

C. difficile outbreak at RVH declared over

The four-month-long outbreak of *C. difficile* at Royal Victoria Hospital has been declared over by the hospital, in collaboration with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU).

"A steady and dramatic reduction in the number of new cases, combined with the effectiveness of our 50-point action plan has permitted us to officially call an end to the outbreak," says Dr. Michael Murray, RVH's Chief of Staff. "Thanks to the exceptional efforts of hospital staff and physicians, we have been able to gain control of the outbreak very quickly and effectively."

The outbreak was declared on February 23rd following a spike of 28 new *C. difficile* cases in January. The hospital immediately took aggressive action to contain the outbreak. It requested the assistance of a team of infectious disease experts from University Health Network, while implementing a comprehensive 50-point action plan of control measures including double cleaning of inpatient rooms, a review of antibiotic usage and extensive education and training for staff, physicians and volunteers.

"RVH took this outbreak very seriously. We mobilized

staff and resources to ensure everything was being done to minimize the number of cases and the possibility of transmission," remarks Janice Skot, RVH President and Chief Executive Officer. "The safety of our patients, staff, volunteers, physicians and visitors was always our top priority, and by acting swiftly and aggressively, RVH was able to protect that safety."

The number of *C. difficile* cases has dropped dramatically since the action plan was introduced. In May there were just three new cases, while in June there was only one new case. So far in July, just one new case has been identified.

"The hospital's willingness to implement recommendations for enhanced outbreak management was critical to its success," said Dr. Charles Gardner, Simcoe Muskoka Medical Officer of Health. "The response involved many experts, including the panel from University Health Network. This assembled expertise helped focus the control measures where they were most needed, and the results today are an indication of how effective the measures were."

In the event of a communicable disease outbreak at a hospital or institution, the health unit's role is as a partner in the

team effort to ensure that the monitoring, investigation and response are conducted effectively in accordance with best accepted practices.

According to the expert team lead Dr. Michael Gardam, director of infection prevention and control at University Health Network, "RVH has made phenomenal progress. I never would've imagined that the hospital's *C. difficile* rates would be brought so low, so quickly. RVH is committed to staying on top of it, so I believe the chance of a future outbreak is minimal."

RVH has developed a sustainability plan to ensure control measures remain in place. However implementing and sustaining those control measures has required an enormous investment of human and financial resources. Ongoing efforts to control the bacterium cost the hospital approximately \$60,000 a week.

Royal Victoria Hospital has requested \$3.2 million in annual funding assistance from the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network to assist with the ongoing costs of ensuring control measures are maintained at this elevated, but essential level.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

A directory of what is happening in your community

The community event calendar is provided as a free public service to non-profit organizations to announce upcoming events. Deadlines are no later than Monday for that week's issue to COMMUNITY EVENTS, P.O. Box 310, Beeton, Ontario LOG 1A0

Submissions by mail, fax or e-mail and will not be received by telephone.

ISSUES & INTERESTS

The York-Simcoe Naturalists is a young club looking for new members. Contact: Cathryn Rees at 905-775-7021, e-mail: wilcor@sympatico.ca.

South Simcoe Community Information Centre "CONTACT" at 146 Victoria St. W. Alliston. Call (705) 435-4900, Fax 705-435-1106. Website: www.csolve.net/-contact, or Email: contact@focusscd.on.ca. **Be a face in the fight against cancer** The Innisfil Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society needs volunteers. Their involvement enables the Canadian Cancer Society to fund cancer research, provide information, services and to support people living with cancer. Call: 436-1060 or 726-8032.

The Canadian Mental Health Association of Barrie-Simcoe supports the development and continuance of self-help groups as a viable community resource for individuals experiencing difficulties. Self-Help groups can provide; support and understanding through difficult times; an opportunity to meet with others who have experienced similar difficulties; information and education; a safe and comfortable environment; suggestions regarding coping strategies that help to get through difficult times.

For further information contact the Canadian Mental Health Association, Barrie-Simcoe Branch at 705-726-5033 or 1-800-461-4319.

Donations are needed for Music Fun Night at the Gilford United Church. If you have any old or unused music instruments like tambourines, shakers, chimes, drums or other fun instruments, call Dawn at (705) 456-2555.

MONDAYS

Friends of the Innisfil Library, Stroud Branch, meetings are held the third Monday of every month at

7 p.m.

