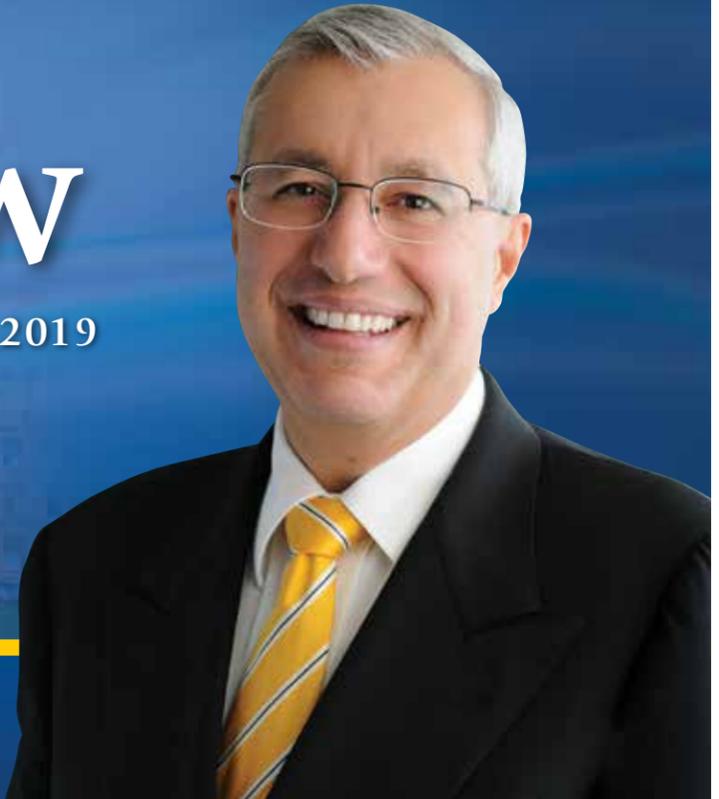


# Nipissing Point of View

WINTER / SPRING 2019



**Vic Fedeli MPP**

## Focus on Health

For more than seven years I have been pointing my camera at you, and supplying photos of people at events that I hoped would capture your interest. This issue will be a little different – with a Focus on Health. And that focus includes a review of the government's many health-related financial commitments to Nipissing over the last few months.



### Mattawa Receives More Funding for Nursing Home

The redevelopment of the Algonquin Nursing Home at the Mattawa General Hospital received a \$1 million investment from the Province, to improve its health facilities. The 'rural health hub' project will support new

services including respite care, a hospice suite, an Indigenous healing room, and a hospitality suite.

The redevelopment and relocation of the 73-bed nursing home on the same site as the hospital has been the cornerstone of the health hub project, allowing for a wide range of services and care to be housed within a single modern campus.

The \$20 million project is expected to create efficiencies through shared operations such as laundry and kitchen facilities. The health hub will help retain workers, create new jobs, and attract professionals and new residents to the community.

### Powassan Family Health Team Opens

The Powassan Family Health Team has a new home at 507 Main Street. Their facility is part of a new \$4 million, 12,000-sq.ft. building, where their team has grown from two to five physicians. They also have two Registered Practical Nurses, a Nurse Practitioner, a Mental Health Counsellor, and other administrative and support staff.

Mayor Peter McIsaac said the facility is the result of numerous partnerships working together towards a common goal. With plenty of room in the building, officials would like to see more doctors, an optometrist, a nutritionist, and other services such as x-ray and ultrasound.

Since being awarded a Family Health Team, the Ontario government has provided \$5.7 million in operating funds, including \$920,948 in support for 2018-19.



## HOSPITAL FUNDING FOR NORTH BAY REGIONAL HEALTH CENTRE

In October, the Ontario government was pleased to announce a \$4 million investment to help the North Bay Regional Health Centre operate short-term and long-term care beds. \$1.95 million was allocated to operate 16 long-term care beds to alleviate capacity pressures during flu season. It will also help relieve ongoing pressures created by the closure of the 66-bed Lady Isabelle long-term care facility in Trout Creek.

The remaining \$2.04 million will support 26 transitional care spaces for the hospital, as part of the Province's \$90 million investment in its first wave of long-term care beds. 10 short-term beds will be devoted to at-risk older adults and four will serve as short-term stay beds in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society of North Bay. An additional 12 spaces will be created in a specialized day program with the Alzheimer's Society of North Bay.

