



COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

February 2023

Mission

In response to community concerns about repeated closures and reduced service at the ER in Chesley District Memorial Hospital and the potential threat this poses for the future of the hospital itself, we work collaboratively with community members and other organizations throughout the area to provide opportunity for residents to communicate their concerns and to advocate for resumption of full time ER services at CDMH.

Guiding Principles

Collaboration: We will work in collaboration with other community organizations active throughout the area of service for this hospital, consulting their feedback and opinion and providing opportunity for them to participate in our activities.

Inclusive: We will ensure that in our deliberations and activities we provide equal opportunity for participation by all members of our local community

Integrity: We apply the principles of integrity to all our actions and communications, committing ourselves to truth, honesty and sincerity and showing civility and respect for those with other points of view.

Source Locally: We commit to source materials, supplies and services from within the local business community wherever possible.

Peaceful: It is our intention that any activities we undertake will be conducted in a peaceful manner and that we will discourage disruptive or dangerous behaviours.

Action Plan

- 1. Organize a Rally to Support the Local Hospital with a fully functioning ER service, our local Health Care Workers, and Physician Recruitment**
 - a) Reserve a space and time for the rally.

We have reserved the Chesley Community Centre for an afternoon rally from 2 to 4 pm on April 1st

b) Recruit speakers.

We are in the process of developing a list of speakers and a moderator for the event. Between speakers, we will acknowledge some of the other small rural communities facing similar issues.

c) Recruit volunteers.

We need to recruit sufficient volunteers to assist with the orderly flow of people into and out of the rally and potentially with suitable seating arrangements.

d) Consult with the municipality on parking arrangements.

We need to ensure that there are sufficient parking spots for those who will drive to the rally.

e) Solicit letters of support from local organizations.

Letters of support will lend credibility to this event and may encourage more participation at the local level.

2. Promote the Event

a) Brochure

We have developed a brochure describing our intended rally and encouraging support. Brochures will be hand delivered by volunteers throughout the area.

b) Posters

We have developed a poster to promote attendance at the rally and will be asking local businesses for permission to display them in their windows or on their bulletin boards.

c) Lawn Signs

We have developed a lawn sign campaign to be encouraged throughout the area and will be distributing signs on request.

d) Decals

We have ordered small decals featuring our logo to be distributed before and during the rally to help identify our supporters and build a sense of commonality of purpose.

e) Website

For those who prefer to use computers for communication, we have developed a website for the interim to provide information about the issue and the background upon which this situation rests. The website has been created with volunteer time. The website is ready to launch after our presentation to Council.

f) Facebook Page

We have also opened a Facebook page which will allow us to promote the rally and open discussion with people who are comfortable using that medium.

g) Media Plan

We have developed contacts within the local media community and will be participating in interviews to promote our event. On the day of the rally, we are hopeful of arranging some local news coverage.

3. Petition

We have developed a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and will be soliciting signatures during our month long campaign and at the rally itself. After the rally we will arrange to have the petition presented to the Legislature

4. Pay the Bills

It is our intention that all of our promotional materials will be made available to community members free of charge. We do not intend to solicit money from people attending the rally. While most of the labour to create these materials have been volunteer, there have been some expenses for materials and design. We will attend meetings of local organizations to explain what we are planning and ask for donations to help cover those expenses.

5. Record the Event for Future Review

Community activities are an important mechanism to build spirit and cooperation for the future. We will recruit volunteers to record and tape the event and provide copies of such to the Municipality.

6. The Aftermath

- a) Clean Up: We will provide sufficient volunteer assistance to clean up the rally site after the event.
- b) We will have one final committee meeting to evaluate the results of our action and determine if further action is required or advisable.
- c) And lastly we will send thank you letters to volunteers and suppliers who have helped us make this happen.

What Else Can I Do To Show Support?

- Sign our petition to the Premier and Minister of Health
- Request a lawn sign for your yard
- Write a letter to MPP Rick Byers
- Write or co-sign a letter to the editor
- Put a poster in your window



**Peaceful Rally
2 pm
April 1st
Chesley Community
Centre**

**Feel free to be creative.
Make and bring your
own sign.**

**This brochure has been produced for the
residents of Arran-Elderslie
by the members of
Chesley Hospital Community Support**

Co-Chairs: Hazel Pratt & Brenda Scott

**contact@chesleyhcs.ca
519 363 2991 519 363 6306**



**Show Your Support for
the Chesley
Hospital**

**Rally
April 1, 2023
At the Chesley
Community Centre**

Who Are We?

The Chesley Hospital Community Support Committee is made up of local people who, like you, are affected by the recent threats to the future of full time ER and the Chesley Hospital. We are your friends and neighbours. We support our local health care workers, our ER and Hospital and the Physician Recruitment Committee.

Ellen Fisher

Jane Godin

Darryl Hampton

Marie Krauter

Faye Bell McClure

Joanne McLaren

Arthur Middleton

Eileen Mustard

Hazel Pratt

Brenda Scott

Ian Scott

Doug Walsh

There is strength in numbers. Join us if you would like to help. Contact us and we will get back to you.

We've Been Down This Road Before...

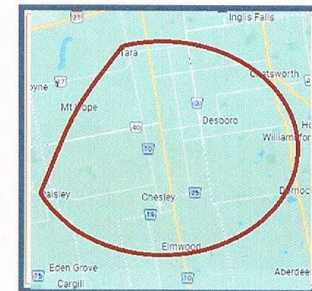
In 'Chesley...Past and Present', the Chesley Centennial Committee in 1980 summarizes: "The history of Health Services in Chesley has largely been the struggle to keep a viable and fully equipped hospital in town." "Since 1948, when the Chesley and District Memorial Hospital opened, there have been at least two major attempts by the government to have it closed in favour of larger facilities in nearby towns. Each time the move has met with strong protest from the townspeople and the doctors, as an active hospital is crucial to a town's ability to offer full medical services to its people."

At least one more attempt by the government to close this hospital was made in 1992. Once again the townspeople rallied to defend it and won the day.

The struggle continues. Past generations have fought to maintain our hospital and now it is our turn. Stand strong and join us in supporting our hospital and our ER.

Who Does This Hospital Serve?

This hospital and ER serves an area larger than the town of Chesley itself. It includes about 6,900 people. Many are disadvantaged by the long distance and lack of transportation to health centres in larger communities. It serves the whole population of Arran-Elderslie Township and includes people living in Tara, Paisley, Desboro, Dobbinton and Elmwood. It includes a large farming community in Brant, Sullivan and Bentinck Townships. We also have a large population of Amish and Mennonite families who are part of our community.





Rally
April 1, 2023
2 pm

Chesley Community Centre

**Support the demand for full
time ER at Chesley Hospital**

For further Information: www.chesleyhcs.ca