

Shelburne Community Partners / Nova Scotia Health Update

December 2025

Telephone system change at Roseway Hospital

- Roseway Hospital telephones implemented a new 10-digit dialing system in November. New telephone numbers at Roseway Hospital now start with: (902) 875-____. Patients and the public can now dial offices or departments directly and not have to enter an extension number. Many hospitals in Nova Scotia are moving to a 10-digit dialing system, eliminating site-based phone extensions.

New Ultrasound Campaign making waves

- Fundraising efforts are well underway for the ultrasound unit for Roseway Hospital. The Foundation *Echos of Hope* gala in September featured Nova Scotia Health CEO Karen Oldfield as guest speaker. By all accounts it was a lovely event and a great success. The Auxiliary has also contributed to the fundraising effort with an on-line local artisan auction as part of their *Nu2U* auction.
- Everyone is looking forward to a community organized fundraiser consisting of local musicians called *Ultra-Sounds of Shelburne County Concert* which will be held Sunday, December 7 at the Osprey. Planning continues to launch the Ultrasound service, with anticipated operationalization in 2026.



New medication dispensing system

- The medical unit at Roseway Hospital has a new medication dispensing system (Pyxis). This required some renovations to the existing space and a new Medication Room with improved privacy and better space for staff to work. The emergency department is also using the new Pyxis system and renovations are underway to improve the Medication Room in that area.
- Pxyis is an automated medication dispensing system that provides secure storage right on patient units, along with electronic tracking of medications. It helps staff and physicians safely and efficiently dispense the right medicine, for the right patient, at the right time.

New device to help patients & staff in Emergency department

- The LUCAS Compression system has been ordered for the Emergency Department and will be funded by the Hospital Auxiliary. This is a piece of equipment that staff are very excited about. The Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System (LUCAS) device provides mechanical chest compressions to patients in cardiac arrest. It is used in emergency medicine as an alternative to manual cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) because it provides consistent compressions at a fixed rate and eliminates the physical strain on the person performing CPR. Thank you to the Auxiliary.

Staffing Update – welcome to new team members

- Roseway is pleased to welcome an Internationally Educated Nurse (IEN) who is currently completing her clinical placement on our Medical Unit who has accepted a full time position, starting December 1.
- We are also pleased to have a number of new nurses join our team. Welcome...
 - New full-time Registered Nurse (RN) on our Medical Unit
 - Part-time Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and two casual LPNs are currently on orientation
 - Three new LPNs graduate next month and have accepted positions on our Medical Unit.
- Roseway Healthcare Professional Sponsorship Committee – which is generously supported by many community partners - has awarded a bursary to a local RN who is finishing their training to become a Nurse Practitioner, with plans to practice in the Shelburne area upon completion.
- We have an LPN who we funded to take the Advanced Footcare Course as part of a pilot project. She has started offering this service to our inpatients which is a huge bonus to our patients and improves quality of care.
- Shelburne continues to be an excellent example of how successful recruitment and retention is a community effort. Everyone at Roseway Hospital and Shelburne County Community Health Centre and Family Practice are very grateful and have felt very appreciated to receive special treats from the Municipality of Shelburne for Nurses Week, CCA week, Doctor’s Day and Nurse Practitioner Week. Thank you!

Virtual Urgent Care – daily from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. (patients registered up to 7 p.m.)

- Roseway Hospital continues to be a leader in Virtual Urgent Care performance across the western zone. For four consecutive months over the summer into fall, Roseway has recorded the highest number of registrations and successful visits for Virtual Urgent Care in the zone. In September, 99 patients were seen through this care platform, followed by 92 patients in October. These steady volumes reflect strong awareness, consistent community uptake and reliable on-site support from staff.
- Virtual Urgent Care is currently a clerical led program but will be a nurse led (LPN) program by the new year.
- The top concerns for September and October included cough and cold symptoms, skin conditions and urinary tract infections. Across the zone, we saw a temporary, noticeable spike in tick bites, associated with seasonal larvae activity.
- At a Shelburne Farmer’s Market this fall, Nova Scotia Health promoted Virtual Urgent Care and other options to access healthcare in the Shelburne region. Look for a provincial awareness campaign to educate people about Virtual Urgent Care in the months ahead.



Emergency Department update

- We continue to work to improve the emergency department schedule, while promoting other options for people to access care. We have seen some decreases in the number of closure hours which is hopeful, but still have challenges. Like at many hospitals across Nova Scotia, staff at

Roseway have been very busy as we have been overcapacity for the last couple of months and our emergency dept. has been open more hours.

Shelburne Same Day Clinic

- Our [Shelburne Same Day Clinic](#) continues to operate every Saturday & Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Roseway Hospital. Clinic is staffed by a Nurse Practitioner, RN/LPN or paramedic and clerical support staff.
- Same day appointments are provided is for urgent, non-life threatening issues. Appointments are booked every 20 minutes, with approx. 18 patients per day. There have been approximately 616 patient visits/appointments since the clinic began in July. Many patients being seen have a primary care provider or could more appropriately receive care in a non-hospital setting. This reinforces the opportunity to increase awareness of the many other options to access care for non-urgent health concerns. People with a primary care provider should always contact their provider first when seeking care. Other options in the area include:
 - [Virtual Urgent Care](#) at Roseway Hospital, **Monday to Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.** (patients accepted up to 60 minutes before closing)
 - Community pharmacy primary care clinic at TLC Pharmasave in Shelburne: <https://pans.ns.ca/CPGCC>
 - Shelburne Primary Care Clinic: 902-875-2321 to ask about available appointments
 - [VirtualCareNS | Nova Scotia Health](#)
 - YourHealthNS can help people in Shelburne / Shelburne County navigate the different options to access care. Download the app on a mobile device, or visit on computer: <https://www.yourhealthns.ca/>