In January, the government announced that the North Bay Regional Health Centre would be receiving \$517,953 from the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund to help fund upgrades, repairs, and maintenance at the hospital. These funds will allow our hospital to address urgent issues, including upgrades or replacement of roofs, windows, heating and air conditioning systems, fire alarms, and back-up generators.

All of this work is part of the government's ongoing efforts to address hallway medicine and reduce hospital wait times, as part of a long-term transformational health care strategy.



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## RAAM Clinic Opening

In November, North Bay opened the doors to a Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) clinic at the Community Counselling Centre of Nipissing. The clinic offers those struggling with addiction quick access to treatment. The RAAM clinic is part of a strategy to battle against the opioid crisis, and is aimed at eliminating many of the obstacles preventing those with addiction issues from getting the help they need. Patients don't need to have a family doctor or referral of any kind – they just need to show up at the door.

The clinic will work in partnership with the North Bay Recovery Home to help fight addictions in the region, through specialized, evidence-based addiction medicine support to individuals with substance abuse issues.



## The Village Opens at Canadore

The Village is an exciting new area of Canadore College, comprising of more than 10,000-sq.ft of a living and learning wellness community. It is unique in Canada, and will focus on collaborative, inter-professional education with the integration of Indigenous, Eastern, and Western healing and wellness practices.

The Village will integrate seniors' and community care with teaching, experiential skills training, and applied research, all in one facility. When operational it will offer student-run clinics for overall health, dental hygiene, and safe mobility. Currently, nursing and respiratory therapist programs have already moved in.

This first phase, which opened in November, is valued at \$20 million, with \$1.78 million in provincial grants. The second phase, which includes a senior's living facility, is anticipated to break ground in the very near future.

One week after the opening ceremonies, a new partnership between Canadore College and Canadian Shield Health Care



Services was announced. It is intended to create 60 personal support worker and nursing jobs in North Bay. Canadian Shield will have client care offices at The Village and will deliver customized vocational learning programs.

## North Bay Recovery Home

The North Bay Recovery Home celebrated its 50th anniversary on February 15 and celebrated by unveiling a new logo for the facility. Since 1969, the Home has helped those seeking professional and caring support to address individuals' alcohol and drug dependencies in our community.

Since The Halfway House, as it was first called, opened its doors, more than 7,000 people have changed their lives by seeking help to battle their addictions. As well as providing 29 beds, they also provide non-residential services and counselling, and deals with clients with addictions to opioids, street and prescription drugs, and anyone fighting addiction.

There are also programs to help those who don't need residential assistance. There are programs for those who can continue to live and work in the community, such as those who hold down full-time jobs they can't leave for 90 days, or parents looking after young children.

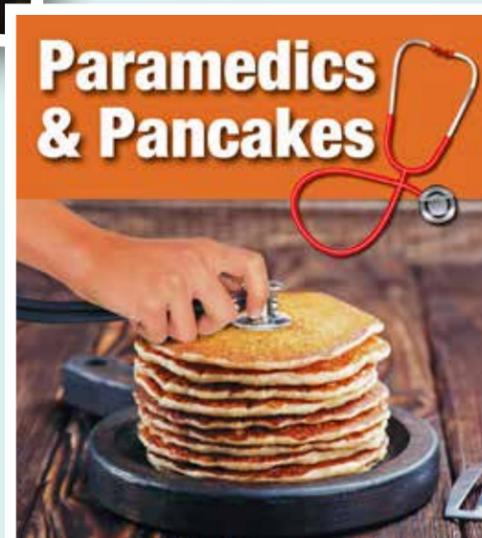


## Pancakes and Paramedics

The second annual free Paramedics and Pancakes breakfast was held at the Davedi Club, and it was another huge success. The Paramedics from the District of Nipissing Paramedic Services served up 'spring tune-ups' where more than 70 people had their vital signs checked out.

Then the great staff at the Davedi club served up a free pancake breakfast. It was a great opportunity for the community to come together and talk about wellness, while enjoying some fellowship, fun, and food.

