



## Shelburne Community Partners / Nova Scotia Health Update,

September 2024

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### Primary Health Update

Successes of the Shelburne Collaborative Family Practice team were recognized with the announcement the team is now providing regular services in Clark's Harbour and Lockeport along with services provided in Barrington. A provincial government news release highlighted how the Shelburne team has expanded and is now better able to provide enhanced access to care across Shelburne County (See: [Shelburne County Health Team Expands. July 8, 2024](#)).

*"The Shelburne Family Practice team is dedicated to working together to provide the best care for our patients and people across Shelburne County. As a team, we have been able to grow and add a more diverse selection of healthcare providers to offer more comprehensive care in more communities."*

— **Angelina Demings, nurse practitioner, Shelburne Family Practice**

### More patients rostered to Shelburne Collaborative Family Practice Team

Shelburne County continues to have the second lowest % of people on the [Need a Family Practice Registry](#) in Western Zone (10.4%), and is consistently among the lowest in N.S. The team is steadily rostering people to their patient list from the Need a Family Practice Registry.

- **420** people in Shelburne County have been rostered since last report:
  - 160 new patients – June, 2024
  - 155 new patients – July, 2024
  - 105 new patients – August, 2024

A full-time Social Worker joined the Shelburne Family Practice team in July, and will work in Shelburne and Barrington.

### Mobile Primary Care Clinics

Mobile clinics continue to be well-utilized in Shelburne. An average of 20 patients per day receive care at clinics held Saturdays in Shelburne and once a month in Barrington (of note, the majority of those seen are identified as having a family physician or nurse practitioner). Plans are to continue these popular mobile clinics regularly. Dates/info will be shared with Shelburne Community Partners.

### Care Clinics in Shelburne, Clark's Harbour and Lockeport

Over 400 people who do not have a primary care provider have accessed primary care since June at Care Clinics in Shelburne County, with clinics now available in Clark's Harbour and Lockeport.

**Shelburne Care Clinic:** 299 visits June-Aug.

**Clark's Harbour Care Clinic (Mondays):** 50 visits June-Aug.

**Lockeport Care Clinic (Thursdays):** 112 visits June – Aug.

**Well Women Clinics**, providing services such as pap tests, breast exams, contraceptive counselling, and sexual health care services for patients with or without a provider are held regularly at Shelburne

Family Practice by appointment. In June, 7 patients were seen and 12 patients in August. Check the Shelburne Family Practice Facebook page for updates or call the clinic.

**Mobile Breast Screening Van** at Roseway Hospital September 3 to 11, 2024. Please help spread the word.

## Roseway Hospital Site Update

**Virtual Urgent Care** successfully launched at Roseway Hospital on May 31. The service is becoming increasingly well-utilized with patients reporting high satisfaction with care. 84 people across Western Zone (Roseway, Queens, Fishermen's, Digby and Soldiers Memorial Hospitals) accessed Virtual Urgent Care last week. Service is available at Roseway Hospitals Monday to Friday, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (even if the local emergency department is closed during these times).

**Public Open House sessions** held Monday, June 24 at Roseway Hospital to share information on Virtual Urgent Care as well as other options to access care in Shelburne County. It was encouraging to see community members and a number of staff attend each session to learn more about how the service can improve access for their patients. One of our energetic health ambassadors was able to be part of the session at Roseway Hospital.



**Roseway Hospital Emergency Department** staff, physicians and zone and provincial leadership continue to work to reduce the number of closures, with summer vacations and other factors contributing to closure numbers. The Emergency Department was closed a total of 514 hrs May, 519 hrs June, 560 hrs July. The launch of Virtual Urgent Care at Roseway Hospital has helped many patients access care as an alternative to the emerg dept.

**Roseway Student Sponsorship Program** (generously supported by our community partners) recently partnered with Rehabilitation Services to advertise for Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist applicants. We are encouraged by the interest and hope to report some positive news in the future.

## Physician Recruitment and Retention – Practice Ready Program

Shelburne has been identified as a Practice Ready Assessment – Return of Service site for the upcoming cohort of five candidates. They enter orientation next week with the first Clinic Field Assessment starting September 16. This cohort will determine their return of service site following their Clinical Field Assessments ending in December.

Rebecca Cassidy joined the Physician Recruitment team in the Western Zone in August and will be overseeing Shelburne, Yarmouth and Digby counties. Some of our community partners may remember Rebecca as the former Community Navigator in Yarmouth.

## Communications: “Shelburne in the news”

Nova Scotia Health shared an update on the enhanced clinic space in Clark’s Harbour with local media / Saltwire. Mental Health & Addictions Services in Clark’s Harbour have been well utilized since clinics first started being offered locally. The success of the program is why we needed to look at how to better organize the space, especially with the addition of primary care clinics. Mayor Rex Stoddard and our partners with the Town of Clark’s Harbour have done renovations to the clinic space to add an extra room which will allow Primary Care and Mental Health & Addictions Services providers to work better together. [Read the news story online: Office space added at Clark’s Harbour clinic to accommodate demand | SaltWire](#)

The past few months has seen several opportunities to promote services, teams and info sharing in Shelburne County, including:

August 13, 2024 - [Office space added at Clark’s Harbour clinic to accommodate demand | SaltWire](#)

July 8, 2024 - [Shelburne County Health Team Expands | Government of Nova Scotia News Releases](#)

June 11, 2024 - [Spotlight on Angie Shand, Primary Health Care Coordinator](#)

June 24, 2024 - [Public open house sessions on Virtual Urgent Care at Roseway Hospital](#)

May 27, 2024 - [Virtual Urgent Care option enhances access in Shelburne](#)

### **A place to relax, regroup and reflect at Roseway**

Finding a quiet place to relax, regroup and reflect can be an important part of the health and healing process for families with a loved one in hospital. Roseway Hospital now has such a spot thanks to the generosity of a former patient’s family. The B. Angela Atkinson Family Comfort Room is now officially open for families and friends of Roseway patients. Mervin Atkinson made a generous donation in memory of his wife Angela which allowed the room to be outfitted with new furniture, artwork, television and more.

***Pictured:*** Mervin Atkinson with Tracy Smith, Palliative Care Consult Nurse at the opening of the B. Angela Atkinson Family Comfort Room

