



MEDIA RELEASE

May 17, 2019

RECOGNIZING THE VITAL ROLE OF PARAMEDICS DURING PARAMEDIC SERVICES WEEK

May 26th to June 1st is Paramedic Services Week – an opportunity to celebrate the Paramedics who respond to more than 22,000 calls each year in Lanark County. They play an important role in caring for all of our citizens, both during emergencies and with continuing health programs.

Over the past several years, the Service has been very successful in introducing new programs with our STEMI (heart attack), Major Trauma and Stroke Programs. Critically ill patients are taken directly from their home or scene to a hospital in Ottawa or Kingston to receive the most advanced care possible in the timeliest manner.

“This year, the Service will continue to expand on its goal of providing world class pre-hospital medical care with the introduction of its Advanced Care Paramedic Program (ACP),” notes Chief Ed McPherson. “This program will see the Paramedics deliver a higher level of medical care to our most seriously ill patients by expanding on the number of medications and treatments they can complete in the patient’s home.” ACP went live in March.

The program requires interested Paramedics to complete a further year of intensive training, in addition to the current two-year paramedic program. Several Lanark County Paramedics have already completed this program while others are registered to enter the program in the fall.

“The long-term goal is to have the Advanced Care Paramedics spread throughout the County. By combining the high-level skills of our current Primary Care Paramedics with the Advance Care Paramedics, we can ‘bring the ER to your door’,” adds Chief McPherson.

While the focus is always on how the Paramedics can help our citizens in emergency situations the Service is also continuing with its Community Paramedic Program that assists our aging residents with home care support. This program is funded by the South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and is available in the southern part of Lanark County. Specially trained Paramedics care for the vulnerable patients in their own home with the goal to reducing their need to be hospitalized. The program continues to grow and will be essential in supplying out of hospital care to those who need it most.

“While these programs will certainly benefit the residents of Lanark County, they are just a small part of the numerous programs that the Paramedics are involved in,” sums up President & CEO Mary Wilson Trider. “From safety visits to local schools, volunteering at many community events, and providing a helping hand at Christmas with the Food Bank Drive, the Paramedics are proud to serve. Thank you to each of them for the service they provide to the residents of Lanark County.”

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Cutline: Superintendent Amanda Taylor shows school children the equipment inside an ambulance.

Media Contact:

Jane Adams

Communications Lead

Almonte General Hospital

613-729-4864

jane@brainstorm.nu