It was also an opportunity for folks to chat with me about local or provincial issues that were on their mind. And I even learned of a couple of interesting economic development opportunities! Will definitely try to do this again next spring!



# Nipissing Serenity Hospice Funding

Shovels hit the ground on the new Nipissing Serenity Hospice in August of last year. Originally, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care provided \$1.2 million in capital towards the \$7.4 million project. During the ground-breaking, the Province committed a further \$1.5 million grant to help build the new palliative care facility that will provide quality end-of-life care to patients across the Nipissing region. At the time of the announcement, the funding was intended to help create six palliative care beds for terminally ill patients in the Nipissing and Parry Sound districts.

But even better news came in December when the hospice project received an additional \$800,000 from the Province in capital funding to increase the number of beds from six to 10, and an additional \$1.05 million annually to assist with its ongoing base operational funding. The announcement was part of a \$33.6 million investment the province made that will see 193 hospice beds established across the province.

In a release, Hospice Chair Mathilde Bazinet said she was proud of the volunteers and community members who helped the project get underway. "The start of construction is the culmination of seven years of tireless work by a team of dedicated volunteers who all share the same vision: a peaceful, park-like setting where the terminally ill and their loved ones would be cared for with compassion, dignity, and respect" Bazinet said. The hospice will also create 21 jobs; 14 full-time and seven part-time.

## Nipissing Serenity Hospice will provide:

- 24-hour palliative care by an expert multi-disciplinary team that includes physicians, nurses, personal support workers, social workers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, pharmacists, palliative care volunteers, and multi faith chaplaincy.
- Access to grief and bereavement counselling for patients, family, and friends.
- A hub of expertise in skill, knowledge, proficiency and capability as set out in the Standards and Norms of Practice outlined by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association.

Hospice representatives and local officials break ground at the site of the Nipissing Serenity Hospice



Les représentants locaux et de l'hospice lors de la cérémonie d'inauguration du site de construction de la Maison Sérénité du Nipissing.

Nipissing MPP Vic Fedeli announces the Ontario government will now fund the Hospice for 10 beds, along with Mathilde Bazinet, Board Chair, and Jeremy Stevenson, CEO of the Northeast LHIN



Vic Fedeli, député provincial de la circonscription du Nipissing, annonce que la province de l'Ontario va financer 10 lits. Il est accompagné de madame Mathilde Bazinet, présidente du conseil de l'hospice et monsieur Jeremy Stevenson, directeur général du RLISS du nord-est.



# Financement de La Maison Sérénité du Nipissing

C'est en août 2018 que nous avons célébré le début de la construction de la Maison Sérénité du Nipissing. En novembre 2017, le Ministère de la Santé et des Soins de Longue Durée avait annoncé un octroi de 1,2\$ million pour la construction au coût de 7,4\$ million. Lors de la cérémonie en août 2018, la province de l'Ontario annonçait un montant supplémentaire de 1,5\$ million, pour une subvention totale de \$ 2,7 million pour la construction de notre maison de soins palliatifs qui procurera des soins de fin de vie de plus haute qualité pour toutes les personnes des districts de Nipissing et Parry Sound Est. À ce moment, ces octrois visaient le financement de 6 chambres seulement.

Agréable surprise: en décembre 2018 on annonce que La Maison Sérénité recevra une somme additionnel de 800,000\$ pour financer la construction de 10 chambres au lieu de 6 et un 1,05\$ million par année pour les coûts opérationnels. Ceci fait parti de l'investissement par la province de 33,6\$ million afin d'ajouter 193 chambres privés pour patients en fin de vie, à travers l'Ontario.

Lors de la cérémonie, Mathilde Gravelle Bazinet, Présidente du Conseil d'administration, remercia tous les bénévoles et les membres de notre collectivité qui ont travaillé sans relâche afin de mener ce projet à bonne fin. "Le début de la construction est possible grâce au travail ardu durant sept ans, d'une équipe qui a partagé la même vision: un endroit paisible où les personnes en fin de vie et leurs êtres chers, recevront des soins pleins de compassion, de dignité et de grand respect". La Maison Sérénité créera 21 emplois: 14 plein temps et 7 à temps partiel.