Gilford and District Horticultural Society meets second Monday of the month from March to November at Churchill Community Centre at 7:30pm. New members are always welcome. Call Judith Rogers at 431-9278 or Kathy Barraclough at (905)853-8785 for more info.

Al-Anon meetings take place every Monday at Innisfil Community Church at 8:00 p.m. If you have a problem with someone else's drink, come and join the discussion group. **Innisfil Pipes & Drums** meet for practice at the Legion in Bell Ewart, 1017 Robinson St. at 1 p.m. Always looking for new members. Phone Ken at (705) 456-3717.

TUESDAYS

Job Search Assistance, help with job search, resumes, interview tips, job bank internet assistance at the Thornton Library 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. and the Alcona Library from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Services provided at no charge by The Employment Outreach Team call Marilee or Kathy at (705) 728-0897 for more information. This initiative is funded by the government of Canada.

Cookstown Computer Club drop-in program for elementary students, 4 to 5 p.m. at the library.

T.O.P.S. (Take off Pounds Sensibly) from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Library, Robert St., Thornton. For information call 739-9226.

Stroud Seniors invite persons 55+ to join them for an afternoon of bid and progressive euchre, refreshments and companionship. 1 to 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall, Painswick. Call 436-1628.

St Paul's Anglican Church, located on the corner of Mapleview and Yonge Street, has two new youth and young adult programs. From 6:30 - 8:00 pm will be informal musical jamming sessions for anyone with a voice or instrument. If you are learning to play an instrument or like to sing and would enjoy having some fun and social time with similar minded people, come and join us. For more information, please call (705) 722-7755

St. Paul's Church, Innisfil (corner of Mapleview and Yonge Street), Playgroup for tots, moms, dads, caregivers, and grandparents from 9:30-11:30 am. Come for a social time, friendship, play and snacks. For information, call (705) 431-

1694.

The Beta Classes will be held at the Innisfil Community Church starting January 9th at 1pm. Beta is a life changing program and the twelve week course will enable you to live free from fear, stress anxiety and the pain of past hurts and traumas. This program is offered at the Church from 1:00 - 2:30 pm. For more information, call Sherri McLaughlin at (705) 436-1611.

WEDNESDAYS

Friends of the Innisfil Library, Lakeshore Branch, meet the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. New members are most welcome.

Euchre, bid euchre, Scrabble and cribbage is played at Alcona Seniors club every Wednesday at 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the ABC Hall on the 25th Sideroad below Innisfil Beach Rd. Refreshments and fun days. Bring a bag lunch.

Euchre every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30, Newton Robinson United Church in aid of Gwen Taylor Library. Refreshments.

Weight Loss Group. The Alcona Chapter of TOPS meets at 7:15 at Goodfellow Public School. Call Joan Davies at 436-3197 after 6 and on weekends.

Job Search Assistance, help with job search, resumes, interview tips, job bank internet assistance. On Wednesdays, the mornings are alternated between the Churchill and the Cookstown Libraries from 10:00 a.m. to noon., and every Wednesday afternoon at the Stroud Branch from 1:30 - 3:30. Services provided at no charge by The Employment Outreach Team Please call marilee or Kathy at (705) 728-0897. This initiative is funded by the government of Canada.

Euchre at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Churchill is held every Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the parish hall. Please call Reg at 705-456-6801 for information.

The Cookstown Co-Operative Playgroup is at St. John's Anglican Church in Cookstown located on Hwy 89, east of Hwy 27. All preschool children and their care-givers are welcome, as well as new members. The hours will be 9:30 to 12:00 every Wednesday & Thursday. Come out with your preschool aged children (senior kinder-

garten and younger), have a snack, make a craft and meet some new friends. For more information please call Brian Haas at (705) 458-8468. See you there!!

THURSDAYS

Euchre - Progressive and Bid, every Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion - 1017 Robinson, Bell Ewart 705-436-1144, Betty.

Register for Book Book a six week afterschool program for ages 6 and up from 5-6 p.m. Call Innisfil Public Library, Cookstown Branch at 458-1273.

Job Search Assistance, help with job search, resumes, interview tips, job bank internet assistance at the Alcona Library from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Please call Marilee or Kathy at (705) 728-0897. Services provided at no charge by The Employment Outreach Team 728-3757, this initiative is funded by the government of Canada.

Barrie Chapter of Schizophrenia Society of Ontario family support group meets the last Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Canadian Mental Health Association, Barrie-Simcoe Building, 39 High St., Barrie. For info contact 726-5033.

