always being available to staff to answer questions about the technology used in Cardiac Care Unit (CCU). Her co-workers believe that she should be recognized for her excellence because she goes above and beyond the call of duty to make the CCU a better environment for staff, students and patients.

**Peggy Oldfield**, Unit Manager

Peggy is an integral part of a multidisciplinary team at Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital. Her colleagues within the Social Work and Resource Utilization Department and on the patient units describe Peggy as an excellent team player, someone who can be counted on for support.

Even if she is busy with her own work assignment, she recognizes the needs of others and will offer to lend a hand to help out a colleague.

She values her association with the hospital and speaks highly of HDGH to both internal and external customers. Her leadership of its

research ethics board and her support of clinical research teams has raised the hospital's profile and brought HDGH positive media attention. It has also helped the hospital attract highly skilled specialists to Windsor.

**Pamela Prime**, Mental Health

Pam has more than 25 years of nursing experience, and her colleagues say that she brings a sense of professionalism and compassion to the Psychiatry, Pre-Discharge Unit. She is a strong advocate for patients and their families and exemplifies stewardship in the organization and fulfills her commitment to providing a safe clinical environment and safe workplace for all. She is admired for her tenacity and dedication and has become an exceptional role model for others.

**Marnie Burns**, Mental Health

Marnie is described by colleagues on the Psychiatry Intensive Observation Unit as a team player who loves a challenge and excels in leadership roles.

She sets high nursing standards and takes a proactive role in every challenge presented to her. Marnie regularly seeks out educational experiences and conferences in order to become a more understanding and knowledgeable nurse.

She is committed to her profession, clients and team, has great respect for everyone around her and has exceptional therapeutic communication skills.

**Kathy Vallee**, Infection Control

An employee of HDGH for 35 years, Kathy is a fierce advocate for patients and demonstrates a commitment to exemplary practice.

She is considered a kind and compassionate person who goes out of her way for patients, employees and visitors who come through the hospital doors.

Throughout her career at HDGH, Kathy has been a bright light in the profession of nursing, and she continues to shine. She has constantly raised the bar for herself and encouraged others in the pursuit of excellence in patient care. She is an exemplary professional and mentor for others.

**Monika Skocaj**

Monica worked in the Emergency Room (ER) at Windsor Regional Hospital as a Registered Nurse. She and several of her for-

mer colleagues from the hospital established a small business to meet the training needs of a specific market segment. The business, established in 1997, continued for many years to flourish under Monica's guidance.

It provides training and education to health care professionals from several disciplines in the specialty area of Paediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS). As an entrepreneur, Monica and her colleagues established a reputation for providing high quality education and training.

The business provides a service to not only the community of Windsor/Essex, but because of the quality program that is delivered, Monica and her colleagues taught the course approximately 45 times throughout southwestern Ontario. The Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation wrote in the accreditation report for Windsor Regional Hospital that the PALS courses taught by Monica and her colleagues improved the delivery of services to the paediatric population.

#### Windsor Regional Hospital

Windsor Regional Hospital is proud to present the 2006 Nursing Excellence Award Winners:

**Amie Layson**

Amie Layson is the winner of a 2006 Nursing Excellence Award in the Frontline Nurse category.

Beginning her nursing career as a Registered Practical Nurse (RPN), Amie returned to St. Clair College to obtain her RN in 2004. As a student, Amie was placed in the Medicine II/Respiratory Care Unit.

Following her graduation in 2004, she began working at the Met Campus of Windsor Regional Hospital in the same area.

As her nomination reads: "Amie routinely goes 'above and beyond' in the delivery of care to her patients and their families".

Amie is also a volunteer firefighter with the Town of Kingsville.

**Elaine Chauvin**

Elaine Chauvin is the winner of a 2006 Nursing Excellence Award in the Floor Leader category.

Elaine began her nursing education at Metropolitan General Hospital and completed her studies at St. Clair College. She began her career at "the Met" (later Windsor

Regional Hospital) in 1974 and worked in the Urology Department, IV Team and in the Oncology program for the last 13 years.

From her nomination: "Elaine maintains the highest level of ethical standards. She cares for patients with dignity and does her best to reduce anxiety and provide comfort".

Elaine is an avid gardener and even volunteers by gardening at her church.

**Sandra Renaud**

Sandra Renaud is the winner of a 2006 Nursing Excellence Award in the category of Team Player.

Sandra graduated from Nursing at St. Clair College in 1979 and obtained a BScN from the University of Windsor in 1989.

"Sandra has excellent communication skills and is a strong advocate for the population she serves," her nomination says. "She is always seeking out research and new information pertaining to cardiac rehabilitation."

Sandra is committed to leading a healthy lifestyle herself and likes to volunteer her time in health promotion activities.

**Sheila McCabe** – St. Clair College

Sheila McCabe RN, BScN, MEd has been a nursing professor at St. Clair College for 25 years and has been practicing nursing for many more years than she would like to admit.

Sheila has taught nurses in many programs from the practical nursing student to the diploma and bac-

calaureate students and from the most junior to the senior levels. She has worked with them in various health care organizations across Essex County (hospitals, nursing homes and urgent care centres).

Sheila has been actively involved in the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario for more than 25 years, holding various local executive positions. She was the elected representative to the College of Nurses of Ontario (nursing's governing body) for six years during which time she was Chairperson of the Registration Committee and the Discipline Committee.

Sheila advocates for nursing and for quality health care, through her volunteer committee work at both Hotel Dieu Grace and Windsor Regional hospitals. She retired in December but has not slowed down, continuing to volunteer, teaching part time and as Nursing Coordinator in Continuing Education at St. Clair College.

She is currently involved in developing new courses and programs to advance the knowledge and expertise of local nurses.

Sheila is well known and respected by the nurses in Essex County. If they don't know her personally, then they have heard of her. A mentor and resource for countless nurses, she is just one of a number of excellent nursing education leaders in Essex County.



Sheila McCabe

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## Public Health Nurses

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### A Healthy Part of Your Life!

**"We recognize and honour the contributions that Nurses make to our community."**



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# THANKS

## To Our Nurses

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## Everyday to the lives You Touch!

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**RPNAO**  
REGISTERED PRACTICAL NURSES  
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**OUR VISION:**  
*Nursing...one profession...many partnerships.*

**OUR MISSION:**  
*Dedicated to quality driven decision that enhance professional practical Nursing.*

**"ONE VOICE OF NURSING IN ONTARIO"**

*Congratulations to all nurses!*

**NATIONAL NURSING WEEK**  
**MAY 8TH. - 14TH.**

RPNs are one of two categories of nurses who are registered and regulated by the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO).

RPNs are a critical part of every health care team and have never been so well prepared to fill the growing need for regulated health professionals across every sector of the health care field.

**Join and support RPNs as they celebrate their week!**

Contact: RPNAO  
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# The Faculty of Nursing

**The University of Windsor Faculty of Nursing:**

- offers a collaborative BScN; Post RN BScN; Primary Health Care NP Certificate; Master of Science and Master of Nursing
- prepares the next generation of nurses for futuristic practice in a constantly changing health care system
- teaches the art and science of nursing via highly-skilled faculty with a learning-centred approach
- is proud of its graduates - respected professionals able to secure dynamic positions in a range of settings

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