

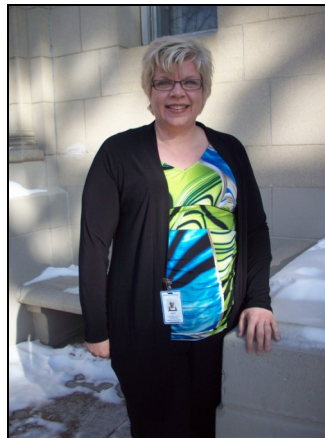
chas communiqué

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Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan 1702 20th Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0Z9
P 306-655-5330 F 306-655-5333 cath.health@sasktel.net www.chassk.ca

You mean I have a role in Catholic Health Care?

Have you ever had the experience of being called to do something – something you would not normally think of doing or even feel qualified to do, yet, the call is persistent and unending until you surrender and check it out? I've had a few of those experiences but two in particular come to mind.



The first was being led to ministry in marriage enrichment – Worldwide Marriage Encounter in particular. We (my husband, Bernard and I) went from an outright denial of acknowledging God calling us believing He had it wrong – that we didn't really have what 'it' takes to offer marriage enrichment. Slowly though, we allowed ourselves to have God work in and through us. We came to a very special place of being able to choose His plan for us as we were abundantly blessed for twenty-two years to not only provide marriage enrichment but also provide leadership within a wonderful movement. It bears repeating that this could only happen by having the willingness to be open to the possibilities and choosing obedience to God's call. I can only say that in twenty-two years we literally were blessed, broken and built again and again always richer and stronger, always feeling more free to answer God's call in our lives.

A more recent example was my coming here to CHAS. During my convocation some twenty months ago I felt eager like every other new graduate – I just wanted to get on and meet the world with all my new-found idealism tied into a bow wrapped around my degree. My prayer was to find a position where I could continue to live and work within a ministry mindset (and still get paid). No small prayer. Not an easy find. Eventually, I re-phrased the prayer and I asked God to show me what I could do to get such a position. Suddenly, all kinds of new information started coming to me. I saw the posting for CHAS and simply ignored it for the first three weeks believing I was not 'that kind' of person. Yet, there was a burning persistence that wrestled within my spirit. Then, I started to meet people. At a private function of mutual friends, I met Brian Zimmer, Director of Mission for St. Paul's hospital. I learned briefly about what he does and suddenly found my heart literally burning (no, it wasn't the spicy appetizer!). The more I heard, the more I saw myself in the kind of position that is all about mission. What a mission director actually does probably escaped me, but the point is, there was a fire burning inside me and I could not ignore it no matter how hard I tried. A week later I read the CHAS posting with 'new' eyes. I started talking to people about it and before I knew what was happening I was pouring my heart and soul into preparing the application and subsequent interviews. When I was offered the position I felt completely at peace.

For the past number of weeks I have been very fortunate to have met many wonderful people who have given of their time to help me understand not only



You mean I have a role in Catholic Health Care.... continued

what it is that they ‘do’ within the setting of Catholic health care, but help me to get a sense of the linkages we all bring when we come to ‘work’. The other day I was asked by someone, why does CHAS need you anyway? Talk about stopping me in my tracks! My head responded, “It’s only been three weeks, can you check back in a year?” but my heart knew it was a really great question – one I promptly delegated over to God to help me find an answer.


I have poured over reading about the legacy of Catholic Health Care, the legacy of CHAS and discovered an amazing richness of God’s tapestry woven in and through so many wondrous, talented and caring people. I see myself as part of that tapestry in the sense of understanding mission. I have a very keen sense of purpose and dedication of being called to ministry for CHAS. I understand the importance of the role education development has in being able to continue the call of evangelization, the call to awakening in each person and their respective organization their potential – whatever that might be as they strive to provide support and development of catholic health care in our province. Serving in this capacity allows the opportunity to be a part of the creative interface of a caring health care community.

In tangible terms what does this mean? We are all commissioned by Christ to embrace this healing ministry as an integral dimension of our life in Christ: “In so far as you did this to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew

25:40). There are times that mission is celebrated like hosting the Compassionate Healers’ Mass at central locations around the province for our membership to participate in. There is something so sacred in being commissioned to offer our skills and abilities to the service and glory of God fully participating in the healing ministry of Christ. CHAS’s annual convention is another opportunity for all practitioners to come together – to be present to and for each other in a place and space of renewal, learning and enrichment. CHAS’s newsletter is on the cusp of wanting to not only share ‘news’ but to share the best about ourselves with each other. We warmly welcome and solicit your story of how you are called to your vocation within Catholic health care and what your call means to you and to the community in which you serve.

The greatest gift I can offer to the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan is my ability to work well with people. I am a good listener and highly value collaborative and creative relationships. I am well known for being personable, engaging and articulate. I am an avid adult learner, and a recent university graduate quite used to working outside of my comfort zone. As such, I have the desire, energy, drive, ability and willingness to serve with a missionary heart. I am certainly attracted to, blessed by and thankful for being a part of an organization that desires responding to “an activity of the whole church” (from CHAS website). May God continue to bless you abundantly.

- Sandy



*“The **LORD** bless you
and keep you;
the **LORD** make his face shine on
you and be gracious to you;
the **LORD** turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”*

Numbers 6:24-26

*May **His** blessings
Lead you to success
and happiness
Wishing you a
happy spring
And Joyous Easter!*

From the staff at CHAS

Macklin: Farewell Fenton...