## La Maison Sérénité du Nipissing offrira:

- Un appui continu, coordonné et dispensé pendant 24 heures par une équipe multidisciplinaire d'experts en soins palliatifs, comprenant médecins, infirmières, aidants personnels, travailleurs sociaux, ergothérapeutes, physiothérapeutes, pharmaciens, bénévoles et conseillers de soins spirituels.
- Accès aux conseillers en programmes de soutien et de deuil pour les patients, leur famille et leurs êtres chers.
- Sera le Centre d'Excellence de connaissances et d'expertise en soins palliatifs, tel que prévu par l'Association Canadienne de Soins Palliatifs.

## PATIENT OMBUDSMAN

Patient Ombudsman is a champion for fairness in Ontario's health sector organizations defined as public hospitals, long-term care homes and home and community care services coordinated by the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs, formerly CCACs).

Patient Ombudsman strives to make our service a safe-space where we treat everyone with empathy, dignity and fairness.

We also want to thank the health sector organizations within our jurisdiction (public hospitals, long-term care homes, home and community care coordinated by the Local Health Integration Networks) for being open to change and meaningful resolutions that are fair for everyone.

The number of complaints that come to our office and the number of successful resolutions we facilitate continue to grow.



## OMBUDSMAN DES PATIENTS

L'Ombudsman des patients est un défenseur de l'équité en ce qui concerne les organismes du secteur de la santé en Ontario, définis comme les hôpitaux publics, les foyers de soins de longue durée ou les services de soins à domicile et de soins communautaires coordonnés par les RLISS (y compris les services autrefois coordonnés par les CASC).

L'ombudsman des patients cherche à faire de notre bureau un endroit sûr où toute personne est traitée avec empathie, dignité et équité.

Nous remercions également les organismes du domaine de la santé qui relèvent de notre compétence (les hôpitaux publics, les centres de soins de longue durée, les fournisseurs de soins à domicile et communautaires coordonnés par les réseaux locaux d'intégration des services de santé) de leur ouverture au changement et à de véritables règlements qui sont équitables pour tous.

Le nombre de plaintes que nous recevons à notre bureau continue de croître, de même que le nombre de règlements que nous réussissons à offrir.



## Did You Get Your Flu Shot?

Join me in getting a free flu shot to stay healthy and prevent hospital visits this flu season.

The flu shot is the best

defence to reduce the

risk of getting and spreading the virus. The vaccine is available across the province to protect you and your family. By investing in preventative measures like the flu shot, we can help save lives and reduce the strain on our system.

Getting the flu shot is safe and easier than ever. Every batch of the vaccine is tested using strict guidelines for safety and quality. The shot is available from doctors or nurse practitioners, public health units, or drop in to a local pharmacy like I did!

## 2nd Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic to Open Soon

A second North Bay Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic is set to open in downtown North Bay. This will expand on their existing operations on Lakeshore Drive, and provide service to an additional 2,600 patients in North Bay, for a total target of 5,800 patients.

This expansion will decrease the number of Emergency Department visits at the North Bay Regional Health Centre related to mental health and addictions, decrease the volume of police calls related to the stabilization of mental health and addictions, and decrease the number of deaths related to opioid overdose.

The original Lakeshore Drive location will continue to provide the excellent patient care they are known for.



## MPP Christine Elliott in North Bay

MPP Christine Elliott joined MPP Vic Fedeli to meet with health care partners at the North Bay Regional Health Centre. The group shared how they work together for the common good of their patients.

To drive that point home, a local patient was brought in to share his story of how the system worked for him. In a very moving story, "Alex" shared how his illness had debilitated him, but once the health care system rallied around his needed outcomes, he has returned to a healthy state and was there to share his story.

It was an important example to hear about the successful partnerships – and what putting the patient first is really all about.



## We're Here to Help!

My constituency office is open Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5 p.m. You can reach me or my staff with any issue you may have, as we are here to help you. We can help you with your health card, birth certificate, celebratory scrolls, social services, and a multitude of other issues.

## Vic Fedeli, MPP Nipissing

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*Pictured from left to right: Keri Buttle (Constituency Assistant), Andrea Stoppa (Executive Assistant), Vic Fedeli, Nipissing MPP, Gwen Millard (Constituency Assistant), and Danica Gendron (Constituency Assistant).*

