

Staff Report

Report To: Corporate Services Committee
Report From: Phil Eagleson, Fire Chief
Meeting Date: May 9, 2024
Report Code: CM-24-023
Subject: Physician Recruitment Update

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CM-24-023 respecting the Physician Recruitment Update, the Corporate Services Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes.

Highlights:

- Multiple events are being organized to attract Family Physicians and future Family Physicians to Owen Sound.
- Community group (Grey Bruce/Owen Sound Physician Recruitment and Retention Taskforce) directing a regional Recruitment strategy.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Prosperous City. KR2 - Develop a framework to attract key industry sector(s) for economic growth and investment that are matched to Owen Sound's economic strengths.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Previous Report/Authority:

[Physician Recruitment Update - CM-23-006](#)

Background:

We continue working with Brightshores Health System staff and the Owen Sound Family Health Team to encourage new doctors to come to Owen Sound.

This report serves as a brief update on Physician Recruitment efforts in the City of Owen Sound. Several of the events planned this year are intended to attract future Physicians to our community, experience everything the area has to offer and return to practice Family Medicine in Owen Sound in the future. This recruitment approach has proven successful, but it takes time to reap the rewards. The events highlighted below encourage potential future doctors as early as High school. We proudly showcase the City to several current and future medical professionals.

Analysis:

ROMP Week

Also known as Rural Medicine Week or Discovery Week, ROMP Week is a one-week elective offered to pre-clerk Ontario University medical students during their summer break. ROMP Week aims to provide pre-clerks with the opportunity to get “hands-on” clinical experience and showcase what the host community has to offer. Pre-clerks receive exposure to the highlights of the hospital and geographic region that interests them and are given the choice of their community based on their place of study. The social aspect of the week allows the learners to have fun through various activities such as canoeing, hiking, guided tours, and social events with community members. ROMP Week is a unique elective that hopes to allow medical students to understand what it is like to practice medicine in a rural community. Owen Sound will host ROMP Week Students from June 3-7 this year.

Discovery Healthcare Summer Camp

Discovery Healthcare is a summer camp that provides a unique learning opportunity for high school students interested in pursuing careers in medicine, nursing, dentistry, paramedics, kinesiology, or other healthcare professions.

The camp is led by first, and second-year medical students from Schulich Medicine & Dentistry at Western University. These future medical professionals spend the week providing mentorship and learning opportunities for the campers. By fostering a passion for healthcare among

our local youth, Discovery Healthcare will encourage the sustainability of our future healthcare system.

Campers engage in various activities, allowing them to learn hands-on clinical skills, understand local health issues and social determinants of health, learn about the pathways to different careers, and see healthcare professionals in action through shadowing opportunities. This exciting opportunity for our local youth will be hosted in Owen Sound by Brightshores Health System from July 15 to July 19, 2024.

Rural Medicine Retreat

The retreat will be hosted in Owen Sound on August 17 and 18 and organized and promoted by Community Physician Recruitment Specialists and Brightshores. This annual Grey Bruce event has been popular with future physicians. In past years, it has been hosted in Kincardine and Walkerton. The exciting event is planned from a regional level to support physician recruitment to Grey and Bruce counties. It is an opportunity for residents and physicians interested in the area to come and enjoy a fun weekend in our region. It provides a chance for them to chat with some of our local physicians and community recruiters and just gain a fun experience in our area. The casual event includes local recreational activities and opportunities to showcase our community to potential new physicians. Participants are welcome to stay at Harison Park Campground and Cabin.

New Medical Residents Coming to Owen Sound

Three new PGY1 Family Medicine Residents will start in Owen Sound in July. The future Physicians will live and work in Owen Sound and experience everything the community offers. It is hoped the residents will return to Owen Sound in the coming years to begin a Family Practice. Historically, the Owen Sound Family Health Team has had remarkable success in encouraging residents to join their team after completing the residency placements.

The Grey Bruce/Owen Sound Physician Recruitment and Retention Workshop

This workshop will be conducted on May 1, 2024, at Georgian College in Owen Sound.

The Grey Bruce/Owen Sound Physician Recruitment and Retention Taskforce is inviting guests to join a workshop to discuss the coordination of regional physician recruitment efforts and regional promotional opportunities. This

includes medical professionals, recruitment specialists, elected officials, and other leaders interested in addressing unmet local primary healthcare needs.

The purpose is to develop a sustainable governance model for regional recruitment, such as a Grey Bruce/Owen Sound Community Cooperative for Physician Recruitment and Retention, as the Taskforce report supports. Irena Pozgaj-Jones will facilitate this meeting.

The task force will seek stable long-term funding to implement several recommendations in the 2023 Taskforce Report. The objectives and recommendations included in the report will benefit all communities in the Grey-Bruce area by advertising, marketing, and promoting our region as an area where Physicians want to live and work.

Financial Implications:

There are minimal financial implications at this time. Accommodations for medical school students taking part in the Rural Retreat will be subsidized through our Economic Development Marketing Budget and will offset camping costs at Harrison Park—approximately \$2,000.

Communication Strategy:

Presentation of this report to the Corporate Services Committee.

Consultation:

N/A.

Attachments:

None.

Recommended by:

Phil Eagleson, Fire Chief

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Phil Eagleson, Fire Chief, at peagleson@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 2244.