

The Dr. Kingston Memorial Community Health Centre (the Centre) is looking to increase its existing board representation with dedicated individuals who have the talents and skills to further grow the Community Health Centre.

**Vision:** Health People, Healthy Communities

**Mission Statement:** Quality Health Services and Programs that are Accessible and Responsive to our Communities' Needs.

### Today

The Dr. Kingston Memorial Community Health Centre has experienced notable growth over the past 24 months. We have expanded our programming and services. In addition to primary health care, we are now offering illness prevention education, nutritional education, heart health programming, diabetic clinics, foot care, flu clinics and addiction services. Our health care staff has grown to include our new doctor, Dr. Kristen Iverson, Dr. Jonah Samson, NP Bonnie Gagnon, NP Richelle Sparks and FPN Amanda Shephard.

Additional service providers include: a massage therapist, reflexologist, clinical psychologist, dietician, community outreach support worker and naturopath. In moving forward, the Centre continues to look to the needs of the community and are committed to expanding the scope of our programming to meet these needs.

The Centre has been fortunate enough to receive funding focussed on Seniors Safety as well as Age Friendly Communities. This funding has allowed the Centre to move closer to its long-term vision of creating a Senior's Wellness Centre serving all of Richmond County.

With the recent hire of a Coordinator Prevention of Elder Abuse and Victimization, we are implementing an awareness and reduction plan on the issue of elder abuse. Coincidentally, an assessment of services seniors require to stay safe and comfortable in their homes is being compiled. This information will enable the Centre to facilitate the development of a social enterprise that will offer seniors the services they need at a reduced cost.

### Our History

In 1977, after Dr. Digout, the only area doctor, located in the neighbouring community of St. Peter's retired, the Holy Guardian Angel Parish Council started to renovate the top floor of the existing funeral home in the hopes of attracting a physician. It housed three offices, reception and a waiting area complete with an exam table, desks and various surplus medical equipment.

During a visit with one of his friends in the area, Dr. Kingston asked the question. "Where do you go for health care?" The discussion ensued about the lack of health care in the area and the distance of travel to receive care. Dr. Kingston who was not looking for a full-time practice, heard about the communities' commitment in setting up an office without actually having a physician and was inspired to take on a part time commitment to provide community medical care. The new facility was named The Dr. Kingston Clinic.

When Dr. Kingston's part time practice grew to include more the 5000 patient files, he recognized the need for a larger more functional clinic. Again community groups and individuals worked tirelessly to renovate and relocate the clinic to the vacant community convent in 1983.

For 30 years, the clinic in the renovated convent met the needs of its growing client base. In 2009, after the building was deemed unsuitable and could no longer house the many services that were being developed, the community focussed on the development of a Community Health Centre.

Today, after substantial community fundraising, government and corporate support, the goal of a new state of the art Community Health Centre was finalized in October 2013. We now reside at 40 School Road, overlooking the two previous locations.