

Health Echo

THE AYLMEER HEALTH COOP BULLETIN

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IN THE NEWS BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE AHC PRESS CONFERENCE

A press conference was held at the newly decorated clinic on October 11. With many Coop volunteers in attendance, Chairman of the Board Guy Benoît introduced the Coop's 5,000th member and three new doctors! You may have read about the event in the local papers or caught TV coverage, which was very good. However, reporters had a much more diversified buffet of news than these announcements!



Big plans in the works!

In addition to welcoming Mrs. Stanley, our 5000th member (photo on the left), and introducing our three new doctors (photo on the right), Guy Benoît talked passionately about some big projects for the Aylmer sector. The major one, expanding the Aylmer Health Clinic (AHC) premises at 67, rue du Couvent, is well underway. In fact, an architect has prepared a preliminary expansion plan and meetings have been held with health authorities to discuss funding. In addition, the AHC seeks to expand its services through a 24/7 front line emergency clinic, so that the members of our community can have access to a physician at any time of the day or on any day of the week.

This requires enhancing the clinic's technical facilities and purchasing specialized equipment, for specialized blood chemistry and urine analyses, for example. This will help physicians to expedite and improve the accuracy of the diagnostic process on site. It should be noted that clinic hours and the range of services will be extended gradually with the arrival of new medical and professional staff and the acquisition of the requisite equipment.



That's why the AHC needs you! Without members and without donations, the services currently provided would not be available and no expansion of the present level of service could be considered. Our fund-raising campaign is underway. For information on how you can make a donation to your health clinic, log onto <http://coopsa.org>... Sooner or later, we all need health care!

Press Play...

The press conference sparked a lot of interest in the AHC. In only one day, the Coop signed up more new members than it normally does in a week! So while membership stood at 5,000 members a few weeks ago, the number is already over 6,000!



Let's celebrate our achievements in illness prevention

During the press conference, the success of the AHC's prevention programs was emphasized. These include:

- ❖ Culturally-specific programs - With funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada, the AHC has hired a multicultural health broker in order to adapt health-related activities to the specific needs of the Latin-American community. In partnership with western Canadian health coops, the program is offered in Spanish and includes group kitchens, physical exercises and conferences on preventing the onset of various chronic illnesses, such as Type 2 diabetes, obesity and hypertension. A multicultural health broker will be hired shortly to work with the African community.
- ❖ Women's Program - This program provides a screening service for STDs, Pap tests and pregnancy tests. The program is especially popular among women who do not have a family doctor.
- ❖ Conferences - Conferences are held on an ad hoc basis in order to increase public awareness on a wide range of health-related topics or issues. The October conference on menopause is an example. The fact that the speaker, Dr. Demers, spoke to a packed house bears witness to the success of that conference and the program.

A picture is worth a thousand words... and much, much more when recorded on a digicam... Did you know that the AHC has its own videographer? André-Jean Blais' professional videos and photographs reveal a warm and flattering portrait of the AHC and the Aylmer sector. They got the message across at the press conference, but they also serve to "seduce" physicians and other health professionals in the hope that they'll come to work at our Coop. You can see this superb production for yourself! Log onto <http://coopsa.org> and enjoy the great video produced by Mr. Blais featuring press conference highlights.



Touching up the Clinic... Nothing like an old-fashioned bee!

Who said that a medical clinic should be a drab and dreary place? You didn't hear that from the volunteers (photo on the left) who rolled up their sleeves during a glorious September weekend. Armed with paint brushes, rollers and beaming smiles (see the picture on the right), they really brightened up the place! The new look, which is consistent with the clinical mission of the building at 67 rue du Couvent Street, was designed at no cost by Fabienne and Claudine of the *Boutique Pomme et Citron*. Gallons of paint were donated by *Rona L'entrepôt Aylmer*. Thanks to these

generous supporters!

This transformation is only the first phase of the project. The Clinic Improvement Committee is calling for volunteers to help with phase II of the Aylmer Health Coop painting project. If you are available on December 2 and 3 or December 9 and 10 and would like to help out, please call Geneviève at 819-682-0669 or Serge at 819-684-3697. **Thank you.**

Congratulation to the volunteers!



You want to submit an article? You'd like to make suggestions? Contact me at annie_piergroulx@videotron.ca
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