



NEWS & UPDATES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



There's lots happening at the Bancroft Community Family Health Team and The Medical Clinic this September! As we head into fall, we have plenty of exciting updates to share, including new physicians joining our community, learners gaining valuable rural healthcare experience, important changes within our practices, and some very special milestones worth celebrating.

In this issue, we recognize an incredible 85 years of combined service among three dedicated members of our healthcare community and celebrate the lasting contributions they have made to patients and primary care in Bancroft. We also welcome Dr. Saad Mirza as he establishes his family practice at our 16 Billa Street location and recognize Dr. Alex Ferreira as he prepares to retire from family practice after many years of dedicated service to his patients and our community.

Our role as a teaching and recruitment site continues to grow. This month, we're pleased to introduce our newest Practice Ready Ontario physicians, Queen's University third-year medical students, and PGY3 resident. These learners and physicians will be working alongside our local healthcare teams, gaining firsthand experience in family medicine and rural healthcare while getting to know Bancroft and the community we serve.

You'll also find helpful updates about where our physicians and nurse practitioners are practising, available group sessions and programs, September work anniversaries, and important changes to our patient waiting list and Health Care Connect.

There is a lot of change and growth happening in local primary care, and we're proud to keep our patients and community informed along the way. We hope you enjoy this month's updates and join us in welcoming our new faces, celebrating our team, and recognizing the people who continue to help shape healthcare in Bancroft.

AVAILABLE GROUP SESSIONS

OPEN GROUPS & CLASSES

- SMART Recovery
- Heart Health
- Healthy You
- Prediabetes
- Tools for Weight Management

REFERRAL BASED PROGRAMS

- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Diabetes Activity Program

ADDITION SUPPORT



Mon

RAAM Drop-In
12:00 PM – 3:00 PM



Tue

RAAM Drop-In
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

SMART Recovery
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM



Wed

RAAM Drop-In
1:00 PM – 5:30 PM

HONOURING DECADES OF LEADERSHIP, CARE & COMMITMENT

On Wednesday, August 19th, the Bancroft Community Family Health Team Board took the opportunity to recognize three remarkable individuals for their many years of dedication and service to healthcare in our community.

Sandra McGrath, Executive Director – 15 Years

Sandra was recognized for 15 years of leadership as Executive Director of the Bancroft Community Family Health Team. Throughout her time with the organization, Sandra has been a dedicated advocate for accessible, collaborative primary care and has helped guide the continued growth of programs and services for our rural community.

Dr. Carolyn Brown – 40 Years

Dr. Carolyn Brown was celebrated for an incredible 40 years as a physician serving our community. Dr. Brown was also instrumental in establishing Bancroft's first Family Health Team, helping lay the foundation for the collaborative model of care that continues to serve our community today. Her commitment to rural medicine and the patients of this area has made a lasting impact.

Jennifer Kellar, RPN – 30 Years

Jennifer Kellar was recognized for an outstanding 30 years of service in healthcare. Jenny began her career working alongside Dr. Carolyn Brown and Dr. Greg Cooper in their family practices as a Registered Practical Nurse and has continued to dedicate her career to caring for patients in our community.

We extend our sincere congratulations and appreciation to Sandra, Carolyn, and Jenny. Together, they represent 85 years of service, leadership, and commitment to healthcare in our community. Their contributions have helped shape primary care in Bancroft and continue to make a difference for patients, families, and colleagues alike.



Picture 1

Kim Bishop, Board Chair and
Sandra McGrath, Executive Director
Celebrating 15 Years



Picture 2

Dr. Carolyn Brown and Kim
Bishop, Board Chair
Celebrating 40 Years



Picture 3

Kim Bishop, Board Chair and
Jenny Kellar, RPN
Celebrating 30 Years

WELCOME DR. SAAD MIRZA

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Saad Mirza, who has joined Hastings County's Family Physician Recruitment Program and will be practising with the Bancroft Community Family Health Team.

Dr. Mirza brings many years of medical experience from Pakistan and came to Bancroft through the Practice Ready Ontario (PRO) Program. Following his placement, we are very pleased that he has chosen to stay and establish his family practice in our community.

He will be working from our 16 Billa Street location and will begin his practice by taking on patients transitioning from Dr. Alex Ferreira's practice following his retirement as well as patients from the waiting list.

His decision to stay in Bancroft is wonderful news for local primary care, and we are excited to officially welcome him to our team and community!



DR. FERREIRA FAMILY PRACTICE CLOSURE

After 12 years of dedicated service to our community, Dr. Alex Ferreira will be closing his family practice at the end of September 2026.