It only takes a couple of minutes with Fenton Yeo to realize just how smitten he is with the prairies. Born in PEI and raised in New Brunswick, Yeo shared how his health-care career began as a nursing orderly in 1967. At the time, New Brunswick was the only province that held an official bilingual designation so management jobs would be limited without speaking French. Opportunity presented itself for Yeo and his family to come to Saskatchewan in 1987 where he served as Administrator in Leader. In 1996, Yeo embraced a new challenge by becoming Executive Director of St. Joseph's Hospital in Macklin. Challenge became an understatement as for four years Yeo managed the Kerrobert facility as well for two days a week.

Yeo spoke of his deep appreciation for being able to work for the sisters in Macklin. He most appreciated how supported he felt by them and the Board of Directors. There were some really tough times that called for tough decisions. Yeo shared, "the Sisters wholeheartedly gave me their full support." What Yeo most appreciated about working within Catholic health care was stated without hesitation, "carrying out the mission and values of the Sisters – plain and simple!" More specifically, "the care and the holistic approach are distinct from a holistic approach within a secular setting." When asked to expand, Yeo did not mince words: "in Catholic health care we don't simply look after the illness, but the whole body, the whole person. This means that integral to holistic health is lived values – of having daily mass and prayers held right in the facility." In conversing with Yeo, one cannot help but

...Welcome Kathy

Kathy Smith has ventured into a newness of prairie life – skipping across the Alberta border where Consort is her hometown - filled with family, friends and a beloved ten year nursing career. The winds of change and yearning for a new perspective called her to Macklin as Executive Director of St. Joseph's

feel the pride he holds for "the finest and cleanest and most welcoming facility. I am deeply indebted to all the staff, but housekeeping has done just a wonderful job for all of our residents and families so appreciate this."

A career highlight for Yeo was being able to provide surplus budgets for twenty-one of twenty four years of service. He also spoke highly of the families and was so thankful for the openness and support they provided. A memorable time for Yeo in Macklin was in 2002 when a board member approach Yeo and asked him about the possibility of having an annual golf tournament in June as a means of raising funds for the facility. Yeo states, "The golf tournament is nine years strong and has been a wonderful community builder and so very successful, bringing in on average \$12 – 15,000 dollars per year."

In speaking with Yeo you get a real and profound sense of his love for Macklin. He and his wife Margaret have chosen to retire in Macklin and plan to stay very involved in their community. There was no hesitation for Yeo to pass along the torch to Kathy Smith stating, "Kathy will definitely have a different perspective to offer that I could not. Her nursing background will be an immeasurable benefit."



Integrated Health Centre. Smith states that the exciting aspect of this new challenge is, "coming into a Catholic environment that exudes calmness, where spirituality is lived out every day.

At my former work environment, spiritual care was a 'once-a-week' visit and here people look forward

Macklin, con't

to daily mass and praying the rosary and I have appreciated being able to see how the Sisters are an integral part of everyday life here in this community.”

Management is another new aspect for Smith as she praises former CEO Fenton Yeo’s “unique style” where being humble, friendly and easy to get along with was the order of the day balanced with being firm and steadfast when called to do so. Smith looks forward to unfolding the intricacies of her new role in terms of discovering the charism of Catholic health. Smith shared, “I feel privileged to be here and hope my leadership can motivate people to continue the great, Christian care they give to our patients.”

Smith has four children – two are working and studying in Alberta and two daughters who moved with Smith to Macklin.

Take Note

Thanks to all who hosted and attended **World Day of the Sick** celebrations across the province on February 11th.



Welcome to **Juanita Tremeer**, who started as the **Executive Director of Samaritan Place** in Saskatoon on December 6, 2010. Joining the team on March 28, 2011 is Penni Caron as Director of Resident Services.

Hats off to all our volunteers! April 11 - 16 is recognized as **National Volunteer Appreciation Week**—and we thank you for your dedicated service throughout the entire year!

Mark your calendars for **National Hospice Palliative Care Awareness Week** from May 1 - 7, 2011.

The **Catholic Health Alliance of Canada** hosts its **national conference** in Winnipeg from May 4 - 6, 2011.

June 2 - 3: **Saskatchewan Hospice Palliative Care Conference** to be held at the Saskatoon Inn.

The Grace of Age

October 24 - 25, 2011

68th Annual Convention
Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan
Heritage Inn, Moose Jaw

Keynote Speakers:

Monsignor Charles Fahey
Sr. Elizabeth Davis

With our theme **The Grace of Age** we wish to identify positive ways in which upcoming aging generations will shape how we serve in health care.

We know that many in Catholic healthcare—be they in acute, long-term care, parishes, or other community groups—are serving the aging with much grace.



Registration information and full conference details will be available in August.

For further information, please contact Colleen or Trish at (306) 655-5330 or email cath.health@sasktel.net

April 12 is Advance Care Planning Day

A lack of knowledge about preference for care can result in confusion and conflict between family members and health professionals at a critical time. “Speak Up: Start the conversation about end-of-life care” is a national campaign sponsored in part by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association to highlight this important dialogue. They are inviting governments, organizations and individuals to acknowledge April 12 as an annual Advance Care Planning Day to bring attention to and hopefully spark these critical conversations. For more information, please visit www.chpca.ca or www.advancecareplanning.ca.