Painswick Horticultural Society meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at St. Paul's Anglican Church. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. New members welcome. For info call Linda Lewer at 436-3908.

The Parish of Churchill and Cookstown youth group meets every Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Youth between the ages of 9-12 years are welcome to attend regardless of denomination. Please call Pam Gervais for information at (705) 735-3484.

St Paul's Anglican Church, located on the corner of Mapleview and Yonge Street, has two new youth and young adult programs. From 6:30 - 8:00 pm we are beginning a study comparing the gospels and learning how and why they developed. For more information, call (705) 722-7755.

FRIDAYS

The Cookstown United Church Community Youth Group will begin meeting as of October 20th. They will be meeting weekly from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Cookstown United Church on 37 Queen Street. Come for crafts, games, movies, fel-

lowship and fun! All are welcome. For more information, call (705) 458-9701.

SATURDAYS

Barrie Farmers' Market, outside and inside Barrie City Hall. From 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fresh produce and fruit in season. For info please call 739-4204.

SUNDAYS

Cookstown United Church welcomes all young people from preschool to grade 8 to join in Sunday school at 11am. Sunday's are cool at Cookstown UC, so come and join as we grow in faith and have fun. New this year - join us in making scrapbooks celebrating God's gifts in our lives. For more information, please call Rev. Heather or Kieran Power at (705) 458-9701.

Overeaters Anonymoyus meets at the Mapleview Community Church at 7pm. Do you eat when you are not hungry? Is your weight affecting the way you live your life? It's not what you eat, it's what's eating you! For more information, call Anne at (705) 436-7921.

The Teen Youth Group of the Parish of Churchill and Cookstown meet at St. John's Anglican Church every other Sunday in the parish hall from 12:30 - 2:30 pm. All teens aged between 13-18 years are welcome to join regardless of denomination. Please call Pam at (705) 735-3484 for information.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18TH

Bid Euchre at the Gwen Taylor Community Library. The fun starts at 7:30pm and the cost is \$3 per person. All are welcome.

THURSDAY, JULY 19TH

The Prostate Cancer Support Group, Man to Man, will meet at 7:30pm at the Canadian cancer Society Office, 64 Cedar Point Drive, Unit 1406 in Barrie. The group meets on the third Thursday of every month. Ladies are welcome and will meet separately. For more information, call (705) 726-8032.

The Painswick Horticultural Society will have a special presentation by Donna Wice. The meeting takes place at the St. Paul's Church starting at 7:30pm.

TUESDAY, JULY 24TH

The Bond Head Monthly Fiddle Dance and Jam Session welcomes all musicians, dancers and listeners to the Bond Head Community hall,

starting at 7pm. Admission is \$4 per person. For more information, call Ed Elliotson (519) 941-2134 or Ralph Price at (705) 835-3159.

SATURDAY, JULY 28TH

The Grange Cafe is back and bigger! For information or to become involved, call Lefroy United Church at (705) 456-2098 or Andrea at (705) 436-7171.

That Sinking Feeling, Innisfil's Dragon Boat team will be raising money for RVH at their car wash at Sobey's in Alcona.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11TH

Meet members of the South Simcoe Police plus view Classic Cars at Sobey's between 10am and 2pm. Displays, vehicles and more will be at the parking lot. Come on out and meet the men and women who protect and serve this community.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14TH

St. Peter's Anglican Church will be having their 2nd Annual Boat Cruise, leaving the Port of Orillia at 6:30 and returning at 8:30pm. The cost is \$25 per person and a light luncheon will be served on board. A cash bar is available. For tickets call Dean at (705) 456-2202. All proceeds go to St. Peter's Church.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21ST

The Annual GICC Golf Tournament will be held at Innisbrook Golf Course. Registration starts at 11am with a 12:30pm shotgun start. The fee is \$140 per player and spots are going fast. Call (705) 431-4199.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND

A day trip to St. Jacob's. You'll enjoy the lovely scenery and the Mennonite country from the comfort of a coach bus. We will browse and shop in St. Jacob's and then the Farmer's Market. We will be having dinner at Anna Mae's Mennonite Restaurant where you will enjoy dinner, dessert, taxes and gratuities (for \$12) and then we'll head home. We may stop in the Town of Fergus. The cost is \$30 per person and seats will go fast! Call Angie Chisholm (705) 456-1595 or Bob Cathers (705) 721-8310 and book your seat. Must be paid for by September 2nd.