Dr. Ferreira first came to Bancroft in 2014, taking over the family practice of Dr. Doug Calder. Since then, he has become an invaluable part of healthcare in our community, often wearing more hats than anyone should! In addition to caring for his family practice patients, Dr. Ferreira serves as the Lead Physician in the Quinte Health North Hastings Hospital Emergency Department, the Lead Physician at Hastings Centennial Manor, and provides care to patients on the inpatient unit at Quinte Health North Hastings Hospital. Dr. Ferreira has also served as Board Chair for the Bancroft Community Family Health Team for a number of years, providing valuable physician leadership and helping guide the growth and direction of the organization.

After many years of balancing these responsibilities alongside being a husband and father, Dr. Ferreira has made the difficult decision to retire from family practice and focus more of his time and attention on his family, his children, and their many activities and sports. While he is stepping away from his family practice, we are fortunate that he will continue to play an important role in local healthcare through his other physician responsibilities.

All local patients currently rostered with Dr. Ferreira will be assigned to a new primary care provider upon his departure. Patients who live outside of our local area are encouraged to seek primary care closer to home.

We are incredibly grateful to Dr. Ferreira for the many years he has dedicated to his patients, our organization, and healthcare throughout the community. His commitment, leadership, advocacy, and willingness to take on so many different roles have made a lasting impact on Bancroft and the surrounding area. We wish Dr. Ferreira and his family all the best as he begins this new chapter, hopefully with a little more time spent on the sidelines cheering on his kids!

Growing Rural Healthcare Through the PRO Program

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Ahmad Abubasheer and Dr. Brume Bekibele as the next physicians joining our team through the Practice Ready Ontario (PRO) Program. During their time with us, they will be working primarily under the supervision of Dr. Parambir Keila at our Manor Street location, although patients may also see them working alongside other physicians at our various locations throughout their placement.

The PRO Program continues to be a valuable recruitment tool for our team and for rural healthcare in our community. We are especially pleased that Dr. Negm and Dr. Mirza, who previously completed their PRO placements with us, have both signed on to stay and continue practising in our community. Their decision to remain in Bancroft highlights the importance of welcoming physicians into rural practice, giving them the opportunity to experience our community, our patients, and the collaborative care provided by our local healthcare teams.



DR. AHMAD ABUBASHEER

Dr. Ahmad Abubasheer is originally from Gaza, Palestine, and completed his medical education in Cuba. He brings experience in family medicine, emergency medicine, and inpatient hospital care, most recently working in Hospital Medicine at Misericordia Community Hospital in Edmonton.

Dr. Abubasheer is joining us through the Practice Ready Ontario (PRO) Program and has a strong interest in emergency, hospital, and family medicine.

Outside of work, he enjoys travelling, road trips, outdoor activities, and soccer. During his time in Bancroft, he looks forward to getting to know the community, contributing to patient care, and exploring the beautiful surrounding area.



DR. OGHENEBRUME (BRUME) BEKIBELE

Dr. Oghenebrume (Brume) Bekibele is originally from Nigeria and completed his medical education at the University of Benin. He brings more than eight years of experience as a general practitioner, working in both rural and urban communities.

Dr. Bekibele is joining us through the Practice Ready Ontario (PRO) Program and has a strong interest in family medicine, comprehensive patient care, and building lasting relationships with patients and their families.

Outside of medicine, he enjoys soccer, basketball, photography, art, fashion, and travelling. During his time in Bancroft, he looks forward to getting to know the community, contributing to patient care, and experiencing all that the area has to offer.



WELCOMING OUR NEWEST 3RD YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS



JANE PORTER, MS3

"I am a third-year medical student and clinical clerk at Queen's University, originally from Sherwood Park, Alberta. Prior to medical school, I completed my bachelor's degree in Neuroscience and worked in spinal cord injury research.

My experiences in research and dance have helped shape my interests in medicine, particularly physical medicine and rehabilitation, sports medicine, preventative care, and lifestyle medicine. During my rotation in Bancroft, I am looking forward to learning how these areas of care are practiced in a rural community and gaining a better understanding of family and rural medicine.

Outside of medicine, I enjoy staying active through hiking, camping, rock climbing, and dance, where I have been involved as a dancer, teacher, and choreographer. I also enjoy reading, crocheting, painting, and trying new things in the kitchen.

I am excited to spend time in Bancroft, explore the many local trails and outdoor spaces, and continue developing my medical skills while learning more about healthcare in a rural Ontario community."

RHEA SAINI, MS3

"My name is Rhea, and I am currently a third-year medical student at Queen's University. I was born and raised in Mississauga, and completed my undergraduate degree at McMaster University. Before medical school, I completed a non-partisan internship programme in provincial politics, through which I learnt a great deal about the politics surrounding healthcare. I also came to appreciate that those that had on-the-ground experiences within the healthcare system were able to identify gaps and issues those on the outside did not see, and that working in the community and with patients acted as a motivator to continue to improve the system. This led me to pursue medicine as a career, with the goal of working within the public health sphere in the future.

