



**WEST HALDIMAND  
GENERAL HOSPITAL**

*75 Parkview Road,  
Hagersville, Ontario. NOA IHO. Telephone: 905-768-3311 Fax: 905-768-1820*

*"Building for Today"*

---

March 31 2011

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Benefits for patients and hospital...**

**WHGH explores methods to improve patient care**

The Board of the West Haldimand General Hospital (WHGH) voted on March 28, 2011 to direct hospital CEO, David Bird to explore methods to improve hospital services and patient care for the local community by working with the Brant Community Healthcare System (BCHS).

"We want to enhance patient care, improve access and even consider introducing more hospital services," Marilyn Cooper, Chair of the WHGH Board said. "Additional support and expertise from staff and physicians from the Brantford General Hospital and The Willett, Paris could improve the care we are able to provide; for instance, in areas such as diagnostic imaging, the emergency department and our inpatient unit. Our physicians and administration have pointed to improvements that can be made for patients at WHGH as hospitals across Ontario face limited funding from the Ministry of Health & Long- Term Care."

Dr. Jim Bulger, Chief of Staff at West Haldimand General Hospital has seen first hand the challenges the hospital encounters and the impact they have on patients and the community, both in the emergency department and his busy family practice.

"Patients coming to our hospital expect the same level of service that they would find in larger centres," Dr. Bulger said. "That becomes a challenge when we don't have

specialized physicians or equipment such as a CT scanner or MRI on site. Partnering with BCHS could decrease the waits we often face for test results,” he said. “Finding specialized physicians we can quickly refer our patients to when they require care we cannot provide can also be challenging. We believe there are opportunities for improvement for patient care in specialties such as infectious disease medicine and inpatient orthopaedic care. A formalized approach with BCHS services could be beneficial for our patients and those who care for them.”

The Brant Community Healthcare System provides many services including CT and MRI to their community and a working relationship between the two facilities could bring new services and improve care for local residents.

Recently, the BCHS gained nationwide attention when they completed Canada’s first custom knee replacement surgery. This revolutionary advancement was quickly followed by the opening of the first fully automated hospital laboratory in Canada. The hospital also has a new 256- slice CT- only the third one of its kind in Canada. The BCHS is a leading practice when it comes to patient safety and this past November the Canadian Institute of Health Information determined that BGH had the lowest mortality rate in Canadian hospitals.

“The BCHS has a very comprehensive infectious disease and prevention program that if we could become a part of would be advantageous for our patients and staff,” David Bird, Chief Executive Officer, WHGH said. “We can also investigate to see if there are ways for our patients to have more timely access to more of their other programs and services. It is about taking what we have and what we do - and making it better.”

Bird’s report will be presented to the WHGH Board meeting in May.

-30-

For further information, contact:  
David Bird  
Chief Executive Officer  
(905) 768-3311, extension 1122