Primary Health Update

- The number of family physicians at the Shelburne Family Practice is now at four. Dr. Fatokun began practicing in Middle Sackville on November 1.
- Thanks to the great work of the Shelburne Family Practice team and others, all Dr. Fatokun's patients have been stabilized and rostered to a provider at the practice. Thank you to the Municipality of Shelburne for their support with a little send off for him at local restaurant. We extend best wishes to Dr. Fatokun and his family and thank him for his service to Shelburne patients.
- The Shelburne Family Practice is pleased to welcome a new Registered Social Worker to the team who began on October 27, 2025. The addition of this role will help enhance the level of service for patients and will be a valuable resource for other providers.
- A Nurse Practitioner student currently working at Roseway Hospital will complete their studies next fall and has accepted a position with the team starting in October 2026. In the meantime, Deana Hickey, nurse practitioner is working two days per week to maintain a roster of patients until the new nurse practitioner can begin practicing.

Shelburne Family Practice continues to accept new patients

- New patients continue to be accepted by Shelburne Family Practice. A total of 191 patients have been rostered to a Nurse Practitioner or family physician since last report:
 - 68 new patients – August
 - 28 new patients – September
 - 98 new patients – October

Well Women Clinics well utilized

- Well Women Clinics were held in Barrington on Sept. 23 & Oct. 28. Another clinic will take place in Barrington on Dec. 2. There are Well Women Clinic appointments in Shelburne with a Nurse Practitioner. If a patient lives closer to Shelburne they will be booked into an appointment with NP in Shelburne.
- Clinics offer services such as pap tests, breast exams, contraceptive counselling, and sexual health care services for patients with or without a provider by appointment. Screening is completed by nurse prior to booking. Check the Shelburne Family Practice Facebook page for updates -OR-call the **clinic 902-637-1278**.



Primary Care Clinics

- Georg MacDonald, NP, provides Primary Care Clinic services for people in Shelburne County who do not have a regular family provider. She also provides a weekly clinic in Lockeport on Thursday. Angelina DeMings, NP, provides a weekly clinic at the Clark's Harbour Clinic on Monday.

Shelburne Primary Care Clinic visits:

84 visits in August
88 visits in September
119 visits in October

Lockeport Clinic visits (Thursdays):

20 visits in August
11 visits in September
24 visits in October

Clarks Harbour Clinic visits (Mondays):

26 visits in August
37 visits in September
26 visits in October

Mental Health & Addictions

- Opioid Recovery Program (ORP) continues with clinics at Roseway Hospital on Tuesdays with a Nurse Practitioner (NP), Social Worker, LPN and clerical staff supporting.
- Child and Adolescent Clinical Team is offering a “Chilled Group” this Fall. This is a free 10 session group program for teens who want to build skills to manage anxiety, increase confidence and increase independence.
- To connect with Mental Health call Central Intake: **1-855-922-1122** to book a Choice appointment. After being seen for a Choice appointment, you will meet with a group facilitator where you will have an opportunity to set goals for group. *For those already connected with Mental Health, speak with your partnership clinician to get connected with a Chilled group facilitator to be screened for group.*

- At Clarks Harbour Clinic, our Child Therapist continues to provide service every Thursday and every second Friday, while our Adult Therapist is changing schedules, moving to Tuesdays at the clinic (instead of Wednesdays).

In the news / of note:

- Gino the Therapy Dog continues to brighten the day of patients and staff at Roseway Hospital. Gino, along with his human volunteer Nissel DeMolitor, has been making visits to Roseway since the summer. Gino and Nissel are with the [St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog program](#).



“We are starting to see the return on investment;” Physician recruitment, retention efforts paying off in southwest N.S. – Saltwire news

<https://www.saltwire.com/nova-scotia/tri-county-vangaurd/were-starting-to-see-the-return-on-investment-physician-recruitment-retention-efforts-paying-off-in-southwest-n-s>

- Robin Smith, community navigator for Shelburne, Charlene d'Entremont, community navigator for the Yarmouth area along with Nancy Whalley, Digby Navigator join Nova Scotia Health’s Rebecca Cassidy to put the full court press on recruitment and retention efforts in our region.
- Kerry Muise with the Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce recently gave a presentation on the navigator program to Barrington Municipal Council. She spoke about attracting physicians to the area and looking into the start of a Medical Club at Barrington High School to raise interest in healthcare professions among students.



Community health boards across Nova Scotia announce wellness fund recipients

<https://www.nshealth.ca/news-and-notice/community-health-boards-across-nova-scotia-announce-wellness-fund-recipients>

- Shelburne County Community Health Board (CHB) joined other CHBs across Nova Scotia to announce \$700,000 has been awarded to 329 projects supporting local population health priorities in Nova Scotia.
- Grants from the CHB wellness fund are awarded annually to non-profit organizations across the province working to improve the health of their communities, based on priorities identified by the CHBs.
- Some of the Shelburne County organizations that received support include the Jevon Link Society; Barrington High School Health Cooking Club; Shelburne County Youth Darts initiative.