Outside of medicine, I love to spend time outdoors, whether it is running, hiking, paddle boarding or trying something new, backpacking, reading, and watching a good sitcom. I am very excited to have the opportunity to spend time in Bancroft this fall, to learn more about the community and what makes it special, learn all about rural medicine, explore the nearby nature, and attend the Tall Pine rally!"

WELCOMING OUR NEWEST PGY3 RESIDENT TO BANCROFT

DR. ERIN PARNA GILE, PGY3

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Erin Parna Gile, a third-year resident physician (PGY3), to Bancroft. Originally from Orillia, Ontario, Dr. Gile completed medical school at University College Cork in Ireland and has a special interest in rural family medicine. She was drawn to family medicine because of the broad spectrum of care it provides and the opportunity to build continuity with patients throughout their healthcare journey.

During her time in Bancroft, Dr. Gile will be working alongside Dr. Steve Griffin in his family practice, as well as gaining hands-on experience in our local Emergency Department. Her placement will give her the opportunity to experience the broad scope of rural medicine and the important role physicians play within a rural community.

Outside of medicine, Dr. Gile enjoys watercolour painting, windsurfing, camping, and learning to play the accordion. We are excited to welcome her to our community and hope she enjoys her time learning, working, and experiencing all that Bancroft has to offer.



**Dr. Micayla Ahearn
& her team**

≡ have moved! ≡

FROM 19 Oak Street **TO** 16 Billa Street



Our phone number
remains the same:
613-332-1565

PLEASE NOTE: NEW EXTENSIONS

Receptionist – Jenna **EXT. 259**

Nurse – Jenny **EXT. 311**

WE ARE A TEACHING SITE

We welcome medical students, residents,
and physicians in training who are learning
alongside our team to provide the best care
for our community.



Please be patient, kind, and respectful.

You are helping to shape the next
generation of healthcare providers.

— OUR PHYSICIANS & NURSE PRACTITIONERS —

19 OAK STREET

- Dr. Steven Griffin
- Dr. Melissa Fransky
- Dr. Jennifer Gerasimoff
- Dr. Eric Blanchard
- NP Jordana Bain
- NP Shari Comerford
- NP Jordanna Fenato

16 BILLA STREET

- Dr. Alex Ferreira
(until September 30th)
- Dr. Dayna Noltie
- Dr. Micayla Ahearn
- Dr. Ahmed Negm
- Dr. Saad Mirza

1 MANOR LANE

- Dr. Parambir Keila



Physician Assistants **Mark McLennan** and **Kevin Penney** will be working with physicians at both Oak Street and Billa Street.



**THE
MEDICAL CLINIC**



Bancroft Community
Family Health Team



WORK ANNIVERSARY

Celebrations

SEPTEMBER 2026



FAMILY HEALTH TEAM



Shari Comerford • 9 Years



Dana McMurray • 16 Years



Carrie Sararas • 16 Years



THE MEDICAL CLINIC



Mark McLennan • 5 Years



Kate Edwards • 17 Years



www.bcfht.org



613-332-1565

PATIENT WAITING LIST UPDATE



Effective **August 19, 2026**, the Bancroft Community Family Health Team will no longer be accepting new applications for our internal patient waiting list.



Already on our list?

If you are already on our waiting list, you do not need to take any action. You will remain on our existing list while we continue the process of attaching patients to a provider.



Looking for a family doctor or primary care provider?

Please register with
Health Care Connect
Ontario's program that helps connect people to available doctors or nurse practitioners.



You **do not** have to give up your current doctor or nurse practitioner to register for Health Care Connect.



What's next?

Once we have worked through our existing internal waiting list, we will transition to accepting new patients through the **Health Care Connect** list.



Thank you for your patience and understanding as we make this transition.

HOW TO CONTACT Health Care Connect

Ontario's free service that helps you find you a family doctor or nurse practitioner **close to home**.



ONLINE

Register or update your information online.

healthcareconnect.ca



BY PHONE

Call Health Care Connect toll-free.

1-800-445-1822
TTY: 1-866-797-0007



You can also dial **811** and ask to speak to Health Care Connect.



BY MAIL

Complete the paper registration form and mail it in.

Health Care Connect
P.O. Box 1448
Stn. Main
Kingston, ON K7L 5P9



BY FAX

Fax your completed registration form.

1-866-253-0707



IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- You must live in Ontario to register.
- You do not have to give up your current doctor or nurse practitioner to register.
- Keep your information up to date to help us reach you when a provider becomes available.



Once registered, you will be matched with a provider when one is available in your area.



REGISTER TODAY!

Don't wait. Register now and take the first step toward connecting with a primary care provider.



Health Care
Connect
ONTARIO